

# CITY OF NEW YORK MILLS

Oct—Dec 2014  
Volume 5 Issue 4



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## Kyle Mattson Hired as New Public Works Director



The City of New York Mills is happy to welcome its newest member, Kyle Mattson as the new Public Works Director. Kyle will be working alongside current Public Works Director Roger Salo until his retirement date, which is planned for the end of February, 2015.

Kyle is a 1997 graduate of New York Mills High School and lives in New York Mills with his wife Kayla and children Bryce (13) and Bree (11).

After graduating from High School Kyle attended M-State in Wadena for Construction Electricity. He was hired by Mark's Electric of Detroit Lakes upon graduating and has been employed there for the past 15 years. Kyle was employed by the City of New York Mills as a summer employee from 1996 to 1999 mowing and assisting in the Public Works Department. He has been a member of the New York Mills Fire Department for 11 years, serving as Chief from 2012 to 2013 and Assistant Chief both before and after that time.

Kyle brings with him extensive knowledge of the City's water and wastewater systems, having

worked regularly on these systems in his previous job. Other valuable attributes Kyle brings to the position are his emergency response training and experience as a journeyman electrician, working with HVAC systems.

"We are lucky to have Kyle come on board. I'm sure with his capabilities he will be a great person for the job," stated Roger Salo. "He has a thorough knowledge of the community being a local person and having served on the Fire Department."

"I am very excited to begin working as Public Works Director," stated Kyle. "I am looking forward to working here in my hometown and to the challenge of this new position."

If you see Kyle around town, be sure to be sure to say hello and welcome him.

## Daylight Savings Time Ends November 2nd



### It's time to FALL back!!!

Just a friendly reminder to turn your clocks back Saturday night one hour!!!

Also, now is a great time to change the batteries in your smoke detector when you are "falling back!"  
Enjoy the rest of this beautiful season!!

## November 4th Election Includes Local Seats



Voters in New York Mills will go to the polls on Tuesday, November 4th not only to cast their votes for federal, state and county offices, but also to elect city officials and school board members. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. through 8 p.m. for voters in Newton Township as well as the City of New York Mills. Voting is held in the New York Mills City Hall

Ballroom at 28 Centennial 84 Drive West.

A sample ballot is posted in the City Office. Local offices on the ballot include the School Board with three positions open. Six candidates are vying for these positions, including:

- Rachel Grieger (incumbent)
- Jill Carlson (incumbent)
- Lapene Majjala (former incumbent)
- Denise Kane
- Stephanie VonRuden
- Adam Tervola Hultberg

There are two candidates running for the Mayor position for the City which include:

- Julie Gerber (incumbent)
- Kenny Friese.

Two council spots are up for election with incumbents running unopposed:

- Marsha Maki (incumbent)
- Josh Hoaby (incumbent)

A third council seat is on the ballot as a special election to replace Jason Schik who has moved out of the city limits. Running for this seat are:

- Charles Fredley
- Jeff Oakland
- Jessica Gibble

If you are not pre-registered to vote, you may do so by calling the County Auditor's office at 218-998-8030 for an application. Pre-registration is allowed through October 14th. After that date, you can register on Election Day at the polling



# A Message from Our Chief of Police

## James Gritz

Well, it's that time of year again. School is in full swing and that means our kids are riding the buses, and while it's still nice out they are walking and biking to school. I want to remind everyone that we need to

be very aware of kids. We all know, they can dart out from anywhere so it's up to us to slow down and make sure we see them. When a bus has its red lights flashing and its sign out, it means we need to stop—there are kids going to be getting on or off the bus. All we need to do is slow down and be aware this time of year as our most precious cargo is out on the

streets.

Before we know it, it's going to be time when that nasty white stuff starts falling. I know we don't want to hear it but it will be snowing soon. That mean's our roads are going to be much more difficult to travel on. Make sure you are ready for winter with a winter survival kit in your vehicles. It is also a

good idea to get your vehicle checked out and ready for the cold Minnesota winter. Remember to use caution and travel at safe speeds when the roads are icy and snow covered because it only takes a moment to have something happen.

Have a safe school year and a great holiday season from everyone at the New York Mills Police Department!

# City Sets Truth In Taxation Hearing for 2015 Proposed Levy



The City of New York Mills will hold its annual Public Hearing concerning its proposed 2015 Budget and proposed 2015 Levy at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting, held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear comments from the general

public. The final 2015 levy will be set after the Public Hearing, or at a later date in December. The City must adopt its final 2015 Budget and 2015 Levy on or before Monday, December 29, 2014. In September, the Council passed a preliminary levy of \$405,000, which represents a 4.1% increase over the current year levy of \$389,000. This

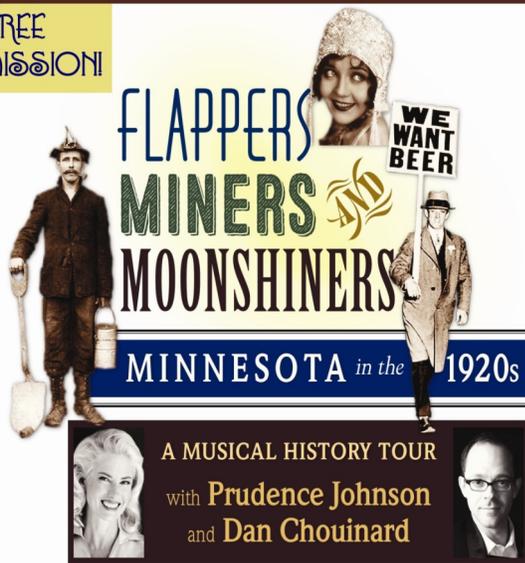
is the first increase to the levy in three years, as it has been at \$389,000 for 2014, 2013, and 2012. The proposed levy includes \$169,000 for debt service needs on municipal bonds, and \$236,000 for the general fund for operations. If you want to learn more, please attend the December 9 Public Hearing.

## COMING TO NEW YORK MILLS

Saturday, October 4 ~ 7:30 pm

James Mann Performing Arts Auditorium  
New York Mills High School, 209 Hayes St, NYMills, MN

FREE  
ADMISSION!



Sponsored by New York Mills Public Library and Viking Library System

This project was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage fund. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the MN State Arts Board. Thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

For more information, call the New York Mills Public Library (218) 385-2436

Awesome Adventures in

## Accordion Books

Hands-on Workshop with Artist Phyllis Joos

Saturday,  
October 25

9 am to noon  
NYMills Public Library

Free!

All supplies provided

Pre-registration  
required

Limited to 12 participants

Please sign-up before  
10/17/14

Sponsored by the  
New York Mills  
Public Library and  
Viking Library System

Printmaker and book artist Phyllis Joos will lead a free 3-hour hands-on workshop "Awesome Adventures in Accordion Books" on Saturday, October 25, from 9 am to noon in the New York Mills Public Library Meeting Room. Participants will leave with three hand-crafted books and the skills to create more of their own. The class is designed for adults and all skill levels are welcome.



Contact the New York Mills Public Library  
at (218) 385-2436  
to register or for more information.



Creating a Legacy, Enriching Lives  
Arts, History, and Cultural Programs in Viking Library System

This project was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

## Elections Cont. from Pg 1

place. Be sure to have a valid ID (valid MN driver's license, permit or MN ID card) with current address in the precinct, or an approved photo ID (driver's license, state ID card or learner's permit, passport, US Military ID card, Tribal ID card, MN university, college or technical college ID card or Minnesota high school ID card) AND on other approved document (utility bill, phone, television, internet, sewer service, banking or credit card, rent

or mortgage payment receipt) with current address dated within 30 days of the election. Also allowed is a residential lease or rental agreement valid through Election Day or a current student fee statement.

Absentee Ballots are available if you cannot make it to the polls on November 4th and would like to vote. Call the Otter Tail County Auditor's office for an absentee ballot application and they will mail it to you.

## Update on City Happenings

### Darla Berry, City Clerk

#### Zoning

Do you ever wonder what is really going on in the City? Do you hear rumors around town about the City not allowing residents to put up fences or conduct businesses from their homes? Have you ever wished you really knew the truth about the things you hear? You have the right to answers, and we have the answers for you. Before you invest your time and resources pursuing a home based business or purchasing materials for a new fence, deck, or other improvement, check with us to make sure that your plans are acceptable. City Ordinances especially in regard to Zoning have been put in place to help ensure that your improvements can be done in a way that doesn't infringe upon your neighbors rights and yet meets your needs. Also, the ordinances in many instances ensure that local improvements are made in accordance with State statutes. Home based businesses are allowed, as are fences, decks, and other improvements, but as with many things in life there are restrictions on how these things can be done. In some areas there may also be restrictive covenants in place that we can help you sort through. Our zoning permit fees are minimal and we are here to help you do things in ways that won't be challenged later. Just check with us first if you have any questions as we are here to help you get answers to your questions

and keep your projects moving forward. If we don't have the answers we'll do our best to get them for you.

#### General City Information

There are several ways to keep informed about what is going on in your City. The office hours are 8:00 to 5:00 Monday thru Friday. Stop by or give us a call at 385-2213. Also, we have a City website you can check out for a great deal of information. Many of the City Ordinances, including the Zoning Ordinance, are available on the City website at [www.newyorkmills.govoffice2.com](http://www.newyorkmills.govoffice2.com). Also included on the website is a copy of the minutes from the recent City Council meetings. Minutes generally lag behind by a little over a month as they are not posted until approved at the next City Council meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend City Council meetings. If you want to address the Council on some topic, you can do so during the Public Forum portion of the meeting. You are allowed three minutes to speak to the Council about anything that is on your mind. If you want an item placed on the Agenda of the City Council Meeting, there is a form you can pick up at the office or that we could mail out that you would need to fill out and return to the City Clerk's office several days prior to the meeting. The regular date and time for City Council meetings is at 4:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. The Public Forum is gener-

Please join the New York Mills Public Library as we



**VISIT THE MOST EXPLOSIVE MUSEUM IN THE WORLD**

**Saturday, October 11, 2014**

Because of Legacy funding we are able to offer **FREE** Transportation & Admission ticket to the

## MILL CITY MUSEUM

A National Historic Landmark in Minneapolis, MN

As the newest addition to the Minnesota Historical Society's statewide network of museums and historic sites, Mill City Museum, is a lively, "must-see" cultural attraction. Its exhibits are designed to involve visitors of all ages in an engaging, interactive discovery involving all five senses.

#### Register at the

### New York Mills Public Library

Strictly limited to 55 participants.  
Registrations will be taken in the order they are received.

#### Sponsored by the New York Mills Public Library and Viking Library System

Call 385-2436 for more information  
This project was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

ally scheduled to begin at 5:00p.m. Sometimes the date or time must be adjusted due to conflicts of Council members or prohibitions on holding public meetings on election days and/or on legal holidays. The dates and times of upcoming City Council meetings are posted the week before each meeting at the Post Office, the Library, and at the City Hall on the public bulletin boards in each of those locations. Also, if you check out the minutes online at the website, near the end of each meeting the dates of upcoming meetings are confirmed. Also, we have a Facebook page where you can find timely updates and information. If you don't have a computer in your home or your internet service is down, remember we have computers available for use at the Library. Finally, the City newsletter "Hometown Happenings" comes out each quarter at the beginning of January, April, July, and October.

All of these resources are a way in which we are trying to reach out to you and let you know more about the City.

#### Utilities

The City will be implementing conservation water rates sometime this fall or early in 2015. These are mandated by State statutes and affect the City's ability to get permits and financing for our utilities, drainage, and street projects. We are planning to adopt a rate structure that should have minimal effect overall on each account's normal monthly billing. The new rates will essentially be structured to penalize accounts that use more than a "normal" level of water each month. In other words, rates will increase when higher usage amounts are reached, in an effort to encourage users to conserve water. Once these rates are adopted, we will be open to working with customers to ensure that we place you in the "correct" usage



Another winter is soon here. Remember last winter with the freezing pipes? We sure hope this next winter will have a little pity on us!

Remember when the ice and snow arrives that the vents need to be kept open. Also the meters and regulators need to be clear of ice and snow.

They need to "breathe". I found this article that shows the do's and don'ts with natural gas safety. You have a safe fall and early winter.

### NATURAL GAS SAFETY TIPS

It's important for you to do your part to make a safe fuel even safer. Here are some **SNIFFY DOs** and **SNIFFY DON'Ts** for natural gas safety.

#### DO:

- Learn all you can about natural gas. The more you know...the more you will be

## Public Works Update

### Roger Salo, Retiring Public Works Director

safe.

- Use your nose. If you ever detect even a small amount of the odor of natural gas in the air, don't stay—get away. Then, contact your natural gas provider. If you don't know that number, dial emergency services, 9-1-1.

- Look for the blue flame. If pilot lights and burners have a steady, blue flame, they are operating correctly. (Decorative gas fire logs are the only exception. Their flame is usually yellow.)

- Have all gas appliances, furnaces, vents, flues, chimneys and gas lines in your home or business inspected every year or two by qualified industry professionals.

- Keep the areas around all appliances and equipment clean and unblocked to allow for proper air flow.

- Follow manufacturer instructions for the care and use of gas appliances and equipment.

- Make sure there is at least one multipurpose fire extinguisher in your home or place of business.

- Review these natural gas safety tips regularly with ALL family members and coworkers.

#### DON'T:

- Ever let small children play with or near natural gas appliances or pipes, even the knobs on the oven or cooktop.

- Use your stove or oven for anything other than cooking (for instance, to heat your home, under any circumstances.

- Move or install a gas appliance or change the connector in any way without professional assistance. Always use a qualified contractor.

- Use a space heater UNTIL you are sure it has been vented properly. If using a vent-free heater, make sure the automatic cut-off switch is operational.

- Ever store household chemicals or combustible materials near gas appliances.

- Above all, don't forget to learn what to do if you ever smell natural gas in the air: **SMELL GAS? ACT FAST!**

**IT'S BEST TO BE SAFE: If you smell gas RIGHT NOW—don't touch or turn off your computer—leave the area! After you go someplace away from the odor, call your natural gas provider. If you don't know that number, dial emergency services, 9-1-1.**

## National Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 5-11th



October 5<sup>h</sup> thru October 11<sup>h</sup> is Fire Prevention Week. During this week, the fire service educates and informs their communities about the danger of fires and

awareness of how to prevent fires. During fire prevention week, the New York Mills Fire Department members volunteer their time to educate and inform our elementary grades preschool/ junior kindergarten thru 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade on fire danger and fire awareness by going to their classrooms, bringing a fire truck to the school or giving fire hall tours. During this week it is a good time to review your fire escape plan with your family and talk about the fire dangers with your children. Also, it is important to test your batteries in your smoke detector at least twice a year. An easy way to remember is to check them in the spring and fall during daylight savings time. For further information on fire safety and awareness go to [www.nfpa.org/safety-information/safety-tip-sheets](http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/safety-tip-sheets).

### Fall is Clean Up Time!



Now that Fall has arrived, New York Mills city residents are busy cleaning yards and gardens. The Public Works Dept. welcomes your leaves, lawn clippings and brush at their compost site on West Nowell. Plastics, lumber and garbage are not allowed. Residents are asked to leave your debris in the piles which are marked accordingly for branches or leaves. The compost site is open all hours. Please use your discretion in wet weather.

Residents are also welcome to take compost from the compost pile for your gardens and flowerbeds.

Have a great fall season everyone!





## Mayor's Corner

### Julie Gerber, Mayor

Hello Again!

Well here we are heading into winter yet again. It really is amazing how quickly the seasons seem to change and the cycle of work and decisions keeps going and going. You have your projects that need to be done at certain times of the year right? Winterize the boat, service and get your furnace ready or even buy a new winter coat. All of these require planning and making a decision with the information you have been given. You know, that is no different for us on the city level.

Take the 2015 Street project for example. We have a timeline that needs to be adhered to in

order for the project to move forward. Right now we are in the planning and information stage in which we will be holding a series of meetings, each focused on separate areas of the project with the residents on the impacted streets. On October 9th, we will be holding the public hearing regarding the proposed assessments for the improvements of this project. Once this is done, we can proceed with the necessary decisions to continue on with the project.

Another recent decision was the hiring of our new Public Works Director to take over once Roger retires early next year. We had 13 applicants that were scored by the council as well Roger and clerk Darla Berry. The panel consisting of myself, Council member Marsha Maki, former Mayor Larry Hodgson, Roger Salo and clerk Berry conducted the interviews with

the highest scorers. It was decided that a second round of interviews was necessary to make a better decision. After another evening of interviews, we recommended and the council approved, at the next meeting, the hiring of Kyle Mattson as the new Public Works Director. Please say hello and welcome Kyle when you see him around town beginning Sept 29th!

We on the council understand that the decisions we make impact everyone in one way or another. But you must understand that we do not make decisions in haste or with an attitude of vengefulness. They are made based on the information we have been given, the current as well as future impact and with your ( the residents of New York Mills ) best interests in mind. No, not everyone can have the job; no, you cannot have all the services you have without paying prop-

erty taxes; no, the Senior center does not pay rent—all they pay for is utilities (and that amount hasn't increased in years); and no the city has not taken any donations that were intended for the Senior Center. A donation in the same amount was given both to The Senior Center for a the handicap door entrance as well as to the Pool for a handicapped lift. The City is also contributing funds towards the handicapped door entrance for the Seniors. It is important to remember to get all the facts in any situation before jumping to conclusions.

Lastly, Thank you to Jason Schik for your time on the council—it was a pleasure working with you!

Please be Safe this Deer Hunting season! Remember there is always something to be thankful for! Have a wonderful Holiday Season with your family and friends! Till next time!

## Update on City Happenings Cont. from Pg 3

category based on historical volume. The plan will place customers in rate categories that reflect your historical usage levels to determine at what volume the next higher rate will apply. Multifamily rental properties will be in separate rate classes than single family residences. Businesses will be similarly placed in a rate class that is based on their actual historical usage levels. As we work out any issues with this new pricing, we will be looking at adopting similar rate structures for our sewer utility given that currently sewer rates, like current water rates, go down as volumes increase. Natural gas rates have risen somewhat since our last heating season. We are seeking to secure contracts to purchase gas at the lowest rates possible for the upcoming heating season. Customers are encouraged to turn down the thermostat overnight and during those times when your home or business is not occupied to conserve on your use of natural gas and keep your monthly bills as low as possible.

### Housing Study

During this summer of 2014, the City engaged the services of Community Partners Research to conduct a Housing Study of our town. The

results of that study were shared in a community meeting held on Thursday, September 25, at the County Office building. There was a great turnout and it turned out to be a very informative session. We are hoping that this information helps to spur the construction of additional housing units in town, be they rental or owned units. If you are interested in seeing this 90+ page study, look for it on the City website.

### Economic Development

Along with having the Housing Study completed, the City and the EDA engaged the services of an Economic Developer by entering into an arrangement with West Central Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA) earlier this year. Mark Hanson of WCEDA has been working with the City to become involved in economic development in this area. He attends most EDA meetings along with many of the Civic & Commerce meetings that are held monthly. He also attends many of the more informal gatherings that are held most Thursday mornings at the Public Library. EDA President Larry Hodgson has been taking Hanson

around to visit with local businesses, where he explains the type of assistance he can provide on behalf of the EDA. Plans are to have Hanson continue to work with the EDA and the City in a visioning process that may result in either a Strategic Plan or lead to development of a Comprehensive Plan. Such a structure would help guide the City leaders in moving New York Mills forward over the next 5 to 20 years in terms of ensuring a thriving and vibrant community in which to live and work. He will be assisting the City and the EDA with taking the Housing Study findings and incorporating those into the visioning process. Also, the EDA would like to remind residents and business owners that it does make gap financing available to local businesses. If you are looking to start a business or need assistance in financing your business expansion, please contact the City Clerk's office staff to find out more about the requirements and the application process.

### Legried Community Swimming Pool

During the past year, the City successfully raised funds to install a

handicap lift at the Legried Community Swimming Pool. The City greatly appreciates the funds provided for this project from the following organizations: Sanford Health, Otter Tail Power Company, Tri-County Hospital Foundation, Perham Health, Lake Region Electric, and the New York Mills Lions Club. The lift was actually purchased in September 2013 but was not installed until the 2014 season. It was a successful year for our pool. Pool Manager Heidi Van Dyke reported to the City Council that over the course of the summer there were 3,642 swimmers, including for lessons, regular admission, and aerobics attendees. Swimming lessons were given to 389 students. Pool revenues for the season totaled \$21,862.70 and donations year to date added another \$2,455 to that figure. Expenses totaled \$67,189.59, with \$18,000 of that relating to repairs done to the pool bottom prior to the start of the season. The net operating expenses deducting this pool repair totaled \$49,189.59. The City has franchise fees from electric utilities budgeted to total \$7,800 in 2014 to help offset the pool expenses.

# 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](mailto: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](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  
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 Council

Mayor:

Julie Gerber

[juliegerber70@gmail.com](mailto:juliergerber70@gmail.com)

Council Members:

Marsha Maki

[marshamaki@gmail.com](mailto:marshamaki@gmail.com)

Jason Schik

[jason.schik@gmail.com](mailto:jason.schik@gmail.com)

Betsy Roder

[betsyroder25@gmail.com](mailto:betsyroder25@gmail.com)

Josh Hoaby

[nymhoaby@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:darlanymcity@arvig.net) Phone 385-2213

Public Works Director:

Roger Salo [nymrsgas@gmail.com](mailto:nymrsgas@gmail.com) Phone 385-4505

Librarian:

Julie Adams [jadams@newyorkmills.lib.mn.us](mailto:jadams@newyorkmills.lib.mn.us) Phone 385-2436

Liquor Store Manager:

Kim Hoban [millsliquors@arvig.net](mailto:millsliquors@arvig.net) Phone 385-2004

Chief of Police:

James Gritz [police.nym@gmail.com](mailto:police.nym@gmail.com) Phone 385-2600

Pool Director:

Heidi Van Dyke Phone 385-3200

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USDA Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Ave SW, Stop 9410

Washington, DC 20250-9410

Or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339

(TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800)845-6136

(Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.