

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Vida McKenzie Community Center

SUMMER 2013

Vol. 12 No. 2

CONTINUITY OF LEADERSHIP CONTINUES

On Wednesday, November 1, 2000 the McKenzie River Reflection newspaper printed

"VIDA COMMUNITY CENTER IS NOW OFFICIAL"
Vida: The McKenzie River Club easily segued into the Vida McKenzie Community Center last Saturday, quickly filling seats for the board of directors and officers., the new organization plans to focus on community outreach, making more people aware of its existence as well as the availability of a meeting space in the mid-river area.

Around the first of the year, area residents should be hearing more about the center as mailings go out and the new board of directors contacts area groups and organizations. Membership are being solicited as well, priced at only \$5 per family.



Newly elected officials of the Vida McKenzie Community Center are: (front left) Bob Nielsen, president; Vern Blumhagen, vice president; Laura Olson, secretary; and Nadine Scott, treasurer. (Back row): Directors Dawn Neilsen, Kimm Esser, Marge Estenson, Vince Davis and Bill Esser.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On May 4, 2013, the 14th annual membership meeting was held at the old McKenzie River Club building. Of course the building name was change to the Vida McKenzie Community Center in 2000, and over the years the names in leadership have also changed, but the continuity continues.

Walter Wilson current and newly elected president spoke on the history of the Center/River Club, reminding everyone that many of the original members were current members of the Center. He also mentioned three of the original officers/directors still seated in leadership roles of the Center. Those include Dawn Neilsen, vice president; Laura Olson, secretary; and Vern Blumhagen, treasurer.



Leadership for the year 2013/14 consists of: (front left) Vern Blumhagen, treasurer; Dawn Neilsen, vice president; Laura Olson, secretary; and Walter Wilson, president. (Back row): Directors Kathleen Shelley, Faith Bokros, Pat Sherfield and Linda Schaefer, not included in picture Becky Holmes.



Walter W Wilson

President

The annual membership meeting was held on May 4th this year. Reflecting on the front page articles, I found an article about the first membership meeting along with a picture of the first group of officers and board directors. It seems like a long time ago since the picture was in black and white, but it's only been 13 years since that first meeting in 2000. One can note some of the first leaders have continued their service to the community and the center: Dawn, Vern and Laura, 13 years and still going and looking forward to providing leadership of the center to serve the community.

Over the years I have recorded many of the projects and events around the Center. They were on display for everyone as a reminder of where we were and how far we have come and how much



fun we had in doing it. Included were some pictures from 1948-49 when the building was being constructed.

The Christmas Bazaar (our 10th year) was a huge success. This is our major fundraiser for the year. The raffle and snack bar operations contributed to the success along with the great variety of vendor tables. Santa was there to the delight of more children than we have seen in years past. Sue and

Sandy and their helpers did a great job of displaying all the delicious looking (and tasting) cakes, cookies and pies that everyone enjoyed.



Early in the spring the Center held a community meeting in conjunction with the US Post Office. There was, and still is a lot of talk going around about the closing of post offices. We listened as a regional manager from the Corvallis area spoke of



what could and may happen to the post office



in Vida. Everyone was happy to hear that for the time being the post office will remain open. The down side at this time is the change in hours. What was an emphasis and a very big factor in keeping the post office open is the need to have outgoing mail flow through the Vida office. So please, everyone, mail those post cards and letters from Vida. We really need to keep that outgoing letter count up.

Spring time is also the time we do the annual clean-up around the Center to clear off all the



dregs from winter and set the flower bed stage to receive the annual spruce up from the Late Bloomers Garden Club. We got weeds pulled, brushes and some trees trimmed, gutters cleaned and leaves brushed off the roof.

We had a great community turnout including: Bob Schumacher, Larry Maxwell, Les Blum, Emily and Erik Withalm, Faith and Mike Borkos, Vicki and Dennis Ellison, Linda and Michael

Schaefer, Pat and Jim Sherfield, Joyce and Walt Wilson and Kathleen Shelley.

When we finally called it quits, we all had a chance to sit down, talk about what we had accomplished and enjoyed a little bite of lunch. Jim Sherfield was going to come back after a few days and power wash the sidewalks and deck area, thus the almost final touch for the clean-up.

With everyone picking up debris, my 4x8ft trailer was soon loaded a good 2 foot over the top of the sides. The picture to the right does not do it justice.

One of the next steps in the spring occurred when Ron and Rebecca Short decided it was time to refinish the exposed wood of the dormer entrance structure of the Center. Ron did most of the high rise sanding while Rebecca gave the front doors a well deserved sand and refinish job.

Vern Blumhagen and Eric Olson decided it was time they did a little painting themselves. So they looked to the parking lot and its





WHAT STARTED IN 2003 CONTINUES TO BRING FUN TIMES TO THE COMMUNITY



Every August since 2003 we pause at the Center to say thanks by offering special night of bingo to our community friends and members that join us for our monthly bingo games. This August was no different, as you can see we played to a full house with three rolls of tables filled with players having a fun time. Even though there were no winners of the progressive (\$250.00) bonus bingo game this month, you can see Megan in the back giving us a high five. Working the snack bar this evening was: Dawn Neilsen, Joyce Brooks, Kathleen Shelley and Eleanor Rodakowski. Taking the money at the door was Andrea Cunningham. Larry Sweek helped and Walt Wilson did the calling. Everyone enjoyed the snack bar cakes, pies and treats that many players brought and thanks to everyone for joining us on this special night.

CONT. FROM PAGE 3: disappearing parking space stripes. A tape to measure with, some string to keep the lines straight, a gallon or so of white paint, garden sprayer and several hours later and once again the parking lot had marked parking spaces. I want to conclude this with a "thank you" to everyone for your continued support of the community Center.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

I got busy, I told myself. Maybe I did. Bottom line, I forgot to send in my dues for this year. It's a good thing I have Vern Blumhagen as community center treasurer. He is good at reminding me and several other members that it's that time of the year to continue our support and send in our yearly dues. Many of us have sent in our dues but if you are one of those that have forgotten, like me, take a minute and fill out the application and drop it in the mail.



Blast from the Past

*A reprint from the October 25, 2000
McKenzie River Reflections*

It has been known for the last 50 years as the "Vida Club House" but that is about to change. The building has served the community very well of the years and it will continue to do so. Now, however, the Club members have decided that it is time to turn the responsibility over to new management. New bylaws have been formulated and a new set of officers will take the helm. Of course, the facility will remain the same and the same regular tenants will continue to use the build. For most of the years that building has been there the Home Extension, the Card Club, the Vida-McKenzie Neighborhood Watch and the Masonic Lodge have all called it "Home."

The property was originally donated by Dayton and Vi Thomson for it to be used as Club House. The members donated much labor, sweat and money to make it into a viable entity. The good old double barrel stove was a hallmark of the place and it lasted almost 50 years before it was replaced by the Propane Gas Furnace. Chet Peden build it to last. The windstorm which damaged the roof a few years ago was fortuitous in that the insurance put on a good new roof. The swallows still likely to come down the chimney and get in the room unless the damper is closed in the big fireplace.

Now everyone is looking forward to a new era in which the community can go right on enjoying the use of the space for weddings birthday, memorial, anniversaries, reunions, dances, fundraisers and the like. Come on out an help us celebrate the grand opening of the Vida Community Center and we will look forward together to another 50 years of good times.

Vince Davis,
Vida, Oregon

LEAVING THE OLE HOMESTEAD

Friends, loved ones and neighbors gathered at the Vida Community Center on August 17th to wish Eleanor Rodakowski happiness as she moves from the family homestead on Goodpasture Road to the Albany area to be closer to her daughter. Joyce and Walt Wilson along with the Vida Community Center hosted this gala event. Walt presented Eleanor with a

Certificate of Appreciation for her dedication and the many ways she provided support for the Community Center: Every fundraiser she would be there, every Christmas Bazaar she would bring a half dozen pies and would work the shack bar from start to finish. She worked conscientiously with the garden club to see the Center had beautiful flower beds each year. She probably missed less than a hand full on bingo games over the past 10 years and she could be counted on to help out in the snack bar at a moments notice.

Marilyn Keller provided the table flower arrangements. Vicki and Dennis Ellison helped Walt and Joyce make the event go smoothly.

Miss Ellie is a fine lady and the McKenzie Valley and all her friends will truly miss her.





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Jail Levy Update

Capacity Based Releases (CBR) plummeted in the first five weeks after reopening 131 beds for inmates charged with local crimes. The Lane County Jail has been forced to release thousands of offenders which were sentenced or pending adjudication early due to a lack of resources available for jail operations. In May of 2013, Lane County voters approved a five years public safety levy narrowly focused on holding more adult and juvenile offenders in custody. The levy was written to provide strict accounting and accountability safeguards to ensure that the money is used for its intended purpose; keeping high risk adult offenders in custody.

During the first six months of 2013, the jail CBR'd over 2800 offenders back into the community, averaging 97 offenders per week. In the first five weeks since the reo-



pening, the weekly average has dropped to 45 offenders. Although it is early, the public safety levy is having an impact. Not only is LCSO releasing fewer inmates early, LCSO staff are noticing that the type of offenders being released are lower risk to the community. Prior to July of this year, it was common to CBR offenders accused of, or sentenced for, violent felony offenses. Since the bed reopening, the jail has not CBR'd a single offender that was in custody for violent felony charge.

Once LCSO is able to hire, train and certify additional deputies to operate other housing

areas, additional reopening is June 2014.

The reopened jail beds provide a structured environment where offenders are afforded the opportunity to pause from their socially destructive lifestyles and experience sobriety. The beds also remove high risk offenders from the community, hold offenders accountable for their actions and provide offenders the opportunity to become engaged in evidence based programs designed at reducing recidivism.



McKENZIE FIRE & RESCUE

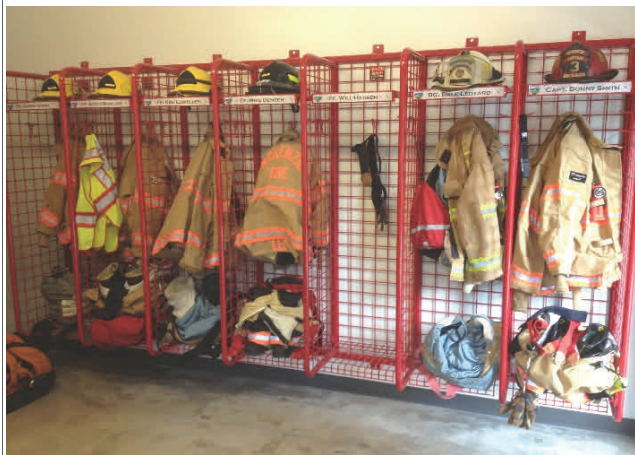
38925 McKenzie Hwy, Springfield, OR 97478

Office: 541-896- Emergency: 911

Matt Brooks, Firefighter/ EMT-I
mbrooks@mckenziefire.com



Good day. The new fire station is up and running. Staff and students are now responding from Leaburg instead of Walterville. Those of you in the Vida/Leaburg Areas should notice an improved response time for any emergencies. We have a new phone number too, it is: (541)896-3311. Currently, we're getting back to our regular duties but also working on the station grounds and landscaping. New sprinklers are going in, grass seed is being put down, some bushes and shrubs will be planted, and an electronic sign is being designed. The sign will provide the usual time and temperature as well as community safety alerts, road hazards, and recruiting information.



In addition to 6 apparatus bays, the new station has a modern kitchen, workout room, turnout room, decontamination room, full shop, and maintenance bay. Upgrades include a carbon monoxide monitoring exhaust system, an oil/water separator for runoff, and an energy efficient programmable lighting system with motion activated sensors. Much thought went into the design and features of the new station – it is an excellent balance of efficiency and usability, while still maintaining eco-friendliness.

If you are interested in a tour, feel free to come by between 8am and 5pm, Monday through Friday. Recent Calls. We've had several brush fires, motor vehicle accidents, and medical calls. The warmer temperatures increase potential fire, traffic, and health dangers – so please use care when outside or on patrol.

If you want to learn more about Hands-only CPR (and you should, because it's easy and effective), please visit The American Heart Association's website: <http://www.heart.org> or call or email me - I would be happy to teach you.

Visit our webpage at <http://www.mckenziefire.com>



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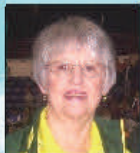
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The back has a very nice full design

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Vida McKenzie Community Center Newsletter

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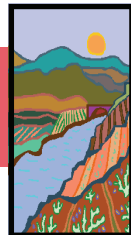
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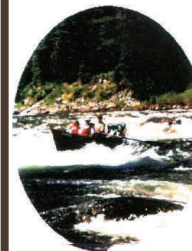
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