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# MCFD1 will seek levy renewal in November

BY MATT RAWLINGS  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The Marion County Fire District #1 (MCFD1) board of directors passed a resolution asking voters to renew the local option levy for emergency services during the November 3 general election — the levy accounts for nearly 30 percent of the district’s funding for emergency services.

The levy will be at a rate of \$0.71 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for a five-year period, which is the same rate as it was from 2016 to 2020.

This decision comes after MCFD1 had asked voters to increase the levy by \$0.28 on the May ballot for the primary election for the communities of Four Corners, Middle Grove, Pratum, Macleay, Brooklake, Clearlake, Labish Center and Chemeketa College Station.

However, the ballot measure was not approved, which meant the entire levy failed for the July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 fiscal year, which was a striking

blow for the district. MCFD1 Fire Chief Kyle McMann believes that the COVID-19 pandemic led to voters not wanting to pass the measure.

“Based on our present data, people had a lot of uncertainty about COVID-19 and they didn’t want to pay anything extra,” McMann said. “It was definitely a big hit for us.”

In order to balance their budget, the district was forced to reduce staffing levels from 14 firefighter/emergency medical teams (EMT) per shift to 10. They also cut hours of service for apparatus and stations that respond to emergencies in Macleay, Labish Center and Clear Lake.

The staffing cuts have often increased response times to five minutes or longer, especially if mutual aid is required from neighboring fire agencies.

McMann also said that MCFD1 employees have agreed to nearly \$1 million in reduced wages and benefits

in order to, not only balance the budget, but to reduce the amount of layoffs in order to keep as many boots on the ground as possible.

“When things get tough, we just come together. The fire service is a family. We look after each other,” McMann said. “We take care of our co-workers and the citizens we protect.”

McMann believes that the changes will keep the district in stable condition for the next year, but is hopeful that the levy, if passed, will provide much-needed financial assistance next summer.

“We’re very hopeful and optimistic. We’re looking to lock down that levy down for five years to bring some stability to the district,” McMann said. “We feel like people are more comfortable paying the \$0.71.”

More information on the local option levy can be found on the Fire District’s website ([www.mcfid1.com](http://www.mcfid1.com)).

Submitted  
A collision at the intersection of Clearlake Road Northeast and River Road North killed a 39-year-old Sheridan woman on July 28.

# Council asks for solutions at site of fatal crash

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

A fatal crash at the intersection of River Road Northeast and Clear Lake Road Northeast is prompting action on the part of the Keizer City Council.

“This is a known dangerous spot and we want to encourage Marion County to look at solutions, short term and long term, to make it a safer intersection. We want to encourage action sooner rather than later,” said Mayor Cathy Clark at a council meeting Monday, Aug. 3.

Clark gained a nod from city councilors to write a letter to the Marion County Area Transportation Commission and deliver it to a meeting planned Thursday, Aug. 6.

About 5:20 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, a Ford Taurus and Ford F-150 collided at the inter-

section killing the female driver of the Taurus. She was later identified as Jaqueline Caverro Chavarry, 39, of Sheridan.

During an investigation, Marion County Sheriff’s Office deputies learned the Ford Taurus had been traveling eastbound on Clear Lake Road NE prior to the crash. The driver of the Ford Taurus is believed to have failed to stop at a stop sign prior to entering the intersection where it was struck by the Ford F-150 which was traveling southbound.

Chavarry was pronounced dead at the scene, two passengers in the Taurus and the driver of the F-150 were taken to Salem Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

“There have been fatal crashes there before. [The intersection] has some serious line-of-sight issues and some serious alignment issues,” Clark said.

looking back in the KT

**5 YEARS AGO**  
The Lesson of “WOW”  
Claggett Creek Middle School lands a new choir director, Sandra Krause.

**10 YEARS AGO**  
Funding for Chemawa project approved  
About \$450,000 was approved from the city’s street fund to pay for part of an improvement project on Chemawa Road North Total project cost, which includes sidewalks and street improvements, is about \$2.30 million.

**15 YEARS AGO**  
After 37 years, Priest still fights fires for district  
Louie Priest, 61, has been a district volunteer for 37 years and was honored for his long-time service by throwing the ceremonial pitch at a Volcanoes game.

**20 YEARS AGO**  
Hazelnut farms become a battlefield  
Local farmers battle a fungal blight that threatens to devastate their hazelnut businesses.  
“We thought we had three to five years before it hit,” said grower Bob Lindsey.

## Paper adds new account rep

Karli McNutt has joined the *Keizertimes* as advertising account representative.

She is a 2007 graduate of Sprague High School whose extracurricular activities included music. She was a member of the Willamette GirlChoir for 12 years. Her passion for music and academia lead her to Portland State University, where she studied music, English literature and art history.

McNutt’s family has been involved with the local community for years. Her father,

Bill McNutt, spearheaded the McNary High School turf project.

Most recently Karli has worked in the behavioral health field. She was program coordinator with an eating disorder facility in Eugene.

“I believe that the foundation of community begins with individual willingness to seek knowledge, creativity and connection,” said Karli.

She can be reached by phone at 503-390-1051, or via email at [advertising@keizertimes.com](mailto:advertising@keizertimes.com).

Karli McNutt

## correction

In *Activist attorney to run for city council* (*Keizertimes*, July 31, 2020), the article incorrectly stated that attorney Ross Day represented the Oregon Family Council. Day did not represent the Oregon Family Council, but did represent individuals, affiliated with the Protect Marriage Coalition, who challenged a ballot titles that involved same sex marriage in 2013.

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