



KEISER NEWS

"Small town, big heart - that's Keiser!"

2024

June Newsletter

Vol 14

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

Keiser Park Undergoes Major Transformation

Keiser City Park is more than just a green space; it's the heart and soul of our community. It's where our children learn to play and develop social skills, where families gather to celebrate birthdays and reunions, and where everyone can enjoy leisurely walks or engage in outdoor activities that enhance our health and well-being.

The Keiser Special Events Committee has been passionately working to enhance our cherished park, and we are thrilled to announce that it is undergoing a significant transformation. You may have already noticed some changes: the old concession stand has been removed, the basketball court has been taken down, and much of the playground equipment has been relocated to the north end of the park, now equipped with safety padding to ensure our children's protection. These initial changes are just the beginning of an exciting journey.

Thanks to a generous \$30,000 matching grant from the State of Arkansas, we are set to install new playground equipment in June. Additionally, we've secured an \$86,000 grant from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) to create a new bike and walking trail that will encircle the entire park. This trail is scheduled to be completed between late 2024 and early 2025, offering a scenic and safe path for walking, jogging, and cycling.

Recently, we received a substantial \$100,000 Fun Park grant, which will fund the installation of even more playground equipment tailored to our children's enjoyment. These improvements are fully funded and will be executed as planned.

Looking ahead, we have ambitious plans to create a "Senior Area" in the park. This area will feature low-impact exercise equipment,

picnic tables, and park benches, providing a serene space where our senior community members can engage in light workouts and enjoy each other's company in the fresh air. Moreover, we have submitted grant applications for the construction of a tennis court, a pickleball court, a basketball court and a multipurpose amphitheater. This amphitheater will be a venue for concerts, beauty pageants, and potentially shows, to enrich the cultural life of our community.

For the fishing enthusiasts, we will develop a fishing pond at the south end of the park. This pond will be approximately one acre in size and will be stocked twice a year by the Arkansas Fish and Game Commission. The area will be beautifully landscaped with a well-maintained pier and several park benches, providing a perfect spot for relaxation and fishing.

To address parking needs, we will pave a new parking area along the west side of the park. Enhancing security is also a top priority; Entergy has already installed three powerful 1000W LED floodlights at strategic locations to deter vandalism. We will be adding another light pole with two additional 1000W LEDs on the north side of the playground and installing security cameras throughout the park to ensure the safety and security of our children and visitors.

Furthermore, we are committed to enhancing the park's natural beauty. New trees and landscaping will be added to create a warm, inviting, and picturesque environment for all to enjoy.

I am incredibly excited to witness the transformation of Keiser Park and look forward to seeing the joy and laughter of our children as they play. I hope you share my enthusiasm and consider volunteering to help turn these ambitious plans into a vibrant reality. Together, we can make Keiser Park a truly special place for everyone in our community.

City Council meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. All welcome.

Follow us on Facebook and at our website www.cityofkeiser.com

Water bills due the 16th of each month. Late charges will be applied on the 16th and shutoff on the 27th unless the 27th is Friday.

Remember riding ATV's on city streets is a violation of state law and will be enforced.

Remember the city has a leash law. If you are walking your dog in the city limits they MUST be on a leash. No exceptions.

If you have not yet registered your dog or cat. Please come to City Hall and do so.

You can buy 40 gallon garbage bags at City Hall. There are 50 in a roll and the cost is \$10.00 per roll.

Home owners and contractors are required to notify city hall before any mechanical excavation can be done.

City Hall—870-526-2300

New City Hall Hours

Hours 8:00am to 4:45pm M-F
Closed 12:00 to 1:00 for lunch

"Where Everybody Knows Your Name." - by Peggy Sellars

Just a little "ole" piece of gumbo that covers 0.4 miles, Keiser (once known as "Savage Crossing") is a small town in South Mississippi County founded by Lee Wilson & Company. Until the early 20th century, the land that would become Keiser was swampland covered with hardwood forests. However, Robert Lee Wilson saw the potential for a booming timber business that would later turn into rich farmland. On November 10, 1933, the town was incorporated under the name of Keiser (named for "Boss" Wilson's friend John Keiser.)

In order to accelerate the timber industry, a railroad was built to connect Wilson to Jonesboro. That railroad came through Keiser. As the trees were cleared, the existing logging camp turned into a settlement of families. The first general store was established in a boxcar. In 1929, Lee Wilson donated land for a school that served first through twelfth grades. The school had an auditorium that also served as a community center. The Keiser School District was merged into the South Mississippi County School District in 1968. During the depression, the water tower (referred to as the witch's hat or tinman) was built by the Public Works Association (PWA). In 1957, the Arkansas Research and Extension Center established a 750-acre research farm near Keiser, followed in 1980 by a regional headquarters.

During the 40's through the 60's, Keiser became what is known as a "booming" city. A growth spurt resulted in Keiser being the home to 2 doctor's offices, a pharmacy, several clothing and appliance stores, a couple of restaurants, a movie theater, a pool hall, and a liquor store.

These days are gone, but what makes Keiser a place to come back to is the people. There is a uniqueness to Keiser that is rare and hard to find elsewhere. Keiser is home to many who can trace their roots to the city back at least three generations. Several of our citizens today are comprised of multiple generations (parents, children, grandchildren) still calling Keiser their home. Keiserites have often been referred to as "cliquish" by those in surrounding towns. If that means that we are family and we look

out for each other, then I guess they are right.

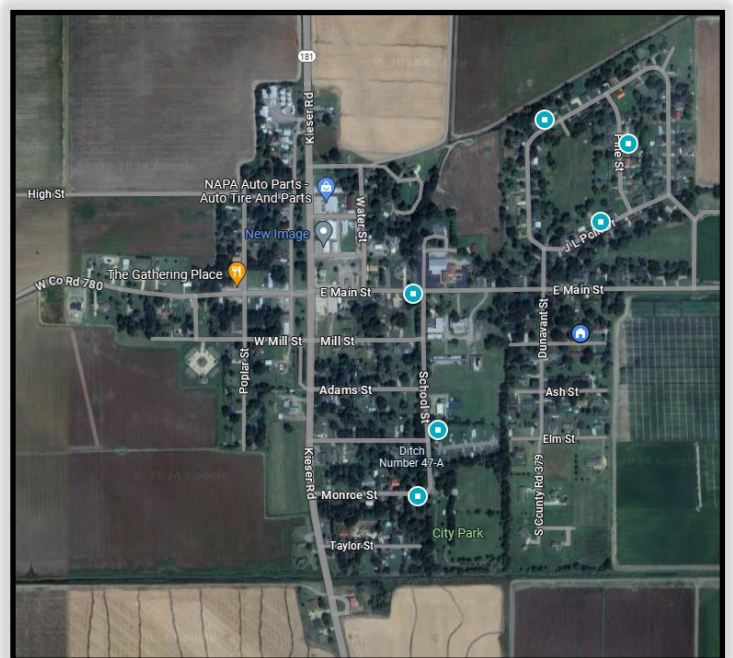
Keiser is home to 5 churches of different denominations who respect and cooperate with each other for the good of the town and its citizens,

As of the 2020 census, there were 751 people living in Keiser. According to the City of Keiser Water Department, there are 327 water meters in use. This number varies with people moving in or out of the city.

Elected officials serving Keiser at this time are Mayor Rick Creecy, Recorder/Treasurer Peggy Sellars, and Councilmembers Donna Bell, Joey Jackson, Laura Smith, and Lynn Skaggs. Rodney Neal Brown has served as Director of Public Works since 2016. Penny Wilbanks currently serves as water/City Hall Coordinator.

"Where Everybody Knows your Name" and your grandpa and grandma's names, your mama and daddy's names, your children's names and your grandchildren's names describes Keiser perfectly. Where else would your neighbor be your old classmate? Where else would your first-grade teacher when you were six years old be your child's first grade teacher when he reached six years old?

ONLY KEISER!



May is (ALS Awareness) Month

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

Also known as Lou Gehrig's disease

ALS is a fatal nervous system disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, causing muscle weakness and loss of control.

According to the **ALS** Association, approximately 5,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS each year, which averages to about 15 new cases each day. It is estimated that up to 20,000 Americans have the disease at any given time. Statistically ALS is 20% more common in men than women. About 90% of ALS cases occur without any known family history or genetic cause. The estimated prevalence of ALS in 2015 was 5.2 per 100,000 population.

Unfortunately, there is **no definitive cure** for ALS. However, several treatments and supportive measures can help manage the symptoms and improve the quality of life for individuals with ALS:

1. **Medications:**
2. **Therapies and Supportive Measures:**
3. **Research and Advancements:**

Researchers continue to study potential new medications and treatments for ALS. [While there is no cure yet, ongoing research aims to improve our understanding of the disease and develop more effective therapies³.](#)

Remember that each person's experience with ALS is unique, and treatment plans should be tailored to individual needs. [If you or someone you know is affected by ALS, seeking care from a specialized team of healthcare providers can make a significant difference in managing the condition and maintaining the best possible quality of life⁴.](#)

As someone who is all too familiar with this dreadful disease, it is real and can affect anyone at any given moment. I personally was a

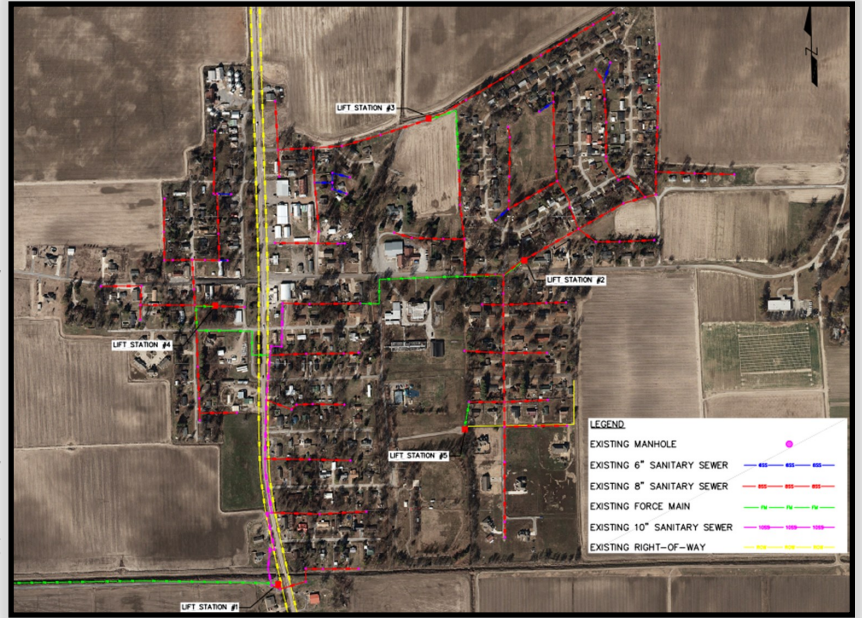
caregiver for my husband who was diagnosed in July 2020, and lost his battle to ALS May 26, 2022. You are never prepared for a diagnosis such as this for anyone, let alone one of your close family members. This disease takes so much from the person dealing with it. It takes everything from you; except your mind. So, a person is literally trapped inside their body, and there is nothing they can do. However, there are resources to rely on. I had an amazing support team: My children and other family members, my Church Family, Wesley Neurology of Memphis, TN., ALS Associations of Tennessee and Arkansas, just to name a few.



Our Sewer System - Neal Brown Director of Public Works

The Keiser Sewer System, spanning 27,680 linear feet, is a critical infrastructure in the community, featuring 130 manholes and 325 sewer service connections. Established over 50 years ago, the system predominantly utilizes clay sewer pipes. The network includes multiple lift stations strategically located throughout the town: Lift Station No. 1 at the Lagoon with 6-inch pumps, Lift Station No. 2 on Main Street with 4-inch pumps, and Lift Stations No. 3, 4, and 5 on Poplar, Jefferson, and Cypress respectively, each equipped with 3-inch pumps. Over the decades, the system has experienced significant wear and tear, resulting in frequent breaks in sewer lines and connections. Heavy rain exacerbates these issues, leading to infiltration problems. The aging pumping stations further struggle to meet community demands. However, there has been progress with Lift Station No. 1 recently being replaced and now functioning excellently. The replacement of Lift Station No. 2 is planned for the fall, pending the resolution of any funding issues. Recently,

we have completed the cleaning and televising of our sewer system. The next step is to evaluate the severity of the damage to the system, which is crucial for planning necessary repairs and updates. These updates are crucial for ensuring reliable wastewater management and addressing the system's vulnerabilities.



New City Hall Hours



Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 4:45
Closed for Lunch from 12:00 - 1:00

Summertime in Arkansas: Embrace the Season!

As the days grow longer and the temperatures rise, Arkansas comes alive with the vibrant energy of summertime. This beautiful state, known for its natural wonders and charming towns, offers a plethora of activities and experiences that make summer a special time of year. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, a history buff, or simply looking to relax, Arkansas has something to offer everyone.

Outdoor Adventures

For those who love the great outdoors, Arkansas is a summer paradise. The state is home to 52 state parks, each offering unique opportunities to explore and enjoy nature. From hiking the rugged trails of the Ozark Mountains to kayaking on the serene waters of the Buffalo National River, there is no shortage of adventures. Camping under the stars, fishing in crystal-clear lakes, and enjoying picnics amidst lush greenery are just a few ways to soak in the beauty of Arkansas.

Cool Off in the Water

Summer in Arkansas can be warm, but luckily, there are plenty of ways to cool off. The state boasts numerous lakes and rivers that are perfect for swimming, boating, and fishing. Hot Springs, known for its thermal waters, offers a unique way to relax and rejuvenate. For a more exhilarating experience, try white-water rafting on the Cossatot River or tubing down the Ouachita River.

Festivals and Events

Arkansas is brimming with festivals and events that celebrate the spirit of summer. The Hope Watermelon Festival, held in August, is a beloved tradition featuring watermelon-themed activities, live music, and delicious food. The Riverfest in Little Rock is another highlight, offering a mix of concerts, arts and crafts, and fireworks. Don't miss the Terrapin Derby in Lepanto, AR, a unique and fun-filled event that showcases turtle races. And be sure to attend our own Fall Festival in Keiser, where we come together to fellowship as friends and neighbors. These events provide a great opportunity to connect with the community and enjoy the local culture.

Exploring History and Culture

Summer is also a great time to dive into Arkansas'

rich history and culture. Visit the historic town of Eureka Springs, with its Victorian architecture and vibrant arts scene. The Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville offers a stunning collection of art, set amidst picturesque grounds. For a glimpse into the past, explore the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, a key landmark in the Civil Rights Movement.

Local Flavors

No summer in Arkansas is complete without indulging in the local cuisine. From barbecue to catfish, the state's culinary offerings are sure to delight. Farmers' markets across the state burst with fresh produce, providing the perfect ingredients for a summer feast. Be sure to try some locally-grown peaches or strawberries, and don't miss out on the homemade pies and jams.

Health and Safety Tips

While enjoying all that Arkansas has to offer this summer, it's important to stay safe and healthy. Remember to stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, and be mindful of the heat. With the recent addition of defibrillators at city hall and with patrolling police officers, our community is even better equipped to ensure everyone's safety during summer activities.

Enjoy Your Summer!

Summertime in Arkansas is a season of joy, adventure, and connection. Whether you're exploring the great outdoors, attending a lively festival, or simply relaxing with friends and family, there's no better place to be. Embrace the warmth, dive into the activities, and make this summer one to remember.



New Water Bill Payment Options Coming Soon

City of Keiser Announces New Payment Options for Water Bills Starting in early June

The City of Keiser is excited to announce that starting in June, residents will have more convenient ways to pay their water bills. In an effort to make the payment process easier and more accessible, the City Hall will soon accept payments using credit and debit cards. Additionally, residents will be able to pay online using credit and debit cards, as well as set up automatic monthly debits from their checking accounts.

New Payment Methods at City Hall

Residents who prefer to handle their payments in person can now visit City Hall and use their credit or debit cards to pay their water bills. This new option aims to streamline the payment process and reduce the need for cash transactions.

Online Payment Options

For those who find it more convenient to manage their payments from home, the City of Keiser is introducing an online payment system. This system will allow residents to use their credit or debit cards to pay their water bills through a secure online portal. Detailed instructions on how to access and use the online payment system will be available on the City's official website.

Automatic Monthly Debits

To make payments even more hassle-free, the City is also offering an automatic monthly debit option. Residents can set up a direct debit from their checking accounts, ensuring their water bills are paid on time every month without having to manually make a payment. This option is perfect for those who prefer a "set it and forget it" approach to bill payments.

How to Get Started

Starting in June, residents can take advantage of these new payment options. Here's how you can get started:

In-Person Payments: Visit City Hall during business hours and speak to a representative who can assist you with paying your bill using your credit or debit card.

Online Payments: Visit the City of Keiser's website

and follow the instructions to access the online payment portal. You will need to create an account if you haven't already done so.

Automatic Monthly Debits: To set up automatic debits, you will need to fill out a form authorizing the City to debit your checking account each month. Forms will be available at City Hall and on the City's website.

Continuing Existing Payment Methods

The City of Keiser understands the importance of flexibility and will continue to accept payments by cash or check as we do today. Additionally, remember that there is a dropbox at City Hall for payments when City Hall is closed, providing further convenience for our residents.

The City of Keiser is committed to providing convenient and efficient services to its residents. By offering these new payment options, we hope to make it easier for everyone to stay on top of their water bills and avoid late fees. For more information, please contact City Hall or visit our website.

Stay tuned for more updates and thank you for being a valued member of our community!



The Growing Problem of Identity Theft and Cybersecurity

In today's digital age, the threat of identity theft and cybersecurity breaches is more prevalent than ever. As we increasingly rely on digital devices for communication, banking, shopping, and storing personal information, the risk of falling victim to cybercrime escalates. Understanding these risks and learning how to protect your computers and cell phones are crucial steps in safeguarding your identity and personal data.

The Scope of the Problem

Identity theft occurs when someone unlawfully obtains and uses another person's personal data, typically for financial gain. Cybersecurity breaches can involve unauthorized access to systems, networks, and data, leading to the loss or theft of sensitive information. The consequences can be devastating, ranging from financial loss to damage to one's credit rating and even personal reputation.

In 2023 alone, millions of individuals and businesses were affected by data breaches. Hackers use various techniques such as phishing, malware, and ransomware to infiltrate systems. Personal data, once stolen, can be used to open fraudulent accounts, make unauthorized purchases, or even commit more complex frauds.

How to Protect Your Computers

Use Strong, Unique Passwords: Ensure each of your accounts has a unique password that combines letters, numbers, and special characters. Avoid using easily guessable information like birthdays or common words.

Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA): 2FA adds an extra layer of security by requiring not just a password and username but also something that only the user has on them, such as a physical token or a code sent to their phone.

Install Antivirus Software: Reliable antivirus software can detect and prevent many forms of malware and viruses. Keep it updated to ensure maximum protection.

Regular Software Updates: Operating systems, browsers, and applications often release updates to patch security vulnerabilities. Ensure your systems are set to update automatically.

Be Wary of Phishing Scams: Phishing scams are attempts by fraudsters to trick you into providing per-

sonal information. Be cautious of unsolicited emails, messages, or calls asking for sensitive information.

Use a Firewall: A firewall can prevent unauthorized access to your computer and network. Ensure it is enabled and properly configured.

How to Protect Your Cell Phones

Use Biometric Security: Utilize fingerprint or facial recognition features to secure your device. These are often more secure than traditional PINs or passwords.

Install Apps from Trusted Sources: Download apps only from reputable app stores like Google Play or the Apple App Store. Check reviews and permissions before installing new apps.

Regular Backups: Regularly back up your phone's data to a secure location, such as an encrypted cloud service. This ensures you can recover your information if your device is compromised.

Update Your OS and Apps: Just like with computers, keep your phone's operating system and apps updated to protect against known vulnerabilities.

Secure Your Connections: Avoid using public Wi-Fi for transactions or accessing sensitive information. Use a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to encrypt your internet connection.

Monitor Your Accounts: Regularly check your bank and credit card statements for any unauthorized transactions. Set up alerts to be notified of suspicious activity immediately.

The Role of Awareness and Education

Staying informed about the latest cybersecurity threats and how to counter them is vital. Many institutions offer free resources and training on cybersecurity best practices. By increasing your awareness and understanding of potential risks, you can take proactive steps to protect your digital life.

Conclusion

Identity theft and cybersecurity breaches are significant threats in the digital era, but with vigilance and the right protective measures, you can reduce your risk. Use strong, unique passwords, enable two-factor authentication, keep your software updated, and stay informed about potential threats. By taking these steps, you can better safeguard your personal information and maintain your digital security.

Keiser Volunteer Fire Department

Heroes Among Us, Ready to Serve



June 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 World Bicycle Day	4 National Cheese Day	5	6 D-Day	7 National Donut Day	8
9	10 National Egg Roll Day	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day Water Bill Due	17	18 National Go Fishing Day	19 Juneteenth	20 Bald Eagle Day	21	22
23	24 Council Meeting	25	26	27 Cutoff Date	28	29 Camera Day
30						

Unique to Arkansas

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Blanchard Springs	Crystal Bridges	Clinton Library
Arkansas River	Mount Magazine	Fayetteville
Buffalo River	Natural State	Eureka Springs
Bentonville	Greers Ferry	Diamond Mine
Little Rock	Razorbacks	Hot Springs
White River	Pine Bluff	Petit Jean
Ouachita	Fort Smith	El Dorado
Ozarks		

Contact Us

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