



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

**Friends of the Finland Community**

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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. Three scholarships of \$400 each are 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/](http://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. We also send out a monthly email newsletter. Thanks for reading!*

**The Finland Forum**

Newsletter of Crystal Bay Township and the community  
of Finland Minnesota 14th edition December 2018



**New Timber Frame Pavilion and Future Outdoor Oven**

Anyone hanging around the Clair Nelson Community Center this past Fall will have noticed a new structure near the swingset. What's that going to be? Well, it's going to be another picnic shelter. Down the road, when we can raise the money, it's going to house a wood-fired oven for baking fun things, like bread and pizza. This new structure ended up happening for a number of reasons, the main one being that a local artisan, Heather Brown, received a Minnesota State Arts Board grant to become proficient at timber framing, and proposed to do so by building a structure that could be used for community purposes. The Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation and Co-op Light and Power's Operation RoundUp each donated funds for the concrete slab. What this all adds up to is more room for outdoor programs and activities, such as the Finland Farmers Market, Camp Finland, community barbecues, cookouts, outdoor meetings, classes, and more!

We raised the timber frame on September 30th, and it was an amazing community experience. Over 30 people of various ages and all walks of life came to participate. There were experienced builders, both young and old. There were small children who were excited to help. There were folks who helped by making lunch or keeping children safe. There were lots of men and women to provide the muscle of moving all of the parts around and fitting them together. There were older folks who helped by providing experienced advice. There were folks who helped by staining the wooden beams. There were many interested onlookers. At several key points, nearly everyone present mobilized to move and raise the timbers in an organized way. We were an amazing and well-coordinated team, and the result is this beautiful structure that will be used by the community for many years to come.

Please donate to support this project! We are still raising funds to defray the cost of the concrete slab, and we're hoping to raise about \$5,000-6,000 for the future wood-fired oven. We appreciate your support. Checks can be mailed to Friends of Finland, PO Box 582, Finland, MN 55603.

**Plans for Camp Finland 2019: Bigger than Ever!**

We have been talking for a number of years now about wanting to offer two sessions of Camp Finland, simply because each year has grown so much that we've had kids on a waiting list. Camp has grown from 18 kids the first year to over 40 kids in 2018. This has been great, but not without logistical challenges. The challenge of how to serve more youth led us to consider offering two separate sessions of Camp, but that is a whole ball of wax in a different way. After much brainstorming, we are now planning to offer Camp for two separate age groups in the same week: One will serve ages 5-11, and one will serve ages 12-17. How are we going to do this? We are planning for separate staffing for each group. We are also hoping to take the older group on a number of exciting field trips offsite!



Please consider making a donation to support Camp Finland and the Finland Community Youth Program. Donations can be mailed to Friends of Finland (with Youth Program in the memo), PO Box 582, Finland MN 55603. Donations are tax-deductible. We could not provide such a high-quality program without the generous support of people like you!



### Volunteer Corner

The Friends of Finland Volunteer Program would like to acknowledge the volunteer efforts of Hannah Edstrom. Hannah grew up in Red Wing, MN but fell in love with the North Shore and all it has to offer. Hannah has been at Wolf Ridge for the past three years as a naturalist. During that time she has volunteered numerous hours at the Clair Nelson Rec Center. When asked why, Hannah shares, "It's fun and I really enjoy it! I really enjoy getting to know the community members." Hannah was a volunteer at the Lumberjack Dinner and loved hearing the stories from the folks that lived here a long time. Thank you, Hannah!



Hannah Edstrom, Friends of Finland Volunteer!

In appreciation of her hard work for our community, we are giving Hannah a gift certificate to a local business, in this case, to the Trestle Inn.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Betsey Mead at 218-353-0300 or [Betsey@friendsoffinland.org](mailto:Betsey@friendsoffinland.org)

### Welcome to Finland

You may have noticed that there is a new initiative promoting the distinctive culture and heritage of our area: Welcome to Finland ([wtfinland.com](http://wtfinland.com)). Welcome to Finland is meant to be Finland MN's version of a local chamber of commerce, with a particular focus on building the online and social media presence of our unique community. Finland MN is made up of people who are proud to live here and be part of this community and its heritage. Welcome to Finland's goal is to attract people who want to learn about and/or reconnect with our local culture and community. [Wtfinland.com](http://Wtfinland.com) is about claiming our narrative in the digital world so that we attract people who are interested in the unique experience Finland, MN has to offer.



Though only recently launched, blog and Facebook posts have been very popular, reaching tens of thousands of people, and there are plans for many creative ways to promote our area online. Welcome to Finland is excited to have the support of a growing number of local businesses and organizations, as well as a Culture and Tourism grant through the IRRRB. In collaboration, we can help get the word out online about the great things that happen in our area throughout the year. Look for more info at [wtfinland.com](http://wtfinland.com) and [www.facebook.com/wtfinland/](http://www.facebook.com/wtfinland/).

### Bingo Needs Volunteers!

Did you know that there is bingo on the first Sunday of every month at the Clair Nelson Center from 2-4pm? Well, there is, but we need more people to attend in order for it to keep happening! Not only that, but we are looking for a couple of people who want to help make it happen by volunteering to help. Specifically, we need a caller and another helper. Please call 218-353-0300 or come to bingo on the first Sunday of the month if you are interested!



## Winter Community Calendar - at the Clair Nelson Center

### December

- 18th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
- 28th - Woolsock! Email [woolsockfest@gmail.com](mailto:woolsockfest@gmail.com) for more info
- 29th - Woolsock!
- 30th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

### January

- 2nd - North Shore Mental Health Group - 7pm
- 3rd - Blue Cross Medicare Information - 11am - Noon
- 6th - Bingo - 2pm
- 7th - Lefse-making Workshop - 6-8pm
- 8th - FMHS Annual Meeting and Program - 6:00pm
- 13th - Winter Card Making Workshop - Noon - 4pm
- 14th - Commingle Class series with Lauri Hohman begins - 6-8pm
- 15th - Tuesday Morning Yoga Class series begins - 9-10am
- 15th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
- 17th - AEOA Mobile Office 10am - 2pm
- 20th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after
- 27th - John Beargrease Finland Checkpoint Kitchen open at 3pm

### February

- 3rd - Bingo - 2pm
- 3rd - Penny Black Cardmaking Workshop - Noon - 4pm
- 6th - North Shore Mental Health Group - 7pm
- 10th - Locally Grown and Wild Food Class - 3-5pm
- 17th - Storing Locally Grown and Wild Food - 3-5pm
- 19th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
- 21st - Blue Cross Medicare Information - 11am - Noon
- 21st - AEOA Mobile Office 10am - 2pm
- 24th - Cooking With Locally Grown and Wild Food - 3-5pm
- 24th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after
- 26th - Mixed Media Apron Art Class - 6-8pm

### March

- 3rd - Bingo - 2pm
- 6th - North Shore Mental Health Group - 7pm
- 8th, 9th & 10th - St Urho's Float Workshop Weekend 10am-4pm
- 12th - Crystal Bay Township Annual Meeting - 7pm
- 15th, 16th & 17th - 44th Annual St Urho's Celebration
- 19th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
- 21st - AEOA Mobile Office 10am - 2pm
- 31st - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

### April

- 3rd - North Shore Mental Health Group - 7pm
- 7th - Bingo - 2pm
- 16th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm
- 18th - 21st - AEOA Mobile Office 10am - 2pm
- 27th - Whitetails Unlimited Cabin Fever Chapter Banquet
- 28th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

### Regular Weekly Activities

**Mondays:** Bonebuilders Exercise Class - 10am-11am  
Alcoholics Anonymous - 7:30-8:30 pm

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

**Wednesdays:** Bonebuilders Exercise Class - 10am-11am

**Thursdays:** Youth Open Gym Night - 6-9pm

**Fridays:** Magic Cards - 7pm

**Sundays:** Painting Group - 10am- noon

*All events and activities are free unless otherwise noted.*

The Clair Nelson Center has regular open hours:

Monday: 6-8pm

Tuesday: 10am-4pm  
6-8pm

Wednesday: 6-8pm

Thursday: 10am-4pm

Friday: 10am-4pm

Stop in to use the gym, make a rental inquiry, use the wi-fi or see what else is going on!

Community Conversation 2019 has been postponed. There are some big and exciting things in the works that we are preparing for, so the date for Community Conversation 2019 will be announced in the near future. Thanks for your patience and past participation in this event!