Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc. VOICE OF EXPERIENCE



VOLUME 67 | MAY - JUNE 2022

Rocky Neighborhood Center | 200 S. Cruse Avenue | Helena, MT Ph: 406.447.1680 | HELENA SENIOR CENTER

MAY IS COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

Community Action marks 58 years this month. The Community Action Network was established to help American families and communities overcome obstacles to poverty. Over 1,000 agencies across the country are working every day to create opportunities and transform the lives of their neighbors, making communities stronger and helping families across the US thrive. This year, Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc. (Rocky), a proud member of the Community Action Network, will commemorate 57 years in service helping families throughout Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, and Jefferson Counties.



Across the county, Community Action Agencies address homelessness, hunger, home repair and heating, Head Start, and affordable housing. Rocky has the following programs:

- Meals on Wheels handdelivers home made meals to seniors in the Tri-County area so they can remain independent and in their home.
- Head Start is a comprehensive, earlychildhood program that serves low-income children and their families in the Tri-County area.
- Rocky owns and operates safe and affordable rental homes throughout the Tri-County area. Red Alder Residences, our latest housing development, completed 85 additional rental homes in 2020.
- Rocky offers a monthly Homebuyer Education and Counseling class for individuals and families "Community Action" continued p. 2

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VOICE OF EXPERIENCE is published by Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.

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VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

HELENA SENIOR NUTRITION MENU - MAY 2022 LUNCH SERVED AT 11:00 For more information call: (406) 447-1680				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 BEEF WIPEAS & CARROTS IN A SAVORY BROWN SAUCE OVER GEMELLI PASTA CAULIFLOWER PICKLED BEETS SWEET PEACHES	3 RASPBERRY CHICKEN BREAST BUTTERED NOODLES CAPRI VEGETABLES BEAN MEDLEY FRESH FRUIT	4 TATER TOT CASSEROLE CARROT COINS GREEN PEAS FRUIT CUP	5 CITRUS BAKED COD W/FRESH LEMON RICE PILAF ZUCCHINI SQUASH COLESLAW APRICOTS	6 MOTHER'S DAY DINNER BAKED ORANGE GLAZED HAM TWICE BAKED MASHED POTATOES HONEY GLAZED CARROTS DINNER ROLL FRESH FRUIT SALAD TRIPLE CHOCOLATE DRIZZLE BROWNIE ALA MODE
9 MONTANA PASTY w/GRAVY PACIFIC VEGGIES GREEN PEAS SWEET PEARS	10 CHICKEN NOODLE CASSEROLE VEGETABLE BLEND LIMA BEANS FRESH FRUIT	11 ROAST TURKEY BREAD STUFFING MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY BRUSSELS SPROUTS CRANBERRIES	12 SWEET & SOUR MEATBALLS BROWN RICE ORIENTAL VEGETABLES GREEN SALAD W/GARBANZOS PLUMP PEACHES	13 BIRTHDAY DINNER ITALIAN SAUSAGE IN CREAMY BASIL MUSTARD SAUCE OVER CAVATAPPI PASTA CAULIFLOWER GREEN BEANS MANDARIN ORANGES BIRTHDAY CAKE
16 SPAGHETTI w/MEAT SAUCE GARLIC BREAD BROCCOLI SPEARS GOLDEN CORN SWEET PEACHES	17 BBQ PORK RIBS SWEET YAMS DICED BEETS WHOLE GRAIN ROLL FRESH FRUIT	18 TERIYAKI CHICKEN BREAST BROWN RICE ORIENTAL VEGETABLES ASIAN CABBAGE PINEAPPLE	19 FISH PATTY W/TARTAR ON A BUN GARDEN PEAS CAULIFLOWER CARROT RAISIN SALAD	20 CHILI CON CARNE CORN BREAD MIXED VEGETABLES PARSLEY CARROTS BLUSHING PEARS
23 BEEF TACO SALAD w/REFRIED PINTO BEANS SERVED OVER TORTILLA CHIPS w/LETTUCE & CHEESE MEXICAN CORN MANDARIN ORANGES	24 PORK FRITTER PARMESAN OVER ROTINI NOODLES SAUTÉED GREENS CARROT COINS FRESH FRUIT	25 HOT TURKEY SANDWICH MASHED POTATOES STEAMED BROCCOLI CRANBERRIES	26 HOMEMADE HAM & BEAN SOUP BUTTERMILK BISCUIT YELLOW & GREEN ZUCCHINI COLESLAW PLUMP PLUMS	27 CHICKEN PATTY ON A BUN POTATO TRIANGLES GREEN BEANS PEACHES & PEARS
	31 LAZY DAISY CABBAGE CASSEROLE GOLDEN CORN CARROT COINS FRESH FRUIT	may 🌹		Low fat milk is delivered daily to Home Delivered Meal customers And served daily in the dinner club Salad options are available for congregate dining
WE DEPEND ON YOUR MEAL PAYMENT FOR PROGRAM EXPENSES – THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP – EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS USDA prohibits discrimination in the administration of this program. To file a complaint, write to Secretary of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250. This menu has been reviewed and approved by a Registered Dietitian, Cassandra Dryman, RDN <u>Germada. Dryman, RDM</u> .				

Suggested donation for 6D years old and over \$5.00. Required charge for under 6D years \$7.0D.

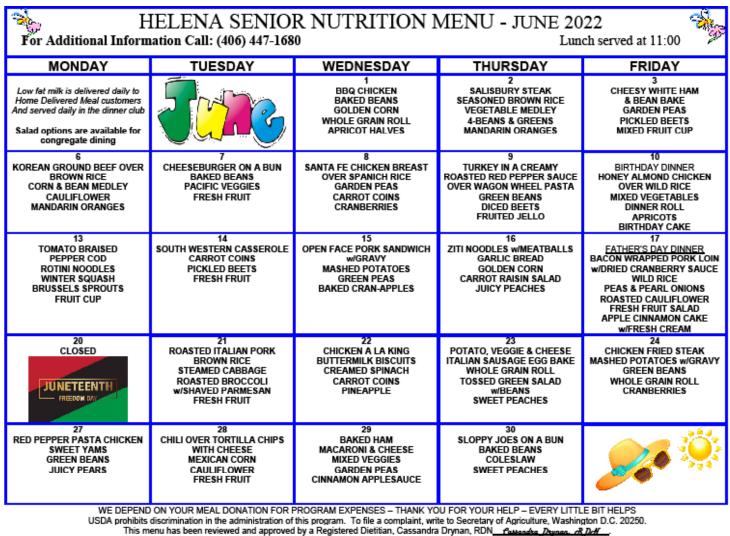
"Community Action" continued from page 2 who are interested in the process of buying a home.

- Utility Services includes the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Energy Share. Weatherization is a seperate energy conservation program designed to reduce the home heating costs for families on limited incomes. For qualified households, these services help lessen the financial burden of heating costs, improve home-heating safety and efficiency, and help with one-time heating emergencies.
- Rocky's Agency on Aging is an all-in-one

service to connect seniors and people with disabilities to community resources. This includes Medicare information and assistance, ombudsman advocacy, options counseling, and referrals. In addition to the Tri-County area, Rocky's Agency on Aging serves Meagher, Gallatin, and Park counties.

 AmeriCorps Seniors offers various volunteer opportunities for people age 55 and older. The Foster Grandparent Program provides mentorship and academic assistance to children in the community. Senior Companions help adults who struggle with the tasks of day-to-

"Community Action" continued on page 3



Suggested donation for 60 years old and over \$5.00. Required charge for under 60 years \$7.00.

"Community Action" continued from page 2

day living maintain their independence. The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program matches volunteers to their preferences and skills.

- Senior Nutrition and the Senior Centers provide social hubs where seniors can eat a nutritious meal. Senior centers offer a variety of activities including games, dancing, fitness activities, and more. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program provides monthly distributions of extra groceries to eligible seniors to supplement their own food purchases.
- Rocky Mountain Preschool Center serves children from birth to age five in three

age-appropriate classrooms emphasizing kindergarten readiness skills in the final years.

• Emergency Solutions Grant focuses on assisting people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/ or homelessness.

Community Action Agencies – like Rocky – connect individuals and families to approaches that help them succeed – including high quality education programs for children, senior information and advocacy, stable and affordable housing for families, utility assistance, and so much more.

VOICE OF EXPERIENCE SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

May and June 10:00 am – Jennie's Arthritis Exercise Class - Card Room 11:00 am - Tech-Time with Mary - Parlor

TUESDAYS

9:00 am – Crafty Quilters – Card Room 9:45 am – Line Dancing – Dance Floor 1:00 pm – Pinochle – Card Room *Pinochle Tournament Dates: May 2 & 3 1:00 pm – Bridge – Dance Floor

WEDNESDAYS

9:30 am - 10:30 am - Senior Advisory Council Meeting (first Wednesday of each month) 1:00 - 3:00 pm – Bingo – Dining Room

THURSDAYS

8:30 am – Coffee & Rolls – Dining Room 9:00 am - Be Well Clinic - Card Room 9:45 am – Line Dancing – Dance Floor 1:00 pm - Wood Carving – Dance Floor

FRIDAYS

10:00 am – Jennie's Arthritis Exercise Class 12:30 pm - Create-A-Craft - Card Room and/or Parlor

SUNDAYS 1:00 pm – Pinochle – Card Room

HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN ACTIVITY?

If you have an idea for an activty that isn't currently offered, such as a dance class, card game, art class, etc., please contact Bill Peña at 406-457-7372 or bpena@rmdc.net

The parlor is open every day starting at 9 am.

You are welcome to come in to relax, read magazines, play cards, work on puzzles, and enjoy time visiting! We are taking donations of approved books, magazines, and puzzles. A special thanks to everyone for the wonderful donations and sharing spirit!

Thank you for making the Helena Senior Center a wonderful, safe, and healthy place for all!

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: VICKI WOLF

By Barbara Beeby, Senior Nutrition Assistant

Victoria Ann Wolfe was born in Great Falls, Montana to Joe and Lillian (Skinny) Wolfe. She is the eldest of three children. Vicki was born into a strong Polish network and geographically was surrounded by her myriad of aunts, uncles and cousins and the family homes were even built in a sort of circle. Vicki said that she would often go to Aunt Fran's to see what she had for supper because she didn't like what her mom cooked. Growing up in a village of close relatives she always had family to go to, especially at a time of crisis. When her father Joe had his heart attack, her aunts comforted her and her siblings. Summers in the "Balkoski Village" had the entire family involved with cooking, eating, cleaning and water fights.

While in grade school, she learned to play the clarinet and continued all through high school participating in parades, football games and the orchestra. Vicki graduated from Great Falls High and then went to Montana State University where she earned a nursing degree. Following graduation, she and her roommate headed for the Palo Alto California VA hospital where she worked until her retirement in 2009.



Pictured Above: Vicki Wolf

As a teaching hospital associated with Stanford Medical School, she earned her leadership skills in the surgical ICU. As a fresh graduate thrown into the ICU, the first months of caring for patients near death, with lines and wires entering and exiting their bodies, was pretty scary. However, over time, it became a challenge she welcomed and thereafter made that idea her mantra... "I can do anything". After 7 years of surgical intensive care, she transferred to spinal cord injury where she became

involved in six research projects. As a urological nurse she maintained a lab, conducting studies of patients that led into further, specific research involving bladder health and function with female veterans.

While working with spinal cord injury vets, she became involved with wheelchair sports. After her first VA summer games, she saw the need for leadership in this area and led volunteers for weekend meetings, workouts, training and vision. She was chosen to travel as the medical person with the international wheelchair VA team. She traveled all over the world in this capacity. She carried first aid supplies in her butt pack and applied a cold soda wrap to injured hands from wheelchair basketball. She was invited into the Hungarian Rehabilitation Association. She and Peter Arballo were invited to attend the Eastern Block Rehab meetings and were provided with their own chalet and interpreter.

After her retirement, she moved back to Montana and bought a condo in Helena where her brother and his family lives. She unfortunately lost her sister a few years ago to cancer. She saw an advertisement for RSVP with Rocky Mountain Development Council and answered the call once again. Within a week she was volunteering and had her first job with Head Start doing eye and ear exams. She has been with Rocky for 14 years and is a familiar face at the front desk in the Senior Dining Room on Wednesdays, and also helps on Thursdays with blood pressure readings for seniors at the Senior Center and at Eagles Manor.

She developed a love for baking in the fourth grade when she became involved in 4-H. She had a lot of role models as a child in the "Balkoski Village" but 4-H taught her independence. She bakes for friends and family now and sometimes gives samples! Her specialty is Irish Soda Bread which she bakes weekly during lent for Friday night soup and bread meal. Vicki provides the priest at the Catholic Church with his daily bread of Irish Soda Bread. (I must confess that she gave me half a loaf to "try and share". I just sampled the whole thing. It is fabulous.) She also bakes for her family and friends, biscotti, scones and other delights.

Footnote: Vicki is my son's Godmother. I had not seen her for many years! When I became a member of the Rocky family, I was instructed to go "sit with Vicki and she will show you all about the desk in the dining room." Sitting next her to I could not help but notice something very familiar about her... realizing we were 65 years down the road, it struck me – I knew her! I asked, "What is your last name?" Wolfe, she replied. Of course; it was Vicki. "Do you recognize me?!" I asked rather excitedly. She turned and looked at me..."no" she replied quizzically. Rather disappointed I announced "I am Barbara ... I married your cousin Butch!" (also from the Balkoski Village). She gave me a look and replied... ah yes. We both have a few grey hairs now but we took up where we left off 65 years ago.



Pictured Above: Vicki (second from left) with members of the international wheelchair VA team.



VOICE OF EXPERIENCE BOULDER IS BACK!

Come join us Tuesday, May 3 for the grand reopening of the Boulder Dinner Club in Boulder, Montana!

We are so happy to welcome Josh Manning as the Boulder cook. He has many years of experience cooking and he is excited to bring his passion to the Boulder community. Along with delivering Meals on Wheels, Josh will be cooking and serving meals weekly Tuesday-Thursday from 11:30 am -12:30 pm. Stop by the grand re-opening for chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy with purple beets, golden pears, a roll, and cake!

CINNAMON ROLL THURSDAYS



Join us every Thursday morning for coffee and rolls at the Senior Center! The caramel rolls are prepared fresh every Thursday morning and the cost is \$2.50. Coffee is free. Join us from 8:30 am to 10:30 am or until they are gone. Come in and enjoy wonderful company and share a delicious roll!

ROCKY WALKIE TALKIE UPDATES

The Rocky Walkie Talkies meet at Centennial Park every Wednesday at 9 am for exercise and a great time. All abilities are welcome to join in a lap or two!

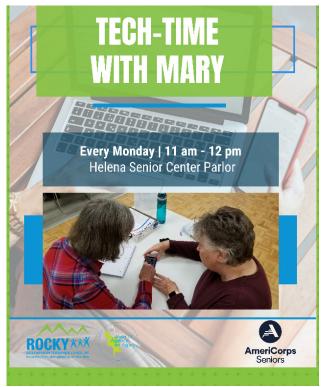
We are excited to announce that we will change up our scenery for the summer months! In June, we will begin meeting at Spring Meadow Lake near the restroom area and in July, we will meet at Tenmile Creek Park in the main parking area (1505 William Street). We meet at Centennial Park through the end of May. For more information, call (406) 457-7319.



(Pictured at left) Chef Josh Manning brings many years of experience to his new position as the cook for the Boulder Senior Center.

TECH TIME WITH MARY

If keeping up with changing technology is a challenge for you, join AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteer Mary for "Tech Time with Mary". Mary is available to answer your technology-related questions every Monday at the Senior Center from 11 am - 12 pm in the Parlor. Bring your device and/or questions and Mary will help you feel more confident in the ways you can use technology!



HEALTH CARE SERVICES: MAY AND JUNE 2022

Mark Your Calendar for the Foot Care Clinic!

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Edith RN, BSN & CFCN (406-431-0006) always looks forward to the care of your feet. Edith and her staff are always willing to answer questions about foot care. They meet downstairs in the Rocky Neighborhood Center Center. Please call to make an appointment.

Blood Pressure

All seniors are invited to have their blood pressure taken each Thursday at the Senior Center in the Card Room from 9:00 - 11:00 am. There are always fun giveaways to be found! We also have a gift basket that we give away at the end of every month. You are entered to win the prize every time you visit us.



NEW LOCATION FOR ROCKY'S AGENCY ON AGING

Rocky's Agency on Aging has completed their move to their new location at 1398 Warehouse Avenue in Helena. Though the location has changed, we remain committed to providing the same services and care on which you rely! Our phone number and fax numbers remain the same as well: (406) 457-7368 (phone) and (406) 441-3991 (fax). Check our website and our social media channels for an open house invitation, coming soon!





Join us for a <u>FREE</u> one-time cooking class to learn how to use what you have on hand to create nutritious meals.

LOCATION: Neighborhood Center (Rocky) 200 South Cruse Avenue, Helena, MT 59601

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, June 15th, 2022 from 9:30- 11:00 am

TO REGISTER: Please contact Nutrition Educator <u>or</u> register online: <u>www.buyeatlivebetter.org</u> -> CLASS SIGN UP -> Lewis and Clark -> select 6/15/22 class -> Register Online

CONTACT: Chloé Lundquist (Nutrition Educator) Phone: 406-447-8456

Email: chloe.lundquist@montana.edu





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VOICE OF EXPERIENCE ROCKY CARD GAMES & CLUBS

PINOCHLE CLUB

The Pinochle Club players meet on Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 pm. The dates of the next Pinochle Tournament are May 2 & 3. Pinochle is a great way to have fun with friends at the Helena Senior Center, and new members are always welcome.

BINGO

If there is a game/event that can bring folks together to laugh, dream of winning, actually win and just have a great time, it is Bingo! Bingo has been a fun and very popular activity at the Rocky Helena Senior Center for many years. It takes several volunteers to make this happen every week. Thanks to everyone who helps out. Come down and enjoy the company, have fun, and maybe you'll have a winning card.

As a reminder, the cost is \$1/per card.

We look forward to seeing you at the Helena Senior Center for Bingo every Wednesday at 1:00 pm.



LIVE performance.

Myrna Loy Theater Helena Senior Center MAY - JUNE COUPON

Sponsored by the Myrna Loy Center | Present in person at box office

* Not redeemable for cash. * One coupon per customer

* Cannot be used during rentals, performances sponsored by other organizations or in conjunction with any special offers other than the senior rate.

* Can be used in addition to the senior discount.



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ROCKY BRIDGE

We Need Players!

We have several people who have expressed interest in playing Bridge again at the Senior Center. Every Tuesday, the dance floor will be ready for players! Let's get Bridge started again! Bridge is a fun time to gather with friends.

Come Join Us!

Every Tuesday is Bridge Day at the Helena Senior Center

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

No Money Involved. We do keep score and have a lot of fun!

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Any questions? Please call Bill Peña, Program Coordinator for the Helena Senior Center, at 406-457-7372

COMMODITY FOOD FOR QUALIFYING SENIORS

COMMODITIES SCHEDULE

Townsend, MT Monday, May 16 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

East Helena, MT Monday, May 16 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Wolf Creek, MT Tuesday, May 17 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Augusta, MT Tuesday, May 17 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Elliston, MT Wednesday, May 18 10:00 am - 10:30 am Lincoln, MT Wednesday, May 18 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm

Whitehall, MT Thursday, May 19 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Boulder, MT Thursday, May 19 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

White Sulphur Springs, MT Monday, May 23 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Helena, MT @ Food Share Wednesday, May 18 8:00 am - 11:00 am The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is a program where seniors can receive regular allocations of free food every other month. The program guidelines mandate that the person receiving the food must be 60 years of age or older, a resident of Montana, and meet an income requirement. Food typically consists of canned fruit, vegetables, meats, juice, cereals, dry milk, shelf stable milk, cheese, pasta or beans, and peanut butter.

Rocky will have supplemental foods available for Helena-area senior citizens at the Helena Food Share, 1616 Lewis Street, Helena, MT. We are lucky to work with Helena Food Share to make the program more accessible to those individuals picking up the food. There is no charge for the food.

Persons 60+ will be certified to receive the food based on income and residency eligibility. For further information or questions, call Rocky at 406-447-1680.

VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Lori Ladas Executive Director

I don't know about you, but I'm definitely ready to see a little more spring-like weather here in Montana! Winter just doesn't want to let go this year!

Rocky is offering a great opportunity to get in a "spring" frame of mind. Join us at the first ever Spring Fling on Saturday, May 21. A delicious catered meal is planned along with musical entertainment. Come and enjoy some time with friends while also enjoying a spring feast! Contact Bill Peña at (406) 457-7372 to reserve your place at the table.

It's been wonderful to see more and more familiar faces returning to activities at the senior center, and it's great to welcome new clients as well. We all know the struggles of the past couple years, and the impacts of the social isolation experienced by so many during the COVID pandemic. Do you have a neighbor or a loved one who might enjoy the opportunity to meet some new friends or learn a new skill? Check out Rocky's schedule of activities and invite them to join you for bingo, cards, or a favorite lunch offering. All are welcome!

With the temperatures rising and (hopefully) more sunshine on the way, make sure to take some time to step outside, breathe in the fresh mountain air, and soak in a little sun. According to a study in the Journal of Aging and Health, adults over 70 who spent time outdoors experienced fewer sleep difficulties, complained less about aches and pains, and enjoyed improved mobility and ability to perform daily activities. And it just feels good too, especially after the cold of winter. If you're looking for a way to get outdoors with others, consider joining the Rocky Walkie Talkies on Wednesday mornings at Centennial Park, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Join us as we "spring" into a new season of fun and community at Rocky!



BIRTHDAY MEAL CELEBRATION

We love to celebrate birthdays at the Helena Senior Center! As a member of the Senior Center, you are welcome to have a free meal when it is your birthday month, complete with cake and ice cream! Mark your calendars for May 13 and June 10, and then come join us!



THANK YOU TO VAN'S THRIFTWAY

We would like to thank Van's Thriftway for the cake that is donated for the birthday meal every month. A birthday meal is never complete without a cake, and luckily Van's Thriftway is willing to donate a delicious cake every month to make our celebrations even better. Thank you, Van's!



CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS THIS SPRING

April was National Volunteer Month! What a great opportunity for the Rocky Meals on Wheels program to celebrate the wonderful people that give of their time and energy week after week to ensure meals are delivered to individuals in the Helena area. Rocky's MOW program currently has 45 volunteers. These individuals are the lifeblood and the driving force of the program. Volunteers not only deliver a hot nutritious meal, but also a safety check and a social connection.

Mary Kovash Dawn North Scott Frisch Janet Kirkland Annie Smith Blake Running Rex Pfister Dan Anderson Sophie VanLuvanne Hazel Noonan Barb Kain Sharon Miller Connie Dixon Steve Velaski Bud Criner Linda Pfister Hank Hudson Dave Sather

Alisa Nelson Terry Myhre Marlene Campbell Sioux Roth Ron Thomas Eric Stimson Ray Rutherford Karen Hudson Chuck Parrett Jim Taflan Linda Michael Gary Wiens Tim Roth Bill Roberts Karen Shevlin Bonnie Rutherford Luella Schultz Kathy Wahl Wade Cureton Marsha Merrill Cindy Yarberry Laurie Sponholz JoAnn Hanson Steve Larson Rhonda Robertson Kris Delaney Joan Higgins-Smith

Thank you, Meals on Wheels volunteers!

SPRING IS IN BLOOM AT THE HELENA SENIOR CENTER

"April showers bring May flowers." I have to remind myself of this every April when I start to feel like summer will never arrive! Being married to a farmer, I learned real fast to ALWAYS appreciate moisture! With this being said, I appreciate each of you. It's our Senior Center members, daily diners, guests, Meals on Wheels recipients, volunteers, and of course, our dedicated staff that allow Rocky's Senior Center to bloom!

Since November, I've witnessed an increase in daily diners, line dancers, Meals on Wheels volunteers, smiling faces, and best of all, I am building relationships with you! Please continue to invite your friends, neighbors, parents, or a stranger to our Senior Centers!

I am excited to have our Senior Centers go back to a modified self-serve lunch. With this new step forward, please be assured that Rocky staff takes sanitizing very seriously, as we value the health and safety of each you.

Many blessings to you,



Mindy Diehl

Senior Nutrition & Transportation Program Director



Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc. Helena Senior Center PO BOX 1717 Helena, MT 59624-1717

Welcome Spring!



SPRING FLOWERS EASTER BUDS RAIN GREEN BLOSSOM GRASS DAFFODIL SPROUT SUNSHINE THAW ROBIN TULIP

A Spring Song

Frogs croak, Rain soak, Chicks peep, Crickets leap, Bees hum, Robins come, Birds sing, It's Spring!