

Mural to feature former businesses

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Remember former Keizer businesses like McNary Real Estate, Vel's Meats, Kowalski's Café, Gill Ward Marine and Keizer Cinemas?

If so, you might just like Keizer's next public mural.

Plans continue to evolve for the city's second public mural, scheduled to be done next spring and summer on the long north wall of Town & Country Lanes at 3500 River Road North.

Members of the Keizer Public Arts Commission have been discussing the mural project for months and have talked about several designs during that time. The current plan, discussed at the Sept. 22 KPAC meeting, would honor former Keizer businesses, particularly ones that were located on River Road.

KPAC members looked at a list of businesses, which caused some confusion initially. Rick Day noted a vast majority of the businesses no longer existed, while Kim Steen wondered where the rest of the businesses were.

Lore Christopher, KPAC chair, noted the list came as a result of discussions with city attorney Shannon Johnson as well as Nate Brown, director of Community Development for Keizer.

"The deal I made with Nate and Shannon was we want to be conscious of existing businesses and about advertising for that business," Christopher said, referencing the recent controversy about public art potentially being seen as advertising for a business. "Orcutt's IGA (Roth's) was here forever, but is no longer in business. McNary Real Estate, same thing."

Steen wondered if the idea

would work.

"How many people would recognize them today?" Steen asked of the former businesses.

Christopher noted the businesses are mentioned in the recent Keizer history book *Images of America: Keizer* by Tammy Wild.

"This is an homage to old businesses," she said.

Brown confirmed the gist of the conversation with Christopher and Johnson.

"The attorney was very uncomfortable about using existing businesses as if advertising," Brown said. "The historical aspect is a nice element to throw up there."

Day noted 12 businesses — 80 percent — on the list no longer exist.

Beth Melendy pointed out only longtime residents would understand some of the references.

"Only people who have lived here 20 or 30 years will know the ones that are out of business," Melendy said.

Since KPAC member Jill Hagen is in charge of the mural project, it was voted to let her decide which 10 former businesses to use for the mural.

Hagen said getting the wall primed for next spring would take place Sept. 30, with city councilor and KPAC liaison Amy Ripp leading the effort. Christopher said the manager of the Keizer Sherwin-Williams store got permission to give volunteers supplies including primer, black paint and painting materials.

"They are all in," Christopher said. "They are willing to help us."

Once the primer is applied, the following message will be painted on the wall: "Join Keizer's mural project 2016 www.keizer.org."

"Only people who have lived here 20 or 30 years will know the ones that are out of business."

— Beth Melendy

Somewhere, over the rainbow...



Robert Hanna captured this great picture of a rainbow while at Willow Lake Driving Range in Keizer last Friday, Sept. 25.

Submitted

A night for DIVAS

Keizer Network of Women fundraiser Sept. 24



KEIZERTIMES/Lyndon A. Zaitz
A: Jody Berry and Teresa Ake.
B: Cheri Miller and Julie Herschbach.
C: Debbie Hart-Hartman, Sue Mack Robinson and Leslie Connor.
D: Wendie Rogers, Casandra Mance, Karla Wenning and Christine West.
E: Vickie Jackson and Mary Opra.
F: Paula Moseley and daughter Sophia Kasachev.



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