

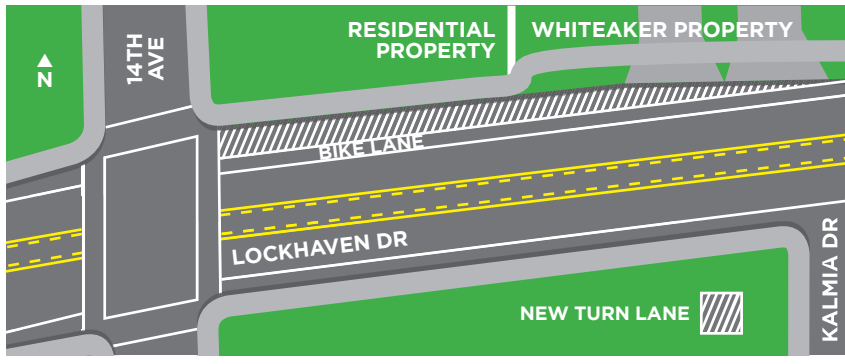
Lockhaven turn lane should ease congestion

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Bids were due this week to construct a new, dedicated turn lane on Lockhaven Drive Northeast, meant to service drivers turning onto 14th Avenue Northeast.

Keizer Public Works Director Bill Lawyer said the city will enter into contract talks and establish a timeframe for the improvements in the coming weeks. The new turn lane will begin to take shape just west of the intersection with Kalmia Drive Northeast and extend to 14th Avenue.

The plans for the improvements, already approved by the Salem-Keizer School District Board of Directors, calls for the addition of a turn lane and placing the bike lane between the new



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turn lane and the through-lane.

While the change is expected to ease congestion during the busiest times of the day, there are no new changes planned for pedestrian controls at the

intersection of 14th and Lockhaven, an intersection that sees heavy use from Whiteaker Middle School and Gubser Elementary School students.

"I know it's a problem but there's

nothing we can do [for pedestrians] with this improvement without moving the driveways at Whiteaker," Lawyer said.

The existing crosswalks, however, will be improved and brought into full alignment with ADA standards. Adding elements like flashing pedestrian lights are reserved for stand-alone crosswalks where no other traffic controls are in place, Lawyer said.

While pedestrian controls will remain unchanged, the westbound lanes will be narrowed by one foot, from 12.5 feet to a little less than 11.5 feet, in the area where the turn lane is installed. Studies worldwide have proven narrowing lanes of travel has a calming

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County may chart own course on homelessness

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Two leaders of the Mid-Willamette Valley Homelessness Initiative encouraged the Keizer City Council to back a resolution essentially seceding from a larger regional group combatting homelessness in Oregon.

Marion County is currently part of the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care (ROCC), a group that consists of 27 other Oregon counties and includes enough geographic territory that it would comprise the 16th largest state in the union. Membership in that group is likely reducing Marion County's access to federal support to combat homelessness. Since joining ROCC, the Marion County has seen its level of financial support from federal resources drop, from a peak of \$1.05 million in 2012 to just under \$700,000 in 2018.

Unless the Marion County leaves ROCC, its ability to compete for federal funding will only get worse, said Jimmy Jones, executive director of the Community Action Agency, one of the leading groups combatting homelessness locally.

"The quality of the services we have will deteriorate. As a result, the time to leave is this moment," Jones said.

Jones and Janet Carlson, a former county commissioner and now consultant for the Homelessness Initiative, aren't suggesting Marion County strike out on its own entirely. They would like to form

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The number of homeless residents in the 28 rural Oregon counties including Marion County:



It's the **9TH LARGEST** homeless population in the nation, just behind San Francisco and just ahead of Phoenix, Ariz.

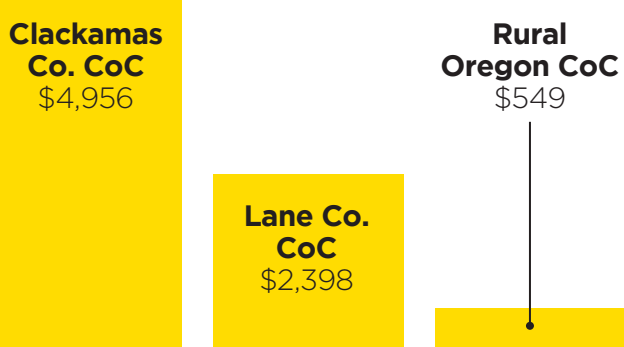
Areas with Largest Numbers of Chronically Homeless*

1. LA City/County	13,275	7. San Francisco	1,757
2. NYC	6,336	8. Oakland/Alameda	1,742
3. Seattle/King	3,552	9. Denver Metro	1,596
4. San Diego	2,171	10. Oregon ROCC	1,503
5. San Jose/Santa Clara	2,139	11. Washington	1,493
6. Washington, DC	1,781	12. Portland Metro	1,384

* Homeless for 1+ Year, or • Homeless 3+ times in last 36 months for at least 12 months
• Must have a disabling condition

WHERE WE STAND:

Federal dollars per homeless person



KEIZERTIMES/Andrew Jackson

Salem mobile home owners find strength through unity

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The homeowners in Arrowhead Mobile Home Park, off Portland Road in Salem, were some of the last to know

when the land under their homes was sold to a new owner. The deal was done a year and a half before residents got wind that Investment Property Group (IPG) had taken ownership of the property in northeast Salem.

That may seem outlandish, but the residents don't get monthly bills that might have indicated the ownership had changed hands.

"We just make out checks to Arrowhead Mobile Park and carry on," said one resident at a monthly meeting of the park's chapter of the Oregon State

Tenants Association (OSTA). IPG is the same investment firm that owns a handful of parks in Keizer, including one where residents are feeling the pinch of rent burdens. The principal investor in IPG is Brian Fitterer, a manufactured home park owner with an infamous record of dealings with residents in Keizer and other

places.

Despite that odd development, the homeowner-renters in Arrowhead are, for the most part, pleased with their community.

"I think I speak for a lot of people when I say that I'm happy here," said one homeowner.

However, those good feelings are more a result of banding together with other homeowner-renters through OSTA than satisfaction with the way things are run.

The tip-off that things had changed in the park came in the form of a push for long-term rental agreements. After years of more-or-less steady relationships with the previous owner, homeowners in the park were being encouraged to sign 25-, 20-, or 15-

year rental agreements for the spaces where their homes sit. In exchange for the long-term contract, IPG was guaranteeing it would raise rents no more than a certain percentage each year, e.g. a 25-year agreement locked in rent increases of no more than 4 percent annually.

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"We just make out checks to Arrowhead Mobile Park and carry on."

— Resident, Arrowhead Mobile Home Park



Girls lacrosse
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Easter fun for all ages
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Settle in for River Road delays
PAGE A10



Girls tennis pulls out win
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City puts out call for skater bois — and grlrs



By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

City officials make frequent attempts to get the local youth involved in the conversations that occur inside city hall, but they are going all out on May 1 to attract a specific audience: users of Carlson Skate Park.

The Keizer Parks Department will be hosting a public forum on proposed improvements at the skate park and those who use it are encour-

aged to attend. The general public is also invited.

"We'll start the meeting at the park and then move into the lobby at city hall for more of a discussion," said Robert Johnson, Keizer parks supervisor.

The skate park lacks certain features that might make it more appealing to users in addition to needing considerable maintenance and repair. The project was made possible with

the onset of a parks service fee.

During the meeting, city officials are seeking input on four proposed improvements:

- Rebuilding the two bowls in the park.
- Creating transitions that allow users to move from one to another without getting off their wheels.
- Rebuilding the half-pipe area.
- Additional sanding and

Please see SKATE, Page A7



Growing

to better serve the Keizer community

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