



Vida McKenzie Community Center

FALL 2009

Vol. 8 No. 3

SHED DOOR REPLACED



One of this years goals was to clean out the shed storage area and replace the overhead door. What seemed to be a simple matter of reframing the opening and installing a new overhead door turned into a major project. What was known but not to what extent, was that the structure had pulled away from the outside wall of the Center almost 4 inches. Over the years this allowed the rain to leak into the shed rotting out the 3x12 plank flooring next to the Center's wall.

Walt Wilson along with VMCC member Jerry Lincoln set about removing the old aluminum door and discovered the flooring problem. Upon removing the contents of the shed another floor problem was noticed. For many years the shed was used to store wood for heating (Continued on page 3)



BOB WELCH

Award-winning Register-Guard columnist



My Oregon^{II}



**JOIN US FOR AN
AUTHOR'S EVENT
November 13th 1:00pm**

BINGO NIGHT - 2nd SATURDAY MONTHLY - Doors open 6:15pm—Games at 7:00pm



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VMCC PRESIDENT WALTER WILSON

Summer has gone and now we are enjoying the last sunshine rays of October. We've had some cold days and nights in the latter weeks of September. The beautiful colors have taken over the trees and as I look out over my yard all those beautiful colors have turned into a yard full of leaves. I was at the Center the other day and the parking lot and surrounding grounds were also covered with all those beautiful colors that seem to fall each year. So it's time to get those ole blowers and rakes out for another clean up before the weather really sets upon us. Time to get the ole gutters clear for the winter rains.

It seem like this was a busy summer for all of us. The many projects that we had lined up for the Center was put on hold. Some of those include: Replace the sliding (finger smashing) doors under the counter with ones that pull open, reworking the opening of another kitchen cabinet (this has been completed) to hold the hotdog cooker, refinishing or painting the cabinets in the kitchen. Replacing the blue cloth bingo board cover with a wooden enclosure, this alone will enhance the interior of the Center. The bingo board is approx. 3ft X 6ft so we could use some of our woodworking members to come forward with some suggestions for the project. A bigger project was the replacement of the overhead door and enclosing the wood shed to keep out the wind and rain to improve the storage area at the Center. The Center received a couple donations totaling \$600.00 to help this project get off the ground. Noting the article on page one, work began on that project in September and is moving forward. Jerry Lincoln and I worked on that project and hopefully we can get it completed in the next month.

Due to increased personal events in her life, Joyce Brooks resigned her position as one of the Center's Board Members. Joyce has been a member of the Center since it was incorporated in 2000. She was the first Secretary of the newly formed Vida McKenzie Community Center. Since then she has been active in the events and fundraisers like the Christmas Bazaar. She can regularly be seen helping out in the snack bar at bingo. Thank you Joyce for all you have done to help the Center achieve the many goals we have set over the years. You will be dearly missed on the board.

HELP WANTED—BOARD MEMBER: If you are interested in being part of the Center's operation and direction or if you know of someone who is interested, please give me a telephone call or have them call me. The Board meets every other month on the 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm. We have a little pre-meeting dinner meeting starting at 6:00pm that many of us attend.

Noting the banner at the bottom of the page, This will be our 8th year of sponsoring the Christmas Bazaar. While the rental fees for the Walterville Grange have more than doubled over the years, we continue to see it as a good fundraiser and a wholesome event in which everyone in the McKenzie Valley has come to look forward to and enjoy. We are going to need

some help so when that phone rings or we come asking, please help us out.

Last but not least, as noted on the front page, Bob Welch is coming to the Center on November 13th. Bob is a well known author and columnist at The Register-Guard. Bob's book, the "American Nightingale", written about the first nurse to die after the landings at Normandy, was a finalist for the 2005 Oregon book Award and was featured on Good Morning America. Bob writes in an entertaining easy to read style. I first met Bob several years back when I was presenting the Center's scholarship awards to a couple of the graduating seniors at McKenzie River High School graduation ceremony and Bob was the guest speaker. That prompted him to write about small town graduations. But that was not the first time Bob has written about the McKenzie Valley. His latest being the dawn to dusk-ocean to mountain trek with many stop-over's along the way, including a little fishing in the McKenzie River. So, take a few minutes out of your busy day and join us on November 13th around 1:00pm. Get a chance to talk to Bob, see some of your ole friends and maybe even meet some new neighbors in the Valley. We'll have the coffee pot on, some makings for tea or hot chocolate, a soda or two and some refreshments to nibble on keep you from going hungry.



PARKING LOT RE-STRIPED

Thanks to Vern Blumhagen and Larry Maxwell the parking lot stalls at the Center has received a new coat of paint outlining them.

This year the striping outline was still visible in the parking area which helped with the task. Without the visible lines to go by, they would have had to get out the ole tape to measure and string to keep things straight. A couple of years ago Vern created a wood stencil which help keep the lines straight and edges looking sharp.



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SHED DOOR: the Center. It appears the floor of the shed was used as a chopping block. An area approximately three foot square had received so much damage that in many places you could see the dirt through the flooring.

To make a long story short, rotten flooring planks were cut out, concrete blocks and treated wood were used to shore up the floor planks. Rotting supporting posts in the rear of the shed were replaced. Plywood was used to cover the old floor planks. The door opening was framed in for the new overhead door. The front of the shed was resurfaced with plywood. A new overhead door was installed and the new exterior wood was painted to match the exterior of the Center. The gap between the buildings was covered with metal, which should take care of the rain water leaking into the shed. Insulation and shelving will be added which will result in a more efficient dry storage area.

FREE NIGHT OF BINGO FUN

August is free bingo month for the Center. On August 9, 2003 the Center held it's first night of bingo to a full building of friends and neighbors. The Center has Lynne Radeleff (sadly Lynn passed away a few years ago) of the Upper Community Center to thank for providing insight and direction. Walt and Joyce Wilson were the movers and shakers from our Center that really made things take off. An so it started, once a month, 2nd Saturday they come from all over to the Center for another family fun night of bingo.

To say thank you to our friends that have supported the bingo operation over the years, each year in August, the Center buys the players their first two bingo cards. Last august was no different, another fun filled night of bingo players.

VMCC say's thank you, thank you for your continued support.

T-SHIRT'S BIG HIT

Everyone seemed to like the design on the T-shirts so it didn't take long for all of the smaller size t-shirts and all of the sweatshirts to be sold out.

The front of the T-shirt and sweatshirt has a small logo printed on it as pictured top right. The back has the full design which is very nice.

There is just a few of the medium size available right now. We still have plenty of the larger sizes still available at the low price of \$9.00 for the T-shirts.

We will be ordering more of the smaller sizes which seems to be very popular and sweatshirt in all sizes. The price of the sweatshirts will be \$14.00 for sweatshirts up to XL. Sizes above XL will cost a couple dollars more.



HIGH SPEED INTERNET COMES TO VIDA!!

It's here. Well almost. Many are left out in the cold and still enjoying(?) the old dial-up method or have switched to one of the satellite systems available. Even that service is not the best. Laura Olson arranged a meeting with Congressman Peter DeFazio staff. Laura, Sue McKinney, Vern Blumhagen and Walt Wilson met with District Director Karmen Fore who was very receptive to our request for assistance. Congressman DeFazio was in town and spoke with us for a few minutes. He is going to provide some assistance. Quest continues to say as soon as they get additional funds they will come back and connect everyone to the high speed service. For those of you enjoying the new service, enjoy. For those still in the dial-up mode, keep on hoping.

Status Update of the Bridge Lighting Project

Not a lot has changed to move the project forward since the last report but, Vern Blumhagen and Walt Wilson have been meeting on a regular basis with many organizations. The list of meetings has continued to grow. As an example, think of everything or everyone that had something to do with the bridge sometime and these are the people or organizations that Vern and Walt have been meeting with. Vern and Walt have met with County Commissioner Faye Stewart, Commissioner Rob Handy and Commissioner Bill Fleenor. They have met with the McKenzie Watershed Council. This organization has members from most ever organization that might have something to do with the bridge. At all the meetings, Vern and Walt are asking for a letter of advocacy or "no objection" to the lighting of the bridge. So far they have not met with anyone opposed to the project.

Vern and Walt are biding their time waiting for additional letters for advocacy to be received before their next move. That move will be to get on the agenda and present the lighting project to the Lane County Board of Commissioners. The County's insurance liability still remains an issue. When the liability issue has been decided, Vern and Walt will either put this project to rest or move on to the next phase.

VMCC BINGO GIFT CARDS

Gift cards will soon be available for you to purchase and use at the monthly bingo games. One of our members came forward with the idea that a gift card would be an excellent gift for someone, not necessarily a member but anyone that likes to play bingo or maybe even to someone that would be interested in playing bingo. The gift cards can be used to pay your entrance fee to the bingo games.

The gift cards come in dominations of \$10, \$20 and \$50.00. Ask for information about them at bingo

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

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Some fun from last years Christmas Bazaar



See ya on December 5th