



CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY UPDATE

April 25, 2025

Adam J. Brown, City Manager

Community Engagement – I attended Chamber Greeters this week.

Synthetic Turf Fields – The bids for Phase II of the Synthetic Turf Fields came in this week under the budget. This phase adds bathrooms, concession, pedestrian facilities and food truck pads to the complex. The budget was \$1.27 million the lowest bid was below \$1.185 million. The applications are being reviewed with regard to being responsive and responsible. I have not seen the construction schedule, so I don't know the timing yet. We will hopefully be bringing this for your approval in May.

Camera Plan – Assistant City Manager Tim Wood and I met with Lt Nelson and Sgt Avetisyan this week to discuss our city camera system. There have been some requests for additional cameras. Given the budget constraints we are under, we have to be very judicious about how we grow our system. Keizer Police Department will develop a priority list for cameras in our parks as well as license plate readers. We want to follow the data, meaning we want to address areas with the highest need. With that priority list we can chip away at it a little each year.

Gold Star Memorial Grant – It is now official that we were awarded a grant to finish the Gold Star Family Memorial. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission approved it at their meeting on Tuesday. We still need some additional money for the monument.

I used our City Engineer AKS to get an opinion on the orientation of the memorial. They were able to quickly mock up the monument in a 3D modeling software and rotate the sun around it to show us the shadows. Ultimately, we decided on a north-south orientation.

Mark Callier organized the excavation for the footer. It was finished on Wednesday. He is expecting the rebar to be put in on Monday and the footer to be poured tentatively on Tuesday.

Bring Your Child to Work Day – We had great participation in bring your child to work day on Thursday. Our public works team has carried the load of this program for quite a few years. This year, the Executive Leadership Team stepped up to help out. We had a lot of kids in the building. I don't know about the kids, but we had some fun!

Utah Property – Public Works Director Bill Lawyer, Chief Copeland, Lt. Nelson, and I took a walk over to the Utah Property to talk about what we need to do to get the shop ready for evidence storage. It will have to be secured. Locks, climate control, and cameras. Council will

need to talk about the property. It may be worth having someone look at the possibilities and make a plan for the property and how it fits in with the rest of city hall.

Emergency Management – I attended the Marion County Emergency Management Committee this week.

Leadership – I offered two opportunities for new employees to be training on our Leadership Philosophy. We had 9 new employees participate in the 2 ½ hour training I gave. We had really good conversations together.

Sister City – Mayor Takechi was re-elected in Iyo, Japan, the community we are working on a sister city relationship with us. Chuck Ito would really like us to have a contingent go to Japan in the fall. Food for thought, let me know if that is something you might individually be interested in. Our Sister City organization is in the process of coming together so we have not had much time to fundraise for a trip.

Cameras – Lt Nelson, Sgt. Avetisyan, Tim Wood and I discussed our camera program. Keizer Police Department is going to make a priority list of the most beneficial sites for us, whether that be parks or license plate readers.

Planning

Building permits have been busy this week. We have had several new applications come in for some new homes and duplexes in a recently recorded subdivision on Oppek. The building permit for a proposed mixed-use building located at the corner of River Rd and Churchdale is very close to being able to be issued.

Code Enforcement remains busy responding to complaints and working with property owners to remedy issues. We received a couple of new complaints regarding the roadside fruit vendors this week and Code Compliance Officer Ben Crosby is trying to educate those folks on what is and isn't allowed in the City. Mr. Crosby continues to respond to concerns with homeless camps, and today we had an individual in an RV trailer parked near the Heritage Center who had hooked up to their power. They indicated they had received permission from the Heritage Center but Mr. Crosby talked with them first thing this morning and let them know that our City Hall complex was not a viable location for them and made attempts to connect them to more appropriate resources.

We met with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) staff regarding the Transportation System Plan (TSP) update project and have a kickoff/negotiation meeting Monday with City Staff (Planning Director Shane Witham and Public Works Director Bill Lawyer), ODOT staff, and the Consultant Team (DKS associates) to start ironing out details on the scope of work and TSP project and budget.....It's really happening!!

I have been busy responding to questions about the Ila-Vey property on River Road after the article in KeizerTimes ran last week. The developer indicated to me that they are hoping to have some information to us by mid-May to get their application materials submitted.

Planning Commission has been moved to May 21st for next month in order to accommodate notice requirements – so that Planning Commission can hold a public hearing for some proposed text amendments.

Public Works

Parks & Facilities Division

Repairs to the damaged fence and gates for the pickleball courts is nearly complete. The contractor was not pleased with one of the gates and is having it rebuilt. The windscreen have been re-installed for the summer.

Excavation of the foundation for the Gold Star Memorial at Ryan J. Hill Memorial Park was completed this week by volunteers.

The seating areas of the amphitheater were leveled out and re-seeded in preparation of the summer concert series.

Water Division

The annual flushing project is complete and staff are back to normal day shift schedules.

The City of Salem is planning to do some testing at our Wiessner site to evaluate the volume of water available for them if needed in the future.

Streets/Stormwater Division

Staff coordinated with a paving contractor to repair a low spot on Lockhaven Dr. N near Newberg Drive. We could not identify a reason for the low spot and will keep an eye on it over the next few months.

Staff is also investigating suspicious sink holes on Willapa Ct.

The annual resurfacing project bids were received and opened Thursday April 17th, 2025. The lowest bid came in well under the engineers estimate.

Environmental & Technical Division

An apparent hack into DEQ's system will delay the issuance of our new WPCF permit.

The Environmental Program Coordinator position is open for applications and closes on Monday April 28th, 2025.

The plants for the rehabilitation of the swales at the Civic Center complex have been planted.

Tree inventory volunteers needed, visit <http://www.keizer.org/TreeInventory> to sign up.

Trashy Tuesday dates and sites have been established, they are;

June 17- Country Glen Park and Labish ditch

July 15- Wallace House

August 19-Clear Lake School area and Park

September 16- KRP (parking lots and hiking trails-dog poop focus on trails)

Police

Upcoming Community Event

We will be attending an event at Plaza Morelia on April 30th from 5PM-7PM. We are looking forward to interacting with not only the staff at the business but community members as well!

Patrol Division

Officers responded to a location due to the report of an individual walking around with a firearm. Officers located individuals believed to be involved and one was later taken into custody. Investigation is on-going.

One of our officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle, but the vehicle took off. With the assistance of CRU Detectives, we were able to relocate the vehicle and coordinate a response. Ultimately, the driver fled from the vehicle on foot but was later taken into custody.

Our officers served a restraining order to an individual this week. The next day, it was reported the individual assaulted the protected party. The individual left on foot, but was later located and taken into custody by officers.

Officers responded to a location due to a reported assault. Officers arrived and after investigating the incident, a male juvenile was taken into custody and transported to Marion County Juvenile Detention.

Officers responded to a location due to a reported disturbance. After investigating, it was determined a road rage incident occurred, resulting in both driver's getting out of their vehicles and confronting each other. One of the drivers was taken into custody.

Officers responded to a business due to a report of the front door appearing to be damaged. Officers determined the front door was shattered and unlawful entry was made into the business. This investigation is on-going.

Officers responded to a reported "home invasion" at an apartment. It was reported the suspects had left five minutes prior. This investigation is on-going.

One of our officers located a stolen U-Haul truck. Contact was made with the driver and passenger. Ultimately, both individuals were taken into custody.

One of our officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle, but it began to elude him. The driver later pulled into business parking lot where he was taken into custody.

Criminal Investigation Division (CID):

A detective assisted patrol by following up on a case where a two-year-old fell out of a window. The child is expected to survive.

Detectives conducted follow-up on an incident reported as a “home invasion”. This investigation is on-going.

The computer forensics detective is continuing his investigation of a large ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) case. The detective is applying for a search warrant, while preparing to apply for another one in a similar case.

Detectives continue to work on multiple other child and sex abuse cases, while also conducting employment applicant background investigations.

Community Response Unit (CRU):

Our CRU Detectives assisted in locating a vehicle that eluded an officer who attempted to conduct a traffic stop on it. Our CRU Detectives were able to follow the vehicle, providing updates, to ensure a coordinated response. Ultimately, the driver fled from the vehicle on foot but was later taken into custody.

One of our CRU Detectives is assisting patrol officers by completing a search warrant on a backpack. The investigation is on-going.

Traffic Safety Unit (TSU):

Our Traffic Safety Officer handled several speeding complaints, dealt with several abandoned vehicles, and assisted patrol as needed throughout the week. He has been working additional hours for the National Distracted Driving month of April to educate and enforce the use of cell phones while driving.

Property and Evidence Unit

We welcomed our new Property and Evidence Specialist II this week.