

Humane Society goes appt. only

The Willamette Humane Society is limiting all adoption and intake of animals to appointment only.

The organization has closed its doors to walk-in traffic at the main hub on Turner Road Southeast.

The WHS Spay and Neuter Clinic and the Thrift Store Downtown remain open as usual. Adoption appointments can be made at by emailing adoptions@whs4pets.org

Appointments to surrender an animal or bring in a stray

can be made by schedule an appointment by calling and leaving a message at 503-585-5900 (select option #1 or dial extension 300) or email info@whs4pets.org.

The organization has canceled all humane education and youth programs, the monthly volunteer orientation and community outreach events.

There is no evidence that companion animals can spread the virus. There is also no evidence of people catching the virus from companion animals.

KPD takes extra precaution

Keizer Police Department officials are still responding to all calls for service, but striving to maintain social distancing.

"Your police officers are equipped with necessary personal protective equipment to respond to all emergencies while also ensuring we aren't either getting or spreading the virus," said Lt. Bob Trump, of the Keizer police.

Police are not responding to medical calls unless specifically requested by medics.

If CPR is needed, gloves masks and eye protection are mandatory for officers. Recruiting efforts at the department have been delayed until at least April 28.

Officers are advised to take a 48-hour leave if they begin displaying signs of COVID-19 infection.

Underlying conditions that exacerbate COVID infection

The COVID-19 virus is nondiscriminating in its spread, but there are certain conditions that make individuals more likely to suffer severe symptoms and outcomes.

This is the list of underlying conditions known to exacerbate the virus impacts, according to the Oregon Health Authority:

- Lung disease, including asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema) or other chronic conditions associated with impaired lung function or that require home oxygen
- Compromised immune system (immunosuppression) (e.g., seeing a doctor for cancer and treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation, receiving an organ or bone

marrow transplant, taking high doses of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressant medications, HIV with a CD4 count <200)

- Blood disorders (e.g., sickle cell disease or on blood thinners)
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Current or recent pregnancy (in the last two weeks)
- Diabetes, or other endocrine disorders
- Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)
- Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
- Neurological and neurodevelopment conditions

Food bank scrambles to meet local need

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

Due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Keizer Community Food Bank has been a lot busier than normal.

Jim Johnson, a spokesperson for the food bank, said that they prepared almost twice as many meals last week then they are used to.

"With the grocery shelves becoming bare, it's become a little bit crazy," Johnson said.

Although donations only make up for 5 percent of the food bank's distribution, the food bank is in serious need of donations.

Currently, Keizer Food Bank's biggest needs right now are milk, eggs, bread and meat. Canned goods would also be incredibly helpful according to Johnson.

Cash donations are also accepted and preferred — the food bank can purchase items that are needed for the pantry at 35 cents on the dollar. People can also make financial donations at tinyurl.com/keizerfb.

On Monday, March 23, Keizer Food Bank posted on their Facebook account their appreciation for members of the community stepping up to make donations in a time of great need.

"Thank you Keizer for stepping up in such a big way for our Keizer Food Bank this evening ... The number of families we are serving is unprecedented (and) with grocery store shelves empty it's getting harder for people to feed their families. So thank you and keep the food coming ...," the post said.

They are still operating during the same hours (Monday 6-7:30 p.m. and Thursday 9:30- 11 a.m.). Customers will no longer be allowed in the building — volunteers will bring the food to your car or deliver to food to your home.

"We intend to stay open as long as we can get volunteers and food," Johnson said.

Keizer Community Food Bank is a nonprofit organization and is located at Faith Lutheran Church (4505 River Rd. N).

Keizer Elks dig deep for veterans

The Salem and Keizer Elks lodges were part of the multi-lodge effort to provide support to veterans and staff caring for them at the Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks holds veteran support as a founding tenet. In a matter of hours,

eight area lodges provided a \$2,200 in items requested for the 144 residents of the Lebanon facility and two meals for the 120 staff members that work there. Elks volunteers logged more than 30 volunteers who committed more than 125 hours in shopping, cooking and delivering food.

Cherriots alters services

Health concerns in light of COVID-19 have altered the way that Cherriots will operate until further notice.

At press time, Polk County Flex and Cherriots Shop and Ride services have been suspended. They are continuing to provide service on Cherriots Local, Cherriots Regional and Cherriots LIFT.

As of Wednesday, March 18, all Cherriots buses were fare-free. Cherriots asked riders to enter through the back door unless they needed the ramp to board.

Priority seating was tapped off, though still available for seniors, people with disabilities and people with children in strollers, in an effort to protect their drivers.

Cherriots was experiencing staffing shortages as of Monday, March 23, riders were advised to check cherriots.org/alerts for more information.

The customer service windows and lobby are closed at both the Downtown Transit Center and the Keizer Transit Center. Customer service staff are available by phone at 503-588-2877, by email at info@cherriots.org and on Cherriots social media channels. Customer service hours are Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about Cherriots response to the virus, visit Cherriots.org/health.



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Email giving@santiamhospital.org or call 503-769-9319 for more information.

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