

Man hit by gunshot at apartment party

An altercation at a Keizer apartment resulted in a 20-year-old man being shot Saturday, March 7.

A few minutes before 2 a.m., Keizer Police officers were dispatched to Evergreen Villa Apartments in the 700 block of Bever Drive Northeast on the report of a shooting.

When they arrived, officers located a male subject who was the victim of a non-life-threatening gunshot wound. He was treated on scene by medics and was transported to Salem Health for further treatment.

A preliminary investigation indicated that a group of individuals were at a party in one of the apartments when an uninvited group arrived and an altercation occurred. One of the people involved fired several shots at the original group from the apartment,

striking the victim once.

The suspect who fired the shots was not identified

or located, and detectives are investigating whether the incident was gang-related.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Tim Lathrop at 503-390-3713.



The Evergreen Villa Apartment Complex was the site of a violent incident on Saturday, March 7. KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson

Charter review group sets public forum

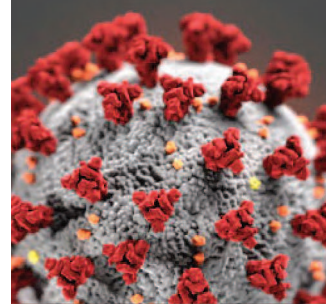
By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer Charter Review Committee set a public forum on potential revisions to the Keizer city charter for Tuesday, April 21.

During the forum, the committee will ask for input on four questions the group did not want to change in the charter without input from the public. What the precise questions are will be determined in the coming weeks as members of the committee reach out to community and

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First case of COVID-19
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Cuffed
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CITY BUDGET PREVIEW: Police services fee could escalate quickly

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Members of the Keizer Budget Advisory Committee got a preview of what to expect when budgeting season begins in about 60 days. The biggest challenge the group can expect to grapple with is what to do about the monthly police services fee added to utility bills in November 2017.

The group met under the title of the Keizer Long-Range Planning Committee Monday, March 9.

The police fee pays for five full-time officers at the Keizer Police Department (KPD), but a rash of retirements has kept the Keizer Police Department from maintaining a full roster of 42 officers and eight administrators. The glut of departures has strained the city budget as retiring employees collect payments for accrued time off and that has meant positions at the department are being held open while the city saves money to fill them.

Currently, there are 47 full-time positions filled at KPD and roughly half of a full-time equivalent in paid part-time staff.

To combat the backslide, city staff floated the idea of raising the police services fee from \$4 per month to \$5.33 a month in the 2020-21 fiscal year. The increase will generate an additional \$226,000.

"That would pay for another full-time officer and offset some of the expenses we expected would grow



File

when we established the fee," said Tim Wood, Keizer finance director.

However, the fee growth would not stop there. In 2021, the fee would climb

to \$7.39 per month and, by 2025, the fee might nearly triple to \$11.93 per month. City officials were aware that the fee would likely need to increase over time when it was

put in place, but some at the meeting appeared caught off guard by the exponential fee growth projections.

When the city put in place fees for police and parks

services, City Manager Chris Eppley said, the park fee was the harder sell.

"With police, we knew what we were buying — five people. I think now the parks fee is easier to define because we can see all the improvements that have been made where the police fee is the more difficult burden because a lot of it is philosophical. It's selling how safe a person feels," Eppley said.

Keizer Police Chief John Teague said the fee becomes more of a sustainability fee for police services at the higher rates, but the difference can be seen in how the department

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New Volcanoes manager
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Doutt leads McNary's All-Conference recipients
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Keizer up for the challenge, says mayor

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark delivered her annual State of the City address during a Keizer Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday, March 10. Her theme this time around was demonstrating the many ways Keizer

has risen to meet challenges during the past year.

She started with a project that is reaching the next stage of its development, a revision of the city charter that removes language marginalizing LGBTQ people. The charter amendment, known as Section 44, was approved by Keizer voters in the 1990s.

"I firmly believe that Section 44 will be eliminated in its entirety ... and our charter will reflect the welcoming city it is," Clark said.

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