



KEISER NEWS

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

2025

June Newsletter

Vol 26

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

I'm pleased to share some great news with our community—Keiser has been awarded a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the State of Arkansas to help us finally address the flooding problems that have impacted the northeast side of town for far too long. This grant is a major win for our residents and will allow us to take real, lasting steps to fix the drainage issues that have caused frustration, damage, and safety concerns over the years.

With this funding, we'll be able to clear and clean existing drainage ditches that have become clogged or overgrown, dig new ditches where needed, and replace old or failing culverts that have contributed to poor water flow. Once the new culverts are installed, we'll also repair any damage caused by their replacement. These improvements are designed to move water away from homes and roads more efficiently and reduce the risk of flooding during heavy rain.

This project is especially important because Keiser has already secured funding to replace our aging sewer system. As many of you know, our current sewer lines have been taking on excess water during storms, essentially acting as a storm drain because of years of infiltration. That's not what the sewer system was designed to do, and once we install the new system, we won't have that same capacity to handle

stormwater. Without improving drainage now, flooding would likely get worse. This grant gives us the opportunity to do both jobs right—rebuild our sewer system and create proper storm drainage at the same time.

We are currently working with our engineers and planning team to finalize the project scope. If everything stays on track, we expect to begin construction in late summer. Barring any major setbacks, the work should take about three months to complete. We know this project will bring some disruption, and we want to be sure everyone is informed and prepared. That's why we'll be hosting a public town meeting soon, where we'll share more details, timelines, and answer any questions from residents—especially those living in the affected areas.

I want to personally thank the Arkansas Economic Development Commission for their partnership in helping bring this funding to Keiser. This project will make a real difference in the lives of many of our residents and is another example of how we're working every day to improve our city's infrastructure, safety, and quality of life.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I'm proud of the progress we're making together, and I look forward to seeing this project move forward for the betterment of all of Keiser.

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

Follow us on Facebook and at our website

Water bills due the 16th of each month. Late charges will be applied on the 17th and shutoff on the 27th unless the 27th is Friday.

Remember riding ATV's on city streets is a violation of state law and will be enforced.

Remember the city has a leash law. If you are walking your dog in the city limits they **MUST** be on a leash. No exceptions.

If you have not yet registered your dog or cat. Please come to City Hall and do so.

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

Home owners and contractors are required to notify city hall before any mechanical excavation can be done.

City Hall—870-526-2300

New City Hall Hours

Hours 8:00am to 4:45pm M-F
Closed 12:00 to 1:00 for lunch

Glenn Dunn III - Chief of Police

School is out and summer is here! Our Helmets for Heroes project has started off with great enthusiasm. With summer comes more outside activities.



The Police Department is going to be hosting child ID kits, which include fingerprints as well as identification cards. We are looking for volunteers for our Neighborhood Watch program which will begin soon. We need mindful, detail-oriented citizens to be an extra set of eyes and ears to identify issues in the city at all hours of the day and night.

We are looking to ramp up efforts to focus on Code Enforcement of our city ordinances. Ord. 2024-01 applies to several things; from overgrown grass, to rubbish on property. When maintaining your grass and mowing, per the ordinance, please refrain

from blowing the clippings into the roadways. Rubbish; disposing of items; requiring property owners to address stagnant water and unsanitary conditions. "Unsanitary conditions" includes clutter, trash, debris piled up to the point where pests can take refuge, as well as stagnant water. Let's keep our city clean and free of unsafe and unsightly problems.

**Building &
Code
Enforcement**



Penny Wilbanks - Recorder/Financial Director

The Importance of Upgrading the Looks of City Hall

City halls are more than just administrative buildings. They are symbols of community identity, history, and civic pride. Yet, many city halls across the country have aged with little attention to their visual and functional appeal. As cities evolve, so should their public buildings. Upgrading the appearance of city hall not only improves aesthetics but also reinforces transparency, accessibility, and public engagement.

Why a Facelift Matters

The visual appeal and functionality of a city hall can directly impact public perception. An attractive, organized space builds confidence in local leadership and encourages more citizen involvement. In contrast, a poorly maintained or confusing facility can

discourage engagement and erode trust.

Keiser City Hall will be getting somewhat of a facelift to make it a warm and welcoming place for its citizens and any newcomers to the city.



Neal Brown - Director of Public Works

The City of Keiser is proud to announce the completion of a major infrastructure project: a brand-new lift station has been installed on East Main Street by MMRS of Paragould. As of May 30th, the station is fully operational, with only fencing and final dirt work scheduled for completion in June.

This modern lift station features two state-of-the-art four-inch digital pumps, significantly increasing pumping capacity and reliability. It serves a large portion of our city—including the Dunavant Addition, most of the Circle, and the University of Arkansas facilities in Keiser. With this new system in place, residents in these areas will experience fewer disruptions to sewer service, particularly during heavy rains or high usage periods.

The Main Street lift station joins the previously upgraded Lagoon Lift Station as part of Keiser's long-term plan to strengthen and modernize our aging sewer infrastructure. Together, the two stations now deliver over 25% more pumping power than the older systems they replaced—making a noticeable difference in system performance and reliability.

Looking ahead, the City plans to install two more lift sta-

tions within the next 12 to 18 months—one on Jefferson Street and one on South Poplar Street—as part of our ongoing sewer system improvement project.

We are also preparing for Phase III of this project: a full replacement of the city's aging sewer lines. This next phase will help reduce stormwater infiltration, minimize backups, and prevent costly service interruptions for our residents.

Improving Keiser's infrastructure remains one of our top priorities. These investments are not just upgrades—they are long-term solutions that will help protect public health, support future growth, and ensure a more dependable system for years to come.



Improving Safety and Curb Appeal in Keiser

As part of our continued commitment to safety and community pride, the City of Keiser has recently updated **speed limits** to better protect residents, pedestrians, and visitors. The speed limit on **Main Street is now set at 20 mph**, and all **residential streets throughout town are limited to 15 mph**. These changes are especially important in areas where children are playing, people are walking, or neighbors are out enjoying their yards. Please be mindful of these posted limits and help us keep our streets safe for everyone.

We also want to remind residents that **four-wheelers, ATVs, and other off-road vehicles are not allowed on city streets** under **Arkansas state law**. These vehicles are not street legal and can create dangerous situations for both the rider and others on the road. While they can be great for use on private property or designated trails, they are not permitted for travel within city limits.

In addition to safety, we are placing a strong emphasis on **community appearance and pride**. Now is a great time to take a look at your home or business and see what small improvements can be made—whether it's mowing, trimming, picking up debris, painting, or repair-

ing structures. A clean and well-kept community doesn't just make living here more enjoyable; it also sends a message to potential **new residents** and **businesses** that Keiser is a town that cares.

The City is actively working to **attract growth and investment**, and that begins with how we present ourselves. First impressions matter, and every homeowner and business owner plays a part in that effort. Together, we can make Keiser an even more beautiful, safe, and welcoming place to live.



Honoring Fatherhood: The Meaning and Celebration of Father's

Every year on the third Sunday in June, we take a special moment to pause and honor the men who have shaped our lives—our fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, uncles, and father figures. **Father's Day** is a time to recognize the hard work, guidance, and quiet strength of the men who help build strong families and strong communities.

The idea for Father's Day began in the early 20th century when **Sonora Smart Dodd** of Spokane, Washington, was inspired to create a day to honor her father, a Civil War veteran who raised six children as a single parent. After hearing a sermon on Mother's Day, she wondered why there wasn't a similar day to honor fathers. Thanks to her efforts, the first Father's Day was celebrated in 1910. Over time, the idea gained national support, and in **1972**, it was officially recognized as a federal holiday in the United States.

While Mother's Day was quickly accepted, Father's Day took longer to gain national popularity. This was partly because traditional views of masculinity at the time made it difficult for some to embrace the idea of a holiday focused on expressing emotions toward fathers. But with time, people began to understand and appreciate the essential role that fathers play—not just as providers and protectors, but as nurturers, teachers, and role models.

Fathers influence our lives in countless ways. For many, Dad is the one who teaches us how to ride a bike, fix a flat tire, or handle life's tough moments with quiet resilience. He might be the one who worked long hours to provide for the family or who showed up to every game, recital, or school play. Some fathers lead with laughter, while others lead with quiet encouragement. Whatever their style, fathers help shape our values, our confidence, and our sense of responsibility.

In today's world, the definition of fatherhood continues to expand. Father's Day is not just for biological dads. It is also a celebration of **stepfathers, foster fathers, grandfathers, big brothers, mentors, coaches, and community leaders** who have stepped into the role of a father figure. Their presence and

influence matter just as much, and this day is meant to recognize them as well.

People celebrate Father's Day in many different ways. Some families host backyard barbecues, go fishing, attend church together, or take a trip to the park. Others might give a handmade card, share a heartfelt letter, or simply spend some quality time together. In Keiser and small towns like ours, where family values and community support run deep, Father's Day is an opportunity to slow down and say "thank you" to the men who give so much of themselves every day.

For those who have lost their fathers or are separated by distance, this day can also bring moments of reflection. Whether it's visiting a gravesite, sharing stories with family, or continuing a tradition your father loved, there are many meaningful ways to honor a dad's memory and legacy.

As we celebrate this Father's Day, let's also remember the importance of supporting the men in our lives—not just with gifts or cards, but with encouragement and appreciation throughout the year. Being a father or father figure isn't always easy, and many carry the weight of responsibilities quietly. A kind word, a helping hand, or even a shared laugh can go a long way in reminding them how valued they are.

To all the dads and father figures in Keiser and beyond, **Happy Father's Day**. Thank you for your love, your sacrifices, and the steady example you set for others. Your efforts don't go unnoticed, and your role in shaping lives is truly priceless.



Flag Day: Honoring the Red, White, and Blue

Every year on **June 14th**, communities across the United States pause to honor one of our most enduring national symbols—the American flag. Known as **Flag Day**, this observance marks the anniversary of the day in **1777** when the **Continental Congress officially adopted the Stars and Stripes** as the national flag. While it may seem like a simple piece of fabric, the American flag represents over two centuries of our shared history, our struggles, our triumphs, and the freedoms we continue to cherish today.

The flag's design has evolved over the years, beginning with 13 stars and stripes to represent the original colonies. As the nation grew, so did the flag. Today's version, with **50 stars and 13 stripes**, tells the story of a growing and united country. The **red stands for valor and bravery, white for purity and innocence, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice**. Every time the flag is raised or flown, especially on days like Flag Day, it serves as a visible reminder of what it means to be an American.

Flag Day was first formally celebrated in **1885** when a school-teacher in Wisconsin, Bernard Cigrand, held the first recognized observance. Thanks to his efforts and the support of others, **President Woodrow Wilson** issued a proclamation in 1916 establishing June 14th as Flag Day. Later, in **1949**, Congress officially declared it a national observance.

Though not a federal holiday, many cities and towns recognize

the importance of Flag Day with **patriotic ceremonies, flag-raising events, parades, and educational activities**. It's a time to teach younger generations about the meaning of the flag and to encourage respect for the ideals it represents. In towns like Keiser, where pride in our country and appreciation for service runs deep, it's also a moment to remember our veterans, our active-duty military, and all those who have served under the flag's banner.

Proper care and handling of the flag are also emphasized during this time. Many communities use Flag Day as an opportunity to host **flag retirement ceremonies**, where old or worn-out flags are respectfully and ceremonially disposed of, usually by burning. These solemn ceremonies remind us that even in retirement, the American flag is treated with dignity.

As we look up and see the flag waving in the wind this June 14th, may we be reminded not only of our nation's past, but also of the hope and promise that the flag carries into the future. It is a symbol that belongs to all of us—regardless of background, belief, or political view—and it unites us under one common identity: American.

So this Flag Day, whether you're placing a small flag in your yard, attending a community event, or simply taking a moment of quiet reflection, know that you are participating in a proud American tradition. Let us continue to honor the red, white, and blue—not just on Flag Day, but every day.

City Hall Hours



Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 4:45

Closed for Lunch from 12:00 - 1:00

June in History: A Month of Change, Courage, and Celebration

June is often thought of as a time for sunshine, vacations, and the start of summer—but it's also a month rich with historical significance. From important national holidays to world-changing events, June has played a major role in shaping our country and the world.

One of the most well-known historical events in June is **D-Day**, which occurred on **June 6, 1944**. On this day, more than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, during World War II. This massive military operation, known as **Operation Overlord**, marked the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany. Thousands of brave soldiers risked—and gave—their lives for freedom, making D-Day one of the most significant moments in modern history.

Another major event that happened in June is **Juneteenth**, celebrated each year on **June 19**. This day marks the moment in 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that all enslaved people were finally free—more than two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth is now a **federal holiday** and serves as a time for reflection, education, and celebration of African American culture, freedom, and progress.

June has also seen progress in civil rights. On **June 12, 1967**, the United States Supreme Court made a landmark ruling in the case of **Loving v. Virginia**, which struck down laws banning interracial marriage. This decision was a major victory for equality and helped pave the way for other civil rights advancements. Just two years earlier, in **June 1965**, civil rights leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. continued organizing protests and marches that would eventually lead to the Voting Rights Act.

In the realm of politics and global cooperation, **June 26, 1945**, marked the signing of the **United Nations Charter** in San Francisco. This agreement established the United Nations as a worldwide organization committed to peace, security, and human rights. It's a reminder that out of the destruction of World War II came a desire for unity and cooperation among nations.

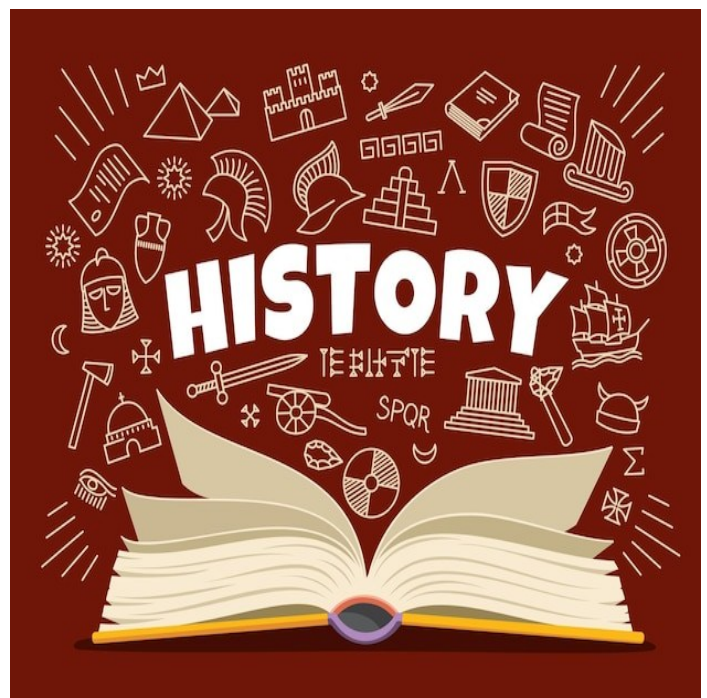
Even in the world of science and innovation, June has been a time of progress. On **June 16, 1963**, Soviet cos-

monaut **Valentina Tereshkova** became the first woman to travel into space, orbiting the Earth 48 times. This breakthrough opened the door for women in the space program and showed that the sky was no longer the limit.

Cultural history also has its place in June. On **June 1, 1967**, The Beatles released their album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, which changed the direction of popular music. The album broke new ground with its artistic vision, and it's still celebrated as one of the most influential records of all time. In sports, **June 8, 1990**, saw the debut of the **FIFA World Cup** in Italy, drawing millions of viewers and highlighting the global love for soccer.

June has also been a month for major court rulings that changed American life. On **June 28, 1978**, the Supreme Court ruled on **Regents of the University of California v. Bakke**, a key case on affirmative action in college admissions.

From war and peace to civil rights and celebration, June reminds us that history isn't just something we read in books—it's something we live, remember, and learn from. As we enjoy the warmth of the season and gather with friends and family, let's take a moment to reflect on the many ways June has shaped the past and continues to influence the present.



Exciting Improvements Underway at Keiser City Park

Big things are happening at Keiser City Park as a series of improvements are now underway to enhance safety, accessibility, and future use of the space. Renovations to the **bathroom facilities** have begun, with a fresh coat of paint already applied to the exterior, along with the replacement of damaged wood to improve both appearance and structure. In addition, **electricity is being added** to the bathrooms, allowing for interior lighting—something that will make the facilities more functional for evening events and gatherings. This new electrical infrastructure will also support **future projects**, including plans to install power into the park itself to accommodate a **potential Amphitheater**, which is being considered for the northwest corner.

As part of the preparation for this expansion, **tree trimming** will take place just east of the pavilion to make room for a new **power pole**. This pole, which will be located just south of the newest playground equipment, will host two **1000-watt floodlights** to significantly improve lighting in the park. It will also serve as the mounting point for a **security camera**,

helping to ensure that the park remains a safe and welcoming space for everyone.

In even more exciting news, we are expecting approval **any day now** from ArDOT to move forward with bidding on our **expanded Bike/Walking Track project**. Once approved, we anticipate breaking ground as early as **July**, creating a safer and more scenic space for walking, running, and biking.

To help meet the growing needs of our park visitors, the City has **submitted a grant** to fund the construction of a new **50' x 200' parking lot**. This addition would greatly expand parking capacity and make the park more accessible during events and busy week-ends.

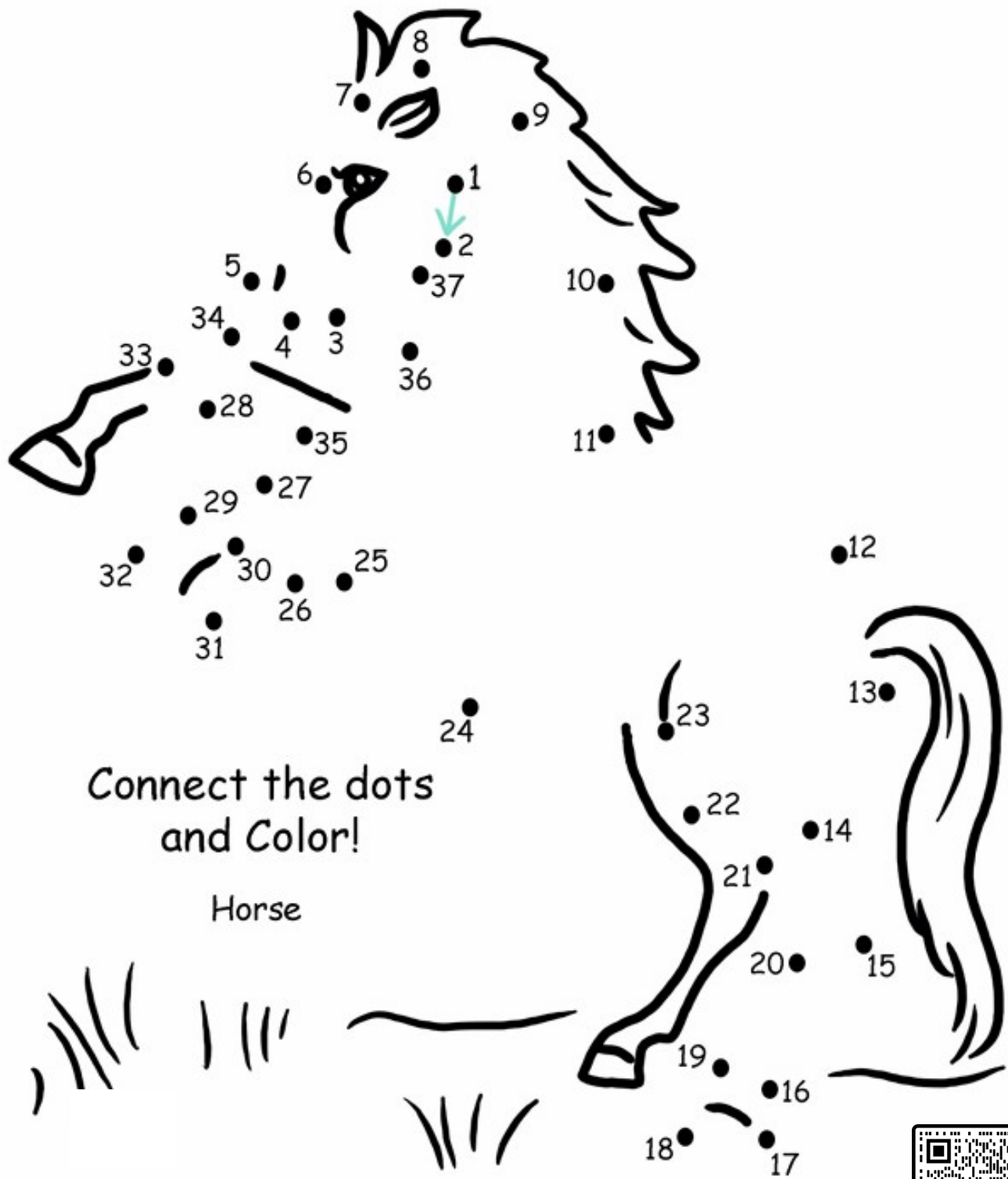
Looking ahead, the City is also planning to **submit another grant in early June** for the addition of a **Basketball Court, Pickleball Court, and Tennis Court**, as well as an **Obstacle Course**. These features will offer more recreational options for residents of all ages and continue the transformation of the park into a true hub for fitness, fun, and community.

June 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 World Milk Day	2	3 World Bicycle Day	4 Nat'l. Cheese Day	5	6 D-Day Anniversary	7 World Food Safety Day
8	9	10	11	12 World Day Against Child Labor	13	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16 Water Bill Due Council Meeting	17 Nat'l. Mascot Day	18 Int's Picnic Day	19	20	21 World Music Day
22	23	24	25	26 Nat'l. Handshake Day	27 Nat'l. Sunglasses Day	28
29	30 Cutoff Date					

Kids Fun Page

Connect the Dots



Contact Us

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



Scan Me...

City Fun Page

June Events

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

Celebration

Graduation

Juneteenth

Flag

Fireflies

Sunshine

Vacation

Pearl

Outdoors

Seniors

Barbecue

Heat

Freedom

Parades

Camping

Pool

Sandals

Hiking

Summer

Beach

Bloom

Garden

Travel

Roses

Contact Us



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