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Flathead County Agency on Aging NEWSLETTER

160 Kelly Road
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406-758-5730

www.flathead.mt.gov/aging

Community Connector

Eagle Transit offers expanded bus services for Bigfork and Lakeside/Somers

Hop on the bus: save money and let Eagle Transit do the winter driving for you! Expanded bus service for the general public of all ages is now available from Bigfork and Lakeside/Somers with connecting service for Kalispell, Whitefish and Columbia Falls.

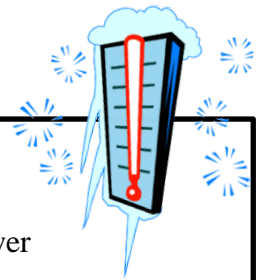


The new express route originates in Bigfork on Mondays and Wednesdays with pick-up at Harvest Foods, and in Lakeside/Somers on Tuesdays and Thursdays with pick-ups at the Lakeside Gathering Place and the post office in Somers. The route

includes selected stops in Kalispell, Whitefish, and Columbia Falls. Riders can catch the bus at any of these locations and make the express loop through all the communities; or, they can connect with the city buses in Kalispell, Whitefish and Columbia Falls to get to other destinations in those areas. The full route runs twice daily, and fares are only \$1 per one way trip.

Eagle Transit is also offering Dial-A-Ride service before and between express routes in Bigfork and Lakeside/Somers for people age 60 and older or who have a disability. Eligible riders may use the service to go to destinations in those communities or to connect to the express pick-up stop.

Information about the new routes and applications for Dial-A-Ride are available by calling 758-5728. Schedules are posted on the web at flathead.mt.gov/eagle. You can also pick one up at the Agency on Aging front desk or at any of the senior/community centers.



Winter Ready Montana

Cold weather hazards are present in your home and on the road during snowstorms and power outages. Be sure that you are prepared in case you are stranded alongside the road or find yourself without electricity in your home. Sometimes power outages can last several days. Take precautions by ensuring that your home has emergency supplies on hand that can last three days: bottled water (1 gallon per person per day), food that doesn't need refrigeration or heating, flashlights and batteries, candles, prescription medicines, battery operated radio, first aid kit, clothing and blankets, cell phone and emergency charger. Be sure to check the weather and road conditions before you head out on a trip and be sure to keep an emergency supply kit in your car. For more information, visit www.ready.mt.gov.

Do you have Medicare? You may be missing out on programs that can help you with:

- ☑ Prescription drug savings
- ☑ Lower health care costs
- ☑ Utility bill assistance
- ☑ Property tax rebates
- ☑ Reduced food expenses
- ☑ Medicaid programs
- ☑ Veteran services

Our counselors will help you learn about services, complete and submit applications and follow up to ensure you receive the benefits you deserve. Call 758-5730 to schedule a **BenefitsCheckUp**.

SAVE THE DATE!

Celebrate Leap Day at Sing-Along Concert

On Leap Day, February 29th, the Crown of the Continent Choir, the Care Farm Program and Opportunity Resources will present a sing-along concert for seniors at the FVCC Theater. The performance will be fun, free of charge, and filled with songs we all know. The audience is encouraged to join in! For more information, call Maarten Fischer at 406-752-3697, ext. 2004.

Get Active at your local Community Center

Do you know about the programs and activities at your local community/senior center? Exercise sessions, painting and art classes, social dining times, adult coloring, games and other activities are ongoing and available for you to join in and participate. Call today to get involved:

Bigfork	837-4157
Columbia Falls	892-4087
Kalispell Sr Ctr	257-1598
Lakeside	546-8537
Whitefish	862-4923

Holiday Highlights

Glad tidings of joy and good wishes:

The Service Learning office from Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) hosted a Cookie Decorate & Donate event on Saturday, December 5th. The culinary art students baked 600 cookies to donate to local agencies including our Meals on Wheels program.

Over 60 FVCC students, staff, and community volunteers decorated the cookies, which were included in Meals on Wheels home delivery.

Thank you to those at FVCC who thoughtfully supplied these delicious treats!



Pictured: Charles Abell a.k.a.Santa

Santa visited AOA early in the morning on Christmas Eve. Maybe it was just to get one of the delicious cookies from the kitchen and a cup of coffee before starting his Christmas deliveries.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who deliver Meals on Wheels—your service makes all the difference!

Thank you

Koby's Happy Wheels provided 220 hot wheel cars to lucky recipients at the 2015 *Christmas at Our House*. Koby's crusade to spread cheer with the gift of his cars has put smiles on the faces of children and adults alike!



Pictured are: Jakoby & Joston Isles, grandsons of J.R. Isles