

TAX,

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is the source for money spent on public safety and park services, but it's not the honey pot one might think. Tim Wood, Keizer's finance director, said the city stands to collect about \$4.8 million in property taxes this year based on a \$2.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value rate. While that seems like a hefty sum, consider that police services alone cost more than \$5.1 million during the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Moreover, Keizer receives a token amount - 13 cents - of each dollar residents pay in property taxes. The Salem-Keizer School District receives the lion's share of money collected, 40 cents on the dollar, and another 19 cents per dollar goes to Marion County. The city of Keizer is fourth in line after either of the two fire districts that serve city residents.

"People have to understand that our tax rate is artificially low," Clark said. "There are other cities doing more, but look at the property taxes those other places are paying. In other cities of this size, residents are paying between \$4 and \$6 per

thousand."

Keizer's current tax rate was set in 1996, and locked in when Oregon voters approved Measure 50, which capped property tax assessments, in May 1997. Measure 50's passage quite literally meant the city could no longer increase its budget through raising property tax levels, and leaves essentially only two options on the table: local option levies that would have to be renewed periodically or a fee added to utility bills.

Clark sees a fee as the most viable of the two, but she wants residents to have a clear view of what precisely such a fee would pay for. While the city's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is already looking at options for creating a dedicated parks fund to pay for parks improvements, Clark is preparing to tackle the public safety side of the conversation, and that will involve tough questions and detailed planning and analysis.

"If we want to have more police, we need to decide what those officers are going to do and need as far as support," Clark said. "Do we need more school resource officers? Are we asking for more traffic enforcement? Are we asking for patrol? And, if you're asking for another patrol officer, you're going to

need another detective. Are we talking about more officers for one shift, two shifts or all three? Do we have enough support staff to cover the extra evidence and paperwork generated by new police positions?"

To kickstart the discussion, Clark has asked city staff to be prepared to answer questions regarding the general fund at the city council's Aug. 8 work session.

"One of our goals as a council was to engage the residents of the city more and each of the councilors has taken up a piece of that," Clark said. "I want us all to be working from the same basis of good information as we start talking with our different social circles. We can also do town halls, visit neighborhood and homeowners associations, church groups and other events to spread the word."

The city charter grants the city council the power to establish fees, but Clark wants to use it.

"If we hear the residents just want us to get it done, we can do that, but we can also take it to the ballot," Clark said. "I would ask that people take the time to listen, learn and share their ideas. It's a decision that we need to make as a community."

police scanner

TUESDAY, JULY 5

- 8 a.m. - Fraud use of credit card on 3700 block Hart Drive N.
- 11 a.m. - Violate release agreement, assault, unlawful possession of methamphetamine, endanger minors welfare and drug laws violation on 4100 block River Road N.
- 1:27 p.m. - Accident-hit and run and fail to perform duties of driver when property is damaged on 600 block Cater Drive NE.
- 7:47 p.m. - Telephone harassment on 900 block Cynthia Ave. N.
- 8:17 p.m. - Arrest for criminal mischief, vandalism and burglary on 100 block Appleblossom Ave. N.
- 8:47 p.m. - Theft on 1400 block Dearborn Ave. NE.
- 10:45 p.m. - Sudden death on 4300 block Toni Ave. N.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

- 6:40 a.m. - Traffic accident on 6100 block Ulali Drive NE.
- 8:25 a.m. - Arrest for bench warrant on 12th Ave

- NE and Dearborn Ave NE.
- 9:17 a.m. - Theft on 5500 block McLeod Lane NE.
- 5:18 p.m. - Reckless endangering and disorderly conduct on 500 block Greenwood Drive NE.
- 9:51 p.m. - Aggravated assault and burglary on 5100 block Chehalis Drive N.

THURSDAY, JULY 7

- 8 a.m. - Theft on 4900 block River Road N.
- 10:33 a.m. - Arrest for theft on 1300 block Firview Place N.
- 11 a.m. - Theft on 1500 block Alder Drive NE.
- 1:27 p.m. - Theft on 4700 block Harcourt Ave NE.
- 2:13 p.m. - Stolen vehicle on 4900 block River Road N.
- 2:47 p.m. - Arrest for parole violation on 3200 block Felina Ave NE.
- 4:18 p.m. - Theft on 5400 block River Road N.

FRIDAY, JULY 8

- 1:19 p.m. - Arrest for bench warrant on 5300 block River Road N.
- 3:11 p.m. - Arrest for warrant on 1200 block Can-

- dlewood Drive NE.
- 9:25 p.m. - Telephone harassment on 4700 block Verda Lane NE.

SATURDAY, JULY 9

- 3:05 a.m. - Arrest for DUII and accident on Verda Lane NE and 18th Street NE.
- 11:34 a.m. - Burglary on 1100 block Candlewood Drive NE.
- 11:45 p.m. - DUII on 3300 block River Road N.
- 11:55 p.m. - Arrest for assault on 100 block Delta Court N.

SUNDAY, JULY 10

- 2:42 a.m. - DUII on Sandra Ave N and Lost Creek Court N.
- 5:54 p.m. - Counterfeit currency on 3800 block River Road N.
- 9:04 p.m. - DUII on 5300 block River Road N.

MONDAY, JULY 11

- 2:35 a.m. - DUII on 4600 block River Road N.
- 3:02 a.m. - Arrest for runaway juvenile/protective custody on 1800 block Alder Drive NE.

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Clean Energy Comfort, which recently relocated to Keizer from Salem is a leading provider of home heating and cooling systems. Their focus is to help customers achieve a maximum comfort level in their home, while minimizing energy usage. Company president Chris Romine, vice president Gayle Tunnell and their expert technicians achieve this through properly sizing a comfort system to match the needs of the home, and then tailoring the system to meet the desires of the homeowner.

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The company approaches their business from an educational perspective. They help their customers make the best decision for their homes. They aim to quickly take care of their customers needs and provide high-rated products that their customers can trust.

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