

90TH • GALA • GAZETTE

CONGRATULATIONS
ON 90 YEARS!

WACC/LINC BRIEF HISTORY

Western Avenue Community Center (WACC) opened in 1926 when Reverend Frank Breen and a group of community leaders held a campaign to raise funds for the erection of an interdenominational church and community center. The church and center became a neighborhood meeting place for social, religious, educational, and recreational activities for all age groups.

The Western Avenue Community Church disbanded as a church in 1969, but continued as a social service organization and community center, working with people of all ages and reaching out into the neighborhood.

A fire in 1981 destroyed the church building, but leaders decided to rebuild on the site. This building and property serves as the center of community programs today with offices, a community room, gymnasium and playground.



The building is owned by Second Presbyterian Church, and programs are funded by Second Presbyterian Church, State Farm, United Way, other churches, businesses and individuals.

Today WACC/LINC serves more than 2400 individuals per year in the community and has many friends and supporters who "grew up" at the Center. Current program offerings include: After School Program, Basketball Leagues for

youth, Employment Resource Services, Food Pantry, Girls ONLY /PETALS, Hispanic Outreach, Interpretation Services, On My Way Summer Camp, Open Gym, Senior Program, Teen Club & Mentoring. Although the church is gone, faith still plays an important part in the social service programs in place at Western Avenue Community Center.



HONORABLE MENTION

TO MARCIA BASOLO AND NANCY BROKAW, OUR
'SWELL' EXPERTISE COACHES
YOU'RE THE BEE'S KNEES!

AND A BIG SHOUT TO THE MAGNIFICENT
SUPPORTERS OF WACC/LINC

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • STATE FARM
INSURANCE • UNITED WAY OF MCLEAN COUNTY

WELCOME TO THE

Western Avenue Community Center

90TH ANNIVERSARY
-- GALA --



DISPATCH FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome and a huge **THANK YOU** for joining us for Western Avenue Community Center's 90th Anniversary celebration. Many lives have been touched over the years, throughout our Community, by the passion of so many strong leaders, vibrant staff and willing volunteers, within the Diversity of services and programs. We can't wait to share a little history and a glimpse into the future, while having a "swell" time tonight.

Throughout the night, we hope you will gain a greater knowledge of the mission of WACC and will join us in our future efforts to tell everyone you know about one of the best-kept secrets in Bloomington/Normal - we have complete Faith in you!

On behalf of our staff, board and myself - enjoy yourselves and welcome to the family of Western Avenue Community Center!
- Amy Cottone

"KNOW YOUR ONIONS"

6:00 P.M. UPSTAIRS VIP

PRE-PARTY: JAMES

SANDEN, COMEDY

MAGICIAN; CASH BAR;

PASSED HORS D'OEUVRES;

CARICATURES; PHOTO

OPPORTUNITY

6:45 P.M. DOORS OPEN:

CASH BAR; GAME SALES

SEE CIGARETTE GIRLS;

7:00 P.M. OFFICIAL

WELCOME AND

INTRODUCTIONS;

INVOCATION BY SECOND

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SENIOR PASTOR DAVID

BARTON; OPENING SONG;

PASSED HORS D'OEUVRES;

FLOOR EVENTS OPEN

7:15 P.M. MUSIC BY THE FAT

BABIES

8:00 P.M. WESTERN

AVENUE COMMUNITY

CENTER/LINC VIDEO;

AWARDS

8:15 P.M. MUSIC BY THE FAT

BABIES; DESSERT

9:00 P.M. PADDLE RAISE;

HEADS OR TAILS;

PUNCHER'S CHANCE

9:30 P.M. MUSIC BY THE FAT

BABIES

10:15 P.M. MAGICIAN

ENCORE; DJ

FLOOR EVENTS

CARICATURES

PHOTOS

STROLLING MAGICIAN

WINE PULL

* SEE YOUR FRIENDLY

'CIGARETTE' GIRLS TO

PARTICIPATE IN HEADS OR

TAILS LIVE AUCTION EVENT *

VID DRE-DARTY MENU

SHRIMP COCKTAIL

CHICKEN KABOBS WITH

GRILLED VEGETABLES

PRIME RIB AND FRIED

ONION ROLL-UPS

ANTIPASTO SKEWERS

MINI LUMP CRAB CAKES

WITH LEMON AIOLI

MAIN EVENT MENU

BACON WRAPPED DATES

BBQ MEATBALLS

BLT STUFFED CHERRY

TOMATOES

BRUSCHETTA ON CROSTINI

STEAK CROSTINI WITH BLEU

CHEESE

TOASTED CHEESE RAVIOLI

SPINACH AND ARTICHOKE

STUFFED MUSHROOMS

CHICKEN AND PESTO ON

CROSTINI

CHOCOLATE COVERED

STRAWBERRIES



NEWS FLASH: WESTERN AVENUE KEEPS SUNNYSIDE UPI

LONG-STANDING SUNNYSIDE CENTER JOINS THE WESTERN AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTER FAMILY IN 1986. THE COMMUNITY BUILDING BUILT IN THE MID-60'S BY THE BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY, WAS RENAMED "THE LAWRENCE IRVIN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER" (LINC), IN HONOR OF THE LONG-TIME BHA DIRECTOR.

LINC HOUSES A LARGE GYM THAT SUPPORTS SOME OF THE BEST YOUTH BASKETBALL COACHING AND COMPETITION IN TOWN. LINC ALSO INCLUDES TWO SMALL CLASSROOMS FOR TUTORING AND MENTORING. PROGRAM DIRECTOR DODIE DUNSON HAS DEEMED LINC AS THE FAMILY ROOM OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. WHILE BASKETBALL IS THE "HOOK" THAT ENTICES YOUTH TO ENTER THE DOORS, LINC YOUTH PROGRAMS OFFER THAT AND SO MUCH MORE.

WANTED RECOGNITION

For These Amazing People...

- STAFF -

AMY COTTONE - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GWINN CAMPBELL - FINANCE DIRECTOR
WHITNEY FRYER - DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

LIZ ACEVEDO-ALSTRUM, SOCORRO
ALVAREZ, LISA BARTON,
ROSE BEVERLY, DODIE DUNSON,
JACKIE DUNSON, NORMA ESPINO, JUAN
GALVIN, EDDIE HARRIS, JUNIOR HOSEA,
ANDRE HURSEY, SAUL PULIDO,
JESSICA RODRIQUEZ, MARLON WEBB

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS -

BRIAN TROWER - BOARD PRESIDENT
JEFF GENDRON - VICE PRESIDENT &
TREASURER

DENNY STEELE - SECRETARY
RUSTY DEPEW; TONI FARRINGTON; JOE
HANSON; SCOTT HENDERSON; MICHAEL
JONES; JAY MCGEE; MIKE MCKNIGHT;
ERIC REHTMEYER; JOHN SCHOENING;
SARAH TUNALL; JEFF WOODARD

CONTINUED

- LINC ADVISORY COUNCIL -

MICHAEL JONES - CHAIR; TONI
FARRINGTON; JEFF GENDRON; JOE
HANSON;

- GALA COMMITTEE -

MARCIA BASOLO, NANCY BROKAW,
TONI FARRINGTON, JEFF GENDRON,
KRISTI RAWCLIFFE, ERIC REHTMEYER,
SARAH TUNALL, JON YOUNG

- VOLUNTEERS -

TONIGHT'S EMCEES:

ROBERT MANGIALARDI - PRAIRIE
FIRE THEATRE & ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

MICHELLE VOUGHT - ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

"CIGARETTE" GIRLS:

KIRSTEN BROWN
LAURA DOBSKI
CAROLINE MCKINZIE
LIANNA PFISTER

BEHIND THE SCENES:

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
GREEK COMMUNITY, JENNIFER
SCHAUER

- "BIG CHEESE" GALA

SPONSORS -

GOLD:

JOHN SCHOENING
STATE FARM

BRONZE:

CLAY DOOLEY TIRE & AUTO
TONI FARRINGTON

☉ "CAT'S PAJAMA'S" GALA BENEFACTORS: ☉

BAXTER'S
 BEN MILLER – PREMIER PRODUCTIONS
 THE CASTLE THEATRE
 CLEMENS INSURANCE
 COUNTRY COMPANIES
 THE FAT BABIES
 JEFF GENDRON
 JOE HANSON
 MIKE JONES
 CHUCK LEGG – ANTIQUE CAR OWNER
 LARRY OGLESBY – OGLESBY'S PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS
 PALACE EVENTS & MIKE POHLMANN
 KRISTI RAWCLIFFE
 ERIC REHTMEYER
 JAMES SANDEN – CORPORATE COMEDY MAGICIAN
 JOHN SCHOENING – FOOD SPONSOR
 STATE FARM BANK
 STATE FARM CREATIVE SERVICES
 DENNY STEELE
 SARAH TUNALL
 DAN WILD – DAN WILD CREATIVE
 JON YOUNG – DJ

... MANY THANKS TO ...

ALL OUR GENEROUS INDIVIDUAL, CHURCH AND BUSINESS DONORS, OUR FAITHFUL AND GIVING VOLUNTEERS, OUR HARD-WORKING STUDENT INTERNS, OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS. HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY, ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, MIDWEST FOOD BANK, EASTERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK, ALL STATE INSURANCE, AMEREN ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP, BOITNOTT'S LAWN & LANDSCAPING, BOPI, CENTRAL IL CHAPTER OF LINKS, CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, CLAY DOOLEY TIRE & AUTO, COLDWELL BANKER, COMMERCE BANK, COUNTRY FINANCIAL, FUNK FOUNDATION, GOLDEN K CLUB OF KIWANIS, HERMES SALES & SERVICE, ILLINOIS PRAIRIE COMMUNITY, FOUNDATION, LAGONDOLA, MAVIDEA, MAY PERKINS TRUST, MILLER JANITOR SUPPLY, MUGSY'S, PNC BANK, PRENZLER OUTDOOR ADVERTISING, ROSATI'S OF NORMAL, JOHN SCHOENING, SHIRK FAMILY FOUNDATION, SNYDER FAMILY FOUNDATION, SPECS AROUND TOWN, THE COPY SHOP, THE MUSIC SHOPPE, WEST BLOOMINGTON REVITALIZATION PROJECT, WINKS SHELL

THANK
YOU!



THANK
YOU!