



KEISER NEWS

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

2023

August newsletter

Vol 4

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

Grants Galore: A Bounty of Funds for the City of Keiser

Hello, Keiser community! We're excited to report on the city's recent success in securing a significant amount of grant funding to date. As part of our ongoing commitment to enhance services and improve our town, we've been actively applying for a variety of grants. The fruits of these efforts are as follows:

ACT 833: An infusion of \$13,325 from this grant will aid in the reinforcement of our city's fire and life safety systems, allowing us to better protect our community.

CESF-COVID-19 RFA Grant: With a grant amount of \$2,300, we'll continue to provide crucial resources and support to our citizens during these unprecedented times brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ArDOT Street Grant: A substantial grant of \$275,000 will fund major improvements in our city's street infrastructure, creating smoother and safer thoroughfares for residents and visitors alike.

LLEBG Police Grant: With the addition of a \$3,000 grant, our local police force will receive crucial support to continue serving and protecting our community effectively.

Bullet Proof Vest Grant: Safety first! We've secured \$500 specifically for the purchase of bulletproof vests, prioritizing the protection of our brave law enforcement officers.

Rural Community Park Grant: This \$15,000 grant will be channeled towards enhancing the charm and facilities of our city parks, ensuring they remain vibrant communal spaces for residents of all ages to enjoy.

Infrastructure Sewer Grant: Thanks to a \$200,000 grant, we're looking forward to undertaking major upgrades to our sewer system, promising more efficient waste management for the city.

Infrastructure Water Tank Grant: An additional \$200,000 has been granted to improve the city's water supply infrastructure, ensuring the provision of clean, safe water for all residents.

We're thrilled to announce that the total grant funding Keiser has secured is a substantial **\$709,125!** We remain dedicated to utilizing these funds in a manner that will maximally benefit our beloved city and its residents. As these projects roll out, we look forward to the tangible enhancements they'll bring to our community.

Keep an eye out for future updates!

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 15th of each month. Late charges will be applied on the 16th and shutoff on the 27th unless the 27th is a 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

Hours 8:00am to 5:00pm M-F

Closed 12:00 to 1:00 for lunch

IT'S IN THE BANK By Peggy Sellars City of Keiser Treasurer

HOW TO PURCHASE A FIRE TRUCK

How many firemen does it take to put out a fire? I don't know the answer to that, but I know first-hand how many people it takes to buy a fire truck.

Last month, our Keiser Fire Department, after receiving city council approval, began a search for a fire truck. Since our current fire truck is almost 50 years old, the fire department, led by Chief Ron Hallett, Joey Jackson and Reggie Horton began looking for a replacement. One they felt would be suitable for their needs was located on a government bidding site. The bid was made and accepted. The bidding site required a wire transfer as payment. Sounds simple enough, right? WRONG! The problem with that was that the State of Arkansas does not allow us to pay for anything with a wire transfer.

After a lot of "what if's" Joey Jackson contacted the seller directly and was able to make the purchase with a cashier check. The state gave us the thumbs up on this, and the sale moved forward. It would be an understatement to say this was simply a joint effort of a few. This endeavor was actually **TEAMWORK** at its finest. As the younger folks would say, "This is how we roll" here at Keiser.

So, back to the original question, "How many people does it take to buy a fire truck?" Well, it takes a Ron Hallett, a Joey Jackson, and a Reggie Horton to lead in this endeavor, 15 firemen, 4 council members, Attorneys Caran Curry and Blake Gary and Director of Finance Cindy Frizzell of the Arkansas Municipal League for invaluable advice, a Mayor Rick Creecy to give the go-ahead, a Chief Glen Austin to arrange for the insurance, a City Coordinator Leslie Hernandez to relay messages, and a Treasurer Peggy Sellars to make the payment. That's 29 people, and every one of them played a part in the purchase of this fire truck.

Hey, Keiser, we bought a fire truck. YES, WE DID!



NEAL BROWN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Responsible Disposal: A Simple Guide to Protecting Our Sewers

Our city's sewer system is crucial to daily life, but it's vulnerable to blockages and damage from improper disposal. Here's a quick guide to what should and shouldn't go down our drains.

Avoid pouring fats, oils, and greases (FOG) down the sink; they can solidify and cause clogs. Similarly, paper products other than toilet paper, like napkins, and paper towels, belong in the trash, not the toilet.

Flushing pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and hazardous waste can harm water treatment processes and contaminate waterways. Everyday items like coffee grounds, dental floss, hair, strings, condoms, "flushable" wipes, diapers, and plastic should also be kept out of drains, as they can combine with other substances and create significant blockages.

The importance of proper disposal extends beyond just avoiding clogs. Blocked sewer systems can lead to environmental damage, affecting wildlife and human health, and costly repairs often result in increased utility bills for residents.

To do your part, educate yourself about proper disposal, use trash cans for inappropriate items. By thinking twice about what goes down our drains, we can keep our sewer system functioning efficiently and protect our environment. Your commitment to responsible disposal benefits us all.



CHIEF OF POLICE GLEN AUSTIN

Watch Your Speed

The Keiser Police Department's top priority is keeping our citizens safe. Officer Boyd and I are patrolling the city nightly on the lookout for any suspicious activity. You can help us by making sure to lock your house and cars before retiring for the night. We have, in the past, had reports of individuals looking for a place to sleep. Unlocked cars are a big temptation for that.

In the near future, we will be implementing a neighborhood watch. In my 27 years in law enforcement, I have learned that neighbor watching out for neighbor is invaluable in deterring criminal activity in neighborhoods.

Just a reminder that it is a violation of state law to ride a 4-wheeler or a dirt bike on the highway or city streets. I have received reports that this is happening in our town.

SPEED LIMITS – The fact that Officer Boyd and I have written 40 tickets in less than a month clearly indicates that speeding is becoming a serious issue in town. Speeding is against the law, and it is dangerous to the driver and any pedestrians around. Here is the speed limits in town:

- 15 mph on all city streets
- 30 mph on East & West Main Street
- 30 mph on Highway 181 going through town

Keiser, watch your speed. We are running radar and these speed limits will be strictly enforced, no exceptions!



Finally, Respect this summer heat. It can be dangerous. Stay inside in the cool as much as possible, especially in the hottest part of the day. Stay hydrated. Heat stroke can happen before you know it. Also, check on your neighbors, especially the elderly.

LESLIE HERNANDEZ WATER/CITY HALL COORDINATOR

Tips for starting back to school

- Always eat breakfast
- Get 8-10 hours of sleep
- Layout clothes the night before
- If taken lunch to school. Prepare lunch box the night before.
- Switch up study spaces. Make sure no distractions.
- Choose the right backpack. They can cause muscle strain, headaches, and neck pain. Try to choose a backpack made of sturdy, lightweight fabric with wide, padded straps that will support your child's shoulders.
- Take advantage of Arkansas sales tax free weekend August 5th and 6th.



BACK
TO
SCHOOL



City News Bulletin: Top Safety Tips

Home Safety:

- Always lock your doors and windows when leaving the house, even for a few minutes.
- Keep your yard well-lit to deter burglars.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home, and regularly check their batteries.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and learn how to use it.

Road Safety:

- Always wear your seatbelt when driving or riding in a vehicle.
- Follow traffic rules and observe speed limits.
- Never drink and drive. Always have a designated driver.
- When walking or biking, make yourself visible, especially at night.

Neighborhood Safety:

- Get to know your neighbors and look out for each other.
- Organize a neighborhood watch program to deter crime.
- Report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement.

Internet Safety:

- Be careful about the personal information you share online.
- Regularly update your software and use strong, unique passwords for each of your accounts.
- Be wary of online scams and don't click on suspicious links.

Emergency Preparedness:

- Make a family emergency plan for natural disasters, including where to meet and how to communicate.
- Keep an emergency kit in your home with food, water, medication, and other essential supplies.
- Learn basic first aid and CPR.

Public Health Safety:

- Wash your hands regularly, especially before eating or after visiting public spaces.
- Stay up-to-date with vaccinations and regular health check-ups.
- Follow local guidelines for preventing the spread of illnesses, such as wearing masks or practicing social distancing.

Child Safety:

- Teach your children about "stranger danger."
- Make sure they know their address, your phone number, and how to dial emergency services.
- Childproof your home by keeping hazardous substances and sharp objects out of their reach.

These safety tips can go a long way in ensuring a safer and more secure community for everyone.

COMMUNITY ISSUES, EVENTS & CALENDAR

Please remember to take care of our community after mowing lawns by not leaving grass clippings on the streets. Not only is this important for maintaining the aesthetic appeal of our city, but it also contributes to safety by preventing slippery conditions and possible drainage blockages. After mowing, please make sure to blow or sweep grass off the streets. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping keep our city clean and safe.



Keiser Fall Festival

Exciting news! Mark your calendars for the annual Keiser Fall Festival, a cherished tradition we eagerly anticipate every year. This year's festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 16th. Save the date and join us for a day filled with community spirit, joy, and festive activities.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!



August 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 National Night Out Day	2	3 National Watermelon Day	4	5
6 National Sister Day	7	8	9 National Women's Day	10	11 National Son and Daughters Day	12
13	14	15 Water bill due	16	17	18	19
20 World Mosquito Day	21 Council Meeting	22	23	24	25	26 National Dog Day
27	28 Cut off date	29	30	31		

NORTHEAST RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

KEISER, AR – Nestled within the fertile lands of northeastern Arkansas, the University of Arkansas Experiment Station in Keiser, officially known as the Northeast Research and Extension Center (NEREC), is making substantial strides in the world of agricultural research. The center is pioneering innovative projects that not only affect the local community but also resonate throughout the state and the nation.

NEREC is one of 17 agricultural research facilities under the University of Arkansas's agricultural research facilities, and one of the four fully equipped research and extension centers, each boasting a local staff of Agricultural Experiment Station research scientists and Cooperative Extension Service specialists. These research and extension centers are unique in that they perform dual roles, conducting research and sharing their findings with local farmers via Extension Service programs.

NEREC's primary research and extension focus is on the crops of soybean, corn, grain sorghum, rice, cotton, and wheat. The station's 750 acres of research includes a Cotton Breeding Program, variety trials, fertility, irrigation, weed and insect control, seed treatments, row rice and much more.

Employing approximately 20 people, the facility also houses a 10,000-square-foot office building that includes a library, an auditorium seating 150, and a conference room. To supplement these, there are laboratory and greenhouse facilities, as well as a range of farm equipment to meet the diverse needs of the research team.

Since its establishment in 1957, NEREC has been single-mindedly dedicated to researching and developing best practices for the state's agricultural producers. In recent years, this mission has seen the center taking a deep dive into sustainable farming methods. Through rigorous trials and tests, the center's scientists are honing innovative techniques for crop rotation, soil conservation, and pest management, all designed to minimize environmental impact while maximizing crop yield.

NEREC also hosts 4-H youth programs. MS County 4-H Extension leaders teach kids about cooking, craft making, etc. MS County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agents teach canning, kitchen, and food preparation skills.

As the global society grows increasingly aware of environmental concerns, and as breakthroughs in technology continue to redefine the possible, the future of farming is being reshaped. No organization exemplifies this evolution better than NEREC. With their unwavering commitment to sustainability and forward-thinking philosophy, they continue to stand at the forefront of agricultural progression. From navigating the challenges presented by a rapidly changing world, to pioneering innovative solutions aimed at fostering a greener, more sustainable agricultural industry, NEREC is not only embracing the inevitable transformation, but also driving it. They are a beacon for others in their field, constantly setting new standards and proving that economic growth and environmental preservation are not only compatible but can also be mutually beneficial. It's this inspiring vision that sets NEREC apart, highlighting their dedication to safeguarding our planet while pushing the boundaries of what is possible in modern agriculture.



City Church Spotlight

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

First Baptist Church, a fixture of the Keiser, Arkansas community, was established over a century ago. Founded in 1917 and chartered in 1918, the church has since been a beacon of faith, serving not just as a place of worship, but as a focal point of the community.

In its early days, the congregation met in a local school, a testament to the resilience and determination of its members to gather in prayer and fellowship despite the lack of a permanent building. However, the spirit of the church was not constrained by its humble beginnings. As time passed, the congregation grew, and so did the church's physical presence.



Over the years, First Baptist Church Keiser has seen four buildings dedicated to its purpose. The first significant structure, where the Education Wing is now situated, was established in the 1940s, providing a permanent home for the flourishing community of worshippers. As the congregation expanded, the Education Wing was added in 1974, providing additional space for Sunday School classes, meetings, and other church activities.

In 1961 a beautiful chapel was built. A much larger place to worship and grow for 45 plus years, until the building of the Mac. Then, in 2008, the church added the Multipurpose Activity Center (MAC), an addition that brought modern facilities and flexibility for a variety of church and community events.

First Baptist Church Keiser has always recognized the importance of education and youth engagement in fostering a strong, faithful community. This commitment was further underscored in 2012 with the opening of the Stepping Stones Learning Center. This facility serves as a testament to the church's dedication to the spiritual growth and education of the younger generation.

One of the church's most cherished traditions began in 1994 with the introduction of the annual Christmas tree celebration. This event, held during the festive holiday season, serves not only as a celebration of the birth of Christ but also as a symbol of unity and community spirit. It continues to be a much-anticipated event each year, drawing together church members and residents from the surrounding area.

For decades, the church has also held a Vacation Bible School (VBS), a tradition that traces its roots back to the 1950s. These annual summer programs have played a significant role in the church's ministry, offering an engaging way for children and teens to learn about the Bible, grow in their faith, and form lifelong friendships.

As First Baptist Church Keiser looks to the future, it continues to honor its rich past. More than just a building, the church represents a legacy of faith, a commitment to community, and a deep-seated belief in the transformative power of service. Indeed, Keiser First Baptist Church is more than just a place of worship - it's a cornerstone of the community, fostering faith, hope, and love for over a century.

Being part of the spiritual fabric of the City of Keiser is very special to me and the members of the First Baptist Church. The faithfulness of citizens through the years at this church has brought us to where we are today. God has blessed in many ways and this church has always enjoyed reaching out to the people of Keiser to help in a variety of ways. In times of personal need, natural disasters and just caring for our neighbors through various means. Showing the love of Christ is what we strive to do as a church plus sharing the "Good News" that Jesus Loves and Jesus Saves! We pray our city continues to prosper and grow. We pray FBC Keiser will always be seen as a church that cares for the truth of God's word and this community. We pray for our leaders and our citizens. May God bless us all.

Pastor Bro. Todd Vinson



Word Search

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

Mississippi

Rivercrest

Razorbacks

Water Tower

City Hall

Arkansas

Weather

Library

ArDOT

Keiser

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