



Aspotogan Recreation Association

# Community Newsletter

*Vol. 52 Issue 12 December 2025/Vol. 53 Issue 1 January 2026*

Aspotogan ~ Bayswater ~ Blandford ~ Deep Cove ~ Northwest Cove

## **ARA UPDATE DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026**

**Thank you!** A huge thank-you to our community members for coming out and supporting the annual Halloween Haunted Trail. The volunteers who helped to set up/tear down and provide scares were wonderful and we also appreciate the visitors who continue to support the trail. We are already planning for next year!!

**Thank you** also to the community for continuing to support our bottle drives/refundable bin, which provides a big source of operating funds.

**Tabletop Gaming:** **Mondays 7:00-9:00** in the Community Centre Multipurpose Room. Any game that can be played on a table. (board games, card games, dexterity games, dice games, paper and pencil games, roleplaying games, strategy games, and tile-based games). Participants are encouraged to bring their favourite game and hopefully others will join the fun. The person who sets the game up will be responsible for ensuring everyone playing understands how to play. Cost is \$2.00/person. You may bring snacks and drinks (alcohol excluded).

**Chair Yoga:** **Fridays, 10:00-11:00** in the Community Centre. Drop-in fee is \$7.00/class – please bring exact change if possible. All are welcome to this fun and ‘user-friendly’ class. No previous experience is necessary. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat if you have one.

**Pickleball:** **Thursdays 6-7:30** in the Community Centre. Beginner and experienced players are welcome, age 13+. Email [Pickleball@BellAliant.com](mailto:Pickleball@BellAliant.com) if you have questions or plan to play. If pickleball must be cancelled, players will be notified by email and a notice will be posted on the Community Centre Facebook page. Watch the community center Facebook page on Thursday afternoon to see if we are playing. \$3.00 drop in. All equipment is provided, please wear non-marking sneakers. *Last pickleball for 2025 is Dec 11; startup in 2026 on Jan 8.*

***PLEASE WATCH BLANDFORD AND COMMUNITY CENTRE FACEBOOK PAGES FOR UPDATES AND CHANGES TO ACTIVITIES.*** If any community members have ideas for programs, please contact a member of the Executive – we welcome your ideas and feedback!

**ARA executive:** Carly LeBlanc 902-277-1269; Mary Norwood 902-228-2453, Vicki Schnare 902-228-2234 ([vicki.schnare@bellaliant.net](mailto:vicki.schnare@bellaliant.net)), Nancy Webb 902-225-2915 ([n.webb@dal.ca](mailto:n.webb@dal.ca)), Wendy Clark 902-877-4871 ([wendyl.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wendyl.clark@gmail.com)), and Emily Woodworth ([emilylwoodworth@live.com](mailto:emilylwoodworth@live.com)).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## DISTRICT # 1 COMMUNITY CENTRE

## BLANDFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE



*Community Centre Recipe Books are coming!*

Stay posted to our  
Facebook page for details  
of sales times and locations!



## UPCOMING EVENTS –



1. KIDS HOLIDAY PARTY – Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – 1-3 pm. Come for lunch, for some holiday treats and to see Santa!
2. FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST – Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 9 – 11 am. Eat in or Take Out. Includes eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, beans, hashbrowns, coffee, tea & juice. \$12 for adults, \$5 kids 10 & under, FREE kids under 3. Cash or debit available.
3. NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE – December 31<sup>st</sup> - 9 pm to 1 am. See full page ad for details! 19 and over. Advance \$20 tickets can be purchased at Blandford Marine until December 12th or by contacting Danny Banfield, or Darlene Guite at darlene@dannybanfield.com until December 30th .



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE BLANDFORD CC AND  
HAVE A SAFE NEW YEAR! Thank you for your  
ongoing support in 2025!**

Next Board of Directors Meetings are Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and January 7th at 7 pm. All meetings are open to the public!

Board of Directors for 2025/2026 -

Kelly Fitzgerald, Chair	902-222-1046	kahfitzgerald@gmail.com
Odessa Bezanson, Vice Chair	902-277-1969	obezanson@hotmail.com
Wendy Chase, Treasurer	902-980-0012	wendychase.ns@gmail.com
Karen Overholt, Secretary	519-567-1591	francis_karen@hotmail.com

Board Members (2025/2026)

Samantha Murphy, Joanne Walton, Eric Miller, Mary Norwood, Julie Day, Amanda Mordeen and Wendy Clark



District 1 Blandford Community Centre - 30 Firehall Rd, Blandford, NS B0J 1T0



**COMMUNITY NEWS...(continued)**

## **THE FIRE PROTECTION COMMISSIONERS FOR THE DISTRICT OF BLANDFORD**

### **Regular Monthly Meeting**

**December 8, 2025 @ 7pm**

**January 12, 2026 @ 7pm**

**Blandford Community Centre in the Lodge**

All Ratepayers are welcome to view meetings  
*Watch our Facebook page for any updates or changes at  
"BLANDFORD & AREA FIRE RESCUE"*

**Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year**

**From all the Members of the  
Blandford & Area Fire Service**

### **Santa Drive by via Firetruck**

On Tuesday December 23rd starting at 5:30pm at the Union Hall in East River we will be giving Santa a tour of our district along the 329 ending at Tilly's Point. This will include driving through Deep Cove Rd, Upper Blandford Rd and New Harbour Rd.

Santa will not be able to make any stops but will be waving to everyone of all ages, he welcomes everyone to come out roadside and give a wave back.



**Monitor our Facebook page for  
updates or any changes**

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For any questions please contact Shelley Hartley  
Phone: 902-499-6296 ~ Email: blandfordcommission@bellaliant.com

**[www.blandfordfire.ca](http://www.blandfordfire.ca)**

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

# NEW YEARS DANCE

MUSIC BY:  
**BEAVER & TAILS**

feat.

**DANNY BANFIELD  
& DARLENE GUTE**  
**BLANDFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**DOORS OPEN AT 9PM**  
**LIVE MUSIC FROM 10PM-1AM**

**TICKETS: \$20 IN ADVANCE, \$25 AT DOOR**  
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT BLANDFORD MARINE  
OR BY EMAILING DARLENE GUTE AT  
[DARLENE@DANNYBANFIELD.COM](mailto:DARLENE@DANNYBANFIELD.COM)

**CASH OR E-TRANSFER ONLY**



## **COMMUNITY EVENTS...(continued)**



# **ATHENÆUM SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA**

[www.athenaeumns.org](http://www.athenaeumns.org)

## **Re-Visioning Retirement**

**Presented by**

## **Dr. Susan Reid**

In her new book, *Re-Visioning Retirement: A Workbook*, award-winning vision researcher and former business school professor, Dr. Susan Reid, offers a bold and practical framework to help people reimagine what retirement—or the next chapter after a major career or life shift—can truly look like.

This event highlights what re-visioning retirement means, why it's essential, and her unique method for empowering people to navigate the transition into retirement with clarity, confidence and impact.

**Sunday, January 18, at 2:30pm**

**Ocean Swells Community Centre**

**Northwest Cove, 2726 Hwy 329 (Hwy 103 Exit 6)**

All are welcome. Q & A following. For more info, go to our website:  
[athenaeumns.org](http://athenaeumns.org)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS/COMMUNITY NOTICES

### Christmas at the Village Hall

Come join us for Christmas Festivities and an indoor yard sale at the East River Village Hall

Dec 6th and 7th from 9 am to 2 pm

Lots of Christmas décor for sale and many other treasures!  
Bake Table & Craft Table!

ALSO, for \$15, enjoy a LOBSTER ROLL LUNCHEON (with 2 salads and a cookie) for take out only. Pickup available between 10 am and 2 pm Dec 6 and 7.

MUST be PRE-ORDERED by Dec 4 by calling: Sheila 275-5720 or 275-5966 or Mary 275-7600. Limited Quantities!



### MUNICIPALITY of CHESTER CALL FOR VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

#### Volunteer Week April 19 to 25, 2026

The Municipality of Chester is planning for National Volunteer Week, April 19 to 25, 2026. April seems like a long way off, but we want you to start thinking about ways to celebrate all the volunteers in the community that make an impact.

#### **Nominate A Volunteer!**

One thing you can do is nominate a volunteer who will be recognized by the Municipality.

Nominations can fall under five categories:

- (Individual) Representative Volunteer of the Year Award
- Newcomer Volunteer Award (Resident for less than 5 years)
- Youth Volunteer Award (Ages 13-24)
- Family Volunteer Award (Volunteering as a family for at least 5 years)
- Nova Scotia Strong Award (Individual or group that has demonstrated resiliency in community during a time or event of tragedy or struggle)

We will be celebrating all our community volunteers during National Volunteer Week – stay tuned for exciting event updates!

From all the individual volunteers that are nominated, one will be selected by Municipal Council to represent the Municipality of Chester at the Provincial Volunteer Awards.

The deadline to get your nomination in is Friday, March 6, 2026. Here is the link to the online fillable form:  
<https://portal.laserfiche.ca/p7156/forms/6HfZs>

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### OHC Same Day Clinic Schedule for **DECEMBER 2025**

Call 1-902-273-2098. Phone lines open **30 MINS** before clinic start time.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 9 AM TO 5 PM	3 8 AM TO 3 PM	4 8 AM TO 3 PM	5 8 AM TO 2 PM
9 9 AM TO 5 PM	10 8 AM TO 3 PM	11 8 AM TO 3 PM	12 8 AM TO 2 PM
16 CLOSED	17 CLOSED	18 9:30 AM TO 1 PM	19 CLOSED
23 CLOSED	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED	26 CLOSED
30 CLOSED	31 CLOSED		

*You must have an appointment to come to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Same Day clinic*  
Address: 3769 Hwy #3 PO Box 74 Chester NS B0J 1J0

### OHC Same Day Clinic Schedule for **JANUARY 2026**

Call 1-902-273-2098. Phone lines open **30 MINS** before clinic start time.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 CLOSED	2 CLOSED
6 9 AM TO 5 PM	7 8 AM TO 3 PM	8 8 AM TO 3 PM	9 8 AM TO 2 PM
13 9 AM TO 5 PM	14 8 AM TO 3 PM	15 8 AM TO 3 PM	16 8 AM TO 2 PM
20 9 AM TO 7 PM	21 8 AM TO 3 PM	22 8 AM TO 3 PM	23 8 AM TO 2 PM
27 9 AM TO 5 PM	28 8 AM TO 3 PM	29 8 AM TO 3 PM	30 8 AM TO 2 PM

*You must have an appointment to come to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Same Day clinic*  
Address: 3769 Hwy #3 PO Box 74 Chester NS B0J 1J0



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Volunteer Summit 2025

**Learning together. Leading together. Thriving together.**

On November 8, the inaugural Volunteer Summit brought nearly 100 community leaders together at NSCC Bridgewater for a day dedicated to strengthening volunteerism across Lunenburg and Queens Counties.

Born from a 2024 survey of local volunteer groups, the Summit was created through Project Volunteer — an inter-municipal partnership working to support and reinvigorate volunteer efforts throughout our region.



The day opened with a powerful keynote from Max Chauvin, *The Power of Local: Reigniting Volunteerism in Rural Communities*, which set an energizing tone for what followed. Participants took part in two thought-provoking group sessions: *Don't Just Recruit Volunteers, Let's Build a Community with Volunteer Nova Scotia*, and *Welcoming Newcomers: Engaging Through Volunteerism*, featuring firsthand experiences from newcomers who now call our communities home.



Attendees also chose from a wide range of breakout workshops, diving into practical topics such as grant writing, bookkeeping, fundraising, social media, re-imagining community facilities, and collaborative approaches to supporting volunteers.



Along with a full day of learning, participants enjoyed lunch, refreshments, door prizes, and the excitement of the grand draw — with the \$500 prize going to the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 23 in Lunenburg.



Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the 2025 Volunteer Summit a celebration of the people who help our communities thrive. Your energy, ideas, and commitment continue to shape a stronger future for all of us.





## COMMUNITY NEWS...(continued)

### Food and Grocery Pantry Opens in Hubbards

Through the Years Early Learning Centre proudly celebrated the grand opening of its new **Food & Grocery Pantry** on Monday, October 20th, with approximately **25 community members** in attendance. The event marked an exciting new initiative for the organization and for families in the Hubbards area.

"We're thrilled by the turnout and the kindness shown by everyone who came," said **Mary Ellen Shatford, Director of Through the Years Early Learning Centre**.

"This pantry is truly a community effort —born from a shared desire to support one another and ensure that no family in our area has to go without the essentials. Every donation, big or small, helps make a real difference."

The Food & Grocery Pantry will provide access to nutritious food and non-food essentials for families in the area. It will rely on the ongoing generosity of individuals, businesses, and local organizations to keep its shelves full.

In her opening remarks, Mary Ellen thanked donors and community partners who helped make the pantry a reality. "To launch the pantry, we received help from the United Way Maritimes with an Urgent Food & Essentials Fund grant and a council grant committed from Councilor Clarissa Coolen. We also thank Scott Reinhardt and his staff at Interhabs for building and donating the pantry, and Dave Waters at Metaline Graphics for making and donating the signage."

Donations of non-perishable food and non-food essentials are now being accepted at **20 Pte. Richard Green Lane, Hubbards**. Financial contributions are also welcome to help sustain operations. Donation bins are also located at Hubbards Chiropractic and The Savary Plate.

This Pantry is open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The pantry at Through the Years does not replace the Hubbards Food Bank that has operated in the area for many years. If the needs of a family exceed what this small pantry can provide, we encourage families to reach out to the Hubbards Food Bank by dialing 211.

For more information, call **(902) 857-1777** or **throughtheyears-director@hotmail.com**, or visit the **Through the Years Food & Grocery Pantry** Facebook page.



Mary Ellen Shatford, Director of Through the Years Early Learning Centre (left) and Councilor Clarissa Coolen stand in partnership beside the Food & Grocery Pantry at its Grand Opening on Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

## COMMUNITY NEWS...(continued)

### Update from Seasiders—Claudia Zinck

At least twenty jolly folks wandered into the multipurpose room on Friday, November 21st, around 7 p.m. Many hadn't seen each other for a month, so the room quickly filled with cheerful chatter.

We started with updates on the Christmas Party and everyone picking up their raffle tickets. Our holiday celebration will be held in the Community Centre on **December 12th at 5:30 p.m.**, with a lovely catered dinner. There will be music to enjoy—and likely a short carol sing. For tickets, please contact **Brian Mosher**. Prices are **\$20 for members** and **\$25 for guests**.

Our guest speaker, **Jan Blades**, from the Hubbards area, shared helpful information about tax savings for seniors, government refunds and rebates, and touched on senior fraud. Her husband, Dave, is a seniors' fraud advocate, and we're already making plans to invite him for a talk in the new year. There were so many questions and stories that we didn't get to lunch until well after 8:00!



We then sang a few war-time songs in remembrance of the military. After that, we enjoyed lunch and the birthday cake. At left is a photo of Brian and Rosa celebrating on a Seaside bus trip. Peter (above right) presented the cake on behalf of all the birthday folks since June: Carolyn, Susan, Lorna, Brian, Lloyd, Cheryl, Rachel, and our two Peters.

A reminder that, in **January**, our meetings shift to **afternoons at 2 p.m. on the third Friday**. While most of our members are "seasoned," we warmly welcome folks of any age. From all of us at the Seaside—**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



## BUSINESSES SERVICES

### Give the Gift of Connection This Holiday Season!



For many in our community, a ride from Community Wheels means independence, connection, and belonging.

Your donation helps keep these rides accessible — **and as a registered charity, we can issue a charitable tax receipt for every contribution.**

Let's make sure no one is left behind this winter, give a meaningful gift today.

♥ To donate, please contact our Executive Director, Courtney:

☎ 902-277-1441 ✉ [courtney@communitywheels.ca](mailto:courtney@communitywheels.ca).

You can also donate through our website at: [communitywheels.ruralrides.ca](http://communitywheels.ruralrides.ca)

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Thanks for your support!**





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## BUSINESS SERVICES



**Thank you for supporting this community golf course  
and we are excited to see you again in 2026!**



**Aspotogan Ridge Golf Club - Hole #7**

### **Christmas Specials**

Are you looking to shop local and support the community at the same time? Stop into the AHT office to purchase an Aspotogan Ridge gift card, golf clothing and more. While you are there, ask about our 2026 rates and specials.

376 Parkwood Drive, Mill Cove (1km beyond Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School)

[play@aspotoganridge.com](mailto:play@aspotoganridge.com) 902-857-1333 [www.aspotoganridge.com](http://www.aspotoganridge.com)



### **Aspotogan Heritage Trust**

*"Investing in Community Visions"*

*The Board and Staff of the AHT  
wish you a Happy Holiday Season  
& All the Best in 2026*

*The office will be closing on December 23 at 4:00 pm and  
will reopen at 9:00 am on January 5th*

902-857-1133

[www.aspotogan.org](http://www.aspotogan.org)



## BUSINESS SERVICES



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## DAVID BOND LAW OFFICE

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## BUSINESS SERVICES




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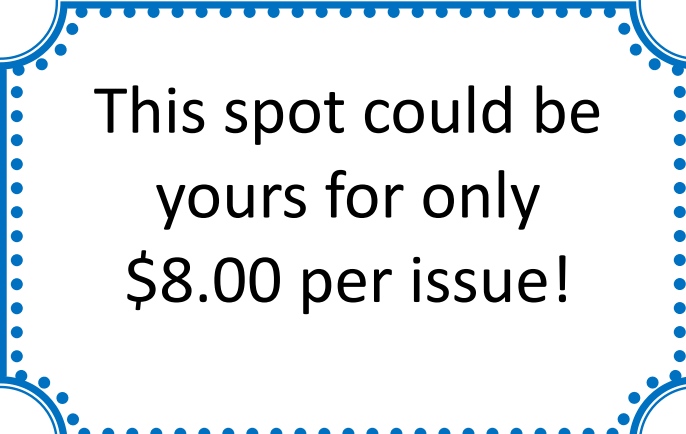
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Ministry@ParishofBlandford.ca  
<https://parishofblandford.ca>

### December 2025 Worship Schedule

For latest updates, go to: <https://parishofblandford.ca/service-schedule/>

December 7	10:00 am	All Saints, Bayswater
December 14	10:00 am	St. Barnabas, Blandford
December 21	10:00 am	St. Cuthberts, Northwest Cove
December 24	4:00 pm	All Saints, Bayswater
December 28	10:00 am	St. Barnabas, Blandford

### January 2026 Worship Schedule

For latest updates, go to: <https://parishofblandford.ca/service-schedule/>

January 4	10:00 am	Blandford Community Centre
January 11	10:00 am	Blandford Community Centre
January 18	10:00 am	Blandford Community Centre
January 25	10:00 am	Blandford Community Centre

### **Community Event: SUNRETURN**

*A Christmas celebration in story and song*



**Wednesday December 3 at 7 pm, St Barnabas Anglican Church, Hwy 329, Blandford**

**\$25 advance, \$30 at the door, youth free (18 and under)  
 Buy tickets now: <https://musiqueroyale.com/events/>**



# COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

## DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Indoor walking BCC 10 am Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm	2 Fire Trg 7 pm	3 Sunreturn St. Barnabas 7 pm BCC Board Mtg 7 pm	4 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	5 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am	6 Xmas at the Village Hall 9 am East River Village Hall
7 Xmas at the Village Hall 9 am All Saints 10 am Kids Holiday Party BCC 1 pm	8 Indoor walking BCC 10 am Fire Mtg BCC 7pm Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm	9 Fire Trg 7 pm	10	11 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	12 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am Seasiders BCC 5:30 pm	13
14 St. Barnabas 10 am	15 Indoor walking BCC 10 am Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm	16 Fire Trg 7 pm	17	18 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	19 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am	20
21 St. Cuthberts 10 am	22 Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm	23 Santa Drive-By via Fire truck 5:30pm East River Union Hall Fire Trg 7 pm	24 All Saints 4 pm	25 Merry Christmas! 	26	27
28 St. Barnabas 10:00 am	29 Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm	30 Fire Trg 7 pm	31 New Year's Eve Dance, BCC 9 pm		BCC = Bland- ford Com- munity Cen- tre	OS = Ocean Swells Com- munity Cen- tre

Note: The address for the newsletter indicated below is a **mailbox only, not** a physical address.

### Newsletter Advertisement Rates

#### Personal Ads and Thank you Notices

1/4 Page	\$ 8.00
1/2 Page	\$12.00
Full Page	\$23.00

#### Business Ads and Community Groups

Business Card Size	\$ 8.00
1/4 Page	\$12.00
1/2 Page	\$18.00
Full Page	\$35.00

**SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE**  
CONTACT EDITOR FOR MORE INFO  
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### Editor Information

#### SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:

Sandra McFadyen EDITOR  
ARA Newsletter  
54 Upper Blandford Wharf Rd  
Blandford, NS B0J 1T0  
E-mail: [aspotogan329@gmail.com](mailto:aspotogan329@gmail.com)  
Phone: 902-817-9906



**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR FEB NEWSLETTER:**  
**JANUARY 20, 2026**

# COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

## JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BCC = Blandford Community Centre	OS = Ocean Swells Community Centre			1 Happy New Year!	2 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am	3
4 Worship Service BCC 10 am	5 Indoor walking BCC 10 am  Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm	6 Fire Trg 7 pm	7 Indoor walking BCC 10 am  BCC Board Mtg 7 pm	8 Pickleball BCC 6 pm  Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	9 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am	10
11 Worship Service BCC 10 am	12 Indoor walking BCC 10 am  Fire Mtg BCC 7pm  Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm	13 Fire Trg 7 pm	14 Indoor walking BCC 10 am	15 Pickleball BCC 6 pm  Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	16 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am  Seasiders BCC 2 pm	17 Breakfast BCC 9 am
18 Worship Service BCC 10 am  Athenæum OS 2:30 pm	19 Indoor walking BCC 10 am  Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm	20 Fire Trg 7 pm	21 Indoor walking BCC 10 am	22 Pickleball BCC 6 pm  Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	23 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am	24
25 Worship Service BCC 10 am	26 Indoor walking BCC 10 am  Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm	27 Fire Trg 7 pm	28 Indoor walking BCC 10 am	29 Pickleball BCC 6 pm  Darts Pumpers 7:30	30 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am	31

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HAPPY ★ NEW YEAR