

CITY OF NEW YORK MILLS

March/April 2014
Volume 5 Issue 2



Frigid Winter Temperatures Wreak Havoc on Area Water & Sewer Lines

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It is no secret that this winter has been one of the coldest in many years. The frigid temperatures and continuous cold spells have been causing water line freeze-ups not only in New York Mills, but many communities in Minnesota.

In New York Mills, the City has had reports of six residences and four businesses with either frozen water or sewer lines, many of which have not had problems in the past. Residents and businesses are being asked to check their water temperature with a thermometer. If the temperature coming

from your faucet is below 40 degrees you should leave one faucet run constantly with a pencil sized stream of water. This will help alleviate freezing problems. There have been an increasing number of calls reporting water temperatures in town of 35-36 degrees. If you start running your water, please contact the city office at 385-2213. An adjustment will be made to your water bill to accommodate this water usage. The water will need to run until the frost comes out of the ground, presumably some time in April. If it warms up for a spell, don't stop running the water as the frost often goes deeper into the ground before it thaws out. There are several areas in town where the frost line is at or near the depth of sewer

lines. Running water will also help to avoid sewer freeze ups and avoid potentially having a sewer back up into your home.

This preventative measure may save homeowners thousands of dollars if the freeze up occurs in the service lines. Homeowners are responsible for the cost of thawing and repairing their own service lines, and with the high volume of freeze-ups occurring, there may be a waiting period to get help from area service companies. The Public Works Department can attempt to jet the lines, but have been unsuccessful in most cases.

New York Mills has been fortunate in that there have been no water mains freezing yet, which could potentially affect whole areas, as has happened in other communities.

Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday March 9th

REMEMBER? Set Your Clocks Ahead Saturday

2014 Trade Show Set for March 29th



Preparations are underway

for the 2014 New York Mills Trade Show set for Saturday, March 29th. 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. Concessions will be offered throughout the day. A Book Fair will be held with proceeds going to the School Media

Housing Study to be Done in NYM



The City of New York Mills along with the City of Perham have joined together to commission a Housing Study for our communities. This study will be conducted by Community Partners Research, Inc., of Lake Elmo, MN. A grant of \$10,000 was received from Minnesota Housing Partnership to help pay for the cost of the study. A remaining fee of \$9,000 for the Study will be shared by both com-

munities, with \$3,600 to be paid for by the City of New York Mills.

The study will help our community to attract builders, developers and investors to create more housing in New York Mills. We expect that the study will provide information showing what types of housing are in demand. For instance, perhaps single family moderately priced homes are needed, or instead multi-family rental units are in order. The study will create an inventory of what is available now and what additional housing stock is needed based on the demand and local job market. For some time, local employers have reported some difficulty in attract-

ing workers and filling job vacancies. Many vacancies are reportedly being filled by workers who commute to New York Mills daily rather than establishing a residence in town. It may be that those commuting have been unable to locate any suitable housing at prices or rents that they can afford. This study will help us determine what the needs are and it will give those investing in more housing the evidence to convince them that a new housing project will be in demand and financially successful.

The study is expected to begin within the next 30 days or so, and could continue for anywhere from 2 to 4 months. The consultants will be conducting

interviews with community leaders, bankers, realtors, elected officials, rental property owners, developers, and others to help ascertain the needs for housing in our area. If you are approached during this process, we hope that you will share your knowledge, insights, and thoughts about the availability and need for housing here in New York Mills.



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 30, 2014, 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 Mahube-Otwa Energy Assistance program at 218-847-1385.

Library News

Julie Adams, Library Director

With Spring coming closer, some of you may be getting the "itch" to do some spring cleaning. When you are sorting through your bookshelves, consider making a donation to the New York Mills Public Library. Materials that are donated will be added to the Library's collection or sold at the Annual Used Book Sale as determined by staff. We gladly accept donations of books, dvds, cds and magazines that are less than one year old. They cannot accept items that are damaged, including damage from

mildew, have notes or underlining in them, or torn or missing pages. They also cannot accept "stripped books", meaning those with the covers removed, textbooks or encyclopedia sets, Reader's Digest condensed books, VHS or audio cassettes and magazines older than one year.

If you would like to help out in other ways, the Library greatly appreciates your cash donations! These donations are used to help purchase materials, supplies, furnishings and equipment. Monetary gifts can be given in memory

of a loved one. A book plate will list the donor and the person in whose honor the gift has been made.

Finally, the gift of your time as a volunteer is invaluable, whether it be helping library staff, joining Friends of the Library or helping with fundraising projects.

We are proud of our Library and the valuable patrons who help support it.

For more information, or to donate large amounts of materials, please call 385-2436. All

donations and gifts are tax deductible. Thank you for your continued support of the New York Mills Public Library!



New York Mills Public Library
30 Main Ave N
PO Box 279
New York Mills MN 56567
(218) 385-2436



Mayor's Corner

Julie Gerber, Mayor

Even though Daylight Savings time will make us "spring" ahead real soon, it looks like our snow banks and frozen ground unfortunately are not going to go away very quickly this year. But they will go away! Soon we will have green grass, blooming flowers, leaves on the trees and warmth to remind us of why we live here and put up with the cold.

Once all of this snow does melt, we will be see more work that needs to be done. It will uncover all kinds of treasures in our yards, parks and streets. And not always good ones either. With potholes and uneven pavement and sidewalks some of our streets need some help. Hopefully our proposed 2015 street project can eliminate some of the problem areas.

If you recall, we held a

public hearing in February to look at the entire project and possible costs. Although it seems early to start this, we do need to move forward to have our applications ready for any possible available funding. This project would entail, in phases, the streets of North Main, North Tousley, a section of East Gilman, East Nowell, Cornwell, as well as the alleys through downtown. The proposed project includes upgrades to the sanitary sewer and service lines, watermain and service lines, storm sewer and drainage, as well as the streets and sidewalks depending on the needs of each street.

The proposed costs for the entire project is over 3 million dollars. Once we hear about the probability of funding opportunities this fall, we can then decide to proceed with the entire project or scale it back into smaller ones or hold off on it entirely. The main portion of

the project costs are the street and surface improvements that were proposed at just under 2 million dollars. The remainder gives about one half million to each sanitary sewer and water portions and about \$100,000 each for storm sewer and possible Main Avenue beautification. Of these costs, just over one half of the total is assessable to benefited properties. 75 percent of the standard sewer and water main costs as well as street costs would be assessed to those properties. 100 percent of the storm sewer and streetscape improvements will be paid by the city. Also, 100 percent of the downtown alleys will be included in the city's share with the exception of any direct service lines. Those will be paid for by the property owner just like on any other street. The city's share also includes 100 percent of the sidewalk costs similar to previous projects. This will be a major project once/if we get it started,

it will require everyone's patience and common sense.

We are very fortunate to be in good shape financially to be able to think about projects like this and improve our infrastructure. Mills has done a great job with this in years past—there are not too many 60-70 year old pipes left in town. Thank you to former councils as well as former and current city employees for having the insight and looking to the future. Make it a great day!

~ The future belongs to those who prepare for it today ~
Malcom X

Trade Show Continued From Page 1

Center.

Entertainment will include a ballet recital, pine wood derby contest by the cub scouts, Tae Kwon Do performance, and a model house that shows the effects of smoke during a fire brought to you by the New York Mills

Fire Department. The always popular petting zoo will again be offered, sponsored by the New York Mills FFA Chapter.

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 Nick Roder at 385-2300.

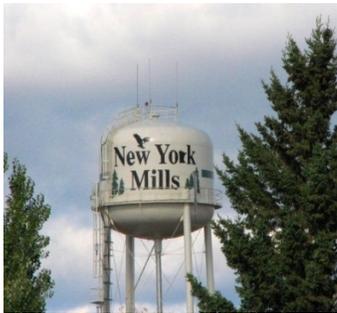
Admission to the Trade Show is free with a donation of a non-perishable food item to the

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!

CITY OF New York Mills

M I N N E S O T A



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City of New York Mills

City Council

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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

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
Friday - Saturdays.....9 am-1 am
Off Sale:
Monday—Saturday.....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 Staff

City Clerk:
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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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