

REOPENS: Some things headed back to ‘normal’

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will be set up in the main lobby, police department lobby and city hall offices with signage directing visitors to sanitize their hands before entering the space.

- Investigating the possibilities for redirecting air flow away from customer counters.
- Markings on the floors of the civic center indicating appropriate spacing.
- Providing take-away masks for customers to wear prior to entering customer service areas.

The civic center may also reopen to small groups that fit within the governor’s guidelines for gatherings. Employees with customer service duties will be returning to work from telecommuting, and municipal court proceedings will restart with social distancing measures in place.

The second phase of the plan begins May 25 and calls for:

- Public works field staff being returned to normal shift and hours, wearing masks when sharing service vehicles and other situations that force employees to be in close proximity to each other.
- Maintaining social distancing as much as practicable.

BUDGET, continued from Page A1

issues as the Keizer Police Department reached full staffing. Keizer Police Chief John Teague fielded the answer.

“There are things officers encounter every day that are not criminal and that the city can address through code enforcement in a way that will keep the city safe and livable,” Teague said.

The committee did not recommend adding code enforcement capacity as part of its approval of the budget.

- The committee recommended maintaining the police and parks services fee at \$4 per month, effectively punting on the question of what to do as the cost to maintain officers hired with the fee increases.
- The Keizer Chamber of Commerce will be getting a boost in what it receives from the city’s Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). Last year, the

In Phase 3, telecommuting employees will return to positions where it will be more effective for them to be at their regular stations. Some employees may shift to permanent or semi-permanent hybrid shifts that mean telecommuting on some days and appearing in person on others. There is no set date for this phase to begin as it will need to coincide with the governor’s easing of work-from-home directives.

Phase 4, which has no set date attached, will see the return of in-person city council meetings and other task force and committee meetings. Social distancing measures will remain in place for members of the groups and audience members with continued opportunities for electronic participation by members of the public.

“Through all of these phases, we will provide appropriate hand sanitizer, gloves and masks for those employees who desire to use them,” Eppley wrote.

Usage of the civic center by large groups as well as usage of sports courts, playgrounds and the skate park will remain tied to the governor’s orders.

chamber requested a doubling of the contribution it received from the city to approximately \$16,000 because TOT revenues began to climb.

This year, Executive Director Danielle Bethell pleaded with members of the budget committee for another \$12,000 from TOT revenues as the organization scrambles to help local businesses respond to the alteration of services forced by the pandemic.

Committee members approved the increase with no resistance, but Mayor Cathy Clark had hoped to have Bethell return with a more fine-tuned proposal, specifically one that would have seen a laid off employee restored.

It may only be a sign of the times, and a desperate need for alternative entertainment, but almost 900 people viewed some part of Monday meeting that was livestreamed on Facebook in addition to other online spaces. Another 50 residents took advantage of a live broadcast translated into Spanish.

McDonald’s offers Happy Meals for kids of healthcare workers

Keizer McDonald’s locations are offering free Happy Meals for the children of healthcare workers through May 31.

“In hopes of making things a little easier, when customers purchase a Combo Meal through the McDonald’s app, their kids will eat for free. Families can receive a free Happy Meal at local McDonald’s restaurants via drive-thru and Mobile-Order-Pay,” said Grace Gibney, a spokesperson for the McDonald’s owner-operators of Western Washington.

Additionally, the local McDonald’s owners operators across Oregon and southwest Washington partnered with nearby hospitals to deliver over 1,000 meals to healthcare workers. Throughout the month of April, hospitals in Seaside, Hood River, Medford, Portland and Vancouver, WA received a meal delivery donation in gratitude for their hard work and dedication to the community.

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GARDEN, continued from Page A1

members from the Keizer Station Apartments that are gardening, but we have room for more,” Joans said.

The garden is starting its fourth, and according to Joans, best year.

“This is the summer that we’ve had the most infrastructure and organization,” Joans said.

They have 20 four-by-eight-foot raised beds available for rent. For \$25, an individual or family can rent a box from mid-April through November. The money covers the cost of the water.

After paying the initial fee,

the box is turned over to the gardener’s custody where they can grow whatever they’d like. There are hand tools out in the garden that the gardeners are welcome to use.

“They can grow fruits, vegetables, flowers, any of that,” Joans said. He said people have grown everything from beans to strawberries.

It is still early on in the growing season and the garden has room for more.

“Please come garden with us,” Joans said. “Our little title is Growing Together and we really do think the garden is a way of serving people who are our neighbors and creating an opportunity to make friendships with people we don’t know yet,” Joans said.

WICKED, continued from Page A1

same day it became available, actually. We met and toured the space. It ticked all the right boxes, and so we found ourselves signing a lease,” Katie said.

Wicked Sweet Bakery, at 3852 River Road North, is opening ... sometime. With stay-home orders and a pandemic sweeping the globe, there is still much uncertainty.

“We plan to open with a limited menu of doughnuts and (Odolla Coffee Roasters) espresso, offering curbside pick up and delivery. Our hope is that we will find our footing with the limited menu and add our other menu options as we are able,” Katie said.

The other things Katie hopes are added to the menu soon aren’t found in run-of-the-mill doughnut establish-

ments. The full menu will feature cupcakes, cookies, scones, cinnamon rolls and sticky buns, brownies and a “miscellany of other baked goods.”

The pandemic has meant not hiring the staff originally anticipated for the roll-out of the shop, and there’s a growing frustration in not being able to show off the space she and Michael have tried to create inside.

“Well, we had planned on opening with our full menu and an open seating area, but that plan has since gone out the window. It’s a real bummer,” Katie said.

Eventually, when everything returns to some semblance of normal, Katie said Wicked Sweet Bakery plans to offer its sugar injections Tuesday through Saturday from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For updates on progress, follow Wicked Sweet Bakery on Facebook.

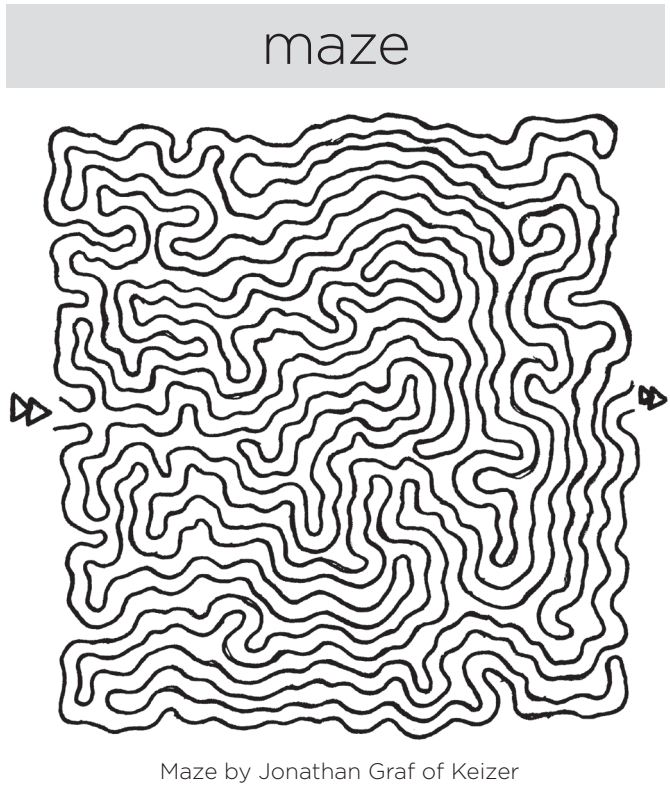
PROJECT, continued from Page A1

“We’ve done a couple of projects in Keizer already and the public works team and the planning department are the real heroes,” he said. “It feels like they are on our team.”

Blackburn expects to open up an application process for the apartments at the Clutch Industries website,

clutchindustries.com, in the near future.

During the past two years, the city took input on and drafted new development standards that encourage developments like the Sonic River Apartments. The goal is to begin taking a bite out of the city’s housing needs while incentivizing property owners on River Road North and Cherry Avenue Northeast to redevelop some of the existing spaces.



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