



Vida McKenzie Community Center

Spring 2007 Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MAY 12th 11:00am

The annual Community Center membership meeting is scheduled for the 2nd Saturday in May at the Community Center, 90377 Thomson Lane in Vida. As noted above, May 12 at 11:00am. Refreshments will be served.

It will also be time to elect new Officers and some Board Members. Some of the Officers and Board Members may choose to not continue in their current position for personal reasons. Walter Wilson (current President) said, "We need to fill the positions that become open by members of the community to keep the Center continually moving in a positive direction."

In 2000, the Center incorporated creating four officer positions and eleven Board Directors. The Officer terms are for one year, while the Board Director positions are for a two year term. Therefore, the positions held by Walter Wilson-President, Millie Hass-Vice President, Laura Olson-Secretary and Vern Blumhagen-Treasurer will be open for election for the next one year term. The Board positions have off-setting terms which allows for continuity of leadership within the corporation.

Walt says, "The work is not really hard. The Board usually has a dinner meeting every other month for a couple of hours just to make sure everyone is on board with the current operation of the Center. I usually run the meetings. Millie, our VP, is in charge of our party gatherings. Laura keeps the notes of our meetings and Vern does our checks and balances with the bank book." He went on to say, "while it seems light in attitude, the Officers and Board Directors are continually making decisions that influence the way the Center interacts with the community."

Walt encourages the community and the membership of the Center to become involved in its operation. It is your Center, he says. You do have to be a member of the Center to become an Officer or Board Director. So send in your membership form, become involved.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS HOLD THE LINE ON DUES

Your dues are very important to the Center. Officers and Board Members want to hold the line and keep the dues to a very low \$10 amount. Walt said that "\$10 is so low it hardly seems worthwhile." He went on to say, "the dues and membership are very important to the Center. We still have bills to pay and every single membership helps. We are able to keep our dues at a very low rate and affordable to everyone because of the community support of the Center and support through our fundraising events, so 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 the Center keep costs down when we have special notices to send.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS INCREASED

For the past couple of years the Vida McKenzie Community Center (VMCC) has provided some funds to the McKenzie High School to help graduating seniors with their next level of education.

At the January 22nd board meeting, VMCC President Walter Wilson proposed to the Board that the scholarship funds to the High School should be increased by an additional \$100.00. He said, "membership is up, fundraising for our projects are up and community support of the Center is at an all time high."

The Board was in total agreement and increased the funding to \$300.00. Treasurer Vern Blumhagen was directed to communicate with the McKenzie High School and make the appropriate funds available to them.



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STUFF FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by Walter W. Wilson

It seems like we have been talking and working toward the replacement of chairs in the Center forever. And as you can see by the article to the right, THEY ARE HERE. It took some time. We asked the membership for some help and you generously responded. Bernadette St. Onge-Barnes and Vern Blumhagen played major roles in researching chairs from several resources. The time spent was well worthwhile. I believe that a good selection came from all the, as they say, blood, sweat and tears. One that should serve the Center and its membership for years to come.

The flip side of getting new chairs is getting rid of the old chairs. Laura Olson took on this task and started making telephone calls to several groups and organizations up and down the river. The McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church in Walternelle came forward with an offer for the chairs and will be making arrangements to pick them up.

And speaking of Laura Olson, she tells me that she is trying to find a fitness/exercise instructor that will come to the Center for weekly classes. We will keep you informed on this as additional information becomes available.

As mentioned on the front page of the newsletter, the VMCC Board Directors voted to increase the funding of the McKenzie High School Scholarship. We really believe this is a wonderful worthwhile contribution to the betterment of our community.

It's time for the Vida McKenzie Community Center annual membership meeting, and yes, it's also at this meeting that we go about electing officers and board directors. But don't let that keep you away. We know that not everyone is interested in being on the board or for that matter, being in charge of anything. Some of us that are on the board or officers maybe would not want to be there either. But they feel, like many of us do, that they want to give something back to the wonderful community they live in. So come on over, hear what we have to say, meet some new members, make some new friends or just catch up with some old ones. Seriously though... we do need your help. Several of us have been doing this for many years. During those years the Community Center has grown. The Center has become involved in many things. Improvement to the Center. Involvement in the community. Community related activities at the Center. Fundraisers. All of these activities require someone's attention. The officers and board directors involved need additional help to continue to handle the affairs of the Center. There are many things that we would like the Center to be involved in and many activities we would like to bring to the community but we just don't have the necessary manpower to handle all we would like. Help us help our community. Our community is not just Vida, we call it the McKenzie Valley. Help us. Join up. Send in that membership form. Come to our meeting. Be involved. It's fun. Meet your neighbors. See you in May....

CHAIRS ARE HERE

Fundraising is done. The membership and local community business people provided outstanding support for this major endeavor. But the next task would not be an easy one. Finding a chair that was comfortable, of commercial grade, looked good, would stack and have a stacking support bar. Stacking was important due to the limited space for storage at the Community Center.

Bernadette St. Onge-Barnes got the ball rolling by locating some chairs locally and some in Portland. Vern Blumhagen and Walter Wilson did some catalog research and looking at chairs at several Senior Citizens Centers. It required a trip to a place in Portland that Bernadette suggested be checked out. Vern made the telephone contacts and Walt and Vern came back with three sample chairs to present to the Board. After some haggling the Board decided upon the one shown above. The back is high enough to provide support for a taller person. The choice of color was limited so a black frame and a black leather type material for the seat and back was selected.

On January 15th with frozen snow on the ground, a truck from Portland rolled into the Center's parking lot loaded with chairs. They were unloaded and stacked in the center of the large room at the Center waiting to be unpacked. At the January 22nd Board meeting everyone pitched in to do the unpacking.

Since then many of you have seen and had the opportunity to use the chairs at various organizational meetings and if not, check them out at the May 12th Annual Membership meeting.



Orders of plaques depicting the sponsorship have been ordered and will be arriving soon. Each plaque will be attached to a chair.

Dick and Bernadette Barnes arranged for Awards Services, Inc. of Lynnwood, (19019 36th Ave. West, Suite A) Washington to make and sponsor the plaques for the Center. The

Sponsored by
Mary Ann and John McAndersen

plaques are a little different in size (1/2 x 4 inches) due to the size of the chair frame. If you are ever in Lynnwood, stop by and say hello to Bill, and if you ever need some plaques, it might be good to give him a call.



INSULATED AGAINST THE COLD

VMCC member Vern Blumhagen did the research and coordination on a much needed upgrade to the Center. Another goal was crossed off the wish list of upgrades to the Center in January when a crew from Home Insulation Co. of Eugene arrived to set up and blow in insulation in the attic of the Center.

Not only was there a heat loss through the ceiling of the Center but the water pipes in the ceiling area had been freezing up the last couple of years during the winter months.

When they were through it looked like the roof had opened up and the attic was cover with snow. It was good white stuff, not the melting kind but the kind that will be lowering the Centers heating bill each winter and keeping the users of the Center a little warmer.



CONCRETE PADS BROUGHT TO YOU BY MEMBERS

We got pads. We got a new front door entrance pad. We got a much bigger concrete deck on the river side of the Center thanks to the boys of concrete: Curtis Gardner, Jerry Tobin, Ron Short, Mike Holmes, Mike Bokros and several who were gofers: Greg Williams, Walt Reim and Walt Wilson.



NEW GROUPS USE CENTER

LATE BLOOMERS GARDEN CLUB: The Late Bloomers Garden Club meets on the 3rd Thursday monthly. They are known for many things but they are front and center when it comes to the Christmas season lighting of the Goodpasture Bridge. They provide wonderful support to organizations through their fundraising capabilities. Members of the Late Bloomers are plying their gardening skills to the flower beds around the Center. Soon you will see the flower beds around the Center flourishing with many colors as the season of flowers begins.

SEW and SO'S:

The Sew and So's are a group that gathers once a month at the Center who have interest in anything that has to do with material, sewing, cutting, blankets, quilting and much more. The Sullivan's (Jennifer and Pat) thought it would be fun to have a group get together once a month and share the fun of working with craft's. Jennifer reminds everyone that it's not only for women. She says "men are welcome" and that the men might think back a few years ago when Rosie Greer (LA Rams football player) was doing needlepoint and if big ole Rosie could do it, you could too. The Sew and So's meet on the first Monday every month at noon. So bring your lunch and join in on the fun. They'll have the coffee pot on.



TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER: In January, Greg Williams and Walter Wilson began hosting this tournament style Texas Hold'em social game on the 4th Wednesday every month at 6:00pm. Walt says, "Everyone has fun. Everyone is invited to come and play and the best part, the games are over by 10pm. Refreshment are served and all buy-in money is returned to the winners of the first 4 places. This is one game where the men and women share equal chances of winning." These games have been well received and have been drawing players from McKenzie Bridge to Cedar Flats and points west.





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VIDA MCKENZIE COMMUNITY CENTER

OFFICERS

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

BOARD DIRECTORS

Vern Blumhagen	896-3814	Laura Olson	896-3298
Faith Bokros	896-9435	Dawn Neilsen	896-3036
Rebecca Emley	896-9848	Walter Reim	896-3033
Millie Hass	896-3821	Dave Starck	896-0017
Becky Holmes	988-3838	Walter W Wilson	896-0153

RENTAL COORDINATOR

Linda Schaefers 822-3947

Want to rent the community center? Give Linda a call at 822-3947

Your business card printed here for a donation of \$10.00 per issue or pay for a year in advance for only \$35.00.
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