

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**  
for the  
**WEST KEIZER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**JANUARY 2019**

**Jan. WKNA Board meeting (Held Dec. 27, 2018 because of scheduling conflicts)** – Vice President Kris Adams has tendered her resignation because of family considerations.

**Jan. 10, WKNA General meeting**, Keizer Civic Center – Election of the new Board and directors was held. The following slate was installed: President, Carol Doerfler; Vice President, Carol Phipps; Secretary, Carolyn Homan. Directors: Art Mauer, Gary Blake, Rhonda Rich, Kathy Lincoln. Guest speaker Police Chief John Teague presented an update on department personnel and information on the department's evidence-based approach to policing.

**Jan. 28** – Keizer Revitalization plan small group sessions, attended by Gary Blake, Kathy Lincoln and Carolyn Homan, representing WKNA.

**FEBRUARY 2018**

**Feb. 7, WKNA Board meeting** – Board discussed SB5, sponsored by Sen. Peter Courtney and drafted in response to concerns about gun fire emanating from a West Salem gravel pit gun range. The Board discussed the content and had questions about the lack of a definition of “shooting range” in the bill, whether the bill actually applies to the West Keizer situation and whether residents would be called on to testify.

**Feb. 12** – WKNA members attend Keizer Revitalization plan open house to provide input to city. Focus was on transportation elements and potential changes leading to redevelopment along River Road.

**Feb. 14, WKNA General meeting, Keizer Civic Center – Speaker Nate Brown, Keizer Community Development Director** reported on Keizer Revitalization Project and upcoming Buildable Lands Inventory in advance of Urban Growth Boundary expansion discussions. **Kathy Lincoln, Salem Area Mass Transit District Board member**, reported on changes underway and planned for the bus system thanks to the state transportation bill passed last year, which includes new funding via an employee payroll tax. Changes include extended service on some routes (to 11 p.m.) and reinstatement of Saturday service, to begin in September.

Copies of Senate Bill 5 and a revised version, SB 781, both sponsored by Sen. Peter Courtney, and copies of the City of Keizer's resolution urging Polk County Commissioners

to end firearm discharge at the West Salem gravel pit property, shared with group. WKNA to alert residents if there are opportunities to testify.

**Feb. 21** – Public meeting following meeting of Keizer Buildable Lands Supply/Housing Needs Analysis Project Advisory Committee, working in advance of discussions around expanding Keizer's Urban Growth Boundary. Carol Doerfler is a committee member.

## **MARCH 2019**

**March 7, WKNA Board meeting** – Rhonda Rich presented \$550 budget proposal for 2019-20: \$150 for the website fee, \$75 for printing, \$75 for signage and stands and \$250 for brochures. Amounts are in line with the previous three fiscal years, with a slight increase due to a rise in costs. Budget approved. Board discussed: 1) WKNA's annual report, to be given at April 1 council meeting. 2) Latest Senate Bill version re: Polk County shooting incidents; Rhonda to contact legislators for hearing information so residents can be contacted to testify. Latest hearing in the Bauer lawsuit regarding the shooting into their home is March 9-10. 3) Kathy Lincoln in touch with Matt Lawyer, who wants to organize a work party to cleanup the lower area of Wallace House Park to discourage camping by homeless individuals. 4) WKNA asked by City to help get word out about Keizer Revitalization and Urban Growth Boundary discussions. Board ID's Facebook, website and meeting speakers as possibilities. 5) Attending Budget Committee meetings to push for funding for the Delight Street sidewalks to keep issue in forefront. Traffic Safety, Pedestrian Bikeways Committee has made these sidewalks a priority as well.

**March 14, WKNA General meeting** – Guest speaker, Mayor Cathy Clark, who answered attendees questions about the state of the city. Mayor Clark said staff additions are a priority to keep up with Keizer's growing population. No. 1 request: another Code Enforcement Officer. WKNA advocating for funding for path from Cummings Elementary to Chemawa along the west side of Delight to improve safety for children walking to and from the school. Kathy Lincoln will support the project at upcoming Budget Committee meeting. Rhonda Rich prepared a timeline for events surrounding the Bauer shooting (copies available at the meeting) as an addendum to the Annual Report.

## **APRIL 2019**

**April 1** – Carol Doerfler presents WKNA's annual report to City Council.

**April 4, Hearing on SB 1040, Sen. Thatcher's measure re: Polk County shooting incidents** – Carol Doerfler, Rhonda Rich, Mayor Clark, Keizer City Manager Chris Eppley, West Keizer neighbors Jere Clancy and Dan Dietz, and former Keizer City Councilor Bruce Anderson all testified. SB1040 was originally SB 5, then SB 781.

**April 4, WKNA Board meeting** – Carol Doerfler to make WKNA's formal budget request at May 2 budget hearing. Board discussed: 1) Sturdier frames for the meeting signs. Carol Phipps said Dennis P. had researched sturdier stands found some at One-Day Signs (on S. Commercial) for \$5.50 each. It was decided to get 20 new stands. 2) Latest Senate bill re: shootings. Senate Judiciary to decide April 8 whether to move SB1040 to full Senate for consideration. Rhonda Rich reported that Bauers now trying to settle out of court with Northwest Rock, Inc., the gravel pit owner. 3) WKNA talking with Matt Lawyer who is interested in organizing a cleanup at Wallace House Park involving neighbors, the City and Claggett Creek Watershed Council. Concerns voiced over potential hazards to volunteers involved in such an effort as well as the need for follow-up maintenance. 4) WKNA still tracking repairs to tennis court at Willamette Manor Park. Dennis Phipps, whose lot abuts the park, requested the city move the basketball hoop so that balls don't fall into the playground area. The city wasn't receptive to that but is interested in neighbors input on the improvements, although no plan was shared about how input might be provided. Carol D. to follow up. 5) WKNA will plan a major cleanup at Cummings School every other year; planter boxes and reader board area will be refreshed in the interim. 6) Carol D., member of Buildable Lands Inventory/Housing Needs Analysis committee, said more meetings are planned in April and May, with a final open house to gather public input. 7) Discussed ad hoc role for Dennis Phipps as Parks liaison to the Board.

**April 11, WKNA General meeting** – Guest speakers: Britni Davidson, Salem Electric Member Services Manager, and Dave Bauer, Salem Electric Board member (and West Keizer resident) with information on changes to cooperative's Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, to be voted on by co-op members in upcoming election. Guest speakers: Will Postgate, Garten Foundation; John Sullivan, Loren's Sanitation; and Reed Carlson, with Mid-Valley Recyclers, presented information on the new recycling rules, which have created some confusion for customers and for some, fines when recycling is done incorrectly. Councilor Kim Freeman reported that city staff are working on specifications for a redo of the tennis courts at Willamette Manor Park. Rhonda Rich shared copies of SB 1040 re: Polk County shootings. The bill got a work session April 9 and was adopted as amended by the Senate Judiciary Committee. It still must be referred to the full Senate, and then on to the House. Richard Walsh presented information on recent Parks Board vote to reinstate the caretaker program at Keizer Rapids Park, which was ended by City Council last year. The Parks Board is seeking support for a plan to use an on-site “park host” arrangement to provide a monitoring presence to safeguard facilities and visitors. The group voted unanimously to support an on-site park host.

**April 15, Keizer City Council meeting** – Richard Walsh, along with several WKNA Board members, attended City Council to support the idea of reinstating a caretaker at the park to help prevent vandalism, among other issues.

## May 2019

**May 2, City Budget Committee meeting** – Carol Doerfler presents WKNA budget request to budget committee for inclusion in the 2019-20 city budget.

**May 2, WKNA Board meeting** – Rhonda Rich reported that the Keizer Chamber has printed the information flyers on the Iris Fest to be distributed to West Keizer neighbors along Manbrin and Shoreline – the route for Iris Fest runs. Board members received these packets for distribution as well as packets for distribution to neighbors around Willamette Manor Park, informing them of the upcoming meeting where Robert Johnson will discuss plans for reconstruction of the tennis courts this summer and seeking input. Other items: 1) Wallace House cleanup will be tabled if Matt Lawyer doesn't respond with a project update. 2) Agreed to pursue writing a letter of support for the idea of having a host to provide a 24-hour security presence at Keizer Rapids Park. Rhonda will check with Richard Walsh, who brought the idea to the April WKNA general meeting, on the status of this issue. 3) Rhonda shared copies of recent articles on Senate Bill 1040 that appeared in the Statesman Journal and Keizertimes. Bill is headed to House Speaker's desk. Rhonda to get notifications of opportunities to testify. 4) Next meeting of Buildable Lands/Housing Needs groups set for May 29, which may be followed that evening with an open house to gather input on pursuing Urban Growth Boundary expansion.

**May 9, WKNA General meeting** – Guest speakers: Salem-Keizer School District Zone 6 Board candidates Chuck Lee and Danielle Bethell; Dana Schell, Center supporter, and Jane Downing, Executive Director, re: the Center for Hope and Safety, which provides programs to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking; and Robert Johnson, Parks division manager, on planned improvements at Willamette Manor Park. Mayor Clark presented updates from the city, noted that the city is an intervener in the lawsuit brought by the Bauers against the West Salem gravel pit owner over gunshots from that property and commended WKNA for making a powerful impression in presentations to Polk County Commission regarding the errant gunshots. Robert Johnson, Parks Division Manager, Keizer Public Works reported that improvements are set for Willamette Manor Park this summer. The tennis courts will be rebuilt after previous repairs failed. He also said the Parks department was approached by some neighbors to Wallace House Park who wanted to get involved in a possible cleanup to discourage homeless campers. He said Claggett Creek Watershed Council is happy to take the lead and encouraged WKNA to contact Matt Lawyer.

**Updates:** 1) Rhonda reported on SB 1040 re: the Polk County shootings. May 10 is the deadline for hearings. She also shared an email from Polk County Sheriff expressing some frustration that some West Keizer residents had called in after hearing gunshots on Saturday, May 4, which they attributed to the West Salem gravel pit. This was not the case. Residents were urged to call Keizer Police's non-emergency number to report shots heard. This avoids an overload for 911 operators. There is no non-emergency number for Polk County. 2) Rhonda will write a letter of support on behalf of WKNA to be sent to City Council supporting the idea of reinstating a caretaker/host at Keizer Rapids Park.

**May 13-14** – WKNA Board members distribute informational packets to residents along Manbrin and Shoreline in advance of Iris Fest runs along these streets.

**May 20 SB 1040 hearing** – WKNA Board members testify.

## **JUNE 2019**

**June 7** – WKNA Board members Carol Doerfler, Carol Phipps and Carolyn Homan meet to discuss meeting speaker scheduling for the coming year.

**June 13, Traffic Safety/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee meeting – Carol D.** attended to back safety sidewalk for Cummings School students. She also discussed speeding on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, which a resident has identified as a risk to children crossing 5<sup>th</sup> to access Holiday Pool and Willamette Manor Park.

**June 20** – Keizer Revitalization meetings. WKNA Board members attend

## **JULY 2019**

**July 11, Traffic Safety/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee meeting – Carol D.** attended to back safety sidewalk for Cummings School students. She also discussed speeding on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, which a resident has identified as a risk to children crossing 5<sup>th</sup> to access Holiday Pool and Willamette Manor Park.

**July 25** – WKNA Board members deliver informational packets re:Diabuddies Dash through our neighborhood from Keizer Rapids Park.

## **AUGUST 2019**

**Aug. 6** – National Nite Out events. WKNA Board members Carol Doerfler and Rhonda Rich attend various gatherings to report on a settlement reached in the Bauer lawsuit regarding the West Salem shootings.

**Aug. 9, Planning meeting** – WKNA Board members Carol Doerfler, Carol Phipps and Carolyn Homan meet to discuss revising bylaws.

**Aug. 10** – Annual John Knox Presbyterian Church neighborhood barbecue. WKNA Board members Carol Doerfler and Carolyn Homan attend.

## SEPTEMBER 2019

**Sept. 3, Keizer Council meeting** – Carol D. attended to thank Shannon Johnson, Chris Eppley and others at City for their work on securing a settlement in the lawsuit brought by the Bauers against the gravel pit owner in West Salem where gunshots originated that penetrated the Bauer home and damaged the kitchen backsplash. Carol also discussed speeding on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, which a resident has identified as a risk to children crossing 5<sup>th</sup> to access Holiday Pool and Willamette Manor Park.

**Sept. 4, WKNA Board meeting** – Rhonda Rich reported that WKNA's \$550 budget request for 2019-20 was approved. Board discussed using the \$250 budgeted for brochures to purchase a sandwich board sign to use to identify WKNA as the sponsor of an event or activity, such as cleanups at Cummings School. Brochure printing is being donated by Jeff Anderson. Board discussed: 1) What information should be left on WKNA website about the West Salem shooting case. A summary paragraph was developed and posted. 2) Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan – Carol D. met this summer with Dana Baugher, who lives on 5<sup>th</sup> Street across from Holiday Pool and Willamette Manor Park. She is concerned about speeding and safety of children crossing 5<sup>th</sup> to access the pool and park. Carol took the issue to Traffic Safety/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee in June and then to City Council in July. As a result, the City painted curbs in that area to limit parking and provide better visibility at corners/pedestrian crossings. Despite ongoing concerns that speeding is still an issue, WKNA took the position that to accomplish anything further, the organization has to follow the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan. That involves going door-to-door, interviewing neighbors, which would require WKNA to get a flyer out before the September general meeting. Carol P. shared a flyer that could be used. 3) Bylaws revision – Group discussed suggested changes that arose from Aug. 9 meeting. Some changes suggested. Bylaws revised as amended. 4) Wallace House cleanup – Kathy said Matt Lawyer has an interested group but the date of a planning meeting is unknown. 5) Caretaker at Keizer Rapids – City Council on Sept. 3 nixed this idea. Rhonda said followup with City re: security at the park is needed.

Buildable Lands/Housing Needs – Carol D. said the issues will be revisited at a Keizer Revitalization public hearing Sept. 16, followed by an open house that evening as the city gathers input and discusses whether to pursue Urban Growth Boundary expansion or not. 7) Palma Ciega update – Gary Blake reported quick response from Keizer police and the City to cleanup a homeless camp at Palma Ciega following a robbery on Cummings near the park.

**Sept. 12, WKNA General meeting** – Guest speaker Krista Carter from Marion County shared information on Emergency Preparedness. Guest speaker Nate Brown, Keizer Community Development manager, shared information on the Sept. 16 Keizer Revitalization public hearing and encouraged everyone to attend. **Updates:** Carol D. gave an update on the final judgment in the Bauer vs. Northwest Rock, Inc settlement that dealt with the shooting from a West Salem gravel pit that damaged the Bauer home. The judgment was signed Sept. 12, 2019, and

limited shooting to shotguns only, which should prevent incursions across the river onto West Keizer properties.. Carol also reported that the City will not be hire a caretaker for Keizer Rapids Park but, instead, will be renting out the home on this land.

She also reported on the Cummings School walkway project. This will begin with the Salem/Keizer school district providing a pathway from the school to Dearborn using funding included in the recent Salem/Keizer bond measure. The City of Keizer will provide a 10-ft. multi-use pathway from Dearborn to Chemawa Avenue.

**Sept. 16, Buildable Lands/Housing Needs committee public hearing/open house –**  
WKNA Board members attend.

## **OCTOBER 2019**

**Oct. 3, WKNA Board meeting – Updates:** 1) Carol P. shared information Dennis gathered from One-Day Signs on sandwich boards which could be used to identify West Keizer Neighborhood Association projects and volunteers. Discussed potential wording. 2) Carol D. talked with Dana Baugher (concerned neighbor on on 5<sup>th</sup> Street) about why speeding issue was tabled at the last meeting. Dana said she felt momentum for any action was fading now that the Willamette Manor pool is closed. She agreed with Carol's idea that we re-initiate a neighborhood-wide traffic/speed control effort beginning next year. Kathy said the issue is on the Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee's upcoming agenda. 3) Carolyn distributed copies of recap re: Bauer shooting that she prepared for the website. New issues: 1) Food Bank barrel sponsored by WKNA – Carol D. talked with Keizer food bank representative recently at a Keizer United meeting and learned that donations are down 30%. Group discussed WKNA sponsoring a barrel for collections and where to put it. Cummings School mentioned but is problematic because entry is controlled and school is not open after hours. A business location, such as Copper Creek, seen as better option. Food collected to benefit Keizer Community Food Bank.

**Oct. 10, WKNA General meeting –** Council member Roland Herrera reported that the City Council had voted to go forward with the River Road Revitalization Plan that has been two years in the making. Guest speaker Krista Carter, Marion County Emergency Preparedness Program Coordinator Krista Carter recapped and expanded on her September presentation. Bylaws update: Carolyn read through changes made and approved by the Board. Changes deal mainly with updating how the association reaches out to members and the city (adding the web, social media, etc.), expanding the association purpose beyond just “land use planning” and eliminating “by secret ballot” from the Board election process. Changes then approved by vote of membership present at the October meeting. **Bauer/gravel pit shooting settlement** – Rhonda said a recap of the issue and settlement has been prepared and will be posted on the WKNA website. Copies were shared. The settlement has limited shooting at the West Salem gravel pit to shotguns only, which should prevent incursions across the river onto West Keizer properties.

## NOVEMBER 2019

### **Nov. 14, WKNA Board meeting (held at Civic Center prior to General meeting) –**

Discussed purchase of a sandwich board to identify WKNA-sponsored events and activities. Preferred sample is 18x24 inches and costs \$149, including the printed sign insert. Discussed insert wording, which definitely will include the WKNA logo and website. Parks updates: Concrete is poured at Willamette Manor tennis courts and looks good. Nothing new re: Wallace House cleanup. Updates: 1) Delight St. walkways – Carol D. said the city has laid out plans for a 10-foot path along Delight Street for children walking to and from Cummings Elementary and McNary High. She has concerns about whether cars can park on the strip, forcing kids to walk out into the traffic lane to get around the cars. 2) Neighborhood traffic – Carol met with Patty Tischer, president of Gubser Neighborhood Association, about growing concerns related to speeding cars in many places in Keizer. Carol is willing to speak to the Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee and then the City Council about the issue. Kathy said Mike DeBlasi, TSBP member, feels very strongly about this as well. Carol will pursue. 3) Food bank barrels – Two barrels to be picked up from Keizer Food Bank and Copper Creek Mercantile has agreed be a collection site. Carol P. will work on securing a collection site for the other barrel once we see how donations go at Copper Creek.

**Nov. 14, WKNA General meeting** – Guest speaker, Jamie Harris of Satellite Gaming, an organization working to involve area youth in a positive community focused on video gaming. Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works Director reported on city's plan for walkway on west side of Delight St. from Dearborn to Chemawa, for students walking to and from Cummings Elementary and McNary High. (The school district is handling the path from Cummings to Dearborn.) He has met with neighbors to show them a design for a 10-foot pathway next to the asphalt and gotten good response. Project to go to bid in December and should be completed in June. Re: concerns about parking on the strip forcing children to walk out in the roadway, he said there are no plans to restrict parking but if neighbors bring the issue forward, restrictions could be put in place. Re: parks – Bill said the concrete is done at Willamette Manor tennis courts and fences are going up. Court resurfacing will happen next spring. At Wallace House, he said a volunteer group (Councilor Kohler's group, which handled bark chip removal at the Big Toy at Keizer Rapids Park) is looking for another project and plans a substantial clean-out of the lower section at Wallace House next September. It will involve mainly brush removal in the flatter areas where homeless individuals have been camping. Bill wants to make it a community event, involving WKNA, the Claggett Creek Watershed Council and others. Updates: 1) Carol D. said traffic/speeding problems are a problem in many areas of Keizer. WKNA hopes to get neighborhoods together to take the issue to the Traffic Safety/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee and on to Council to see what can be done. 2) **Food barrels, Carol P.** – Copper Creek has agreed to host a food donation collection barrel that WKNA is organizing. A site for a second barrel is being sought.



**Nov. 21** – Food collection barrel placed at Copper Creek. Carol D., Carol P. Carolyn and Sherry Lowells from the Keizer Community Food Bank attended to thank Dennis Blackman for agreeing to host the barrel.

**Nov. 30** – Second food collection barrel placed at BiMart. Carol D., Carolyn, Ken Gierloff representative of Southeast Neighborhood Association, and Sherry Lowells from KCFB attend to thank store manager for agreeing to host.

December 2019

**Dec. 18** – 158 pounds of donated food from collection barrels delivered to Keizer Community Food Bank.