

River Road project will be city's first to combine offices, housing

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A new development near Sonic Drive-In on River Road North will be the first to take advantage of revised development standards that encourage placing residential spaces on top of commercial property.

Salem's Clutch Industries is developing the site which will become Sonic River Apartments. The three story, 12,000-square-foot space will accommodate 13 apartment units and up to five commercial offices.

"We're not anticipating any retail, but a chiropractic or acupuncture office or insurance agency would fit great," said Chris Blackburn, owner of Clutch Industries.

Contractors are digging down to provide space for



Construction of the Sonic River Apartments will be the first to take advantage of changes to the city's development code.

the commercial tenants and two stories of one- and two-bedroom apartments will be placed on top.

"It will look quite a bit different than what drivers are used to seeing on River Road,

but we're excited to be able to provide what we think will be a really nice project when it's all complete," Blackburn said.

Construction is expected to take about six months.

Blackburn said the

apartment components are being designed with an "urban walk" lifestyle in mind and a Cherriots bus stop just outside the door.

Blackburn said the Sonic River Apartments are one of

several development projects he hopes to embark on in Keizer, and added that the city's planning department would likely keep him coming back.

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Now fall sports are in limbo
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Keizer church fosters community through gardening



Keizer Church of Christ's community gardens near Keizer Little League Park, are available to everyone, not just church members.

By LAUREN MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Church of Christ created their neighborhood garden in hopes of connecting with their neighbors.

"Once the Keizer Station Apartments were built, it gave us the opportunity to think about other things we could do to connect with and serve our neighbors," said Associate Minister Howard Joans.

They decided to create a garden because they felt it was a desire that wasn't being met in the community.

"There's a lot of folks that live in apartments that like to garden but don't have a place to do it," Joans said.

The garden is open to all members of the community, whether they attend Keizer Church of Christ or not.

"We have a few members from our congregation that garden and we have a few

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Teachers fight to maintain Celtic Spirit
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Matters of Faith
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Warner heads to Wildcats
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Civic Center reopens to public

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The City of Keizer is preparing for a four-phase reopening to coincide with broader plans to reopen the state's offices and private businesses.

"This plan will be phased in over the next weeks/months with parts happening very soon and others tied to the governor's executive orders and the state's reopening efforts," wrote City Manager Chris Eppley in an email announcing the coming changes.

Beginning May 15, the Keizer Civic Center will reopen to walk-in traffic with the following protocols in place:

- Sneeze and cough guards will be installed at each customer service station.
- Automatic hand sanitizers

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Something wicked, sweet planned at Keizer Village



By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Katie Peters didn't want to give up on Stayton's The Doughnut Shop, but reality has a way of interfering with even the best laid plans.

Katie and her husband Michael took over the store and all its ingredients in January 2018. Katie spent the prior six

months in the store baking up treats and serving its customers as a way to learn the ropes. But, after a year of "giving it a real effort" things weren't coming together as she'd hoped.

"That shop was doing enough business to keep its doors open, but not enough for us to actually make a living from it," Katie said.



Left: While Wicked Sweet's bread-and-butter will be doughnuts, the owners will also offer a variety of other treats. Submitted

It was a devastating decision to pull the plug, but Katie and Michael regrouped and began reviewing all the lessons learned.

"We had a product that we believed in, and we had learned a great deal from the year we spent running The Doughnut Shop," Katie said.

They went in search of a new location that would provide access to a larger customer base, but still in reach of the diehard fans it had in Stayton.

Spots in Salem wouldn't accommodate the fryer without major renovations and they almost picked a new site in Dallas before finding out about Keizer Village on River Road.

"Our realtor brought a newly listed location in Keizer to our attention; the

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