



## *Vida McKenzie Community Center*

### **Winter 2004 Newsletter**

# *Happy Holidays to you*

## **THE CENTER HAS A VERY GOOD YEAR**

None of our accomplishments could have been done without the help from our friends in the McKenzie Valley and surrounding area. The support the Center has received from everyone has been overwhelming. Your Board Members and Officers have worked diligently to continue with the upgrade process and make the Center one that the public will be drawn too.



By the end of May, Chinook Electric had completed the electrical upgrade with the installation of ceiling fans.

Several members (Robert and Rita Gibbs, Bob and Dawn Neilsen, Marge Estenson, Clozen and Marge Christian, and the Vida Neighborhood Watch) came forward with additional funds and we completed the upgrade of the six large windows in the large room. The windows are double paned which will help with the heating in the winter and open to provide cross ventilation in the summer.

Todd and April Olson (Olson Construction and Painting) power washed the entire exterior of the Center. Todd got Tommy's Paint Pot to donate the paint. Todd and April donated their time and effort to paint (Cont. on page 2)

## **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

The Christmas Bazaar fundraiser with gifts for everyone was a big hit with young and old alike. I think most everything for sale in the bazaar was hand crafted. There was blankets, towels, wreaths, cookies, candy, honey, candles, bird houses, all kinds of jewelry, books, stuffed animals, wooden cut-outs, fishing flies made on the spot and lots of wonderful Christmas greenery and to many more to name. We had approximately \$1600.00 in prizes that were raffled off. Pictured is Mil-



lie Hass trying to sell Santa on the idea of buying raffle tickets. An what would a Christmas Bazaar be without ole Jolly Saint Nick to delight all the children. Santa was also seen going



around checking out all the goods on the tables, probably hoping to find some goodies to fill his bag a little early. The snack bar was a great success for (Cont. on p3)





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the exterior of the Center. Millie Hass, Dick and Bernadette Barnes, Joyce and Walter Wilson and Linda Schaefers shared some time at the Leaburg Festival this summer making fair goers aware of our Center and the activities we have.



The summer clean up really got going when Les Blum arrived with his good ole trustee pole saw. We soon had Todd's trailer filled to the brim with debris.



Millie Hass suggested that we have a social gathering for the membership and opened her home to the membership for the occasion. We had a good turn out. We had two baskets full of lots of goodies which we raffled off as a fundraiser. Linda Schaefers was one of the lucky winners.

Bernadette St.Onge-Barnes set about creating autumn wreaths that were sold to members, friends and Center guests as a fund raiser. Our fund raising efforts provided funds to replace the small windows in the restroom with ones that would open. The baskets were welcomed as a good fundraiser by the players of Bingo at our monthly Bingo games. Pictured above and to the right is Linda Schaefers selling raffle tickets for the basket in October which had a Halloween theme. So far the basket put together for the November bingo games, which contained all



the makings for a Thanksgiving dinner, including an 18lb turkey has been our largest fundraiser.

With December rapidly approaching for the Christmas Bazaar, Bernadette formed a team of members and set



about making stencils and designs that would be placed along the highway in the Walteville area announcing the bazaar. Some of the sign painters were: Vern Blumhagen (pictured above), Bernadette, Joyce and Walter Wilson, Laura Olson, Faith Bokros, Millie Hass and Dawn Neilsen. Some of the signs announced that the Leaburg Christmas Bazaar was being moved to Walteville. We even created some Burma Shave style signs that were placed along the highway.

The bazaar was held at the Geo. Millican Hall in Walteville on December 4th. This was an all day affair that required many members to help. Tables had to be set up the night before. The snack bar, pies, food and raffle table helpers had to be coordinated and assigned shifts to work. Joyce Wilson took on the task and did an outstanding job. In addition to a variety of pastries, the snack bar served up hotdogs, chili, popcorn, coffee, sodas and hot cider. There was no reason for bazaar goers to go hungry that day. The raffle was a success as we raffled off over \$1600.00 in prizes, some included overnight stays with dinners at several of our "local" casino's. When Faith Bokros became ill and could not work the raffle table she sent her husband Mike. Mike had a good time and even worked on good ole Santa (aka Don Bumgarner) to buy some tickets.





## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:

(cont from p1) everyone, sellers, buyers and our Center. The food was good and the coffee was always on.

When we asked our members and even some of the former Leaburg Community Center members to bring homemade pies, they almost overwhelmed us with their response. Hotdog's and chili, the main stay for this type of event was well received. We had three types of homemade soup thanks to Bernadette, Joyce and Millie. Garlic bread and corn bread was also on the menu.

Our friend and "jill of all trades", Mable Mattoon was there lending a helping hand. When Linda Jonas offered to handle the sellers tables we took her up on it. She sold 35 tables to vendors and if we had planned the space better she could have sold more. The vendors were delighted with the bazaar. The Leaburg Library sold almost every book they brought. All of the vendors said that they would be back next year. We even had a couple of ladies selling Christmas greenery that moved their operations to the front porch area. They braved the cold (at least we did have some pretty good weather) and enjoyed it.

The parking lots on both side of the building was always full and many people had to park along the roadway.

When it came time to draw the raffle ticket winners I enlisted my good friend Joyce Brooks in helping me read off the winning names. Can you believe it, I even talked her into dressing up as a elf to help.

All in all the bazaar was a huge success. A lot of work for everyone but a very good fundraiser for our Center.



## BINGO MONTHLY AT THE CENTER

Our 2nd Saturday monthly family night bingo games continue to draw the crowds that fill the center. The players that come generously bring and donate pies and cakes for the snack bar. These donations help greatly with our fund-raising. Curtis Gardner and Jim Canfield have began doing some of the game calling helping out Walt. Rebecca Emley, Laura Olson, Janice Williams and Linda Schaefers have handled most of snack bar duty. We could use some help here. It takes as least two and sometimes three people to keep up with the sales. Joyce Wilson continues to be the primary money taker. We would really like to have several people to learn the money end of the games so that from time to time those that have been working the games can play some of the time. If you can help, give Joyce a call at 896-0153.

At the December games we had hotdogs and chili for sale in the snack bar. It went over very well with many of the players. We will have it again at the January games and will continue as long as there is a need.

Our next game will be on Saturday, January 8th. Doors open at 6:15pm and the games begin at 7pm.

## STUFF FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by Walter W. Wilson

WOW. Unbelievable year so far. Many things have been accomplished. But many things still need to be done.

Todd and April Olson with their painting service are very good friends to the Center. We thank the members who came forward and donated extra money to complete the window upgrade. And all of you that have and continue to support the Bingo games. The donations of food items for the snack bar. Those that have helped with the bingo games, helped with the annual cleanup around the Center or worked at the varies events, including the Christmas Bazaar, thank you.

Walter Reim, Vern Blumhagen and Bernadette St.Ong-Barnes are still working on our tax exemption.

Our next major upgrade will be the replacement of the flooring in the Center. Estimates to replace the wood floor in the main room have come in at \$12,000. Repair and refinishing estimates come in around \$4,000. Vern has taken the flooring project on himself. He has contacted contractors for estimates and he has completed three grant applications for flooring. One to Weyerhaeuser, one to the Stewart Foundation and one to Jerry's Home Improvement Center. When the wood flooring is completed we will move toward replacement of the tiled floor covering.

Millie, Bernadette and Joyce have taken on the fund raising. The raffle baskets continue to be a big hit as fundraisers at our events. Probably our next major fund (Cont. p4)



## WEDDINGS? FAMILY REUNIONS? LARGE PARTY? NEED A PLACE FOR A MEETING? PLANNING A DRIFTBOAT PARTY?

No need to look any further than right here along the beautiful McKenzie River. The Vida McKenzie Community Center is the place to handle your family, group and meetings requirements. It has a large room to meet your needs, kitchen facilities to handle your food, and a large parking lot that could handle your RV friends. Located next to Prince Helfrich boat landing on Thomson Lane allows for a place to take out or put in your boat, plus a great place for fishing. Don't miss out. Make your reservations early by calling Linda Schaefers at 822-3947.

*This Newsletter Sponsored by*  
**WALTER & JOYCE WILSON**

## HELP NEEDED

Current projects in which we need COORDINATORS:

Bingo, Leaburg Summer Festival, Summer Center Cleanup,  
Football Civil War Ticket Raffle, 2005 Christmas Bazaar

The Center is looking for members of the community who can donate their time and skills to help rejuvenate the center.

We need help in the following areas:

\*\*CARPENTERS \*\* PLUMBERS \*\* FENCE BUILDERS \*\*  
\*\*GRANT WRITERS \*\* SPONSORS FOR THE NEWSLETTER\*\*  
If you can help please call Walter Wilson 896-0153.

## FUND RAISERS PROVIDE SUPPORT

- **HELP with raffle baskets!!!**

Joyce Wilson and Millie Hass would like any donations for raffle baskets – we can always use baskets – they don't have to be new so if you have some baskets that are not in use and you want to donate please give us a call. We could also use materials to place in the baskets so if you have any items you would like to donate please keep us in mind for that also. We usually have a theme each month so if you would like to contribute something to go along with the theme of the basket please contact us and we will let you know what the theme is. We would love to hear from you and maybe some of you have new ideas for the raffle baskets. The raffle has been a great source of fund raising and we hope to continue this as we have received positive feedback for the items we have raffled off. Millie can be contacted at 896-3821 and Joyce can be reached at 896-0153.

- **CIVIL WAR RAFFLE TICKETS:** This will be another major fundraiser for the Center. We will need members that will sell raffle tickets outside our local businesses in the valley.

- **2005 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:** This has

## BECOME INVOLVED YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our family Bingo night has been a success. But like most things it requires members to make it work. We always need people to help out in the snack bar and helpers to pick up the money for the extra cards between the games. The more we have involved, the more fun it will be for everyone. Can you help?

## STUFF FROM WILSON:

(Cont. from p3) raiser will be the raffling of tickets to the Civil War Football game .

If space allowed I would list the name of everyone that has helped make the Center events a success: from the Bingo helpers, the raffle ticket sellers, the pie, cake and cookie bakers, the snack bar helpers that sell our goodies, the painters, the annual clean up crew, the muscle men that moved tables and chairs back and forth, the clean up crew that manned the mops and brooms after the events. This includes our treasurer who pays our bills every month, the lady that handles the rentals of the center. And of course, without "you", the membership, the Center would be nothing.

We need to thank a couple of local businesses that have supported the Center on a monthly basis this year: Patsy Wilson's Riverside Inn with a gift dinner certificate for two at our monthly fundraiser Bingo games and McKenzie Disposal Service for providing a years free trash pickup service. Thanks Patsy and gang, and thanks to the Hunters and Fullers.

The Center has come a long way in a few short years the corporation has been running it. But it needs to go to that next level. The Center really needs someone that has a business background to step in and take it to the next notch. Can you help? Got ideas? Will you be the one that moves the Center to the next notch?