The City recently received word that the Postal Service has established a review process for certain Post Offices. The Taylors Falls Post Office was among the offices that will be evaluated under this new “Plan.” Their first step is to seek community input through a survey to help determine the best course of action for our Post Office. You may have already received this letter from them. The options they describe are:

- To keep the office open, with a reduction of window hours from 6.5 hours each workday to 6 hours per weekday. Saturday hours will not change, nor will box accessibility change.
- To conduct a discontinuance study and offer roadside mailbox delivery only. A mail delivery point would be established, and customers would purchase post postal services through the carrier, or other alternative access point.
- To conduct a discontinuance study for the office at a suitable alternative location, operated by a contractor, usually at a local business. Boxes, stamps and flat rate services with service hours are generally more expensive than what the local Post Office will be able to offer.
- To conduct a discontinuance study for the office and provide box services at a nearby Post Office and relocate box delivery to that office.

We are told that the Postal Service does NOT intend to close down our office completely, instead, reduce the number of window hours, unless the community has a strong preference (more than 60%) for conducting a discontinuance study with the possible outcome described above. BUT THAT IS NOT A GUARANTEE!

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU COMPLETE THIS SURVEY AND RETURN IT IN THE PRE-PAID ENVELOPE PROVIDED! If you stay silent we may risk losing our local Post Office and the service it provides. RETURN THE SURVEY BY 5/2014.

On June 3rd the City will host a public meeting at 6:00 pm at the Community Center (the survey itself says it will be held at the Post Office, but it will be at the City Hall).
**MAYOR’S FORUM**

After a long, cold and snowy winter I think spring is finally making a slow appearance. I have to admit that the cold weather has provided me with a new appreciation for water! My water froze on February 14th (Valentine’s Day, which is typically a romantic day) at about 2:00 am. After some modifications in my home I was able to stop carrying water (17 days and about 500 gallons worth) and connect to my neighbor’s house via a garden hose. Our water pressure may be low but we are thankful for every drop we get!

Once again, the possibility of an Assisted Living Facility being built in Taylors Falls is slowly moving forward. Information could be here as early as mid-May, which will give us an idea of where the building could be placed and what it might look like. A meeting with the developers and Taylors Falls residents will occur as soon as information is received. If you have questions, concerns or comments, make sure you bring them to this meeting as your input is always welcome.

Remember – I am available for questions, concerns or comments, so don’t hesitate in calling or stopping me on the street when you see me!

As always, I wish each of you Good Health and God’s Blessings.

---

**2013 STEWARDSHIP AWARD**

Barb Anderson was recently awarded the 2013 St. Croix Valley Stewardship Award by the City. Barb leads by example, and her many contributions to Taylors Falls are a testament to that fact. The award recipient will also serve as the “Grand Marshall” of the 2014 Wannigan Days Parade to be held on June 14th. Congratulations to you Barb!!

---

**Be slow of tongue and quick of eye.**

---

**LIBRARY PARTICIPATES IN BOOKS FOR AFRICA WALK**

Volunteers gathered at the Taylors Falls Public Library on Friday, April 25th to begin a fifty mile walk over three days from Taylors Falls to the Minnesota State Capitol in St Paul carrying a donated book on the first part of its long journey to Africa. Participants were asked to make a donation to BOOKS FOR AFRICA and solicit pledges from their friends. Friday the group walked to Scandia, on Saturday they walked from Scandia to the Outing Lodge at Pine Point. On Sunday the walk ended at the State Capitol. (walkers went home or to nearby motels at night)

So what is Books For Africa? They have a simple mission. They collect, sort, ship, and distribute books to students of all ages in Africa. Their goal is to end the book famine in Africa.

---

**PUBLIC MEETING ON POST OFFICE**

Community Center) to discuss the results of the survey. Although the results will be shared at this meeting, the Postal Service does not intend to make a final decision until after it has been held. This will enable them to obtain all community input and opinions, from both the surveys and the meeting, before making a final decision.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE SURVEY IN THE PRE-PAID ENVELOP BY MAY 20TH. The future of our Post Office may be determined by your response!

YOU SHOULD ALSO PLAN TO ATTEND THE PUBLIC MEETING ON JUNE 3RD AT THE TAYLORS FALLS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER BEGINNING AT 6:00 PM.

---

**NO SIGNS ALLOWED**

MnDOT does not allow signs to be placed at the corner of Bench Street/State Highway 95 and US Highway 8, particularly on the RiverView Station property. PLEASE, refrain from placing garage sale signs at all four corners of the intersection. Those that are there will be removed and deposited in the trash. Thank you for your cooperation.

---

**Continued from page 12**

This is one of the young female momma cats we captured and her kittens.
DEAR RESIDENTS:

I am writing my fellow residents of Taylors Falls to address our city’s current free-roaming cat population and to offer some helpful suggestions and solutions to humanely manage the situation. We have lived in Taylors Falls since 2005 and have attempted to address this problem in our specific geographic area on our own but have come to realize this is a problem larger than we can manage on our own. We have rescued, adopted into our home, and found homes for many we have rescued but the size of this problem has overcome our resources.

Over this past winter, we have solicited outside help from several rescue groups and have learned that many communities like ours share similar problems. There are several methods different communities have tried in addressing situations like this. Eradication attempts are a failure and can lead to increased numbers of cats migrating in from neighboring farms. Without any cats in a community the rodent, skunk and rabbit population can explode. Poisoning is an especially cruel method of attempting to control the population and creates an environmental concern to the wildlife food chain. Trap-and-dumping them out in the country is also an ineffective method and is equally cruel.

There are a number of colonies in the city and there are estimated to be 300 to 400 community cats living and reproducing in our streets. In the past couple months alone, we have trapped seven pregnant females and found foster homes for them.

As you may be aware there are several methods of controlling cat populations; however, only one method provides a humane, reasonable, cost effective solution. This method is Trap-Neuter-Return or TNR. Utilizing TNR, volunteers capture cats with humane traps, have them spayed/neutered, vaccinated and returned to their original location. Kittens and friendly cats that can be socialized are placed into an adoption program to find permanent homes. This immediately reduces the numbers of cats in a colony. Only cats that are truly feral (wild) are returned to the site, where they are super-vised and long term care is given through dedicated caregivers. The process of natural attrition further reduces the population and there are fewer and fewer kittens born every year. Sterilization eliminates the annoying mating behaviors like fighting, yowling and spraying.

Maintaining a stable population of community cats through TNR is a less costly tactic than repeated eradication attempts. Eradication attempts are a failure and can lead to increased numbers of cats. Cats that have been altered and vaccinated for rabies and distemper are less likely to transmit disease. And, studies show one rabies vaccination is effective for more than three years.

Prohibiting citizens from compassionately feeding community cats will not solve the problem of over population. Wherever there are people living there will be cats. There have been for hundreds of years. They are now a part of the natural landscape. And, until we reach a time when every kitten is spayed/neuter prior to reaching reproductive age we will have cats in our environment. TNR is the only humane, economic, reasonable approach to controlling the free-roaming cat population in our community.

Our rescue resources have already begun to help us address this situation in our community and there are multiple resources available through donations and grants. We are asking everyone in this community to partner with us, help us address this issue and end the cycle. If you are currently feeding these cats, providing shelter or know of any pregnant females or females with kittens, please contact us so we can continue to put our program into action.

For more information on this program please see www.alleycattallies.org or contact Annie Bent 612-559-6281, granitehill7@hotmail.com for information. (SEE PICTURES ON PAGE 13)

MAY 3RD ANNUAL CLEANUP DAY

The annual Spring Clean-Up Day for the residents of Taylors Falls is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd. Evergreen Recycling will be available in the lower parking lot at City Hall from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. They will accept appliance recycling, miscellaneous garbage, construction material & tires for a nominal fee. The Compost Site will also be open that day during cleanup hours for brush & leaves.

TAYLORS FALLS COMPOST SITE POLICY

Compost Site Hours of Operation: 9-12 noon the 1st & 3rd Saturdays from April - November (weather and road conditions permitting)

Accepts: Grass, leaves, garden materials, tree branches & logs no longer than 8’ long & 30” in diameter. No tree stumps!

Location: From City Hall go west approximately 1 mile. Turn right into the wastewater facility access driveway. Please stay on the gravel road and drive carefully.

Use: This site is available to the residents of Taylors Falls only. An attendant will be on duty to assist you. All bags must be emptied and returned to the user for disposal. You will have to empty your own bags and they are not to be left at the site.

NOTE: If the weather has been wet the compost site may not be open as regularly scheduled. Contact PW Superintendent Mike Kriz to request access at any other time. (651)783-6344

TAYLORS FALLS LOG JAM JAMMERS

If you like music ~ if you like conversation ~ if you like relaxation ~ then come and listen (or join) the Taylors Falls Log Jam Jam! This is a group of musicians who meet at 6:00 pm every Monday night at the Memorial Community Center to “jam”. Come watch the musical show! It is free to the public! A beverage & snack just might be available to complement the overall experience.

BRAIN TEST

Did you get 5000? 

Don’t feel bad that’s not the correct answer. The correct answer is actually 4100. Check it out with a calculator.

This test is to show your brain is acting normal if you got 5000.
PET LICENSING

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS!

We urgently need veterans from any U.S. conflict to assist with Memorial Day Services. Please contact Leland Rivard at 465-6745.

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS!

If you haven’t licensed your dog and/or cat for the ’14 year, effective April 1st the license fee(s) double to $20 for dogs/$10 for spayed or neutered, and $10 for cats/$6 for spayed or neutered. Any dog/cat over the age of 6 months old is required to be licensed with current rabies vaccinations. We can double check to see if we already have that information on file. Just give us a call.

IS IT YOUR FAULT WE HAVE BEARS IN TAYLORS FALLS?

- Is it if you are feeding the birds, STOP! Bird feeders must be removed both day & night. Bears have a keen sense of smell and will return often to find food where he has found food before. Remember, bears are ravenous at this time of the year from their 6-9 month hibernation. Any kind of food is good food to them.
- Is it if you don’t securely close your garbage container, FIX IT! Or take it indoors. You should also keep it clean & odor free. Using lime may help with the smell.
- Is it if you leave dog food outdoors, RELOCATE IT! Dog food is an easy source of food for the bears.
- Is it if you have a grill or picnic table that is not clean, CLEAN THEM! We often forget that barbeque grills (and picnic tables) have leftover food remnants and food smells. Clean any crumbs that fell on the ground.
- We all need to be self policing on this. If you are experiencing bears, but have done all that you can do to deter them, look to your neighbor. Are they also doing what they can? If not, you need to TALK TO THEM. The bear problem cannot be managed when they are fed freely on a daily basis. If need be, provide information to them (available at City Hall).
- A BEAR PROBLEM IS A PROBLEM FOR THE ENTIRE CITY, NOT JUST FOR A FEW. BUT THOSE FEW CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT WHAT WE CAN DO TO MANAGE THIS PROBLEM SO THAT THE BEARS MOVE ON!

LIBRARY NEWS

Take a break from your spring cleaning and read a book! Mysteries, fiction and New York Best Sellers are at the library waiting for you to check them out!

HOURS: Wednesdays 2 - 5 pm & 6:30 - 8:30 pm Saturdays 9:30 - 12:30 pm

LIBRARY NEWS

Attention all veterans!

We urgently need veterans from any U.S. conflict to assist with Memorial Day Services. Please contact Leland Rivard at 465-6745.

PET LICENSING

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS!

If you haven’t licensed your dog and/or cat for the ’14 year, effective April 1st the license fee(s) double to $20 for dogs/$10 for spayed or neutered, and $10 for cats/$6 for spayed or neutered. Any dog/cat over the age of 6 months old is required to be licensed with current rabies vaccinations. We can double check to see if we already have that information on file. Just give us a call.

IS IT YOUR FAULT WE HAVE BEARS IN TAYLORS FALLS?

- Is it if you are feeding the birds, STOP! Bird feeders must be removed both day & night. Bears have a keen sense of smell and will return often to find food where he has found food before. Remember, bears are ravenous at this time of the year from their 6-9 month hibernation. Any kind of food is good food to them.
- Is it if you don’t securely close your garbage container, FIX IT! Or take it indoors. You should also keep it clean & odor free. Using lime may help with the smell.
- Is it if you leave dog food outdoors, RELOCATE IT! Dog food is an easy source of food for the bears.
- Is it if you have a grill or picnic table that is not clean, CLEAN THEM! We often forget that barbeque grills (and picnic tables) have leftover food remnants and food smells. Clean any crumbs that fell on the ground.
- We all need to be self policing on this. If you are experiencing bears, but have done all that you can do to deter them, look to your neighbor. Are they also doing what they can? If not, you need to TALK TO THEM. The bear problem cannot be managed when they are fed freely on a daily basis. If need be, provide information to them (available at City Hall).
- A BEAR PROBLEM IS A PROBLEM FOR THE ENTIRE CITY, NOT JUST FOR A FEW. BUT THOSE FEW CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT WHAT WE CAN DO TO MANAGE THIS PROBLEM SO THAT THE BEARS MOVE ON!

LIBRARY NEWS

Take a break from your spring cleaning and read a book! Mysteries, fiction and New York Best Sellers are at the library waiting for you to check them out!

HOURS: Wednesdays 2 - 5 pm & 6:30 - 8:30 pm Saturdays 9:30 - 12:30 pm

SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS!

Together with Friends Summer Day Camp is set to begin its 18th annual FUN for KIDS IF TO ADD TO THE FUN OF FRIENDS! Together with Friends is a cooperative effort of the First Baptist, First Evangelical Lutheran and United Methodist churches of Taylors Falls. Registration material and information will be available from any of the participating churches, by mail (PO Box 253) or by calling Together with Friends director, Pastor Kevin, at 651-465-6792. Funding for Together with Friends is supplemented by a Hands On Grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Chisago County Chapter and a variety of community support for which we are grateful. Don’t miss the Fun of Together with Friends this summer.

RESULTS OF CHICKEN SURVEYS

At their last Meeting, the Council reviewed results of the chicken survey that had recently been sent out asking opinions whether to allow chickens on residential lots less than 10 acres in Taylors Falls. Of the 375 survey cards sent out 175 were returned. The results were:
- 42.8% not in favor
- 41% don’t care
- 46.2% were in favor or in favor with conditions.

Since the votes were not overwhelmingly in favor, the Council took extra care to craft the Ordinance to protect all property owners, both those wishing to raise the chickens and those that were opposed to raising chickens. The Ordinance was adopted by the Council and forms are now in place. In order to obtain a permit you would need to have written approval from ALL adjoining property owners (amongst other requirements). Six chickens and those that were opposed to raising chicken survey that had recently been sent out asking opinions whether to allow chickens on residential lots less than 10 acres in Taylors Falls. Of the 375 survey cards sent out 175 were returned. The results were:
- 42.8% not in favor
- 41% don’t care
- 46.2% were in favor or in favor with conditions.

Since the votes were not overwhelmingly in favor, the Council took extra care to craft the Ordinance to protect all property owners, both those wishing to raise the chickens and those that were opposed to raising chickens. The Ordinance was adopted by the Council and forms are now in place. In order to obtain a permit you would need to have written approval from ALL adjoining property owners (amongst other requirements). Six chickens and those that were opposed to raising chicken survey that had recently been sent out asking opinions whether to allow chickens on residential lots less than 10 acres in Taylors Falls. Of the 375 survey cards sent out 175 were returned. The results were:
- 42.8% not in favor
- 41% don’t care
- 46.2% were in favor or in favor with conditions.

Since the votes were not overwhelmingly in favor, the Council took extra care to craft the Ordinance to protect all property owners, both those wishing to raise the chickens and those that were opposed to raising chickens. The Ordinance was adopted by the Council and forms are now in place. In order to obtain a permit you would need to have written approval from ALL adjoining property owners (amongst other requirements). Six chickens and those that were opposed to raising chicken survey that had recently been sent out asking opinions whether to allow chickens on residential lots less than 10 acres in Taylors Falls. Of the 375 survey cards sent out 175 were returned. The results were:
**NOTES FROM PUBLIC WORKS**

### BATTERIES IN OUTDOOR METERS TO BE REPLACED

The City will begin replacing the batteries in your outdoor meter readers. They were installed in 2003 with a 10-year life expectancy. We do not need to enter your home. The person installing the battery will have identification to show that he/she is from the City.

### WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON ALL CITY STREETS

Weight Restrictions on all City Streets are 5 Tons per axle. Chisago County weight restrictions are 7 Tons per axle.

### SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT

Weight Restrictions on all City Streets are 5 Tons per axle. Chisago County weight restrictions are 7 Tons per axle.

### FIRE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE

The DNR has implemented a fire ban, which will continue until weather conditions warrant its removal. Be aware of your surroundings. No burning without a permit.

### Street Sweeping to Begin

Depending upon the weather, street sweeping will be mid-April and continue throughout the summer.

### HYDRANT FLUSHING TO BEGIN

Hydrant flushing will begin soon on Fridays. You may experience low water pressure & your water may be cloudy, rusty or have other noticeable discoloration for a short time.

- **YOUR WATER IS STILL SAFE TO DRINK**

### SEWER RODDING TO BEGIN

The PW Dept will begin sewer cleaning on May 5th which will take about 2 weeks. Rodding is done on sewer lines made of clay (like a roto-rooter) and jetting is done on sewer lines made of pvc (using pressurized water) This is done twice yearly.

### SEWER FLUSHING TO BEGIN

Flush flushing will begin soon on Fridays. You may experience low water pressure & your water may be cloudy, rusty or have other noticeable discoloration for a short time.

### LEARNING TO LIVE WITH BEARS

As many of you know, we have a bear problem in Taylors Falls. Last spring/summer we had three bears that would not leave the area until more food was available in the corn fields. They moved on then, but only after many reports of damages to bird feeders, garbage containers and various other items. This year we have a very large male bear making the circle right now. The females have just birthed their cubs and should be emerging soon.

The DNR recently hosted an informational meeting about what we need to know about learning to live with bears. They provided a handout that is very interesting and helpful. In that handout they suggest that the primary solution to avoid bear problems is to not attract them in the first place. Bears are attracted to homes by garbage and bird feeders. Pet food, charcoal grills, fruit trees and gardens may also attract bears. ONCE A BEAR FINDS FOOD AROUND YOUR HOME IT WILL LIKELY RETURN.

In order to minimize the bear problem, the DNR have provided several recommendations. If you would like a copy of this document please give me a call or e-mail me and I will get it to you. The DNR has the responsibility to reduce conflicts between bears and people, however, people share in that responsibility by learning effective measures to prevent bear problems. It is rare that a bear causing problems must be trapped and destroyed by the DNR.

I would again encourage anyone who may have a problem with a bear or bears on their property to read this document. Problems. It is rare that a bear causing problems must be trapped and destroyed by the DNR. I would again encourage anyone who may have a problem with a bear or bears on their property to read this document.

---

### MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

Memorial Day services will be conducted in TF on MONDAY, MAY 26th at the Kahbakong Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. The service will be remembering Veterans from the Civil War to Desert Storm to Operation Freedom to the Global War on Terrorism. There will be a gun salute at 11:00 a.m. on the Highway 8 Interstate bridge to recognize Veterans known and unknown and buried or lost at sea. You need not be a Veteran nor have relatives buried in Kahbakong Cemetery to assist with or participate in the Memorial Day services.

### LEARNING TO LIVE WITH BEARS

The City of TF does NOT sound a siren when there is a fire. However, we DO have a siren that will sound in the event of severe weather. Every 1st Wednesday of the month at 10:00 p.m. there is a county-wide civil defense test when all sirens will sound. Because of our close proximity to St. Croix Falls, you can, on some days, hear more than one siren. If it is not the 1st Wednesday of the month and is the time of the year when there could be severe weather, we urge you to watch your news and listen to your radio for further instructions - be prepared to move to a safer area of your home! City Hall is considered a fall-out shelter in case of tornados and bad weather for those residents who are without a basement, & for tourists. For more information, please contact anyone at City Hall or the Fire Department.
Nearly twenty individuals were publishers of the various Taylors Falls newspapers from 1860 to 1946. The last of those publishers was a Norwegian immigrant, H. Albert Amundson.

Haakon Albert Amundson was born in Kristiania [Oslo], Norway on May 8, 1892, and in 1911 he and two brothers immigrated to Steele County, Minnesota. He became a dairy farmer and in 1917 married a Steele County native, Miss Grace Mabel Whitehead [1897 – 1964]. In 1920 Albert, Grace and their first-born child, Lawrence, moved to a Chisago County farm. That farm was near the Minnesota end of Nevers Dam and is where Albert and Grace were living when their second child, Ray, was born in 1921.

In 1922 the Amundson family moved into a tiny Taylors Falls cottage now addressed as 461 West Street. Albert and Grace didn't become the owners of that cottage until about five years later, and they eventually had seven children: Law-Gordon [died at two days in 1930], a surveyor who served in as a cottage, which later that year the Amundsons had it enlarged into a one-and-half-story home.

Albert started working for the Taylors Falls Journal in 1922, and in 1925 he bought the paper and published it until The Standard-Press of Saint Croix Falls bought it in 1946. Besides publishing the paper and providing printing services, Albert was an insurance agent and a real estate agent. He also was a sponsor of the local softball team. From 1926 to 1928 he served a three-year term as a village trustee and then served three, one-year terms as the village mayor in 1929-30, 1931 and 1933. Most notably, he served as the village clerk for 27 years, from 1934 to 1961. Albert died on July 21, 1963; Grace followed a few years later.


The accompanying photo of Albert Amundson was taken about 1932 when he was about 40 and just a few years before he served one term in the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1935-36.
**St. Joe’s Eats**

St. Joseph Catholic Church will be sponsoring a food & drink social event

*Saturday, June 14th*

11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on

Bench Street in Taylors Falls

Outdoor dining offering...

The Best Burgers on Bench Street

Hotdogs and Brats

Pop and Water

---

**FUN FOR KIDS AT WANNIGAN DAYS**

**KIDDIE PARADE** - this year’s Kiddie Parade will be held on Saturday, June 14th. Kids should be in costume to register and lineup at 8:45 am on River Street near the Catholic Church. We will march beginning at 9:00 am and travel north on River Street to Pine Street, stopping across from the Drive-In, where refreshments will be served.

**NEW THIS YEAR! A MAGIC SHOW!!**

Marko The Magician will be performing at 10:00 am on Saturday, June 14th at the Community Center. All kids young and old are invited to enjoy the magic performed by this amazing magician.

Magic Snacks & Magic Drinks will be served.

---

**FIREWORKS**

Saturday, June 14th

at dusk

Shot off in

St. Crotx Falls

Viewable in

Taylors Falls

---

**Wannigan Day Parade**

Saturday, June 14th beginning at 6:00 pm in SCF and arriving in TF approximately 6:20 pm

---

**2014 WANNIGAN DAYS**

**Thursday June 12th - Sunday June 15th**

Presented by the Friends of TF Parks & Recreation

**FRIDAY, June 13th**

6:30 p.m.

at the Taylors Falls Memorial Community Center

**BINGO**

**For Bucks!**

Sponsored by the TF Lions Club

Come early for a grilled hot dog meal & homemade goodies!

**Wannigan Days Mini Golf Tournament**

*Call 715-483-3580*

Sunday, June 15th

4 Person Teams

For Every Age Group

1 Paid Adult Meal Get 1 Kid’s Meal FREE with Registration

---

**The Taylors Falls Log Jam Jammers will perform**

Outdoors at the Memorial Community Center Front Lawn on Saturday, June 14th

1 pm - 4 pm

weather permitting