

# Grand Forks Senior Center offering services during on-site closure

**By Ann Bailey**  
Grand Forks Herald

The Grand Forks Senior Center has closed its doors, but it still is serving its clients.

"We want seniors to know that we are going to keep feeding them," said Jami Schumacher, Grand Forks Senior Center public relations manager.

The center has canceled all of its activities and on-site meals until, at the earliest, Friday, May 1, but is continuing to provide Meals on Wheels and Home-Delivered Meals, and it is operating a drive-thru service.

The center is offering hot meals to people ages 60 and older, who are not on its meal delivery program, via its drive-thru service. The meals are available from 11:30 a.m.

to 12:15 p.m. at the Grand Forks Senior Center building at 620 Fourth Ave. South. The hours will be extended to accommodate people, if necessary.

Anyone 60 years or older who wants a meal, can call (701) 772-7245 to find out the daily menu or find the menu online at [www.gfseniorcenter.org/menus](http://www.gfseniorcenter.org/menus). The center also is encouraging people who are picking up meals to get them for neighbors 60 years or older. The center will need the full name and birth date of each person who is receiving a meal.

The center is not currently accepting donations for the meals, but people can keep track of how many meals they receive and donate later, if they want to do so.

The Senior Center also



Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald  
Cathy Infeld, left, and Mary Johnson carry out meals to a drive thru lane at the Grand Forks Senior Center Monday.

is continuing its Meals on Wheels and Home-Delivered Meals programs while its doors are closed. The center is taking precautions to ensure the health and safety of people receiving the meals,

noting that the center has its regular volunteers know that they are not obligated to deliver meals if they are concerned about their safety and health.

Besides the hot, delivered meals, the center also is delivering frozen meals to people 60 and older in Grand Forks and Nelson counties. Volunteers last week delivered 40 meals to rural residents in Grand Forks County and 128 meals to rural Nelson County residents. The frozen meals also are available from the drive-thru, but the orders must be placed ahead of time by calling (701) 772-7245 or (701) 757-4869. There is no need to call the Senior Center if just coming for a hot drive-thru meal.

Besides making food options available, the senior center staff is work-

ing to set up a program to match seniors with volunteers who will assist them with their needs, Schumacher said. In the meantime, the center asks that people reach out to their friends and neighbors who are seniors and "adopt" them.

On the flip side, seniors also should reach out by telephone to family, friends and neighbors and chat with them on the phone, said Colette Iseminger, Senior Center executive director in a news release.

"You don't need to wait for someone to call you," Iseminger said.

Seniors who don't know anyone with whom they can visit on the phone are encouraged to call the senior center, and staff will arrange for a volunteer to call and visit for short periods of time.

# Education foundation grants nearly \$35,000

**By Pamela Knudson**  
Grand Forks Herald

The Grand Forks Foundation for Education Inc. has awarded \$34,829 for special enrichment projects in Grand Forks public schools, according to Emilia Hodgson, executive director.

Monies will be used to fund a variety of projects affecting students in elementary through high school grades.

Four Impact Grants and 11 Mini-Grants have been awarded.

Impact Grant awards, made possible by income from the Bill and Shirley Brown Endowment for Education, range from \$5,000 to \$15,000, Hodgson said.

These grants have the potential to provide "a lasting influence" at the district or grade level, or at one or more schools, Hodgson said.

Impact Grant awards recipients, grant totals and projects are Eric Ripley, \$10,000 for "VEX IQ Robot Expansion into all Elementary Schools," Alyse Dunningan and all middle school vocal music programs, \$7,304 for "Integrating Technology into Music at Middle Schools;" LuAnn Schmidt and J. Nelson Kelly Elementary School, \$5,000 for the Kelly Elementary Playground; and Elizabeth Berger and Nathan Twining Elementary and Middle School, \$2,918 for "Jan Richardson Reading Intervention for Middle School."

for mini-grants.

The mini-grant award recipients, grant totals and projects are Paige Ferguson and Red River High School, \$111 for "Fluorescent Light Filters;" Evan Pederson and Lake Agassiz Elementary School, \$250 for "Compasses, Orienteering;" Brooke VanLooy and South Middle School, \$425 for "Foreign Language Literacy Enrichment Materials;" Aimee Rogers and South Middle School, \$500 for "Manga Mania;" Jennifer Modeen and Winship Elementary School, \$520 for "Mindfulness on the Move;" Nancy Greenwood and Grand Forks Central High School, \$599 for "Shrinking the Art;" Nadine Raymond and West Elementary School, \$600 for "Jan Richardson Word Study Kits;" Ashley Vinje and Lake Agassiz Elementary School, \$842 for "Every Student-Every Day a Reader!;" Allyson Drees and Ben Franklin Elementary School, \$1,000 for fire damage book replacement; Erika Feole and Red River High School, \$1,000 for "Literacy Leads to Language Acquisition 2.0;" Steve Paintner and Grand Forks Central High School, \$1,010 for "Pre-Calculus Calculator Replacement;" Andrea Guthridge and South Middle School, \$1,250 for "Literature Circle Books and Reading Books for Sixth Grade at South;" and Travis Thorvold and Winship Elementary School, \$1,500 for "Strengthen Your Team."

For more information on these projects, contact Hodgson at (701) 787-4866.

Knudson is a features reporter at the Herald. Call her at (701) 780-1107, (800) 477-6572 ext.1107 or email [knudson@gfherald.com](mailto:knudson@gfherald.com).

# Boreal owl has local birders buzzing

**By Brad Dokken**  
Grand Forks Herald

A small owl has been making a big buzz among Grand Forks birding enthusiasts in recent days.

Seeing a boreal owl in the Red River Valley is a rare occurrence, said Dave Lambeth, widely known as the dean of Grand Forks birdwatchers.

"How rare is this bird here? Well, it's only the second one in my 42 years in Grand Forks," Lambeth said Sunday, March 22, on the Grand Cities Bird Club's Listserve.

According to a news release from the Agassiz Audubon Society in Warren, Minn., Joshua Moe, of Grand Forks, was walking his dog late Saturday night along the Greenway in Grand Forks when he saw a small owl pounce on a squirrel.

Moe snapped a photo of the bird on his cellphone and mailed it to Heidi Hughes of the Agassiz Audubon Society.

The owl was small, so Moe thought it was a northern saw-whet owl, the smallest owl seen in the Red River Valley and measuring about 7 inches.

"It isn't a northern saw-whet, but it's a close relative," Hughes said, confirming the bird as a boreal owl.

Hughes said the last time she saw a boreal owl was seven years ago in January, perched on a woodpile at the Audubon Center.

As the name suggests, boreal owls are native to northern forests. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, boreal owls measure 9 to 10 inches long and nest in far northeast Minnesota.

The tiny owls eat

mainly rodents and mostly hunt at night, so they're rarely seen, the DNR website states. The first report of a boreal owl nesting in Minnesota occurred in 1978, the DNR said; even in northeast Minnesota, they're not common.

"Northeast Minnesota and the Duluth area usually has far more sightings than we would ever have, and only occasionally does one wander into North Dakota," Lambeth said Monday. The sighting could signal an "irruption," he said, an event in which birds rarely seen in a given area suddenly show up in numbers.

Such irruptions, usually driven by a lack of food in their native range, seem to happen about every four years or so, Lambeth said.

"It could be that this is pre-staging another irruption year," Lambeth said. "That's totally a guess on my part, based on what I've read in the past."

Lambeth on Sunday afternoon hosted a walk in the Greenway for anyone interested in seeing the owl. About 25 people showed up and were able to see the owl, Lambeth said. Birders came from as far away as Fargo, Williston, Jamestown and Stanley after seeing reports of the



Dave Lambeth / special to the Herald  
Dave Lambeth, of Grand Forks, took this photo Sunday, March 22, of the boreal owl in the Grand Forks Greenway. Birds of the northern forest, boreal owls in the Red River Valley are a rare occurrence.

sighting on social media, Lambeth said. Everyone adhered to the social-distancing guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think we did a pretty good job of that - I hope we didn't," Lambeth said. "We weren't sharing equipment and there were no handshakes, no hugs - (people were) keeping apart."

Lambeth returned to the site Monday morning and said there was no sign of the owl.

"That's typical for boreals - they are known for

wandering, and they're seldom in the same place more than one day, sometimes two," Lambeth said. "They don't show allegiance to a roost site and, in fact, they probably just move on some distance to another place."

More information about birding opportunities and activities along the Red River Greenway and elsewhere in the area is available at <http://grandcities-birdclub.weebly.com>.

Dokken reports on outdoors. Call him at (701) 780-1148, (800) 477-6572 ext. 1148 or send email to [bdokken@gfherald.com](mailto:bdokken@gfherald.com).

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On the flip side, seniors also should reach out by telephone to family, friends and neighbors and chat with them on the phone, said Colette Iseminger, Senior Center executive director in a news release.

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