



Keller Connect

www.cityofkeller.com

Spring 2012

Mayor's Notebook

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Keller Connect newsletter. Included you will find information on our upcoming elections, learn how and where to recycle your yard waste, find out about the planned jail and animal shelter expansions, and much more.



Don't forget you can always keep informed on the latest in City news and events by subscribing to the Mayor's Weekly e-mail updates or any other categories you may be interested in through Keller Connect at www.cityofkeller.com. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Make sure to take advantage of the wonderful things available to you within Keller. Our parks, trails, and ball fields will be buzzing with excitement as spring fever spreads throughout the community. It won't be long until opening day for the outdoor pool at the Keller Pointe. With its family friendly environment and fun-filled water activities it's a wonderful place to beat the heat. This is also a great time to start thinking about the Keller Public Library. Throughout the spring and summer there are an assortment of programs to take advantage of such as computer classes, the Readers Forum and the annual Summer Reading Club.

See **MAYOR** on Page 4

City Election Calendar

Important dates for the May 12, 2012 General and Special Election for Council Member Place 1 (unopposed) Council Member Place 2 (unopposed), and Council Member Place 4 (unexpired term) are:



Early Voting by personal appearance Keller Town Hall, 1100 Bear Creek Parkway

April 30	Monday	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
May 1-4	Tuesday-Friday	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
May 5	Saturday	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
May 6	Sunday	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
May 7-8	Monday-Tuesday	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Election Day • Saturday, May 12, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Bear Creek Intermediate, 801 Bear Creek Parkway

Election Precincts: 3040, 3240, 3286, 3386, 3392, 3422, and 3648

Shady Grove Elementary, 1400 Sarah Brooks Drive

Election Precincts: 3054, 3072, 3365, 3471, 3554, 3580, and 3624

For information on voter registration and polling locations, contact Tarrant County Elections at 817-831-VOTE (8683) or visit their website at www.tarrantcounty.com/evote. In order to remain in compliance with Department of Justice protocol, this information is provided in Spanish as well. Due to pending precinct changes at time of publishing, please verify precincts with Tarrant County.

See **ELECTION** on Page 4

Economic Development

"Keep It In Keller" is the City's shop local campaign aimed at retaining and growing existing businesses, attracting new opportunities and boosting our sales tax revenue. The program encourages citizens

to look in Keller first for places to shop, dine, and obtain business services. Check out www.KeepItInKeller.com, an easy-to-use website featuring:

- Sortable business listings with descriptions, contact information and photos
- Google mapping
- Calendar of events

Join in and "Keep It In Keller" by supporting Keller and shopping locally!



Plan Ahead

April

- Public Arts Show, April 2-27
- KSAC Easter Luncheon, April 4
- City offices closed, April 6
- Yard Waste Drop-Off, April 7 and 21
- The Pointe Rec Expo, April 7
- Trash Bash, April 14
- Spring Law Enforcement Fling, April 21
- MasterWorks Series, April 25
- KSAC Cinco de Mayo Party, April 26
- DEA Drug Take-Back Day, April 28
- Keller Early Voting, April 30

May

- Public Arts Show, May 1-30
- Early Voting, May 1-8
- Keller Farmers Market Opening Day, May 5
- Yard Waste Drop-Off, May 5 and 19
- Keller Election Day, May 12
- Keller Family Campout, May 19-20
- MasterWorks Series, May 23
- Opening Weekend at The Pointe Outdoor Pool, May 25-28
- Memorial Day Games at The Pointe, May 28
- City offices closed, May 28

June

- Public Arts Show, June 1-29
- Family Fun Films, June 1, 8, 15 and 22
- Yard Waste Drop-Off, June 2 and 16
- Jazz in June, June 7, 14, 21 and 28
- Summer Fishing Derby, June 9
- TKP Birthday Bash, June 9
- Concerts in the Park, June 16
- Father's Day Games at The Pointe, June 17
- MasterWorks Series, June 27

July

- City offices closed, July 4
- Fourth of July Spectacular, July 4
- Yard Waste Drop-Off, July 7 and 21
- Mother/Son "I Scream" Social, July 8
- Concerts in the Park, July 21
- Master Works Series, July 25
- KSAC Pasta Palooza, July 26

Visit www.cityofkeller.com for information

Did You Know? Code Compliance

Mosquito season is fast approaching, so here are a few reminders how to protect against West Nile Virus.

Mosquitoes must have water to breed, and stagnant water is a prime breeding ground for them. Tires should not be stored outside as they may accumulate water and can become stagnant. Check for any containers, bird baths, or buckets to ensure that no unwholesome water may accumulate in them. Gutters should be clean and free of any debris. Swimming pools should be kept clean and chlorinated on a regular basis.

Tall grass provides a protect-

ed environment for mosquitoes from the wind. Keeping your grass mowed regularly helps prevent mosquitoes from gathering in your yard.

When searching for mosquito repellent, keep in mind the key ingredient to look for is DEET (please read all application instructions prior to use.)

Mosquitoes are most active during dawn and dusk hours. Wear long pants and long sleeves if you're planning to be outside during these times.

Contact Code Compliance at 817-743-4118 or Environmental Services at 817-743-4092 with any concerns or questions.

Keller Police

Spring Events

The Keller Police Department will host the following events free to the public:



Spring Law Enforcement Fling

**Saturday, April 21
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Keller Police Facility
330 Rufe Snow Drive**

This free event will include a mobile document shredder, VIN etch program, child ID cards and HEAT vehicle registration. Emphasis on ways to help citizens prevent crime at home will also be provided.

DEA Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

**Saturday, April 28
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Keller Police Facility
330 Rufe Snow Drive**

This is a free program where you can drop off any unwanted, outdated, or unused prescription drugs for proper disposal. The DEA will be on-hand to collect the drugs and discard them appropriately.

For information about these events, contact Officer Scott Bradburn at 817-743-4533 or sbradburn@cityofkeller.com

Texas Lawn Watering Guide

Landscape irrigation can account for more than fifty percent of all the water used in Texas during the summer. Unfortunately, about half of this water is wasted due to over-watering or runoff. Soil type, landscape slope, water requirements of the grass type, and sprinkler efficiency all affect how often watering is needed.

Lawns grown in sandy soil require shorter, more frequent watering than lawns in loam

or clay soils. Water can be applied less often to clay and loam soils, but it should be applied more slowly to prevent runoff.

To avoid runoff on sloping areas use "cycle-soak." Apply water slowly for 5 to 15 minutes, off for 15 minutes, then on 5 to 15 minutes, etc., until you have applied the correct amount of water.

Trees, shrubs and ground-cover plantings do well in the summer when watered about

once a week, especially if mulch is placed around plants. Mulch reduces the evaporation of water from the soil and moderates soil temperatures.

For more information on water conservation, visit the Texas Water Development Board's website at www.twdb.state.tx.us or contact the City's Environmental Services division at 817-743-4092 or environmentalservices@cityofkeller.com

Yard Waste Drop-Off Site

Looking for a place to drop off "green" yard waste like grass clippings, leaves, branches, brush, and stable matter?

Keller residents or their lawn service (with a City permit) can use the free Yard Waste Drop-Off site located at 1792 Ottinger Road. The site is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on each first and third Saturday. Proof of residency is required to use the site, so bring a current driver's license or water bill. Materials collected are composted and used in City parks.

Mayor & City Council



Mayor
Pat McGrail



Mayor Pro Tem
Tom Cawthra



Place 1
Ray Brown



Place 2
Gary Reaves



Place 4
Jim Thompson



Place 5
John Hoffmann



Place 6
Doug Miller

Parks & Recreation

Keller Parks and Recreation has a number of fun activities planned for spring. The list below contains a few of the many things it has to offer:

MasterWorks Music Series • 7 p.m.-8 p.m. Keller Town Hall, Free Admission

- April 25, Hickory Hill, Bluegrass
- May 23, BluPrint, R&B, Classic Rock, Jazz
- June 27, Ke Anuenue, Polynesian Dance
- July 25, Wayanay Inka, Peruvian Andes and Latin America

Keller Family Campout • May 19, 6 p.m., Bear Creek Park, \$5 per person

The whole family is invited to bring camping gear for our annual overnight campout with activities and snacks. Games for the kids, s'mores, storytelling, and breakfast are all a part of the fun. Space is limited, you must pre-register by Wednesday, May 16.

Memorial Day Festivities, The Keller Pointe Outdoor Pool, Free for Members; Paid daily fee for Non-Members

- Friday May 25, 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
- Saturday May 26, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Sunday May 27, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 28, Noon-8 p.m., with special activities, 2-4 p.m.

Family Fun Films • 8-10:30 p.m., Johnson Road Park Amphitheater, Free Admission

- June 1, 8, 15 and 22

Concerts in the Park • 8 p.m.-10 p.m., Bear Creek Park, Free Admission

- June 16, Blaze of Glory, the Bon Jovi Experience
- July 17, Me & My Monkey, "July is Parks and Recreation Month" Celebration

Meet A Staff Member

Assistant Fire Chief Chuck Blankenship has been an active member of the Keller Fire service department for 36 years. He began as a volunteer in Keller from 1976 to 1984. After completing his fire education, he was employed by the City of Hurst Fire Department in 1978. He was hired full time by the City of Keller in October 1984 and currently oversees day to day fire rescue operations. His responsibilities include emergency response, planning, budgeting, and employment



for the department. He has worked in all aspects of fire service including firefighter, company officer, inspector, fire marshal and chief officer.

He is a graduate of Keller High School, received his Associate Degree in Fire Protection Technology and graduated from the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program. Chuck has earned many certifications including Master Firefighter, Master Fire Inspector, Master Arson Investigator and Fire Instructor II.

Public Works Projects

Street Projects

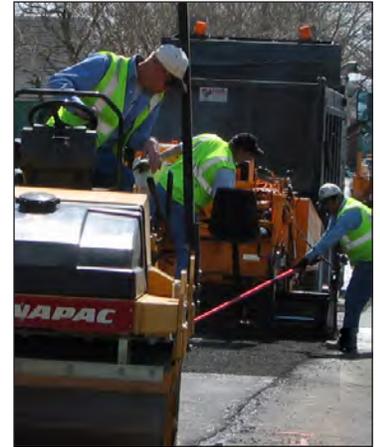
- **North Tarrant Pkwy:** The installation of the irrigation system is well underway. The placement of trees and grass in the medians is scheduled to start soon. Additional median street lights will be installed between U.S. Highway 377 and Whitley Rd and just east of Rufe Snow Dr.

- **Rufe Snow Dr:** The contractor continues to work on the expansion of the bridge over Big Bear Creek. Concrete pavement construction is nearing completion for the northbound lanes. The 10-foot wide concrete trail is being installed along the east side of the new pavement for the full length of the project.

- **Safe Routes to School:** This project consists of sidewalk installations around local schools. Design by the engineer and plan review by TxDOT will take another five months. Construction should begin late summer of 2012.

- **FM 1709 dual left turn lanes at US 377:** The engineering work and the plan review by TxDOT will take another 9 months. The construction contract should be awarded in late winter of 2012.

- **Bourland Rd extension and Mt. Gilead Rd intersection:** The intersection construction project is complete. Construction will soon be complete on the masonry screening wall. Irrigation, trees, and grass will also be installed along the east side of the Bourland Rd extension (Marshall Ridge Dr), which is adjacent to the Mount Gilead Ranch subdivision.



Drainage Projects

- **Daryll Ln, Garden Ln & Melissa Dr Drainage Improvements:** The contractor should be completed by the end of March, barring any major setbacks due to weather.

Sanitary Sewer Projects

- **Dana Ln Sanitary Sewer Extension:** Construction is complete. Pavement repair will start shortly.
- **Northwest Keller 12-Inch Water Line Improvements:** A water line was installed across Overton Ridge Park to connect the Roanoke Rd existing 20-inch water main with the existing 12-inch water main in Marshall Point. Construction is complete.
- **Katy Rd Sanitary Sewer:** The project will install an 8-inch diameter sanitary sewer main on Katy Rd from Golden Triangle north to Caylor Rd and will include the installation of a lift station. The project is currently under design. Construction is scheduled for summer of 2012.

For information on these and other improvement projects, contact Keller Public Works at 817-743-4080.

Election

Fechas importantes para la Elección General y Especial el 12 de Mayo de 2012 para Miembro del Consejo Puesto 1 (sin oposición), Miembro del Consejo Puesto 2 (sin oposición) y Miembro del Consejo Puesto 4 (plazo restante) son:

Votación temprana por con presencia personal

Keller Town Hall, 1100 Bear Creek Parkway

30 de Abril	Lunes	8 a.m. a 5 p.m.
1 al 4 de Mayo	Martes a Viernes	8 a.m. a 5 p.m.
5 de Mayo	Sábado	7 a.m. a 7 p.m.
6 de Mayo	Domingo	11 a.m. a 4 p.m.
7 al 8 de Mayo	Lunes a Martes	7 a.m. a 7 p.m.

Día de Elección • Sábado, 12 de Mayo, 7 a.m. a 7 p.m.

Bear Creek Intermediate (escuela), 801 Bear Creek Parkway

Precintos electorales: 3040, 3240, 3286, 3386, 3392, 3422, y 3648

Shady Grove Elementary (escuela), 1400 Sarah Brooks Drive

Precintos electorales: 3054, 3072, 3365, 3471, 3554, 3580, y 3624

Para información, del votante registrad@ y lugares de votación llamar a Tarrant County tel 817-831-VOTE (8683) o visiteros en www.tarrantcounty.com/evote.



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Join the Keller Public Library's Summer Reading Club

Monday June 4 through Wednesday, July 25



Weekly performances for children ages 5 and up. Special events for teens, such as Handwriting Analysis, Stage Stunts, and a Teen Pool Party at The Keller Pointe (registration required for all teen events).

Visit the library's website at: www.kellerlibrary.org or call 817-743-4840 for more details.

Mayor

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A Special Election will be held on May 12, 2012 for the unexpired term for City Council Member Place 4. Early voting is scheduled for April 30 through May 8th. Please monitor the City's website for polling locations and times. I encourage all qualified residents to exercise their privilege to vote.

Road construction projects continue to be a focus within Keller. North Tarrant Pkwy from Whitley Rd to Davis Blvd is essentially complete with minor landscape finish outs being addressed by the contractor. This cooperative improvement with Tarrant County and North Richland Hills will significantly enhance the east-west traffic flow in the southern end of our City. Also of major significance is the extension of Keller-Smithfield Rd south from Shady Grove Rd where it will intersect with North Tarrant Pkwy. This two lane extension was constructed by the developer of the Silver Leaf Development as part of their roadway impact fee requirements. A long standing improvement identified within the City's Master Thoroughfare Plan, this more direct route to North Tarrant Pkwy will be a

much welcome addition. The Rufe Snow Dr expansion from Bear Creek Pkwy to Rapp Rd is well underway and should be substantially complete late this summer. In addition to going from two to four lanes, the improvements will also include a 10-foot wide concrete trail along the east side of the road and will connect neighborhoods to our Bear Creek Trail System. Native and adaptive trees and shrubs will also be added to mitigate those lost during construction and further promote the City's urban forest.

Businesses within Keller continue to increase with more restaurants and shops opening throughout the City. As always, I encourage you to support our local merchants by "Keeping it in Keller". Your patronage not only helps retain our current retailers, but also encourages new shops to locate in Keller. This synergy will help strengthen the local economy while providing residents and visitors with an expanded shopping and dining selection.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable spring and don't forget to go out and enjoy all that your community has to offer.

Citywide Projects

Expansion and Renovation of Jail and Animal Shelter/Adoption Center

The City Council recently approved a contract for services with Brinkley Sargent Architects of Dallas to begin the design and construction administration for expanding our current jail and animal shelter. This is the second phase of the long-term capital improvements plan to the police facility approved by voters back in 2006 when they renewed the Crime Sales Tax.

The jail expansion is slated to begin this fall with expected completion to occur in January 2014. When completed the facility will increase our detention capacity from 13 to 39 and provide a safer work environment for the detention officers.

The animal shelter expansion will begin shortly after the jail project, and the completion date is estimated to be in the spring/summer of 2014. When completed the city will have a modern animal shelter/adoption center that will be able to properly showcase the cats and dogs for the public to view, which will increase our adoption rate. The new shelter will also increase our dog and cat holding space from 36 to 90.

The approximate project cost is \$8.6 million and will be funded by the Crime Control Sales Tax, which is a quarter-cent on certain purchases within the City of Keller.