

Happy trails at KRP

A new trail that links Chemawa Road North to the interior of Keizer Rapids Parks was completed this week. The trail is the first phase of improvements – that will include the first flushing toilets in a Keizer park – scheduled for the next few months. The improvements are being paid for by a state grant. The entrance to the trail is currently unmarked, but it can be found about a block west of the intersection of Chemawa Road North and 15th Avenue North.

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Country Glen soccer pitch gets tentative approval

Councilors want more detailed plan

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A Keizer resident's hope to put a practice soccer field at Country Glen Park took another step forward at the Keizer City council meeting Monday, Aug. 7.

Wayne Frey is hoping to put in soccer goals and line a soccer field at the neighborhood park that sits between the Gubser and Country Glen neighborhoods. Frey said he is willing to purchase the goals, line the field and provide the additional maintenance (weed whacking and re-striping required for the project).

Earlier this summer he received the blessing of the Keizer Parks Advisory Board, and council approval is the next step. "I want to create a place for children to have a healthy, positive activity. A place where kids and families can go. What I'm looking for is approval to create and maintain the soccer field," Frey told the council.

The council eventually backed the idea, but asked that Frey work with Keizer Parks Supervisor Robert Johnson to come back with a plan the council could approve formally. The only hitch in the approval was parking.

Country Glen Park has no dedicated parking area, but about 15 cars could fit along the curb without having to park in front of neighboring

houses across the street. Frey said he hoped to reduce neighborhood impacts by making it a non-reservable field and encouraging parking at Gubser Elementary School, which is three-tenths of a mile away by way of a foot bridge.

"That could be a better solution than flooding the neighborhood with a bunch of cars, but we would also need to get permission from the school," said Chris Eppley, Keizer city manager. Eppley added that despite good intentions, he

expects pressure will eventually mount to make it available for weekend games and tournaments. "We will have to have another discussion about mandating parking taking place elsewhere."

Public Works Director Bill Lawyer said the only plan he would support would be for a non-reservable field.

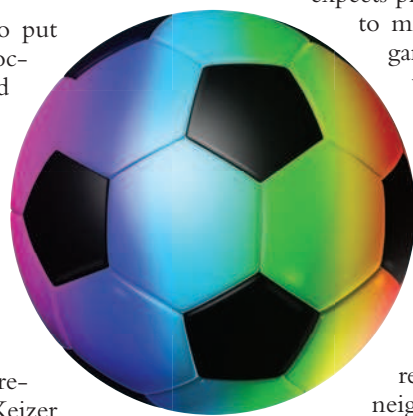
Councilor Roland Herrera lives near the park and said neighbors he talked with voiced concern about parking, but felt that a practice field would be welcomed generally.

Frey is not yet certain what the final field will look like, but the space is large enough to accommodate one large field or two smaller ones.

Mayor Cathy Clark asked Frey to talk with Johnson about long-term maintenance needs to make sure whatever form the field takes will not unnecessarily burden city staff.

Clark also commented on how much she liked a tie-dyed ball Frey brought along to sell his idea.

"I would like to put this into use as soon as possible," Frey said.



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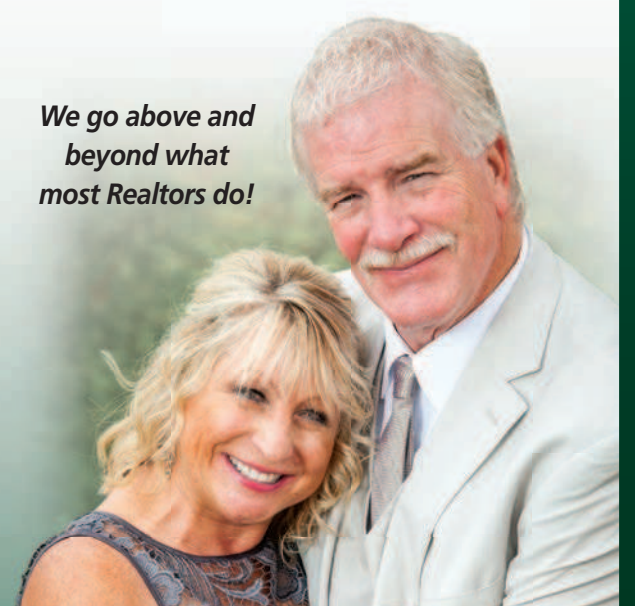
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