



Vida McKenzie Community Center

Summer 2004

Vol. 3 No. 2

June 6, 2004

Members, Neighbors and Friends:

By now you should have noticed your membership card of the Vida McKenzie Community Center that was enclosed with this letter. If not, then that means you forgot to send in your membership dues for this year. Enclosed is an application form for your convenience. Please take a moment to fill it out and drop it in the mail. Membership like yours continues to provide a means for us to maintain and keep our center open and available for all residents of the McKenzie Valley. If you have already sent your application in, thank you, and please pass this application along to a friend or neighbor.

On May 8th we held our annual membership meeting. The turnout was as expected, a little light but a very interested crowd. Our Treasurer, Vern Blumhagen, noted that our fundraising events have been successful this year boosting our bank balance to over \$7,000. He also noted that we still have to pay our property tax, insurance, the electrical upgrade, a portion of the window upgrade, some maintenance on the building, monthly utility expense and when that is done our bank balance will nearly be depleted.

As we began the year we had just received our 501(c)3 tax exempt status from the IRS. We must now work toward our property tax exemption. Walter Reim and Vern Blumhagen have taken on this task which we hope will come to a successful conclusion before the 2005 property tax year. We have had a successful year which allowed us to complete several goals. Our fundraising included two major events: Duck Football ticket raffle and the Leaburg Christmas Bazaar. Last August we began having a family Bingo night once a month on the 2nd Saturday of each month. This has proved to be a successful fundraiser for the center. The snack bar sales from cakes and pies, that have been donated by the bingo players, has helped with the fundraising.

We have just completed a major upgrade to the 50 year old electrical system in the center. Tom Balcom of Chinook Electric in Eugene worked very hard for us in adding circuits, bringing us up to current electrical code, while keeping the cost within our



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OFFICERS

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CENTER RENTAL INFORMATION

LINDA SCHAEFERS
822-3947

budget. We owe EWEB a special thanks for their generous donation that allowed us to complete this project much sooner than expected.

Replacement of the six large windows in the main room will be completed by mid July thanks to several members and the Neighborhood Watch for coming forward and donated the funds for these windows.

New Officers and Board Members were elected at the meeting.

Walter Wilson



Millie Hass



Laura Olson



Vern Blumhagen



Walter Wilson will continue as President, Millie Hass will assist as Vice President, Laura Olson will continue as Secretary and Vern Blumhagen will continue as Treasurer. Added to the Board will be Dick Barnes, Bernadette St. Onge-Barnes and Jim Canfield. Other Board members include four Officers; Joyce Wilson, Kimm Esser and Closen Christian.

Bingo continues to be a family fun night which is enjoyed by players of all ages. It began as a fundraiser for the community center and to that end it has been a success. The income is not a lot, but it appears that it will be a steady source which will help the center meet some of its goals and help toward the building upgrade. But most important, this 2nd Saturday monthly event provides a needed outlet for residents of our community. There was a discussion about having Bingo two nights a month but without interest and help from the membership (it takes a minimum of four people to handle the games) it would be impossible to do it two times a month. Several members have come forward to help with the Bingo activity: Walter Wilson and Curtis Gardner have been handing the calling and Jim Canfield has offered to help when needed. Joyce Wilson, Vern Blumhagen and Rebecca Emlay have been our primary "entry fee, pay your money" takers. Laura Olson has kept our snack bar operation functioning. She has been helped by Sue McKinney, Millie Hass, Ann Penny, Linda Schaefers and Jessica Gardner to mention a few. Greg and Janice Williams have been there each month. They are like a "jack of all trades" and just jump in and help where needed. Several players have pitched in and assisted when the activity was busy. Of course, what really helps our fundraising is the cakes, cookies and pies that are brought by the members and players. And everyone knows when they win the big "blackout" game they bring a nice big pie for the snack bar the next month.



In August the McKenzie River Lions will have their annual Leaburg Summer Festival. We will be setting up a booth to introduce those attending the festival to our community center. Millie Hass coordinated this last year and through her efforts we obtained several new members. Several members have already offered to assist this year: Sue McKinney, Helen Abbott, and B.J. Simpson. This is a fun festival, eat a little food, check out the other booths, see your friends and neighbors, eat some of that good BBQ'd chicken and meet some new people. If you can help, the more the merrier. Give us a call.



As you probably already know, the Leaburg Community Center has closed it's doors for good in it's current location and will not be having the annual Christmas Bazaar this year. Last year members of our community center, along with some of the Leaburg members, put together the bazaar and it was a successful fundraiser for our com-



munity center. It has been decided this year that our community center will put together the bazaar. Since our center is small we will move the location of the bazaar to Walterville and have it at the Geo. Millican (Grange) Community Hall. This event requires extensive coordination. We will need members to contact businesses for door prizes and food donations. We'll need kitchen staff for the snack bar operations. We'll need a Santa for the kids. Can you help? Give us a call.

One of our members, Jim Canfield, is a local realtor. Through his office Canfield and Associates Real Estate, he has made an offer that will help in raising funds for the center. Jim says, "In order to help out with fund raising, we are willing to donate \$500 from every real estate transaction closed where the buyer or the seller is referred to us by someone belonging to the Vida McKenzie Community Center." And as the saying goes, there's an offer you can't refuse.

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Last summer the Lane County Library League conducted a children's program at the center. It was probably not the success that they were looking for but it was a success to the center in bringing a program to the center for the children of our community. We are searching for another children's program for the summer. Any ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

Walter W Wilson
President