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# CITY OF NEW YORK MILLS



## Entrepreneurial Opportunities Abound in NYM



If you have been toying with the idea of starting your own business but didn't have the readily available capital to invest in a building or equipment do we have the solution for you!

Our Economic Development Authority (EDA) is in the process

of partnering with M-State's Business and Entrepreneurial Services of Detroit Lakes to create what is known as a business incubator opportunity for prospective business owners. The incubators are designed to help new businesses get up and running by providing mentoring, training, services and low cost space. Currently there are business incubators established in Hawley, Detroit Lakes, Frazee, and soon to open in Perham. At our next EDA meeting we hope to finalize the agreement with M-State on the establishment of the

incubator program and also sign an agreement with the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center to rent a portion of their newly acquired Thompson Community Center (Formerly Mills Creamery) to house the necessary office space. There are eight offices located within the facility which will work extremely well for the development of this enterprise.

Each business which qualifies as a participant of the incubator program will be provided with office equipment including a telephone, computer, basic

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## New York Mills Trade Show to be Held March 24th

Preparations are underway for the 2012 New York Mills Trade Show set for Saturday, March 24th. The Trade Show, which is held at the New York Mills Sports Center from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, is sponsored by the New York Mills Civic and Commerce Association.

A full slate of events is planned starting off with a Pancake Breakfast from 9:00 -11:00 am in the High School Commons. Bandwagon will offer concessions throughout the day. A Book Fair will be held with proceeds going to the School Media Center. A fishing seminar with Phil Jenson of PT's Guide Serve will take place at 12:30 in the Commons area. The

NYM Jazz Band will perform starting at 1:00 pm.

The always popular petting zoo will again be offered, sponsored by the New York Mills FFA Chapter. And new this year, the NYM Fire Department will be running kitchen fire demonstrations hourly in the outdoor display area.

There are several returning vendors as well as many new vendors planning to participate this year with displays both indoors and out, but there still is space available if you would like to display information from a business or organization you are involved with. For registration information please call Julie

Adams at 385-2436.

Admission to the Trade Show is free with a donation of a non-perishable food item to the local Food Shelf. The Trade Show is a popular event for young and old alike, offering prize drawings and giveaways, information on the newest products and services available, not to mention a chance to visit with friends and neighbors. See you there!





**Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday March 11th**

**REMEMBER?**

Set Your Clocks Ahead Saturday



## Drew Nelson to Perform at NYM RCC March 17th



The NYM Regional Cultural Center is excited to host Drew Nelson in concert on Saturday, March 17th at 7:30 pm.

Michigan-born Navy veteran Drew Nelson is a storytelling songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. A fly fisherman and world traveler, he writes as a witness to the lives and journeys

of those he has met along the way, mixing Americana and roots-rock with traditional folk styles.

Drew has toured across North America and Europe, performing solo and opening for popular rock artists like Melissa Etheridge and Edwin McCain as well as esteemed folk singers like Josh White Jr. and John Gorka.

He first met John Gorka in 2006, when Drew performed as part of Falcon Ridge Folk Festival's prestigious songwriting contest. John found him backstage after his performance and told him how much his songs moved him. Since then, Drew has shared the stage with John several times, including at such big events as the Kerrville Folk Festival. "Drew Nelson is one of my favorite new artists," John Gorka says. "His songs sound like the rest of us feel...dazed, angry, amazed and climbing."

Drew garnered further attention in 2009, when he released *Dusty Road to Beulah Land* (Waterbug Records), and it topped the folk radio charts. It also caught the attention of the Grammy-winning indie label Red House Records, which just signed him. "I love that Drew can rock out as well

as write sensitive ballads," Red House president Eric Peltoniemi says. "I admire his down-to-earth songwriting which portrays our world and ordinary people with such deep feeling and unflinching clarity. He has worked hard in life and hasn't been afraid to get his hands dirty. He has 100% credibility in the subject matter he writes about, and I'm excited to get the chance to work with him."

Tickets for the Drew Nelson performance at the NYM Regional Cultural Center are available by calling 218-385-3339. Cost is \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Member price is \$10 or \$13 the night of the concert. Students are always \$5.

## Energy Assistance Still Available

Funding is still available for households in Otter Tail and Wadena County for help with heating and electric costs. If households needing help have not already applied for help this heating season funds are still available to assist households in need that meet income guidelines. The deadline to

apply for help with this winter's heating and electric costs is May 31, 2012, however funding is limited and may be exhausted earlier so apply now.

All types of heat are eligible for assistance. Assistance amounts are determined by the number of people that live in the home, the type of heat used, previous year's heating cost, and

the income the household has received the three (3) months prior to the date the application is signed.

For application information contact Otter Tail-Wadena CAC Energy Assistance program at 218-385-3333 or 1-877-256-7249.



## Entrepreneurial Opportunities Abound.. Cont . From Pg. 1

computer software including Microsoft Office Suite and QuickBooks, a desk and office chairs. In addition to the equipment the business will be provided with technical business support to include a telephone answering service, training and orientation to equipment and computers, high speed internet access, a common workroom with copy/fax/

printing support, and a data/technology conference room.

What makes this opportunity additionally attractive is that everything listed above comes at a very inexpensive cost to the business. An actual rental agreement has not yet been established but it is expected that the rent per office unit will be in the \$150 to \$200 range. You have to admit that with all the

equipment and training made available to each business that this opportunity is quite a bargain! If all goes well and things move along as planned we could possibly see our incubator site ready for occupancy by April 1<sup>st</sup>. As a requirement, a local advisory board needs to be set up, and any community member that would consider being a member of that board should contact

City Clerk Darla Berry at 385-2213. We are also asking all interested individuals to pick up, fill out, and return a survey form regarding this incubator opportunity. The survey is included within this newsletter or it can also be completed and submitted online at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LMWT5HN>

## Civic & Commerce Easter Egg Hunt Plans Underway



Plans are underway for the NYM Civic & Commerce Association's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 7th. This is different from the earlier schedule sent out by the C & C which had the date slated for April 23rd.

The Egg Hunt will again be held at Smith Park in New York Mills, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Many of the final details are still in the planning stages. Like last year, The New York

Mills National Honor Society led by High School Counselor Jodi Raser will assist with the event.

As in the past, the Egg Hunt will be set up with separate age groups, with a total of around 1,500 eggs to be found by the children.

"This event is usually a lot of fun for the kids and we hope this year is no different," said event coordinator Amy Wallgren.

For those who participate, it's a

good idea to bring an Easter basket to gather eggs during the hunt, as well as snow or mud boots, as the weather dictates.

Watch for updates on the City's facebook page or informational flyers for details as they develop. To help out with the Easter Egg Hunt, or to donate, call Amy Wallgren at Farmers & Merchants State Bank, 218-385-2300.

## Two Types of Yoga now offered at NYM Regional Cultural Center

Are you like the majority of Americans who begin the year searching for ways to get in shape, lose weight or relieve stress in your life? Yoga may be just the avenue for you! The New York Mills Regional Cultural Center is offering two great opportunities to participate.

**Flow-Style Yoga: Tuesday evenings through May 1st:** Evening Yoga classes for athletic beginners are back at the Cultural

Center: Join us for an all-levels flow style yoga class which includes music, poetry, and meditation. Tuesdays from 7-8:30 PM until May 1st. Cost is \$60 for a 6-class punch-card, \$12 for a drop-in, and 1/2 price for college students with ID. Bartering is also an option. Classes are taught by Tamara Moore, a certified yoga instructor from Wadena. If you have any questions, contact Tamara at (320) 266-0911 or the Center (218-385-

3339).

**Light & Easy Yoga: Wednesday mornings through March 7th:** Get ready for Spring, and look & feel your best...come to Light & Easy Yoga with Beth Super at the Cultural Center, Wednesday mornings 10:00-10:45, now through April 25. Purchase a four-week package @ \$32 (discounted to \$20 for seniors), or drop in anytime for \$10 per class. Any

questions, call instructor Beth Super (218-924-2984) or the Center (218-385-3339).



## The Creamery-Transforming an Old Community Asset into

### New Community Purposes

#### Community Meeting March 29th At NYM School



The New York Mills schools and the Cultural Center will sponsor a community meeting on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be a box lunch served at 6:00pm before the meeting gets underway. Please come and bring your ideas to this session to dream of ideas for how the Creamery can be a centerpiece of New York Mills community life as it has been for

many years before. Everyone and every group/organization in the community is invited to attend. If you are coming for the box lunch, reservations are not required but would be welcome--call 218-385-3339. Bob and Bonnie Thompson, owners of Mid-State Auto Auction, have made a major new investment in New York Mills

through their gift of the Creamery building. At the end of the year in 2011, the Thompsons gave the building to the New York Mills Cultural Center to establish the Continental Divide Folk School, a place where some of the dreams of the community could be realized. The idea of a Folk School has a long history in the United States, and the Mills community is invited to participate in shaping exactly how the building might serve a broad community purpose.

One new expression of that purpose will be the establishment of a "business incubator" in the offices that formerly housed the Mid-State Auto Auction. New businesses will be operated from the Creamery. As they grow and

strengthen they will graduate out and move into other business locations in New York Mills and surrounding communities. This project is a joint venture among the Mills EDA committee, the business entrepreneurship program at M-State's Detroit Lakes campus, and the Cultural Center. The business incubator is one use, but it leaves lots of room in the Creamery building. Of course, the wonderful cafe established by Cheryl Humbert and Jack Monty will be a part of the mix as well.

The Creamery provides lots of opportunities and resources. Please join the conversation about using those resources for new community purposes.

## Uniforms, Equipment and Trips Oh My!

Thanks to the generous donations of many businesses, organizations and individuals, we were able to order our new uniforms on February 22! This is an amazing feat to say the least. However, we are not done yet. Paying for the uniforms was only half the battle. Even though a large portion of the necessary funds has been secured, we are only slightly over half way. The uniform design we chose was less expensive than originally planned which allowed us to make a deposit on some slightly used brass instruments. Minnesota Brass Drum and Bugle Corps from the Twin Cities metro area has been working with us on the used instruments; however, I wasn't sure they would have the inventory or enough time to replace the inventory we would be buying. At this

point everything seems to be falling into place. The instruments we were able to purchase cut the replacement costs for those instruments significantly, while still providing us with quality instruments for our students. This leaves us with the Tubas and percussion equipment almost equaling the cost of the uniforms. Needless to say, we can still use your help.

**Raffle tickets are for sale.** \$10 will get you a ticket for a chance to win a Lund boat among 52 other prizes. We have had tickets available at all winter sporting events since we unveiled the uniform in January. Tickets are also available at several local businesses, so get yours while you can!

The D.C. trip is fast approaching. It seems like just yesterday I received the phone

call asking for our participation. For those involved, we have two payments remaining, one in March and one in May. We will send out an itinerary to all involved with final trip information as soon as we make some final adjustments with the parade organization committee.

The Jazz Band will be participating in the MSU, Mankato Jazz Festival February 25. It's a great opportunity for our students to get out and perform for people outside our normal performance area. We leave early in the morning on Saturday, arrive in time for the clinics with the adjudicators, perform in the afternoon for the judges, work with one of the judges, take in a Master Class with the guest artist and conclude the evening with a concert featuring the MSU Jazz Mavs and the guest artist. This year the guest artist

is Eric Marienthal, a Jazz Saxophonist from Los Angeles. All the activity makes for a long day but the students always enjoy the experience.

### Upcoming events:

**March 6** Jr. & Sr. High Band Concert 7:30 James Mann Performance Auditorium

**March 7** Sub-Section Large Group Contest in Staples

**March 24** Jazz performance at NYM Trade Show.

We will be selling raffle tickets until 7 p.m. Monday May 7, the day of the drawing. The announcement of winners will be that evening at intermission of Spring Band Concert.



## Multi-Talented Family Opens Shop in NYM



Front: Karen Kilby Back, L-R: Amelia, Rebecca & Patrick Kilby

As a passerby of the old Coop Hardware store building at 19 North Tousley, you may notice that a new business has staked its claim to the building, but just how busy this new little shop is may surprise you. Operating under two different business names, the Kilby family is very much at work.

Pat & Karen Kilby, own-

ers of Sugar Creek Woodworking and A Simple Pine Box, LLC recently moved their family-owned woodworking shop from rural Leaf Lake to New York Mills in search of more room to house their multi-faceted business. They are working to retrofit the building to suit their needs-- taking out ceilings, insulating and remodeling to accommodate their many large pieces of woodworking equipment.

Sugar Creek Woodworking was established in 2002 as a cabinetry and custom woodworking shop. As the economy crumbled, sales for custom cabinets and countertops dropped, challenging the Kilbys to expand their horizons. In 2005, they

began to offer furniture refinishing and repair which has since grown into the mainstay of their business. They specialize in furniture restoration which includes chemical stripping, refinishing, veneer replacement, seat caning and furniture part replacement. Sugar Creek Woodworking can duplicate exact replicas of turned wood pieces or wood carvings with their equipment. They also specialize in repurposing furniture; specifically, giving a new life to old pieces of furniture.

Want something new? Pat & Karen Kilby can design and craft custom furniture and other wood products just for you. From their birch tables and

lamps, to custom wooden chests and benches, Pat works painstakingly to create something to suit any taste.

One of their most unique and beautiful talents is in their Three-D engraving. Images are loaded onto a computerized CNC (or computer numerical control machine) which then cuts the image out of the wood. The results are stunning.

What this little shop has to



Cont. Page 8.

## City of NYM Lowers Gas Rates Again

At the regular City Council meeting held on Monday, February 13, the Council unanimously approved a new gas rate schedule.

The new schedule reflects a \$1.00 drop in gas charges across all usage rate categories. The new rates will be reflected on City gas bills mailed out in early March for usage for the month of February. This rate reduction coupled with a rate reduction in gas rates implemented in September of 2011 means that rates for gas users in the City have dropped by \$1.50 per rate category in the last six-month period. Along with the milder temperatures during most of this winter heating season, these rate reductions should mean a lower bill for

most gas customers.

The reduction in gas rates corresponds to lower market prices for natural gas, which have hit a 10-year low in recent months. The City works with Constellation NewEnergy in obtaining the best prices possible on its gas purchases. While demand for natural gas can fluctuate a great deal depending on local weather conditions, the partnership with Constellation NewEnergy helps ensure that the natural gas supply is there when the demand is high. When local gas demand is below projections, Constellation works to find other users in need of additional natural gas supplies that we can sell our excess gas to.

The costs to the City in

addition to the actual price of purchasing our gas supply include delivery charges, basis adjustments, a management fee, and a long term contract fee. Added to this is the cost the City has of maintaining its gas system and responding to any gas emergencies or service requests. City personnel with natural gas skills and licenses must be on call 24-7 to respond to any gas emergencies. Finally, the City must cover its administrative expenses relating to billing, fuel assistance, and collections for its gas utility. All of these costs are covered by the gas rates, and many of them must be covered whether the volume of gas sales is high or low.

The City's rates are based on a per thousand MCF usage measurement. The MCF represents a thousand cubic feet. A customer

using from 1,000 to 3,000 MCFs of gas will now pay a rate of \$9.70 per thousand, compared to a rate of \$10.70 per thousand previously. During the earlier part of 2011, the rate for this usage level was \$11.20 per thousand. Once usage exceeds 3,000 MCFs in a month, the rate for that usage drops to \$9.05 per MCF.

Because of the low prices in the gas market, the City took steps to lock in these low costs for a longer term. This is good news for our customers as we strive to keep our rates as low and as stable as possible.



## Need Assistance with your Income Taxes? OTWCAC Can Help!

Otter Tail Wadena Community Action Council again able to offer low to moderate income individuals and families free tax preparation throughout Otter Tail County and Wadena County. Tax Filers can schedule appointments for the New York Mills and Wadena Sites by calling Nelly at 800-450-2900. Tax Filers in the Perham area do not have to schedule appointments. They

can just walk in to the ITOW Museum and filing is done on a first come first serve bases.

Individuals are required to bring with photo ID, Birthdates, Social Security Card/ITIN cards for all persons on the tax returns, Income statements/W2's for each job, all 1099 forms, and all end of year statements such as MFIP, SSI, veteran's benefits or unemployment benefits. Filers should also bring with any other tax related information or re-

ceipts that will be needed for filing. Filing is done at the following locations:

Otter Tail Wadena Community Action –Tuesdays by appointment from 12:15-5:00pm

ITOW Museum, Perham-Wednesdays-WALK INS from 11am-7pm

Wadena Senior Center- Thursdays by appointment from 2-6pm



## Senior Center Schedules Annual Meeting/Spring Events

The New York Mills Senior Center will be holding their annual board meeting on Tuesday, April 10th at 10:00 a.m. at the Senior Center. There will be two positions open on the board. One position will be for secretary. Nominations are encouraged. Call Frank Wines at 385-3218

or Marian Dertinger at 385-1667 for more information or to submit a name. Seniors are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

A regular monthly meeting will follow the annual meeting.

Several events are planned for March and April. An Egg Bake Breakfast fundraiser will be

held on Saturday, March 3rd from 8—9:30 am.. A St. Olaf/St. Patrick's Day program will be presented.

March 9th, enjoy a delicious fish fry beginning at 4 pm at the Sr. Center.

Along with these events, you may enjoy whist parties every Thursday at 1 pm, and game days

on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (March 20th and April 17th) beginning at 1:30 pm.



## Communities Supporting Classrooms to Host Kids Garage Sale



Saturday, April 14, 2012 will mark the day of one of the largest garage sales in New York Mills ever, and it is all for kids!

This event, in its first year, is sponsored by the Community Supporting Classrooms Committee, the same group that organized the New York Mills Community Carnival last November.

The Garage Sale, which will be held at the New York Mills Sports Center, will run from 9 am to noon. The idea is simple. Anyone with child related items is welcome to rent a 10' x 10' space at a cost of \$20.00 per space. Items must be CHILD related; for

instance, books, toys, clothes, children's furniture, maternity items, or strollers. No commercial vendors are allowed. Renters price their own items, provide their own change, display tables or chairs. They also keep what they make on their items. The only cost to vendors is the per-space charge. Organizers of the event will provide advertising via flyers, newspapers and radio ads. For those of you familiar with the Trade Show, the layout and logistics are very similar. Concessions will be available. Sound great? It is!

Proceeds from this event will go toward enhancing the class-

rooms of the New York Mills Elementary, so parents of students who attend New York Mills school will receive double benefits.

"We would like to share the generosity we have received from our communities and allow you to share in the benefits!" stated Kelly Van Schaick. Kelly is the brainchild of this event in New York Mills, bringing the idea from her former community of Thief River Falls, where the event has grown by leaps and bounds into a wildly popular, semi-annual event.

Kelly is quick to give credit to the CSC committee of which she is only a part. "Everyone is so enthused and eager to use this avenue to help out the school and community," she stated. "This is a great community gathering event and with spring cleaning on our minds, it is a great way to get rid of items no longer needed and pass them on to others who can really benefit from them, all while helping out students at the same time."

Admission for the event is \$1.00 or one gently used children's book. NYM Classroom teachers will have first chance at the books donated, so that is another

way for this event to help our classrooms!

Registrations will be on a first come, first served basis. There will be approximately 100 sites available for display, and vendors may rent one or more spaces at \$20 each. The deadline to register is April 9th. Those interested in being a part of this event can contact Kelly at 218-686-2171 or by email at nymkid@gmail.com for a registration form or answers to questions.

**FINN  
CREEK  
MUSEUM  
Annual Meeting  
Saturday,  
March 10th  
1:00 p.m.  
Sr Citizens Center  
New York Mills**

## Senior Arts & Crafts Gift Shop Opens April 2nd for Season

The Senior Arts & Crafts Gift Shop will be opening for the season on Monday, April 2nd.

Sr. Arts & Crafts, located at 20 North Main Street, (just down from the NYM Public Library) will be open Monday through Saturday from 9 am– 5 pm.

Visitors are treated to a wide variety of handcrafted items ranging from woodcrafts, quilts, jewelry, greeting cards, baby items, clothing and home décor, to name a few.

"There is something for every age and every occasion", stated Dorothy Welter, president of the organization. Another popular item

is the Thrift Room, located in the back of the shop. Sr. Arts & Crafts accepts donations, anything except clothing, which are sold at a reduced price. "We have seen more and more interest in this feature to the shop in recent years," stated Welter.

From its beginning in 1988, located in the building what now houses Modern Assemblies, Sr. Arts & Crafts Gift Shop moved to a small area in the old trinity church building. Growing in popularity, they outgrew this location in 2003, and moved to their current site on Main Street.

The gift shop is staffed entirely by volunteers and currently offers craft items from approximately 40 consignees. Any senior citizen age 55 or older, or handicapped persons of any age are welcome to consign their items free of charge. They are only asked to volunteer one day a month in return for a place to sell their wares.

"The Sr. Arts & Crafts gift shop is a great place for seniors to market the items they enjoy making," said Dorothy Welter. "It is good therapy for them, and a way to keep their minds and bodies

sharp."

For more information on consigning your items, donating to the Thrift Shop, or volunteering, call Dorothy Welter at 218-385-2849, or once the shop is open, call 218-385-3920.



## 2012 Corn Feed Expands to Two Day Event

The annual Corn Feed sponsored by the Mills Civic & Commerce Association will be joined again this year by the Puppet Pageant street theater. But there will be some major new developments/additions this time around.

The whole event is being organized around the new Continental Divide Music and Film Festival and it will be expanded to two days, Friday and Saturday, August 17-18. The Civic & Commerce Association, the VFW, the City of New York Mills, and the Cultural Center will be working together to bring a major new entertainment event to our community.

Friday afternoon will feature music performances at several venues in town. And this year there will be more artists and artisans in town showing their art.

The Corn Feed will take place in the afternoon, ending about 7:00 pm. The Puppet Pageant, featuring all new narrative drawn from the Finnish epic poem the Kalevala, will be performed beginning at 6:30 pm. To sign up to participate in the Puppet Pageant call the Cultural Center at 218-385-3339. We need folks to participate in the making of the puppets, developing the story, and being part of the show. Immediately following the Puppet Pageant short films by Minnesota filmmakers will be shown in the City Hall Ballroom. The film portion of the Festival will also include short films (no longer than 5 minutes in length) submitted by community members. Details about making and submitting films will be available on the Cultural Center website ([www.kulcher.org](http://www.kulcher.org)) beginning March 12.

Saturday will focus on the music part of the Festival and will be held on the grounds at the VFW. We are making the arrangements for the bands and musicians right now. To find out about the Festival and the music go to the Cultural Center website. A substantial part of the music schedule will be posted on the Cultural Center website on March 12.

If you have friends visiting who need a place to stay the Festival Committee has made arrangements for the Campground adjacent to the VFW to be open Friday and Saturday nights.

Last, but not least, there will be good food featured throughout the two-day Festival, with a special emphasis on locally grown foods like the wonderful corn provided as a part of the Corn Feed. And the Mills Farmer's Market will be open both days of the Festival.



## MIRC Program Works to Bring 4G to New York Mills

The focus of MIRC, Minnesota Intelligent Rural communities, has been to provide local businesses a presence on the internet to help them continue to thrive and expand their market reach outside normal local boundaries. Having a website provides businesses with high visibility at low cost and gives potential customers access to them via computer and iphones.

As we work toward wrapping up the MIRC program by the end of July 2012 there are several tasks left to complete for businesses and residents.

The first is to give the town of NYM 4G capabilities. This enhancement will serve to attract new families and businesses to town and give local residents the capability to condense their cable, voice and internet needs to a low bundled price of about \$40 a month. Today bundled prices from other providers cost residents about \$120 a month or

more. A workshop will be held in May to educate those interested on how to reduce their bundled costs.

The second is to make certain each business has claimed their google site. With the use of our NYM Tekkies, computer savvy high school students, each local business without a web presence will be contacted and with the help of a Tekkie claim their site and assure accuracy of location and business information.

A third task is to create a portal on the internet for NYM and the surrounding area. This portal will provide users information regarding all the businesses in the area by category. These categories can include photos, videos and contact information at the touch of a screen. It will also display a calendar of events and serve as an on-line tourist information center.

To further promote the efforts

of the Horizons program, aimed at alleviating poverty in rural Minnesota, we will create a place for area residents to bring items they would like to sell on ebay or craigslist. For people without computer access or the know how to sell items over the internet this service will photograph, promote, sell and ship items for owners and after a handling fee turn the rest of the proceeds over to the owner.

The internet with all its pros and cons can serve to energize our area with better information access, greater market reach and reducing costs for local citizens while providing needed income boosts through the sale of unused assets. Thanks to the U of M Extension Service and the Blandin Foundation we are finding ways to keep our area vital and prosperous for all.

If you would like more information on the MIRC broadband effort call Lynn Kasma at 218 - 385 - 4060 or email [lrkasma@hotmail.com](mailto:lrkasma@hotmail.com).





## A Message from Our Chief of Police Jim Van Schaick

lance the right-of-way.

I am often asked, “What’s it like to be a police officer?” and my general answer is that its like most other customer service professions except for the enforcement aspect, especially traffic enforcement.

I started my career in public safety as an EMT with an ambulance service. My perception of other traffic while in the ambulance was twofold. In routine mode, I noticed little difference. Other traffic seemed to drive as normal. With the ambulances lights and siren activated, traffic was different. More often then not, people were excellent at yielding and allowing the ambu-

That perspective changed when I entered law enforcement. I’ve come to learn that motorists in general react differently around police cars – whether in emergency mode or not. Like ambulances and fire trucks, people are pretty good for yielding to squad cars in emergency mode. The biggest difference seems to be when we are operating normally. For example, I seldom get passed when driving down the road in my squad car, even if I am traveling below the posted speed limit. When people see my squad car at an intersection, they usually come to a very pronounced stop. Sometimes, people do an entertaining “double” stop if they don’t initially notice me when they first arrive at the intersection. I do remember as a young driver that I became nervous whenever I saw a squad car on the road and was terrified if it was behind me! I specifi-

cally recall one occasion in which my front seat passenger asked me why I had “hesitated” at a stop sign. I had simply stopped at the stop sign – even with no police cars in sight!

It is a stark contrast when I am driving my own family vehicle off-duty (yes, a mini-van!) The difference is profound. I’m not talking about the performance of the vehicle, but the driving styles of some of the other motorists. Don’t get me wrong, I do believe that the majority of drivers are situationally aware, free from distraction and complying with the rules of the road, but the few that aren’t really stand out to me. I occasionally notice people texting (or otherwise viewing web content) and driving as I am passed on Highway 10. It is interesting to note that some of their driving characteristics mirror those of an intoxicated driver.

When I’m on duty, many times when I see an unbelted driver, and they see me, they reach over and put on their seatbelt. Occasionally when I pull over a vehicle for something other than a seatbelt violation, I receive a spontaneous confession from the driver (who is wearing a seatbelt) that they had not been wearing their seatbelts prior to the traffic stop. In contrast, now and then, in the moments prior to exiting the squad car on a traffic stop, I see people discretely contorting themselves to reach for their seatbelts trying to avoid the “Click-It Or-Ticket” scenario.

Preliminary traffic death statistics from The Minnesota Department of Public Safety indicate that there have been 44 deaths so far this year in Minnesota. More information can be found at: [www.minnesotatzd.org](http://www.minnesotatzd.org)

## Multi-Talented- Cont. from Pg. 4

offer does not stop there. The second part of their business entitled “A Simple Pine Box”, branches into a whole different area with custom wood caskets.

When Patrick’s mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2004, the family struggled to find a casket which fit their mother’s personality. A relative suggested that Patrick consider making her casket. From that time, the idea blossomed and “A Simple Pine Box, LLC was established in 2007. “It became crystal clear after our mother’s death, that others encountered the same problems.” said Patrick. “Funerals are expensive. We provide a simple and economical way to choose and buy a casket. Our caskets are individually handcrafted from solid wood

and can be custom tailored to reflect the personality and life of your loved one.” Aside from carving a multitude of images into wood, other examples included painting messages or handprints of grandchildren into the cover, carving sentiments, or fitting the casket with a handmade quilt.

“It is the perfect way to show your loved one you feel something special for them, without spending a lot of money”.

Caskets are crafted from local pine, oak and ash and beautifully finished. Prices range from \$1,200 to \$2,800.

Furthermore, you can buy a do-it-yourself kit to build one yourself. The Kilby’s plan to offer seminars teaching how to carry out this task.



Daughters Amelia and Rebecca are also an active part of the store, entwining their talents into the work. Amelia enjoys rug weaving, jewelry making and beadwork. Rebecca is a painter and is setting up her kiln in the shop.

While the store is still a work in progress, the family has set up a display area in front to offer their vast array of products.

As if these items aren’t enough, wife Karen has a greenhouse set up and is waiting impatiently for spring to produce her bedding plants to sell.

“We have had a lot of people stop in to see what we are all about,” stated Karen Kilby, who is excited to show visitors around.

It isn’t as if they are unheard of. The Kilby’s businesses were

featured recently on WDAY TV and Voices on Main street, in the EOT Focus and Fargo Forum.

The City of New York Mills is excited to welcome Sugar Creek Woodworking and A Simple Pine Box LLC in to their business community.

“The City of New York Mills has just been so good to us”, stated Karen Kilby. “City leaders have really worked with us and helped our dreams become a reality here in this community. “

Stop by and visit the Kilby family at their shop, open Monday through Saturday from 10 am-6 pm, or visit their websites [www.sugarcreekwoodworking.com](http://www.sugarcreekwoodworking.com) & [www.asimplepinebox.com](http://www.asimplepinebox.com). They are available by phone at 218-350-0011.



The City of New York Mills will not hold a Spring Clean Up Day this year. Due to budget constraints this event will be held every other year, rather than annually. There is significant cost to providing this service, which involves 6-8 days of labor for public works personnel (4 employees times 2 days) picking up items and hauling it to the landfill. In addition, while the City passes the same charges on to residents that it itself pays for items such as refrigerators, printers, computers, etc., the City does not charge for miscellaneous items such as lumber, scrap metal and other small items. The City is charged for these items by the pound.

As in previous years, the City will hold its Hazardous Waste Pickup day on September 14th at the City Shop located at 102 N. Boardman Ave. At that time, items such as paint, light bulbs, and flash light batteries

## Public Works Update- Roger Salo, Public Works Director

will be collected for disposal.

If you are cleaning up leaves, branches and grass clippings from your yard, you may bring those things to the City's compost site on 383rd Street, by the City lagoons. This site is open daily, year round. Items can be hauled there as soon as the ground is able to support vehicles in the spring. There is no charge to deposit grass clippings, leaves or branches. Garbage or other waste products are not allowed.

The Public Works Department is planning on having a booth at the NYM Trade Show on March 24th. Stop by and visit us!

There is a lot of talk about the need to conserve water. Here in central Minnesota, we are fortunate to have the lakes and rivers close to us. But with all the water being used and possibly wasted, we should still try to conserve water. There are rules and regulations about water rates and water conservation being handed down to city water suppliers. Currently the more water that is used at a household, the cheaper the rate per gallon is. This may change if proposed leg-

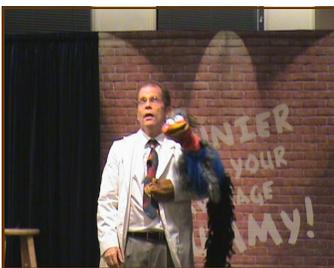
islation is enacted.

Did you know that older toilets can take up to 2-7 gallons per flush? Some of the new ones only use 1-2 gallons. It can take up to 30 gallons for a shower or a tub bath. The new shower heads can conserve water while still making it feel as if a lot of water is being used. It can take up to 10 gallons for a sink full of dishes. There are 12 ways to conserve water at home. 1). Evaluate your water habits such as running water while brushing teeth and too long a shower. 2). Look for leaks and repair them, such as leaky faucets. 3). Check you water system for leaks, such as a softener running all the time. 4). Install water saving devices for your shower. 5). Save water while preparing food. 6). Flush the toilet only when necessary. 7). Know the proper conservation settings on the washer. 8). Wash dishes only in full loads 9). Be efficient in the shower and bath. 10). Use less water to clean your home. 11). Check the hoses and irrigation systems for leaks. 12). Minimize watering outdoors. It is smart to water after the sun has set to avoid evaporation.



## Library Happenings—A Heartfelt Thanks

Julie Adams, Library Director



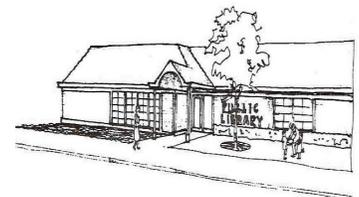
The Friends of the Library recently held a fundraiser for the New York Mills Public Library

and would like to thank everyone who helped make it a success. The proceeds of the fundraiser will be to eventually purchase new carpet at the Library. Through ticket sales, silent auction, and additional contributions, a total of \$4,290.00 was raised for the carpet fund which is an excellent start toward the \$10,000.00 fundraising goal! Thanks to everyone for

their continued support of the New York Mills Public Library.



Left to Right: Charlie Van Schaick, James Wedgewood, Moriah Geiser, Kaitlyn Geiser, Ron Cichy



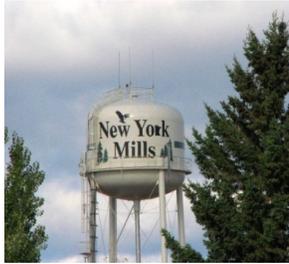
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**CAN'T MAKE IT  
INTO PAY YOUR  
BILL DURING  
OFFICE HOURS?**

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](http://www.newyorkmills.govoffice2.com)

## Community Calendar



- Mar 1-17 **McKnight Touring Ceramics Exhibit** @ NYM Cultural Center
- Mar 3 **Egg Bake Breakfast Fundraiser** @ Sr. Center 8 am - 9:30 am
- Mar 5 **Sit n Stitch** @ Cultural Center 6 pm
- Mar 5 **Cub Scout Meeting-Wolves/Tigers** in MPR Room #210 6:30 pm
- Mar 5 **Cub Scout Meeting-Bears/Webelos** in MPR Rm #210 7:00 pm
- Mar 6 **Jr/Sr High Band Concert** @ James W Mann Auditorium 7:30 pm
- Mar 8 **Open Mic Night** @ NYM Cultural Center 7 pm
- Mar 9 **Fish Fry Fundraiser** @ Sr. Center 4-8 pm
- Mar 10 **Finn Creek Annual Meeting** @ 1 pm in the Senior Center
- Mar 11 **Daylight Savings Time Begins-Turn your clocks back Saturday night!**
- Mar 12 **Sit n Stitch** @ Cultural Center 6 pm
- Mar 13 **Sr. Center Board Meeting** 10:00 am @ Sr. Center
- Mar 13 **City Council Meeting** @ City Hall 4:30 pm Public Forum begins @ 5 pm
- Mar 14 **Heart Saver CPR/AED/1st Aid Training** @ Perham EMS Training Center 5:30 pm contact Doug @ [doug.harthan@pmhh.com](mailto:doug.harthan@pmhh.com)
- Mar 17 **Drew Nelson Concert** @ NYM Cultural Center 7:30 pm Roots, Rock & Folk
- Mar 19 **Sit n Stitch** @ Cultural Center 6 pm
- Mar 20-31 **1st K-6th Grade Regional Art Show** @ NYM Cultural Center
- Mar 20 **Game Day** @ Sr Center 1:30 pm
- Mar 21 **K-6th Grade Regional Art Show Reception** @ Cultural Center 10 am-3 pm
- Mar 24 **NYM Trade Show** @ NYM Sports Center 9 am-2 pm  
**Pancake Breakfast** 9-11 am  
**Fishing Seminar w/Phil Jensen** 12:30 pm  
**NYM Jazz Band Performance** @ 1 pm
- Mar 26 **Sit n Stitch** @ Cultural Center 6 pm
- Mar 29 **Community Discussion on Creamery Bldg/Continental Divide Folk School** @ NYM School 6:30 pm Free Light Supper 6pm
- Apr 2 **Sr Arts & Crafts Gift Shop** Opens for Season
- Apr 2 **Sit n Stitch** @ NYM Cultural Center 6 pm
- Apr 3-11 **MN State H.S. League Art Exhibit** @ NYM Cultural Center
- Apr 7 **C&C Easter Egg Hunt** @ Smith Park 10:30 am
- Apr 9 **Sit n Stitch** @ NYM Cultural Center 6 pm
- Apr 10 **Senior Center Annual Board Meeting** 10 am @ Sr. Center
- Apr 10 **City Council Meeting** @ City Hall 4:30 pm Public Forum begins @ 5 pm
- Apr 11 **MN State HS League Art Festival** 9 am-2 pm
- Apr 11 **Healthcare Provider CPR** 5:30 pm @ Perham EMS Training Center. Contact [doug.harthan@pmhh.com](mailto:doug.harthan@pmhh.com)
- Apr 12 **Open Mic Night** @ Cultural Center 7 pm
- Apr 14 **CSC New York Mills Kids Garage Sale** @ NYM Sports Center 9 am to Noon
- Apr 14-21 **7-12th Grade regional Art Show** @ Cultural Center  
**Reception** April 14th 10 am- 3 pm
- Apr 16 **Sit n Stitch** @ Cultural Center 6 pm
- Apr 17 **Game Day** @ Sr. Center 1:30 pm
- Apr 23 **Sit n Stitch** @ Cultural Center 6 pm
- Apr 28 **Brian miller Concert**-@ Cultural Center 7:30 pm MN Lumberjack Songs
- Apr 28-  
May 23 **Adult Regional Art Show** @ Cultural Center
- Apr 30 **Sit n Stitch** @ Cultural Center 6 pm