



KEISER NEWS

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

2025

August Newsletter

Vol 28

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

Over the past several weeks, Keiser has received a significant amount of rainfall, far above our typical average for this time of year. While we're thankful for the much-needed moisture, the volume and frequency of these rains have caused **chronic flooding in several areas of our community**—especially in neighborhoods with older or inadequate drainage infrastructure.

One area hit particularly hard has been **the Circle**, where heavy water accumulation has led to serious and repeated drainage issues, making daily life difficult for residents and creating long-term wear on streets and property. We are proud that the City of Keiser received a **\$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** to address this very issue. Plans are being finalized now, and **we hope to begin drainage improvements before the end of the year**. This project will involve reshaping ditches, replacing or enlarging culverts, and improving stormwater flow to help prevent future flooding in the area.

Beyond the Circle, city workers have been working diligently to identify and address **dozens of clogged culverts and ditches across town**, many of which have been contributing to localized flooding. Some of these culverts are on city property, while others are located on private residential lots. In many cases, they are completely blocked with years of sediment, roots, or debris—severely limiting water flow and causing water to back up into streets and yards.

To tackle this problem, the City has already **begun clearing blocked culverts** and has **renting a mini excavator** to clean out

ditches and restore water flow in the worst-affected areas. Please be cautious when driving or walking near this equipment. Safety is our top priority, and we appreciate your patience as we work to improve our drainage infrastructure.

In addition, we have **contacted the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT)** regarding drainage along **Highway 181**, which is a state-maintained route that runs through the heart of Keiser. ArDOT has acknowledged the issue and **will be dispatching crews to clean and repair state-owned ditches and culverts** to help alleviate flooding and improve roadway safety during future storms.

However, maintaining an effective citywide drainage system is not something the City can do alone. We are asking all residents to do their part by **regularly inspecting and maintaining ditches and culverts on their property**. Make sure they are free from leaves, grass clippings, sticks, and other debris that may block water flow. Even small blockages can contribute to significant flooding when the rain comes down fast.

Your help makes a difference. With the City's investment in equipment, state support, and a major federal grant, we are making real progress in our fight against flooding—but community participation is key. Together, we can ensure Keiser remains safe, dry, and prepared for whatever weather comes our way.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to build a stronger and more resilient 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.

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 is in overdrive as the temperatures have proven. Remember to stay hydrated when working outside and give yourselves time to cool off between projects. There are several residential structures in our city that need some serious work, both structurally and lawncare-wise. We are looking at ramping up Code Enforcement efforts as well as looking at amending ordinances in reference to code enforcement. Please keep your properties maintained and lawn cared for. It breeds mosquitoes, snakes, and other circumstances that are harmful to the health of the citizens to this city.

City Ordinance 2017-5 outlines dilapidated structures and the steps taken by the city to abate the condemned structures

City Ordinance 2024-1 outlines overgrown

grass, rubbish, inoperable vehicles, among others. The city has the option to come in and abate the property to resolve the ordinance violation, at the cost of the property owner.

Lastly, I'd like to personally thank Linnie Deeds for donating gifts for the Helmets for Heroes project. It was such a kind gesture, and we appreciate it so much.



Penny Wilbanks - Recorder/Financial Director

City Council meetings are a cornerstone of local democracy, providing a structured space where community voices can be heard, decisions can be made transparently, and local government can remain accountable. These meetings are not just formalities—they are essential for maintaining a well-functioning municipality.

At each meeting, city council members deliberate on important issues such as budgets, ordinances, infrastructure projects, and community development. This ensures that policies reflect the needs and concerns of residents. Public input is often welcomed, allowing citizens to speak on matters that impact their daily lives, such as road maintenance, public safety, zoning, and parks.

Transparency is another vital aspect. Council

meetings are typically open to the public and often recorded or streamed online. This openness builds trust, giving residents insight into how and why decisions are made. Citizens who attend or follow these meetings are more informed and better equipped to engage in civic life.

In addition, council meetings provide a platform for accountability. Elected officials are held responsible for their votes and actions. When citizens participate; by attending, speaking, or even just staying informed; they help ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of the whole community.

In short, city council meetings are where democracy happens on a local level. They keep city operations visible, fair, and focused on the public good. By supporting and participating in these meetings, citizens help shape the future of their communities.

Neal Brown - Director of Public Works

The City of Keiser, Arkansas, is making significant progress in addressing long-standing flooding issues through a comprehensive drainage improvement initiative. Funded by a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant, the city is focused on cleaning out existing ditches, digging new ones, and replacing outdated culverts to improve water flow and better protect homes from storm-related damage. For years, Keiser residents have struggled with standing water and property damage following heavy rains. The aging drainage infrastructure was unable to keep up, and stormwater often overwhelmed the sewer system, worsening the problem. To tackle this, the city has launched a multi-phase project.

Phase One involves replacing three key culverts in the main north-south drainage ditch that flows into Ditch 47.

Phase Two includes cleaning and grading second-

ary ditches and creating new ones to ensure smooth water movement.

Phase Three will connect residential properties directly to the improved system, allowing water from homes to drain efficiently into city ditches. Mayor Rick Creecy has praised the strong collaboration between city officials, the Mississippi County Drainage District, and Civil Engineering Associates, LLC. Local contractors like Senter Enterprises have already begun work on secondary ditches to provide immediate relief. Construction on the broader project is expected to begin in late summer or early fall, with a projected six-month timeline for completion, weather permitting.

The city will also hold a public meeting to share more information and address residents' questions.

Keeping Keiser Clean: Why Your Property Matters to the Whole Community

A clean property is more than just a point of pride—it's a vital part of building a healthy, safe, and welcoming community for everyone.

When homeowners and residents take the time to mow grass, pick up trash, remove debris, and maintain their homes and yards, it creates a ripple effect throughout the city. Clean neighborhoods discourage crime, increase property values, and create a sense of pride and ownership. Visitors and potential new residents often form their first impression of our city by what they see—and a well-kept community speaks volumes.

Unkempt properties, on the other hand, can lead to health and safety concerns. Tall grass and brush can attract pests and snakes. Junk or debris can block drainage ditches, contributing to flooding. And abandoned or neglected structures can become dangerous.

The City of Keiser is actively working to improve infrastructure, attract new families and businesses, and increase opportunities for growth. But we need your

help. Everyone has a role to play in keeping Keiser clean and welcoming.

Here's how you can help:

- Regularly mow and trim your lawn.
- Pick up litter around your home or business.
- Clean out your ditches and make sure culverts are not blocked.
- Remove junk vehicles or contact us for help.
- Report abandoned or unsafe structures to City Hall.

Let's continue working together to make Keiser a community we're proud to call home. If you need assistance or have questions about property maintenance, feel free to reach out to City Hall.

Together, we can keep Keiser clean, safe, and thriving.

Why did my Water Bill Go Up?

This month, a resident asked me, “Why did my water bill go up when we got a grant for infrastructure repairs?” That same person also shared that their current water bill in Keiser is higher than citizens pay in Jonesboro for water, sewer, trash, and electricity combined. These are fair concerns, and I want to take the time to explain what’s driving the changes. There are three key reasons behind the rate increase.

First, in order to qualify for the \$3.2 million sewer infrastructure grant, we had to meet strict eligibility requirements set by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC). One of those requirements was that the sewer portion of a 4,000-gallon monthly water bill had to equal at least 1.25% of the average Median Household Income in our community over the past three years. For Keiser, that came out to a minimum of \$38.50. To meet that requirement, we adopted a flat base rate of \$30 and added a per-1,000-gallon usage fee — something our residents had never seen before. This structure wasn’t optional; it was directed by ANRC after they completed a formal rate study of our system.

Second, ANRC requires the City to build and maintain a \$485,000 Debt Reserve Account to help safeguard against future emergencies, major repairs, or the risk of loan default. We are currently making monthly deposits into that account, as required.

Third, while the grant helped significantly, the total cost of repairing our failing sewer system is estimated at \$4.6 million. To cover the difference, we took out a 10-year \$550,000 loan in 2024 at a favorable 1% interest rate to clean and televise the system, pay engineering fees, and replace the Main Street

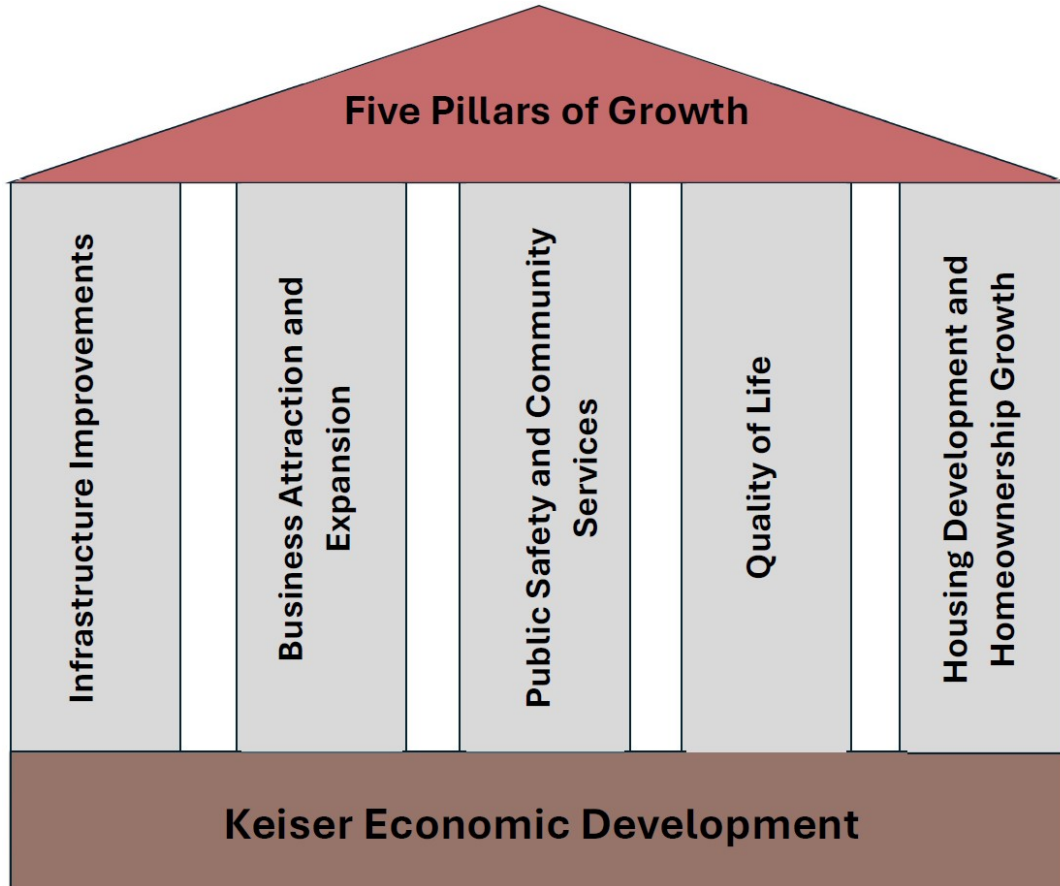
Lift Station. Starting in July 2027, we’ll begin making monthly payments of \$4,800 on that loan. In addition, we secured a \$1.1 million, 20-year note with an estimated 3% interest rate to fund the remainder of the project. Payments on that loan are expected to begin in 2028 and are estimated at \$6,000 per month.

Now, why might our bills seem higher than those in a city like Jonesboro? It comes down to scale and resources. Keiser has about 325 water meters to share the costs across, while a city like Jonesboro — with over 78,000 residents — likely has around 19,000 meters, significantly reducing the per-customer burden. Larger cities also benefit from more business revenue, higher sales tax income, and greater state turnback funding.

We understand that rising costs are frustrating. That’s why we work hard to be as transparent and fiscally responsible as possible. Our full city budget is available for download and review on our website, so you can see exactly how city funds are being spent. And if you ever have questions or would like to discuss these issues in more detail, we welcome you to call City Hall and make an appointment. We’re always happy to sit down, go over the numbers, and explain the steps we’re taking to protect Keiser’s infrastructure and financial stability for generations to come.



Five Pillars of Economic Growth for Keiser



City Hall Hours



Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 4:45
Closed for Lunch from 12:00 - 1:00

August in History: A Month of Change, Courage, and Celebration

August has long been a month of historic milestones, courageous moments, and cultural breakthroughs. As the summer sun blazes on, it's a perfect time to look back at some of the events that have shaped not only our nation—but also the world—during this remarkable time of year.

On **August 1, 1981**, music and television collided in a groundbreaking way when **MTV** aired its first broadcast. The debut video, *"Video Killed the Radio Star"* by The Buggles, ushered in a bold new era of music and visual media, revolutionizing the entertainment industry and influencing generations of artists and fans.

A few days later, two of the most sobering dates in world history occurred—**August 6 and 9, 1945**—when atomic bombs were dropped on **Hiroshima and Nagasaki**, Japan. These devastating attacks marked the end of World War II and led to Japan's formal surrender on **August 15, 1945**. They also ushered in the nuclear age and ignited global debates about warfare, diplomacy, and the moral responsibilities of power.

In a major political moment, **President Richard Nixon** made history on **August 8, 1974**, when he announced his resignation amid the Watergate scandal—becoming the first U.S. president to step down from office. His resignation marked a turning point in American political life and underscored the importance of accountability and transparency in government.

The month of August also brought monumental advancements in civil rights. On **August 18, 1920**, the **19th Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting women the right to vote and reshaping the political landscape forever. Forty-three years later, on **August 28, 1963**, **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** delivered his iconic *"I Have a Dream"* speech at the March on Washington. Standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, his powerful words echoed across the nation and became a defining moment of the Civil Rights Movement.

The United States grew in size and diversity when

Hawaii officially became the **50th state** on **August 21, 1959**, bringing a rich cultural heritage and unique geography into the American fold. Just a decade later, on **August 15, 1969**, the **Woodstock Music Festival** kicked off in Bethel, New York. What began as a simple concert quickly evolved into a defining cultural moment that symbolized peace, unity, and the countercultural spirit of the 1960s.

Tragedy also touched the world of music on **August 16, 1977**, with the death of **Elvis Presley**, the "King of Rock and Roll." His passing left an undeniable void in popular music, but his legacy continues to influence artists across every genre to this day.

August has also been a month of scientific discovery and natural disaster. On **August 7, 1959**, **NASA's Explorer 6** satellite captured the **first image of Earth from space**, forever altering humanity's perspective of our place in the universe. Conversely, on **August 29, 2005**, **Hurricane Katrina** made landfall along the Gulf Coast. The storm caused catastrophic damage, especially in **New Orleans**, and remains one of the deadliest and costliest natural disasters in U.S. history. It also exposed deep flaws in infrastructure, preparedness, and disaster response, leading to widespread reform efforts.

From political upheavals and social progress to cultural revolutions and technological advances, the month of August has been witness to many of the most pivotal events of our time. As we journey through this month, let us pause to reflect on these remarkable milestones. They remind us of how far we've come—and how the events of a single month can leave an enduring mark on history.



What NOT to Flush: Help Us Keep Keiser's Sewer System Flowing

The City of Keiser is asking all residents to help protect our sewer system by being mindful of what goes down our toilets and drains. One of the most frequent and costly problems we're facing right now is at the Jefferson Street Lift Station, which has been repeatedly clogged due to improper items—especially feminine hygiene products—being flushed. These products, including tampons, pads, and applicators, do not dissolve in water and can easily clog pumps and pipes. When these blockages occur, our city crews are forced to manually remove large masses of waste materials to restore proper flow. This not only poses a health hazard but also requires time, labor, and money that could be spent on other community needs.

Many people are unaware that several common household items should never be flushed, even if the packaging claims they are "flushable." These include baby wipes, paper towels, napkins, diapers, grease, oils, fats, cotton balls, hair, dental floss, and medication. These materials do not break down in the sewer system and instead accumulate over time, creating large clogs that damage city infrastructure. This is

especially problematic for our older lift stations, like the one on Jefferson Street, which is already under strain and in need of eventual replacement.

Every time a lift station fails or a blockage occurs, there is a risk of sewage backing up into homes, yards, or streets—causing environmental hazards and costly damage. Residents can play a big role in preventing these issues by remembering that the only things that should be flushed are human waste and toilet paper. All other items should be disposed of in the trash.

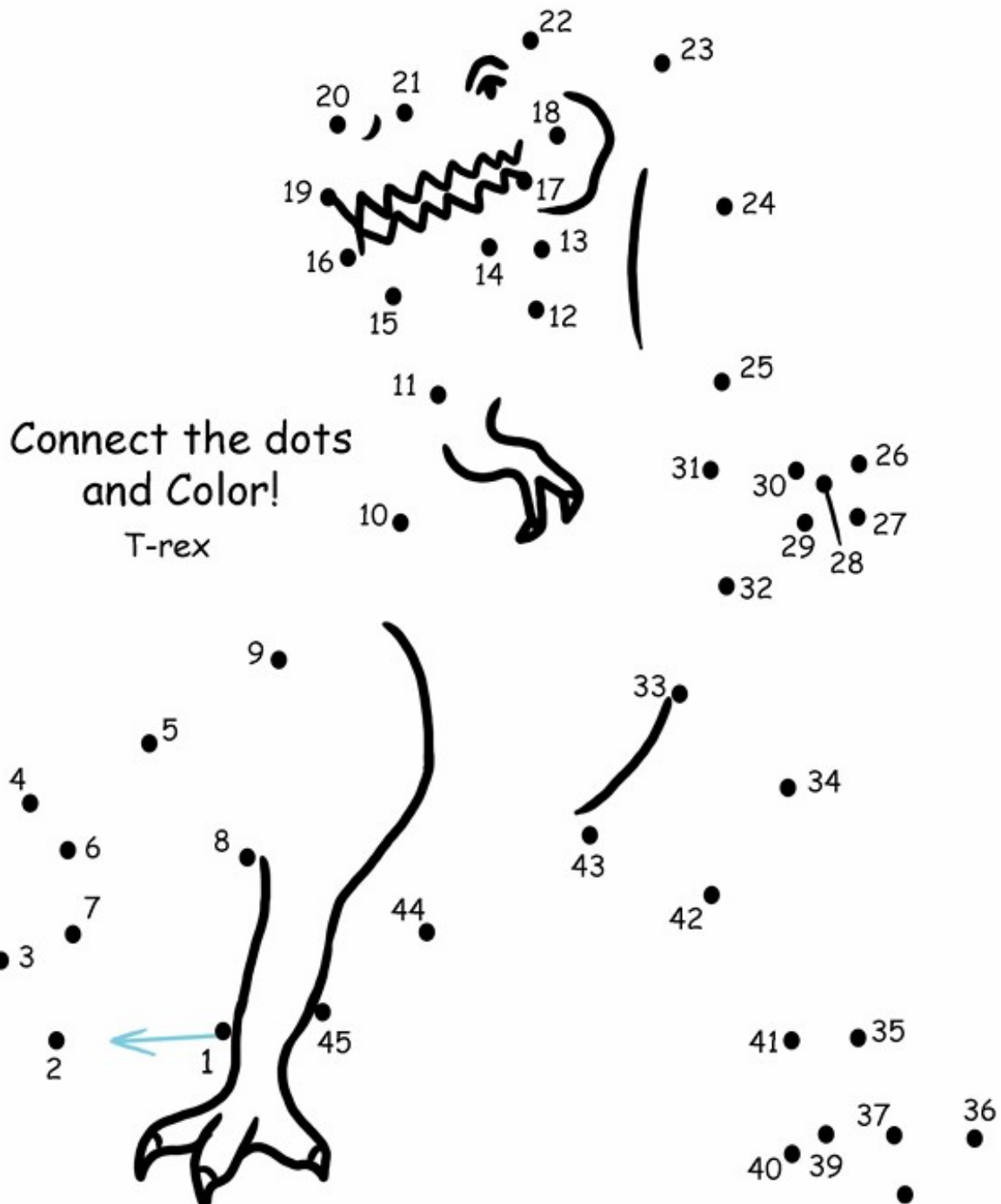
By working together and following these simple practices, we can avoid unnecessary repairs, reduce maintenance costs, and help extend the life of our sewer system. This also helps keep utility rates more stable over time. If you notice unusual odors, backups, or slow drainage, please report it to City Hall immediately so we can address the issue before it becomes a bigger problem. Thank you for doing your part to help keep Keiser's infrastructure running smoothly.

August 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Ice Cream Sandwich Day
3 Friendship Day	4	5	6 National Root Beer Float Day	7 Purple Heart Day	8 Int'l. Cat Day	9 Book Lovers Day
10 Nat'l. Lazy Day	11	12 Int'l. Youth Day	13 Int'l. Left-Handers Day	14	15 Nat'l. Relaxation Day	16 Water Bill Due
17 Nat'l. Nonprofit Day	18 Council Meeting	19 Nat'l. Aviation Day	20 Nat'l. Ratio Day	21 Senior Citizens Day	22	23
24 Nat'l. Waffle Day	25	26 Womens Equality Day	27 Cutoff Date	28 Nat'l. Bow Tie Day	29	30 Int'l. Bacon Day
31						

Kids Fun Page

Connect the Dots



Contact Us

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



Scan Me...

City Fun Page

August Events

D A T B R V O V S O N B A D V G W R T J
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Thunderstorms

Back-to-school

County fair

Heat

Late summer

Sunflowers

Festivals

Corn

Fireworks

Sunshine

Vacation

Hot

Swimming

Barbecue

Summer

Fairs

Camping

Humid

Harvest

Tomatoes

Contact Us

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



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