

Benzie Bus's solution to pharmacy closure challenges

recordpatriot.com/news/article/benzie-bus-s-solution-pharmacy-closure-20024756.php

Colin Merry

January 10, 2025



Benzie Bus offers prescription drug pick up and delivery three days out of the week.

Submitted photo/Benzie Bus

BEULAH — A prescription drug pick-up program in Benzie County is helping residents get their medication as drug stores close and winter weather make travel difficult.

Benzie Bus offers its prescription delivery service on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, according to Sophia Hogarth, the mobility coordinator.

To have prescriptions picked up and delivered, clients must call their pharmacy to pre-pay for their prescriptions and tell the pharmacy Benzie Bus will be picking it up. They can then call Benzie Bus and request a driver pick up the prescription and deliver it to their doorstep.

The delivery costs \$5 per package. Benzie Bus has agreements to pick up medication at Shop-n-Save Pharmacy in Benzonia and Home Town Pharmacy in Honor.

Hogarth said some prescription drugs may not be able to be picked up by a third party, but she has yet to see it happen.

The program started in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We were picking up prescriptions for community members who didn't feel comfortable leaving their homes," Hogarth said. "We never got rid of it because it was so successful."

The prescription drug program evolved from a similar discontinued grocery pick-up service, also started during the pandemic.

"We thought it was a necessary service, especially during the pandemic," Hogarth said. "We kept it because we think it is a valuable service for community members to take advantage of, especially with Corner Drug closing in Frankfort and wait time increasing in prescription drug mail deliveries as well. Medication is vital."

She said people often use the service in the winter to avoid driving in ice and snow.

In 2024, Benzie Bus made 657 prescription drug deliveries.

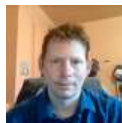
Hogarth also said that people can schedule a ride on Benzie Bus to their pharmacy to pick up their prescriptions on days prescription delivery isn't available.

"It takes a bit more time, but riders can still pick up their prescription without having to drive," she said.

In the future, the prescription drug program could be available five days per week, Hogarth said.

To call for a prescription drug pick up, or schedule a ride, call Benzie Bus at 231-325-3000.

Jan 9, 2025



Colin Merry

Reporter, Benzie County Record Patriot

Colin Merry works as a reporter for the Benzie County Record Patriot. He grew up in Frankfort enjoying the lakes and streams of the Benzie County area. He started school at Northwestern Michigan College and finished at Central Michigan University. He enjoys walking, fishing and reading.