



# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY UPDATE

September 12, 2025

Adam J. Brown, City Manager

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What a great Parks tour we had on Monday with the Council and Parks Board. We have an amazing parks system thanks to our employees, council, committee, and community!

Speaking of Parks, I'm looking forward to finishing the Big Toy tomorrow morning and joining with my church for the service project at Keizer Rapids Park.

I think we would all agree it has been a sobering week. With the remembrance of 9/11 and the violence in Utah, we are reminded that freedom is precious and fragile.

**Adam's nightstand** - I recently finished *A Higher Call: An Incredible True Story of Combat and Chivalry in the War-Torn Skies of World War II*. It was a truly special story that left me in tears at the end. I highly recommend it if you want to hear a story of mercy amongst war enemies.

Because the author is speaking at ICMA next month I am now reading a book called *Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt*. It's a very apropos topic given the events of this week. The author, Arthur Brooks, talks about our need for civility in our political environments and gives us practical ways to be civil amidst disagreement. Its recommendations are very timely. I'm not done reading it yet, but I can already tell you I would recommend it to anyone, particularly for anyone engaged in government or politics. It should make for a very interesting keynote.

**Community Engagement** – I attended Chamber Greeters and Rotary this week. Chamber Greeters was at the City Hall Living Room and the presenter was CASA of Marion County. I'll be at the community service project at Keizer Rapids Park on Saturday.

**Website** – Our website team got our first look at the new website this week. I joined this meeting. It looked great. Training began for staff who will be editors to the webpage. The website team will also be reviewing the prototype and making corrections in pursuit of the October 7 launch.

**State Grant for Synthetic Turf** – I received and returned the paperwork from the state to initiate the intergovernmental agreement for the \$750,000 that Representative Mannix was able to garner for us in HB 5006. We can expect the grant agreement in the next few months.

**Community Survey** – I worked with our vendor POLCO for our community survey this week. I was able to get the Spanish translation of the survey as well as two years of their engage platform within our budgeted amount. The engage platform allows for real-time feedback

through polls, surveys, and live events. The community survey will be done every other year. I'm hoping to get this in front of you in October.

**Strategic Plan** – We are meeting with Melissa Martin, a member of our Budget Committee who has experience in survey work, to go over the potential questions in the community survey next week. We will use the survey to measure the success on our strategic goals.

**Economic Development** – Economic Development Advisor Eric Meurer and I did some legwork on the large triangle and are trying to assist another very big name to get to Keizer, even though it's not on our property. Rising tides lift all boats.

**Emergency Management** – I distributed the draft Emergency Operations Plan to staff for their first review. Also, Public Works Permit Specialist Lana Bremer-Kowalski and I created the agenda for our next Emergency Management Team meeting at the end of the month.

**City Artificial Intelligence Take Off** – Several of us here at City Hall started off with our new AI engine ProphecyGov. We will be testing it and our contractor will be continuing to add data as we go through it, and the AI engine will learn as we test it.

**Gold Star Family Memorial** – Good news! Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Chair Matt Lawyer got the go-ahead from Home Depot, so we will be able to order our lights and flag poles very soon. We were in a holding pattern for a little while. Once we get the lighting and flagpole bases, we can get to work on placement and electrical wiring and then get the slab poured around them.

## **Public Works**

### Parks & Facilities Division:

The contractor for the turf field phase 2 project has made little progress in the past couple of weeks. We will be following up with them about the project.

The contractor for the import fill project at Keizer Rapids Park has progressed nicely. It has been determined there is room for another 1,000 cubic yards of material at Keizer Rapids so the contractor will be performing this additional work.

The volunteer Big Toy painting project is Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Personalized pickets for the Big Toy fence are still available for purchase for \$50.00 each.

A large volunteer group will be at Keizer Rapids Park on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> to perform trail enhancement and maintenance work.

### Streets/Stormwater Division:

The annual catch basin inspection program is complete. Staff will be cleaning the identified catch basins in preparation of the fall rains.

A new pump for the fountains at River Road and Lockhaven has been purchased and will be installed soon.

Tree removal for the Verda Lane improvement project is scheduled to begin the week of September 22nd, 2025. ODOT's contractor will be performing the work in the allowed tree removal calendar window.

#### Environmental & Technical Division:

Staff is preparing the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) permit and the National Pollutant Discharge Facility (NPDES) permit annual reports.

The next Trashy Tuesday event is September 16<sup>th</sup> at Keizer Rapids park and will be focusing efforts near the gravel bar along the river.

#### Water Division:

Staff is working to schedule divers to clean and inspect our 3 reservoirs. This is done every 5 years to ensure the integrity of the tanks and assist with water quality.

We will be having the pump at the Wiessner site pulled and inspected next week. This is the first of 3 well pumps we plan to pull and inspect this fiscal year.

### **Police**

#### Community Events

The Keizer Police Department is co-hosting a Faith & Blue event with Crossroads Fellowship Church. The event will be on October 11, 2025, from 11AM to 3PM at the Crossroads Fellowship Church located at 4505 River Rd N. We are participating in this National Event, which facilitates safer and stronger communities by engaging law enforcement officers and local residents through the connections of faith-based organizations.

#### Patrol Division

Officers were dispatched to a crash involving a one-year-old who had been hit. Officers arrived and discovered medics were already on scene. The infant was transported to the Salem Hospital for treatment. An investigation was conducted, and it was determined the crash occurred in a residential driveway. Officers conducted follow-up and determined the infant was in stable condition. It was determined no crime was committed. Please keep accidents like this in mind when you are driving.

Officers responded to a business parking lot due to multiple reports of approximately one hundred vehicles racing. As officers arrived, vehicles began dispersing. Officers attempted to identify the organizer of the "car meet", but were unsuccessful as it was reported they had left the area.

Officers responded to what was initially reported as a vehicle crashed into a tree. After investigating the crash, it was determined that the driver swerved to avoid what they perceived to be a vehicle coming head-on towards them due to the other vehicles' bright headlights. The driver ultimately left the roadway, struck a tree and damaged a utility box.

Officers responded to a reported domestic disturbance at a residence. A female at the location reported an individual locked her in her room for over an hour and took her phone. After investigating, officers determined the room in question had a lock on the inside and the female's phone was located in the room. Officers also determined the female was highly intoxicated. No arrests were made.

Officers responded to a reported assault at a residence. Officers made contact with a male who reported a male hit them in the head with a shovel. The male provided a brief description of the suspect and was transported to the Salem Hospital for medical treatment. This investigation is ongoing.

An officer responded to the Keizer Rapids Park due to the report of a firearm being located there. It was determined the firearm was not entered as stolen and it was taken into police custody.

Officers responded to an area due to the report of two individuals using flashlights and walking around the outside of a vacant residence. Additionally, it was reported the individuals were seen entering a trailer parked in the driveway. Officers arrived and contacted two males. It was determined that the males were trespassing, and a theft occurred. It was determined one of the males had warrants for his arrest. One male was issued criminal citations for theft in the third degree and trespass in the second degree. The second male was transported to the Marion County Jail for the warrants, possession of a controlled substance, theft in the third degree, and trespass in the second degree.

An officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle. After making contact with the driver, a DUI investigation was conducted. During the investigation, a concealed firearm was located in the vehicle. The driver was taken into custody for driving under the influence of intoxicants and unlawful possession of a firearm.

An officer observed a large amount of trash and a tent set up at the front steps of a business. The officer was able to contact the male responsible for the mess. A criminal citation was issued for trespass in the second degree and offensive littering.

Officers responded to a location due to the report of an 8-year-old boy having been menaced by a male with a firearm. Officers arrived, conducted an investigation, and determined no crime occurred.

Officers responded to a reported domestic disturbance at a residence. Officers determined a male at the location violated his bench probation by having contact with a female there. The male was taken into custody and transported to the Marion County Jail.

Officers responded to the report of two suspicious individuals in the area. As officers arrived, the two individuals began to flee the area on foot. As this was happening, a witness informed an officer the two individuals broke into a vehicle. Officers were able to locate one of the individuals, who was determined to be male juvenile. The juvenile was taken into custody for theft in the third degree and unlawful entry into a motor vehicle. The juvenile was later released to a guardian. Investigation is ongoing.

Criminal Investigation Division (CID):

Detectives are working on multiple child abuse reports coming in through DHS cross reports, which normally rise in numbers with the start of the school year. These cases are handled by both school and general detectives, as well as patrol officers.

In the late evening hours of Tuesday, September 10th, school detectives and a patrol officer worked as a team to handle what was initially reported as a possible school threat. The patrol officer was able to determine there were no active threats.