



CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY UPDATE

July 19, 2024

Adam J. Brown, City Manager

Concert Series Begins Tomorrow – The Sounds of Summer Concert Series begins tomorrow, July 20th, at the Keizer Rotary Amphitheater with the band Rhythm and Business. These will continue each Saturday for the next 7 weeks for a good night of music, fun, and food.

Community Engagement – My community engagement efforts this week included teaching at a boy's camp on Monday afternoon and attending Keizer Rotary.

Regional Administrator's Meeting – We had our regularly scheduled monthly administrators meeting hosted by the Mid-Willamette Council of Governments (COG) with some great conversation about housing and a variety of other topics.

Electric Extension at Keizer Rapids Park – PGE got back with the City and will be donating \$1,000 toward our electrical extension project. Plus, the County authorized us to use the remaining Community Prosperity Initiative Grant of \$1,754.25 from last year's allocation. That means we will need \$2,754.25 less than the \$13,300 we expected.

Whiteaker Field – I heard back from the School District and they wanted to assure the Council and City of Keizer that the District will not change the standard to which they have been irrigating and maintaining the Whiteaker Middle School athletic fields.

Cameras – Staff have delivered junction boxes, backplates, mounting hardware, etc., for our contractor to start putting the boxes together to get them ready for installation. The contractor is assembling the boxes and will get started on the next step soon. The last License Plate Readers (LPR) hardwiring is going onto a school zone sign rather than a traffic light pole. With the last LPR camera, Salem Police Department and Keizer Police Department are waiting for Salem's (Salem and Keizer) citywide traffic light system to be repaired.

Human Resources Director Recruitment – Interviews with two candidates are scheduled for the first week of August.

Artificial Turf Fields at Keizer Rapids Park – The turf is down for the west field. It's fascinating to see how it comes together. Once they lay it out they have a lot of workers out there working on the seams and stitching in lines and numbers.



I had to submit my presentation to the local government grant program review committee on Thursday. This is for a grant request for more than \$600,000 for Phase II of the artificial turf field project which is the bathroom, ADA improvements, and trail connectivity. I sequestered myself in the office for the morning so I could get it done well in advance of the end of the day.

Public Works

Parks & Facilities Division:

The contractor for the artificial turf fields is installing the turf on the west field. They anticipate being complete with the west field by the end of next week.

The contractor for the pickleball courts has excavated and rocked the parking and court areas.



We have received the engraved pickets for the Big Toy fence at Keizer Rapids Park and will be installing them as time allows.

The contractor has started installing the security cameras for the parks.

Street/Stormwater Operations Division:

The contractor for the annual resurfacing project is making good progress. They have completed Dixon and May streets and are scheduled to complete Noren Avenue next Wednesday, July 24th.

The contractor for the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at Lockhaven and McClure will start work next Monday.

Staff has completed about 75% of the catch basin inspection program.

Environmental & Technical Division:

Staff participated in the Learn to Kayak event at Keizer Rapids Park on Wednesday, July 17th.

Our team coordinated an Oregon Department of Forestry presentation to all Public Works staff regarding the emerald ash borer and sign to look for in our ash trees.

Staff is managing 30 open erosion control permits and has 7 pending.

Water Division:

The new electrical component has been installed at the Reitz well and the well is back online.

The Meadows Filter Plat project is complete.

The telemetry radio upgrade project is complete.

Police

Patrol Division

Over the previous weekend, Officer Kowash investigated a vehicle crash on Rivercrest Drive North that involved a male who struck a parked car. After providing some of the necessary documents, the driver admitted to the owner of the parked vehicle that he did not have car insurance and then took off running on foot. Officer Kowash is investigating the incident.

Officer Fletcher took a report of a sex offense where a female reported being sexually assaulted by a male she met on the Tinder dating app. The case is assigned to Det. Worledge for investigation.

Officer Young responded to a road rage incident that started in Salem but involved a Keizer resident as one of the drivers. As a result, said the driver was taken into custody by Salem PD for Unlawful Use of a Weapon.

Sgt. Bigler's team assisted Keizer Fire Department with a house fire on Briarwood Circle. No one was hurt, as the family was away on a camping trip when the fire started.

On Monday and Tuesday, July 15th and July 16th, , Officer Darst followed up on the gel pellet gun incident from the previous week, where a female pedestrian was shot by juveniles in a passing vehicle. Both juveniles have been identified as one of them called in to confess. Officer Darst met with juveniles and their families and issued citations for them to appear in Marion County Juvenile Court.

Officer Van Cleave investigated the death of a female born in 1929, and it was determined she died of natural causes. Officer Van Cleave also investigated a child abuse case cross-reported by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS).

On Tuesday, July 16th with assistance from the Marion County Medical Examiner's Office, Officer Darst investigated the death of a 50-year-old male in the area of Brandon Court NE. Officer Darst also investigated a child abuse case in the area of Appleblossom Avenue North—another matter cross-reported by Oregon DHS.

Officers also handled a wide array of other calls, including parking complaints, suspicious vehicles and persons, aggressive dogs, car break-ins, domestic violence, EDP (Emotionally Disturbed Persons), and intoxicated persons, and took multiple individuals to jail for shoplifting and outstanding arrest warrants.

On Tuesday, the vehicle that was struck on Rivercrest Drive North was stolen. Later that evening, Sgt. Demarco's team located the stolen vehicle, which briefly attempted to flee but was stopped. The suspect was taken into custody and transported to Marion County Jail.

Criminal Investigation Division (CID)

Detective Lathrop testified in a trial this week regarding his role in a murder investigation from 2011. Detective Anderson also testified in the same trial. It's a good example of how a case from 13 years ago can still occupy our officers' time.

Last week, Detective Prall retired after 33 years of dedicated service to the Keizer Police Department.

Jeremiah Worledge joined CID in his new role as a Youth Safety and Support Officer (YSSO). Detective Worledge will be providing district-wide consultation to Salem-Keizer Public Schools and investigating major crimes that occur at schools within Keizer. Detective Worledge is already taking on a caseload.

Detectives Farrens and Hans are working on various child abuse investigations, while Detective Renfro is handling sex offenses and major property crime cases.

Community Response Unit (CRU)

Detective Zavala worked on various projects, while Detective McCowan is in background investigations training. They also continue to assist CID detectives with on-call coverage during these times of reduced staffing.

Traffic Safety Unit (TSU)

Officer Powell testified in a week-long trial this week for a Manslaughter in the First Degree /DUII case with which he assisted the Marion County Sheriff's Office nearly two years ago. The case involved a 20-year-old driver whose vehicle collided near Turner with a car operated by a Cascade High School teacher, resulting in the death of the teacher. The involved driver was found guilty of Manslaughter in the First Degree, DUII, and reckless driving.

Officer Powell handled a crash involving an adult male on a battery-powered two-wheel scooter. This is a good reminder for riders to ride with traffic, even when in the bike lane, and not travel over 15 MPH.

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