



Vida McKenzie Community Center

Summer/Fall 2005 Newsletter

WILSON CONTINUES AS VMCC PRESIDENT

At the May 14th Community Center General Meeting the current slate of officers was elected for another term. Walter Wilson will continue as President, Millie Hass as Vice President, Vern Blumhagen as Treasurer and Laura Olson as Secretary.

Kimm Esser, long time friend and Board Member of the Center chose not to run for a Board position. Three additional members of the Center: Walter Reim, Joyce Brooks and Faith Bokros were added to the Community Center Board. A full listing of Board members is on page 4.

Walter Wilson said that this is the first time that he can remember that all Board positions have been filled. A good sign that interest in the operations of the Center are growing.



TOWN HALL MEETING

East Lane County Commissioner Faye Stewart will be coming to the McKenzie Valley on October 13th to hold Town Hall Meeting. Commissioner Stewart has agreed to speak at the Vida-Mckenzie Neighborhood Watch meeting on that date.

Vida Neighborhood Watch President Walter Wilson welcomes the Commissioner to the Vida area and to the Watch meeting. This meeting will give us a chance to meet him first hand and hear some of his views on what is important to Lane County. In turn it will give us a chance to question the Commissioner and hopefully get some answers to concerns that we have here in the valley.

GAME TICKET RAFFLE



VS



VMCC kicks off its major fundraiser with this newsletter. The Center has two tickets for the Civil War Football game between the Ducks and Beavers. The game will be held on Nov. 19th. The tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00. The raffle drawing will be held during the halftime of the Nov. 12th Ducks vs. Washington State game. The ticket winner will be called at that time.

For your convenience we have included a stamped envelope and some tickets for the raffle. Should you desire additional tickets they may be obtained by calling Millie (896-3821), Vern (896-3814 or Walt (896-0153) or look for the ticket sellers around our local businesses in the coming weekends. If you would like to help with selling the raffle tickets, please give any of the above a call.

Walter Wilson, VMCC President hopes everyone will jump on the bandwagon, help out, support and make this the biggest fundraiser for the Community Center yet.

ON THE INSIDE
SCHOLARSHIP
DUCK RALLY/PARTY
FLOORS and GUTTERS
TAI CHI WORKSHOP
BINGO and FLAMIN LADIES BUNCO



DUCK RALLY/PARTY

A Duck Rally/Party will be held on Oct. 1st @ Millies and Shawn's, (90659 Lure Lane, Leaburg)

This is the date of the Stanford game. Everyone is welcome. Plan on arriving one hour before game time. Bring your favorite dish and drink of choice. If it's a Duck Rally/Party, then the attire has got to be Duck Colors. There will be Door Prizes, Football Pool and more. This will be like a giant tail gate party held right here along the river.

RSVP Millie at 896-3821
and we'll see you there.....

FLOORS by NEW DIMENSION

When the wooden floor was first put in the Community Center it was gorgeous. The grain in the wood was close. The finished shined. But fifty years of wear and tear has taken its toll and what once was a work of beauty has now



turned into a rough gouged rotting floor without finish on much of the surface. As with many projects at the Community Center, this one also has been on the "to do" list for many years. This is going to change in the next couple of weeks.

Community Center Board Members debated on a total replacement of the floor or refinishing it. It was determined at this time that the cost of replacing the wooden floor area was prohibitive for the Community Center to undertake. So refinishing it was and with donations and grant monies from the Faye and Lucille Stewart Foundation (\$3,000), Jerry's Home Improvement Center (\$500) we will begin the process of restoration of the fir flooring in the Community Center.

Board members reviewed the proposals of Scandia Fine Wood Floors and New Dimension Hardwood Floors. They determined that New Dimension Hardwood Floors of Eugene was best suited for the Center use. New Dimension was given the contract and will begin the project on September 6th and should be finished in approximately 10 days.

The cost of this project is \$3,990.00. Clarke Wallin from New Dimension donated \$250.00 toward the project, bringing the total of grants and donations for this project to \$3,750.00.

This is very exciting event for the Center.



STUFF FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by Walter W. Wilson

In the short period of time between the Spring and the Summer Newsletters a lot of things have come to light for the Community Center. We have been able to complete some major projects that have been on our "to do" list for some time now. One major item was the completions of the tax exemption application and its approval by Lane County. This will allow the Center to redirect those funds toward Center improvements or place them back into the community where they can benefit everyone. With additional donations we have been able to replace the windows in the kitchen area. These windows and the ones in the meeting hall we replaced last year provide much needed cross ventilation during the hot summer months. This leaves us with only the two small windows in the front of the Center to replace.

As you note by the article to the left, generous donations from the Faye and Lucille Stewart Foundation and Jerry's Home Improvement Center has provided funds to allow us to complete the much needed restoration of the wood flooring in the Center. Clarke Walling (New Dimension Floors) donated \$250 to this project and in recent months we have received an anonymous donation of \$300 from a friend of the Center.

As long as we are talking about donations, Joe Dillon from McKenzie Gutters donated the crew and materials to surround our Center with continuous gutter material. It's green in color, matches the trim paint which makes it almost invisible. But when the rains come, we'll know they are there.

And we thank everyone for your kind donations that keep coming from members and friends of the Center. Without the generosity of the community we would not be able to do the things we have to improve the Center or to support community activities.

We had a good May general membership meeting but the turnout was less than expected providing more refreshments for those in attendance. As usual the election of officers was on the agenda. Board members are elected for multiple years but the four Officer positions are one term only. As noted in the article on page one, the current slate of officers were reelected. We added a couple of new members to the Board and we will move forward for this year.

While we have whittled down our things "to do" list, we still have many items that we need to give attention to. The kitchen area could use a face lift; tile floors are needed in the kitchen and bathrooms. Water pipes are in need of replacement. Sound proofing in the meeting room, ceiling insulation, driveway and parking lot is in need of repair. The fence around the property is still in need of repair. We have a couple of trees on the river side of the building that should be taken down before they fall down (WILSON Page 3)



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(WILSON from page 2) and cause damage to the building and the list goes on. As you can see we still have many things to do. We are trying to make the Center attractive and usable so that we can draw public interest. We would like to see more public interest activities come to the Center. If you can help in bring some of these activities to the Center, let us know. We have been contacted by a group that may have interest in bringing their blue grass band to the Center. There has been talk about maybe a old time rock and roll band playing a gig for us.

I acknowledged several members at the general meeting for their dedicated service to the Center:

Vern Blumhagen, long time Board member and Treasurer. He diligently tracks our inflow and outflow of money, has written several of the grants and worked hard at getting our tax exemption.

Linda Schaefers, long time Board member and Rental Scheduler. Linda is our front line person, she interfaces with everyone that wants to rent the Center.

Joyce Wilson, Board member, bingo money taker and snack bar coordinator. She coordinated the snack bar operations of the Christmas Bazaar event for the past 2 yrs.

Laura Olson, long standing Secretary, always willing to help with bingo operations.

Walter Reim, current Board member. He (top right)

(Continue from left) worked diligently on putting the tax exemption application in presentable form.

Millie Hass, 2nd term as Vice President. Her primary focus is in fundraising. Her ticket and basket raffles have been a success for the Center.

Greg and Janice Williams, always there with a helping hand. It would be hard to do bingo without them.

And to everyone else who has came forward to help throughout the year, we could not have done it without you.

As we move toward the end of the year we have two major fundraisers that keep the Center rolling throughout the year: Civil War Game Raffle of 2 tickets. To make this a real success this year we are asking for your help. Millie is going to be setting up tables in front of different businesses to sell these ticket. She may be calling you to work a few hours. Our next fundraiser is the Christmas Bazaar. It moved from Leaburg to Walterville (Grange) last year. This event requires people to set up and take down the operations at the "grange" building. It also require people to work in the snack bar area, selling raffle tickets and someone that the vendors or customers can go to if something comes up that needs attention. We'll be calling for this event also.

A few people can get some things done. A few more can get a lot done. Become involved, you can make a difference.

KYLE SHERMAN THANKS THE CENTER



It was the Center's first year to provide a scholarship award to a McKenzie High School graduating senior and it will not be the last. At the June graduation ceremony Walter Wilson presented the award to Kyle Sherman.

Kyle's message to the Center clearly shows his intended use of the scholarship and appreciation. Kyle wrote: *Thank you for taking the time and money to allow me to further my education at Lane Community College. It is so nice to be able to have one less thing to worry about. I plan to go to LCC in the fall and get my Criminal Justice degree so that I can become a law enforcement officer. Thank you again, Kyle Sherman*

WE GOT GUTTERS



The Center received another donation this summer. Joe Dillon from McKenzie Gutters donated the crew and material to install gutters around the entire Center building.

This major improvement redirects the water from the building and will almost eliminate the rainfall splash from the ground onto the building protecting the paint and building sides. It will also eliminate the pool of water that collects around the front door area.

Joe's crew worked a good 4 to 5 hours installing the gutters. They did an excellent job on the installation and it looks good too. Of course the real test will come soon when the rainy season comes to us.

Drop by the Center and check the gutter's out. If you are thinking about gutters, you might give Joe a call, thank him for his work at the Center and he'll talk gutter talk with you. You know what we mean by that!





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TAI CHI FOR HEALTH WORKSHOP

The McKenzie River Clinic in Blue River is putting on a Tai Chi workshop at the Vida Community Center on Saturday, October 1st from 1pm to 5pm. They have enlisted the services of Suman Sensei as the instructor.

With Tai Chi, no prior experience is needed and it is suitable for all ages. It is a gentle exercise to help relax and strengthen the body, aid concentration, and allow healing. It is a system that combines slow, graceful movement with calm, regular breathing. You can practice it easily at home. It requires no special equipment and can be done in a limited space.

For additional information and to register (by September 23rd) please call the Clinic at 822-3341.

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.

BINGO MONTHLY

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. Joyce Wilson continues to be the primary cashier and greeter with Rebecca Emlay assisting from time to time. We would really like to have several people 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 May, using the money from the Bob Neilson Jr. Memorial Fund, we purchased a lighted bingo number board and a bingo blower machine. A special memorial plaque will be added to the board in memory of Bob.

Our next game will be on Saturday, September 10th. Doors open at 6:15pm, games begin at 7pm. Come join us for a fun night.



FLAMIN LADIES DO BUNCO

The Flamin Ladies (McKenzie Valley area) Chapter of the Red Hat Society will soon end their summer vacation and start playing Bunco again at the Vida Community Center. If you would like to know more about this chapter or play Bunco, give "Queen" Faith a call at 896-9435 and let the good times roll.

HELP NEEDED

Current projects in which we need COORDINATORS:

Bingo, 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:

*GARDNERS * PLUMBERS * FENCE BUILDERS *
*GRANT WRITERS *CARPENTERS *TILE LAYERS*
SPONSORS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

If you can help please call Walter Wilson 896-0153.

VIDA MCKENZIE COMMUNITY CENTER 2005

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
Faith Bokros	896-9435
Joyce Brooks	896-3212
Jim Canfield	896-3060
Millie Hass	896-3821
Laura Olson	896-3298
Walter Reim	896-3033
Joyce Wilson	896-0153
Walter W. Wilson	896-0153