

DIEKER,

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Goesch said the news didn't sadden him because he understands what comes with the job. "It's a job you're married to," he said. "There's never a time you're not thinking about it. If you go out to eat with the family, people talk to you about chamber business."

A job description is already on the chamber's website at <http://chambermaster.keizerchamber.com/jobs/info/accounting-executive-director>, with a pay range of \$45,000 to \$50,000 a year. Zielinski said the plan is to have the board of directors hire a new executive director at the Feb. 3 meeting.

"We're trying to get applications in December, then start evaluating applications and weeding out people in early January. We will interview and try to hire by Feb. 3. Christine has agreed to stay on to train somebody."

Dieker also anticipates an offer being made at the Feb. 3 meeting.

"Then I would stay on board until the end of the month to help with the transition," Dieker said. "It depends

on the person and their experience level. There's a number of years how I've done this, but that doesn't mean it has to be done that way."

Dieker emphasized her decision didn't come lightly.

"Voluntarily deciding to leave this position truly brings a sadness of heart when I reflect on the thousands of warm personal moments I've experienced," she said. "It has been a privilege to work alongside business leaders of the greater Keizer community. I believed in the mission of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce when I accepted the executive director position in March of 1998 and I still do. This organization of people committed to the advancement of the Keizer area is reputable, strong and worthy of assisting business development and vitality. My legacy at the helm has been a great ride.

"The measuring sticks of my success are the tripled growth of the budget, doubling of membership and transformation of the Keizer Iris Festival," Dieker added. "I was there when we moved the office four times and I am very encouraged to help lay the groundwork for a permanent home on River Road. As the past chair of the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce, I



KEIZERTIMES file/Craig Murphy
Christine Dieker, shown speaking at a discussion of the proposed transit business tax in September, announced last week she is resigning as executive director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce. Dieker has held the post since March 1998 and has pledged to stay on board to help with the transition.

became an adamant believer of the value of grassroots of chambers supporting pro-business agendas. Mostly though, as a student of people, I built others' confidence in themselves and abilities to help make a difference."

Zielinski said it's his idea to move chamber headquarters back downtown.

"I think we need to have a place of business that be-

longs to the chamber," he said. "It should be on River Road someplace, where we can manage the parade from that spot and be more visible to traffic coming in and out. We have a hotel at Keizer Station planned for down the road, so our current office (at Keizer Station) could become a satellite office, getting more people to the businesses out there. It's a good idea to serve the community

from two areas."

Dieker noted the chamber office moved to Keizer Station four years ago from the Keizer Heritage Center on Chema-wa Road. The chamber office moved to a different Keizer Station office recently to make way for the new Red Wing Shoes store.

"If everything in our vision came true, an office on River Road would be in that vision," Dieker said. "Keeping a satellite place next to the interstate, keeping that connection going so it's not an us versus them thing, our place (in Keizer Station) would also be really important. We're right on the brink of great things happening. The vision of an office on River Road, I do think as far as the base of the chamber, where we'd have our main office in the core of town, I'd love to see it back there."

In the past year, the Keizer chamber has been working more closely with the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce, run now by Dan Clem, formerly with the Keizer chamber. The working relationship was on full display earlier this year as the chambers joined forces to combat the proposed transit business tax.

"We are a region first, then

responsible for our towns," Dieker said. "Working with Salem is really important. It gives us a larger overall voice. Like with the payroll tax, Salem could lead us for the area and raised the dollars. But the sweat equity and time we spent side-by-side with them was really important."

Dieker said the chamber's biggest annual event, May's Keizer Iris Festival, is in good hands under chair Dave Walery. Dieker is looking to turn the Friday greeters breakfast of that weekend into a political rally. She also wouldn't mind being in charge of the various runs put on by the chamber. Whatever she does, Dieker doesn't want to do something as diversified as managing the chamber.

"Right now my family comes first," she said. "I want to be a grandma and volunteer at the first grade class my grandchild will be in. (Resigning) was about a desire to be more focused, to give attention to myself to be a better person health wise, and I'll be better for my family too. I've given of myself to so many people and I'm so grateful for that opportunity. I think that will be in my future, too. But now I want to focus on God, family and then work."

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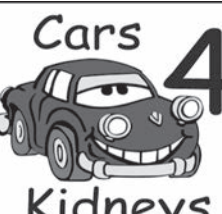
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