

# CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

December 9, 2022

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 16<sup>th</sup> – KMWA’s MLK Event at the Texan 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- **January 16<sup>th</sup> – City Offices Closed**
- January 21<sup>st</sup> – Boys and Girls Club Two-Step Event
- **January 24<sup>th</sup> – Regular City Council Meeting; Kilgore City Hall, 5:30 p.m.**
- **February 14<sup>th</sup> – Regular City Council Meeting; Kilgore City Hall, 5:30 p.m.**

## PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- We had over 60 callouts for frozen pipes over the Christmas holidays. Well No. 2 shorted out and Well No. 8 froze and broke a valve. On Christmas Day, operators started up the surface water plant while several field crew members worked a major water main break until the early morning hours. All told, many of our employees had over 20 hours of overtime working through the holiday. We are extremely grateful for their sacrifice and for their excellent work during this time. As a testament to their work, the effects on the system were not noticeable and citizens enjoyed their Christmas none the wiser.
- Our wastewater plant survived the freeze relatively unscathed. A recent improvement to our chemical feed system kept the chemical addition flowing even though some of the onsite water pipes froze. In fact, the improvements have reduced the wastewater plant water usage from around 2 million gallons a month to around 500,000 gallons per month.
- We had an 8-inch sewer main break at a creek crossing caused by debris floating down the creek after the heavy rain. We spilled approximately 10,000 gallons of wastewater. Crews had it repaired in about 4 hours. Due to the high flows of the creek, the environmental impacts were negligible.
- The Texan HVAC renovations are underway and will be completed in mid-February.
- A new Teqball table has been installed at the Dudley Road Trailhead.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- The Kilgore, Longview, and Marshall Fire Department coordinated a “Firefighter Mental Health Class” for all surrounding Fire Departments at Maude Cobb Civic Center. The class ran for three consecutive days, providing a way for all on duty personnel to attend. The class was well received and appreciated.
- Three FD Captains are in San Marcos for a “Fire Service Leadership Symposium”: Captain Jovane Rossum, Captain Josh Haynes, and Captain Jason Chamblee. This course is valuable to our leaders. KPD’s annual Operation Blue Elf served 21 children this year. Once again, we partnered with the Lions Club to obtain names from the ISD and food boxes. The Kilgore Police Association served 30 older children through its Blue Santa program. Our combined efforts led to 51 less fortunate children receiving a great Christmas.
- Texas Rangers and the Gregg County Grand Jury cleared Sergeant Josh Vercher in the Officer Involved Shooting. He returned to full duty in January.
- We welcomed three new officers. Ofc. Jerry Sullivan is a veteran officer who has worked for Gregg County Sheriff's Office and Longview PD. Rookie Officer Matthew Williams recently graduated from the East Texas Police Academy. Both officers are attending a two-week pre-service course before they are assigned to the Field Training Program. Kaci Holland is a Detective with Tyler PD and will join us in two weeks. She will be assigned to the Criminal Investigation Unit. She has been serving as a Crimes Against Persons/Major Crimes Detective.
- The Department completed its annual inventory and end-of-year reports that are required through our accreditation program. Those will be submitted to the council soon. We will also post reports on the department’s webpage and social media accounts as part of our department’s transparency policy.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- The Kilgore Community Development Corporation has sold four lots in the Remington North Subdivision to construct new homes.
- The permit office issued 606 building and trade permits in 2022 this was an increase of 186 over 2021. Commercial businesses were busy with 11 new construction projects, 5 additions and 15 remodels, not to mention the 49 new or refaced signs. Roof permits for both commercial and residential totaled 130 issued. Trade permits keep us busy this year with 143 electrical, 55 mechanical, 32 driveway, and 101 plumbing permits. The residents of Kilgore were busy with home improvements with 17 new residential accessory buildings, 5 additions, 9 remodels/repairs, and 4 new swimming pools. The star of 2022 was new single-family homes 22 building permits were issued for new homes and 20 Certificate of Occupancy were issued for home completions.
- Kilgore Animal Control completed the first round of Obedience training with 10 participants. Next class to be scheduled to start in February. Proceeds to be used to fund our pet chipping program.

## QUALITY OF LIFE/TOURISM

- Kilgore Citizen, Ed Thigpen, was featured by the Texas Horseshoe Pitchers Association newsletter this month for his success in pitching horseshoes.
- The required yearly report to Texas Main Street has been completed and submitted.
- The Main Street Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, January 17 at 5:30 p.m. at Kilgore City Hall.
- The City of Kilgore is looking for sponsorships for the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Extravaganza. If you are interested and would like additional information, please contact our Special Events Coordinator, Taylor Owings at [taylor.owings@cityofkilgore.com](mailto:taylor.owings@cityofkilgore.com)

## LIBRARY

- Our Winter Read challenge ended 1/6/2023. We had over 120 participants that read over 28,000 minutes in just two weeks!
- STEM for Kids: How to Catch a Yeti- a special story time and create a Yeti Trap – Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.
- STEM: Index Card Caste- Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> a 4 p.m.
- Library Staff would like to include a huge thank you to KFD for helping us take all of the Christmas trees and décor to the basement. We really could not do Christmas Open House without their help!