

WKNA TODAY

West Keizer Neighborhood Association Newsletter

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Keizer's 40th Birthday Celebration

The City of Keizer is hosting a party to celebrate its 40th birthday as a city. Everyone is invited to Keizer City Hall and the adjacent Chalmers Jones Park on June 16 and 17.

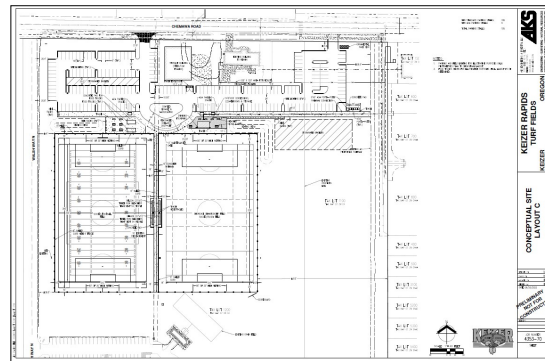
Friday night, June 16, will be a 1980s themed dance party with food and beverages provided by the City.

Saturday will be an open house with performances and presentations occurring throughout the day. Food will be available for purchase from local vendors.

If you are interested in being part of the celebration (food, beverage, art, entertainment or vendor), go to <http://www.keizer.org>, for more information. Come join in the fun

Keizer Rapids Turf Field Update

City Manager Adam Brown reports that AKS Engineering continues design work on this project to build two multi-sport turf fields on the north side of Keizer Rapids Park next to Chemawa Road. Design and bid documents should be final by the end of April and the City is hoping to bid the project for construction in 2023. Officials have been making trips to see different artificial turf products and field lighting systems in order to best inform design and limit light pollution into adjacent neighborhoods. He anticipates possible gaps between the current budget and the bids, which would necessitate fundraising. If construction is within budget, the City would like to use the fundraising to create a sinking fund for eventual turf replacement. Life expectancy for the turf is about 10 years.



Planning Commission

WKNA has added attendance at Planning Commission meetings to our to-do list for the year. This committee will be dealing with some major issues for the City this coming year. One may be discussion surrounding possible Urban Growth Boundary changes, depending on any directive the City Council might provide.

Another is starting implementation for the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities Rules adopted by the state in 2022, One goal is to bring the state in line with stated pollution-reduction goals, while increasing housing equity. City Planning Director Shane Witham said at a recent informational session that Keizer began to address so-called Walkable Mixed-use Areas (WaMUAs), which are the focus of implementation plans resulting from the rules, in the Revitalization Plan it launched in 2019. For Keizer, the areas the City is looking at for possible designation as WaMUAs will be the three “centers” along the River Road/Cherry Ave. corridor – Cherry, Chemawa and Lockhaven. These Walkable Mixed-Use Areas will allow a mix of housing, offices and services enhanced by high-quality pedestrian, bike and transit services.

The decisions made will affect Keizer’s livability. Mr. Witham said an open house to gather public input will be planned this April, details to be announced. He said the Planning Commission “wants to hear from you” on this and other planning issues that can affect quality of life throughout our neighborhoods.

Flashing Speed Sign

Flashing speed limits signs, designed to slow traffic, were installed on Shoreline Drive near the intersection with Dearborn Avenue in January. These signs were the result of West Keizer Neighborhood Association’s request for a way to slow traffic near this busy intersection. Some neighbors have already commented that the signs seem effective in slowing traffic. If you have input, WKNA and the City would like to know. Please leave your comments at this email address: info@westkeizerna.org Another traffic calming device – a speed hump or “cushion” – was requested at Cummings Lane and Delight Street as a way to increase safety for children walking to Cummings Elementary School. That project is in the design phase and should be installed later this year, according to the City.



Parks Update

Some neighbors have noticed a new osprey nest pole at Palma Ciega Park. Salem Electric crews recently removed the old wooden pole because of rot problems, taking the nest with it. A new metal pole has been erected and Salem Electric assures us the osprey should rebuild the nest when they return to the area this spring. WKNA continues to monitor clean-up issues at Palma Ciega. City crews should be adding more wood chips to areas near the river path and under the picnic table area.

At Sunset Park, a driver ran a stop sign this winter and took out part of the entrance fence and the park sign. The insurance company has OK'd replacement and work should begin soon.

At Willamette Manor, crews recently erected a new entrance sign (see photo at right.) They've also blown in wood chips to stabilize the bank north of the playground area.



Food Barrels

WKNA has added a new food collection barrel to existing sites at Bi-Mart and Copper Creek Mercantile. The new barrel is in the lobby of Keizer Fire District headquarters on Chemawa Road. Keizer Community Food Banks continues to see high levels of need, driven in part by higher food prices. For 2022, the total of donations in the Bi-Mart and Copper Creek barrels was 1,817 pounds and \$410. Donations are always needed and can be dropped off at any of these locations. Most-needed foods include cereal, pasta, canned vegetables and fruits, pasta sauce, tuna, chili and peanut butter. Buy one/get one offers are a good way to make a donation "painless." Please donate if you can!

Board Elections

The 2023 Board elections were held in January, with left to right: Art Mauer, Gary Blake, Kris Adams, vice president; Rhonda Rich, president; Carolyn Homan, secretary; Carol Phipps, and Robb Witters. Board members are monitoring several Keizer City committees. They are Robb Witters, Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee and Planning Commission; Kris Adams, Cummings PTA; Carol Phipps, Parks Advisory Board; Keizer United, Carolyn Homan; Keizer Library Board, Kris Adams.





Cummings School Update

West Keizer Neighborhood Association is adding attendance at Cummings Parent Teacher Association meetings to its to-do list in order to more closely partner with our neighborhood elementary school.

We will be including WKNA updates in the PTA newsletter and will be keeping in touch with Principal Kronser for ways to help out. We plan to replant the Reader Board planter again this spring making use of the "free pansy" promotion offered by Egan Gardens each spring. We also replant the pots by the front door and plan a fall cleanup to spruce up the grounds.

Watch WKNA's Facebook page for updates.

WKNA General Meetings

Thursday, April 13th at 7:00pm - "Exploring the Willamette River" , presentation by Oregon Guided Kayak Tours LLC Salem Kayak Rentals

Thursday, May 11th at 7:00pm - "The Facts about Code Enforcement", presentation by Ben Crosby, Keizer's Code Enforcement Officer

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.

Please feel free to bring your questions, and insights, to the next WKNA meeting. Our regularly scheduled meetings occur each second Thursday of the month except December, June, July & August, at 7:00pm. The meetings are at Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Rd NE.

We are happy to meet you!



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

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- Copper Creek Mercantile
- BiMart
- City of Keizer
- Keizer Parks Foundation
- Men of Action in Keizer
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