

2013 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION REPORT
for the
WEST KEIZER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

January 10, 2013 at the Keizer Civic Center

Elections were held for WKNA officers and directors, facilitated by Gary Blake. Board members were approved unanimously and election results were as follows:

President: Rhonda Rich

Vice President: Rick Hammerquist

Secretary: Carolyn Homan

Directors: Gary Blake, Carol Doerfler, Davis Dyer, and Art Mauer

Ken LeDuc was recognized for his service on the board for 3 years and 2012 Vice President leading the project of replacing the playstructure at Willamette Manor Park.

Bill Lawyer, Public Works Director, presented the current funding and time line for the replacement of the **Willamette Manor Park playstructure**. He covered **roadway projects**, particularly Chemawa Rd. and a new **pump station at Lacey Ct.**

Richard Walsh, Chair of the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, presented the concept of a **destination play toy at Keizer Rapids Park** and that the park's board is planning for the next budget cycle.

Marlene Quinn, City Council liaison to the Parks Board discussed her experience with being a member of the Parks Board and a founding member of the Keizer Parks Foundation.

Rick Hammerquist was appointed to the **Volunteer Coordinating Committee** by Councilor Ken LeDuc.

Rhonda Rich represented the WKNA on the **Council/Citizen Communication Work Group** created to make recommendations for improving communications between the Keizer City Council and citizens.

February - no meeting

Email notification sent to members regarding the **Open House for Salem Parkway Crossing to Kroc Center**.

Rhonda notifies the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the City Council that the WKNA wants to be included in the planning of the playstructure at Keizer Rapids Park.

March 14, 2013 at the Keizer Civic Center

Steve Weadick, representing **Copper Creek Mercantile**, introduced the variety of departments in the store, their commitment to individualized service to the customer and a new "Saturday Market" in the parking lot. The business was recognized for their participation in the Pet Parade and costume contest at Riverfair and their support of Keizer tennis.

Sgt. Lance Inman, Keizer Police Department's Community Support Unit, spoke of the changes in the department, such as retirees and that Bob Trump would be taking his position on April 1st. He presented contact information for crime reports.

Eric Bandonis, Probation/Parole Officer of Marion County Sheriff's Dept. encouraged

members to contact him with any concerns.

Shane Whitham, Associate Planner of the City of Keizer presented information on the **Greenway, Floodplain and Keizer Rapids Park and boat ramp**. Shane said that the Community Development Dept. handles **code enforcement**. Concerns expressed by the members were a vacant house on Sunset Ave. and suspicious activity at **Palma Ciega Park**.

Rick Hammerquist recounted his efforts to contact the farmer in Polk Co. to manage the noise from the air cannon that was disturbing the neighborhood.

Gary Blake, Davis Dyer, and Art Mauer volunteered to be representatives of the WKNA on a planning group to work on the Keizer Fire Dept. 5-year plan.

Email notification was sent to members regarding the **Keizer Parks Foundation fundraiser event, "Pinot in the Park"**.

Rhonda Rich presented to the City Council a recommendation from the board and membership of the WKNA to name the main road into Keizer Rapids Park, "**Walsh Way**" in lieu of renaming the Keizer Rapids Park Boat Ramp.

Email notification was sent out regarding the **Verda Ln/Chemawa Rd. roundabout Open House** on March 20th.

April 11, 2013 at the Keizer Civic Center

Sgt. Robert Trump, Keizer Police Dept distributed Neighborhood Crime statistics and offered crime prevention tips for the summer.

A **panel on Foods and Farming** was moderated by **Councilor Cathy Clark**. The panel guests included: **Tina Schneider, manager** of the new **Keizer Sunday Market**; **Bob Zielinski, owner** of **Scenic Valley Farms**; **Scott Mack, originator** of **Chickens in the Yard in Keizer**.

Councilor Clark encouraged members to participate in the **public transportation plan** at www.mwv.org. Other **road topics** were the round-about at Verda/Chemawa Rd., the continuation of McLeod Ln to the Little League Fields, the construction on Chemawa Rd. and the rebuilding of Shoreline from Wayne to Cummings in 2014 or 2015.

The 2013-2014 budget request for \$500 was approved by the membership and at the City Council Meeting on June 3rd.

Ron Freeman was elected as the **WKNA representative** to the **Keizer Rapids Park Community Build Playstructure**.

Richard Walsh, Chair of the Keizer Parks Advisory Board presented information on the Keizer Rapids Park Playstructure and the potential soccer fields.

Rick Hammerquist and Councilor Kim Freeman reported on a **Volunteer Coordinating Committee training session** for all current and future volunteers on April 30th.

E-mail notification was sent out regarding:

The closure of **Tate Ave. pathway** into Keizer Rapids Park from April 1 to April 4 due to construction for utilities.

The **Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA) and Housing Needs Analysis (HNA) Open House** on April 10th.

Keizer Rapids Park invasive weed removal, an event by **SOLVE IT and the Claggett Creek Watershed Council** on April 13th.

Public input into the **Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS) Public Participation Plan (PPP) for the regional transportation planning process.**

The Training Session for current and new volunteers hosted by the City of Keizer **Volunteer Coordinating Committee** on April 30th

President Rhonda Rich received the City of Keizer Volunteer of the Quarter Award presented at the April 15th City Council meeting.

May 9,2013 at the Keizer Civic Center

John Rizzo, shared information on his candidacy for the **Keizer Fire District Board.**

Beth Thorndike, Board President for the Palma Ciega Swim Club presented information on the swimming program and memberships .

A panel of Law Enforcement Officers moderated by V.P Rick Hammerquist included: Sgt. Bob Trump, Keizer Police Dept.; Eric Bandonis, parole officer with Marion County Sheriff's Dept.; and Sgt. Casey Thomas, Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division. Discussion included policing at Keizer Rapids Park and on the Willamette River. The Keizer Police has the primary authority at the park, but state officers also patrol the area.

Art Mauer, Gary Blake, and Davis Dyer, the WKNA representatives to the Keizer Fire District's advisory planning group reported on the district's budget situation and options for a new levy.

June 25, 2013 at Willamette Manor Park

A **celebration** of the new playstructure was held, sponsored by the **WKNA. Keizer Parks Foundation** members, **City of Keizer Public Works** employees, **Keizer Parks Advisory Board** members, **City Council** members, and **park neighbors** were in attendance.

Email notification was sent out to the members about the **Keizer Public Services Fair** on August 14th at Keizer Rapids Park.

September 12,2013 at the Keizer Civic Center

Ken Fox, manager of the Keizer Sherwin Williams Paint store on River Rd. thanked the community for their support for the last five years. Members again thanked Ken for donating paint for the Palma Ciega signs at Cummings and Shoreline and Delight and Dearborn.

Richard Walsh, Chair of the Keizer Parks Advisory Board and Ron Freeman, WKNA representative for the KRP playstructure discussed the process of building the playstructure thru a PowerPoint presentation. Volunteerism and funding will become the main focus after the design is completed by Keizer's kids and Leather's consultants.

September 14, 2013 at Keizer Rapids Park

Salem Audubon Society, in cooperation with the **WKNA**, lead a **birding field trip** along the gravel edge of the Willamette River and into the forest. **Carolyn Homan** and **Barbara Dolan** were the organizers. This was the first year for this event.

Rhonda attended the October 8th Keizer Parks Advisory Board meeting to present a request to replace or repair the **tennis courts at Willamette Manor Park**. She stated that the **WKNA** will poll its members on the **placement of the KRP playstructure**. She also requested that the Tate Ave. pedestrian/bicycle path be resurfaced for ADA compliance and that the existing gravel is too unstable.

In regard to the Education/green room/concession building for the Charge's house, the **Board** agreed that the city should first consider the purpose envisioned for the facility. (Large open room for presentations, meetings or receptions. Smaller rooms to display historical and environmental information. Support facilities such as a restrooms and commercial kitchen). If re-roofing the house, as a start on needed renovations, meets that purpose, then proceed. But if not, the city should move to razing and rebuilding, in order to best meet the end purpose.

Questions: Will remodeling meet the needs or should the facility be a "purpose build"? Is the house of historical, architectural value, such as Bush House or Deepwoods? If the house is to be maintained as the past residence of the Charges, there are other ways with less cost to honor the family, such as Charge Lane or Charge Way.

Rhonda reported that the **WKNA Board** unanimously voted its opposition to the plan of **Guitars Under the Stars 3-day concert**, should it move forward. Reasons given were: too many people for an immature park, not enough parking and support facilities, closing down the dog park and marine facility is not acceptable and that the music venue needs to be contained to the amphitheater

October 10, 2013 at Keizer Civic Center

Sgt. Bob Trump of Keizer Police Dept. presented updates on crime and stated that crime is trending down.

Eric Bandonis, parole officer with Marion County Sheriff's Dept spoke regarding the Sheriff's Dept. 2013-2015 Biennial State Plan and that caseloads have dropped.

Christine Dieker, executive director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, updated the members on the chamber's website, Sustainability Summit, Discover Economic Opportunities, The Turkey Dash and Jingle Dash, the Christmas Light Parade, Keizer's community awards banquet, and new businesses coming to Keizer.

Chief Jeff Cowan of the Keizer Fire Dept. and **Joe Van Meter, KFD Board vice president**, discussed the district's request to raise its local option operating levy to cover increasing 911 costs and hire two more people for ambulance calls.

Ron Freeman, WKNA representative to the KRP playstructure task force gave an update on the future Design Day.

Rhonda distributed a **survey questionnaire** to the members regarding **placement of the playstructure**, renovating the **Charge's house** and the **Guitars Under the Stars** event. Only two sites had been mentioned for the structure — the Area B triangle area and the area south of the dog park. Area B was the unanimous siting choice. Access for disabled children and parking were two of the issues mentioned.

In other survey results, 60% favored repairing the educational/concession building (the Charge house); 30% said repair it if it's cost effective and purposing can be achieved; and 10% said replace it. As for the Guitars Under the Stars concert proposal, 70% opposed it and 30% were undecided. Rhonda said the survey's results need to be presented to the Parks Advisory Board.

Board member Carol Doerfler attended the November 5th meeting of the **Keizer Rapids Park Playstructure** and asked that the **highest priority** be given to the **parking issue**.

November 8, 2013 - no meeting

Members were encouraged to attend the **Design Day Open House** for **Keizer Rapids Park Community Build Playstructure** at the **Keizer Civic Center**. **Carol Doerfler** participated in gathering design ideas from children at Cummings Elementary School and posted pictures on the walls of the Civic Center for the open house.

On Saturday, November 2nd, eight WKNA members met to clean up Chemawa Rd. from River Rd. to Keizer Rapids Park. **Gary Blake** is the **WKNA Adopt-a-Street coordinator**. Members who participated were **Martin and Carol Doerfler, Rick Hammerquist, Ron and Kim Freeman,** and **Rhonda Rich**.

Respectfully submitted by Rhonda Rich, President of the WKNA.