



“Whitepine Whispers”

News of Whitepine Grange #102

9 Faro Lane, Trout Creek, MT 59874

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Hey, neighbors!! Let’s fix up our Grange!!

It’s been a long, lonely winter and spring, thanks to an unwelcome visitor named COVID-19. But the fog is lifting, the grass is growing, and life in our neighborhood is becoming more active once again.

The same holds true for our historic Whitepine Grange 102. JoAnn Pruettt’s line dance classes are going again, and Sanders County Dog Training Club is resuming its schedule of classes and activities at the Grange. Now it’s time to start soliciting more neighborhood and outside groups to use this marvelous old building for classes, bazaars, socials and receptions.

But first . . . Our building needs and deserves some TLC from people like YOU. Despite the fact that funds for fix-up are severely limited (or just plain lacking), we can get the jobs done if we work together with the same



spirit and community commitment that was so common nearly 100 years ago when the Grange was first built.

Hence, this issue of “Whitepine Whispers” contains photos and descriptions of the various tasks needing attention sooner rather than later. Some are cosmetic upgrades. Others require

more technical skills. Please look over the projects and determine where YOU might best fit in. Remember that your time and efforts are an investment in the future of your Whitepine neighborhood, as this building is a valuable asset as a community center and gathering place.

Of course we always value your opinions and ideas, so let’s hear them. And let’s see you adopt one of these projects as your own! Turn the page to find your project!

Thank you, donors!!

With Grange membership dwindling nationwide, we literally could not survive without our “Friends of Whitepine Grange” who have donated funds to keep the utility bills and insurance bills paid. This month we’d like to thank Sue Marsh, Carrie Greene, Debb McNary, Jan Harris, and Sanders County Dog Training Club for donations. We appreciate each and every dollar and pledge to make the best possible use of your donations for bills, repairs, and renovations.

PROJECT 1: TRIMMING

Remove old plywood from around the foundation and haul to the dump. Mow grass and trim around edge of building.

PROJECT 2: REPAIR RAILING

Replace the missing crosspiece on the far end of the railing in front.

PROJECT 3: PAINT FRONT RAILING

With a belt sander, sand the front railing, steps and porch as necessary, then apply primer and forest green paint. Materials can be provided, but donations would be greatly appreciated too!!

PROJECT 4: RE-PAINT BACK PORCH

Re-paint the back porch and railings to match the front.

“Friends of Whitepine Grange ” are valued at times like these

Family projects, school projects, civic projects....there are projects here for anyone who wants to contribute a few hours to help make the Grange one of the sparkling jewels of our already beautiful neighborhood. You need not be a Grange member. Just let us count you as a “Friend of Whitepine Grange.” This multi-purpose building is for YOU and generations to come!

PROJECT 5: RE-PAINT LITTLE SIGN



This cute little sign hangs on the front porch and needs some TLC. Can you refinish it with fresh paint? Or maybe even make a new one?

PROJECT 7: MOVE TO BASEMENT STORAGE



Old folding chairs and heavy tables need to be re-homed or moved downstairs to storage. Good leg exercise for a couple people! We are purchasing new plastic folding chairs and 8-foot tables to replace these.

The Grange is available for rent to groups, starting at just \$25 for a full day. Consider this spot for your next meeting. With a full working kitchen and restroom, and a large main room, the possibilities are endless. Contact Jan Manning, 827-6385, for rental information.

PROJECT 6: KITCHEN FACELIFT



Kitchen needs to be “de-cluttered,” cabinets cleaned, countertops re-papered, and walls painted. Old dishes and excess utensils hauled off, donated elsewhere or toted to the basement for storage. Drippy faucet needs a very minor repair. All appliances work but need cleaning.



Another way to help

Your enthusiasm and hard work on these projects will be very welcomed! However, if you're not into painting, cleaning, or walking stairs, **please consider a cash donation** to help pay for the paint, light fixtures, cleaning supplies, chairs and tables. Please remember this is an investment in your neighborhood. This old building has “good bones” and simply needs some TLC to make it blossom for you once again. Cash donations (in check form) can be made to: “WHITEPINE GRANGE 102” and mailed to Peggy Carlson, Treasurer, 35 Willow Lane, Trout Creek, MT 59874. Thank you!!

PROJECT 8: CLEAN UP COAT ROOM

Remove excess items from coat room, clean its shelves, and move what is worth keeping to the basement for storage. Totes will be provided.

PROJECT 9: DE-CLUTTER MAIN HALL

Clear out cabinets and shelves in main hall, and bring unused items to basement for storage. There are several decades' worth of 4H scrapbooks, old décor items, etc., most of which have not been touched for 25 years or more.

PROJECT 10: REPLACE FLUORESCENT LIGHTS WITH LEDs**PROJECT 11: WASH, REPAIR PAINT THE WALLS IN THE MAIN HALL**

10. The main hall is currently illuminated with 18 sets of fluorescent light fixtures. We want to replace them with LEDs for better energy efficiency and much better light. We need a savvy person who can come in and do this job. Materials will be provided.

The kitchen also has two of these old fluorescent light fixtures that need replacing.

11. The main hall's walls also need some minor repairs, washing, and a fresh coat of bright, white paint.

When and where to start?

Each of these projects can be tackled immediately and done on your own time. The Grange is currently not being utilized very much, so the schedule is quite open. Contact Jan Manning, 406-827-6385, for details and access information. Email: sandersagility@gmail.com. *Okay, friends, let's get started!!*