

CITY OF NEW YORK MILLS

May/June 2013
Volume 4 Issue 3



Inside this issue:

City Wide Clean Up Day	2
Public Works Update	2
Library News	3
Water Rates Changing	3
Snowfall Records	4
Severe Weather Reminder	4
Fire Dept Pancake Feed	4
Mayor's Corner	5
Community Pool News	5
City Directory	6

NYM Fire Department Pancake Feed May 5th



The New York Mills Fire Department will be hosting its Annual Pancake Feed on Sunday, May 5th in the New York Mills Fire Hall. Pancakes, sausage, milk, juice and coffee will be served from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Proceeds for this important fundraiser go toward the purchase and main-

tenance of fire and rescue equipment, training and education. The cost is a free will offering.

Also available at the Pancake Feed are raffle tickets for the NYM Firefighter's Raffle, sponsored by the NYM Fire Department Relief Association. For a \$5.00 donation you will have a chance to win over 80 prizes including a Browning X-Bolt .280 rifle, Winchester SXP 12 gauge 3.5" pump with camo stock, Ruger American 30-06 with synthetic stock, Marlin XS7C .308 with Camo stock, trolling motor, BBQ grill, 1 night stay and 4 waterpark passes

at the Holiday Inn in Brainerd, spring guided turkey hunt, and a John Deere pedal tractor, just to name a few. As always there are many cash prizes on the list as well. A complete list of prizes is available upon request. Drawing for prizes will be held at the Fire Hall on Friday, July 12th at approximately 8:00 p.m. during the NYM Summer celebration. Winners need not be present.

Please help support our local heroes by attending this annual event and purchasing raffle tickets...and when you see one of our firefighters on the street, be sure to thank them for their service

New Apartment Complex Coming to NYM

On Friday April 19 the City's EDA closed on the sale of a multifamily lot to the Roach Development group in the Country View development. The buyers are the same group that built and operate the existing Country View Townhomes. The plans are to build another rental property to include four buildings with four units in each. There will be eight two-bedroom units and eight three-bedroom units.

With the improvement in the local economy in the last few years, this development will

provide some much needed rental housing for people looking to live in town. We have heard from many people and businesses that they have a hard time finding rental vacancies in this area. Meanwhile, employment opportunities in New York Mills have grown a good deal over the last couple of years. According to some local employers, many employees are commuting from other areas as they cannot find affordable rental housing locally. This new development should improve

that situation.

Matt Roach indicated that the group will start the construction project later this summer, likely in August. They plan to have the project substantially completed by June of 2014.



L-R: City Attorney Dennis Happel, Mayor Julie Gerber, Terry Roach, Matt Roach, Larry Hodgson, EDA President.



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.

City Wide Clean Up Day Postponed



With the delay of Spring this year, the biannual Spring Clean Up Day will not be held in May. Tentative plans are to hold this pick up on August 26th, although that date is subject to change. The City will post in-

formation as it arises.

The Spring Clean Up Day is a great way for residents to get rid of unwanted items without having to find transportation to the East Otter Tail Landfill. This service is offered to residents as a courtesy. While the City does not charge for hauling items away, they do pass

on the charge assessed by the landfill for items at the same rate they are charged.

Another popular service is the annual County Hazardous Waste Pickup Day, which is scheduled for September 10th this year at the City Garage. More information on that event will be posted in a future newsletter.

Public Works Update Roger Salo, Public Works Director



2013's winter sure has dragged on, but spring/summer is almost here! Therefore the construction season is also here. Remember to call gopher state one call if you plan on digging. Mark the digging area with white stakes or paint. Contact GSOC 2 business days before digging. In this area call 1-800-252-1166 or 811. If you hire a contractor to dig, they are responsible for calling GSOC. Hand dig carefully within 2 feet of ei-

ther side of utility markings. Report all damages to the proper utility. The website is www.gopherstateonecall.org.

The City of New York Mills does not maintain the buried gas piping downstream of your meter. If you, as a homeowner, have buried gas piping, it needs to be maintained as it is subject to the potential hazards of corrosion and leakage. Buried gas piping should be: Inspected for leaks as frequently as needed, but at intervals not exceeding 5 years. Periodically inspected for corrosion if the piping is metallic. Repaired if any unsafe condition is discovered. When excavating near buried gas piping, the piping should be lo-

cated in advance and the excavation done by hand. If needed, the City will assist in locating the buried piping. Plumbers and heating contractors can assist in locating, inspecting, and repairing buried piping. If the city can be of further assistance call 218-385-2213.

Remember that natural gas has a 'rotten egg' type odor. It is lighter than air. Gas is very safe if handled with caution and respect.

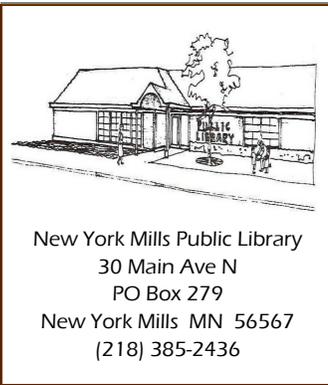
We just made it through another winter season and as we read the meters we noticed that lots of meters were buried in ice and snow. We have reminded the public in the past of the dangers of buried meters. As a reminder, if the vents are plugged, the regulator

might not work properly which may cause a fluctuation in gas pressure. Therefore when next year's snows fall, we hope you remember to check the meters and vents at your place!

We had some pot holes patched and cracks sealed in 2012. The city plans on sand sealing certain streets in town this summer. It remains to be seen when and where.

The park board is planning on starting a new park at the Country View Estates area. There will be a small playground constructed. The City of New York Mills has numerous, and very affordable residential lots available in the area where the new park is planned. Call 218-385-2213 for details!

I hope all of us have a safe and fun spring/summer.



Library News

Julie Adams, Library Director

Upcoming activities at the New York Mills Public Library during May and June include:

Preschool Story Time

Friday, May 24, 10:30 am,
theme – flowers/gardens

Friday, June 21, 10:30 am,
theme – farms

Join us for fun stories, crafts

and activities! Pre-registration is required, please stop by or call 385-2436. Limited to 10 preschoolers. Parents are encouraged to stay for story time.

Chess anyone?

Saturday mornings in May. Two chess sets were recently donated to the Library. One will be available for check-out and one will be for in Library use only and can be used anytime we are open. As a special kick-off to highlight the recently donated chess sets, we will be promoting chess

games on Saturday mornings during the month of May. The Okee Dokee Brothers Wednesday, June 26, 3 pm, City Hall Ballroom.

Grammy-award winning, yes – you read that right – GRAMMY-AWARD WINNING – musicians Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing will combine witty lyrics, off-the-wall humor, and a unique folk style in their high-energy concert for all ages. This event is free and open to the public and sponsored by the Library, Viking Library System, and funded with money

from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Stop by the Library for more details!

Watch for details of our upcoming “Dig into Reading” Summer Reading Program in the Summer Rec brochure. We will have story hour, the summer reading challenge, and a movie day!

The Library will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance on Memorial Day.

Please make sure to follow the Library on Facebook to receive updates on Library activities. Search for “New York Mills Public Library”.

Water Rate Changes Are Coming

Darla Berry, City Clerk

In a previous edition of Hometown Happenings (March 2011), I wrote an article about our water rates and change that was imminent in our pricing structure being dictated by State Statutes, section 103G.291, as amended in 2008. Basically, the statute requires that public water suppliers serving more than 1,000 people must adopt a water rate structure that encourages conservation. At that time, the deadline for compliance was January 1, 2013. In the spring of 2012 the statute was amended and the compliance date was pushed back to January 1 of 2015. Conservation rate structures mean that higher usage will have a higher rate per thousand than lower usage. Currently, our rate structure has the opposite pricing strategy, with lower rates applying with higher volumes of water use.

In January of this year, the City Council approved a basic methodology for chang-

ing our rate structure to comply with the conservation rate requirements. Our new rate structure will feature rates that increase with higher volumes of use. In setting up this structure, we recognize that different users have different needs when it comes to water usage. Our new rate structure will recognize these differences with new rate classes depending on the type of customer. For instance, single family homes/residential will have its own rate class with rates and usages set to reflect typical demands. Businesses will be slotted into rate categories based on historical demand with other businesses with similar demands.

We plan to adopt rate categories to include:
Single Family Residential
Multi Family Residential/
Rental
Small Commercial/Retail
Medium Commercial/Retail
Large Commercial/Retail
Medium Industrial
Large Industrial

For each of the above classes, there will continue to be a monthly base fee that applies before any usage charges. Then the usage price will include a first tier rate that is applied to a certain level of water use, and if water use exceeds that threshold then a higher rate will apply. This will be designed to encourage the account holder to make efforts to keep water use within the amount set for the lowest rate, by adopting practices that save water. For many customers, such efforts could include installing low water use toilets, water conserving shower spigots, using shop vacuums or brooms to clean up the driveway or patio areas rather than a hose, ensuring that a dishwasher has a full load of dishes before running it, as well as many other water conserving practices.

We will be establishing water usage levels that correspond to typical usage for the various classes of customers. For instance, a nursing home

that has multiple residents will have a much higher water demand than a typical office building of a similar size. When we adopt this new rate schedule, we hope to structure them in a way that keeps the total billed amounts in line with your previous billings. We anticipate there will be some glitches as we have more than 550 accounts. We ask for your cooperation and patience during this transition period as we try to resolve any unanticipated problems that may arise. We are hoping to adopt the new rate structure later during 2013 or early in 2014.





Mayor's Corner

Julie Gerber, Mayor

Yippee!! Spring is finally here! We all can start those projects that have been waiting for us, exercise, or just have fun playing outside. So much outdoor activity requires extra diligence on all of our parts. Everyone needs to be reminded to be safe when traveling through town whether that means following the posted speed limits or just keeping that extra eye out for children and pedestrians.

As long as we are on the subject of safety...The New York Mills Police Department has been getting a lot of attention lately. The latest being the increase in the amount of traffic tickets that have been issued so far this year compared to last year. First and foremost, we must consider safety—that is the Police Departments main objective. Unfortunately, that means stopping those that are speeding, without seatbelts, etc. Now, thanks to the suggestion made by the late Bill Warner, we have speed limit ahead signs installed on the roads

coming into town as a reminder. It is a fact that the faster a car goes, the longer it takes to stop. Let's not wait for an accident to remind us to slow down. That accident might involve you, me, or a child on a bike. I don't think any of us want to think of that happening. There will be a lot of us sharing the streets, let's all be safe!

One other item I would like to touch on is the new Caseys gas station. We have been hearing alot of discussion about the curb that was installed along Miller Street. No, the City of New York Mills did not re-

quire that to be installed. In speaking with the project manager, Dave Kuchinski, he mentioned several reasons for the curb. The main reason was to develop a traffic pattern for both vehicle and pedestrian safety given the close proximity to the intersection. Another reason was to have a flow line to control the water runoff. These are very valid reasons to have that curb in place. It has been said it takes 21 days to form a habit. Be patient, we will get used to it.

Let's all get outside and start enjoying the best part of living in Minnesota! Spring!

Community Pool News

Heidi Van Dyke, Pool Manager

Spring has been slow to come this year, but soon the summer days will be among us! It's getting to be that time of year for getting signed up and registered for all the summer events and opportunities. For the Legried Community Pool's 2013 season we will be offering three sessions of swimming lessons.

Our first session will be **June 17th-28th**, the second session will be **July 8th-19th**, and the third session will be held **July 29th-August 9th**. Our lessons are run in the morning hours and are all Red Cross certified. We offer classes for the

Parent/Child and Levels 1-6. In addition, we offer private swimming lessons, a lifeguarding class, and aqua aerobics (upon sufficient demand).

Lesson fees will remain the same as 2012 and are as follows: One Child-\$25, 2 Children \$45, 3 Children \$60 and 4 Children \$70. Private lessons are available at the pool at a cost of \$15 per half hour lesson or 5 lessons for \$70.00. Choose from lesson times of late morning, early afternoon or evening. These classes, as well as Lifeguarding Classes and Aqua Aerobics are held upon sufficient demand. Call the Pool

for more information.

Season Passes are available at Farmers & Merchants State Bank in New York Mills. A season pass for individuals will again be \$50 and for a family pass will cost \$125.

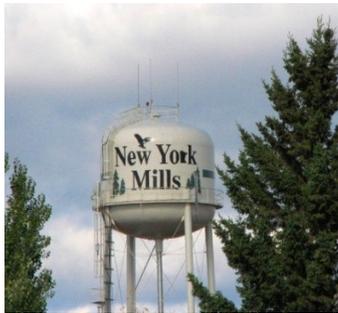
If you are interested in what we have to offer please send in your registration. If you have any questions, contact the NYM City Office (prior to June 4th) at 385-2213 or Heidi Van Dyke at the pool 385-3200 (after June 4th).

We look forward to another fun-filled summer in the sun and staying cool at the pool!



CITY OF New York Mills

M I N N E S O T A



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**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

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 (Mon-Thurs).....9 am-12 midnight
Fridays and 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 betsyroder25@gmail.com
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

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Liquor Store Manager:
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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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