

In this issue:

- Cummings Elementary School
- Keizer City Manager
- Master Plan Update
- Keizer Community Foodbank Update
- WKNA Facebook
- Traffic Blitz
- Upcoming WKNA General Meeting Information
- City Meetings
- Neighborhood Meetings Time and Places

Cummings Elementary School

The 2021-2022 school year is well on its way, in fact, spring is almost here! The West Keizer Neighborhood Association is happy to partner with Cummings Elementary with a beautification of a few of the school's planting areas. Andrew Kronser, Cummings Elementary Principal, is excited to be a part of this partnership. He is new to Cummings this school year. Principal Kronser has also worked in the North Marion and the Central school districts. One of his goals while serving as principal is to connect with the Cummings community by building relationships with the families in this neighborhood. He sees Cummings Elementary, located in the West Keizer area, as a "hidden gem" that provides a neighborhood with a safe walkable school.

This spring, the West Keizer Neighborhood Association will be volunteering at Cummings by cleaning up some areas and planting flowers to show appreciation and support for our local school. Please let WKNA know if you are interested in helping. Ways in which you can help are volunteering your time on our workday, providing donations of planting materials etc., or just by coming by and saying "hello". Look for updated information concerning the date/time for our spring workday on our West Keizer Neighborhood Association Facebook page, and/or website: www.westkeizerna.org



Cummings Cougar



Cummings Elementary



Keizer's City Manager

The City held a forum Feb. 15 where residents could meet and ask questions of the three finalists for Keizer's City Manager position. Adam Brown, City Manager of Ontario, Ore.; Eileen Stein, an interim department director for the city of Clackamas; and Tim Wood, current Finance Director for the city of Keizer, answered questions from attendees for over an hour and met the next day with Keizer city staff and Council members. City Council named Adam Brown as new City Manager on Feb. 18.



Master Plan Update

The update of Keizer's Parks Master Plan undertaken in 2021 was approved by City Council at its Feb. 7 meeting this year. The City worked with MIG Consulting to handle the revision, which will guide Parks' improvements for the next 10 years.

WKNA's Board provided input on the plan in a Zoom conference with the consultant, as well as at several Parks Board and City Council meetings. Backers of the addition of multi-use sports fields at Keizer Rapids Park met with the Board in November of 2021. The Board supported the proposal with the proviso that more parking be added to accommodate spectators and limit the impact on neighborhoods abutting the park. The added parking is included in the updated Master Plan.



Palma Ciea Park

Also of interest in West Keizer, the WKNA Board lobbied to keep Palma Ciea Park as a usable natural area after the consultant recommended the City divest itself of the park.



Keizer Rapids Big Toy

WKNA believes the park not only has river access but has potential for bird watching and other nature-access activities. Retaining it seem especially important because of the weight given to river access and natural areas in citizen comments about overall park desires. The Parks Board backed that idea in its recommendation to City Council and Palma Ciea is still a part of the parks system. The neighborhood association has highlighted the need for regular mowing at the park. A general cleanup of leaves and debris is being organized by neighbors sometime this spring.



Keizer Community Food Bank Update

The West Keizer Neighborhood Association continues to collect food for the Keizer Food bank. The need is still great for food for many Keizer families. Donations continue to be collected at the Bi-Mart Store and the Copper Creek Mercantile, both located on River Road. WKNA has a barrel in each of these places for collection. At the beginning of the 2022 year, we have seen donations drop off. Food items, pet food items, and cash donations are still needed and can be made at both locations. If you can donate, as a suggestion, take advantage of "sale items", BOGO (buy one, get one), and coupon items. Thank you very much for continuing your support.

West Keizer Neighborhood Association Facebook

For all of the latest information regarding West Keizer and Keizer in general, be sure to check out the West Keizer Neighborhood Association Facebook page, and give us a like. There you will find posts relevant to the members of the neighborhood, news related to parks, the city council, and other topics.



Traffic Blitz



Intersection of Cummings and Delight

WKNA devoted January and February general meetings to discussion of traffic-related issues in Keizer, and on West Keizer streets in particular. The January meeting drew about 20 people to voice concerns about speeding, red-light runners, noisy vehicles, pedestrian safety and other issues. Potential measures to address the problems included an informational campaign about safe walking and biking, need for more signage, addition of more stop signs on some streets to slow traffic, installation of speed bumps or tables, etc. In February, Keizer Police Chief John Teague attended to respond to the concerns and offer his assessment of the problems and potential solutions. He answered many questions from the 22 attendees at the meeting. To help slow traffic in West Keizer, he endorsed a four-way stop at Dearborn and Shoreline and addition of a speed table at the school crosswalk on Cummings at Delight.



Upcoming WKNA General Meeting Information

March 10: State of the City

Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark will speak about the State of the City during the March 10 West Keizer Neighborhood Association meeting. Mayor Clark will be discussing the accomplishments of the past year and the direction of Keizer going forward. Please join us the Keizer Civic Center, located at 930 Chemawa Rd NE for Mayor Clark's remarks.

April 14: Planning Code Changes

Shane Witham, Keizer Planning Director, will speak on the City's work to update its planning and zoning codes in accordance with HB2001. An audit of city planning regulations revealed the need for several changes, including those related to lot size/density; setbacks and design standards; and certain off-street parking. The Planning Commission has been working with consultants to draft code amendments. The changes will affect housing development throughout the city.



City Meetings

Keizer City Meetings:

- Keizer City Council—03/07/2022 @ 7:00 pm.
- Parks Advisory Board—03/08/2022 @ 6:00 pm.
- Planning Commission—03/09/2022 @ 6:00 pm
- West Keizer Neighborhood Association—03/10/2022 @ 7:00 pm
- City Council Work Session/Long Rang Planning Task Force—03/14/2022 @ 6:00 pm
- Public Arts Commission—3/15/2022 @ 6:00 pm
- Traffic Safety/Bikeway/Pedestrian—3/17/2022 @ 6:00 pm
- Keizer City Council—3/21/2022 @ 7:00 pm
- West Keizer Neighborhood Association—04/14/2022 @ 7:00 pm Shane Witham, Keizer City Planner is the scheduled speaker.



Copper Creek Food Trucks



Iron Glory Sculpture

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
- Sherwin/Williams Paint
- Egan Gardens
- Copper Creek Mercantile
- BiMart
- City of Keizer
- Keizer Parks Foundation
- Men of Action in Keizer
- Salem/Keizer School District 24
- Jeff Anderson