

Volunteers Step up

Tough times often bring out the best in people and communities. We've seen that on the news when neighbors help each other in the aftermath of tornadoes, hurricanes and wildfires. During this pandemic, people have stepped forward to help all across Delta County, making facemasks and face shields for health care workers & first responders, donating supplies, and delivering meals.



In the North Fork Valley, volunteers stepped forward to deliver bread donated by Mountain Oven Bakeries to homes around Paonia. Several people have volunteered to take on yard chores such as trimming bushes and raking leaves for elders who are both physically challenged and financially strapped. When we asked for help calling our elder neighbors for weekly check-ins, volunteers not only made the calls but also responded to requests for help with errands and tasks that came up. In one case, a request for someone to do shopping for a senior in the high risk group had three responses within a minute of posting. Requests for masks for Paonia Care Center resulted in three dozen delivered the next day.

We're still looking for volunteer help so if you have time and want to lend a hand to help an older neighbor, check the Service Saturday jobs posted on our

website: <https://nfseniorconnections.helpfulvillage.com> or call Linda at 970-527-3482

Spring Service Saturday

Our long tradition of Spring Service Saturday will observe "social distancing" this year. We're asking family or household groups of volunteers to take on seasonal tasks for our older neighbors as individual projects. We are recruiting volunteers for these outdoor tasks during the first half of May. We're also looking for seniors who can use the help. NFSC will coordinate with volunteers and seniors as to the chores, day and time and will provide gift cards for local restaurants as a reward for a job well done.

Please contact Linda at 970-527-3482 or [nfseniorconnections@gmail.com](mailto:nfseniorconnections@gmail.com) if you need help with outside chores or want to volunteer.

Our Funding Partners



INITIATIVE

Senior Connections is grateful to the NextFifty Initiative for a generous grant that will enable us to be more responsive to the needs of our senior members during this time when older adults are asked to shelter in place to avoid COVID-19.

In addition, two of our other funding partners - Rocky Mountain Health Foundation and Laura Jane Musser Fund - have released the restrictions on the use of their grants to allow us to deploy their dollars in ways that will optimize our support of older adults in the North Fork Valley. We are fortunate to have such flexible and responsive funding partners!



May 2020



NEWS

## Board of Directors

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## May Birthdays

### Happy Birthday to:

Michael Edson – May 6	Lincoln Vannah – May 15
Jim Turner – May 6	John Archer – May 20
Jeanette Gerry – May 9	Anjani Olnick – May 24
Paul Schirmer – May 11	Rita Murphy – May 31
Lindi Mereness – May 15	

## Senior Lunch at the Trading Post

The Valley Organic Lunch Program for Seniors is continuing in May at the Old River Road Trading Post, located at 15495 Black Bridge Road outside Paonia, May 8th and 22nd. The meals are take-out, full meals with soup, salad, bread and a main dish.

Chrys Bailey is working on an online menu system, but menu choices can be submitted when you arrive as well. There are plates and jars for take-out that need to be returned to the Trading Post by Tuesday of the following week.

Please RSVP to Chrys by texting her at 970-417-2299 or email: [Chrys@acsol.net](mailto:Chrys@acsol.net) so she knows how much food to prepare. Then, on Friday, go to the Trading Post and fill out an order form between 12:30 and 1:30 pm. Chrys and helpers will fill your containers while you wait or have them ready for pick up.

## Senior Take-out/Meals on Wheels

Although Senior Centers are closed during the Covid-19 Crisis, Senior Community Meals, a program of the Volunteers of America (VOA) and Region 10, is providing hot lunches for pick up at the Senior Centers in Paonia, Hotchkiss, and Delta on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays at noon.

If you are new to the program, call Debbie at 970-874-7661 for a quick COVID basic assessment over the phone.

Meals on Wheels delivers hot lunches to homebound clients on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For this program, recipients must be age 60 and over and assessed as homebound. To set up services, call Debbie at 970-874-7661.

**SAVE PAPER:** Would you rather get the newsletter as a PDF in your email? Send an email to Linda at [nfseniorconnections@gmail.com](mailto:nfseniorconnections@gmail.com), or call 970-527-3482 to request change.