

# Keizer City Council updates sign code

By **CRAIG MURPHY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

All it took was one sentence.

Earlier this year, a somewhat humorous battle took place between city officials and Nigel Guisinger, owner of Moles Appliance at 3800 River Road.

In short, Guisinger wanted to bring attention to the need for updates to the sign code portion of the Keizer Development Code. In particular, he took issue with not being able to put up signs promoting his business since the sidewalk became blocked. When his sign was confiscated by the city, Guisinger responded by placing signs in front of Nate Brown's office at city hall, in addition to putting a dryer in front of his business.

Guisinger said at the time his intent was to bring awareness to necessary updates for the city code and pledged to work with Brown, the director of Community Development in Keizer, on changes.

Fast forward to Monday's Keizer City Council meeting, as Brown proposed a text amendment to Section 2.203 of the KDC.

"That did trigger this," Brown said of the May showdown between the city and Guisinger. "We needed to make this crystal clear."

The permitted uses section of the KDC hadn't been changed since May 1998, but the proposed changes were approved unanimously on Monday. A minor tweak was adding "Use" to "Public Right-of-Way Expansion."

The bigger change was the new sentence: "The placement, storage or display of merchandise, or other material for

commercial use in the street, on the sidewalk, median strip, or any other portion of the street right-of-way or public easement is prohibited."

Brown noted members of the Keizer Planning Commission voted 4-1 in favor of the change, with the lone no vote done to make sure there could be the opportunity for sidewalk cafes.

"There's barely enough room for a sidewalk, much less a cafe," Brown said. "There was lively discussion at Planning Commission."

Councilor Amy Ryan asked if the revisions would outlaw people waving signs in front of a business.

"That's not the intent," city attorney Shannon Johnson said. "The language wouldn't prevent that. There is pretty much free speech with the sidewalks. The only thing is if there's anything that would impede people in wheelchairs."

In response to a question from councilor Kim Freeman about whether basketball hoops on sidewalks in neighborhoods would count, Brown pointed out the emphasis in the staff report about the section only dealing with the placement of commercial material.

"There are a lot of differences between business and residential," Brown said. "This doesn't cover basketball hoops or other residential things. We deal with hoops on a neighbor-to-neighbor basis."

Council president Dennis Koho is hopeful tent signs on street corners get removed, noting he saw an elderly lady in a walker have struggles with one the day before.



Nigel Guisinger put a dryer in front of Moles Appliance last spring to make a point about the city sign code.

Craig Murphy/  
KEIZERTIMES  
file photo

"They are already unlawful on the sidewalks," Johnson said.

Councilors approved the text amendment unanimously.

Brown said afterwards updating the KDC will make things easier for code enforcement officer Ben Crosby.

"It's clear for everybody now in the Keizer Development Code," Brown said. "In the past we had to quote state statutes. It just wasn't clean."

Brown noted the business community has been kept up-to-date on the proposed change.

"It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone," he said. "You can't block the sidewalk with a sign or merchandise."

## KAA readies B&W show

One of the most popular art exhibitions in Keizer, the "Black, White and Gray" show, will be held at the Keizer Art Association's Enid Joy Mount Gallery at the Keizer Heritage Center beginning Thursday, Oct. 29.

The show will run through Nov. 28.

Entry subjects and medium are the artist's choice but must be black, white or gray in content as well as mat and frame.

Guisinger said on Wednesday he wasn't pleased with the update.

"It's disappointing this is the way they've chosen to go," he said. "It's the city saying their sign codes are more important than keeping businesses in Keizer. They're throwing out rules that are not encouraging businesses to stay in Keizer. That is different than what they had talked about doing. They had talked about having temporary access signs. With this type of mentality in place in the city, we will have to pursue options of looking elsewhere to have our business. It sucks they have chosen to go this direction."

Show honors will be awarded at a free, public reception on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The public can cast their vote for the People's Choice which will be announced after the show is completed.

Regular gallery hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The Keizer Heritage Center is located at 980 Chemawa Road N.E. next to Keizer Civic Center.

For information visit keizer-arts.com.

## KT on vacation



Submitted photo

Nate Bradford (right) recently took his copy of *Keizertimes* with him to a Seahawks-Packers football game at Lambeau Field in Wisconsin. You too can have your photo in the *Keizertimes*. Simply take the paper to your destination, snap a picture with you and your group holding it, and send the photo along with everyone's first and last names to kt@keizertimes.com.

## All boarded up



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

The former Haggen grocery store is now boarded up.

## WKNA's new free library



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy  
Carol and Martin Doerfler, along with Rhonda Rich and Carolyn Homan, dedicated the new Free Little Library in the Doerfler yard Oct. 15.

## looking back in the KT

### 5 YEARS AGO

Councilor questions whether to keep buying fluoride equipment

A proposal before the Keizer City Council that would halt purchase of fluoridation equipment for five of the city's wells.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Bike path concerns mount

A group of Keizer residents plans to turn up the volume on their protest concerning a proposed bike path that would provide access to a regional park in West Keizer.

### 15 YEARS AGO

Councilors irked at being left out on wetland plans

Some local farmers and Keizer city councilors are bristling at Salem officials' tactics in launching plans for wetlands project at Willow Lake Waste treatment Plant.

### 20 YEARS AGO

County poses land swap to end dispute  
Marion County officials last week posed a possible land swap to end Keizer's squabble with Salem over the Willow Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## public hearings

The **Keizer City Council** will hold a hearing on Monday, Nov. 2 to consider revisions to sections 2.303 (off-street parking and loading) and 2.413 (RV storage) of the Keizer Development Code. The hearing starts at 7 p.m. in council chambers at Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road NE.

The **Keizer Planning Commission** is holding a hearing on Wednesday, Nov. 4 to consider proposed revisions to Section 2.313 (accessory structures and uses) of the Keizer Development Code. The hearing starts at 6 p.m. in council chambers at Keizer Civic Center.

Planning Commission will also hold a hearing on Nov. 4 to consider proposed text amendments to sections 2.108, 2.109, 2.110, 2.112, 2.113, 2.114, 2.115, 2.119 and 2.433 of the Keizer Development Code and to add a definition of marijuana retailer to Section 1.200. The hearing takes place in council chambers at Keizer City Council will also hold a hearing on the topic on Monday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.

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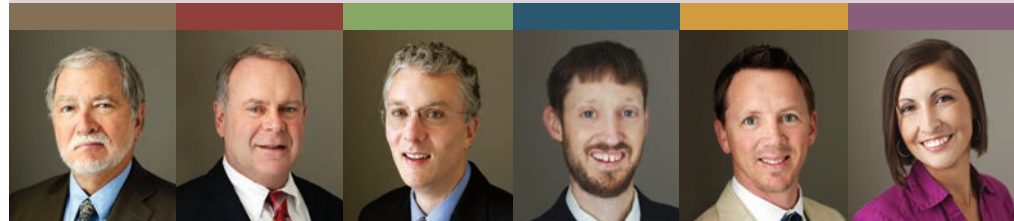
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