



Vida McKenzie Community Center

Summer 2007

Vol. 6 No. 2

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On May 12th the Vida McKenzie Community Center Corporation held it's annual membership meeting. It was a surprise to those at the meeting how sparse the attendance was. But never the less, it was enjoyed by everyone as friends and neighbors of the Center mingled, talked, munched on the refreshments and viewed upon the last years upgrades to the Center before getting down to the business meeting.

Community Center President, Walter Wilson opened the meeting and introduced the guest speaker, Tara Corbin. Tara is a representative of Cycle Oregon. Laura Olson read the minutes from the last meeting and they were approved as read. Vern Blumhagen, our treasurer, reported that the fundraising efforts are going very well and providing operational funds for the Center and the Center should have no problem meeting it's obligations for the coming year. Vern went on to say, "there were even some funds for additional upgrades to the Center". Walt spoke on the rental of the Center, saying the rentals were on par with last year and might even exceed last years rental amounts.

Walt expressed his thanks to Vern Blumhagen for his support during the year. Not only does Vern provide an exacting accounting of the Center funds, (Cont. on p2)

KATHY MORRIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Each year the Vida McKenzie Community Center grants a scholarship award to an outstanding student from McKenzie High School.

This year at the graduation ceremonies on June 9th, Kathy Morris was the recipient on this years award. Kathy thanked the Community Center for the donation. She will use the award to further her education and to reach her goal of being a registered nurse.

FREE BINGO NIGHT

It's hard to believe but the Vida Community Center is coming up on it's 4th year of having bingo in August. So mark your calendar: **August 11th**. As usual we'll open the Center doors at 6:15pm and the snack bar will be in full operation stocked with pies, cakes, ice cream bars, sodas, chili, hotdogs and all those goodies. The bingo games will begin at 7pm.

Here's the free part.... **Pick out your favorite four bingo cards and play those four card all night long for free.** Of course, you can always add extra cards.

Extra cards to play bingo for all the 20 games: 2 for \$5.00. Extra cards for each game: 2 cards for .25 cents. Extra cards for Blackout: .25 cents each.

Last year the "Free bingo Night" was an overwhelming success. The Center members and local residents filled the Center to capacity. You might want to come early to get your favorite seat. No reservations will be taken. First come, first serve.

ENTRANCE UPGRADE

For more years than many of the members can recall entrance to the Community Center has been a 4 x 6 foot roof that offered no shelter from the weather and was so low in the front that several members had to duck to avoid hitting their head.



Remembering the old look

Last fall local contractor Ron Short from Ron Short Construction offered to design and rebuild the entrance to the Center creating a dormer style roof. First a larger (approx. 12x12) concrete pad had to be poured. Last August Community Center (Cont. on p3)



VIDA MCKENZIE COMMUNITY CENTER ANNUAL FREE BINGO NIGHT



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MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

but hardly a day goes by without discussing some form of community center business with him. Walt praised Linda Schaefers for her continued support in handling the rental aspect of the Center. Linda is the Center's interface with the general public when they have an interest in renting the Center. Not only does she field the telephone calls, she sends out rental information and follows up after the rental to make sure the Center is clean and ready for the next users. Walt praised Joyce Wilson for her continued support of the Center even though she is not an officer or board member. Walt spoke on the success of the Center, and the continued support of the membership. He talked about the supporters of the fundraisers, the bingo, the members that came forward to help with the expertise of pouring the concrete pads and those who came, as he did, to help with grunt labor. He spoke of Ron Short stepping forward and creating the new entrance, of the members that came forward as carpenters and ladder climbers to help with the building of the new entrance. He thanked the Center Officers and Board Members for helping achieve the success the Center has had during the past year. He concluded with, "what else can I say but, Thank You".

Tara Corbin from Cycle Oregon was introduced as the guest speak. Tara said that Cycle Oregon was again coming to the McKenzie Valley on Day 6 of it's 7 day tour in September. She said that many of us would remember Cycle Oregon from 1998 when it came over the mountains from Sisters, spent the night at the Tokatee Golf Course before heading west on the McKenzie Hwy., passing through Walternille on its way to the next nights resting place. This is the 20th anniversary of Cycle Oregon. Each year it continues to grow and this is the biggest yet. Riders are coming from all over the world to enjoy this years ride. But about 140 volunteers are needed to support the event when the come to the McKenzie Valley. They will need support on the night they arrive at Tokatee and the day then leave. As in the past Cycle Oregon has provided funds to support this effort at each overnight stay. This year the funding is \$12,500.00. The volunteers who work will designate to which organization they want their time/money donated too and when it is all over and their hours totaled, a check for the amount will be sent to the organization each volunteer designates. Many members present remembered volunteering to work the event in 1998. Information about who to contact about working the event will be out in the near future. *Additional on page 5

Under New Business, Walt announced that the Late Bloomers Garden Club is going to support the Center by doing some landscaping around the building. Judy Pratt and Sue Dewson are their committee leaders. They have already drawn up some design plans and have already placed some flower pots at the front door entrance. Their biggest request is for a watering system for the new landscape. Walt said that Ted West (McKenzie Valley Pump) has offered to donate a water system with sprinklers and a timer for the landscaping. There will be some hanging

baskets and window boxes and a drip water system will be needed for that portion. David and Elizabeth Cousineau (Gardens by Elizabeth) has offered to donate the drip water system. Walt said that this was a prime example of how the local business community has come forward to provide support to enhance the Community Center.

When asked by those present at the meeting what projects or upgrades they would like to see at the Center, the following suggestions were made: Some form of window cover, Leveling and re-graveling of the parking lot and driveway, A walkway from the front to back of the building on the east side, Fence repair or replacement, Sound proofing in the building.

Regarding volunteers for committees and fundraisers, Walt said the Board Members elected to go ahead with the Christmas Bazaar again this year at the Walternille Grange. Volunteers will be needed the day of the Bazaar to help out with the snack bar operation, basic set up and take down at the Grange, selling of raffle tickets and general operations during the day of the Bazaar. Plus, all the things leading up to the Bazaar, collecting donations, contacting vendors, advertising and highway signage. The monthly family fun night of bingo continues to be a good fundraiser for the Center. If you can help with this, give Joyce a call at 896-0153.

Election of Officers and Board Directors

In the beginning there were six of the eleven board positions to be filled. Only one of those six said that for personal reasons they could not return as a board director. The other five: Vern Blumhagen, Laura Olson, Joyce Brooks, Faith Bokros and Walter Reim said if no one else really wanted the position that they could remain on the board. Ron Short was nominated and elected to fill the sixth position along with the five listed above. Board Directors continuing for their 2nd term were: Rebecca Emley, Becky Holmes, Dave Starck, Dawn Neilsen, and Walter Wilson.

All four Officer positions were open. The nominating committee reported that only one person would not be returning as an officer and the remaining three would accept the position for another term if nominated. Nominated for President: Walter Wilson, Vice President: Dawn Neilsen, Secretary: Laura Olson, and Treasurer: Vern Blumhagen. Nominations were closed. The above four were elected to fill the four officer positions for the next year.

Before the meeting closed, Marge Estenson asked to speak to the audience. She said that she had been a member of the River Club since the early 1940's and continued as a member when it became the Vida McKenzie Community Center. She said that never in her wildest dreams did she even think that the Community Center would achieve what it has. She was proud to be a member and wanted to thank the officers and board directors for all they have accomplished.

And with that, the meeting was adjourned.



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ENTRANCE UPGRADE

(cont from p1)

members: Curtis Gardner, Mike Holmes, Walter Wilson, Mike Bokros and Ron Short set about pouring the concrete pad for the dormer roof entrance.

Ron offered to contact several building supply houses for donations of materials needed. In addition to wood being needed, large sized beams were required as well as metal roofing material to match the existing metal roof. Gutter material was also necessary to connect to the current gutter system.

With the new entrance pad completed, Ron set about designing and determining the material requirements. He then went about contacting the suppliers to see if they were willing to work with the Center and determine how much of the materials they would donate to the Center. Square Deal Lumber in Springfield agreed to provide over 50% of the wood materials needed. McKenzie Gutters donated the manpower and materials for the new gutter system and to reconnect and tie all the gutter systems together.

Spring rolled around before all of this came together and the weather delayed the start up of the construction. Ron needed a break in the rain before he could open up the roof. Fortunately Ron and Center members: Mike Bokros, Curtis Gardner, Jerry Tobin, Walter Wilson, Mike Holmes, Greg Williams, Rebecca Emlay and Dennis Ellison were able to get some of the larger beams in place before the roof had to be opened up. It was a high wire/beam type act consisting of man and woman power and a good balancing act to get them in place. And this was all coordinated with the weather. What would a construction job be without a few days of rain to slow it down.

Remembering the rule, "measure twice, cut once", the rafters were soon cut and ready for Curtis and Jerry to screw them in place. But before the wooden portion of the roof could go on the large fascia boards needed to be cut and set in place and the Center's roof had to be opened up. With Mike Bokros and Walt sanding the boards and making the compound miter cuts, the 2x6 tongue and groove wooden roof was soon taking shape. Once those boards were down and covered with tar paper Ron could relax a little and not worry when the next rain would come. Before McKenzie Roofing arrived it rained again. But once the installers arrived, it didn't take the McKenzie Roofing boys but less than a half a day to put on the new metal roof. A few days later the installers from McKenzie Gutter had completed tying the gutter system together.

There is still some trim to be painted, some sanding and painting under the entrance to be completed. Some electrical work is necessary to add a new light source that will show off the new entrance area. Additional electrical work and lighting needs to be done to replace the temporary flood lights along the front of the building. Thanks to all that helped, that portion of the upgrade will soon be completed and the Center will take on a new look.

Thank you Ron Short.

Thank you Square Deal Lumber.

Thank you McKenzie Gutter INC.

And to the members that helped, Thank you.



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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STUFF FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by Walter W. Wilson

So many good things have been happening at the Community Center it's hard to figure out where to start. As mentioned earlier, your Board of Directors approved an increase in our scholarship funding and Kathy Morris (this years recipient) of McKenzie High School will be helped in reaching her goal through continuing education. We continue to provide funding for the two local "Meals on Wheels" organizations in the valley. Our goal was for the Center to support itself by providing a resource from community use and our fundraising efforts. The residents of the McKenzie Valley have graciously supported our efforts and allowed us to met our goals. Through these efforts we are able to "give back", to support community projects. We have several worthwhile community projects and organizations on our list of things to do. As time, funds and generous manpower of the membership exist, we will continue to improve on our 57 year old building.

A sincere word of thanks goes to our most recent building project supporters. The dormer style entrance would still be on our list for future improvements to the Center without the donations from: Square Deal Lumber providing the building material, McKenzie Gutter INC. providing the installation and material and Ron Short Construction for his design, direction and manpower.

We achieved another goal this year when we were able to replace the chairs in the Center. We asked for help and the membership and local business clientele graciously provided funds for this endeavor. We acknowledged this by the placement of a sponsorship plaque on the chairs.

Community Center members Dick and Bernadette Barnes paved the way and helped save the Center over \$600.00. Dick's cousin, Bill Barnes is the co-owner of Awards Services, INC. along with Bill's daughter Vicki and son-in-law Joe Finch in Lynnwood Washington. When Dick and Bernadette told them about plaques they stated they would be happy to donate their services. When the plaques arrived with the bill, it was marked, "our donation to your Center". The plaques are beautiful, gold in color and the engraving was done to perfection using a laser to inscribe the names. Thank you Bill Barnes, Vicki and Joe Finch and Awards Services, INC and thank you Dick and Bernadette for making the call.

A couple of months ago we began talking to the Late Bloomers Garden Club about how we could work together to enhance to landscaping around the Center. They agreed and formed a committee headed by Judy Pratt and Sew Dewson. It is a work in progress but you may have noticed some cleaned up flower beds, the placement of two flower pots with colorful flowers by the entrance to the front door. There are plans in the works for new flower beds around the front and around the east end and deck area of the building. They have ideas of window boxes and hanging baskets, all of which need water. Since the Center has no outside water faucet, sprinkler system or drip system to water the basket and flower boxes, we have asked Ted West, (McKenzie Valley Pump) if he would be interesting in

a community project and provide us with a sprinkler system. We asked David and Elizabeth Cousineau, (Gardens by Elizabeth) if they would support us with a drip system. They both agreed this would be an excellent project. Soon we will have a watering system and the Late Bloomers Garden Club will begin in earnest to plant flower around the Center. Working with the Garden Club landscaping committee, we have plans for a concrete walkway connecting the front of the Center to the deck in back that we completed last year. I'll be calling on those that helped last year: Curtis, Jerry, Ron, the two Mikes, myself and anyone else that wants to help in the next month or so. The sooner the sideway is completed, the sooner the Garden Club can do their work.

I would like to see some summer activities for children at the Center. Any ideas? Can you make this happen?

For those who have helped us with projects recently and those who are currently working on projects,

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

ANYONE FOR HIGH SPEED INTERNET?

Some members of VMCC have been pursuing the idea of High-Speed-Internet (HSI), or Broadband, capability in our area. The area specifically of interest is from approximately milepost 25 to milepost 34 on the highway, and all side roads within that region. This is the only area in the valley where Qwest does not supply HIS.

Qwest has said that they will supply the capability only if we (the prospective users) buy the equipment for Qwest. They have suggested that the equipment will cost between \$20K and \$80K. Then they would charge us the going rate for the service.

Senator Prozanski was contacted for possible help to convince Qwest to provide the service. Qwest currently provides the service for the area east from Eugene to Angel Flight Rd, and west from Blue River to Eagle Rock Lodge. The nine-mile section of valley void of service has a large number of internet users who would be interested in having the HIS service.

Senator Prozanski turned the problem over to the Lobbyist from Qwest whose job it is to convince the government that Qwest is always right. The Lobbyist restated Qwest's position that the venture is not profit-effective. They will provide us the service if we buy the required equipment.

Senators Smith and Wyden have recently stated that they are going to be working together to bring Broadband Internet to rural areas. Because of their interest, we should identify our problem to them and solicit their backing in finding a reasonable way to acquire HSI in the currently voided service area.

Please contact a member of the Board of Directors if you have an interest in providing moral support. Even better would be to write emails or letters to the senators. Check their web sites for address details.



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PLAQUES AND CHAIRS

Thanks to everyone that helped the Center reach its 2006 goal by sponsoring new chairs for the Center. Several of the Community Center members and businesses elected to sponsor more than one chair.

A special thanks to our good friends at Awards Services, INC. Because of them we now have all the plaques for the new chairs at the Community Center.

The pictures do not do the plaques justice. View them first hand the next time you go to the Center to see how nice they really are.



19019 36th Ave. W., Suite A
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(425) 774-6462
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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.

Can you help? Give Walt a call at 896-0153

CYCLE OREGON

Over 2000 cyclist will roll into Rainbow on Sept. 13th on their way to Tokatee Golf Course for their overnight stay before heading east to Sisters. The "Rainbow" site will receive \$12,500.00: \$1,500 to cover expenses, donations of \$2,500 each to The Track at Blue River and EASE, \$6,000 will be used to pay for volunteer work.

Somewhere around 130 volunteers will be needed over a three day period at various times. Most jobs require some good physical stamina. Some of the work will be:

- Setting up and taking down tables and chairs.
- Handling baggage—packs weigh over 60 lbs.
- Food servers—standing for a good spell

The following organizations have been selected to recruit volunteers from:

- Blue McKenzie Lions and the McKenzie River Lions
- McKenzie Arts Forum
- McKenzie Schools
- Upper McKenzie Community Center
- Vida McKenzie Community Center

Distribution of funds to each organization will be on the basis of number of hours volunteers work. Volunteers designate that organization. Deadline to volunteer is Aug. 1st. If you are interested in participating as a volunteer and fundraiser for one of the above listed organizations, please contact Walter Wilson 896-0153. Your information will then be forward to the event coordinator, Dick Lauer.

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	Laura Olson	896-3298
Faith Bokros	896-9435	Walter Reim	896-3033
Joyce Brooks	896-3212	Ron Short	896-9848
Rebecca Emlay	896-9848	Dave Starck	896-0017
Becky Holmes	988-3838	Walter W Wilson	896-0153
Dawn Neilsen	896-3036		

RENTAL COORDINATOR Linda Schaefers 822-3947

VMCC BOARD MEETING

The next scheduled board meeting of the Board of Directors will be on July 11th at 6:30pm, at the Community Center.

There are several items on the agenda. This will be a hands on working meeting in which we will be attaching the sponsorship plaques to the new chairs.

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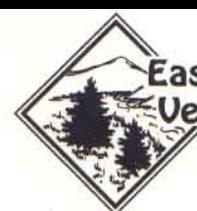


Its been called the McKenzie Valley World Series of Poker
Vida Community Center
Tournaments held every 4th Wednesday each month at 6pm



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