



Duluth Township Newsletter

Duluth Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org

November 2001

Congratulations! North Shore Community School's charter application has been approved!! Thank you to many in our community who contributed to this success. Our school will remain open! The special Newsletter insert explains what is going on and what needs to be done for a smooth transition to a community charter school. Work on the Township's Comprehensive Plan is progressing. A second public information meeting is slated for February 21st and the Steering Committee meets November 1st, January 17th and April 18th.

Thanks to contributors to this issue: **Wendy Anderson, Ann Cox, Steve Dahl, Katie Edblom, Helen Hendrickson, Rich Sill, and Mary Ann Sironen.** A special thanks to **Renee Igo** for this month's masthead!

The History Corner

Richard Sill

September 11th started out a beautiful fall day. Sadly, it just didn't last that way very long. I imagine none of us will ever forget where we were that morning or what we were doing when we got the terrible news of what was happening. I was outside when the phone rang. It was Terry asking if I was watching the *Today Show*. "No", I said, "I'm working on your rock garden". "You better go in and watch the news", she said. I turned on the television just after the second tower of the World Trade Center had exploded into a ball of flame. What I watched could only be described as surreal. I stared at the screen partially mesmerized by events seemingly impossible to comprehend, and partially in shock by the immensity of the tragedy unfolding before me.

There was nothing in my past that I could quite compare it to. The assassinations of President Kennedy and Rev. Martin Luther King come quickly to mind. Yet, the compounding of so much personal loss and grief makes September 11 somehow different. The only event in my life that seemed in any way comparable occurred nearly 30 years ago when, as a teenager, I sat frozen in front of another TV as fuzzy pictures of Soviet missiles were displayed across the screen. That too was a time dominated by fear and uncertainty for our future. But as significant and crucial as the Cuban Missile Crisis was, its revelation to the American public was not accompanied by such incredible devastation and so staggering a loss of life as was witnessed last month. Only Pearl Harbor, an event that occurred several years before I was born, seems similarly to have both stunned and rocked our nation so completely.

If the events of September 11 are "our Pearl Harbor" as some have called it may be helpful to look closer at how the real Pearl Harbor affected us. Nearly overnight the stability, security, and isolation that rural life had provided for the people of French River and Clover Valley were shattered. Almost immediately local men were either leaving the area for duty overseas or were being put to work here at home on jobs relating to the war effort. Women as well soon found themselves providing support, working in local shipyards and alongside men in a number of plants and factories. Some joined branches of the Armed Services such as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps where their positions as cooks, clerks and mechanics freed up more men for combat. As consumer goods and materials vital to the war effort became scarce, rationing was imposed. The rationing of certain items such as meat and butter, which could be locally produced, was not so critical but the restrictions placed on imported items such as sugar and coffee were more severely felt. Limits imposed on the purchase of tires and gasoline also impacted the area with trips to town becoming few and Sunday drives all but being eliminated.

The war effort depended heavily on raw materials being supplied by the iron mines of the region. Since much of that iron ore was being shipped along the Duluth Missabe & Iron Range Railroad, extra efforts were taken to insure the safety of the shipments. Every bridge along the rail line between the cities of Duluth and Two Harbors was protected by an armed watchman, including several sites here in our community. Even children altered their activities, announcing their presence to watchmen before entering swimming holes near the guarded bridges. For four years we drastically changed our way of life to meet the demands the war placed upon us. By the time it had ended in 1945 our community and our country was forever changed.

Now 60 years later we face another challenge. Clearly,
Continued on page 2

Mailed to 730 Duluth Township families. Extra copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to volunteer newsletter editor Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or in the **NewsBox** on the Town Hall porch. The Newsletter is printed locally by **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by **UDAC**.

no one wishes this present threat would force as many changes on us as did Pearl Harbor. Yet, the impact of September 11 certainly has shaken us all and given us pause to reconsider a number of things in our lives. We keep hearing that the most positive response we can give in this crisis is to get back to "normal" as soon as possible. Yet, I'm finding that somehow hard to do. Certainly we want to lessen the fear we feel in our lives, and to as great a degree as possible, bring "normalcy" back for our children. But, getting back to normal also suggests that we somehow can put behind us what has happened, and I don't think that will ever be possible. In fact, in the last few weeks we have hugged our kids more, waved to our neighbor, told our spouse we love them, taken less for granted in our everyday lives, and begun to consider the commonalities we share with others instead of the differences separating us, then we have not gone back to normal but we have already begun moving forward. And if that be the case, maybe something hopeful will come out of all this sadness

Information Sources

For those with concerns related to public health or who want to check out potential rumors:

St Louis County Information and Referral 218-726-2222 or landR@co.st-louis.mn.us or www.firstcall-mn.org.

St Louis County Public Health Administrator, Gerald Wotczak, 218-726-2414 or 218-749-7600

Tips by the U. S. Post Office:

www.usps.com/news/2001/press/pr01_1010tips_print.htm

The U. S. Dept of Energy has **hoax alert site** (computer and other) and also has links to other hoax assessment sites: <http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/>.

Comprehensive Planning Progress

The *first public information meeting* (Sept 20th) was a success. Results are being discussed by the citizen Steering Committee at Nov. 1 and January 17th meetings.

A *second public information meeting* is scheduled for February 21st.

To contact someone about the planning process, call:

- **Wayne Dahlberg**, our Zoning Administrator, 728-4293 [6022 Bergquist Road, Duluth, MN 55804], or
- **Dianne Desotelle, Project Manager**, Desotelle Consulting 728-1228 [PO 3220 Duluth, MN 55803], or
- **Jean Coleman, Biko Associates, Inc.** 612-588-4904 [2634 Vincent Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55411.

Many thanks to **Ethel and Robert Thill** for their generous gift to our North Shore Community School. The late Ethel M. Thill spent much of her life caring for children. It was her wish to have a part in supporting education for the area's youth, a wish shared by her husband, Robert, who made the donation in her memory.

Vandalism at the Township Cemetery

The last Newsletter reported the theft of two small, gray, ceramic "guardian angel" figures. This month a planter was reported taken from another grave. Help return them to their proper place or contact our Town Hall (525-5705). The missing wheelbarrow is back! Thank you.

The Homesteaders Helen Hendrickson

The Homesteaders will meet on Wednesday, November 7th at 12:30pm for the Annual Turkey Bingo. The December meeting will be held on Wed, Dec 5th at 12:30pm. Jim McLeod, music teacher at *North Shore Elementary*, and students will present a band and choral program. The Homesteaders welcome non-members as well as members to their meetings held at the Duluth Town Hall on Homestead Road. Refreshments and a social hour are part of each meeting. *If you have questions, call Helen Hendrickson, 525-4154.*

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District Mary Ann Sironen, D/NSSD Secretary

Construction planning for the D/NSSD sewer is awaiting a decision on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The public comment period ended on October 3rd but the AFSCME/MAPE strike, delayed further work. It is hoped that the Environmental Quality Board of the MPCA will take up the EAW at their December meeting. Two outcomes are possible. The EAW could be accepted with a "negative" finding, which means there is *not* a serious unmitigated environmental impact as a result of the construction of the sewer line, or a requirement could be made for a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If the EAW is accepted, construction bids would be let early in 2002 with construction to begin next summer. An EIS requires extended study and reporting.

Work is being done on gathering information from property owners that will allow Community Development Block Grant funds to be used to reduce some of the cost of construction of the sewer. Allotment of these funds is made on the basis of the property owner's income.

A third area of activity is the establishment of an office and obtaining service for technical management, secretary/clerical tasks and bookkeeping. A needs assessment is under way after which job descriptions will be written and appropriate help contracted.

The D/NSSD/Lake County *Land Use Planning* project is winding up with a set of **public meetings on Monday, November 12 at 2 and 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Castle and on Tuesday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center in Two Harbors.** Property owners and interested others are encouraged to attend to express their thoughts on the final details to be included in the plan. The completed plan will then be given to the local planning and zoning boards for their use in their own comprehensive land use plans.

Meetings for the rest of the year are Nov. 6 and Dec. 4 (7 a.m. at French River Lutheran Church). The public is invited. Minutes of meetings are available at the Duluth Town Hall and the D/NSSD website: www.dnssd.org.

Your Fire Insurance Rates: Our Clifton Fire Department now has a level 9 rating. Check your homeowner's insurance to be sure you have the proper credit.

NEW North Recycling Center hours are Tuesday 2-6pm and Saturday 8-12 noon.

Summary of Town Board Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

Sept 13th meeting. Attending were Supervisors Cook, Dahl and Sundstrom. After a moment of silence for victims of the Sept 11th tragedy, the agenda was set and minutes approved. Treasurer Johansen reported a beginning balance of \$173,788.20, deposits of \$3,232.23, expenses of \$43,083.43 for a balance of \$133,937.

Department reports: Attorney Strom reported requests for vacating two Township roads. A public hearing is scheduled for Oct 11 for Mr Rowray's request and Nov 8th on Ms Ulanowski's request. St Louis County, not School District 381, owns the North Shore Elementary School and its land. Negotiations for acquisition are continuing. The Duluth attorney's response to our request for fire truck access to *Blue Bird Landing* was a document turning the area over to the Township as a park. Liability concerns resulted in tabling the issue. Negotiations will continue with the Kaylors on a Culas road settlement.

Paul Johnson submitted a letter of resignation from the Police Department although he would be willing to continue if his hours could be cut from 80 to 40 per month. It was agreed to ask him to continue at 40 hours per month until the spring, 2002 Annual Meeting. There were 4 first responder calls last month. The Board accepted the Planning Commission's recommendation that Janet McTavish fill a current vacancy and Adam Hendrickson fill a retirement expected in March. Our Police will be asked to patrol the cemetery more frequently if vandalism continues. Reports on the sewer project, Coastal Council (funding possibilities), and North Shore Management (towers along the shore to Canada) were heard. A motion on herbicide spraying of ditches was tabled pending more information and citizen input (see article in this issue).

The Board approved a 6-hour per week increase in the Clerk's office hours to provide for more citizen access and cover increasing Town business. Other items discussed were varnishing the Town Hall floor, marking the parking lot for handicapped spaces, fixing the PA system, and acquiring a computer for e-mail access at the Town Hall.

Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thurs) Nov 8th and Dec 13th at 7:30pm in the Town Hall.

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

Aug 23rd meeting. Attending: Members Bourgeois (chair), Bowen, Gustofson and Lawson plus secretary Marino, Zoning Administrator Dahlberg and four Town residents. Format for the Sept 20th public information meeting on comprehensive planning progress was discussed. John Bowen updated the Commission on the shore sewer project. Informal interviews were held. John Rowray requested that a Township road (that only exists on paper) be vacated and a hearing was slated for September. The Nov/Dec meeting date will be set at the October meeting (likely Nov 29th or Dec 6th).

"The Landmarks"

Thanks to Jan Green for providing file copies of *The Landmarks*, a former publication with news for residents of Alden, Duluth and Normanna Townships that many will

remember. The Clover Valley Community Council, a community citizen's group during the 1970's, sponsored it. That was about the time when the last Township *Comprehensive Plan* was being prepared. When space permits we'll print notes from 30 years ago!

4-H TURKEY BINGO

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH 6:00 – 8:30PM
NORTH SHORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (NSE)
TURKEYS, HAMS and other GREAT PRIZES
Kids' drawings, sloppy joes and refreshments
FUN for the whole FAMILY!

Matching funds by AAL Branch #10264

This is a Clifton 4-H Club fundraiser for MORE community service projects! If you like the cemetery benches and flagpole plantings, they have more great ideas coming our way. A 4-H table will be at the French River Lutheran Church Bazaar on Nov. 3rd at NSE.

What do you think about spraying ditches?

Supervisor Steve Dahl

This past summer, the county sprayed herbicides to control tree growth along the roadsides. Their policy is to notify residents and if a landowner doesn't want them to spray, they should place NO SPRAY signs on their property bordering the roadway. The county reminds residents requesting *no spray* that they are then responsible for clearing their own road property of brush and trees.

I felt that the number of Duluth Township residents that put up *no spray* signs was significant and I had to ask the question: *If this many folks don't want herbicide spraying, should the Township request no spray for the entire Township?* I presented this as a motion at the September Board meeting and tabled it to allow for citizen input.

Here are some things I've learned along the way: The bulk of my information on the County's position comes from Tom Tri, administrator of the spraying program (726-2588). Mowing costs 10 times what spraying costs. If they had to mow all roadways the County simply would not be able to do it (they have neither the capital nor manpower). Herbicides they use are selective, targeting woody plants (e.g. poplar) and have been on the market for a number of years. It doesn't harm grass which is what they want. They have seen wildflowers increase in the present program. Without herbicides, they would have to mow every 2 to 3 years instead of 7 to 10 years with spraying. The herbicides dry in a few hours and are supposed to be "safe" after that. Keeping trees cleared back from the roadway allows more sun in the winter and can reduce the need for salt and sand. Herbicides they use are *Garlon-4*, *Tordon-k*, *2-4-D aquatic* and *Escort*.

Should the Township as a whole consider no spray as an option or is the present program acceptable? I will readily admit my distrust of herbicides and feel we should always be mindful of how "safe" they said *DDT* was in the 1950's. At the same time there is definitely the issue of public safety if the roads aren't kept clear. And, after researching the issue, I am more understanding of the County's position. *If you have any thoughts or information regarding this matter, please contact me at 525-4679 or one of the other Supervisors.*

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2001

Inside this Issue:

- Township **Calendar**
- Town Board meetings
- Planning Commission meetings
- Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District (DNSSD) report
- "The History Corner"
- Annual Info Insert and **Town Map**
- Upcoming events and issues

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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DULUTH, MINN.

If your name and address are in error or you know of someone who is not receiving a Newsletter, please send a note to the Newsletter Editor at the Town Hall (News box on the Town Hall porch). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

Township Calendar

See updates on www.duluthtownship.org.

- Nov 1, Thu, 6:30-9:00 Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee, Town Hall
- Nov BOOK FAIR on Nov 3, 5, 6, and 7th NSE School
- Nov 6, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- Nov 7, Wed, 12:30-3pm **Homesteader's** meeting, Town Hall, Annual Turkey Bingo meeting
- Nov 7, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- Nov 9, Fri, 6:00-8:30pm Turkey Bingo, North Shore Elementary School. Refreshments and prizes.
- Nov 8**, Thu, 7:30pm **Town Board**, Town Hall
- Nov 12, Mon, 2pm-6:30pm Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District **Land Use Plan public meeting at Lakeview Castle**, Scenic 61 at McQuade Rd (also Nov 13th 6:30pm Law Enforcement Ctr, Two Harbors)
- Nov 20, Tue, 6:30pm at NSE School, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting.
- Nov 21, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept work meeting
- Nov 29** or Dec 6, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
- Dec 4, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- Dec 5, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meeting, Town Hall
- Dec 5, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road.
- Dec 6, Thu, 6:30, **North Shore Holiday Program**, at North Shore Elementary School, Ryan Road

- Dec 13**, Thu, 7:30pm **Town Board**, Town Hall
- Dec 18, Tue, 6:30pm at NSE School, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting.
- Dec 19, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept work night
- Dec 23, **Deadline** for news for the January *Newsletter*
December **Planning Commission** cancelled.
- Jan 2, Wed 12:30 **Homesteader's** meeting, Town Hall
- Jan 9, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- Jan 10**, Thu, 7:30pm **Town Board**, Town Hall

Upcoming Township Events and Issues

How about joining our Duluth Township Volunteer firefighters! We need you! Contact Ann Cox at the Town Hall (525-5705).

The **Comprehensive Land Use Plan** is being worked on by the Steering Committee. A second community information meeting is planned for **February 21st**.

The January Newsletter will again include a brief **questionnaire** for feedback from Township residents on various Township functions. Watch for it!

The *March 2002 Annual Township* election will involve voting for one new and two continuing Supervisors. Watch for the filing deadlines early in 2002. See Township Clerk Cox for details.

Deadline for the January Newsletter is December 23rd. If you have an announcement of broad interest to Township residents, send it to the editor or put it in the *NewsBox*.

From the Town Hall

Ann Cox, Town Clerk

Questions never asked, until you need to know.

Did you know that building permits, vacation house checks, hall rental forms and burning permits are available at the Town Hall? All permits are available at the Town Hall during office hours. If it is inconvenient for you to get to the Town Hall during our current office hours, leave a phone message (525-5704), send a written request, or fax your request (525-3845). Please include your name, address and phone number, the clerk will mail your requested form, or contact you with further information. NOTICE: The DNR requires all Burning Permits to be signed by the permit holder.

Do you know how to get a culvert and a load of gravel placed at the end of a new driveway (on a Township road) for a new home? To request a culvert for your new parcel of property, call the Township Office, send your request in writing or attend a Town Board meeting. Your request will be brought to the next Town Board meeting. If you are sending a written request, please make sure you include your name, phone number, address and/or legal description and parcel code number. If your property is in Duluth Township but on a County road, please call the County garage on the Jean Duluth road.

Did you know that the Town Hall will be open an additional 6 hours, for a total of 12 hours a week, beginning January? In September the Town Board of Supervisors honored residents' request made in the January Resident Feedback Questionnaire, for more office hours. For new office hours, please check the posting board after the December Board meeting for more information.

Did you know that the Supervisors, Planning and Zoning Administrator and Planning Commission do not hold regular office hours? The only person who holds regular office hours in the Township is the Clerk. The Supervisors, Planning and Zoning Administrator and Planning Commission each holds a full time job along with their Township duties.

Over the past few years we have worked hard to try to change the image of our Township to a more progressive professional Township. Thank you for your patience during this long difficult process.

Two Recycling Centers

(leave items only when they are open)

North site – Town Hall, **Bob Abramson** will staff the center *Tuesday 2-6pm and Saturday 8-12noon.*

South site – McQuade & Scenic Hwy, **Caroline Marino** staffs the center *Tues 7:00-11:00, Thurs 3:00-7:00, and Sat 8:00-noon* (phone: 525-4592).

Duluth Township Information for 2001

Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804
Phone (218) 525-5704 (voice message), fax (218) 525-3845,
web site: www.duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Thursday 9:00-12:00 and 4:30-7:30

Supervisors:

Bruce Aho 525-4033 (roads)
Jeff Cook 525-4010 (chair, outside meetings)
Stephen Dahl 525-4679 (Town Hall, police, zoning)
George Sundstrom 525-5655 or email:
georgesundstrom@juno.com (cemetery, zoning,
outside meetings)
Corlis West 525-7719 (outside meetings)

Clerk: **Ann Cox** 525-5705 (Town Hall)

Treasurer: **Janet Johansen** 525-5705 (Town Hall)

Attorney: **Tim Strom** 722-4766 (office)

Cemetery: **Denise Connolly** 525-7161

Zoning Administrator: **Wayne Dahlberg** 728-4293 (office)
Planning and Zoning Secretary: **Carolyn Marino**

Planning and Zoning Committee: **Regina Bourgeois,**
John Bowen, David Edblom, Toni Fladmark,
Wendy Gustafson, Sue Lawson, Janet McTavish

Peace Officers: **Chief Shawn Padden, Paul Johnson**

Fire Department: **Chief Jerry Simmons,**
Assistant Chief Bill Cox

Annual Township Meeting is held in March. The Township election held during the day and the Annual Meeting starts in the evening. All Township residents are urged to vote and attend the meeting. It is held in our Town Hall on Homestead Road. Information about the meeting will appear in posted official notices and in the *Newsletter*.

Township Legal notices (meetings, hearings, etc.) are posted at the Town Hall and published in the Duluth News Tribune. They are also posted at our Recycling Centers, Scenic Café, North Shore Elementary School and Fire Station #1 on Ryan Road.

Duluth Township is in State Legislative District **6B**, County Commissioner District **5**, US Congressional District **8**, and Independent School District **381**.

Your Fire Insurance Rates: Our Clifton Fire Department now has a level 9 rating. Check your homeowner's insurance to be sure you have the proper credit.