

The Finlander Forum

Newsletter of Crystal Bay Township and the community
of Finland Minnesota 12th edition December 2017

How Do We Make Change? We Are. One Step At a Time.

By Honor Schauland

Right now it is easy for me to get stuck in negative thoughts and conflict. These are hard times, and more difficulty lies on the horizon. Seeing the fights and incivility online and at state, national and global levels, it feels as if our entire civilization is on the brink of sweeping changes - some good, some not so good.



Our isolated communities face many problems. Needed services are often far away. There is a lack of jobs, housing, and infrastructure. There is a lack of funding for everything. There are more leadership positions to fill than our sparse population allows, and our citizens often lack time or energy to participate. Our youth are at risk amid rising meth and opiate addiction. The cost of living rises steadily, as do land prices. We have healthcare issues for seniors trying to stay in their homes and community. In fact, there are healthcare issues of every sort, along with services and solutions that don't always address the unique needs in our unique area.

It's easy to feel downhearted since these issues are numerous and not so easy to resolve. Yet it also seems reasonable to distrust those who claim to have easy solutions. On a personal level, we have little or no control. But - on a community level - there is no question that, by working together, we can make headway on many of these issues. Getting the right people in the same room leads to amazing changes.

Here is what we are doing right and what more we can do.

The good news is: as a community, we are working on our issues - sometimes without even realizing it. One example that stands out is the Finland Community Youth Program. It is awesome and magical to watch kids growing up and learning to be leaders through their participation in Youth Night and the many other activities the Youth Program provides. Strengthening the Youth Program is about creating the future citizens our community needs. Youth development IS economic development. We want to build pathways to help young people return here, move here, or stay here.

Furthermore, Finland's Youth Program is a good strategy to prevent our young folks from falling into drug and alcohol abuse. We've always known this, but perhaps we need to emphasize even more how crucial it is that we have the participation of every caring, functional citizen possible in order to overcome all the daunting problems listed earlier! If we're going to build the better world that our hearts know is possible, we need all of us.

With that in mind, the Clair Nelson Center is putting out a call for adults, young and old, to lead evening activities on weeknights, like volleyball, basketball or even an open gym night for ages 15 and up. We have had strong, active leaders over the years, but things always change with time. More recently, these activities have not been happening consistently. We need a leader or a couple co-leaders to be the "buck-stops-here" people who will be in charge of opening up the building, monitoring activities, filling out a use sheet for the Community Center's records, and making sure things are clean and closed up afterwards. Essentially, you would be helping us provide a safe and fun space available for the young people who really need it.

If you are interested in being part of this, please let us know. You would be meeting a huge need!

Another project in progress is expanding our summer day camp for school age kids, Camp Finland, to more than one week. We are also thinking about trying out a one or two day language and culture camp for both Finnish and Spanish.

If you are interested in helping out with any of these activities, please contact us at 218-353-0300 or

honor@friendsoffinland.org

As always, your donations for these activities are so appreciated. Thanks for all of your support!

Volunteer Corner

The Friends of Finland Volunteer Program would like to acknowledge the volunteer efforts of Stacy Breden. Stacy puts in hundreds of hours pulling together the Booya and its fundraiser, the Finland Bazaar. Thank you, Stacy! These events wouldn't happen without your hard work.

In appreciation of her hard work for our community, we are giving Stacy a gift certificate to a local business, in this case, Maxwell's Woodland Nursery.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Betsey Mead at 218-353-0300 or Betsey@friendsoffinland.org



Stacy Breden, amazing community volunteer!

Finland Community Youth Program Updates

After 3 years of service as Youth Program's favorite Grandma, taxi service, and food and beverage provider, Sherry Anderson is taking a well-deserved break! We'll still see her often as she'll be bringing her grandkids to Youth Night. Thank you Sherry! You're the Best!

We are pleased to welcome Sheryl Hoff as a new Youth Program employee. Sheryl loves kids and crafts, has tons of grandkids herself and will be a fabulous addition to our program!

We've also bid good bye to Peer Supervisors Kenny Albrecht and Kyler Knaffla. They are pursuing full time jobs and schooling. We heartily thank them for 3 years of service to our area children.

Our former substitute Peer Supervisors Oliver Smith and Abram Lattin have been hired as our new Peer Supervisors. We're fortunate to have them as they're great with the kids! Sully Tikkanen and Emma Todd have stepped up to be our new substitutes. It is so rewarding to watch all of these young folks mature and grow as they go from participants in these programs to becoming our next generation of leaders.

More Fun Upcoming Events for Winter/Spring 2018

An exciting upcoming opportunity for our Youth Program kids and the whole community is that we will once again be making our outing to Palo, MN on February 3rd to the Laskiainen Finnish Sledding Festival! This community outing is sponsored by North Shore AGE to Age. 2 buses will be going, one from Finland, and one from Silver Bay and all ages are welcome. Please call 218-353-0300 to sign up!



Similarly, AGE to Age will also be sponsoring an intergenerational outing to see a play in Duluth this coming spring. Look for more information on that event in late March.

Thanks for all the support we receive for the Youth Program!

Pudgy's PSAs

Call Pudgy and let him know if a township road needs his help.
220-9242



Remember not to plow snow across Township roads!

And also...Little Kid Playtime!

For all kids ages 0-5!
Tuesdays from 2-4pm.
Playgroup for the younger ones among us. No structure, just open gym play for toddlers, babies and their parents.



Winter Community Calendar - at the Clair Nelson Center

December

29th - Film Showing - *Economics of Happiness* - 6pm
 30th - Woolsock! Email woolsockfest@gmail.com for more info
 31st - Woolsock!

January

2nd - Scrapbooking Community Ed Class - 10am
 5th - Movie Night - *Inside Out* showing at 6:30pm
 6th - Community Conversation - 5:30-7:30pm
 7th - Bingo - 2pm
 9th - FMHS Annual Meeting - 6:30pm
 16th - Cardmaking Community Ed Class - 10am
 16th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
 18th - Blue Cross Medicare Information Meeting - 11am
 21st - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after
 28th - John Beargrease Finland Checkpoint Kitchen open at 3pm
 30th - Beargrease return leg - Checkpoint Kitchen hours To Be Announced

February

2nd - Movie Night - *Miss Representation* showing at 6:30pm
 4th - Bingo - 2pm
 6th - Scrapbooking Community Ed Class - 10am
 19th - Bale Creations Community Ed Class - 6-8pm
 20th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
 25th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after
 26th - Lush Landscapes - Community Ed Class - 6-8pm
 27th - Cardmaking Community Ed Class - 10am

March

2nd - Movie Night - *Chasing Ice* showing at 6:30pm
 4th - Bingo - 2pm
 5th - Eraser Carving Community Ed Class - 6-8pm
 6th - Scrapbooking Community Ed Class - 10am
 9th, 10th & 11th - St Urho's Float Workshop Weekend 10am-4pm
 13th - Crystal Bay Township Annual Meeting - 7pm
 16th, 17th & 18th - 43rd Annual St Urho's Celebration
 20th - Cardmaking Community Ed Class - 10am
 20th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
 25th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after
 26th - Spring Blooms Community Ed Class - 6-8pm

April

1st - Bingo - 2pm
 1st - Spring Runoff Variety Show - Dinner at 6pm, Show at 7pm
 6th - Movie Night - *Black Fish* showing at 6:30pm
 17th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
 21st - Whitetails Unlimited Cabin Fever Chapter Banquet
 29th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

Regular Weekly Activities

Mondays: Alcoholics Anonymous - 7:30-8:30 pm

Tuesdays: Tuesday Talents Craft Group 8:30am-4pm, Toddler Playtime 2-4pm

Thursdays: Youth Open Gym Night - 6-9pm

Fridays: Magic Cards - 7pm

Sundays: Painting Group - 2-4pm

All events and activities are free unless otherwise noted.

You're invited! Don't miss Community Conversation 2018! January 6th 5:30-7:30

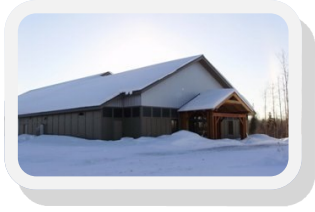
Please come with ideas and input on where our community has been, what is working, and where we are going next. Dinner will be provided. All are welcome!



Sharing ideas in January 2017

But before that happens...

Come watch the film *The Economics of Happiness* on December 29th at 6pm. This thought-provoking film is the perfect lead-up to Community Conversation 2018.



CLAIR NELSON COMMUNITY CENTER
(FINLAND RECREATION FACILITIES)

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Clair Nelson Vocational Scholarship Fund Deadline March 1st



Clair Nelson Vocational Scholarships offer financial assistance to high school seniors and adult residents of School District 381. Applicants must be interested in pursuing a career in a vocational or technical field. Vocational career fields are usually considered to be those that require two years or less of postsecondary education or training. Four scholarships of \$350 each will be awarded annually. Applications are accepted January 1st to March 1st of each year. Applications can be obtained through the guidance offices at the high schools in Two Harbors and Silver Bay, Two Harbors and Silver Bay Service Centers, and are also available on our website at www.friendsoffinland.org/clair-nelson-scholarship/

The Clair Nelson Vocational Scholarship Fund was created in honor of the late Clair Nelson. Mr. Nelson is probably most often remembered by area residents in his role as a commissioner of the Lake County Board, a position he held for nine years. Clair Nelson was a lifelong advocate for education and an energetic supporter of the vocational and technical trades.

We need your help in order to continue providing this scholarship to the community. Tax deductible donations to the Clair Nelson Scholarship Fund are always appreciated. Checks can be sent (payable to the Friends of the Finland Community memo Clair Nelson Scholarship Fund) to:

Friends of the Finland Community
PO Box 582
Finland, MN 55603

This is a publication produced in partnership between Crystal Bay Township and Friends of the Finland Community. If you do not wish to receive future copies of this newsletter, please call 218-353-0300 and request that your name and address be taken off of our mailing list. If you would like to receive this newsletter and other communications electronically in the future, please email honor@friendsoffinland.org and you will be added to our email list. Our first email version was sent in May of 2014. We also send out a monthly email newsletter. Thanks for reading!