

# CITY OF NEW YORK MILLS

March/April 2013  
Volume 4 Issue 2



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## Changes to your City Newsletter



Many of you may be picking up this March edition of Hometown Happenings wondering why it is so small. This Newsletter was begun just a short few years ago, in 2010, with the idea that the City of New York Mills should be communicating with its citizenry as to what things are happening with their municipal government. However, it migrated to be much

more than that, becoming a forum for local events, businesses, and others to get their events and stories distributed to people living in and around New York Mills. Because its focus was on this community, people came to look forward to it as being something special, becoming almost akin to being a hometown newspaper instead of a City newsletter

As most of you know, there is now a hometown newspaper that began publishing in late January 2013, the New York Mills Dispatch, which is produced by Chad and Dani Koenen of Deer Creek. The City of New York Mills, like its citizens, is excited to welcome them in their new endeavor. Because of this,

we are stepping back to what our newsletter was originally planned to do, merely covering news about the municipal government and its various operations and departments. Let's all support the New York Mills Dispatch so that they can make a long term commitment to our community and continue to report on our local news. And remember to thank them when you see them at local events for starting up the new paper so that we could have our local coverage once again.

For information on subscribing to the New York Mills Dispatch, contact them at (218) 385-7720 or stop by their office at 106 Boardman Ave. North in New York Mills. Visit them on the web at [www.nymdispatch.com](http://www.nymdispatch.com).



### Do YOU Have What It Takes?

The New York Mills Fire Department has several openings for volunteer firefighters. For more information, contact Fire Chief Ryan Brasel at 218-385-2480 or call the City Office at 218-385-2213.

## Beware of Damage to Gas Meters!

The Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety staff urges pipeline operators, building managers and residents to be aware that accumulations of water, ice and snow can cause serious damage to gas facilities.

Property owners should take proactive measures to safeguard outside service regulators, meters and other facilities from allowing accumulation of water, ice and snow to build up. Exercise caution when removing snow because snow re-

moval equipment or falling ice can easily strike or damage gas facilities. Snow removed from driveways, walks, streets and parking lots should not be placed near a meter set, service regulator or other pipeline facility.

If you notice a leak, call the City office immediately at 218-385-2213. After hours calls are forwarded to the gas department person on call.

Contact the Minnesota Office of Pipeline at 651-201-

7230 for more information.



## Library News

Julie Adams, Library Director



Viking Library System library card holders now have access to over 100 popular magazine titles in digital format. Residents of the six-county region can sign up online with a Viking Library System library card to obtain an account and then immediately begin to download their favorite magazines. All magazines are in full color with all stories, pictures, charts and advertising included. Some of the titles including *National Geographic* are interactive and include videos and activities.

Digital magazines can be

read on any computer, tablet or smart phone including Kindles and all Apple products. Account set up requires Internet access, but downloaded magazines can be read offline at any time. Digital magazines provide easy portable access to many titles, and sometimes the only access to titles which no longer provide print editions.

The service includes simultaneous use, allowing an unlimited number of users to view the magazine at the same time. Every title can be kept as long as the user chooses; there are no due dates and no

fines. The magazines can simply be deleted when no longer needed.

“Digital magazines offered without charge through public libraries are a very new service,” according to VLS Director, Peg Werner. “We are pleased that our member libraries will have this service available to their customers.”

Online sign up for digital magazine access is available with a library card at [www.viking.lib.mn.us](http://www.viking.lib.mn.us). Click on “digital collection” and then on “Zinio”.



## City Reminds Residents to Remove Vehicles During Snow Removal

Although Spring is looming on the horizon, typically we see some significant snowfalls during the month of March. The City's Public Works department strives to clear snow and ice from city streets and parking lots as soon as

possible when it accumulates.

Please help them by removing your vehicles from city streets during snow removal. It is difficult to do a clean job and in a timely manner when vehicles are parked on the streets. Your

cooperation in removing them will speed up and simplify the process tremendously.

The Public Works Department would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping to make our city streets safe.



## NYM Fire Department News-



The NYM Fire Department is gearing up for another busy year in 2013. In 2012, the volunteer fire department responded to 198 fire and rescue calls which was another record breaking year. That is a huge number of calls for a volunteer fire department. If you live in New York Mills or the surrounding area, you can feel very fortunate. Reports show that the NYMFD's average response time to calls is 3 minutes, one of

the fastest in Otter Tail County. These figures were obtained from the Image Trend Fire Bridge software in 2012.

The Fire Department is also busy with continuing education of their members, which involves many hours of training. They recently hosted their annual meeting for the city and townships whom they serve.

The NYM Firefighter's Raffle is taking shape, with tickets going on sale some time later this month. Last year's raffle was a huge success with over 80 prizes being given away, including guns and other hunting equipment, a trolling motor, overnight vacations, framed prints, gift certificates and cash to name just a few. This year's raffle is sure to be

even better. Tickets will be \$5 each, available from any fire department member or the City office. The Fireman's Raffle is one of the department's main fundraisers, so you can show your support in this way and maybe even win a nice prize in return. Prizes will be awarded during this summer's Lund mania celebration on Friday, July 11th at Mills Liquors.

Another upcoming fundraiser is the Fire Department's annual Pancake Feed, which is set for Sunday, May 5th at the fire hall. Stop in between 8 am and noon and enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage, milk, juice and coffee, all for a free will offering. Proceeds go toward fire and rescue equipment, training and education.

Stop by their booth at this year's NYM Trade Show which is scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd.

There are currently 18 members on the NYM Fire Department, so there are positions available. If you are interested in being a firefighter, contact Fire Chief Ryan Brasel at 218-385-2480, or call the City office at 218-385-2213.

Please help to support our local heroes by attending one of their fundraising events, purchasing raffle tickets or donating in some other way. And if you see one of our fire department members on the street, thank them for their dedicated service and congratulate them on a job well done.



## Mayor's Corner

### Julie Gerber, Mayor

## City Mourns Loss of Councilman Bill Warner Jr.

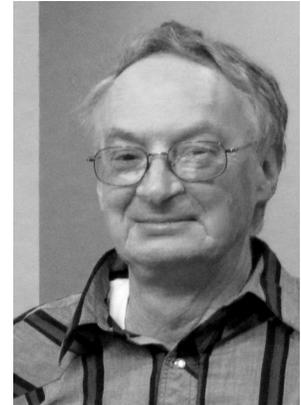
Hello All! It has been a quick 2 months since our last article and those months were not without some changes. As you remember, in January we lost our City Councilman Bill Warner very unexpectedly. Bill had served on the City Council for over 6 years, being just over half way through his second 4-year term. In addition to the City Council, he was involved in several other committees and organizations—the Regional

Cultural Center and NYM Lions Club to name a few. His business experience and overall involvement in the community was an asset to the council and the committees he served on. He will truly be missed. Our sympathies are with Connie and her family.

As a result of Bill's death, we had a vacancy to fill on the City Council. According to the League of Minnesota Cities, because there was less than half of the original term left when Bill passed away, we could appoint someone instead of needing a special election. There

were several people interested in filling that vacancy and after some discussion, we chose to appoint Josh Hoaby for the remainder of the term. Josh will sworn in at the March 12<sup>th</sup> council meeting and will be a great addition to our City Council. We are all looking forward to working with him.

Well, it looks like spring is just around the corner (hopefully!) We can look forward to the snow melting and finding all the stuff that was left behind. Lets all do our part to pick up winters leftovers and help keep New York Mills looking great!



## A Message from Our Chief of Police

### Jim Van Schaick

Crash data from 2012 is in and the deadliest days on Minnesota roads have been identified. February 20<sup>th</sup> 2012 was the deadliest day with 8 people killed on Minnesota roadways. 4 of those people died in a single crash near Alexandria on Interstate 94. In 2012 there were 16 more highway fatalities than there were in 2011. Here is

an excerpt from a press release dated February 19, 2013 from the Department of Public Safety: To underscore how traffic crashes remain a serious — and constant — issue on Minnesota roads, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety compiled the list of the deadliest days of 2012.

According to preliminary fatal crash reports, there have been 384 traffic deaths in 2012, up from 368 in 2011. Last year was the second time since 1944 the state has recorded fewer

than 400 deaths.  
2012 Deadliest Day

- Feb. 20 — 8
- May 30 — 6
- Nov. 6 — 6
- March 3 — 5
- June 23 — 5
- Dec. 27 — 5
- Days with four deaths — Feb. 10; July 26; Aug. 17; Sept. 1, 6, 11, 14, 16; Oct. 14; Dec. 14. The longest streak of days in which there was at least one road death was 16 days (July 20–August 4), while the longest streak of days in which there were zero deaths was only four days (occurred Jan. 15–18; Feb. 5–8 and June 10–13). There

were 136 days with zero traffic deaths.

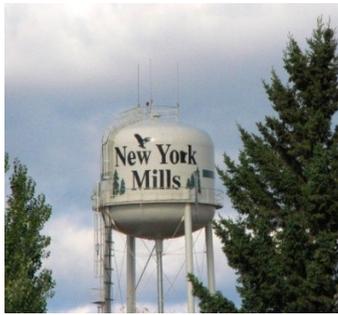
“It’s critical that we all take the task of driving seriously and focus on the drive so we can create more zero death days for the future and avoid these preventable tragedies,” says Donna Berger, DPS director of the Office of Traffic Safety.

Berger says most crashes are caused by driver error and can be prevented by buckling up, driving at safe speeds, paying attention and planning ahead for a sober ride to avoid driving impaired.

In the past 20 years, there have been eight days with 10 or more deaths.

# 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: cherinymcity@arvig.net

**CAN'T MAKE IT INTO  
PAY YOUR BILL DUR-  
ING 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)**

**facebook** Visit our Facebook Pages:  
Nymills Minnesota  
New York Mills Public Library  
Mills Liquors  
City of New York Mills

**Hours**

City Office: Phone 385-2213  
Monday –Friday: 8 am—5 pm

NYM Public Library: Phone 385-2436  
Mondays..... 10 am-6 pm  
Tuesdays.....10 am-6 pm  
Wednesdays.....10 am-7 pm  
Thursdays.....10 am-7 pm  
Fridays.....10 am-5 pm  
Saturdays.....10 am-2 pm

Mills Liquors: Phone 385-2004  
**On Sale:**  
Weekdays.....9 am-12 midnight  
Saturdays.....9 am-1 am  
**Off Sale:**  
Monday-Saturdays... .9 am-10 pm

Legried Community Pool: Phone 385-3200  
**Summer Hours:**  
Monday-Fridays.....1-5 pm Open Swim  
6-6:30 pm Family Swim  
6:30-8 pm Open Swim  
Saturdays.....1-5 pm  
Closed Sundays

**City Council**

Mayor:  
Julie Gerber juliegerber70@gmail.com

Council Members:  
Marsha Maki marshamaki@gmail.com  
Jason Schik jason.schik@gmail.com  
Betsy Roder betsy@kulcher.org  
Josh Hoaby nymhoaby@gmail.com

*Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in the Council Chambers of the City Hall at 4:30 pm. Public Forum begins at 5 pm*

**City Staff**

City Clerk:  
Darla Berry darlanymcity@arvig.net Phone 385-2213

Public Works Director:  
Roger Salo nymrsgas@gmail.com Phone 385-4505

Librarian:  
Julie Adams jadams@newyorkmills.lib.mn.us Phone 385-2436

Liquor Store Manager:  
Kim Hoban millsliquors@arvig.net Phone 385-2004

Chief of Police:  
Jim Van Schaick police.nym@gmail.com Phone 385-2600

Pool Director:  
Heidi Van Dyke Phone 385-3200

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