

# City Connection

A seasonal newsletter  
for the City of Morris

September, 2005

Volume 5, Issue 3



## Inside:

*All about  
the Human  
Rights  
Commission*

*City meeting  
schedule*

*New trail to  
WCROC  
Gardens*

## Back:

*City notes*

*Community  
Ed news*

*Free swim  
and gym at  
the RFC*

## Welcome to Morris, UMM students and new residents!



**Mayor  
Carol Wilcox**

By Mayor Carol Wilcox

I'm pleased to welcome new members to our community. It's always a pleasure to have the UMM students return with their enthusiasm and bright ideas. I hope to see all of you at the Community Picnic, Sept. 1.

The citizens of Morris are to be congratulated! The Pool Committee presented information for you to become informed on the pool issue and many people shared their ideas in the local newspaper. Everyone had an opportunity to become informed and vote. That is the American way.

Morris citizens approved a City Charter change that allows local elections to be held in even-numbered years, at the same time as federal and state elections. The City will see substantial savings from the change in years to come.

Congratulations to Morris Transit Director Bonnie Hausmann on more than 30 years of service to the City. Bonnie retires Nov. 1.

## Community picnic September 1 A warm welcome to UMM

Morris will put out the welcome mat at a free community picnic, Thursday, September 1, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Eastside Park, on East Seventh Street in Morris.

The annual picnic welcomes new residents and UMM students, faculty, and staff to Morris. Everyone is invited. Events include supper, prizes, contests and entertainment. The event is sponsored by the Morris Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture and the City of Morris.



**LIVING ON AT THE LIBRARY:** The Brevig-Scott Family of Morris has donated more than 100 perennial flowers to the Library Mall garden. The flowers — including hostas, mums, white and purple phlox, iris, coral bells, columbine, and silver mound — came from the gardens of the late Ruth Brevig.

"Mom lived in Morris since 1969," said her daughter, Cheryl Brevig, who made the donation along with her husband, Ricky Scott, and their son, Chris. "She was an avid gardener and had a beautiful assortment of perennials. We thought it would be nice for everyone to enjoy them."

The Stevens County Garden Club transplanted the flowers, and librarian Mary Ann Nelson takes care of them. From left: Mary Ann Nelson, Cheryl Brevig, Library Director Rita Mulcahy, and Chris Scott.

# Human Rights Commission encourages equal opportunity, fairness



## What is the purpose of the Human Rights Commission?

The Commission was established by the Morris City Council in 1997 to encourage equal opportunity and fair treatment of all individuals.

## What does the Commission do?

- Educates the public
- Responds to incidents of discrimination
- Identifies equity problems in the City
- Works with schools, businesses, and community organizations to foster equal opportunity and eliminate discrimination
- Advises the City Council on civil and human rights issues

## Recent Commission activities:

- Annual human rights essay contest
- Public speaking and educational presentations
- Information brochures in Spanish

## About the Commission:

The Commission is composed of seven members, who serve two-year terms without pay. There is one vacancy on the board. Please call City Hall if you are interested in serving: 589-3141.

## Meet the members of the Human Rights Commission

**Ann Streed**, chair of the Human Rights Commission, is a social worker for Stevens County Human Services. She grew up in Ortonville and went to college at UMM, where she earned degrees in human services and secondary education.

Streed was a member of the Morris Area High School faculty for ten years, where she directed the Alternative School and taught social studies. She joined the Stevens County staff this summer.

Ann and her husband, Doug, who works at Wilkens Industries, have three children and one grandchild. In her spare time, Ann enjoys family activities. She became involved in the Human Rights Commission in 1998 through her work as a teacher. "I've always had an interest in promoting human rights."

**Mike Miller** is the coordinator of cultural programs in the Multi-Ethnic Student Program at UMM. Miller, of Stockbridge-Munsee and Ojibwa ancestry, is a member of the White Earth Band of Anishinabe. He spent his early childhood in Minneapolis and on the Red Lake Indian Reservation and graduated from high school in Florida. He went to college at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., and later earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Miller has been an educator at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls; Northland College; and the Superior, Wisc. public schools. He joined the UMM staff in 1987.

Miller and his wife, Shirley, who works at Briggs Library, have two children and one grandchild. In his spare time, Mike



**Members of the Morris Human Rights Commission, from left: Mike Miller, Twig Webster, Christine Gibson, Tom McRoberts and Ann Streed. Not pictured: Bert Ahern and Jerry Schmidt (ex officio).**

enjoys watching sports and antiques. His work with UMM Students of Color led to his service on the Human Rights Commission. "It's important to think about diversity."

**Twig Webster** is director of marketing for St. Francis Health Services. Webster grew up in Morris and graduated from UMM. He earned an MFA in theater at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, where he also studied film.

After graduate school, Webster co-founded the New Rose Theater, a classical theater in Portland, Ore. He worked as a professional actor and director for ten years, then returned to Minnesota in 1990, where he produced multi-media training materials for the health care industry. Webster also taught theater arts at UMM for two years. He joined St. Francis Health Services in 2001.

Webster has four children. His wife, Shaune Wunder, is a floral designer at Keepers. Twig and Shaune enjoy community theater and are founding members of the Morris PlayRights. On the Human Rights Commission, Webster offers "a voice for senior citizens and vulnerable adults about what's working and not working in our community, as we try to provide services with dignity."

**Tom McRoberts** directs UMM's Center for International Programs and the Center for Small Towns, and is also the acting director of Continuing Education. McRoberts grew up in Willmar and the Twin Cities. He graduated from UMM, and did graduate studies in history at the University of Oregon. McRoberts joined the Continuing Education staff in 1975. He has also taught history at UMM.

*continued on next page*

# Meet the Human Rights Commission

*continued from page 2*

In his spare time, McRoberts enjoys reading and spending time at the lake. He is also active in DFL politics, serving as his party's affirmative action officer for the Seventh Congressional District. McRoberts observes that the "character of western Minnesota is changing," as new people from other parts of the world settle here. "Our community needs to be welcoming to diverse populations."

**Christine Gibson** teaches special education at Morris Area High School. She grew up in White Bear Lake and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Recently, she earned her principal's license from Minnesota State University, Moorhead.

Gibson taught in White Bear Lake and Eden Prairie before joining the Morris faculty in 1999. She and her husband, Brad, a carpenter at UMM, live in Alberta. They have three children. In her spare time, Christine enjoys scrapbooking and attending her children's activities.

As the human rights officer for the Morris Area School District, she serves on the Morris Human Rights Commission. "I grew up in a family of adopted kids and I've always believed passionately that people should be treated with dignity, no matter who they are."

**Bert Ahern** is Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of History at UMM. He has also served as chair of the UMM Social Sciences Division and as the UMM academic dean. Ahern was born in Illinois but spent most of his youth on Long Island, N.Y. He graduated from Oberlin College and earned his PhD in history from Northwestern University. He joined the UMM faculty in 1967.

Ahern has written extensively on the history of American Indian education. His publications include a history of Indian boarding schools and a history of the Morris Indian School, which later became the West Central School of Agriculture, and in 1960 became UMM. Ahern and his wife, Janet, a retired UMM music professor, have two adult children and one grandson. In his spare time, Bert enjoys playing tennis and sailing.



## New trail to WCROC gardens to offer panoramic views

A new walking trail will offer great views and garden access.

This fall, the West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) is building a paved trail spur linking the new East Pomme de Terre Park bike path and the research gardens. The \$9,000 project is part of WCROC's master garden plan. The

new path will go from the Pomme de Terre Trail at Highway 329, up the river bluff, and into the west end of the garden. Eventually, WCROC hopes to build an observatory at the crest of the river bluff, overlooking the valley, says Steve Poppe, director of horticulture research.

## City Meeting Calendar

### September 2005

Sept. 13	City Council	5:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
Sept. 14	Park Board	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
Sept. 20	Planning Commission	5:15 p.m.	Council Chambers
Sept. 21	Human Rights Commission	<i>Time and place varies; call City Hall</i>	
Sept. 26	Library Board	5:00 p.m.	Library
Sept. 27	Tree Board	4:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
	City Council	5:00 p.m.	Council Chambers

### October 2005

Oct. 11	City Council	5:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
Oct. 12	Park Board	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
Oct. 18	Planning Commission	5:15 p.m.	Council Chambers
Oct. 19	Human Rights Commission	<i>Time and place varies; call City Hall</i>	
Oct. 25	Tree Board	4:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
	City Council	5:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
Oct. 31	Library Board	5:00 p.m.	Library

### November 2005

Nov. 8	City Council	5:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
Nov. 9	Park Board	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
Nov. 15	Planning Commission	5:15 p.m.	Council Chambers
Nov. 16	Human Rights Commission	<i>Time and place varies; call City Hall</i>	
Nov. 22	Tree Board	4:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
	City Council	5:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
Nov. 28	Library Board	5:00 p.m.	Library

## Community Ed office moves to new school

The Morris Area Community Education offices and ECFE classrooms have moved to the new elementary school. Community Ed is located just to your left as you enter the building.

## Soccer starts Sept. 12

Morris Area Community Education fall soccer leagues start the week of September 12th. There will be leagues for boys and girls from age 4 through Grade 6. For more information call Community Education at 589-4394.

### Clip and Save

#### Free Open Skating at the Lee Community Center

Wed., Nov. 2	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 6	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 9	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 13	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 16	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 20	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 27	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 4	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 7	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 11	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 14	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 18	6:30-8:00 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 23	1:00-3:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday,	
Dec. 26-30	1:00-3:00 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 31	1:00-4:00 p.m.

#### Free Open Swim and Gym at the RFC

Sun., Sept. 25	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 15	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 13	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 5	6:30-8:30 p.m.

*No membership or pass required. For residents of the Morris Area School District only.*

## City Notes: Tips for Morris Renters

- ◆ **Learn about your rights and responsibilities as a tenant.** Request a guidebook from the Information Desk at the UMM Student Center, or visit the Morris HRA office at 100 S. Columbia Ave.
- ◆ **Morris rental properties must be licensed.** Before signing a lease, check for a current rental property license at [www.morrismn.org/hra](http://www.morrismn.org/hra). Or call Morris HRA, 589-3142.
- ◆ **Before you move in, inspect the property.** Record any damage or problems. Most disputes between landlords and tenants result from disagreements about the condition of the property and who is responsible for repairs.
- ◆ **City water and garbage bills** for rental properties are now being billed to the property owner, not the renter. Payment arrangements are up to the landlord and renter.

## Morris Transit Stops on Campus

### UMM students, need a ride?

The Morris Transit bus stops at the Minority Student Program building on the hour, every hour, weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**\$1 to any Morris destination**

#### TRANSIT HOURS

Monday - Friday 6 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Saturday noon - 4 p.m.  
Sunday 8 a.m. - noon

Call  
**589-1000**  
**Hearing Impaired**  
**TDD:**  
**589-2141**

