



Vida McKenzie Community Center

Fall 2007

Vol. 6 No. 3

CENTER DONATES FREEZER TO "MEALS ON WHEELS"



Gordon Culbertson accepts freezer

The Center was given an excellent almost new chest freezer by members Ben and Susan Bruce with the idea that the Center would use the freezer or it would be given to someone or an organization that really needed it.

Board Member Laura Olson suggested giving it to the McKenzie Mobile Meals on Wheels organization. Laura said after the group (which is led by June Carlson out of Leaburg) prepared meals they did not have enough room to store them and many of the workers had to take them home for storage until the meals were ready to be delivered. June Carlson said, "We have been wanting a freezer like this for sometime. It will make our job a lot easier to be able to store all the meals in one location." She thanked the Center for thinking of the Meals on Wheels organization.

BIGGEST EVER "FREE" BINGO NIGHT

It was the night of the 4th anniversary of the Family Fun Night of Bingo at the Vida Community Center. Extra tables were added and extra chairs were added to the tables. The sign said "Doors Open at 6:15pm", but before 6pm the players began to arrive. The word was out, "Free Bingo, No Reservations". It was a first come, first serve and no body wanted to get left out.

The Officers and Board members of the Center wanted to express their thanks to the community for their support in making Bingo a fund raising success for the Center. Walter Wilson, President of the Center says, "We call it a Family Fun Night of Bingo because it is such a wonderful thing to see, not only couples coming to play bingo, but families bring their children to enjoy a family night outing at a place in the community." He went on to say, "the kids are really lucky when it comes to playing. They win a lot of the times. It's always makes me smile when one of the kids yell bingo which it is always followed by a moan from the crowd."

(More on Page 4)

VMCC TAKES ON NEW LOOK



More inside...



IT STARTED IN APRIL

The planning stages really began about six to eight months earlier but last April work began in earnest. The ground work had been laid a few months earlier when the deck to the rear of the Center was poured along with the concrete entrance pad. With Curtis Gardner leading the way, members of the Center helped with the concrete work. Curtis thought it would be a great enhancement to the Center if the two decks were tied together with a concrete walkway, but this would have to wait.



Soon to be added to the project list was Ron Short's idea of replacing the entrance roof with a dormer style roof line. Ron said the roof line was not high enough and some members had to duck to avoid hitting their head when entering. This would also have to be added to the project list unless materials were donated. This was a project that Ron wanted to do so he set about seeking building materials.



In 2001 a propane forced air furnace to heat the Center was installed. At the time the Center rented the propane tank. Vern Blumhagen did some investigating and determined that in the long run the Center would be better off if the Center were to purchase the tank. Vern set about seeking out a supplier of a tank at a very good price for the Center. Another addition to the project list, buy a new propane tank and relocate it from the front of the Center.

About the same time the Late Bloomers Garden Club and VMCC President Walter Wilson began talking about how the Center and the Garden Club could work together to enhance the overall appearance of the Center. This would have to be put on the project list. What would be needed to support all the flower bed work the Garden Club was going to do would be a automatic sprinkler system to keep everything moist. The Sprinkler system was just added to the project list. For the hanging plants and window flower boxes a drip watering system would be needed, so another item was added to the project list. David Cousineau from Gardens by Elizabeth was contacted and offered to put in the drip watering system for the Center.

The list was getting longer and Walt said the way the project list was going, there appeared to be no light at the end of the project tunnel.

In February, with snow on the ground, Judy Pratt, Marilyn Keller and Sue Dewson met with Walt at the Center to begin laying out plays for flower beds. But this was still on hold waiting for the dormer roof completion and the

sidewalk.

Ron Short let Board members know that he was working with Square Deal Lumber in Springfield and they were going to provide over half of the materials needed for the dormer roof. Ron was also working with McKenzie Roofing and McKenzie Gutters to finish off the roof project.



On April 22nd, work on the project list began in earnest when members of the Center, led by Ron Short ripped off the old entrance roof over the front doors of the Center.



But it was not until mid May that it really began to form and show just how good the front of the Center would look when the dormer roof was completed. While the roof covered the entrance, there was still lots of work to be done to finish it off.



When the old roof was removed, the porch lights were removed. Community Center member Mike Bokros came forward and redid the electrical lighting system for the porch. He also added lighting fixtures along the eves of the building to provide outside light during the evening hours.

The Garden Club was ready to go and started by putting a couple of flower pots on the entrance pad. The Center was almost to a point where some serious thought could be given to flower beds and sprinklers. Vern Blumhagen contacted Ted West at McKenzie Valley Pump and within a month Ted and his crew had installed a complete automatic sprinkler system around the building and donated the materials and labor to the Center.

With the dormer entrance in place, metal roof and gutters installed, electrical work in place, it was time to direct attention to the sidewalk. Curtis Gardner and Jerry Tobin lead the team that formed the area from the rear of the building to the entrance pad at the front door.



The relocation of the propane tank had not been forgotten. During the forming stage of the sidewalk, an area was set aside for a concrete pad for the new tank. Moving the tank also required new propane lines.



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After the forms were completed for the sidewalk, it was time for a big truck load of concrete. With the aid of a concrete pump Curtis and Jerry did most of the work forming and leveling the concrete into the walkway. It was not long before, with help from Greg Williams and Walter Wilson, the sidewalk was taking shape.

With the concrete pad for the new tank poured and ready it was time to have pipe installed between the new pad and the furnace. Vern contacted his neighbor, Dave Perry who owns McKenzie Plumbing. Dave will be installing the new propane lines and has offered to donate the system to the Center.

And of course, without help from lots of members these projects would not have been



completed.

Almost before the forms were removed and the cleanup began the Garden Club was there. They had been waiting for months to get their hands dirty and show everyone just what they were going to do with the flower beds. What appears in the pictures is just a little cover until they come back and load the flower beds with the full colors of the fall flowers.

This was brought to you by the helping hands of the membership of the Vida Community Center.



MEMBERS HELP MAKE CYCLE OREGON A SUCCESS

By the time you are reading this over 2000 cyclist will have passed through the McKenzie Valley after enjoying their stay at the Tokatee Golf Course and Cycle Oregon 2007 will be completed.

Many more Community Center members than those listed below had a helping hand in making this event a success. Clay Robson was one of the committee leaders who helped coordinate the event. Bernadette St. Onge-Barnes han-



Picture courtesy of McKenzie River Reflections

dled the finance side and paid all the bills. She and many of her friends created the decorations that were needed to enhance the beauty of the cyclist resting area at Tokatee. Ann Robson chaired the hospitality committee and Walter Wilson helped by soliciting residents of the community to help at the site with many of the tasks that were needed to handle the 2000 cyclist as they arrived and spent the night in the Rainbow area. This event provided many McKenzie Valley organizations a fundraising opportunity. Cycle Oregon paid volunteers by contributing money to an organization of their choice.

Join in on the family fun night of bingo on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Doors open at 6:15, games begin at 7pm.



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Thoughts by Walter Wilson

WOW. As you can see by the pictures on these pages the Center has had a very busy summer. So many project to spruce up the old building. Did you remember that the corner stone to this building was set on March 20, 1949. I am very proud of our Center and very appreciative of everyone that has come forward to help complete the many projects that we have undertaken for the past few years since we have incorporated.

For the most part we have had the guys doing the heavy hard work. But that does not mean that if you are not able to swing a hammer or carry the heavy load (as they say) that your help is not needed. We have a few that carry the load for a lot and that is not good. Many members have been working at the Center since we began in 2000. They need help in order to not burn them out when it comes to community work. Now can you help you say? We are always looking for members that will take a helping hand in running the corporation. Help by making decisions on how the Center can better serve the community. Offer your help with our Bingo fundraiser. The Center is not a bingo parlor. It has to be set up for bingo every Saturday we play and all the bingo stuff must be put away and the Center cleaned up so that it is available for someone to rent the next day. Many of you have enjoyed the bingo games and there is always a need for someone to call the bingo games. You could help by meeting the players at the front door as they arrive and sell them bingo cards and determine the amount paid out for each games. Every month we are looking for people to help out in the snack bar. We need membership committees to oversee events and fundraisers. Our major fundraiser, the Christmas Bazaar which we hold at the Walternille Grange will soon (Dec. 1st.) be upon us. To make it a success we need member participation to make it run smooth. I would like to see activities at the Center in which children can participate. But this involves involvement community participation from the membership. Maybe you have an idea on how to stimulate community involvement and can set up a plan to make it happen? We really do need more members to lend a helping hand with our Center activities.

Off the soap box and moving on.... Our friends and Community Center members Ben and Susan Bruce have moved from their Goodpasture Road home. As many of you know they have a second home on the coast at Yachats. They packed as much as they could but when you have two homes you usually have two of everything. With duplicate items in Yachats, they donated to the Center a TV, freezer and picnic tables with the suggestion, if the Center could not use the items, we would find someone or an organization that could. As noted by the story on page one, we donated the freezer to the McKenzie Mobile Meals on Wheels in Leaburg. June Carlson, President of the group, send the Center a very nice note thanking us for the freezer.

The front entrance is almost finished. It looks (Cont. top of page)



done but we still have some sanding and sealing of the wood to do. Vern Blumhagen has been working very hard at getting this completed before we have a change in the weather.

The Center now has a 4x8ft. metal BBQ pit and grills thanks to a donation of the equipment by EWEB. This is the type of BBQ that will cook about 90 half's of chicken at a time. You may have seen similar ones in use at the Lion's Festival or the Vida Neighborhood Watch picnic's. Need to BBQ a lot of chicken? Give us a call.

With regret I accepted the resignation VMCC Board Member Walter Reim. Walt said, more demanding personal commitments kept him from giving the Center the time it deserves. He is a friend and a valuable asset to the Center and his contributions on the Board will be truly missed. But Walt, just because you resigned from the Board, does not let you off the hook. We'll be calling on you from time to time to ply your skills around the Center. We still have that front door thing to work on you know. Thank you....

BINGO: This was the one night of the year that everyone could play four bingo cards for free. Even with that, many players decided to purchase additional cards to increase their chances of winning on this special night. No one won the big "blackout" prize of \$75.00, but after the amount dropped to \$50.00, it didn't take very long to two players to holler "bingo". Walter went on to say, "Bingo is a good fundraiser for the Center which allows it to help other organizations in the community." If you would like to help, give him a call. He also said that many players recalled at last year's "free" night when Dave Wenda, KMTR's Sportscaster was present and filmed a segment for his famous, "I challenge Dave" portion of the evening sports news. That's when the little ole Vida Community Center made the 5:30 and 11:00pm news.

PAMPERED CHEF PARTY

The McKenzie River Lions will hold a fundraiser Sept. 29th at 1:45pm at the Vida McKenzie Community Center on Thomson Lane.

This event will be a community-wide Pampered Chef Party, where guest will learn about the Pampered Chef line of cookware, spices, and kitchen décor.

Pampered Chef is an extremely popular in-home presentation that combines cooking demonstrations, food tasting, and product education. The parties are fun and informative, and the catalogue selection is quite extensive.

A portion of all orders from this party will go to benefit Lions sight, hearing, and diabetes programs. The McKenzie River Lions have provided these services to the residents of the valley for over 25 years.

Fundraisers help pay for hearing aids, eyeglasses, and a mobile health-screening unit. The Lions also support the local Meals On Wheels and other such groups.

The party is limited to 35 people and reservations are being taken. Please call Laura Olson,, 896-3298; Helen Abbott, 255-0379; or Ann Penny, 915-5453.



Vida Community Center's HOLIDAY BAZAAR DECEMBER 1st, 2007 at the Walterville Community Center 39359 Camp Creek Road

Vendors and Crafters Wanted
Tables will go fast once the word gets out.
Reserve your table early.

Call Linda at 822-3947 to reserve your table



HELP WANTED

The Neighborhood Watch organizations from Deerhorn to McKenzie Bridge is looking for members of their area to help, as they say, "Take the Bite Out of Crime". It takes very little time but is so big in return in making the McKenzie Valley a safer place to live. Can you help run the crooks out of the Valley? Give a call to those listed below.

Deerhorn area: - - - - Barbara Hyne—896-3850
Vida area: - - - - Elsamae Whitney—896-9056
McKenzie Bridge: - - - - Frank Geiger—822-3543

VMCC BOARD MEETING

The Community Center Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every odd month at 6:30pm at the Community Center. The next meeting will be on November 14th.

VIDA MCKENZIE COMMUNITY CENTER

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Walter W Wilson	896-0153
VICE PRESIDENT:	Dawn Neilsen	896-3036
TREASURER:	Vern Blumhagen	896-3814
SECRETARY:	Laura Olson	896-3298

BOARD DIRECTORS

Vern Blumhagen	896-3814	Dawn Neilsen	896-3036
Faith Bokros	896-9435	Laura Olson	896-3298
Joyce Brooks	896-3212	Ron Short	896-9848
Rebecca Emley	896-9848	Dave Starck	896-0017
Becky Holmes	988-3838	Walter W Wilson	896-0153

RENTAL COORDINATOR Linda Schaefers 822-3947

HELP NEEDED

SURVEYORS: We are looking for someone that understands the business of "Lat" and "Longs" to help locate the exact property lines at the Center.

GRADERS?: Someone with the equipment to level out the parking lot before a new gravel surface is laid down.

BINGO HELPERS: Help during the games, working the snack bar, taking card money or calling the games.

COMMUNITY CENTER HELPERS: Help with fundraisers, membership, community involvement, Community Center direction.

VIDA TEXAS HOLD'EM

Its been called the McKenzie Valley World Series of Poker
Vida Community Center
Tournaments held every 4th wednesday each month at 6pm



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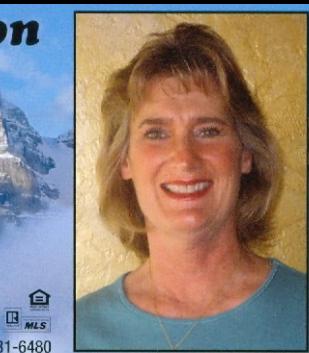
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