

KEISER NEWS

2025

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

October Newsletter

Vol 30

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

Keiser is making significant strides forward with four major projects that will improve the community and set the stage for long-term growth. These include the sewer system upgrade, the Circle Area drainage project, the new bike and walking trail at the park, and the development of a new subdivision on West Main. Together, these efforts represent millions of dollars of investment into our city's infrastructure, recreation, and housing.

The first project is the much-needed sewer system upgrade. The City of Keiser has secured a \$3.2 million grant along with a \$1.1 million low-interest loan to overhaul aging portions of the sewer system. This project will repair and replace old sewer mains, rehabilitate manholes, and upgrade critical lift stations that have caused problems during heavy rains. The city has already televised the system to pinpoint the areas most in need, and construction is expected to begin in 2025. These improvements will help prevent backups, keep homes safe from flooding, and ensure our sewer system can handle the community's needs for years to come.

The second major project focuses on drainage improvements, particularly in the Circle and northeast sections of town. Keiser has received \$500,000 in grant funding to clean and restore ditches, replace failing culverts, and dig new secondary ditches where they are most needed. For years, residents have struggled with standing water and flooding during storms, and this project is designed to ease those problems. While no drainage system can fully stop flooding during extreme weather events, these improvements will go a long way toward pro-

tecting homes and reducing property damage in moderate rains.

The third project underway is the addition of a new bike and walking trail at the city park. Funded in part by a grant from the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the trail will wrap around the park and connect key areas such as the playground. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the park into a space where families and neighbors can gather, exercise, and enjoy the outdoors together. The project also ties in with future park plans that include new sports courts, improved parking, and even the possibility of a public fishing pond. Construction on the trail is moving quickly, and it is expected to be available completed in 60 to 90 days depending on the weather.

Finally, Keiser is preparing for growth through the development of a new subdivision on West Main. This project will create new housing opportunities and help attract families and individuals who want to make Keiser their home. While details such as the number of lots and the construction timeline are still being finalized, the subdivision represents an important step in expanding the city's residential base and encouraging new economic activity.

These four projects demonstrate the city's commitment to improving infrastructure, reducing flooding, enhancing recreational spaces, and preparing for growth. Each one will bring direct benefits to our citizens and lay the groundwork for a stronger and more vibrant Keiser. Together, they show that progress is underway and that the future of our community is bright.

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

We have been receiving more calls from residents recently in our efforts to keep safety and quality of life a priority here in Keiser. We at the Police Department can only do so much and the help of the public is appreciated above all else. The city park has seen activity more than usual recently and with the help of multiple residents, we were able to close incidents which had occurred at the park. We are truly grateful for the public when it comes to investigating and keeping us in the loop where focus is needed.

The city has been working hard to keep the park clean and upgrading its facilities for the enjoyment of everyone. Unfortunately, there have been incidents regarding facilities, equipment and such at the park that is damaging to the park and the city as a whole. We'd like to remind the public as well, that

the park is closed to the public from dusk until dawn. Night shift patrols will address any violations as they are needed and continued issues could lead to further legal action.

Again, we appreciate receiving calls and help from residents. If you see something, say something. Keep an eye out for your neighbors, your street, your block. Knowing areas to focus on will ultimately lead to a safer, more prosperous community.



Penny Wilbanks - Recorder/Financial Director

The True Meaning of Success

Success is often measured by external achievements-wealth, status, titles--but its true essence runs deeper. Real success is personal. It's about living a life aligned with your values, growing through challenges, and finding fulfillment in your journey.

For some, success might mean launching a business or earning a degree. For others, it could be raising a family, overcoming adversity, or simply waking up with purpose. What defines success is not how it looks to the world, but how it feels to you. It's internal, not external.

One key to success is consistency. Small efforts repeated over time compound into meaningful results. Overnight success is a myth; behind every "instant" victory are countless hours of quiet work, failure, and perseverance. Success favors the patient. Equally important is mindset. People who view challenges as opportunities tend to grow. They see failure not as a stop sign, but as a lesson-

-an essential part of the journey. Success demands resilience, humility, and the willingness to keep going even when the path is unclear.

Ultimately, success isn't a destination—it's a way of living. It's waking up each day with purpose, making progress, and staying true to what matters most. When your actions align with your values and you grow into the person you aim to become, you're already successful.

Define success on your own terms, and you'll find it's not out there waiting—it's within you, ready to be lived.



Neal Brown - Director of Public Works

City workers have been very busy over the past few weeks keeping projects moving forward and making improvements across Keiser. In the city park, they have been working side by side with contractors to trim and remove trees as part of the preparation for the new bike and walking trail. This trail has been a highly anticipated addition to the park, and these efforts are an important step in making the park a more enjoyable and safe place for families to gather, exercise, and spend time outdoors. At the same time, the park bathroom project continues to move along, now about 75% complete. Once construction is finished, the restroom will officially open either at the same time as the walking trail or shortly after, providing much-needed convenience for residents and visitors alike.

In addition to park projects, city workers responded quickly to a break in a main water line located on Bruce Wilson under the road. The crew repaired the line and restored the asphalt over the site, ensuring the road could be reopened quickly for travel. How-

ever, because the asphalt repair is still fresh, it may remain a little soft for a short period of time. Drivers are encouraged to be cautious and avoid the area when possible to help the repair set properly and last longer.

Fall clean-up is also in full swing across the community, and the city appreciates the cooperation of residents in helping this process go smoothly. To make collection easier, please place trimmed branches with the cut ends all facing the same direction when stacking them near the street. This simple step helps speed up both pickup and placement into the wood chipper. Grass clippings and leaves must be bagged in order for city crews to collect them. For anyone needing assistance with large or bulky items, the city is offering scheduled pickups—residents can contact City Hall at 870-526-2300 to make arrangements. By working together, we can keep Keiser looking clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone.

City of Keiser Website

The City of Keiser is committed to keeping residents informed, engaged, and connected, and one of the best ways we do that is through our city website and our Facebook page. You can currently find us at www.cityofkeiser.com, which has become an important tool for communication and transparency.

As part of a statewide initiative, Arkansas is requiring all cities to transition to a **.gov** domain for added security and trust. Later this year, or by early next year, Keiser will officially move to **www.cityofkeiserAR.gov**. The new site will carry all the same resources and features, but with improved security and alignment with national best practices for government communication.

If you haven't visited our site, we encourage you to explore it. You'll find our goals and vision for Keiser, details about city employees, council members, and the Mayor, and monthly City Council agenda packages and minutes. The City Documents page is especially useful, with ordinances, audits, budgets, financial statements, reports, and a city financial dashboard

that gives residents a clear look at how funds are managed.

The site also features our policies and procedures, along with current and past newsletters, so you can stay informed about both current projects and past progress. There is also a link on the main page to pay your water bill and to our Facebook page.

As we prepare for the transition to our new **.gov** domain, we invite residents to make use of the current site and the resources it provides. Whether you're reviewing a city ordinance, looking up meeting agendas, or catching up on newsletters, the website is available 24/7 to keep you connected to your city government.

A Message from the Mayor

"As your Mayor, I want to encourage everyone to take advantage of the information and resources we provide online. Staying informed is one of the best ways you can support the progress of our community. Together, with open communication and transparency, we will continue building a stronger future for Keiser."

Five Pillars of Economic Growth for Keiser

Five Pillars of Growth

Infrastructure Improvements

Business Attraction and Expansion

Public Safety and Community Services

Quality of Life

Housing Development and Homeownership Growth

Keiser Economic Development

City Hall Hours



Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 4:45

Closed for Lunch from 12:00 - 1:00

Keiser is in Good Hands

When people think about what makes a small town thrive, the first thoughts often go to neighbors helping neighbors, friendly smiles at the local diner, or kids riding bikes down quiet streets. While all of that is true, the real backbone of any town lies in the people who keep things running day in and day out. In Keiser, we are fortunate to have a group of dedicated city employees who take pride in their work and carry the responsibility of making sure our community is safe, clean, and financially sound. These employees are more than just workers—they are the reason our city functions smoothly, and each one plays a unique and important role in keeping Keiser moving forward.

At the heart of City Hall is Penny Wilbanks, our Financial Director and City Hall Coordinator. Penny's role is a big one—she keeps the city's finances in order, paying bills, handling payroll for all city employees, and carefully recording every transfer of money in and out of the city's accounts. She also prepares information for the yearly legislative audit and the water/sewer audit, both of which require accuracy, organization, and strict compliance with state standards. Beyond that, Penny manages the billing system for all Keiser residents, ensuring water bills are correct and payments are handled smoothly. This is no small task, but Penny approaches it with diligence and professionalism. She is conscientious about every detail, always striving for excellence, and her work ensures that the City of Keiser maintains the financial stability we depend on.

Public safety is another cornerstone of our community, and we are fortunate to have Chief Glenn Dunn leading the Keiser Police Department. Chief Dunn brings years of experience and an exceptional knowledge of the judicial system, which makes him highly effective in law enforcement. He is known for his thoroughness, fairness, and unwavering dedication to treating everyone the same, no matter the situation. Beyond his law enforcement duties, Chief Dunn also oversees Code Enforcement—a responsibility that ensures our town remains orderly, safe, and free from hazards. His work in this area has already made a positive difference, and he approaches it with the same professionalism he brings to every aspect of his role. But what truly sets Chief Dunn apart is his passion for the youth of Keiser. He wants every young person in our city to feel safe, supported, and encouraged to build a bright future. His vision for a safer Keiser is not just about enforcement; it's about creating a community where families can thrive.

Supporting Chief Dunn is Officer Josh Allen, our second police officer. Josh brings energy and a heart for people to his role. He doesn't just enforce the law—he engages with the community, getting to know people, listening to their concerns, and building trust between the KPD and residents. Josh has a passion for excellence and a strong commitment to keeping Keiser safe. Whether it's patrolling the streets, responding to calls, or simply being a friendly face in town, Josh goes above and beyond to make sure our citizens feel protected and respected. His enthusiasm for the job and genuine care for people make him an outstanding addition to our police department.

Behind the scenes, but just as vital, is Neal Brown, our Director of Public Works. Neal shoulders the awesome responsibility of keeping Keiser's water and sewer systems functioning properly. Safe drinking water and efficient wastewater management are things many people take for granted, but they require constant attention, monitoring, and maintenance. Neal takes this responsibility seriously, and he does an outstanding job keeping these systems running smoothly while also planning for improvements and upgrades that will benefit Keiser for years to come. In addition, Neal leads the city crews who handle everything from repairs to general upkeep, ensuring that Keiser's infrastructure continues to serve the needs of our growing community. His leadership in this area keeps our town running at the most basic and essential levels.

Working closely with Neal is Howard Cross, who focuses on maintenance of city equipment and ensuring that Keiser always looks its best. Howard is responsible for mowing and manicuring the city's grass, keeping our public spaces neat, clean, and welcoming. Anyone who has driven through Keiser knows that our city is well cared for, and Howard's hard work is a big reason why. From city-owned equipment to the appearance of our green spaces, Howard keeps everything running smoothly and looking sharp.

Then there are the hardworking men who handle the many daily tasks that keep our city functioning. Demaruice "D" Edwards, Dustin White, Stacy Burks, and Daniel Broughman are the ones you'll see riding the trash truck, picking up debris around town, repairing roads, fixing water leaks, trimming trees, and stepping in wherever they are needed. These men take on some of the toughest, most hands-on jobs, and they do it with dedication and without complaint. Whether it's a hot summer day, a cold winter morning, or an unexpected emergency, they show up ready to work. Their efforts are often behind the scenes, but the results are visible everywhere you look in Keiser. They are the people who make sure our town not only works but looks good while doing it.

Together, this team of employees represents the best of Keiser. They are professionals who take pride in their work, neighbors who care about their community, and public servants who go above and beyond to make sure our citizens are taken care of. As Mayor, I could not be more proud of the job they do. They are the reason Keiser continues to move forward, and they are proof that when dedicated people come together with a shared purpose, great things can be accomplished.

If you see Penny, Chief Dunn, Officer Allen, Neal, Howard, or any of our crew members out working, please take a moment to thank them. Their jobs are not easy, and their efforts often go unnoticed. But their hard work and dedication are what make Keiser such a special place to live. A simple kind word of appreciation goes a long way—and no one deserves it more than this group of employees who keep our city in good hands every single day.

Honoring Our Volunteer Fire Department

The City of Keiser is incredibly fortunate to be served by a dedicated Volunteer Fire Department led by Chief Reggie Horton. Their commitment and professionalism were once again on full display during a recent fire on Bruce Wilson. On September 29, 2025, at 5:47 p.m., a city worker called to report the fire. By 5:48 p.m., the Sheriff's Office had been contacted through 911, and Keiser's Fire Department was officially dispatched. Just four minutes later, at 5:52 p.m., the first firefighter arrived at Fire Station #1 to gear up and prepare the fire trucks. By 5:56 p.m., the trucks had rolled out of the station and were on their way to the scene. That is only nine minutes from the time the fire was reported until our firefighters were in full response—an outstanding turnaround time for any department, and especially impressive for a volunteer force.

Once on scene, our firefighters did more than fight flames. They worked tirelessly to bring the situation under control, provided comfort to those affected, and stood ready to administer medical aid if it became necessary. After the fire was contained and the trucks returned to the station at 7:23 p.m., these men and women didn't stop there. They continued working until 8:01 p.m., cleaning and storing equipment to ensure they were fully prepared for the next call. Their dedication is a true

example of selflessness and service.

If you see one of our firefighters around town, please take a moment to thank them. A handshake and a kind word go a long way in showing appreciation for the sacrifices they make and the risks they take to protect us all. Their service often goes unnoticed, but I can assure you that Keiser is home to one of the best volunteer fire departments in the region. Not only do they protect our city, they also respond to accidents on the interstate and stand ready to support sister communities whenever called upon.

What many may not realize is that the high level of training and service provided by our fire department has a direct impact on our community beyond emergency response. Because of their professionalism, dedication, and readiness, the insurance ratings for Keiser homeowners are as low as they can be without having a full-time department. This translates into lower insurance costs for all of us—a benefit that is truly significant.

I could not be prouder of Chief Reggie Horton and the men and women of the Keiser Volunteer Fire Department. They exemplify the best of our community—bravery, service, and an unwavering commitment to keeping our city safe.



Looking Back at History: October Through the Years

October has long been a month of great historical significance, marked by events that have shaped nations, advanced science, and left lasting cultural legacies. As autumn settles in and the year begins its final stretch, October offers us reminders of the triumphs and challenges that continue to influence our world today.

One of the earliest events remembered each October is Christopher Columbus's landing in the Americas on October 12, 1492. Though viewed differently today than it once was, this moment marked the beginning of centuries of exploration and change that reshaped the globe. Fast forward several centuries, and October 13, 1792, saw the laying of the White House cornerstone, beginning the construction of what would become one of the most iconic buildings in the United States. On October 19, 1781, the Siege of Yorktown ended when British General Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington, effectively concluding the Revolutionary War and securing American independence.

October has also been a month of great invention and discovery. On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union shocked the world with the launch of *Sputnik I*, the first artificial satellite, sparking the Space Race and driving advancements in science and technology. Just a few decades earlier, on October 22, 1879, Thomas Edison successfully tested a workable electric light bulb, a breakthrough that lit the path for modern life. Another innovation came on October 21, 1879, when Edison's lamp burned for the first time for more than 13 hours, a major milestone in practical electricity.

The month is also filled with cultural milestones. On October 1, 1971, Walt Disney World opened its gates in Florida, quickly becoming one of the most visited places on Earth and a hub of entertainment for families across the world. On October 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty was officially dedicated in New York Harbor, a beacon of hope for millions of immigrants who would arrive in America seeking freedom and opportunity. In the world of literature, October 16, 1854, marked the publication of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, while October 7, 1849, saw the mysterious death of Edgar Allan Poe, one of America's most haunting and influential writers.

October has also witnessed moments of trial and tragedy. On October 8, 1871, the Great Chicago Fire began, destroying much of the city and leaving thousands homeless, while at the same time the Peshtigo Fire in Wisconsin became the deadliest wildfire in U.S. history. On October 24, 1929, the infamous "Black Thursday" stock market crash signaled the start of the Great Depression, a time of worldwide economic struggle. Another sobering event came on October 6, 1973, when the Yom Kippur War began in the Middle East, reshaping global politics and sparking new international tensions.

In modern times, October has seen historic political and global events. On October 3, 1990, Germany was officially reunified after decades of Cold War division, a hopeful milestone in European history. On October 22, 1962, President John F. Kennedy revealed the discovery of Soviet missiles in Cuba, launching the Cuban Missile Crisis and bringing the world closer to nuclear war than ever before. Thankfully, diplomacy prevailed, and the crisis was resolved peacefully. October 24, 1945, marked the founding of the United Nations, with member nations pledging to work together for peace and cooperation after the devastation of World War II.

October is also remembered for achievements in sports and human endurance. On October 1, 1961, Roger Maris hit his 61st home run of the season, breaking Babe Ruth's long-standing record and leaving an indelible mark on baseball history. On October 29, 1998, astronaut John Glenn returned to space aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery* at the age of 77, becoming the oldest person to travel into space and reminding the world that age is no barrier to achievement.

From revolutions and wars to inventions, cultural milestones, and scientific achievements, October is filled with stories that remind us how history is constantly being made. These events continue to influence the world we live in, reminding us of the importance of courage, creativity, and cooperation. As we move through October, let's take time to reflect on the lessons of the past and carry them forward into the future.



Halloween



Halloween is just around the corner, and the excitement is already building as our community prepares for one of the most fun-filled nights of the year. Each October, Halloween brings a chance for families, friends, and neighbors to come together in a spirit of imagination, tradition, and celebration. Children spend weeks deciding what costumes they will wear, often going back and forth between scary monsters, favorite superheroes, or classic characters. Adults join in too, decorating their homes with pumpkins, glowing jack-o'-lanterns, spider webs, and colorful lights that turn ordinary streets into festive pathways. The simple joy of walking through the neighborhood on Halloween night, seeing all the creative displays and hearing the laughter of children, is something special that makes this holiday truly memorable.

Trick-or-treating remains at the heart of Halloween traditions. Kids love the thrill of knocking on doors, saying "trick or treat," and filling their bags with candy, while parents enjoy the chance to share in the excitement and watch their children create memories they will carry for years to come. For many families, Halloween has also become a time to host gatherings, whether it's a neighborhood block party, a school fall festival, or a church event that provides a safe and fun place for kids to celebrate. Adults often join the fun by dressing up in costumes of their own, hosting spooky movie nights, or setting up haunted houses for visi-

tors to enjoy. These activities remind us that Halloween is more than candy and costumes—it's about community spirit and togetherness.

As we enjoy the celebrations, safety remains an important part of Halloween. Drivers are reminded to slow down and watch carefully for children crossing the streets. Parents are encouraged to carry flashlights or glow sticks, ensuring their little trick-or-treaters are easy to see in the dark. Costumes should fit properly to avoid tripping, and masks should allow clear vision. Even small steps like checking candy before eating it and walking in groups help keep the night safe and enjoyable for everyone. By working together, we can make sure Halloween stays a fun and safe experience for all.

Beyond the candy and costumes, Halloween has a way of bringing people closer. It's a holiday that encourages us to step outside, meet our neighbors, and share in a night of laughter and tradition. Whether you're carving pumpkins, decorating your home, attending a festival, or simply enjoying the atmosphere, Halloween offers something for everyone. This year, let's celebrate not only the spooky fun but also the sense of community that makes nights like Halloween so meaningful. As October 31st approaches, we wish everyone a safe, fun, and festive Halloween filled with memories that will last long after the candy is gone.

October 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Int'l. Coffee Day	2	3 World Smile Day	4 World Animal Day
5 World Teacher Day	6	7	8	9 World Sight Day	10 World Mental Health	11
12 Nat'l. Farmers Day	13 Columbus Day	14 Nat'l. Dessert Day	15	16 Water Bill Due	17 Nat'l. Posta Day	18 Sweetest Day
19 World Mission Sunday	20 Council Meeting	21	22 Nat'l. Nut Day	23	24 United Nations Day	25
26	27 Cutoff Date	28 Nat'l. Chocolate Day	29 World Stroke Day	30	31 Halloween	

Kids Fun Page

Math: Multiplication

Score: ____ / 48



Scan Me..

Contact Us

City Fun Page

Halloween

DPBMAMNX

Trick-or-treat, Scarecrow, Pumpkin, Haunted, Lantern, Zombie, Mask, Moon, Tombstone, Skeleton, Costume, Vampire, Witch, Potion, Goblin, Graveyard, Cauldron, Monster, Spider, Ghost, Candy, Mummy

Contact Us

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

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