

# Chamber connection



**KILGORE**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

December 2020 • [www.kilgorechamber.com](http://www.kilgorechamber.com)

## WHAT A YEAR!



**Jill R. McCartney, IOM, CCEO-AP**  
President & CEO

Let's be honest here, raise your hand (put a finger down, for you young folks) if you thought "all this" would be over by now and that we would be walking, sailing, riding, dancing, singing, laughing, BREATHING into 2021 with all of "THIS" behind us?

Ok, now that we have that out of the way, I would like to congratulate all the businesses who have made it, who have re-invented themselves, who have stepped up their game, who took 2020 by the reigns and did not lose control. You should be proud of yourself, your family, as well as your teams. I know that the Staff and Board of Direc-

tors renewed enthusiasm, and above all else, a commitment to you, our partners, to assist in making the Kilgore, Texas area the best place to Live, Learn, Work and Play.

The Board of Directors and Staff would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very prosperous and goal-achieving New Year.

*Jill R. McCartney, IOM  
Kilgore Area Chamber  
of Commerce  
President & CEO*

tors of the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce is very proud to represent this community, and we look forward to working with you all in the years to come.

It is my hope, that during the past few months, you have witnessed your Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce come alive for you, our partners, our community. We are definitely in this together! We plan on heading into 2021 with a great list of events scheduled (some new, some old), lots of networking, shaking hands (and yes, let's hope there is some hugging happening as well), face-to-face meetings,



☆☆☆  
JOSEPH STEPHENS  
BROOKSHIRES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2016-2020  
**THANKS FOR  
SERVING!**



Ambassador's Holiday Lunch at Brigitta's Hungarian Restaurant.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Amazing Grace Floral & Design  
BENIS Mexican Restaurant

Joe & Lori Weatherford  
Wright Auto Sales

Find a Chamber Member in the Business Directory at [www.KilgoreChamber.com](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com).

## MEMBER INVESTOR RENEWALS

East Texas Preferred Properties  
East Texas Salt Water Disposal Co.  
Expert Lawn Care  
Freedom Communication Technologies  
Heritage Hospice

Linda Melton, LLC  
Maxwell, Jo Stewart  
Schlotzsky's  
WrapMaster, Inc.

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**Shop Local....SAVE Local**  
*(read that again)*

Sometimes, less is MORE.  
Less driving, MORE Local.  
Spend where you LIVE!

**SUPPORT LOCAL**

Give your local businesses a reason  
to be Thankful this year.  
Spend where you LIVE.



**KILGORE**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**KILGORE EYE CARE CENTER**  
Chamber Connections  
1664029  
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# MORNING BREW



POWERED BY  
KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**No December Morning Brew  
Please have a Happy, Safe, and  
Blessed Holiday Season**

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

## NOVEMBER MORNING BREW



Morning Brew, one of the Chamber's business connection events, was sponsored by East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG). Thank you to David Cleveland and staff for hosting an outstanding event! If your business is interested in hosting a Morning Brew, contact Lisa Morgan at the Kilgore Chamber 903-984-5022.



## UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### December / January

Dec 21	Board Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
Dec 24-Jan 1		OFFICE CLOSED	
Jan 6	EMT's	11:30am	Kilgore Chamber
Jan 12	Ambassador Lunch	11:30am	TBD
Jan 14	Executive Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
Jan 18	Board Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber

Go to [KilgoreChamber.com](http://KilgoreChamber.com) or [VisitKilgore.com](http://VisitKilgore.com) for more event information.

If you have a community event you wish to have listed on the Kilgore Calendar please send your information via email to [info@kilgorechamber.com](mailto:info@kilgorechamber.com), drop it by the Chamber office at 1108 North Kilgore St. We will be happy to share your event information on the community calendar and via Facebook at [KilgoreChamber](https://www.facebook.com/KilgoreChamber) and [VisitKilgore](https://www.facebook.com/VisitKilgore).

☆☆☆  
BILLIE MIMS  
AUSTIN BANK  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2017-2020  
**THANKS FOR SERVING!**  
Billie has served the last 3 years as the Treasurer!



☆☆☆  
JAMES MURPHY  
REPUBLIC SERVICES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2016-2020  
**THANKS FOR SERVING!**  
James served as Chairman of the Board from 10/2017 - 9/2019



KILGORE 2020-2021 Chairman's Star Member

GRATTON CHIROPRACTIC 903.218.5353

GATEWAY TRAVEL PLAZAS ZIPPY J'S COMMUNITY STORES WHERE TRAVEL MEETS CONVENIENCE

REPUBLIC SERVICES

kilgore-gilmer EYE CARE CENTERS

LAIRD INSURANCE AGENCY PROUDLY INDEPENDENT SINCE 1923

BROGOITTI CONSTRUCTION

KILGORE THE CITY OF STARS

KILGORE 2020-2021 President's Star Member

**Gabriel/Jordan Buick GMC**  
**Skeeter Products**

"The purpose of the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce is to cultivate a strong business and industrial environment in the Kilgore area, creating a vibrant place to live, learn, work and play."

### 2019-20 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF**  
Jill McCartney, President/CEO  
Lisa Morgan, Member Services Manager

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
Dr. Chris Gratton, Chairman (Gratton Chiropractic)  
Mark Robinson, Chair Elect (AEP/SWEPCO)  
Robert Young, Vice Chair (Skeeter Products)  
Bobbie Hurley O'Dell, Vice Chair (Arco Valves & Controls)  
Billie Mims, Treasurer (Austin Bank)  
James Murphy, Past Chair (Republic Services)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Tim Capps (Gabriel/Jordan GMC Buick)  
Joe Stephens (Brookshire's)  
Blayne Cole (Noble Roofing)  
Erin Brogoitti (The Ward Agency)  
Jack Moore (Whataburger)

**EX-OFFICIO**  
Richard Nash (KISD)  
Dr. Brenda Kays (Kilgore College)  
Jana Russell (KEDC)  
Josh Selleck (City of Kilgore)  
David Cleveland (East Texas Council of Government)

Place YOUR AD in next month's  
**Chamber Connection**  
Call 903.984.2593

**KILGORE NEWS HERALD**

ARBOR GRACE NURSING & REH  
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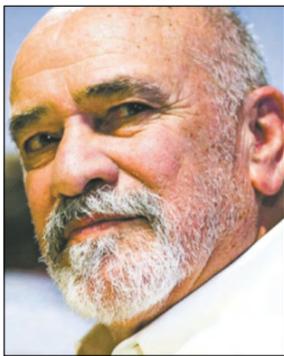
EAST TEXAS TIRE & SERVICE  
Chamber Connections  
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# City Connection



NOVEMBER 2020 • www.cityofkilgore.com

## Bill Woodall's Notes from City Hall



**Bill Woodall**

Kilgore Community Relations Manager

It's been quite the year, eh?

- A marvelous extension to the Creekside Trail, a brand, spanking new Bighead Creek Mountain Bike Trail, a dog park big

enough to wear out even the most energetic of hounds.

- The intersection of Lantrip St and Henderson Blvd was overhauled in partnership with Hometown Restaurant Group from Lindale, the developers of the new Dairy Queen going up rapidly at that location.
- Up the hill and around the corner, Costorde, LLC – a Houston outfit – announced the acquisition of the old Regions Bank building and plans to build a Chick-Fil-A. Catty corner from that project, CEF- CO intends to build a gas station-slash-convenience store-slash Huddle House.

- Less than a block from the Chick-Fil-A and CEF- CO projects, construction is underway on a new urgent care clinic at the same time work is underway on an urgent care clinic at the corner of Henderson Blvd and Leach Street.

Meanwhile, downtown, James Chowanski, currently a Seattle-area resident but who has roots in Gregg County, has acquired the "big gray building" at the corner of East Main and Kilgore streets as well as the West Main Street building most recently occupied by Pat Anderson Furniture. The ground floor of the East Main building is occupied by retail tenants; plans for the old furniture store have not been announced. Both have been spruced up.

The former furniture store (J.C. Penney, if you go back far enough) was a topic at city council meeting this week. As part of a program announced earlier, the city will reimburse Chowanski 25 percent of the \$32,000 he's spent upgrading ADA-compliant restrooms. That program recognizes that redevelopment of older commercial structures often involves much more than paint and a new door... fire codes must be met, Americans with Disabilities Act requirements must be satisfied, building and electrical codes have to be dealt with. All in, fixing up an old building is expensive. In an effort to facilitate that redevelopment, city staff developed and council members approved the reimbursement program put to use for the first time this week.

One week into 2021, the comprehensive plan steering committee will meet one last time – a final walk through on January 7 before the plan goes to the city council. Over the course of the project, well over a year since the first public-input session at the Old Post Office, city planners and consultants have sought face-to-face input from about 150 stakeholders and accepted 352 responses to an online survey questionnaire, all in addition to the crowd that offered input at public presentations. The proposed plan has been well "vetted."

For now, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and mask-up.



Above: That's not Jurassic Park, it's downtown Kilgore! Trick-or-treaters dressed as terrifying Tyrannosaurs and about everything else you could think of, at the annual downtown trick or treat event on Halloween. LUCAS STROUGH/KILGORE NEWS HERALD

Top Left: Ciera Johnson, 14, of Big Sandy, plays on the playground Wednesday, November 25, 2020, at Danville Farms in Kilgore. LES HASSELL/SPECIAL TO KILGORE NEWS HERALD

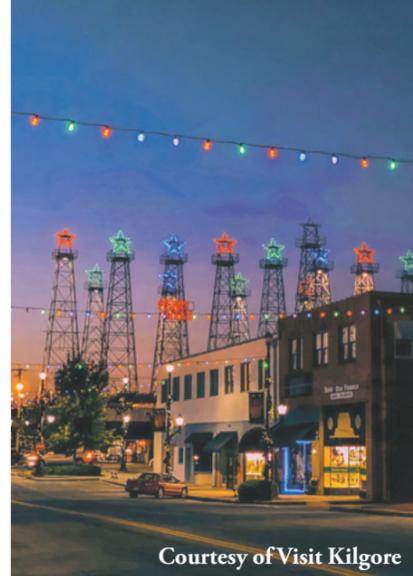
Left: Shoppers visit downtown businesses during Downtown Kilgore's Mingle & Jingle on Saturday, November 28, 2020. LES HASSELL/SPECIAL TO KILGORE NEWS HERALD

Bottom Left: Kilgore College Rangerettes march in step as they perform one of their classic high-kick routines for a thrilled audience at the derrick lighting in downtown Kilgore. LUCAS STROUGH/KILGORE NEWS HERALD

Below: Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted locals to downtown Kilgore for the annual derrick lighting ceremony, which included live performances, fresh food and holiday cheer. LUCAS STROUGH/KILGORE NEWS HERALD



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## Talking Tourism



**Ryan Polk**  
Tourism Mgr.

It's that time of year again, and the sights and sounds of the holidays aren't forgotten around Kilgore. And, this is the season for Kilgore and it's iconic oil derrick

skyline to glow with bright, colorful stars. Our festive city is no stranger to holiday cheer, and you can quickly fill an evening with twinkling Christmas lights and displays if you know where to look. So start warming up the car, fill a to-go cup with hot chocolate, and set out to some of our favorite spots listed below in our first ever Kilgore Holiday Lights Guide.

### GIVE THE GIFT OF KILGORE!

This year is the year to buy and give the gift of something local. From restaurants to boutiques and all in between, there are so many options in the City of Stars. And if you don't have time to browse, you can always purchase a gift certificate. Locally owned stores offer

some of the most dazzling storefronts and bright interiors in town. We're lucky that so many do business here in Historic Downtown Kilgore! Across the board, these stores exude positive energy and prioritize the safety of their customers above all.

You can now drop your letters off to santa in #HistoricDowntownKilgore at the corner of N. Kilgore and Main St. in front of Willow Creek Cottage. Don't forget to post a photo and use hashtag #KilgoreSantaLetters

Kilgore is full of unique boutique stores. While exploring one of our best shopping areas, Historic Downtown Kilgore, you're sure to find many more stores that pique your interest. Many stores offer private appointments should you

feel more comfortable shopping alone. Find the perfect gift before the holidays draw to a close!

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

There's a lot to look forward to in 2021! But first, we want to say, FAREWELL, ADIOS, AU RE-VOIR, CIAO, to 2020, it's time for you to exit - Bye!! And with some good news, 2020 has allotted us time to enjoy and experience the great outdoors and piney woods right here in Kilgore's backyard. We can't wait to take advantage of the full range of outdoor activities available here in the new year. We'll detail the full list of "What's New" in next month's newsletter, everything from outdoor recreation recommendations to new culinary options.

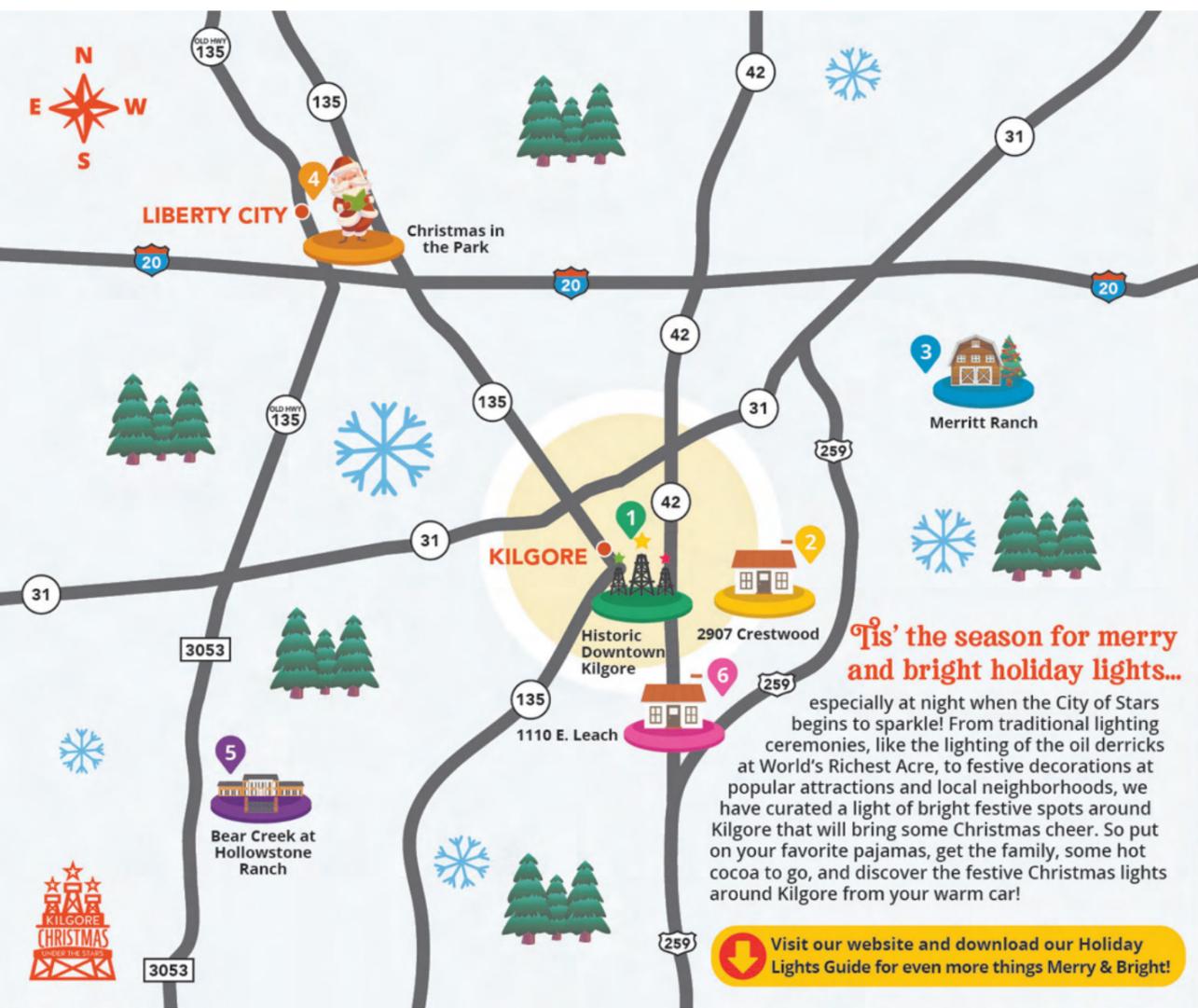
### SYNERGY PARK IS STOCKED WITH NEW TROUT!

It's trout season at Synergy Park, and thanks to Texas Parks & Wildlife, Elder Lake in Synergy Park just received a fresh stock of trout for all ages to enjoy.

### HOLIDAY LIGHTS - KILGORE STYLE

We love to feature Kilgore photos on social media, in our newsletters, on our website, and in our Visitors Guide! Just use #VisitKilgore on your social post for a chance to be featured!

Submit your Events and Find More Events at [www.VisitKilgore.com](http://www.VisitKilgore.com)



## Kilgore Holiday Lights Guide

- 1** Historic Downtown Kilgore  
World's Richest Acre
- 2** 2907 Crestwood  
Residence - Kilgore
- 3** Merritt Ranch  
Stone Rd. and FM. 2276 - Residence - Kilgore
- 4** Christmas in the Park - Liberty City  
Hugh Camp Memorial Park 5716 Old Hwy 135, Kilgore, TX
- 5** Bear Creek at Hollowstone Ranch  
FM 3053 and Red Level Loop 1113  
Residence - Kilgore
- 6** 1110 Leach St.  
Residence - Kilgore

**KEY**  
 Free  
 Music  
 Shopping

VisitKilgore.com

Place  
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in next month's  
**City Connection**

Call 903.  
**984.2593**

KILGORE NEWS HERALD

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