

Keizertimes

SECTION A

AUGUST 12, 2016

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Officers, \$\$\$ needed in spotlight

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A moment of gravity, but not survival. That's how Chief John Teague, of the Keizer Police Department, characterized the need for new public safety officers in Keizer.

After months of city discussions circling the issue of new officers, the Keizer City Council got a look at both Teague's vision for the department and what it would cost to bring it to fruition at a work session Monday, Aug. 8.

"We're not complaining, there isn't doom looming, but on a perfect day we're hoping to add five officers," Teague said.

Those five officers would serve specific roles in

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Chief Teague

With property tax levels locked in as a result of an amendment to the Oregon constitution passed in 1997, city officials are discussing adding a fee to utility bills to increase the general fund. Police services are funded through the general fund, and annual costs of providing public safety officers perennially exceeds the amount collected from property taxes.

To fund one officer, residents would have to contribute an additional \$10-\$11 per year through a fee added to the utility bill, or about \$1.85, per bill, Wood said. To fund all five officers, the fee would climb to \$9.25 per bill.

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Farmhouse 'unsalvageable' report says
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Volunteer needs reach record lengths
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Larry at McNary
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Northwood wins All-City
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A VERTICAL VISION

Mayor wants to take River Road to new heights

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Talks of a vertical vision for River Road North hit a ceiling before getting off the ground at a meeting of the Keizer Economic Development Commission (KEDC) Tuesday, Aug. 2.

Commissioners are working to develop a revolving loan program to encourage redevelopment of River Road properties. In the past, such programs have paid for streetscaping and sidewalk improvements (the bowling pin sidewalk in front of Town & Country Lanes is one example), and Mayor Cathy Clark is hoping to take the next step.

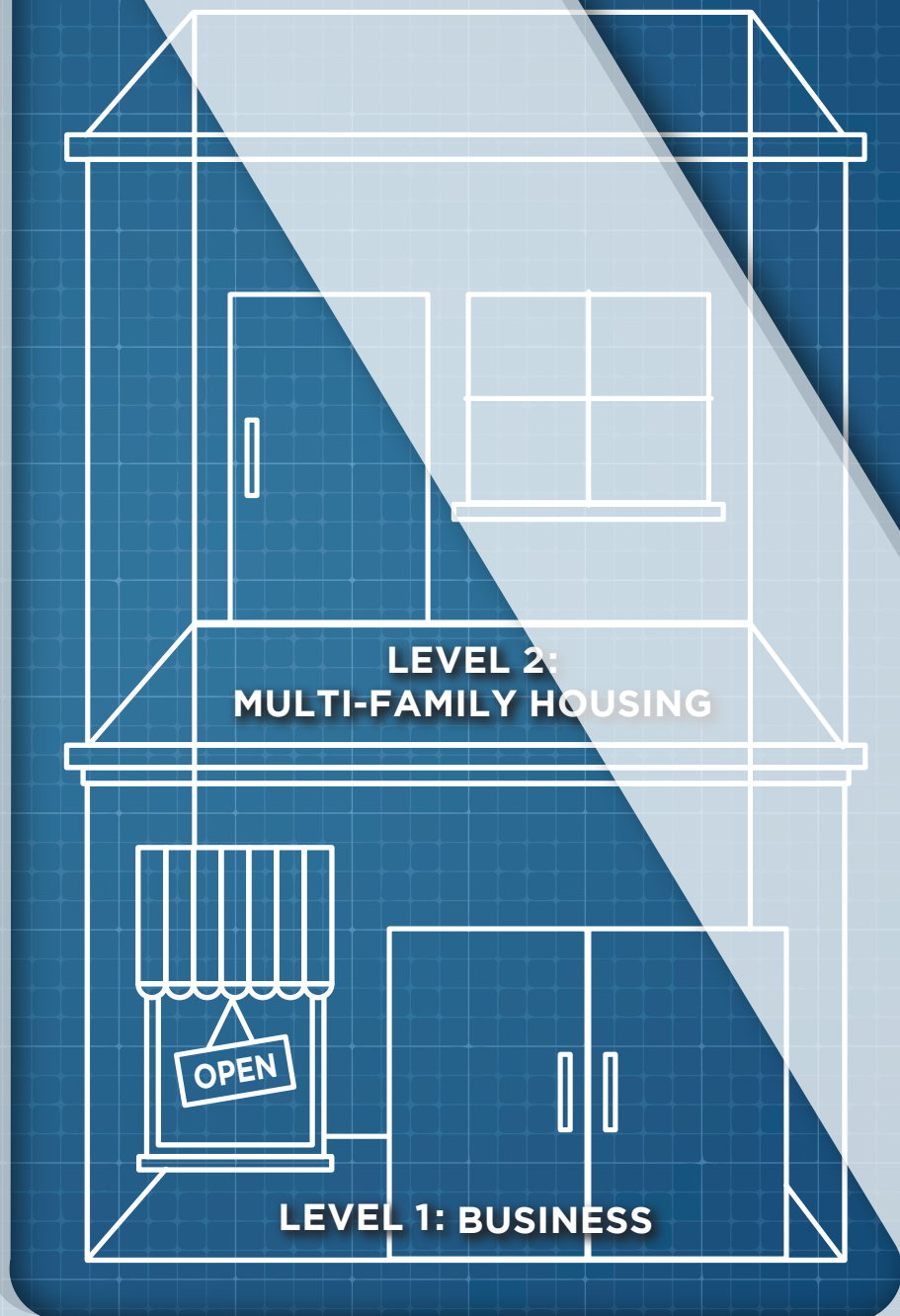
"Looking at other downtown cores, the projects are going up. If we're looking at property development and the properties that are under-utilized, what would it take to go up and put workforce housing on a second or third floor?" Clark asked her fellow commissioners.

Clark hopes to use money from the sale of property in Areas B and C of Keizer Station to fund a revolving loan program to support and attract small businesses to River Road.

Commissioner Rick Day outlined a possible framework for a loan program including everything from a vetting process to mentorship for businesses taking part but, without knowing how much funding might be available, the commissioners were at something of an impasse.

That's when Clark rolled out her vision for River Road.

"I would like the land



to work more effectively for us in terms of business space and second-generation growth, and I want to know how the city can provide the activation energy to make a process like that feasible," she said.

AJ Nash, a KEDC commissioner and commercial

realtor, lowered the reality hammer quickly. It boiled down to needing subsidy at the local level.

"You're talking a giant chunk of money, not \$50,000 or \$100,000, you need \$500,000 to \$1 million," Nash said. "A business that can't afford sin-

gle-story renovation, can't afford redevelopment."

He added that rental rates along River Road are also unlikely to recoup such a large investment. Current average rental rates are about \$1 per square foot on River

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KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson

Trash rate increase gets hearing

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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Keizer trash rates are likely to increase beginning in October, but how they will change will be a topic the Keizer City Council debates at its Aug. 15 meeting.

There will also be a public hearing on the issue at 7 p.m. meeting at Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road N.E.

Representatives of Valley Recycling & Disposal and Lorens Sanitation and Recycling filed a request to raise rates Monday, Aug. 8. The request outlines three options for rolling out increases.

The request to raise rates is the result of a 30 percent hike in tipping rates the two waste management companies pay Covanta Waste to Energy, which incinerates solid waste, and the Pacific Region Compost Facility, which handles mixed organics. Tipping rates are a fee paid by the businesses every time a load is dropped off at the site, they are calculated per ton. The rate increases would help the businesses offset the hike in tipping costs.

If the council chooses to adopt a rate increase, most residential rates would change by \$2.05 or less per bill. Assuming an increase is coming, the main question for members of the council to decide will be how to distribute the costs to customers.

Under the first option, residential and multifamily cart rate, as well as extra pick-ups, would increase 7 percent beginning October. For a residential customer with a 35-gallon waste cart, a 95-gallon mixed recycle cart and a 95-gallon organic cart, rates would increase from \$21.45 to \$22.95. Customers with a 65-gallon waste cart would see their rates go up \$2.05 per billing cycle.

A waste truck can show up at a private residence up to 12 times a month for regular service, if the customer makes use of all of those stops, the cost is about \$1.91 per pick-up with the rates in first option.

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Forum shines light on racial struggles, police responses

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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The question was: when you see a police officer, what do you think?

Rev. Michael Weaver of the Free Church of Oregon put it to members of his congregation. The answers he got back were eye-opening for anyone who thinks Salem-Keizer is immune to the shockwaves of recent officer-involved shootings of black men.

"They felt uncertainty, they wondered what or who will be addressing me today, will he or she be fair, will I be given the respect I deserve based on my interaction, should I be in fear?"

Weaver was one of several racial and ethnic community leaders participating in a community forum aimed at "Bridging the Gap" between cops and the members of a black men.

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New digs

McNary High School unveiled a new gym floor Monday, Aug. 8. See page A10 for the story.

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