

Silver Center Scene
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Silver Center Gives Thanks

By Jan Almon

In November we generally pause to give thanks. Considering the many blessings the Silver Center received in the fiscal year just concluded, we need to be especially grateful. We celebrated ending the year in the black.

The monthly newsletter carries a full-page list of donors and volunteers. The Silver Center receives no government funding. It is supported entirely by gifts, donations and fund raising, plus volunteer hours. There would not be a Silver Center were it not for the generosity of the community and our members.

Last year a GVEC Power Up grant and adoption by Leadership Seguin made a huge difference. We were able to replace roofs, make air conditioning repairs and some other important fix-ups. We have an old building, and needs are never ending. But, it was a year of significant progress.

We must stop and say thank you. We can't say it enough. But we cannot spend much time looking back because of the many challenges ahead. The past year was also one of great change.

For several years the Silver Center operated with virtually the same leadership. Largely due to health issues within the last year, four of six staff members are new, three in the last 90 days, including Executive Director Kim Manley. Half the 12 Board members are new, including President Glenda Haese and Treasurer Doreen Dunning.

Many things have operated on auto-pilot and no one really remembers why we do it this way or that. A new way actually does make more sense. It means a great deal of change, and with change comes a certain amount of chaos.

There is probably a quote to explain how chaos can create a stronger organization. Rather than search for some pithy bulletin board phrase, let's focus on what we will be thankful for accomplishing when this time rolls around next year.

First, we will be thankful for our patience. We need to be patient and supportive with our new staff, Board and volunteers and the changes being made. We need to make positive suggestions for the problems we see and squelch the rumors we hear. We will be most gratified when we have worked together to build a stronger Center.

We will be pleased if we are successful at finding new members and new volunteers. New blood is what keeps an organization fresh, vital and making an impact on its community.

We will be relieved if we find the dollars to replace the two windfalls we received this year from GVEC and Leadership Seguin.

We will be delighted if we figure out a way to pay off our mortgage. At \$209,365.81 this costs us \$3,608.43 a month. That money would go a long way toward replacing aging equipment or adding exciting new programs.

Based on a 2012 traffic study, approximately 20,000 vehicles pass the Silver Center daily. If we collected 10 cents from every vehicle, we could pay off the mortgage in just 105 days.

That solution may be impractical, but let it remind us of the most important thing of all. You have to laugh. Having fun is the most vital service the Silver Center has to offer and we hope you take advantage of it soon. We welcome your dollars, we appreciate your volunteer hours, but mostly we want to see your smiles. That makes us really thankful.

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