

## News You Can Use for Communities December 2007

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### DNR Fishing Pier Grants

#### Program purpose

To improve fishing opportunities, especially to meet the needs of children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Counties, cities, and townships may apply. Applications are accepted year-round. Project awards are made in the fall. For more information about this program call the **Area Trails and Waterways Supervisor** in your location or you may contact: Nancy Stewart, Water Recreation Program Coordinator at 651-259-5616 or by email at [nancy.stewart@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:nancy.stewart@dnr.state.mn.us). More info is available on the web at: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/fishing\\_pier.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/fishing_pier.html)

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### Grants Target Teen Driver Safety

#### [Project Ignition](#)

Project Ignition, sponsored by State Farm and coordinated by the National Youth Leadership Council, is a chance for students and teachers to work together to address the issue of teen driver safety. Support is provided for innovative public awareness, service-learning projects based on teen driver safety developed by students enrolled in grades 9-12 at U.S. public schools. Students must create this project with the support of a teacher or advisor. Twenty-five semi-finalists will receive \$2,000 to help put their plan into action in the fall of 2008. Ten finalists will then receive a stipend of up to \$5,000 for travel to the National Service-Learning Conference. The application deadline is May 16, 2008. Visit the website listed above for online application information.

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### Community News Ventures Supported

#### [New Voices](#)

New Voices, administered by J-Lab at the University of Maryland and supported by a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, is a pioneering program to seed innovative community news ventures in the United States. New Voices will fund the start-up of ten micro-local news projects with \$12,000 grants. The program also maintains an educational website for grantees, and helps foster their projects' sustainability through \$5,000 second-year matching grants. Funding is available for print or electronic news initiatives, including online, cable, broadcast, narrowcast, satellite, and mobile efforts. Nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and civic groups are eligible to apply. The application deadline is February 20, 2008. Visit the website listed above for program details.

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## **Can Carbon Trading Benefit Minnesotans?**

**Thursday, December 13, 2007, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.** Held at the MN Pollution Control Agency, 7678 College Road, Suite 105, Baxter/Brainerd. **Free. All are invited.**

**Speaker: Dean Current**, Program Director, Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM), University of Minnesota

**You may direct your questions** concerning this presentation to Eleanor Burkett at (218) 828-2326.

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--**The Future of Biofuels: A Global Perspective** - Global biofuel production tripled between 2000 and 2007, but still accounts for less than 3 percent of global transportation fuel supply. Increased demand for biofuels has contributed to higher world food and feed prices. Biofuels will likely be part of a portfolio of solutions to high energy prices that includes conservation, more efficient energy use, and use of other alternative fuels. See: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/November07/Features/Biofuels.htm>

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## **Study Highlights Arts Role in the Economy**

### [Americans for the Arts](#)

“Arts & Economic Prosperity III: The Economic Impact of Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations and Their Audiences,” a study commissioned by Americans for the Arts, documents the key role played by the nonprofit arts and culture industry in strengthening our nation’s economy. This study demonstrates that the arts and culture industry is an economic driver in communities – a growth industry that supports jobs, generates government revenue, and is the cornerstone of tourism. To download a copy of the report visit the website listed above.

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## **Back To Basics – Come Grow With Us**

*Saturday, January 12*

*8:00AM – 3:30PM*

*Pine River-Backus School Commons*

*\$25 by January 4/\$30 after January 4/\$15 for Kids’ Activities*

Sustainable living...what’s it all about? Join together with friends, neighbors, & family to expand your knowledge about all aspects of living sustainably. Workshop sessions, keynote speaker, vendors, exhibitors, luncheon, door prizes, and more! Continuing education credits available. School-aged children’s programming on sustainable living runs concurrently...bring the kids and make this 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Back To Basics a family event! Registration forms will also be available on our website:

[www.happydancingturtle.org](http://www.happydancingturtle.org). or by calling Happy Dancing Turtle at 218.587.2303.

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## **The Farmer Chef Direct Marketing Workshops**

**Little Falls, January 28, 2008 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** [Click here](#) to register

Are you a farmer looking to expand your market into restaurants, cafes, food services, institutions and distributors? Are you a buyer interested in making new connections to purchase local products from farmers, producers and distributors?

The networking process-loosely based on the principles of speed-dating-works like this: 1) fill a room with chefs and food buyers interested in buying local products and farmers interested in selling to them; 2) give them five minutes to connect one-on-one about what they produce and what they're interested in buying; 3) exchange business cards if they're interested in following up; and 4) rotate.

If you are a farmer interested in getting your product into a restaurant, grocery store or institution (school, hospital, etc.), or a food buyer for a restaurant or other institution; or someone working in food systems and would like more information on the "got local?" series of workshops, please call 612.871.1541 or e-mail [Lindsay](#) at or [click here](#)

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**--The Orton Family Foundation enthusiastically announced its release of the Big Box Evaluator tool, designed to help communities and individuals learn about the impacts of big box retail stores.** The unbiased tool is designed not to take a stand on big box development, but to help citizens make informed decisions based on each community's specific characteristics and values. Available free to the public at [www.bigboxevaluator.org](http://www.bigboxevaluator.org) the web-based interface allows users to learn about commercial and retail development in general, but also to input specific information from their communities and receive customized reports on economics, values, planning and municipal services, and ways to improve the development process.

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**--The Northwest Area Foundation and the Montana Community Development Corporation are pleased to announce the addition of new and upgraded features for the Wage and Benefits Metric.** New and upgraded features include a one-time simple calculator for jobs analysis and Living Wage Data scoring for 8 states (Minnesota, Iowa, N. Dakota, S. Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.) Improvements included better user interface and navigation, expanded and improved reporting functions, and complete instructions on using the tool. **The Wage and Benefits Metric tool is available free upon simple registration and is designed to help your organization, company, community, or region evaluate the jobs created or retained through community and economic development or business expansion efforts.** Go to: <http://jobmetric.nwaf.org/>

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**--The “Connecting Students and Communities” (CSC) program provides a University of Minnesota, Morris undergraduate student to help** local units of government, K-12 schools, or community-based organizations in the areas of research, project administration, or other support. Students benefit from working with different organizations and learn ways to complete project goals. Previously funded student projects have addressed issues of senior housing, storefront design, health care research, program evaluation, document design and newsletter creation, economic analysis, Internet and web training, analyzing water and wastewater data, downtown revitalization, analysis of census data, and more.

The program is offered by the Center for Small Towns (CST) at the University of Minnesota, Morris, and the University of Minnesota West Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership to 12 west central Minnesota counties -- Big Stone, Chippewa, Douglas, Grant, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Pope, Renville, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, and Yellow Medicine -- are encouraged to apply. Go to: <http://www.morris.umn.edu/services/cst/index.php> for more information. The deadline to apply for this free assistance is December 14, 2007. Priority is given to projects that include:

- Community based renewable energy
- Local and healthy foods
- Healthy landscapes and water
- Natural and cultural base tourism
- Economic development
- other project areas will also be considered

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*If you wish to be removed or if you have other names/e-mails to add please contact Dan Frank ([dfrank@ifound.org](mailto:dfrank@ifound.org)) or Leah Posterick ([lposterick@ifound.org](mailto:lposterick@ifound.org)).*