

GNEKNA NEIGHBORHOOD VOICE

Looking Back at 2025: A Year of Community, Connection, and Care

SPECIAL RETROSPECTIVE EDITION • GREATER NORTHEAST KEIZER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Hello Neighbors! As we step forward into a new year, your neighborhood board wanted to pause and share a special retrospective looking back at the incredible milestones we achieved together throughout 2025. In an effort to make our neighborhood organization more accessible, we purposefully brought our regular gatherings out into local green spaces over the summer season. Thanks to your presence and shared passion, 2025 went down in history as our highest-engagement year to date!

Remembering the Fun: Our 2025 Summer in the Parks Series

Moving our assemblies from traditional meeting rooms out into the fresh air turned out to be the perfect way to connect. We caught up with old friends, welcomed new neighbors, and shared ideas over picnics. Let's look back at the incredible resident turnout across our neighborhood parks during our 2025 tour:

- **Claggett Creek Park (The Launch):** We kicked off the seasonal initiative with **43 wonderful families** joining together to map out shared goals and enjoy our local paths.
- **The Big Toy Outing (Keizer Rapids Park):** A historical milestone! **65 families** turned out for an unforgettable evening of connection, community support, and playground fun.
- **Northview Terrace Park:** We hosted **32 families** for an intimate neighborhood assembly focused closely on local street maintenance, potholes, and traffic patterns.
- **Riverfront Park Field Trip:** Universally declared the high-water mark of the summer, **52 families** took a community excursion to the riverfront park for a beautiful carousel picnic.
- **Back-to-School Final Gathering:** We wrapped up the outdoor series by bringing **32 families** back to Claggett Creek Park to review traffic safety tips and prepare for the busy school season.

On top of those regular sessions, our pop-up **Splash Park Day** drew **25 families** for water-filled fun, serving as an exceptional planning space for future engagement ideas. Because of the sheer joy and high attendance recorded in 2025, the board has enthusiastically voted to make our outdoor parks series a permanent fixture of our association's calendar moving forward!

249

TOTAL PARK FAMILIES ENGAGED IN 2025

300

VERIFIED SURVEY RESPONSES SHARED

Advocating for Safer Streets: 2025 Traffic & Safety Retrospective

Street safety remains at the absolute core of what GNEKNA stands for. Throughout 2025, our leadership team utilized hard community data to consistently lobby city staff and engineering committees for vital neighborhood protections.

Our comprehensive resident survey brought in **300 responses**, with **86% of neighbors (258 individuals) confirming they strongly support GNEKNA's direction**. This unified voice gave us the leverage needed to secure progress on several long-standing street items:

- **Verda Lane & Chemawa Road NE:** Following continuous speed advocacy, City Council presentations, and localized speed data logs, our requested **Flashing Crossing Beacon** was successfully approved and scheduled for physical installation, providing much-needed peace of mind along a major school route.
- **Keizer Road Crossings & Safety Flags:** Our neighborhood-led **Pedestrian Flag Program** hit its stride in 2025. Families reported feeling significantly more protected while crossing for school, though we continue to actively monitor the area due to lingering speeding habits.
- **Rickman Road Enforcement:** While permanent structural physical changes weren't approved by the municipal committees this cycle, GNEKNA successfully secured ongoing targeted speed enforcement loops from the Keizer Police Department to protect walkers.
- **Lockhaven Drive Striping:** Although a specialized \$15,000 engineering safety study for bike lane striping along Lockhaven and Chemawa was deferred by City Council due to tight fiscal budgets, we spent the latter half of 2025 collaborating with regional partners to find alternative implementation strategies.

Persisting Through Obstacles: By the end of 2025, GNEKNA had advanced 13 distinct Neighborhood Traffic Management Plans (NTMPs) to the city. While technical municipal benchmarks mean that none have been fully finalized yet, **your board is entirely committed to this work**. In December 2025, we established a targeted internal workgroup tasked with compiling hyper-local field numbers to prepare an undeniable report for the Multi-Modal Committee.

Strengthening Our Operations: Behind-the-Scenes Milestones

In tandem with our public outreach, we focused heavily on building a more resilient, tech-forward neighborhood framework in 2025. To handle communication barriers highlighted by our community survey, we initiated a web platform migration to a versatile GoDaddy hosting layout to help us upload and organize neighborhood safety assets seamlessly.

Our hybrid virtual platforms (Zoom and Google Meet) continued to bridge the gap for busy working parents and seniors, successfully welcoming an average of **45 new participants over the year**. On the preparedness front, board co-leaders Tammy Kunz and Jacqueline Green completed comprehensive **CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training**, embedding critical disaster-response and safety skills directly within GNEKNA's executive leadership.

Looking Ahead: Let's Build on 2025's Success!

The progress we look back on today only happens because of you. From our **12 dedicated Block Captains** steering our Neighborhood Watch to the parents carrying safety flags, your volunteer hours shape our community's future.

As we advance into the new year, please make sure you're signed up for our weekly email updates so you never miss an association meeting or neighborhood update!

With deep gratitude for an incredible 2025,

Your GNEKNA Executive Board

Tammy Kunz, Jacqueline Green, Bev, Nancy, and Lisa