



CLAIR NELSON COMMUNITY CENTER
(FINLAND RECREATION FACILITIES)

Friends of the Finland Community

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Crystal Bay Township Revolving Loan Fund for Businesses Now Available!

In 2010, Crystal Bay Township entered into an arrangement with the Iron Range Resources Board and Lake County Housing and Redevelopment Authority to administer a Commercial Building Improvement Loan Program. The intent was to help finance building construction, renovations, energy efficiency, handicap accessibility, and signage in the business district of Crystal Bay Township.

For almost 20 years, repayments for the first (and only) loan administered through this program have been accumulating and are now available in a revolving loan fund.

To encourage the use of these funds, the Crystal Bay Town Supervisors have decided to broaden the original eligibility guidelines and consider applications from a wider selection of businesses and for a wider variety of projects.

Requests may be made for up to \$5,000 for tangible structures that will benefit the residents of Crystal Bay Township, with terms of 3% interest for up to 5 years. Approval is at the discretion of the Town Board and will be contingent on a business plan and credit check. For more details and an application, contact Deb Johansen, Crystal Bay Township Clerk, at 218-353-7730 or debjo1@hotmail.com.

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!

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!

The Finlander Forum

Newsletter of Friends of the Finland Community,
Crystal Bay Township and the community of Finland
Minnesota 15th edition December 2019



Participants at the Finland Food Chain Community

The Finland Food Chain Project

Hopefully you've already heard about it, but 2019 marks the launch of the Finland Food Chain project, a 3 year project funded by Bush Foundation Community Innovation funds, with a mission to create an equitable and interrelated local food system that increases access to healthy foods and builds local wealth in Finland Minnesota and the surrounding area. So far we have had two large community meetings to gather input for projects, and a lot of behind-the-scenes work to get things organized and up and running. Many great ideas for projects to build our local food system are in the works and will get off the ground in the near future.

Many of these first-phase projects involve information gathering as a first step. The Food Chain recently conducted a community-wide survey to gather information on local folks food buying habits, needs and wants.

Projects so far include work on a feasibility study for local wild rice processing, creation of a directory of local food producers, research into a community garden, a planned assessment of local institutional purchasing, classes on farming and gardening, enhancing the Finland Farmers Market, grantwriting to help the Finland Co-op update infrastructure, creating a local seed savers group, and much more.

We are currently in the process of hiring coordinators to work on Infrastructure, Purchasing, Producers and Education for the project.

The Finland Food Chain welcomes participation and input for this ongoing work. There will be many opportunities to participate in the future. For more info, please visit: www.finlandfoodchain.org or www.facebook.com/finlandfoodchain and/or contact Project Coordinator Honor Schauland at 218-353-0300.

Camp Finland 2019 Was a Huge Success!

This year, we put on the biggest and best Camp Finland we have ever had from June 17th through 21st! We hosted 29 kids ages 5-11 for the Day Camp and 23 teens ages 12-19 for the Teen Camp, so 52 youth total! This was the most elaborate Camp we have ever put on. Teen Camp was the biggest new addition, and the biggest logistical challenge, since the teens stayed overnight onsite all week, which required more meals, more oversight, more transportation, and a lot more planning. Day Camp of course was bigger and better in its own way as well! As always, we had a great roster of Directors, Counselors, Counselors-In-Training, kitchen helpers, class instructors and volunteers, because we couldn't do it without all of their help. We put a lot of work into it and really enjoyed our week with all of the amazing young people who attended. Please donate to support this amazing program! Checks can be mailed to Friends of the Finland Community (with Camp Finland or Youth Program in the memo), PO Box 582, Finland, MN 55603. An preaddressed envelope is included with this newsletter. Donations are tax-deductible.



Camp Finland, including teens, 2019

2019 Featured Volunteers!

You've heard the expression Behind Every Great Man Is A Great Woman? It's dated and sexist, right?

But how about this one? Behind Every Great Clair Nelson Center Staffperson Is A Great Partner. A partner that volunteers their time to help with the Booya dishes, runs the kids' booth at St Urho's, helps with bingo, prepares the meal for a special event, fixes the heater, the ice machine and the..... You get the idea!

This year's Volunteer Thank you goes out to our staffpeople's partners for the hours you have all put in helping us make the Clair Nelson Center the community jewel it is.

Thank you many times over to Marc Smith (Amy Gardner), Gary Olson (Nancy Anselment-Olson), Jeffrey Mitchell (Honor Schauland), Pamela Melby (Kaare Melby) and Kurt Mead (Betsey Mead).

We appreciate you! And so does our community!



Thank You, Amy Gardner!

Friends of Finland would like to thank Amy Gardner for her many years of service as the Coordinator of the Finland Community Youth Program. Amy is moving on, and we want to recognize her dedication and hard work with and on behalf of our community's kids.



Under Amy's direction, the Youth Program has grown beyond our wildest dreams and now includes not only Thursday Night Youth Night/Open Gym, but Camp Finland (a week-long summer camp experience in June) as well as various outings and other activities for youth and community members.

We expect all of these great activities to continue uninterrupted, because Amy has built a very capable group of people as staff who will continue to provide quality opportunities for our youth.

Nevertheless, Amy is leaving big shoes to fill. We will be hiring to fill the gaps in the Youth Program in the near future. Thanks Amy! You will be missed!

Featured Donor - Jean Hangartner Cook - By Honor Schauland.

Friends of Finland recently got a nice donation from the estate of Jean Hangartner Cook, who was originally from here in Finland, MN, but who made her home in Michigan.

I met Jean back in 2008 when we both staffed the Finland Minnesota booth at FinnFest USA which was held in Duluth that year. I was representing the community center (which wasn't built yet) and the Finland Co-op. Jean was representing the Finland MN Historical Society. I remember we had a lovely conversation about Finland's history and where it was going, and when later that year, the newly formed Friends of Finland organization put out a call for donations for building the community center, Jean made a donation of \$1,000. I remember thinking that our conversation must have really made an impression on her! After that, she made regular annual donations. I had no idea that she would remember us in her estate. What an unexpected gift!

If you are interested in supporting Friends of Finland beyond your own lifetime, you can plan for it now. It's easy to leave a bequest of any specific dollar amount, or a percentage of your estate, by including the proper language in your will. Please contact us for more information - 218-353-0300.



Winter Community Calendar - at the Clair Nelson Center

December

29th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

January

3-5th - Woolsock Winter Camp and Dance - All weekend

7th - FMHS Annual Meeting and Program - 7pm

11th - SEED Saving class - 9am - 3pm

13th - Healthy Shake class - 7pm - 8pm

14th - Yoga series starts - 9am - 10am every Tuesday

19th - Bonnie Warner Class - Twinkling H2O's - Noon - 4pm

21st - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

26th - Beargrease Finland Checkpoint - 3pm - Overnight

February

15th - Vintage Snowmobile Run - All Day

16th - Bonnie Warner Class - Crazy Card Making - Noon - 4pm

18th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm

23rd - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

March

6th - 7th - 8th - St Urho Float Workshop - 11am - 5pm

10th - Crystal Bay Township Annual Meeting - 6pm

13th - 14th - 15th - 45th Annual St Urho's Celebration - All Weekend

15th - Bonnie Warner Class - Canvas Creations - Noon-4pm

17th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm

29th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

April

19th - Bonnie Warner Class - Fabric Painting - Noon-4pm

21st - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm

26th - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

May

17th - Bonnie Warner Class - Heirloom Recipe Books - Noon-4pm

19th - Crystal Bay Township Regular Meeting - 7pm

31st - Community Potluck - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, games after

Regular Weekly Activities

Mondays: Bonebuilders Exercise Class - 9:30am-10:30am Alcoholics Anonymous - 7:30-8:30 pm

Tuesdays: Tuesday Talents Craft Group 8:30am-4pm, Toddler Playtime 2-4pm, Mindful Meditators 6-7:30pm

Wednesdays: Bonebuilders Exercise Class - 9:30am-10:30am

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.

Weekly Open/Office Hours at the Center

Monday: 6-8pm

Tuesday: 10am-4pm 6-8pm

Wednesday: 6-8pm

Thursday: 10am-4pm

Friday: 10am-4pm

Update on Daycare Efforts

After a heartening community presentation in October, Elli King and fellow community members are continuing to work on developing and opening a nature-based childcare center here in Finland. They have determined to incorporate a non-profit to oversee operations, and are currently seeking one or two additional board members. They have received further funding through the NE Division of the Regional Sustainable Development Partnership with the U of M, and are using this funding to develop all aspects of programming, from daily activities to community involvement to licensing, while continuing to extend feelers for an available rental space. If the stars (and logistics) align, they hope to open for childcare sometime between next spring and next fall!

Please contact Elli at 218-220-8997 if you would like to be put on an email list to receive updates, be added to the volunteer roster, make a donation, or offer a rental space to this initiative! This childcare center will greatly enhance our community, and the group sincerely invites your participation.

Friends of Finland is helping to incubate this project through fiscal sponsorship until it is up and running.