

# NINE MILE COMMUNITY CENTER



## Winter 2020

### Join Your Neighbors for an Outdoor Christmas Eve Celebration

Our community gathering begins **one hour early** this year at

**5:30 p.m.** Thursday, December 24th.

6:00 p.m. Traditional Gathering on the steps of the

Nine Mile Community Center Historic Church

We'll have a non-denomination Christmas Service, with Music & Caroling

Reading of the Christmas Story

Masks and Social Distancing Required. Everyone Welcome!

### ***OUR CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITION CONTINUES***

The blessings of the season prevail over all obstacles. Winter Solstice 2020 brings a promise of renewal and hope for a better new year ahead. The Community Center Board of Directors are happy to invite your family to gather at our open air Pavilion and Historic Church for this year's Christmas Eve celebration. Outdoor heaters will be set up and a roaring bonfire is planned to provide warmth for all.

Local community members have contributed their time to carry on this traditional holiday gathering, and they have discussed this year's event plan with the Missoula County Health Department. We are good to go ahead with a few easy public safety requirements. Face masks are required (except on the tiny ones) with the side benefit of keeping your cheeks warm, and safe spacing between folks will be the norm. Save the hugs for your family this year. To the best of our ability everything will come together for a wonderful community celebration the evening of December 24th. Plan now to start this year's Christmas Eve at the Nine Mile **one hour early at 5:30 p.m.**

Come by the community center and see the new installation of 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 is installed outdoors under the Pavilion and the 9' section is preserved and protected in the Schoolhouse.

Sorry, no bar service this year. We ask that you bring your own beverage of choice. There will be no food or drink service this year, so please do not bring food to share. For more information about this year's event please contact Glen Babcock: [glen@gardencityfungi.com](mailto:glen@gardencityfungi.com). To make a Christmas Eve event donation please send a check marked "Christmas" made out to: Nine Mile Community Center, P.O. Box 1061, Frenchtown, MT 59834, or on our website: **[ninemilecommunitycenter.com](http://ninemilecommunitycenter.com)**



## CHECK OUT THE NEW VIRTUAL HOLIDAY FAIR VENDOR SITES

Even though the 2020 Nine Mile Valley Holiday Fair had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19, you can still buy your holiday gifts from some of your favorite Nine Mile vendors, such as The Mitten Lady, Clara's Gourmet Toffee & Candy, Little Birds MT and Ivette's Fine Art & Design. Check out our Nine Mile Community Center website and Facebook page for a list of the vendors who are offering their products and crafts for sale this year. Their contact information will be available until January 2021. If you were a past Nine Mile Valley Holiday Fair Vendor, and would like to use our various media platforms to help advertise your craft/product during these trying times, please contact Shannon Stalpaert at shannyzim007@gmail.com. The NMCC is providing these links free of charge to our loyal vendors in appreciation of their wonderful support. We hope to see you all next year at the 2021 Nine Mile Valley Holiday Fair.

## NMCC BYLAWS CHANGES PASSED AT THE SEPTEMBER ELECTION

### New Community Center Board Members Start Their Terms

At our September 2020 election, the Board of Directors proposed an expansion of the community center membership area to include all of the 59846 zip code, adding western Huson, all Six Mile residents, and neighborhoods south of I-90. For many years the Board recognized that our "community" actually included many people who regularly participated and contributed to NMCC events. The Bylaws changes were supported by a wide majority and approved by the voting members.

Local community volunteers were voted in for three year terms on the Board of Directors; Ananda Beauchamp, Lisa Hensley, and Steve King. The big news is that long time Holiday Fair volunteer, Shannon Stalpaert from the Big Horn neighborhood south of I-90, was also voted in by the Board after the Bylaws change. She filled Morris Eisert's vacated position on the Board through the end of 2021. Thanks to Morris and Kristi Eisert for many years of support in our valley. Shannon is our first new Board member from the expanded 59846 membership area! Welcome Shannon and thanks to all who participated in the 2020 election.

## STARS & TEARS 2020 QUILT RAFFLE RESULTS

The quilt raffle was a great success again this year. Many of you helped support your Community Center with the purchase of raffle tickets and two local folks won beautiful handmade quilts. Julie Radtke generously donated the quilts for our 2020 fundraiser, and we raised over \$1,000! Two winners were drawn on October 3rd at the slimmed down Apple Pressing event. First place went to Angela Wells on Old Spur Road and the 2nd place winner was Janice Knopik up on Ellis Creek Road. This was our biggest fundraiser of the year and we appreciate everyone who helped make it a success.

## WHAT ABOUT 2021 EVENTS?

Of course it is too early to tell the future for 2021 events. Actually, one thing is certain. Your Community Center Board is working on it, and we are looking for ways to safely host public events when the COVID-19 situation permits. We are looking forward to citizens supporting another 4th of July ATV Parade and a summer Valley Wide Yard Sale. Programs may include a Raptors of the Rockies birds of prey presentation & Garden City Fungi mushroom cultivation tour. Other possibilities are a Trout Unlimited mine reclamation update; USFS public meeting, and if you are feeling lucky—Bingo/potluck nights. We will do our best to host a Fall Apple Cider Festival and 2021 Holiday Fair. Ideas? Adult Education classes you could volunteer to teach? Send us an email with your ideas, suggestions or volunteer to help make these programs happen. [ninemilecc@gmail.com](mailto:ninemilecc@gmail.com)

**USED FURNITURE NEEDED:** We are searching for a nice vintage (looking) entry table/bookcase/or dresser to replace the current plywood table at the top of the entry stairs in the Stark Schoolhouse. Length 36" - 42", Width 18" - 32", Height 36" - 42" Donations appreciated (and can be written off for value on taxes) or we can pay a reasonable price.

**WANTED: VOLLEYBALL NET & POSTS, a LADDER, and a WHEELBARROW IN GOOD CONDITION.** Call Steve King (406) 626-4294 to arrange a donation or email [ninemilecc@gmail.com](mailto:ninemilecc@gmail.com).

**AVAILABLE FOR FREE:** We are cleaning our basement at the NMCC and have historic files concerning the 1990's proposed Yellowstone Pipeline reroute through the Nine Mile Valley, available for the asking. Call Julie Van Hise (406) 626-2535.

**Plans for the Future:** Our next major project is to complete our boundary fence along the southeast property line and to plant native shrubs opposite the Stark School entrance on the Ninemile Road frontage. That will finish a multi-year project to fence and landscape the community center's 2.51 acre property perimeter. We have applied for a project grant and will know more about our funding later this winter. More info will be coming on opportunities to help with landscaping and fencing as the project develops.



# **2021 NINE MILE VALLEY HISTORIC PHOTO PROJECT**

The Nine Mile Community Center is planning a new 2021 project to create a permanent historical photo exhibit at the Stark Schoolhouse. This will be a local effort to seek out, preserve, and display historic photographs of our Stark Schoolhouse and its rural surrounding in the Nine Mile valley.

The Board was inspired to create this photo exhibit after working on our 2020 historic building restoration. We wanted to display the actual historic photos that were used to guide the exterior paint restoration. When the Board talked about it, we realized this could be a great opportunity to include the entire neighborhood in our photo quest. We want to tell a picture story of the evolution of the Stark School from its beginning in 1915 as a rustic school building into our present day rural community center. You can help.

Some of you may have a wealth of old photos or personal records related to the community center. Old snapshots of dances, school outings, weddings, religious gatherings, and community celebrations at the Center are what we are after. We would also like photos of local industry, logging, mining, branding, and equestrian events. Nine Mile photos that your Granny gave you could be treasure for our project. We hope to gather photos of both the interior and exterior of our schoolhouse, and also the people of the valley illustrating local styles, vintage vehicles, and our rural community activities through the years.

Please go through your old photo albums this winter and plan to lend us a few of your best photos (or slides/negatives) when we are ready to borrow them next spring. When the date arrives we will pick them up, scan them into digital format, and promptly return them to you. We want people to feel a part of this project by either sharing photos or donating funds to help make it happen. The project is scalable depending on money raised, so any donations will be used for actual production of photo prints. The community center was recently awarded funding to start this project through a Preserving Missoula County's History Grant sponsored by the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.

For more information about how you can get involved with this project please contact Steve King, at [rockingpkp@hotmail.com](mailto:rockingpkp@hotmail.com), (406) 626-4294. We do not have a schedule yet for photo lending, so gather the good stuff this winter and look for more info in future newsletters. To make

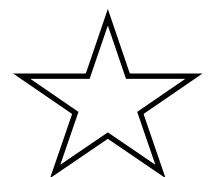
Photo Project donations please send a check marked "Photos" made out to: Nine Mile Community Center P.O. Box 1061, Frenchtown, MT 59834 or on our website: [ninemilecommunitycenter.com](http://ninemilecommunitycenter.com).



**The new Stark School  
1916**



*From Archives & Special Collections, Mansfield Library, The University of Montana-Missoula*

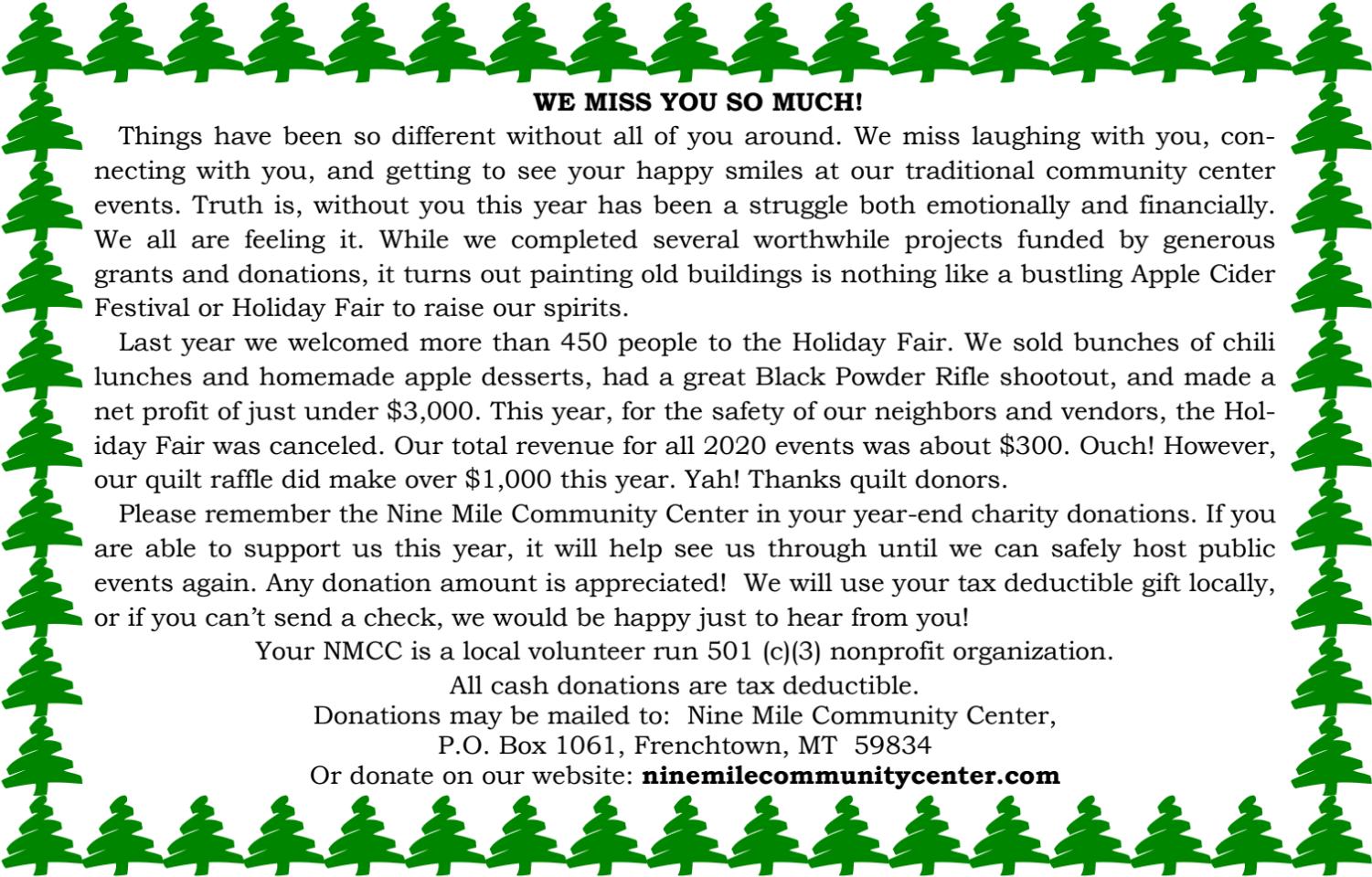


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**WE MISS YOU SO MUCH!**

Things have been so different without all of you around. We miss laughing with you, connecting with you, and getting to see your happy smiles at our traditional community center events. Truth is, without you this year has been a struggle both emotionally and financially. We all are feeling it. While we completed several worthwhile projects funded by generous grants and donations, it turns out painting old buildings is nothing like a bustling Apple Cider Festival or Holiday Fair to raise our spirits.

Last year we welcomed more than 450 people to the Holiday Fair. We sold bunches of chili lunches and homemade apple desserts, had a great Black Powder Rifle shootout, and made a net profit of just under \$3,000. This year, for the safety of our neighbors and vendors, the Holiday Fair was canceled. Our total revenue for all 2020 events was about \$300. Ouch! However, our quilt raffle did make over \$1,000 this year. Yah! Thanks quilt donors.

Please remember the Nine Mile Community Center in your year-end charity donations. If you are able to support us this year, it will help see us through until we can safely host public events again. Any donation amount is appreciated! We will use your tax deductible gift locally, or if you can't send a check, we would be happy just to hear from you!

Your NMCC is a local volunteer run 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.

All cash donations are tax deductible.

Donations may be mailed to: Nine Mile Community Center,  
P.O. Box 1061, Frenchtown, MT 59834

Or donate on our website: [ninemilecommunitycenter.com](http://ninemilecommunitycenter.com)