

# COMMUNITY MEETING

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Morrow County Sheriff's Office. There is a need for more presence, curfew enforcement and school zone. It was asked what the parents responsibility of a juvenile who was caught doing vandalism. Community members felt the parents should be held accountable and asked what needed to be done. The sheriff's office explained that they are going after the parents, but there are processes and rules that they need to abide by. Community members also expressed concern that there needs to be tougher consequences after the arrest and they should be consistent. The sheriff's office mentioned that it is up to the judge who hears the case and determines the punishment. The sheriff's office stressed how important it is to always call in and give a report so there is a record. If it is an emergency, call 911 and someone will be called out, even a local officer who is off duty, and will respond if necessary. If it isn't an emergency, call the non-emergency line and file a report. This is critical in controlling these issues. The sheriff's office representative stressed that the Morrow County Sheriff's Office cares and will adjust shifts as needed, not made public. They explained that arrests are made, but holds vary.

It was mentioned that there are funds available to hold people on probation accountable and work with them to want to change their lives and be better citizens and Morrow County is eligible to set up a program and request justice reinvestment funds available for Morrow and Umatilla Counties.

Community members brought up the need to enhance the community pride to what it used to be. It was suggested to start in the younger grades to mentor, develop a good work ethic, develop some activities for our youth and help parents parent. "We are a friendly community and want our youth to respect and understand their role in our community," they said. It was also stressed how important it is to shop local and support our local

businesses. There is a need to help our unemployed community members to become employed. It is believed that if they move to Heppner they aren't monitored and they don't have to look for a job to maintain public assistance. There is a concern with some level of education for some adults and the negative impact to economic development in our community.

Community members expressed concern for the increased need for mental health in our community. The population seems larger than before and can cause the community members to have an unsafe feeling. It was shared that mental health is an issue nation and statewide and is being addressed, but there is no simple solution to this problem.

Community members addressed the lack of low income housing and no shelters/warming stations. We need to help those who really want to get help and it would help to have property management in the local area to assist with locating housing.

A representative from the school mentioned that they are always looking for volunteers to help with many things at the school. People are invited to just stop in and see what is available and get involved. The schools have wrap around services with partners, which is a great solution to some of the youth problems, and volunteers can help increase a better understanding of citizenship and pride. It starts with the community getting involved and helping the students one on one and one by one, they noted.

Global Solutions: It was suggested to reach out to other communities that have had some of these issues and ask how they have or are working to resolve the problems and reinvent the wheel. It seems like every community has needs such as this and it might give us different perspectives on the solutions.

System abilities: Understand actual vs. expectation, the presence of some of the agencies that serve

our community have heard some of our concerns, questions and need to work together to change what needs to be changed.

As a wrap up to the meeting there were two sub-committee actions developed to get to solutions:

1. Neighborhood Watch committee - to include:
  - code violation/enforcement
  - suspicious activities
  - safety
2. Community Pride committee - to include:
  - economic development/employment
  - support parents
  - support schools (welcome volunteers)
  - resources and education

A theme was discovered through all of the discussion "that one person can't do anything, but together we can do everything if we lift where we stand. It was apparent that the community felt better informed and stronger when they left the meeting than before the meeting took place."

It was also agreed to have a follow up meeting in about six months so the sub-committees can give reports of their progress so far. The coordinating partners will be working to put the specific sub-committees together, assign a lead and the members/agencies who signed up to be involved will be contacted to set up meetings going forward.

If any community member has questions for the sheriff's office or code enforcement, they can call the non-emergency number at 541-676-5317 or call the City of Heppner for code enforcements at 541-676-9618. Anyone interested in serving on any of the sub-committee teams, please contact the Heppner Chamber at 541-676-5536 or send an email to heppnerchamber@centurytel.net.

## Free corn correction

The directions to the free corn field mentioned in last week's edition were incorrect. The directions stated that before you get to Ione, take Rhea Creek Road. It then said to turn on Morter Lane until you come to a "Drive Slow" sign and

# A View From The Hill

By Doris Brosnan

Whatever the weather, Willow Creek Terrace residents are guaranteed opportunities to participate in activities independent from what is happening outside. So, although they may have been hoping to view some rain this past month, they also viewed their out-of-the-heat activities with pleasure.

Staff and volunteers make sure that each week provides some entertainment, as well as some physical and mental challenges. And at any one activity, about half of the residents participate, some at one, some at another, depending on interests.

Since the Terrace opened, members of the Nazarene Church have offered bingo on Mondays. Shirley George has volunteered for several years to run the game, and she is famous for the many baked prizes she brings with her. Karen Clough offers her talents as Shirley's substitute and is known to bring some goodies she has prepared for the winners, too.

On Tuesdays, Phil Pacheco comes from his work at the Oregon Trail Library in Heppner as a volunteer to lead discussions of short stories that the participants have read in preparation for this literary-club gathering. When Phil has had a conflict for his time, Barbara Orwick has volunteered to lead the group.

Later on Tuesdays, Katy Anderson, Minister of the Episcopal and Lutheran congregation, comes to the hill to play at the piano. Her talent provides entertaining, soothing, and nostalgic music for the early evening hour.

Volunteers Sandra Johnson and Bill Ewing have a good time on Thursdays when they share crossword puzzles with the group of word and puzzle

aficionados. And on Fridays Mary Ann Elguezabal and Janet Greenup have offered a game activity. With schools starting up this week, the Terrace community can now look forward to the National Honor Society students contributing to a Friday happening, as well.

Saturdays feature afternoon matinees on the large TV in the sun room. And Sundays see volunteer David Johnson at the door with his offer of transportation in the Terrace van to residents' church services, early and later. His backup driver willing to share his time and talent is Dick Parrish.

For Terrace residents, neighboring locations are easily reached because of several transportation options. The Loop services will take residents to appointments near and far, to Sunday services and to the Wednesday senior meal site lunch downtown. The Terrace van is available for local appointments. And, of course, some residents use their own cars or travel with family members or friends.

Throughout the week the front door also welcomes several other visitors; family members, friends, spiritual leaders visiting members of their church communities, Leah Hyatt and Jan Stroeber, who come to the hair salon to serve their clients, the nurse who is contracted through Home Health and Hospice for some hours at the Terrace each week and comes when needed for special circumstances.

As of now, only Wednesdays have no special activity on the calendar. Should someone wish to offer a volunteer service on that day, he or she should call administrator George Nairns (541-676-0004) to discuss the suggestion.

Should a resident choose to host a private party at the Terrace, the apartment is the proper location, and one example of this is the small Bible study-prayer group that a few residents are sharing. But most of the happenings on the hill are community-wide, as are

the morning activities led by staff five days a week. This is when participants exercise their bodies and minds through physical exercises and discussions of mornings' topics. Each Friday morning adds the twist of brain games, which involve reflecting on the whole week's discussions and recalling various details. For one of these mornings recently, the staff invited residents to come up with trivia to stump the staff with. Donna Bergstrom took up the challenge and led everyone through some tough information. Leann Rhea, a nearby neighbor, has also volunteered to bring in her flavor of word game periodically. Starting in September, to last several months, staff members Kim Hendricks and Kati-Lyn Zinter will be leading the activity time with Tai Chi movements that target balance and core strengthening.

In addition to their work with activities and assistance with residents' daily personal needs, all of the Terrace staff have been certified by the State of Oregon in memory/dementia care. They must have yearly training offered by the Alzheimer's organization and the Oregon Care Partners and must pass tests with both to become certified by the state. In keeping with this, Nairns and some staff will be traveling to Hood River in September for another class with OCP.

Also in September, Bonnie Gates will be celebrating with family and neighbors her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. Happy birthday, Bonnie, on Sept. 9.

A new staff member, Maria Lopez, will be on the hill for this and many more celebrations, and new residents who move into the four available apartments (call 541-676-0004 for information) are guaranteed some of these entertaining and inviting activities, thanks to volunteers and staff, who are viewed by residents as a big reason life on the hill can be so satisfying.

## Chamber announcements, events

Saturday, Oct. 20, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Oktoberfest Auction and Dinner. This event is a benefit for The Woolery Project and will be held in the big tent on the Port of Arlington peninsula. A prime rib dinner prepared by Paradise Rose Chuckwagon Catering will be served. There will be dinner music by One Hum and Wheeler County Ramblers, a huge silent and live auction (with 2 Henry Tribute Edition rifles). Dance music will be provided by Countryfied. Tickets are \$35 each and may be purchased at MCGG-Wasco, Thrifty Food Center-Arlington, Condon Chamber, Murrays Drug-Condon and Dinty's Market-Biggs Junction. More information is available on the Woolery Project Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thewooleryprojectinc or via email to info@thewooleryprojectinc.org.

## G-T closed for holiday

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed for the Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 3. The deadline for all news and advertising for the Sept. 5 issue will be Friday, Aug. 31, at 5 p.m. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, Sept. 4.

The G-T wishes everyone a happy and safe Labor Day weekend.



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