



Vida McKenzie Community Center

FALL 2012

Vol. 11 No. 3

COMMUNITY MEETING



On Wednesday, October 3rd, a meeting was called by Walter Wilson, President of the Vida McKenzie Community Center, to meet at the Center at 3:00 PM to hear and discuss the rash of recent property invasions and thefts in the Valley. The response of over 100 attendees was overwhelming with the parking lot full, spilling over onto the adjacent road and filling the center to capacity.

After introductions by Walter, including Vern Blumhagen, President of the Neighborhood Watch, Sheriff Tom Turner and Sgt. Carrie Carver conducted an agenda including emphasis on the financial stress of the current economically dictated cutbacks in sheriff's personnel and services. They directed us to the on-line website for the Sheriff's Department to both obtain information and communicate with the department.

Sheriff Turner shared his concern with the thin law enforcement coverage throughout the County and our local McKenzie Valley. He advised us to contact him directly and furnished his personal cell phone number. He repeatedly stated that, although there are limits to the resources available, they cannot do anything if not informed by the residents of incidents and/or concerns and suspicious observations.

John and DeeDee Stevens, recent victims of a break-in, explained in detail the incident with their home. The perpetrators first entered their garage by forcing a rear door to the garage. Cont. P2

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

You'll find the membership form on page 8. Help support your Center



Vida McKenzie Community Center Newsletter

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Walter W Wilson

VMCC President

What started out as I thought would be a gathering of some Vida area residences turned into a major event with friends and neighbors attending from Cedar Flats to McKenzie Bridge.

I'm talking about the community meeting. In our little community of Vida we have had three residential burglaries in a short period of two months. Two of these were possibly less than a week apart and all three were within a mile of each other.

This created a lot of concern among neighbors. I thought it would be a good idea to gather everyone together and talk about what happened and how we as neighbors could help each other. We have a very active Neighborhood Watch group in the Vida area but that alone cannot stop someone from breaking into homes.

With the assistance of the Neighborhood Watch President Vern Blumhagen and LCSO Sgt. Carrie Carver we were able to get a few hours of Sheriff Thomas Turner's time to attend a community meeting. When the date and time was determined I sent an email about the meeting to all my friends up and down the valley and asked them to forward it to all their friends and neighbors. The attendance was overwhelming. What a great turnout. A community pulling together again for one common cause.

A lot was learned that afternoon. We learned the short falls of the Sheriff's Office in their inability to respond to these type of calls. We listened to Sgt. Carver explain several ways and means of protecting our self and our property. We learned (cont P4)

COMMUNITY MEETING from page 1: Foiled by a second locked door into the house, they proceeded to force entry through a sliding window. Once inside, they rummaged through the house looking for cash, valuables, tools and other items easily



John Stevens

converted to cash. The intrusion was indeed a personal affront and emotional trauma.

The meeting lasted for an extended time with a period of questions and answers. Sgt. Carrie Carver presented a long list of cautionary measures to thwart or guard against such vulnerability, reducing exposure and protecting our property.

The mood was electric with attention to the problems before us and ended with an exchange of information which each participant took away in a constructive manner.



Thank you for attending...



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Preventing Car Break-Ins and Car Theft

Sgt Carrie Carver



With budget cuts preventing the Sheriff's Office from responding to and investigating many property crimes, we are looking towards prevention and education to help prevent our community members from being victimized. Many of our rural communities have been hit hard by car thefts recently. Car thieves are finding new ways every day to victimize you, and the items they steal from your vehicle could lead to other crimes such as identity theft and fraud. Being the victim of car theft or having your vehicle broken into can feel like an invasion of space and personal safety, but there are things we can do as community members to deter thieves.

Here are a few tips to keep your vehicle and its contents safe:

- Park in well-lit areas away from larger vehicles, trees, and bushes that may offer privacy for a thief to break into your car. Many retail parking lots have security cameras that you can park in view of for added security and deterrent purposes.
- Roll up your windows and lock your doors. Almost 25% of theft from vehicles is from unlocked cars. Don't make it easy for someone to steal from you!
- Don't keep **anything** in your car. What you consider to be a non-valuable item may be what prompts someone to break into your car.
- If you have to keep items in your vehicle, store them away in the trunk or other non-visible area of your vehicle prior to your arrival. Thieves watch people in parking lots and may see you stashing your valuables in the trunk.
- Remove or hide electronic accessories such as MP3 adapters and navigation system cords and holders. These items make a thief believe that the electronic devices are someone in your vehicle which may prompt a break-in.
- Park in a garage if you have one. Don't leave your keys in your vehicle, even if it is in the garage.
- Keep a spare key in your wallet, not on your vehicle. Thieves know where to look for hidden keys.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT AS ELECTION TIME DRAWS NEAR

McKenzie Emergency Action Services (EASE) is at a critical point in being able to continue providing immediate emergency medical services before that ambulance arrives from Springfield. Concerned community members who saw a need for quick-response medical services located in this community started EASE in the 1960's. Without EASE, those of us along the McKenzie River who find ourselves in need of emergency medical services will be waiting 45 to 50 minutes while ambulance service arrives from Springfield. When we dial 911, a unit is dispatched from Eugene/Springfield, and at the same time, EASE volunteers are radio paged and respond to provide advanced life support emergency care. The basic first aid and CPR that EASE volunteers provided in the early years has evolved into full advanced cardiac and trauma life support.

EASE is all volunteer, non-tax-based and has been supported generously by community donations, along with state and private grants over the years. EASE works closely with the Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Department, but is not an official part of it, and receives no financial support from it. Again, EASE people are volunteers who are willing to be on call day and night, and who receive no compensation at all for their time and efforts.

Why the current crisis? Because of changes in City of Springfield Fire and Life Safety rural support and Central Lane Communications dispatch billing (911), EASE operating expenses are expected to double in 2013. Donations alone cannot cover all operating expenses and vehicle replacement. Stable funding is needed.

We voters can either let EASE dissolve and accept that help in emergencies will not be arriving for 45 minutes or more, or we can support the absorption of EASE into the Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Department, ensuring the continuing operation of EASE without the necessity of forming a Medical Service District, which would require county and state fees and determination of a separate tax rate.

You will see a measure on the November ballot that allows for the absorption of EASE into the UMRFD, at a tax levy rate of \$.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Please consider what the loss of EASE in our area would mean to you and your neighbors.

VMCC PRESIDENT from P2: first hand from a victim of a burglary to his home, how they entered and violated his and his wife's personal items. We learned how they entered and exited the home. What they took and how they went about looking for items to take. This was the opportunity to hear first hand what really happens when you become of victim of this type of crime. It was sad to hear John and DeeDee Stevens talk about the invasion of their home. John and DeeDee, thank you for sharing that experience with everyone.

At the September community center board meeting, the members were informed that our financial status of the Center is healthy thanks to the community support through their membership and our monthly bingo games. The membership is very important to the Center. If you have not sent in your membership dues, please take a moment and do so. We received thank you cards from two McKenzie High School seniors, Brittany Cline and Sarah Sherman who received scholarship funds from the Center to further assist them in their educational goals.

I was taken by surprise by the actions of the Board at the September meeting when Vern Blumhagen made a motion, which was approved by the board, that the meeting room of the Center be dedicated as the Walter Wilson Hall. This is truly an honor to be included with so many people over the years that have had a hand in the Community Center over the years. Land was donated by Dayton and Elvira Thomson on August 15, 1947 to the McKenzie River Club. The cornerstone was laid for the building in 1949. Other names include Marge Estenson, Ruth West, Buck Carter, Big Bob Neilsen and Bob Neilsen Jr. Bob Neilsen Jr. was the first president of the Center after it was incorporated by the community in 2000. Bob got the ball rolling, along with several members that remain on the Board of Directors to this day. As many of you know, when Bob became sick and had to remove himself in 2002 as continuing president, I accepted the position. I am very thankful for the support of the community all these years. Without your support we would not have been able to make the upgrades to the Center or provide scholarship support to the high school. Thank you.



SEEN AT THE LEABURG FESTIVAL



A down and dirty, quick, but not so easy was the set up for the table at the Leaburg Festival. It was undecided until a week before that sunny Saturday in July.

On short notice, it was hard to find members that were available to work the table to meet, greet and explain the joys of the Community Center to the visitor's of the festival.

It was a joint venture as the community centers table was next to the Vida Neighborhood Watch table. We are thankful to Vern Blumhagen and Judy Olson for being able to handle the table duties.

Visitors to the booth enjoyed looking at pictures of the Center, took home some updated brochures and the current issue of the Center's newsletter. Several were very interested in receiving the email edition of the newsletter. Thanks to everyone who stopped by and said hello.



CENTER CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY OF BINGO

In August of 2003 the Center opened its door for the first of many to come bingo games. We owe a lot to Lynn Ratliff from the Upper Community

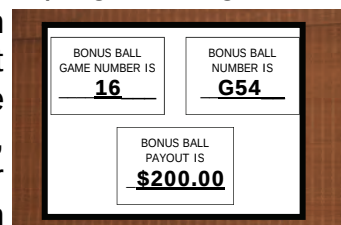


Center for her support and knowledge in getting the Centers games going. Our snack bar continues to be a major source of revenue along with the monthly raffle baskets. We started a new game a few years ago called Bonus Ball Bingo. It is a progressive game, in



which you must win on a ball number drawn at the beginning of the game. With no winner, the amount rolls over and \$5.00 is added each month until someone wins. At the October games, with \$200 awaiting the winner, VMCC member and regular bingo player, Rex Starr, had all the right numbers aligned and was awaiting Renee (bingo caller) Jackson to call out G54. He waited and waited as number after number was called. An then, you guessed it. Someone had a regular bingo, which paid around \$7.00. Rex would have to wait until next month for another chance.

At the beginning of the year Kimlyn Esser, Financial Representative with Country Financial in Eugene began sponsoring three special bingo games each month. Thanks to Kimm, each game pays out \$20.00. Adding to another fun game at the Vida "Bingo at the Center" night.



NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL

Several members have asked if this newsletter could be sent to them via the email. Many members now have the high speed Internet connection that allows for faster down loading of products like this newsletter. If you would like to give it a try, send an email to: walter1ww@aol.com.



News Release Oct 6, 2012

Vida-McKenzie Community Center

Memorandum:

During the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Vida-McKenzie Community Center on September 12, 2012, a resolution was made and passed unanimously to dedicate the meeting hall of the Center to Walter Wilson.

The Board wishes to acknowledge the selfless and diligent efforts of Walter for his involvement with the center over these many years, including serving as President of the Board currently and ongoing. Walt steers the Center in its function as a meeting hall and center of activity for the McKenzie Valley.

In recognition of this adopted measure, a plaque will be placed over the entrance, naming the Center the "Walter Wilson Hall". Those entering through the main entry doors will be reminded of the recognition due Walter for his dedication to the Center for not only its growth throughout the years, but also the contribution and service to all residents of the Valley.

The Hall serves as a focal point for many activities and is offered for meeting, services, special occasions and community functions. We all can be proud of our Center due greatly to Walter's constant attention to the maintenance, improvements, function and upkeep of the building and grounds.

Thank you Walter!



Without the support of the Center's Board members and the support of the community, what we did could not have been done.

Walter W. Wilson

SPONSORSHIP OF BINGO GAMES

From the success Kimm Esser as first donor and the interest generated by the players of bingo games, the Center would like to offer other individuals, businesses and groups the opportunity to join in on the fun and donate a Bingo prize for one or more games each month. Get your name, business or organization presented to the players. For additional information about this sponsorship please call: Vern Blumhagen 541 896-3814 or email to: vblumhagen@q.com

Have some fun at the Center

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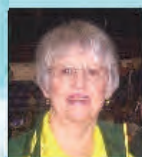
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Join your friends at the McKenzie River Lions

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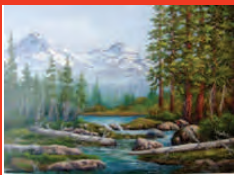


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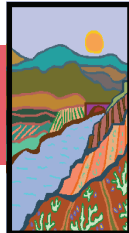
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VICE PRESIDENT: Dawn Neilsen 896-3036
TREASURER: Vern Blumhagen 896-3814
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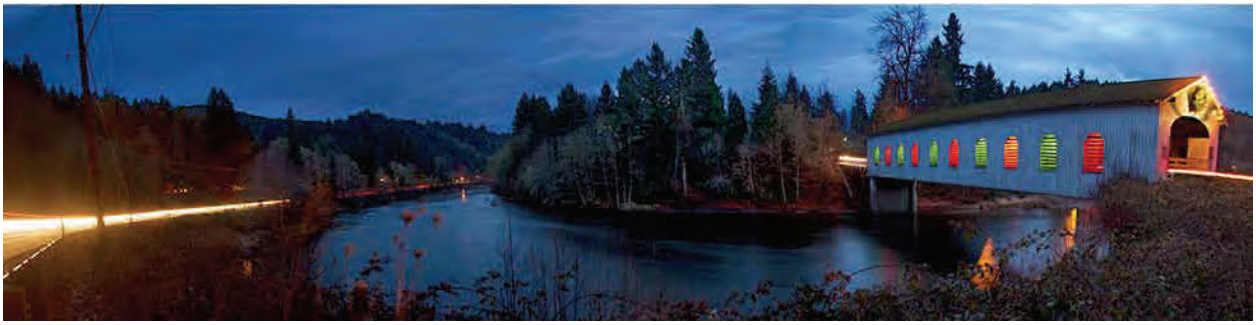
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GOODPASTURE COVERED BRIDGE PROJECT BRIDGE CLOSURE NOTICE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2012
8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

And

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2012
8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

First night closure from 8:00 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2, 2012 to 5:00 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012.

Next night closure from 8:00 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, 2012 to 5:00 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012.

A detour route for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists will not be available during the bridge closures. Firefighting equipment and an emergency response vehicle will be parked on the south side of the bridge before the bridge is closed. McKenzie Fire and Rescue has been very helpful in developing a response plan to address any medical or fire emergencies.

In the event of a medical emergency, the 911 dispatcher will contact the emergency service providers and the onsite bridge inspector. In that situation, work on the bridge will be stopped immediately and the construction zone stabilized to allow passage of emergency personnel. The first responders will park on the north side of the bridge, then walk across the bridge and use the emergency response vehicle parked on the south side to get to the emergency. The first responders will then transport the patient to the bridge where the ambulance will be waiting for them. If the call requires the use of a helicopter, then one will be dispatched and will land at one of the two predetermined landing zones on the south side of the bridge.

In the event of a fire emergency, the response will be a procedure similar to the one outlined above. The Fire District already has two fire apparatus parked on the south side of the bridge. A private owner is allowing the Fire District to use their property in order to reach Goodpasture Rd. It will however take several minutes to get there.

Lane County would like to thank McKenzie Fire and Rescue, Weyerhaeuser, Whitewater Ranch, the BLM, Conway Construction, and OBEC for their support, cooperation, and the extra effort while the closures are in effect.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the construction project and feel free to contact Brad Lemhouse @ (541) 682-6928 or brad.lemhouse@co.lane.or.us if you have questions.

THE "CENTER" IS LOOKING FOR SOME HELP

We could use a helping hand at our Saturday night Bingo games.

Snack Bar, setting up and serving: Give Pat Sherfield a call at 541 988-9735.

Bingo Callers. Give Walt Wilson a call at 541 896-0153

Money Takers: Give Vern Blumhagen a call at 541 896-3814

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Thanks for being a friend of the Vida McKenzie Community Center. It is that time of the year that we ask the community to continue their support of the Center. If you have not sent in your membership dues, please take a moment, print out this page and sent it to us. Your membership is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Walter W. Wilson

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2012

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