

# Keizer fire adapts to protect staff, community

By **MATT RAWLINGS**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The spread of the coronavirus has forced businesses and organizations to change the way they operate.

Keizer Fire District is no different. The first big move that KFD made was back on March 11 when it was decided that they would close the station to all members of the public and require their firefighters to wear masks at all times around the station.

“We want to protect our firefighters, but we also wanted to protect the general public,” KFD deputy fire marshal Ann-Marie Storms said. “Our firefighters are still doing their jobs and doing a lot of interacting.”

KFD also suspended all non-emergency appearances by first responders to community events.

“The health and safety of our community and first responders is our top priority as we continue to learn more and address the specific needs of the coronavirus,” said KFD fire chief Jeff Cowan on the district’s website.

According to Storms, KFD is having all of their non-essential personnel — those who don’t respond to 911 calls — do the vast majority of their work from home, including Storms, as well as office manager, Lynette Komp, fire and life safety specialist, Cody Heidt and IT specialist, Joshua Rutter.

But some of the non-essential staff is still finding creative ways to interact with the community, with a special focus on children.

Heidt and Storms have posted numerous videos on the KFD Facebook page during the past few weeks. Whether it’s reading a story, showing what equipments firefighters wear to put out a fire or giving a tour of one of the engines, they want to show the kids of the community that they are still there for them.

“Our firefighters are still doing their jobs and doing a lot of interacting.”

— Anne-Marie Storms  
Deputy fire marshal

“How we operate looks a lot different, but this affects everyone in the country. We all have to evolve to an ever-changing situation,” Storms said.

The district also plans to do a Q & A segment on social media at a later date.

The only major staffing change that KFD has gone through is altering Medic 37 from a 12-hour ambulance to a 24-hour ambulance, giving KFD three ambulances that are fully staffed at all times.

The Medic 37 staff will be considered the “swing crew,” giving workers flexibility to be changed to a different medic if needed.

To limit the exposure for medical personnel, only 1-2 people on a six-person crew will be entering a facility on an emergency call. The remainder of personnel in the ambulance will stand-by if more assistance is required.

“We don’t want to expose five or six people if we don’t have to,” Storms said.

Storms says the district will continue to follow guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and encourages people keep following social distancing procedures.

## CASES, continued from Page A1

constructive resource to our community that may have an interest in this information and data, we have been counseled by our health organizations that we must also maintain employee and resident privacy. Thus, in ensuring that privacy is maintained, we have unfortunately been directed to not provide any further update information to you via our website,” the message states.

A prior message, two days before Oaks went silent, stated, “Unfortunately, we (like most nursing homes in our communities) have treated and discharged back to the hospital positive COVID-19 residents and are working feverishly to contain and isolate every case as feasibly possible.”

There have been 289 positive COVID-19 tests in Marion County since the crisis began. Washington and Multnomah counties are the only ones in Oregon with more.

## FEST: Some events will continue as planned

(Continued from Page A1) to the annual parade, knowing area schools will not be in session, we will have to be creative with recruiting marching bands and float entries,” she said. “But with the effort and passion of our community volunteers we are certain we can put on an event we all will enjoy and be proud of.”

The 2020 theme iris is *Stairway to Heaven* and the festival theme is *Dancin’ In the Streets*. The current

Celebration of Flowers competition will continue in May as well as the annual Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast on May 7. The chamber is collaborating with local religious leaders on a way to hold the prayer breakfast in a socially distanced fashion.

Updates on festival plans will be posted to keizerchamber.com. Those with additional questions or who want to be involved should contact Bethell at 503-393-9111 or danielle@keizerchamber.com.



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# Two burglarize Menlo business, elude capture

NW Tech Solutions was burglarized by two individuals on Wednesday, April 8.

Shortly after midnight, Keizer police officers were dispatched to the business at 131 Menlo Dr. N., for a reported burglary

On surveillance video, two suspects were observed entering the business after breaking through the front entrance.

The first is described as a tall, white male adult in his thirties, with a thin build, and the second described as having a thin build.

A vehicle associated with the two was described as a gray, two-door sedan.

Responding officers were unable to locate the car or the suspects in the area.

Several laptops were stolen during the incident.

Anyone with information about the burglary is asked to call Det. RJ Farnens at 503-390-3713.

## Wear masks in public

Gov. Kate Brown is urging all Oregonians to wear face masks — homemade ones are fine — when in public spaces.

“This is a rapidly-evolving situation, and each day we learn more about this virus,” said Brown.

The CDC has updated its guidance regarding the use of homemade, cloth masks in public: wearing cloth masks in public places like grocery stores can help prevent those who are sick — particularly unknowingly infected, asymptomatic people — from spreading the virus further.



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**SAINT EDWARD Catholic Church**  
393-5323  
5303 River Rd. N., Keizer  
Father Gary L. Zerr, Pastor  
Saturday Vigil Liturgy: 5:30 p.m.  
Sundays: 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
La Misa en Español: 12:30 p.m.

**John Knox Presbyterian Church**  
452 Cummings Lane North • 393-0404  
Rev. Dr. John Neal, Pastor  
Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Education Hour - 9:15 a.m.  
Nursery Care Available  
www.JohnKnoxPresKeizer.org

**Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
4505 River Road N, Keizer • 503-393-4507  
www.FLCKeizer.org  
Pastor Linda Matz Easterling  
Sunday School - 9:00 am  
Worship Service - 10:00 am

**Keizer Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
6945 Wheatland Rd. NE 393-6843  
www.KeizerChristian.org  
Worship and Children's Church • 10:00 a.m.  
Office Hours 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

**COUNTRYSIDE Christian Church**  
9:30 am & 11:00 am Sunday Worship Services  
countrysidechristianchurch.org  
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**KEIZER COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
380 Churchdale Ave N (1 block West of Dutch Bros)  
503-393-0222 • KeizerCommunityChurch.com  
**SUNDAY:**  
9:30 am Sunday School (all ages)  
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**WEDNESDAY:**  
6:30 pm Awana: Youth Group, Adults