



# WKNA TODAY

West Keizer Neighborhood Association Newsletter

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## Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

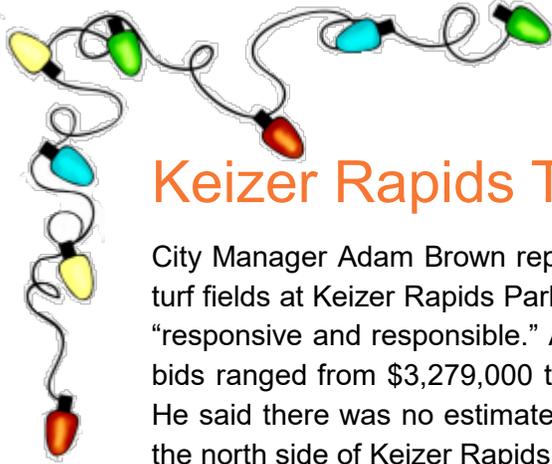
Students at Cummings Elementary School, along with their Principal Andrew Kronser, teachers, school aides, lots of parents, Mayor Cathy Clark, WKNA Board members Rhonda Rich and Carolyn Homan, along with Keizer Police Lt. Tim Heim and Officer Paul Quintero, joined hundreds of other students across the country in Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Nov. 14. The walk commemorates the walk taken by Ruby Bridges 60 years ago in New Orleans as she integrated an all-white school and had to be accompanied by four federal marshals. The first Ruby Bridges commemorative walk took place in 2018 in San Francisco.

This Tuesday's walk at Cummings was done in part to encourage walking to school and pedestrian safety. Keizer's Forest Ridge Elementary school also participated this year.

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Among the many students, parents and community members participating at Cummings Elementary School's Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Nov. 14 were, left to right, WKNA Board President Rhonda Rich, Keizer Police Officer Paul Quintero, WKNA Board Secretary Carolyn Homan, Cummings Principal Andrew Kronser, Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark, and Keizer Police Lt. Tim Heim.





## Keizer Rapids Turf Field Update

City Manager Adam Brown reports that the city has received 14 bids to install two multi-sport turf fields at Keizer Rapids Park. The bids are under review by the engineer to ensure they are “responsive and responsible.” A decision is expected at the Dec. 4 City Council meeting. The bids ranged from \$3,279,000 to \$4,180,000 and were fairly evenly spread across that range. He said there was no estimate on timing of construction as yet. The fields will be installed on the north side of Keizer Rapids Park next to Chemawa Road.

Mr. Brown previously said \$4 million (\$2 million each from the City and Marion Co. via federal ARPA funds) -- was in hand to install the two fields. For now, the project consists of the fields and a graveled parking area. The rest of the improvements originally envisioned (parking area, bathroom, concession stand, equipment building) will require more funding. There is access to \$500,000 to \$600,000 in systems development charges and Rep. Kevin Mannix also told the September WKNA meeting that he would consider resubmitting a request for \$1 million in state funding for the project during the upcoming legislative session.

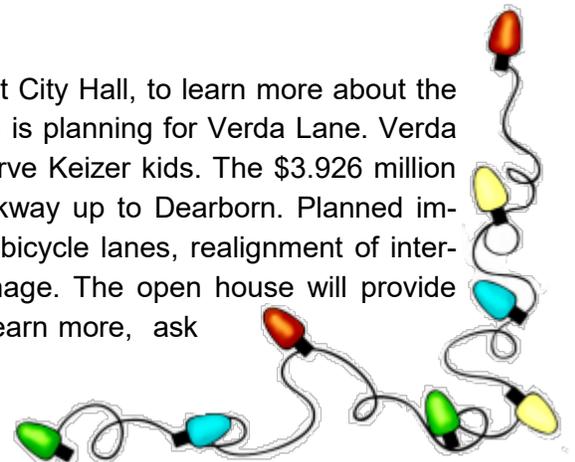


## River Road Traffic Lights

As you’ve been driving River Road lately, you may have noticed sections of sidewalk being torn up. Keizer’s Public Works Director Bill Lawyer said crews with NorthStar Communications, contractor with City of Salem, have been removing copper wire used for traffic signal communications. Crews will replace the wires with a fiber optic cable. During the 6-week installation period, scheduled to start Dec. 2, the City of Salem, which controls Keizer’s traffic signal operations, will not be able to remotely monitor or adjust the signal timing. Mr. Lawyer said that means signal operations will be a little different. He said the goal is to give priority to River Road which has higher traffic volume. As a result, side streets connecting to River Road may have longer-than-normal wait times.

## Verda Lane Open House

Residents are invited to an open house, 4-7 p.m. Dec. 7 at City Hall, to learn more about the improvement project Oregon Department of Transportation is planning for Verda Lane. Verda is heavily traveled and provides access to schools that serve Keizer kids. The \$3.926 million project, set for 2025, will improve Verda from Salem Parkway up to Dearborn. Planned improvements include construction of sidewalks, addition of bicycle lanes, realignment of intersections, formalized driveway access and upgraded drainage. The open house will provide project details and those attending will have a chance to learn more, ask questions and view maps of the project area.



December 2023



## Parks Update

West Keizer Neighborhood Association in September received another Parks Advisory Board grant to plant more ground cover at Willamette Manor Park. The kinnikinnick plantings are stabilizing the dirt bank just north of the walking path alongside the play area. The first planting suffered from summer temperatures. The fall planting, accomplished on a cool, damp day by a WKNA member work party, seems to have taken hold.

Photo: WKNA members planted more ground cover this fall at Willamette Manor Park. From left, Carolyn Homan, Rhonda Rich, Kathy Lincoln, Carol Phipps, Dennis Phipps. Also helping out was Tom Homan.



## Keizer Happenings

December 1

- Holiday Giving Baskets tag return deadline

December 5

- Keizer Christmas Tree Lighting, Walery Plaza, 6:00—8:00 pm. Caroling and a visit from Santa Claus

December 6

- Holiday Giving Baskets Wrapping, wrapping of presents for gift baskets, Keizer Lions Club, 4100 Cherry Ave. NE, 4:00pm-until all gifts wrapped. [info@keizerchamber.com](mailto:info@keizerchamber.com)

December 7

- Holiday Giving Baskets Sorted and Boxed Keizer Lions Club, 4100 Cherry Ave. NE, 4:30pm-until all food is sorted. [info@keizerchamber.com](mailto:info@keizerchamber.com)

December 9

- Gift basket distribution presented by the Keizer Network of Women, Keizer Lions Club, 4100 Cherry Ave. NE, 9:00am-until all baskets are delivered.
- Keizer Holiday Lights Parade, 7:00 pm River Rd N, from Lockhaven Dr. to Glynbrook St. (Parade application deadline: December 2, 2023)

December 10

- Breakfast with Santa 7:30—11:30 am, Keizer Fire Station, 661 Chemawa Rd NE. [astorms@keizerfire.com](mailto:astorms@keizerfire.com)
- City of Keizer Toy Swap 10:00—12:00 pm, Keizer City Hall, 930 Chemawa Rd N. <https://www.keizer.org/toyswap>

December 20

- Holiday Concert 7:00—8:15 pm Keizer City Hall. <http://kcband.org>



December 2023



## Upcoming Meetings

### Keizer City Meetings:

- The following meetings have been cancelled for December
  - \* Planning Commission
  - \* Traffic/Safety/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee
  - \* All other commissions and councils will hold their regularly scheduled meetings

### WKNA Meetings

- **1/11/2024—Chief Copeland to be WKNA’s January guest speaker**
  - \* Newly installed Keizer Chief of Police Andrew Copeland will be guest speaker at the Jan. 11 General meeting of West Keizer Neighborhood Association – 7 p.m. at City Hall. He succeeded Chief John Teague on Sept. 29, becoming Keizer’s 5th Chief of Police. Chief Copeland has been with the department since 2002 and is a native of Keizer. Join us to hear about the new Chief’s vision for Keizer policing.
  - \* Board members election will occur during the January WKNA meeting
- **2/8/2024—Liberty House and Simonka Place Presentation**
- **3/14/2024—Shane Witham, Planning Director, City of Keizer**

## 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](http://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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