

Spring 2026

Nine Mile Community Center Newsletter



Visit us at www.ninemilecommunitycenter.com or on Facebook. Email us with any questions at ninemi-lecc@gmail.com, or you are welcome to send donations through Venmo @[@ninemilecc](https://www.venmo.com/ninemilecc)

Join us for a free, family-friendly **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 4th, starting after 1:00 p.m. at the Community Center. The kids can hunt for treat filled eggs and win prizes! We'll have special prize baskets for different age groups, from littlest toddlers to big kids up to 12. Bring your own egg hunt baskets and bunny costumes are welcome!

Fun doesn't stop after the hunt! Enjoy indoor games and a free ham dinner for the whole family starting around 2:00 p.m. We'll provide the main course and side dishes, and feel free to bring a dessert to share if you'd like. In addition to hundreds of eggs for the kiddos to find, you'll have the chance to snap a family photo in front of a fun Easter themed backdrop. Egg hunts start at 1:00 p.m. Bring a dessert to share, and an egg-gathering bag or basket and we'll see you there!

For more information, or to volunteer to help, contact Tabitha Boyle at 406-360-4635. If you are interested in volunteering for any NMCC event, send an e-mail to join the Friends of the Nine Mile Community Center.

Our historic Center has encountered an unexpected and unusual challenge. We're currently evaluating repair costs and preparing a community fundraiser to help cover them. Watch for updates as we work to get the Pavilion ready for the season!



Ninemile Community Center

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4th
Ages 0-12
First Age Group
Begins at 1 p.m.

Bring a dessert to share

Wind Damaged Pavilion Repairs Underway The December 17th wind storm caused severe damage to the Community Center Pavilion. A big part of the building was smashed by two fallen tree tops, and more downed trees took out a section of our wooden property line fence. It could have been worse; the historic school and church were undamaged. We put out a call for local assistance and had an amazing turnout for 2 clean-up days December 20th-21st. The offending trees were limbed, bucked up, and stacked to allow for the repair work to begin. The fallen trees will be milled into lumber on site for future projects and the remains stacked for firewood. Building repairs began in February and are planned to be completed by mid-April.





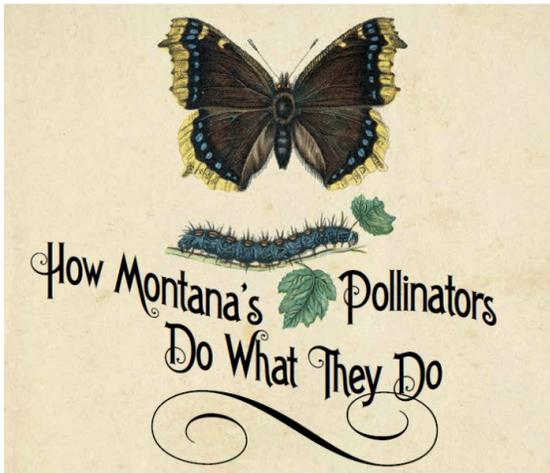
**MISSOULA ELECTRIC
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Wildfire Preparedness Open House: Tuesday, April 7th, 5-7 p.m. This is a program to inform landowners and renters about wildfire mitigation actions. Organizations include: NorthWestern Energy, MEC, Missoula County Wildfire Program, Frenchtown Rural Fire, Nine Mile Ranger District/Lolo NF, Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation. Topics covered: What utilities are doing to reduce wildfire risk, preparing for Public Safety Power Shutoffs, evacuation preparedness, preparing properties for wildfires, potential grant opportunities for landowners to reduce wildfire risk, organizing community chipping events, etc. Drop in to the open house and make plans for a fire safe summer.



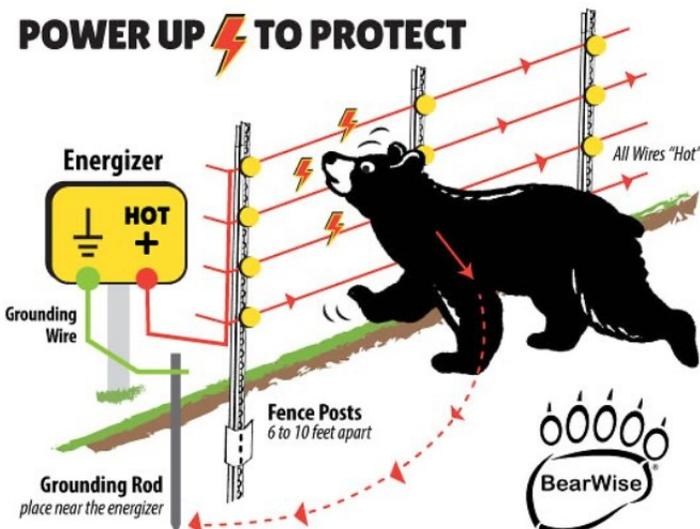
Community Center Spring Clean Up & Garden Refresh: Saturday, April 18th, 9 a.m. till Noon Hello Neighbors, it's time to shake off the winter dust! The Nine Mile Community Center is hosting our annual Spring Cleanup & Garden Refresh Day, and we would love to see you there. This



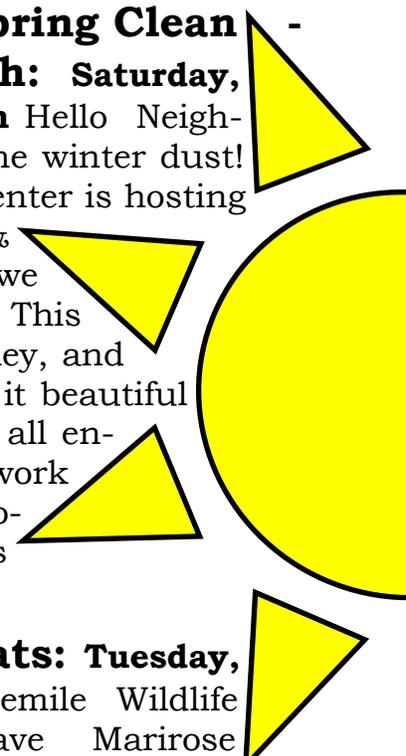
historic space is the heart of our valley, and a few hours of your time helps keep it beautiful for the public events and classes we all enjoy throughout the year. Bring your work gloves and yard tools, and we will provide a casual lunch at noon. Families welcome!

Pollinators and Their Habitats: Tuesday, April 21st at 7 p.m. This Ninemile Wildlife Workgroup presentation will have Marirose Kuhlman, habitat coordinator for the Missoula County Department of Ecology and Extension, share her extensive knowledge of pollinators and their habitat needs. The program will focus on how we can better provide for and protect these essential foundations of our ecosystem.

POWER UP ⚡ TO PROTECT



Electric Fence Workshop: Saturday, April 25th, 1 p.m. This is a hands on program (Just kidding!) Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Bear Specialist, Jamie Jonkel, will share along with Dane Williams with Wildlife Services, and Russ Talmo with the Defenders of Wildlife Electric Fence Incentive Program. Both Dane and Russ run different electric fence incentive assistance programs here in Western Montana. Come learn about best management practices to reduce conflicts between people, bears, and other critters, including how to pay for them.





Wildlife Photography with Charlie Janson: 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 19th, will feature Charlie Janson, an internationally renowned wildlife photographer from the Sixmile and a board member of the Ninemile Wildlife Workgroup. Charlie will talk about the art of telling nature stories through photography, illustrated with images from the Rocky Mountains.

Special Event

Raptors of the Rockies & Volunteer's Appreciation

Lunch: Sunday, June 7th—12-Noon lunch starts, and the Raptors Program with Kate Davis starts at 2 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join this family friendly lunch and live animal presentation. Raptors of the Rockies Director, Kate Davis, will return with an informative and entertaining program with Little Billie the Northern Saw-whet Owl and three other raptors. Their facilities are on the banks of the Bitterroot in Florence. Years ago, Kate remembers someone at their 1000th program shouting, "See you at number 2000!" That seemed inconceivable, at the time, but they are getting close. In their 39th year of education, Kate and "Teaching Team" travel the west for schools and the public with over 150,000 participants plus PowerPoints across the country. She encourages everyone to venture outdoors and enjoy "nature therapy." And as in every single trip, we'll all hoot up an owl as a finale.

Save the Dates for Summer FUN: Independence Day Celebration & ATV/UTV Parade: Saturday, July 4th. Get your flags and bunting ready. More info on signups in the next issue.

Community Wide Yard Sale combines with our Endless Summer Party, Saturday, August 8th. It's not too soon to start setting stuff aside for this year's big summer shopping & selling event. Mark this date for your private sale or join your neighbors at the community center for table setup. Event advertising and maps provided by the NMCC.



Keith Fialcowitz photo ©



Host Classes at the Nine Mile Community Center

Are you an artist, educator, naturalist, or fitness enthusiast looking for a free space to share your passion with your neighbors? We would love to talk with you about how the Center can help you host your class or program. Talk with a Board member, or email ninemilecc@gmail.com for more information about either for-profit or non-profit classes and programs.





Nine Mile Community Center

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Upcoming Nine Mile Community Center Public Events

2026 Date/Day	Event	Contact Person	Notes
Starts January 6, Tuesdays	Yoga with Pearl	Pearl Cash	Starting at 10 a.m. through April 7th
April 4/Saturday	Easter for Kids	Tabitha Boyle	1 p.m. Kids start, 2 p.m. lunch service
April 7/Tuesday	Wildfire Preparedness	Julie Van Hise	5-7 p.m. NorthWestern & Missoula Electric Coop
April 14, Tuesday	Board meeting	Julie Van Hise	7 p.m. NMCC
Winter/Spring Dates	Pavilion Wind Damage Repairs	Julie Van Hise	Repairs under contract February 10 - April 15th
Dates to be determined	New Storage Shed Project	Steve King	County grant awarded, to be rescheduled 2027
Spring/Summer Dates	Outhouse Preservation Project	Steve King	Grant results in April, repairs as funds available
April 18/Saturday	NMCC Spring Cleanup Day	Rick Marler	9 a.m. - Noon, lunch for volunteers
April 21/Tuesday	Pollinators and Their Habitats	Pat Sweeney	7 p.m. start
April 25/Saturday	FWP E-Fence/Bear workshop	Julie Van Hise	1 p.m. start
May 12, Tuesday	Board meeting	Julie Van Hise	7 p.m. NMCC
May 19/ Tuesday	Wildlife Photography	Pat Sweeney	7 p.m. start
June 7/Sunday	Volunteer Appreciation BBQ	Steve King	12 noon lunch start before Raptors, all welcome
June 7/Sunday	Raptors of the Rockies	Steve King	Kate Davis 2 p.m. start
June 9, Tuesday	Board meeting	Julie Van Hise	7 p.m. NMCC
July 4th/Saturday	ATV Parade and BBQ	Julie/Jen Murphy	1 p.m. Parade start, 2 p.m. Pot Luck BBQ
July 14, Tuesday	Board meeting	Julie Van Hise	7 p.m. NMCC
August 8/Saturday	Community Wide Yard Sale	Open	9 a.m.-3 p.m. Combined with Summer Party
August 8/Saturday	Summer Celebration	Tabitha Boyle	12 noon - 3 p.m.
August 11, Tuesday	Board meeting	Julie Van Hise	7 p.m. NMCC

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