

CORNER,

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Photos taken by Sandra Kellogg following crashes on her property. (Courtesy of Sandra Kellogg)

house is located on, which has a 35 MPH speed limit, may not seem overly dangerous. But with an almost non-existent curb and a drop off into the Kelloggs' property, even the smallest of mistakes can lead to cars being launched from the road into the yard.

A Keizer Police Department records request showed all six crashes on the Kelloggs' property have actually occurred since 2017. Of the six police incident reports filed from those accidents, four mentioned the driver's failure to negotiate the left turn as being a primary reason for the crash.

"Any moment a car could come flying through this yard," Kellogg said standing in her yard. "I'm not going to be able to stop the wrecks, but if we could keep them on the road instead of flipping into the yard, that would be my goal."

Recently, the Kelloggs spent \$600 installing boulders where most of the cars enter their yard. Kellogg said the boulders have done their job to slow the cars, but she believes something more significant needs to be done.

After the last accident, the responding police officer said to Kellogg, "It's time for you to go to city council."

Five days later, Kellogg spoke at a Keizer City Council meeting.

Kelloggs' driveway. The boulder had slowed the car, but it didn't stop it.

The car skidded across the lawn, struck a tree and came to a rest in front of the Kelloggs' house. Tail light glass embedded almost 20 feet up in the tree indicates that the car may have vertically flipped before coming to a rest on its side.

According to an incident report from Keizer Police, the driver was bloodied by the crash, and all three passengers were transported to the Salem Hospital Emergency Department for minor injuries and evaluations.

Kellogg said if the car had been a couple feet to the right or left, and missed the tree, it would have barreled into the neighbor's house.

The Chemawa curve the Kelloggs'

And I'm sure there will be," said Councilor Roland Herrera.

The Aug. 18 meeting wasn't the first time the city has heard about the dangerous crashes at the Chemawa curve.

In July, the city placed large boulders on Chemawa across from the Kelloggs' house. According to Kellogg and police incident reports, the boulders were in response to a crash in which a distracted driver had driven his truck through a fence and into the back of a house. The homeowner said it was the second time in six months a car had driven through her fence.

The city told Kellogg they couldn't do anything for her side of the road as cars would just go through a guard rail.

In an interview with the *Keizertimes*, Public Works Director Bill Lawyer said, "I wouldn't consider that a dangerous corner based on the history of crashes. I'm not ignoring the fact that there have been crashes, but based on traffic there haven't been that many."

He said the city is still looking at measures to deter the crashes, which the uneven grade of the yard has made difficult.

Since the Aug. 18 meeting, Kellogg said the city has come to her to discuss the possibility of installing a guard rail or flattening the slope and installing larger boulders.

Kellogg said they are still contemplating the decision but are leaning towards asking the city to flatten the slope and install boulders.

"We fear for our lives when we are playing in the yard with our granddaughter or even mowing the lawn," said Kellogg. "I'm asking the city if you would work with us to hopefully put in more boulders or some idea of how to prevent this from happening."

Mayor Cathy Clark directed staff to find a solution for Kellogg's yard and the entire Chemawa curve.

"There's got to be a solution for this."

Cat of the Week



Name: THOR
Age: 3

HISTORY: Thor is a domestic short-hair gray tabby.

PREFERRED HOME: He does well with cats, kids of all ages, and calm dogs. Thor is very affectionate and quiet.

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