



KEISER NEWS

2025

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

December Newsletter

Vol 32

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

The City of Keiser continues to make steady progress on several major projects that will strengthen our community for years to come. Our city engineer has completed all design work for the upcoming Sewer Restoration Project, and the full plans and specifications have been submitted to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) for approval. This project includes replacing every sewer line in town using a modern technology called Pipe Bursting. With this method, crews will dig a hole at one manhole and another at the next manhole. A cable is then fed through the old pipe and attached to a new continuous sewer line. Hydraulics pull the new pipe through the old line, effectively replacing it without having to dig up the entire street. After the new line is installed, all manholes will be reworked and sealed to stop groundwater from entering the system, and any customer connections will be tied back into the new line. In addition, the Poplar and Jefferson lift stations will be fully replaced with brand-new units. Once ANRC approves the plans, the project will be advertised in the newspaper, contractors will review the design work, and sealed bids will be submitted. After the bid opening, a contractor will be selected, and work is expected to begin early next year, weather permitting.

Design work is also underway to fix

the long-standing drainage issues in the Circle. When the engineering plans are finished, the City will meet with all affected residents to review the design, answer questions, and discuss the construction timeline. This project is also expected to begin early next year.

At the city park, great progress has been made on the new Bike/Walking Trail. Contractors have removed roughly 10 inches of soil along the entire path, leveled it to grade, and added compacted gravel to create a solid base for the asphalt. We now need a stretch of warmer, dry weather to complete the paving before winter. If conditions do not improve soon, paving will take place in the spring.

We are excited about the improvements taking shape across Keiser. These projects reflect our commitment to strengthening infrastructure, improving safety, and enhancing quality of life for all residents. And we are not done yet—more updates and new projects will be announced soon.



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

Penny Wilbanks—The Joy of Holiday Cooking

A tradition that Warms the Heart

The holidays are a time of celebration, family gatherings, and of course, the irresistible aroma of cooked or baked goods all through the house. For many, holiday cooking is more than just a seasonal activity. It's a beloved tradition that brings people together, creates lasting memories, and fills our homes with warmth and sweetness. Whether you're a seasoned baker or a novice in the kitchen, there's something magical about the act of preparing delicious goodies for friends and family during this festive season.

The Heart of Holiday Baking

Holiday baking is about more than just the result; it's about the experience. The process of mixing ingredients, rolling dough, and decorating cookies with loved ones creates a sense of togetherness. It's a time when families come together, share stories, and enjoy each other's company while creating edible works of art. From cookies to pies and cakes, each treat brings a little bit of joy into the world.

Many families have their own signature holiday recipes passed down through generations, recipes that hold sentimental value and remind us of loved ones who may no longer be with us. These recipes can become part of the heart and soul of the holiday, bringing back fond memories with every bite. Whether it's your grandmother's famous sugar cookies or your mom's homemade bread, these recipes are more than just food. They are the threads that weave our holiday traditions together.

While there's an endless variety of cookies, cakes, and pies to choose from, certain treats have become a must-have during the holidays. For some, it's gingerbread cookies; with their perfect balance of spice and sweetness. These are classics. Another choice would be sugar cookies. Their simple sweetness makes them the perfect canvas for decorating, whether with sprinkles or adding icing to them. Sugar cookies can also be personalized, making them ideal for gift-giving or festive parties. Some enjoy making cakes and pies, which are crowd pleasers.

The smell of a pie baking in the oven is one of those scents that instantly brings the holiday spirit to life, filling the house with sweet aromas.

What makes holiday baking so appealing is that it's also an outlet for learning new recipes. You can experiment with new flavors, try new decorating techniques, and get inspired by the season. Baking gives you an opportunity to incorporate seasonal ingredients like cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves into new creations.

The best part about holiday baking is that there's no wrong way to do it. Whether you prefer classic recipes or putting a modern twist on tradition, baking during the holidays allows you to express yourself. No matter how your creations turn out, the love and care you put into them are what matters most.

Holiday baking is more than just about filling up your kitchen with sweet smells; it's about creating memories, honoring traditions, and spreading joy. So, this holiday season, roll up your sleeves, gather your ingredients, and get ready to bake something that will not only delight the taste buds but also warm the hearts of everyone around you.

HAPPY BAKING!!!



*Happy
Holidays*

Glenn Dunn III - Chief of Police

Thanksgiving has come and gone and we are gearing up for Christmas. If you haven't noticed yet, our patrol vehicles have gotten a facelift, incorporating the city's logo, school mascot, and color. We have also updated our uniforms with a dark, navy blue shirt and pants, with the department's patches on the sleeves. I'm happy to see that this department is being brought up to speed and up to date.

With Christmas coming up, we will be taking donations to help hand out gifts to less-fortunate children in our city. Whether it be a monetary donation or a store-bought gift, you can take your donation to City Hall and let Ms. Penny know it's for the

Police Department. We hope to see a great turnout for the program to supplement Keiser First Baptist Church's donations.

Code Enforcement issues have arisen again and we are hoping for cooperation from citizens whose properties may need sprucing up. With the colder weather and winter quickly approaching, grass is less of an issue as rubbish and inoperable vehicles. Let's get Keiser cleaned up so that we may all enjoy holiday time with our families.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas, from our family to yours.

Brenda Creecy—City Hall Back-Up

Being a Backup for Someone on the Job: More Than Just Filling In

Being a backup for someone on the job is often underestimated. It's a role that requires flexibility, awareness, and a willingness to step into someone else's workflow with confidence. When you're backup, you're not just covering tasks; you're helping maintain stability so the team can continue to move forward without disruption.

One of the biggest responsibilities of being a backup is preparation. You need to understand the person's regular duties and the tools or systems they use. This often means spending time learning their processes ahead of time, asking questions, and staying up to date on any changes. Good communication is essential; both with the person you're backing up and the rest of the team. When everyone knows what you're responsible for, it helps set clear expectations and reduces confusion when it's time for you to step in.

Another important aspect is adaptability. No matter how much you prepare, stepping into someone else's workflow can feel unfamiliar. Approaching the role with patience and a problem solving mindset helps you handle unexpected situations without feeling overwhelmed. It also shows your team that you're dependable, which builds trust.

Being a backup also offers a chance for professional growth. You gain exposure to new tasks, systems, and challenges that might not be part of your usual responsibilities. Over time, these experiences make you more versatile and valuable within the organization.

In the end, serving as a reliable backup isn't just about covering for someone; it's about supporting the team, strengthening collaboration, and embracing opportunities to learn.

Neal Brown - Director of Public Works

The City of Keiser recently faced an unexpected challenge when the Lift Station on Jefferson experienced a significant breakdown. This particular lift station is an important part of our sewer system, serving roughly **15% of the town**, so any disruption required immediate attention. The issue first came to light when a resident noticed a backup in the sewer lines. Upon inspection, it was determined that the pump inside the lift station was losing its prime and failing to pump properly.

Our city crew immediately disassembled the pump, cleaned it thoroughly, adjusted it to the required clearance, and installed new gaskets. This emergency repair allowed the system to operate at about **25% flow capacity**, just enough to keep things moving while we waited for a technician from the Arkansas Rural Water Association. When the technician arrived, he confirmed that several internal components of the pump needed to be replaced. The necessary parts were ordered, and within a week they were installed.

During the repair process, crews also discovered that

the reduced flow had allowed debris to build up inside the check valve. The valve was disassembled, cleaned, and reassembled. Unfortunately, the debris included items such as **mop strings, dental floss, and feminine products**—materials that **should NEVER be flushed down any toilet**. These items easily clog pumps, damage equipment, and create costly repairs for the entire community.

Thanks to the diligent work of our city employees and the assistance from Arkansas Rural Water, the lift station is now fully restored and operating at **100% capacity**. Our city workers did an **OUTSTANDING** job responding quickly, working long hours, and showing true dedication to keeping our sewer system functioning. I am extremely proud of their efforts.

The good news is that this lift station is already scheduled for **full replacement in 2026** as part of our long-term sewer improvement plan, which will make the system more reliable and reduce issues like this in the future.

Elimination of the One Cent Penny

The U.S. Government has officially announced the elimination of the one-cent penny, and the City of Keiser is taking proactive steps to ensure this change has minimal impact on our residents. While the transition may feel unusual at first, most customers will experience no change at all. Anyone paying their utility bill by **check, credit card, debit card, or through the online payment portal** will see absolutely no difference—your payment will continue to post in exact amounts, just as it always has.

The only adjustment will apply to **cash payments** when the customer does not have exact change. Because pennies will no longer be used, cash transactions must now be rounded to the nearest nickel. For example, if your bill is **\$71.62**, you will have two simple options:

- You may pay **\$71.65**, giving you a **3-cent credit**

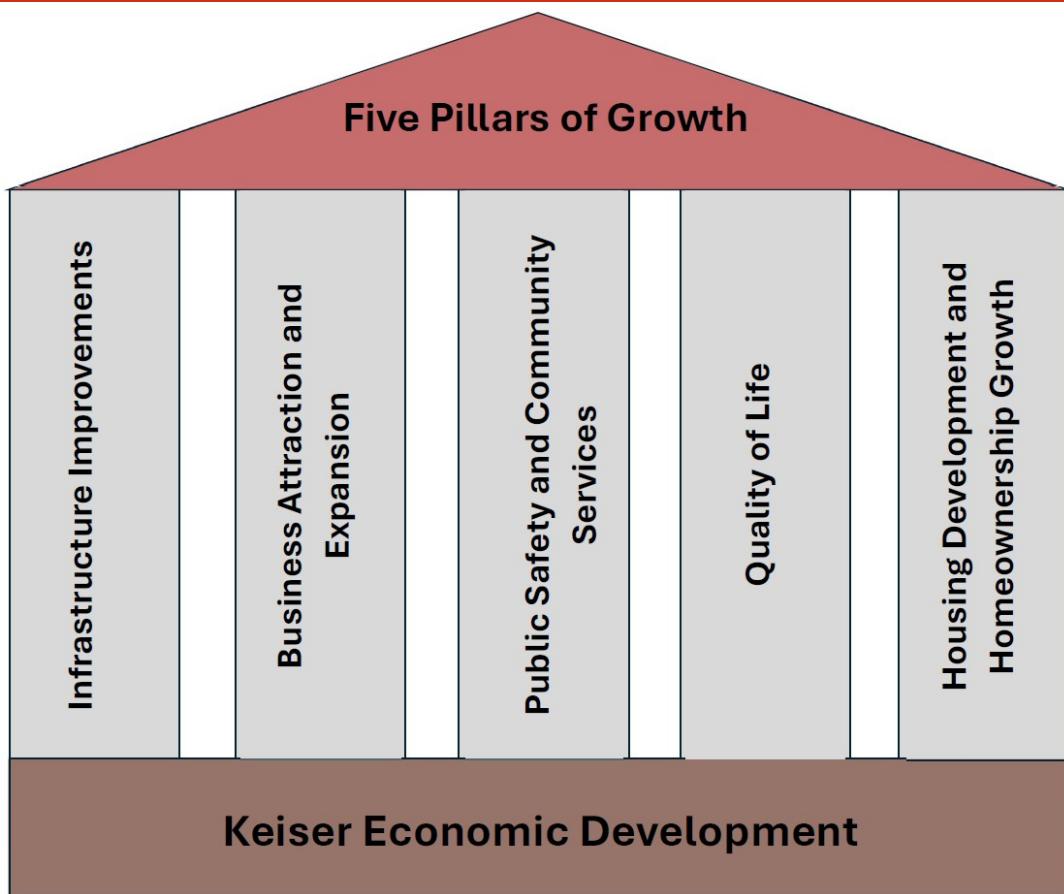
on your account; or

- You may pay **\$71.60**, and the **remaining 2-cent balance** will carry over to the next month.

To make this transition fair and worry-free, the City will update the new water billing software so that **no late fees will ever be charged on balances of four cents or less**. This ensures that any small rounding difference from the absence of pennies will not penalize our customers or cause unnecessary frustration.

As always, our goal is to keep our billing process transparent, accessible, and convenient. The City of Keiser will continue to monitor federal guidance and make any additional adjustments needed to help our residents adapt smoothly to the penny's retirement.

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

DOJ Community Policing Grant

The City of Keiser is proud that we have been awarded a \$25,000 Community Policing Grant to expand and strengthen our community safety initiatives. This funding supports a well-designed series of programs that work hand-in-hand with our residents to build a safer, more connected community.

A key focus of the grant is the expansion of our Neighborhood Watch Program. With new captains, improved neighborhood signage, enhanced text-alert systems, and hands-on training academies, this effort will boost community vigilance and strengthen our partnership between residents and law enforcement. By empowering neighbors to look out for one another, we create a stronger, more united community.

The grant also supports a variety of community outreach events. These gatherings allow our officers to meet residents where they are—whether at local festivals, public meetings, or city events. Through booth setups, printed materials, refreshments, and extended officer availability, these events help build trust, encourage open communication, and make it easier for everyone to work together for a safer Keiser.

Drug prevention and education is another major component. With an emphasis on combatting drug misuse—including opioid abuse—this effort will provide educational workshops, printed materials, and public service announcements designed to equip families with knowledge and resources. Officers will also participate in prevention programming to reach more residents and strengthen community awareness.

To encourage citizen involvement, the grant includes new community feedback tools, such as an online survey platform, accessible suggestion boxes, and improvements to the Police Department's website. These additions will give residents multiple ways to share ideas, raise concerns, and stay informed about local safety efforts.

Public safety education campaigns will also play an important role. Through seasonal flyers, emergency

preparedness information, and hands-on safety workshops, residents will receive timely guidance on how to stay safe throughout the year—whether during storms, holidays, or community events.

Traffic safety is another priority for Keiser. With new tools like a traffic flow analyzer, updated signage, enforcement resources, and incentive programs, the city will be able to better monitor roadways, improve traffic management, and reduce incidences on our streets.

Emergency response preparedness will also be strengthened. Additional equipment, improved communication tools, and planned emergency drills will help ensure that our teams are ready to respond quickly and effectively during real emergencies.

The grant further supports Senior Citizen Safety Programs designed to meet the needs of Keiser's older residents. These efforts include volunteer training, wellness checks, fraud prevention education, emergency ID cards, and the development of a senior safety database to ensure faster, more informed response during emergencies.

Finally, the grant provides advanced training opportunities for our officers. By covering travel, lodging, meals, registration fees, and related expenses, this investment ensures that Keiser's officers receive the latest training and skill development needed to continue protecting and serving our community at the highest level.

Through these combined initiatives, Keiser continues its commitment to community-based policing—working together with our residents to create a safer, stronger, and more engaged community for all.



Looking Back at History: December Through the Years

As the final page of the calendar turns, December offers us more than chilly mornings and twinkling lights—it offers a moment to pause, reflect, and remember. Throughout history, this month has been a backdrop for both solemn events and joyous triumphs. From groundbreaking discoveries to moments of national unity, December has a way of reminding us how far we've come and how much we've overcome together.

In December of 1791, the United States Bill of Rights was ratified, establishing the freedoms that continue to shape our democracy. Just a few generations later, in December 1865, the 13th Amendment formally abolished slavery, marking one of the most defining milestones in our nation's history. These moments, separated by decades yet bound by a shared purpose, reflect the American journey toward justice and equality—principles that still guide our communities today.

The month of December has also carried humanity to new frontiers. On December 17, 1903, two brothers from Ohio—Orville and Wilbur Wright—took to the skies over Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, with the world's first powered flight. That single event forever changed the course of transportation, connecting distant lands and bringing people closer together. Sixty-five years later, in December 1968, Apollo 8 orbited the moon, capturing the now-iconic "Earthrise" photo that reminded us all of the fragile beauty of our shared planet. From the sands of Kitty Hawk to the silence of space, December has marked moments when human ingenuity reached new heights.

Yet, not all of December's history is joyful. On December 7, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor shocked the nation and the world. That day would go on to define a generation's call to service, sacrifice, and unity. In remembrance, every December we honor those who stood in defense of freedom and those who gave their lives so that others could live in peace. Fifty years later, in December 1991, the Soviet Union dissolved—ending the Cold War and changing the global landscape once again. Both moments,

though vastly different, serve as reminders that history often shifts when the world least expects it.

Beyond conflict and innovation, December has also been a month of compassion and cooperation. On December 10, 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, affirming that all people—regardless of race, gender, or belief—deserve dignity and freedom. This document became a symbol of hope after years of global turmoil and continues to inspire humanitarian efforts worldwide.

Closer to home, December has long been a time of gathering and generosity. Families across small towns like Keiser come together for Christmas parades, candlelight services, and holiday meals. Neighbors check on one another, churches open their doors to share kindness, and communities celebrate the bonds that make small-town life so special. Each year's end offers us a chance to be thankful for what we have and for the people who make our towns feel like family.

Looking back at history, we are reminded that December is more than just the end of another year—it is a living reminder of endurance, discovery, and hope. It teaches us that progress often begins in humble places, that unity can arise from hardship, and that the human spirit always finds light, even in the darkest winter. As we close out this year and prepare for the next, let us carry forward the lessons of those who came before us and continue building a future filled with promise, compassion, and community pride.



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. After the December 1, 2025 billing cycle is completed, we will provide RVS with updated customer data so they can migrate the information into the new system and begin the debugging process well in advance.

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. We are targeting 1/1/2026 for the new system to be live to all citizens.

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.

December 2025

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | 1 Cyber Monday | 2 Giving Tuesday | 3 | 4 Nat'l. Cookie Day | 5 Int'l. Volunteer Day | 6 |
| 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance | 8 Green Monday | 9 | 10 Human Rights Day | 11 | 12 Billboard Awards | 13 Nat'l. Cocoa Day |
| 14 | 15 <i>Council Meeting</i> | 16 <i>Water Bill Due</i> | 17 Nat'l. Maple Syrup Day | 18 | 19 | 20 Super Saturday |
| 21 Start of Winter | 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve | 25 Christmas Day | 26 Boxing Day | 27 |
| 28 | 29 <i>Cutoff Day</i> | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | | | |

City Fun Page

Christmas

F C K P T E N I U F W O V I W F W L T U
E O F H O L L Y C B T U P Y U C L R W R
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Gingerbread

Mistletoe

Snowflake

Jolly

Ornaments

Evergreen

Reindeer

Noel

Caroling

Yuletide

Stockings

Chimney

Festive

Garland

Tinsel

Frosty

Sleigh

Holly

Peace

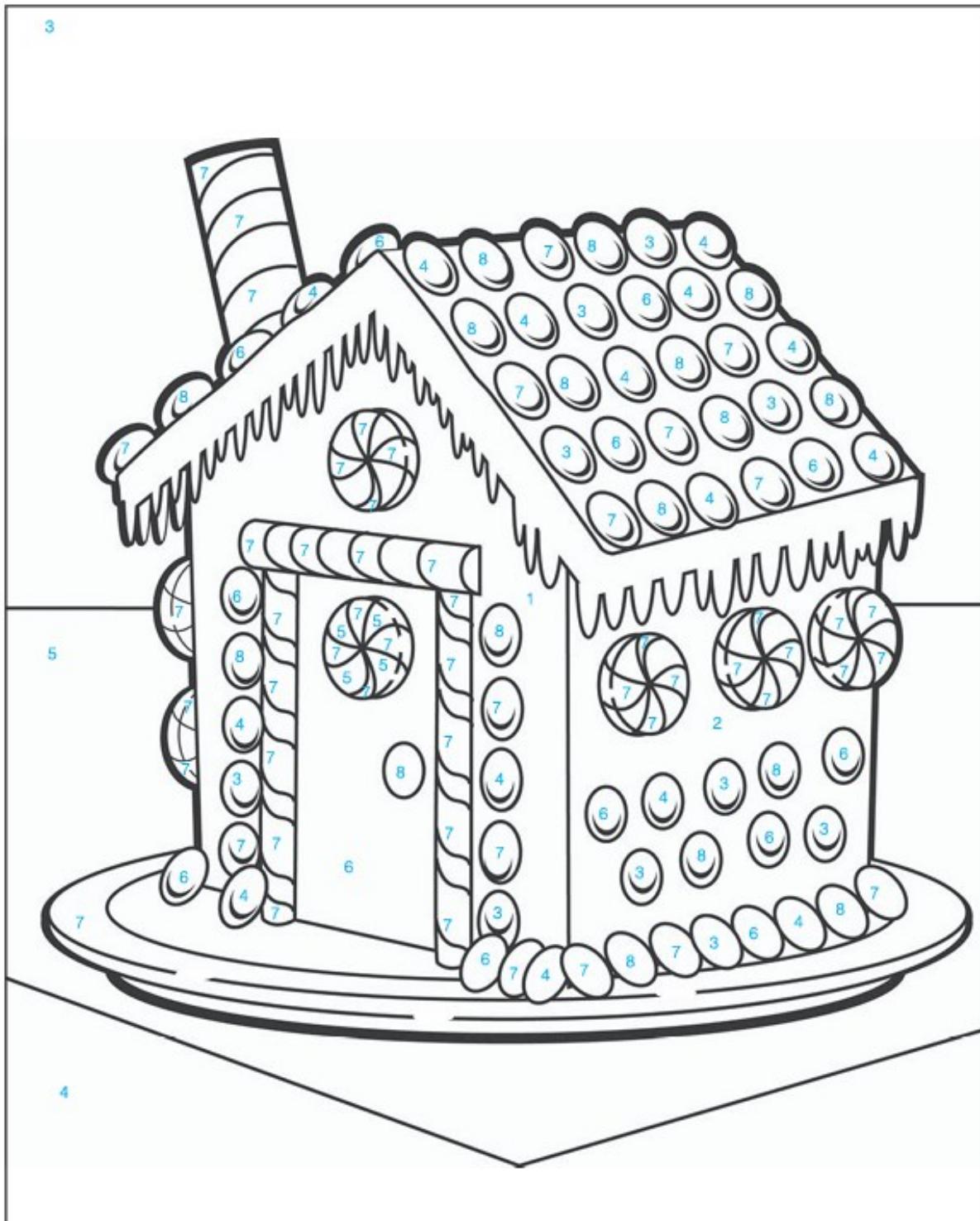
Wreath



Contact Us

City Hall—870-526-2300 Email—financialdirector@cityofkeiser.gov Mayor—mayor@cityofkeiser.gov Scan Me...

Kids Fun Page



Colors: 1-Tan 2-Pink 3-Light Blue 4-Purple 5- Light Green 6-Dark Green 7-Red 8-Yellow



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Scan Me...