

# CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

April 14, 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- April Weekends - Avalon Faire
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – Rangerette Revels
- April 15<sup>th</sup> – Downtown Farmers Market begins and continues every Saturday
- **April 25<sup>th</sup> - Regular City Council Meeting; 5:30 p.m. Council Chambers**
- April 29<sup>th</sup> – Kilgore Cruise Night Downtown
- May 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>– Geekend Downtown

## HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the winner of our MyKilgore App contest Lilia Anderson who put in 7 unique pothole requests during the contest period! Altogether, 38 separate service requests were entered by community members. The three most reported roads were Green Hills, Goforth, and Commerce. All in all, we counted over 200 individual holes that we addressed (most were in clusters around these same areas). In the worse area of Green Hills we were able to make several permanent repairs. In the other two primary areas, we made temporary repairs with the knowledge that Commerce and Goforth will be fully reconstructed in the next year, so permanent repairs would be throwing money after bad.

We know there is a lot of frustration about roads and potholes, and we appreciated those who submitted work orders to help us locate and prioritize where to send our repair crew. Please keep up the great work and let your friends and neighbors know how easy it is to report a problem using the MyKilgore App!

## PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND PROJECTS

- The Martin Luther King Community center remodel is underway.
- Additional soccer goals will be placed at the Dudley Road multi-use fields. They are getting a lot of use for soccer practice this season!
- Pickleball courts have been marked off on our current tennis courts at Harris Street Park.
- The equipment has been relocated at the skate park completing its expansion. See pics on next page!
- A new trend in park play areas is to use one of the oldest playscapes known to man. Have you ever noticed that if a kid is given a new toy in a big box, they'll first play in the box? Similar situation here. Parks designers have consistently noticed that given the opportunity to choose (without mom's input) between an expensive playscape and a pile of dirt, most kids will be to the top of the pile before they give you the answer. So, for those parents willing to deal with the extra dirt and grime, check out the new "Pile of Dirt" at City Park near the amphitheater. Check out the pile in the background of the Skate Park photo.
- We've been experiencing erosion and damage to trees near the Whataburger Sports complex as a result of people jumping the curb to park on the grass. New "No Parking on Grass" signs are being installed at near Whataburger Sports Complex letting drivers know that their cars will be towed at their expense if they continue to park there.
- The Utilities Crew inspected over 34k feet of sewer lines using an acoustic sewer inspection tool. This will help prioritize our upcoming sewer cleaning efforts.
- The Water Treatment Plant has drained and is cleaning the plant basins in preparation for summer operations.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- April 1st we had a new hire training test for part time Firefighters and potentially future full time. We had 6 candidates who passed our written and physical tests. They will now move on to the panel review board.
- Chief Henderson attended the Northeast Texas Fire Chief's meeting in Hallsville in which the Texas Commission on Fire Protection was present.
- Kilgore Rescue Unit member Michael Cato used vacation from his regular job to attend a 4-day vehicle extrication training in Humble this past week. Michael will now be certified as a Vehicle Rescue 1. All of our Rescue members are volunteers and usually have to take a vacation from their regular jobs to attend these classes. Congratulations and thank you to all of our Rescue Volunteers.
- Following the completion of two weeks of pre-service training, our newest officers, Brandon Upshaw and Caleb Watson, were sworn in during a badge pinning ceremony and are now assigned to the field training program.
- Chief Hunter, Asst Chief Gage, and Lt. Portwood attended the Texas Police Chiefs Association Conference in Fort Worth. A Kilgore business was featured, as a custom Skeeter Boat was on display and raffled to raise funds for the Texas Police Chiefs Association Foundation Officer Death Benefit. \$100,000 was raised through the raffle.
- Officers continue to be proactive and have made several recent narcotics related arrests.
- Officer Angela Burch received the Kilgore News Herald's Readers' Choice Award for Friendliest Officer.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- A total of 52 permits were issued in the month of March. This was a heavy trade permit month. One mobile home replacement permit was issued – the homeowner met all the qualifications for a one-time replacement.
- A commercial remodel permit has been approved for Popshelf, located at 1023 Kilgore Plaza.
- A plat has been submitted for the townhome project on Stone Road and Willow Springs Road.
- Final Plat of Springtree Phase III will be considered for approval at the next City Council meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

- The Main Street Advisory Board will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Kilgore City Hall.
- The City of Kilgore is still looking for sponsors for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Extravaganza. If interested, please call Taylor Owings for more information at 903-988-4117.
- Tractors, Trucks, and Fun event will be held in Downtown Kilgore on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- This Saturday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, the weekly Kilgore Farmer's Market begins Downtown 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## LIBRARY

- ESL classes will be coming to our Library beginning May 2<sup>nd</sup> in partnership with the Kilgore College Adult Education and Literacy Department.

