

CITY OF NEW YORK MILLS

November 2010
Volume 1 Issue 4



Local Offices and School Referendum Highlight of This Year's Elections

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Voters in New York Mills will go to the polls on November 2nd not only to cast their votes for federal, state and county offices, but also to elect city officials and school board members and to choose whether or not to pass a state equalized referendum levy for New York Mills School system. After cuts of \$450,000 in 2009, the school district is asking to increase the operating levy

from the current \$200.29 per student to \$450 per student in order to maintain current levels of staffing, programs, electives, college classes and activities. The question posed to voters on the ballot will read, "The Board of Independent School District No 553, New York Mills, has proposed to revoke its existing referendum revenue authorization of \$200.29 per pupil and replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$450 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for five years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. Shall the increase in revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District 553 be approved?" Also

on the ballot is an additional question—"Provided that Ballot Question No. 1 is approved, the Board of Independent School District No. 553, New York Mills, has proposed to increase its referendum revenue authorization by an additional \$75 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for five years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. Shall the increase in revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 553 be approved?" The school district is being matched dollar for dollar by the state of Minnesota. A referendum tax calculator is available on the school system's website at

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Annual Christmas Tree Festival Gears Up



"Winter Wonderland" is the theme for this year's Annual Christmas Tree Festival, which

will be held from Friday, November 26th through December 4th. This popular annual event, sponsored by the NYM Civic & Commerce will see a few changes this year. Friday, November 26th will be the Kick-off event with cookie decorating sponsored by The Bake Shoppe. Voting begins on the many Christmas displays on this date as well, with trees, wreaths and more filling the city hall ballroom. Viewing and voting of

the displays continues throughout the festival.

Sunday, November 28th is Family Day, complete with a visit from Santa, prizes, make-and-take crafts, sleigh rides (weather permitting), and of course-hot chocolate and apple cider.

The Senior Tea will be hosted this year by the New Horizons Group on Thursday, December 2nd at 2:00 pm in the City Hall ballroom.

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Referendum, Elections, Cont. from Pg. 1

www.nymills.k12.mn.us, in which taxpayers can enter their information to determine the impact this levy would have on them personally. In comparison with other Minnesota school districts with an operating levy, the average operating levy is \$825 per

pupil, compared to ISD 553's current levy of \$200.29.

Candidates for three positions on the School Board for ISD 553 include Rachel Grieger, Jill Marie Carlson and Charles Jacobson. On the ballot for the City of New York Mills is the Mayoral candidate

Larry Hodgson, incumbent, and also two Council Seats with candidates William R. Warner, incumbent, Marsha Maki and Kenny Friese.

The location for voting for city residents as well as Newton township residents is the City Hall Ball-

room, with polls open from 7 am through 8 pm on Tuesday November 2nd. Come exercise your **r i g h t t o v o t e !**

Information in this article regarding the referendum was obtained from materials distributed by Independent School District 553.

Christmas Tree Festival, Cont. from Pg. 1

A Wine Tasting event, sponsored by Mills Liquors will be held on Thursday evening from 6:00-8:00 pm in the party room of the City Hall.

The festival will come to a close with the Community Christmas Party, sponsored by the New

York Mills Lions. Social Hour begins at 6:00 pm with dinner at 7 and a dance featuring "Sapphire". Bidding on Christmas displays closes at 10:00 pm. Dolly Tumberg, one of the festival's organizers stated, "We want everyone to know that this Community Christ-

mas Party is open to EVERYONE, not just members of these organizations. There are a limited number of tickets available for the meal, but even if they are sold out, you are encouraged to come up to the City Hall Ballroom for the dance, which begins at 8:00 pm."

There are several other activities for the festival which are still in the planning stages so stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks leading up to this event.



If you have some spare time weekdays and are willing to help out, the Meals on Wheels Program needs your help! They are always looking for volunteers to deliver meals from 11 am to 12 noon weekdays to local seniors.

The Meals on Wheels program is a valuable asset to our community's senior citizens, providing meals for an average of twenty to twenty-two residents each weekday. (this number varies with the weather and holi-

The Senior Center Needs Your Help!

days). The primary focus of this program is for older persons who are homebound and may not eat adequate and nutritious meals because they are incapacitated or disabled due to accident, illness or frailty. Also eligible are those unable to prepare meals themselves because of limited mobility, inability, psychological or mental impairment or those without support of family, friends or other community services to provide them with meals.

The Meals on Wheels Program is funded mainly by federal funds as a result of the Older Americans Act, and managed by the Nutritional Services Program. Meals at the New York Mills Senior Center are catered by the NYM Elder's Home.

Hot, nutritious meals are available to in-town residents over the age of 60 and their spouses, with frozen meals also available on request to cover weekends or holidays. Special diets for those needing low salt or diabetic meals are available as well. There is no mandatory cost to seniors who wish to receive Meals on Wheels; however, recipients are encouraged to make a donation to the Nutritional Services program.

Currently, there are 15 people who volunteer their time to deliver meals and they help out one day per week or every other week, depending on their schedules.

If you are interested in volunteering your time or in receiving Meals on Wheels, contact Gloria at the Sr. Center at 385-2024.

If you are a local senior citizen,

be sure to note activities coming up at the Center including a pancake breakfast fundraiser on Saturday, November 26th, beginning at 8:00 am as well as a chili and chowder fundraiser, complete with pie and ice cream on Friday, November 26th, beginning at 4:00 pm at the Senior Center.

With the coming holidays, the Center will be closed on November 25th for Thanksgiving, with no Meals on Wheels being delivered on Friday, November 26th. There will also be no delivery of Meals on Wheels for December 24th through the 27th.

Members of the Senior Center would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Upcoming Library Auction Just One of New Horizons Offerings

New York Mills is fortunate to have many civic and service organizations who make an impact on the quality of life in our community. One group in the forefront of this task is the New Horizons Group.

The New Horizons Group was organized in 1971 by members of the Candlelight Study Group, a federated women's group which had its beginnings in 1939. These women believed that the community would benefit from a second service organization and at that time, called it N.O.W, (Neighborhood Organization of Women). The purpose of the new club was to focus on the concerns and talents of young women in the community. The name changed from N.O.W. to New Horizons in 1978 to distance itself from a radical feminist group of the era. The

focus and energies of the group stayed the same and still remains today.

One of the Group's largest events is on the "horizon" with its Fall Fundraiser-the New Horizons Library Auction, which is set for **November 11th** at the Cultural Center. Bidding for the Silent Auction begins at 7:00 pm and will conclude at 8:30 pm. Anyone interested in donating items for the Silent Auction may contact either Becky Becker at 385-2205 or Diane Duchene at 385-3231. Items may also be dropped off at the Regional Cultural Center through the morning of the auction. Proceeds from this auction go in part to the local library and the balance is used to fund a local need or cause. Examples of this from the past have been contributing to the Elder's

Home for their sprinkler system, contributing to the Food Shelf, Swimming Pool, Share House and both City and School Playground projects.

Another major event which New Horizons contributes to each year is Santa Anonymous. They also work together with local law enforcement to fingerprint first graders in our school. This year, the New Horizons will sponsor the Senior Tea at the Annual Christmas Tree Festival.

In the past, they have made contributions to the Cultural Center, organized the annual New Horizons Craft Bazaar, sponsored the annual Tour of Homes, May Day Flowers and Funny Valentine Projects.

New Horizons is made up primarily of long-standing members who donate their time tirelessly. With all of the worthy

causes to address, they would welcome new members.

Past President Dianna Wallgren stated "I would personally like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to be involved in community activities and make a difference in our community to consider New Horizons."

The New Horizons Group meets monthly, usually on the second Thursday of the month. For more information, contact current president Gen Keranen at 218-367-3548 or Dianna Wallgren at 218-385-2353.



The Face of Business Continues to Change in NYM



The community of New York Mills has encountered many changes in the face of business throughout the years. In the past year or two, our city has procured new buildings and trades, transferred ownership, changed location and seen businesses become a part of history.

New faces in recent past have included Canvaswork Inc., Tender Hearts Home Care, New Horizons Realty,

The Cat's Pajamas, Monahan Marine, Evergreen Repair and Little Grasshopper's Daycare. Larson Accounting added Larson Sales. The newest member of our business community is Mills Auto Parts at 12 N. Main.

Some businesses have merely changed locations within the city. Such is the case with Headquarters who moved from Main Street to Centennial Drive and Lindsay Tibbetts Accounting, who moved to the Residential Windpower building in the industrial park. Mills Locker Plant is reopening across the street from its former location November 1st

for limited operation. They will add a retail section in the near future.



While the nature of business has remained essentially the same, other businesses have changed their names as a result of corporate mergers, change of ownership or changes in franchises. We all are aware of the transformation of Lund Boat Company through the years to what is now Brunswick Boat

Group. Other entities which changed their names or changed hands include Home Sweet Home, formerly Hummingbird Lane Care Center, Vaughn Auto & Marine, formerly Vaughn Chevrolet and Mills Video formerly operated under Mills Movies. Merit Care Medical Group is now Sanford Health.

Unfortunately, we have also bid farewell to businesses within the community as well. Some of these include Mills Family Barber, Hilltop Homes, Tony's Funky Junk, Mills Canvas and Time Communications. The newest closure looming on the horizon is Homestead Building Supplies.

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A Message from Our Chief of Police



I wish to extend my thanks to the people of New York Mills for the support and hospitality that has been offered to both me and my staff as we have been settling in! I feel that our partnership with the members of this community is strong and will continue to grow. In this spirit, I wish to discuss some practical thinking on dealing with emergencies.

One key step in dealing with any emergency is simply being

prepared in advance. In 1907, Boy Scout founder Robert Baden-Powell introduced the Scout Motto, "Be Prepared." I believe it is a valuable concept when dealing with emergencies. Police departments, ambulance services and fire departments prepare for handling emergencies in the normal course of their duties through training, department policies and compliance with safety regulations. Similarly, most work places have formal guidelines in place to prepare for emergencies. However, in our homes, the responsibility to "be prepared" lies with the members of the household.

Being prepared starts with communication. Communicate openly with all members of your household about what to do in the event of an emergency. A simple plan is the most practical and

effective plan.

As part of an emergency plan, every household should have an evacuation plan in place that identifies when to evacuate, how to evacuate and where to meet after evacuating. Identifying several exits from all parts of the home should be a part of this plan and should include alternate exits such as windows. A common meeting point such as a specific tree, a neighbor's yard, or other area known by all household members is also important so that everyone can be accounted for immediately. If you have to evacuate your home, remember to evacuate first...then call for help from a safe place. Practice your evacuation plan regularly. This is especially important for households with children and households with family members with special

needs.

A good resource for more information on developing a household emergency plan is the Home Safety Council (www.homesafetycouncil.org).

Some things you can do to help emergency responders:

- Make sure house numbers are clearly visible from the street and are in contrast to the color of your home. This helps emergency responders identify your residence more quickly.
- Day or night, if you call for assistance-and you do not have to evacuate your house-turn on your outside light to assist emergency responders in locating you.

The New York Mills Police Department welcomes your comments.

The Face of Business, Cont. from Pg. 3

With all of these developments, one may wonder what changes some locations themselves have seen through the years. Long time residents can recall some of them vividly.



One site which seen a variety of trade is the site on which Mills Auto Parts now resides. Back in the 1920's this was the location of White Eagle Gas Station, operated by Adolph Hepola. Later, a barber shop which also included a beauty parlor occupied this site. Next came Lepisto Apparel Cloth-

ing Store which resided there until 1960. This was followed by a V-Store clothing store and next the Community Action Council, who occupied the building from 1965 through 1992. Next, came a second-hand store called Second Time Around which occupied the site until 1994, followed by a video rental store, and then Lakes Hearth and Home, owned by Mike and Judy Malone from 1998 through 2008. The building has been empty until the newest entrepreneur, Mills Auto Parts opened its doors this October.

One location that has remained perhaps one of the most constant in the nature of business in our community is the site of Homestead Building Supplies. Originally it was occupied by Fiske's Livery Barn, which burned

in 1912. Since that time it has been a lumberyard, changing hands from Dower Lumber Company (whose original building burned in 1926 and was then replaced) to Lampert Lumber, Wilson Lumber, Wilcox Lumber, Peavey Lumber, and finally, in 1984, Homestead Building Supplies.

In retrospect, it appears that the pendulum has swung toward the positive with more businesses coming in than going out in recent years. Going forward, the City of NYM will continue to work diligently with business owners to find and utilize available resources and encourage local support for a strong economic future in NYM. *Information for this article was obtained from City records and the New York Mills Centennial Book.*

MILLS LIQUORS

Wine Tasting

Friday, November 19th
6:30-7:30 pm

Also featuring Crème Liqueurs

Admission \$7.50 early \$10.00 at Door

Hors d'oeuvres Drawing at 7:00!

© Licensed NY State New York Mills, NY 14543

Location—New York Mills Senior Center

Holiday Specials at Mills Liquors

Canadian Club
\$21.99 1.75 L

Benchmark Bourbon
1.75 L \$11.99
1 L \$ 7.99

Omara's Irish Cream \$8.99

Korbel Brandy Liters \$10.99

3 Olives Flavored Vodka \$18.99



Mayor's Corner

they would all cease operations.

What prompted that decision is anybody's guess. Was it lagging sales, was it the economic downturn that everyone likes to point to, was it a poor state business climate, or was it the "big box" lumberyard just down Hwy 10 that caused the change? No matter what the reason, Homestead Building Supply decided to eliminate all ties with Minnesota and restructure their business in South Dakota, thus prompting the closing of their three remaining Minnesota businesses as we know them today.

Will we see an individual or a group of individuals step forward and make a financial investment to keep the business in operation? Will we see a competing yard come forward and expand their operations to include New York Mills? I wish I knew the answers to these questions. All I can say at this time is that we are doing all we can to hopefully find a solution to this problem.

How this is going to affect the people of this community is difficult to envision. Maybe the clos-

ing of one of our oldest businesses is going to make people stop and consider what it means to buy or shop locally. Consider the investment in the local community that each business owner makes. They put their financial future into the community hoping that they can offer the service or products that are needed by the people of New York Mills. The local businesses are the ones that are continually hit upon to make the countless donations to various organizations. It is the local business owner that steps forward to be involved in charitable or service organizations, they are the ones that give not only of their time but also monetarily to their community.

You may be thinking that I am on a campaign to get you to support our local businesses, and you are right. We need to remember that it is the people of New York Mills that make things happen, and it is the members of this community that need to work together to make our community survive and thrive.

What a gorgeous fall it has been with perfect summer temperatures, minimal wind, and more beautiful fall colors every day. And then just like that it is gone as we usher in our first storm of the season. Mother Nature isn't bashful about changing from one season to the next without warning.

Speaking of change, what is New York Mills going to be without a lumberyard? That's right, in case you haven't heard, Homestead Building Supply was originally scheduled to close at the end of October, but just this week they were notified they could continue business through November. With little or no advance warning the corporate office located in Brookings, South Dakota notified not only our lumberyard, but also the yards in Perham and Frazee that

"Consider the investment in the local community that each business owner makes. They put their financial future into the community hoping that they can offer the service or products that are needed by the people."

Public Works Update

Roger Salo, Public Works Director

It has been a busy summer with the construction on South Main Street. With the summer rains, the construction was slowed initially. Quam Construction from Willmar, MN has been working long days to try to finish the project. Hopefully by the time this newsletter is being read, the street project will be nearing completion for 2010. There will be items for completion in 2011. We thank the public for their patience in having to deal with the detours and inability to get into their driveways. Most people have been quite understanding.

PUBLIC REMINDER

With the cold weather close to being here, we wish to remind the public that their natural gas appliances (furnaces and water heaters) should be checked by a heating/plumbing specialist. We recommend that all households purchase a CO detector. Remember to pay attention to the sewer vents on your home so they stay open.

When the snow and ice piles up, be sure to check the gas meter and regulator on the outside of the house for ice and snow buildup. The regulator needs to "breathe" so the gas pressure in

the building stays normal.

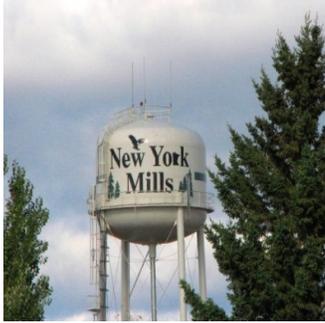
The best and proper way to receive help from the Public Works Department is to call 385-2213. The Public Works Department's regular shop hours are 7 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday. If you need help after these hours, we have an answering service which will contact the person on call. Remember that if the problem is not an emergency, there may be a charge for after hours service calls.

The Public Works Department would like to take this time to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!



CITY OF New York Mills

M I N N E S O T A



PO Box H
28 Centennial 84 Drive West
New York Mills, Minnesota 56567

Phone: (218) 385-2213
Fax:(218) 385-2315
E-mail: nymcity@lakesplus.com

**CAN'T MAKE IT
INTO PAY YOUR
BILL DURING
OFFICE HOURS?**

You can now pay your monthly utility bill by automatic withdrawal from your bank account! For more information, contact Jenny at the City of New York Mills!

We're on the Web! Visit us at
www.newyorkmills.govoffice2.com

Community Calendar



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|------------------|---|--------|---|
| Nov 2 | Election Day Polls open from 7:00 am—8:00 pm at City Hall | Nov 28 | Family Day sponsored by C&C –Santa, Make & Take Craft/Sleigh Rides 2:00 pm at City Hall Ballroom |
| Nov 6 | Sr. Center Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am | Dec 2 | Sr. Tea sponsored by New Horizons 2 :00 pm in City Hall Ballroom |
| Nov 9 | City Council Meeting 4:30 pm | Dec 2 | Wine Tasting sponsored by Mills Liquors 6-8 pm in Party Room of City Hall |
| Nov 11 | Veterans Day -City Offices Closed | Dec 3 | Saana Ensemble Holiday Concert at Cultural Center 7:30 pm |
| Nov 11 | New Horizons Silent Auction at the Cultural Center at 7:00 pm | Dec 4 | Community Christmas Party sponsored by NYM Lions @City Hall Ballroom 6 pm Social Hr, 7 pm Dinner, 8 pm Dance w / Wild Nights Entertainment |
| Nov 11 | Band/Choir Concert 7:30 pm at James W. Mann Auditorium | Dec 6 | Holiday Music Concert Grades K-2 at 7 pm in James W. Mann Auditorium |
| Nov 19 | Fall Musical "Disco Inferno" 7:30 pm at J. W. Mann Auditorium | Dec 11 | Snowmobile Safety Training HS Media Center beginning at 9:00 am |
| Nov 20 | Fall Musical "Disco Inferno" 7 : 3 0 pm at J.W. Mann Auditorium | Dec 13 | Holiday Music Concert Grades 3-6 at 7 pm in James W. Mann Auditorium |
| Nov 21 | Fall Musical "Disco Inferno" 2:00 pm at J.W. Mann Auditorium | Dec 14 | City Council Meeting 4:30 pm |
| Nov 25 | Thanksgiving -City Offices & Sr Center closed | Dec 21 | Longest Night Music Festival at Cultural Center at 7:30 pm. |
| Nov 26 | Thanksgiving Holiday —
City Offices closed. | Dec 24 | Christmas Eve -City Offices Closed |
| Nov 26 | Sr. Center Chili & Chowder Fundraiser (w/pie & ice cream) 4 pm | Dec 31 | New Year's Eve -City Offices Closed. |
| Nov 26-
Dec 4 | C & C Christmas Tree Festival | | |
| Nov 26 | Christmas Tree Festival Kick-Off —Cookie Decorating | | |