

# Keizertimes

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## Plowing ahead with MHS turf

New field expected to be done by middle of August

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Think of it as an 80,000 square foot carpeting job.

That's what's in the works for a new artificial turf field at McNary High School. The project, which got underway in earnest last year, is expected to begin work June 1, said Bill McNutt, project manager.

"Our goal is to begin moving dirt then," McNutt said. "The grass field will be taken off and taken to a field owned by Bob Zielinski. School will still be in session so, in the early days, we'll start after the first bell and wrap up before the end of the school day."

McNutt spearheaded the installation of the Salem-Keizer School District's first turf field at Sprague High School in 2007. He also consulted on the West Salem High School turf project in 2012.

Initial preparation is expected to take about a month and entails removing the existing field and laying the

groundwork – rock, concrete and drainage – for the new turf. The FieldTurf product being used is the same as all the other high schools in Salem-Keizer as well as Autzen and Reser Stadiums.

Actual turf installation is expected to begin in July with the goal of having the project completed by McNary's Blue Day, the third Saturday in August. Georgia-based Field-Turf, which has a Wilsonville office, will handle the installation. McNutt said the McNary Athletic Booster Club's goal of \$500,000 in cash and \$500,000 in in-kind donations are nearing the finish line.

To date, the group has about \$340,000 in pledged donations, some of which includes on-field advertising.

"We have a local health care business, tire business, local real estate and local financial representative who will have logos on the home team's side of the field," McNutt said.

While the side of the field nearest the grandstand is sold out, there are six logo spots still available on the visiting side of the field for \$15,000. That price covers the logo for the expected life of the field, about 10 years. Organizers are also being mindful of the type of logos that will appear on the field. No alcohol, tobacco or firearms companies will be allowed.



An artist's rendering of what the new turf field will look like at McNary High School. Work on the field is expected to get going on June 1, with turf installation starting in July and project completion in August.

McNutt said cash donations have arrived in amounts as small as \$10 and as much as \$100,000.

The turf itself will feature alternating light and dark green segments every five yards. A large McNary "M" will be placed in the center and the end zones will be blue with "McNary" and "Celtics" in white.

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School board tackle success (PG. 5)

MHS girls tame Grizzlies (PG. 12)



Submitted

## Hurdles still to clear for Area C proposal



A proposal calling for 180 apartment units and a 154-unit senior living facility got the green light from the Keizer City Council last week, but is not yet a done deal.

By CRAIG MURPHY  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Approval at the Keizer City Council level does not mean apartments and a retirement community in Keizer Station Area C are a done deal.

After all, this is Area C we're talking about – the area where a Walmart was reported to be going in back in 2011 before backlash led to the project

coming to a halt.

Previous decisions were appealed to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA), which forced changes to plans that at one point included a 116,000 square foot commercial space.

The last commercial plans for the property were submitted by Chuck Sides in the fall of 2012, but ended up not happening.

Mountain West Investments and Bonaventure Senior Living teamed up last fall on a proposal calling for 180 apartments (Mountain West) spread out over two buildings across from each other on an expanded McLeod Lane and 154 units (Bonaventure) in a facility ranging from one story

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## Chief Teague talks about POP, CRU, stats and more



Keizer Police Chief John Teague (left) speaks at a recent West Keizer Neighborhood Association meeting as WKNA president Rhonda Rich listens in the background.

By CRAIG MURPHY  
*Of the Keizertimes*

It's no secret things are done differently these days at the Keizer Police Department.

Chief John Teague feels the changes have been for the better – even if that isn't always easy to show in numbers.

Teague, who took over as Keizer's police chief in September 2013 following the retirement of Marc Adams, explained his approach and the results thus far during the January West Keizer Neighborhood Association meeting.

One of the main emphasis for Teague was talking about a change to problem-oriented policing (POP) and restarting

the Community Response Unit (CRU).

"Our industry is going to more problem-oriented policing, trying to figure out problems," Teague said. "For decades we chased the numbers. Just because we make a bunch of arrests doesn't mean we live in a safe place. When we made safety our goal, we recognized it may be we need to change what we're doing."

As part of that, Teague has given Lt. Andrew Copeland the authority to go through reports, identify problems and use CRU and patrol resources to solve the problems.

Teague said people such as a "crazy guy" on Larry Avenue

are being talked to and babysat in an attempt to be ahead of issues, instead of simply responding repeatedly as happened in the past.

"It helps the neighbors to feel better," he said. "We'd rather be ahead of the problems, rather than have the neighbors deal with it. The new way of doing business is going out into neighborhoods so we hear about the problems."

Such efforts came to fruition earlier this month when CRU members made a drug bust on a house where drugs had been dealt for 22 years.

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## Rising at the banquet

By CRAIG MURPHY  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Things will look a little different this year at Keizer's First Citizen Awards Banquet.

The annual banquet starts at 6 p.m. Saturday at Keizer Quality Suites, having moved from its previous spot at the Keizer Civic Center. There will be a prime rib dinner and no host bar. Tickets are \$44 each or \$400 for a table of eight seats.

Per usual, awards will be handed out for First Citizen, Merchant of the Year, President's Award and Service to Education.

Nominees for the First Cit-



Rob Miller (right) was named Merchant of the Year at last year's Keizer First Citizen Awards Banquet.

izen award are Rich Duncan, Richard Walsh, former mayor Lore Christopher, Don Conat and Mark Caillier. Merchant of the Year nominees

are Keizertimes publisher Lyndon Zaitz, Joe Egli, Scott and Kalynn White, Shelly Paddock

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