



September
2020



The original Nine Mile House bars are coming to the Community Center! (see page 3)

2020 Nine Mile Community Center Mail-In Voting for the Board of Directors Election & Updates to Community Center Bylaws

Due to concerns over COVID-19, we are inviting you to use mail-in voting for this year's Nine Mile Community Center (NMCC) Board election. Actually, we are providing three ways to vote this year, by mail, drop off, or in person. Voting by mail is the recommended approach for your safety and the safety of our NMCC election team. All ballots must be in our P.O. Box, or at the Community Center drop-off box, by 6:00 p.m. Election Day—Wednesday, September 9th. Please see the voter insert and ballot for more information.

Established in our 1948 Articles of Incorporation, our current community center membership area is limited to residents of the Nine Mile valley north of Old Highway 10. For many years the Board has recognized that our "community" actually includes people in the Six Mile valley and neighborhoods on the south side of Interstate-90 who regularly participate in NMCC events. So the major change proposed in our Bylaws is the expansion of membership area to include all of the 59846 zip code, which includes western Huson, all Six Mile residents, and neighborhoods south of I-90. However, in order to change the Bylaws, if approved by membership, the Articles of Incorporation must also be changed. If the Bylaw changes are passed then we will follow up with the legal steps necessary to amend our Articles of Incorporation to match.

Past President, Sharon Sweeney, writes:

"The Nine Mile Community Center has long enjoyed the love and support from our friends and neighbors. The Board of Directors works to provide many educational events, fun activities, as well as a rental facility. We have come to understand that our presence is felt well beyond the physical boundaries of just the Nine Mile Valley. A review of the word "Community" enabled us to decide it is time to update our idea of "where" our community is. This in turn lead to a review of our Bylaws, with several proposed changes that we feel are important to make. Bylaw changes must be voted on by "the membership" which is currently defined as those who are bona fide residents of the Nine Mile Valley. Please help us modernize our Bylaws; we ask that you carefully review the proposed changes and participate in the NMCC election by voting for 3 Directors for the Board, and voting on these important Bylaw updates."

The voter insert and ballot has all the recommended Bylaw changes, including changes to sections covering Voting, Proxies, and Duties of Directors. If you have any questions or comments please contact any Board member or email ninemilecc@gmail.com.



Reserve your Time to Bring Apples to the Center for Pressing October 3, 2020 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Nine Mile Wildlife Workgroup and Nine Mile Community Center Board have come up with a safe way to host an apple pressing day this Fall. The event allows apple pressing for small groups and family groups that sign up for hour-long time slots. Your group will have a free workspace and an apple press to use for your hour. People will be requested to cut their own apples, press their fruit, bottle the juice, and cleanup their workspace within their one hour time slot. The event is free to local residents. The individuals authorized to use time slots will be limited to those residing in 59846 zip code area. B.Y.O.B. to fill with fresh cider!

To reserve your time go to our webpage www.ninemilecommunitycenter.com. If you are not a computer person call Julie Van Hise at 626-2535 for a reservation. First come, first serve, and there are a limited number of reservations, so sign up for your time now! If you don't get a time slot, surplus apples may be dropped off at the NMCC on October 3rd. Plan now to get the fruit off your trees before the bears visit this Fall. The Chili & Apple Dessert Cook-offs will return in 2021, so this winter be sure to perfect your favorite recipes. See you all next year!



Board of Directors Candidate Biographies

My name is Amanda Beauchamp. I moved to Stevensville, Montana in 1994 and 3 years ago my husband and I bought a beautiful piece of property up here in the Nine Mile valley and moved our family here. I feel blessed to live only 1 mile from the Community Center. I have served on the board for 1 year now and I have enjoyed meeting new members of the community and continuing to do so. The Nine Mile Community Center is such a special place, and it allows us to all gather as a community and to bring us all closer together. I would love to be voted in to serve a three-year term on the board.

Amanda Beauchamp, Cedar Creek Road

Hello Nine Mile Valley Folks,

For the past 28 years my wife Mary and I have enjoyed Nine Mile Community Center events, programs, and projects. We love living in the Nine Mile community, so it seems natural to support the NMCC. Being on the Board these past 6 years has allowed me to work with the wonderful people in the Nine Mile area volunteering our time to preserve our local living history and helping to produce community based activities.

My background includes graduation from Montana State University as Civil Engineer, and work as the Public Works Director (retired) for the City of Missoula. Currently I enjoy grant writing and project administration for the NMCC. It's been a great pleasure being on the Board and I would enjoy continuing to serve this unique local non-profit organization. Thank you for your vote.

Steve King, West Nine Mile Road

Although I am a newer arrival to the Ninemile Valley, I have admired this area for years. I have attended events at the community center, and was thrilled when I discovered the opportunity to help preserve its history and charm. I'm also excited at the prospect of meeting new friends who are similarly motivated to preserve the lifestyle and community here.

I've worked in the marketing field for more than 20 years, currently as the Marketing Operations Manager at Submittable (a local software company). I've served on the Home Resource board in the past, as well as provided marketing contract work for that organization and the Sustainable Business Council. I've also run my own small businesses in web design and photography. I'm looking forward to adding my skills to this committed group of neighbors.

Lisa Hensley, Piney Meadows



The Nine Mile House bar, from a 1983 Western Larch to a 2020 permanent addition to the Community Center (and quite a few drinks in between)

REPORT TO THE CITIZENS OF THE NINE MILE VALLEY
FROM THE NINE MILE COMMUNITY CENTER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Accomplishments: September 2019 – September 2020

Improvements: The last year has been a busy time for projects. With the Community Center shut, we focused on historic preservation, fencing, and fire hazard reduction. Major grants from the Montana History Foundation (MHF) and Garnet Preservation Association allowed us to go ahead with upstairs wood floor refinishing, and repair and repainting exteriors of the Stark Schoolhouse and Community Center Church buildings.

The floors were refinished by Grizzly Hardwood for a contract amount of \$4,200. The original wood floors are more than 105 years old, and they had not been refinished for decades, so it was a major improvement. They look great! (see photo right) The exterior building repair and repaint contract went to Montana Fine Finishes in the amount of \$13,800. Local public was invited to help select paint trim colors for the historic restoration project. Did you know the front of the Schoolhouse building paint trim was different when it was constructed in 1915? This year's paint project, in partnership with MHF, is our best effort to restore the building to its original 1915 paint style. Historic photos were used and local historians were consulted to plan the paint restoration. The results were surprising. It is definitely a different look than we were accustomed to!

This spring we took advantage of the Frenchtown Rural Fire Department's grant program for fire fuel mitigation. Their crew cleared trees and brush around the front and side of the Stark Schoolhouse. They cleaned up and we scored a good amount of future firewood. Then we improved maintenance access to our water supply well. The Board also worked both inside and out on the buildings and grounds for our Spring Cleanup day, cleaning and weeding around the front garden space and repairing and cleaning up old fencing. The Church and Schoolhouse were swept out and cleaned up top to bottom.

Longtime local resident, **Cindy Argauer**, reached out to the Board with an offer to donate the original **Nine Mile House bars** that were salvaged out of the building before it burned down in the winter of 2017. The 16' long section will be installed outdoors under the Pavilion and the 9' section will be preserved and protected in the dining room of the Schoolhouse. (see photo left) Thank you to Cindy and also **Barb Gaut** for the vintage photos!

Last but not least, our Community Center Facebook page and website are going strong. Tech administration was taken up by our wonderful Board Secretary/Treasurer, Julie Van Hise. Say hello to her on Facebook and check out the latest news and event info.

Governance: IRS Nonprofit 990-EZ tax return was filed for calendar year 2019. Filed annual nonprofit corporate renewal report with Montana Secretary of State. Maintained property and liability insurance, and nonprofit mailing permit for our newsletters.

Events Held: We held election for the Community Center Board of Directors and free BBQ, September (25+ attending); Our 2nd Annual Apple Cider Festival in October (100+ attending); Holiday Craft Fair, Hay Ride, and Turkey Shoot, November; (450+/- attending); Christmas Eve Celebration, December (80+ attending); Winterized the Schoolhouse to conserve energy, December; Spring Clean-up Day, (Board only) June; Ninemile Roadside Clean Up, June; July 4th Celebration & ATV Parade, July; 1st Annual Nine Mile Community Wide Yard Sale, July (see photo below); Rented the NMCC for two beautiful country weddings!

Newsletters & Website: Five newsletters published. (Notified community members of events and projects) Standard newsletter circulation: 600, Special Event circulation: 2,500. Maintained our Facebook page and our informative ninemilecommunitycenter.com website & blog, with over 5,300 total site visits.

Upcoming Public Events: Nine Mile Community Center Board Election, September 9th 2020; Apple Cider Pressing (By reservation only), October 3rd; Open Air Christmas Eve Celebration, December 24th.

Plans for the Future: Our next major project is to complete our property boundary fence along the southeast property line and to plant native shrubs opposite the front entrance. That will finish a multi-year project to fence and landscape the community center's 2.51 acre property perimeter. We are also considering applying for a grant to replace our old wooden entrance sign by the driveway. More info will be coming on costs and opportunities to help with both projects as they develop.



We send out a heart-felt Thank You to all of you!
It is with your help and support that we have such a viable and beautiful Community Center.
By working together, we've accomplished a lot this year!

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STARS & TEARS 2020 QUILT RAFFLE

Help support your Nine Mile Community Center with the purchase of raffle tickets to win one of these two beautiful handmade quilts. **Julie Radtke** generously donated the quilts for our 2020 fundraiser. Two winners will be drawn October 3rd and the 1st place drawing may select either quilt. The remaining quilt will be awarded to the 2nd place winner. This is our Biggest Fundraiser of the Year. COVID-19 caused the cancelation of our major income generating events this year, and events and donations are the only way we pay the bills, so this raffle is a fun way to financially support your Community Center. The drawing will take place during our Apple Pressing event on October 3rd. The quilts can be viewed during our Board meeting September 9th at 6:00 pm under the pavilion, or at the Apple Pressing event. The raffle closes October 3rd at 2:00 p.m.

How do you purchase tickets? Easy! Send a check made out to NMCC to Steve King, 21035 West Nine Mile Rd, Huson, MT 59846. Let him know your name, your phone number, and your e-mail address if you have one. He will mail or email you a receipt for your entry. Questions? Call him at 626-4294 or email ninemilecc@gmail.com. Winners will be notified on or about October 3rd. The Tickets prices are 1 ticket for \$5, 3 tickets for \$10 or 20 tickets for \$50. Please send a check to the NMCC in any amount for a good chance to win and support your Nine Mile Community Center!



2020 Nine Mile Community Center (NMCC) BALLOT

IMPORTANT VOTING INSTRUCTIONS: We have 2 sections for you to vote on this year. First, there are 3 terms expiring on the Board of Directors—please vote (‘Yes’ or ‘No’) for the each of the three candidates listed below. Second, the Board feels it is important to update the Bylaws to provide clarity, and acknowledge the extent of our ‘Community.’

Due to concerns over Covid-19, we have identified three ways to vote this year. All ballots must be in our P.O. Box or at the Community Center by 6:00 p.m. Election Day—Wednesday, September 9th.

o **By Mail:** we must validate that you are a bona fide resident of the Nine Mile valley, so please, on a separate piece of paper or on your envelope we need 3 things: **your neatly printed name; your signature; and your address.** If these are not attached your ballot will be invalidated.

o **In Person,** via our drop-off box at the Community Center. The drop box will be on a table at the front door of the NMCC from 9 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9th. Current Board members will monitor the box throughout the day. If you utilize this method, we still need on a separate piece of paper or envelope: **your printed name; signature; and address.**

o **In Person:** You can also vote in person from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center. We ask that you wear a face mask to help us keep COVID-19 out of the Nine Mile Valley.

If there are two (or more) eligible voters in your household you can copy this ballot sheet, or simply write out the ballot portion of this page and vote on it. We will still need the neatly printed name of this additional voter, as well as their signature and address to verify that individual as a bona fide resident of the Nine Mile valley.

SECTION 1 — Board of Directors

Please vote for three candidates for the Nine Mile Community Center board (3 terms will end September 30, 2023)

Amanda Beauchamp

Vote to Retain

o Yes

o No

Steve King

Vote to Retain

o Yes

o No

Lisa Hensley

Elect to First Term

o Yes

o No

SECTION 2 — Bylaws

Please vote to Approve or Reject changes to the Nine Mile Community Center Bylaws. (Read the changes, below)

o Yes—Approve the changes

o No—Reject the changes

Send in or drop off this ballot to arrive by September 9th.

The NMCC Bylaws can be viewed in their entirety (8 pages) at www.ninemilecommunitycenter.com. Click on “About Us” and then “Governance.” Here are the proposed wording changes to seven sections of the Bylaws. Words to be removed are ~~crossed-out~~; words to be inserted are underlined.

3.01 Membership

There shall be but one class of members. Only those persons who are *bona fide* residents ~~of the Nine Mile Valley in Missoula County, Montana, from the head of said valley to No. 10 Highway~~ within our Community Focus Area, which is defined as the U.S. Postal Service’s 59846 “Huson” ZIP Code shall be eligible for membership, and who meet the following criteria:

- (a) *bona fide* resident shall be defined as a real person who lives in the ~~valley~~ Community Focus Area; and
- (b) who participates in the socio/political and economic structure of the ~~Nine Mile Valley~~ Community Focus Area; and
- (c) who is at least eighteen (18) years of age.

4.03 Attendance and Verification of Eligibility

Each member entering ~~a meeting~~ the Annual Meeting for the purpose of voting shall sign the attendance record so that his or her eligibility to vote may be determined.

4.04 Order of Business

The President will preside at all meetings. The order of the meetings will be as follows:

- (a) Meeting called to order by the President
- (b) The reading and disposal of any unapproved business and the reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting.
- (c) The Treasurer's report
- (d) Reports of officers and committees
- (e) Election of Board of Directors ~~and officers~~ (if ~~the September~~ it is the Annual Meeting)
- (f) Unfinished business
- (g) New business
- (h) Public comment for items not on agenda
- (i) Adjournment

4.05 Annual Election Meeting

The September meeting of this association will be considered the annual meeting for the purpose of electing Directors ~~and Officers to the Board~~. If in any year the election of Directors is not held in the month designated for the annual meeting, or at any adjournment of the annual meeting, the board shall call a special meeting of the members as soon thereafter as possible to conduct the election of Directors.

4.06 Voting

All voting for the purpose of electing Directors ~~and Officers~~ will be by secret written ballot.

At all votes by ballot, the Board of Directors shall appoint a committee of ~~four (4)~~ three (3) to act as "Inspectors of Election." No Inspector may be a candidate for office. At the conclusion of balloting, the Inspectors shall tally votes, including absentee ballots, and certify in writing to the President the results. The certified results shall be ~~physically affixed in the minute book~~ to the minutes of that meeting. Nominees receiving the most votes shall be elected to fill the director positions.

4.07 Proxies.

A member may appoint a proxy to vote on the election of Directors, but not on any other matters coming before the membership. ~~To appoint a proxy, the member must sign an appointment form, either personally or by an attorney in fact, and have the signature notarized. An appointment of a proxy is effective when received by the secretary or other officer or agent authorized to tabulate votes. An appointment is valid for 11 months unless a different period is expressly provided in the appointment form. An appointment is not valid for more than three (3) years from its date of execution. If a person who has duly executed a proxy personally attends an election meeting, the proxy shall not be effective for that meeting. A member proxy appointment request shall be signed and dated by the member, submitted in writing (either electronic or hard copy) to the Board and be reviewed for approval by the Inspectors of Election prior to the end of the annual election.~~

5.05 Duties of Directors

Directors will be responsible for all public activities at the Nine Mile Community Center buildings and grounds (hereinafter referred to as the Center). They shall be responsible for all expenses incurred in the operation and maintenance of the Center. It will be their duty to maintain revenue programs to support the Center. Directors may solicit contributions from the membership to fulfill the Directors' duty to support the Center. Directors may engage community members using various communication tools and/or advertising as they exercise their responsibilities to operate and maintain the Center. It will be their duty to formulate the policies, regulations, and rates for the use of the buildings and grounds. They shall have complete disciplinary control over their use at all times. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, Directors, Officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause of these Bylaws.

Thank you for voting!

To mail in your ballot: REMEMBER to provide us with your printed name; your signature; and your physical address for each ballot, so we can determine that you indeed are a valid "bona fide" resident of the Nine Mile Valley. Ballots can be mailed to: Nine Mile Community Center; P.O. Box 1061; Frenchtown, MT. 59834. All ballots must be received by Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

To vote in person: You can place your voted ballot in our drop box at the NMCC, on Wednesday Sept. 9 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (we'll still need the verifying information listed for the mail in voting procedure). OR you can come to the Community Center to vote in person from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. that same day to vote in person.