

## 2022 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION REPORT for the WEST KEIZER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### JANUARY 2022

**Jan. 8-9** – WKNA Board members distribute informational notices to neighbors on high-traffic streets to alert them to the traffic blitz meeting on Jan. 13. Streets canvassed were Manbrin, Rafael, Delight, Shoreline, Dearborn, Sunset, 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**Jan. 13** – WKNA Board meets. Plans made for next quarterly newsletter to come out in early March. Gary Blake reports that a neighbor of his on Cummings is willing to volunteer time and equipment to arrange a work party of neighbors at Palma Ciega Park. Gary will coordinate with Parks Manager Robert Johnson on the effort to clean up leaves and debris that are blocking people from walking in the park.

The Board coordinates the process for election of officers to be held at the General meeting.

Kris Adams is recruited as WKNA's liaison to the Keizer Community Library Board, following a request from the Library Board for representatives from neighborhood associations.

**Jan. 13** – About 20 people attend the General meeting to offer comments about traffic safety in Keizer. Among comments are calls for red-light cameras; more signage, including adding stop signs on streets like Shoreline to help slow speeders; lowered speed limits; the possibility of speed bumps or speed tables. An education campaign to target pedestrians and bikers as well as drivers was suggested. Comments were recorded and will be shared with Keizer Police Chief Teague, who will be the February General meeting speaker to address the issues raised.

It's reported that the WKNA-sponsored food collection barrels have raised 4,621 pounds of food; \$1,111 in cash donations and 80 pounds of dog food, as well as several toys during 2021. All donations benefit the Keizer Community Food Bank.

Election of officers is held: Carol Doerfler, President; Rhonda Rich, Vice President; Carolyn Homan, Secretary. Other Board members are: Carol Phipps, Gary Blake, Art Mauer, Robb Witters.

**Jan. 20** -- Rhonda reports to the Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee on input received from neighbors regarding traffic safety concerns in the West Keizer area.

### FEBRUARY 2022

**Feb. 3** – The WKNA Board met at Keizer Community Library and got a tour of the revamped space led by BJ Toewe and John Goodyear, vice president and treasurer respectively of the Library Board. Kris Adams agrees to take responsibility for the Little Library at Shoreline and Rafael while Carol Doerfler is unable to see to it. Plans are made for the next newsletter edition, to come out in March.

**Feb. 7** -- Rhonda attends the City Council meeting in support of the updated Parks Master Plan, specifically as it relates to improving and maintaining Palma Ciega Park as providing a natural experience for viewing wildlife and the river.

**Feb. 8** – Rhonda attends Parks Board meeting to highlight the need for maintenance at Palma Ciega Park and WKNA's willingness to plan a work day at the park focused on cleanup. .

**Feb. 10** – Eric Bandonis, Marion County Sheriff's Parole/Probation deputy stationed at Keizer Police Dept., gives his quarterly update to the WKNA General meeting.

Guest speaker Police Chief John Teague responds to comments gathered from residents in January regarding traffic safety in the neighborhood. He singles out adding a speed table at the Delight/Cummings crosswalk by Cummings Elementary School, as well as making the intersection of Dearborn and Shoreline a four-way stop as two projects worth exploring. He answered a variety of questions and said most crashes in Keizer occur on River Road. Also attending were Jamie Davis and Mike DeBlasi, members of the Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee.

**Feb. 15** – A public forum is held for interviews with three candidates for City Manager of Keizer. Several WKNA Board members attend.

**Feb. 17** – Rhonda attends the Traffic Safety Committee meeting and reports on WKNA's January and February forums on traffic safety, which resulted in two proposals to present to TSBP: 1) A stop sign at Dearborn and Shoreline for north/south traffic, making that intersection a four-way stop and helping slow traffic and 2) A speed table at Cummings Lane and Delight St. to slow traffic by Cummings Elementary School. Carolyn testifies in support of safety for pedestrians and cyclists and advocates for sidewalk improvements and additions, such as along Rivercrest and Willamette Drive near Wallace House Park.

## **MARCH 2022**

**March 3** – At the monthly Board meeting, Kris Adams shared information on Keizer Community Library's plans to become a public library affiliated with Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library System. Group also discusses possible dates for a spring cleanup at Palma Ciega Park.

**March 8** – Gubser Neighborhood Association coordinates a nonpartisan candidate forum for some of those running for U.S. Representative from District 6. (WKNA and Southeast Keizer Neighborhood Associations also listed as sponsors). Carolyn represents WKNA at the event.

**March 10** – Guest speaker is Mayor Cathy Clark with her recap of the past year and vision for the year ahead. She notes that Public Works is looking at the two traffic safety proposals brought forward by WKNA as a result of neighborhood input. She applauds selection of Adam Brown as new City Manager and said he will start at the end of April. Members hear information from Keizer Chamber of Commerce on its plans to move Keizer Fest to Keizer Rapids Park.

**March 15** – The latest edition of WKNA's newsletter is distributed. Content included updates on

Cummings Elementary School, Keizer City Manager selection, Parks Master Plan update, Keizer Community food Bank and the WKNA Traffic Blitz.

**March 17** – Rhonda testifies at the Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee meeting to ask about proposals made at the February meeting.

**March 21** – Rhonda presents WKNA's Annual Report for 2021 to City Council and Council officially recognizes WKNA for another year. Council approves the Parks Master Plan update, which included continuation of Palma Ciega as a City Park. WKNA had lobbied to keep the park as a public space.

**Late March** – Carol Phipps and Kathy Lincoln replant the Reader Board planter at Cummings School.

## **APRIL 2022**

**April 6** -- City Council holds a work session on the community library's request for funding in order to achieve Public Library status. Rhonda and Robb testify in favor of the request; Carolyn and Kris also attend in support.

**April 7** – WKNA Board approves seeking an \$800 budget request for the coming year in order to pay for 1,000 brochures, which will get WKNA through multiple years. Board reorganizes after receiving Carol Doerfler's resignation. According to the bylaws, Rhonda automatically becomes President and the board is to appoint a new Vice President. Gary nominates Carol Phipps as Vice President; Art seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Then, according to the bylaws, the Board is to vote to fill the vacant Board seat. Carol Phipps moves to appoint Kris Adams, the Board liaison to the Keizer Library Board, be appointed to the WKNA position. Robb seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Group discusses plans for the Palma Ciega work day set for May 7. Kris agrees to be liaison to the Bike Skills Clinic planned for May 14 at City Hall, sponsored by the Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee.

**April 11** – Rhonda testifies at City Council work session regarding the proposal to join Marion County in developing two multi-use turf sports fields at Keizer Rapids Park. She requests that WKNA be included as part of a task force to be appointed to study the proposal. Adequate parking and potential field lighting are two main issues.

**April 13** – Rhonda and Carolyn attend Planning Commission's hearing on zoning and development code changes brought about by HB 2001 and SB 458.

**April 14** – Keizer Planning Director Shane Witham reports to WKNA General meeting on changes being made to Keizer's development and zoning codes in order to comply with two state laws addressing "middle housing." Group also hears an update on plans for Keizer Fest at KRP and two requests to Council for American Recovery Plan Act funding: the community library request and, in cooperation with Marion County, a request for two multi-use turf sports fields at Keizer Rapids Park.

**April 18** -- Rhonda testifies at City Council turf field work group meeting to outline WKNA's

involvement in the proposed project, including a resolution passed by the Board indicating WKNA is in favor of the plan with certain conditions.

**April 22** -- Kris Adams is recognized as Volunteer of the Week in the Keizertimes for her involvement as a board member for WKNA and the Keizer Community Library.

**April 21** – Rhonda and Carolyn testify at Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee about the need for speeding mitigation efforts on Cummings Lane and Shoreline. Public Works Director Bill Lawyer said any changes need to be initiated via the **Neighborhood Traffic Management Program**.

**April 28** – Rhonda sends a proposal to Bill Lawyer to initiate the official process for addressing the two proposed traffic safety measures identified at the January general meeting. This happens through the **Neighborhood Traffic Management Program**. Mr. Lawyer said more studies will have to be done to ensure that any actual problems exist.

**April 28** – WKNA Board meets (this is rescheduled from May 5.) Group discusses having members attend the monthly Keizer United meetings on a rotating basis.

## **MAY 2022**

**May 7** – Rhonda, Carol and Dennis Phipps, and Carolyn are joined by Matt Lawyer, with Claggett Creek Watershed Council, and City Councilor Laura Reid for the Palma Ciega cleanup day.

**May 12** – Eric Bandonis, Marion County Parole/Probation officer, gives his quarterly update at WKNA General meeting. Guest speaker Jenny Ammon, Keizer's Environmental Education Coordinator, presented information on her work to educate the public about city water sources, water quality and the standards and procedures in place to ensure a safe public water supply.

Clint Holland presents information on the Keizer Rapids Amphitheater Summer Concert Series and Mary Jo Emmert reports on the John Knox Presbyterian Church's Community Garden. Councilor Laura Reid reports on the Council's Library Work Group decision to recommend to Council that it put to a public vote in November the matter of adding a \$1 fee to city water bills to support the Library operations.

**May 14** – Kris Adams and Carolyn Homan participate in the Bike Skills Event at Keizer Civic Center.

**May 16** – Rhonda, Carolyn and Robb testify at City Council meeting in support of funding a Keizer Public Library through fees and ARPA funds

**May 19** – Rhonda, Robb and Carolyn attend the Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee to ask about the status of a speed table at Cummings/Delight and a top sign at Dearborn and Shoreline. Learn the speed study was completed on Shoreline and the Cummings study is next.

## **JUNE 2022**

**June 6** – Rhonda attends the City Council meeting and asks that WKNA be included as part of the KRP Turf Fields Task Force. She urged that adequate funding be allocated for sufficient paved parking and landscape buffering for adjacent residential areas.

**June 16** – Robb attends the Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee and testifies about keeping the traffic mitigation efforts front and center with the City. According to the committee's city staff liaison, two of three traffic studies have been done on Cummings and the Shoreline study also is complete.

**June 21** -- Carolyn attends City Council meeting. Council approves the contract with Marion County for ARPA funds to support the turf field project at Keizer Rapids Park.

**June 22** – Board updated on summer newsletter edition to come out late July. Various committee reports presented. Group discusses how to handle candidates speaking at WKNA meetings this fall. Rhonda said she would like to approach other neighborhood associations about holding a joint candidate fair.

## **JULY 2022**

**July 5** – Carolyn attends City Council. Council decides not to put library issue to a vote in November. Council to take up a new proposal to use \$60,000 in ARPA funds plus \$15,000 for a grant writer to ensure sustainability for Keizer Community Library.

**July 11** -- Rhonda, Carol and Carolyn attend turf field planning session with other interest groups and City staff. A preliminary project layout is approved for the northern section of Keizer Rapids Park between Walsh Drive on west and Big Toy to south and eastern park edge. Includes dedicated in/out access from Chemawa and ample parking, keeping effects on adjacent neighborhood to a minimum.

**July 12** -- Carolyn attends Parks Board, thanks the City for ongoing work at Palma Ciega and asks about recent brush clearing in the lower part of Wallace House Park. Matt Lawyer says the native species planted in that area can tolerate cut-back, which is done to keep line of sight to the river. Staff reports more trees being limbed at Palma Ciega and welcomes WKNA help with cleanup. Announce Eagle Scout plans to build a trail to the river there. Project could be complete by September.

**July 18** – Rhonda, Kris and Carolyn attend City Council and are among several who speak in support of the public library ballot measure and Council directs staff to craft a proposal for consideration Aug. 1.

**July 21** – Robb, Gary and Carolyn attend Traffic Safety/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee. Gary reports on neighbors' complaints about speeding on Cummings. It is suggested he get a petition from the neighbors about the problem. Committee reports on progress re: revamp of Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan. Committee discusses traffic mitigation efforts requested by WKNA for Shoreline and Cummings. Rather than a four-way stop at Dearborn and Shoreline, group endorses installation of flashing speed limit signs. Speed table or "cushion" installation on Cummings at Delight is backed.

**July 27** – WKNA Board meets. Kris Adams has prepared labels for Little Library books to highlight WKNA sponsorship. Traffic mitigation efforts on Cummings and Shoreline still awaiting results of city studies. Carol to contact Cummings Principal for letter of support for speed table at Cummings and Delight. Traffic Safety Committee may include WKNA representatives to help revamp the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan. WKNA has a map of the Keizer Fest layout from the Chamber and it's noted that signage is planned to direct traffic away from adjacent neighborhoods.

As part of Board meeting, Keizer Community Library representatives BJ Toewe and John Goodyear present details of the plan to move to public library status and the ballot measure to come to council for final approval Aug. 1. Help is sought to locate “influencers” willing to be listed in a full-page ad in the Keizer Times in October. Letters to the Editor also sought.

## **AUGUST 2022**

**Aug. 1** – Carolyn attends City Council where ballot measure to establish a Library Services Fee in support of Keizer Community Library becoming a public library is approved for November ballot.

**Aug. 3** -- Summer edition of WKNA newsletter printed and out to brochure boxes. Content includes information on the Keizer Community Library, Keizer Food Bank, Keizer Rapids Park Turf Fields Cummings Elementary School, Traffic Calming Devices and Palma Ciega Park.

**Aug. 12** -- Carol helps with cleanup work at Palma Ciega Park,

**Aug. 18** – Robb, Carolyn and Rhonda (?) attend Traffic/Safety committee meeting City has commissioned an engineering firm to do a traffic study, which rejects need for traffic mitigations requested by WKNA. TSBP forwards to Council recommendation to install flashing speed limit signs on Shoreline near Dearborn and a speed table or “cushion” on Cummings at Delight, across from Cummings Elementary.

## **SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Sept. 6** – Rhonda and Carolyn attend City Council. Rhonda presents brief history of WKNA request for traffic calming efforts at Dearborn/Shoreline and Cummings/Delight. She notes that the engineering study commissioned by the city doesn't even mention presence of an elementary school at the Cummings/Delight intersection. Carolyn requests information on cost of engineering study city commissioned vs. cost of a speed table on Cummings. TSBP Committee vice chair Mike DiBlasi asks city to reject engineering study and presents information on speed cushion devices. Police chief again endorses a speed table as effective in slowing traffic. City Council OK's installation of both a speed table and flashing speed limit signs.

**Sept. 8** – First WKNA General meeting of the fall. Speakers are BJ Toewe and John Goodyear with the YES for Keizer Public Library campaign.

**Sept. 12** -- WKNA Board members join City Council members and Mayor Clark at Palma Ciega Park

as part of Council's annual Parks Tour. WKNA provides cookies to celebrate park improvements that include a picnic area and a viewing bench.

**Sept. 15** – Rhonda and Carolyn attend Traffic Safety committee meeting. Rhonda thanked committee for getting WKNA traffic issues before the City Council. She offers Robb and Carolyn's help to committee in revision of the Traffic Management Plan. One issue for WKNA is requirement that a traffic mitigation request requires a petition of neighbors. WKNA distributed 300 flyers, held at least 2 meetings on the traffic issues specifically and brought the information to TSBP. A door-to-door petition effort would seem no more effective. Or, the city could host an online petition.

**Sept. 20** -- Carol and Dennis help with city's Trashy Tuesday cleanup event at Wallace House Park where 151 pounds of trash is collected and disposed of properly.

**Sept. 21** – Rhonda, Carolyn and Carol attend a meeting with representatives of other Keizer neighborhood associations at City Hall to set plans for a Candidate Fair to be held in October, sponsored by all five Keizer NAs.

**Sept. 24** – Rhonda attends Cummings School Playground Beautification work day, held in preparation for school's annual jogathon.

**Sept. 27** – Rhonda, Carol and Carolyn attend a site plan draft review for the turf fields at Keizer Rapids.

## **OCTOBER 2022**

**Oct. 13** -- WKNA Board meets prior to General meeting. Plans set for Winter newsletter edition.

At General meeting, speaker Andy Kronser, Principal of Cummings Elementary School, updates group on school's events, including the year's focus on rebuilding community. He has been revisiting the history of Cummings as part of that effort.

**Oct. 15** – Carolyn attends Keizer United meeting, invites attendees to Candidate Forum at City Hall Oct. 10, hosted by all of Keizer's neighborhood associations.

**Oct. 19** – WKNA and Keizer's other neighborhood associations host a candidate forum for House Dist. 21, Senate Dist. 6, County Commission, City Council candidates and the Library Ballot Measure. About 70 people attend. Candidates give presentations and answer audience questions.

**Oct. 20** – Rhonda and Robb attend Traffic Safety committee; pursue WKNA concerns about Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan requirement for neighbor petitions in order to pursue traffic mitigation efforts. Rhonda shares Cummings Elementary Principals' concerns about parking along Rivercrest during after-school student pickups. Parked cars make it hard for drivers exiting the west driveway. Sgt. LeDay suggests school can place traffic cones along the street during those hours to prevent parking. Committee chair Davis notes that flashing speed limit signs for shoreline are on order for delivery in December.

**Oct. 29** – Rhonda participates along with other neighborhood members in the Wallace House Fall Maintenance Project organized by the Keizer Rotary Satellite Club and the Claggett Creek Watershed Council.

## **NOVEMBER 2022**

**Nov. 2** – Carolyn and Kris attend City Council's celebration of Keizer's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a City at City Hall.

**Nov. 3** – WKNA Board meets. Recap of Candidate Forum held. Group decides to pursue another group association meeting to host Mayor Cathy Clark's State of the City address in March 2023.

**Nov. 8** – Carol and Rhonda attend Parks Board for update on the KRP soccer fields. Rhonda and Carolyn attend election watch party for Public Library measure vote, which is defeated at the polls.

**Nov. 10** – Public Works Director Bill Lawyer is speaker for WKNA General meeting. Turf fields update, other parks projects, sewer/street projects, and stormwater/water information provided.

**Nov. 18** – Rhonda Rich is featured as Keizer Times' "Volunteer of the Week," honored as she said for effort that "makes me feel that I am making a difference and investing in my community."

## **DECEMBER 2022**

**NO MEETINGS** – The December edition of the WKNA newsletter is published. A collaborative effort by Robb, Carol and Carolyn. The newsletter is on the website and includes information on the Keizer Rapids Park Turf Fields, Keizer Library update, Palma Ciega Park, Street Safety, Keizer Happenings, Upcoming Meetings and Neighborhood Meeting information.

## **JANUARY 2023**

**Jan. 9** – Carolyn attends Keizer United meeting. Invites everyone to WKNA General meeting to learn about emergency preparedness from Keizer Fire District's Deputy Fire Marshal Anne Marie Storms.

**Jan. 13** – WKNA Board meets at City Hall ahead of General meeting to organize for 2023-24 Board elections. In Parks report, news is discussed of an accident that took out part of the entrance fence at Sunset Park and also the WKNA brochure box attached to park signage. Also, Parks Board liaisons to West Keizer parks now include Lisa Cjeka for Willamette Manor, Dave Loudon for Wallace House and Mike Pantilone for Sunset. All Parks Board members review Keizer Rapids.

**WKNA General** – In Board elections, Rhonda Rich is re-elected President; Kris Adams is elected Vice President; Carolyn Homan is re-elected Secretary; and Carol Phipps, Gary Blake, Art Mauer and Robb Witters are elected Board members for the coming year.

Rhonda announces plans for a joint meeting of Keizer neighborhood associations on March 9 to host Mayor Clark's State of the City address. February WKNA speaker will be City Manager Adam Brown.

**Mid-January** – Flashing speed limit signs installed on Shoreline near Dearborn. Neighbors already reporting effectiveness in slowing traffic.

*Submitted*

*Rhonda Rich, WKNA President*

*Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary*