



KEISER NEWS

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

2024

August Newsletter

Vol 16

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

Help Strengthen Our Community: Ways Keiser Residents Can Make a Difference

Living in Keiser means being part of a close-knit community where everyone's efforts contribute to our town's well-being. There are many ways you can help make our community even better, starting with supporting local businesses. When you visit our local coffee shop, shop at the NAPA Parts Store, or use the services of our two beauty shops, you're helping to keep our economy strong. Every dollar spent here supports jobs and local development, ensuring our town thrives. Local businesses are the backbone of our community, and by choosing them, you invest directly in the future of Keiser.

Shopping online instead of driving to other communities for purchases can also have a big impact. When you buy locally or online, where possible, you keep tax dollars within Keiser, funding important services and improvements. These funds are essential for maintaining our infrastructure, parks, and other community amenities. Every time you choose to shop in our town or online rather than traveling elsewhere, you contribute to the local economy, ensuring that our tax dollars are used to benefit our community directly.

Taking pride in maintaining your property is another great way to contribute. A well-kept yard and home not only reflect your care but also inspire your neighbors to do the same. This collective effort enhances the overall appearance of our community, making it a more pleasant place to live and visit. Clean and attractive properties increase property values and create a welcoming atmosphere for both residents and visitors. Simple actions like mowing the lawn, trimming hedges, and picking up litter can make a significant difference.

Another significant way to contribute is by joining our volunteer Fire Department. Volunteering is a rewarding way to give back, providing critical support during emergencies and fostering a spirit of teamwork and dedication. Our volunteer firefighters play a vital role in keeping Keiser safe, and their commitment and bravery are invaluable. If you have the time and willingness, consider joining this essential team. Your involvement could save lives and protect property, making a tangible difference in our community.

Attending City Council meetings is also crucial. These meetings are where decisions about our town's future are made. Your input and participation help ensure that the council's actions reflect the needs and desires of our community. Your voice matters, and being present can make a difference. City Council meetings provide a platform for residents to express their concerns, offer suggestions, and stay informed about local issues and projects. By attending, you can stay engaged and help shape the future of Keiser.

Lastly, lending a hand to your neighbors, especially the elderly or handicapped, fosters a supportive and caring environment. Simple acts of kindness, like helping with groceries or yard work, strengthen community bonds and ensure that everyone feels valued and included. In a community like ours, looking out for one another is essential. By offering assistance to those who may need it, you contribute to a culture of compassion and mutual support.

By taking these steps, we can all contribute to a stronger, more vibrant Keiser. Together, we can make our town an even better place to live, work, and thrive. Each of us has a role to play in enhancing our community, and through collective effort and dedication, we can create a brighter future for everyone.

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

Peggy Sellars - Recorder/Treasurer

Upcoming November Election for the City of Keiser

As the November election approaches, the City of Keiser is preparing for an important change in its administrative structure. This year, we have restructured the recorder/treasurer position into two distinct roles: a Financial Director, which will be a hired position, and a City Recorder, which will remain an elected position.

Why the Change? The decision to split the recorder/treasurer position stems from our commitment to ensuring that the critical functions of our city's financial management are handled by a highly qualified individual. By creating a dedicated Financial Director position, we can attract and hire someone with specialized expertise in financial management, budgeting, and strategic planning. This will allow us to improve our financial operations and better serve the community.

The New Roles:

Financial Director: This hired position will focus on managing the city's finances, including budgeting, financial planning, and reporting. The goal is to bring in a professional with the necessary skills and experience to oversee our financial health and ensure transparency and accountability in all financial matters.

City Recorder: This elected position will continue to handle the recording and maintenance of offi-

cial city documents, minutes of city council meetings, and other essential records. The City Recorder will also serve as a vital link between the city government and the community, ensuring that residents have access to important information.

Why It Matters: Having a dedicated Financial Director will help the city navigate the complexities of municipal finance, providing a higher level of expertise and oversight. Meanwhile, maintaining an elected City Recorder ensures that residents have a direct say in who manages their public records and keeps the city government transparent and accessible.

Your Vote Counts: As we move forward with these changes, your participation in the upcoming election is more important than ever. We encourage all eligible voters to make their voices heard and vote for the candidate they believe will best serve the community as our new City Recorder. Your vote helps shape the future of Keiser, ensuring that we continue to grow and thrive as a community.

Stay informed about the candidates and the issues at stake, and make sure to cast your vote this November. Together, we can make a positive impact on the future of our city.

This change highlights our dedication to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our city's administration. We look forward to your active participation in this important election.



Penny Wilbanks City Hall Coordinator

Where and Why do City Halls exist?

City Halls exist in almost every city across America. They serve the same purpose in each place: they are portals through which we interact with local leaders and conduct our bureaucratic business with the government. Here are a few reasons why City Halls are important:

Meeting Local Representatives: City Halls allow you to meet the people who represent you. Whether it's city council members, the mayor, or other officials, these interactions provide a direct link between residents and their government.

Discussing Concerns: City Halls are spaces where you can discuss matters that concern you. Whether it's advocating for a community project, expressing your opinion on local policies, or seeking assistance, city halls provide a platform for dialogue.

Exercising Your Rights: Visiting City Hall exercises your rights as an American citizen. It's where you can participate in local governance, attend public meetings, and engage in civic activities.

In addition to their practical functions, city halls often symbolize the qualities of a community and represent the essence of being a resident. They serve as landmarks and hubs for civic engagement.



KEISER



September 28th

Stay Cool and Hydrated This Summer

As summer temperatures rise, it's important to be aware of the potential impacts of getting too hot and becoming dehydrated. Excessive heat can lead to serious health issues, including heat exhaustion and heat stroke. When the body overheats, it can't cool itself effectively, leading to symptoms such as heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea, and headaches. In severe cases, it can even result in confusion, loss of consciousness, and potentially life-threatening conditions. Recognizing the early signs of heat-related illnesses can prevent them from escalating into more serious health problems.

Dehydration occurs when your body loses more fluids than it takes in. This imbalance can result from sweating, not drinking enough water, or a combination of both. Symptoms of dehydration include thirst, dry mouth, dark yellow urine, fatigue, dizziness, and less frequent urination. In extreme cases, dehydration can lead to complications such as kidney stones, urinary tract infections, and even kidney failure. It's essential to recognize these signs early to prevent severe dehydration. Children, the elderly, and individuals with chronic illnesses are particularly vulnerable to dehydration and need to be monitored closely.

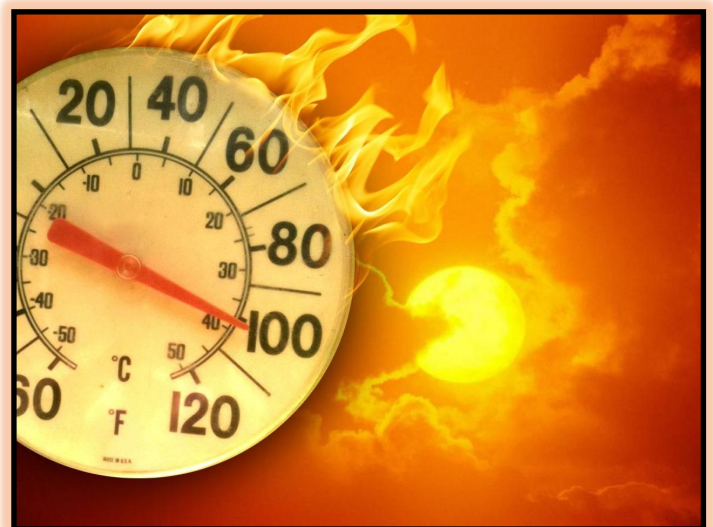
To stay hydrated and prevent overheating, follow these simple yet effective tips. First and foremost, drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty. An easy way to ensure adequate hydration is to carry a water bottle with you and take small sips regularly. It's especially important to increase your fluid intake when spending time outdoors or engaging in physical activities. Opt for water, but you can also consume other fluids like fruit juices or sports drinks that help replenish electrolytes lost through sweat. Be cautious with drinks that can dehydrate you further, such as alcohol and caffeinated beverages like coffee and soda. These can exacerbate dehydration and should be consumed in moderation.

Wearing appropriate clothing can also help your body stay cool. Choose lightweight, loose-fitting,

and light-colored clothes, as these allow your body to breathe and reflect the sun's rays. Wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses can protect your face and eyes from direct sunlight. Take frequent breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas to give your body a chance to cool down. If you're outside, try to limit strenuous activities during the hottest parts of the day, usually between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Plan your outdoor activities for early morning or late evening when temperatures are lower.

In addition to drinking fluids, eating water-rich foods can contribute to your overall hydration. Fruits like watermelon, strawberries, and cantaloupe, as well as vegetables like cucumbers, celery, and lettuce, have high water content and can help keep you hydrated. These foods also provide essential vitamins and minerals that support overall health. Incorporating these into your daily diet can make a significant difference in maintaining hydration levels.

Heat and dehydration can have serious effects on your health, but they are preventable with the right precautions. By staying informed and proactive, you can enjoy the summer weather while staying safe and healthy. Keep hydrated, stay cool, and watch for signs of dehydration to make the most of your summer activities. Remember, taking care of yourself and looking out for others, especially those more vulnerable to heat, ensures a safer and more enjoyable summer for everyone.



The Importance of Reading and Utilizing Your Keiser Public Library

In today's fast-paced world, the Keiser Public Library stands as a beacon of knowledge and opportunity, emphasizing the transformative power of reading. Reading is more than just a pastime; it's a crucial tool for personal and professional growth. By immersing ourselves in books, we enhance our knowledge, improve critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and boost communication abilities. Moreover, reading fosters empathy and a deeper understanding of the world around us, playing a vital role in shaping our futures.

One of the most magical aspects of reading is its ability to transport us to different places and times. Through the pages of a book, we can explore exotic destinations, experience different eras, and dive into fantastical realms. Whether it's the bustling streets of Tokyo, the serene landscapes of the Swiss Alps, the grandeur of ancient Rome, or the mystery of the Middle Ages, books allow us to experience new places and cultures, igniting our imaginations and satisfying our urge to travel.

The Keiser Public Library is more than just a building filled with books; it's a community resource dedicated to lifelong learning and personal growth. We offer a vast collection of books, e-books, and audiobooks for all ages and interests. Our friendly staff is always ready to help

you find the perfect read or suggest new authors and genres to explore. In addition to our extensive collection, we also host various programs and events designed to promote literacy and learning. There is always something happening at the library.

Reading not only enhances our knowledge but also improves critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Engaging with different stories and perspectives helps us think deeply and critically, which is invaluable in everyday life. It allows us to analyze situations, make informed decisions, and solve problems effectively. Moreover, reading improves our vocabulary and comprehension, making us better communicators. Whether in writing or speaking, the ability to express ourselves clearly and persuasively is essential in almost every aspect of life.

Books also foster empathy and a better understanding of the world. Through reading, we can step into the shoes of people from different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences. This encourages us to see the world from different perspectives, making us more compassionate and well-rounded individuals. Furthermore, the adventures and experiences we encounter in books can inspire us, broaden our horizons, and provide us with the information we need to pursue our dreams and aspirations.



Happening Around Town - Keiser Update

Keiser City Hall gets New Heat & Air Unit

Keiser City Hall is thrilled to announce the installation of a new heating and air conditioning unit. This upgrade replaces our previous system, which impressively dated back to the 1980s. The old unit served us well for many years, but it was time for a much-needed update. This new installation is not just about comfort; it represents another step forward in our ongoing efforts to improve our community facilities.

Highway 181 To Temporarily Close In Keiser

The bridge on Highway 181 at the south end of Keiser will be closed by ArDOT starting at 8:00 a.m. on July 29. This closure is necessary for important maintenance work and will remain in effect until 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 21. We understand that this may cause inconvenience and appreciate your patience and understanding as these essential repairs are carried out. Please plan your travel routes accordingly and allow extra time for any detours. The safety and improvement of our infrastructure are our top priorities, and we thank you for your cooperation during this period.

City Truck Enhanced with New Safety Features

The Gray Dodge City Truck has recently been outfitted with warning lights to enhance the safety of our city employees. These new lights are designed to ensure that the truck is highly visible when city workers are out in the field. By making the truck more noticeable, especially in low-light conditions or during inclement weather, these warning lights play a crucial role in protecting our dedicated employees from potential injuries. This safety upgrade reflects our commitment to creating a safer working environment for everyone involved in maintaining and improving our city's infrastructure.

Online Water Bill Payment System a Success

Our new credit card and online water bill payment system has been very well received by the community. Since its launch, we have seen a total of 109 transactions, reflecting its growing popularity and convenience for our residents. This new system provides a more efficient and accessible way for every-

one to manage their water bill payments, saving time and simplifying the process. We are pleased with the positive response and encourage more residents to take advantage of this easy and secure payment option.

2024 Fall Festival

The Keiser Fall Festival is set to bring the community together on Saturday, September 28, starting at 10:00 AM. This exciting event will take place on Main Street and Highway 181, offering a day filled with fun and festivities for all ages. Visitors can look forward to a variety of activities, including food vendors, arts and crafts, and games for children. The festival is a great opportunity for residents to enjoy a day out with family and friends, celebrate the season, and support local vendors. Don't miss out on this wonderful community event!

New City Waste Ordinance 2024-04

The City of Keiser, Arkansas, has enacted Ordinance 2024-04, the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Ordinance, to enhance public health, safety, and environmental cleanliness. This ordinance regulates the collection, disposal, and management of residential and commercial solid waste, aligning with the principles of Ordinance 2022-04. Key provisions include guidelines for securely containing waste, special procedures for yard and bulk waste, and rules for commercial waste. The ordinance also outlines prohibited materials, landlord responsibilities, and penalties for non-compliance. The city reserves the right to refuse dangerous or costly items and will enforce penalties for violations, with an appeals process available. The ordinance takes effect immediately to ensure the welfare of Keiser's citizens and properties. Copies of the ordinance is available at City Hall or on our website.

Police Chief

While we search for a new Police Chief, Sergeant Jr. Boyd has stepped in to serve as our Interim/Temporary Police Chief. Sergeant Boyd brings valuable experience and leadership to this role, ensuring that our police department continues to operate smoothly during this transitional period.

City of Keiser Pursues Grant for New Fire Station

The City of Keiser is taking a proactive step towards enhancing public safety by pursuing a significant grant this October to construct a new fire station. The current Fire Station #2, which has faithfully served the community for over 50 years, is now facing critical issues that hinder its functionality. Structural problems, including pervasive mold, inadequate space, and insufficient insulation, have made the facility increasingly unsuitable for housing our essential firefighting equipment. During the winter months, the lack of proper insulation results in excessive heating costs, posing a risk to the equipment's integrity and readiness.

The proposed new fire station, measuring 40x60 feet, will feature three bays designed specifically to house our fire department vehicles and vital equipment. Unlike the existing facility, this new building will provide a safe, insulated environment that ensures our apparatus and gear are well-protected from the elements and always ready for immediate

deployment. This new station will not include training or sleeping quarters, focusing solely on the storage and maintenance of our equipment.

By securing this grant, the City of Keiser aims to eliminate the current health hazards and operational limitations posed by the outdated facility. The new fire station will significantly enhance the operational efficiency of the Keiser Volunteer Fire Department, allowing our dedicated volunteers to continue delivering high-quality emergency services to the community. This project represents a crucial investment in the future safety and resilience of Keiser, ensuring that we remain prepared to respond effectively to fire emergencies.

We are committed to making this vital infrastructure upgrade a reality and appreciate the community's support in this endeavor. Stay tuned for more updates as we move forward with our grant application and work towards building a new fire station that will serve Keiser for many years to come.

New City Hall Hours



Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 4:45

Closed for Lunch from 12:00 - 1:00

Back to School in Mississippi County, Arkansas

As summer winds down, students in Mississippi County, Arkansas, are preparing to head back to school. Excitement and anticipation fill the air as the new academic year approaches. Parents, teachers, and students are all gearing up, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Schools across Mississippi County have been hard at work over the summer, making numerous improvements to create a better learning environment. Many schools have upgraded their facilities, incorporating modern technology and enhanced safety measures. These improvements are designed to provide students with a safe, comfortable, and advanced place to learn. Parents have been actively involved in back-to-school events, attending orientations and meetings to understand the new changes and how they can best support their children.

Teachers in our county are more prepared than ever to welcome students back. They have spent the summer participating in professional development, learning new teaching methods, and updating curricula. These new strategies are aimed at making lessons more engaging and effective, catering to the diverse learning styles of all students. Mississippi County schools are placing a strong emphasis on high academic achievement, recognizing that a solid education lays the foundation for a successful future.

Academic excellence is a top priority, and schools are focusing on core subjects such as science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). These subjects are essential in today's world and provide students with critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will serve them throughout their lives. Literacy programs are also a key component, ensuring that all students develop strong reading and writing skills. Extracurricular activities, including sports, arts, and clubs, offer additional opportunities for students to learn and grow outside the classroom.

The importance of high academic achievement cannot be overstated. A strong educational foundation

equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, careers, and life. It fosters a love of learning, encourages curiosity, and builds confidence. Students who excel academically are better prepared to face future challenges and seize opportunities.

Mississippi County schools are also deeply committed to the mental health and well-being of their students. Collaborating with counselors and mental health professionals, schools have implemented programs to support students' emotional and psychological needs. These programs are designed to help students develop resilience, manage stress, and build healthy relationships. By addressing mental health, schools ensure that students are not only academically prepared but also emotionally strong.

As school buses begin their routes and the first bells ring, there is a palpable sense of community and hope in Mississippi County. The collective efforts of educators, parents, and local organizations highlight the dedication to making this school year a memorable and successful one. The emphasis on high academic standards and comprehensive support systems reflects our commitment to nurturing well-rounded, capable individuals.

Here's to a fantastic year of learning, growth, and achievement for all students in Mississippi County. With a solid educational foundation, our students are poised to build bright futures and make meaningful contributions to their communities and beyond.



The Evolution of Elections in the United States

The history of elections in the United States is a testament to the evolving nature of democracy, reflecting the nation's growth and changes over centuries. The journey began in 1789 when the first presidential election took place, resulting in the unanimous election of George Washington. At that time, the right to vote was limited to white male property owners, a restriction that would gradually be dismantled over the years through numerous struggles and legislative milestones.

The expansion of suffrage in the United States is marked by significant amendments and acts that reshaped the electoral landscape. The 15th Amendment, ratified in 1870, was a pivotal moment, granting African American men the right to vote and prohibiting racial discrimination in voting. The 19th Amendment, ratified in 1920, was another milestone, securing women's suffrage after decades of activism and advocacy by women's rights pioneers like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a landmark legislation that addressed persistent racial discrimination in voting, outlawing practices like literacy tests and poll taxes that had been used to disenfranchise minority voters.

The 20th and 21st centuries have seen the continued evolution of the electoral process, with technological advancements playing a significant role. The introduction of television transformed campaigns and political debates, allowing candidates to reach wider audiences. The internet and social media have further revolutionized elections, providing platforms for political engagement and discourse, as well as new challenges like misinformation and cybersecurity threats.

As we approach the 2024 Federal Election, the nation stands at a critical juncture. This election will not only determine the next President of the United States but also the composition of Congress, with 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 33 of the Senate seats up for grabs. Key issues such as the economy, inflation, the southern border, healthcare, climate change, crime, and social justice are expected to dominate the campaigns. Voters will be closely watching the candidates' platforms and policies, eager to make their voices heard in what promises to be another historic election. The increasing polarization in American politics and the ongoing debates about voting rights and election integrity underscore the high stakes of this election.

In the City of Keiser, the 2024 election holds particular significance. Local elections often include races for mayor, city council positions, city recorder and other important municipal roles. These elections are crucial as they directly impact the daily lives of Keiser's residents, from local infrastructure projects to public safety initiatives. The city has seen recent developments such as water and sewer system improvements, installation of new defibrillators at city hall and in police cars, enhancing public safety and emergency response capabilities. The ongoing upgrades to the city park playground equipment including lighting and security, including the installation of LED lights and planned security cameras, reflect the city's commitment to creating a safer and more welcoming environment for residents. Additionally, plans for a new fishing pond, walking track and senior area demonstrate Keiser's dedication to improving recreational facilities and promoting community well-being.

The leadership chosen in this election will be pivotal in driving these projects to completion and addressing the city's future challenges. The election will provide an opportunity for community members to voice their opinions on various local issues and influence the future direction of the city. Candidates will likely discuss plans for continuing infrastructure improvements, supporting local businesses, and enhancing public services.

As both federal and local election dates draw near, it is essential for all eligible voters to engage in the democratic process. By staying informed, participating in debates, and ultimately casting their ballots, the citizens of Keiser and the broader United States will help shape the future of their communities and the nation. Voting is not only a right but also a responsibility that enables individuals to influence the policies and leaders that will govern their lives. In 2024, as in every election, each vote will contribute to the ongoing story of American democracy.



Back to School in Mississippi County



AUGUST 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Watermelon Day
4 Friendship Day	5	6	7 Purple Heart Day	8	9 Book Lovers Day	10 National Lazy Day
11	12 Youth Day	13 School Starts	14 World Lizard Day	15	16 Water Bill Due	17 Black Cat Day
18	19 Council Meeting	20	21 Senior Citizens Day	22	23	24 Waffle Day
25	26 Dog Day	27 Cutoff Date	28	29	30 Beach Day	31

City Fun Page

Back to School

Y W H J R X X Y R T N W P M X W N U I Q
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N Y Y M H S E M L O T N J L F I U C I W
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C H L A N L T R X B T E X T B O O K S S

Decorations

Assemblies

Notebooks

Bus

Textbooks

Backpack

Uniforms

Teachers

Supplies

Lunchbox

Pencils

Friends

Schedule

Jitters

Spirit

Contact Us

City Hall—870-526-2300 Email—cityofkeiser@gmail.com Mayor—rjc.cityofkeiser@gmail.com



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