

Community Center gets extreme makeover

By HEIDI DESCH
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As Whitefish goes, so goes the Whitefish Community Center.

“Whitefish is evolving in new ways and we’re trying to evolve with it,” said Jody Fee, community center trustee.

Last year the center changed its name from the Whitefish Golden Agers to the Whitefish Community Center. It continues to add new programs and work to attract new members of any age. The most recent effort towards the change is an update of the interior of the building, including new furniture and a fresh coat of paint.

It’s all part of a new direction for the center, said Fee. Many of the members have been coming to the center for a long time and others have recently moved to town.

“We’re kind of developing,” she said. “It’s no longer just an older persons’ place. There’s a lot of older people still here, but we



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The Whitefish Community Center has received a fresh look with new furniture, paint and art work. From left clockwise, Lois Schwegel, Jessie Fauske, Maura Morbery and Evelyn Pacheco enjoy one of the new conversation areas created at the center.

want to encourage those who wouldn’t think about coming to come.”

The revamp of the interior was completed this winter. New chairs and couches

were brought in before, but now tables, rugs and flower arrangements have been added to complete the look. The items were obtained through a combination of

donation and purchase by the center.

Wright’s Furniture assisted with redecorating. Frank Wright, Judy Rowland and Kris Shiesl and the Wright’s

delivery team participated.

Conversation areas with comfy couches and chairs were created to encourage folks to sit and chat. Photographs depicting old Whitefish from the Stumptown Historical Society were also hung on the walls.

Fee said their expertise was invaluable.

“They helped us move around the furniture and make it more inviting,” Fee. “The little things make a huge difference.”

Rowland agreed that the goal was to make the center have a welcoming atmosphere.

“We wanted to simplify the space,” she said. “We wanted it to be more functional and have an updated look.”

The walls in the center, including the kitchen, received a fresh coat of paint. Mark Anderson with Western Building Center assisted with

the new paint. The stark white walls have been replaced by warm neutrals.

The center is available as a rental space, as well.

Fee said the center has been rented for wedding receptions and is ideal for events because it has a full kitchen.

All of the visual changes compliment the other changes happening at the center.

The center continues its senior exercise classes, but has also added a new yoga class, which is open to anyone. The center continues to provide daily lunches and disperse Whitefish Meals-On-Wheels deliveries at the center, but is now offering free coffee and wireless Internet at the center from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays.

The center is also hosting free monthly historical talks with Walter Sayre of Stumptown Historical Society.