

Senior citizens working toward catered weekly meal

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Gothenburg center ironing out kinks to satellite lunch

For at least 20 years, maybe more, a group of older folks in Brady have gathered at the Community Center for a potluck lunch once a week.

Longtime Brady residents Bill and DeDe Diehl spent many Thursday mornings setting tables, making coffee and preparing for the gathering.

Between 10 and 15 senior citizens bring a covered dish for the meal each week and when they are done eating, several stay and play cards.

“We always had a good time,” Bill Diehl said.

But when the Diehls sold their home on East River Street and moved to Gothenburg last month, organization of the weekly get-together fizzled.

“I suppose no one really wanted to take over that responsibility,” Bill said.

So they started looking for alternatives.

A satellite meal from the Gothenburg Senior Center might become a replacement for the weekly potluck.

“We’re still working out the kinks,” said Senior Center director Angie Barkemeir.

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The Senior Center offers a lunch meal each weekday at the center in Gothenburg, as well as individual meals delivered to shut-ins.

Barkmeier said she hopes the Senior Center can offer a weekly meal catered for the Brady group.

“The older we get, the harder it is to cook for ourselves,” she said. “There might be some people who didn’t come to the senior potluck because they didn’t want to make food to take.”

Barkmeier said she has contacted other senior centers that do satellite meals to get some ideas how it might work.

Senior citizens who attend the meal would be asked to make a suggested donation of \$4.25. Those younger than 60 are welcome to attend as well but must pay a set \$6 cost.

“It’s something that I really feel could work out,” Barkmeier said. “And it could bring some other folks together. Really, the socialization part of it is just as important as the food.”

Barkmeier and Senior Center staff will bring a trial chicken dinner to Brady on Thursday, March 21.

Anyone wishing to participate should make a reservation through the village office, 584-3316, before 9 a.m. on that day.

Barkmeier said she will also meet with the seniors on that day to answer questions and work with the group to get a weekly satellite meal organized.