



THE

BROADWATER

COMMUNITY

CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER



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bcdc@mt.net

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

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Hello Everyone. I hope everyone had a great start to 2024.

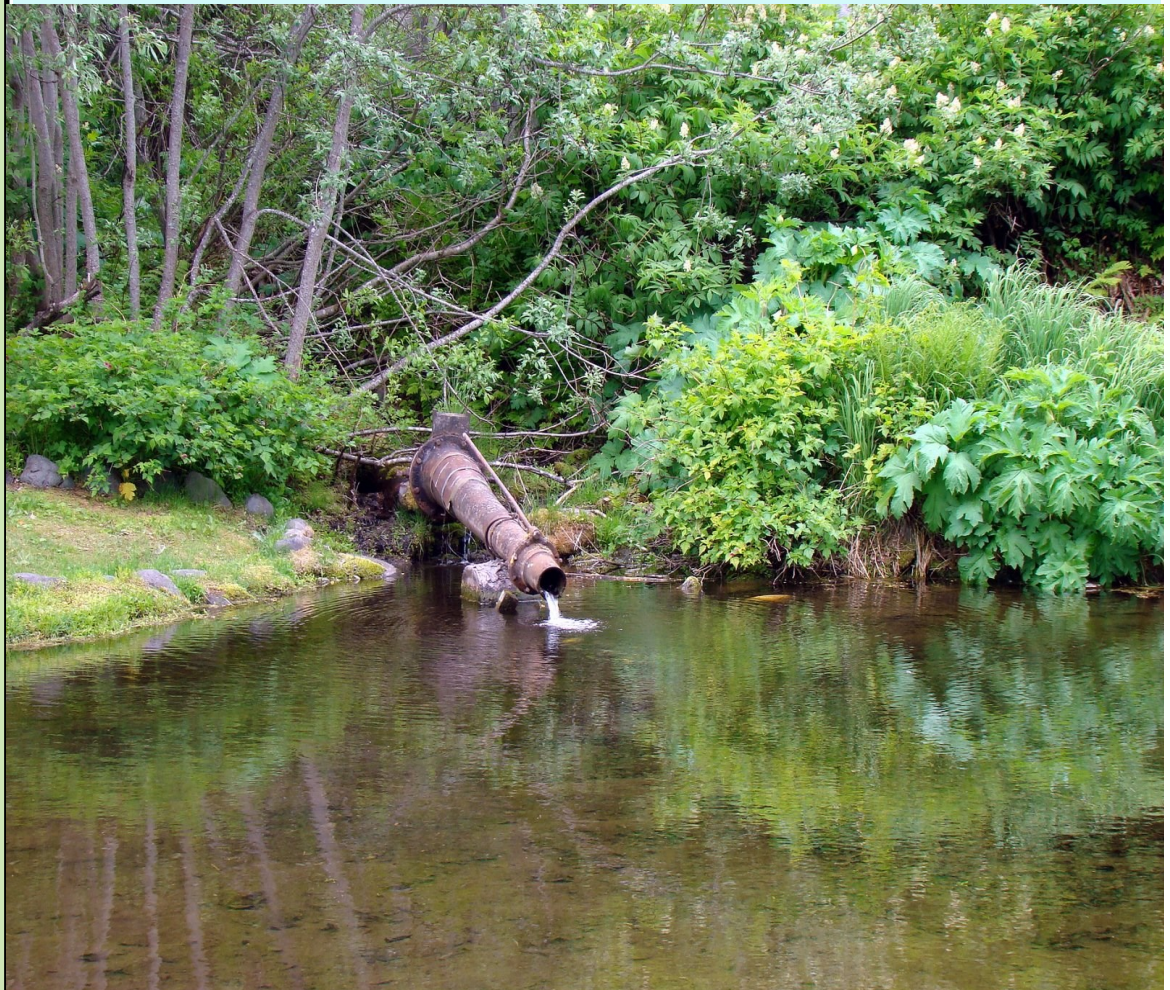
Welcome to the Broadwater Community Connections Newsletter. I started this project with BCDC to coordinate all the non-profits in Broadwater County to assist in their fund raising and project coordination endeavors. I'm hoping this newsletter will be a catalyst for any non-profit, board, or community 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. I have added some motivational quotes that I think fit the focus of this newsletter. Please share your comments about how this newsletter can grow to meet these efforts. BCDC's email is bcdc@mt.net and 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.

The next quarterly publication will be in April with special editions and notifications posted in between. 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 and intent.



BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Broadwater Community Theater

Broadwater Community Theater (BCT) finished up 2023 with a remarkable three-day performance of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" and was presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com. This production was directed by Amanda Hazlett and was



a terrific way to celebrate the season. BCT also hosted the Queen City Swing Band for New Year's Eve that brought joy to all in attendance ringing in the New Year.

Last summer we hosted "Treasure Island" written by Robert Louis Stevenson. Many school age children partici-

pating in this production made it a pleasure to attend. Mrs. Carla Amundson played the music as she does in most BCT productions. BCT had actor workshops during the year and supported local events like Fall Fest and the Speech and Debate Showcase.

BCT and STOKE support each other, sharing space in The Lodge, owned and operated by Tina Homann. BCT also sent two young actors to the Grand Street Theatre Summer Session, Zachary Mathews and Harper Hazlett, this year's recipients of the BCT Grant. A Junior Acting Club was also started for those that have acted in any of our productions throughout the years.

For the year 2024, BCT will be meeting on the 16th of January to plan out what we would like to do for the community to introduce more arts, music, and theater. If anyone has interest in any part of what we do as a beautiful addition to this community and beyond, please contact us. We are delighted to introduce more enthusiasm to BCT. LaRinda Spencer (406) 475-4016

Thank You for Making My Christmas Season Extra Special

I was able to help with coordination between the Christmas Connection in Townsend and Toys for Tots in Helena this year. Angie Fillenger accepted the Toys for Tots reins from Howard Mears this year. (<https://helena-mt.toysfortots.org/>) She did an outstanding job in her first year as the Helena area coordinator, reaching out to the rural areas in Broadwater County and assisted by an army of volunteers that make Toys for Tots possible.

I was able to help at Toy Central in the Helena Aviation Readiness Center this Christmas season. Montana's generosity was evident as I was shown around the rooms filled to capacity with books, puzzles, arts and crafts, toys and stocking stuffers. I helped sort books one day and helped "shoppers" pick out toys for their children on distribution day, Dec 16th. The number and variety of toys was incredible with options for every age.

I am blessed to be a part of the veteran community and assist with community projects. Giving and serving makes the Holiday season more joyful for everyone involved and I'll be happy to help again next year.

Janet Wagner is a member of American Legion Post 42 in Townsend. (legionfamilypost42.org) and Marine Corps League Detachment 620 in E. Helena. (<https://montanamcl.org/helena-det-620>)

Canton Church Update

Last October the Canton Church held its last events of the 2023 season.

On October 18, the Canton Church hosted a history fieldtrip for the Townsend Schools middle school students studying Montana History this year. We started hosting the fieldtrip in 2018 and it has become an annual event (except the Covid year of 2020).

In the Montana History books, very little is mentioned about the rich history of the Missouri Valley and of Broadwater County. The purpose of the fieldtrip is to teach students about the history of what is now Broadwater County. First, we cover the history of the historic Canton Church; then we move onto the history of the county including the towns of Diamond City, Radersburg, Hassle, Toston, Winston, Lombard, and of course Townsend. We also talk about the colorful towns of Hogem, Beatem and Cheatem!

After the history presentation the Canton Church board members treat the students to a lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, cookies and water – the students' favorite part of the trip!

No fieldtrip to the Canton Church would be complete without a trip to the Canton cemetery – St. Joseph's cemetery, located about a quarter of a mile from the Canton Church. Visiting the cemetery is the students' second favorite part of the fieldtrip.

The 2023 season was wrapped up with the Canton Church Annual Meeting and Dinner. About 50 people attended the excellent dinner catered by Rachael Alexander and Kelly Noyd. Jim Foster and family performed afterwards, singing a mix of country, folk, patriotic, and gospel music. Jim performed along with brother Joe and sister Susie as well as his son and daughter-in-law. As always, the Foster Family performance was outstanding.

In December board members Bob Tootell and Barbara Mock put solar spotlights in front of the Canton Church lighting up the front of the church. The lighting is a soft white light that is beautiful on the historic church. The next time you pass the Canton Church at night, take note of the lighting.

The Canton Church welcomed Debbie and Lynn Cain as the newest members of the Canton Church board. Over the last year Joe Foster, Bob Tootell and Barbara Mock have joined the Canton Church board as well. The new additions are bringing new ideas and energy to the board.

This winter we will work on putting together the slate of summer events for June, July, and August 2024. We hope to see everyone at the Canton Church this summer.



Canton Church hosts Townsend Schools Middle School Students

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

DEEP CREEK CEMETERY

Most individuals never think of a cemetery or even visit one until they lose a loved one or know of someone who is buried in one. It is nice to know that residents in Townsend are blessed to have one that is beautiful to accommodate a family's needs.



The Deep Creek Cemetery has served families locally, those from nearby communities, and from out of state as well. To improve the record keeping of the cemetery, the board reviewed all the graves in 2023 to update the directory and created a website (deepcreekcemetery.com) that allows one to search for a grave along with providing some history of the cemetery. A big thank you to Roger Flynn for donating his time to design and implement this new website for us. New markers were also installed to make marking graves easier in Sections I-L and an anonymous donor donated a new traveling irrigation wheel to help keep the cemetery green and eliminate moving some of the hand lines for the caretaker.

Memorial Day weekend in 2023 found the Rough Riders 4-H club helping visitors locate graves, providing information on the cemetery, and accepting donations. A big thank you to leader Pam McDonald and the Rough Riders!

So, as we head into 2024, the cemetery needs your help. First of all, there are many graves that are reserved in a family's name and have not been used in over 40, 50 or more years. We have tried to locate these families or relatives to determine the future use of the graves but have been unsuccessful. Therefore, later this spring, we will send out a list of the names in the hope we can solve some of these mysteries.

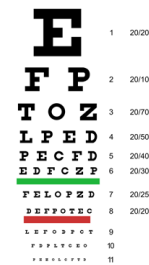
Secondly, the cost of operating the cemetery is becoming more expensive. The income used to pay for operating costs comes from money saved over the years from selling graves and donations. However, the cemetery's costs are exceeding the income from selling graves and from donations. To clarify the misconception of tax dollars for operating the cemetery, the cemetery **does not** receive any tax dollars from the county for its operations.

Therefore, as the cemetery prepares for the 2024 season, any amount that you could contribute to help offset the operating costs of the cemetery would be most appreciated and a tax donation receipt can be provided as well upon request. If you are one of those individuals who have to take an RMD (required minimum distribution) from your IRA or investment portfolio, please remember the cemetery is a 501c13 and your contribution could be sent to the cemetery for a possible tax deduction. PO Box 12, Townsend, MT 59644

Please feel free to contact board members John Hahn, 406-202-1050, Kevin Flynn, 406-459-4737, or Craig Vietz 406-241-0042 with questions regarding the cemetery. Wishing everyone in our wonderful community a blessed and prosperous 2024.



VISION CLINIC



Once again, the Townsend Seventh-day Adventist Church will be hosting a Vision Clinic. The vision clinics over the past few years have provided approximately 300 individuals in the Townsend area with free eye exams and glasses.

The clinic this year will focus on helping those living in the Toston/Radersburg area. The clinic will be held on Feb. 18 at the Toston Fire Station.

Participants will receive an eye exam by a board-certified ophthalmologist and will be fitted for glasses if needed. The exam and glasses are FREE!

Volunteers are what make this event successful. If you would like to volunteer or have questions about the vision clinic, please contact Andrea Schellenberg at 406-235-0544.

Often the question is brought up if donations can be given to the vision clinic to help offset costs. The answer is yes. One can donate at the clinic or mail a check made out to - Townsend Seventh-day Adventist Church and on memo line write Vision Clinic.

We hope to help as many individuals as we can this year. Wishing all of you a blessed 2024! Hebrews 13:16 - "But to do good and to communicate forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Broadwater Food Pantry

The Broadwater Food Pantry is now receiving donations from 9:30-11am on Fridays and during our Saturday hours. Please note the change listed here:

Hours of Operation: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays for distribution of food to clients and to receive donations 9:00-10:45am

Fridays (before the open Saturdays)

to accept donations from 9:30 to 11:00 am

Donations, monetary or canned goods, are gladly received anytime of the year.



The Food Pantry has increased its food donations to clients. We also have hygiene and toiletry supplies. Vouchers for diapers are available as well and redeemable at Bob's Supermarket.

The Broadwater Food Pantry is an all-volunteer organization which provides supplemental food assistance to residents of Broadwater County. The volunteers are from the local churches and community. The Food Pantry relies on local donations for food and operating funds. It is able to operate without regulation by State and Federal Food Bank Networks. No personal information leaves the food pantry.

Distribution outside of the normal hours is for emergencies and on an individual basis. Emergency food needs can be distributed by contacting one of the board members listed below.

Location: 315 Broadway, Townsend

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1164, Townsend, MT 59644

Contact Information: Karoline Nelson, Operations Manager 438-3981 and Daryl Blumhagen, Board President 980-0800

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Radersburg Historical Preservation Inc.

It was pretty quiet at the Radersburg School in 2023. The Radersburg Ratters 4-H club meets at the Radersburg school throughout the year. They do a good job of cleaning up the meeting room and it's great to see the building getting used!

RHPI, Preserve Broadwater History and the Broadwater County Museum came together in May to host the 3rd annual Middle School students' history field trip to historic Radersburg. Preserve Broadwater History organizes the event, RHPI opens the school for the event and Broadwater County Museum Curator, Linda Huth, makes a presentation about the history of Radersburg. The students love getting out of school for a field trip and Linda Huth presents a really fun history of Radersburg. Preserve Broadwater History then feeds the kids a lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, and water – probably the most favorite part of the fieldtrip!

After lunch the students visited the Radersburg Methodist Church and learned about Brother Van Orsdell and the preacher's circuit. From there the students went to the Radersburg cemetery – the second favorite part of the field trip. After spending time "researching" in the cemetery the students were gathered for a short presentation on the Radersburg cemetery by lifelong Radersburg resident, Jackie Smith.

The BCHS class of 1963 wanted to visit the Radersburg historic school. We opened the school up for them in the afternoon and they spent an hour or maybe a little more visiting the school and rummaging through the many historic pictures and artifacts in the school. They ALL wanted to see any pictures of Myrna Loy!

We are already planning for this year's Middle School history fieldtrip.



Missouri Valley Marketing

It was a very quiet year for Missouri Valley Marketing. We did have a wine tasting event at The Lodge of Townsend early in the year.

Of course, we organized the 7th annual Broadwater County-Wide Yard sale in July which has grown to be a fairly big event in the county. When we advertise in Helena, Butte, Bozeman, and the Mini-Nickel, we get hundreds of people visiting Townsend for the event – especially from Butte and Helena!

Rachael Elliot-Brug represents MVM at the Townsend Area Chamber meetings and helped with organizing the Christmas Stroll. Vic Sample and Rachael also represent Broadwater County at the Southwest Montana meetings. Southwest Montana is a private non-profit regional tourism organization that receives bed-tax money from the state to promote tourism

throughout the 9-county region designated as "Southwest Montana".

Vic is on the Southwest Montana executive board and Rachael is a member of the Southwest Montana board. Together they represent Broadwater County's interests within the tourism organization.

Southwest Montana has held several meetings here in Townsend over the last 7 years. Thirty to Forty Southwest Montana members come to Townsend for the meeting, spending the rest of the afternoon shopping in our local stores. In addition, Southwest Montana has sent a professional marketing video team to Townsend to do tourism videos at the Stone House Distillery in Winston, the Canyon Ferry Brewery, Townsend Fall Fest, Goose Bay Glass and the Edgewater Farms corn maze. The videos are shown on the Southwest Montana tourism website.

This year, MVM hopes to create a tourism brochure for Broadwater County and to start the design of a tourism dedicated website for Broadwater County.

YOU DESERVE FASTER INTERNET

Broadwater County Broadband Advisory Board

The Broadwater County Broadband Advisory Board needs your help.

Do you use Montana Internet or Global Net?

Are you signed up for their fastest level of service?

If you can answer yes to both questions, please visit :

<https://townsendmt.com/internet>

You will be contacted by a Broadband Board member with more information on how you can help improve internet in Broadwater County.

Broadwater County Broadband Advisory Board

“It is not more bigness that should be our goal. We must attempt, rather, to bring people back to the warmth of community, to the worth of individual effort and responsibility, and of individuals working together as a community, to better their lives and their children's future.”
– Robert F. Kennedy

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” – Maya Angelou

“This world of ours... must avoid becoming a community of dreadful fear and hate, and be, instead, a proud confederation of mutual trust and respect.” – Dwight D. Eisenhower

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.” – Margaret J. Wheatley

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Reach Higher Montana Invites Students to Reach New Heights with "It's Scholarship Time" Application

January 3, 2023



[Helena, MT] – Reach Higher Montana, a leading non-profit organization dedicated to supporting education and empowering Montana students, is excited to announce the launch of the "It's Scholarship Time" application for high school and college students across the state.

The "It's Scholarship Time" initiative simplifies the application process by offering a single, comprehensive application form that allows students to apply for multiple scholarships simultaneously. This innovative approach aims to streamline the application experience, providing students with a more accessible and efficient way to access financial support for their education.

"We understand that the cost of education can be a significant barrier for many students. With 'It's Scholarship Time,' we aim to break down those barriers and empower students to pursue their academic and career goals without the burden of overwhelming financial constraints," said Kelly Cresswell, Executive Director at Reach Higher Montana.

Key features of the "It's Scholarship Time" application include:

- 1. Single Application, Multiple Opportunities:** Students can complete one application form to be considered for a variety of scholarships, saving time and effort in the application process.
- 2. Tailored Scholarships for Diverse Needs:** The scholarships available through this initiative cater to a wide range of students, recognizing academic achievement, leadership skills, community involvement, and various other criteria.
- 3. Accessible for High School and College Students:** Whether a high school senior planning to pursue higher education or a current college student seeking financial assistance, the "It's Scholarship Time" application is open to students at different stages of their academic journey.

Empowering Montana's Future Leaders: By offering a range of scholarships, Reach Higher Montana aims to support a diverse group of students, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder the dreams and aspirations of Montana's future leaders.

The application period for "It's Scholarship Time" opens on January 1st and closes on March 1st. Students are encouraged to visit the Reach Higher Montana website at ReachHigherMontana.org to learn more about the available scholarships, eligibility criteria, and to access the application form.

For more information or media inquiries, please contact:

Cullen Gilbreath

Digital Marketing and Communications Manager

Reach Higher Montana

CGilbreath@ReachHigherMontana.org

(406) 285-1107

About Reach Higher Montana:

Reach Higher Montana is a non-profit organization committed to providing access to postsecondary education for Montana students. Our vision is that Montana students achieve personal success in education, career, and life.



Broadwater County
Development Corporation
P.O. Box 698, Townsend, MT 59644

BCDC Committee Updates

All the committees that came out of the Community Review process have been meeting on a mostly regular monthly basis. These committees are the Affordable Housing, Childcare, CARB (Community Advisory and Research Building) committee which could also be converted to (Community Activities and Recreation Building), Trails, and Broadband committees. The Broadband committee answers to the County commissioners but is funded, as are the others, through BCDC.

The Affordable Housing committee has been struggling with the same issues as everyone else in Montana and the Nation also. I don't think there is much to report on here yet. The Childcare committee has received a \$5000 grant to hire a coordinator. Sounds she has been busy and doing a good job.

The Trails committee has been progressing and is close to putting on some public meetings about the Trails Master Plan. Committee members have been tasked with providing details on priority trails so that is about done. The number one priority is a pedestrian bridge over the Missouri north of Townsend. It may be an attached bridge or a standalone. We will have to see which is most affordable and achievable. Either way, it will cost a few million. We will be looking for grants to achieve this and other funding.

The CARB committee has been doing mostly research and talking with potential consultants. We are getting closer to search for funding to possibly hire a consultant firm to put together a business or feasibility plan. There have been some good projects around the country that have benefited from these preliminary studies and plans. The plans that we have seen from other areas are extensive, looking at demographics, costs, both for construction and maintenance, and possible income to sustain a center. We will be talking with some of these consultants soon to receive quotes on the cost of a plan. We have not determined a location yet either.

Some of you may have been wondering about the webcam (link is on the [townsendmt.com](https://www.townsendmt.com) website) that is attached to City Hall looking down Main Street in Townsend. It has been down since June and it has definitely been a process and costly learning experience trying to get it going again. The old camera turned out broken and to get the new one installed and formatted has been a nightmare. It still is not working properly so bear with us. We will eventually get the bugs worked out on it.

We have recently funded two Store Front Beautification grant requests, one for Townsend Hardware and one for Broadwater Beauty Boutique, both on Broadway. We are always happy to support our local businesses and their efforts to improve the looks of their businesses.

In addition, we are always looking for new members and are in the middle of our annual membership drive. If you are interested in becoming a member, all the information you need is on our website at <https://www.townsendmt.com/>. Individual memberships are \$50, nonprofits are \$100, businesses are \$150, and sponsorships are \$250 or more. You can renew or do a new membership all online or send a check to PO Box 698, Townsend, MT 59644. If you have questions, you can contact me, John Hahn, at 406-202-1050 or email at bcdc@mt.net.

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Preserve Broadwater History

We started Preserve Broadwater History to augment the other historical organizations in Broadwater County. Our main focus is to restore and preserve some of the historical buildings and sites in Broadwater County. However, raising funds for a huge project like the historic Johnson School House is a slow process. We are currently researching grants to potentially hire professionals to formulate a plan for relocating and then restoring the historical school.



In the meantime we have built a website to host three of the counties historical organizations: Radersburg Historical Preservation, Inc, Broadwater County Museum and Preserve Broadwater History. We have gathered information about the Johnson Schoolhouse (thank you Peggy Flynn) and have placed pictures, articles, and historical information from RHPI and the County Museum on one website.

Working with Radersburg Historical Preservation, Inc., the Broadwater County Museum and Preserve Broadwater History organized the 3rd annual Radersburg history fieldtrip for the Townsend Schools middle school class. The students visited Radersburg to learn about the history of Radersburg. They visited the Radersburg School and were given a presentation about Radersburg from Broadwater County Museum Curator Linda Huth. After a lunch of burgers and hotdogs, the students then visited the Radersburg Methodist Church and the Radersburg Cemetery where they had a short presentation from Jackie Smith.

Preserve Broadwater History has been posting the MT43 News published articles: "This Day In History" articles by Linda Huth and the YesterYear articles. You can visit the Preserve Broadwater History website to read the articles at <https://preservebroadwaterhistory.org>. If you have any pictures, articles or just stories about the history of Broadwater County and the people who live here that you would like to share on the website, contact Vic Sample at victorsample@gmail.com or bring them to the Broadwater County Museum. Curator Linda Huth would love to get a copy of your old photographs or any artifacts you would like to donate.



Science • Technology • Outdoors
Knowledge • Entrepreneurship

STROKE board directors are looking forward to another great year. Our kids are happy doing pottery, sewing, and robotics currently.

The Pottery Guild – Teddy Lewis has been doing an extraordinary job in the Pottery Guild, instructing classes for the school and adult members. STROKE is currently partnering with the school to provide four classes a week under their 21st Century program with an average of 6 – 10 students per class. Students are learning how to wedge clay, throw a bowl on one of our eight wheels, do some hand building, roll clay with our slab roller, and glazing their pottery piece along with other assorted steps in the pottery process. Teddy does all the firing of the pieces as this a fairly technical

process. It's interesting the level of artistry the kids are producing. We are also getting some adults paying for a membership in the guild. These memberships help us with some of the costs in keeping this guild functional and also paying for the students who are not involved in the 21st Century after-school program. We definitely have room for more adults in the guild. Memberships are \$65/month plus \$30 for a box of clay. Contact Teddy Lewis at 406-439-9345 or just come down to the guild at 108 N. Spruce to see what's going on. He's usually down there most of the time except Thursday and Sunday.

Laura Frazier's Sewing Sisters Club is making tie skirts, using men's ties for their fashion design. If you have any extra ties, she is still looking for more. You can contact any of the board members for drop off.

Board member Spencer Sellay and his co-coach, Roger Flynn, have been working hard to get the FIRST Lego League and the FIRST Tech Challenge kids ready for competition this month and next. There are nine kids in FLL and two currently in the FTC group. The FLL kids have been working on a presentation, required for the program, that deals with Sleep, their choice. We have seen the draft version and it's spectacular. Dr. Lisa Brown has been helping them, but the kids have done most of the work. The kids' robotics project is coming along nicely and are expected to make it to the state competition. So far, it's been a great year for the robotics teams. For the kids who participate in FTC, the possibility of some great scholarships in the tech world are possible.

We soon are going to sponsor some media arts clinics through an organization called MAPS Media Arts Institute. Other Montana schools and organizations have sponsored these clinics for middle and high school level youth, producing professional level videos, podcasts, and other media-oriented projects. We are hoping to sponsor three clinics this year. MAPS provides all the needed equipment and professional instructors to deliver a five-star clinic. Three of these clinics will cost us over \$8000 but we hoping to try for some grants to cover these most of these costs.

In the past years, we were able to sponsor several Snapology classes for grades 3-8. The gal that owned the Snapology franchise had to sell her business, so we were without that program. She did offer us some of the robotic kits, iPads, and other equipment necessary to offer our own classes. Since purchasing this equipment, we will soon be offering these classes for grades 3-5. These classes are very good training for the kids who will want to move into the FIRST Lego League as they move into middle school. Jasmine Ankerstjerne will be instructing the classes for us this year.

We are looking at other programs this year and will start some of them soon. Cooking, an outdoor program, and others that are on our radar will be starting also. Keep an eye on our new re-designed website, stokemt.org, for more information.

Game Night is available again for all ages with ping pong, pool, foosball, cornhole, chess, and karaoke are all popular. Game Night is on the second and fourth Thursday 5:30 – 7:30. Snacks or pizza is available for all who come. Families are encouraged but not necessary. Any kids 10 or under are required to have an adult in attendance.

Contacts: Jim Domino – 406-459-9618, Amanda Domino – 406-459-7379, Tina Homann – 406-360-4408, John Hahn – 406-202-1050, Spencer Sellay – 303-523-6420

Watch for more information on our Valentine's Day Fundraiser, Wednesday, Feb. 14th 5:30—9:00 at the Lodge.

Valentine's Day Fundraiser

Townsend, MT

\$500
Cash

Lucious Desserts

Stalking: Homicide in Slow Motion

By Jaime Gabrielli, Direct Services Advocate, The Friendship Center

Stalking is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person causing them fear for their physical or psychological safety. For very good reasons, stalking has been described by some experts as “homicide in slow motion.” This owes partly to a well-documented correlation between stalking and the risk of intimate partner homicide. But the comparison to homicide also refers to the way stalking can rob a survivor of their basic sense of life and autonomy.

Much like other forms of control, abuse, and intimidation, the seriousness of stalking is widely underestimated and misunderstood, thanks in no small part to the way it's represented in our culture. In popular media, for example, stalking is portrayed casually—sometimes as a sign of harmless infatuation with, or deep affection for another person. In reality, stalking is extremely dangerous, and misattributing it to admiration or love obscures its defining characteristic: the terror and harm it causes victims.

With January being Stalking Awareness Month, The Friendship Center invites our community to learn about the signs, prevalence, and seriousness of stalking from one of our advocates. Written by Jaime Gabrielli, this piece highlights key facts to know about this crime, how we can all support survivors, and what our staff advocates can do to help those who experience stalking.

Prevalence and Tactics

It's estimated that at least 13.5 million individuals in the U.S. are survivors of stalking every year. For perspective, that's about double the population of Arizona. And most of those survivors are women. Like other interpersonal crimes (i.e., domestic violence, sexual assault), we know that stalking is underreported. That is notable because the data we do have suggests that stalking is widespread, and yet, it still probably represents an *undercount* of its prevalence.

In most cases, **stalkers are known to their victims**. About 61% of females and 44% of males experiencing stalking are victimized by a current or former intimate partner. Most stalkers use multiple tactics, leaving victims unable to know when they are being watched, or where they can find safety in their everyday lives.

Stalking can take many forms, including:

- Unwanted phone calls, texts, emails, or social media messages
- Cyberstalking, or exploitation of the internet or technology
- Unwanted gifts or love letters left at a survivor's home, workplace, or vehicle
- Watching or following from a distance
- Monitoring through a third party (i.e., friends, neighbors, coworkers)
- Posting threatening or personal information about a victim on the internet
- Spying on someone using a listening device, hidden camera, apps, or software
- Using a cell phone tracker or GPS device to monitor location
- Contacting friends, family, or coworkers to intimidate or manipulate
- Leaving personal, significant, or potentially dangerous objects for the victim to see
- Property damage
- Threats of harm

Take Stalking Seriously and Validate Survivors

Stalking is a criminal offense and there is *never an excuse* for it. It destroys the survivor's quality of life, sense of wellbeing, and personal safety. Their responses are attempts to protect themselves and their loved ones from future harm. It is important for us all to understand and convey to survivors that their concerns are valid, and they are never to blame for their stalker's actions.

Stalking is not only terrifying and emotionally distressing for victims; it can also be deadly. Research indicates **stalking is a greater risk factor for intimate partner homicide than other forms of intimate partner violence**. As advocates, we are trained to take stalking seriously and educate victims about potential risks and necessary safety planning.

We know that stalking after a victim leaves or attempts to leave increases their risk of experiencing future violence and even being killed at the hands of their partner. One of the most sobering statistics we keep in mind when working with stalking victims is that **more than 76% of femicide victims were stalked prior to being killed**.

It Is Harder to Leave an Abuser Who Stalks

Stalking is not just a concern after a person escapes an abusive relationship. Studies show 74% of those stalked by a former intimate partner reported violence and/or coercive control during the relationship. Domestic violence victims are commonly stalked before they try to leave, making it more difficult to get away. Concerns about nonconsensual image sharing (often referred to as “revenge porn”), online harassment, financial sabotage, increased monitoring, and threats of violence are a few of the reasons stalking victims feel unsafe leaving their abusers.

Survivors often tell us it is safer for them and their children to remain with the abuser to prevent further harm and acceleration of abusive behaviors. Because of these added barriers, those stalked by violent partners report more attempts to leave their abusers than partner violence victims who are not stalked.

Stalking in abusive relationships is a deeply complex issue with no easy solutions. Victims struggle with how to respond to their stalkers without increasing their risk of further harm. They may try reasoning with their abuser to placate them, hoping that “being nice” will make the behavior stop. It is normal for victims to minimize their experiences, telling themselves, “It's not that bad.” Out of desperation, some even try to confront or threaten the stalker or attempt to “fight back.”

Individuals impacted by the crime of stalking frequently feel alone, confused, and powerless. Recent studies report that nearly a third of stalking victims say they fear the stalking will never stop. As a result of the persistent terror, victims of stalking suffer much higher rates of depression, anxiety, insomnia, and social difficulties than the general population.

For many, having access to the right type of supportive resources can be the difference between hope and hopelessness, and even life and death. That's where agencies like The Friendship Center can help.

Confidentiality, Accurate Information, Support, and Agency

Victims are not in control of their abusive partner's behavior and often don't know where to turn for help. They need accurate information about their options and legal rights and deserve to be respected as experts in their own lives. Stalking survivors have the right to be informed, supported, and empowered to take steps to keep themselves and their loved ones safe, whether they choose to remain in the relationship or not.

Stalkers can be unpredictable and dangerous; addressing safety concerns needs to be an informed, adaptive, and ongoing process. At The Friendship Center, our advocates are trained to approach each situation as unique because we know there is no single effective approach survivors can rely on to remain safe.

It is vital that victims are aware of confidential services like ours in their own community, where skilled advocates can help them create individualized safety plans and offer ongoing support.

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BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Resources for Survivors

Whether or not a survivor seeks the help of an agency like The Friendship Center, there is a wealth of free online resources they can access and steps they can take to help with safety planning. This list of tools and actions we often use with our clients is not exhaustive, but can help survivors understand their risks, make decisions, and plan their next steps:

Stalking and Harassment Assessment and Risk Profile (SHARP)

– This web-based assessment provides a big picture evaluation of a survivor's circumstances and can help address a wide variety of safety concerns. (thefriendshipcenter.org/sharp)

Protective orders – Montana Law Help's FAQ on Orders of Protection provides an overview on protective orders in Montana, how to get one, how to prepare for court, and what to do after your hearing. The Friendship Center can also provide survivors with information about filing protective orders and reporting options. (thefriendshipcenter.org/protective-order)

Stalking log – Survivors can use this tool to document incidents of stalking and create a record of the abuse. Logs like this can help establish the pattern of behavior that defines stalking. (thefriendshipcenter.org/stalking-log)

Documentation – It's up to a survivor to choose whether they want to report stalking to authorities or request a protective order. Regardless, saving all voicemail, text, social media, and email messages sent by the stalker can be important evidence to present for law enforcement reports and requesting protective orders. Saving as much evidence as possible (or forwarding it to a safe person or email address) can help a survivor make a delayed report, or plan for their safety if they choose to work with an advocate later.

If you or someone you know is experiencing stalking, advocates at The Friendship Center are ready to help. Call 406.442.6800 to access our free and confidential services 24/7. Visit thefriendshipcenter.org/stalking to explore resources for victims and advocates, and to learn more about our services.



🍌 *Heroes didn't leap tall buildings or stop bullets with an outstretched hand; they didn't wear boots and capes. They bled, and they bruised, and their superpowers were as simple as listening, or loving. Heroes were ordinary people who knew that even if their own lives were impossibly knotted, they could untangle someone else's. And maybe that one act could lead someone to rescue you right back."*
– Jodi Picoult

Broadwater County Mental Health

Mental/Behavioral Health has been an important topic of conversation in recent years. According to The National Alliance on Mental Health, in February 2021 there were 163,000 Montana adults with a mental health condition and 47,000 of those adults went without needed mental health care.

The Broadwater County Public Health Department was recently awarded a grant from Montana Healthcare Foundation to help address the mental health crisis system in Broadwater County. Over the next 18 months of the grant, we will be gathering mental health related data for Broadwater County and mapping current resources. With this data we will be able to identify gaps and needed services and develop a strategic plan for an effective and sustainable behavioral health crisis system for our community.

We need your help to make this as successful as possible. If you or someone you know has been affected by mental health or are just passionate about mental health and our community, please join the Broadwater County Mental Health Local Advisory Council for their monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 2:00p located in the Flynn building at 416 Broadway Street to learn more and get involved.

Meagan Poe

Crisis Coordinator

Broadwater County Public Health
Department

406-266-5209

mpoe@co.broadwater.mt.us

If you or someone you know
needs support now,
call or text 988
or
chat 988lifeline.org



**SUICIDE
PREVENTION
class**

American Legion Post 42

JAN 20 – 9 AM

the class is free - coffee and donuts provided

211 Broadway St, Townsend, MT call Tony 406-490-3401

NON-PROFITS AND OTHER BENEFICIAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Organization Name	Contact Name	Email Address
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	Jen Dalrymple	broadwaterpost42@gmail.com
Association of Montana Turf, Ornamental, and Pest Professionals	Trudie Southwick	amtopp@amtopp.org
Big Sky Autism Project	Monique Prevel	bigskyautismproject@gmail.com
Billings Clinic Broadwater (Formerly Broadwater Health Center)	William Uptegrove	upty@outlook.com
Billings Clinic Broadwater Auxiliary	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	Diane Johnson	broadwatercd@gmail.com
Broadwater County 4H Council	Karen Noyes	jknoyes@MT.net
Broadwater County Cattle Women	Melanie Kimpton 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	Gail Vennes	glvennes@mt.net
Broadwater County Lions Club	Richard Heida	iimimby@gmail.com
Broadwater County Public Health	Ruby Taylor	rtaylor@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	Aubra Lewis	aubra.lewis@co.broadwater.mt.us
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
Broadwater FFA	Jemma Loughery	jloughery@townsend.k12.mt.us
Broadwater FFA Alumni and Supporters	Hugh Braaten	hugh@bestsod.com
Broadwater Food Pantry	Don Peace	cd2peace@mt.net
Broadwater Historical Society & Museum	Brian Kimpton	bkimpton57@gmail.com
Broadwater Mental Health Local Advisory Council	Mary Ellen Schnur	meventures@3riversdbs.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
City of Townsend	Kari Williams	kari@townsendmontana.net
Crimson Bluff's Chapter of Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation	Mike Castleberry	radersburger@gmail.com

NON-PROFITS AND OTHER BENEFICIAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Organization Name	Contact Name	Email Address
Deep Creek Cemetery Association	John Hahn	hahnsupply@mt.net
Elkhorn Community Fellowship Church	Eric Crusch	icrusch2003@yahoo.com
Faith Baptist Church	Mike Wenzel	faithbaptisttownsend@gmail.com
Friends in Fellowship - Townsend	Paul Kroeger	pkroeger@itstriangle.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	frwilliams@holycrossmt.org
Infinity Hope Counseling, LLC	Jennifer Beatty	jennifer@infinitehopellc.com
Knights of Columbus	Richard Majszak	richard.majszak@gmail.com
Missouri Valley Marketing	Nichole Brown	planning@co.broadwater.mt.us
Motion and Mind	Katherine Humphrey	mnm3hab@gmail.com
Mountain Valley Church (Formerly Alliance Bible Church)	Eric Krueger	erickruegercma@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	Mholom@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;
Placer School	Gay Ann Masolo	gayannm@yahoo.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 Senior Apartments	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 Langlais	jclangl@yahoo.com;
Ryland KM Foote Memorial Fund dba Fun For Life	Nancy Marks	mtskydog@mt.net



NON-PROFITS AND OTHER BENEFICIAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Organization Name	Contact Name	Email Address
Sapphire Behavioral Health	LaReissa Swenson	lswensonsbh@outlook.com
Sarah Holland Daycare	Sarah Holland	hollandbigsky@q.com
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 Tiffany 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
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Aaron Christensen	aaronchristensen406@gmail.com
The Friendship Center	Gina Boesdorfer	gina.b@thefriendshipcenter.org
The Learning Place	Chelsea Rauser	chelsearauser@gmail.com
The Lodge of Townsend	Tina Homann	townsendmtlodge@gmail.com
Thrivent Financial	Sarah Hamlen	sarah.hamlen@thrivent.com
Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce	Linda Fautsch	townsend43chamber@gmail.com
Townsend Booster Club	Natalie Horne	townsendboosterclub@gmail.com
Townsend Broadwater County Lions Club	Richard Heida	iimimby@gmail.com
Townsend Farmer's Market	Chris Hettinger	chris59644@gmail.com
Townsend Fast Pitch	Erin Fryer	townsendfastpitch@gmail.com
Townsend Garden Club & Study	Marilyn Lane	racing26@mt.net
Townsend Little Guy Wrestling	John O'Dell	jodell@townsend.k12.mt.us
Townsend United Methodist Church	Rev. Melelupe Moa	mele@fumcs.org
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. Melelupe Moa	mele@fumcs.org
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
Walleyes Unlimited of Montana, Upper Missouri River Chapter	Lowen Nunn	nunnlowen@gmail.com
	Troy Warburton	umrcwalleyepresident@gmail.com