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Keizer Library

The on-again, off-again public vote on a fee added to Keizer water utility bills to support a public library is on again! On July 5, Keizer City Council voted not to send to voters this November a funding plan for the Keizer library to become a public library. Keizer Community Library leaders had proposed using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to achieve Public Library status. That would give the library a greater partnership with the Oregon State Library and eventually with Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service. Both alliances would include access to a wider range of services and programs. Council formed a work group earlier this year to study the proposal (Councilors Dan Kohler, Laura Reid and Shaney Starr.)

Concern arose over long-term library funding once ARPA funds were depleted and the work group recommended a utility-bill fee addition instead, but the question was: Should Council enact it outright or send the matter to the voters. In May, the work group advised Council to plan a public vote and at the May 16 meeting, Council OK'd a November vote but sent the fee size matter back to the work group. At a June 7 work session, Council decided to send a fee option to voters, with a public hearing on the matter at the July 5 Council meeting. But on July 5, City Manager Adam Brown cited many unanswered questions and Council decided to defer the matter entirely until staff could do more research. Councilor Dan Kohler then proposed funding the library with \$60,000 in ARPA funds plus \$15,000 to fund a grant writer to help the library achieve sustainability. Council decided to take this idea up at its July 18 meeting.

Library supporters turned out again July 18. Following over an hour of testimony in favor of a public vote, Council reversed itself and voted to have staff prepare a ballot measure to add \$2.50 to Keizer City Services bill to support the Library's proposal. As of now, final deliberations would take place at the Aug. 1 meeting. Stay tuned! More information regarding Keizer Community Library becoming a public library can be found at: https://keizerlibrary.org/public_library/ or contact Library Board Vice President BJ Toewe at 503-580-8969 or bj@keizerlibrary.org



Keizer Community Food Bank

The West Keizer Neighborhood continues to support the Keizer Community Food Bank by collecting food items at two neighborhood locations: Copper Creek Mercantile and Bi Mart, both located on River Road North. The Keizer Community Food Bank is an authorized Food Pantry through Marion Polk Food Share. It is sponsored by several churches in our Keizer community. Keizer Community Food Bank location is: Faith Lutheran Church 4505 River Road North. Food barrel donations are low, and the need to feed our community is still strong. *Food Items needed are: Cereal, Peanut Butter/Jelly, Rice, Beans, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Goods, Coffee, Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Mustard, Juice, Toiletries, Pet Food (dry and canned).* Thank you for your contributions.





KeizerFest

The annual KeizerFest is back and will this year be held at Keizer Rapids Park August 11-14. This year's theme is: "Where were you in '82?" in celebration of Keizer's 40th Birthday.

Events for this year include:

- KeizerFest Golf Tournament 8/10 @ 11:00AM
- Kick Off Party 8/11 @ 4:00PM
- Syco Billy's 8/11 @ 4:00PM
- Fam Jam at KeizerFest Kick Off 8/11 @ 6:30PM
- The Gabriel Cox Band 8/12 @ 4:00PM
- Infamous Soul 8/12 @ 6:30PM
- Collective Nation 8/12 @ 9:30PM
- Car Show 8/13 @ 9:00AM
- 5K Fun Run/Walk 8/13 @ 9:15AM
- Mayor's Pet Parade 8/13 @ 9:45AM
- Parade 8/13 @ 10:30AM
- Corn Hole Tourney 8/13 @ 12:00PM
 - Continuing on 8/14 @ 10:00AM
- Crown the Hound Pet Show 8/13 @ 12:30PM
- McNary APT 8/13 @ 1:30PM
 - (Audio Production & Technology)
- The FlexTones 8/13 @ 4:00PM
- Rhythm & Business 8/13 @ 6:30PM
- JFK 8/13 @ 9:30PM
- Teen Talent Show Hosted by Valor Mentoring 8/14 @ 10:00AM
- Family Fun in the Sun 8/14 @ 10:00AM

Information regarding the shows and activities can be found at: <https://keizerchamber.com/keizerfest/> or at the KeizerFest facebook page



Keizer Rapids Turf Fields

Another hot topic this spring involving American Rescue Plan Act funding for local projects arose when Marion County offered Keizer \$2 million from the county's ARPA allocation if Keizer could provide a matching amount to put two multi-use turf fields at Keizer Rapids Park. The city had previously requested \$4.2 million for the fields, which are included in the recently revised Parks Master Plan.

A Council Work Group (Mayor Cathy Clark and Councilors Roland Herrera and Kyle Juran) was formed to study the matter. On the basis of those deliberations, the Council decided on June 21 to approve an intergovernmental agreement with Marion County to accept the funds and proceed with the project.

The \$4.2 million would cover installation only. The work group has been studying how to cover long-term costs to the City (maintenance, scheduling duties, utility costs such as electricity for lighting) and how costs might be offset by potential revenue (field rental fees, advertising, hosting tournaments, etc.) Representatives of various local interest groups, including WKNA, met with City staff on July 11 to provide input on various aspects of the project, such as field location and orientation of the fields, lighting, parking and other possible amenities. The fields are seen as accommodating soccer, football, rugby and lacrosse, with the possibility of stretching one field to also accommodate softball and/or baseball. Plans are ongoing.



Cummings Elementary School

Cummings Elementary School is a registered site for the Free Summer Lunch Program through the Salem Keizer School District. Free summer meals will be available to all children ages 1-18, as well as Community Transition Program students. There is no required application. Meals will be Grab-N-Go Meals this summer. No on-site meals will be served inside schools.



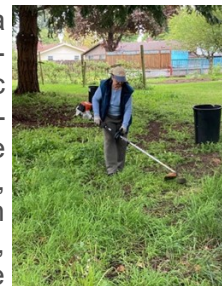
The West Keizer Neighborhood Association has been supporting Cummings School beautification. This summer, we have had some difficulty with access to water. The school district is aware of the problem, and a work order has been submitted. It is our hope that by fall of the 2022-2023 school year, we will be back planting flowers under the reader board.



Neighborhood Happenings

Traffic – At the January neighborhood meeting concerns from neighbors were gathered and presented to Chief Teague during the February neighborhood meeting. Those concerns, along with the Chief's suggestions, were presented to the Keizer Traffic Safety-Bikeways-Pedestrian Committee, along with a Neighborhood Traffic Management plan. The goal is for the construction of a speed table at the intersection of Cummings Ln and Delight St, near Cummings Elementary School, as well as a four way stop sign to be installed at the intersection of Dearborn Ave and Shoreline Dr. The addition of these traffic calming measures will increase the safety of both pedestrians and drivers within the neighborhood. These submissions have resulted in four traffic studies, one on Shoreline and three on Cummings which are currently being conducted by the city. Stay tuned for future updates.

Palma Ciega – Last May, several members of our community participated in a Palma Ciega Park clean-up. The Keizer Community Parks department provided work tools and a trailer to haul out debris. An area was cleared for a picnic table, and around a park bench that was installed by the City's Parks Department. A tree trimming company has limbed up several of the trees along the riverbank, to provide viewing access. In August, an Eagle Scout project will begin to clear a new pathway down to the river. This pathway is designed to be a gradual incline, allowing safer river access. West Keizer Neighborhood will be sponsoring additional clean-up days, both in the Fall of 2022 and the Spring of next year. Check out the West Keizer Facebook page or posted signs indicating when the next Palma Ciega Park Project clean-up day is scheduled. Hope to see you there!





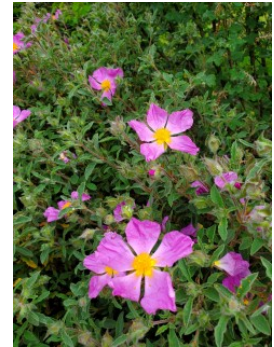
The Year In Review

This past year was a very successful one for the West Keizer Neighborhood Association as many of our meetings included discussions with many local leaders from the Keizer community. Some of the guest speakers included:



- Wes Hare, Interim Keizer City Manager
- Andrew Kronser, Cummings Elementary Principal
- Tom Rohlfig, Marion County Assessor
- Eric Bandonis, Marion County Parole and Probation Officer
- Matt Lawyer, Keizer Parks Advisory Board member
- Keizer Police Chief John Teague
- Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark
- Keizer City Councilors

Next year's speakers are currently being organized and will include additional civic and local leaders, including September's guest speaker BJ Toewe, Keizer Community Library Vice President, who will deliver an update regarding the current status of the plan to change the library from a community library to a public one. She will also be able to tell you what you can do to help make this goal a reality. The September meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 8th, at 7:00PM at City Hall.



Neighborhood Meetings Times and Places

Do you have questions about the happenings in our neighborhood, but don't know whom to ask? Perhaps you would like to know what Keizer has planned for the next fiscal year.

You will find the agenda leading up to each meeting, news of the neighborhood, past meeting minutes and reports, along with information regarding your West Keizer Neighborhood Association board posted at www.westkeizerna.org.



The West Keizer Neighborhood Association is supported by the following Sponsors:

- Pronto Signs
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- City of Keizer
- Keizer Parks Foundation
- Men of Action in Keizer
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