

CITY OF KENEDY

SIX SHOOTER SENTINEL

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 MARCH 2025

KENEDY ADOPTS NEW ORDINANCES TO SUPPORT YOUTH PROGRAMS AND JUROR COMPENSATION

The City of Kenedy has passed two new ordinances aimed at strengthening community programs and improving public services. These changes create new opportunities for local youth while ensuring fair compensation for residents who serve as jurors.

Youth Diversion Administrative Fund

Under Ordinance 25-02, the City has established a Youth Diversion Administrative Fund and Fee to support programs that provide alternative pathways for young individuals involved with the municipal court system. Rather than facing traditional penalties, eligible youth will have access to structured programs that focus on education, mentorship, and personal growth. By investing in diversion programs, the City is working to reduce repeat offenses, guide young people toward better choices, and build a stronger, more resilient community.

Juror Reimbursement and Donation Options

With the passage of Ordinance 25-03, jurors will now receive a \$6 reimbursement for their service. In addition, jurors have the option to donate their compensation to community programs and local non-profits, directly contributing to initiatives that benefit Kenedy residents. This new system allows jurors to turn their civic duty into a meaningful way to give back.

If you are a non-profit organization interested in being considered for the donation list, please reach out to Municipal Court Judge David Sotelo for more information.

These ordinances reflect the City's continued commitment to fairness, community investment, and meaningful change. For more details, visit kenedytx.gov or contact City Hall.



Honorable David Sotelo and Glynda Martinez holding ordinance 25-02



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



KENEDY MARKET DAYS: SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES & GROWING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Kenedy Market Day, The City of Kenedy, and The City of Kenedy Economic Development Corporation have joined together to make our small town market better than ever. With the City's help, the ladies that organize the once a month market work diligently to bring vendors, food trucks, entertainment and more to the citizens of Kenedy. We look forward to growing the market and making 2025 our biggest year yet. Kenedy Market Day is the first Saturday of every month, held in our very own beautiful Joe Gulley Park. For more information, email kenedymarket-day@gmail.com or find us on Facebook and Instagram.



Monthly outdoor market at
Joe Gulley Park

Every first Saturday
9 am to 3 pm



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!

KENEDY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION RECOGNIZED FOR ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE



The Kenedy Economic Development Corporation (KEDC) has been recognized by the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) as a recipient of the 2024 Economic Excellence Recognition Award. This achievement, announced at the TEDC's 2025 Winter Conference in Austin, Texas, on March 28th, highlights KEDC's commitment to professional development, strategic leadership, and best practices in economic growth.

This recognition was made possible through the leadership and dedication of EDC Manager Ben Reed, who has worked tirelessly to ensure that KEDC meets the high standards set by the TEDC. Securing this award required a commitment to board education, engagement, and compliance with rigorous professional benchmarks. Through Reed's efforts, board members completed specialized training, stayed informed on industry best practices, and upheld the highest standards of economic development excellence.

The Economic Excellence Recognition Program honors economic development organizations that demonstrate strong governance, professional certifications, and ongoing training for both staff and board members. KEDC's inclusion among the 72 recognized organizations is a testament to the commitment of its leadership in fostering growth and opportunity for Kenedy.

The TEDC, established in 1961, is a statewide non-profit dedicated to advancing economic and employment opportunities in Texas. With over 1,000 members, the organization provides education, legislative services, and resources to support local economic development efforts across the state.

This award reinforces KEDC's role in shaping Kenedy's future by attracting investment, supporting businesses, and driving economic progress. For more information on KEDC's initiatives and business support programs, visit <https://www.kenedytxedc.gov/> or contact the Kenedy Economic Development Corporation.



Ben Reed, EDC Manager, Maggie Gonzales, City Secretary/EDC Board, Felipe Leal, Councilman District 2/EDC Board (left to right)

KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR WATER USAGE WITH EYEONWATER

Managing water usage just got easier for Kenedy residents with EyeOnWater, a service that allows you to monitor your household or business water consumption in real time. This tool provides insights into your daily water usage, helping you detect leaks, track trends, and make informed decisions about conservation.

With EyeOnWater, you can access your water data through a mobile app or online portal, giving you 24/7 visibility into your consumption. Whether you want to set usage alerts, check for unusual spikes, or simply keep an eye on your daily habits, this tool helps you stay in control of your water bill.

To learn more about how to enroll in EyeOnWater, call City Hall at Ext. 1 for assistance. Stay informed, conserve resources, and take charge of your water usage today!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month, we are proud to highlight Felix Zuniga, a dedicated member of the City of Kenedy's Street Department. Felix has been with the City for two and a half years, bringing a strong work ethic and commitment to keeping Kenedy's infrastructure in top shape.

Before joining the Street Department as a Crew Member, Felix worked in Code Compliance, where he played an important role in ensuring city regulations were met and properties were maintained to community standards. His ability to adapt and take on new challenges has made him a valuable asset to both teams. Whether repairing roads, maintaining public spaces, or tackling daily tasks, Felix approaches his work with dedication and attention to detail.

Outside of work, Felix enjoys spending time outdoors, fishing, and tending to his cattle. His passion for the outdoors reflects his hardworking nature, both on and off the job. We appreciate Felix's contributions to the City of Kenedy and his continued commitment to keeping our streets and public spaces safe and well-maintained. If you see Felix around town, be sure to thank him for his hard work!



Sharing the Love at the Valentine's Community Lunch



On Friday, February 14th, the City of Kenedy came together to celebrate the power of love, kindness, and community at the "Show the Love" Valentine's Lunch. Residents and city employees gathered for an afternoon filled with burgers, hot dogs, and good company, proving that a shared meal is one of the best ways to bring people together.

With 50+ community members and over 20 city employees in attendance, the event was a heartwarming success. Laughter and conversation filled the air as neighbors connected, enjoyed a great meal, and embraced the spirit of togetherness that makes Kenedy special.

Thank you to everyone who joined us! If you missed it, be sure to follow us on Facebook for updates on future events and ways to stay involved in our community. Let's continue spreading kindness and celebrating what makes Kenedy a great place to live!

Launching March 3

Kenedy Route Karnes County



Available Monday - Friday
7:00 AM - 6:00 PM



866-889-7433



aacog.gov/art



“
Spring Community-Wide
Garage Sale”



APRIL 5, 2025

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Treasure Hunt Starts Here!

Don't miss out on our community garage sale



Inviting all residents of *Kenedy* to participate.

ALL PERMIT FEES WILL BE WAIVED

Please call City Hall TEL:830-583-2230 to put your name and address on the list by April 2, 2025



National Nutrition Month: Managing Diabetes with the TIDES Program

March is **National Nutrition Month**, a time to focus on making healthier food choices and improving overall well-being. For those managing diabetes or prediabetes, understanding how nutrition plays a role in daily health is essential. The TIDES Diabetes Program at Otto Kaiser Memorial Hospital provides free education, support, and resources to help individuals take charge of their health.

TIDES, which stands for Take-Charge Initiative for Diabetes through Education and Support, offers one-on-one counseling, group classes, and community events designed to provide personalized self-management plans for diabetes. Through this program, participants receive guidance on key topics such as healthy eating, physical activity, blood sugar monitoring, stress management, medication use, and reducing the risk of complications.

The program now offers three types of free group events to help community members build confidence in managing their diabetes:

- **Diabetes 101 Course** – A 1.5 to 2-hour session covering all aspects of diabetes self-management, including nutrition, stress reduction, and blood sugar monitoring.
- **Grocery Store Tours at Kenedy Walmart** – A walking tour through the grocery aisles with a diabetes educator, teaching participants how to make healthier food choices. Group sizes are limited to six people per session, and the tour lasts about 1 hour and 15 minutes—so wear comfortable shoes!
- **Diabetes Lunch-and-Learn Seminars** – Held every other month, these educational sessions feature a free lunch and discussions on diabetes-related topics chosen by health educators. Topics vary, and suggestions for future discussions are welcome.

Managing diabetes can be overwhelming, but with the right support, it's possible to live a healthier and more active life. Diabetes self-management programs like TIDES have been shown to improve A1C levels, blood pressure, cholesterol, and overall well-being while helping participants gain confidence in making informed lifestyle choices.

Anyone can be referred to the program by a physician or by calling Diabetes Educator Theresa Fenner at 830-583-9304 or emailing Theresa.Fenner@okmh.org to schedule a free consultation. The program also provides free glucose meters and test strips and can help participants find ways to lower out-of-pocket medication costs.

Take charge of your health today—resources are available, and support is just a phone call away!



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!

GO GREEN THIS ST. PATRICK'S DAY – IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!



St. Patrick's Day is all about celebrating **luck, tradition, and, of course, the color green**—but why not take it a step further this year? Beyond wearing green, consider ways to make environmentally friendly choices that help keep **Kenedy clean and sustainable**.

Here are a few simple ways to “go green” this St. Patrick's Day:

- **Reduce & Reuse** – Bring reusable bags when shopping and choose refillable water bottles over disposable plastic.
- **Conserve Energy** – Turn off lights when leaving a room and unplug devices not in use to save power.
- **Plant Something Green** – Whether it's a tree, flowers, or a small garden, planting helps the environment and adds beauty to our community.
- **Recycle Right** – Sort recyclables properly and dispose of waste responsibly to keep our city clean.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8 marks International Women's Day, a global celebration of the achievements, resilience, and contributions of women in our communities and beyond. This day serves as a reminder of the progress made toward gender equality and the ongoing work needed to ensure that women have opportunities to lead, inspire, and shape the future.

In Kenedy, we recognize the incredible impact of women in our workplaces, homes, and community. From local leaders and educators to business owners and first responders, women continue to make a difference every day. As we celebrate, we invite you to share the story of an inspiring woman in your life—someone who has made a positive impact in your community, workplace, or family. Whether it's a mentor, friend, colleague, or family member, we want to highlight these stories in our next newsletter to honor the women who help make Kenedy a better place.

To submit a story, please contact Thomas Faulkner with 830.583.2230 ext. 4 or visit City of Kenedy on Facebook. Let's take this opportunity to uplift and recognize the women who inspire us!



SENIOR BUNNY HOP EGG-STRAVAGANZA

APRIL 11, 2025

NOON- 2 PM



**HOP ON OVER AND JOIN US
FOR SOME GOOD COMPANY,
FOOD & MUSIC**

**KENEDY CONVENTION CENTER
THE MILL
820 ESCONDIDO ST
KENEDY TX**

TEL: 830-583-2230

Easter EGG HUNT

A FAMILY
EVENT



A FUN AFTERNOON FULL OF, DELICIOUS
TREATS AND SURPRISES

APRIL 17, 2025
5:30 PM

Easter

Egg Hunt

**BIKE RAFFLE &
EASTER BASKET
GIVE AWAY**
*THIS IS FIRST COME,
FIRST SERVE*

EGG HUNT AGE
GROUPS
0-4 YRS
5-9 YRS
10-14 YRS

**BRING
PERSONAL
BASKETS FOR
EGG HUNT**



JOE GULLEY PARK, KENEDY TX



**Join INK and become
A Thriving Texas Family!**

By partnering with INK, you can have a custom care plan created for you and your family with a dedicated Navigator!

Innovative Network of Knowledge (INK) is an educational nonprofit that offers comprehensive services for parents, educators, and families, including early learning strategies, child development workshops, family health resources, and personal well-being courses.

- Do you need help finding a new or better job?**
- Would you like to complete your high school education or pursue an associate degree? Are you ready to earn a bachelor's degree?**
- Could you benefit from job training, tips on how to build a rock-solid resume or help with your interview skills?**

Our Navigators will guide you and your family through a detailed plan with personal goals in areas including:

- Promoting a healthy pregnancy and childbirth | Parenting skills
- Healthy marriage and relationships | Workforce participation | Educational mobility
- Parent and child relationships

These services and more are available to eligible women and families at NO cost, thanks to the Thriving Texas Families Grant program.

Current Service locations: Karnes and Wilson Counties

Applications for the program are now being accepted!

To apply, or to find out more information about the Thriving Texas Families Grant program, contact us at TTF@ExploreINK.org.



Do you qualify for the Thriving Texas Families Grant Program?

Are you:

- A pregnant woman;
- The biological father of an unborn child;
- An adoptive parent of a child who is 36 months of age or younger;
- An approved adoptive parent of an unborn child;
- A parent or legal guardian of a pregnant minor who is a program client; or
- A parent, legal guardian or adult caregiver of a child 36 months old or younger.



If you answered **YES** to any of the above, you qualify at **NO cost** to you.

Innovative Network of Knowledge (INK) is an educational nonprofit that offers comprehensive services for educators and families, including early learning strategies, child development workshops, family health resources, and personal well-being courses.

INK also offers services that support women and families through childbirth and early childhood in partnership with the Thriving Texas Families Grant program!



Applications for the program are now being accepted!




















To apply, or to find out more information about the Thriving Texas Families Grant program, contact us at TTF@ExploreINK.org



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

Sandra 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



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.KENEDYTX.GOV



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



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

- March 1** – Women's History Month Begins
- March 2** – Texas Independence Day
- March 6 (Thursday)** – PNC Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM
- March 8** – International Women's Day
- March 9 (Sunday)** – Daylight Saving Time Begins (Set Clocks Forward 1 Hour)
- March 10-16** – National Groundwater Awareness Week
- March 11 (Tuesday)** – City Council Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM | Airport Advisory Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM
- March 14 (Friday)** – Pi Day
- March 17 (Monday)** – St. Patrick's Day
- March 18 (Tuesday)** – Parks & Recreation Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM
- March 19 (Wednesday)** – First Day of Spring
- March 24 (Monday)** – EDC Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM
- March 31 (Monday)** – Cesar Chavez Day



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!