



Vida McKenzie Community Center

SUMMER 2009

Vol. 8 No. 2

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual membership meeting of the Vida McKenzie Community Center corporation was held on Saturday, May 2, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 10:10am by President Walter Wilson. With many of the Center's members busy helping other organizations with fund raisers, the meeting was a little light in attendance this year. Walt welcomed those in attendance. Coffee and goodies were available to all.

VMCC Secretary Laura Olson read the minutes from the 2008 meeting. Treasure Vern Blumhagen provided a financial report indicating the Centers income for the past year was \$15,166.00 with expenses of \$12,885.00 leaving the Center in the black for \$2,311.00. Walt emphasized the great support the Center enjoys from the community. Walt went on the say, the support allows the Center to continue to provide some funding for the McKenzie High School scholarship's, the McKenzie Mobile Meals in Leaburg, the Leaburg Library Children's Fund, the McKenzie River Lions and Blue McKenzie Lions organizations to help with their special projects. And with that, we still have some funds left to continue upgrading the Community Center. The Christmas Bazaar and monthly family fun bingo night continues to be the major fundraisers.

Major improvements during the past year included: replacement of the well water pump, replacement of the wooden well cover with a metal cover, thanks to the Al Plath Memorial Fund the Center purchased a commercial hotdog cooker, and the continuing flower bed enhancement by the Late Bloomer Garden Club.

Rental of the Center doubled last years use to 109 rentals. The Center is used as a meeting location for several local groups, including: Vida-McKenzie Neighborhood Watch, Sew and So's Quilting and Craft group, a Bunco group, Texas Hold'em group, Yoga classes, McKenzie River Guides, EWEB, AARP Driving Refresher Course and many family gatherings.

CENTER MEMBERS RE-ELECT CURRENT SLATE OF OFFICER

When Center President Walter Wilson opened the nominations for Officers, it was quite for a few seconds then a voice from the floor came forth with, "I would like to nominate the current Community Center officers for the next term." The current Officers are, Vern Blumhagen - Treasurer, Laura Olson - Secretary, Dawn Neilsen - Vice President and Walter Wilson - President. With no other nominations and the current Officers agreeing for another term, the nominations were closed and the attending members elected them for another term.

Three Board Director position were open due to Ron Short, Rebecca Emlay and Joyce Brooks resigning their positions for personal reasons. Pat Sherfield and Kathleen Shelley were elected to fill two of the positions. Other members of the Board include: Faith Bokros, Becky Holmes, Linda Schaefer, Dave Starck and the four Officers. Walt said, "The Officers and Board members will look to the membership to fill the other Board position during the coming months."

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The VMCC Board agreed to continue with the low membership fee of \$10.00 for another year, citing the tremendous support the community has given the Center during the fundraising times. The Christmas Bazaar and the monthly Family Bingo nights have been a great success. All the success in fundraising has allowed the Center to continue to proved support to other organizations and projects around the McKenzie River area.

But even with the success of the fundraising, the Center still needs the support of members. If you have not sent in your membership form, now would be a good time.



Walter Wilson

President, Vida McKenzie Community Center

Thanks to the Community Center membership at the annual membership meeting on May 2nd, I am again coming to you for another year as President of the Community Center. It was also decided that the Board member that were up for re-election would also continue for another term. We did lose three Board members for personal reasons: Joyce Brooks, Rebecca Emlay and Ron Short. All three have been very active in supporting the Center for many years. But the good part is, they have all said if I need anything to just give them a call, which I will do. Pat Sherfield and Kathleen Shelley offered to sit on the Board and the membership elected them. That leaves the Center with one open Board position. We can continue to function with one board member shy as the Board looks to the membership to find someone. The Board meets on the odd number months and one the 2nd Wednesday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Our Center continues to be a focal point in the valley. As mentioned on page one, the rental of the Center has doubled in the past year to a total of 109 times. The groups using the Center mentioned on the front page continue to use the Center on a regular basis. The good thing is more and more families are using the Center for their family gatherings, birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and so forth. This is wonderful. Many of us have worked hard in the past years to make changes, make improvements to the Center to attract the community to use the Center. It appears the hard work of the membership has paid off.

Our accomplishments the past year were just a few but ones that were a little costly. The replacement of the well pump and the metal box covering. Our water well is almost 60 years old and one of these days it may be necessary to replace it. So this year we have started a well replacement fund in anticipation of that day. We used the Al Plath Memorial Fund to purchase a commercial hotdog cooker. Our members who work the snack bar during the bingo games are very appreciative of having the new cooker.

In addition to thanking the Officers and Board members for their dedication to the Center the past year, we have a few people that have gone "above and beyond" or taken on special projects.

VERN BLUMHAGEN. Hardly a day goes by without Vern and I discussing some form of Community Center business. Vern, as Treasurer of the Center, provide an excellent accounting of our funds. A lot of projects that have been accomplished over the years around the Center are

because Vern has had his hand on it.

LINDA SCHAEFERS: Linda is the Center's interface with the general public. I don't know the number of calls Linda receives regarding renting or using the Center, but I suspect it is many. In addition to handling the rental of the Center, Linda follows up to make sure the renters leave it clean for the next user. Linda keeps me and Vern appraised as to what she is doing and who is renting the Center. SUE ALA and SANDY WRIGHT: When we were struggling with the snack bar operation for the Christmas Bazaar, Sue and Sandy said they would organize, purchase the food, handle the operations and participate in the selling of the food. Their effort helped make the Bazaar our most successful yet. SUE DEWSON and LINDA EDWARDS: For over a year we have had a nice board made by member Walt Reim that we anticipated putting name plaques to say "Thank You" to members, organizations and businesses that have provided exceptional support to the Center. Sue and Linda took this task on and now we can proudly display names of those members.

We have come a long ways since we incorporated in 2000. Our success directly relates to the support from the wonderful community we live in. Thank you.

CENTER SUPPORTS COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We all have passed by the old school house building many times as we travel through Leaburg. The old gym building has since been replaced by a new McKenzie Fire and Rescue building but the old school house still stands and for many years now has served as the Leaburg Library. It's doors kept open by a few dedicated community volunteers and help from the McKenzie River Lions. As years passed so did the need for a building upgrade, which included plumbing and painting. Dee Anderson put the word out that help was needed for the old building. Along with many members of the community, the Center joined in on this wonderful community project with a donation to the library building upgrade fund. If you are interested in making a donation, please give Laura Olson a call at 896-3298.

Another project that has been going on for the past year or so, is the work of the McKenzie Area Renewal Committee of Blue River. This group of community volunteers have been working around the Blue River area, the track (east of the high school) and creating walkways along the river. With matching funds from the Ford Foundation these projects in Blue River continue to improve the area. The VMCC Board agreed this was a worth while community project and wanted to be part of it. For additional information about this project or helping with a donating, please contact Bernadette St.Onge -Barnes at 896-3640.



SPRING CLEAN-UP

On Saturday, April 25th, opening day for fishing, we called for a day of clean-up around the Community Center. Of course we knew that many members would be out wetting their lines in the river but we took our chances and we had many fisherman who don't go out on opening day show up to help spruce up around the Center and some of them included: Eleanor Rodakowski, Kathleen Shelley, Les Blum, Walt and Joyce Wilson, Mike and Linda Schaefer, Lon Mills, Vern Blumhagen, Mike and Becky Holmes, Dawn Neilsen and Rick and Joan McCreery. I probably forgot some other very important people that were there helping, sorry about that.

They brought blowers, trimmers, rakes, shovels, pole saws, chain saws, lopper's and clippers. Everything was put to work and set in motion as members started moving up and down the driveway cutting back the overgrown trees, cutting and pulling at the encroaching ivy, raking and piling the leaves from last fall. Walt's trailer was soon overflowing and a burn pile was getting larger by the minute. With the help of a little fuel and Les using his blower to create some wind to stroke the fire, Mike Schaefer soon had the pile blazing and fit for a good ole fashion wiener roast. A lot of work was done in a very short period of time and soon it was time to sit down, relax and have a bite to eat. Ike's Pizza furnished the hard working crew with pizza and chicken.

A few days later, Linda & Mike Schaefer, Sue Ala, Sandy Wright, Eleanor Rodakowski and other Center members came back to do a spring cleaning on the inside of the Center. The

HIGH SPEED INTERNET COMES TO VIDA!!

It's here. Well almost. Several people around the Valley area helped with the project but Vern Blumhagen and Walter Wilson were the movers and shakers. Qwest did install high speed internet service to some people in Vida, but you had to be some of the lucky people that happen to live along the McKenzie Highway between the Goodpasture Bridge and Ben and Kay Doris Park, and up Gate Creek. That's the great service Qwest provided to the Vida area. But they 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 since the last report. Getting together with County personnel has proven to be a hard task. But Vern Blumhagen and Walter Wilson will be meeting with the County Public Works personnel and someone from the County Insurance Department on July 24th at which time they will again present the project to the County.

Previous meetings have taken place with county permitting personnel, state bridge personnel and the electrical contractor. Everyone at these meeting seemed to agree with our proposal and design. The stopping point involved a three to five million dollar liability insurance policy on the bridge.

Vern and Walt are hopeful the County Insurance personnel will be able to shed some forward moving light on the project. But even if there is the approval that the County will accept the liability issue there still remains the cost of the equipment and installation, plus the on-going monthly electrical operational expense. Stay tuned. More to come after the 24th

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.



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 will come in denominations of \$10, \$20 and \$50.00. Look for them soon.

2 CARDS FREE NIGHT OF BINGO

Join us in August and help us celebrate going into our 7th year of bingo at the Center. The Center will pay for your first 2 cards. Black Out starts at \$75. Bonus Ball at \$115. See ya in August.

Vida McKenzie Community Center Newsletter

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Summer

2009

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Vida McKenzie Community Center Newsletter

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Summer

2009

Join your friends at the McKenzie River Lions

We Support Sight, Hearing, Diabetes, and Community Service Programs and Present your Summer Festival

You're Welcome at our Semi-Monthly Meetings the 2nd and 4th Monday of each Month at 6:30 pm at Ike's Lakeside Pizza

BINGO

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2nd Saturday Monthly
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Sew and So's

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 Call Pat at 896-0199 for info.

VIDA TEXAS HOLD 'EM

It's 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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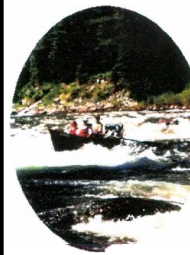
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McKenzie River Lions
We Serve Present the We Serve
Leaburg Summer Festival
 on **August 1st, 2009**
 BEGINNING AT 9:00 AM
 ON THE MCKENZIE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH GROUNDS AT
45061 McKenzie Hwy

Blueberry Pancake Breakfast, 9 am
 Craft Booths, Music, Raffles, all day
 Smilin' Baby Contest, 11 am
 Bar-B-Que Chicken Dinner, 11 am
 Doggie Parade, 2:30 pm

Fun for All!

I Wouldn't Dream of Missing the
Leaburg Summer Festival
Doggie Parade

All Dogs Must be on a
 Leash -- Children Under
 Ten Must be Accompanied
 by an Adult



Ribbons and Prizes for
 all Kinds of Silly Things

Saturday August 1st, 2009

(@ 2:30 pm)

Pre-Register at the Information Booth
 Sponsored by

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Smilin' Baby Contest

Leaburg Summer Festival
 McKenzie Bible Fellowship Grounds
 45061 McKenzie Highway

BRING YOUR BABY TO THE MCKENZIE RIVER
 LIONS' LEABURG FESTIVAL SMILIN' BABY CONTEST

SATURDAY, August 1st, 2009
11:00 AM - Pre-register at the info booth

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE SWEETEST SMILE
 AND MOST CHARMING BABY ON THE RIVER!

Ribbons and Prizes for the best smile, and other attributes!!

