



Vida McKenzie Community Center

Summer 2008

Vol. 7 No. 2

2008 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Vida McKenzie Community Center Corporation President Walter Wilson opened the annual meeting on Saturday May 3rd to a lively group of members. He went over a list of accomplishments the Center had achieved since the last annual meeting in 2007. The list included the Center's Board Directors and Officers working together to achieve many of the accomplishments, an increase in membership, increased financial support to the McKenzie High School Scholarship fund, the McKenzie Mobile Meals on Wheels, Leaburg Library Children's fund and the Walter-

ville Pre-School. Vern Blumhagen was thanked for his suggestion that the Center could obtain energy efficient with brighter lights. The Center received a rebate from E.W.E.B. by following up and getting the new lights for the Center. The Late Bloomers Garden Club members enhanced the beauty of the Center with lots of flowers in the newly created flower beds around the front and back of the building. McKenzie Valley Pump donated the sprinkler system that covered the beds around the Center. Vern presented the Board with figures that indicated that (Cont. page 3)

FREE BINGO NIGHT SATURDAY AUGUST 9th — COME EARLY— SEATING LIMITED



Walter Wilson

President, Vida McKenzie Community Center

I'll try and not rehash what is already written about in our newsletter, but we do have some things that I will touch on a little.

As many of you know the "Center", as it is known today was given to the community in the year 2000 by the McKenzie River Club members. Each year since then the Center has taken a step forward and with that, the membership has increased. While the Center is not as dependent upon the membership dues to sustain it's everyday activities, the membership and it's dues are important to the Center. Thus our *Membership Drive* is on. I thank each of you who have supported the Center is the past with your membership. If you have not sent in your membership form for this year, I encourage you to take a moment, fill it out and send it in along with your check for the dues which is held at a low amount by your Board of Directors at \$10.00 per family.

In August 2003 we began an event at the Center that continues to thrive and be a source of enjoyment to the community. An event that happens only once a month which many have asked if we could do it more often. This event is our monthly Bingo games. It has truly become an event in which all members of a family can enjoy. Many players help support the event from time to time by bringing cakes and pies that are sold at the snack bar. This single source of monthly games has become a reliable fundraiser for the Center.

This is our 5th year of having Bingo at the Center. We will again open our doors for a "Night of Free Bingo" on Saturday August 9th to say "thank you" to our members and the community for the years of great support. Most of our players play two to four bingo cards, therefore the Center will pay your entry fee for four cards per person. If you decide you desire to play more than four cards, then the usual rate of two cards for \$5.00 will apply. The games will follow the same basic rules as in past games, extra cards may be purchased for each game and for the "blackout" game. The prize for "blackout" will start at \$75.00. If this is anything like our free night of bingo in years past, we will have a Center full of players, so come early for the best seats. Weather permitting, we'll have tables set up on the back deck. This will require a little cooperation from the players to let us know on the inside that the deck area players have a bingo. But I think it can be worked out.

We have had a couple of weekly classes at the Center in the past few months that sparked the community interest. Julie Revello introduced us to the world of "Learn to Dance", featuring Tap, Jazz, African, Latin/Salsa, Hip Hop/Funk and Dance Conditioning. This started off great but I think the coming of summer put a damper on it. Shortly after Julie started, a Tuesday night weekly class of "Yoga" began. This class is continuing on a weekly basis. Information about the Yoga sessions may be obtained by calling 913-9424.

Your support of the Center with your membership and support of our fundraisers are important to the Center. Just last week some of your membership dues and fundraising money helped us pay for a new pump in our water well.

SPRING



Linda Schaefers

CLEANUP

Members came with tools loaded in the back of their pickups and cars for the annual Spring Cleanup on Saturday April 5th. It was a little overcast and cool but with a cap, jacket and gloves on and a little manual labor hauling and stacking branches everyone kept warm. With Les Blum working his chain saw magic, he kept a lot of members busy carrying branches away. He went from the back of the Center around the parking lot and down the driveway cutting away and we ended up with a major pile of brush.



Helping along the way was Vern Blumhagen, Mike and Faith Bokros, Bob Schumacher, Ron short, Rebecca Emlay, Joyce and Walter Wilson.

During the week of the cleanup, Jensen's Tree Service out

INTERIOR LIGHTING

Thanks to an E.W.E.B. lighting rebate the Center was able to replace the old overhead lighting fixtures for 1/4 the cost of new fixtures. The new fixtures are energy efficient and much brighter fixtures. All the fixtures throughout the Center were replaced.

With the help of Vern Blumhagen, Les Blum and Walter Wilson, Mike Bokros was able to install the new fixtures in the main room of the Center on the day of the Spring Cleanup. The lighting fixtures for the rest of the Center had to wait about a week before Mike and Walt were able to get them installed.

We owe Vern Blumhagen a special thank you for taking on the job of checking with E.W.E.B. and getting the Center new lighting and the rebate.





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Membership Meeting from p1: purchasing a new propane tank would be cost effective in the long run. He also negotiated a price reduction from a local supplier. The old tank, an eyesore, was removed from the front of the Center and the new tank was installed on the West end of the Center. McKenzie Plumbing donated and installed the new propane piping hardware. Thanks to Bob Grafton, the parking lot was leveled and resurfaced with gravel. Board member Dawn Neilsen took on the project of finding window shades for the interior of the Center and with some help from Bernadette St.Onge-Barnes the Center has a new inside look.

Walt went on the say that the community is very supportive of the Center with the fundraisers. The Christmas Bazaar was again a success even though it requires a lot of work to put it on. The Center is looking for more members to become involved to ease the burdened and not burn out the members that have been doing it for years. The monthly family Bingo games are going into its 5th successful year. This has been a good fundraiser for the Center and one that has been enjoyed by the young and old alike.

In September Cycle Oregon rode through the upper McKenzie Valley area and with it came a request for community volunteers. Our membership contributed the greatest amount of hours which was turned into dollars going to the Center in the amount of over \$1000.00

Because of fundraisers and renting of the Center for group meetings and social events the Center is in good financial health. The Center was rented between 2007/08 52 times. Some of the groups that use the Center include: the Vida-McKenzie Neighborhood Watch, the Sew and So's Quilting and Craft group, a Bunco group, once a month Texas Hold'em games, weekly Yoga Class, EWEB holds general meeting, McKenzie Guides, AARP holds driving refresher classes and the list goes on.

The membership of the Center has continued to grow with each year and each of us should search out new members. Walt said that our membership dues are at \$10.00 and have been so for many years since it was raised from the original \$5.00 per year dues. The Board of Directors voted to hold the dues at the low amount of \$10.00 since the community has been very good at supporting the Center's fundraisers. At the general meeting those present also agreed that the dues should remain at \$10.00

Walt thanked Vern Blumhagen for his almost everyday support and Linda Schaefer for handling the coordination of renting the Center and all the associated telephone calls. He thanked the Board Directors for supporting the Center's Officers and providing guidance. Walt reminded those present that many of the Officers and Board Directors have served the Center for many years which provides continuity but even the best of people need a break from service now and then. Different members of the Center are encouraged to step forward and become involved in the affairs of the Center as it continues to be an asset to the community.

And then it was time for the election of Officers and several open Board of Director positions. All of the Officers and Board

Directors had indicated they would continue another term unless another member wanted to participate in the leadership of the Center. The elections of Officers and Board Directors was short and to the point. The continuity of leadership of the Vida McKenzie Community Center will continue with the current seated Officers and Board Directors:

Officers— One year term

President:	Walter Wilson
Vice President:	Dawn Neilsen
Treasurer:	Vern Blumhagen
Secretary:	Laura Olson

Board Directors—Two years terms with an additional two year term

Vern Blumhagen	Laura Olson
Faith Bokros	Linda Schaefer
Joyce Brooks	Ron Short
Rebecca Emlay	Dave Starck
Becky Holmes	Walter W Wilson
Dawn Neilsen	

The 2008 general membership meeting was close shortly after the election.

LATE BLOOMERS GARDEN CLUB AT WORK

Judy Pratt and her gang from the Late Bloomers Garden Club really put some color to the Center. Judy asked Walt what do we want? He said, give us some color. They wanted some planter mix, some mulch and they added flowers. Color, color and more color everywhere. Front, side and back is aglow in color. It is so nice to drive up to the Center and see such a wonderful array of flowers as they surround the building. These pictures were taken at least a month ago. The flowers are even more beautiful now.



Thank you Late Bloomers Garden Club members

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

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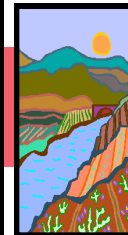
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