



WESTERN AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTER

Quarterly Newsletter

June 2025

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This summer is shaping up to be one of the most exciting seasons yet at Western Avenue Community Center! We have a wide range of programs and events designed to bring people together, support personal growth, and build community spirit. Our Willie Brown Summer Leadership Camp is in full swing, offering young leaders the chance to develop valuable skills, build confidence, and form lasting friendships. In addition to our regular programming, we're bringing the fun outdoors with special events like Western Avenue Wednesdays and our highly anticipated Block Party, which brings together community members of all ages for a celebration of community and connection. These events are a reflection of our mission to create a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone. We are incredibly grateful to our supporters who make this work possible. Thank you for standing with us and investing in the future of our community. Let's make this summer unforgettable, together!



NEW: BASKETBALL OPEN GYMS

Over the summer, we have youth basketball open gym on Mondays and Tuesdays from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, offering a great opportunity for young players to practice their skills and enjoy friendly games. For adults, open gym sessions take place on Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Whether you're looking to stay active, work on your game, or just have fun, we welcome players of all skill levels to join us!



\$100,000 MATCH

We had an incredible event on June 11th that brought together , supporters and community members for an evening of inspiration and impact. We were honored to welcome Ryan Pedon as our guest speaker, who delivered a powerful message that resonated deeply with everyone in attendance. One of the most exciting moments of the evening was when The Tinervin Family Foundation announced they will be matching up to **\$100,000**—to support the vital work of the Western Avenue Community Center. This incredible opportunity means that every contribution made will go twice as far. Now is the perfect time to get involved and make a lasting impact. Please visit our website to make a donation!

KEG GROVE BREWING CO. GOLF CLASSIC

Western Avenue is deeply honored to be the designated recipient of the funds raised at the Keg Grove Golf Classic on **July 11**. We're thrilled to partner with Keg Grove Brewing Company—an organization rooted in Bloomington-Normal and dedicated to community giving. The contributions generated from this event will directly impact Western Avenue's ongoing efforts to serve the westside of Bloomington, creating positive impact right here at home. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and Keg Grove Brewing Company for their incredible support. We can't wait to celebrate together on the course—let's make July 11 a day to remember!



WESTERN AVENUE WEDNESDAYS

We are thrilled about Western Avenue Wednesdays, which will take place on every third Wednesday through September at Hacienda Leon in Uptown Normal. This "After Hours" event aims to raise awareness about Western Avenue Community Center while providing a wonderful opportunity for community members to mingle and meet our dedicated staff and board members. Join us from 6-7:30PM on **July 16th** ,**August 20th** ,and **September 17th**!

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

WILLIE BROWN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Willie Brown Summer Leadership Program is off to a fantastic start, with each week offering meaningful lessons, hands-on experiences, and fun adventures for our young leaders. Week one focused on **responsibility**, highlighted by a visit from Integrity Technology Solutions where students learned about the role of technology in professional settings. The week wrapped up with a well-earned outing to Pizza Ranch and Anderson Pool. In week two, the focus shifted to **accountability** as participants learned how to craft cover letters and resumes, building important skills for their future. Week three was all about **integrity**, and students had the unique opportunity to spend three days exploring the Illinois State University campus, capped off with a fun trip to the bowling alley. Week four centered on **leadership**, and included exciting team-building challenges at the ISU ropes course and an afternoon swim at O'Neil Pool. On June 30th the group will be packing food boxes for local families at the Tinervin Family Foundation, demonstrating their commitment to service. Then, on July 2nd, they'll celebrate their hard work with a thrilling trip to Six Flags for a day full of rides and fun. This program continues to be an inspiring journey of growth, learning, and leadership!

PICTURES FROM OUR WBLP 2025



UPCOMING SUMMER BLOCK PARTY



BLOCK PARTY 2025

Join us on **Friday, July 26th from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM** for a community-wide Block Party as we celebrate a remarkable milestone—99 years of Western Avenue Community Center serving the west side of Bloomington! This special event is our way of saying thank you to the community that has supported us for nearly a century. It's a time to honor our rich history, reflect on all we've accomplished together, and look forward to the future with excitement and hope. Over the years, Western Avenue has remained committed to empowering individuals and strengthening families through a wide range of programs, services, and events. From youth development and senior support to community outreach, our mission has always been to serve, uplift, and bring people together. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors and help us make this a day to remember. As we celebrate 99 years of impact, we're also looking ahead with gratitude and determination. We're excited to continue our work in the community and can't wait to enter our 100th year with even more energy and purpose. Come celebrate with us and be part of the legacy!

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- **Program Updates**
- **Bands**
- **Face Painting**
- **Food**
- **ISU basketball court and players**
- **Community organizations with information**
- **And More!**

