



KEISER NEWS

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

2024

December Newsletter

Vol 20

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

The City of Keiser is thrilled to announce a transformative \$3,264,947 grant and \$1,088,316 loan from the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission (ANRC). This significant funding will allow us to address long-standing issues with our aging sewer system, laying the foundation for a stronger, more sustainable community. These funds will directly support the replacement of critical infrastructure, including the lift stations on Jefferson and Poplar Streets. This effort builds upon the progress made earlier this year when we successfully replaced the lagoon lift station. Additionally, the Main Street lift station, currently on order, is expected to be installed by early 2025, ensuring the system operates more reliably and efficiently.

A vital component of this project is an in-depth review of our sewer lines, utilizing the video footage from the recent sewer televising project conducted earlier this year. This detailed inspection will allow us to identify portions of the system that remain in good condition, such as the 800 feet of PVC pipe installed several years ago in the Circle, which is anticipated to still be in excellent shape. By isolating and focusing on the damaged sections, we can ensure the project is cost-effective and minimizes unnecessary work.

The damaged sections of the sewer system will be replaced using an advanced technique known as "Pipe Bursting." This method reduces the need for extensive excavation, making the process more efficient and less disruptive to residents. Contractors will dig holes at manholes between sections of pipe and thread a large cable through the existing sewer line. This cable will be connected to new PVC pipe, which will then be

pulled into place using hydraulic equipment, replacing the old pipe entirely. The new pipe will connect seamlessly to the manholes, and homeowners' service lines will be reconnected to the updated system. Additionally, all sewer manholes will either be replaced or renovated to eliminate infiltration, ensuring the system remains watertight and durable.

This project represents a monumental leap forward for Keiser. For years, our sewer problems have hindered growth and limited our ability to move forward with key community initiatives. With this funding, we can finally resolve these challenges, paving the way for development and enhancing the quality of life for our residents. The improvements will not only address current issues but also provide a reliable sewer system that supports future growth and sustainability.

The next steps in this journey include finalizing paperwork, securing necessary bonds, and bidding the project to contractors. Once the contractors are selected and the plans are approved, we anticipate construction to begin by mid-summer 2025. During this time, we will work diligently to ensure the project is completed efficiently and with minimal disruption to the community.

This investment in our sewer system is a game-changer for Keiser, unlocking opportunities that were previously unattainable due to infrastructure limitations. As we embark on this transformative journey, we encourage all residents to stay informed and engaged. Updates will be shared regularly as the project progresses. Thank you for your continued support as we work to build a brighter future for Keiser!

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

Happening Around Town - Keiser Update



Maintaining and Enhancing Your Property: A Community Effort

The City of Keiser is committed to maintaining a clean, attractive, and welcoming environment for all who live, work, and visit our town. Keeping your property in good condition not only enhances its value but also contributes to the overall appearance and pride of our community. With this in mind, the Keiser Police Department (KPD) is actively reviewing properties throughout town and will be contacting homeowners or landlords whose properties need attention.

City Ordinance 2024-01 serves as our guideline for maintaining the appearance of Keiser. This ordinance outlines the standards we must all uphold to ensure our community remains a place that residents are proud to call home and that others aspire to join. By addressing issues such as overgrown lawns, debris, or neglected structures, we can collectively enhance the beauty and livability of our town.

Your help and cooperation in this effort are essential. Taking pride in your property not only benefits you but also inspires your neighbors to do the same, creating a ripple effect that strengthens the sense of community. Together, we can make Keiser a place that people want to live in—a town that reflects the care and commitment of its residents.

Thank you for doing your part to keep Keiser beautiful and vibrant. If you have questions or need clarification about the ordinance or property maintenance expectations, please contact City Hall for assistance. Let's work together to make Keiser shine!

Keiser's Commitment to a Safe Community

The City of Keiser is dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of our residents. Currently, we have two full-time police officers serving our community, and we are excited to announce the recent addition of a part-time officer who also works with the Mississippi County Sheriff's Office. To further enhance our police force, we plan to hire a second part-time officer early next year,

allowing us to expand our coverage and presence. Additionally, we will be adding a few Auxiliary Officers to fill in where needed. If you are interested in becoming an Auxiliary Officer, please contact Chief Hamilton for more information.

Looking ahead, we are also committed to implementing a Neighborhood Watch program in 2025. This initiative has been on our wish list for some time, and we are excited to make it a reality next year. Together, these efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to creating a safe, secure, and united community in Keiser.

Keiser Police Department to Launch Child ID Kit Initiative

The Keiser Police Department is excited to announce an important upcoming initiative: the implementation of Child ID Kits, including fingerprints and DNA samples. One of the most devastating situations a parent can face is the loss or abduction of a child. In such emergencies, every second counts, and having essential information readily available can make all the difference.

Child ID Kits will provide parents with a secure way to store critical information such as recent photographs, fingerprints, accurate physical descriptions, and DNA samples. These details can greatly assist law enforcement in locating a missing child quickly and efficiently. Here in Keiser, we take the safety of our children very seriously, and this program reflects our unwavering commitment to their well-being.

To ensure accessibility, we will be offering several workshops where parents can create these ID kits free of charge. Stay tuned for announcements regarding dates and times. This initiative is just one more way we're working to protect our kids, who are the future of our community. Let's work together to safeguard them and give families peace of mind. For more information, contact Chief Hamilton at the Keiser Police Department.

FBC Singing Christmas Tree

The beloved Singing Christmas Tree is making its return this year! FBC Keiser presents "The Ornament" from Friday, December 13, through Sunday, December 15, 2024. Evening performances will be held at 7 PM each night, with a special matinee at 3 PM on Sunday. Don't miss this festive tradition!

Jerry Hamilton - Chief of Police

It's that time of year again. All the "get-togethers", awesome meals, and of course all the presents. I just want everyone to remember that crime happens no matter where you live, even Keiser. Recently we have had a few cars that were left unlocked and some items were taken out of them. With that in mind, please lock your vehicles when you get out of them. Also, do not leave valuable items inside a vehicle, especially in sight. I have been in law enforcement for quite some time and worked investigations most of that, and out of the hundreds of car break in cases I've worked, I can only remember one of those cars that actually had a window broken out, and that was because there was a valuable item left laying in the front seat. Most thieves want an easy take, so they are looking for an unlocked door. I know people work really hard on their Christmas trees and want them to be seen, but it's not recommended to display the many presents that are under it. Don't put boxes of expensive and sought after items on the side of the road where they can be seen, break your boxes down and place them in bags. Lastly, please do not post on Facebook or other social media that you will be out of town for the next few days; post your pictures after you're back home or after the holidays. I know that in a perfect world we shouldn't have to worry about things like that, but unfortunately it's something we have to do. If you hear of any illegal or prowling activities, please bring that information to me, to Officer Borden, or to City Hall. Happy Holidays and may God bless you all.



Penny Wilbanks - Recorder/Financial Director



Officer Paul Borden

I, Paul Borden, as a police officer for the City of Keiser, will set off for the Academy in January. As a child, it has always been a dream of mine to become a police officer. Through the years, I've gotten to see my brother, some friends and other family members become officers; being around them made me want to follow my dream. Now that I get to live my dream, I will do so to the best of my ability; it's my calling. I want to service the City of Keiser as long as I can. I want to help Keiser grow into something. I want to get involved with this younger generation, and show let them know that no matter the situation they are in, they can always come to me. I have talked with a few people around Keiser about something for the youth. I want to do something for the community that will give the kids a place they can come to after school or on weekends. This can help the kids to unwind or even just get them off the streets. I want to be there to talk with them about lifetime goals, things they want to chance in life, and show them that we, as police officers, aren't always the bad guys. It's my duty to do my best and protect the citizens of Keiser. It's my duty to help make it

the safest place for the older generations, but also the younger generation to grow and raise a family. I have met some nice people here in Keiser since I have become a police officer. So, if you see me out and just want to say hey, or welcome me here, I'd be glad to meet you, and tell you that it's my honor to here; to serve with the best of my ability as I possibly can. Thank you for allowing me to be a big part of this community.

Officer Borden



Helmet Hero Project: Promoting Safety and Building Community Trust

The City of Keiser is thrilled to announce the launch of the **Helmet Hero Project**, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at promoting bike safety, protecting our children, and strengthening relationships between the Keiser Police Department (KPD) and the community. This program, designed with families in mind, encourages kids to wear helmets while riding bikes, scooters, skateboards, and other wheeled equipment. Through a combination of education, engagement, and fun incentives, the Helmet Hero Project is not just about safety—it's about building trust and creating a positive bond between law enforcement and the citizens of Keiser.

The program begins with the **Helmet Pledge**, a promise that children make to always wear their helmets, follow the rules of the road, and encourage their friends to do the same. Each child who participates will receive a pledge card as a symbol of their commitment to safety. To make it even more meaningful, officers may co-sign the card, reinforcing the importance of this promise and fostering a connection with the children they serve.

To recognize and encourage kids who uphold their pledge, the KPD will actively look for children wearing helmets while riding. When spotted, these children will receive a **"Caught Being Safe" Ticket**, celebrating their smart decision to wear a helmet. Each ticket can be redeemed at City Hall for small prizes such as treats, toys, or fun items kids will enjoy. These tickets will also serve as entries into a grand prize raffle at the end of the year, where lucky winners could receive a new bike, gift cards, or other exciting rewards. This ongoing recognition ensures that kids feel encouraged and rewarded for their positive actions.

To further support the community, the Helmet Hero Project will host educational events. These sessions will teach children how to properly fit and wear their helmets, along with essential bike safety tips and the importance of being aware of their surroundings. Understanding the financial barriers some families may face, the City of Keiser will provide free helmets (while supply lasts) to all participating children, ensuring every child has access to this vital safety gear. Helmets will come in a variety of colors and designs, making them fun and appealing for kids to wear.

The Helmet Hero Project is more than just a safety initiative; it's a cornerstone of the KPD's **community policing strategy**, which focuses on creating meaningful, non-

enforcement interactions between officers and the community. By actively engaging with children and families, the program builds trust, strengthens bonds, and shows the community that law enforcement is here to protect and support them. Officers will play an active role in fitting helmets, hosting safety sessions, and rewarding children for their efforts, helping to create positive experiences that will leave a lasting impression.

Community partnerships are another critical component of the Helmet Hero Project. Local businesses, and organizations are coming together to support this effort by funding helmets, providing prizes, and spreading awareness about the program. These partnerships amplify the program's reach and demonstrate the city's collective commitment to the safety and well-being of its children.

The Helmet Hero Project is a reflection of Keiser's dedication to protecting its youngest residents while fostering a sense of unity and collaboration across the community. By prioritizing the safety and well-being of our children, we are not only helping to prevent injuries but also creating an environment where families feel supported and valued.

We invite everyone in Keiser to join us in making this program a success. Whether it's through encouraging your children to participate, volunteering at events, or simply cheering on the kids who are making smart safety choices, your involvement matters. Together, we can ensure that every child in Keiser rides safe, stays safe, and feels proud to be a Helmet Hero.

Let's make the Helmet Hero Project a cornerstone of safety and trust in Keiser, proving that when we work together, we can create a stronger, safer, and more connected community for all.

More information to follow soon on the start date for this initiative.



History of Christmas

Christmas is one of the most beloved holidays in the United States, but its history is as colorful as the twinkling lights we see during the season. Long before it became the celebration we know today, Christmas had a more humble and even controversial beginning.

In the early days of the U.S., Christmas wasn't widely celebrated. In fact, the Puritans in New England banned it in the 1600s, believing it had no place in a religious society. Over time, however, traditions from Europe began to take root, such as gift-giving, caroling, and decorating evergreen trees. By the 19th century, Christmas started to look more like the holiday we recognize today. In 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant declared it a federal holiday, cementing its importance in American culture.

In small towns like Keiser, Arkansas, Christmas celebrations have always had a special charm. Long before there were colorful LED lights or inflatable Santa decorations, folks in Keiser marked the holiday with simple, heartfelt traditions. Families gathered to share meals, exchange homemade gifts, and attend church services. Children eagerly awaited treats like candy canes or oranges, which were considered luxuries back then.

Over the years, Keiser has embraced the Christmas spirit in big and small ways. Community events like parades, lighting ceremonies, and visits from Santa have brought neighbors together

to celebrate. Churches continue to play an important role, hosting nativity plays and candlelight services that remind us of the true meaning of the season.

Today, Christmas in Keiser is a blend of old and new traditions. From families decorating their homes to the city organizing festive activities, the holiday brings joy and togetherness to our town. As we look back at how Christmas has evolved, it's clear that the heart of the holiday remains the same: love, generosity, and community.

May this Christmas season bring joy to your family and fill Keiser with the warmth of the holidays!



City Hall Hours



Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 4:45

Closed for Lunch from 12:00 - 1:00

Building Keiser's Future: Pride, Progress, and Growth

The City of Keiser is proud to announce the release of our **Strategic Plan: 2025–2035**, a forward-thinking roadmap that outlines our goals and vision for the next decade. This comprehensive plan is now available on our website, and we encourage every resident to read it. By understanding the direction we are heading as a city, you can join us in working together toward a brighter, more prosperous future.

We are excited to share that we have already achieved one of the critical goals outlined in our plan: securing enough funding to stabilize our sewer infrastructure. For years, aging sewer systems have been a significant challenge, limiting growth and posing risks to our environment. Thanks to a combination of grants, loans, and strategic partnerships, we are now equipped to begin addressing these issues head-on. This milestone is not just about repairing pipes—it's about laying the groundwork for Keiser's growth and development. With stabilized infrastructure, our city can support new subdivisions, attract businesses, and provide a reliable foundation for the future.

As we prepare for this growth, it is vital to focus on making Keiser an attractive and welcoming place for visitors, potential new homeowners, and businesses. First impressions matter, and a clean, well-kept town speaks volumes about the pride we take in our community. It sends a powerful message: **Keiser is a community that cares, invests in itself, and is ready for the future.** This starts with each of us taking a closer look at our own properties and committing to making improvements where needed.

Keeping your lawn mowed and trimmed not only enhances the appearance of your home but also contributes to a sense of order and care throughout the neighborhood. Removing debris, such as old equipment, broken furniture, or clutter, from yards or driveways not only beautifies your property but also eliminates potential hazards. Repairing fences, cleaning up overgrown bushes, and adding small touches like fresh paint or flowers can transform the look and feel of a property. These small efforts, when multiplied across the community, create a noticeable and positive change that benefits everyone.

It's also important to remember that our streets, sidewalks, and public spaces are an extension of our individual properties. Picking up litter, keeping curbs and sidewalks clean, and ensuring that garbage cans are properly stored can make a significant difference in how Keiser is perceived by visitors. If every resident pitches in, even small improvements can accumulate into a community-wide transformation, helping to create an environment where people want to live, work, and invest.

Beyond the aesthetic benefits, taking pride in our properties also has a practical impact. Well-maintained homes and neighborhoods increase property values and attract prospective buyers who are looking for a safe, welcoming place to raise a family. Clean streets and inviting surroundings also help to attract new businesses, which look for vibrant and organized communities when deciding where to establish themselves. By improving our surroundings, we are not just enhancing the quality of life for current residents—we are laying the foundation for future growth and opportunity in Keiser.

The responsibility for this transformation doesn't lie solely with individuals. The city will be doing its part through code enforcement, park improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and enhanced community services. However, a community is only as strong as its residents, and every effort matters. Let's make Keiser a shining example of what can be achieved when we all work together to take pride in our properties and surroundings.

To support this effort, our Code Enforcement team will be working diligently over the coming months to identify areas in need of improvement. Their role is not to criticize but to help ensure that every property reflects the pride we have in our city. You can do your part by taking a fresh look at your property and making any necessary improvements. Together, we can create a town that we are proud to call home—one that draws people in and makes them want to stay.

Our Strategic Plan also highlights other exciting initiatives, including enhancing public safety, revitalizing our park, developing new subdivisions, and addressing dilapidated properties. These efforts are all interconnected and aim to transform Keiser into a thriving, vibrant community. But none of this is possible without your support. Every resident plays a vital role in shaping Keiser's future, and we invite you to join us on this journey.

We encourage you to visit our website and read the **City of Keiser Strategic Plan: 2025–2035** in full. As you explore the plan, think about how you can contribute to its success. Whether it's participating in community events, volunteering for local projects, or simply keeping your property in excellent condition, your actions make a difference.

Let's work together to build a brighter future for Keiser—a future filled with opportunity, growth, and pride in the community we call home. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to making Keiser the best it can be.

Winter Is Coming: Tips for Staying Safe and Prepared

As winter approaches, it's crucial to take proactive steps to protect your home, prepare your vehicle, and ensure you and your family stay safe during bad weather. A few simple preparations now can save you from costly repairs, dangerous situations, and unnecessary stress later.

Start with your home. Frozen pipes are a common winter problem, but you can prevent them by insulating exposed pipes in attics, basements, or crawl spaces. Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses, and consider shutting off the water supply to outdoor spigots. On especially cold nights, let your faucets drip to keep water flowing and reduce the risk of freezing. Check weather stripping and caulking around doors and windows to seal out drafts, and install heavier curtains for added insulation. Test your heating system to ensure it's in good working condition—don't forget to replace furnace filters for better efficiency and cleaner air. If you use space heaters, always follow safety guidelines: keep them at least three feet away from flammable materials and never leave them unattended. Stock up on supplies like rock salt, sand, shovels, and ice scrapers to stay prepared for snow and ice. Make sure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are installed and have fresh batteries; these are critical for safety, especially if you're using fireplaces or portable heaters.

Your vehicle also needs attention to handle the challenges of winter driving. Start by checking your tires for proper tread depth and pressure—low temperatures can cause tire pressure to drop. Consider switching to winter tires if you live in an area prone to snow and ice. Have your battery tested, as cold weather can reduce its efficiency. Top off essential fluids, including antifreeze, engine oil, and windshield washer fluid rated for freezing temperatures. Check that your windshield wipers are in good condition and replace them if needed. Assemble an emergency kit for your car, including blankets, water, non-perishable snacks, jumper cables, a flashlight, extra batteries, a first aid kit, a small shovel, and a phone charger. It's also a good idea to keep a bag of

sand or kitty litter in your car to provide traction if you get stuck.

Driving in winter conditions requires extra caution and preparation. Always check weather forecasts and road conditions before heading out, especially for longer trips. Slow down, increase your following distance, and avoid sudden braking or sharp turns to prevent skidding on icy roads. Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid freezing in the fuel lines and to ensure you have enough fuel if delays occur. If you get stranded, stay with your vehicle—it offers shelter and is easier for rescuers to locate. Run your engine sparingly to stay warm, but make sure the exhaust pipe is clear of snow to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

In addition to preparing your home and car, take steps to ensure you're ready for emergencies. Create a contact list with numbers for local utilities, roadside assistance, and emergency services. Know how to shut off your home's water and gas supply in case of a burst pipe or other emergency. For weather updates, consider signing up for alerts through local news outlets, weather apps, or government services.

If you need assistance with winterizing your home or vehicle or want more tips on staying safe this winter, don't hesitate to contact City Hall. Together, we can ensure that everyone in Keiser is prepared for the season. By taking these steps now, you can enjoy a safer, warmer, and more comfortable winter. Let's work together to keep Keiser ready for whatever winter may bring!



Christmas in Keiser



December 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 World AIDS Day	2 Cyber Monday	3	4 Nat'l Cookie Day	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance
8	9	10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13 Nat'l Cocoa Day	14
15 Bill of Rights Day	16 <i>Water Bill Due</i> <i>Council Meeting</i>	17	18	19	20	21 Start of Winter
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28 Nat'l Espresso Day
29	30 <i>Cutoff Date</i>	31 New Year's Eve				

City Fun Page

CHRISTMAS

A Z J O I I P T R E I N D E E R F E L F
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Celebration

Mistletoe

Nativity

Carols

Santa

Candy

Ornaments

Reindeer

Family

Wreath

Sleigh

Snow

Stockings

Rudolph

Lights

Peace

Tinsel

Gifts

Tree

Joy

Elf



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