

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!



Volume 18, Issue 12

January 2012

2011 Tour of Homes

The 2011 Tour of Homes was nicely attended, with a total of 37 tickets being sold. Those who attended were treated to a tour of the beautifully decorated homes of: Cheryl Endres Jason and Emily Hearn, Les and Karen Hoffman and John & Janice Stefanowicz

After the group toured the four homes, they moved on to the Dickey County Courthouse, where they toured the gorgeous trees, wreaths and displays which were part of the Festival of Trees.

As a special treat, the group was able to tour the newly remodeled courtroom on the third floor of the Courthouse.

Finally, the group ended their tour with a trip to the Fireside Family Restaurant. There, they were treated to the many beautiful Christmas trees and displays that Peggy has the restaurant decorated with, as well as having a chance to stop for a hot drink at the end of their busy night.

Many thanks to the owners of the homes on the

tour, who worked so hard to decorate their beautiful homes; the staff of the Courthouse, who opened the doors after-hours and helped with the tour; the Opera House, for providing a place to meet for the beginning of the tour; and the following volunteers, for making the tour happen:

Joan Hoffman
LuRae Janke
Grant Crabtree
Jeanette Reunz
Peggy Gilbert
Ray Peterson
Bev Kuska
Tammy White and
Brenda Rekow.



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January General Chamber Membership Meeting & Chamber Board Elections

**January 10th
12:00 p.m.
at the Fireside
See you there!!**

Holiday Decorating Winners

The three winners of the 2011 Holiday Decorating Contest were chosen on December 16th by volunteer judges, Holly and Kurt Schlenker.

While there were many beautifully decorated houses in town, only five homes

registered for the Decorating Contest. Homes must be pre-registered, so that the judges can make sure that each is viewed and that we know the names of the winners.

The home decorating winners received \$15.00 in El-

lendale Bucks as a prize, while the Business winner will receive a plaque with their name engraved.

The winners of the three categories were:

Brightest: Don Reed
Religious: Lora Martinson

Most Unique: Troy and Allison Fischer

The business decorating winner was the Fireside Family Restaurant.

Many thanks to those who participated and to our judges!



TAIslim

What are YOUR weight and fitness Goals for 2012?

Learn why our 90 Day program is safe - and people are meeting their goals.

Join Me in the 90 Day Challenge...visit Team4Life.TAIslim.com view the double blind - randomized - placebo - human clinical studies.

Studies show a loss in the three-month study period, the TAIslim System product users lost:

- 4 times more body weight than the placebo group
- 6 times more body fat
- 6 times more inches from their waist
- 4 times more from their hips, a notoriously difficult area for fat reduction, particularly in women.

Body Mass Index (BMI) was reduced 6 times more in the TAIslim group than in the placebo group.

The TAIslim users also experienced significantly greater improvements in normal blood pressure and blood sugar levels.

Our Shakes are full of flavor and whey

based, which FDA shows is most effective in weight loss.

This is a total meal replacement and full of nutrition for \$2.50!

Two members of our Science Advisory Team: (visit Team4Life.FreeLife.com under "company" menu for full listing)

-- Judith S. Stern, Sc.D., co-founded the American Obesity Society, a lay advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the understanding of the disease of obesity.

-- As an expert in weight control and cardiovascular disease management, Marie-Pierre St-Onge, Ph.D., Columbia University is an award-winning scientist, has written and contributed to more than 40 publications and has co-authored several book chapters.

Among our endorsers is Mocha Lee, Certified Fitness Pro and TV Host. *When it comes to living healthy, I continually seek products and exercises that keep me in top shape, so I can maintain my credibility and offer the best, current advice to my clients. GoChi is the first prod-*

uct in all my years of promoting wellness that provides visible, measurable, and safe results within months! "Not to mention, as a mom, I haven't been catching colds nearly as often as I used to. Since I haven't changed anything else, it is all the proof I needed to convince me that GoChi is great for my immune system!"

Call me today to learn more about the benefits of TAIslim, learn how you can save money on packs as customers or member and taste the great flavors that will help you meet or exceed your fitness and weight loss goals!

Quality is our priority...Results is our Goal. You will find both with FreeLife!

Happy Healthy New Year, Joan Hoffman (701-349-4642)



Energy Efficiency Loans and Grants Available

Ag producers and small businesses eligible for energy efficiency loans and grants.

The US Department of Agriculture Rural Development organization is currently accepting applications for its Rural Energy for America program. The funds can be used to purchase and install renewable energy systems and for energy efficiency improvements.

Grants can be up for up to 25 percent of total eligible project costs and

are limited to \$500,000 for renewable energy systems and \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements.

Requests as low as \$2,500 for renewable energy systems and \$1,500 for energy efficiency improvements will be considered. Emphasis will be on grants of \$20,000 or less.

Eligible renewable energy projects include projects that produce energy from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, hydro power, hydrogen-based

sources and flexible fuel pump dispensers. Energy efficiency improvement projects include retrofitting lighting or insulation or purchasing or replacing equipment with more efficient units that reduce energy consumption.

For more information, contact info@nd.usda.gov or call 701-530-2037.

For application assistance, contact ellenjda@drtel.net.



State Offers Tax Incentive for Housing Projects

If you have state income tax liability, you may specify that your payment be used for North Dakota's new Housing Incentive Fund (HIF). Resources in this fund will supply money for construction of multi-family housing throughout the state.

North Dakota has allowed up to \$15 million of tax payments to be added to a special fund through the ND Housing Finance Agency to help pay for housing construction projects. Developers may draw on this fund to add to resources required for new construction of rental units, substantial rehabilitation of existing uninhabitable rental units or adaptive reuse of existing non-residential buildings as rental housing. All of the units must contain at least four bedrooms. At most, the HIF funds can provide no more than 20 percent of a project's total costs.

Although most of the funds must be allocated to counties impacted by oil and gas exploration or federally declared disaster areas, 25% of the monies will be dedicated to cities with populations under 10,000. Although the housing can be for median-income families, projects that commit units to low-income tenants score higher when

the funding allocation decisions are made quarterly.

All of the units statewide must be reserved for people earning at most 140% of the area median income. In Dickey County, the income levels range from \$82,040 for a four-person household to \$108,360 for an eight-person household. The maximum rent limit would be \$2,380/month for a four-bedroom unit.

Fifty percent of the units must benefit households with incomes of 50 percent or less of area median income. In Dickey County, those income levels range from \$29,300 for a four-person household to \$38,700 for an 8-person household. The maximum rent limit would be \$850 for a four-bedroom limit.

Projects with units reserved for households with a maximum of 30 percent of area median income are more likely to be funded by the program. In Dickey County, this income limit ranges from \$17,580 for a four-person household to \$23,220 for an eight-person household. The maximum monthly rent would be \$510 for a four-bedroom unit.

Designed to help with the gap that results from potential return on the project and cost of the construction, the new fund is designed to help cities throughout the state meet critical for new housing and replacement of decrepit housing.

North Dakota residents and businesses that are interested in directing their income tax to this fund may complete the form by December 31, 2011, to dedicate part or all of their 2011 tax liability or by December 31, 2012, to dedicate next year's liability. The form is located on the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency site, www.ndhfa.org and "commitment to contribute."

Contributors may specify a region, city or project to which their funds will contribute. If the funds are not be used for a project in that area, they will go into the statewide HIF.

For further information on this incentive, please contact Ellendale Economic Development Director Patricia Bowen, 701-349-2916 or ellenjda@drtel.net.

Parade of Lights

The 2011 Parade of Lights was great this year, with a beautiful, clear night and plenty of participants. The floats were beautiful, as always.

The winners of the three categories were: **Best Theme:** Farmer's Union Oil ; **Most Unique:** The Presbyterian/United Methodist and Christ the King Youth Group and the **Brightest:** Prince of Peace/Evergreen.

Each of the three winners received

\$15.00 in Ellendale Bucks.

Many thanks to Grant Crabtree and Tim Steinwand for their work in announcing the parade. Thanks, too, to the hard working staff of Great Plains National Bank, who chaired the parade this year and prepared all of the goodie bags for the Wake Santa event. A special thanks goes to Bob Hardy, who worked so hard to decorate Brandenburg Park and made it look so beautiful!

After the parade, kids were able to visit with Santa and get a goodie bag, compliments of the Chamber of Commerce.

To finish up the evening, parade goers were invited to stop in for a warm beverage and to sing carols at the Opera House.



Ellendale Chamber of Commerce

58 1st Ave. S
P.O. Box 91
Ellendale, ND 58436
Phone: 701-349-4103
Email: ellendalecivic@drtel.net

"Success doesn't come to you, you go to it." **Marva Collins**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
ELLENDALEND.COM



Concern over global warming brought a large crowd to the summit.

Pasta & Performers at the public school multi-purpose room from 11 am - 1:30 pm on **Sunday, January 29**. Your free will donation will help students fund a field trip to Minnesota for live theater and an art museum visit. Enjoy pasta, veggies, bread, juice and coffee and some entertainment

Leadership Training Offered

Please consider attending five sessions on leadership development presented by Rural Leadership North Dakota. The sessions will be held every two weeks on Thursdays, 11 am to 4 pm, beginning on January 12.

The sessions will present methods to improve community, business, farm and ranch networking and leadership skills. Cost of the five sessions is \$250.

Session I in Ashley will offer orientation and tips for enhancing networking skills.

Session II in Kulm will explore different behavioral styles and how to

work together. Participants will receive their personal behavioral styles profile and learn how we may overuse our strengths.

Session III in Wishek will teach effective communication skills. Participants will learn about social and print media and how to disseminate effective messages along with learning about effective communication between men and women.

Session IV in Ellendale will address understanding and managing conflict using the personal profile. Participants will learn strategies to make group decisions.

Session V in Napoleon will discuss

rural living topics that include assimilating into small communities, the seven capitals of healthy communities and how to approach people and get things done. Through the "Futures" game, participants will learn how planning can help rural communities.

Class fee includes noon lunch, break snacks and all materials for all five sessions.

To register for the course or to obtain more information, contact Patricia Bowen, ellenjda@drtel.net, or 701-349-2916. The deadline to register is January 9.