



## Vida McKenzie Community Center

Spring 2008

Vol. 7 No. 1

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MAY 3RD

#### ANNUAL MEETING

The Vida McKenzie Community Center annual membership meeting is set for 10am on Saturday May 3rd at the Community Center. The Board says they will have refreshments for everyone and the coffee pot will be on.

A corporation annual meeting is probably not the most fun place to be anytime, but the Board hopes that everyone will take a few minutes out of their busy Saturday on May 3rd and attend. This will be the place where you will get the chance to meet the Officers and Board members of the Center that have been diligently working for you over the past year. This will be your time to voice your ideas, give some suggestions and directions for your Officers and Board members. Out of last years meeting came the suggestion by Jerry Tobin that the parking lot was in dire need of leveling and re-graveling and should be done prior to the onset of the rainy season. Walt said that the parking lot was on the project list, but because it was brought up at the annual meeting it was given top priority and as you know, member Bob Grafton and his handy dandy "bobcat" leveled the parking lot and spread several truck loads of gravel giving the parking lot a new surface it had not seen in many years.



(Cont. on page 3)

#### VMCC ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

More on page 2

#### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

At the last Board Meeting, VMCC President Walter Wilson proposed to the Board members that the membership fee was much too low, that it had not been increased in the past 7 years and maybe it was time. Before he was finished talking he received vocal disagreements from all Board members. The Board was happy to hold the membership fee to \$10.00 a year. With the great community support of the Center, along with the success of the Center's fundraisers, there was no need to increase the membership fee. Walt said he agreed with the Boards thoughts that the community has certainly been supportive of the Center.

As you complete the membership form you will notice the membership fee remains at the low rate of \$10.00. Please take a moment, complete the form and place it along with your membership check in the enclosed envelope and drop it in the mail to the Center.

Each year the Center loses a few members as they move from our beautiful area, pass on or just plain forget to complete their membership form and mail it in. But also each year the Center gains a few members. Walt said, the gain in memberships each year has offset the membership losses. The added membership has helped the Center continue to grow further enabling the Center to give back to the community.

Don't put it off, don't set the membership form aside to do later, please take a minute fill it out along with your check and return it in the mail. The Center has a few upgrade projects that need attention and if you were going to give a little extra for the upgrade fund, now would be a good time.

For those of you that are helping the Center through your business card ad, it may be time to renew your ad. Please add the total into your amount you sent in.



# Vida McKenzie Community Center Newsletter

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## Walter Wilson

### President Vida McKenzie Community Center

It's that time of year again when our thoughts should be giving way to days of spring and that time will come. For the most part we are hearing the toll of the election bell ringing from east to west and it's only going to get louder as the months roll along. But the bell is also ringing right here in the Community Center. I doubt if you'll be hearing any TV commercials, receiving an literature in your mail box of any of your members that have chosen to continue on as an Officer or Board member of the Community Center. Each year a coordinating to the bylaws you, as members, had written when the corporation was formed, must elect four officers to head the corporation. There are 11 Board Directors positions. About half of these position come open each year due to the completion of that Board Directors term. This allows for continuity of your corporation's leadership. What this is leading up to is, on May 3rd at the annual membership meeting there will be a need to fill five Officer positions and five Board Director positions. Your help is needed. Be there to help your Center continue to be an asset to the community.

It's membership time again. Please take a minute and complete the form and get it back in the mail to the Center. Lets spread the word about the Center and see how many new members you can bring in this year. Got some friends that need a newsletter and a membership form. Let us know and we'll put it into the mail to them.

Our Christmas Bazaar continues to be success as a fundraiser for the Center. This year the raffle prize amount exceeded \$4,000.00. Our local business community was very generous in addition to allowing us to advertise the Bazaar on their out front reader boards: Vida Community Market, Ike's Pizza, Walterville Feed, Stage Stop Restaurant and the Walterville Grange.

Thanks to the tremendous support from the community over the past year we have been very fortunate to be able to complete some major upgrades to the community center and still provide some financial support to several organizations in the Valley. At the January 9th Board of Directors meeting, the Board raised the financial support for this year to \$900.00. The recipients are: McKenzie High School Scholarship, McKenzie Mobile Meals on Wheels, Leaburg Library Children's Fund and the Walterville Pre-School. A donation to the Fire-Med fund may be made at a later date.

The latest upgrade to the Center involves shades for the large windows in the main room. Dawn Neilsen coordinated this project, located a source which provided a discount and with the help of Mike Holmes, we now have curtains installed over the windows. They enhance the interior of the Center and will provide a darker interior for daytime picture projection viewing.

Several major projects remain on the horizon and Vern Blumhagen has been diligently working on them. One of these projects is the replacement of the interior lighting. Coordinating with EWEB for replacement fixture of brighter and energy effi-

cient bulbs that would allow EWEB to rebate almost 75% of our cost. The lighting fixtures may be delivered on March 21st. Now come the task of gathering a few of our members to help with the removal of all the old fixtures and installing our new and brighter ones. Look out guys, here I come again asking for help.

Vern also took on the task of trying to determine what and how much it might cost to do some sound proofing of the interior of the Center. This has been on the project list for several years. We have a wooden floor, concrete block walls and painted ceiling tile. Being in the Center with a lot of people generates a terrific noise level. Several companies Vern contacted offered solutions but the cost was way beyond our financial means. If you are a sound proofing person and have some ideas, please let us know. We can certainly use the help. And there is still the interior plumbing problem that is causing a lack of water flow in the restrooms we need to address.

A Memorial Fund has been set up for our departed member Al Plath. Al really enjoyed participating in the events at the Center and particularly since we started playing bingo. Each month he could be found sitting at the end of the table playing the games and talking with his friends, Linda and Shelly. Thanks for the memories Al. You will be missed by many.

## SPRING CLEANUP

### April 5th

As you know from your own yard work, the past winter has not been kind to many of us including our own Community Center. Leaves are still around from the fall, the snow brought down lots of branches, gutters need to be cleaned, some trees may need to be limbed up, bushes trimmed, flower beds readied for the flowers of spring and summer to show off the Center. It's one of those never ending jobs and somebody has to do it so we're going to ask you, the membership, to give the Center a hand.

Rebecca Emlay is coordinating the "spring cleanup" and she said that it's going to happen on April 5th at 10am, weather permitting and that means if it's not a down pour, the cleanup day is on. She says that hot coffee or maybe some hot chocolate and donuts should be just the thing to get everybody in the mood for a little clean up action. And to not let you go away hungry after all your cleanup work, lunch will be provided.

Here's the plan: Load up your loppers and clippers, your rakes, maybe a shovel, handsaw, pole saw, chain saw, some work gloves and show up at my place (the Center), at 10am, have a donut and a cup of joe and give me a good cleaning. Walt said, he'd bring his old trailer to load up all the trash around the place and don't forget, Rebecca said she'll be cooking you lunch.

Thanks, VMCC

PS: If it's really really raining, we'll put this off to Saturday April 19th.

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



**ANNUAL MEETING:** (from page 1) This is also an exciting and boring part of the annual corporation meeting, when someone has to get up and speak to those in attendance about the accomplishments that have been completed the past year, the things that did not get completed and the wish list for the coming year and a time to acknowledge those who gave outstanding service to the Center. Then comes the portion of the meeting which keeps everyone away, the election of Officers and Board members for the coming year. The operations of VMCC is not the most exciting thing going on but one does get a sense of accomplishment when the Center is giving back to the community in which we live. Walt said he hopes more members will take an active role. If you don't know how you could help, here's an idea. The Center could always use an extra hand during the family fun night of bingo, helping in the snack bar, collection change for the extra cards.

## AARP DRIVING CLASS

The Vida Community Center seems to have it's own resident member AARP Driver Safety Program Class instructor. Bob Schumacher will again bring his classroom skills to the Center to not only enhance our driving skills but also increase our knowledge of the new laws that affect our daily driving habits.

Many of us have driven the McKenzie Highway for years and not given that process much thought as we head from one destination to another. We leave and we arrive. All the time not giving much thought in just how much trust we place in the person driving the vehicle as it approaches our own vehicle at highway speeds. As we get a little older we all know our reaction process is a tad bit slower than it was, say 20 years ago or even 10 years ago. Is the person driving towards us the same age as we are or maybe even older? Are we both going to drift a little toward the center line? How are we both going to react? These questions and many more just like them can be answered in the Driver Safety Program Class.

You may be one of the lucky drivers that have never been in an automobile crash or even luckier to have not been given a traffic ticket. The driving class is an excellent chance to refresh you memory of your driving skills and will hopefully keep you driving safely on our highways for many years to come.

The class consists of two 4 hour segments. The first segment will be held on May 6th (Tuesday) starting at 12:30pm and going until 4:30pm. Segment 2 will be on May 8th (Thursday) starting at 12:30pm and going until 4:30pm. You must attend both secessions to receive you certificate of completion. Auto insurance discounts apply for attending the class (consult your insurance agent) in most states.

The fee for the 8 hour class is \$10.00 to cover handout materials. But since May is AARP Driver Safety Program Month, current AARP card members pay only \$5.00 and they may bring a friend who also pays only \$5.00.

**You must pre-register by calling:  
Laura Olson 896-3298 or Sue McKinney 896-3879**

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

## DANCING RETURNS

Yes, dancing is returning to the Center but for now it's in the form of a dance class. Julie Revelle will be plying her expert dancing instructions to those in attendance in learning the steps of Tap Dancing, Jazz, African, Latin/Salsa, Hip Hop/Funk, and Dance Conditioning. Julie say come and join us for some fun with these beginning dance classes for ages 13 years and up. All you need are comfortable clothes and your dancing feet. The class meets every Monday evening 6pm at the Vida Community Center. Call 541 285-5555 for info.

## The Man, his Boat and Beloved River



He was born in the dusty plains of North Dakota, so it was not hard to see why he loved the McKenzie area so much. Some would say he loved the McKenzie River more than life itself.

He was known for many things. He was a boxer, bartender, he served in the Navy in WWII, he was a railroad man, a river guides guide, fly fisherman extraordinaire, friend, teacher to many, bingo player, he'd work the slots in the casinos and try to bluff you at the monthly poker games. If he was not in his boat fishing the McKenzie River, he could be seen on his deck having a cool one usually with friends, watching the water and waving to boats as they drifted by. He had been a member of the Eagles Lodge for over 65 years.

In the end, after a long struggle with cancer, at the age of 89 years he passed away peacefully at his long time home overlooking the McKenzie River he so loved. His brother Ace and his family were with him at that time.



**Al Plath  
June 3, 1918 — February 17, 2008**

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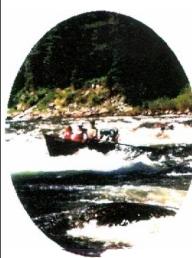
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## VMCC BOARD MEETING

The Community Center Board of Directors meets at the Community Center on the 2nd Wednesday of every odd month at 7:00pm at the Community Center. The next meeting will be on May 14th.

**LATE BLOOMERS GARDEN CLUB**  
McKenzie Valley



## 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

**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

### BOARD DIRECTORS

Vern Blumhagen 896-3814 Laura Olson 896-3298  
Faith Bokros 896-9435 Linda Schaefers 822-3947  
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  
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Vida area: ----- Elsamae Whitney—896-9056  
McKenzie Bridge: ----- Frank Geiger—822-3543

### HELP NEEDED

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

Give Dawn Neilsen a call and let her know you are interested in helping the Center.

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