



KEISER NEWS

2025

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

March Newsletter

Vol 23

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

As we move into March, we are preparing for the heavy rains that often accompany the season. Our city's sewer system, like many older systems, is susceptible to becoming overwhelmed during prolonged or intense rainfall. When this happens, it can lead to sewer overflows, localized flooding, and drainage issues across Keiser. Excess water can cause streets to flood, yards to become saturated, and in some cases, water may back up into homes and businesses. Not only is this a major inconvenience, but it can also create public health concerns by contaminating water sources and increasing the risk of damage to property.

To address these challenges, we have been proactive in maintaining and improving our sewer system. Recently, we completed a citywide sewer cleaning and televising project to identify blockages and weak points in the system. We are using this information to prioritize repairs and upgrades, and we are working with engineers to develop long-term solutions. We have secured a \$3.2 million grant along with a \$1.1 million loan to replace the sewer system. Additionally, we are hopeful to secure a drainage grant that will address flooding on the east side of town, where this issue has persisted for far too long. Once this project is underway, we will con-

tinue working to secure additional grants to tackle the remaining areas of the city.

While we work toward these long-term improvements, there are several steps residents can take to help reduce the strain on our sewer and drainage systems. Keeping ditches and storm drains clear of leaves, trash, and other debris can prevent water from backing up and pooling in low-lying areas. Avoiding excessive water use during heavy rain events—such as running dishwashers, washing machines, or taking long showers—can also help prevent overloading the system. If you notice significant standing water or slow drainage in your neighborhood, please report it to City Hall so we can investigate and take action if necessary.

The City of Keiser is committed to addressing these challenges, but we need everyone's cooperation to help minimize the impact of heavy rainfall. We appreciate your patience as we work toward long-term solutions, and we encourage all residents to take small but meaningful steps to help protect our community from potential flooding. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to City Hall. Together, we can work to keep Keiser safe and prepared for the rainy season ahead.

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

Follow us on Facebook and at our website

Water bills due the 16th of each month. Late charges will be applied on the 17th and shutoff on the 27th unless the 27th is Friday.

Remember riding 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

New City Hall Hours

Hours 8:00am to 4:45pm M-F
Closed 12:00 to 1:00 for lunch

Jerry Hamilton - Chief of Police

Well, another month has come and gone. There has been a lot going on in the City of Keiser, behind the scenes. Our city council has revamped some ordinances with the goal of making our town presentable to any type of investment that may come our way. It's a responsibility that we all share. We will be working to enforce these ordinances, especially regarding unsafe properties. The city will pick up anything that you place along the road on collection days, so there is no excuse. Also, canine issues have been on the rise. We know you love your dog, but others may not, and do not want them in their yard. Remember if your dog is allowed to run loose, you will be fined and most likely your dog will be held until contact is made with you. I'm sure that you do not want

your dog to go through that type of event. Please, keep your dogs in your yards. We have added two part-time officers to our ranks in the past couple of months, which will give more police coverage. We will continue to work on a safer Keiser. If you have any concerns at all, please come see me.



Penny Wilbanks - Recorder/Financial Director

Understanding How Your Water Bill is Calculated

Have you ever wondered how your water bill is determined each month? The City of Keiser follows a detailed process to ensure accuracy and fairness in billing. During the last week of each month, an outside contractor reads all water meters using a meter data collection printout generated from our water software. This report includes customer names, account numbers, service addresses, meter numbers, and previous meter readings. The contractor records the new readings on this sheet, which are then uploaded into a handheld meter device and transferred into our water solutions software. The software calculates each customer's water usage based on the difference between the new and previous readings.

To ensure accuracy, a trouble report is generated to flag accounts with unusually high usage. If a customer's usage appears significantly higher than normal, the reading is double-checked to rule out errors. In some cases, a meter may not be readable due to specific conditions. If a meter is underwater from heavy

rain, obstructed by a parked vehicle, or if moisture prevents visibility through the meter's gauge lens, the system averages the customer's usage from the past three months to estimate the bill.

Water bills are generated on the 1st of each month and are due 15 days later. If a payment is not received by end of business on the 16th, a 10% late fee is applied. If the bill remains unpaid by the 27th, service is disconnected unless the 27th falls on a Friday or weekend, in which case shutoffs occur the next business day. Once the shutoff list is generated and work orders are issued for disconnection, a \$25 fee is required to restore service.

To make payments convenient, customers can pay their bills in person at City Hall using cash, check, or credit/debit card. Payments can also be made online at www.cityofkeiser.com, or through the drop box located on the left side of the main entrance at City Hall for after-hours payments. If you have any questions about your bill, please contact City Hall for assistance.

Neal Brown - Understanding Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is one of the most common types of cancer affecting men worldwide. It occurs in the prostate, a small gland located below the bladder and in front of the rectum, responsible for producing seminal fluid that nourishes and transports sperm. Understanding the causes, symptoms, and treatment options for prostate cancer is crucial for early detection and effective management.

Causes and Risk Factors

The exact cause of prostate cancer remains unknown, but several risk factors have been identified. Age is a significant factor, with the risk increasing dramatically after the age of 50. Family history also plays a role; men with close relatives who have had prostate cancer are at higher risk. Additionally, certain genetic mutations, such as those in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, have been linked to an increased likelihood of developing prostate cancer. Other factors, such as race (with African American men at higher risk), diet, and lifestyle, may also contribute to the disease's development.

Symptoms

In its early stages, prostate cancer often presents with no noticeable symptoms. As the cancer progresses, however, men may experience a range of symptoms, including difficulty urinating, a weak or interrupted urine flow, frequent urination (especially at night), and blood in the urine or semen. Additionally, some men may experience discomfort or pain in the pelvic area, lower back, or upper thighs. It is essential to note that these symptoms can also be indicative of other conditions, so a thorough medical evaluation is necessary for an accurate diagnosis.

Diagnosis

Diagnosing prostate cancer typically involves a combination of physical examinations, blood tests, and imaging studies. One of the most common screening tests is the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test, which measures the level of PSA in the blood. Elevated PSA levels can indicate the presence of prostate cancer, although other conditions can also cause this increase. If PSA levels are elevated, a biopsy is usually conducted to confirm the diagnosis and determine the cancer's aggressiveness.

Treatment Options

The treatment of prostate cancer depends on various factors, including the stage and grade of the cancer, the patient's age and overall health, and personal preferences. Common treatment options include active surveil-

lance, surgery, radiation therapy, hormone therapy, and chemotherapy.

Active Surveillance: For men with low-risk, slow-growing prostate cancer, active surveillance may be recommended. This approach involves closely monitoring the cancer without immediate treatment, with regular check-ups and tests to track any changes.

Surgery: Radical prostatectomy is a surgical procedure that involves the removal of the entire prostate gland and some surrounding tissue. This option is often recommended for men with localized cancer that has not spread beyond the prostate.

Radiation Therapy: This treatment uses high-energy rays to target and destroy cancer cells. It can be delivered externally (external beam radiation) or internally (brachytherapy) by placing radioactive seeds directly into the prostate.

Hormone Therapy: Also known as androgen deprivation therapy (ADT), hormone therapy aims to reduce the levels of male hormones (androgens) that fuel the growth of prostate cancer cells. This treatment is often used in advanced or recurrent cases of prostate cancer.

Chemotherapy: In cases where prostate cancer has spread to other parts of the body, chemotherapy may be used to kill cancer cells and shrink tumors. This treatment involves the use of powerful drugs that are administered orally or intravenously.

Early detection through regular screenings, such as PSA tests and digital rectal exams, can improve treatment outcomes and survival rates. Understanding the risk factors, symptoms, and treatment options can empower men to make informed decisions about their health and seek timely medical attention when needed. Prostate cancer is a serious disease, but with proper awareness and medical care, many men can successfully manage the condition and maintain a good quality of life.

PROSTATE
CANCER



New Business in Town

New Business Opening in Keiser: Paws-N-Claws Spa & Boutique Grand Opening on March 3rd!

Exciting news for pet lovers in Keiser! A brand-new business, **Paws-N-Claws Spa & Boutique**, is set to open its doors on **March 3rd** at **310 Senter Street**. The community is invited to stop by between **10 AM and 6 PM** to meet the owner, **Misty Boettcher**, and explore everything the boutique has to offer.

Paws-N-Claws Spa & Boutique aims to provide top-notch grooming services and unique pet accessories for your furry friends. To celebrate the grand opening, visitors will have the chance to **register for a door prize**, adding to the excitement of the day.

This new addition to Keiser brings a much-needed service for pet owners and is a great opportunity to support a local business. For more information, you can contact **Misty Boettcher** at **618-292-0221**. Be sure to stop by and welcome Paws-N-Claws Spa & Boutique to the community!



*Opening in Keiser
March 3rd*



**Paws-N-Claws
Spa & Boutique**

310
Senter
Street

310 Senter Street

Call:
618-
292-
0221

Stop by on March 3rd
10 AM to 6 PM to meet
Misty Boettcher

Stop by and register for a door prize!

City Hall Hours



Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 4:45

Closed for Lunch from 12:00 - 1:00

Earthquake Preparedness

Many people don't realize that Arkansas is in an earthquake-prone region, with the **New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ)** posing a significant risk. This fault system runs through northeastern Arkansas and extends into Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois, with a long history of powerful earthquakes. The most famous series of quakes occurred between **December 1811 and February 1812**, producing some of the strongest earthquakes in U.S. history. These quakes were so intense that they caused the **Mississippi River to flow backward**, created large fissures in the ground, and led to the formation of Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee. Scientists warn that another major earthquake in this region is possible, with studies showing a **25–40% chance of a magnitude 6.0 or greater earthquake occurring within the next 50 years**.

The **City of Keiser** lies within the affected region of the New Madrid fault, meaning it could experience severe shaking if a significant earthquake occurs. Older buildings, underground utilities, and infrastructure are particularly at risk. A strong quake could **damage roads, water lines, sewer systems, and power grids**, leaving residents without essential services for days or even weeks. Additionally, the shaking could cause structures to collapse, making rescue efforts more challenging. To improve disaster preparedness, Keiser is working on long-term infrastructure improvements, such as **upgrading the sewer system, installing backup generators, and improving emergency response capabilities**. The city is also considering adding a **Tornado/Community/Senior Center**, which could serve as an emergency shelter and coordination hub in the event of a major earthquake.

While earthquakes cannot be predicted, there are steps individuals and families can take to **reduce their risk and increase their safety**. Securing heavy items like bookcases, cabinets, and water heaters to walls can prevent them from toppling. Identifying safe spots in the home, such as sturdy tables or interior walls, and practicing the "**Drop, Cover, and Hold On**" method can help reduce injuries. It is also essential to create an **emergency kit** with at least three days' worth of food, water, medications, flashlights, batteries, and first aid supplies. Knowing how to **shut off utilities**, such as gas, water, and electricity, can prevent further hazards like fires and leaks. Families should also establish a **commu-**

nication plan so that everyone knows how to reconnect if phone lines are down.

During an earthquake, staying calm and knowing what to do can save lives. **If indoors, drop to the ground, take cover under furniture, and hold on**, staying away from windows and heavy objects. **If outdoors, move to an open area away from buildings, power lines, and trees**. If driving, **pull over safely and remain in your vehicle**, avoiding stopping under bridges or overpasses. Aftershocks often follow a major quake, so residents should be prepared for additional shaking. Checking for injuries, helping others if possible, and inspecting homes for damage are critical steps. If a gas leak is suspected, evacuating immediately and reporting the issue to authorities is crucial. Residents should **avoid using phones unless necessary**, as emergency lines may be overwhelmed.

The **City of Keiser** is committed to increasing earthquake awareness and disaster readiness. Residents are encouraged to take preparedness seriously by securing their homes, creating emergency plans, and ensuring they have the necessary supplies. The city is actively working to improve infrastructure, emergency response capabilities, and long-term resilience to potential disasters. By investing in stronger utilities, emergency planning, and community preparedness, Keiser aims to become a safer and more resilient city in the face of natural disasters. While earthquakes are unpredictable, taking the right precautions today can make a significant difference in protecting lives, homes, and the community.



Tornado Preparedness

As we enter peak tornado season, it is critical for all Keiser residents to be prepared for severe weather. In 2018, our city experienced firsthand the destructive power of an EF-1 tornado, which caused significant damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure. While that storm packed winds of 86-110 mph, it is alarming to consider what could happen if a more powerful EF-3 or EF-4 tornado were to strike our community. These stronger tornadoes, with winds ranging from 136 to over 200 mph, have the potential to completely destroy homes, rip apart businesses, topple power lines, and leave widespread devastation in their wake. The aftermath of such a disaster would be catastrophic, making preparedness not just important, but essential for protecting lives and property.

The City of Keiser is actively working to improve emergency preparedness and response efforts. Our first responders, including the Keiser Police Department, Fire Department, and emergency medical personnel, are trained to act quickly in the event of a tornado. Additionally, we are working toward securing funding for a designated tornado shelter, which would provide a safe place for residents during severe weather. We are also reviewing our emergency communication systems to ensure that warnings reach residents as quickly as possible. While city officials and emergency responders are prepared to assist in the aftermath of a disaster, individual preparedness remains the best way to protect your family and property.

Residents should have a tornado plan in place before severe weather strikes. This includes identifying a safe location in your home, such as an interior room, bathroom, closet, or basement, away from windows and exterior walls. If you live in a mobile home, make arrangements ahead of time to seek shelter in a sturdier structure, as mobile homes offer little to no protection during a tornado. Your emergency plan should also include a disaster kit with essential sup-

plies, such as:

- **At least three days' worth of bottled water and non-perishable food**
- **Flashlights and extra batteries**
- **A first-aid kit, including necessary medications**
- **Important documents (insurance policies, ID, and bank records) stored in a waterproof container**
- **A battery-powered weather radio or a smartphone app with weather alerts enabled**
- **Sturdy shoes and protective clothing in case you need to walk through debris**

If a **tornado watch** is issued, it means conditions are favorable for tornado development. This is the time to review your plan and ensure your emergency kit is ready. If a **tornado warning** is issued, this means a tornado has been spotted or indicated on radar—seek shelter immediately. Do not wait to see the tornado before taking action, as they can form and move quickly with little warning.

If you are caught outside or in a vehicle and cannot reach shelter, find the lowest-lying area, such as a ditch or ravine, and cover your head with your hands. Avoid taking shelter under bridges or overpasses, as they do not provide adequate protection and can create dangerous wind tunnels.

Keiser has always been a strong and resilient community, and by working together, we can ensure that everyone is as prepared as possible for severe weather. The more prepared we are, the better we can protect lives, reduce injuries, and recover more quickly from a disaster.

We encourage all residents to take tornado preparedness seriously and have a plan in place for themselves and their families. If you have any questions about emergency planning or need assistance in creating a safety plan, please contact City Hall. Let's stay alert, stay safe, and be ready for whatever Mother Nature may bring.

Tornado Watch vs Warning

Tornado Watch	Tornado Warning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conditions are favorable for tornado formation• Watch the news for updates• Know where to take shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warning! A tornado is present or about to form• Read alerts for details• Take shelter immediately

sciencenotes.org

Spring Clean-Up in Keiser

Spring is right around the corner, and that means it's time to tidy up our community! In the coming weeks, we will provide dumpsters for residents to dispose of trash and unwanted items. This is a great opportunity to clear out yards and properties, helping to keep Keiser looking its best.

As a reminder, burning within city limits is restricted to natural materials only—grass, limbs, and leaves. However, we encourage residents to minimize or avoid burning altogether, as the smoke can cause serious issues for those with breathing problems. Let's be considerate of our neighbors and find alternative ways to dispose of yard waste when possible.

Code enforcement will be actively working to ensure properties are well-maintained, so please do your part in keeping Keiser clean. Also, remember not to put trash out before scheduled pickup days to help keep our streets and yards tidy.

Additionally, parking in the streets is prohibited by City Ordinance 2022-02. Keeping our roads clear is essential for emergency vehicles and helps reduce

the risk of accidents. Please use driveways or designated parking areas to avoid violations.

We also want to remind everyone to follow the speed limits in town. The speed limit on Main Street is 30 mph, and in residential areas, it is 15 mph. Please drive safely and be mindful of pedestrians and children playing outside.

Together, we can make Keiser a cleaner and safer place for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our city beautiful!



March 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 World Wildlife Day	4	5 Ash Wednesday	6 Nat'l. Oreo Day	7	8 Int'l. Women's Day
9 Daylight Savings	10 Nat'l. Napping Day	11	12	13 World Kidney Day	14 World Sleep Day	15
16 Water Bill Due	17 St. Patrick's Day Council Meeting	18	19	20 Start of Spring	21	22 World Water Day
23 Nat'l. Puppy Day	24	25 Int'l. Waffle Day	26	27 Cutoff Date	28	29
30 Nat'l. Doctor's Day	31					

City Fun Page

March Madness

L B V T R G D O U B L E D R I B B L E B
R B R A C K E T P B T B I V A W G W Z D
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Selection Sunday

Sweet Sixteen

Cinderella

Shot clock

Bracket

Tournament

Upset

Full-court press

Buzzer-beater

Elite Eight

Final Four

Three-pointer

Fast break

Seed

Double dribble

Championship

Free throw

Overtime

Rebound

Underdog

Contact Us



Scan Me...

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