



KEISER NEWS

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

2025

September Newsletter

Vol 29

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

Recently, some questions and concerns have been raised regarding the City of Keiser's new **Code Enforcement Ordinance 2025-02**, particularly about property clean-up requirements and the updated noise ordinance. A few residents have expressed fears that this ordinance could be used by the city to take over homeowners' property by placing liens against property or property taxes. Let us be clear: **this could not be farther from the truth.** The City of Keiser has no interest in acquiring private property. Our only interest is the safety of our citizens and the overall improvement of our community—whether that be through safer streets, stronger utilities, or a cleaner and healthier environment for families to enjoy.

It is also important to note that the ability to place a lien has been part of **every code enforcement ordinance in Keiser since Ordinance 1977-01**. This is not a new provision but a standard practice that has existed in Keiser for nearly 50 years. The lien process is not meant to punish homeowners; it is simply a last resort to ensure fairness when cleanup costs are left unpaid.

To ensure transparency, here is exactly how the process will work for properties found to be out of compliance. First, the occupant or property owner will receive a courtesy contact making them aware of the violation. If no corrective action is taken within 5 days, an official Code Enforcement Violation will be issued, giving an additional 7 days to correct the problem. If the violation is corrected within that time frame, no further action will be taken. If the violation still exists, the city may either correct the issue with city employ-

ees or hire a contractor to do the work. The occupant or property owner will then be billed for the cost of correcting the violation and will have 30 days to pay. If payment is not received within 30 days, a lien may be applied to the property or to property taxes. At any time, once payment is made, the lien will be immediately removed.

The updated noise ordinance has also raised questions, so we want to make sure the intent is clear. The ordinance does not mean that if you can hear noise from 50 feet away during the day or 20 feet away at night that you are automatically in violation. We can all hear sound at those distances. The intent here is that if noise is so loud and disruptive that it can still be overwhelming at those distances, then it is much louder and more disruptive at closer range. This is the type of excessive noise the ordinance is designed to address. In addition to distance, the ordinance also sets specific decibel levels that will be used for enforcement, ensuring fairness and consistency.

The goal of this ordinance is **not to take property away** or to punish normal daily life, but to ensure that Keiser remains a safe, attractive, and welcoming place for all. Clean yards, safe structures, and reasonable noise levels all contribute to stronger property values, a healthier environment, and a better quality of life for everyone in our city. The City of Keiser is committed to working with residents fairly and respectfully, and we believe most issues will be resolved at the courtesy contact stage, long before any enforcement action is needed.

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

It looks like we're starting to get a break from the unbearable heat. With cooler temperatures come more outside activity. Keep an eye out for pedestrians or people on bicycles. As of this past city council meeting, our Code Enforcement will be changing. When a city ordinance violation occurs, we will provide a courtesy and touch base with the property owner about the violation. After giving a heads up and no action is taken, Code Enforcement will then serve a written Ordinance Violation notice. After 7 days if the violation has not been corrected or at least been worked on, then the city will contract out the work needed to abate the violation, then send a bill to the property owner. After 30 days if the bill had not been paid then a lien will be placed on the property. We are not looking to take people's land, only to clean up. And this process is aimed toward the properties that need the most work, and the properties which go ignored.

The Arkansas state statutes in reference to the abatement process are **Arkansas §14-54-901**, which reads:

Incorporated towns and cities of the first and second class are empowered to order the owner of lots and other real property within their towns or cities to cut weeds; to remove garbage, rubbish, and other unsightly and unsanitary articles and things upon the property; and to eliminate, fill up, or remove stagnant pools of water or any other unsanitary thing, place, or condition which might become a breeding place for mosquitoes, flies, and germs harmful to the health of the community, after the town or city has provided therefor by an ordinance to that effect.

Also, **Arkansas §14-54-903(5)(b)**:

(b) If the owner or lienholder of any lot or other real property within an incorporated town or city neglects or refuses to remove, abate, or eliminate any condition under an ordinance passed by the city or town as provided in § 14-54-901, after having been given seven (7) days' notice in writing to do so, then the town or city may do whatever is necessary to correct the condition and to charge the cost thereof to the owner of the lots or other real property.

Penny Wilbanks - Recorder/Financial Director

Accurate financial recordkeeping is one of the most important responsibilities within city government, and the role of the Financial Director is central to this effort. Every transaction—whether large or small—must be recorded properly to ensure the City of Keiser operates with full transparency, accountability, and efficiency. These records not only keep the day-to-day financial operations running smoothly, but they also provide the foundation for our yearly legislative audit and our water and sewer audit. Both of these audits are required by law and are essential to maintaining the public's trust, demonstrating that funds are being managed responsibly, and proving that our utilities are financially sound. When financial records are well-organized and easily accessible, it allows auditors to complete their review with confidence and helps assure our citizens that their tax dollars, service payments, and city revenues are being spent as intended.

Beyond the annual audit process, accurate recordkeeping is absolutely vital for the many grants the City of Keiser has successfully secured in recent years. These grants have brought millions of dollars into our community for sewer improvements, park revitalization, police equipment, fire pro-

tection, and many other projects. With each award, there are strict reporting requirements that demand detailed documentation, proof of expenditures, and verification that the funds were used exactly as outlined in the grant agreement. A single error, missed entry, or missing receipt could place a grant in jeopardy, cause repayment of funds, or harm the city's ability to compete for future opportunities. Careful financial management not only protects the city's reputation but also ensures that Keiser can continue building on its successes.

By recording transactions accurately, maintaining complete and organized records, and providing timely reports for both audits and grants, our Financial Director safeguards the financial health of the city. This role is not just about balancing books—it is about protecting the resources entrusted to us, complying with state and federal requirements, and making sure every dollar received is used in ways that benefit our citizens. In many ways, accurate financial recordkeeping is the foundation on which the city's progress rests, helping to secure funding, maintain credibility, and keep Keiser moving forward with confidence.

Neal Brown - Director of Public Works

One of the city's main priorities this summer has been improving the drainage system throughout Keiser, especially in the Circle area on the northeast side of town, which has dealt with flooding issues for years. Thanks to a \$500,000 drainage grant, we are finally able to tackle these problems in a meaningful way.

Around town, you may have noticed the mini excavator working to clean out ditches that had become clogged over time. Clearing these ditches is critical for stormwater flow and helps prevent water from pooling in neighborhoods. Alongside this, crews have been cleaning out blocked culverts, which allow water to pass under roadways. When culverts are obstructed, even light rainfall can cause water to back up and flood streets, but by reopening them, we are greatly improving the flow of stormwater.

We have also replaced three culverts that were no longer able to handle the volume of water moving through them. These new culverts strengthen the overall drainage system and reduce the risk of bottlenecks during heavy rains. While each of these steps

may seem small, together they represent major progress in protecting homes, city streets, and public property from flooding.

This work is an important part of preparing Keiser for the future. The \$500,000 grant makes it possible to address these long-standing problems without placing extra burdens on our citizens. With ditch cleaning, culvert maintenance, and targeted replacements, we are building a stronger, more reliable drainage system that will benefit our community for years to come.



"Pride in Our Town: Property Care and Park Upgrades"

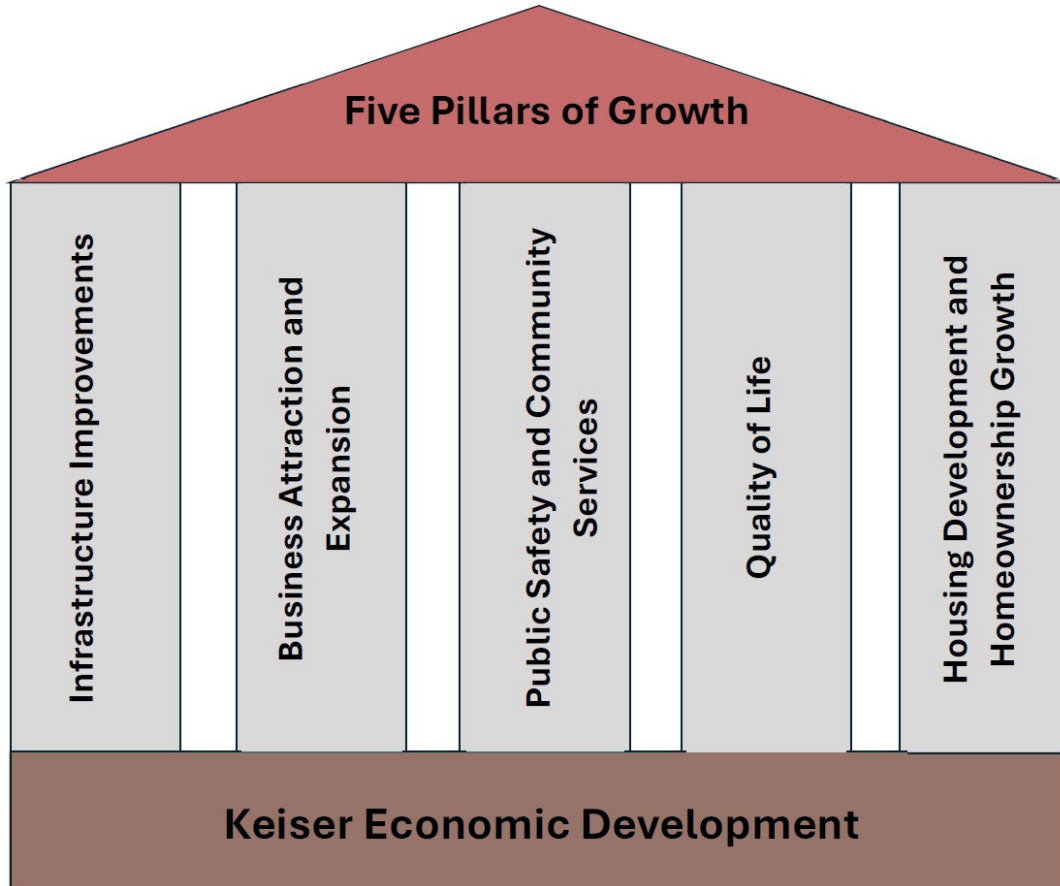
Over the past few months, we have begun to see noticeable improvements in how properties are being maintained around town. Lawns are being mowed more regularly, lots are being cleared of debris, and homes are presenting a cleaner and more welcoming appearance. These changes make a big difference not only in the way Keiser looks, but also in the pride our community feels. It is important that we all work together to sustain these improvements, as a clean and well-kept community benefits every resident by increasing property values, improving safety, and making Keiser more inviting to visitors and future development.

At the same time, our City Park continues to move forward with exciting upgrades. The next major step will be the construction of our new bike and walking track, which is scheduled to begin in the next few weeks. This track will provide a safe and enjoyable space for exercise, family activities, and community events. Because of the scale of the work and the

presence of heavy equipment, **the park will be closed to visitors during active construction to ensure everyone's safety.** We appreciate your patience during this time and look forward to reopening the park once the track is complete. These investments, both in our neighborhoods and in our park, represent a shared commitment to keeping Keiser a clean, safe, and thriving place to live.



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

Looking Back at History: September Through the Years

September is a month of change, both in the natural world and in human history. As summer turns into fall, this month has often been a turning point for nations, leaders, and communities. From the founding of great institutions to moments of tragedy and discovery, September's pages in history are filled with lessons that continue to shape our present.

One of the most defining moments in world history took place on September 1, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland, igniting World War II. This single event drew much of the world into a conflict that lasted six years and reshaped the global order. Just two years later, on September 11, 1941, construction began on the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. Sixty years later to the day, the Pentagon became one of the targets during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. That day, which also saw the collapse of the Twin Towers in New York City and the crash of Flight 93 in Pennsylvania, left a mark on the heart of America that will never be forgotten. September 11 reminds us of both the fragility of life and the resilience of a nation determined to stand united.

September has also carried milestones in American democracy. On September 17, 1787, delegates gathered in Philadelphia to sign the U.S. Constitution, creating the framework for our nation's government. Nearly 75 years later, on September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that enslaved people in Confederate states would soon be set free. Both of these September dates are remembered as moments when words on paper reshaped the meaning of liberty.

In the 20th century, September became a month of progress and bold action. On September 4, 1957, nine African American students, known as the Little Rock Nine, entered Little Rock Central High School under the protection of federal troops. Their bravery, and the resistance they faced, forced the nation to confront the reality of segregation and inequality. Just six years later, in September 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his timeless "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington, calling for racial justice and equality. These moments remind us that September

has often been a month when ordinary citizens and great leaders alike stepped forward to change the course of history.

Beyond America's borders, September has seen discoveries that altered everyday life around the globe. In September 1928, Scottish scientist Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the world's first widely used antibiotic. This discovery launched the age of modern medicine and has saved countless lives since. In another example of innovation, September 1998 marked the founding of Google, a company that has since transformed how the world communicates, learns, and does business.

September has also carried moments of unity in times of loss. On September 5, 1972, the world watched in horror as the Munich Olympics were struck by tragedy when members of the Israeli Olympic team were taken hostage and killed by terrorists. That event shook the international community but also strengthened resolve to protect the spirit of peace that the Games are meant to represent.

Even in the heavens above, September has been significant. On September 5, 1977, NASA launched Voyager 1, a spacecraft that continues to travel beyond our solar system today, carrying with it a golden record of sounds and images meant to tell the story of Earth to anyone — or anything — that may one day find it. It is a reminder that in September, humanity has not only looked back at history but also dared to look forward into the unknown.

Taken together, the history of September reflects both struggle and progress. It is a month when wars began but also when peace and freedom were proclaimed. It is when brave individuals fought for justice, scientists changed the world with discoveries, and nations came together in times of hardship. As we look back at the events of Septembers past, we are reminded that this month teaches us resilience, innovation, and hope. In remembering these moments, we carry their lessons into the future — ensuring that September remains not just a month on the calendar, but a time of reflection and inspiration.

A Second Exit Out of the East Side of Town

For some time, the Keiser City Council has recognized the importance of improving access and safety for residents living in the Circle Area, the Dunivent Addition, and those working at or visiting the University of Arkansas Experiment Station. At present, the only way in and out of these neighborhoods is by traveling down Main Street. While this may seem manageable under normal circumstances, it places residents in a vulnerable position during emergencies. If Main Street is ever blocked by an accident, a fire, or severe weather, families and first responders are left without a reliable alternative. Recognizing this concern, the City Council has taken proactive steps to address it.

The Council recently voted to approve the connection of Elm Street and Cypress Street, a project that will establish a second exit route for these areas. This connection will not only make day-to-day travel easier but will also provide a critical safety measure for the community. Having an alternate route is not a convenience—it is a necessity when lives and property may be at stake. By making this investment now, the City of Keiser is preparing for the future and reducing risks in the event of an emergency.

The need for this project was made clear just a few months ago when the old AGRI building caught fire. During this incident, the Keiser Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) worked tirelessly to bring the fire under control, but in order to do so safely and effectively, they had to completely block Main

Street for several hours. This meant that no vehicles could enter or leave the Circle Area or the Dunivent Addition. Residents found themselves cut off, unable to move in or out, and it was a sobering reminder of how fragile access to these neighborhoods can be when only one exit exists. Situations like this highlight why the Council has placed such importance on creating a second outlet.

City leaders have emphasized that safety remains the top priority of this project. While there are many infrastructure needs in Keiser, the Council agreed that ensuring residents can be reached in times of crisis must come first. The Elm and Cypress connection is part of a broader vision of making Keiser not only a safe community but also a well-prepared one. Investments like this complement other improvements the city has been working on, such as sewer and drainage upgrades, park revitalization, and enhanced public safety through grants and new equipment.

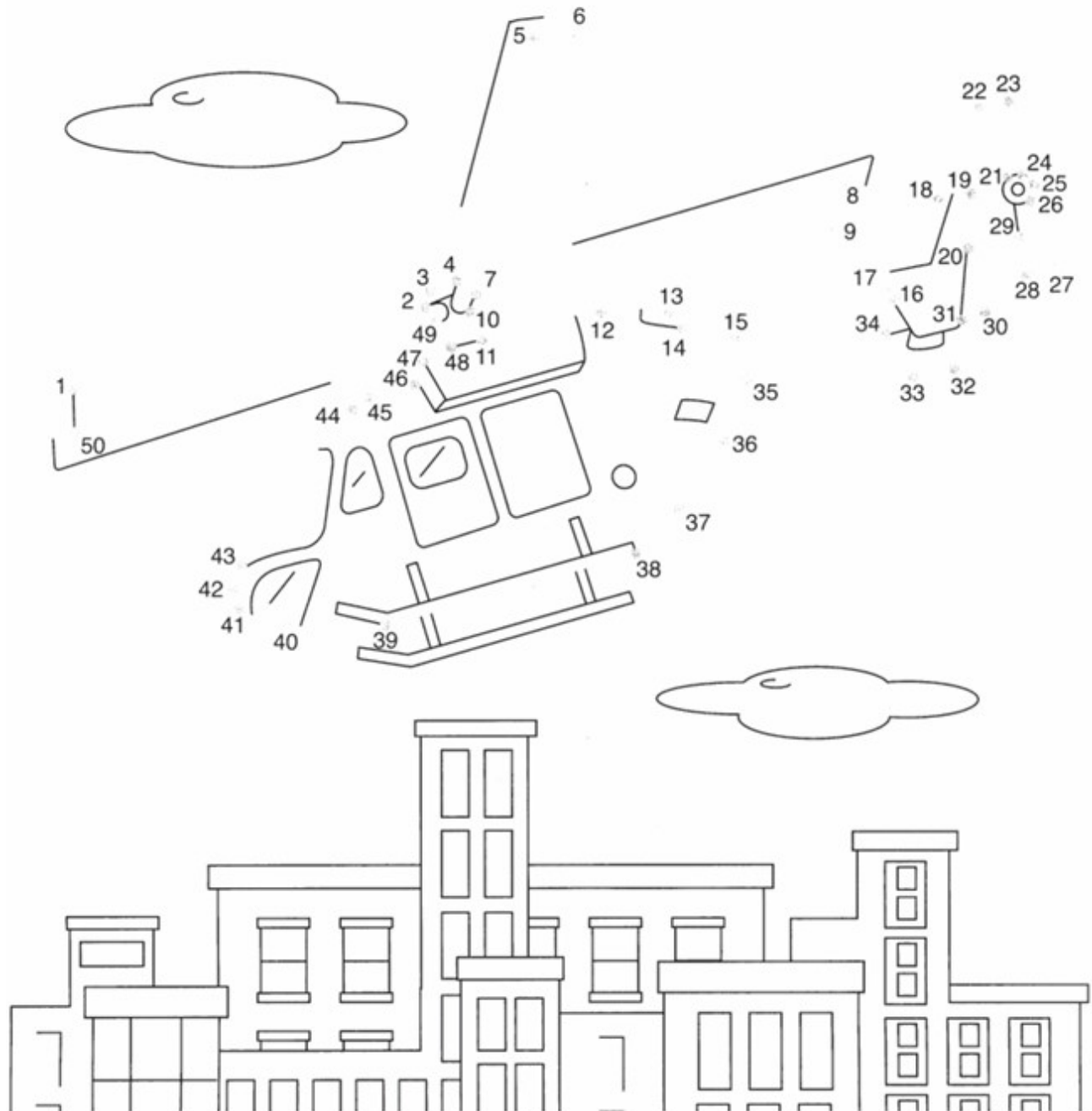
In the end, this project is about peace of mind. Families living in the Circle Area, the Dunivent Addition, and near the Experiment Station will soon know that they have not just one, but two safe ways to travel in and out of their neighborhood. Whether it is for emergencies, convenience, or the everyday flow of traffic, this second exit will stand as a reminder that the City of Keiser is always looking ahead, planning responsibly, and putting the safety of its people first.

September 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5 Int'l. Day of Charity	6 Read a Book Day
7 Grandparents Day	8 Star Trek Day	9	10 Suicide Pre- vention Day	11 Patriot Day	12	13
14	15 Council Meeting	16 Water Bill Due	17	18 AIDS and Aging Awareness Day	19 MIA Recogni- tion Day	20 Batman Day
21 Int'l. Day of Pie	22 Start of Fall	23 Nat'l. Voter Reg- istration Day	24	25 Nat'l. Daugh- ter's Day	26 Pancake Day	27 World Tourism Day
28	29 Cutoff Date	30				

Kids Fun Page

Connect the Dots



Helicopters don't need airports. They can take off from and land in any big open space.

Contact Us

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



Scan Me...

City Fun Page

September Events

R Y X P F M L H U I U V D U F U S B C Z
 M Z D W F T Z V K F S R H L N I A I P E
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Constitution Day	Back-to-School	Morning Glory	Libra
Equinoctial	Patriot Day	In-gathering	
Michaelmas	Crispening	Goldenrod	
Sapphire	Corn Moon	Back-to-Fall	
Harvest	Labor Day	Equinox	
Equilux	Virgo	Aster	

Contact Us

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



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