



KEISER NEWS

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

2025

November Newsletter

Vol 31

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

Exciting progress continues at the Keiser City Park as construction moves forward on the new bike/walking track — a key part of the city's long-term park improvement plan. The track will provide residents of all ages with a safe and accessible place to bike, walk, jog, or simply enjoy the outdoors. Once completed, the walking track will loop around the park and connect with other amenities, including the new playground area, senior exercise zone, and future sports courts. These upgrades are part of a broader effort to transform the park into a destination where families can gather, exercise, and enjoy year-round recreation.

In addition to the visible progress at the park, the City of Keiser is celebrating two major grant awards that will continue to enhance both public spaces and community safety.

The first is a \$134,000 grant from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) to construct a 10,000-square-foot parking lot at the city park. This new addition will feature many new parking spaces, including designated handicapped-accessible spots, ensuring that residents and visitors have a safe and convenient place to park when enjoying the park's amenities. Construction is expected to begin within the next year and will mark another important step in improving access, safety, and usability of the park. This project will also help accommodate the growing number of visitors who attend community events, fam-

ily gatherings, and recreational activities that have made the park one of Keiser's most popular destinations.

The second major award is a \$25,000 Community Policing Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). This funding builds on the success of a previous DOJ grant that helped launch the first phase of Keiser's community policing initiatives. The new grant will allow the Police Department to expand its programs in Neighborhood Watch, community outreach events, drug prevention, traffic enforcement and education workshops, and enhanced officer training. These initiatives are designed to strengthen community engagement and ensure a stronger partnership between residents and law enforcement.

The City's ongoing success in securing competitive grants demonstrates a clear commitment to progress, accountability, and community well-being. Each new project — from improved park infrastructure to enhanced public safety — brings Keiser closer to its long-term vision of a thriving, family-friendly community. As we continue to work with state and federal partners, residents can expect to see steady improvements that benefit everyone who calls Keiser home.

This latest round of funding brings Keiser's total to 28 grants awarded since October 2021, totaling an impressive \$5,041,443 — a reflection of the city's strong dedication to growth, innovation, and the betterment of its residents.

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

Follow us on Facebook and at our website

Water bills due the 16th of each month. Late charges will be applied on the 17th 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.

Disclaimer: The City of Keiser strives to ensure that all information published in this newsletter is accurate and up to date. However, errors or omissions may occur, and information is subject to change. The City of Keiser is not liable for any misprints, incorrect data, or reliance on the information contained in this publication.

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

Glenn Dunn III - Chief of Police

We recently received the exciting news about a generous Community Policing grant to the Keiser Police Department. We have a lot of exciting events and community-oriented gatherings planned in the coming year, thanks to the grant. We will be performing some anti-drug and alcohol seminars for our school-aged teens and young adults to educate them on the dangers of drugs and drunk-driving.

We will be starting a community-oriented “Meat & Greet” where we will grill some burgers and hot dogs and get to know the community on a more casual basis to foster fellowship with those we serve and protect. We will also be investing into disaster

preparedness in the case of severe weather-related disasters in which the Police Department, as well as volunteers, would respond to.

The Police Department will also be utilizing a portion of the grant to purchase items to go toward community outreach programs, as well as a senior safety program intended on assisting the more senior residents of the city with mobility assistance, wellness checks, among others. We are looking forward to seeing what we can achieve with the added funds from the community policing grant. Look for us in the coming months.

Penny Wilbanks - Recorder/Financial Director

A municipality is more than just a collection of streets, buildings, and services – it’s a living community made up of people who share the same spaces, challenges, and hopes for the future. When residents, local government, and organizations work together, they create a stronger, more connected, and more resilient municipality.

No municipality can thrive without the involvement of its people. While local councils and staff play an essential role in managing infrastructure, safety, and services, true progress happens when everyone participates. Whether it’s volunteering for a cleanup drive, attending public meetings, or supporting local initiatives, every small act of involvement adds up to something greater.

When people work together, they bring unique perspectives and skills that help shape better decisions. For example, residents might share firsthand insights about traffic issues, public spaces, or local needs that planners can’t always see from their desks. This collaboration ensures that municipal projects are not only efficient, but also meaningful and inclusive.

Working together fosters a sense of belonging and shared responsibility. In municipalities, it’s easy for people to feel disconnected – to think of the local council as “them” rather than “us.” But when citizens and officials collaborate openly, that barrier begins to disappear.

Public workshops, town hall meetings, and neighborhood associations are all valuable ways to bridge the gap. These gatherings give residents a voice, encourage dialogue, and allow

local leaders to understand what matters most to their community. The result is mutual trust – a cornerstone of any successful municipality.

Every municipality faces its share of challenges, from maintaining infrastructure to addressing environmental concerns or managing growth. These problems can seem daunting when tackled alone, but when the whole community gets involved, solutions become more achievable. Shared action not only makes the community stronger but also fosters resilience in the face of change.

The most successful municipalities are those that look beyond short-term fixes and work toward a shared vision. This vision includes sustainable development and opportunities for all residents to thrive. When citizens, local leaders, and organizations come together around common goals – such as beautifying public spaces, supporting small businesses, or improving access to services – they create a lasting impact that benefits everyone.

As the saying goes, “It takes a village to raise a child.” In the same way, it takes an engaged and united community to build a vibrant municipality. By working together – listening, participating, and supporting one another – we don’t just improve our towns and cities. We create places where people are proud to live, where voices are heard, and where progress is built on unity.

Neal Brown - Director of Public Works

The City of Keiser Public Works Department is proud to announce the addition of two new employees — Demarui “D” Edwards and Dustin White — who both began working for the city in late June of this year. These two men have quickly proven to be a tremendous asset to our community through their strong work ethic, dedication, and positive attitude.

D and Dustin can be seen working across town nearly every day, performing the behind-the-scenes tasks that keep our city operating safely and efficiently. From cleaning up debris along streets and rights-of-way to reading water meters, repairing leaks, and changing out faulty meters, they are always ready to tackle any job that comes their way. They’ve also played a big role in keeping Keiser’s drainage system functioning properly by cleaning out ditches, removing blockages, and even pulling tires through culverts to make sure rainwater can flow freely and prevent flooding.

What truly sets these men apart is their attitude. No matter how hot the day or how dirty the job, D and Dustin take pride in their work and always greet residents with a smile and a friendly word. Their upbeat

personalities and teamwork have quickly made them valued members of the Public Works family and well-liked figures in the community.

As the department transitions from summer to winter work, D and Dustin will help prepare the city for the cold months ahead. This includes winterizing all public works equipment, servicing the lift stations, adding insulation and heaters to prevent freezing, and ensuring that our city’s essential systems continue running without interruption. Their hard work ensures that when residents turn on their faucets, the water flows — even in the coldest weather.

The City of Keiser is grateful for their dedication and commitment to public service. Our Public Works Department plays a vital role in keeping our community safe, clean, and functional every single day, and D and Dustin have quickly proven they are the right men for the job.

Please join us in welcoming Demarui “D” Edwards and Dustin White to the City of Keiser team — and if you see them out working, take a moment to thank them for all they do to keep our city looking its best!

Swimming Pool Safety

The Keiser City Council earlier this year passed **Ordinance 2025-02**, aimed at improving both the **safety and appearance** of residential areas throughout our community. This ordinance focuses on the proper installation of fencing around swimming pools and hot tubs, as well as the placement of recreational equipment such as trampolines and portable pools.

For properties with a **swimming pool, hot tub, or any similar body of water greater than 18 inches in depth**, the ordinance requires that the area be enclosed by a **locking, non-climbable fence** that stands at least **five feet high**. This requirement is first and foremost about **protecting the lives of children**. Every year, tragic drownings occur across the country when unsupervised children gain access to unprotected pools. By requiring secure fencing and self-locking gates, the City of Keiser is taking proactive steps to help **prevent accidents before they happen**. A non-climbable fence is one designed in such a way—or made of such materials—that climbing it would be difficult or nearly impossible, adding an essential layer of protection for families and neighbors alike.

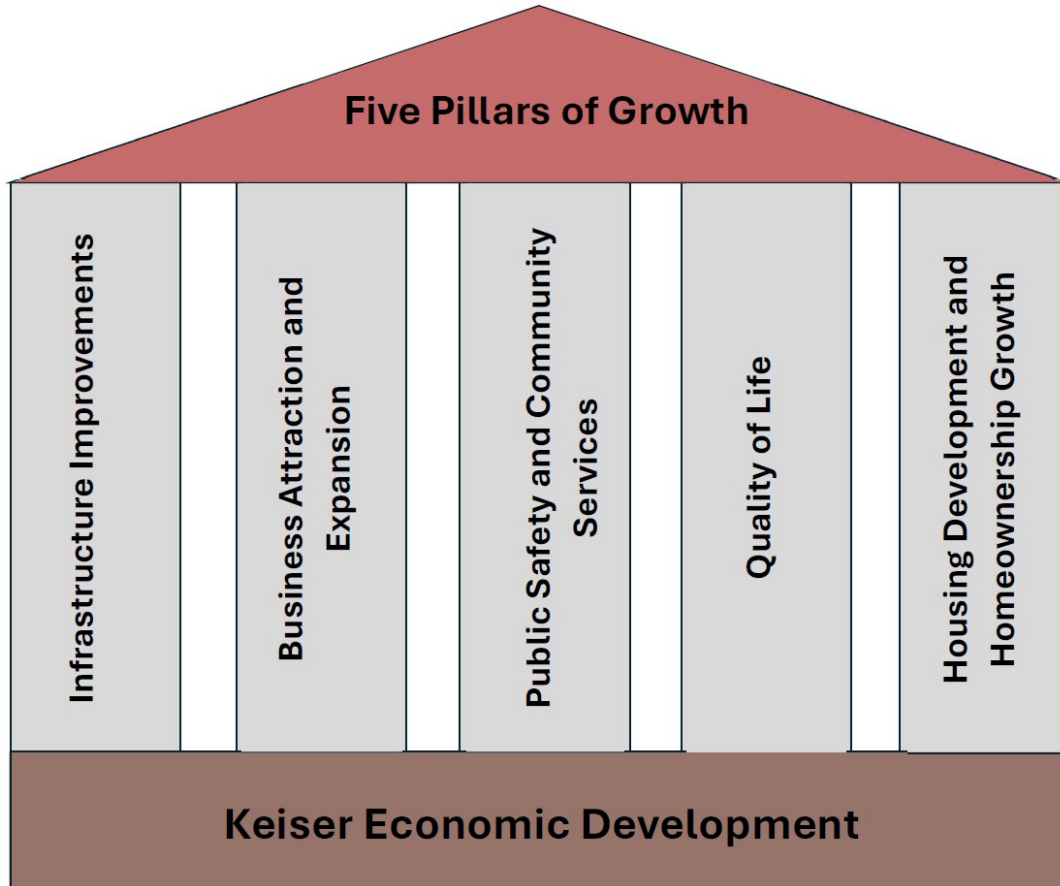
The ordinance also addresses the **placement of recrea-**

tional equipment such as trampolines, swimming pools, and other large outdoor items. To maintain both the **safety and visual integrity** of our neighborhoods, these items **cannot be placed in front yards** where they could obstruct visibility, attract unsupervised play, or affect the overall appearance of residential streets. Instead, they should be located in backyards or other non-visible areas, properly secured and kept in a safe, tidy condition.

These measures reflect the City’s ongoing commitment to **creating a safe, attractive, and family-friendly environment** for all residents. The goal is not to limit enjoyment of outdoor spaces, but to ensure that recreational activities are done responsibly and safely—protecting our children, preserving neighborhood appeal, and strengthening the sense of community pride that makes Keiser a great place to live.

Safety is always our top priority in Keiser. This ordinance is about being proactive and protecting our children. A simple fence or responsible equipment placement can make the difference between a fun summer day and a preventable tragedy. Together, we can keep Keiser safe and beautiful for everyone.

Five Pillars of Economic Growth for Keiser



City Hall Hours



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

Support Local—Keep Your Money in Keiser

Every time you spend money in Keiser, you're doing more than making a purchase—you're investing in your hometown. Supporting local businesses means supporting your neighbors, your city services, and the future growth of our community. The money you spend here stays here, helping us improve roads, enhance our parks, and strengthen essential services like police, fire, and sanitation. Every transaction makes a difference.

When you need **car parts**, stop by **NAPA** right here in town. Buying parts locally keeps your tax dollars circulating through Keiser instead of leaving for bigger cities. If you're due for a haircut or color, visit one of our **local hair salons**—the stylists there not only keep us looking our best but also play an important role in the small-town economy by paying local taxes and contributing to community events.

We're also looking forward to getting our **local diner** up and running. Imagine being able to grab breakfast, lunch, or dinner right here in town while supporting a locally owned business that employs local residents. A diner isn't just a place to eat—it's a place where people come together, share stories, and build community. When you choose to dine locally, you help keep those doors open and those paychecks local.

Shopping local has ripple effects that go far beyond the businesses themselves. Local stores hire local people. Those employees can then spend their paychecks right here in town. That continuous cycle of spending keeps our local economy healthy and vibrant. In contrast, when you spend money out of town, those dollars—and the benefits they create—are gone for good.

But even if you can't find what you're looking for in Keiser, there's still a way to support your city. Anything you **order online** still generates **sales tax**, and a portion of that tax comes directly back to **the City of Keiser and Mississippi County**. So if you're shopping online for clothes, tools, or household items, have them delivered to your home instead of driving out of town. Every bit of sales tax adds up, helping us

pave streets, maintain public spaces, and keep our utilities and services strong.

Think about some of the community improvements we've made and those still to come—new lighting and cameras at the park, upgraded playground equipment, walking trails, and better sewer and water systems. Much of that progress depends on city revenue, and local spending is one of the most effective ways to increase it. The more revenue we have, the more we can invest in making Keiser a safe, attractive, and enjoyable place to live.

Supporting local businesses also builds relationships. When you shop at NAPA, grab a meal at the diner, or get a haircut in town, you're greeted by people who know your name. You're not just a customer—you're a neighbor. Those personal connections are part of what makes small-town living so special, and they're something that big-box stores and out-of-town shopping simply can't replace.

So the next time you need something, **look in Keiser first**. If a local business doesn't have exactly what you need, ask them if they can order it for you. Many of our small business owners are happy to help find what you're looking for—they want to earn your business and keep your dollars here in town.

When we all make a conscious effort to **shop, dine, and spend locally**, we're not just supporting businesses—we're building a stronger community. Together, we can ensure that Keiser continues to grow, thrive, and remain the kind of town we're all proud to call home.

Let's keep our money close to home—because when Keiser wins, **we all win**.



Preparing Your Home and Car for the Fall and Winter Ahead

As the temperatures begin to dip and the leaves start to fall, it's a clear sign that colder weather is just around the corner. Fall is a beautiful season in Keiser — but it's also the perfect time to prepare your home and vehicle for the winter months ahead. A little maintenance and planning now can help you avoid costly repairs later, keep your family comfortable, and ensure that you're ready for whatever Mother Nature sends our way.

When it comes to your home, start with your heating system. Have your furnace or central heating inspected by a professional to make sure it's running safely and efficiently. A clean filter allows warm air to flow more freely, saving energy and improving air quality. It's also wise to check vents and ductwork for blockages or leaks. If you rely on a fireplace or wood stove, schedule a chimney cleaning and inspection to remove creosote buildup and ensure proper ventilation before you light the first fire of the season.

Next, take a walk around your home and look for places where cold air can sneak in. Check for drafts around windows, doors, and baseboards. Applying weather-stripping, caulk, or even plastic window insulation can go a long way toward lowering heating costs. Attic insulation is another area often overlooked — adequate insulation can keep warm air inside, reducing the strain on your furnace during freezing temperatures.

Don't forget about your plumbing. Frozen pipes are one of the most common winter headaches for homeowners. Wrap exposed pipes in foam insulation, especially those located in crawl spaces, attics, garages, or near exterior walls. Disconnect garden hoses, drain outdoor faucets, and if possible, shut off water supply lines leading outside. It's also a good idea to know where your main water shut-off valve is located in case of a burst pipe emergency.

As you prepare for winter, take time to clean gutters and downspouts so rainwater and melting snow can flow freely away from your home. Clogged gutters can cause water to freeze and back up, leading to roof damage or leaks inside. Trim any tree limbs that hang over your roof or power lines — snow and ice can weigh them down, increasing the risk of breakage.

Safety should always be a top priority. Test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms to make sure

they're working properly, and replace the batteries if needed. Many fire departments recommend checking them twice a year — when we change the clocks is a great reminder. Keep a small fire extinguisher in your kitchen and near your fireplace, and review your family's emergency plan so everyone knows what to do if severe weather or power outages occur. Stock up on essentials like bottled water, nonperishable food, blankets, flashlights, and batteries, just in case winter storms disrupt power.

Your vehicle deserves attention, too. Cold weather can affect batteries, fluids, and tires, so make sure your car is winter-ready. Have your battery tested, check your antifreeze levels, and keep your gas tank at least half full to prevent fuel lines from freezing. Inspect your tires for tread wear and proper pressure — cold air can cause pressure to drop quickly. Consider switching to all-weather or winter tires if icy roads are common in your area. Don't forget to check your brakes, wiper blades, and lights to ensure everything is functioning properly.

Before the first freeze, refill your windshield washer fluid with a winter-grade blend and keep an extra jug in your trunk. It's also a good idea to create a winter emergency kit for your car that includes a flashlight, jumper cables, small shovel, blanket, extra gloves, nonperishable snacks, water, and a phone charger. A small bag of sand or kitty litter can also help provide traction if your car gets stuck on icy roads.

Finally, remember that preparation is not just about comfort — it's about safety and peace of mind. Staying ahead of maintenance helps protect your investment, your family, and your property. As we move deeper into fall and approach winter, take advantage of these mild days to check off your to-do list.

Here in Keiser, we know how unpredictable weather can be. A warm October can quickly turn into an icy November, and the best way to handle it is to be ready before it happens. So take a little time now — clean those gutters, check those heaters, and get your car winter-ready. By preparing today, you'll be able to enjoy the cozy, quiet months of winter knowing your home and vehicle are safe, efficient, and ready for the season ahead.

Looking Back at History: November Through the Years

November has always been a month of reflection — a time when we look back at where we've been, appreciate the blessings we have, and give thanks for the people and moments that make life meaningful. The cool air, colorful leaves, and shorter days seem to invite us to slow down, gather with loved ones, and remember the values that hold our community together. In many ways, November captures the true spirit of Keiser — gratitude, unity, and progress through hard work.

Across the nation, November carries deep historical and cultural meaning. It was in November of 1621 that the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people gathered to share a harvest meal in Plymouth, an event that would later be remembered as the first Thanksgiving. That day wasn't just about food — it was about gratitude, friendship, and survival. Despite hardship and uncertainty, they came together to celebrate what they had accomplished and to give thanks for the help they had received. Nearly four centuries later, the spirit of that first Thanksgiving still lives on in our homes and communities.

In 1863, during one of the darkest times in American history, President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday, urging all citizens to set aside a day of thanks and reflection. His proclamation came in the middle of the Civil War — a powerful reminder that gratitude is not reserved for easy times, but something that sustains us even in moments of struggle. That message remains timeless and fitting for small towns like Keiser, where people continue to come together, lend a helping hand, and support one another through challenges.

Here in Keiser, Thanksgiving has long been more than just a date on the calendar — it's a season of community. Each year, as families gather around dinner tables, churches host holiday meals, and neighbors check in on one another, we see the same spirit of unity that has carried our town through the decades. Thanksgiving reminds us that our greatest strength has always been our people — those who volunteer, serve, lead, and care for their neighbors.

In recent years, that spirit has been reflected in the city's many accomplishments. As projects like the

walking track, park improvements, and community policing initiatives move forward, we have much to be thankful for. These efforts show what can happen when a community works together with pride and purpose. From local volunteers planting trees to city employees maintaining streets and parks, every act of service is a quiet expression of gratitude — a way of giving back to the place we call home.

November also gives us the chance to remember those who came before us — the pioneers, farmers, teachers, and public servants who built the foundation of Keiser. Their sacrifices, much like those of the Pilgrims long ago, paved the way for future generations to enjoy a safer, stronger, and more connected community. Each Thanksgiving, as we look around our tables and our town, we are reminded that we are part of something much larger — a continuing story of resilience, gratitude, and hope.

As we reflect on Thanksgiving and November through the years, we see how both history and tradition have shaped our identity as a community. Gratitude is not just something we express once a year — it's a way of life in Keiser. It's seen in the way our residents volunteer, in the way local businesses support community projects, and in the way families take pride in keeping our city strong and beautiful.

So as this November unfolds, let us pause to give thanks — for our families, for our freedoms, and for our community. Let us honor the spirit of Thanksgiving not just with words, but with action: by showing kindness, offering help, and celebrating the progress we've made together. The story of Keiser, much like the story of Thanksgiving itself, reminds us that through faith, perseverance, and gratitude, there's nothing a united community cannot achieve.



City of Keiser Upgrading Water Billing Software

The City of Keiser is pleased to announce an upcoming **upgrade to our Water Billing Software** that will offer residents more convenience, flexibility, and control than ever before. This upgrade will not only enhance how the City manages billing internally but will also make it easier for customers to access and manage their accounts at any time.

A key feature of the new system is the **Online Customer Portal**, which will allow residents to **securely log in** to view account details, check **detailed billing and payment history**, and opt for **Paperless Billing**. Customers can also choose to receive **email and text alerts** reminding them of upcoming bills, payments, or account activity—helping everyone stay informed and up to date.

In addition to the online tools, the new system introduces even more ways to pay. Customers will be able to **call a toll-free 800 number 24 hours a day, 7 days a week** to pay their bill over the phone, providing a fast and secure option for those who prefer speaking with an automated system. Another exciting feature is **Text 2 Pay**, allowing residents to

make payments directly from their mobile devices simply by responding to a text message. These options are designed to make paying your bill quick, easy, and accessible from anywhere.

The system also supports **multiple payment options**, including **automatic bank drafts** and **credit or debit card payments**—and even better, the new processing fees for card payments will be **lower than current rates**, saving customers money each month.

This upgrade reflects the City's continued commitment to **modernizing services** and providing residents with convenient, secure, and cost-effective ways to manage their utilities. Once our discussions with the new vendor are complete, we will announce the official **conversion date** and share detailed instructions for accessing the new system.

The City of Keiser is proud to take another step forward in improving how we serve our residents—making it easier than ever to stay connected, make payments, and manage your account anytime, anywhere.

November 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Daylight Saving Time	3 Nat'l. Sandwich Day	4 Election Day	5 Nat'l. Redhead Day	6	7 Love Your Lawyer Day	8
9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13 World Kindness Day	14 World Diabetes Day	15
16 Water Bill Due	17 Council Meeting	18	19 Int'l Men's Day	20	21 World Hello Day	22
23 Nat'l. Espresso Day	24	25	26 Nat'l. Cake Day	27 Thanksgiving	28 Black Friday	29 Small Business Saturday
30						

Mixed Operations: Math Crossword Puzzle



Fill in the blanks of the crossword puzzle to make the equations true.

12 + [] = 36

[] ÷ [] = []

[] - [] = 4

[] × [] = []

[] ÷ [] = []

[] × 5 = []

56 = []

20 - [] = 11

[] + [] × [] = []

84 ÷ [] = []

[] = []

[] = 63

[] - [] = []

[] + 23 = []

[] × 13 = []

Contact Us

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City Fun Page

Thanksgiving

I Z T U H G T Y N G G V S Z G G G L M F
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Thankfulness

Cranberries

Gratitude

Pilgrims

Sharing

Turkey

Prayer

Celebration

Cornucopia

Blessings

Family

Tradition

Autumn

Feast

Togetherness

Friendship

Gathering

Pumpkin

Stuffing

Harvest

Home

Pie

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