

Crossroads: The Center

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Special points of interest:

- University of Illinois Nutrition classes are the third Wednesday of the month at 9:45 a.m.
- WACC will be closed in observance of MLK Jr.'s birthday, Monday, 1/16
- Senior Bingo Potlucks are the second Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m. until noon.

LINC Youth Basketball League Season Underway

The Lawrence Irvin Neighborhood Center Youth (LINC) Basketball league took to the court on Monday evening, January 9th.

Registration is required prior to participation and so far, approximately 100 students are signed up to play on a team based on their age and grade level in school.

Teams consist of both male and female players at the high school level, 7th through 8th grades, 5th through 6th grades and 2nd through 4th grades.

The high school players will compete on Monday nights, 7th through

8th grade on Tuesday, 2nd through 4th on Wednesday and 5th through 6th on Thursday respectively.



Games tip-off at 5:30 p.m. and player as well as spectator sign-in is required at the front door.

Forms must be signed by a parent or guardian prior to participation and are available from Pro-

gram Director Dodie Dunson or Assistant Program Director Mike Donnelly.

Transportation will also be available so please inform a staff member so participants can benefit from this service.

Games will conclude before 9 p.m. and will last approximately one hour each. Please bring shorts and gym shoes to wear if participating in the games and water will be provided.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings, 100 Black Men of Central Illinois will be on hand to provide mentoring to the players.

Seniors' Christmas Dinner Rings in the Holiday Season

The annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner brought the spirit of the holidays to Western Avenue Community Center on December 12th.

The Mt. Pisgah Youth Choir performed once again using angel hand puppets while highlighting traditional Christmas carols with their vocal style. Building Superintendent Freddie San-

chez also performed.

Their backdrop was a



beautiful pink Christmas tree.

Members of Hispanic Outreach Social Services Director Socorro Alvarez's On My Way Teen Group also helped with table service again.

The meal was provided by staff members at WACC along with cookies and punch.

The candles lit on each table gave the gymnasium a warm and welcoming feeling.

LINC Girls Dance Group Performs at IWU

With the support and guidance of Illinois Wesleyan University dance team members, a small group of elementary school age girls from Lawrence Irvin Neighborhood Center (LINC) were presented with the opportunity to perform a choreographed routine.

Members of the troupe were able to show off their moves during halftime at an IWU Men's basketball game in early Decem-

ber.

The dance team, whose members



worked with the girls throughout the fall semester, brought dance to them and their fam-

ily members at little or no cost.

Coordinated outfits and transportation were provided by the Center and were also furnished by the girls' families as well so we appreciate their participation.

A similar dance initiative is also in the works for the girls to participate in during the LINC Youth Basketball League, which began this month.

"Partnering within our diverse community to open doors of hope and love through our Faith in Jesus Christ."

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Just Our Youth

WACC would like to thank the donors who supported our annual Just Our Youth letter campaign this holiday season. The J.O.Y. (Just Our Youth) Program is a way to create a special gift that will last the whole year through by providing some of the most basic needs for children and families right here in our community.

All proceeds benefit the many programs supported at The Center, including youth activities that help at-risk children stay in school and our food pantry that helps keep food on the table for families most in need. Your gift will leave a lasting legacy that enables us to continue our mission—"Partnering within our diverse commu-

nity to open doors of hope and love through our Faith in Jesus Christ."

Gifts of \$1,000 or more may be placed on a permanent plaque at The Center to recognize your contribution. Of course, you can be rest assured that contributions in any amount will be put to good use here in our community.

October Mystery Dinner Fundraiser a success for the Center

The staff of Western Avenue Community Center would like to extend their thanks to all who came out to support the cause at the Clue-less Mystery Dinner Fundraiser.

The evening included silent and live

auctions as well as a 50/50 raffle along with the wonderful entertainment.

Through your generous donations, we were able to



raise over \$7,000 for our youth programs!

Thanks again and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Thanks to All Our Supporters for a Wonderful Year!

Western Avenue Community Center's staff, board members, and clients thank our supporters for making 2011 a success.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, but in our case, it takes a village to make Western Avenue a success;

Second Presbyterian Church

State Farm Insurance

United Way of McLean County

All our generous individual donors

All our faithful and giving volunteers

All our hard-working student interns

All our friends and family of staff and board members.

Heartland Community College

Illinois State University
Illinois Wesleyan University

Midwest Food Bank

Peoria Area Food

Bank

All our kind donors who brought in food and other items.

AmerenIllinois

Bloomington Township



Clay Dooley Tire & Auto

CJ's Restaurant and Catering

Commerce Bank
Country Financial
First Farm Credit Services

Funk Foundation

Golden K Club of Ki-

wanis

Heller Stores

Mennonite Relief Sale

Midstate Hoops

Morris Tick Inc.

Normal Rotary Club

Red Oak Restaurant

Sigma Gamma Rho

Sorority

Youth Service America

Centennial Christian Church

Center for Hope Ministries

First Presbyterian Church

Hallelujah Worship Church

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. Luke Union Church

St. Matthews Episcopal Church

Trinity Lutheran Church

Unitarian Church
University Christian

Church

Wesley United Methodist Church.

"They say it takes a village to raise a child, but in our case, it takes a village to make Western Avenue a success;"

Seniors' Fall Fest Welcomes Heartland Jazz Orchestra

The Heartland Jazz Orchestra brought their musical style to the Senior Citizens' Fall Fest on October 17th this year.

The annual dinner helped kick-off the season with festive tunes and a fun atmosphere.

Much of the autumn décor was provided by Building Superintendent Freddie Sanchez's wife

Kathy and was a delightful



treat for those in attendance.

We are grateful for the wonderful meal Ms. Rose and Ms. Muriel helped prepare for the event.

A big "thank you" also goes out to Hispanic Outreach Social Services Director Socorro Alvarez for coordinating her Monday night "On My Way" Teen Group with the event so that they could assist with table service.



**Check us out
on Facebook!**

Western Avenue Community Center Business Hours

Monday- Thursday
10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Friday
10 a.m.- noon

Western Avenue Com- munity Center Phone List

Main Line
309-829-4807

Academic Program Director
309-829-4807 ext. 311

Building Superintendent,
Administrative Assistant
309-829-4807 ext. 303

Executive Director
309-829-4807 ext. 300

Financial Director
309-829-4807 ext. 304

Food Pantry
829-4807 ext. 309

Hispanic Outreach
309-827-3794

Interpretation/ Translation
309-829-9231

Volunteers/ Interns
309-829-4807 ext. 311

WESTERN AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTER

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Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: 309-829-4807
E-mail:
info@westernavenuecc.
org

UPCOMING EVENTS AT WESTERN AVENUE

January

January 7th - LINC Youth Bas-
ketball League begins.

January 16th - WACC closed
in observance of MLK Jr. Day.

February

February 16th - Senior Citizens'
Valentine's Day Dinner/ Dance.

March

March 26th - Spring Break
begins, no After School Club.