



Vida McKenzie Community Center

Spring 2005 Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It's that time of the year again when we come to you and ask for your continued support of the community center. We have held the membership cost to \$10.00 per family. We have been asked many times just how can you afford to pay your bills with such a low membership fee? We have you! The membership to thank for that. Our members and the community at large have been very generous in their support of the center during our activities and fund raising events.



Millie Hass working our membership booth at the Lions Leaburg Festival last August.

Supporting this years planned events, like the raffle of "Civil War" football game tickets, Watterville Christmas Bazaar (we rent the (Cont page 2)

ANNUAL MEETING MAY 14TH

The annual membership meeting will be held on the 2nd Saturday in May at the Vida McKenzie Community Center. It's a time to renew old friendships and meet your members and make new friendships. If you have not been able to attend any of the events that have been held at the Center, it will be a good time to see the improvements that have been made during the past year.

VMCC President, Walter Wilson, wants everyone to know that the Bylaws state that membership dues must be paid by the second Saturday in April to be able to vote on issues and officer elections at the May general membership meeting. He went on to say that, several officer positions will be open and elections will be conducted at the May 14th (10:30am) meeting and encourages all members to be part of this event.

The Bylaws state that Officers of the VMCC shall be elected for one year terms. The current officers are: Walter Wilson - President, Millie Hass - Vice President, Vern Blumhagen - Treasurer and Laura Olson - Secretary. These four positions will need to be filled at the May meeting so the corporation can continue to move forward.

The Bylaws also provides leadership of eleven Board Member positions, with a requirement to fill a minimum of five. We have six board positions that will open in May. Board members (Cont. page 2)



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: (Cont from page 1) hall, sell the vendor tables, and operate the snack bar), the family fun monthly bingo night and our miscellaneous raffles all add up to providing funds for our everyday expenses. Expenses include, building insurance, property taxes, funds for some building upgrades and most importantly, it provides us with some funds that we can give back to the community in supporting some very important events and organizations in the valley. It is these funds that allow us to keep the membership dues at a low rate for those who want to support the center. We know that everyone is not interested in the everyday running of the center, but they still want to see the center as an active part of the McKenzie Valley and they provide support with their dues. So we ask, take a minute at this time and complete the membership form. We've provided a self address stamped envelope for your convenience. For those of you that have already paid your dues, you probably will not be receiving the envelope.

And, any funds received over the \$10 for the dues will go into the center's upgrade fund.

ANNUAL MEETING: (Cont from page 1) may continue with consecutive terms as long as they are willing to serve. Walter said that the current Board has been very successful in moving the center forward during the past year. He knows that some of the Board members may choose to not run again and he's hoping that additional members of the Center will step forward and help fill the open positions.

Board members that will continue with their second year in their term are: Dick Barnes, Bernadette St. Onge-Barnes, Jim Canfield, Joyce Wilson and Walter Wilson.

Mark your calendars for May 14th. The meeting will start at 10:30am. Coffee and goodies will be served. Walter says to come early, stay late and check out what has been done to the center this year. He also wanted to remind everyone that the center has Bingo that evening at 7pm.



STUFF FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by Walter W. Wilson

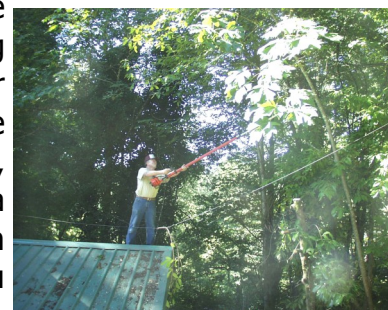
WOW. Unbelievable year so far. Many things have been accomplished. But many things still need to be done.

Todd and April Olson and their painting business are very good friends to the Center. You remember last year that Todd and April painted the interior of the center. This year they took on the exterior



of the building with a complete power wash and paint job. We have only a couple of smaller windows to upgrade and the window upgrade will be complete. We thank the members who came forward and donated extra money to complete the window upgrade in the meeting room. The new windows do make a difference. We thank all of you that have and continue to support the Bingo games and the donations of food items for the snack bar. The items, the help given, may be small but it all adds up.

When we asked for help with the annual cleanup around the Center last summer we had a lot of help, had some fun and even got a lot of work down in a couple of hours. I'm thinking that come summer this year we might fire up the ole Bar-B-Q, throw some ice in a cooler and chill down some cans of.....you know, cokes.



Walter Reim, Vern Blumhagen, Bernadette St. Onge-Barnes and Walter Wilson have been working on the centers County property tax exemption. Vern has been doing a lot of coordinating. He brought in Laura Olson and Kathleen Shelley to review and add some fresh ideas. Walter Reim has updated the

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Here's a marvelous, economical idea for a vacation trip: Climb into a hammock and let your



STUFF: application and it has been filed with the Lane County Assessor's office. We are hoping for a successful outcome for the center. This would be a major accomplishment and will improve our ability to complete upgrades to the center and provide resources for the center to do more things for the community.

Our next major upgrade will be the replacement of the flooring in the Center. Along one wall the wood has had to be replaced with plywood. In other areas the wood is soft and you can feel it give as you walk upon it. 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 four grant applications for flooring. One to Weyerhaeuser, the Stewart Foundation, Jerry's Home Improvement Center and the Home Depot. When the wood flooring is completed, we will be looking at replacement of the tiled floor covering.

Our next major fundraiser will be a raffle of tickets to the Civil War football game between the Ducks and Beavers this fall. We will do a mail solicitation and will have members selling tickets outside some of the local stores in the valley and possibility some stores in Springfield and Eugene.

Millie Hass drawing the winning ticket with daughters Jessica and Rebecca (major ticket sellers) and Walter Wilson

Last year a few members did a great job of selling raffle tickets and it proved to be a success for the center. This year if we could get a few more teams selling tickets we could easily double our fundraising amount.

Millie Hass, Bernadette St. Onge-Barnes and Joyce Wilson have taken on the fund raising task. The raffle baskets they put together for our social gatherings, bingo and Christmas bazaar events continue to be a very good fundraiser for



the (Cont. top of page) center. Novembers basket with a turkey and all the dinner fixing's and a bottle of champagne was a huge success.

Joyce Wilson did a

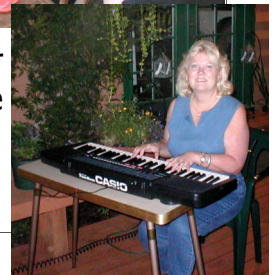
marvelous job of coordinating the members that helped in the snack bar at the Christmas Bazaar last December. This is a major fundraiser for the center. We will do it again next December and we will again be calling upon our membership to help us provide the staffing support that will be needed.



When we needed signs for the bazaar, Bernadette St. Onge-Barnes drafted the designs and coordinated the painting. Dawn Neilsen, Vern Blumhagen, Faith Bokros, Joyce and Walter Wilson helped with the painting and lettering.

The social gathering of members last summer was such a success that we may plan a couple of events for this coming summer. Marlys Rutherford was there with her keyboard and many of us made sounds like we were singing.

Come join us when you can.





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 Schaefer at 822-3947.

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 fundraising. Curtis Gardner and Jim Canfield have began doing some of the game calling helping out Walt. Rebecca Emlay, Laura Olson, Janice Williams, Linda Schaefer and Dawn Neilsen 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 cashier and greeter. 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.

In recent months the Center has been serving hotdogs and chili at the snack bar.

Our next game will be on Saturday, April 9th. Doors open at 6:15pm and the games begin at 7pm. Come join us for a fun night.



BECOME INVOLVED YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our fundraising events have been a huge success for the Center including the family fun Bingo night. But like most things it requires members to make it a success, not only as players but helpers to make the events work. Bingo may not be a game you enjoy playing, but maybe you could help out at the games? The more we have involved, the more fun it will be for everyone.

HELP NEEDED

Current projects in which we need COORDINATORS:
Bingo, Lions 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.

VIDA McKENZIE COMMUNITY CENTER 2004

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Walter W. Wilson	896-0153
VICE PRESIDENT:	Millie Hass	896-3821
TREASURER:	Vern Blumhagen	896-3814
SECRETARY:	Laura Olson	896-3298

BOARD MEMBERS

Bernadette St. Onge-Barnes	896-3640
Dick Barnes	896-3640
Vern Blumhagen	896-3814
Jim Canfield	896-3060
Kimm Esser	747-7904
Millie Hass	896-3821
Laura Olson	896-3298
Joyce Wilson	896-0153
Walter W. Wilson	896-0153

It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you've