



# Keller Connect

www.cityofkeller.com

Winter 2009-10

## Mayor's Notebook

This past year has been another great time to live and work in Keller.



We opened a new fire station, broke ground for the Keller library project, landed 7th on CNN/Money Magazine's "Best Places to Live in America." list, and have seen interest in Keller continue in a difficult economy.

There are exciting new businesses on the horizon and Keller's economic future looks promising. A renewed focus on supporting our existing Keller businesses – and ultimately boosting the City's sales-tax revenue – is one focus for new Economic Development consultant Alison Benton. The "Keep it in Keller" campaign urges residents to spend their money in their hometown.

A bigger and better Keller Public Library facility is slated to reopen in March, featuring more room for children and teens, as well as larger public meeting space. Projects to widen North Tarrant Parkway and Rufe Snow Drive are progressing well to manage increased traffic on these thoroughfares. The Keller Public Arts

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## Economic Development

### Campaign touts need to shop within Keller

A renewed effort to support businesses in the City will encourage residents to "Keep it in Keller" when it comes to spending their money. From clothing to appliances, from services for your car to services for your home, from fast food to fine dining, a variety of Keller establishments are ready to meet your needs and exceed your expectations.

"People don't realize that shopping locally has a direct impact on the City budget," said Alison Benton, Keller Economic Development consultant. Keeping our shopping dollars in Keller benefits the City, the businesses and ultimately ourselves. The following are just a few reasons to shop in Keller first:

**Save time:** Shopping close to home means more time to relax, more time with family and less time in the car.

**Tax revenue:** Sales taxes collected on purchases made in Keller help support City services, such as street maintenance and boosting the Police Department's budget. The more sales taxes that are collected, the



more funding is available in the general fund and less reliance on property-tax revenue to fund City operations.

**Uniqueness:** Keller businesses offer unique products and services. Supporting them provides a diversity of choices and adds to the rich fabric of the community.

**Community support:** Local business owners contribute and support Keller schools, non-profit organizations and civic groups.

**Neighbor to neighbor:** Business owners who also live in Keller are your neighbors. Their commitment to See **BUSINESS** on Page 4

## Plan Ahead

### January

- Public Art Show, Jan. 1-30
- City offices closed, Jan. 1
- Gallery Walk, Jan. 14
- KSAC Soup Du Jour Luncheon, Jan. 22
- Fishing for Fun, Jan. 23

### February

- Public Art Show, Feb. 1-28
- Daddy-Daughter Sweetheart Ball, Feb. 6
- Gallery Walk, Feb. 11
- Fort Worth Symphony, KHS Auditorium, Feb. 12
- KSAC Annual Chili and Cornbread Cook Off, Feb. 25
- Fishing for Fun, Feb. 27

### March

- Public Art Show, March 1-31
- Keller Library Opening Gala, March 5
- Keller Library Grand Opening, March 6
- Gallery Walk, March 11
- KSAC St. Patrick's Day Luncheon, March 17
- Underwater Egg Hunt, March 20
- Music on the Patio Concert Series, March 24
- Tree-Mendous Spring Egg Scramble, March 27

### April

- Public Art Show, April 1-30
- KSAC Easter Luncheon, April 1
- City offices closed, April 2
- Library and The Keller Pointe closed, April 4

## Fireplace Safety

With colder weather outside, some residents may want to take advantage of the cozy warmth of their fireplaces. The following are safety tips provided by Keller Fire-Rescue:

### Keep it clean

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces. Leave glass



doors open while burning a fire.

- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces.

Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.

- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.

### Burn safe fuels

- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.

• Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.

• Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.

• When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.

• Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

• Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home.

### Protect the outside

- Stack firewood outdoors at

least 30 feet away from your home.

• Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.

• Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester.

• Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

### Protect the inside

• Install smoke detectors on every level of your home. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Consider installing the new long-life smoke detectors.

• Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment.

• Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof.

## Winterize Your Landscape

With the cooler months at hand, it doesn't mean yards, trees and landscaping don't need a little TLC. The following winterizing tips were supplied by Dan Burger, Keller Parks Superintendent:

### Tree Care

- Remove mistletoe and dead branches.
- Perform structural pruning to include resetting the crowns, providing appropriate clearance and removing branches that rub or interfere with each other.
- Fertilize existing trees and evergreens.
- Make dormant oil applications to your trees, which reduces the number of harmful insects.

### Lawn Care

- Mow leaves with a mulching mower and leave them on your lawn or vacuum

leaves and use them as mulch.

- Water before a hard freeze.

### Planting

- Now is the time to plant trees, shrubs and bulbs for spring color.
- Pull soil samples and send to Texas A&M University for testing (soiltesting.tamu.edu).
- Visit the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens ([www.fwbg.org](http://www.fwbg.org)) and the Dallas Arboretum ([www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org)) for winter landscape ideas.

### Other Tips

- Check and clean out your rain gutters.
- Take leisurely walks on the Keller trails to enjoy the new season.
- Visit [www.cityofkeller.com](http://www.cityofkeller.com) and click on "Protect Our Environment" under the Quick Links tab for more resources.

## Spring Cleanup

- **Keller Police Department Spring Cleanup**  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Sat., April 10  
330 Rufe Snow Drive



The Department will host a free Spring Cleanup event, along with volunteers. Mobile document shedder, VIN etch program, child ID cards and HEAT registration. Bounce houses and giveaways. Emphasis on trimming trees and shrubs to help prevent crime. Info: Officer Scott Bradburn at 817-743-4533 or [sbradburn@cityofkeller.com](mailto:sbradburn@cityofkeller.com).

## Mayor & City Council



Mayor  
Pat McGrail



Mayor Pro Tem  
John Baker



Place 1  
Ray Brown



Place 3  
Tom Cawthra



Place 4  
Jim Thompson



Place 5  
Mitch Holmes

Regular meetings: 7 p.m. first and third Tuesdays, Keller Town Hall. E-mail: [mayorandcouncil@cityofkeller.com](mailto:mayorandcouncil@cityofkeller.com).



## Keller Gallery Walk

A new Keller Public Arts program will give participants an up-close look at Keller's art scene on the second Thursdays of every month through May. The first Keller Gallery Walk is set for 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday in January (Jan. 14).

The free, monthly Gallery Walks will feature visits to art galleries in Keller Town Center. Participants will be provided refreshments and listen to sidewalk musicians, see artist presentations and enjoy social interaction. The Gallery Walk is designed to support Keller artists and galleries, promote art to the public and enhance the image of Keller as an art community.



For information, contact the City Manager's Office at 817-743-4010 or [publicarts@cityofkeller.com](mailto:publicarts@cityofkeller.com).

## Public Works Update

# North Tarrant, Rufe Snow projects are progressing

Two road-widening projects that will increase the capacity for two of Keller's main thoroughfares are moving forward.

### North Tarrant Parkway

Bids were received in mid-December on the project, which will widen the roadway from Whitley Road to Davis Boulevard. The bid is expected to be awarded in January 2010, with construction starting in February or March 2010. Some electric, gas and communication utility lines will be relocated within the next couple of months ahead of the contractor starting construction.

Public Works staff is in the process of acquiring five parcels of additional street right-of-way at the intersections of Whitley Road and Willis Lane. This will allow for left-turn lanes at these intersections. Public Works staff is also

going to extend a 12-inch water main from Cat Mountain Trail to a point just west of Sarah Brooks Drive before road construction begins as part of the City's water system master plan.

### Rufe Snow Drive

City staff and consultants are still in the process of acquiring the remaining two street right-of-way parcels needed for this project, which will widen the roadway from Bear Creek Parkway to Rapp Road. Design of the construction plans is nearly complete. City staff is in the process of applying for a state grant to help fund the proposed 10-foot wide concrete hike/bike trail to be installed along the east side of the proposed roadway between Big Bear Creek and Rapp Road. Road construction is expected to begin by Spring 2010.

## Keller Public Library

A grand opening event to celebrate the renovation and expansion of the Keller Public Library facility is set for 10 a.m. Saturday, March 6. All ages are invited to join in for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, refreshments and special activities conducted throughout the day. The theme is "Keller Library: The Next Chapter."

At the event, enjoy a variety show by the Keller Folk Music Society; check out the renewed facility during a scavenger hunt; and watch a Xtreme Kidz Entertainment presentation of *Madeline and the Blue Show*.

On Friday, March 5, the Friends of the Keller Library ([www.kellerfriends.org](http://www.kellerfriends.org)) is hosting a gala event at the new facility. Watch for details at [www.cityofkeller.com](http://www.cityofkeller.com).

Keller voters approved a \$4 million library bond to fund the library project in November 2007. Originally 12,500 square feet, the expanded facility will feature state-of-the-art technology and emphasize space for children and public meetings.

The library is located at 640 Johnson Road. For information on the library, the grand opening event and the gala, visit [www.cityofkeller.com](http://www.cityofkeller.com) or call 817-743-4840.

## Meet A Staff Member

Greg Dickens has served as Director of Keller Public Works since August 2006. He is responsible for operation and maintenance of the public water, sanitary sewer, street and drainage systems, along with other duties.



graduate study at U T - A r l i n g t o n . Previously, Greg worked as City Engineer and Public Works Director in Bedford for four years, as Public Works Director in North Richland Hills for 14

years and for private engineering firms where he worked on water, sewer, street and drainage projects.

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### How are we doing?

Complete the 2009 Guest Survey at [www.thekellerpointe.com](http://www.thekellerpointe.com) to provide feedback on how to improve services at The Pointe. Enter your contact information at the end of the survey to earn a **free, one-day pass** to The Pointe! Info: 817-743-4FUN or [thekellerpointe@cityofkeller.com](mailto:thekellerpointe@cityofkeller.com).

## 2010 U.S. Census

The following are facts about the upcoming U.S. Census. Find more online at [2010.census.gov](http://2010.census.gov).

- The U.S. Constitution requires a Census to be conducted every 10 years.
- The Census counts every resident in the United States.
- Federal funds are allocated in part based on demographics and other data received from the Census.
- Data determines the number of representatives a state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Personal information is by law kept private and not shared.
- The form must be filled out to account for everyone living in a household as of April 1, 2010.
- 2010 Census forms will be mailed in March 2010 to all households in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.
- Forms should be completed and returned by April 1, 2010.
- Census takers will visit households starting in April that did not return the form by mail.
- Census takers are required to carry identification that you may ask to see.



## Business

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their customers goes beyond more than the products and services you can pay for elsewhere. They care about our City as residents, too.

**Critical mass:** When a business fails in Keller, it leaves behind an unattractive, empty space and can negatively affect nearby businesses that are still operating. Shoppers benefit when varied products and services are located in one area. Businesses benefit from the visibility and added traffic of shoppers who frequent adjacent establishments.

**Lower environmental**

**impact:** You won't need to drive your car as far when you shop in Keller. In fact, both the Old Town Keller and Keller Town Center shopping districts promote pedestrian traffic. Explore on foot what the businesses have to offer.

A new Web site is just one of the tools being developed to promote this new campaign. It will serve as a guide to all businesses in Keller, from restaurants to the diverse shopping opportunities. The campaign will also be promoted using City outlets such as the Cable TV Channel and [www.cityofkeller.com](http://www.cityofkeller.com), and with advertisements in local newspapers. For information, visit [www.kellereconomicdevelopment.com](http://www.kellereconomicdevelopment.com).

## Mayor

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Program will offer Gallery Walks on the second Thursday of each month to expose participants to the City's art galleries.

Stay up to date on the latest

City news by visiting [www.cityofkeller.com](http://www.cityofkeller.com) and subscribing to updates sent via e-mail.

Whether you are new to Keller, or have enjoyed our quality of life for years, there is something for you to enjoy. I hope that the best is yet to come for you and our City.

## Did You Know? Solicitors Permits

The City of Keller solicitors ordinance requires solicitors to carry a solicitor permit that is clearly presented and not disturb homeowners who have "No Soliciting" signs posted. Solicitors must undergo background checks before the Police Department will issue permits to them.

According to the ordinance, solicitors may not disturb a private residence in the City before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, or at any time Sunday or any federally designated holiday. Solicitors



may not work when the Department of Homeland Security has declared an Orange or Red State of Alert. These rules do not apply to those who have been requested or invited to a home by the occupant.

You have a right to see a solicitor's permit. Please call Keller Police at 817-743-4522 if a solicitor refuses to show a permit to you or ignores your posted sign. If a solicitor acts in a threatening manner, call 9-1-1 immediately.

### Exemptions

Religious groups going door-to-door to hand out material about their church or religion are exempt from the permit requirement, as are school-age students selling items for school fundraisers or other nonprofit youth groups. A candidate running for public office does not need a permit.

These requirements for solicitors do not apply to the distribution of items such as door hangers or hand bills. Such items may be left even when a "No Soliciting" sign is present.

Information: [www.cityofkeller.com](http://www.cityofkeller.com).