



THE BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER



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Broadwater County Development Corp.
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BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

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Hello Everyone. I hope everyone had a great start to 2022.

Welcome back to the Broadwater Community Connections Newsletter. I started this project with BCDC to coordinate all the non-profits in Broadwater County to assist in their fund raising and project coordination endeavors. I'm hoping this newsletter will be a catalyst for any non-profit, board, or community minded citizen to ask for or offer assistance, expertise or funds to benefit other organizations and share their ideas or needs. We all have the same drive and hope that we can make a difference for Broadwater County and, over the years, the little things we have done have made a huge impact for thousands of citizens. But there is so much more we can do. We are making an impact as you can see the number of articles have increased dramatically. Please share your comments about how this newsletter can grow to meet these efforts. BCDC's email is bcdc@mt.net. My personal email is hahnsupply@mt.net.

I would really like to get this newsletter out to more people. Please share this with as many people as you can. If anyone isn't getting this but would like to be included, please send a request to either of my emails. A much larger list has been added so if you have never seen this newsletter before, it's because you were just added in. I hope you enjoy it and find it's informative.

The next quarterly publication will be in July with special editions published if necessary. I'm open to new ideas or if you would like to help with its production and publication, feel free to contact me.

John Hahn—BCDC co-chairman and treasurer

P.S. If I made any errors, in any of the articles, names and emails or formatting, I apologize in advance. Community organizations submitted and edited their individual submissions. I reserve the right to edit grammatical errors but will strive to preserve pertinent content.

CROW CREEK FALLS



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BHS Speech and Drama Showcase Outstanding!

On March 3, 2022, the Rotary Club of Townsend hosted the Second Broadwater High School (BHS) Speech and Drama Showcase at The Lodge of Townsend. Unlike football and basketball teams, the BHS speech and drama teams never get to perform in public. The Showcase was an opportunity for each student to perform in front of their fellow speech and drama teammates, parents, and others. About 80 people attended the event.

The event was sponsored by Rotary, Bulldog Booster Club, Broadwater Lions Club, and Fun for Life Program. Rotary organized the event and concessions were served by the Rotary-sponsored Interact Club members. Rotary will continue this event each year after seeing how much the students enjoyed performing in public. Interact made \$125 selling concessions. And after all bills were paid, Rotary presented the Drama Club with a check for over \$200.



Please volunteer to help judge BHS speech and drama tournaments. You will be surprised at the talent of these students.

The Fun for Life Program, Broadwater Community Theater, and Rotary have been fundraising for a community public address system. The system has been ordered. Next year, the Speech and Drama Showcase will be able to use that new system.

Submitted by Patrick Plantenberg



The Townsend Tree Board

Trees Need Water / Tree Board Needs Fence posts

The Tree Board reminds everyone that trees need water now! Teri Blahnik, the water nymph with the blue thumb, has been hired again to water over 750 of our new trees in town planted since 2005. Teri started watering two weeks ago! Please follow her example-in Montana you do not need a green thumb-you need a blue thumb! The soil is extremely dry here in the valley and there is no moisture in the forecast. Spring drought is worse than summer drought for trees.

Please water trees to the drip line with at least a minimum of 1 inch of water. This can be checked by setting out a used tuna or pet food can. When the can is full the tree will have received at least some survival moisture. And if possible, soak the entire soil profile. The trees thank you!

The Tree Board is preparing for spring planting season. They will use all their donated 5-6' steel fence posts by May 1. If anyone has any old used 5-6' steel fence posts they would like to donate, please call Patrick Plantenberg 431-4615. The Tree Board will need at least a couple of hundred posts this season.



Broadwater Conservation District (BCD) has been busy the first quarter of the year with many projects in the works. The first is training new administrator, LaRinda Spencer, and boy did she need some training. I love being the administrator for this important organization and learning about how to help the Broadwater County citizens in new and not so new adventures.

BCD has been working with Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) on getting some restitution back to the landowners that had property ravaged by the Woods Creek and Deep Creek Fires of 2021. So far only two families have been compensated as it is taking time for crews to finish working on the burned areas. To apply for the grants, the jobs need to be paid for with proof of payment and application with proof needs to be turned into LaRinda Spencer.

BCD is also applying for more grants to assist in drought concerns, grasshopper plight, funding for more fire related happenings, and funding for the BCD. Funding is an issue with all less populated counties in Montana for the Conservation Districts as there is less money to pay for staff to run offices and work the grants. BCD has the County Levies and a Grant from DNRC for these budget items, however, they are not enough to cover community issues, employment, and outreach to all that need assistance.

BCD is housed with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in the USDA Building at 415 S Front St., Townsend MT. You can reach us by calling 406.521.3016 or email at BroadwaterCD@gmail.com. For more information about us please visit <https://broadwatercd.org/>. Please be patient I am still trying to figure out how to update the website. We also have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BroadwaterCD>. Submitted by LaRinda Spencer



Townsend Youth Baseball is Ready to Play Ball!

Townsend Youth Baseball is gearing up to start their 2022 season. Registration numbers are steadily increasing and a total of 134 kids are playing this year! We are excited to be fielding a Babe Ruth (ages 13-15) team again. We had one last year, but before that it had been about 6 years since the last time we had enough interested kids in that age group.

Games will be starting Mid-April for the older teams, and the beginning of May for the younger ages.

If you see action happening over at the baseball fields, please grab a camp chair and come and support our kids! Concessions will be open for all home games and will be ran by the Rocky Mountain Rough Hands 4-H club. So get out and enjoy the lovely spring weather, grab a burger from the concessions and cheer on our hometown ball players!

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Trailhead Christian Fellowship Church Expansion Progress

Trailhead Christian Fellowship Church is planning a major building expansion at its church off Hwy 287 north of Townsend, reflecting the growth of both its own congregation and that of Broadwater County.

The “Building to Serve” fundraising campaign will allow the church to begin construction this spring or early summer. The plan calls for a 7,200 square foot addition to include eight classrooms, a gym, large kitchen, and reception facilities at an estimated cost of up to \$2million when it is completed.

Church trustees and membership began plans last year for the expansion. Currently the church is serving upwards of 80 families a week and 70 junior and senior high schoolers at Wednesday night youth group. With church member sponsorship, the Broadwater County community uses the building for funerals, weddings, 4-H Club meetings, and as a Red Cross emergency shelter.

The church began with five couples in a private home in January 2001. By June 2003, 30 people were meeting at the Rod and Gun Club on Canton Lane. The congregation had grown to 75 members by 2004. Construction of the new building began that year. Two Greyhound busloads of Mennonites of Weaverland Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania helped Trailhead volunteers construct the current building. The Mennonite group had built new fencing after the 2000 Toston-Maudlow fire here in Broadwater County. By August of 2007 the congregation celebrated the new building near the lake at 20 Trailhead View Dr. with its first service and dedication.

The expansion committee began fundraising last fall with a Fall Fest booth plus two large events at Christmas which included a wreath booth at the Christmas Stroll and a community concert. Organizers are hoping to bring back those community events annually. Many folks in the community as well as church members have contributed a total of \$612,000.

“If we can gather a total of \$650,000 we can set up a mortgage to begin construction this spring and summer,” according to expansion chairman Chase Ragen, “We are very excited to be only \$38,000 away from breaking ground.”

He pointed out that \$1million total would help the church pour the slab, put up the walls and install the roof. The interior can be finished in sections with the help of volunteers from the community and the church.

For more information on how to reserve the current building, to contribute or to volunteer, please go to trailheadchristianchurch.com.

Submitted by Nancy Marks, expansion committee member



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Expansion Update

Townsend, MT - Billings Clinic Broadwater is excited to announce the opening of its new clinic and rehabilitation space and is nearing completion of its expanded Emergency Room. Last summer, the hospital also remodeled four inpatient rooms to help improve the healing environment and patient experience.

The new clinic space provides nine exam rooms to allow for additional providers and outreach services. The rehabilitation department is now located above the clinic and now has over 2,000 sq ft of space to service the physical, occupational and speech therapy needs of patients in Broadwater County. The clinic and rehabilitation areas are both accessible from the new front entrance at the corner of Oak and 2nd Streets.

The expanded Emergency Room which is slated to open in the next month includes 3 new private ER bays, as well as a new ER entrance, reception and waiting area. This expansion will bring Broadwater's total ER capacity to 5 beds, providing greater capacity for patients to be seen here in Townsend instead of traveling elsewhere for 24/7 emergency care.

Billings Clinic Broadwater continues to serve the community providing primary care, diagnostic imaging services including 64 slice CT, laboratory, acute skilled nursing, and transitional care. Billings Clinic Broadwater also provides specialty care with cardiology, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Podiatry through onsite outreach, and psychiatry services via telehealth.

The Broadwater team will be hosting a barbeque and open house on May 4th from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM and invites you to come and take a tour of the new expansion as the finishing touches are being completed.



"Time and health are two precious assets that we don't recognize and appreciate until they have been depleted."

"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm possible!'"
— **Audrey Hepburn**

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you."
— **Walt Whitman**

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."
— **Winston Churchill**

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."
— **Yousafzai**

"There is nothing impossible to them who will try."
— **Alexander the Great**

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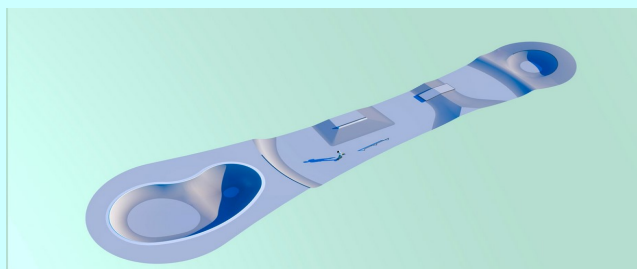


Valentine's Day Dinner Fund Raiser

What a great night we had with our Valentine's Day Dinner on February 14th. Around seventy people came for a night out for dinner with friends and their spouses feasting on tasty hors d'oeuvres served on special and unique native Juniper Charcutiery boards, donated by our local Ron Sal-laday. One of the big events was Cupid's (Pat Plantenberg) bow and arrow chance at six different great prizes. Many a sharp shooter made their shot at the target only to be foiled by Cupid's limerick of denial. Six shooters finally claimed their prizes though through determination, luck of the draw, and their pocket books. Another big event was the auctioning off of two of our local matriarchs, Eileen Perry and Dolly McMaster. The four successful bidders split their offerings to purchase a night out on the town with these delightful ladies, bringing in \$1700 for the two. All totaled, STOKE collected over \$14000 from our very supportive public. This money will go a long way to providing projects for our kids. Special thanks to our local Jazz Band for entertaining us that night, to the girls in the Sewing Sisters Club for their great job in serving our patrons and to all the hard work of the STOKE board in preparing the meal, prep work before, and cleanup after. What a great team we have!

Skatepark Update

The dates have been set and the design is done! The skatepark is set to begin construction May 22 and should be completed by June 18th. The design looks GREAT and everyone who has seen it agrees. Looks like FUN! The MoU has been signed between the City of Townsend and Ever-green Skateparks, the signage that we need has been approved, but the maintenance MoU between the city and STOKE still needs to be written and executed. STOKE will be initiating a "Name Your Skatepark" contest soon with the winner being announced sometime during the construction time. The winner will also win a super nice skateboard donated by the Montana Skatepark Assoc. in Missoula. There are two skateboards which are being displayed at the school, the winner will take their pick of the two. We will be planning a big celebration after the skatepark is completed in Holloway Park. Jeff Ament (Pearl Jam), one of the main contributors to the funds for the construction will be there to celebrate with us. Jeff usually brings skateboards and equipment to hand out, free of charge, to the kids who need them. Jeff has been very generous to all the kids in Montana. Other monetary contributors are the MT Skatepark Assoc. the Broadwater Co. Trust Bd., and Carla Amundson's original skateboarding group.



Game Night

Game Night continues to be popular. We have recently ordered another Ping Pong table on wheels as this seems to be the most popular among the kids (and adults who come). Many other games are available including

foosball, corn hole boards, chess, pool and others. We are also planning on starting movie night again with a night planned in April.

Snapology of Helena

Snapology, a STEAM oriented educational program, has been a very successful project for us and the kids. Grades 3-5 seem to have been the most enthusiast about the classes and we will be finishing up our third round of sessions for this school year this spring. If students were to sign for the class on their own, it would cost \$96/student to participate but STOKE has sponsored all three classes, the first two classes with funds from the school and the last class through our own funds. Snacks are provided also for these kids.

The Sewing Sisters Club

The girls and Laura Frasier, instructor and mentor, are going strong. I believe the girls have been learning hand embroidery while still progressing on their other projects such as shopping bags and clothes for themselves. The girls have also been helping when they can with our fundraisers. A great bunch of kids.

Fly Fishing 101

We just finished up our Fly Fishing 101 clinic. Six students from the sixth grade participated in the three sessions. STOKE set up and sponsored all the sessions. The sessions were held in town, not at the river, but the kids are ready now to try their luck at the real thing, already wondering how they are going to cook their fish. We think a cooking class is now in order. A great start to our Outdoor Program!

Pottery and Ceramics

Teddy Lewis has started the Pottery and Ceramics class utilizing the Art room in the high school. Right now he has two very talented sculptors producing some amazing pieces of art. Teddy said they might even be better than him on some pieces. The Art room will be shut down for the summer as some water damage work is being done so he is looking for an alternate spot. He is exploring some options. One is a possible spot at the new Reading Leaves location (old Bert's Hardware). Rachael has expressed interest in giving some space to the potters, especially to sell or display their art work. Thank you Rachael! Also, there is a good possibility of an adult class starting as there has been a lot of interest from many people. Teddy has high hopes of starting a Potters Guild here in Townsend and he has the support of the Clay Arts Guild of Helena and the Archie Bray.

OPI-ESSER After School Grant

STOKE has been successful in receiving a grant from the State of Montana's OPI (Office of Public Instruction) for some of its ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds. We were awarded \$53,190 for after school projects and equipment but we have yet to receive the funds. Also, we were informed at the last minute that we can only use the funds during the school year and not for any summer programs which we had hoped we could fund. The year these funds can be expended in is January 2022 – December 2022 so some can be spent retroactively. We have budgeted for some pottery equipment so we will be able to purchase that and have budgeted money for other after school projects such as Snapology, the sewing club and others. We had also budgeted money for an extensive Outdoor program which was to be conducted in most of the summer months. We will have to re-think that program, schedule and funds.

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STOKE's Empty Bowl Fundraiser – April 22, Earth Day

We are preparing for our next fundraiser, the Empty Bowl event, where all the proceeds go to the Food Pantry. This event will be held in the 4-H building at the Fairgrounds, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Friday, April 22nd. The Clay Arts Guild of Helena artisans have been throwing bowls for this project for a while and have promised at least 300 bowls. Quite a few are already done for the event. Teddy Lewis, our board member who initiated this fundraiser, says there are some really nice bowls, some of various sizes. Others are also making bowls for this event. We could end up with close to 400 when it's all said and done. How this event works; the initial ticket is \$15 which allows you to choose a pottery bowl and then you will get free chili and/or potato soup and bun for your bowl. Since this is on Earth Day, all of our food bowls, cups and utensils will be compostable and/or biodegradable. We will have disposable bowls for your food so you don't have to get your nice pottery bowl dirty. Bob Tootell is making the chili and potato soup. I've heard he is a darn good cook, award winning some have said. The buns are being donated by Wheat Montana.

There will be activities there also. The local high school Jazz Band will be playing off and on. We will have a couple of ping pong tables set up and some other games. There will be two potter's wheels and an exhibition by professional potters, a hand building table and some hands-on practical experience for a limited number of people throughout the event. Some artists from Helena will also be present. We are hoping to have more activities by the time the event comes around. This will definitely be a FUN evening for the whole family! (See our flyer, next page)

Non-Profits of Broadwater County

There are quite a few nonprofit (NP) businesses in Broadwater County currently. They all are trying to conduct business with as much money as they can access through grants and fund raising. I come from a community where the nonprofit businesses all joined together and raised funds for each other in one account not unlike a united fund.

Once or twice a year, nonprofits could ask for money out of this governing nonprofit. Those NPs would agree to help each other strive and support each in their endeavors. I would like to know if this same type of service is possible here in Broadwater County. Could we set up a nonprofit board that could govern the money and disperse in an agreed upon way?

To raise money the governing board and committees could set up two or three major fund raisers like tree/wreath auction, pie auction, BBQ, music venue, art in the park, street dance, and any number of events/nonevents could be had. The upside is that there would be less stress on NPs to raise money all the time and the local population would not be sought for donations so much.

Just Asking for a Friend, LaRinda Spencer



Broadwater County Firemen Breakfast May 7

I would like to let the public know that the City of Townsend Fire Department will be hosting a pancake and sausage breakfast May 7th (Mother's Day weekend) starting at 8:00 a.m. at the fire station. The fire departments will be teaming up with our search and rescue team for some fun and information through the summer at Slice of Summer functions. Stay tuned, come and enjoy yourself, and meet your fire fighters. Ed Shindoll



Lions Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 16

The Broadwater County Lions annual Easter Egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 16. The event will be held at the courthouse lawn. The hunt will start when the fire truck siren sounds promptly at 10:00 am. The event is open to youths from 0 to 12 years of age.

Prizes will be awarded to those who find the specially marked eggs. There will be a number of prizes for the 0-3 and 4-6 age groups. Those in the 7-9 and 10-12 age groups who find a special egg will receive a chocolate bunny. Prizes are limited to one per child.

The Easter Bunny and the Easter Lion have agreed to make a special appearance at the event which, depending on the weather, has an attendance of about 200 youths.

April is Volunteer Month

April is National Volunteer Month. This is the month dedicated to encouraging and promoting volunteer opportunities in our community. United Way of the Lewis and Clark Area hosts Volunteer Helena a one stop shop website for all of your volunteer needs. If you are an agency looking for volunteers, you can post your needs on Volunteer Helena. If you are a person, group or business looking for volunteer opportunities you can find them on Volunteer Helena.

According to Psychology Today the top five reasons you should volunteer are:

- ◆ Volunteers live longer and are healthier.
- ◆ Volunteers establish long relationships.
- ◆ Volunteering is good for your career.
- ◆ Volunteering is good for society.
- ◆ Volunteering gives you a sense of purpose.

United Way believes that meaningful community solutions require more than money, programs, or policies. The kind of real and lasting change that benefits everyone is only possible when people from all walks of life are willing to roll up their sleeves and help where they are most needed.

United Way has teamed up with JustServe.org and we will be sharing many of our volunteer opportunities on both sites to ensure we are making a difference in our communities. Volunteer Helena averages about 40 open volunteer opportunities and has nearly 1400 users on the site.

Visit www.volunteerhelena.org to find volunteer opportunities. If you would like to be added as an agency to recruit volunteers call Emily at 406-442-4360.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

"Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do." – Steve Jobs



Science • Technology • Outdoors
Knowledge • Entrepreneurship

Empty Bowl Fundraiser

All Proceeds will support the Broadwater Food Bank

Come join STOKE and enjoy a bowl of Bob Tootell's award winning Chili and roll. Soup also available.

EARTH DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022— 4:00 PM—8:00 PM

Broadwater County Fairgrounds-4H Building

189 US Highway 12E

Townsend, MT 59644

- * **Hand-made bowls: \$15 per bowl;** made by the Clay Arts Guild of Helena, Archie Bray Potters, and STOKE Afterschool Pottery program. (300 bowls available)
- * **All proceeds will support the Broadwater Food Bank** to help enhance nutrition for youth and families in Broadwater County.
- * **SAVE THE DATE: MORE INFORMATION TO COME!**

ENJOY A NIGHT HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS!

For more information contact Teddy Lewis @ 406-439-9345

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER



Broadwater County Fair and Rodeo

August 3-7th 2022

Longer days and summer nights are just around the corner and so is the **2022 Broadwater County Fair and Rodeo, August 3-7th 2022!** Now is the time to start thinking about and working on your Open Class entries for this year's theme: **"Country Pride, County Wide!"**.

Do you happen to grow gorgeous flowers? Do you like to write short stories? Have a beautiful house plant? Do you have a secret family recipe for bread, cookies or jelly? Do you dabble with oil paints? Take stunning photographs? Raise your own livestock? Did you end up taking up a hobby of embroidery, knitting or quilting?

Then guess what! You are well on your way to making an entry into the Broadwater County Fair! The Open Class Departments are: Home Arts, Photography & Literature, Fine Arts Painting & Artwork, Home Crafts, Culinary Arts, Horticulture, Agronomy and Livestock. And each of these departments have many different classes to enter your projects! The opportunities are endless!

Watch for the fair book to be coming out the beginning of May. Copies can be found at the Fair Office at 416 Broadway, Bunkhouse Bar, Big Bull Bar & Grill, Rocky Mountain Supply and the Creative Closet. Check out the Fair Week schedule in the fair book for some super exciting entertainment news! We are gearing up for a great event and hope to see you all there.

The Broadwater County Fair Board is bringing in El Wenko to kick off fair week again this year. The concert is set for Wednesday, August 3rd at 7pm. Presale tickets will be available at the Fair Office from June 15-July 22nd for \$6. Tickets at the gate will be \$8. Kids under 5 are free. Come out to the fairgrounds and enjoy some fun music entertainment!

For questions or concerns please contact Jessica Erickson, Fair Manager at 406.266.9242 or email fair@co.broadwater.mt.us.



Fall Fest September 30 - October 2, 2022!

The Rotary Club of Townsend is busy preparing for Townsend's biggest event of the year ... Fall Fest! Save the date: September 30 - October 2! Music contracts are being completed. Rotary just received a marketing grant from the Montana Department of Commerce Tourism Grant Program to market the event to non-residents and others from over 100 miles away. Vendors are already signing up. The Car Show theme has been selected.

Rotary has begun soliciting 2022-2023 Rotary Project sponsorships which includes Fall Fest. Sponsorship money keeps the cost of admission to Fall Fest free for all. Sponsorship money pays for the entertainment, helps lower the cost of Rotary food at the event, helps provide many activities for children, etc. Sponsorships and any profits made at Fall Fest also help Rotary do many other projects throughout the year. Sponsors receive free advertising on the Rotary website for a year and get special Fall Fest advertising benefits. To become a Rotary Project sponsor, please click [HERE](#).

If you can't help financially, Rotary needs many volunteers planning and working at the event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Rotary Fall Fest Chair, Jeff Langlais, at 918-914-2055. It takes the whole community to pull this event off! See you at Fall Fest!



March Kindness in Heritage Park

What a great community we live in! The playground at Heritage Park just received two loads of new wood chips from RY Timber. Many thanks to local resident Richard Tramp for seeing the need to freshen the wood chips around the playground equipment and making all the arrangements.

Richard volunteered at Rotary's Fall Fest last year and saw the need to do something. Richard contacted the city and was referred to Rotarian and Tree Board Chair Patrick Plantenberg who has coordinated the delivery and placement of past wood chip orders for the playground. Richard contacted RY Timber and Dan Richards agreed to deliver two 14-cubic yard woodchip loads free of charge to the playground!

Patrick used his landscaping business tractors to spread the wood chips. Patrick's wife Mary and a family picnicking in the park from Gallatin Gateway and their grandchildren from White Sulphur Springs helped final rake the chips into place.

RY Timber is a Fall Fest Sponsor and for helping with the playground, Rotary has offered RY Timber a \$500 in-kind sponsorship for the 2022 Fall Fest September 30-October 2. This was all done for the kids! Thanks to all for making this happen.

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Montana Remote Work Certification course teaches workers the skills they need to transition to remote work.

Things are changing due to more people working from home during COVID. "The prospect of working from home is intriguing to me" said a course participant who lives in a Montana rural community. "Working remotely, would save me nearly an hour of driving each day and would give me more time with my family."

Participants have taken the month-long course, which consists of nine core modules delivered in a self-paced, online format along with four discussion-based virtual workshops. In addition to on-line tools common to remote work, participants learn soft skills crucial to working with a remote team such as written communication, problem solving, time management, collaboration, goal setting, organization, and accountability.

"I've been taking some time to figure out how I can use my skills to transition to remote work since the retail store I managed was closed last year," said another participant. "I wanted to stay in my community and not spend an hour or more driving each way to a job out of town. This course is exactly what I needed to know to jump into a remote position since I haven't worked remotely before."

Participants have got some great things out of the course. In general, the course filled in the missing information about what it is like to work remotely which gives participants a clear path to finding a remote job so they can stay in town and not move or travel for work. The group project was particularly helpful for participants because it allowed them to experience what it is like to get to know people via Zoom and to work on a project together.

MSU Extension faculty will serve as coaches for Montana participants through the course. Once they complete the course, Job Service of Montana will help graduates find a remote job. Graduates interested in creating or expanding a remote business will have access to Accelerate Montana's Rural Innovation Initiative at the University of Montana to help them take their business to the next level.

The cost of the course is \$199 and enrollment for course is ongoing. For more information, course dates and registration information, go to <https://msuextension.org/communitydevelopment/remotework-certificate.html>.

For more information about the Master Remote Work Professional Certification program, contact Tara Mastel at tara.mastel@montana.edu.

THE REMOTE WORK REVOLUTION

HAVE YOU HEARD OF "REMOTE WORK?" With a growth rate of 140% since 2005, remote work is changing the way people work all around the world. The Rural Online Initiative was designed to help people in rural communities and employers capitalize on the rise of remote work. By learning how to work remotely, people can find better paying jobs or jobs that better fit their skills without having to move away from their community. For employers, learning how to manage remote workers can increase access to the talented employees needed to grow a business.

WHAT IS REMOTE WORK? Remote work is any form of work that does not require the worker to regularly commute to a centralized location to perform a job. Typically, this means the individual fits into one of these categories: **FREELANCER** A self-employed individual who works as an independent contractor for short-term clients. **ENTREPRENEUR** A self-employed individual who organizes and operates a business or businesses.

VIRTUAL EMPLOYEE An employed individual who works at an independent location instead of commuting to a centralized office or shop. Without the commute time or dress code, it's understandable why this work model is gaining so much popularity. But, it's important to note that the benefits of distributed workforces far surpass the appeal of wearing sweatpants to work. Around the world, individuals, businesses, and governments are learning to use the strategy of remote work to design better lives.

With a growth rate of 140% since 2005, remote work is changing the way people work all around the world. The Rural Online Initiative was designed to help people in rural communities and employers capitalize on the rise of remote work. By learning how to work remotely, people can find better paying jobs or jobs that better fit their skills without having to move away from their community. For employers, learning how to manage remote workers can increase access to the talented employees needed to grow a business.

HOW CAN REMOTE WORK HELP YOUR COMMUNITY? Sure, remote work has global impact, but it can have significant local benefits too.

- **Job Creation:** Reduce local unemployment rates without the expense of recruiting new businesses.
- **Strengthen Tax Base:** A bigger population with higher incomes means more revenue for your community.
- **Empower Families:** Working in a virtual office allows parents to turn commute time into family time.

WHAT TYPES OF JOBS ARE VIRTUAL? Any job that uses a computer as its primary tool can be converted to be remote-friendly. This means roles like writing, graphic design, e-commerce, web development, education, and business management are all available on-line. Part of the ROI program includes evaluating compatibility to current work experience or business operations.

THE REMOTE WORK REVOLUTION GET MORE INFORMATION AT: msuextension.org/communitydevelopment/remotework-certificate.html | 406.994.4876. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Montana State University and the Montana State University Extension Service.



BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

BCDC – Affordable Housing and Homeless Forum

Broadwater County Development Corp. (BCDC) hosted an Affordable Housing and Homeless forum/meeting March 16th at the Lodge. The entire meeting was committed to the discussion of the issue concerning the lack of housing, particularly the lack of affordable housing, and the apparent developing homeless situation in Broadwater County.

Many community leaders and concerned citizens attended, giving their rendition of the problems and their thoughts on possible solutions. People attending were: Craig Vietz, John Hahn, Brian and Laura Obert, Tina Homann and Nichole Brown – BCDC board members and contributors to the discussion. Also present were: Susie Hedalen – Townsend School District Superintendent, Brian Obert also represented MBAC, JB Howick – Townsend Hardware, John Larsen, Roland Heaton – Food Pantry, Teddy Lewis – Silver Sage Counseling, Wynn Meehan – Sheriff, Jeff Garrard and Jeanie Steele (phone) – Jeanie Steele Realty, Nichole Brown also representing the County Planning office, Tony Woodward and wife – ag and loan officer - Opportunity Bank, Jenny Clowes – CEO Billings Clinic Broadwater, Mike Evans – Mayor, Debi Randolph – County Commissioner, Paul Kroeger – Construction, Kathryn McBee – author of a book on the Homeless.

As these issues are extremely important to the success of our community and the welfare of our workforce, more research and discussion needs to continue.

Here are a few highlights from the forum;

Superintendent Susie Hedalen – There are several homeless families in the Townsend area in various forms of homelessness and needs but none are sleeping on the streets. Some are receiving some assistance to alleviate some immediate needs. The school is receiving an average of seven new students per week, mostly in the elementary grades. Some high school students are choosing to leave school for work rather than continuing onto graduation. Students have limited access to mental health as hiring has been challenging. Affordable housing is needed to alleviate many of these issues.

Roland Heaton, Food Pantry – The Food Pantry is solvent and well stocked with food for now. They have been reaching out to help people whenever they can or know of someone with food needs. The Food Pantry is open weekly on a limited basis but can be available anytime for special needs. They have even helped with short term housing on a very limited scale.

Teddy Lewis, Silver Sage Counseling – Townsend needs a social worker(s). We could possibly start a club for food and work, possibly a homeless shelter.

Jenny Clowes, CEO Billings Clinic Broadwater – 16% of their employees live in Helena as they cannot find affordable housing here. Two thirds (2/3) of their part time employees live out of town. Renting option, if you can find it, is \$1550/month plus utilities. They are in need of more staffing but applicants can't find housing so the applicants, if they do get them, turn elsewhere. Again the need for affordable housing.

Tony Woodward, Loan officer at Opportunity Bank – We need to keep people in town. They have been looking at HUD housing. An average of two people per day come to them who live in Helena but want to live here. Again, the need for affordable housing.

Nichole Brown, County Planning – Broadwater County experienced 600% growth (over the year before, not total increase) in 2020 but only 37% last year. Most of the growth was at the southern end of the county.

Brian Obert, MBAC – Possible solutions for housing could be a CTE program where some Montana high schools are building tiny houses. Cabins, cooperative housing are thoughts. With the copper mine coming on, we could see even more need for housing for those employees. The employee rate here is very low. Also child care issues have been and will be an issue. Programs like AJAY (American Jobs for American Youth) are helping to build a better, younger workforce.

Paul Kroeger, local builder, Trailhead Church – The Trailhead Church has opened its door to help with needy as they have shower facilities and other short term amenities. White Sulphur Springs had used bonds to gain access to housing investment money.

Jeanie Steele, Jeanie Steele Realty – The median price of a home in Broadwater County is now \$404,000, \$350,000 just for a fixer upper. Average price of a lot in Townsend is \$124,380 but will be re-accessed in 2023. Just to get into a rental costs \$7000. Jeanie has a lot more data but I will share that at a later time.

Wynn Meehan, BC Sheriff – The people that are able to move to Townsend have annual incomes of \$70,000 or more. It used to be he was almost alone on the steps of the courthouse when selling houses at a sheriff's sale. Now, there are ten people wanting to buy. He sold one house for \$120,000 that should have been torn down. The drug problem is getting worse. More drugs are coming and are cheaper. His office is making 2-3 arrests/week on meth possessions alone.

Mike Evans, Mayor – There is a new subdivision on the south end of Townsend, Copper Springs. There are plans for some apartment buildings in that area.

Kathryn McBee, local citizen – Kathryn has been involved with the homeless situation for much time, volunteering aid to them when she can. She has even written a book on the subject. She warns, be aware, there is sex trafficking in Montana and it is active. She is also interested in helping with the homeless pets as they need assistance also.

These are just a few of the comments that I gathered from the limited notes that I took. I hope that I captured the essence of the meeting and the one priority that was agreed on at that meeting was the immediate need for workforce housing, affordable workforce housing. As to how that is accomplished is still under discussion. Be assured, we are not alone in this problem but there are solutions being tried in many places.

If I misquoted anyone or missed someone, I am sorry as I am not the best note taker. You will have your chance to provide more thoughts and solutions as I am planning to produce a Special Issue on just this subject. Anyone else who would like to contribute to this project or would like to comment, please contact me at bcdec@mt.net. The one thought that I would like to impress on you, change is inevitable and so is growth. We cannot be naïve about the problem or hope the issue will go away, but we can help guide that change. Please be opened minded. Let's have those discussions and find those solutions. Be Positive, Think Positive.

Thank you. Submitted by John Hahn

NON-PROFITS AND OTHER BENEFICIAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance Bible Church	Eric Krueger	erickruegercma@gmail.com
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	Katie Levine	klevine@afsp.org
American Legion Auxiliary Broadwater Unit #42	Reba Johnson	42rebe@gmail.com
American Legion Broadwater Post 42	Chris Wright Jr.	theveteranshopp@gmail.com
Association of Montana Turf, Ornamental, and Pest Professionals	Trudie Southwick	amtopp@amtopp.org
Billings Clinic Broadwater (Formerly Broadwater Health Center)	William Uptegrove	upty@outlook.com
Billings Clinic Broadwater Auxilliary	Donna Harper	vdoshowcase@yahoo.com
Boy Scouts of America	Josh Dutoit	joshua.dutoit@scouting.org
Broadwater Christmas Connection	Bret Anderson	bret.anderson77@yahoo.com
Broadwater Community Foundation	Carole Plymale	carole.plymale@gmail.com
Broadwater Community Health Foundation	Kwinci Tatarka	kktatarka@gmail.com
Broadwater Community Library (School and Public)	Angela Giono	agiono@townsend.k12.mt.us
Broadwater Community Theater	Nancy Marks	mtskydog@mt.net
Broadwater Conservation District	Katie Mumford	katie.mumford@usda.gov
Broadwater County 4H Council	Karen Noyes	jknoyes@MT.net
Broadwater County Cattle Women	Melanie Weyant	broadwatercattlewomen@gmail.com
Broadwater County Development Corporation	John Hahn	bcdc@mt.net
Broadwater County Fair Board	John Rauser	rauserdurocs@msn.com
Broadwater County Farm Bureau	Chuck Plymale	carole.plymale@gmail.com
Broadwater County Public Health	Teresa Monson	tmonson@co.broadwater.mt.us
Broadwater County Search & Rescue	John Hedstrom	hedstromautorepair@gmail.com
Broadwater County Social Services Committee	Jill Flynn	jflynn@townsend.k12.mt.us
Broadwater County Trust Board	Steve McCullough	broadwatertrust@gmail.com
Broadwater County Victim Witness Advocate	Brooke Dolan	bdolan@co.broadwater.mt.us
Broadwater County/City of Townsend Recreation Board	Dr Adam Six	broadwaterrecreation406@gmail.com
Broadwater Educational Foundation	Jackie Smith	BroadwaterEdFoundation@gmail.com
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Broadwater FFA Alumni and Supporters	Hugh Braaten	hugh@bestsod.com
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Broadwater Historical Society & Museum	Brian Kimpton	bkimpton57@gmail.com
Broadwater Mental Health Local Advisory Council	Mary Ellen Schnur	meventures@3riversdbs.net
Broadwater Reporter	Bobbi Meehan	broadwaterrrptr@mt.net
Broadwater Rod and Gun Club	Brad Peck	debi.randolph@gmail.com
Broadwater Rodeo and Fair Association	Wynn Meehan	broadwaterrodeo@gmail.com
Broadwater Rural Fire District	Ed Shindoll	bcrfdfire@live.com;
Broadwater Shrine Club	Chuck McLane	cegamclane2@gmail.com
Broadwater-Missouri Water Users	Daniel Davis	bmwu@mt.net
Bulldog Pups Preschool	Jennifer Olinger	teamolinger5@gmail.com
Canton Church Restoration Inc.	Chris Wright	cwright12587@gmail.com
Canton Valley Woman's Club	Bonnie Berglund	
Canyon Ferry Physical Therapy	Dr. Wanda Lambott	canyonferrypt@mt.net
Crimson Bluff's Chapter of Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation	Mike Castleberry	radersburger@gmail.com

NON-PROFITS AND OTHER BENEFICIAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Deep Creek Cemetery Association of Broadwater County	John Hahn	hahnsupply@mt.net
Elkhorn Community Fellowship Church	Eric Crusch	icrusch2003@yahoo.com
Faith Baptist Church	Mike Wenzel	faithbaptisttownsend@gmail.com
Girl Scouts of America	Melissa Meissner	melissagunderjohn@yahoo.com
Helena Playable Playgrounds	Stacy Sommer	playablepark@yahoo.com:
Helping Hands Townsend	Dee Gannon	deedaleame@yahoo.com
Holy Cross Catholic Church	Father Cody Williams	frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org
Infinite Hope Counseling, LLC	Jennifer Beatty	jennifer@infinitehopellc.com
Knights of Columbus	Richard Majszak	richard.majszak@gmail.com
Missouri Valley Marketing	Nicole Brown	planning@co.broadwater.mt.us
Motion and Mind	Katherine Humphrey	mnm3hab@gmail.com
MSU Extension – Broadwater County	Allison Kosto	broadwater@montana.edu
MT Business Assistance Connection	Brian Obert	bobert@mbac.biz
MT Peer Network	Melinda Holum	Mholum@co.broadwater.Mt.us
MT Youth Apprenticeship Partnership Program	Kelly Creswell	kcreswell@reachhighermontana.org
Old Baldy Recreation Association (Old Baldy Golf Course)	Kory Bakkum	
Pathfinder Childcare	Amanda Hazlett	Amanda.Hazlett@myvillage.com;
Radersburg Baptist Church	Richard Summerlin	
Radersburg Cemetery Association	Brandon Hossfeld	
Radersburg Historical Preservation Inc.	Alan and Deb Smith	alndeb1956@gmail.com;
RMDC Homestead Manor Senior Apartments and Townsend Housing	Julie Densmore	jdensmore@rmdc.net
Rocky Mountain Breeders Association (RMBA)	Jan Finn	2684hwy284@gmail.com;
Rocky Mountain Development Council (RMDC)	Samara Lynde	slynde@rmdc.net;
Rocky Mountain Development Council, Head Start	Ashley Pena-Larsen	apena@rmdc.net;
Rocky Mountain Development Council-Area IV Agency on Aging,		
Montana Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)	Michele Mathot	mmathot@rmdc.net
Rotary Club of Townsend	Jeff Langlinais	jclangl@yahoo.com;
Ryland KM Foote Memorial Fund dba Fun For Life	Nancy Marks	mtskydog@mt.net



NON-PROFITS AND OTHER BENEFICIAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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Serenity Point Assisted Living	Heather LaCotta	heather@serenitypointliving.com;
Set Free Christian Fellowship Townsend, Inc.	Bill Bergstad	bbergstad@gmail.com
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church	Daryl Blumhagen	dumb@mt.net;
Shoot for the Cure Montana	Mary Huth-Al Bodle	bodlehuth@gmail.com;
Silver Sage Counseling	Teddy Lewis	teddylewis65@yahoo.com
Silver Springs Assisted Living	Jason George or Tiffa-ny Rauser	silverspringsassistedliving@gmail.com
Songbird Pediatric Speech Therapy	Julie Swanson	
St. Peter's Townsend Clinic	Todd Wampler MD	townsendclinic@sphealth.org;
STOKE: Science,Technology,Outdoors,Knowledge,Entrepreneurship	Tina Homann	albertinahomann@gmail.com
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The Learning Place	Chelsea Rauser	chelsearauser@gmail.com;
The Lodge of Townsend	Tina Homann	townsendmtlodge@gmail.com;
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Townsend Garden Club & Study	Marilyn Lane	racing26@mt.net
Townsend Little Guy Wrestling	John O'Dell	jodell@townsend.k12.mt.us;
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Townsend Riders Horse Club	James Domino	jpdomino406@gmail.com
Townsend School Board	Jason Noyes	jknoyes@mt.net;
Townsend School District #1	Susie Hedalen, Supt	shedalen@townsend.k12.mt.us;
Townsend Senior Club	Carol Anderson	
Townsend Seventh Day Adventist Church	Craig Vietz	cargo3b@yahoo.com;
Townsend Skating Rink, LLC	Joe Horne	natjoehorne@gmail.com;
Townsend Tree Board	Patrick Plantenberg	m2andp2@mt.net;
Townsend United Methodist Church	Rev. Daniel Viehland	pastorviehland@gmail.com;
Townsend Wrestling	John O'Dell	jodell@townsend.k12.mt.us;
Trailhead Christian Fellowship Church	Mark and Beth Roelofs	markbeth10@hotmail.com;
Trauma Informed Advocates	LaReissa Swenson	
United Way of the Lewis and Clark Area	Julie Swanson	
Vet2Vet	Emily McVey	Emily@unitedwaylca.org;
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