

Chamber Connection



KILGORE
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

APRIL 2021 • www.kilgorechamber.com

Kilgore Goes to Austin

On a rainy Sunday afternoon, late February, several of our Kilgore area community leaders traveled to Austin, Texas to advocate on behalf of our businesses. The 87th Legislative session was already well underway and it was time for our elected officials to hear our voice! The Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce has joined forces with the East Texas Coalition (ETC), a regional business advocacy group, made up of the Kilgore Area, Lindale, Longview and Tyler Chambers of Commerce. The ETC has spent the last year pouring over local public policies and producing a regional priority listing of important issues that face our community. Our focuses are Energy, Economic Development, Education, Healthcare, Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure.

So, what does an advocacy trip to Austin look like? The true benefit to the Kilgore community is the flexible nature of this event. Participating in a larger regional group provides us with a more impactful voice as we speak about East Texas business needs. We also take advantage of our time to meet one-on-one with our elected officials to discuss Kilgore specific needs. During our day sessions, our speakers included:

- Vance Ginn, Ph.D.
Chief Economist Texas
- Lisa Craven,
Deputy Comptroller

- Jennifer Banda, Vice-President Texas Hospital Association
- Todd Staples, President of Texas Oil and Gas Association
- Jennifer Harris, State Program Director, Connection Nation
- Commissioner Mike Morath, Texas Education Agency
- Secretary of State Ruth Hughs
- Senator Bryan Hughes

• Lt. Governor Dan Patrick
Wow, what an incredible line up with very timely information!

Our personal advocacy efforts included dinner with Representative Travis Clardy on Sunday evening, followed by in-office visits with Senator Bryan Hughes and Representative Jay Dean on Monday afternoon. Personally, this is my favorite part of the trip. Relationship building is the most important aspect of advocacy. We must spend time conversing with our elected officials if we want them to create good policy. Every session, the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce creates a Local Public Policy Priorities card to leave with our legislators. Using local examples of frustrated business owners can positively change poor legislation. As we left Senator Hughes' office, one of our delegates stated his incredulity at the openness and availability we were afforded. We were once again reminded that



the Capitol is "our house" and the elected officials are tenants working on our behalf.

The Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce exists to bring value to its members and to our community. Our Governmental Affairs Committee is always looking for ways to support legislation that could positively impact our businesses. Please reach out to Jill or myself

if your business needs a voice at a local, State or Federal level. Thank you for allowing us to represent you in Austin this year. Consider joining us in 2023!

God Bless,
Mark Robinson
AEP-SWEPCO
Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce,
Board Chairman

A Simple Message

My message today and every day is very simple, clear, and important! I am here to advocate for the members of the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce. Your Chamber Directors are volunteering to advocate for the members of the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce. We produce events, programs, agendas, materials, and letters to advocate and promote the members of the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce.

Simply stated, if you own or manager a business in the Kilgore, Texas AREA and you are NOT a member of the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce, please JOIN today. I go to work, every day, for YOU!



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

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



MEMBER INVESTOR RENEWALS

Arbor Grace
Brigitta's Hungarian Restaurant
Brogioiti Construction Management, LLC
Centerpoint Energy
Central Title Company
Charles N. Richardson Enterprises
Coldwell Banker Lenhart Properties, Inc.
East Texas Hardware

Edward Jones - Emily Arp
Noble Roofing Bullard Associates, LLC
Patterson Motors of Kilgore, Inc
Phillips & Gilchrist, LLP
R & K Distributors, Inc.
Stream-Flo USA
Whataburger #650
Willow Rehab & Nursing

Find a Chamber Member in the Business Directory at www.KilgoreChamber.com.



90 Members
90 DAYS
POWERED BY THE KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

E & H Drug and Alcohol Testing
J Perkins Insurance Agency, LLC
Southern Beauty Lifestyle
Sparkle Janitorial, LLC

Stone Street Plaza | MRP Capital Group
The Tackle Box
The University of Texas at Tyler

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

April / May

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| April 15 | Morning Brew | 8:00am | Avalon Faire |
| April 15 | Exec Meeting | 12:00pm | Kilgore Area Chamber |
| April 19 | Board Meeting | 12:00pm | Kilgore Area Chamber |
| April 21 | Transportation Meeting | 12:00pm | Kilgore Area Chamber |
| April 29 | Texas Tea – Women In Business | 6:00pm | Texan Theater |
| May 5 | EMT's Meeting | 11:30am | Kilgore Area Chamber |
| May 7 | Spring Swing Golf Tournament | 12:00pm | Tempest Golf Club |
| May 10 | Government Affairs | 11:30am | Kilgore Area Chamber |
| May 11 | Ambassador Meeting | 11:30am | TBD |

Go to KilgoreChamber.com or VisitKilgore.com for more event information.

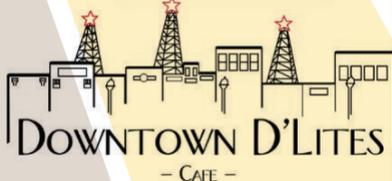
If you have a community event you wish to have listed on the Kilgore Calendar please send your information via email to info@kilgorechamber.com, drop it by the Chamber office at 1108 North Kilgore St. We will be happy to share your event information on the community calendar and via Facebook at [KilgoreChamber](https://www.facebook.com/KilgoreChamber)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

MORNING BREW



POWERED BY
KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Thursday
May 20, 2021
8:00 - 9:00 am
103 N. Kilgore Street
Kilgore TX 75662



The "Male" Room event was held on Saturday, March 19th, 2021. The winner of the top cash prize was Keith Gardner



Last month's Morning Brew was held at D&D Industrial Welding



Ribbon cutting ceremony for Kilgore Quick Care



Ribbon cutting ceremony for TOCE International



The 2021 Virtual D.C. Capitol Connect was held on Tuesday, March 30th. Picture includes Moderator Mark Robinson, AEP/SWEPCO & Chairman of the Board for Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce, Senator John Cornyn, Senator Ted Cruz, and Congressman Louie Gohmert.

"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."

2020-21 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mark Robinson, Chairman (AEP/SWEPCO)
Bobbie Hurley O'Dell, Chair Elect (Arpco Valves & Controls)
Robert Young, Vice Chair (Skeeter)
Erin Brogoitti, Vice Chair (The Ward Agency)
Jill McCartney, Secretary (Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce)
Blayne Cole, Treasurer (Noble Roofing Bullard Associates, LLC)
Dr. Christopher Gratton, Past Chair (Gratton Chiropractic)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Capps (Gabriel/Jordan GMC Buick)
Jack Moore (Whataburger)
Jim Kale (Arbor Grace of Kilgore)
Kevin Offeringing (East Texas Hardware)
Ubaldo Meraz (East Texas Professional Credit Union)

EX-OFFICIO

Richard Nash (KISD)
Dr. Brenda Kays (Kilgore College)
Jana Russell (Kilgore Economic Development Corp.)
Josh Selleck (City of Kilgore)
David Cleveland (East Texas Council of Governments)



KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF
Lisa Morgan, Member Services Manager

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

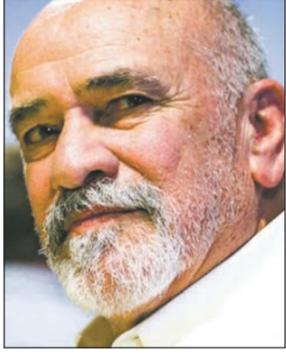
KILGORE NEWS HERALD

City Connection



APRIL 2021 • www.cityofkilgore.com

Notes from City Hall



Bill Woodall

Kilgore Community Relations Manager

If it's spring, it must be the season for outdoor events.

Parks Department crews are busy prepping parks and facilities for warm (or hot) weather.

- The Lazy Splash Ranch splash pad is ready to go and will open Saturday, May 1.

- Work is progressing on the remodeling at the pool house with Public Works project managers shooting for a June 1 opening of the city's historic super-olympic sized pool. The city will accept employment applications – (would you like to be a life-guard?) – May 1 through May 17. Once a staff roster is complete, pool managers will begin scheduling programs. If work at the pool house is delayed, pool opening could be pushed back. For updates, keep an eye on Kilgore City Pool's Facebook page.

- The first race at Bighead Mountain Bike Trail is scheduled for Subdaym

May 16. This will be a great race for beginners as well as experts; riders can choose to ride one, two or three laps of the four mile course. Registration is available at <https://www.bikereg.com/creekside-sprint-mtb-race>. A mountain bike clinic for kids will be held a day earlier on Saturday, May 15.

- Meadowbrook Golf Course stays busy year-round but spring brings an extra push for groundskeepers. As we've come to expect the course is in terrific condition and ready for spring/summer traffic.

Meadowbrook is one of East Texas' historic courses, designed by Tillman C. Wilcox and opened in 1932. The course is laid out over gently rolling terrain, with bunkers and a meandering creek coming into

play on several holes. Elevated tees and greens with slightly doglegged fairways make for challenging shots throughout your round. Though not a long course by today's standards, Meadowbrook Kilgore offers a perfect mix of shot variety.

Greens fees start at \$10 for 9 holes, walking. Nine holes with cart rental is \$20, \$28 on weekends but you can get 18 holes with a cart for \$30, \$38 on the weekend. (Interested but not yet committed? Rent a set of clubs for \$10 and get lessons for \$50 per hour.) Call 903-218-6971 to reserve a tee time or for information.

- Busy all year, the pace of downtown activities shifts into a higher gear in springtime. This season, Kilgore Main Street is hosting free, outdoor lunch-time

concerts at the World's Riches Acre Park on Commerce Street every Tuesday in April and May. Many other events are already on the downtown schedule including Geekend on May 1, Vintage market on May 8 and Tractors Trucks & Fun on May 15.

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Less fun (but at least as important): Early voting continues through this week – 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. – at city Hall and from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, April 26 and 27, still at City Hall. While Mayor Ronnie Spradlin is running unopposed, Harvey McClendon and Brandon Bigos are challenging for the Place 2 seat.

Election Day voting is from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at City Hall.



Ryan Polk

Tourism Manager

TALKING TOURISM



Spring is in FULL BLOOM in Kilgore! Hit the road with your family or friends and discover (or rediscover) why Kilgore continues to be one of the most popular spots for an easy, enjoyable, DRIVEABLE getaway – especially for unique events and Instagram-worthy scenes. There are some significant events to look forward to this spring! Keep reading to see what is coming up in the next few weeks.



Avalon Faire - Every Sat-Sun through May 16

For more info, including schedule and tickets, visit avalonfaire.com and follow them on Facebook.



Tunes Day at The Acre
Every Tuesday, April-May



Kilgore Cruise Night - April 24



Geekend - May 1-2



Kilgore College Dance Recital - May 1



Vintage Market/Artisan Fair - May 8



Kilgore Color Run - May 8

Sign Up Here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/Kilgore/KilgoreColorRun>

Creekside Sprint Race at Bighead Creek MTB
May 16

REGISTER HERE: www.bikereg.com/creekside-sprint-mtb-race



Tractors, Trucks & Fun - May 15

We love to feature Kilgore photos on social media, our newsletters, our website, and 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

TITLEIST SPONSOR:

PATTERSON

KILGORE CHEVROLET CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM



TEMPEST GOLF CLUB
568 E WILKINS RD, GLADEWATER, TX 75647

**FRIDAY
MAY 7**

10 AM BLOODY MARY BAR OPENS
10:30 AM BRUNCH
12 PM TOURNAMENT BEGINS

★ **TITLEIST SPONSOR: \$2,000**

(only 1 available, team of 4 with cart & food)
• Headline logo on all materials printed and web-based (promotional, advertising, newsletter, event sponsor signage, program)
• Opportunity to set up a display table and distribute marketing and promotional materials
• Looped ad run during Crawfish Boil - business must provide digital ad
• Player gift personalized with your logo



★ **BRUNCH SPONSOR: \$1,000**

(2 available, team of 4 with cart and food)
• 2 carts on course with beverages with your logo - you can have 1 staff person in cart
• Opportunity to set up table with your business materials in dining area

★ **TEAM ONLY FEE: \$500 MEMBER or \$600 NON-MEMBER**

• Green fees for 4, golf cart, food and beverage

★ **ADOPT-A-HOLE SPONSOR: \$250**

• Exclusive name recognition on sign at assigned hole
• Business hosts assigned hole - may bring additional signs and hand out materials to golfers
• Sponsor and coordinate a game or challenge on adopted hole and provide prize for morning and afternoon rounds
- Longest Putt - Longest Drive
- Closest to Hole - Putting Contest

★ **PREMIER SPONSOR: \$1,250**

(2 available, team of 4 with cart and food)
• Logo on all materials printed and web-based (promotional, advertising, newsletter, event sponsor signage, program)
• Looped ad run during Crawfish Boil - business must provide digital ad
• Opportunity to set up a display table and distribute marketing and promotional materials

★ **SCORECARD SPONSOR: \$1,000**

(2 available, team of 4 with cart and food)
• Name recognition on registration table and event program
• Business name on all scorecards
• Logo recognition on luncheon table
• Name recognition in online and social media advertising
• Team of 4 including cart and green fees - includes lunch

★ **HOLE FLAG SPONSOR: \$300**

(only 18 available)
• Logo on a hole flag which will be used during the outing and presented to you after the tournament

★ **HOLE / TEE SIGN SPONSOR: \$150**

• Your company name placed in a sign located near a green or tee

Tournament Hosted By The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce
For More Information: (903) 984-5022

TEAM REGISTRATION

Entry Deadline: Friday, April 30

TEAM NAME: _____
CONTACT PERSON: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

CIRCLE NUMBER OF
CARTS NEEDED:
NONE 1 2

TEAM MEMBERS:

TEAM ENTRY:

\$500 | MEMBERS
\$600 | NON-MEMBERS

PLEASE REMIT PAYMENT TO: KILGORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PAYABLE BY CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD

NAME ON CARD: _____ ZIP: _____
CARD NUMBER: _____ CSV: _____
EXPIRATION DATE: ____/____/____ SIGNATURE: _____

Place
**YOUR
AD**
in next month's
**City
Connection**
Call 903.
984.2593
KILGORE NEWS HERALD