

# HEAL: Grant program could help unlock SDCs

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“I’m worried about someone coming from outside of Keizer wanting to get something here that isn’t along our lines or tastes,” Anderson said. He suggested HEAL might be a more for communities like Portland and Vancouver, Wash.

The portions of the HEAL documentation prompting Anderson’s questions were more along the lines of examples of what other cities had done than a recipe Keizer would have to follow.

“For that reason, I’m just not ready to vote on this at this time,” Anderson.

Councilor Roland Herrera said that many of the policies HEAL suggests had already been enacted in the city.

Councilor Amy Ryan added that it simply looked like a tool to support parks and recreation.

Councilor Marlene Parsons sided with Anderson and the HEAL proposal was sent back to the parks board at its

February meeting, with a request for clarification on its thinking and an explanation of obligations and costs.

After some reworking of the message they wanted to send forward to the council, Parks board member Joe Tilman spoke to councilors at the Feb. 21 meeting of the city council.

Councilors learned that the city might be able to use system development charges (SDCs) – which are collected from residential developers for the improvement of public spaces like parks – could be used to match grant funds from HEAL. That might become key for Keizer as a HEAL City. Currently, Keizer has nearly \$900,000 in collected SDC funds, but no way to use them without matching money from somewhere else.

However, most of the questions from the previous council meeting fell to the wayside of a new discussion: the role of religious worship

in public policy.

In particular, Mayor Cathy Clark took issue with a paragraph in the proclamation stating that healthy eating and active living options are “within reach of the people who live, work, go to school, play, or worship in the city.”

“This is a separation (of state and religion) issue in my mind,” Clark said. “Why single out faith-based organizations? We cannot direct our places of worship regarding how they promote healthy activities.”

After several minutes of discussion between Clark and Ryan, City Manager Chris Eppley stepped into the fray.

“I think this is a lot more generic than we are giving it credit for. It’s everyone, it’s throwing the broad net and saying (HEAL) programs should benefit all people,” Eppley said.

Not long after, the city council finally approved a motion declaring Keizer a HEAL city.

## obituaries

### Martin L. Matiskainen

1949 – 2017

Martin Leonard Matiskainen passed away on Feb. 18, 2017, because of a heart attack. He was 67 years old.

He is survived by his wife Jill, daughter Nicole, sons Cory and Daniel, and his grandson William.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Montana State University, he moved to Keizer for job opportunities in nearby Salem. He held many jobs in architecture all throughout Salem, Keizer, and even Woodburn.

Through his work, he joined the local Keizer Rotary Club where he wrote the Rotary newsletter for the Keizer chapter for many years. He eventually retired from the Rotary program after he retired from writing the newsletter. He retired from his career in 2016 at the age of 65.

Matiskainen joined the Keizer Elks Lodge where

he became an esquire, chaplain, and inner guard. He was also involved in the McNary High School Band Boosters while his children and grandson were in the program.

He ran for Keizer City Council in 2008. Aside from his immediate family, Matiskainen was influential in many other peoples’ lives.

Family came first with him and everything else was just a benefit of living. Whenever he was out and about and people asked how he was doing he would always respond, “I’m super fine, and yourself?” Then he would say, “Leastwise if I was having a bad day I would always be okie dokie.” He made people happy where ever he went, and will be missed by all.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Keizer Elks Lodge on Sunday, March 5 at 2 p.m.



M. Matiskainen

### Betty Corey

June 4, 1925 – December 31, 2016

A celebration of life for Betty Corey will be held March 11, 2017, at John Knox Presbyterian Church 452 Cummings Lane N, Keizer OR at 2 p.m.

Betty, a long time Keizer resident, passed away on Dec. 31, 2016.

She is survived by Donna Benjamin (Tom), Steven Corey, Patricia Newton (Richard); grandchildren Scott, Greg, Justin Benjamin, Travis, Sean and Adrienne Newton; great grandchildren Patrick, Kevin, Dakota, Nikki Benjamin; Joby (by marriage), Justin Ace, Liliana and Grady Newton.

The family is asking any donations be made to John Knox Presbyterian Church.



B. Corey

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