CITY OF KENEDY

SIX SHOOTER SENTINEL

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3 APRIL 2025

Kenedy Police Department Reaccredited in TPCAF Best Practices Program

The City of Kenedy is proud to announce that the Kenedy Police Department has successfully achieved reaccreditation through the Texas Police Chiefs Association Foundation (TPCAF) Law Enforcement Agency Best Practices Accreditation Program. Their significant accomplishment reflects their department's commitment to providing topquality service, upholding the highest standards, and ensuring the safety and security of the Kenedy community.

What Does This Mean?

Reaccreditation through the TPCAF program is a prestigious milestone that involves 170 best practices focused on areas such as efficiency, risk management, and protecting individual rights. The program is specifically designed for Texas law enforcement agencies and has become the gold standard for police departments across the state. To become reaccredited, KPD conducted a thorough internal review of our policies, procedures, and operations that included updating written directives, reviewing training practices, and ensuring their facilities meet the highest standards. After submitting all required documentation, an independent team of auditors visited the department to review their operations and interview the team. Thanks to everyone's hard work and dedication, we received the coveted reaccredited status.

What This Means for You?

Reaccreditation is more than just a badge of honor for our department—it's a reflection of our ongoing commitment to excellence and accountability. By meeting the rigorous

standards of the TPCAF Best Practices Program, we not only continue to improve the safety and well-being of the Kenedy community, but also ensure that we are always ready to serve you with professionalism and integrity.

"KPD is honored to be recognized for our hard work and dedication, and we remain committed to serving Kenedy with the highest level of care and professionalism. Thank you for your continued support!"



Chief of Police Robert Elizondo and Lieutenant Amanda Lopez holding TPCAF Accreditation Letter

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Kenedy Residents,

With spring now upon us, there's a lot to be *egg-cited* about in Kenedy! April is shaping up to be a month full of fun, connection, and community spirit.

We'll kick things off on Saturday, April 5, with a full day of activities: Kenedy Market Days, our Autism Awareness 5K Walk/Run for a Superhero, and the always-popular Citywide Garage Sale. It's a great time to come out, support local vendors, and be part of something meaningful.



On April 11, we're bringing back our 2nd Annual Senior Bunny Hop after last year's great success. We're looking forward to another joyful celebration with our senior community.

Then on April 17, the City will host its 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Joe Gulley Park. Bring the kids out for a fun-filled evening featuring a *huge* egg hunt, a bike raffle, and plenty of prizes.

April 19 brings our Community Tire Roundup, an important event that helps keep our city clean and clutter-free.

Also worth noting is our new ART Bus Service, which now travels throughout Kenedy, helping residents get where they need to go. This is another step toward making our city more accessible and responsive to the needs of our people.

We continue to strive to make Kenedy a place where everyone feels welcome, connected, and supported. Thank you for your continued encouragement, and I look forward to seeing you out and about this spring!

Brandon Briones, Mayor, City of Kenedy



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 <u>kenedymarket-day@gmail.com</u> or find us on Facebook and Instagram.



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.

A VISION FOR INCLUSION: PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD LAUNCHES AUTISM AWARENESS 5K TO BUILD A PLAYGROUND FOR ALL

What began as a conversation about broken playground equipment quickly grew into something much more meaningful. The Kenedy Parks and Recreation Board saw an opportunity—not just to replace damaged structures, but to reimagine what play could look like for every child in our community.

Their goal: to install an ADA-certified sensory play structure at Joe Gulley Park that would welcome children of all abilities, including those with autism and sensory sensitivities. More than just new equipment, this project would create a safe, inclusive space where every child can play, explore, and belong.

To help bring this vision to life, the Board is launching the Autism Awareness 5K: Walk or Run for a Superhero on Saturday, April 5th, from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The event is free to register, and donations are encouraged to help raise the \$3,000 needed to fund the new play structure.

The 5K will run in tandem with two major community events—Kenedy Market Days and the Community-Wide Garage Sale—making April 5th a day full of connection, purpose, and community spirit.

New Faces at City Hall: Meet Your Utility Billing Clerks

City Hall has welcomed two new team members to the front lines of public service. Kaitlyn Delgado and Thelma Reyna have joined as Utility Billing Clerks, continuing the important work of those who came before them.

This role is more than just processing payments—it sits at the pivotal intersection of public service and local government. Utility Billing Clerks are often the first point of contact for residents, handling everything from water service questions to account updates. They help translate city processes into clear, understandable information for the community while bringing forward the concerns and needs of residents to the broader organization.

Kaitlyn and Thelma bring strong communication skills, attention to detail, and a dedication to public service. We're confident in their ability to understand, interpret, and anticipate your needs as they settle into their new roles.

Next time you're in City Hall, swing by the front window to say hello and welcome them to the team—they're here to help!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

With nearly three decades of dedicated service in municipal government, and seven years with the City of Kenedy, Glynda Martinez has become a familiar and respected presence at the City of Kenedy. Her journey spans an impressive range of roles—Administrative Clerk, Interim City Secretary, Associate Judge, and now, Municipal Court Clerk. Recently nominated as Employee of the Year, Glynda reflects on the honor with humility and pride.

"I am honored to have been nominated," Glynda shared. "My passion for municipal court work has been a driving force in my career, and I take great pride in being part of a system that serves the community." A lifelong learner, she has completed the Level II Municipal Certified Court Clerk program and is currently pursuing her Level III certification.



Beyond her official responsibilities, Glynda is known for her unwavering dedication to helping others—especially when it comes to city events. Her

supervisor noted, "She goes above and beyond. Glynda not only ensures her duties are completed but volunteers her time, decorations, and even brings her husband and family to lend a hand."

When she's not in the courtroom or lending her creativity to city functions, Glynda finds joy in her family. She and her husband are proud parents of four children and grandparents to three. "My family is the heart of everything I do," she said. A woman of strong faith, Glynda is an active member of St. Cornelius Catholic Church in Karnes City, where she contributes to various activities and events.

Her passion for crafting and event planning shines in both her personal and professional life. Whether it's decorating for birthdays, weddings, or quinceañeras, or baking cakes and desserts, Glynda brings a personal, heartfelt touch to every celebration. "There's nothing more fulfilling than making these events memorable and stress-free for everyone involved," she said. Glynda also loves meeting new people, creating joyful experiences, and sharing in life's most special moments. She enjoys jewelry, crafting, and, above all, giving back to the community she's proud to serve.

The City of Kenedy is grateful for Glynda's commitment, compassion, and creativity. Her presence truly makes a difference—not just in the courtroom, but in every corner of city life she touches.

New AACOG Bus Route Now Serving Kenedy Residents – Free Rides Available!

The City of Kenedy, in partnership with the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG), is excited to announce the launch of a flexible public transportation route designed to better serve our community. The new AACOG bus route includes stops at key locations throughout Kenedy, including major grocery stores, local hospitals, City Hall, the post office, and various housing areas. This initiative is part of a continued effort to provide accessible, reliable transportation for residents of all ages.

While the standard fee is \$1 per ride, **all fares are currently suspended**, allowing passengers to ride **completely free of charge**.

This flexible route was created with the needs of Kenedy residents in mind, and we encourage everyone to take advantage of this valuable service.

For route details or more information, see page 13 of this newsletter contact City Hall.

Stage 3 Water Restrictions Remain in Effect – New Well Expected Soon

The City of Kenedy remains under Stage 3 Water Restrictions, but important progress is underway that will strengthen our long-term water infrastructure and help bring relief to residents and businesses across the community.

On behalf of the City Manager, we're pleased to report that the drilling of a new, *replacement*, municipal well is in progress and, if all continues as planned, the well is expected to be fully operational within the next eight weeks. Once online, this well will play a critical role in restoring our water production capacity, helping the City move toward lifting the current restrictions and providing more reliable service to our residents.

This project is part of a broader commitment to improve the resiliency of our water system following recent well failures and supply challenges. The addition of a new well strengthens both our immediate response and our long-term planning—ensuring that Kenedy is better prepared to meet growing demand and unexpected emergencies.

While we wait for this new infrastructure to come online, Stage 3 Water Restrictions remain in effect. We know this isn't ideal. But thanks to the continued conservation efforts from our residents and local businesses, we've been able to maintain essential services while protecting the limited supply currently available. Your cooperation truly makes a difference.

We understand the importance of keeping the public informed during times like these. The City is committed to providing clear, timely updates as we hit key milestones in the coming weeks. Our staff is working hard behind the scenes every day to keep this project moving forward safely and efficiently.

To learn more about the quality and safety of your drinking water, we also encourage residents to visit the City of Kenedy website and view the newly released 2024 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This annual report provides transparent, easy-to-understand information about the sources, treatment, and testing of our city's water supply.

We thank you for your continued support, patience, and resilience as we work together to build a more secure and sustainable future for Kenedy's water system. Please continue to monitor our official channels for future updates and guidance.

Your trust and partnership mean everything to us—and we remain committed to serving you every step of the way.



Dear Residents,

Stage 3 Water Conservation Notice- Severe water Shortage Alert

The City of Kenedy has officially entered **Stage 3 Water Conservation** due to current water supply conditions. We are asking all residents and businesses to help us conserve water and help decrease usage by 15% by implementing **mandatory and voluntary water conservation measures**.

- STAGE 3 WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES INCLUDE: • Please **limit water use** for non-essential purposes.
- Compliance with all Stage 1 and 2 restrictions. Please refer to the Drought Contingency Plan on the City website for full details.
- Reduce indoor water use where possible by limiting shower times, washing dishes more efficiently, and running washing machines only with full loads.
- Promptly repair any leaks, including in toilets, faucets, and irrigation systems.
- Use water-efficient appliances whenever possible.
- Irrigation is permitted every other week as follows from 7am to 11am and 7pm to 11am and will be according to last digit on street address and following schedule
 - Address end 0 or 1: Irrigates Monday
 - Address end 2 or 3: Irrigates Tuesday
 - Address end 4 or 5: Irrigates Wednesday
 - Address end 6 or 7: Irrigates Thursday
- Address end 8 or 9: Irrigates Friday
- Residential car washing limited to Saturday and Sunday only.
- · Swimming pools need to be covered when not in active use.
- Carwash facilities must operate only with city
- certification. Once certified, they may resume normal operations.
- Hotels must limit Linen/towel change to once every three nights for the entire stay.*
- Other restrictions as noted in the City Drought Contingency Plan.

We will continue to monitor the situation to ensure this issue is resolved promptly.

Your cooperation is vital. By working together, we can ensure there is enough water to meet essential needs and protect our community's future.

For more information contact the City of Kenedy's Water Department at (830) 583-3217.

Thank you for your commitment to water conservation and securing the well-being of Kenedy. -Public Works Department

Maggie Gonzales City Secretary citysecretary@kenedytx.gov (830) 583-2230 x 112

GROUNDBREAKING FOR MAJOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

As part of the City's ongoing commitment to long-term water sustainability, we are preparing to break ground on one of the most significant infrastructure investments in recent local history. In May 2025, the City will officially launch construction on a new 26-mile water transmission line and a second Water Treatment Facility, funded through the Texas General Land Office (GLO).

This project is more than an expansion—it's a forward-looking strategy to secure Kenedy's water future. The new well connected to this transmission line is expected to produce well beyond our current capacity, allowing the City to meet both present-day needs and future growth.

More importantly, this new system will provide built-in redundancies, giving the City flexibility to shift supply sources in emergency situations and reducing the risk of service disruption. These upgrades will support better crisis management, ensure operational efficiency, and allow for more strategic maintenance and repair of the existing system without compromising service to residents.

The new Water Treatment Facility will complement these improvements, enhancing the City's ability to treat and distribute water at scale, while meeting regulatory standards and improving overall reliability.

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Once the groundbreaking date is confirmed, we will share details with the public and extend an invitation to join us in celebrating this milestone. Stay tuned to the City's website and official channels for updates on the groundbreaking event and continued progress throughout the construction timeline.

Looking for a New Best Friend? Visit Kenedy Animal Control!



Thinking about adding a furry friend to your family? Don't forget—your next loyal companion could be waiting for you right here at the Kenedy Animal Shelter.

Our Animal Control team, led by ACO Supervisor Ernie Salinas, works hard every day to care for animals in need and help them find loving, permanent homes. Whether you're looking for a playful pup, a mellow cat, or a surprise companion with lots of personality, we encourage you to stop by the shelter and meet the animals available for adoption.

Remember: Adopt, don't shop. Choosing to adopt not only gives an animal a second chance—it also helps reduce the number of strays in our community.

Also, please be sure to spay and neuter your pets. It's a small step that makes a big impact on animal welfare and helps prevent overcrowding in shelters.

For more information or to schedule a visit, contact Ernie Salinas, Animal Control Supervisor, and help us give these animals the forever homes they deserve. You just might meet your new best friend!



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!

Earth Day is April 22 – Small Actions, Big Impact



Earth Day is celebrated each year on **April 22**, serving as a reminder of the importance of protecting our environment and preserving natural resources for future generations. Here in **Kenedy**, we invite residents to take part by making small, everyday choices that contribute to a cleaner, greener community.

Whether it's picking up litter, planting a tree, recycling properly, or conserving water and energy at home, your actions matter. Even small changes—like switching to reusable bags or turning off lights when not in use—can have a big impact over time.

Want to get involved? Consider organizing a neighborhood cleanup, planting in your garden, or simply taking a moment to appreciate the natural spaces we enjoy—like **Joe Gulley Park** and our community trails.

Let's work together to keep Kenedy beautiful—not just on Earth Day, but every day.

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

April is recognized as Child Abuse Awareness Month, a time to shine a light on the importance of protecting children and supporting families in our community.

Organizations like CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) play a vital role by advocating for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect. These volunteers work closely with the court system to ensure that every child has a voice and the opportunity to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment.

You may also see Cardboard Kids displayed throughout the community this month. Each figure represents a child affected by abuse—serving as a powerful visual reminder that every child deserves to be seen, heard, and protected.

We encourage residents to learn more, get involved, and help raise awareness. Together, we can stand up for children and support efforts to end abuse in our communities. For more information, visit <u>www.casaofsouthtexas.org</u>.

April is Stress Awareness Month: Tips for a Healthier, Calmer You

April marks **Stress Awareness Month**, a national effort to raise awareness about the effects of stress and the importance of managing it in healthy, sustainable ways. Whether it's related to work, finances, family, or health, stress touches all of us—and managing it well can make a real difference in our daily lives.

Here in Kenedy, we encourage residents to take time this month to focus on mental wellness and explore simple, effective ways to reduce stress.

TIPS FOR MANAGING STRESS

Take a Walk: Physical activity is a powerful stress reliever. A short walk at **Joe Gulley Park** or around your neighborhood can help clear your mind and lift your mood.

Stay Connected: Talk with friends, family, or neighbors. Sharing how you feel with someone you trust can help reduce stress and bring perspective.

Set Boundaries: It's okay to say no. Setting healthy limits at work or in your personal life gives you space to recharge.

Practice Deep Breathing: Taking just a few minutes to slow down and breathe deeply can calm your nervous system and help you feel more in control.

Eat Well & Stay Hydrated: A balanced diet and enough water throughout the day can support both your physical and mental well-being.

Unplug When You Can: Take breaks from screens and social media to give your mind a rest.

Ask for Help: Whether it's a trusted friend, a counselor, or a support line, asking for help is a sign of strength—not weakness.

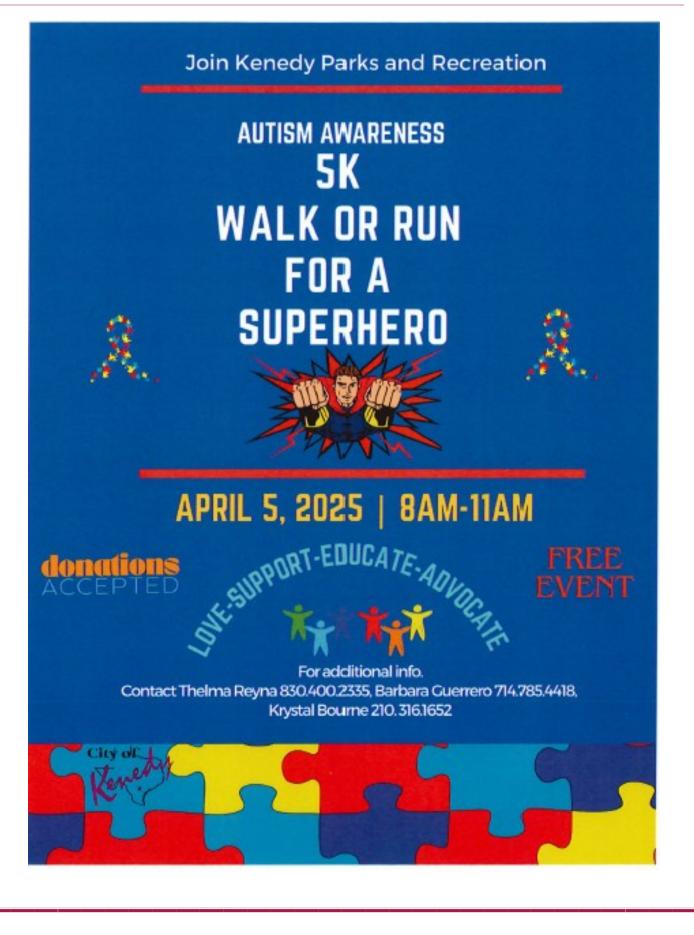
Stress may be a part of life, but it doesn't have to run it. Let's use April as a reminder to slow down, check in with ourselves, and support one another.

For more resources on mental health and wellness, reach out to Karnes Community Health Clinic, the Texas– Hope Peer Support Warmline (844) 755-4673 or City Hall for additional resources.





SIX SHOOTER SENTINEL



Spring Community-Wide Carage Sale





📩 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



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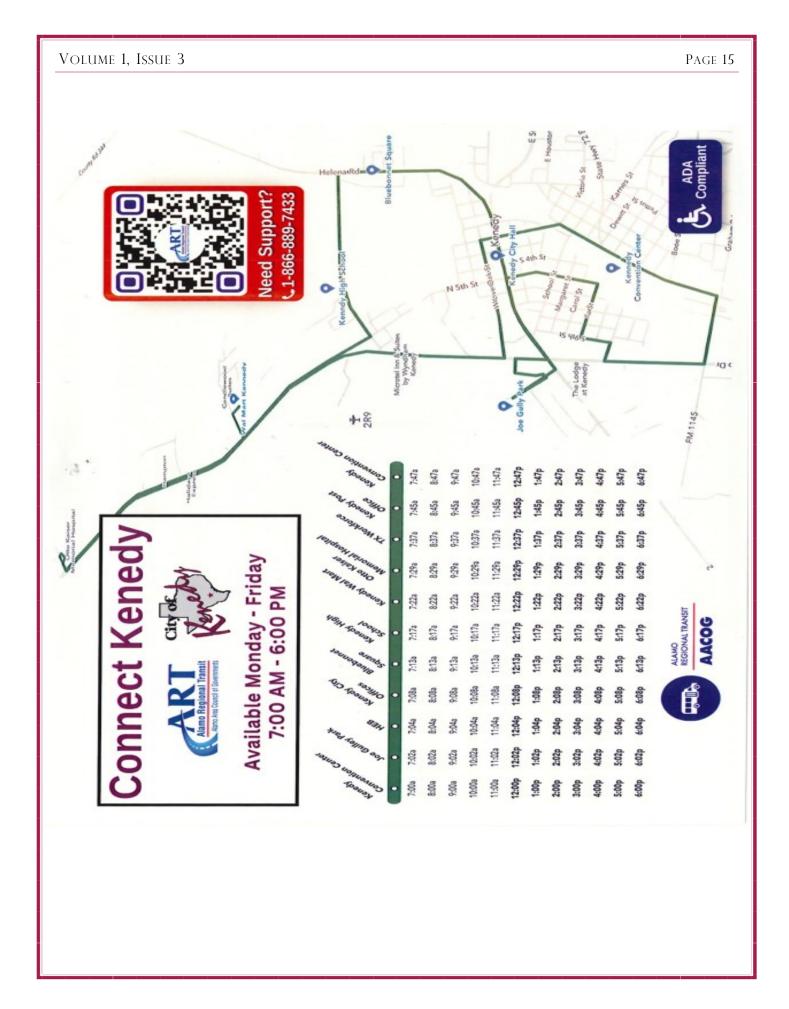


The City of Kenedy will be hosting a **FREE** tire roundup event! We encourage all residents to bring any unwanted tires to help clean up our community!!

- Small truck and passenger car tires only.
- No tires from waste tire generated businesses
- Tires on rims will not be accepted
- Kenedy residents ONLY
- Proof of residency or water bill REQUIRED

Saturday, April 19, 2025 8:00 am - 12:00 noon 201 School St, Kenedy, Tx 78119

For more information please call Jaime Albiar (830)299-0072



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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.

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

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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 Sauceda, 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 <u>kenedytx.gov</u>



STORY, EVENT, OR FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE EDITIONS? We'd love to hear from you! Name: Thomas W. Faulkner, *MBA*, *SPHR*

 EMAIL:
 HUMANRESOURCES@KENEDYTX.GOV

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 (830) 583-2230

 MAIL:
 CITY OF KENEDY NEWSLETTER EDITOR 303 W. MAIN ST., KENEDY, TX 78119
 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

April 8th: Airport Meeting, 10am.; Regular City Council Meeting, 6:00pm

April 11th: Senior Bunny Hop Event, 11:00am-2:00pm

April 15th: Parks Board, 6:00pm

April 17th, Easter Hunt, 5:30pm

April 22nd-25th: Early Voting 8:00-5:00pm City Hall

April 28: 4B Board, 6:00pm

April 28-29: Elections 7:00am-7:00pm City Hall

May 3rd Election Day: Cinco De Mayo @ Joe Gully 3:00pm-9:3:30pm



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!