

Valdez, Alaska 99686 P.O. Box #1635 Valdez Senior Center, Inc.

while enhancing their quality of life through care and services. to serve as community support for the seniors of Valdez, The Mission of the Valdez Senior Center is

*Read this newsletter on our website! www.valdezseniorcenter.org

P. 907 - 835 - 5032 F. 907 - 835 - 2518

Monday - Friday 8AM - 4PM **Office Hours** 2024 NEWSL T I

VALDEZ SENIOR CENTER, INC.

04/22		04/16	04/01	
Earth Day	- 1:30pm	VSC Board Meeting	April Fools Day	

VSC BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Newcomer Elected 3 yrs; term ends in 2025

Vice President: Larry Weaver Elected 3 yrs; term ends in 2026

Secretary: Katey Connell Elected 3 yrs; term ends in 2026

Treasurer: Trish Stowe Elected 3 yrs; term ends in 2025

Director: Harold Blehm Elected 3 yrs; term ends in 2026

Two director positions are currently being voted on. Please vote!



The mission of the Valdez Senior Center is to serve as community support for the Seniors of Valdez, while enhancing their quality of life through care and services.

This agency is supported through funding from the Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, City of Valdez, Providence Alaska Foundation United Way, SOA Dept. of Transportation, and other generous donations. NEXT BOARD MEETING Valdez Senior Center - Tuesday -April 16, 2024 at 1:30PM.

Phone: 907 - 835 - 5032 Fax: 907- 835 - 2518 P.O. Box 1635 Valdez, Alaska 99686

Physical Address

1300 E. Hanagita Street Valdez, Alaska 99686



Facebook Valdez Senior Center, Inc.



Website valdezseniorcenter.org





Meals On Wheels - Valdez

We deliver! Valdez Senior Center, Inc. works with Meals-on-Wheels to deliver daily meals for those 60 & older and those who are unable to leave their home and prepare meals. Are you or someone you know interested in joining?

Apply at the Valdez Senior Center office.

Meals On The Go!

Enjoy pick up from our senior center kitchen.

Call before 2PM to place a pick up order for the following day!

Our menu is posted on our website, Facebook page, and in this newsletter!

*Keep in Touch-Menu & availability subject to change. April 2024

Paulena Arias Activities Coordinator & Office Assistant

VSC

Staff

Byron Hales

Leslie Gross Office Manager

Executive Director

OPEN Kitchen Supervisor

Teag Panzer & Sam Rank Kitchen Assistant

Esther Erickson PCS Program Administrator

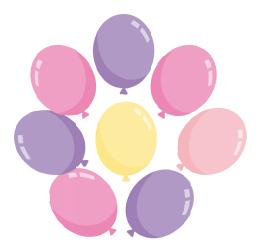
Bryan Tolle Driver & Custodian







1-April Fool's Day 2-National PB&J Day **3-National Find a Rainbow Day 4-National Burrito Day** 4-National Walking Day 7-World Health Day **10-National Siblings Day** 11-National Pet Day 12-National Grilled Cheese Day 14-Palm Sunday (varies each year) 15-National Tax Day 15-National Laundry Day 16-Wear Pajamas to Work Day 18-National Haiku Poetry Day 20-Husband Appreciation Day 21- Easter(varies each year) 22-Earth Day 22-National Jelly Bean Day 23-National Picnic Day 25-Administrative Professionals Day 26-Arbor Day 26-National Pretzel Day 28-National Superhero Day **30-National Honesty Day** SOFESTIVE.COM





David Bradley	4/6
Pam Shirrell	4/7
Susan Willi	4/11
Melissa Bowden	4/11
Charles Sasse	4/15
Margaret Weaver	4/18



Affable April

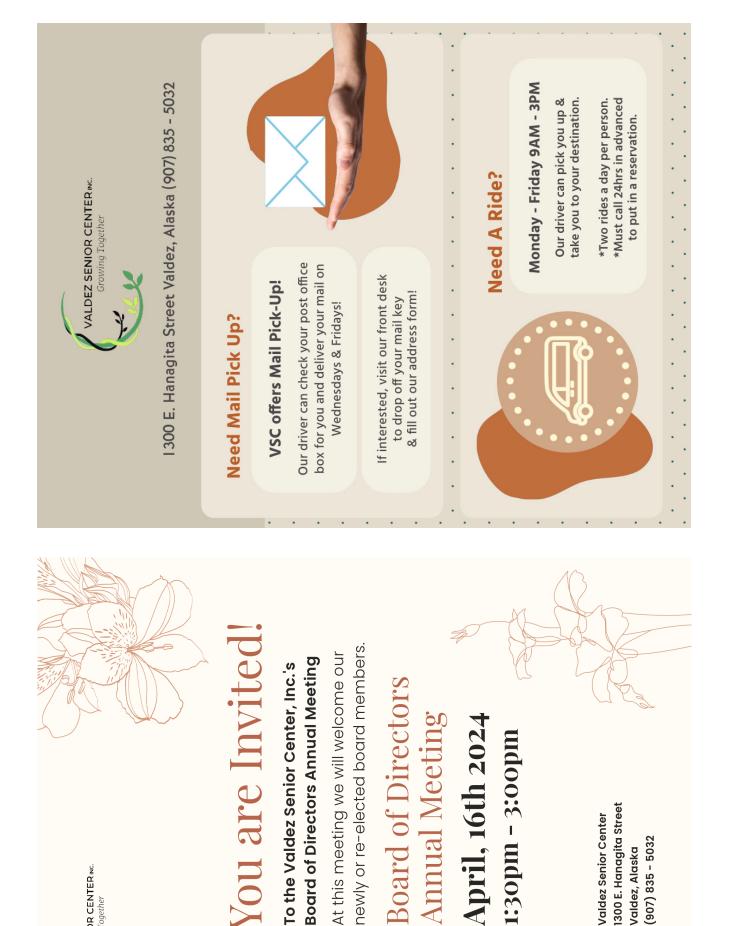
The breath of Spring is here again As we look forward to that time When green grass and leaves are on display And birds are chirping in great rhyme.

The cottonwoods will be peeping new buds As the creeks roll past their door And all wildlife sings sweet of thanks That spring is here once more.

Robin red breast is showing up now With many other birds coming forth, Their chirping is a welcome sign For happy springtime in the North.

The Senior Center is welcoming all With good things coming their way As they get ready to welcome spring And enjoy each festive day.

-Marie Blood, 2024



VALDEZ SENIOR CENTER INC. Growing Together

Our Mission is to serve as community support for the services. While enhancing their quality of life through care and services.





Friends of the Senior Center,

Please help us by completing the attached Consumer Characteristics and "Determine Your Nutritional Health" forms.

The grants we depend on require this information. If you benefit from or appreciate our services, completing these forms and returning them to us is the best way to show your gratitude.

Please drop off, fax, mail, or email your completed survey to Valdez Senior Center as soon as you can, and no later than June 15, 2024.

1300 E. Hanagita St. PO Box 1635, Valdez, AK 99686 Phone: (907) 835 - 5032 Fax: (907) 835 - 2518 vscc@valdezak.net

Thank you in advance for your participation and support.

-Valdez Senior Center, Inc.

State of Alaska DHSS Division of Senior & Disabilities Services

Consumer Characteristics

Please complete this form annually for Registered Services under the Older Americans Act. Data is critical for Federal Title III and State Funds. Unauthorized use is strictly prohibited. Information is protected by Privacy and Security Agreements. Names and identifiers are not shared. Updated 11/17/2021

Basic Information

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial)		Date of Birth	Form Date
Physical Address	City	State	Zip Code
Mailing Address (If different than physical)	City	State	Zip Code

Contact Information

Phone	Email		
Emergency Contact			
Name	Relationship	Phone	

Demographics

Race (Check all that a	apply)	Gender	Individuals	Inco	Income	
Alaskan Native/Ame	erican Indian	_ Female	in home	Annual	Monthly	
Asian/Asian America	an	Male	1	\$16,990	\$1,416	
🗆 Black/African Ameri	can	Other	2	\$22,890	\$1,908	
Native Hawaiian/Page	cific Islander		3	\$28,790	\$2,399	
🗆 Non-Minority (white	e, non-hispanic)		4	\$34,690	\$2,891	
White Hispanic			5	\$40,490	\$3,383	
Minority Status	Ethnicity		Is household above incom	l income at o ne guide?	r below the	
Non-Minority	Hispanic or Lating		□ Yes	🗆 No		
Do you live alone?						
🗆 Yes 🛛 🗆 No						

Consumer Characteristics (Continued)

Ability and Assistance

If you use personal or stand-by assistance, supervision, or cues to perform the following activities please check the corresponding box. Check all that apply.

Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs)

- □ Preparing meals
- \Box Shopping for personal items
- □ Medication management
- □ Managing Money
- □ Using telephone
- □ Doing laundry
- □ Doing light housework
- □ Using available transportation

Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)

- □ Feeding
- Dressing
- □ Continence
- □ Transferring in/out of bed/chair
- Bathing
- □ Toileting

Has Alzheimer's or Related Dementia/Disorder (ADRD):

Has Traumatic or Acquired Brain Injury (TABI):

Total score from Determine Your Nutritional Health (required for home delivered meals)

For Adult Day Services (ADS) Consumers Only

Indicate Payment Source:

Adult Day Services (ADS) Grant

Medicaid Waiver

Private Pay

The warning signs of poor nutritional health are often overlooked. Use this checklist to find out if you or someone you know is at nutritional risk.

Read the statements below. Circle the number in the yes column for those that apply to you or someone you know. For each yes answer, score the number in the box. Total your nutritional score.

Determine Your Nutritional Health

	YES
I have an illness or condition that made me change the kind and /or amount of food I eat.	2
I eat fewer than two meals per day.	3
I eat few fruits or vegetables, or milk products.	2
I have three or more drinks of beer, liquor or wine almost every day.	2
I have tooth or mouth problems that make it hard for me to eat.	2
I don't always have enough money to buy the food I need.	4
I eat alone most of the time.	1
I take three or more different prescribed or over-the-counter drugs a day.	1
Without wanting to, I have lost or gained 10 pounds in the last six months.	2
I am not always physically able to shop, cook and/or feed myself.	2
TOTAL	

Total your nutritional score. If it's --

- **Good!** Recheck your nutritional score in 6 months.
- 3-5 You are at moderate nutritional risk. See what can be done to improve your eating habits and lifestyle. Your office on aging, senior nutrition program, senior citizens center or health department can help. Recheck your nutritional score in 3 months.
- 6 or You are at high nutritional risk. Bring this checkmor
 e list the next time you see your doctor, dietitian or other qualified health or social service professional. Talk with them about any problems you may have. Ask for help to improve your nutritional health.

Remember that warning signs suggest risk, but do not represent diagnosis of any condition. Turn the page to learn more about the Warning Signs of poor nutritional health.

The Nutrition Checklist is based on the warning signs described below. Use the word <u>DETERMINE</u> to remind you of the warning signs.

Disease

Any disease, illness or chronic condition that causes you to change the way you eat, or makes it hard for you to eat, puts your nutritional health at risk. Four out of five adults have chronic diseases that are affected by diet. Confusion or memory loss that keeps getting worse is estimated to affect one out of five or more of older adults. This can make it hard to remember what, when or if you've eaten. Feeling sad or depressed, which happens to about one in eight older adults, can cause big changes in appetite, digestion, energy level, weight and well-being.

Eating Poorly

Eating too little and eating too much both lead to poor health. Eating the same foods day after day or not eating fruit, vegetables and milk products daily will also cause poor nutritional health. One in five adults skips meals daily. Only 13 percent of adults eat the minimum amount of fruits and vegetables needed. One in four older adults drinks too much alcohol. Many health problems become worse if you drink more than one or two alcoholic beverages per day.

ooth Loss/Mouth Pain

A healthy mouth, teeth and gums are needed to eat. Missing, loose or rotten teeth or dentures which don't fit well or cause mouth sores make it hard to eat.

Economic Hardship

As many as 40 percent of older Americans have incomes of less than \$6,000 per year. Having less-or choosing to spend less--than \$25 to \$30 per week for food makes it very hard to get the foods you need to stay healthy.

Reduced Social Contact

One-third of all older people live alone. Being with people daily has a positive effect on morale, well-being and eating.

Multiple Medicines

Many older Americans must take medicines for health problems. Almost one half of older Americans take multiple medicines daily. Growing old may change the way we respond to drugs. The more medicines you take, the greater the chance for side effects such as increased or decreased appetite, change in taste, constipation, weakness, drowsiness, diarrhea, nausea and others. Vitamins or minerals when taken in large doses act like drugs and can cause harm. Alert your doctor to everything you take.

nvoluntary Weight Loss/Gain

Losing or gaining a lot of weight when you are not trying to do so is an important warning sign that must not be ignored. Being overweight or underweight also increases your chance of poor health.

Needs Assistance in Self Care

Although most older people are able to eat, one of every five has trouble walking, shopping, buying and cooking food, especially as they get older.

Elder Years Above Age 80

Most older people lead full and productive lives. But as age increases, risk of frailty and health problems increase. Checking you nutritional health regularly makes good sense.

The Nutrition Screening Initiative • 1010 Wisconsin Avenue, NW • Suite 800 • Washington, DC 20007 The Nutrition Screening Initiative is funded in part by a grant from Ross Products Division of Abbott Laboratories, Inc.

A Brief History of Earth Day and Its Impact

Every year on April 22, the world celebrates Earth Day. Even if you don't participate in the event, it's worth recognizing the reasons why Earth Day was created. Born in 1970, Earth Day has come a long way since its humble beginnings. It's not just about recycling, using less electricity and conserving water – going green has evolved into a lifestyle.

A brief history of Earth Day

It's easy to see why Earth Day was born in 1970. This era marked a moment in our country's history when people were striving for peace. War was raging in Vietnam, and young adults across the U.S. were voicing their concerns for our planet as a whole. At this time, people were not discussing the environment as frequently as they do today. Americans were more interested in the latest, greatest technology, some of which had devastating consequences on the Earth. It wasn't until Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, raised awareness of these issues that people began to take environmentalism seriously. Nelson highlighted the effects of the Santa Barbara, California, oil spill that occurred in 1969. He proposed the idea for a "national teach-in on the environment," and hired Denis Hayes to be national coordinator and build a staff of 85 people to help him promote this initiative. On April 22, 1970, millions of Americans demonstrated their care for the environment in parks, auditoriums and streets across the country. Nelson had not only drawn interest, but proven the planet is something that should concern everyone who lives on it. In 1990, Earth Day had morphed into a global event, encouraging more than 200 million people around the world to take part in environmental efforts.



Has Earth Day created change?

One of the biggest questions that people have in regard to Earth Day is whether it has made an impact on our planet as a whole. It's easy to see that there is support for the environment, but what has Earth Day really done for the world? In 2014, the University of Maryland published a piece that looked into the impact of Earth Day on modern society. The biggest takeaway was that Earth Day has increased awareness around the globe of environmental problems. Water shortages, pollution and habitat destruction are just some of the many issues that more people now recognize across the world. That being said, not everyone has hopped on the bandwagon in terms of taking action. Researchers estimate that only 1 billion people in the world celebrate Earth Day, which is a fraction of the 7 billion people living on the planet. Despite the fact that there has been a growing awareness of Earth Day on social media, day-to-day news outlets still do

not dedicate enough time to the promotion of the event. "An idea of a new approach to gain awareness is by starting to educate kids from a younger age," wrote Robert and Patricia Cahn, for the University of Maryland. "It is important to educate the young instead of adults because it's harder to change an adult's habits that date back since they were little kids. This different approach would be highly effective since humans pick up their major habits at a young age. If kids are constantly enforced to do simple tasks that help the environment when little, then by their 20s these habits will have become a daily ritual like brushing your teeth is." Not all hope is lost in terms of the world's population becoming more eco-conscious. In fact, evidence is already being seen in the technology being developed - think of the smart home devices, air conditioning systems, and light bulbs being created for green living.





Happy Earth Day!

How Can I Celebrate Earth Day?

Here are some ideas for celebrating from home; for celebrations in your area, check in with your local government:

Plant a garden in your backyard or start a plant collection. No space for a garden? A small herb garden is an easy (and space-saving) way to grow your own herbs.

Take a walk. Take some time to admire the beauty around you.

Or take a virtual adventure, or step out IRL. Go to the zoo or the aquarium or a natural wonder or landmarks by way of a virtual tour! Or take a Google Earth tour to check out cherry blossoms around the world or the famous tulips of The Netherlands.

Educate yourself. We all know we should be reducing, reusing and recycling, and Earth Day is a perfect day to really do your research and pledge to do better for our planet.

Start a compost. If you've always liked the idea of reducing your waste and starting to compost, here are some easy steps.

Donate. Pick a charity of your choice that protects the planet and promotes conservation — and donate!

Baked Feta Pasta

Ingredients

- 2 pints cherry tomatoes
- 3 garlic cloves, halved
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 package (8 ounces) block feta cheese
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper
- 1 package (16 ounces) rigatoni or other short pasta
- Fresh basil leaves, coarsely chopped

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400°. In a 13x9-in. baking dish, combine tomatoes, garlic and 1/4 cup olive oil. Place the block of feta in the center, moving tomatoes so the cheese is sitting on the bottom of the dish. Drizzle the feta with remaining oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake until tomato skins start to split and the garlic has softened, 30-40 minutes.

- 2. Meanwhile, cook pasta according to package directions for al dente.
- Drain, reserving 1 cup pasta water.
- 3. Stir the feta mixture, lightly pressing tomatoes, until combined. Add pasta and toss to combine.

Stir in enough reserved pasta water to reach desired consistency. Sprinkle with basil.

https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/baked-feta-pasta/print/

Pecan Caramel Candies

Ingredients

- 54 pretzels
- 54 Rolo candies (about 11 ounces)
- 54 pecan halves

Directions

Preheat oven to 250°. Place pretzels 1 in. apart on foil-lined baking sheets. Top each with a Rolo candy.
 Bake 3-4 minutes or until candies are softened. (Rolos will still retain their shape.) Immediately top with pecans, pressing to spread candy into pretzel. Let stand until set.

https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/pecan-caramel-candies/print/



Activities	• Chair Yoga 11:00AM Gentle Movement for all ranges. Twice a week with Cammie Hsu.	 All ages welcomed. Tea & Puzzles 1:00PM 	Bring a tea, drink our tea! Bring a friend, meet a new friend! Seniors and friends are welcomed to play jigsaw, crossword, sudoku puzzles and more!	• HHES Craft 3:00PM AVV & Hermon Hutchens Elementary work together to have crafting time, in hopes Seniors	 Mahjong 1:00PM Mahjong is a tile-based game. It is usually played by four players, who try to form cote and mairs of 	 Wild try to routh sets and pane of tiles. Bring a snack to share. Chess Club 5:30PM Join VSC & counseling center in playing chess. All ages welcomed. 	• ASL Beginner 1:00PM Learn or practice American Sign Language in a group setting. Conducted by Kellie Hales.	2024
		FRIDAY	5 • Craft: Decorate A Mug 9:30AM - 11:30AM	12 • Craft: Decorate A Mug 9:30AM - 11:30AM	19 • Meet the author Kevin Reeves 1:00PM	26 • Craft: Decorate A Mug 9:30AM - 11:30AM	e	30AM - 11:30AM ng your own, or gs provided.
alendar		THURSDAY	4 • Chair Yoga 11:00AM • ASL 1:00PM	11 • Chair Yoga 11:00AM • ASL 1:00PM	18 • Chair Yoga 11:00AM • ASL 1:00PM	25 • Chair Yoga 11:00AM • ASL 1:00PM	2 • Chair Yoga 11:00AM • ASL 1:00PM	• Craft: Decorate A Mug 9:30AM - 11:30AM Decorate a coffee mug. Bring your own, or use ours. Paint pens & mugs provided.
Valdez Senior Center, Inc. Activity Calendar	lez, Alaska	WEDNESDAY	 3 H.S. Walk 9:00AM Mahjong 1:00PM HHES Craft 3:00PM 	10 • H.S. Walk 9:00AM • Mahjong 1:00PM • HHES Craft 3:00PM	17 • H.S. Walk 9:00AM • Mahjong 1:00PM • HHES Craft 3:00PM	24 • H.S. Walk 9:00AM • Mahjong 1:00PM • HHES Craft 3:00PM	1 • Mahjong 1:00PM	
ior Center, Ir	Address: 1300 E. Hanagita Street Valdez, Alaska Phone: 907-835-5032	TUESDAY	2 • Chair Yoga 11:00AM	9 • Chair Yoga 11:00AM	16 • Chair Yoga 11:00AM BOARD MEETING 1:30PM	23 • Chair Yoga 11:00AM	30 • Chair Yoga 11:00AM	 Craft: Paint-Your-Own 3-D Wood Flowers 1:00PM - 3:00PM Create a stunning masterpiece to brighten your home decor with this craft. Craft Supplies Provided.
Valdez Sen	Address: 1300 E. Hana Phone: 907-835-5032	MONDAY	1 • H.S. Walk 9:00AM • Tea & Puzzles 1:00PM • Chess Club 5:30PM	8 • H.S. Walk 9:00AM • Tea & Puzzles 1:00PM	15 • H.S. Walk 9:00AM • Tea & Puzzles 1:00PM • Chess Club 5:30PM	22 • H.S. Walk 9:00AM • Craft: Paint-Your-Own 3-D Flower 1:00PM	29 • H.S. Walk 9:00AM • Tea & Puzzles 1:00PM • Chess Club 5:30PM	 Craft: Paint-Your-Own 1:00PM - 3:00PM Create a stunning maste your home decor with tl Craft Supplies Provided.



Wednesdays at 1:00PM

Free for all Valdez Seniors.

It is usually played by four players, who try to form sets and pairs of Mahjong is a tile-based game. tiles. Bring a snack to share.

at 11:00am

Tuesdays & Thursdays

Valdez Senior Center, Inc. Gentle Chair Yoga

hosted by the

with Cammie Hsu Chair yaga







*Free

Valdez Senior Center

April 1 & 15 & 29th 5:30pm - 7:00pm

CHESS

Craft:

0





-earn or practice

VALDEZ SENIOR CENTER INC.

N. N.



American Sign Language in a group setting. Conducted by Kellie Hales.



APRIL BAMBOOZLE BEFUDDLE BEMUSE BEWILDER BUSINESS CAPER DELUDE DUMBFOUND DUPE

DIRECTIONS:

Find and circle the

vocabulary words

in the grid. Look for them in all

directions including

backwards and

diagonally.

FARCE FIRST HOAX HOODWINK JEST JOKES LAUGHTER LEVITY MALARKEY MISCHIEF

MONKEY PRANK PREPOSTEROUS SHENANIGANS SILLY SURPRISE TOMFOOLERY TRICK WACKY

Equipment Loan Program

Some people need expensive equipment that health insurance may not fully cover, or that they may only use for a short period of time. Connections To Care, Inc. has a loan closet that provides adaptive equipment to individuals to increase their safety and independence in their homes and the community. This program allows for you to borrow our equipment free of charge. We only ask that you return the item(s) after use!

- Crutches
- Canes
- Walkers
- Shower Chairs
- Shower Benches
- Shower Handles
- Raised Toilet Seats
- Wheelchairs
- Bladder Control Pads
- All sizes of Depends
- Donut Cushions
- Knee Scooters
- Bed Pads
- Hospital Beds
- Injury Braces
- More...!

Connections to Care, Inc. 907 - 255 - 2356





Pickup Location: The Valdez Senior Center, Inc. **1300 E. Hanagita Valdez, Alaska**

Valdez Senior Center, Inc. offers Personal Care Services



Services include help with:

- Daily Activities. (Bathing, eating, oral hygiene, light cooking, etc.)
- Light housekeeping duties.
- Ambulatory help. (Assistance to/from bed, wheelchair, vehicle, etc.)
- Transportation.
- Social Security Assistance.
- Medicaid Assistance.
- Medical Equipment Loans.

Services can be provided in your home by a Personal Care Assistant with support from the Valdez Senior Center, Inc. Eligibility requirements apply.



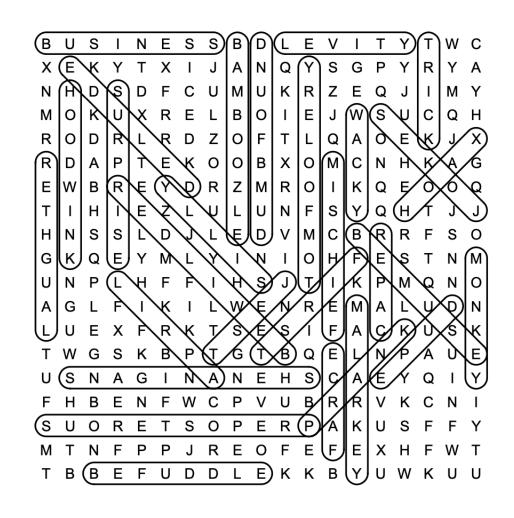




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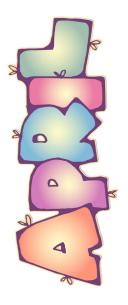
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To Go Meals – Must be placed a day in advanced. Dine - In Monday - Friday at 12PM. Visit our website for updates. **Suggested Donation:** \$6-\$8: 60+ 2024

\$10-\$12: 59 & Under.



	An NTS gr funds t portion o cost to	To Rehe Remove a styrofoam Reheat fo	Bring sou to a rollin Store foo refrigerat below.	*Leaving causes ba & illness.	VALDEZ
FRIDAY	5 • Spaghetti • Mixed Veggies • Salad	12 . Pot Roast . Baked Potato . Carrots	19 • Chicken Cordon Bleu • Buttered Noodles • Broccoli	26 . Pork Loin . Potato Salad . Coleslaw	*Menu is subject to
THURSDAY	4 • Baked Chicken • Baked Potato • Broccoli • Biscuit	11 • Chicken & Waffles • Fruit	18 • Beef Tacos • Beans & Rice • Fruit	25 • Chicken Enchilada Casserole • Beans & Rice	
WEDNESDAY	3 Biscuits & Gravy Sausage Scrambled Eggs	10 • Country Fried Steak • Mashed Potatoes	17 . Chicken Chili . Cornbread . Mixed Veggies	24 . Baked Fish . Rice . Green beans	
TUESDAY	2 . Pork Chop . Coleslaw . Fruit	9 . Ham . Mashed Potatoes . Carrots . Gravy	16 • BBQ Beef Sandwich • Coleslaw • Baked Beans	23 •Mac & Cheese Casserole with Bacon & Broccoli	30 • BBQ Chicken • Green beans
MONDAY	1 • Turkey Burger • Coleslaw • Fruit	8 • Green Chili Burger • Fries • Fruit	15 • Spaghetti with Meatballs • Cauliflower • Fruit & Salad	22 • Meatloaf • Mashed Potatoes • Carrots	29 • Cheeseburger • Tater Tots

An NTS grant provides funds to cover a portion of the lunch cost to seniors.

To Reheat Meals:

kemove all food from tyrofoam containers. Keheat food to 165°F. Bring soup or gravy o a rolling boil. store food in a efrigerator at 40°F or oelow. *Leaving food out causes bacteria growth & illness.



change

.Corn