

# South River Road grabs spotlight in city's first revitalization talks

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

There were three large pads of blank white paper set up in a conference room at the Keizer Civic Center, one for each of three key corridors along River Road North: the River Road and Lockhaven intersection, River Road and Chemawa intersection and River Road south of Manbrin Drive, which included Cherry Avenue Northeast. Attendees were tasked with pointing out possible improvements for each section of Keizer's "Main Street."

Within 15 minutes, people were kneeling to fill in the first page of the south River Road pad and starting on the second page while the other two had only a handful of suggestions between them.

Most of the concerns dealt with traffic and safety such as the lack of adequate space for cyclists on River Road compared to Cherry Avenue, a need for more bus stops outside lanes of travel, the need for additional bus stops on Cherry and a request for a flashing red turn signal at Manbrin Drive to alleviate congestion.

"This is how we get started," said Nate Brown, Keizer's community development director. "We are trying to figure out how to most responsibly use (the River Road/Cherry Avenue) area and the tolerance for additional things like congestion,"

The city has enlisted the services of Portland-based consultants Otak and Angelo Planning Group to help craft a new path forward for development along River Road North and Cherry Avenue. The study is known collectively as the River Road Revitalization Projects and the first meeting to gather input from all city residents was held Thursday, April 26. The study is taking into consideration direction from past efforts and update them with input from current residents, business owners and



KEIZERTIMES/ERIC A. HOWALD  
Keizer residents and business owners discuss the types of changes they would like to see on south River Road and Cherry Avenue.

other stakeholders.

In March, Kate Rogers, of Otak, and Matt Hastie, of Angelo Planning Group, met with business owners and other groups of stakeholders to dive deep into the current state of affairs and get some guidance on the path forward.

Hastie said one of the biggest take-aways from the stakeholder groups was a desire for "more restaurant, evening venues and family-oriented uses."

People appreciate the convenience of River Road and would like to see more development, but not more traffic," Hastie said.

The current state of transportation is something of a hodgepodge, said Rogers. Pedestrian access pulled in generally favorable reviews, cycling access mostly poor to fair, and access to public transit fair to good depending on the specific area.

She added that there is good potential support for new businesses and additional rental properties – a result of market

analyses – but that Keizer's lean toward being a bedroom community presents other challenges.

"Keizer (residents have) good spending power, but they are spending elsewhere," Rogers said.

The city has posted drafts of some of the planning documents on its website, www.keizer.org, with other insights into the character of River Road.

The boundaries of the study moving forward covers about 1,000 acres, roughly one-fifth of the entire area of the city.

Only 50 of the more than 2,000 parcels of land included in the study are larger than five acres. The highest concentration of jobs along River Road is near the southern end of the city – south of Homewood Court North – with another nearly-as-dense area around the intersection of Chemawa and River Road.

The study will continue through the winter of 2019 with additional opportunities for public input expected. Make sure to check the Keizertimes for news of future meetings.

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**SUSAN JONES & SPENSER O'NEILL**  
will perform at 7pm and 9pm. Admission is only \$10. Ages 21 & over only. Reserved seating for this show. Purchase tickets at box office or at our website.

Saturday, MAY 12, at 11:00 am  
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**Today in History**  
In Kent, Ohio, 28 National Guardsmen fire their weapons at a group of antiwar demonstrators on the Kent State University campus, killing four students, wounding eight, and permanently paralyzing another. — May 4, 1970

**Food 4 Thought**  
"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." — Audrey Hepburn, actress (*My Fair Lady*), born May 4, 1929

**The Month Ahead**

**Saturday, May 5**  
Free Comic Book Day at Tony's Kingdom of Comics, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Keizer Young Life Garage Sale, 2 to 7 p.m. Come shop the Keizer Young Life Garage Sale and help send kids to Young Life camp this summer. Dayspring Fellowship 1755 Lockhaven Drive N.E.

Champoeg State Heritage Area will be hosting Founders' Day to honor the 175th anniversary of the creation of Oregon. As first provisional government. The event will feature living-history actors, speakers, and activities in a replica historic townsite. Runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Champoeg State Heritage Area. Parking is free, for more information, visit: [oregonstateparks.org](http://oregonstateparks.org)

**Sunday, May 6**  
59th Semi-Annual BBQ Chicken Dinner hosted by the Sacred Heart Parish. Dinner includes barbecue chicken, baked potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, pie or cake, and a beverage. Dine in and take out options available. A Spring Plant & Flower Sale will be there as well to benefit the Youth Faith Formation Program. Adults eat for \$11, children under 12 for \$7. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Louis Parish, 485 Seventh Street in Gervais.

**Monday, May 7**  
Keizer City Council Meeting. 7 to 9 p.m. 930 Chemawa Road NE

**Tuesday, May 8**  
Keizer Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting for Cafe Yumm, 5920 Ulali Drive N.E. in Keizer Station, 8:30 a.m.

Free Health and Wellness Fair at Bonaventure of Keizer, 5525 McLeod Lane NE, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Speakers and vendors aimed at senior health topics.

Parks Advisory Board Meeting. 6 to 8 p.m. 930 Chemawa Road NE.

**Wednesday, May 9**  
Keizer Planning Commission Meeting. 6 to 8:30 p.m. 930 Chemawa Road NE.

**Thursday, May 10**  
Traffic Safety/Bikeways/Pedestrian Meeting. 6 to 7:30 p.m. 930 Chemawa Road NE.

The general meeting of West Keizer Neighborhood Association will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 10, at Keizer Civic Center. Speaker will be Allan Edinger with information on his work with inmate populations.

**Saturday, May 12**  
Keizer Distinguished Young Woman program, 7 p.m., McNary High School.

**Sunday, May 13**  
Keizer Volunteer Firefighter Mother's Day Breakfast, 7 to 11:30 a.m.

**Monday, May 14**  
Keizer Fire District 70 Years of Service, 6 to 8 p.m. Reception featuring old and new equipment and former volunteer and career staff.

**Tuesday, May 15**  
Free admission all day at Hallie Ford Museum of Art, 700 State Street. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Thursday, May 17**  
Greater Gubser Neighborhood Association Meeting. 7 to 8 p.m. 930 Chemawa Road NE.

**Friday, May 18, and Saturday, May 19**  
Keizer Community Library Spring Book Sale. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road N.E.

**Saturday, May 19**  
Keizer Elks Car Show, 9 a.m.  
Keizer Iris Festival Parade, 10 a.m.

Tea by the Sea, 5th annual Mother's Day Tea to benefit Keizer Art Association, 1-3 p.m., Keizer Community Center at Keizer Civic Center. 930 Chemawa Rd. NE. Raffle, silent auction, beach attire optional. Tickets are \$20, available at Keizer Art Association.

Add your event by e-mailing [news@keizertimes.com](mailto:news@keizertimes.com).

## Free Comic Book Day May 5

Saturday, May 5, is Free Comic Book Day at Tony's Kingdom of Comics, 3856 River Road N.

Each year, comic book publishers and retailers join forces to offer a selection of free comics to new and long-time readers. Each attendee can pick out two free comics and those who bring canned food for the Keizer Community Food Bank get bonus comics.

The affair is an all-day event from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Comic book artist Gary Martin and Disney artist William Langley will be on-hand to sign books and greet fans. Numerous costumed characters, courtesy of the Portland Superhero Coalition, will be visiting throughout the day.

Other retailers at Keizer Vil-

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lage including El Patron Mexican Grill and Mr. Video are planning special events.

looking back in the KT

**5 YEARS AGO**  
Silverton Health to open Keizer clinic  
Rick Cagen, president and CEO of Silverton Health, confirmed details with Keizertimes a new Silverton Health clinic is expected to be open at Inland Shores in Keizer.

**10 YEARS AGO**  
St. Edward auction nets fun and \$21,000  
St. Edward Catholic Church held its third dinner and auction April 26. The auction raised more than \$21,000 for community outreach and local youth programs.

**15 YEARS AGO**  
Gunshots put McNary, VP in spotlight  
The Salem-Keizer School District placed extra security monitors at McNary High School after someone fired a gun at an assistant principal's home.

**20 YEARS AGO**  
The new Wittenberg Inn opens in Keizer  
Keizer's new and first hotel opened May 1. The Wittenberg Inn, located off River Road and Claggett Street, offered local residents a firsthand look and champagne reception.

maze

Maze by Jonathan Graf of Keizer

sudoku

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		8	6	5	
3			5		
1	2		5		3
	7	9	4		8
8			7		2 5
			5		4
	4		8	2	
7	2		1		9

Enter digits from 1-9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

**KEIZERTIMES.COM**

# Web Poll

**Results**

Will you support the Salem-Keizer School District bond?

**52% – Yes**

**48% – No**

Vote in a new poll every Thursday!  
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