



KEISER NEWS

2025

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

May Newsletter

Vol 25

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

April has been a busy and challenging month for the City of Keiser. With the heavy rains and storms we have experienced throughout the month, keeping the city clean, safe, and picked up has taken extra effort. We have had several trees come down, along with many limbs and scattered debris around town. Our city crews have been working hard to remove fallen trees and clean up the mess as quickly as possible. We appreciate your patience as we continue working to get everything cleared and restored. Along with storm cleanup, we have been focusing on improving drainage by identifying and cleaning out drainage ditches across the city to help keep water moving and reduce standing water issues. In addition, we are currently conducting a full audit of all city culverts to assess their condition. As problems are identified, we are actively working to clean out or repair culverts to ensure proper water flow.

There is also exciting progress being made with our sewer projects. The new Main Street Lift Station is scheduled to ship from the manufacturer on May 8th, and our contractor is hopeful that installation can begin before the end of May. This project is critical to strengthening our city's sewer infrastructure and helping to prevent the types of backups that can occur during heavy rains. In addition to the lift station, our city engineer continues to work on the overall sewer system replacement. Final engineering plans are being completed, and the necessary paperwork is being submitted to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) for review and approval. We are

hopeful that construction on the full sewer replacement will be able to begin before the end of the year, bringing major improvements to our community's infrastructure for decades to come.

Work is also progressing at Keiser City Park. We are moving closer to opening the bidding process for the installation of the new bike/walking track. Although the process has taken longer than we initially hoped, we remain on track to complete the walking trail this summer. Meanwhile, work has already begun on repairs to the park bathrooms, with a projected completion timeline of around six weeks, weather permitting. Contractors will also soon be returning to put the finishing touches on the newest playground equipment. This includes the installation of high-quality safety padding around the equipment, adding an extra layer of protection for our children as they play. To enhance the overall safety and security of the park, we are working to add additional lighting to deter vandalism and improve nighttime visibility. We are also proud to share that a grant application has been submitted to construct a 50'x200' asphalt parking area, which will make parking at the park much more accessible, including designated handicap parking spaces.

We are proud of the progress being made across Keiser, and we are grateful to all our residents for your continued support, patience, and encouragement. Together, we are working hard to keep Keiser moving forward and making it an even better place to live, work, and play.

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.

Disclaimer: The City of Keiser strives to ensure that all information published in this newsletter is accurate and up to date. However, errors or omissions may occur, and information is subject to change. The City of Keiser is not liable for any misprints, incorrect data, or reliance on the information contained in this publication.

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

Glenn Dunn III - Chief of Police

Summer will soon be here, and we are excited to share a few new programs and updates that will benefit our city!

Our Neighborhood Watch program is getting underway and will give us extra sets of eyes and ears throughout the community. This program will consist of Keiser citizens helping to watch for suspicious activity and working closely with the Keiser Police Department to keep our neighborhoods safe and informed.

We are also launching our Helmets For Heroes program, a fun and rewarding way to encourage bike safety for our children. Parents are invited to bring their child to City Hall to sign a safety pledge and receive a free bicycle helmet. When our officers see children wearing their helmets while riding, they'll hand out a special "ticket for being safe." These tickets can be brought back to City Hall and redeemed for candy or prizes. The Helmets For Heroes kickoff event will be held at City Hall on

Monday, May 12th starting at 9:00 a.m. — we hope to see you there!

In other news, the Keiser Police Department recently received a generous donation from the Mississippi County Sheriff's Office — four taser devices. These devices give our officers another less-than-lethal option for handling situations safely and effectively, helping us better protect both our community and our officers.

It is truly my blessing to lead such a dedicated group of officers as we work to strengthen and serve our community. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our programs and efforts to keep Keiser safe and thriving!.



Penny Wilbanks - Recorder/Financial Director

The Magic of Traveling:

Traveling is one of the most enriching experiences life has to offer. It opens your eyes to different cultures, introduces you to new perspectives, and teaches you lessons you could never learn in a classroom. Whether you're wondering through the cobblestone streets of a European village, hiking across vast landscapes, or simply exploring a neighboring city, travel has a way of expanding your mind and spirit.

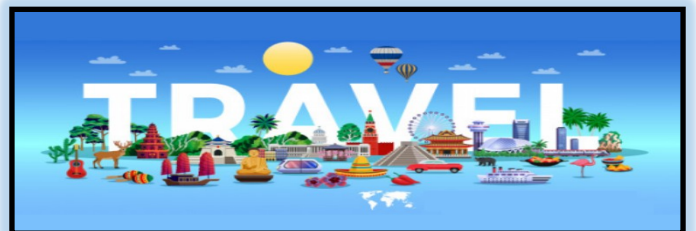
One of the greatest gifts of traveling is the connections you make. Meeting people from different backgrounds remind us that despite our differences, we share many of the same hopes, dreams, and challenges. These human connections often turn into lifelong friendships, creating memories that last well beyond the trip itself.

Travel also challenges you. Being outside your comfort zone; navigating unfamiliar languages, customs, or transportation; builds confidence and resilience. You discover

that you are capable of more than you ever imagined. Every misstep becomes part of a larger story you'll cherish later.

Moreover, traveling inspires creativity. New sights, sounds, and flavors stimulate your senses and refresh your mind. Many artists, writers, and entrepreneurs credit their best ideas for time spent abroad.

Ultimately, traveling isn't just about seeing new places; it's about seeing yourself in a new way. It's a reminder that the world is wide, beautiful, and full of possibility; and that there's always more to learn and explore. So, pack your bags and go on an adventure — THE WORLD IS WAITING.



Neal Brown - Director of Public Works

Welcome Back to the Team – Paul “Chum” Borden Joins Public Works as Full-Time Team Lead

We’re pleased to officially welcome Paul Borden—known around town by his nickname “Chum”—back to the City of Keiser as the newest full-time member of our Public Works Department. Paul has a long-standing relationship with the City, having previously served as a full-time Police Officer for the Keiser Police Department. His dedication to public service and commitment to the community made him a natural fit for our team once again.

After taking a short break from city service, Paul returned to the City of Keiser and began working part-time in the Public Works Department. It didn’t take long for his hard work, leadership, and prior experience to stand out. Following a successful training period and a clear display of initiative, he was promoted to the position of full-time Team Lead.

Paul also brings with him valuable experience in the field, having previously worked in the Public Works

Department for the Town of Etowah. This background has given him a solid understanding of what it takes to maintain critical city infrastructure and keep day-to-day operations running efficiently.

Outside of work, Paul enjoys spending quality time with his family, his girlfriend, and her two daughters. He’s also a true outdoorsman, often spending his free time hunting, fishing, and riding the scenic country backroads of Arkansas. Paul is one of four siblings, with two brothers and one sister, and shares his home with two loyal four-legged companions—Twix and Keiser.

His positive attitude, strong work ethic, and familiarity with Keiser make him a great addition to our Public Works crew. We are truly excited to have him back in the Keiser family, and we look forward to the energy and experience he brings to his role.

Please join us in welcoming Paul “Chum” Borden back to city service and congratulating him on his well-earned promotion to Team Lead!

Let’s Welcome Warmer Weather with a Cleaner Keiser

With warmer weather now upon us, it’s the perfect time for all of us to step up and take pride in the appearance of our homes and properties. A clean and well-kept community not only improves our own quality of life, but also plays a big role in attracting **new homeowners** and **potential investors** who may be considering Keiser as their future home or development site. First impressions matter—and together, we can ensure Keiser leaves a great one.

Let’s all do our part by keeping **lawns neatly mowed and landscaped**, **carports tidy**, and **unnecessary clutter picked up** around our homes. These small efforts go a long way in keeping our neighborhoods inviting and welcoming. It also sets a great example for our children and reflects our shared pride in the city we call home.

One important reminder: when mowing your lawn, please be mindful of **grass clippings blown into the**

street. These should be promptly removed, not just for appearance, but also for **safety**—especially for those riding bicycles or motorcycles. Loose grass can be slippery and create unnecessary hazards on our roadways.

A clean Keiser is a strong Keiser. Let’s work together to make sure our community continues to grow, shine, and be a place we’re all proud to call home.



Honoring the Heart of the Home: The History of Mother's Day

Mother's Day is more than just a date on the calendar—it is a heartfelt reminder to pause, reflect, and honor the women whose love, strength, and sacrifices have helped shape who we are. This special day, observed on the second Sunday in May, is dedicated to recognizing the immeasurable role mothers play in our lives, our families, and our communities. From comforting us in times of need to cheering us on through every success, mothers are the quiet force behind so many of life's milestones.

The history of Mother's Day in the United States dates back to the early 20th century and began with a woman named **Anna Jarvis**, who wanted to honor her own mother, **Ann Reeves Jarvis**. Ann was a devoted caregiver and community leader who organized "Mother's Day Work Clubs" in the 1850s to improve health and sanitation for families and care for wounded soldiers on both sides during the Civil War. After her mother passed away in 1905, Anna made it her mission to establish a day that would recognize and celebrate the contributions of mothers everywhere. Her tireless letter-writing campaign paid off in 1914, when **President Woodrow Wilson** signed a proclamation officially recognizing **Mother's Day** as a national holiday.

Originally, Mother's Day was intended to be a day of **personal celebration**, not commercialism. Anna Jarvis herself grew frustrated as the holiday evolved into a highly commercialized event filled with store-bought cards and generic gifts. Her vision was simple: a day to show **genuine appreciation** and **heartfelt gratitude** through personal gestures, handwritten notes, and acts of kindness that reflect the spirit of a mother's love.

Today, while flowers, chocolates, and gifts are still appreciated, the most meaningful tributes often come in the form of time and attention. Taking a few minutes to sit down and truly talk, share stories, or simply be present can mean more to a mother than anything bought from a store. Whether your mother is still with you or lives on in your heart, this is a time to reflect on the role she played in your life—her guidance, her strength, and the countless unseen sacrifices she made.

Mothers come in many forms—biological, adoptive, stepmothers, grandmothers, and even those women who step into maternal roles through mentorship, care, or support. Each of them deserves our respect and ad-

miration. **They are often the first to wake and the last to rest**, the ones who give when they have little left to give, and the ones who carry the emotional weight of an entire family without ever asking for recognition.

Mother's Day also serves as a time for healing. For some, this day brings bittersweet memories, especially for those who have lost their mothers or never had the relationship they hoped for. It's okay to grieve, to remember, and to find ways to honor their memory through acts of kindness, reflection, or by simply doing something they loved. Lighting a candle, visiting a grave, or making a favorite recipe can be comforting and meaningful ways to keep their spirit alive.

As a community, we are all strengthened by the presence and influence of mothers. Their ability to lead with compassion, nurture with patience, and love without condition creates a ripple effect that benefits everyone. When we honor our mothers, we also uphold the values they represent—**selflessness, devotion, and love**.

So this Mother's Day, take the time to say "thank you." Thank her for the meals made, the laundry folded, the hugs given, the worries eased, the wisdom shared, and the love shown—day in and day out. And if you can't say it in person, say it with a letter, a call, a prayer, or a memory.

Because no matter where we go in life, a part of us is always shaped by our mother's heart. And that is worth celebrating—not just in May, but every single day.



The History of Memorial Day: Honoring the Fallen

Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday of May, is a solemn national holiday dedicated to honoring the men and women who gave their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Its origins date back to the aftermath of the Civil War, a conflict that claimed more American lives than any other, and which led to the creation of national cemeteries across the country. In the spring of 1868, General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic called for a nationwide day of remembrance, then known as **Decoration Day**, to be held on May 30. Americans were encouraged to place flowers on the graves of Union soldiers, a tradition that quickly spread throughout the North and later, the South.

Over time, the meaning of the day expanded to include all American military personnel who died in service. Following World War I, the observance grew in significance as the nation mourned the fallen from global conflicts. In 1971, Memorial Day was officially recognized as a federal holiday and its ob-

servance moved to the last Monday in May to create a three-day weekend for many Americans.

Today, Memorial Day is marked with ceremonies at cemeteries and monuments, the placement of American flags on graves, and a national moment of remembrance at 3:00 p.m. local time. Communities across the country hold parades, and families often gather for picnics and barbecues—reminders of the freedoms earned through sacrifice. While it is often seen as the unofficial start of summer, at its heart, Memorial Day remains a day of deep respect and gratitude for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.



City Hall Hours



Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 4:45

Closed for Lunch from 12:00 - 1:00

Speed Limit on Keiser City Streets

The City of Keiser has made an important change to speed limits across town to improve safety for all residents. As a reminder, the speed limit in *all residential areas* is **15 miles per hour**. This is especially important in neighborhoods where children may be playing outside or riding their bikes, and where families are out walking or backing out of their driveways. Slowing down just a little can make a big difference in preventing accidents and keeping our neighborhoods safe.

At **15 miles per hour**, the total stopping distance—including average reaction time—is about **45 feet**. At **30 miles per hour**, that distance more than doubles to **nearly 120 feet**. These figures include the time it takes a driver to recognize a hazard and physically apply the brakes, followed by the distance needed for the car to come to a full stop. That extra distance at higher speeds can be the difference between stopping in time and a serious accident—especially in areas with children or limited visibility.

Main Street will be seeing a change. Although it previously had a speed limit of 30 mph, the City Council recognized that much of Main Street is lined with homes, and it is also home to the city library and the post office—two areas with regular foot traffic. After careful consideration, the **speed limit on Main Street has been reduced to 20**

mph. Along with this change, a **crosswalk will be painted in front of Keiser First Baptist Church**, right where the school bus drops off children attending Stepping Stones Daycare. This will help make crossing the street safer for our youngest citizens.

You've likely noticed **new speed bumps being installed on several city streets**. These have been placed in areas where speeding has been a recurring problem. The city has received numerous complaints about drivers going too fast, and these bumps are just one part of a broader effort to ensure that vehicles slow down in key locations.

Public safety is the city's top priority. These changes have been made to encourage responsible driving and to help prevent accidents before they happen. Please do your part by obeying all posted speed limits and driving cautiously throughout town. Let's work together to keep Keiser safe for everyone.



May 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Nat'l. Day of Prayer	2 World Tuna Day	3 Kentucky Derby
4 Star Wars Day	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 Nat'l. Nurses Day Nat'l. Teacher Day	7	8	9 Military Spouse Appreciation Day	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16 Water Bill Due	17 Armed Forces Day
18	19 Council Meeting	20	21	22	23 World Turtle Day	24 Nat'l. Brother Day
25	26 Memorial Day	27 Cutoff Date	28 Nat'l. Burger Day	29	30	31

Coloring



Contact Us

City Hall—870-526-2300 Email—cityofkeiser@gmail.com Mayor—rjc.cityofkeiser@gmail.com



Scan Me...

City Fun Page

May Events

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

Remembrance

Celebration

Graduation

Patriotism

Reflection

Sacrifice

Gardening

Sunshine

Honoring

Memorial

Blossom

Poppies

Parades

Mothers

Freedom

Renewal

Courage

Spring

Growth

Warmth

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