



KEISER NEWS

2024

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

May Newsletter

Vol 13

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

Springtime in Keiser marks not just a change in seasons but also serves as a rallying call for all residents to engage in significant cleanup and beautification efforts around their homes and lawns. This year, the initiative is particularly critical, as Keiser's Code Enforcement officers will ensure that everyone contributes to enhancing our neighborhood's appearance and safety. Residents are encouraged to maintain their lawns and gardens, declutter by removing old appliances and furniture, and undertake necessary home repairs such as fixing peeling paint or broken fences. Additionally, ensuring that gutters and storm drains are clear is vital for preventing water buildup during spring rains.

Community involvement is crucial; those living near communal areas or parks should consider organizing or participating in community cleanup days to beautify these shared spaces. Moreover, this spring, the city's focus extends to maintaining community standards concerning untagged vehicles and pets. Untagged or inoperable vehicles must be properly registered or stored out of sight to avoid creating an eyesore. Similarly, pets should not roam loose or be chained up in front lawns to prevent accidents and disturbances. Noise control—including minimizing dog barking—is essential for maintaining the tranquility of our neighborhoods.

Additionally, residents should take care to declutter under their carports, creating a cleaner and more organized ap-

pearance. It's also important to ensure that trash cans are removed from the street by the end of trash day, keeping our streets neat and orderly. Another crucial rule to observe is refraining from parking in the street, as this can obstruct emergency vehicles from responding to emergencies efficiently, potentially putting lives and property at risk. When mowing lawns, it is also important to clean up any grass clippings from the streets afterward to prevent them from causing safety issues for bike riding and creating unsightly messes.

Keiser's Code Enforcement is committed not just to enforcement but also to assisting and educating residents on complying with local ordinances to uphold a clean, safe, and orderly environment. They provide resources and guidance for those whose properties need attention, aiming to foster a community spirit of cooperation and pride.

By participating in these cleanup activities and adhering to community standards, every resident of Keiser plays a vital role in the city's rejuvenation. This spring, let us unite to make Keiser a cleaner, safer, and more serene place to live, enhancing our collective quality of life. The efforts of each individual are invaluable and appreciated, contributing significantly to maintaining Keiser as a beautiful and harmonious community. Let's embrace this season of renewal with dedication and responsibility. Happy cleaning, and thank you for your efforts in making Keiser a better place 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

AUDITOR: “I couldn’t find anything wrong!” - By Peggy Sellars

Arkansas State Code 10-4-412 mandates that every school district, county, and municipality in the state be audited yearly. Because the City of Keiser operates a water company, we are required to have a separate water audit. We received the results of that audit a few months ago. No violations! We passed with flying colors.

The Legislative Auditor picked up our documents for our yearly State Legislative Audit at the end of last year. Our financial documents filled a couple of boxes. Believe me, those legislative auditors leave no stone unturned. Every penny received and every penny spent must be accounted for. Those boxes contained:

- Copies of every deposit made with receipts validating the origin of the deposit.
 - a. Every deposit made must be receipted in a book, then posted to the bookkeeping program. Then the deposit slip is made with the receipt # on it.
- Check stubs of every dispersed check written, along with the invoice stating what the check was for.
 - a. Every check written must have the stub and the invoice initialed by the mayor.
 - b. Every check must have two signatures – mine and the mayor’s.
- Copies of all bank statements plus reconciliation documents.
 - a. We have 17 bank accounts.
- Monthly & yearly balance sheet for each account.
- Monthly & yearly profit & loss statement for each account.
- A yearly general ledger document (60 pages).
- Minutes for the year.
- Resolutions & Ordinances for the year.
- All receipt books and deposit books for the year.
- Copies of employee W 2’s
- All tax records and payments (state & federal).

Knowing from experience that these audits usually take several months, we went on about our business, with full faith, knowing that we had done our best. I came into this position as your city treasurer very mindful of the huge responsibility that comes with the position I hold. Even so, every now and then, out of the blue, it will hit

me like a ton of bricks, “I am accountable for every cent the City of Keiser has. I hope I’m doing enough.” From day one, I have been dedicated to ensuring the city’s finances (your money) are managed wisely – nothing wasted. However, I can’t do it alone. All aspects of running a city, even the finances, are a joint effort. I am so thankful for the help and support I receive from Mayor Creecy and City Coordinator Wilbanks, who are like-minded in their endeavors for the city. I can’t leave out Director of Public Works Neal Brown and Chief Gattis, who keep a sharp eye on any charges that are made by their departments.

After the auditor had our documents for about 6 months, I received a call from the mayor stating that the auditor wanted to meet with us the following week to give us our audit results. Well aware that an auditor’s job is to look for and find what is wrong, the wheels started turning, “Did I miss something? Did I provide everything the auditor needed? “It took so long; something must be wrong.”

The day of the appointment, the auditor came into city hall carrying our two boxes of documents with him. The look on his face told me nothing. Mayor Creecy and I greeted him, and we all sat down at the conference table. He passed out what is referred to as exit documents for the mayor and I to sign. He shuffled through a stack of papers for what seemed like an eternity before looking me straight in the eyes. With a glimpse of a smile he said, “I couldn’t find a thing wrong.” That makes four years with no violations. Is it Ok for me to say, “I am so proud (so humbly proud) of all of us?” The auditor iced the cake for us when he told us that it is not legal for an auditor to advise cities how to correct a violation, so he found a way around that. He has been known to tell them “Call Keiser”. And other cities have called.

NOTE: I need to add that this audit covered the financial department, the mayor’s office, the police department, and the fire department. NO VIOLATIONS for any department in the City of Keiser. The water department has already received the results of their audit. NO VIOLATIONS there either.



CHIEF ANDREW GATTIS KEISER POLICE DEPARTMENT

I believe we are all thankful that May is finally upon us. With that comes the end of the school year, graduations, and, for many of us, the most anticipated thing—vacations. Remember to remain cautious of other drivers on the road, as well as any pedestrians out walking or riding bikes. I would like everyone to remain safe and be able to enjoy the warmer weather, or trips that they have planned during this time of year.

I would like to thank everyone who came out and participated in the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (C.R.A.S.E.) course at Keiser First Baptist Church. Your involvement in wanting to keep the community safe is invaluable and greatly appreciated. I also extend my gratitude to Keiser First Baptist Church for letting us use their facilities to teach the course. Without your help, we would not have been able to conduct the course; thank you for your help and contributions to our community.

On to other news, Mississippi County has recently established an organization named “The Mississippi County Crisis Coalition.” This group consists of individuals from

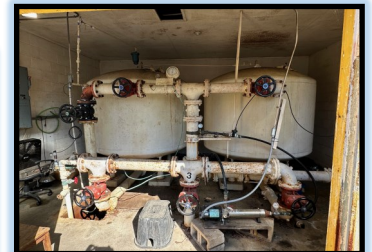
different organizations who have come together to combine their resources and aid those involved in crisis-related incidents. The group aims to consolidate resources from our county and surrounding areas, improving our response to those in need more quickly and effectively than ever before. The group is already seeing a significant amount of improvement and progress in getting the right help and aid for those in a crisis. If anyone would like to be involved in this group and their initiative, please reach out to me, and I will provide the information to get you started and more involved.

As always, if there is anything you would like to discuss with me or any ideas you would like to share, please feel free to reach out or come by the office. I will be glad to sit down and speak with you about it. I hope everyone enjoys the month of May, and I look forward to seeing the great things our community will accomplish during this time.

Chief A. Gattis chief.cityofkeiser@gmail.com (870) 526-2102

Water Treatment Plant Makeover

Significant progress has been made in the renovations and repairs of our water treatment plant, with completion currently standing at 90%. The pipe gallery has undergone thorough sandblasting, priming, and repainting. Additionally, the building's exterior has been power washed, its fascia boards and eaves replaced, and a new metal roof installed. The entire structure has received a fresh coat of paint. Remaining tasks include painting the two filters and the interior of the building, which we plan to accomplish in the next few weeks, weather permitting. Furthermore, we are set to upgrade and replace the electrical system within the plant. Over the years, the electrical components and breakers have weakened, particularly due to the moisture generated by the water system. This marks another MAJOR project nearing completion as we continue to advance into the next phase of our system's revamp.



Disaster Mitigation Grant

In an effort to bolster our preparedness against national disasters, the City of Keiser is set to aggressively pursue a Disaster Mitigation Grant this coming June. If awarded, this initiative underscores a strategic approach to ensuring the city remains resilient in the face of power outages and other catastrophic events that could render critical water and sewer systems inoperable.

Recognizing the vulnerability of these essential services, the city plans to undertake significant upgrades to its infrastructure. A key element of this project involves modifying the sewer lift stations. These modifications will include the installation of bypass connections, which will maintain operational continuity even during power failures. To achieve this, Keiser will deploy a heavy-duty, mobile diesel bypass pump capable of being moved between lift stations to ensure uninterrupted sewer system flow.

In addition to sewer system enhancements, the city will install a natural gas powered generator dedicated to powering the water well and filter house. This setup will

guarantee a continuous supply of clean water, a critical need during disaster scenarios.

The total investment for this crucial project is estimated at around \$234,000. This proactive measure not only aims to safeguard public health and safety but also ensures that Keiser remains equipped to handle emergencies with minimal disruption to essential services. By securing the Disaster Mitigation Grant, the City of Keiser demonstrates its commitment to resilience, ensuring it stands prepared for unforeseen challenges in the future.



Water/Sewer System Upgrade - Neal Brown Director of Public Works

Over the past month, our local water infrastructure has seen significant improvements, particularly with the rehabilitation of our white-water tower. This crucial project was completed recently, allowing us to reintegrate the tower into our water system. With both water towers now functional, our community enjoys a robust and reliable water supply. This efficient rehabilitation was facilitated by prior upgrades that enabled us to isolate one tower from the other. Thanks to these enhancements, we avoided relying on an alternative water source from Osceola for what could have been an extensive and costly duration of up to a month; instead, we only used Osceola water for a mere 2 ½ days.

In a related update, our water treatment plant has been aesthetically and functionally enhanced with a new coat of paint, the installation of new doors and a durable metal roof, which will offer long-term protection against the elements. The electrical system is also planned for a significant upgrade.

The presence of large trucks navigating the alleyways and various parts of town might have caught the attention of residents. These vehicles are part of a specialized

camera crew tasked with cleaning and filming the interior of our sewer pipes. This preventive maintenance is essential for ensuring the integrity and efficiency of our sewage system. For those living in the affected areas, it's important to be vigilant about unusual water noises emanating from bathrooms. If such noises occur, residents should temporarily shut off their toilet valves and flush to prevent potential overflows. Once the crew has completed their work in your vicinity, you can safely turn the valve back on and refill your toilets.

Looking forward to July, we have proactive measures planned to further ensure the safety of our water supply. A contractor will be assessing the piping in the front yards of homes to identify whether they are comprised of lead or copper. This inspection is part of a broader initiative to replace any lead pipes found, contingent on the availability of necessary funds. Our goal is to secure the funding needed to undertake these replacements, ensuring all homeowners are equipped with safe and modern water infrastructure.

PENNY WILBANKS WATER/CITY HALL COORDINATOR

Beautiful Sunshine

Spring is already upon us and Summer is quickly approaching. With summer approaching, we can expect hotter temperatures. However, summer has always been my favorite time of year. As a child, of course, because we were out of school; but as an adult, because of so much beautiful sunshine. Sunshine brings a smile to your face. Sunshine just makes you feel better.

Sunshine is the sun's light or direct rays, but sunshine can also be someone or something that radiates warmth, cheer or happiness.

Being exposed to sunlight enables your body to make **vitamin D** from cholesterol in your skin cells. Known as the "sunshine vitamin," vitamin D benefits your health in many ways, including: Supporting your bone and muscle health Regulating your blood pressure Regulating your immune system Maintaining the health of your blood vessels.

Sunshine improves your sleep. It reduces stress. Sunshine also helps to maintain strong bones, and helps keep the weight off. Sunshine strengthens your immune

system, helps fight off depression, and can give you a longer life.

Being the sunshine is a metaphor for happiness and positivity. It is often used to describe someone who is always happy and brings joy to others. Being the sunshine means being a source of positivity and hope for others. It is making other people feel calm and safe in your presence.

So enjoy the Beautiful Sunshine that God gives us, but also be the Beautiful Sunshine to someone else.



New City Hall Hours



Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 4:45

Closed for Lunch from 12:00 - 1:00

Springtime in Arkansas

As spring unfolds in Arkansas, the landscape near Mississippi County comes alive, offering numerous opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts, budding gardeners, and those battling seasonal allergies. This vibrant season invites residents and visitors alike to step outside and enjoy the natural beauty of the region, cultivate their gardens, and take proactive steps to manage springtime allergies.

Outdoor Activities Near Mississippi County

For those located in or around Mississippi County, Arkansas, there are several accessible and enjoyable outdoor activities that make the most of the region's natural offerings. A popular destination is the Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge, which is conveniently close and offers a variety of gentle walking trails. These trails are perfect for families or anyone looking to enjoy a leisurely day outdoors while observing local wildlife in their natural habitat. The refuge's tranquil environment makes it an ideal spot for reconnecting with nature.

Another excellent outdoor activity is fishing along the banks of the Mississippi River. The river itself is a prime spot for anglers looking for a peaceful fishing experience. Whether you're a seasoned fisher or trying it out for the first time, the Mississippi provides a picturesque backdrop for a day spent casting lines.

Bird watchers and nature lovers will find the St. Francis Sunken Lands Wildlife Management Area particularly appealing. This area, known for its unique landscape and abundant wildlife, is a sanctuary for migratory and native birds. Visitors can spend hours with binoculars in hand, marveling at the diverse species that the spring migration brings to the area.

Gardening Tips for Arkansas Residents

Spring is also an ideal time for gardening, and even novices can enjoy planting in Arkansas's forgiving climate. Before planting anything, it's wise to perform a simple soil test, available at local garden stores or through extension offices. Knowing your soil type can guide you in choosing the right amendments and selecting plants that will thrive.

When choosing what to plant, opting for native Arkansas plants can greatly simplify gardening. These

plants are well-adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, requiring less maintenance and providing a higher success rate. For vegetable gardening, it's beneficial to start sensitive plants like tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants indoors and transplant them outdoors once the threat of frost has passed. Conversely, hardier vegetables such as lettuce, kale, and radishes can be sown directly into the ground earlier in the season.

Managing Seasonal Allergies

Spring in Arkansas is beautiful, but it can also be challenging for allergy sufferers. Staying informed about pollen counts can help immensely. On days when counts are high, it's best to stay indoors as much as possible to avoid exposure. Keeping your living spaces free of pollen is also crucial; using HEPA filters in air conditioning systems and keeping windows closed during peak pollen times can help maintain a pollen-free environment.

For those who find that allergies are a significant hindrance to enjoying spring, over-the-counter antihistamines can provide relief. In more severe cases, consulting with an allergist might be necessary. These specialists can offer treatments such as immunotherapy, which can alleviate symptoms over the long term.

Arkansas springs are a time of growth and enjoyment. Whether you're exploring the great outdoors, cultivating a garden, or managing allergies, the region offers abundant opportunities to celebrate the season. Each activity, from hiking and bird watching to planting and allergy management, brings its own joys and challenges, making spring in Arkansas a rich and rewarding experience.



Spring Maintenance Tips for Your Home and Auto

As the crisp, cold air of winter gives way to the warmer breezes of spring, it's an excellent time to conduct a thorough assessment and maintenance of your home and automobile. This seasonal transition can often reveal issues that developed during the winter, making this the ideal time to address any potential problems and prepare for the months ahead.

Home Maintenance Tips

Roof and Gutters: Start your spring maintenance routine at the top with a careful inspection of your roof. The winter months, with their snow, ice, and storms, can be harsh on roofing materials. Check for any signs of shingle damage or loss, which could lead to leaks during spring rains. Also, ensure that your gutters and downspouts are free from debris like leaves and twigs, which could impede proper drainage, potentially causing water damage to your home's foundation and exterior.

Windows and Doors: Examine the seals around windows and doors next. Cold weather can cause seals to crack and shrink, leading to drafts and increased energy costs. Replacing old caulking or installing new weatherstripping can seal gaps and improve energy efficiency. This not only helps keep your home cooler and more comfortable as temperatures rise but also reduces the burden on your cooling system.

Foundation and Exterior Walls: Winter weather can also be tough on your home's foundation. Walk around your home and check for any new cracks or signs of movement in the foundation and exterior walls. These can be entry points for water during rains, potentially causing serious damage. Small cracks can usually be filled and repaired easily if caught early.

HVAC System: Before you start relying on your air conditioner, ensure that your HVAC system is professionally serviced. This should include cleaning or replacing filters, checking ducts for debris, and ensuring that the system is running efficiently. An efficient HVAC system will not only keep you comfortable but also help in reducing energy bills.

Lawn Care: Clear your lawn of any winter debris, such as branches and dead plants. Early spring is also

a good time to trim bushes and trees. This not only helps in promoting new growth but also removes any unsafe, overhanging limbs before they become a hazard in windy spring storms.

Auto Maintenance Tips

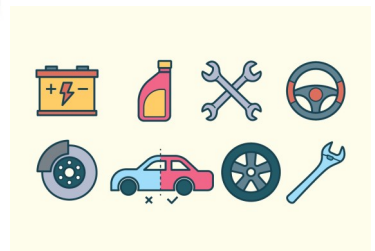
Cleaning: Winter driving can leave your vehicle coated in road salt and grime, which can lead to corrosion. A thorough wash, possibly including a professional undercarriage cleaning, can remove these corrosive materials and extend the life of your vehicle.

Tires: Check your tires for wear and ensure they are inflated to the recommended pressure. Winter can be tough on tires, causing them to deflate slightly. Properly inflated tires ensure better fuel efficiency and safer handling, which is especially important in wet spring weather.

Windshield Wipers: Replace any worn windshield wipers. Spring showers require good visibility, and maintaining effective windshield wipers is key to safe driving in rain.

General Maintenance: Finally, bring your car in for a general maintenance check. This should include an oil change, fluid levels check, brake inspection, and battery test. Winter can be particularly hard on a car's battery, and a failing battery can leave you stranded just when you start to get out and enjoy the spring weather.

By addressing these key areas in both your home and vehicle, you can enjoy the spring season with peace of mind, knowing that everything is functioning well and ready for the demands of the coming months.



Statewide Regulation on Recreational Vehicles in Keiser: Understanding the Law

Residents and visitors in Keiser, along with the rest of the state, should be aware of the state law that prohibits the use of certain recreational vehicles on public streets. This law specifically bans the riding of three-wheelers, four-wheelers, side-by-sides, and unlicensed dirt bikes on roadways. The purpose of this legislation is to enhance safety for all road users by ensuring that only vehicles equipped with necessary safety features and licensing are operated on public roads.

Three and four-wheelers, commonly referred to as ATVs (All-Terrain Vehicles), side-by-sides, and unlicensed dirt bikes are primarily designed for off-road use. They lack many of the safety features required for vehicles on public streets, such as visible license plates, proper lighting, and other road-use essentials. These vehicles are unsuitable for paved roads primarily because they do not meet the stringent safety and environmental standards required for street vehicles.

State law enforcement is vigilant in upholding these laws, with penalties for non-compliance including fines and possible impoundment of the vehicle. This strict enforcement aims not only to uphold the law but also

to prevent accidents that can result from the operation of inadequately equipped vehicles in environments for which they were not designed.

For enthusiasts of these vehicles, the law encourages the use of designated off-road areas or private properties that allow such activities. This ensures that all recreational riding is done safely and legally, aligning with the intent to protect both the riders and the general public.

The state's regulations are clear: public streets are not an appropriate or legal venue for ATVs, side-by-sides, or unlicensed dirt bikes. Adhering to this law is crucial for maintaining public safety and order on the roads. It is important for everyone to understand and comply with these rules, promoting responsible and safe riding practices across the state.

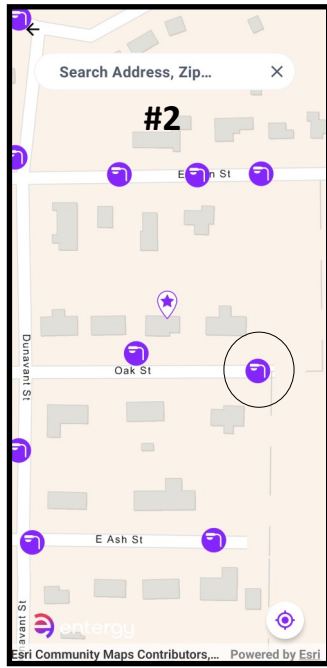
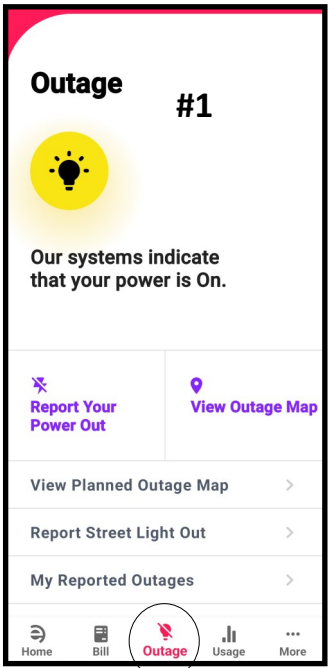
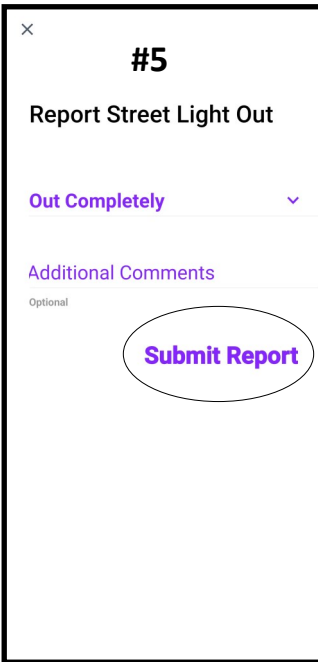
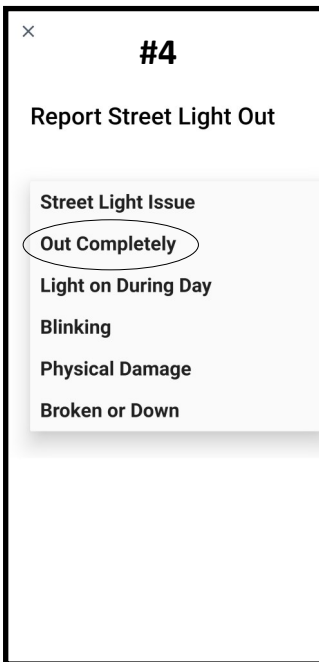
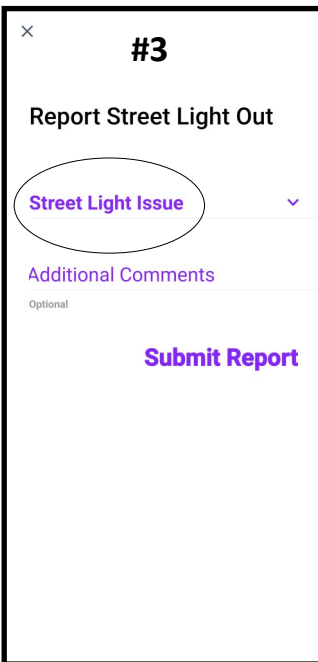


May 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 National Day of Prayer	3	4 Kentucky Derby
5 Cinco De Mayo	6	7 Teacher's Day	8	9	10 National Golf Day	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16 Water Bill Due	17	18 Armed Forces Day
19 Pentecost	20 Council Meeting	21	22	23 World Turtle Day	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28 Cutoff Date	29	30	31 National Smile Day	

City Street Lights

In the City of Keiser, the 139 streetlights are crucial for nighttime safety, but many of these bulbs, having been in service for years, are prone to weakening, blinking, or failing completely. Fortunately, Entergy has streamlined the process for reporting outages with a user-friendly app available for both iPhone and Android devices. Residents can simply download the app, log in or register their account, and use it to report issues. To report an outage, users should select the **#1** "Outage" option at the bottom of the screen, which displays a **#2** map of streetlights near their location. If the faulty streetlight is known, it can be selected directly from the map. If the exact light is unknown, users can stand near the problematic light and select the purple dot with a circle on it from the bottom right of the screen to use GPS for precise location. After selecting the light, a menu titled **#3** "Report Street Light Out" appears, offering **#4** five options to describe the issue. Once the problem is specified, users can **#5** submit the report. A confirmation screen will then verify that the report has been received by Entergy, who typically resolves such issues within one to two days. Reporting streetlight outages not only helps in maintaining the infrastructure but also enhances community safety by deterring crime, so residents are encouraged to report any issues they observe.



From Arkansas

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Billy Bob Thornton	Douglas MacArthur	
Black Oak Arkansas		Scottie Pippen
Maurice Carthon	Glen Campbell	John Grisham
Conway Twitty	Buddy Jewell	Houston Nutt
Bill Clinton	Johnny Cash	Charlie Rich
Bear Bryant	Dizzy Dean	Lou Brock
John Daly	Al Green	

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