

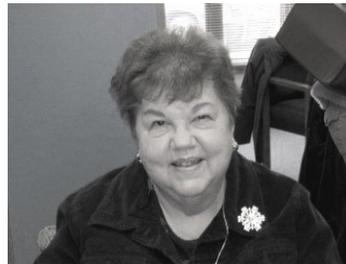
CITY OF NEW YORK MILLS



Inside this issue:

Creamery Story Cont..	2
Library Fundraiser	2
City Employees Cont.	2
Midwest Industries	2
Looney Lutherans	3
City Certifies Levy Increase	3
Christmas Tree Festival Recap	3
Winter Spectacular Band Event	4
MN Dot Road Condition Help	4
Ronald McDonald Ride Kickoff	5
Think Off Question Announced	5
Lumber Depot	6
Sr Band Christmas Carolers	6
2012 Elections	6
Public Works Update	7
Area Agencies on Aging	7
Message from Chief of Police	8
Cultural Center Events	8
Mayor's Corner	9
Sr Center News	9
Community Calendar	10

City of NYM Bids Farewell to Two Long-Time Employees



After 22 years of working at the New York Mills Public Library, Barb Baker has retired. "We are experiencing an end of an era at the Library," stated Library Director Julie Adams. "I wish only the best for Barb in this new chapter of her

life." Barb, a native of New York Mills, said, "I have seen many children come through this place through the years." Many of those children have since grown and brought their own children to the Library.

The Library building was only a year old when Barb began working in 1989. She also spent hours volunteering at the library in its former location in the upper level of the city hall building.

Barb was honored with an

open house on Wednesday, December 28th where at least 75 people came to visit with her and wish her well.



Wanda Wallace has said farewell to her career as a waitress/bartender at Mills Liquors

(Continued on Page 2)

Thompson's Donate Historic Creamery Building to NYM Cultural Center



Pictured-(Left to Right:) Front:: Bob and Bonnie Thompson, Back: Manley Nichols, Beth Super, Alice Martin, Rob Thompson, Trisha McCarthy and Jamie Robertson, Director

Bob and Bonnie Thompson, owners of the Mid-State Auto Auction in New York Mills, Minnesota, have made a gift of the historic creamery building to the New York Mills Cultural Center. The Thompson family has been a long-

time supporter of the Cultural Center, and they have been especially interested in the annual Great American Think-Off sponsored each June by the Cultural Center. The creamery building has been a feature of downtown New York Mills since the 1920s; this gift will enable it to continue to be an important part of the community's life into the 21st century.

The Creamery was one of many similar small-town cooperatives formed by farmers in the early part of the 20th Century. The Mills Cooperative Creamery was incorporated in 1911 and the present concrete

and brick building was completed in 1924. The Cooperative continued until the early 1970s with its final manager being Arnold Bramson. During its last 20 years, the Creamery Coop operated one of the most popular dairy bars in Minnesota, selling its own locally made ice cream.

Waino Paavola reopened the building as "Sportsport", a Crestliner boat dealership which operated until 1982. In 1983 the Creamery became the home of Thompson's Mid-State Auto Auction. Mr. Thompson held his first sale at the Creamery building on August 11th, 1983 selling 34

(Continued on page 2)



**Happy
New Year**

**from the
City of
New York
Mills
Employees
& City Council**

2012

Creamery Bldg, Cont. from Page 1

cars. Bob and his son Rob opened a new modern 68 acre site on the north side of New York Mills in 2003. Mid-State Auto Auction now serves dealers from the United States, Mexico, and Canada from its new location.

From 2004 until early in 2011 the Creamery was home to the Creamery Cafe run by Cheryl Humbert. The gift of the Creamery to New York Mills Cultural Center will usher in a two-month planning process in New York Mills to include every volunteer,

governmental, non-profit, business, and school organization in town to create a new use and business plan for the building.

Initial ideas for the reuse of the building include a community kitchen to be focused on locally grown foods with cooking and nutrition classes. This use is especially convenient because the New York Mills Farmers' Market has been operating beside the Creamery building for the past two years. Other options may include continuing its use as a cafe, devel-

oping some of the space as artist's studios, and developing classes in the home and fine arts as a part of a proposed "Continental Divide Folk

School." These and other uses will be part of a public, community conversation to take place in the first two months of 2012.

New York Mills Co-op. Creamery Assn.

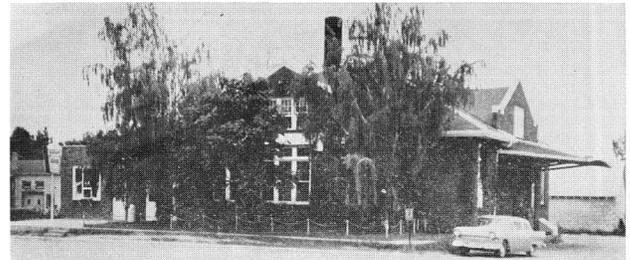


Photo of Creamery Building circa 1959, reprinted from "New York Mills-75 Years of Progress"

City Employees, Cont. From Pg. 1

after 32 years of service. Wanda is also a native of New York Mills where she lives with her husband Ron.

"I enjoyed my years of working at Mills Liquors and especially all the friends I have met there through the years," stated Wanda.

Wanda's last day of work was November 30th, when she was also surprised with a retirement party.

The evening was filled with a

packed house of well-wishers and friends. "She was a very good bartender and waitress for us," said Mills Liquors Manager, Kim Hoban. "She is going to be missed."

The City of New York Mills has been fortunate to have both Barb and Wanda as long term employees and wishes them a happy retirement.

Midwest Industries Building Takes Shape



Grove, Iowa and shipped unassembled to New York Mills where they are assembled into trailers in a partnership with Lund and Crestliner Boats, owned by Brunswick Industries, New York Mills.

The \$500,000 building project is expected to bring 12-15 full time jobs to the community. Midwest Industries hopes to have the New York Mills plant up and running by February 1, 2012. In the interim, Midwest Industries is temporarily leasing a facility in Wadena to assemble the trailers and are storing them on the City's lot along Centennial Drive.

Construction is booming in New York Mills! Pictured above is the building being constructed on Boardman Avenue by a group of local investors, which is being leased to Midwest Industries to house their boat trailer assembly. Parts for the boat trailers are manufactured at their plant in Ida



Show your LOVE for your Library!



Saturday, Feb 11 - 7 pm
NYM City Hall Ballroom

Advance Tickets \$15
 Available at NYM Library
 \$20 at door




Evening includes Hors D'oeuvres, Cash Bar, Silent Auction and a Comedy Show!

Ventriloquist James Wedgwood



All proceeds will be used to purchase new carpeting for the

New York Mills Public Library

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library




The Looney Lutherans Are Coming!



Trinity Lutheran Church of New York Mills invites everyone

to have some fun at the Looney Lutherans comedy show on Sunday, January 29th!

Using music, comedy, and some help from the audience, Dorian Chalmers, Robbie Mancina, and Greta Grosch (cast members from *The Church Basement Ladies*) share some age-old

wisdom for living a long healthy life...the Looney Lutheran way!

Tickets for the 3 pm show on January 29th cost \$15.00 and are available at Trinity Lutheran Church or from any Women's Ministry Team member (Julie Adams, Kim Imsande, KayAnn Kahilainen, Gen Keranen, Marsha

Maki, Brandy Sandford, Barb Steuber, Cheri Tumberg or Mary Vorderbruggen).

Tickets will only be sold in advance. Refreshments will follow the entertainment.

For more information please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 385-2450.

Council Certifies Levy Increase of 2.64% for Taxes Payable in 2012

On December 13, 2011, the City Council held its final meeting of 2011 and approved the levy for taxes payable in 2012 at \$389,000. This levy amount is a 2.64% increase over the levy certified for taxes payable in 2011.

The levy is comprised of two parts-the operating levy and the bond levy. For the past three years, the City had held the operating levy flat at \$204,000. That has been increased for 2012 by \$10,000 to \$214,000. The bond levy for 2012 is being held flat at

\$175,000, the same amount levied in 2011. This final bond levy amount was lowered from the \$178,000 proposed earlier this year, while the operating levy was lowered from the \$248,000 proposed in September of 2011. The total levy for 2012 is being certified at \$389,000, which is a substantial reduction from the proposed \$426,000 levy that was approved in September 2011. As bond payments are scheduled at the time the bond is issued, projections prepared by City Clerk Darla

Berry are used to determine how much to levy each year for scheduled bond payments. The City is in the process of refunding one of its bonds, which should result in some savings over the remaining life of that bond. This will help us keep the bond levy as low as possible. The 2.64% increase scheduled for 2011 is the lowest increase since 2004 when there was a 13.04% increase in the City levy. During the last four years, the City has experienced cuts in local government aid and market value

credit payments from the State of Minnesota that totaled \$231,246. The City Council and City staff have worked hard to find ways to keep expenses down in order to keep the levy as low as possible without eliminating essential services.



2011 Christmas Tree Festival Was a Success!

The New York Mills Civic & Commerce Annual Christmas Tree Festival has come and gone, and will go down in the record books as one of the best yet. According to festival co-chairperson Dolly Tumberg, nearly \$3,000 was raised for Santa Anonymous, including proceeds from the Heinola Hustlers 4-H Club quilt raffle, which was won by Shanna Hendrickson of Perham. This is up compared to last year's \$2,600.

For this year's festival a total of 33 displays were set up in the City Hall Ballroom for everyone's enjoyment. Visitors were asked to vote for their favorite display. The results for Peoples Choice were: 1st Place-NYM Elementary with their display entitled "Our Future is So Bright". 2nd Place: Christina Schmiedt/

Johnson for her "American Breast Cancer" tree and 3rd Place: Lumber Depot's display entitled "I Spy".

The Cultural Center's Silent Auction Fundraiser & Wine Tasting Event raised \$2,500.00 with a matching donation by F & M State Bank of \$2,500. The Stock Up Sale, new this year, raised a phenomenal \$5,000 in a three hour period, which went to local artists.

Along with the customary events from the past such as cookie decorating, a senior tea, and a visit from Santa, several new events were introduced, all of which proved to be extremely popular. The Community Nativity Program which included a

performance by the Trinity Bell Choir, also featured a sing along with the NYM High School Choir and Drama Club. New this year, the NYM Jazz Band performed and a movie event was held in conjunction with Santa Day. Also new, a Holiday Shopping Extravaganza was included that day, with 15 vendors setting up their wares for holiday shopping.

"This proved to be a very popular idea", stated co-chair, Dolly Tumberg. Many of the vendors expressed their excitement to be a part of next year's festival."

The Community Christmas Party, held the last evening of the festival, was a great success and was one of the most well attended ever. "People danced all night and

really enjoyed themselves," said Tumberg.

"We would like to thank the many volunteers who helped out both on the forefront and behind the scenes with this year's festival. Their help is greatly appreciated and was all part of making a worthy cause such a great success".

Plans are already underway for next year's festival, so mark your calendars for the kick off, held the Friday after Thanksgiving.



New York Mills Jr. & Sr. High Marching Bands to Host “Winter Spectacular”

The New York Mills Marching Eagles are thrilled to announce their upcoming “Winter Spectacular” which will be held on Saturday, January 14th. This event will combine the talents of the Minnesota State University Mankato Wind Ensemble and the NYM Sr. High Band in a joint concert at 7:30 pm in the James W. Mann Performing Arts Center.

The “Winter Spectacular” Event will offer much more than the evening concert. Beginning at noon, a marching clinic will be held, put on by Mr. Paul Terry and other members of Minnesota Brass Inc., an all-ages Drum Corps from the Twin Cities area. (They also just happen to be the reigning world champions in Division I Sr. Drum Corps.) The marching clinic will run from noon to 3 pm.

From 3 pm-5 pm several rehearsals will be held with Dr. Amy K Roisum-Foley, Director of Bands at MSU, Mankato and Paul Terry, who is also a band director the the North View Junior High International Baccalaureate World School in Osseo, MN. The Jr. High and Sr. High bands will be participating in these rehearsals.

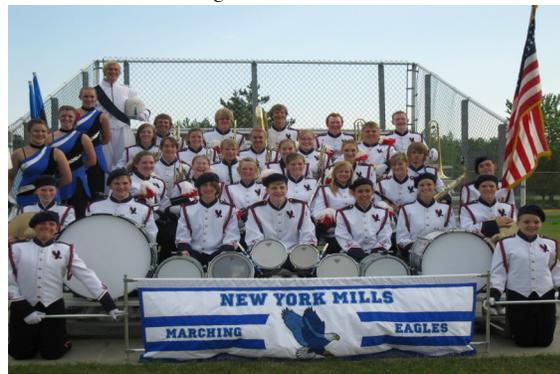
The New York Mills Lions Organization is hosting a free-will offering meal prior to the concert that evening from 5 pm -7 pm in the High School Commons. They will be serving two varieties of soups as well as pulled pork sandwiches prepared by Eagles Café. Proceeds will go toward the band’s new uniforms, for which the new design will be unveiled that evening.

The Winter Spectacular

will also be the kick off for a raffle being held by the NYM Band, which will be drawn for on May 7th during the spring band concert. Raffle items will be displayed during the meal on January 14th. Area businesses have donated a fantastic list of prizes ranging from cash and gift certificates to a picnic table, twins tickets and a 16’ Lund Fury with a 25 hp motor! Tickets are available at a cost of \$10 each. Proceeds will go to-

ward the Band’s trip leaving July 1st, where they will be participating in the July 4th National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

“We are honored to be a representative of the state of Minnesota, and the Community’s support has been absolutely fantastic,” stated band director Blake Groe. “We look forward to the opportunity to represent New York Mills on the 4th of July.”



Traveling? MnDOT Offers Latest Road Condition Reports



If you plan to travel this winter, MnDOT offers a valuable tool to get you there safely. **511** is an easy-to-remember traveler information service which provides continual updates about weather-related road conditions, road work, commercial vehicle restrictions, road closures and other travel information via the phone or internet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

How does **511** work? On the phone, simply dial **511**.

You will be connected to a computerized voice recognition system which will offer voice response and/or touch-tone options to request road-specific information. On the web, find traveler information at 511mn.org.

Most wireless companies will connect to **511**; however there may be places where reception is poor, preventing access. In some cases along state borders, MnDOT’s **511** may or may not work properly depending on the cell tower connection for that specific call. The **511** out-of-state phone number is (800)542-0220. Drivers are encouraged to put safety first by asking a passenger to call **511**, calling or logging onto 511mn.org prior to departure, or placing the call

at a appropriate stopping point along the way.

Is **511** available nationwide? While many states, highway corridors and cities already have **511** service, many states are still planning to implement **511**. To view a map showing the status of **511** nationwide, go to their website at 511mn.org.

511 is a public service of the MN Department of Transportation. Calls to **511** are local when dialed from a landline phone. Cell phone users are responsible for normal airtime and roaming charges in accordance with their wireless service contracts.

This is a statewide service that provides information on the interstates, U.S. routes and state highways. It does not include county roads or city streets. Specific road information is

available by following the prompts. On the web, look for icons on the interactive map to obtain detailed information.

Keep in mind that weather and road conditions can change rapidly, and the information reported on MnDOT’s site should not be used as the only factor in determining whether to travel in a particular area. Motorists are cautioned to be alert to changing circumstances and to adjust their driving accordingly.

Information for the system is provided by transportation department field crews. Additional information comes from the MN State Patrol, the National Weather Service, and the Road Weather Information System.

Information for this article courtesy of MnDOT’s website at 511mn.org.

11th Annual Ronald McDonald House RIDE Kickoff Extravaganza Set for January 21st



Join us on January 21, 2012 at the Charles D. Center V.F.W. Post #3289 in New York Mills, Minnesota for an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for a BIG BLUE 2012, Harley-Davidson Road King Classic; along with other prizes of 2 - \$500.00 and 10 - \$100.00 prizes. All proceeds benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Fargo, North Dakota.

Raffle tickets sell out every year and are limited to

2,500, so we cannot guarantee to have any tickets remaining the day of the 11th Annual Ronald McDonald House RIDE on June 9, 2012. Purchase yours on January 21, 2012. Tickets are \$20.00 each or a book of 5 for \$100.00.

BIG BLUE Harley-Davidson raffle tickets will go on sale at 12 NOON at the VFW with Bingo starting at 1:00 p.m. The BIG BLUE Road King Classic will be on display at the VFW, as well as live entertainment 'Cut Loose' at 8:00 p.m. If you will not be able to attend this event, please visit our website for more information: www.rmhride.com.

Here are the statistics from 10 years of the WORLD'S LARGEST MOTORCYCLE BENEFIT RIDE for the Ronald McDonald House. What will 2012 bring ...?...

Year	Motorcycles	Gallons of Tabs	Money Raised
2002	150	55	\$3,300.00
2003	250	120	\$13,000.00
2004	450	330	\$26,000.00
2005	750	480	\$63,086.65
2006	870	990	\$82,550.00
2007	1020	1,010	\$87,332.56
2008	1,000	1,060	\$102,624.16
2009	1,250	1,100	\$108,438.32
2010	1,000	1,200	\$124,738.32
2011	1,320	1,250	\$131,600.00

20th Annual Great American Think-Off Question Announced

As the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center approaches the 20th year of the Great American Think-Off, much thought and consideration has been given to what the question should be for such a significant milestone. The Think-Off committee members and Ed Schiappa, U of M Philosophy Professor acting as the committee's consultant, normally wrestle with many options before deciding on the final choice. This year the choice was much easier.

The very first year of the armchair philosophers' debate took place in 1993 with the question: The Nature of Humankind: Inherently Good or Inherently Evil? That question proved to be the only one in the events history to be undecided. With

110 people in attendance the vote for Good or Evil was an even split. For years the question has gone unanswered. However, on June 9, 2012 it will be debated again for a final resolution.

The first four contestants to debate the question included: Katie McCannon, a 15 year old sophomore from Wichita, Kansas, who argued mankind was basically evil along with Jennifer Stites, a former reservation police officer from Eagle Butte, South Dakota. The two contestants challenging with humankind is good were: Charles Eldredge, a research engineer from Fessenden, North Dakota and Jeff Ethen, a Catholic Priest from Clitherall, MN.

On January 1, 2012 the question "The Nature of Humankind: Inherently Good or

Inherently Evil?" will once again be announced to the world. Entering the competition is easy. Just submit your 750 word or less essay by April 1, 2012 (postmark date). You may send it in one of three ways: through the mail to Great American Think-Off, New York Mills P.O. Box 246, New

York Mills, MN 56567 or email to nymills@kulcher.org (no attachments), or enter through our online form at www.think-off.org. Finalists will be selected on May 1, 2012 and the great debate will be held before a live audience in NY Mills on Saturday, June 9th.



Pictured are 2011 Think Off finalists: Left to Right: Bob Levine, New York City, 2011 Winner-Marsh Muirhead, Bemidji, Second Place Winner-Mahmood Tabaddor, Rochester, Michigan and Doug Wilhide, Minneapolis

Lumber Depot Sees Changes for 2012

Since opening its doors in the spring of 2011, Lumber Depot has been busy. 2012 promises to be no exception as owners Chris & Peggy Rutten prepare for several changes.



One major change to the company is that manager Warren Thompson has retired after 44

years of service to the lumber company. Warren began his career in 1967 when he worked for what was then Wilcox Lumber Company in New York Mills. Warren has seen many changes throughout the years, particularly with changes in owners. Through the years, the name changed from Wilcox Lumber Company to Peavey Lumber, Homestead Building Supplies and finally, Lumber Depot. Warren retired in early December.

Chris, Peggy, and the rest of the staff would like to extend a sincere thank you to Warren for his help with the transition, and congratulate him on his long-standing career.

Lumber Depot would like to welcome their newest manager, Brent Olson, who comes to them



from St. Cloud, where he was employed by C. Matthew Hall Lumber Company. Olson comes with years of retail experience in the lumber industry.

Brent is a native of Battle Lake and has family in this area. He, his wife Kassie and their two children will be looking to relocate to this area in the spring of 2012.

“Brent is coming to us at a time when we are really expanding and his expertise will be invaluable,” stated Peggy Rutten. “His experience with larger lumber companies and a wider variety of vendors and product lines will be helpful as we expand to products not previously available in this area.”

Lumber Depot plans to move into their new building in a couple of weeks, by mid-January. They are excited to bring these expanded lines of product to New York Mills.

Stop by, check out their new building, and meet their new manager. And if you see Warren on the street, thank him for his many years of service to New York Mills and the lumber industry.

NYM Sr. High Band Members Spread Christmas Cheer

Christmas was in the air as several members of the New York Mills High School Band treated various businesses in town with a delightful caroling session on the 22nd of December.

Band members played renditions of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”, “Jingle Bells”, “Jolly Old St. Nicholas” and “Up on the Housetop”, among others.

When asked what the name of their group was, Blake Groe, NYMBand Director stated, “We prefer to call ourselves the “Latham

Hetland Experience”.

The Wednesday before Christmas, Mr. Groe talked a few teachers into playing a few instruments as the kids walked in to class. Next he thought it might be fun to have the kids to that too. “It just kind of went from there,” said Blake Groe. “Students volunteered to go around town and play some tunes for as many people as we could. It certainly seemed to make people happy, and that’s what we were going for.”



Pictured Left to Right: Band Director Blake Groe, Sam Jacobson, Amy Nebosis, Maddy Keskitalo, Latham Hetland and Logan Milligan.

2012 Elections Are Right Around the Corner

Did you know that 2012 will be an election year? In addition to the State and Federal offices that we all hear so much about on the news, the City has elections for 2 City Council seats and the Mayor position in 2012. Council members serve for a four year term, while the mayor serves for two years. The four council seats are staggered, so every two years there are two terms expiring.

If you have ever thought about serving in local government, you’ll have some time to plan for that. Generally the filing period runs for a couple of weeks during late summer or early fall. You must pay a \$2 fee to file for an office. There is a package of information given to each candidate when they file with more information about the process of running for an elected office. It can be a rewarding experience, and

there are a lot of resources available to you if you do get elected. Soon after the first of the year, the League of Minnesota Cities holds a training session targeting newly elected officials. City Council meetings are regularly held on the second Tuesday of each month, unless a scheduling conflict arises. Now is the time to give some thought to this so that when the filing period begins, you won’t feel like you don’t have enough time to think it through. Talk to City Staff or Officials to find out more about the responsibilities of serving on the City Council.



Public Works Update

Roger Salo, Public Works Director

2012 is here. We all wonder where 2011 went, right? With the dry, warm weather we have had it doesn't feel like the winter is almost half over, or so we hope it is!

Every once in awhile someone asks about their water or sanitary sewer lines and who is responsible for which part of the lines. The property owner is responsible for the lines as soon as they exit the main, including the hookup and/or saddle to the main. The City of New York Mills maintains the sewer mains by jetting, flushing, or cleaning the lines as often as possible (normally annually), depending on the history of problems on the certain lines. The same happens with the water mains. The city flushes the fire hydrants at least annually. This has a dual purpose of flushing any rust and old water away from the mains, plus the hydrants get exercised. The City of New York Mills

adds some chemicals to the water, as required by law, before the water reaches your home. They are fluoride (protection against tooth decay), chlorine (protection against bacteria), and zinc orthophosphate (protection against copper and lead). The raw water is filtered for iron removal, but the water is not softened. There is a 150 thousand gallon water tower for water storage. Remember that it is winter and lines may freeze when the frost travels deep. Questions? Contact "the city guys".

As you may have noticed, some trees in the boulevards are getting a 'haircut'. The lower branches have been hitting the street sweeper and the snow removal equipment. As a result we are trimming some of the branches that have been or will be a problem.

No snow so far this season. But, it would be courte-

ous if the public would remove their cars and trucks off the streets when it time for snow removal as it speeds up the removal process and a cleaner job can be accomplished. There are ordinances and resolutions stating this fact.

I talk about this subject almost every time. I received a warning statement from the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety in regards to ice and snow on gas meters and regulators. Please check the meter sets after snow or melting snow and clean them or at least let us know of any potential problems. Also remember the vents from your sewers and appliances should be kept clear. Also if you did not buy yourself a CO tester for Christmas, you should consider it, especially if you do not have one. I hope the balance of the winter brings you good health and happiness!



Area Agencies on Aging Offer Abundance of Services to Senior Citizens and Their Families

The New York Mills area is served by Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging out of the Fergus Falls office providing many services to seniors and their families. The Agency which is under a joint powers board of county commissioners works very closely with the Minnesota Board on Aging to provide these services mostly funded by Title 3 of the Older Americans Act.

Area Agencies on Aging provide seniors, their families

and caregivers with information on many services such as health insurance counseling, senior housing and service options, health promotion activities, etc. Just call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433, a one stop shop for Minnesota seniors.

The Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging contracts out many services such as congregate and home delivered meals, caregiver support, legal services, medica-

tion management, transportation for senior medical appointments, alzheimer's care consultation and minor in-home modifications. Also the Agency promotes Matter of Balance falls prevention, Chronic Disease Self Management classes, Caregiver in the Workplace, Communities for a Lifetime and Live Well at Home.

Please call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433 for information on these and other services.





A Message from Our Chief of Police James Van Schaick

It can happen to anyone. Wear your seatbelt.

On the evening of December 18, 2011 my family and I were traveling home on Highway 10 after visiting relatives in St. Cloud. My wife and I were in the front of our mini van and our three children, ages 10 and under, were in the back watching a movie. My wife was reading something on her phone and I was driving. My wife and I were wearing our seatbelts, my two youngest children were in seatbelt positioning booster seats with lap and shoulder belts in the middle of the van and our oldest was in the very back wearing a lap and shoulder belt.

And then it happened: we

collided with another vehicle at highway speeds. I saw the impending collision a split second before impact, but no one else in the vehicle saw it coming. The front passenger side of our van made contact with the other vehicle causing our airbags to deploy. My wife's window disintegrated and our vehicle spun around clockwise and came to rest facing the direction we had come from in the next lane over. Airbag dust lingered in the passenger compartment, but everyone was able to answer me when I asked them they if they were OK. Our children appeared to be uninjured. My wife, however, appeared to be injured and was very uncomfortable. The majority of the damage was to her side of the vehicle.

Moments after the crash, a woman was at my wife's window wearing a shirt with an EMS logo on it and began assessing my family. I was surprised to see a first responder so quickly, but I later

learned that she had been traveling the same direction as us and had been a short distance behind us. It appeared that my children and I were uninjured and we were able to get out of the vehicle on our own. The fire department had to use the "Jaws of Life" to extricate my wife. She was transported by ambulance to the hospital where she was treated and later released. The van was totaled. Everyone is doing fine now and the people in the other vehicle were uninjured. I have responded to literally hundreds of similar crashes as both a paramedic and a law enforcement officer, but must say that this experience was surreal. This crash occurred in an area far enough from home that most of the emergency responders did not know that I was also involved in public safety, so I know we were not afforded any special treatment because of this. Procedurally, from my point of view, not only was everything done by the book,

but the degree of professionalism, compassion and courtesy displayed by those who cared for us was astounding. To the professionals, volunteers and to the lay people that helped, I am grateful.

When I ponder the crash, I shudder to think of what could have happened if we had not been wearing our seatbelts. How often are people tempted to carry a tired child on their lap as was common when I was a child? Based on the forces involved in our crash, I am certain that my family would have sustained serious injuries if we had not been wearing our seatbelts.

It is encouraging to see that current statistics show that in Minnesota, seatbelt usage is at 92% overall and statistics also show that traffic crash deaths are on the decline. In fact, 2011 marks the year with the lowest number of Thanksgiving traffic deaths since they began recording this information in 1974.

Cultural Center Announces Winter Performances



On Friday January 13, 2012 at 7:30 The April Verch Band will perform at the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center. Verch and her band are on tour promoting their new release *That's How We Run*. Her music is described as richly textured roots tunes, bluegrass and new-

grass melodies, old time influenced compositions and country tinged songs. Tickets for non-members are \$15 advance or \$18 at the door, for members \$12 advance or \$15 at the door and students are \$8. Since the Center will be closed in January except for this performance simply call 218-385-3339 and leave a message for the advance seating price. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. the night of the performance.

According to her website, April Verch, doesn't just perform music, she exudes it. The internationally renowned Canadian

fiddler, singer, songwriter and step-dancer has a passion for performing and her goal is to touch the lives of those who are listening at any given moment. "The world is this amazing puzzle that we can't fully understand and music is the joy that pulls it all together and helps us make sense of it," says Verch, with a dynamic excitement and confidence that makes you believe her in a heartbeat.

The Mixed Blood Theatre group will be presenting *Daughters of Africa* on February 2nd at 7:30 p.m. at the Center. This

exuberant, music-driven celebration of African American women's triumphs and accomplishments features a striking collection of profiles of the famous and the forgotten. Cost for this event is \$5 with students free.





Mayor's Corner Larry Hodgson, Mayor

This is the time of the year when everyone is enjoying the Christmas season and we realize that there are so many things that each and every one of us have for which we are thankful. I would like at this time to convey to you some of the things that I am thankful for as they relate to our community.

First of all I would like to thank all the volunteers that stepped forward to once again put on our annual Christmas tree festival. Special thanks must go out to co-chairs Dolly Tumberg and Jody Wegscheid for their dedication to once again making this event a success, to Leroy and Josie Smith for hosting the cookie decorating for the children, to our Senior Citizens for their unique arts and crafts display and hosting of their chili and chowder supper, to New Horizons for hosting the Senior Tea, to the many busi-

nesses that donated the beautiful trees and wreaths and to the many people that unselfishly volunteered their time to serve as hosts for the event. This generosity is so common throughout our community and this is what makes New York Mills that special place that we are all so proud of.

Next I would like to thank the many businesses, new and old, that continue to believe in this community and continue to serve the people in and around New York Mills with their determination to succeed. Whenever they are called upon to assist or donate to a worthy cause they never fail to step forward with a generous donation. Be sure to thank those businesses by giving them your support.

I would like to thank the Police Department—that's right, the Police Department—for the protection that is provided to the people of our community. Many people aren't aware of just how busy our officers are, this past year our department responded to approximately 1400 calls for assistance. The next time you see an

officer on duty why not thank them for what they do for all of us.

It wouldn't be right not to thank the members of the Fire Department. There are 22 men and women that serve as volunteers on our fire department. As volunteers they responded to 174 fire/medical calls this year. Their training requires them to meet for training classes twice monthly in addition to upgrading their skills in advanced firefighting tactical schools and CPR training. This group of men and women are the true public servants of our community and again I personally must say thanks.

Last of all I would like to thank the council members and the rest of the employees of the City of New York Mills for all the assistance they give me as I execute my responsibilities as Mayor of New York Mills. These men and women are a very valuable asset to our community and each has their own special talents. I am very proud of this community and I am very thankful to be a part of it.

“ Generosity is so common throughout our community and this is what makes New York Mills that special place that we are all so proud of. ”

Senior Center News

The Senior Center continues to provide not only an enjoyable atmosphere for its many visitors, but also a very important service to the senior citizens of New York Mills, offering Meals on Wheels every Monday through Friday as well as meals served at the Center itself, which are served at 11:30 each weekday. Please call ahead to reserve a meal at the Center by calling 385-2024. Menus for the Senior Center are announced Monday through Friday on

KWAD/KKWS Radio out of Wadena as well as any other related announcements for the Center.

Upcoming events at the Center include a French Toast Fundraiser Breakfast on Saturday, January 7th from 8—9:30 am. A Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser is set for Saturday February 4th from 8-9:30 am. as well.

Game Days will be held at the Senior Center on Tuesday, January 17th and February 21st, both beginning at 1:30 pm. Also,

every Thursday beginning at 1:00 pm, Seniors can try their hand at a game or two of whist.

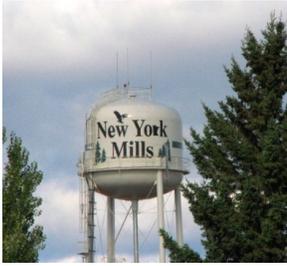
Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Gloria Curtis, director of the New York Mills Senior Center extends a big “Thank You” to all volunteers coming forward to help deliver meals and help with the many other aspects of the Center. It is very much appreciated. Have a wonderful New Year!



CITY OF New York Mills

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**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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|--------|---|--------|---|
| Jan 2 | New Year Holiday , -City Office, Library Closed | Jan 21 | Ronald McDonald House Ride Kick off @ VFW -Bingo 1:00 pm/Band-"Cut Loose"@ 8:00 pm |
| Jan 5 | Whist Party @ Sr Center 1:00 pm | Jan 26 | Whist Party @ Sr Center 1:00 pm |
| Jan 7 | French Toast Fundraiser Breakfast @ Sr. Center 8-9:30 am | Feb 2 | Mixed Blood Theatre Performance "Daughters of Africa" @ NYM RCC 7:30 pm -\$5.00 Adults, Students Free |
| Jan 9 | Cub Scout Meeting -Wolves/Tigers in Multi Purpose Rm School #210, 6:30 pm
Cub Scout Meeting -Bears/Webelos in Multi Purpose Room #210, 7:00 pm | Feb 2 | Whist party @ Sr Center 1:00 pm |
| Jan 10 | Sr Center Board Meeting 10:00 am | Feb 4 | Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser @ Sr. Center 8-9:30 am |
| Jan 10 | City Council Meeting in Council Chambers City Hall 4:30 pm , Public Forum @ 5 pm | Feb 8 | Healthcare Provider CPR @ Perham Area EMS Training Room 5:30 pm. Contact Doug Harthan 346-4485 |
| Jan 11 | Heart Saver CPR/AED/1st Aid @ Perham Area EMS Training Room 5:30 pm. Contact Doug Harthan 346-4485 | Feb 9 | Whist Party @ Sr Center 1:00 pm |
| Jan 12 | Whist Party @ Sr. Center 1:00 pm | Feb 11 | Library Fundraiser-Silent Auction & Comedy Show featuring ventriloquist James Wedgwood |
| Jan 13 | April Verch Band Performance @ NYM RCC. Bluegrass/newsgrass music. Non Members: Advance \$15/Door \$18, Members: Advance \$12/Door \$15, Students \$8 | Feb 14 | City Council Meeting -Council Chambers City Hall-4:30 pm, Public Forum @ 5 pm |
| Jan 14 | Winter Spectacular-NYM Band Fundraiser -Meal 5-7 pm in Commons, Joint Concert with MSU Mankato Wind Ensemble & NYM Sr. Band 7:30 pm, James W Mann Performing Arts Center | Feb 14 | Sr. Center Board Meeting 10:00 am |
| Jan 16 | Martin Luther King Day -City Offices & Public Library Closed | Feb 16 | Whist Party @ Sr Center 1:00 pm |
| Jan 17 | Game Day @ Sr Center 1:30 pm | Feb 18 | TBD-Innovative Roots Music Workshop & Drum Circles @ NYM RCC. Check website @www.kulcher.org for updates |
| Jan 19 | Whist Party @ Sr. Center 1:00 pm | Feb 20 | Presidents Day -City Offices & Public Library Closed |
| | | Feb 21 | Game Day @ Sr Center 10:00 am |
| | | Feb 23 | Whist Party @ Sr Center 1:00 pm |