

CITY OF NEW YORK MILLS

November 2011

Volume 2 Issue 6

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District #553 to Hold Referendum November 8th



On Tuesday, November 8, 2011 residents of the New York Mills Public School district will have the opportunity to vote on a state equalized levy that will help our district in "Preparing Students for Life." The school board has

proposed to increase its revenue by \$75 per pupil for technology improvements.

How much money will this generate for technology?

This amount will generate about \$50,000 per year over the four years the levy will be in place.

What does "State Equalized Levy" mean?

Equalized means that 50% of the revenue will come from the state and 50% will come from local taxpayers. This "dollar for dollar" match means the state will match every local tax dollar raised by the levy. Of the ap-

proximate \$50,000 for technology, \$25,000 will come from the state and \$25,000 will come from the local levy.

Who will pay for this levy?

Owners of homes, businesses, and properties in the New York Mills Public School District will pay for this levy. Seasonal recreational property (cabins, hunting land) would **not** pay for this levy. Farmers will pay only on their house, garage, and one acre of land. Farmers **do not** pay on their entire acreage of agricultural land and buildings.

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Annual Christmas Tree Festival Is Almost Here!

The 14th Annual Christmas Tree Festival is almost here! This popular event sponsored by the New York Mills Civic & Commerce Association will run from Friday, November 25th through Saturday, December 3rd and is held in the New York Mills City Hall Ballroom.

The Festival begins with the Kick-Off on Friday, November 25th beginning at 5 pm which includes cookie decorating for kids sponsored by the Bake Shoppe. Voting begins on the many Christmas displays on this date as well, with trees, wreaths and more filling the city hall ballroom.

Many of the Christmas displays are donated each year to the Santa Anonymous Silent Auction which is

held on the final evening of the event. This is an important source of funds for Santa Anonymous. Viewing and voting of the displays continues throughout the festival.

Aside from enjoying the beautiful displays, a full slate of events is set for the ballroom,

A Community Nativity Program is the highlight for Sunday, November 27th, featuring performances and a sing along with the NYM High School Choir, and Drama Club beginning at 2 pm.

The Trinity Bell Choir will perform Christmas selections on Monday, November 28th at 6:30 pm.

New this year, the NYM Jazz Band will entertain visitors from 6:30-7:30 pm. on Tuesday

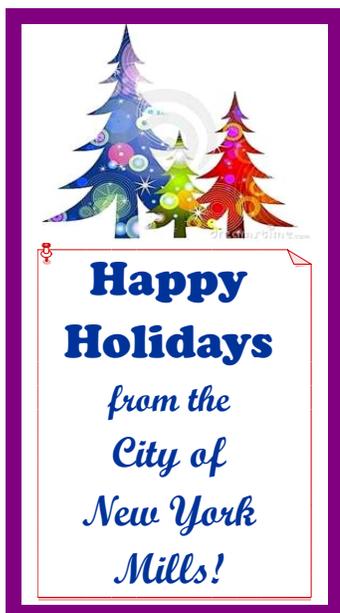


November 29th.

Wednesday, November 30th is Senior Day, sponsored by New Horizons. A Senior Holiday Luncheon and program will be held from 1-3 pm.

The New York Mills Regional Cultural Center will hold its Wine Tasting Event and Silent Auction Fundraiser at 6 pm on Thursday, December 1st in the Ballroom.

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New Horizons Annual Silent Auction Set for November 10th



This year's annual New Horizon's Silent Auction is scheduled for Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 pm at the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center. This event, benefits the New York Mills Public Library as well as other community pro-

jects. Bidding for the auction will begin at 7:00 pm and will conclude at 8:30 pm. Door prizes, dessert, wine, cider and coffee await those who attend aside from the auction items. Each year, a wide variety of items are donated including jewelry, quilted projects, gift baskets, art objects, wine and much more.

Anyone interested in donating for the Silent Auction may drop items off at the NYM Public Library at any time. Please mark them "New Horizons Auction:". Items may also be dropped off at the Regional Cul-

tural Center from 6-7 pm on the night of the auction or call Connie Warner at 385-2900 (work), 385-3669 (Home) or Sharon Imsande at 385-2719.

Proceeds from the Auction go in part to the local library and the balance is used to fund a local need or cause. Examples from the past have been contributing to the Food Shelf, Swimming Pool, City and School playground projects, and Share House.

Come out for an evening of fun, and support a worthy cause at the same time!

NEW YORK MILLS COMMUNITY CARNIVAL Comes to Town November 18th!

"Step Right Up, Come One Come All, to the area's greatest new attraction, the New York Mills Community Carnival!" Mark your calendars for **Friday, November 18th from 4-7 pm** in the NYM Sports Center and Commons.

2011 marks the maiden voyage of this newly organized event, put together by the Community Supporting Classrooms (CSC) Committee, a group consisting of parents, teachers and administrators working together. The overall goal of CSC is to help provide NYM's elementary classrooms with some of the educational tools that just aren't able to be in their budgets every year. Each year there will be a different theme to work towards, and this year the theme is "Classroom Enhancements." Some ideas to work toward that have been suggested have been field trips, interactive overhead projectors, bringing in speakers to the classes, digital cameras, ipads, books and more.

This year's carnival will include a dinner in the commons, and of course, games! Carnival-goers can enjoy over 20 games ranging from the Baseball Toss, Pirates Den, and Princess Parlor, to Wacky Hair, a Photo Booth, and more! A silent auction will be held in the Commons as

well. Items for the Silent Auction are being donated by local businesses and individuals. "One of the neat things," stated Amy Wallgren, one of the event's organizers, "is that each elementary classroom will be doing a themed basket that will be up for sale, so the kids are really going to be invested in this project as well".

Who is invited to attend? "Anyone! Everyone!" Wallgren exclaimed. "We are hoping that everyone in the community will attend. We really want to emphasize the COMMUNITY aspect of it. We want everyone to be involved—it takes the whole community to make something really successful. The kids can play games (all ages of children can come and participate in the games, which are geared toward preschool through junior high), families can eat, grandparents can come for supper, anyone can vote on the silent auction, teachers will be working, businesses can contribute...it will be a great evening for everyone!"

Making the carnival affordable for everyone was a main goal. At the carnival, tickets will be 25 cents each, (25/\$5). Presale tickets were available at school conferences in October for 20 cents each. Almost all of the games will cost between 2

and 6 tickets to play.

All proceeds after expenses will go to the school. The CSC is very thankful to the NYM Lions Club for giving a generous donation toward start up costs for the carnival.

We welcome anyone who may be interested in joining us at any time. If you are interested in helping by offering your time, your ideas, auction items or monetary gifts, contact Amy Sobieski at 385-2003.

"NYM has always had a long tradition of supporting our schools and this is another activity that allows us to bring kids, parents, community and the school together for not only a night of fun, but also to build relationships and be part of the same team in raising our children. Whether you are a parent, a grandparent, an NYM alumni, a business owner, or a community member with no other tie to the school we want to emphasize and show how important our school is to our community!"

The NYM High School Fall Musical will also be held that same night in the James W. Mann Auditorium, beginning at 7:30 pm. Come for an evening of great musical entertainment, food and colossal fun!



First Aid/CPR/AED and Healthcare Provider CPR Classes to be Held

Perham Area EMS will be hold a First Aid, CPR, AED course on November 9, 2011 at 5:30 at the Perham Ambulance station.

The Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED course provides first responders with training in basic first aid and CPR AED procedures -- including the first aid skills recommended by OSHA -- in a format that can be delivered in a single day. The course covers: First Aid Basics, Medical Emergencies, Injury Emergencies, Environmental Emergencies, Adult CPR AED, Adult Choking, Child CPR AED, Infant CPR, Child and Infant Choking

On December 6, 2011 they will be holding a Healthcare Provider CPR course at 6:30 pm at the Perham Ambulance station.

The BLS (Basic Life Support) for Healthcare Providers course is designed to provide a wide variety of certified or non-certified, licensed or non-licensed, healthcare professionals with the skills to keep people alive until they can be brought to a hospital or be treated with more advanced lifesaving measures. In addition, BLS training can be appropriate for first responders, such as police officers and firefighters, as well as for laypeople whose work brings them into contact with members of the public, such as school, fitness center, or hotel and restaurant employees. Students must pass a written exam and skills test in order to qualify for a BLS for Healthcare Provider Course Completion Card.

The BLS course covers:

- adult and pediatric CPR
- two-rescuer scenarios and use of the bag-valve mask
- foreign-body airway obstruction (conscious and unconscious)
- automated external defibrillation (includes child AED update)
- special resuscitation situations
- other cardiopulmonary emergencies
- stroke and cardiac arrest

Cost for the Heartsaver First Aid/CPR/AED course on November 9th is \$55. Cost for the BLS for Healthcare Provider Class is \$45. Both classes are held at the Perham Area EMS Training Room located at 525 west main, Perham. To register contact Doug Harthan at doug.harthan@pmhh.com or call 218-346-4485.



Truth in Taxation Hearing Set for 2012 Proposed Levy

The City of New York Mills will hold its annual Truth in Taxation meeting at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2011. The purpose of the meeting is to hear comments from the general public. The final 2012 levy will be set at or after the December 13 meeting. In September the Council passed a preliminary levy of

\$426,000, which represents an increase of 12.4% or \$47,000 over the 2011 levy of \$379,000. The increase includes an additional \$3,000 for statutory bond payments and \$44,000 to cover the loss of the State's Local Government Aid (LGA). In 2011, the City absorbed a loss of LGA of \$44,517, and will lose this same

amount of LGA in 2012. The final 2012 levy cannot be higher than the preliminary levy of \$426,000, but it could be lower. The Council is continuing to review the proposed 2012 budget. A final 2012 budget must be adopted and the final 2012 levy set on or before December 28th.

City Lowers Rates for Natural Gas

Some of you may have noticed some lower gas bills in October. In September 2011, the City Council voted to lower each usage rate class by \$0.50, which is a reduction of about 5%. The City is part of a consortium of 7 cities in northwestern Minnesota that group together to manage their natural gas supplies. Some of our estimated annual volume is closely managed by Constellation New

Energy, as they buy and sell gas according to the groups needs. Because each City has to contract its gas purchases based on estimated need, the group can manage any shortfalls or excess volume by buying and selling between the member cities as demand fluctuates. The City of New York Mills sometimes contracts part of its natural gas purchases at a fixed price over a twelve month

period. Some of its gas is purchased on the open market at spot prices. Contracts are locked in whenever pricing seems favorable. We try to keep gas rates as stable as possible for our customers. Recent increases in demand have helped identify this opportunity to lower gas rates as more volume helps us keep our margin as low as possible.



Silent Auction for RCC to be Held December 1

The annual Holiday Silent Auction Fundraiser for the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center will be held on Thursday, December 1, at 6:00 p.m. in conjunction with a wine tasting event at the City Hall Ballroom during the Community Christmas Tree Festival.

A wide array of gifts, holiday items and original art will be available for bidding during the event. This silent auction

fundraiser is one of two very important revenue producers for the Center which helps cover general operating expenses throughout the year. A very generous match of up to \$2,500 is donated by Farmers and Merchants State Bank.

If you would like to donate an item to the silent auction please contact the Center at 385-3339 or email lynn@kulcher.org.



Make A Difference to a Child with Santa Anonymous

Are you looking for a meaningful way to celebrate Christmas this year? Santa Anonymous has a great idea for you!!

Why not make this a special Christmas for your family by choosing to **adopt a family** for your gift giving? Santa Anonymous has made Christmas brighter for over 160 children in the past years and what a way to help kids and Santa Anonymous!! All you have to do is get a family from our volunteers, choose gifts (there are suggestions and sizes), wrap them and bring them to our drop off location. The need is great and your help is greatly appreciated. To **adopt a family**, please call 218-640-5100. All details will be given

and kept confidential.

This is the 28th year of the Santa Anonymous program in the NYM area and will begin with donation boxes being placed in these locations on **Monday, Nov. 21**: Cenex C-store, Credit Union, Dean's Country Market, Seip Drug, Hardware Hank, Mills Lanes, NYM Public Library, F and M Bank and the NYM Post Office. Various churches may also have collection boxes.

New gifts for children from infancy to 18 yrs of age are needed, especially teenagers. Monetary donations may be sent to Kay Tougas at 111 N. Broadway in New York Mills or deposited directly into

the SA account at F and M Bank.

Gifts will be collected from the boxes on **Friday, December 16th** and wrapped on **Monday, December 19th** at the county office building. Shifts are from 9 to 12 noon and 3:30 to 6 p.m. or until finished. Please call the above mentioned number if you would be willing to help wrap or deliver gifts. It takes a lot of people to make this project successful and we thank you in advance for your generosity and support once again.



The New York Mills Drama Troop will present its fall musical entitled

THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE by Richard Morris, Dick Scanlan and Jeanine Tesori at the James W. Mann Performing Arts Center. Two evening performances are planned, with the students making their debut on Friday, November 18th at 7:30 pm. and again on Saturday the 19th, at 7:30pm. A final

afternoon performance will be held on Sunday, November 20th, 2011 at 2:00pm.

Tickets for designated seating will be available at the New York Mills District Office beginning November 7, 2011. You may also purchase tickets at the box office window on the night of the performance, but seating is limited to 520 so please purchase tickets in advance to make sure you have a seat and that any groups are able to sit together.

Taking place in New York City in 1922, **THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE** tells the story of young Millie Dillmount, who has just moved to the city in search of a new life for herself. It's a New York full of intrigue and jazz - a time when women were entering the workforce and the rules of love and social behavior were changing forever.

NYM Drama Troop Presents "Thoroughly Modern Millie"

The New York Mills Drama Troop is made up of about 40 students from grades 7-12 and is directed by Rebecca Clarksean and Carri Ann Pollard.

Each year, the group continues to impress play-goers with their talent and enthusiasm. Clarksean complimented the students on their efforts. "I am incredibly proud of the students who have been working diligently this year learning the tough choreography and vocal jazz style of singing as well as digging in and demonstrating leadership skills in set construction and prop acquisition for the show."

The opening performance will be held on the same evening as the NYM Community Carnival. Come for the Carnival and Silent Auction, enjoy a meal in the Commons, and take in the Musical for a full evening of great entertainment!

Christmas Tree Festival, Continued from Pg 1

Saturday, December 3rd is Family Day from Noon to 3 pm, complete with a visit from Santa, treats, and new this year, a free movie event. Parents can take advantage of this time to also take part in the holiday shopping events with vendors setting up their wares in the hall and party room. Displays can be viewed through 5 pm.

Saturday evening, the festival will come to a close with the Community Christmas Party, sponsored by the New York Mills Lions. Social Hour begins at 6 pm with dinner at 7 pm and a dance featuring "After Dark" following the meal. Tickets for this event may be purchased at Hardware Hank or F & M Bank. The cost before November 20th is \$15 per ticket; after November 20th, they will increase to \$20.

Bidding on the Christmas displays will close at 10 pm., with results of the "Peoples Choice Awards" being announced at this time as well.

Dolly Tumberg, one of the festivals organizers, extended an invitation; "We want everyone to know that this Community Christmas Party is open to EVERYONE, not just members of the organizations. There are a limited number of tickets available for the meal, but even if they are sold out, you are encouraged to come up to the City Hall Ballroom for the dance, which begins at 8 pm."

The Civic & Commerce invites groups or businesses to use the ballroom during the tree festival for meetings or parties. To sign up, please call Dolly Tumberg to register.

Volunteers are always appreciated and would work in one to two hour shifts. If you wish to contribute to the festival in this way, or to make a monetary donation, please contact Jodi Wegscheid at 218-385-2945 or Dolly Tumberg at 218-385-3691.

The City Hall Ballroom is open to view displays during the following times:

Fri. Nov. 25th	5 pm—9 pm
Sat. Nov. 26th	12 pm—5 pm
Sun. Nov. 27th	12 pm—5 pm
Mon. Nov. 28th	10 am—7 pm
Tues. Nov. 29th	12 pm—8 pm
Wed. Nov. 30th	12 pm—7 pm
Thurs. Dec. 1st	12 pm—9 pm
Fri. Dec. 2nd	12 pm—7 pm
Sat. Dec. 3rd	12 pm—5 pm



Energy Assistance Program Offers Help with Heat Bills

Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council's Energy Assistance Program is currently accepting applications for the 2011-2012 heating season from residents of Otter Tail and Wadena County. The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps low income families pay home heating bills. Funds are available for renters or homeowners. Homeowners who qualify for EAP may be eligible for assistance with furnace repairs/replacement. All types of heat are eligible for assistance with the grant being sent directly to the vendor. If the heat type is wood, the grant is paid to the electric company. Assistance amounts are deter-

mined 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 in the three (3) months prior to the date the application is signed. The deadline for applications for the 2011-2012 heating season is May 31, 2012. Contact EAP at 218-385-3333 for an application or more information. Office hours are Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Eligibility for the Energy Assistance Program is based on the following guidelines for household size and 3-month income levels :

<u>Hshld Size</u>	<u>3 Month Income</u>
1	\$ 5,596
2	\$ 7,318
3	\$ 9,040
4	\$ 10,762
5	\$12,484
6	\$14,206
7	\$14,529
8	\$14,852



School Referendum Continued from Pg. 1

What will the levy cost the District #553 Taxpayer?

The figures below are based on the annual dollar increase for typically residential homesteads and businesses:

<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Yearly Increase</u>
\$ 50,000	\$ 8
\$100,000	\$ 16

Market Value

Yearly Increase

\$150,000	\$ 24
\$200,000	\$ 32
\$250,000	\$ 39
\$300,000	\$ 47
\$400,000	\$ 63
\$500,000	\$ 79
\$600,000	\$ 95
\$800,000	\$126
\$900,000	\$142

The election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 for all school district residents. Voting will be held at the New York Mills Elementary School Multi-purpose Room #52. Voting hours are from 3 pm— 8 pm. Parking will be available on the east side of the elementary school—Please watch for signs.

Submitted by Todd Cameron, Superintendent of Dist #553

Stor A Mor/Mills Office Center Changes Hands



Left to Right: Managers, Jason & Lacey Schik, Owners, Kim and Gary Goeller

One of the newest names to become a part of the New York Mills business community are Gary and Kim Goeller, owners of Northstar Management Company, the new owners of the Stor Mor storage units and the Mills Office Center building located on Boardman Avenue North.

The Goeller's purchased the buildings in July of 2011 from Kaie and Paul Buendiger of Richville. After their purchase, the Goeller's built a 3rd outdoor

storage building bringing the number of storage units to approximately 100. The size of the units range from 7' x 7' to 15' x 30'. Some of the storage units available offer indoor and climate controlled space along with security surveillance.

"This type of storage is especially attractive to customers who want to keep their items such as Harley Davidson motorcycles or electronic equipment away from extreme tempera-

tures," stated Gary Goeller. Outdoor storage is also available.

The Mills Office Center building is currently home to McFarlane Accounting and Lake Country Insurance. Additional office space is available for lease.

For those looking for a smaller meeting spot, such as one on one consultations or conferences, offices are available for rent on a daily basis.

"Jason and Lacey Schik of New York Mills, manage the buildings and have done an outstanding job through the ownership transition," stated Goeller. "We are very fortunate to have them as part of our team and have them living right here in New York Mills."

Gary and his wife Kim reside in Huron, South Dakota and have two sons, Riley and Alex and one daughter, Quincee. Gary grew up on a farm north of Bluffton and is very familiar with the area. After graduating from high school Gary

went to work for John Deere and transferred with them to Minneapolis, Des Moines, Iowa and finally Huron, South Dakota, where he has resided for the past 17 years. Together with his wife, they own four companies, Northstar management, the owners of Stor Mor and other commercial properties in South Dakota. Thunderbird Liquor, a liquor store with a bar and casino in Huron, Goeller Properties LLC with residential apartments/houses and farmland, and finally, a newly acquired Batteries Plus franchise and territory in South Dakota and Wyoming.

For more information on either the Stor Mor Storage complex or Mills Office Center, contact Jason or Lacey Schik by phone at 218-346-2250 or by email at northstarstormor@gmail.com.

Mills Liquors to Host Wine Tasting Event

Mills Liquors will hold a pre-holiday wine and liqueur tasting event on Thursday, November 3rd in the party room of the City Hall Ballroom from 6-8 pm.

Manager Kim Hoban will be tasting out several seasonal cream liqueurs as well as seasonal beers. "This is a great opportunity to try before you buy", stated Hoban.

Any purchases made during the tasting event will be 10% off. Cheese and crackers will be served and there will be drawings throughout the evening for door prizes. The cost for this event is \$5.00 per person.

If you are unable to attend the wine tasting event, you can also



take advantage of "Wine Down Wednesdays" held each week at Mills Liquors, when you can receive a 10% discount on any off sale wine purchases.

Mills Liquors would also like to invite you to watch the Vikings play on their big screen TV on two upcoming Sundays, November 20th and 27th. Watch for more details!

Meals on Wheels Needs Volunteers



The NYM Senior Center is once again looking for willing volunteers to help with the Meals On Wheels program throughout the winter months. If you have some spare time weekdays and are willing to help out, drivers are needed from 11 am-12 noon. Mostly, volunteers are asked to help out one day per week or every other week, depending on their schedules.

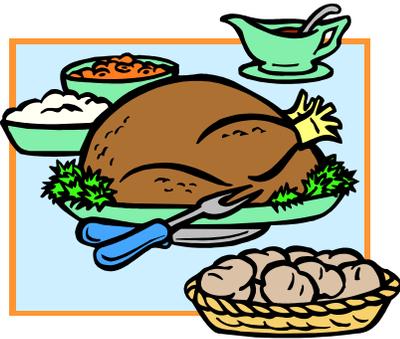
The Meals on Wheels program is a valuable asset to our community's senior citizens, providing meals for an average of 20-22 residents each weekday (depending on weather and holidays). The primary focus of this program is for older persons who are homebound and

may not eat adequate and nutritious meals because they are incapacitated or disabled due to accident, illness or frailty. Also eligible are those unable to prepare meals themselves because of limited mobility, inability, psychological or mental impairment or those without support of family, friends or other community services to provide them with meals.

There is no monetary cost for seniors who receive meals, but recipients are encouraged to make a donation to the Nutritional Services Program.

If you are interested in either volunteering or receiving Meals on Wheels, call Gloria at the Sr. Center at 385-2024.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner



All members of the community of New York Mills and the surrounding area are in-

vited to a free Thanksgiving Eve dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 23rd from 4-6 pm. A traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be served and there is no cost for the meal. Delivery of meals will also be available. For those interested in having a meal delivered, or anyone needing a ride to the church, they are asked to call Karen Brasel at 218-385-2772. A Thanksgiving worship service will follow the meal at 6:30 pm.

Trinity Lutheran Church is excited to share God's blessings with the community and enjoy fellowship with all of you!

Pet Owners Take Note



A reminder that all dogs and cats over 6 months old in the city need to be licensed. If your dog or cat is already licensed, you will need to re-license for 2012-2013. A dog license is \$20.00 for 2 years and a cat license is \$10 for 2 years. Applications may be filled out at the City Office. Documentation of current rabies and distemper vaccinations must be provided at time of licensing.

Cultural Center to Hold Gift Bazaar

The 3rd annual Artist Gift Bazaar will be held at the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center from November 25 through December 9. Hours are Tuesday – Friday 10am -5pm, Saturday 10am-3pm and closed Sunday and Monday. The first day of the Bazaar is the Friday after Thanksgiving aimed at keeping holiday shopping in town. Over 15 area artists will have on display original arts, crafts, soaps, jewelry, mittens, paper products and other household items priced from \$3 to \$100. It's a great oppor-

tunity to support the local artist community and the Cultural Center as well.

A special Holiday Stock-up Sale and Open House with beer, wine, cider and hors d'oeuvres will be held on Friday, December 2 from 6-9 p.m. with special stock-up discounts of up to 28% based on the number of items purchased. Free gift wrapping will also be available.

Don't miss this opportunity to give that special someone a unique hand crafted item from one of our featured artists.



NYM RCC Announces Fall & Winter Concert Schedule

The New York Mills Regional Cultural Center is pleased to provide four upcoming musical events to the area in November and December.

The first will be a performance by Meg Hutchinson, a lyric-based contemporary acoustic singer/songwriter with Red House Records. Meg, a nationally recognized artist is winner of numerous U.S. and international awards. Her performance will be held in the Eagle View Room of Thumper Pond in Ottertail on Friday, November 11th beginning at 7:30 pm. Enjoy dinner and drinks before or after the performance.

Saturday, November 19th at 7:30 pm, the Regional Cultural Center will be the site for music by Dick Kimmel & Co, a five-

piece bluegrass band based in southern Minnesota. In 2008, this band received the National Traditional Country Music Association's coveted "Rising Legend Award." Dick Kimmel & Co's traditional style of bluegrass is laced with old-time string band music, original songs that seem like classics, bluegrass gospel, and traditional country duets.

John Gorka, a nationally recognized Red House Records artist, will perform a holiday concert at the NYM Regional Cultural Center on Saturday, December 10th beginning at 7:30 pm. Gorka's performance epitomizes original and imaginative roots folk music.

Finally, the Cultural Center will cele-

brate the winter solstice with its annual event "The Longest Night Music Festival" on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, at 7:30 pm. featuring local musicians. There is no admission for this event.

To purchase tickets, or for more information, contact the NYM Regional Cultural Center at 218-385-3339.



Public Works Update-Winter Preparedness

Roger Salo, Public Works Superintendent



Like always, this has been a busy summer. County Highway 67 going south is nice and smooth after the project is finished. Hopefully we will not have any water main breaks now that a lot of the old cast iron water mains have been replaced with plastic.

As you may have noticed, there is some construction happening in town. The new lumber yard, Brunswick, and a building for assembling trailers are in full construction mode. That is great to see in a small town like New York Mills.

Coming into the fall and winter seasons, I would like to remind everyone that the natural gas appliances in your homes should be checked by a reliable plumbing/heating specialist. One item that is important to replace is the filter on your furnace, as it will help with its efficiency. The venting of your appliances is important so that

they burn effectively and do not cause carbon monoxide to build up in the house.

Natural gas by itself is colorless and odorless in its natural form. The gas department injects the proper amount of "stink" (mercaptan) into the gas before it comes to town. Therefore it has a skunk-type odor that is noticeable if there happens to be a leak. The composition of natural gas is mostly methane, ethane and propane with some butane, carbon dioxide, oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen sulfide in it also. Natural gas is lighter than air compared to propane (bottle gas) which is heavier than air. When natural gas burns, the two main products that go up the chimney are water vapor and carbon dioxide. When gas does not burn correctly, carbon monoxide may form. Therefore, it is very important that the vents are operating and that your appliances are burning correctly.

I have mentioned CO (carbon monoxide) testers in the past, but believe it is important that every home has at least one and that they are installed correctly as the instructions on the units will mention. Like most everything else, the more they cost the better they usually are. Talk to your heating specialist or the store that sells them about

the best ones. Carbon monoxide is a clear, odorless and treacherous poison that is responsible for hundreds of preventable deaths each year in the United States. The reason for its danger is that it combines with the oxygen carrying site of hemoglobin in your blood which is responsible for delivering oxygen from the lungs to your body tissues. CO has a greater attraction for the hemoglobin than does oxygen. Therefore, at a high enough level of CO, there is a lessened level of oxygen being carried to the body. The symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, weakness listlessness and even death.

With the snow and ice season is coming, I would like to remind you that the vents (sewer and appliances) need to be kept open for your safety. The Office of Pipeline Safety each year sends the City of New York Mills a safety reminder about ice and snow in and around the gas meter set and regulator. The regulator vent needs to "breathe" so that the gas pressure in the house stays even. Sure it is nice to come to a gas meter set that is free of ice and snow when we read meters, but safety is our main concern!

Have a safe, fun holiday season and remember the real meaning of the different holidays!

MIRC to Offer Free Business Internet Classes



Two free workshops for area businesses on how to make the internet work for you will be held in November and December. They are brought to us by MIRC, Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities, a broadband expansion effort facilitated by the U of M Extension utilizing stimulus dollars. In addition, Ryan Pesch, U of M Educator, will meet with you on a one on one basis to

explore your website options. Call Lynn Kasma at 385-4060 or email at lrkasma@hotmail.com to make an appointment.

November 10 -- 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at the NYM Public Library. Free One on One consultation with Ryan Pesch. Call Lynn for appointment.

November 10-- 5:30 p.m. at the NYM HS Media Center, **Transactions Online**--Businesses are doing more and more transactions online to sell products directly as well as manage their bank accounts. This workshop covers the major concerns related to online transactions like security, shipping, and costs. Participants will explore the use of online check-out tools like Paypal and online banking platforms to help make

more informed decisions. Light supper will be served.

December 8 -- 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at the NYM Public Library. Free One on One consultation with Ryan Pesch. Call Lynn for appointment.

December 8 -- 5:30 p.m. at the NYM HS Media Center, **Blogging for Business** --Reach your audience easily with little cost: Blogs are simple, inexpensive ways for businesses to gain a credible online presence and reach their current and new customers. There are a variety of blogging tools available for business owners and many are free. Participants will learn the basics of good blogging, the tools available to make and update a blog, and how to promote your blog and your business! Light supper will be served.

AARP Offers 55 Alive Refresher Class Free to Veterans in November

While AARP's 55 Alive Refresher Course is open to anyone over the age of 50, it is especially appealing to veterans in the month of November.

This Driver Safety Program is a 4-hour refresher course which entitles drivers over the age of 55 to a discount with their automobile insurers. Attendees of this course must have already taken the 8 hour initial course.

Insurance discounts are applicable for three years and are available only to drivers over the age of 55.

The course is being held on Wednesday, November 16th from 5:30-9:30 pm in

Room #409 of the New York Mills Public School. (Enter the door by the Eagle statue and watch for signs.)

Class size is limited to 30 people and is offered at a cost of \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-AARP members, along with a \$1 donation for coffee/cookies provided.

To register, call Community Education at 218-385-4203. Please leave a message if there is no answer. If you are a veteran, bring along your military service ID to fill out a form and receive the class at no cost to you.



A Message from Our Chief of Police Chief Jim Van Schaick

for non-compliance. Sure, paying a fine is irritating, but the alternative can be devastating.

Here are some encouraging excerpts from a media release dated 10/20/2011 from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety regarding recent seatbelt usage statistics (<https://dps.mn.gov>):

ST. PAUL — Minnesota's seat belt compliance rate continues to climb, reaching a record high of 92.7 percent, up slightly from 92.3 percent in 2010. However, proper use of booster seats is just 64 percent, according to observational surveys conducted by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety. DPS officials attribute the continued increase in seat belt use to awareness and enforcement of the state's primary seat belt law, which became effective in June 2009. Since then, the number of unbelted deaths has dropped 10 percent, and the number of unbelted severe injuries has dropped 5 percent.

"This high belt use rate means more Minnesotans will survive crashes and families won't be torn apart by these preventable tragedies," says DPS Commissioner Mona Dohman. "Our challenge is to encourage those who continue to put their lives at risk to buckle up."

Seat belt use was 20 percent before the state's seat belt law became effective in 1986, and the rate has steadily climbed ever since. Belt use was 74 percent a decade ago.

Seat Belt Use Survey (*Recorded belt use of 11,000 motorists in 37 counties during two weeks in August.*)

- Statewide seat belt use rate: 92.7 percent. [*New York Mills was 71 percent*]
- Belt use rate by vehicle type: Van — 96 percent; Car — 94; SUV — 92.5; Pickup — 88. Pickup occupant belt use is historically low, but has improved (up from 81 percent five years ago).
- Belt use rate by gender: Females — 95 percent; Males — 90 percent. This gap continues to close; the primary belt law has influenced more males to buckle up. Five years ago, female belt use was 92 percent and the male rate was 84.
- Belt use rate by age: 65 and older — 96 percent; 30-64 — 93; 0-10 — 93; 11-15 — 93; 16-29 — 92. Teen/young adult use continues to improve, up from 84 percent five years ago.

SEATBELTS SAVE LIVES. In the late 80's I started my career in public safety as an EMT and since then have responded to literally hundreds of vehicle crashes including those in which an occupant had been ejected while not wearing a seatbelt. I can recall only one incident in which someone walked away from a crash after being ejected. Every other person that I have dealt with that was ejected was considered "a severely injured multiple-trauma patient" or dead. Usually, those who have survived being ejected have sustained life-changing and debilitating injuries. I still occasionally hear the phrase, "I don't want to wear a seatbelt because I would rather be thrown clear in the event of a crash." I am thankful that I hear this less and less. The statistics show that even injuries in non-ejection crashes are less for those wearing seatbelts. All drivers and passengers in Minnesota must be buckled up and you can be pulled over and ticketed

NYM Fire Department News

Reed Jacobson, Chief



Firefighter Darin Wegscheid



Firefighter Ryan Brasel



Photos Courtesy of Bridget Weller

Mrs Weller's Kindergarten Class poses for photo with NYM Firefighters Erik Kanz, Matt Olson, Darin Wegscheid, Ryan Brasel

October was Fire Prevention Month. The NYM Fire Department helped to promote fire prevention by bringing firefighters and trucks to the school recently, where they visited with the kindergarten classes. The First Graders made a field trip to the fire department itself.

This is a good time of the year to change and check the operation of your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms. A great reminder is to change your batteries at the same time you set your clocks back!

Seven firefighters from the NYM Fire Department recently completed Block I of three blocks of Fire Fighter Training. Training was provided by MSCTS, Moorhead Campus, at the fire hall. Training was paid for by a grant received from the Minnesota Board of

Firefighter Training and Education.

New York Mills Fire Department also received a grant from the Minnesota DNR's Rural Volunteer Fire Assistance program to purchase equipment in the amount of \$8,000. This grant will match up to 50%, (NYMFD spends \$4,000 and they will match it up to \$4,000).

With the changing season, it is time to start thinking about winter driving. Slow down and allow extra time when you are traveling.

Please give emergency personnel room when on the highways. If you see an emergency vehicle, slow down, move to the shoulder, and be observant of other drivers. Remember, it is the LAW to move over for any stopped emergency vehicles!

The NYMFD would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Fiber Arts Exhibit/Workshops Honor Time-Honored Traditions

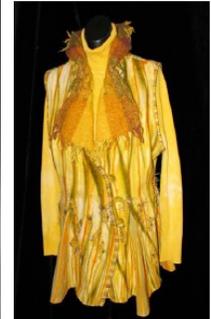


An exciting fiber arts exhibit will be on display at the NYM Regional Cultural Center from November 16 through December 31. It is brought to us by the Textile Center in Minneapolis and is titled *Land by Hand*. The exhibition explores the relationship between artist and place, and simultaneously calls attention to the extraordinary caliber of work being produced by fiber artists in Minnesota.

The artist reception will be held Saturday, November 19 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. An artist talk will take place at 1:30 followed by a family fun workshop "Things from Strings" where 25 students will learn how to knit with their fingers, create a trendy skinny scarf, and learn kumihimo, a Japanese 8 stranded braid with cool spiral patterns that make great bracelets.

Another free workshop will be offered on Saturday, December 17 from 1-3 called "Sculpture in Crochet" taught by Karen Searle, a former visiting artist. With just a few basic crochet stitches you can explore all kinds of three dimensional forms and figures. Students should have basic/beginner crochet skills. Call the Cultural Center at 385-3339 to reserve space in either workshop.

Land by Hand embodies Textile Center's mission to honor textile traditions and promote excellence and innovation in fiber art. Long under-recognized as a viable art form, fiber art is a dynamic genre that draws upon time-honored traditions and cultural influences. The artists in this exhibition demonstrate mastery of technique, and they also embrace innovation through creative interpretations, utilization of technology and manipulation of materials. This activity is funded, in part, by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.





Mayor's Corner-

Larry Hodgson, Mayor

If you haven't been informed of it before, please be aware that most likely your real property tax will almost assuredly increase beginning next year. This increase is the result of the elimination of the market value homestead credit (MVHC) beginning in 2012. The latest issue of Minnesota Cities, A Publication of the League of Minnesota Cities, contains an article written by Gary Carlson that explains the change adopted by the MN Legislature.

Mr. Carlson states "To prevent the full impact of the elimination of the homestead

credit from falling on homeowners, the Legislature decided to create a new homestead market value exclusion system. But the new system will translate into higher taxes for almost all property types and, to a degree, even homes." His next statement isn't very assuring when he points out that "The transition to the new system will be confusing for taxpayers".

How this program works is that a defined portion of the market value of each home is essentially exempt from taxation. For homes valued at less than \$76,000 the calculation of the exclusion is relatively simple. The exclusion is equal to 40 percent of the assessor's estimate of the home's market value. A \$76,000 home will have an exemption of \$30,400, leaving only 60 percent, or

\$45,600, of market value subject to taxation.

For homes in excess of \$76,000, the exclusion slowly phases out as home values increase until it is totally phased out for homes over \$413,800.

The major effect of this new plan is that taxes paid by homeowners that previously qualified for the MVHC will increase because the state will no longer be paying a portion of their taxes. But before you become too alarmed, they showed a series of examples where a house valued at \$76,000 had their tax go from \$500.16 with the previous law to \$505.80 under the new law when the exclusion was applied. Similarly, a house valued at \$300,000 had their taxes go from \$3,071.90 to \$3,214.02 with the new law. So while the shift in taxes will

increase, the increase won't be as drastic as some people were lead to believe.

It isn't very comforting when Mr. Carlson points out at the end of his article that: "The combination of local budget decisions and legislative changes to the property tax system will almost certainly result in taxpayer confusion and perhaps even frustration." Keep in mind that the examples I showed are just that, examples, and the impact of this change will not be uniform in all areas of the state, or county, or city. Rather, it will depend on the tax base composition of the jurisdiction, including the proportion of the homeowners in each city eligible for the new market value exclusion.

Library Happenings

Julie Adams, Library Director

What's New at your Library?

The New York Mills Public Library recently received a donation of 8 new computer monitors and one new printer from a very generous man from Pelican Rapids. Stop in and take a look!

Work continues on the Library's USDA grant. Construction of the staff entry is currently underway. It will be made into a double door to help reduce heating and cooling costs. This is the last phase of the USDA grant. A new copier was recently installed. Earlier this summer, the hot water heater was replaced as well as the heating and cooling system, all in effort to increase energy efficiency at the Library ultimately saving on budget line

items such as electricity and gas. The USDA grant is covering 55% of the costs. Thanks to the NYM Lions, City of New York Mills, NYM Civic & Commerce, and the Friends of the Library for helping with the matching funds for this grant.

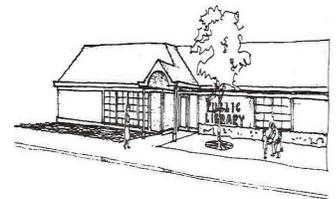
The Library is exploring the possibility of starting a 3rd Book Club! There has been an outstanding amount of interest in our book clubs and both of our existing book clubs are currently filled to capacity. There will be an organizational meeting of all who are interested in starting a new book club on Tuesday, November 8, at 8 pm, in the Library Meeting Room. At this meeting it will be determined if there are enough people interested in forming a new book club. If there is enough interest, the group will select the

meeting dates and times and titles of books to discuss. Please call the Library at 385-2436 if you would like more information.

If you haven't already, make sure you look at the Viking Library System website for FREE downloadable audio books and ebooks! Click on "digital library".

Welcome to our newest Library Board member - Jim Van Schaick!

And a reminder to everyone to help support the New Horizons Women's Club Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser as they use the money raised to support the NYM Public Library and other community projects. The Silent Auction will be on Thursday, November 10, 2011, at 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center.



New York Mills Public Library
30 Main Ave N
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New York Mills MN 56567
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CITY OF New York Mills

MINNESOTA



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Phone: (218) 385-2213
 Fax:(218) 385-2315
 E-mail: cherinymcity@arvig.net

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



Nov 1	Public Hearing-Edgewood St Special Assessments @ 5 pm-City Hall Ballroom	Nov 25th	C&C Christmas Tree Festival Kickoff, Cookie Decorating-@ City Hall 5-9 pm
Nov 1st	Public Hearing-Hwy 67 S Project Special Assessments @ 5:30 pm-City Hall Ballroom	Nov 25th	Chili & Chowder Feed @ Sr Center 4 pm
Nov 1st	Band Concert @ James Mann Audit. 7:30 pm	Nov 25th-Dec 9th	4th Annual Artist Gift Bazaar @ NYM RCC
Nov 1st	Yoga @ NYM RCC 7:30 pm	Nov 26th	Christmas Tree Festival-@ City Hall Displays noon- 5 pm
Nov 3rd	Pre Holiday Wine Tasting Event Hosted by Mills Liquors-6-8 pm in Party Room of City Hall Ballroom	Nov 27th	NYM Community Nativity @ Christmas Festival City Hall-Program 2 pm, Displays Noon-5 pm
Nov 3rd	Open Mic Night @ NYM RCC 7 pm	Nov 28th	Trinity Bells Performance @ Christmas Festival City Hall-6:30 pm Displays 10 am-7 pm
Nov 5th	Sr Center Fundraiser Breakfast 8-9:30 am @ Sr Center	Nov 28th	Sit n Stitch @ NYM RCC 6-8 pm
Nov 7th	Sit n Stitch @ NYM RCC 6-8 pm	Nov 29th	NYM Jazz Band @ Christmas Festival-City Hall 6:30 pm, Displays noon-8 pm
Nov 7th	Choir Concert-James Mann Auditorium 7:30 pm	Nov 30th	Senior Tea Luncheon @ Christmas Festival City Hall-1-3 pm, Displays noon-7 pm
Nov 8th	Dist #553 Referendum 3-8 pm in Rm #52 (Multi Purpose Rm) of NYM Elem School	Nov 30th	Custom Ice Rod Bldg Class NYMHS Ag Room (#116) 6-9 pm-Call Dist Office to register 385-4203 by Nov 20th-Cost \$20 + materials
Nov 8th	City Council Meeting-City Hall Council Chambers. 4 pm (Note Time Change due to Referendum) 4:30 Public Forum	Dec 1st	Holiday Silent Auction Fundraiser/Wine Tasting @ City Hall Ballroom 6 pm-Displays Noon to 9 pm
Nov 8th	Yoga @ NYM RCC 7:30 pm	Dec 2nd	Christmas Festival-City Hall/Displays noon-7pm
Nov 9th	1st Aid/CPR/AED Course @ Perham Area EMS Station 5:30 pm	Dec 2nd	Holiday Open House & Stock Up Sale @ NYM RCC 6-9 pm
Nov 10th	New Horizons Annual Silent Auction/Library Fundraiser @ NYM RCC 7-8:30 pm	Dec 3rd	Santa/Movie Day @ Christmas Festival-City Hall Noon-3 pm, Displays Noon-5 pm, Community Christmas Party-Social Hr 6 pm, Dinner 7 pm, Dance 8 pm, Bidding closed 10 pm
Nov 10th	Free One On One Internet Consultation with Ryan Pesch @ Library 10 am-4 pm	Dec 3rd	Sr Center Fundraiser Breakfast@ Sr Center 8-9:30 am No Meals on Wheels Svc
Nov 10th	Free MIRC Workshop-Transactions Online @ NYMHS Media Center 5:30 pm	Dec 5th	Sit n Stitch @ NYM RCC 6-8 pm
Nov 11th	Veterans Day-City Office/Library Closed	Dec 6th	Healthcare Provider CPR Course @ Perham Area EMS Center 6:30 pm
Nov 11th	Meg Hutchinson Concert @ Eagle View Rm, Thumper Pond, Ottertail 7:30 pm-cal RCC for info	Dec 7th	Custom Ice Rod Bldg Class NYMHS Ag Room (#116) 6-9 pm-Call Dist Office to register 385-4203 by Nov 20th-Cost \$20 + materials
Nov 14th	Sit n Stitch @ NYM RCC 6-8 pm	Dec 8th	Free One On One Internet Consultation w/ Ryan Pesch @ Library 10 am-4 pm
Nov 15th	Yoga @ NYM RCC 7:30 pm	Dec 8th	Free MIRC Workshop-"Blogging for Business" @ NYMHS Media Center 5:30 pm
Nov 15th	EFCE Class-Getting your Child to Mind w/o Losing Yours Rm #42 NYM School 5:30-7:30 pm	Dec 10th	John Gorka Holiday Concert @ NYM RCC 7:30 pm
Nov 16th	AARP 55 Alive Refresher Course Rm 409 NYM School 5:30-9:30 pm	Dec 12th	Sit n Stitch @ NYM RCC 6-8 pm
Nov 16th	"Land By Hand" Exhibit @ NYM RCC 10:00 am/ Artist Forum w/Pam Collins @ 7 pm	Dec 13th	Truth in Taxation Hearing @ City Hall Council Chambers 6:01 pm
Nov 17th	Open Mic Night @ NYM RCC 7 pm	Dec 13th	City Council Meeting/4:30 pm Council Chambers
Nov 18th	NYM Community Carnival @ NYM School 4-7 pm	Dec 14th	Artist Forum w/Pam Collins @ NYM RCC 7 pm
Nov 18th	NYMHS Fall Musical James W Mann Auditorium, 7:30 pm	Dec 15th	Open Mic Night @ NYM RCC 7 pm
Nov 19th	Land By Hand Exhibit @ RCC 1 pm/Artist Talk 1:30 pm/Things with Strings Workshop 2:30-4:30 pm	Dec 17th	Sculpture in Crochet Workshop @ NYM RCC 1-3 pm
Nov 19th	Dick Kimmel & Co Band @ NYM RCC 7:30 pm	Dec 19th	Sit n Stitch @ NYM RCC 6-8 pm
Nov 21st	Sit n Stitch @ NYM RCC 6-8 pm	Dec 21st	Longest Night Music Festival @ NYM RCC 7:30 pm
Nov 23rd	Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church 4-6 pm	Dec 24th	Christmas Eve-Library Closed
Nov 24th	Happy Thanksgiving! City Office/Library/Sr Center closed, no Meals on Wheels	Dec 25th	Merry Christmas!
Nov 25th	City Office Closed	Dec 26th	Christmas Holiday-City Office/Library Sr Center closed, No Meals on Wheels
		Dec 26th	Sit n Stitch @NYM RCC 6-8 pm