



When Jim Johnson, director of the Keizer Community Food Bank (KCFB), ushered a line of people into a Keizer city council meeting last month, it should have been a singularly joyous occasion.

Johnson was there to accept the Volunteer of the Quarter Award alongside colleague Dennis Phipps, and brought several of the regular volunteers to share in the moment.

After accepting the award, and thanking the community for its support, Johnson had a much more serious announcement. The food bank needs a new home after a long partnership with Faith Lutheran Church on River Road North.

“We have some time,” said Johnson in an interview earlier this week.

“But if a space opened up, we would be ready to move tomorrow.”

The news came at a difficult time in many respects, Johnson was making plans to have a walk-in refrigerator and walk-in freezer installed to continue to meet the needs of hungry residents. City Councilor Kyle Juran, owner of Remodeling by Classic Homes, had been drafting plans behind-the-scenes and nearing the point of applying

for the appropriate permits. It’s also a time of strained resources for the food bank as the need in the community increased with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because of the increased need in the

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— **JIM JOHNSON** Director,
KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

community, Keizer Community Food Bank has specific needs in a new space.

“We could fit into about 2,500 square feet, but we need the cooler and freezer spaces with doorways that can fit a pallet jack,” Johnson said. “The word in the food assistance community right now is to expect the current levels of demand to continue for the foreseeable future.”

See **FOOD BANK**, page **A9**

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SEE PAGE A11