

# Opinion



## Gather all info on UGB before acting

The newest members of the Keizer City Council (who will be sworn in on Monday, Jan. 7) can be important voices on the future of Keizer—if they maintain open minds and independent voices.

It is hard to go against the grain, especially if you are a new councilor—you look to veteran councilors for guidance as well as from the mayor. The position of mayor comes with built-in credibility on issues. However there is one issue that incoming councilors Dan Kohler and Elizabeth Smith should maintain their own counsel and listen to the various points of view when it comes to expansion of Keizer's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

The latest task force, Housing Needs and Buildable Lands Advisory Committee, will convene in mid-January and yet again discuss Keizer's future and make recommendations to the city council. The task force is funded by a state grant (one of several the city has received over the past few years).

If the urban growth boundary is expanded and the city annexes that land, it will be a land rush not unlike when the Oklahoma Territory opened up to settlers in the 19th century. And there's nothing wrong with that. The profit motivation is what drives the American economy.

The effects of land north of Keizer brought into the urban growth boundary on the city has been discussed at several previous public meetings led by consultants from OTAK, who have been aiding the city of Keizer in all of its periodic reviews re-

garding future growth. At the most recent presentation, representatives from OTAK shared the outcomes of three Oregon cities that wanted to expand their UGBs.

An expanded UGB and Keizer annexation would result in houses that would most likely be out of the reach of current Salem-Keizer buyers. Some are concerned that high-end homes in an expanded UGB would attract buyers from the Portland area. Keizer would be a place to lay their heads before they head off to jobs up north. The initial buyers would be looking for price relief from Portland and would not necessarily buy into the Keizer Way, meaning they would not get involved with the city and its many organizations.

That could end up dividing the city between residents who sleep in Keizer and those who call the city home and get involved with youth sports, community events and all things that make Keizer a good place to live.

There is plenty of evidence from various examples of how expanding an Urban Growth Boundary can positive and negatively affect a city. There are extraordinary costs that come with annexing land into a city and preparing the infrastructure for new development.

There are ways to plan for the expected population growth over the next two decades. Perhaps one solution is to build up rather than out. The city council needs to explore all options.

—LAZ

## Construction fees not out of line

To the Editor:

In your recent article *Fire district will consider additional construction fees* (Keizertimes, Dec. 28), there are two items I would like to address:

The first is the overtime being over-budget due to staff being deployed to the California fires. While this is true, it should be noted that the full cost of the deployment, including overtime, is reimbursed back to the Keizer Fire District. The net cost to the tax payers of the District is zero.

The second item is the portion of the article that addresses the construction fees. The proposal before the board is to amend the fee being charged from a flat \$90.00 to 6 percent of the total assessed fees. So, if the fees totaled \$4,000 the District

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would receive 6 percent of that or \$240. No, that is not a lot of money, but it does go much further in recovering the costs incurred by the District in its fire and safety inspection requirements for new construction.

The Keizer Fire District Board is charged with the financial oversight of the district's finances. Whether that means deploying a crew to fight a forest fire or sending the Deputy Fire Marshall to inspect construction we look at what the costs to the district tax payer are. It doesn't matter if it's a few hundred dollars or several thousand our concern is the same: what is the impact on the district's taxes and whether or not it can be mitigated or minimized.

**Chet Patterson, President  
Keizer Fire District  
Board of Directors**

## Democratic foundations in danger?

Recorded history, from 2000 B.C. to the present, our species, whose presence by archeological findings date back some 200,000 years, has referenced this relatively short period in planet Earth's 4.5 billion-year-history, as an era of continuous human civilizations.

During the presence of these civilizations, what's been most common among humankind had been one leader, a female or male, recognized by a collection of titles, including chief, pharaoh, king, queen and czar. These leaders ruled by the limits of their DNA as was true also of their successors, usually a child or a close relative.

Since the way things were done resulted in leaders from exemplary to horrible, and everything in between, "commoners" with thoughtful insight pondered civilizations where all had a hand in deciding their fate. For what was a colony of the King of England and his family in North America's early European settlement, although French, Spanish and Russian monarchs also ruled settlers here, there were those who dreamed visions of new and different government designs.

One such dreamer was John Locke, an English philosopher and thinker who lived in Bristol, then London, between 1632 and 1704. He is recognized as an early proponent of an arrangement between citizen and government where a social contract is established. A social contract wherein there is protection of rights, such as life and property, and a legitimate, constitutionally-elected government. It is widely recognized that Locke's ideas were well known to those American founding fathers who drafted the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution/Bill of Rights.

Locke espoused a legitimate, constitutionally-elected government and what he called natural rights as in "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." In Locke's treatises is the idea that the responsibility of the state is to ensure the protection and preservation of these natural rights.

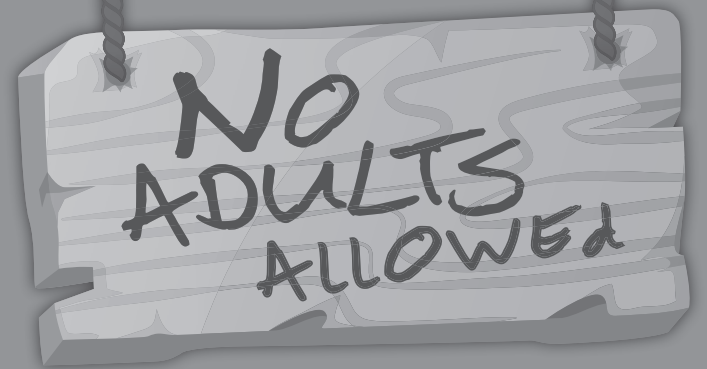
Locke argued that the authority to act as a whole is only justified when accompanied by the "consent of the majority." He claimed also that the legislative body should be dismissed when the people find it acting contrary to the trust reposed in it. A close relationship with the people, said he, provides the legislative body to act on behalf of the general will of the people as much as it is the duty of the citizenry to elect legislators who will do so.

Locke supported the idea that the power of government should be distributed among different institutions as he believed it too great a temptation of human frailty to grasp after power, for the same person or persons who have the power of making laws to also have power over their execution. Following this idea, the Constitution divides the government into three separate, but co-equal, branches of government. Each branch is provided a system of checks and balances intended to prevent one branch from becoming supreme.

However, here and now, information leads one to conclude that our Constitution's democratic foundations are in peril. Checks and balances are ignored by members of Congress, extreme partisanship controls decision-making, and personal gain has become a high value. Meanwhile, mendacities, corruptions, laws-broken, job security over integrity, and monarchy-like subservience stand as threats to our government. The American social contract of 230 years-running, that which provides for our security and way-of-life, must have our support or disappear.

(Gene H. McIntyre shares his opinion frequently in the *Keizertimes*.)

gene  
mcintyre



**36K/YEAR**

**VIDEO GAME TESTER**

**WHAT DO THEY DO?** Work for companies and play games several times through. The goal is to work out any glitches and make sure it isn't too hard, but not too easy either.

**EDUCATION REQ:** Degree in software development, computer science or another technical degree. Quality control certification is recommended.

**55K/YEAR**

**UNDERWATER WELDER**

**WHAT DO THEY DO?** Make and repair underwater pipelines, offshore drilling rigs, ships, barges and other metal things.

**EDUCATION REQ:** Degree in software development, computer science or another technical degree. Quality control certification is recommended.

**107K/YEAR**

**MIDWIFE**

**WHAT DO THEY DO?** Help the mothers before and after the birth, they help prepare the family, the home and the mother.

**EDUCATION REQ:** Bachelors needed. Masters preferred

**44K/YEAR**

**DOORMAN**

**WHAT DO THEY DO?** They typically work at higher end hotels. They provide security and screen deliveries, as well as provide courtesy services (they also open doors).

**EDUCATION REQ:** High school diploma or equivalent.

**\$25-\$300/CARD**

**GREETING CARD WRITER**

**WHAT DO THEY DO?** Write cards for birthdays, holidays, and other special occasions.

**EDUCATION REQ:** No degree required but design training is preferred.

**cool/careers**

written by LAUREN MURPHY of the Keizertimes

infographic by ANDREW JACKSON of the Keizertimes

**\$44/HOUR**

**LIVE MANNEQUIN**

**WHAT DO THEY DO?** Live mannequins stay perfectly still modeling clothes, and accessories.

**EDUCATION REQ:** Some modeling training.

**\$38-75K/YR**

**FORTUNE COOKIE WRITER**

**WHAT DO THEY DO?** Write the fortunes you find in fortune cookies.

**EDUCATION REQ:** College degree in English, communications or journalism is recommended.

**\$50-100K/YR**

**GOLF BALL DIVERS**

**WHAT DO THEY DO?** Dive into the lakes in golf courses and retrieve old golf balls. There's snakes, dirt and a lot of golf balls at the bottom of the lakes where divers go to get the lost balls.

**EDUCATION REQ:** Scuba training

**\$33K/YR**

**PERSONAL SHOPPER/STYLIST**

**WHAT DO THEY DO?** Typically they are found in clothing stores. Personal shoppers will assist customers in finding styles and clothes they like that look good on them.

**EDUCATION REQ:** Bachelors in fashion design or merchandising.

**57K/YEAR**

**POLICE OFFICER**

**WHAT DO THEY DO?** They swear an oath to protect and serve the citizens that they represent. They also catch criminals.

**EDUCATION REQ:** High school diploma AND graduation from the police academy.

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## Web Poll Results

Has sticking to a New Year's resolution changed your life?

No: 93% Yes: 7%

Vote in a new poll every Thursday!  
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