



WKNA TODAY

West Keizer Neighborhood Association Newsletter

What's New at Keizer Rapids Park

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Turf fields update

Thanks to legislation passed by the Oregon Legislature June 27, Keizer has been awarded \$750,000 in state funding to help complete Phase III of the turf field project at Keizer Rapids Park.

The state money was part of House Bill 5006, a package funding local projects statewide. City Manager Adam Brown said Rep. Kevin Mannix worked to get the Keizer project included. The money will support Phase III -- paving the gravel parking lot, adding a storage building and improving drainage.

Mr. Brown said Phase II of the fields project, which includes adding bathrooms, a concession area and extending pathways, will be finished by the end of summer. This was funded in part with \$128,000 in lodging tax revenue and \$238,000 in city development revenue.

He said Phase III has a little over \$1 million in funding so far toward the \$1.3 million estimated cost. Engineering plans are being finalized and bids will go out depending on when fundraising is complete. The City will be looking at naming right possibilities for the complex, including the sports complex itself and individual fields. (Credit in part to July 4 Keizertimes story.)

Field operation issue

Meanwhile, the City has been addressing some field operation issues, including hours of operation and lighting. Fields are being managed through contract with the Keizer Community Fields group, which had requested a change in rules around lighting and time of departure. In testimony at the July 8 Parks Advisory Board meeting, Rhonda Rich, WKNA President, and two Tate Avenue neighbors who live next to the park, requested retaining the 9 p.m. lights dim/9:30 departure deadlines. After much discussion, the Board kicked the decision for any change back to Council. Rhonda and Tate neighbors again testified at City Council on July 21. Council affirmed retaining the 9/9:30 p.m. rules.

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Pavilion proposal

Elsewhere at Keizer Rapids, City Manager Brown said the proposal for building an event pavilion has to go back to the Parks Advisory Board for deliberation – Aug. 12 at the soonest. That discussion would include the project consultant, who then would draft a recommendation for further Parks board consideration. Council would then deliberate on the Parks Board’s recommendation on the project.

Big Toy paint party

City Councilor Marlene Parsons helped organize a team of at least 37 volunteers July 19 to spruce up the ever-popular Big Toy installation at KRP. At the July 21 Council meeting, she thanked all those who helped, with a special shout-out to “paint guru” Beth Melandy. Volunteers scraped off old paint, sanded, prepped and painted for hours to bring the structure back to vibrancy. Councilor Parsons thanked Odd Moe’s Pizza for supplying an after-work meal and Sherwin Williams for heavily discounted paint. A second paint day Sept. 13 will tackle needed second coats, other touch-ups and some murals. Volunteers are welcome but most tasks will require working on ladders, so minors will not be eligible to help with that, Parsons said.



City Councilor Shaney Starr, left, and former Councilor Kim Freeman repainted this blue truck as part of the Big Toy revitalization work day. The truck honors Free-

Carol Doerfler Memorial Bench



The family of Carol Doerfler, long-time WKNA member and former WKNA president who passed away in August 2024, placed a memorial to her July 25 at Palma Ciega Park. Carol was instrumental in preserving this small West Keizer park on the Willamette River at the end of Cummings Lane. Carol’s husband, Martin, designed the memorial plaque and mounted it on the park bench overlooking the river.



Carol Doerfler memorial bench overlooks the Willamette at Palma Ciega Park in West Keizer.

New Principal at Cummings Elementary School



Cummings students and families are welcoming new Principal Hillary Hulseman to West Keizer this fall. She has over 15 years of experience, including 4 years as Principal of Lakeview High School and Daly Middle School in Lakeview, Ore. She led several initiatives there, including school accreditation, AVID program development and student-led conferences. She also has 11 years as a middle and high school Language Arts teacher and in roles supporting student engagement, equity and school improvement. She said she is looking forward to the transition to the elementary level and helping prepare students for transition to the middle and high school levels. She is committed to building positive school cultures, fostering strong relationships with families, and ensuring a safe, supportive, inclusive environment where students can succeed.

Former Cummings Principal Andrew Kronser, who was at Cummings four years, has been promoted to an administrative level position as Elementary Level Director at Salem-Keizer School District.

Neighborhood Councils Sponsor Fun Friday

More than 500 participants flocked to St. Edward Catholic Church on Friday, July 25, for a “Fun Friday” event sponsored by the Kennedy and Cummings Neighborhood Family Councils. Organizers estimated 160 families and multiple partner organizations participated. Partner organizations included Keizer Police and Fire Departments Keizer Community Library, Early Learning HUB, Chemeketa Community College, Pacific Source and more.

Participants connected with a variety of community resources at the event. More than 500 hot dogs and 500 hamburgers were served and a community raffle resulted in more than 70 gifts to kids and adults. They included 36 \$25 gift cards, 4 bikes for teens and children and oranges and apples given away to all participants.



Rhonda Rich, right, President of West Keizer Neighborhood Association, staffed an information table along with Jacqueline Green, left, and Tammy Kunz, representatives from Kennedy Neighborhood Family Council and Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association. More than 50 volunteers worked to make the event possible.



Pilot Street Crossing Flag Program

West Keizer Neighborhood Association is sponsoring a pilot pedestrian street crossing flag project on Chemawa Road by Keizer Rapid Park. WKNA Board member (and city Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Comm. Member) Brenda Lamb assembled flags and signage for the project, which was in place in early June. A second crosswalk site for the pilot project is being sought in West Keizer, but it has to be an actual crosswalk on a 30 mph or less street. So far, the test has gone well. It will continue throughout the fall.



September Speaker Preview

Jim Trett, Mayor of Detroit, Ore., since 2016, will share a firsthand account of the devastating 2020 Beachie Creek and Lionshead wildfires and their impact on Detroit and the Santiam Canyon. He will also talk about the future of Detroit Lake, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed 2026 lake drawdown and a local project to excavate earth beneath the city's two marinas—aimed at expanding recreational opportunities.

Following the 2020 wildfires—which destroyed 90% of the community—Jim has led a dedicated team of elected officials and volunteers in the ongoing effort to rebuild their community. Jim also retains deep community ties in Keizer, where he lived from the age of 7 before relocating to Detroit. Jim dedicated 35 years to the Keizer Fire District as both a volunteer firefighter/EMT and staff member and continues to teach First Aid and CPR classes at Whiteaker Middle School and provide First Aid coverage at various sporting events.

Join us for a discussion of the problems and promise that lie ahead for Detroit!

WKNA General Meetings and Speakers

Thursday, September 11 at 7:00pm—Jim Trett, Mayor of the City of Detroit

Thursday, October 9 at 7:00pm—Shane Witham, Keizer Planning Director

Thursday, November 13 at 7:00pm—Stacey Perry, Keizer Environmental Education Coordinator

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.



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

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