



Vida McKenzie Community Center

Spring 2006

Vol. 5 No. 1

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MAY 13th 11:00am

It's that time of the year again for the annual membership meeting and election of officers for the Vida McKenzie Community Center corporation.

As many of you will remember in 2000 the McKenzie River Club gave the "Club House" to the community with the idea that a corporation would be formed and residents from the McKenzie Valley would serve as officers and board members. Many residents up and down the valley viewed the "ole club house" as an asset to the community and came forward, serving as officers, board members and joining as the membership of the, as it is now knew, the Vida-McKenzie Community Center.

Bob Neilsen Jr. served as the first President until illness

 limited his time. Bob and his fellow officers and board members were instrumental in setting the tone and direction of the newly formed corporation. In 2002 Bob stepped down and turned the helm over to the 

newly elected president, Walter Wilson. Walter has since been re-elected and continues to serve as President.

To preserve continuity in the leadership of the corporation, the board members are elected to serve off-setting two year terms. The officers of the corporation are elected to serve a one year term. Therefore, each year the positions of President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer must be filled by someone from within the membership of the Center.

As usual, in May, all of the officer positions and several of the board positions will need to be filled. Some of the officers and board members may choose to not continue in their current position for personal reasons. Walt says, "We need to fill the positions that become open by members of the community to keep the Center continually moving in a positive direction for the community."

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



A huge success for everyone...

Janet Biles was just one of thirty some vendors that displayed their wares for the many visitors who attended the McKenzie River Christmas Bazaar in Walterville last December.

The bazaar was a fundraiser for the Vida Community Center and it was very successful thanks to many members of the Center that helped. The snack bar, lead by Joyce Wilson (on the left), was a big draw with the crowds. Included in the picture with Joyce is Bernadette St.Onge-Barnes, who, along with Janice Williams, Linda Schaefers, Shelly Pruitt, Eleanor Rodakowski, Pam Reim, Vicki Ellison, Laura Olson and several other members, helped serve up pies, cakes, cookies, drinks, hotdogs, chili, homemade (cont. P3)





Vida McKenzie Community Center Newsletter

Page 2

Spring

2006



STUFF FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by Walter W. Wilson

Your officers and board members have been working diligently to make the Vida McKenzie Community Center a raising star in the McKenzie Valley. With each month it seems new things are happening too and around the Center. Vern Blumhagen has been communicating with the business community regarding sponsoring the purchase of new light weight tables for the Center. He has also been working with them regarding insulating the attic portion of the Center. This achievement would be a major plus for the Center in reducing our winter heating cost. In the works but not finalized is the replacement of the tiled area (kitchen, halls and restrooms) of the Center. We have had an offer that is hard to refuse, a donation of tile material and installation. Hear more about this at the membership meeting in May.

Speaking of the May 13th membership meeting..... It's that time of the year again. It will be a good time to say hello to some of your neighbors, see some old friends and met some of your fellow members. A time to share some of your ideas on how the Center can work towards bringing events of interest to the community. It will also be the time for you to elect officers and board members for the coming year.

One of the future major projects for the Center will be the replacement of chairs. If you have visited the Center lately you know we have many chairs of all shapes, colors and styles. Replacing 60 some chairs will not be an easy task. We will need commercial grade chairs to withstand the riggers of community center use. The cost of each chair of this quality may be \$30 to \$50 dollars each. Bernadette St. Onge-Barnes continues to work on this project for the Center. She has presented several suggestions to the VMCC Board regarding the purchase of the chairs and methods of funding the purchase. Fundraising through our Bingo, football ticket raffle and the Christmas Bazaar is always at the top of the list. Another option would be to ask our membership if they would want to sponsor a chair. In doing so, a plaque would be attached to that chair to denoting the sponsorship.

We are continually looking at ways to improve the Center for community use. Our business community has been very helpful in supporting the Center as we go about making physical improvements to the Center. We are seeking programs to present to the community in which there may be a community interest. If you have a program or know of one that may be of interest to the community, please let myself or one of the Board Members know. In the past we have had a summer reading program for children. We are very interested in presenting that again. The Neighborhood Watch organization meets on the 2nd Thursday monthly at 7pm. An excellent community service group.

Your dues are very important to the Center. We have been able to hold the dues to a very low \$10 amount because of your support of the Center through our fundraising events. Please continue this support and take a moment to fill out the enclosed dues form and use the stamped envelope to return it to the Center. Please include your email address on the form. This helps us keep our cost down when we have special notices to send to you.

Community Center Clean Up Day

It's been two years since we had a "clean up day" for the Center and before that, it probably was 5 to 6 years. You know how things grow like weeds around here. Todd Olson loaned the Center his large trailer and we filled it to the brim with limbs, clippings and trimming from around the Center.

Les Blum was a marvel with his handy tree trimming power saw. From the roof he was able to trim back branches from the roof line which really opened up the outline of the Center.

Many members pitched in that day. Les kept workers' busy hauling branches to the trailer while other workers put shape to all the scrubs around the Center.

Walt Wilson and Dick Barnes loading the trailer.



Les Blum

April 22nd is designated the Center "Clean Up Day" for 2006.

We will start the day at 10am and we'll hopefully have it all in shape, picked up and cleaned up a couple of hours later. Everyone is invited to join in on the fun. The more the merrier. Bring some gloves, tools and come on over.

TAILGATE PARTY: After the cleanup is finished we will be having a little tailgate party. We don't want those helping with "clean up day" going home hungry. Millie Hass will fire up the ole BBQ and the smell and taste of finger lickin' chicken will be in the air and on the hands. We'll have the cold drinks and coffee on. Those coming to help with the clean up day, might bring a salad or desert. We'll need you to RSVP, give Laura a call at 896-3298, so we can make sure we have enough chicken for everyone.

TABLE SPONSORSHIP

At the end of last year the Center was able through fund-raising to put together funds to purchase new tables for the Center. Our friends in the business community donated \$200 each to sponsor a table. Special recognition will be given to Ike's Pizza, EWEB and Roseboro Lumber with a plaque affixed to a table to identify this special sponsorship. We also recognize Marilynn and Vern Blumhagen for their donation that allowed the purchase of the table cart that makes it easier to move the tables around the Center floor.

April 22nd (10am to noon) Clean up Day at the Center. Tailgate party (BBQ'd chicken) to fol-



Vida McKenzie Community Center Newsletter

Page 3

SPRING

2006

BAZAAR: (Cont from p1) soups and bread. The snack bar was fully loaded thanks to the members that provided all the treats, and in the end, there were not many left when the day was done.

Faith Bokros and Walter Wilson worked hard contacting merchants for gift certificates and raffle items that were donated for the raffle. Many of which came from our local business community. These included dinners, overnight stays at local lodges and casinos, manicure, golf, fitness center, haircuts, raffle baskets, massage's, home improvements and many more. The raffle items exceeded \$2400 in value. Millie Hass lead the raffle group, along with Dennis Ellison and Mike Bokros the tickets sales nearly doubled last years.

Joyce Wilson coordinated the tables for all the vendors. Walter Wilson, Vern Blumhagen, Walter Reim, Greg Williams and Marvin Kropf moved all the tables into the Walternie Grange.

Of course it had to be raining that evening the tables had to be taken to the grange. Several other members helped with the set up and take down of the tables.

Santa (Don Bumgarner) was there again to help lighten the day for many of the children and parents that attended.

The Lane County Parks Department auctioned off the first ever commutative coin depicting the Goodpasture Bridge in Vida. This



is the first in a series of coins that will display the covered bridges in Lane County.

Thanks to everyone that helped make this event a success.

CHAIR SPONSORSHIP

The chairs we use at the VMCC receive a lot of use. Some are not comfortable. Others are ready to "retire". Like the ones on the right.

At our last Board meeting, we decided that an overdue project would be replacing those now "on their last legs". How best to do this was the big question.

So here's possible solution, and we will need your support and help. The Board invites VMCC members or friends to become chair donors. If this intrigues you, read on because the Board would like to place a plaque on the back of each new chair which names the donor, year of donation, and, if you wish, in who's honor you or your family have donated the chair.

For example, it could be in honor of a McKenzie River Valley pioneer, a relative, a friend, or, simply, a thoughtful gift from you.

The Board is looking at chairs. Similar to the one on the right. We've agreed to keep the cost down, but we want chairs which are user friendly, sturdy. That price would be around \$30.

Call Laura at 896-3298 if you want to take part in this update project or complete the portion on the membership form and mail it in with your membership dues.



MEMBERSHIP MEETING BBQ

Much has already been written about the membership meeting which will be held on May 13th at 11am. But this has not. Following the meeting, shortly after noon, we are having a BBQ for those attending.

The Center will provide BBQ ribs cooked by Millie Hass. It probably don't get much better than that if any of you have been to some of Millie's feast. And we'll need to know just how many ribs to plan for.... so we'll ask you to give Millie a call at 896-3821 if you are going to attend, so she can plan accordingly.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: Let's Talk About It.

The Vida Community Center will host a presentation sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Education Committee on April 29th between 10am and 1pm. Four speakers will be discussing: "How it can affect your loved ones", "Resources and services you may need", "Legal issues" and "What every Alzheimer's family caregiver should know". You probably know a friend, neighbor or loved one that has the disease. This is an excellent time to learn more about Alzheimer's. Refreshments will be served.



Vida McKenzie Community Center Newsletter

Page 4

SPRING

2006



CAN YOU NAME THE BUNNY?

Come to the Annual Membership meeting on May 13th, put the name of the person wearing the bunny suit and your name on a ticket to win a prize. If your name is drawn, the lucky person will receive a gift certificate from a local eatery.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD and MEALS ON WHEEL DONATION

Last June at the McKenzie High School graduation ceremony, President Walter Wilson presented the Centers first ever scholarship award to McKenzie High School graduate Kyle Sherman. The Center is proud to announce that this tradition will continue. This years scholarship amount was for \$200.00.

During the year the Center donated \$100 each to Sister John's Meals on Wheels in the upper McKenzie area and McKenzie Mobile Meals in the Leaburg area.

These donations were made possible by the support of the membership and the community through their gracious support of fundraising events. The Center believes in giving back to community projects. What could be better than helping a local high school person continue with their education or to help provide some assistant to those in need through the meals on wheel project.

TAI CHI FOR HEALTH WORKSHOP

The Oct. 1st Tai Chi Workshop put on by the McKenzie River Clinic at the Vida Community Center was a success and enjoyed by all that attended. Tai Chi 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. The Clinic is considering the possibility of having an additional workshop or monthly sessions if there is interest. If you are interested, give them a call at 822-3341.

HELP NEEDED

Current fundraisers in which we need help:
Bingo and 2006 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 *

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



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Your business card can be printed in this newsletter for only \$10.00. Send your business card and check to the Vida Community Center

Coming to VMCC on April 29th a special presentation on Alzheimer's.