



Fall/Winter 2022



Newsletter Highlights

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I look at fall as the sunset of the seasons. Winter, being cold and dark, represents the evening, spring the dawn, and summer the bright light of day. The color and beauty of the leaves have graced us for a short while and have now become nature's confetti. The trees have done their part to prepare for winter and so must we do the same.

It's a challenge to keep up the pace with days getting shorter and the nights longer. Nonetheless we all must continue. Be sure to stay connected. It's easy to go into hibernation mode, but we humans need connections. Check out a senior dining site in your community. All sites are listed on page 6. They are more than just a meal; they are a place to connect or reconnect with people. Programs and activities are typically offered on a regular basis. The Art of Aging (AMP) is another great opportunity to connect and learn. See page 5 for more details.

No transportation? There are options, such as BayCo Door2Door on page 8. We are also looking for volunteer drivers to transport seniors through the Transportation Assistance Program (TAP). See page 11 for more information on that service.

It's also important to educate yourself on fraud and scams. Some believe "this can't or doesn't happen here". Unfortunately, it does and so many people have been bilked out of tens of thousands of dollars in the last year alone. Right here in Bayfield County.

Lastly, be kind to yourself, and to your neighbors, family, and friends. We are all in this thing called life together and we are only stronger together, no matter our religious or political beliefs.

Until next time, stay safe, and be well.

Carrie

Carrie Linder, CSW, Aging & Disability Services Manager



What is Abuse and Neglect

Abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or "trusted" individual that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable adult.

Signs of Abuse or Neglect

Physical:

- Unexplained bruising, welt marks, cuts, puncture wounds, bites.
- Burns, scalding, sprains, dislocations, fractures.
- Repeated hospital admissions.

Behavioral:

- Agitation, anxiety, withdrawal, isolation.
- Confusion, contradictory statements.
- Fear, depression, anger, resignation.
- Disorientation, wandering.
- Hesitation to talk openly or non-responsiveness.



Financial:

- Sudden changes in bank account activity; additional names on bank signature card.
- Unauthorized withdrawal of funds, forged signatures on checks and other documents.
- Change in power of attorney, house title, or wills when an adult is incapable of decisions.
- Numerous unpaid bills when someone else is in charge of finances.
- Inappropriate exchange of property or financial assets for caregiver's personal gain.
- Threats, enticement or other manipulation to exploit an adult at risk.
- Online or telephone financial scams.

Neglect /Self-Neglect:

- Dehydration or malnutrition, noticeable weight loss.

- Poor hygiene, housekeeping or hoarding.
- Bizarre, inappropriate behavior.
- Incontinence that has not been addressed.
- Increased substance use, mismanagement of medications, or other unmet medical needs.

Who We Are

Adult Protective Services (APS) social workers advocate for adults at risk and provide intervention and support to Bayfield County residents. For adults found to be legally incompetent and a danger to themselves or others, the social workers coordinate guardianship/protective placement and services.

Who We Serve

Adults at risk are individuals age 18-59 with a physical or mental condition that impairs the ability to care for their needs.

Elder adults at risk are individuals age 60 or older, who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation. Elder adults at risk may suffer abuse from friends, neighbors, caregivers, or strangers.

Reporting Abuse or Neglect

- In Wisconsin, certain licensed professionals are mandated to report alleged abuse and neglect; however, reports are accepted from any concerned individual.



We cannot give legal advice.

- Call Bayfield County Department of Human Services at 715-373-6144 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to report concerns related to possible abuse or neglect of an adult at risk.
- You may choose to give your name and address. Reporter names are kept confidential. State laws provide protection from liability for anyone who reports abuse in good faith.
- We will listen to your concerns, gather information, and ask questions to clearly understand the situation. Further contact with you, may or may not be allowed during or after the investigation.



What Happens After the Report

- Staff will respond to the report, determine the safety of the situation, and decide what response is necessary. Options and services will be discussed with the individual at that time.
- Reports and information given to APS agencies are confidential by law. In order for APS to interact and discuss the referral, the social worker must have a signed release.
- Wisconsin's elder abuse laws state that competent adults have the right to decide where and how they live and whether or not they want intervention in their lives. They can refuse an investigation and any recommended services regardless of opinions from professionals, family, friends, or neighbors.

Bayfield County
Dept. of Human Services
 117 E. 5th Street w PO Box 100
 Washburn, WI 54891
 Office Tel: 715-373-6144
WI Elder Abuse Hotline:
1-866-317-9362

Dementia: Wandering Prevention

It is estimated that up to 65% of people with dementia will wander at some point. The goal is to get strategies in place before that occurs. Below are a few options that may be helpful.

Low Tech Options:

Identification Bracelets – these are recommended for the person with dementia and the care partner that lives with them. The person with dementia would have their name and who should be contacted if they are lost. The care partner should have a bracelet in case they have an emergency of their own. It should state your name and “I care for someone with dementia, in and emergency call”

- ◆ www.roadid.com
- ◆ www.laurenshope.com



Medic Alert + Alzheimer’s Association Safe Return. Your loved one will receive a personalized member ID tag, wallet card, personal health record, and Medic Alert + Safe Return’s 24-hour emergency toll-free number. If they are reported missing,

caregivers can call the emergency response line, and local Alzheimer's Association chapters will coordinate with law enforcement to find your missing loved one. With this system, emergency responders will immediately find out any critical medical information about the missing person – and if anyone finds them, they’ll know how to get back in touch with you using the information on the member ID tags.

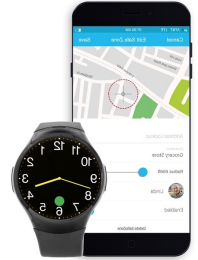


- ◆ <https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/safety/medicalert-with-24-7-wandering-support>

GPS Tracking Devices:

Smart Phone & Smart Watches: Some choose to use options such as a smart phone or smart watch to keep tabs on their person with dementia. This is a good option **if** they consistently take their phone and/or always wear their watch. You could also consider one of these options:

- ◆ <https://www.alzstore.com/gps-tracker-watch-elderly-p/0950.htm>
- ◆ <https://www.alzstore.com/gps-tracker-for-elderly-p/0920.htm>



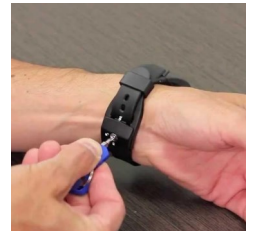
GPS insoles: This may be a good option if they consistently wear the same pair of shoes, and they do not wander at night, when they may leave without shoes.

- ◆ <https://gpsmartsole.com/gpsmartsole/>

Wearable trackers: This may be an option, if the person will leave it on them. Most wearable trackers require a smartphone to track the person’s location.

Wander tracking and emergency alert watch. Locks on to the wrist, has a battery charge of 30 days.

- ◆ <https://www.alzstore.com/gps-tracker-for-elderly-p/0920.htm>



iTraQ is a newer device that looks like a credit card – and it lasts up to four months on a single charge. Your loved one can easily carry the device in a wallet, pocket, or purse, and you’ll receive notifications when iTraQ enters or leaves a specific area. You can also set your own frequency of how often you want iTraQ to report its location, or you can check its location on demand through the smartphone app. iTraQ requires a subscription and a charger.



- ◆ www.itraq.com

Pocketfinder is a small GPS tracker that fits into a pocket or can be strapped to a belt. It sends real-time alerts when the tracker is out of a specified zone and you can view the tracker’s location on a smartphone or tablet using Google Maps. It also allows an unlimited number of users who can view the PocketFinder’s location, which means your entire family can check on your loved one at any time.

- ◆ <https://pocketfinder.com/>



(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Dementia Wandering Prevention

A Jiobit is a small wearable device, device that allows caregivers to track someone at any distance.

Caregivers can set alerts if a person leaves designated areas, and they can see the person's location history. More than one caregiver can track a person's location .



- ◆ <https://www.jiobit.com/>

GPS track and locate using a live map. You can receive alerts if the person leaves a designated radius, attaches to clothing discreetly and securely. Two-way voice communication and SOS button.

- ◆ <https://www.angelsense.com/gps-tracker-for-elderly/>

In the home wandering:



Pressure alarms that alert you when the person with dementia gets out of bed:

- ◆ <https://kerrmedical.com/collections/bed-alarms-chair-alarms>
- ◆ <https://aginginplace.org/best-bed-alarms-for-elderly-fall-prevention/>
- ◆ <https://www.alzstore.com/bed-alarm-elderly-p/0199.htm>

A baby monitor with camera may be an option if the person with dementia is not very mobile, yet you want to know they are safe.

- ◆ <https://www.babysensemonitors.com/>

These devices will alert you when they are attempting to leave the home:



- ◆ <https://www.alzstore.com/door-alarm-sensor-kit-p/0070.htm>

- ◆ www.ring.com (use with a smart phone)

Driving:

There are several commercially available car mounted GPS options available on amazon.com This may be beneficial if the person is still driving, but does not consistently carry a smartphone or other wearable GPS device.



Helpful review articles:

- ◆ <https://www.thiscaringhome.org/expert-review-electronic-locator-device/>
- ◆ <https://www.safewise.com/best-gps-trackers-dementia-patients/>

If you would like to discuss these options further, contact the Dementia Care Specialists at the ADRC of the North at 1-866-663-3607.



NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH



Join us in recognizing the 508,000 family caregivers in Wisconsin and the more than 1 in 5 Americans who are family caregivers. The work that they do does not go unnoticed!

For more information on caregiving resources, Contact the ADRC of the North at:
1-866-663-3607

Brought to you by the Ashland & Bayfield County Dementia and Caregiver Support Network

NOVEMBER IS:

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH

What is Alzheimer's Disease?

Alzheimer's Disease is a brain disorder that slowly destroys memory, thinking skills, and the ability to perform everyday tasks.

1 in 9 people age 65 and older has Alzheimer's Disease dementia - this is more than 6 million Americans

For more information and Alzheimer's support, contact the ADRC of the North at:
1-866-663-3607

Brought to you by the Ashland & Bayfield County Dementia and Caregiver Support Network

THE ART OF AGING



As children, we're taught how to become successful adults.
By contrast, no one teaches us how to age well.
We want to change that.

"There were many things that I took in and changed. I learned something from every presentation."

"The diversity of topics and the abundance of excellent resources in the Aging Mastery Program has set me on a much-improved course for navigating and practicing positive and meaningful lifestyle changes that will contribute greatly to better living and healthier outcomes."



Life expectancy has increased dramatically over the past 50 years, yet societal expectations of older adults have changed little. People are living longer - much longer - than previous generations. The Aging Mastery Program (AMP) addresses the benefits and challenges of this unprecedented new gift of time.

Created by the National Council on Aging, AMP workshops are led by local experts dedicated to their communities. Topics include:

- Navigating Longer Lives
- Exercise and You
- Sleep
- Healthy Eating
- Financial Fitness
- Medication Management
- Advance Planning
- Healthy Relationships
- Falls Prevention
- Community Engagement
- Caregiver Playbook

Program results have shown that participants significantly increase social connectedness, physical activity, healthy eating habits and advanced planning preparedness.

**Join Us for Aging Mastery
12 Sessions
Wednesdays, 9am - 11am
January 11 - March 29, 2023**

Connect with others over a cup of coffee **IN-PERSON** at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, where we'll join with others through virtual teaching.

OR

Participate online through an easy-to-navigate Zoom platform, so you can join from the comforts of home.

To secure your spot, contact your Bayfield County Extension office:

715-373-3288

Or register on our website:

<https://bayfield.extension.wisc.edu/family-living/aging-and-caregiving/>



Senior Dining Sites in Bayfield County

Six senior dining sites are open and ready to serve you in Bayfield County. People 60 and over are invited to join us for lunch and so much more!



Besides enjoying a nutritionally balanced lunch, senior dining offers an opportunity to catch up with neighbors, meet new friends and take advantage of

health or benefits related programming.

You are eligible if you are:

- ◆ Aged 60 or older
- ◆ The spouse or domestic partner of someone aged 60 and over
- ◆ An adult with a disability, younger than 60, who lives with an eligible older person participating in the program

The program is partially funded by contributions from users at the senior dining sites. A donation of \$3.00-\$5.00 per meal is suggested. Why the range? We know that some people are struggling with rising living expenses, but some seniors are more fortunate, and their generous donations go to support their neighbors. All contributions are put right back into the program to provide more meals.

The following table shows the day and times each site is open. Almost all of the sites need a reservation to make sure there is enough food for everyone.

Call the Senior Dining Hotline at 715-373-3396 – tell us:

- ◆ your name,
- ◆ phone number,
- ◆ site name and
- ◆ date.
- ◆ If there is more than one person in your party, please leave all of the names in the message.

If you haven't already, please join us for a meal and see what we have to offer!

Menus for each site are listed at the bottom of the following website page:

<https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/477/Elderly-Nutrition-Program>



Barnes Town Hall 3360 County Hwy. N Barnes, WI 54873	Meal Days: Th Reservation required? Yes Call by Noon on Wednesdays	Site Opens: 11:30 a.m. Meal Served: 12:00 noon
Bell Town Hall 22620 Ash Street Cornucopia, WI 54827	Meal Days: Tuesdays Reservation required? Yes Call by Monday at 8:30 a.m.	Site Opens: 11:30 a.m. Meal Served: 12:00 noon
Iron River Community Center 8275 E. Mill Street Iron River, WI 54847	Meal Days: 2 nd Thursday of the month Reservation required? Yes Call by Monday at noon	Site Opens: 11:30 a.m. Meal Served: 12:00 noon
First Lutheran Church 83105 Washington Avenue Port Wing, WI 54865	Meal Days: Wednesdays Reservation required? Yes Call by Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.	Site Opens: 11:30 a.m. Meal Served: 12:00 noon
Time Out Restaurant 4 Bayfield Street Washburn, WI 54891	Meal Days: Wednesdays Reservation required? No	Seating for Senior Meal Opens: 1:00 p.m.*** Meal Served: 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. Site Closes: 3:00 p.m.
***Please respect the posted seating time for senior meals, and do not arrive prior to 1:00 p.m.		
St. Louis School 713 Washington Avenue Washburn, WI 54891	Meal Days: Fridays Reservation required? Yes Call by 3:00 p.m. Wednesday	Site Opens: 11:30 a.m. Meal Served: 12:00 noon

Home Delivered Meals – Meals on Wheels

Did you know that Bayfield County provides home delivered meals to homebound seniors? Most people know the program as **Meals on Wheels (MOW)**. Along with our partners in Red Cliff and Cable, four other meal route drivers deliver to all areas of the county at least four days a week.

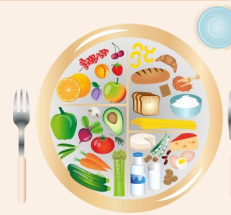
Meals provide at least 1/3 of the U.S. Recommended Daily Allowance for adults and consist of a protein, grain, milk and 3 fruit and vegetable servings per meal.

To be eligible for the program, a participant:

- ◆ Is aged 60 and over who is frail and essentially homebound by reasons of illness, disability, or isolation
- ◆ A spouse of a person found eligible regardless of age, who also lives in the home
- ◆ A disabled person who lives at home with an eligible older individual participating in the program

Menus for each service area are listed at the bottom of the following website page:

<https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/477/Elderly-Nutrition-Program>



Anyone requesting MOW will be assessed to determine their need for meals and other services before being approved for meal delivery.

The program is partially funded by Older American's Act grants and Bayfield County tax levy dollars, as well as by donations from program participants. A donation of \$3.00-\$5.00 is suggested to help cover the costs of the meals and delivery.

No one is denied service if they are unable to contribute, but every dollar collected is funneled right back into the program to provide more meals. Statements are sent to participants at the end of the month to make contributing easier. Contributions are kept confidential.

For more information about Meals on Wheels, please call :

the ADRC of the North at toll-free 1-866-663-3607
or Bayfield County Human Services at 715-373-6144.



Home for the Holidays – Signs of Dementia

By the GWAAR Legal Services Team (for reprint)



Many people travel to see loved ones only a few times per year, and 'tis the season. With that, you may see individuals that you haven't seen in a year or longer, and some things may seem different or "off."

There are plenty of things we all do that have nothing to do with cognitive decline, such as misplacing keys, eyeglasses, or walking into a room and forgetting what task you were going to do! Likewise, many signs of dementia are similar to signs of normal aging. That's why it's a good idea to look out for any of these potential signs of dementia:

- Notes with reminders about simple tasks;
- Neighbors, friends, or other family members share concerns;
- Bills not paid, or overpaid;
- Physical appearance – someone who was always put together suddenly appears dirty or unkempt;
- Weight changes;



- Driving issues, such as unexplained bumps/dents/scratches, parking in a different parking spot, etc.
- Saying things that are inappropriate (with no "filter");
- Repeating questions or stories; and
- Changes in speech or personality.

Recognizing any of these behaviors may not be a cause to rush in with assistance, but it may encourage you to call more frequently or see if someone nearby can check in regularly.

Like with any illness, dementia affects everyone differently and there is no standard progression of symptoms. Watch out for things that seem not quite right and be willing to follow up in a helpful way.

If you need additional assistance or information regarding resources, please call the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of the North at 1-866-663-3607.



Save Yourself Money With Medicare - Take Action Now!

Submitted by: Marianne Johnson, Elder Benefits Specialist

Medicare Open Enrollment runs from October 15- December 7 each year.

All Medicare beneficiaries should check their Part D coverage each year during Medicare's annual open enrollment period. This is the time of year to find out if your current plan will cost you more, or less than other Part D plans in 2023.

If it is no longer the best plan for your medications, this is the time to make a switch to a Part D plan that will suit you better and likely save you more money.

Make sure you will have appropriate prescription drug coverage in the new year. You can compare plans on the official Medicare website at www.Medicare.gov.

Medicare beneficiaries in can also receive free, unbiased assistance with plan comparisons from the Benefits Specialist at the ADRC of the North at 1-866-663-3607 ext 221.

Assistance is also available through the following resources:

· **1-800-MEDICARE** ([1-800-633-4227](tel:1-800-633-4227))

TTY users can call [1-877-486-2048](tel:1-877-486-2048)

www.medicare.gov

· Medigap helpline: 1-800-242-1060

· Disability Drug Helpline: 1-800-926-4862
(if under age 60)

· Wisconsin Medigap Prescription Drug Helpline
1-855-677-2783

EVEN BETTER INSURANCE

PART D

HELPS COVER THE COST OF YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

- OFFERED BY PRIVATE COMPANIES
- DRUGS CAN VARY BY PLAN & YEAR
- MUST COVER 2 DRUGS IN EACH THERAPEUTIC CATEGORY
- COVERS**
 - OUTPATIENT PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
- DOES NOT COVER**
 - OTC ITEMS LIKE COUGH SYRUP
 - COSMETICS, VITAMINS, WEIGHT LOSS

"BayCo Door2Door"

is a shared ride public transportation service offering rides to anyone within Bayfield County (distance based fares) including to and from Hayward and Ashland.

Door to Door Shared Ride Van Service

Monday-Friday

8:30 AM - 6:30 PM

Advance Reservation Required

Call 715-682-9664

bartbus.com



\$2 off one BayCo Door2Door Ride
Providing door to door transportation for Bayfield County

Coupon Expires December 31, 2022

\$2 off one BayCo Door2Door Ride
Providing door to door transportation for Bayfield County

Coupon Expires December 31, 2022

FOR THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

MUSIC & MEMORY



Calm chaotic brain activity with the power of listening to meaningful music

MEMORY SCREENS

A series of questions that assess your brain health, and detect possible changes in thinking and brain activity



Interested in any of these programs?

Contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the North at:

1-866-663-3607



FOR CAREGIVERS & THE COMMUNITY

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Last Thursday, Monthly
1:00 PM-2:30 PM
Evelyn Goldberg Briggs
Memorial Library
68235 South Main St.
Iron River, WI



EDUCATION & PLANNING

Meet with your Dementia Care Specialist to learn more about cognitive impairment and dementia, plan for your future, and learn about resources available to you

POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

A 6-week long course that teaches you how to take care of yourself, while you provide care for someone else

LIVING WELL WITH DEMENTIA

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter to stay up-to-date on new dementia programs, education, and opportunities happening in the community

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TRAINING

Learn the basics of dementia and how to support those living with dementia in your community, business or organization. Become dementia friendly today with this one hour training!

DEMENTIA LIVE!

A simulation that allows you to experience what it feels like to live with dementia. Brought to you by the AGE-U-CATE Training Institute



Ten Tips to Avoid Fraud

Crooks use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. They often combine new technology with old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information. Here are some practical tips to help you stay a step ahead.

Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request.

1. **Spot Imposters.** Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust, like a government official, a family member, a charity, or a company you do business with. Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request; whether it comes as a text, a phone call, or an email.
2. **Do online searches.** Type a company or product name into your favorite search engine with words like "review," "complaint" or "scam," or search for a phrase that describes your situation, like "IRS call." You can even search phone numbers to see if other people have reported them as scams.
3. **Do not believe caller ID.** Scammers use technology to fake or "spoof" caller ID information, so the name and number you see are not always real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine. A good way is to use the number printed on a bill or statement.
4. **Do not pay upfront for a promise.** Someone might ask you to pay in advance for things like debt relief, credit and loan offers, mortgage assistance or a job. They might even say you've won a prize, but first you have to pay taxes or fees. If you do, they will probably take the money and disappear.
5. **Consider how you pay.** Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, but some payment methods do not. Wiring money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram is risky business because it's impossible to get your money back. That is also true with reloadable cards like MoneyPak, Reloadit or Vanilla. Government offices and honest companies will not require you to use these types of payment methods. They will also not ask you to pay in iTunes or Amazon gift cards
6. **Talk to someone.** Before you give up money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Con artists want you to make decisions in a hurry. They might even threaten you. Slow down, check out the story, do an online search, consult an expert, or talk to a friend or family member. Do not give in to high-pressure sales tactics.
7. **Hang up on robocalls.** If you answer the phone and hear a recorded sales pitch, hang up and report it to the Bureau of Consumer Protection. These calls are illegal, and often the products being sold are bogus. Don't press 1 or any other number to be taken off the call list. That could lead to more calls.
8. **Be skeptical about free trial offers.** Some companies use free trial offers to sign you up for products and bill you every month until you cancel. Before you agree to a free trial, research the company and read the cancellation policy. Always review your monthly credit card statements for charges you do not recognize.
9. **Do not deposit a check and then wire money back.** Banks make funds from deposited checks available within days, but uncovering a fake check can take weeks. If a check you deposit turns out to be fake, you are responsible for repaying the bank all of the money and any fees associated with the transaction. If a deal is too good to be true, it generally is.
10. **Sign up for free scam alerts.** Get the latest tips about scams sent right to your inbox from the Bureau of Consumer Protection (datcp.wi.gov) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC.gov/scams).



an expert, or talk to a friend or family member. Do not give in to high-pressure sales tactics.

7. **Hang up on robocalls.** If you answer the phone and hear a recorded sales pitch, hang up and report it to the Bureau of Consumer Protection. These calls are illegal, and often the products being sold are bogus. Don't press 1 or any other number to be taken off the call list. That could lead to more calls.
8. **Be skeptical about free trial offers.** Some companies use free trial offers to sign you up for products and bill you every month until you cancel. Before you agree to a free trial, research the company and read the cancellation policy. Always review your monthly credit card statements for charges you do not recognize.
9. **Do not deposit a check and then wire money back.** Banks make funds from deposited checks available within days, but uncovering a fake check can take weeks. If a check you deposit turns out to be fake, you are responsible for repaying the bank all of the money and any fees associated with the transaction. If a deal is too good to be true, it generally is.
10. **Sign up for free scam alerts.** Get the latest tips about scams sent right to your inbox from the Bureau of Consumer Protection (datcp.wi.gov) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC.gov/scams).

For more information or to file a complaint, visit our website or contact:

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection
Email: DATCPHotline@wi.gov
Website: datcp.wi.gov
(800) 422-7128 TTY: (608) 224-5058

or

Bayfield County Department of Human Services
715-373-6144 & Ask for the Aging & Disability Services

Keep Your Coverage!

BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid have special rules during the COVID-19 emergency. Let's work together so you'll still have health insurance benefits when the emergency ends. **Here are the next steps.**



Update your contact info

Make sure your **current address, phone, and email** are on file so you'll get notices about important changes to your coverage. Log in at access.wi.gov or call your local agency.



Open your mail

Read any letters you get from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to **find out how changes will affect you.**



Take action

Don't miss key deadlines! The letters will tell you **what you need to do** to get continued benefits.

Need some help?

To find free, local health insurance help:
Call **2-1-1** or go to www.WisCovered.com



P-03175 (05/2022)

What will happen when the emergency ends?

- * When the emergency ends, Dept. of Health Services will send letters to all BadgerCare and Medicaid members telling them when & how to take action.
- * Not all members will need to take action at the same time. Each member will have a date assigned to them for when they need to take action.
- * Most members will need to submit a renewal. A limited number of members will need to submit a new application.
- * If someone no longer qualifies for BadgerCare or Medicaid, there are other free or low-cost health insurance options available. The ADRC and other agencies throughout the state can help members through this transition.

What can we do right now?

- * Keep your address, phone and email address updated with the State, by logging in at ACCESS.wi.gov or calling the local agency.
- * Download the MyACCESS app and sign up for push notifications to get an alert when it is time to take action.
- * Check for and open mail from the WI Department of Health Services to be sure you get updates and know when & how to take action.

Volunteer Drivers Needed!

BAYFIELD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)



Transportation For Older Adults and People With Disabilities.

This is a great opportunity to help seniors and people with disabilities who need transportation and get paid for the miles you drive.

You get to choose your schedule and drive when it is convenient for you.

Hours of Operation - Most individuals need rides between 8a.m. - 4p.m., Monday through Friday.

However, some trips may fall outside of this time frame.

How to become a Volunteer Driver - You will need to fill out an application, have a car in good working condition and provide proof of auto insurance.



Please call the **Transportation Assistance Program Line: (715) 373-3397**

Leave your name, address, and phone number.

University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Division of Extension Bayfield County
 Courthouse, PO Box 218
 Washburn, WI 54891



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Current Resident Or

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The Aging and Disability Resource Center of the North (ADRC-N) is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please call **1-866-663-3607** to speak with an Information and Assistance Specialist regarding questions about resources, services, and benefits. The ADRC-N serves adults age 60 and older, and adults with disabilities ages 18-59. Website: www.adrc-n-wi.org

This newsletter and past issues are also available on the Extension Bayfield County website at:

<https://bayfield.extension.wisc.edu/family-living/aging-and-caregiving/>

What would you like to learn...? Is there a topic about aging or family caregiving or finances that you'd like us to cover in this newsletter? If so, please contact:

- ◆ Tracy Henegar at 715-373-3294 or tracy.henegar@wisc.edu for financial, aging and family caregiving topics
- ◆ Heidi Ungrodt at 715-373-3288 or heidi.ungrodt@wisc.edu for financial, aging and family caregiving topics



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The Extension Bayfield County office is open :
Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 4 PM,
715-373-3285
 Website: <https://bayfield.extension.wisc.edu/>

To receive a copy of this or future newsletters, please contact Theresa LaChappelle, Office Manager, Extension Bayfield County at 715-373-3285 or theresa.lachappelle@wisc.edu

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