

# Residents request traffic fix

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

Residents of Adam Court Northeast and Brooks Avenue Northeast turned out en force at a meeting of the Keizer Traffic Safety, Bikeways and Pedestrian Committee on Thursday, Jan. 10.

The group requested that the committee take action to make the intersection of Adam Court, Brooks Avenue and Thorman/Manbrin avenues safer. Residents said that making a left turn out of either street onto Thorman or Manbrin represented a leap of faith.

"I will go a mile out of my way to avoid that intersection," said Brooks Avenue resident Deanna Gregory.

Adam Court resident Sarah Adams said she had moved her child's safety seat to the left side of her car to make certain her kid would be on the opposite side of a possible impact when making right turns out of her neighborhood.

During the committee's December meeting, member Joe Tillman put in a request for an analysis of the intersection. The area residents turned out in an effort to press the matter.

Resident Roger Courser requested that the intersection be converted into a four-way stop — there are already stop signs on Adam and Brooks at the intersection.

"The street makes a turn



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Turning off Brooks Avenue and Adam Court onto Thorman Avenue or Manbrin Drive is hazardous according to area residents.

there and you cannot see the oncoming traffic," Courser said.

Mike Griffin, the Public Works liaison to the committee, said he'd floated the idea of a four-way stop to Public Works Director Bill Lawyer, but it was a nonstarter.

It's the second time in recent months the committee has been asked to address concerns in the area. Previously, other residents requested a stop to on-street parking along Manbrin.

Committee members Kathy Lincoln and Tillman

agreed to meet at the site with Keizer Public Works employees to discuss potential solutions and report back at the February meeting.

The other major news out of the meeting was it appears as though Keizer will not be a recipient of state grants to fund Safe Routes to Schools projects in the city.

Last year, the city put in grant requests to install curbs and sidewalks along Delight Street Northeast and in the area around Kennedy Elementary School.

Committee member Pat

Fisher attended a meeting of the group determining which projects would receive funding in December and said Keizer's projects weren't among the top qualifiers.

"I found the process very different in that they weren't talking about the merits of specific projects. They talked about the geographic distribution," Fisher said.

Fisher was told that all projects are still, technically, in the running, but Keizer's projects were not on the high priority lists revealed at the December meeting.

# Newly minted detective pulls off a 3-for-1

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A fee to support additional police officers is paying off.

With the department at near full capacity, officers have taken on new roles behind the scenes and it includes an additional detective dedicated to property crimes. Det. RJ Farrens is already demonstrating how the extra funding is bolstering police efforts.

On Jan. 3, Farrens responded to the report of a burglary at Keizer Church of Christ on Ridge Drive Northeast during his regular shift and began an investigation immediately. Surveillance footage led him to a suspect. It didn't hurt that the suspect left behind items taken from a vehicle on McLeod Lane Northeast shortly before the church break-in.

Five days later, Farrens, with help from additional officers, arranged to purchase some of the stolen property. One of the items purchased was confirmed to have belonged to the church using serial numbers.

The suspect selling the property was identified as Matthew Stainbrook, a tran-

sient. Stainbrook admitted to breaking into the church office on Jan. 3 and confessed to taking additional items from the church in July 2018.

"Det. Farrens investigation and follow-up identified the suspect, but not only did he clear one crime by arrest, he cleared two other crimes that were committed by the same suspect," said Deputy Chief Jeff Kuhns in commending Farrens' work.

Stainbrook was charged with burglary, theft and criminal mischief and taken to the Marion County Jail where he was released due to overcrowding on Jan. 10.

On Jan. 14, Stainbrook was again found in Keizer in possession of a bicycle that had been reported stolen the previous evening, methamphetamine and a weapon he was prohibited from possessing as a convicted felon. He was again taken to Marion County Jail and later released later that same day.

Sheriff Jason Myers recently told local chiefs of police that the jail is reviewing how it releases inmates with plans to change the process.



M. Stainbrook

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**Keizertimes**

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Sincerely,

**Lyndon Zaitz**  
Publisher of Keizertimes

