

CITY OF KENEDY

SIX SHOOTER SENTINEL

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 FEBRUARY 2025

UPDATE ON RESOLVING STAGE 4 WATER RESTRICTIONS

The City of Kenedy recently faced a daunting challenge when Wells 14 and 15, the city's most productive water sources, suffered critical failures in quick succession. The situation rapidly escalated from Stage 1 to Stage 4 water restrictions within a mere ten days, testing the resolve and resilience of both city officials and residents alike.

The crisis began on December 17, 2024, when Well 14 experienced significant damage to its motor, casing, and screen, severely limiting its output. Less than two weeks later, on December 29, Well 15 suffered a complete breakdown, with failures in its motor, wiring, pump, and column. This compounded the already dire situation, as the city's water storage levels plummeted to

less than 40% of capacity, while demand outpaced production by an alarming 130%.

Faced with this unprecedented challenge, the City of Kenedy acted swiftly and decisively. Stage 4 water restrictions were implemented, curtailing non-essential water use and initiating temporary water rationing and shutoffs. These measures extended to the Connally Unit Prison, which accounts for a substantial portion of the city's daily water demand, necessitating significant reductions in usage to stabilize the system.

Throughout the crisis, the City maintained a steadfast commitment to transparency, keeping residents informed and engaged through regular updates on the City's website, social



Asst. Wastewater Superintendent Chris Cortez quality checking a water storage tank

media channels, and billing notices. This open communication fostered a sense of community and shared responsibility, as residents rallied to conserve water and support the City's efforts.

(Continued on page 5)



A CITY OF KENEDY NEWSLETTER?

Have you ever wondered what's happening in your city government or felt out of the loop on community news? That's exactly why we're launching this newsletter. In Kenedy, we believe communication is the foundation of trust. This monthly newsletter is part of a broader effort to keep you informed, engaged, and connected to what's happening in your city.

Our goal is simple: share updates from municipal departments, highlight upcoming events, and celebrate the people who make Kenedy great—all while increasing transparency and accountability. We want this newsletter to be more than just an update; it's a way to strengthen our connection with you, our residents.

From city projects to employee spotlights and tips to make

your day easier, this newsletter is designed with you in mind. Whether you've got questions about water services, want to plan your next outing at Joe Gulley Park, or simply want to stay informed, this is your go-to resource.

We're excited to take this step forward and look forward to hearing your feedback. After all, this isn't just a city newsletter—it's your newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Dear Kenedy Residents,

With the new year well underway, I want to take a moment to highlight some of the exciting projects and initiatives already in motion for 2025. Kenedy continues to grow, and our focus remains on strengthening infrastructure, expanding community engagement, and creating new opportunities for residents and businesses.

Last year, we hosted a variety of events that brought our community together and showcased the best of Kenedy. From local festivals to public safety initiatives, these gatherings reinforced the strong connections that make our city special. I encourage you to read more about this later in this newsletter and see our full page infographic in the Karnes Countywide. As we move forward, we are working to bring even more events, resources, and opportunities that will benefit our residents and strengthen our community.



One of the efforts we are excited to share is the launch of Kenedy's monthly newsletter. We value the importance of keeping our residents informed, and this newsletter provides a new way to highlight the work being done across city departments while offering more opportunities for engagement. Our team is committed to creating easier points of access for information, ensuring that residents can stay up to date on projects, city services, and upcoming events. This initiative is part of a larger effort to strengthen communication and showcase all of the great things happening in Kenedy each month.

In addition to enhancing communication, several major projects are already in progress, including the new water plant and transmission line project, funded through the Texas General Land Office (GLO). This investment will expand our water capacity and improve long-term infrastructure to ensure a more reliable system for the future. I hope to share more information with you about the status of this project in the upcoming newsletters. Other key initiatives include infrastructure improvements, public safety enhancements, and parks development—all of which support our vision for a stronger, more connected community.

Community engagement remains a top priority, and I encourage residents to take advantage of the opportunities available to stay involved, attend city meetings, and participate in upcoming events. The success of our city is built on collaboration, and together, we will continue to move Kenedy forward.

I also want to recognize the dedication of our city employees, volunteers, and community partners who work every day to serve our residents. Their efforts make a lasting impact, and I look forward to seeing what we accomplish together in the months ahead.

I'd also like to thank our executive leaders in the Kenedy City Council for their continued leadership and support. Their guidance and collaboration make it possible to move key initiatives forward, improve city services, and invest in projects that strengthen our community. Their commitment to Kenedy's future allows us to turn plans into action, and we look forward to working together to bring even more opportunities to our residents.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to sharing more updates as the year progresses.

Melissa L. Gonzalez, City Manager

Want to know what's going on in our Municipality?

Sign up for Savvy Citizen™



Savvy Citizen will keep you better informed of important municipal news and happenings in our community directly on your smartphone or other devices.

Sign-up for Apple and Android users is simple and **free**. Become more **savvy** and receive useful municipal updates, community news and event reminders by downloading today.

Become a Savvy Citizen!

Download the App:

Visit: SavvyCitizenApp.com



DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHTS

Every month, we take a closer look at the incredible work being done by the dedicated teams that keep the City of Kenedy running smoothly. From maintaining our infrastructure to ensuring public safety, these departments play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for our residents and supporting the city's growth. This month, we're featuring updates and highlights from a few key departments to keep you informed about what's happening behind the scenes and how it impacts our community.

Let's take a closer look at this month's featured departments!

POLICE CADET PILOT PROGRAM: BEGINS



The City of Kenedy is excited to announce the launch of its Police Cadet Pilot Program this February. This innovative initiative marks an important milestone in the City's ongoing efforts to develop local law enforcement talent and strengthen the Kenedy Police Department's ability to serve and protect the community.

Shaylee Hyatt, a dedicated professional with valuable experience as a jailer for the Karnes County Sheriff's Office, has been selected as the first candidate to participate in this groundbreaking program. Hyatt will attend the San Antonio College Law Enforcement Academy, where she will undergo rigorous training to prepare her for a fulfilling career as a police officer.

To ensure Hyatt's success, the City has thoughtfully designed a mentorship component into the program. Hyatt will be paired with a seasoned police mentor from the Kenedy Police Department who will provide guidance, share practical insights, and offer hands-on experience throughout her training journey. This mentor-mentee relationship is expected to enhance Hyatt's learning and development as she transitions from corrections to law enforcement.

The City recognizes the immense value that Hyatt's background in corrections will bring to her new role. Her experience in maintaining public safety and engaging with the community will serve as a solid foundation as she embarks on this new career path. Upon successful completion of the academy program, Hyatt will join the ranks of the Kenedy Police Department as a full-time officer, ready to make a positive impact in the community she serves.

As part of its commitment to removing barriers and encouraging career growth in law enforcement, the City will reimburse Hyatt's academy fees upon her successful graduation. This financial support accentuates the City of Kenedy's dedication to attracting and retaining highly qualified professionals who are passionate about upholding public safety and serving their community with distinction.

Residents who are interested in learning more about the Police Cadet Program or exploring future opportunities in law enforcement are encouraged to contact **Sgt. Barboza** or **Lt. Lopez** at the Kenedy Police Department **(830) 583.2225**. The City looks forward to the successful implementation of this pilot program and the positive impact it will have on both the Kenedy Police Department and the community as a whole.



KENEDY OVERCOMES SEVERE WATER CRISIS WITH PERSEVERANCE

The City's response to the emergency was marked by collaboration and perseverance. Partnerships with key external stakeholders, including El Oso Water Supply Corporation, the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), were instrumental in managing the crisis and developing sustainable solutions. On January 8, 2025, these efforts bore fruit as Well 15 was successfully repaired, restoring 700,000 gallons per day to the system and easing restrictions from critical levels.

With the immediate crisis under control and the City operating under Stage 2 restrictions, attention has now turned to long-term solutions. Repairs to Well 14 are currently underway, with an expected completion date of February 14, 2025. Moreover, the City has secured funding from the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to support the construction of a new water plant and transmission line. This transformative project, slated for completion by December 2026, will substantially improve water supply capacity and build a more resilient infrastructure to meet the growing demands of the community.

Throughout this challenging period, the tireless efforts of City employees and contracted staff have been nothing short of heroic. Their dedication to restoring water services and protecting public health and safety has been a testament to the strength and resilience of the Kennedy community. As the City emerges from this crisis stronger and more united than ever, residents are encouraged to continue following water conservation guidelines and stay informed on progress through the City of Kennedy's website or by contacting the Water Department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Kennedy Volunteer Fire Department is preparing for an active year with several upcoming community initiatives. Fire Chief Juan Bryan and Justin Garcia announced plans to expand fire prevention education in local schools and the community, helping residents understand how to stay safe and prevent fires. The department will also offer assistance with smoke detector testing to ensure homes are properly equipped for emergencies. In addition, the fire department is partnering with Karnes County EMS to support the Stop the Bleed program, which provides life-saving skills to respond to bleeding emergencies before professional help arrives.

For more information on these initiatives or to get involved, contact the Kennedy Volunteer Fire Department.



PRACTICAL GROWTH: BUILDING A SKILLED WATER DISTRIBUTION TEAM

The City of Kennedy has introduced a practical, objective-based development program for the Water Distribution Team, designed to ensure employees are well-equipped to meet the community's water needs. This initiative, led by the Public Works Director in collaboration with Human Resources, focuses on structured training that builds progressively—allowing team members to master core competencies before advancing to more complex tasks.

A standout feature of the program is its emphasis on mentorship. New employees are paired with experienced professionals, creating opportunities for knowledge transfer and hands-on learning. This approach not only helps retain valuable expertise but also encourages fresh ideas and innovative solutions from newer team members.

The program also incentivizes employees to pursue water licenses through specialized pay, recognizing the value of these skills and promoting both recruitment and retention. By linking career progression to clearly defined objectives and offering financial rewards for certification, the City is investing in a highly skilled and motivated workforce.

This development initiative ensures that employees are confident and capable, and the community benefits from a dedicated team ready to provide reliable, high-quality water services.

COMMUNITY UPDATES



Welcome to the Community Updates section, where we shine a spotlight on the people, celebrations, and activities that make Kenedy special. Here, you'll find recognition for outstanding employees, helpful tips for residents, and highlights of local milestones and events. This space is dedicated to celebrating the heart of our city—you!

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This February, the City of Kenedy recognizes **Black History Month**—a time to reflect on the struggles and celebrate the triumphs of Black Americans who have shaped our nation's history and continue to inspire progress.

Let us take this month to reflect, learn, and celebrate the vibrant diversity that strengthens our city and our nation. Together, we continue to move forward with respect, understanding, and unity.

“THE TIME IS
ALWAYS RIGHT
TO DO WHAT IS
RIGHT.”
DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING,
JR.

As a city, we honor the resilience, achievements, and contributions of those who fought for equality and justice. Black History Month reminds us of the importance of embracing diversity and fostering a community where every voice is valued.



SIMPLIFY TAX SEASON WITH FREE RESOURCES!

Tax season is here, and we're here to connect you with free resources to make filing your federal taxes easier. While we can't offer financial advice, we want to ensure you know about trusted programs that can help.

The **IRS Free File** program provides online filing options at no cost for those who meet eligibility requirements. It's a user-friendly way to file your taxes directly through the IRS website. To learn more, visit [IRS Free File](#).

Additionally, the **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program offers free tax help to individuals who make \$65,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and limited English-speaking taxpayers. Certified volunteers can assist you with preparing and filing your tax return at no cost. To find a VITA location near you, visit [Find a VITA Site](#).

Remember, these resources are designed to make tax season less stressful while ensuring you maximize your eligible credits and deductions. Take advantage of these trusted, free programs and file your taxes with confidence.

Disclaimer: This email is informational only and does not constitute financial or legal advice.

2024 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

BY: JOE HERNANDEZ



“Jimmy began working with the City of Kenedy in 2016. Jimmy started working as a part-time employee at the park as a custodian, and as time went on, he was offered a full -time position. Jimmy had retired from TxDOT, and it only seemed fit to place him in the Street Department. With Jimmy’s vast knowledge in roadway paving, strategies, and techniques, he was already familiar with the equipment and materials needed to perform the work. Jimmy was transferred to the park Department to assist the foreman when a position became available, and he hit the ground running in that position. Having prior experience in the day-to-day operations at the park, that helped tremendously. Jimmy is someone who enjoys working and takes pride in every job he performs. There is no job too big nor too small, and his attention to detail is the key to making any job look good. At the age of 72, Jimmy is bar none the best/hardest working employee here at the City of Kenedy, and his age doesn’t slow him down. Jimmy has the best work ethic I have ever seen, and I wish we had more employees with the same determination and work ethic. Jimmy has never hesitated to volunteer at any of the city events, and even helps when he’s not on the clock. Jimmy walks 3 plus miles after work every day and even on his days off, and has a great rapport with the residents of not only Kenedy, but Karnes County.”

Submitted by: Joe Hernandez

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR SAVING WATER



EFFICIENT SHOWERS
Limit showers to five minutes or less to save water without sacrificing cleanliness.

IN THE BATHROOM
Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth or shaving to prevent unnecessary water use.



IN THE KITCHEN
Use a basin to wash fruits and vegetables instead of running water continuously.



REPAIR LEAKS
Check pipes, faucets, and toilets regularly for leaks and repair them immediately to avoid water waste.



WASH WISELY
Only run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads to maximize water efficiency.



TAKE CARE OF EVERY DROP!



2025 CITY OF KENEDY BULK & BRUSH SERVICE CALENDAR



Bulk & Brush Guide

Accepted Items:

- Bulky items measuring in excess of either 48 inches in length or 50 pounds in weight
- Refrigerators, stovers, water tanks, couches, or tree trimmings
- Brush and tree limbs that do not exceed 48 inches in length or 3 inches in diameter
- Bundles of brush and tree limbs not measuring in excess of either 48 inches in length or 50 pounds in weight
- These must be securely fastened together to be considered
- Appliances without Freon

Per Federal Law, appliances that previously contained Freon must include certification that a licensed contractor has properly removed the Freon

Certification must be attached to the appliance when set out for collection

Unaccepted Items:

- Vehicle tires, metals, car parts
- Gasoline/oil cans and filters
- Landscape debris, rocks, pallets
- Construction debris
- Paint, carpet, glass, mirrors, and windows
- Tree debris from a contractor (contractor removal is required)

Month	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
February	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
March	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
April	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
May	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
June	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
July	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
August	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
September	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
October	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
November	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
December	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

ATTENTION RESIDENTS:
PLEASE CALL THE CITY OF KENEDY AT (830) 563-2230 & SELECT OPTION 1 TO SCHEDULE YOUR PICKUP. THE CITY WILL PROVIDE US WITH A LIST OF ADDRESSES THAT HAVE REQUESTED THE SERVICE, AND PICKUPS WILL BE COMPLETED DURING THE SPECIFIED WEEK.

Monthly Bulk & Brush

2024 Year in Review






















WHO TO CALL IN KENEDY

This graphic is a helpful guide for Kenedy residents to quickly address common concerns and connect with city services. Use these contact numbers to reach the right department.

For emergencies, dial 911. For after-hour water leaks or infrastructure issues, call the Karnes County Sheriff's Department at 830.780.3931 for immediate assistance.

<p>Inquire about Economic Development</p>  <p>830.583.2230</p>	<p>Report a Water Leak</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 1</p>	<p>Request Bulk Trash Pickup</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 1</p>	<p>Report a Power Outage</p>  <p>866.223.8508</p>	<p>Schedule Pavilion or Park Use</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 1</p>
<p>Report a Pothole</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 1</p>	<p>File a Noise Complaint</p>  <p>830.583.2225</p>	<p>Inquire about Building Permits</p>  <p>830.583.3217</p>	<p>Trash Pickup Concerns</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 1</p>	<p>Pay a Traffic Ticket</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 2</p>
<p>Check Library Hours or Events</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 1</p>	<p>Report a Stray Animal</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 1</p>	<p>Request Sewer Line Maintenance</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 1</p>	<p>Register for City Events</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 3</p>	<p>Reserve 'The Mill' Convention Center</p>  <p>830.299.8441</p>
<p>Report Illegal Dumping</p>  <p>830.583.3217</p>	<p>Report Vandalism in a Park</p>  <p>830.583.3217</p>	<p>Report Streetlight Outage</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 1</p>	<p>Inquire About Volunteer Opportunities</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 4</p>	<p>File a Public Records Request</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 9</p>
<p>Request Fire Safety Inspection</p>  <p>830.583.3217</p>	<p>Report a Suspicious Activity</p>  <p>(830) 583-2225</p>	<p>Inquire About Zoning Regulations</p>  <p>830.583.3217</p>	<p>Report Emergencies</p>  <p>(830) 780-3931</p>	<p>Ask About Job Openings with the City</p>  <p>830.583.2230 ext. 4</p>

STILL NEED HELP? CALL KENEDY CITY HALL AT 830.583.2230



CITY COUNCIL

Brandon Briones, Mayor

mayor@kenedytx.gov | 830.299.1953

Cindy Saenz, Councilwoman District 1, Mayor Pro-Tem

district1@kenedytx.gov | 830.299.2618

Felipe Leal, Councilman District 2

district2@kenedytx.gov | 830.299.0484

VACANT, Councilperson District 3

district3@kenedytx.gov | 830.299.2458

Richard Saucedo, Councilman District 4

district4@kenedytx.gov | 830.400.2824

Saundra Schultz, Councilwoman District 5

district5@kenedytx.gov | 830.299.2457

CITY MANAGEMENT

Melissa Gonzalez, City Manager

citymanager@kenedytx.gov | 830.583.2230 ext. 4

Maggie Gonzales, City Secretary

citysecretary@kenedytx.gov | 830.583.2230 ext. 9

Isael Martinez, Director of Public Works

pwdirector@kenedytx.gov | 830.583.3217

Robert Elizondo, Chief of Police

chief@kenedypd.org | 830.583.2225

For a complete listing of city leadership by department,
please visit kenedytx.gov



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.KENEDYTX.GOV



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Contact the Editor

HAVE THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS ISSUE OF THE *CITY OF KENEDY SIX SHOOTER SENTINEL*? WANT TO SHARE A STORY, EVENT, OR FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE EDITIONS? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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Nestled at the crossroads of Highways 181 and 72, the City of Kenedy has been a cornerstone of the South Texas community since its founding in 1886 by Mifflin Kenedy. What began as a modest railroad town has grown into a thriving hub for the Eagle Ford Shale region, with strong roots in oil, gas, agriculture, and a flourishing network of local businesses.

But Kenedy is more than just an economic center—it is a city devoted to the well-being of its people and the success of its community. From dependable infrastructure and reliable utilities to beautiful parks and responsive city services, Kenedy takes pride in delivering excellence across all operations. These efforts reflect the city's unwavering commitment to providing a high quality of life for residents and fostering a supportive environment for businesses to thrive.

As Kenedy looks toward the future, it remains dedicated to smart, sustainable growth and innovation. By supporting local industries, strengthening public services, and preserving its strong community spirit, the city is paving the way for a resilient and vibrant tomorrow.

With a rich history, a dynamic present, and an ambitious vision for the future, the City of Kenedy exemplifies the very best of South Texas. Whether building a life, growing a business, or visiting a welcoming, hardworking community, Kenedy stands ready to inspire and serve.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Sunday, February 2nd, 2025: Groundhog Day
- Thursday, February 6th, 2025: PNC Regular Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Sunday, February 9th, 2025: Super Bowl Sunday
- Tuesday, February 11th, 2025: City Council Regular Meeting at 6:00 pm | Airport Advisory Regular Meeting at 10:00am
- Friday, February 14th, 2025: Valentine's Day
- Monday, February 17th, 2025: City Hall Closed in Observation of President's Day
- Tuesday, February 18th, 2025: Parks & Recreation Regular Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Monday, February 24th, 2025: EDC Regular Meeting at 6:00pm
- Friday, February 28th, 2025: Triple Heat BBQ Cook-Off



Have an event you want featured? Reach out to the editor by the last Monday of the month to have it included on our calendar of events!