

The Finlander Forum

Newsletter of Crystal Bay Township and the community
of Finland Minnesota 13th edition May 2018



Crystal Bay Township Award for Solar

Crystal Bay Township (Finland, MN) was recently given an award by the Minnesota Department of Commerce for having the most installed solar photo-voltaic (PV) per person in the continental United States. There are a variety of factors contributing to the high amount of solar panels in the Township:

1. Wolf Ridge's commitment to sustainability, including recent construction projects and newly installed solar.
2. Crystal Bay Township government's commitment to sustainability, including solar PV at the Clair Nelson Center and the Finland Fire Hall.
3. Many township residents' decisions to live off the grid due to personal choice or lack of infrastructure in more remote areas of the Township.
4. Many residents' commitment to sustainability by choosing to install grid-tied solar PV at their homes.

The Township plans to put up a highway sign noting that this is a clean energy community, possibly even a solar-powered sign. In order to retain the title of most installed solar per capita, we need to install more in the coming years. For that eventual growth to occur, solar power needs to get less expensive. While solar power has gotten more affordable in recent years, it remains financially challenging for many people. Because it pays for itself over time, construction loans are available from local banks. However, it is very difficult for low-income people to access these loans. Other obstacles are few local installers and logistics of some home sites. There's a learning curve here; it's unfamiliar technology for many people.

With our 283 watts of PV installed per person, we have more installed than all of the country except Hawaii, which has twice as many PV installed per-person as we do. We are the champs of the continental USA! This can change rapidly as PV is being installed constantly all over the country. If we are to maintain champion status, we need to keep adding more solar panels.

To facilitate this growth, our Township has advocated for the Lake County Commissioners to consider adopting the Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) option. PACE is a new channel to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades for buildings of commercial property owners. This would make possible energy-saving measures to be pursued by businesses. Those eligible receive project financing that is repaid as a separate item on their property tax assessment for a set period. PACE eliminates the burden of upfront costs by providing low-cost, long-term financing.

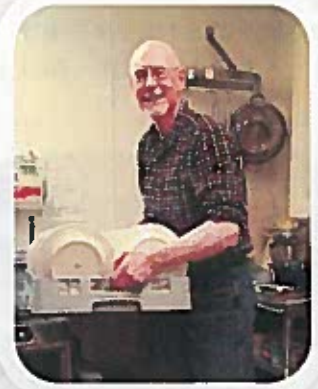
Our Township recently requested on behalf of homeowners to be included in the SolSmart, an opportunity for Minnesota Local Governments to unlock the economic development benefits of solar energy. Through SolSmart, a national program, our township will get FREE technical assistance from national solar experts to address local barriers to solar energy development. We will see what we can learn to help us make solar installs more accessible, efficient, and affordable.

Some ideas to be explored include building a Community Solar Garden for those of us with limited solar access (trees shading our homes etc.) and limited time and money but interested in solar technology for our homes. All of this gives us greater opportunities to power our homes, businesses, and community with US made energy while reducing our impact on our environment.

We can find opportunities to learn more about solar and other renewable energy options through evening programs, workshops and community conversations around maintaining our champion status by installing more solar PV in our community. At least for now, we can really be proud of our accomplishments in regards to energy conservation, ecological and sustainable buildings and of our solar installations here in the north woods.

Volunteer Corner

This spring we are celebrating Morris Manning. Whether loading the dishwasher or helping at the potluck, Morris volunteers with a smile. Morris jumps in when he sees help is needed and offers helpful suggestions and feedback. To show our appreciation, Morris is receiving a \$25 gift certificate from a local business. Thank you Morris! We really appreciate you! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Betsey Mead at 218-353-0300 or Betsey@friendsoffinland.org



Summer Project 2018: Better Parking Lot Lighting at the Clair Nelson Center

This summer, we plan to address the lighting in the parking lot at the Clair Nelson Center in a way that will enhance safety while not contributing to neighborhood light pollution. For big events, especially in the winter months, the existing lights do not provide a safe amount of light to the entire parking area. We have had some unfortunate injuries and falls that are related to this problem. We'd like to add lighting that solves this problem without creating more problems. The plan is to install LED solar



lights that utilize timers and motion sensors to use less power by turning off when they are not needed. If you have questions or concerns about this project, please call 218-353-0300. If you wish to support this project with a donation, please send one in the envelope included with this newsletter.

Announcing Spanish Language Camp - July 25th– 27th!

We are excited to announce our first ever Spanish Language Camp for children ages 5-12, happening in late July this year. We will be utilizing local Spanish speakers and community members to learn about language, cultures, foods, games and more. If you are an adult with some Spanish proficiency and would like to help out, or if you are a parent interested in having your child participate, please contact us at 218-353-0300.



Get Ready for the Finland Farmers Market 2018!

Summer 2018 at the Clair Nelson Center - Starting June 14th and continuing through October 4th!

Every Thursday evening from 5-6:30 pm under the Pavilion at the Clair Nelson Center, 6866 Cramer Road, Finland, MN 55603

Vendors: 1st week is free! - \$5 per week or \$50 for the season. More info or to register call 218-353-0300. We are able to accept credit cards and EBT/SNAP Benefits!

For more information please visit www.friendsoffinland.org/finland-farmers-market-2018/ or www.facebook.com/finlandfarmersmarket/

Summer/Fall Community Calendar - at the Clair Nelson Center

June

- 14th - Finland Farmers Market begins - 5-6:30pm
- 15th - Lisa Topp Presentation on hiking the Pacific Crest Trail - 6:30pm
- 18th - 22nd - Camp Finland
- 19th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
- 21st - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 24th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after
- 27th - Finland Co-op Annual Meeting - 5-7pm
- 28th - Water Watchers begins - 10am-3pm
- 28th - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm

July

- 1st - Bingo Sponsored by Baptism River Community Church - 2pm
- 5th - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 12th - Medicare information by BCBS - 11am - Noon
- 12th - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 17th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
- 19th - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 21st - 22nd - Finland Fireman's Wooden Bat Tournament
- 25th - 27th - Spanish Language Camp
- 26th - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 29th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

August

- 2nd - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 5th - Bingo Sponsored by Baptism River Community Church - 2pm
- 9th - Medicare information by BCBS - 11am - Noon
- 9th - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 14th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
- 16th - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 23rd - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 26th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after
- 30th - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm

September

- 2nd - Bingo Sponsored by Organic Consumers Association - 2pm
- 6th - Medicare information by BCBS - 11am - Noon
- 6th - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 7th - 8th - Superior Trail Race
- 13th - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 15th - Harvest Booya 10am - 3pm
- 18th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
- 20th - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 27th - Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 30th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

October

- 4th - Final Finland Farmers Market - 5-6:30pm
- 7th - Bingo Sponsored by Organic Consumers Association - 2pm
- 16th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
- 28th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

Regular Weekly Activities

Mondays: Bone Builders 10–11am, Alcoholics Anonymous - 7:30-8:30 pm

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

Wednesdays: Bone Builders 10–11am

Thursdays: Youth Open Gym Night - 6-9pm

Fridays: Magic Cards - 7pm

All events and activities are free unless otherwise noted.

Did you know? The Clair Nelson Center has evening open hours - 6-8pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays every week! Stop in and use the internet, the gym or just socialize. Adults and children welcome – children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

We also have regular office hours on Tuesdays and Fridays during the day from 10am - 4pm. Stop in with questions about rentals and community events!



**CLAIR NELSON COMMUNITY CENTER
(FINLAND RECREATION FACILITIES)**

Friends of the Finland Community

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Can You Contribute to Camp Finland?

The Finland Community Youth Program's Camp Finland, now in its 5th year, is being planned for this summer! We've increased the number of children we can accommodate this year to 40. Camp Finland is a day camp for area school age Youth. It will be held June 18-22nd, 10 am - 4 pm, with one overnight. Camp Finland is made possible in part by the generosity of the Northland Foundation, Cliff's Foundation, the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation-Silver Bay Charitable Fund and individuals like you! Donations will help us maintain our level of quality and defray the costs of camp: transportation, food, supplies, and staffing. It's easy to donate online at www.givemn.org/organization/Friends-Of-The-Finland-Community or feel free to send a check to Friends of the Finland Community (with Camp Finland in the memo), PO Box 582, Finland, MN 55603. Donations are tax-deductible. Thanks so much! Healthy, happy kids make healthy, happy communities!



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. We also send out a monthly email newsletter. If you would like to receive our emails, please email honor@friendsoffinland.org and you will be added to our email list. Thanks for reading!