



# SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER | NINE MILE COMMUNITY CENTER

## COMING RIGHT UP! | 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 to the Community Center with an informative and entertaining program with Little Billie the Northern Saw-whet Owl and three other raptors. Our Board of Directors will be firing up the BBQ, providing burgers and hot dogs, along with chips and drinks. Please bring a dessert or snacks to share. (Special thanks to David Richelderfer and Aimee Luke and the Missoula Bottling Co. for donating the beverages!) This event was inspired by Kate's volunteer spirit as we show appreciation for our community volunteers, past, present and future!



## PAVILION REPAIRS UPDATE

After the December 17th windstorm damaged the Pavilion, we had to regroup quickly. The Board contacted several local contractors, and we hired Richard Marler Construction, LLC in February to do the structure repair. They did a wonderful job completing the work promptly by April. The Pavilion is back to full function, ready for 2026 community events! Please join us in thanking Rick Marler and Lucas Wells for their efforts.



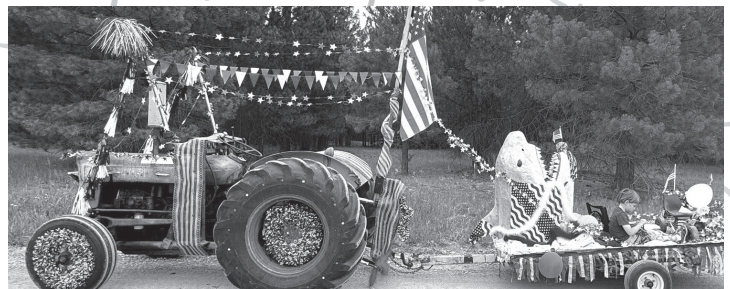
## GRANT PROJECT UPDATES

On the heels of last year's windstorm, we put together a Hazard Tree Removal Project to cut down several large pines threatening our historic buildings. We also identified our very old water heater as a potential flood liability. In February we applied to Missoula County for financial assistance, and they awarded us \$4,000 to help fund these hazard reduction projects! In early May local sawyers, Dave and RD Kreis, neatly took down 22 pines for us, and with volunteer help from Rick Marler, and Ardi and Miriam Villiard, the local owners of Heritage Builders, we stacked logs, moved a small mountain of pine branches, and burnt the wood debris. Thank you to the Frenchtown Rural Fire District for being on hand. Their crew provided a standby truck to ensure everything remained safe while we burned the large debris pile. We also scheduled the old water heater replacement for June. Thank you Missoula County for the funding!

## "Regular Business"

In what we may call "regular business"; the Foundation for Montana History approved our 2026 Historic Stark School Outhouse Preservation Project grant application for **\$7,185! Wow!** The tasks of preparing building pads, repairing the structures, replacing the roofs, and fresh paint work will be accomplished this summer. We also received a Missoula County Community Parks & Recreation Grant to install a new storage shed. The shed will be constructed with lumber milled on site from our own downed hazard trees, but that work must be postponed until the Spring of 2027 to let the wood be cured and due to our other project obligations. That shed grant application was submitted last winter, before the big wind changed all our 2026 project plans.

## 4TH OF JULY PARADE & POTLUCK BBQ Saturday, July 4th



Deck out your UTV, ATV, Horse or Bike and join the Independence Day parade! Parade line-up begins at 12:40 p.m. (corner of Ranch Lane and Ridgewood Drive) and the parade starts at 1:00 p.m. sharp! Prizes will be awarded for best-decorated vehicles! The parade is followed by a BBQ and potluck starting at 1:30 at the Community Center. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a potluck dish to share. Kids Parade at 2 p.m. around the Community Center grounds. Walk, bike, or wagon, whatever the kids have! Don't want to be in the parade? No problem. Turn out along the route to cheer on the parade, then head to NMCC for a wonderful community BBQ and kid's parade!



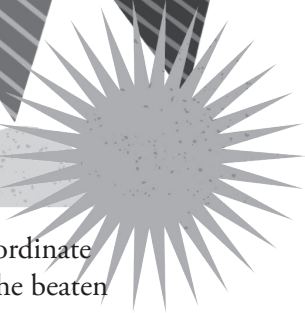


**NEW!**

## **Old Stark Schoolhouse Ghost Hunting: Sunday afternoon, July 5th at 1:00 p.m.**


Come witness a real ghost hunt! A paranormal investigation group called Bozeman Paranormal society contacted us wanting to check our 1915 vintage schoolhouse. We said yes, so long as they opened their investigation to the public. We will talk about some history, and you will get to learn how to do some ghost hunting. You can learn about ghost hunting equipment and how they investigate our location. Come learn first-hand about ghost hunting.

## **SUMMER CELEBRATION & COMMUNITY WIDE YARD SALE**

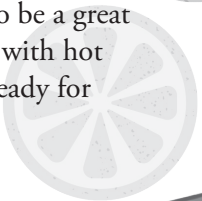

**9:00 a.m. Saturday, August 8th**



The Community Center and Nine Mile Valley, Six Mile & west Huson residents are planning to coordinate numerous Garage/Yard Sales. You can hold your own private sale that day, or if you live too far off the beaten path, the NMCC has free table spaces available. Come out and join us and hopefully go home with some great stuff. The NMCC Yard Sale spaces will provide tables, chairs, and advertising, and spaces are free this year. Contact Mari Palomo at 661-805-0988 for more information or to reserve a space at the Community Center.



For your private Garage/Yard/Estate Sales: If you are planning your own sale on August 8th, and would like to be included on the NMCC website, Facebook page, advertising and event map, please let us know. Registration for your private event is free! To be included on the Community Wide Yard Sale list, please send an email by August 4th to Mari Palomo at [kishimoto.mari@gmail.com](mailto:kishimoto.mari@gmail.com) with your address and a brief description of your key sale items.



We're hosting a Summer Celebration Potluck BBQ at the Center on August 8th at noon. It's going to be a great day for the whole family, so bring the kiddos along for games and summer fun. We will have a BBQ with hot dogs provided along with chips and drinks. Just bring a favorite snack or dessert to share and come ready for some good food and neighborly company! For party info contact Tabitha Boyle at 406-360-4635.



Photo: Kate Davis



**NINE MILE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
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## **JOIN US!**

If you've been looking for a way to give back to your neighborhood, now is the perfect time to deepen your involvement. We currently have an open seat on our Board of Directors and are looking for a neighbor from the 59846-zip code area to help ensure our historic Center remains a vibrant part of the community. Board members participate directly in planning Community Center programs and projects. If you're interested in being a part of our local success story, contact us or drop by one of our monthly Board meetings to learn more. Our Board meets at the historic Stark School on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.



## **DONATIONS WELCOME**

If you'd like to help financially, this is a great year to donate to the NMCC because we have had some very large, unexpected expenses. While insurance covered most of the Pavilion's repair costs, the project required several thousand dollars in out-of-pocket expenses. These costs, which included our deductible and various uncovered repairs, were drawn directly from our limited savings. You can support our local mission via *Venmo @ninemilecc*, cash, or check—all are appreciated!

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**We'd love to stay connected! Be sure to check our website events page often as pop-up events may be added outside newsletter timelines. Visit us online at [www.ninemilecommunitycenter.com](http://www.ninemilecommunitycenter.com) or follow our Facebook page for the latest updates. Planning a special event? You can find all our venue rental details on *Eventective.com*. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out at [ninemilecc@gmail.com](mailto:ninemilecc@gmail.com). For those looking to support the Center's ongoing projects, donations are always welcome via *Venmo @ninemilecc*.**