



KEISER NEWS

2023

"Small town, big heart - that's Keiser!"

September Newsletter

Vol 5

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

Keiser Adjusts Water and Sewer Rates in Response to ACT 605

In accordance with State Mandated ACT 605, passed in 2021, the City of Keiser will adjust its water and sewer rates. This act requires all Arkansas municipalities to undergo a Rate Study before 2024, and every five years thereafter, as part of an effort to ensure the sustainable and effective management of water and sewer systems.

Communities Unlimited, a state-recommended agency, conducted Keiser's Rate Study. The assessment, which evaluated factors like existing debt, population, and current rates, concluded that a 25% increase in Keiser's water and sewer rates is needed. This rate adjustment specifically impacts the water and sewer component of the utility bill, not the entire bill amount. As a result, the minimum bill for water and sewer services in Keiser will increase from \$50.65 to \$54.55. The precise increase for each household will vary based on their monthly water usage.

Why the Increase is Essential

This necessary adjustment aims to:

- **Maintain the Current System:** Ensuring the continued delivery of clean, reliable water and sewer services.
- **Proactive Improvements:** Enhancing the system's reliability and preventing costly emergency repairs.
- **Future Infrastructure Investments:** Modernizing the water and sewer system to meet the city's growing needs and regulatory standards.
- **State Compliance:** Avoiding penalties and additional costs through adherence to ACT 605.

The City of Keiser understands that this increase may pose a burden on households. This decision was made after careful analysis to protect the long-term viability of the city's water and sewer system, while striving to limit the impact on residents. New rates will become effective on 9/1/2023.

City Council meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. All welcome.

Follow us on Facebook and at our website www.cityofkeiser.com

Water bills due the 15th of each month. Late charges will be applied on the 16th and shutoff on the 27th unless the 27th is a Friday.

Remember ridding ATV's on city streets is a violation of state law and will be enforced.

Remember the city has a leash law. If you are walking your dog in the city limits they MUST be on a leash. No exceptions.

If you have not yet registered your dog or cat. Please come to City Hall and do so.

You can buy 40 gallon garbage bags at City Hall. There are 50 in a roll and the cost is \$10.00 per roll.

Home owners and contractors are required to notify city hall before any mechanical excavation can be done.

City Hall—870-526-2300

Hours 8:00am to 5:00pm M-F

Closed 12:00 to 1:00 for lunch

IT'S IN THE BANK By Peggy Sellars City of Keiser Treasurer

SALE TAX (the good, the bad, & the ugly)

Like it or not, taxes are a part of life that can't be ignored. The city of Keiser deals with taxes just like you do.

Someone recently asked me what our city tax rate is and what the breakdown is. Our city's sales tax is currently 11% The breakdown is as follows:

- 6.5% - State tax that goes to the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration.
- 2.5% - County tax that goes to the Mississippi County Treasurer.
- 2.0% - City tax that we send to Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration.

The City of Keiser pays sales tax monthly on our water sales and our sanitation sales. We usually pay between \$1,500 and \$2,000. The following month we receive back our 2% city tax from the state treasurer. This money can only be used for repairs and maintenance on our water and sewer systems. That amount is usually between \$2,500 and \$ 3,000.

Not only do we receive our 2% city tax back, we also receive a portion of the county tax. Our portion of county tax usually amounts to \$15,000 to \$20,000. We can use that money wherever it is needed.

Finally, we do receive a small turnback from the state that goes into our Street Fund. That amount is usually approximately \$5,000. The General Fund also receives from \$500 to \$1,000 in state turnback money.

This turnback on sales tax helps our city tremendously.

If you have any questions for me, please leave them in the comments.



NEAL BROWN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

City of Keiser Begins Addressing Drainage Issues

In a proactive step to address ongoing drainage problems, the city of Keiser is getting a jump start while awaiting a sizable \$500,000 grant to fund a more comprehensive solution. This month, residents will notice a Mini Excavator busily working around the city. Piloted by dedicated longtime residents Nick Moody and Joey Jackson, the machine will be focused on cleaning out secondary ditches to improve water flow and alleviate some of the immediate drainage issues.

Initial work will begin behind the Baptist Church Parsonage, cleaning areas both North and West of that location. Further operations are planned in front of the circle behind the Methodist Church. These are just the starting points; other critical areas around the city have been identified for future work as well.

While this initiative serves as a short-term fix, it is im-

portant to note that a more extensive, professional solution is needed to resolve the city's drainage concerns fully. Plans for this larger project have already been developed and are awaiting grant funding to move forward.

Residents are kindly asked to exercise caution when encountering the Mini Excavator and its operators around town. And if you happen to see Nick or Joey, don't hesitate to give them a shout-out for their tireless love and commitment to improving our community. With a bit of

luck and the anticipated drainage grant, Keiser is well on its way to addressing what has been a longstanding issue that affects us all.



CHIEF OF POLICE GLEN AUSTIN

A Culture of Safety: Key Tips for a Secure Community Life

In a fast-paced world, personal safety should never take a backseat. Simple but vital practices like avoiding drinking and driving make roads safer for everyone. When you're out, especially at night, let someone know your plans—a text can offer that extra peace of mind.

Many establishments have staff trained to help, so don't hesitate to seek assistance if needed. It's also crucial to be aware of your surroundings and keep an eye on your drink. Moderation in alcohol consumption and vigilance in new encounters help keep you out of risky situations.

Walking home? Do it with a friend and without headphones to stay alert. If you need to take a call, hands-free options like Bluetooth keep you aware and less vulnerable. Don't hesitate to call 911 if you feel threatened.

Your car is an extension of your personal space. Secure it just like you would your home: lock it and keep spare keys in a safe place. A clutter-free interior is less inviting to potential thieves.

Community-wise, adhering to local ordinance 1983-2 is more than good citizenship. It's a part of creating a safer, cleaner environment. So let's all contribute by keeping our yards neat and our cars insured and tagged, as non-compliance results in citations.

In conclusion, safety is a collective endeavor, made stronger by each responsible choice we make. By working together, we can transform our community into a sanctuary of security.



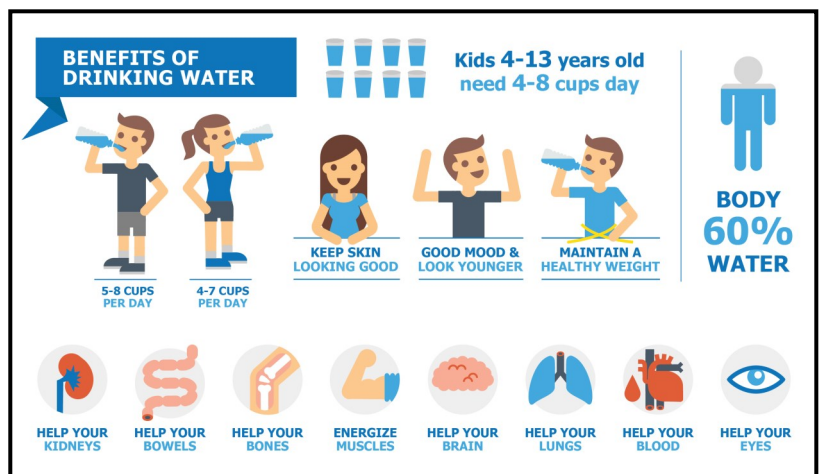
LESLIE HERNANDEZ WATER/CITY HALL COORDINATOR

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER IN OUR DAILY LIVES.

All plants and animals need water to survive. There can be no life on earth without water. Why is water so important? Because 60 percent of our body weight is made up of water. Our bodies use water in all the cells, organs, and tissues, to help regulate body temperature and maintain other bodily functions. Because our bodies lose water through breathing, sweating, and digestion, it's crucial to rehydrate and replace water by drinking fluids and eating foods that contain water.

Let's look at all the ways water impacts our lives...

- Helps create saliva
- Regulates body temperature
- Aids cognitive function
- Protects the tissues, spinal cord, and joints
- Helps excrete the waste in our bodies through perspiration, urination and defecation
- Maximizes our physical performance
- Helps to boost our energy levels
- Prevents overall dehydration



Here are some ways to make sure that you drink enough water:

- Carry a water bottle with you wherever you go. Keep taking sips from it as and when you feel the need
- Track your water intake. Make sure you consume the optimum amount every day, which is a minimum of half your body weight, in ounces/milligrams

City News Spotlight: Our Library

Keiser City Library: A Hub of Knowledge and Community Growth

Keiser City Library has long been considered the heart and soul of our community. Since its inception, the library has proven to be more than just a repository of books and digital media. It is a vibrant center of learning, cultural enrichment, and social interaction that has served as a vital asset for Keiser City.

A Wealth of Resources

The library's impressive collection of books, magazines, audiobooks, and digital media caters to a wide variety of interests and reading levels. From toddlers to senior citizens, there's something for everyone to explore. But the Keiser City Library is not just about books. It offers access to computers and internet facilities, essential for those who may not have these tools at home. Job seekers, students, and business professionals alike can utilize the library's resources to conduct research, complete assignments, or apply for jobs.

Educational Programs and Activities

Keiser City Library's dedicated staff work diligently to provide an array of programs for all age groups. Children can participate in story time sessions, youth crafts, and educational workshops that foster creativity and curiosity. These programs not only enhance literacy and learning but also provide opportunities for social interaction, strengthening the sense of community.

A Lasting Impact

The Keiser City Library's impact on our community is immeasurable. It has grown into a sanctuary for knowledge-seekers, a haven for those in need, and a bustling hub that promotes collaboration, creativity, and growth.

In these changing times, the role of libraries like ours continues to evolve.

Yet, the core values of education, accessibility, and community that the Keiser City Library embodies remain steadfast. So, the next time you're in

the area, make sure to stop by and explore all that the Keiser City Library has to offer. Whether you're a life-

long learner, a curious child, a concerned citizen, or just someone looking for a peaceful place to read, you'll find the library to be a welcoming, enriching space that reflects the very best of our community. Supporting our local library is an investment in the heart of our community. When we contribute time, resources, or financial support, we empower the library to provide essential services, resources, and programs that foster learning, connection, and personal growth. Together, let's ensure the library remains a vibrant and accessible hub where everyone can discover, create, and thrive.



Hours of Operation:

Monday & Tuesday	2:00 - 6:00
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	12:00 - 4:00
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10:00 - 2:00
Sunday	Closed

In Arkansas, operating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on city streets, roads, or highways is strictly illegal. This particular law is part of comprehensive safety regulations designed to prevent accidents involving vehicles that are not suited for standard roadways. ATVs are restricted to designated trails, special off-road areas, and usage in improper areas may result in fines, suspension of privileges, or other significant penalties. These regulations aim to protect both the operators of ATVs and the general public, ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents and visitors. The state actively enforces these rules and encourages ATV enthusiasts to explore and enjoy the numerous designated trails and parks that are legally available for off-road use.



Keiser Fall Festival

Exciting news! Mark your calendars for the annual Keiser Fall Festival, a cherished tradition we eagerly anticipate every year. This year's festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 16th. Save the date and join us for a day filled with community spirit, joy, and festive activities.



Looking forward to seeing you all there!



September 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 International Bacon Day
3	4 Labor Day	5	6 Read a Book Day	7	8 Star Trek Day	9
10	11 Patriot Day	12	13	14	15 Water Bill Due	16 Keiser Fall Festival
17	18 Council Meeting	19	20	21 International Day of Peace	22	23 Start of Fall
24	25	26	27 Cutoff Date	28 National Sons Day	29 National Coffee Day	30

City Business Spotlight

Barbara Perkins: A Journey from Solo Stylist to Salon Owner in Keiser

In 1996, Barbara Perkins embarked on her journey in the beauty industry at Merle Norman in Osceola. With the aspiration of building a business to not only provide a wonderful life for her children, but also to be more present during their school years, Barbara began her career. Unknown to her at the time, this commitment would involve working late nights and weekends. Despite her busy schedule, this career choice allowed her the flexibility to attend her children's programs, field trips, and appointments that she otherwise would have missed.

In 1999, a significant opportunity came Barbara's way: the chance to buy out a fellow artist, Renee Graham, and to rent a building from Kirk Rentals. Although she was thrilled to be closer to her family, the idea of venturing out independently to start a business was a scary prospect. However, through faith, support from the community, and her own determination, Barbara's salon, New Image Salon, flourished from the very first week.

Over the past 24 years in Keiser, Barbara's journey has been more than just about running a successful business; it has been about mentoring other artists in the field. For Barbara, aiding others in navigating the challenges of the industry has been immensely gratifying. While not every mentoring experience has worked out perfectly, the fulfillment she derives from helping others is unwavering.



Starting with just one other artist in her salon, Barbara has seen her team grow to as many as six members, fluctuating back to one, and currently boasting a team of three talented artists. Among the notable team members who have been part of her journey are Jessica Boyette Harris, who went on to start her own business, and Heather Wroten, who now specializes in esthetician work and photography in Manila and Blytheville. Sheila Doren, a massage therapist, was a part of the team for some time before relocating to Nashville. While some have moved on to other callings, each person holds a special place in Barbara's heart, and they are missed dearly.

Today, the New Image Salon team comprises of Kristy Henderson, a Cosmetologist and Esthetician, and Chloe Parnell, a Cosmetologist, Esthetician, and Make-Up Artist. The salon offers an extensive range of services including Colors, Perms, Cuts, Waxes, Facials, Lashes, Lift & Tint, Manicures, Pedicures, Updos, Make-Up, and Spray Tans. Currently, the only service they don't provide is false nails, but they are continuously seeking opportunities to expand their offerings and inspire others to find their passion in the beauty industry.

As she reflects on her journey, Barbara extends her deepest gratitude to the Keiser community, whose faithful support played a pivotal role in realizing her dream. Thanks to this communal backing, not only has Barbara achieved her goals, but her children have also found their own paths to success.

In Barbara's own words, "Thank you for always being here for us. I love our precious Keiser community—you are all loved."



City Church Spotlight

The Storied Journey of the Church of Christ at Keiser: A Chronicle of Faith and Community

The Church of Christ at Keiser has a rich history that traces its roots back to the year 1934. It was in the home of Mrs. A.P. Bradshers where the first congregational gathering took place. Together with her daughter Ruth, and Mrs. Booney Brock converted Mrs. Pearl Bedford which played an instrumental role in the conversion of her husband, Hal Bedford. Notably, the Bedfords are the parents of Mrs. Lounette Hunt, another respected member of the community.

In the initial years, the congregation invited Brother Leonard Fielder of Lepanto to lead gospel meetings annually from 1934 to 1937. Thanks to these spiritual endeavors, the membership of the church grew substantially. Recognizing the need for a larger space, the congregation moved its gatherings to a rented green schoolhouse in 1938. This venue also allowed for hosting visiting preachers, further enriching the church's spiritual life.

By 1941, Doyle Williams arrived to serve as the full-time preacher for the congregation, marking a significant milestone in the church's history. That same year, construction commenced on a permanent church building at 301 West Main Street. With collective efforts and member donations, the men of the congregation built the structure, completing it in 1943. The church later added a residence adjacent to the main building to accommodate the minister and his family.

Though the building has undergone numerous renovations over the years, the original interior woodwork has

been meticulously preserved. This includes the trim, paneling, pulpit, and pews that

have witnessed countless sermons and shared prayers.

The church has been graced by an array of remarkable preachers over the years, such as Don Fike, Eddie Lewis, Jim Bush, Joel Lewis, Don McGohan, Jim Hill, and Wil Sadler, among others. The congregation received a significant boost a few years back when members of the Church of Christ at Dyess decided to join the Keiser congregation full-time.

Presently, a student from the Memphis School of Preaching is responsible for conducting the Sunday services, which commence at 8:00 am with a class followed by a worship service. Bible study sessions are held every Wednesday night at 7 pm. The church is open to all who wish to attend and find spiritual solace.

Moreover, the church actively supports various missionaries and contributes to the Southern Christian Home in Morrilton, Arkansas. Guided by Jesus' Great Commission as stated in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The Church of Christ at Keiser is deeply committed to spreading the gospel and making disciples. It stands as a beacon of faith, always welcoming new faces while cherishing its long-standing members.

If you are in the area and looking for a place to worship, consider us. All are welcome.



WORD SEARCH

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P G W A Y O L E S L N W U M R Q F L R M S A B U A E U Q I C
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B S P L X X G E F J J F Z D I O C J D D G H I F Z W E V S P
G Y G A Y Z B O J O S H H H T Q W W O Y B T P C S H W W T Q
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G C K W O P U C M T V V J U C D S X A C E D U C A T I O N F

- Mississippi River Mockingbird Hospitality Rice
Little Rock Education Mosquito Park
Post Office Community Wildlife
Southern Railroad Soybean
Fishing Hunting Tractor
Family Church Ozarks
Cotton Delta

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