



KENNEDALE TownCenter Herald

WWW.CITYOFKENNEDALE.COM

FEBRUARY 2015

Wednesday, February 4th

Parks and Recreation Board
7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

Tuesday, February 10th

KKB: Keep Kennedale Beautiful
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Conference Room

Thursday, February 12th

EDC: Economic Development Corporation
noon to 2:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

Sunday, February 15th

Last day to take the survey about the look and feel of Kennedale's future downtown. Visit <http://kennedaletx.mindmixer.com>, and tell us if you like it, love it, or hate it!

Monday, February 16th

Presidents' Day: City Offices Closed
City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 19th

P&Z: Planning and Zoning Commission
7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

Monday, February 23rd

Complete the Citizen Satisfaction Survey at www.CityOfKennedale.com for a chance to win one of three (3) \$100 utility bill credits!

Wednesday, February 25th

Municipal Court at 1:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m. is the deadline for filing an application for a place on the ballot for the May 9th, 2015 Election. City Council places 1, 3, & 5 are up for re-election.

All meetings are held at Kennedale City Hall (405 Municipal Drive) unless otherwise noted

RECYCLING

BEGINS APRIL 1ST

BINS WILL BE DELIVERED
THE LAST WEEK OF MARCH.

State of the City



MAYOR BRIAN JOHNSON

Last month I wrote about the progress of the first part of the *Imagine Kennedale 2015* plan. Let's take a look at the second half:

1. Unightly junk yards, wrecking yards and businesses are visible from the streets.

We were able to access a program wherein TxDOT planted numerous trees and shrubs along the parkway as a method of solving this issue. We expect to improve this maintenance once TxDOT officially accepts the work.

2. More balance is needed in the tax burden between businesses and residents.

Progress in this area has been admittedly slow. Attracting more sales tax-generating business in order to lower the property tax burden has been difficult. QT, Burger King and Popeye's have opened in Oakcrest, and we are constantly working to attract retailers to TownCenter.

3. The city needs an urgent care clinic.

Urgent Care is now open in TownCenter. By March 1st, they will be open six days a week.

4. The entrance to Kennedale is not well defined.

We are adding a 'Welcome to Kennedale' sign in the median across from QT on Kennedale Parkway, we already have signage on Little Road, and the Wildcat roundabout on Sublett is an excellent reminder that you're in Kennedale.

5. There is no common channel for communication among the city, chamber, businesses and citizens.

This is still a major problem that we're working to improve. In this age of mass communication, smart phones, and constant internet access, ironically, communication seems more difficult than ever. Following the lead of KISD, the City has hired Communications Coordinator, Leslie Galloway.

6. There is a need for neighborhood sidewalks. We have added, and are in the process of adding, more sidewalks along Kennedale's major streets. We've also passed an ordinance requiring all new subdivisions to have sidewalks.

7. There is a lack of partnership and cooperation between the schools and other community institutions. I believe communication has improved in this area and the city and KISD are looking for ways that both entities can work to make the community a better place for all.

8. Kennedale needs to capitalize on new retail businesses. We are actively working to establish more retail business as a way of decreasing residents' property tax burden.

9. There is a strong need to establish a retirement community. The city is looking at the possibility of a retirement community. More information will be available later in the year.

10. There is a lack of recreational activities. With the addition of two new parks, miles of sidewalks, and the disc golf course at Sonora Park, there is now more space for recreation. The city is also working to establish a linear park system for hiking and biking.

11. Absence of a housing plan vis-à-vis industry, salvage yards and the race track. This has been addressed in our Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The committee that created the plan was led by Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Turner and Council Member Dr. Liz Carrington. The plan received an award from the American Planning Association Texas Chapter. (The plan is available on the city website at <http://www.cityofkennedale.com/DocumentCenter/View/884>.)

12. There is an absence of public events in city parks. We have made progress here with numerous events like Bark in the Park, KIDFISH, the Battle of San Jacinto Parade and Art in the Park, which has been renamed this year to Brickworks Festival in honor of our city's history.

We've made progress, but more work is needed. If you have any questions please email me. Have a great February!

Mayor Brian Johnson
bjohnson@cityofkennedale.com



Friday, April 17th: 4 to 10 pm

- 7:00 PM Battle of San Jacinto Parade
- 8:30 PM Lannie Flowers

Saturday, April 18th: 10 am to 10 pm

All Day Saturday & Sunday: Kid's Zone featuring carnival games, face painting, a mechanical bull, bounce houses, craft projects, a petting zoo & more!

- 8:30 AM 1-mile Fun Run/Walk
- 9:00 AM Brickfest 5K
- 2:00 PM Pie Eating Contest
- 7:00 PM Brandon Preece
- 8:00 PM Charla Corn

Sunday, April 19th: noon to 5 pm

- 1:30 PM Pet Parade
- 3:00 PM Awards/Closing Ceremony

www.kennedaleartsfestival.com

➤ We're looking for volunteers to help with the festival. Email Adrienne Kay at askaytx@msn.com for more information. Students will receive community service hours. (Double for the break-down shift!)

➤ Are you a Kennedale Senior enrolled in a Fine Arts class? Download a scholarship application at www.kennedaleartsfestival.com/scholarship.

➤ Come paint and help raise money for KJSD scholarships! Sunday, March 29th from 2 to 4 p.m. at Painting with a Twist in Arlington. The cost is \$35 per person, and you can register online at <http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/arlington/calendar>.

Youth Advisory Council (YAC) now accepting applications



YAC Chair Ashley Luu (center) and member Morgan Biscoe receive a tour of the Kennedale firestation from Engineer-Paramedic Chris Lidster.

The Kennedale Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a select group of young leaders who, through research, peer discussion, and community interaction, provide a youth perspective to City Council on a wide variety of community and youth-related issues.

YAC is open to Kennedale students ages 15 to 19 who are looking for a way to learn about City government and be actively involved in their community.

Members plan and host a biannual Food Truck Night, volunteer at the Brickworks Festival, and learn about city government through department tours, speakers, and first-hand experience.

YAC meets regularly on the first Wednesday of the month, and usually attend at least one annual conference.

Most recently, they attended the National League of Cities Conference in Austin, where members were able to network with city officials and mayors from across the country.

If you want to learn more about the YAC, consider attending our next meeting on March 4th at 4:30pm in City Hall.

Applications, along with qualification requirements, can now be found on the City of Kennedale website. They are due no later than April 1st at 5:00 p.m.

How should downtown Kennedale look?

Please help us make the new downtown design guidelines a true **HOMETOWN DECISION.** All you have to do is rate a few images. Like it, love it, or hate it... we want to know! (Survey ends Sunday, February 15th.) <http://kennedaletx.mindmixer.com>

CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY

Conducting a resident survey helps the City improve the quality of services it provides and set budget priorities. Residents who complete the survey will be entered to **win one of three (3) \$100 water bill credits.** Starting February 23rd, visit www.CityOfKennedale.com, and click on this image >>

What do you think?
 TAKE OUR CITIZEN SURVEY, AND YOU COULD WIN A **\$100 utility bill credit!**
 FOR MORE DETAILS, CLICK HERE