

# Mayor lauds residents in face of challenges

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

Showing up and being up to the challenge were the primary themes of Mayor Cathy Clark's State of the City speech Wednesday, March 10.

Clark had no idea the roller-coaster ride the city was in for when she gave the annual address in 2020. A pandemic, hacking of the city's computers, a devastating wildfire season, disputes over the city's approach to inclusion and then an ice storm all snarled the regular flow of business for the council. Minutes after her speech concluded, the public was made aware that the city manager had discharged a gun in his office. Clark did not address the matter during the speech.

Despite all the challenges, "Keizer was up to the challenge," Clark said.

She credited the community with opening their hearts at each decision point and finding ways to serve each other.

Looking forward, Clark said she hoped the city could capitalize on the lessons learned and develop better plans for future emergencies. That includes looking at the ways the Keizer invites new city councilors and city volunteers into the fold.

On the council side of things, there are already changes afoot on the policy front, but Clark is drafting "a companion document for council onboarding and orientation."

In addition, members of the Keizer

## When to go to get involved

If you have a concern about the city, or ideas for improving it, these are the places to start:

**Budget Committee** - Meets limited dates in April and May.

**Parks Advisory Board** - Meets the second Tuesday of each month.

**Planning Commission** - Meets the second Wednesday of each month.

**Points of Interest Committee** - Meets the fourth Thursday of each month.

**Public Art Commission** - Meets every other month on the third Tuesday of each month.

**Traffic, Bikeways and Pedestrian Committee** - Meets the third Thursday of each month.

All meetings are at the Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road N.E. and begin at 6 p.m.

If you don't know how to get involved, we want to make sure you know how and where you can.

— CATHY CLARK  
Keizer mayor



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City Council want to make volunteering on city committees a less intimidating experience.

"Wouldn't it be better if, when you showed up, we could connect you with training and resources to be able to be very successful. If you don't know how to get involved, we want to make sure you do so that you can pursue the things that are that you're passionate about in

serving the people of Keizer," Clark said. "We believe that that's a fabulous investment in our volunteers."

Clark also wants to host work sessions and work groups developing plans to address areas of diversity, equity and inclusion "so we can then have conversations targeted to specific action areas and then be able to put together plans for action in those areas."

## VOLUNTEER of the Week

presented by



## Tammy Ready

### Where and how do you volunteer?

"I volunteer wherever the need is and what speaks to me. I have found my volunteering centers around helping the youth. Dinners for the football teams at McNary High School. Serving dinners in the kitchen at Simonka House (before COVID) — my family and I helped cook and deliver Thanksgiving dinner there; Imagine What We Can Do — this is a giving basket fundraiser I host every year near the holidays, I collect them and deliver them to the KNOW/Keizer Chamber's Giving Basket program; Liberty House, and will do so again when we are allowed; during the ice storm helped remove tree branches for neighbors."

### How would you get others to volunteer in their community?

"I post on social media a lot when I give or volunteer. Mostly I do so to bring awareness of the need, and so others say, "How can I help?" I have a great "tribe" and I feel as though all I have to do is ask and they would be right their alongside me helping. We are blessed to live in a community of so many people who want to help."

### What does volunteering do for you?

"It just makes me feel good and it makes my heart happy. To see the look on someone's face when you have touched their world. It's hard to ask for help when you need it - try to anticipate that - see the need - do it before it's asked."

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