

ON THE RISE

TRACKING PROGRESS AROUND KEENE

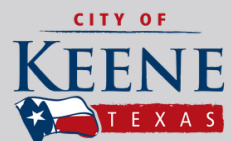


SAMANTHA GILLIN'S SERVICE AWARD

Mayor Pro Tem and Acting Mayor Samantha Gillin receives a Woman of Influence award during Zonta luncheon. This recognition honors her work in business and service in Johnson County.

In This Months Newsletter

Keene Fire & Rescue brings home an award, Chief Kidd makes a special visit to Quantico, and a new EDC-A board member is sworn in to serve the community.





Samantha Gillin's Service Award

During a special luncheon hosted by the Zonta Club of Johnson County, Mayor Pro Tem Samantha Gillin was honored as one of the "2026 Women of Influence" in recognition of her dedication and service to the community. Gillin has been a real estate professional for more than 33 years and has been operating her business out of Keene since 2005.

In addition to her accomplished career, Gillin is deeply committed to giving back to her community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she organized and donated essential supplies to Meals on Wheels and has supported the Keene Police and Fire Departments with needed supplies.

Over her many years in Keene, she has served on the Keene Chamber of Commerce as both a member and director, as President of the Economic Development Corporation (Type A Board), and most recently on City Council, Place II. She was appointed Mayor Pro Tem and now serves as Acting Mayor.



Samantha Gillin Receives “Women of Influence” Award

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In addition to her accomplished career, Gillin is deeply committed to giving back to her community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she organized and donated essential supplies to Meals on Wheels and has supported the Keene Police and Fire Departments with needed supplies.

Over her many years in Keene, she has served on the Keene Chamber of Commerce as both a member and director, as President of the Economic Development Corporation (Type A Board), and most recently on City Council, Place II. She was appointed Mayor Pro Tem and now serves as Acting Mayor.



Keene Fire Brings Home Gold!

Our Keene Fire Department brought home a very special award this month. The Christmas in Action Committee presented the team with the 1st place prize at the Chili Cook-Off—marking their third consecutive win. A special congratulations to Firefighter Alex Robertson, the inventor and Master Chef behind the award-winning recipe.

Chief Kidd Visits Quantico

Keene Police Chief James Kidd recently had the opportunity to return to the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, where he met with members of Session #297. During his visit, Chief Kidd shared insights from his time at the Academy and spoke on the importance of leadership, training, and professional development in law enforcement. The Academy is one of the most respected law enforcement training programs in the world, and we are proud to have Chief Kidd represent our community in this way.



EDC-A New Board Member Sworn In

During the monthly Economic Development Corporation (Type A Board) meeting, the group welcomed Efrain Castellanos to his new appointment on the board. He was sworn in by City Secretary Holly Russell. We are excited about his contributions to the growth and development of our community! Visit our website if you would like to learn more about our boards or learn how to apply.



CITIZENS' CORNER

Emergency Alert Test

An emergency alert test will take place on Thursday, April 2. This statewide test is being conducted in cooperation with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to ensure all emergency alert systems are fully operational. Please note that this is only a test, and no action is required.



Share Your Story!

Do you have a story, spotlight, or announcement that you would like to be featured in our next newsletter? Let us know for a chance to be featured!

You can email your information to kbarrow@keenetx.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2 @ 10 AM - 12:30 PM
Emergency Alert Testing

April 2 @ 6:00 PM
Council Meeting

April 3 - City Hall Closed
Good Friday

