

# Partial wins for community orgs in city budget

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The city's budget planning kicked into high gear at the first meeting of the Keizer Budget Advisory Committee Tuesday, May 2.

The meeting largely consisted of reviewing the proposed budgets from each department with some limited discussion of each (for more on those discussions, check next week's edition of the *Keizertimes*). The other major portion of the meeting was dedicated to public testimony for organizations requesting a portion of the Iris City's fiscal pie.

In many cases, the requests had already been fulfilled in the proposed budget, but there were a few notable exceptions.

- The Keizer Chamber of Commerce requested \$3,659 in direct financial support, but the current proposal only allocates \$1,500. The organization also requested that Civic Center rental fee be waived for five nights during the year, a value of \$2,330. That request is not fulfilled in the current proposed budget, but Tim Wood, Keizer finance director, said it

could likely be accommodated with some blackout dates. The Chamber will benefit from roughly \$9,000 in donated police and public works staff time around the Chamber's two parades.

- The Keizer Community Library requested \$9,936, but only \$8,000 is currently allocated.

- The Keizer Peer Court requested \$10,750 in support, but only \$10,500 was allocated.

- There is also a slight discrepancy in requests from the city's three neighborhood associations – a total request of \$1,100 and a total allocation of \$1,300 – but Wood said the balance would line up as the planning progresses.

- Three requests were not included at all:

- A request for \$5,000 to help fund a program coordinator position overseeing efforts to combat homelessness at the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments.

- There is also an outstanding request for \$8,000 from the Keizer Parks Foundation to cover costs associated with the event marking the eclipse

in Keizer Rapids Park. The paperwork does not specify whether the group is looking for direct financial support or in-kind donation of services.

- Meredith Mooney, a board member of Keizer United, a non-profit group supported several local youth efforts is seeking \$2,000 in financial support while the group looks for a new home for its annual fundraiser.

Requests from the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation and the Boys & Girls Club of Salem, Polk and Marion Counties, totaling \$8,000, were included in the proposed budget.

None of the allocations are set in stone and will not be until the city council approves the budget in June.

In addition to hearing from leaders of several organizations making requests, the committee also heard from Carol Doerfler, a part-time crossing guard at Cummings Elementary School. The school administration and neighbors want to see sidewalks installed on Delight Street North to reduce the number of students

walking in the street before and after school.

"It is downright scary to watch the kids coming and going," Doerfler said. "We're now pushed out another year and we won't get this done until 2019 or 2020. Try to help us get this project done."

Only 50 of the roughly 440 students at Cummings ride a bus. The remainder either walk or are dropped off by parents and guardians. Currently, there isn't a sidewalk on any of the streets around the school.

Public Works Director Bill Lawyer said the current design for a solution is expensive, particularly as a result of two homes that sit below street level and could become drainage problems, but that he wants to start working with city engineers on a new plan in the next quarter.

"If we step up those efforts, we can then go to the school with a plan in-hand," Lawyer said.

The next meeting of the budget committee was Thursday, May 4. If needed the committee will meet again Tuesday, May 9.

# Keizer man heads to trial on rape, abuse charges

A Keizer man charged with eight counts of rape, 11 counts of sexual abuse and one count of sexual penetration with a foreign object faced a jury for the first time last week after being arrested in December 2015.

The charges stem from acts that allegedly took place between 1999 and 2002 and involved two victims under the age of 14.

Keizer Police Department detectives arrested Nikolay Avdeyev, 52, a Keizer resident on the 1300 block of Angie Way NE, on Dec. 3, 2015.

According to court documents, Avdeyev began sexually abusing and raping his primary victim when she was 11 years old and continued for three years. The abuse was discovered in 2002, but the family did not notify police citing religious beliefs. Avdeyev reportedly ask for forgiveness from the victim's parents.

The crimes might have

continued to go unreported were it not for a witness to some of the incidents who reported it to their pastor in 2015. The witness was encouraged by the pastor to contact police.

In a document detailing Avdeyev's interrogation by Keizer police detectives, Avdeyev admitted to touching his victim inappropriately after more than two hours of conversation.

An hour later, he admitted to sexual intercourse with the girl, but attempted to defer his culpability by claiming her "childish-adolescent love" enticed him.

Further investigation yielded a prior history of suspicious actions. Two additional youth victims accused Avdeyev of inappropriate touching and a third accused him of sexual abuse, but none of the charges Avdeyev is facing are the result of those incidents.

Avdeyev's trial was scheduled to wrap up Wednesday, May 3.



N. Avdeyev

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