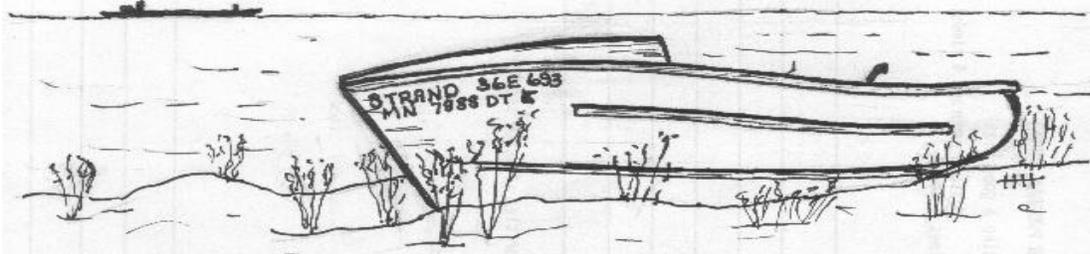


Annual
Township
Election and
Town
Meeting
March 12th
Town Hall



Duluth Township Newsletter

Duluth Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org

March 2002

The annual Duluth Township election and Town Meeting are coming up on March 12th. The election will run from 7am to 8pm in the Town Hall on Homestead Road. At 8:15pm the Town Meeting starts with voting on the proposed budget for 2003. The ballot includes an uncontested vote on 3 Township Supervisors: Bruce Aho and George Sundstrom each for a 3-year term, and Corlis West for a 2-year term. In addition, the Lake Superior School District #381 has a referendum for funds to build a new school in Two Harbors.

Thanks to contributors to this issue: Janis Kivela Hooley, Helen Hendrickson, Janet Johansen, Rich Sill, Mary Ann Sironen, and Corlis West. A special thanks goes to **Helen Hendrickson** for this month's masthead! Einar Hendrickson, Helen's late father-in-law, built the *Strand* about 50 years ago and named it after his home place, Strand, Sweden. It sits on the shore at Stoney Point. Its last owner is thought to be Russell Myrdahl. Call the editor (525-5705 or home 525-0103) to volunteer a future Newsletter masthead!

New Look on our Township Web Site!

Resident **Linda Holliday** volunteered to be our new webmaster. She has redesigned the Township web site to be much more user friendly. You could send her updates and suggestions by clicking her email address on the web site – www.duluthtownship.org. LightingPharos, a local business, is hosting our web site on their server for free.

Many thanks to Linda Holliday and Kathy McTavish.

At the February 28th meeting, *plaques of appreciation* were presented to **Regina Bourgeois** and **John Bowen**, two outgoing members of our Planning Commission. Many thanks to both Regina and John for 6 great years serving our community. It takes dedicated volunteers like Regina and John to make our Township work.

Township Calendar

See updates on www.duluthtownship.org

Mar 5, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
Mar 6, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meeting TownHall
Mar 6, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
Mar 7, Thu, 7:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
Mar 9, Sat, 10 to noon, Clerk's office open for absentee voting, Town Hall

Mar 12, Tue, 7am-8pm Township Election Day (and School District 381 referendum voting day), Town Hall

Mar 12, 8:15pm, Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall

Mar 19, Potential voting and annual meeting day in case its postponed from the 12th due to bad weather.

Mar 14, Thu, 7am, DNSSD Board of Managers special meeting, French River Lutheran Church

Mar 15, Fri, **Deadline** for filing to run for Planning Commission (one position opening up).

Mar 19, Tue, 6:30pm at NSE School, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting.

Mar 20, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** work meeting

Mar 28, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

Apr 2, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church

Apr 3, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meeting TownHall

Apr 3, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road.

Apr 11, Thu, 7:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall

Apr 16, Tue, 6:30pm at NSE School, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting.

Apr 17, Wed, 6pm-8pm, **Duluth Town Board of Appeal and Equalization**, Town Hall

Apr 17, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** work night

Apr 18, Thu, 6:30pm Comprehensive Land Use Plan Steering Committee, Town Hall

Apr 22, Mon, DNSSD sewer project public meeting.

Apr 23, **Deadline** for news for the May Newsletter

Apr 25, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

May 7, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church

May 8, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meeting TownHall

May 8, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road

May 9, Thu, 7:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall

May 18 Sat, Township cemetery clean-up day

Mailed to 760 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. This Newsletter is folded and mailed for us by **UDAC**.

The Homesteader's will meet Wednesday, **March 6th** at **12:30 at the Duluth Town Hall** on Homestead Road.

The group will celebrate their 26th anniversary with a pot-luck lunch and bingo. The upcoming Lake Superior School District referendum will be the subject of Phil Strom's presentation. **Everyone welcome.**

April 3rd at 12:30pm will have *the Grandma's and the Grandpa's* for musical entertainment.

The next meeting is May 1st at 12:30pm. *If you have questions, call Helen Hendrickson, 525-4154.*

What's up with our Township's Volunteer Fire Department?

Corlis W. West

As many of you know, the volunteer fire department that responds to fires and emergencies at homes and businesses in our township is known as the **Clifton Volunteer Fire Department**. Why is it called Clifton instead of Duluth Township? Because the main hall is located near the historic site of the town of Clifton and it avoids confusion with City of Duluth's fire department. Our fire department has trucks located at three separate fire halls throughout the community: the main fire hall on the Ryan Rd.; one on the Homestead Rd, next to the town hall; and one in Alden Township. Alden Township has an agreement with our Township for fire protection because their fire department had too few members. A tanker and an engine, fueled, full of water, and ready to go are located at each hall to reduce travel time to fires.

On average it costs \$450 for the initial training of a fire fighter and about \$180 to train a first responder. This does not include any mandatory refresher courses. In addition, it cost \$1,200 to equip a fire fighter and about \$1,000 to equip a first responder. The budget for our Fire Department last year was about \$52,000. This money covers annual expenses for maintenance, insurance and heating of the fire halls in the township, maintenance, insurance and fuel for all the fire trucks for the year, purchase and maintenance of all equipment and gear for the year, plus electric and phone for the year, emergency medical supplies and all training.

Our fire department isn't likely to be called on to respond to terrorist attacks in our Township, but I believe they would respond with bravery similar to other departments that have done so elsewhere recently. They are, however, well equipped to handle the kind of emergencies that usually occur in our Township. The department is very proud of Engine #6, a 1997 E-1 Ford, stationed at the main hall, a modern, state of the art engine, the likes of which our township has never seen. However, when asked what additional equipment would allow them to do a better job of serving our community, department members overwhelmingly said, the addition of a class A/B Foam System. A foam system would greatly enhance the Department's capabilities for fighting fires in our rural community. By adding a foam system, fires can be extinguished with one-tenth the water than without foam. The foam makes the water wetter, giving it greater smothering ability over just plain water. That's pretty

handy in our township where adequate water sources can be few and far between.

The other thing that would allow the department to improve would be the addition of more fire fighters. At present, the department consists of **14** active members. Nine members are trained as fire fighters only; four are trained as fire fighters and first responders, and one as a first responder only. During the day, on average, only three township fire fighters are available to respond to a fire. At night the available number is thirteen. The optimal number for the department is 25 active members. Fewer members reduce effectiveness when responding to emergencies and fires. The department has lost several members over the last few years to retirement and relocation. However, new members have not joined the department to replace those that have left. The requirements needed to become a fire fighter in our Township are 1) you must live in the township, 2) be in general good health, 3) be capable of carrying 70 pounds of gear while dragging a fire hose and climbing a ladder if need be, and 4) care about your neighbors and community. Many of the fire fighters, like most of us, work outside the township and are only on call when they are in the township. If individuals don't believe they are capable of being a fire fighter or a first responder there are other ways they can assist the department. The creation of an auxiliary for the fire department is needed. The duties of an auxiliary would be to raise funds for additional equipment over and above that provided for in the budget, increase visibility of the department, recruit new members when needed and maybe even to bring the fire fighters a little hot coffee on a cold winter night while they are putting out a fire at your house or your neighbor's.

The Town Board would like to recognize and thank the members of **Clifton Volunteer Fire Department** and would like to invite you to become involved in the department in any capacity that you can.

Current active members of the Clifton Volunteer Fire Department are:

Ann Cox	Bill Hartman	Dan Nieman
Bill Cox	Will Hartman	Tom Ocel
Jason Dorgan	Terry Hesch	Jeff Scully
Robert Engelson	Berry Lampi	Jerry Simmons
Dean Godding	Ray Leppala	(Chief)

Duluth Township Police Department

Our Township Police Department currently consists of two part-time officers, Chief Shawn Padden and Officer Paul Johnson. Each officer serves a maximum of 80 hours per month although Paul Johnson's time is reduced due to his other obligations. Both are full-time officers in other community police departments where they receive continuing training and have access to a range of equipment. The Township benefits from their willingness to patrol our community at considerably lower than their usual rate.

Some communities contract with the County Sheriff to provide service but this generally is more expensive and officers that respond to Township requests often have to travel from other parts of St Louis County and often aren't familiar with our Township concerns, roads, or residents.

(continued on page 3)

Because 80 hours a month is sometimes too much on top of a regular job, the Department may propose that another part-time officer be retained to share the current 160 hours coverage. We could benefit by having an officer with other specialties such as DARE, a drug program which works with schools like ours. Patrolling occurs at various times to avoid known periods when an officer may not be on duty, however all roads in the Township are regularly patrolled.

Our Police Department responds to some 1200 events in the Township per year, a number that is growing, including drug, vehicle and domestic incidents as well as responding to resident requests for checking their home when they are on vacation (request forms are available in the Town Hall office).

The History Corner

Richard Sill

It got down to zero last night. Not one or two below, but just exactly zero. That leaves unchanged at three the number of days this winter that my thermometer has showed temperatures in the minus range. Only three days below zero and with the coldest months of the year all ready behind us. It truly has been a strange winter. For more than twenty years now I have been recording the daily highs and lows at my property. In looking over those old records it is impossible to find any winter with fewer than at least a dozen days below zero and those winters were rare. The winter of '82-'83 was warm as was '97-'98. But those years were unusually mild and very out of the ordinary. Most winters in fact average at least 25-30 days below zero with several showing more than 40 days in the minus range, such as the brutal winter of '95-'96. According to my records that was the winter that I had ten days of -20 or more in a span of a little over two weeks. It was also the winter of five straight days of -30 or more between January 31 and February 4. Brrrrr! That sounds cold even reading about it.

Compared to that, the last five years have been unusually warm ones, but still nothing like this winter. I wonder what the early homesteaders would have thought had they experienced such temperatures. I am not a farmer or a fisherman but I would have to believe that they would have felt fortunate. An ice-free lake to set nets all winter and a mild and relatively snow free winter for the animals would seem to be an advantageous thing. I know, as I get older the moderate winters become more appealing. But I also know that such an unusual winter makes me pause about what will come in the months ahead. And I am sure those early homesteaders would have had the same thoughts, worrying about adequate moisture for the crops, the imminent threat of early spring fires, and the fear of wells going dry.

I hope I am not having pangs of guilt for not suffering enough this winter. After all I have lived in Minnesota for over fifty years so I feel I have shared in enough of its wintry blasts to not feel uninitiated. More than guilt it is probably a feeling of disappointment that is beginning to creep over me. Disappointment in the fact that this winter will slide unnoticed into spring and that there may be no clear end to mark its passing. To many people spring is the first robin, the first bud, the first flower to show along

the south wall. But to me it is also marked by the last of things. The last day the snow packed gravel road is mud free, the last day snow still clings to the pile at the end of the drive, the last day I can snowshoe up the river before breakup. It is that transition marking the change in seasons that gives me reason to break out of my winter hibernation and to once again begin thinking of planting gardens, finishing my fourteen year long project of siding the house, and throwing the baseball once again.

Sometimes though, it is just the simple act of sitting by the river as the remnants of winter shed off the land and float by me in a torrent of cleansing that tells me spring is here -- the rite of passage in a life of seasonal change. Who knows, maybe March will bring snow and cold like nothing we have yet seen this winter. If it does then I can celebrate that first day of spring properly, listening to the snow melt off the roof and waiting for the first sign of mud.

Summary of Town Board Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

Dec 13th meeting. Supervisors Aho, Cook, Dahl, Sundstrom and West were present. The agenda was set, correspondence reviewed and minutes approved. Marty Shultz (ARDC) described the establishment of highway 61 as an "All American Road", a recognition which acknowledges its special historic attraction but does not imply regulation or funding other than the potential for some historic site signs. The Board voted to indicate their support. Department reports were presented and discussion included what to do about junk cars on the McQuade road, the improvement in Bluebird Landing so fire trucks could get water, the Land Use Planning Steering Committee meeting on Dec 7th, progress on the Culas road settlement, and the appointment of Corlis West to be Board representative for the Fire Department. The Board authorized Township attorney Tim Strom to proceed with negotiations to acquire the NSE school property. Funding for a computer was approved to permit the Town Hall to receive email, and access the Township's web site and County/State data and statutes. Some reports now must be filed electronically. A hearing on Ulanowski's request to close an unused "paper" Township road was heard and that portion connecting to a landlocked parcel was denied but vacating another part of the road was approved pending receipt by of statements from landowners relieving the Township of liability.

Jan 10th meeting. Supervisors Cook, Dahl, Sundstrom and West were present. A letter was received from Alden Township regarding fire coverage. Since we provide coverage, one of our fire trucks is in the Alden fire hall. A question about its insurance will be researched. The Treasurer reported deposits of \$106,550, expenditures of \$9,000 for an ending balance of \$169,454. The draft school acquisition legal documents were distributed for review. Election judge volunteers for 2002 were approved. The Fire Department reported that a sub-committee was formed to discuss the need for volunteers and equipment. Town Hall duct cleaning was approved and bids will be sought for painting the Town Hall and for construction of a wall for better office security.

Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thurs) Mar. 7th and Apr. 11th at 7:30pm in the Town Hall.

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

The Planning and Zoning Commission has an opening. If you are interested in being interviewed to serve on the Commission, please contact Carolyn Marino (Commission Secretary) at 525-4592 or 525-6431, or Ann Cox (Town Clerk) at 525-5705. The deadline for applications is March 15th. Interviews will be held at the regular meeting on March 28th, 7:30pm in the Town Hall.

Nov/Dec 27th meeting. No quorum.

Jan 24th meeting. Members present were Bourgeois, Bowen, Edblom and Lawson. Bowen provided updated information on the sewer project. The 5402 North Shore Drive property, which Eagle Ministries was selling, was discussed. It is a non-conforming lot with a non-conforming structure. An interested party (Pence) wants to update property and use it for a research firm and residence. Since this was a permitted use in the area a public hearing will not be held on the proposed use.

The Palmer's Chapel property at Homestead and Scenic Drive was discussed. McCarthy was considering purchase, preserving the chapel but using it to house architectural antiques restoration and sales. It is adjacent to a designated commercial area. Possibilities of rezoning to commercial or considering a conditional use permit were discussed. Wayne has suggested that someone who wants to raise 5-6 horses in the W2b zone apply for a conditional use permit.

The need for another Steering Committee meeting prior to the public information meeting on Feb 21st was discussed. To avoid extra consultant charges, Ellen O'Neill offered to facilitate another Steering Committee meeting on Jan 31st. Carolyn will send notice cards to all Steering Committee members.

Next Planning Commission meetings: March 28th and April 25th at 7:30pm, (4th Thursday), Town Hall.

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District

Mary Ann Sironen, D/NSSD Secretary

After several months of delay in obtaining approval for the Environmental Assessment Worksheet prepared for the D/NSSD project, a presentation was given to the MPCA Citizens' Board on Jan 22, 2002. The Board voted 7 to 1 to **approve** the findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law, and Order for the Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the proposed Duluth/North Shore Sewer Project, St. Louis and Lake Counties. This action cleared the way for the permits to be given for construction to proceed. Permission has been given by the WLSSD Board for the D/NSSD extension and similar action is under way with the Railroad Authority, St. Louis County and other permitting agencies.

The D/NSSD Land Use project was instrumental in answering some of the concerns of the EAW that centered on excessive development of the shore area that could be expected to follow a sewer line. That project is in its final implementation stages and work done on the Duluth Township portion has been received by the Township Steering Committee to consider incorporating into the new *Comprehensive Land Use Plan* that's currently under way. The schedule is tentatively set to **advertise for bids** from construction companies from March 19 through April 19. review of the bids will be done and a **Public Meeting will be held the week of April 22** that will give property

owners an updated cost estimate for the project. A community wide mailing is planned that will provide current information and include an income survey to determine individual's status for assessment abatement grants that will be available from the Community Development Block Grant program in St Louis County.

A **mid-year 2002 start for construction** is anticipated with the main line from Lester River to Knife River being built first followed by the lateral connections to each property in 2003 and finishing in 2004.

The most recent information has the project cost at \$13,000,000. A special assessment per Residential Equivalent Unit (REU) is anticipated to be in the range of \$8,850-\$10,500 as a lump sum or \$640-\$760 per year per REU for 20 years. A monthly user charge will be an additional \$29-\$34 per month. In addition there will be variable "up front" connection costs that will be the responsibility of the homeowner for bringing footing drains, electrical connections and household plumbing up to standard before a property can be hooked up to the system.

The D/NSSD Board is continuing attempts on several fronts to decrease the cost to homeowners. The Army Corps of Engineers has made \$500,000 available for a piece of the project and work continues in the state legislature to gain special appropriations to bring the D/NSSD property owner's costs closer to the state average.

D/NSSD Board of Managers' meetings are held the first Tuesdays of the month at 7am. at French River Lutheran Church and are open to the public.

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Wanted: An anonymous questionnaire respondent suggested that a yoga class be started for interested residents. To facilitate the request, the editor suggests that those who may be interested in taking or instructing such a class leave their name and phone number with Ann Cox at the Town Hall. Someone on the list could organize the group.

Update on our Land Use Planning Process

An insert page provides an update on the work of the Steering Committee for updating our 1976 Land Use Plan.

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.

North Shore Community School News

www.northshorecommunityschool.org

See the last 3 pages of the *Newsletter*.

Township Elections

Township Election: 7am-8pm, March 12th, Town Hall

Annual Town Meeting: 8:15pm, March 12th, Town Hall

At the Annual Township election we will **vote for 3 Township Supervisors**. Two of the positions were filled on an interim basis last spring at the special Township election. These need to be voted on for regular (staggered) terms at this election. Supervisors **Corlis West** and **George Sundstrom** served this past year and are running for the regular positions. Supervisor **Bruce Aho's** regular term also ended and he is running for a second term.

While the election is uncontested, the editor suggested that each Supervisor take this opportunity to reintroduce themselves to the community and explain a bit of what they do. By press time, two of those running provided statements that are printed below.

The Annual Town Meeting has a resident as moderator. Minutes of the last annual meeting are read and there is a discussion and vote on the 2003 Township budget. Other items may be discussed as well. It is a Township resident meeting. **You are urged to attend and vote.**

Bruce Aho

Incumbent Supervisor, served 3 years, seeking a 3-year term.

George A. Sundstrom

Incumbent Supervisor, served 1 year, seeking a 3-year term.

I am married to my wife of 33 years Judee, two children, Bryan and Darcie Rolfe, 3 grandchildren. I am a retired sheet metal worker and union representative for the Sheet Metal Workers Union in N.E. Minnesota and N.W. Wisconsin. I was first elected to the Town Board of Supervisors last spring when the Board expanded from three to five members.

As a Supervisor, I have agreed to be in charge of the Township cemetery and delegate to the St. Louis County Township Officers Association and attended Duluth-North Shore sanitary District meetings.

It has been, for me, an awe inspiring experience to witness the evolution of our own North Shore Community School from North Shore Elementary, which Dist. 381 voted to close at the end of this school year. With the vision, leadership and tireless effort of our interim school board chairman Phillip Strom, the expertise, dedication and focus of all the other interim Board members and the current school staff, our community school (it is actually Public School District 4084) will continue the tradition of a "School of Excellence" established by the teachers and staff at North Shore Elementary.

Having been a minute part of the above effort this past year, a Town Board Supervisor, on the Township planning committee and observed the efforts of the people planning the sewer line on the shore, the members of the Volunteer Fire Department and the volunteer editor of this newsletter, and attended Homesteaders meetings, I have

come to recognize that Duluth Township is not just land bordered by the Lake and other Townships. It is moreover a community of people, people that I have observed as being dedicated to building an even better community. I think you are doing a great job!

Corlis West

Incumbent Supervisor, served one year, seeking a 2-year term.

There has been a lot going on in our Township this past year and I have appreciated the opportunity to represent the citizens of the Township in many of them. As many of you know, the Township is in the process of acquiring North Shore Elementary School from the Lake Superior School District. While the school district is no longer interested or able to keep the school open, I would like to thank many of you for your determination to keep it alive as a charter school and a vital part of our community. I drive by the old Clover Valley High School at least twice a day and I am determined not to allow what has happened there to happen again.

In addition, the Township's updated comprehensive plan is nearing completion. The plan sets a path for the Township that will affect planning and zoning and what we want our community to look and feel like for many years to come. There is still plenty of opportunity for your input. As a member of the Steering Committee, I am attaining a greater awareness of just how diverse our community has become and the challenges that lie ahead, for putting together a plan that we all can live with and which will keep it a good place to live, raise a family and do business.

I would like to encourage each and every one of you to **vote on March 12** for Township supervisors and on the school district's referendum. In addition, please attend the Annual Township Meeting at 8:15 that evening; this is where many decisions, which affect taxes and how they are spent in our Township, are made. If you are not there, then you don't have a vote in those matters.

Do Your Part – Volunteer!!

First Responders

Firefighters

Contact Ann Cox (messages at 525-5705).

Proposed Township Budget for 2003

The proposed 2003 budget is shown in the table on the other side of this page. It is based on requests developed by our Township departments and reviewed and adopted by our Township Board. The total is down 3.7% from the budget approved last year (for 2002). The Recycling budget is covered by a grant from WLSSD. Overall, the average cost per household for Township services (fire, police, road, governance, etc.) is about \$28.20 (more for expensive homes and businesses, lower for less expensive homes and businesses, and lowered by homestead credits, etc.). Details of the budget will be available at the Annual Township meeting, March 12th, when we will vote on the proposed 2003 budget.

Duluth Township Expenditures and Proposed 2003 Budget

<i>Expenditure Area</i>	1999 (actual)	2000 (actual)	2001 (actual)	2002 (budgeted)	2003 (proposed)
Roads & Bridges	\$85,389.31	\$59,792.88	\$110,751.01	\$65,000.00	\$55,000.00
General Township	\$63,018.55	\$56,151.19	\$87,883.34	\$77,550.00	\$86,412.00
Fire Department	\$44,878.11	\$51,739.51	\$50,520.07	\$53,262.85	\$59,531.38
Police Department	\$31,415.08	\$38,469.69	\$26,902.90	\$37,341.32	\$36,482.92
Township Cemetery	\$4,180.30	\$6,453.50	\$4,589.50	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Planning & Zoning	\$5,238.75	\$6,345.73	\$29,425.69	\$22,000.00	\$8,000.00
Recycling Centers	\$8,056.12	\$7,966.18	\$8,879.80	\$0.00	\$0.00
Plus 5%				\$13,057.71	\$12,571.32
Total Expenses	\$242,176.22	\$226,918.68	\$229,367.60	\$274,211.88	\$263,997.62
<i>Approximate average monthly cost per household for all Township services¹</i>	\$27.84	\$26.08	\$26.36	\$29.08	\$28.20

On Township Accounting With the annual meeting upon us I thought I would answer the question that always comes up. **What year's budget are we voting on?** This year we are voting on funds to spend in 2003. If you attend the Annual Meeting on March 12, 2002, the budget that is approved is spent in 2003. **Why is that you ask?** First the majority of the money the Township receives for operating comes from the Township's part of your property tax. You pay the first half by May 15th and the second half by Oct 15th. After these dates the County Auditor sends the Township money they have collected. The Auditor collects what we, as a Township, approve in our budget. When we meet in March you have already been notified what your taxes will be this year (2002). What we budget in this year's meeting cannot be collected until next year. The money we will get this year from the County Auditor is the budget you approved at last year's Annual Township Meeting. *Janet Johansen, Township Treasurer*

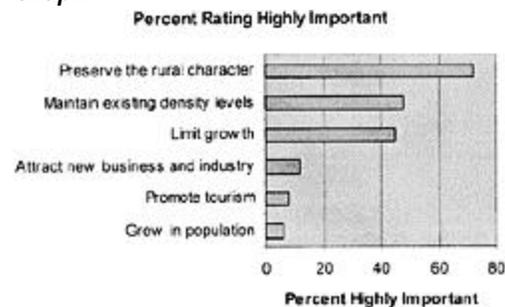
Results from the 2002 Resident Feedback Questionnaire

The January 2002 Newsletter included a one-page questionnaire, mailed to 790 addresses. Anonymous responses from 120 (15%) interested residents were received (40% from residents on the shore side of highway 61). The purpose of the annual survey is to provide residents with another opportunity to give their suggestions and register their opinions about the Township. While attending meetings is the best way to become involved (they are open to everyone), many are unable to get out or have work conflicts. A report of the results from the survey is given to the Town Board and copies are in the Town Hall. It is also posted on the Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org. The questionnaire was put together by the Newsletter editor from suggestions he received.

Residents were asked about the McQuade harbor project, 60% felt it should be cancelled or changed to some other use such as a park with toilet facilities (38% felt it should proceed). Some 63% felt that development along the ridgeline near the shore should be limited so that it is not seen from the shore or roadways. Slightly over half of respondents (52%) say that additional towers (cell, etc) should be permitted in the Township but half of these felt that height should be limited (median 100') and 62% wanted to restrict the location of towers. About two thirds (64%) preferred buried telephone/electric lines.

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of 6 items (see **Graph 1**). Preserving the rural character of the Township was rated as most important (72% said it was "very important"). Other items rated as very important, were: maintaining the existing density levels (48% rated as "very important"), limiting growth (45%) attracting new business and industry into the Township (12%), promoting tourism (8%), and growth in the population(6%).

Graph 1



Almost all (97%) were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with Duluth Township as a place to live. Residents were asked to list 3 improvements they would like to see made in Duluth Township over the next 10 years and these are listed in the report and on the web site.

There were no statistically significant differences between the responses of those living on the shore side of the highway vs. those living inland.

¹ The actual figure would be lower for less expensive properties, more for more expensive properties and reduced by homestead credits in the normal property tax calculations.

North Shore News Bulletin

Community School



Application deadline nears, Confirmation letters to come

The official application period for the 2002-2003 school year at North Shore Community School ends on March 1, 2002.

Students applying after March 1 will be eligible for enrollment if there is space available in their grade level. Late applications will be considered in the order they are received.

Families who have applied by March 1 will soon receive a letter confirming their child(ren)'s placement at North Shore Community School along with important registration materials. These packets will be sent out by March 15. Parents must return these completed forms by April 12 to ensure a child is registered to attend North Shore Community School.

As of Feb. 20, the school has received applications that closely match in number the average class size goals set by the interim board. The board is committed to providing the best learning opportunities

possible for students based on their needs.

Again, applications received after March 1 will still be accepted. In classes which have reached capacity as determined by the board, late applicants will be placed on a waiting list in the order they are received. Individuals will move up the waiting list to fill openings as they become available.

In future school years, students already enrolled (as well as their siblings) will be given preference in admission. However, parents will need to indicate whether or not their children are expected to attend by the publicized official application date that will precede each school year.

North Shore Community School, as a public charter school, does not discriminate in its admissions procedures. The school will not (and legally must not) consider intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or athletic ability as a basis for enrolling students.

- Leo Babeu

Student applications reach NSCS goal

North Shore will have some new faces in its classrooms next fall.

Currently, 180 students have submitted applications to attend North Shore Community School. Thirteen new students in grades 1-6 are included in this number, adding from one to four in each grade except fifth.

There has been strong interest in kindergarten. The school board will soon con-

sider whether to offer two all-day, every day kindergarten sections in order to accommodate all interested families.

There are a total of 25 new families when the number of student applicants in kindergarten who have no other siblings currently at North Shore is combined with the number of new families of students in older grades. While many of these 25 families are local and live within the ex-

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The public is invited to attend North Shore Community School Board Meetings scheduled for 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at the North Shore School.

We invite your questions and concerns. For more information, call 525-0663.

North Shore Community School Quick Facts

- North Shore Community School is a public non-profit organization.
- No tuition is charged for students attending North Shore Community School.
- Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center of Finland, Minnesota, is the sponsor of North Shore Community School.
- North Shore Community School offers educational opportunities for children in grades pre-Kindergarten through Sixth.

Update from the North Shore Community School Board

The news on behalf of North Shore Community School continues to be positive. Since my last report to you, we've conducted two successful open houses to showcase our facility. These were well planned and executed by an active Community & Communications Committee, and were broadly attended, with some seeing our school for the first time.

I am pleased to report that we have enrolled 180 students for our first school year, which begins in September. That happens to be the exact enrollment number that has been budgeted. This number may likely be expanded modestly before enrollment is completed next month. These enrollment numbers are crucial to our business plan, in that the lion's share of our revenue dollars will be enrollment driven.

In January, we saw the beginning of our successful Title X Grant funds expand our bank account by \$80,000. As you are probably aware, our expenditures prior to securing these government funds have been financed solely from donations and fund raising efforts. Title X funds are for start-up expenses, as well as supplementing the first two years of operation. In total, we have been awarded \$415,000 for these special purposes.

As we move forward, we will be applying these funds toward a broad array of initiatives including Board development, staff development, major technology upgrades, and furthering our local history studies capability, just to

name a few of the funding applications.

Acquisition of the school property from the School District by Duluth Township is in the final stages of negotiation. Although the property will not actually be turned over until the end of this school year, I expect the agreement to be signed by the end of February.

We are grateful to the #381 School Board for acting in good faith to accomplish this important goal.

The North Shore Community School Board is negotiating a lease agreement with Duluth Township for the use of the school. The Township will benefit from the ownership because of its supplemental application as a Community Center. It is expected that ownership expenses will be fully recovered from lease payments by the tenant, North Shore Community School.

As a final note, I am appealing to all of you to vote **YES** on the school bond referendum on March 12.

We have come a long way in our community to ensure that our K-6 kids will have a quality school experience in their own community. Those same kids have a right to expect that quality to extend through to the end of their high school years.

Two Harbors High School has outlived its useful life and is badly in need of replacement. Additionally, this referendum, if successful, will allow the District to operate just three school buildings versus the current six. The annual operating savings can be used for curriculum and programmatic needs, rather than patching and fixing too many buildings.

We've given several presentations in our community on behalf of the referendum, and there will be at least two more: 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 24 at French River Lutheran Church, and 6:30 p.m. on March 1 at the North Shore School.

If you want to know the impact on your

Real Estate tax bill, take your tax statement for this year, add 10 percent to the special school levy line (assessed this year for \$2.4 million of health and safety deficiencies) and you should be able to see what the cost of \$2.65 million per year in school bond expense is to you.

I firmly believe that this referendum is our last best hope of stabilizing our financial situation in the district, and of building a new high school that's safe and suitable for learning.

- Phil Strom
NSCS Interim
Board Chairman

Continued from page 1—Preliminary enrollment numbers strong

isting attendance area of North Shore Elementary, some families from surrounding areas have also applied.

More than 95 percent of the current North Shore Elementary School student body intends to continue their education at North Shore Community School next fall. That number is expected to go up even more as the last applications come in.

While it is exciting to welcome new students and families to our school, North Shore Community School will continue to be rooted in the Clover Valley/French River community.

These numbers are preliminary until the



At this time, more than 95 percent of the current North Shore Elementary School student body has applied to attend North Shore Community School for the 2002-2003 school year.

registration process for student enrollment is completed in mid-April. It is clear, however, that North Shore Community School will reach its enrollment goal for year one and be a financially and educationally viable public charter school.

- Julie Igo

Experience environmental learning through recent student winter expedition to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center

Clouds of ice fog swept back and forth across Wolf Lake, causing students to disappear for minutes at a time as they chopped holes through 16 inches of ice.

In one cloud, students were fishing and were thrilled to catch a small perch. Others used a six foot ice saw and huge tongs to cut and haul 50 lb. blocks of ice out of the water, as their relatives used to do to provide refrigeration for the summer. Still others were content to sit outside in the winter, with no gloves on, writing about the experience in their journals.

These were Ms. Gunsolus' fifth graders from North Shore Elementary, at their winter trip to Wolf Ridge two weeks ago.

As part of a 25 year tradition, North Shore sixth graders have

made their annual trip to Wolf Ridge for three days (and two nights) each September. This year is different. As Wolf Ridge becomes the charter school sponsor of North Shore Community School, the relationship grows closer. Starting this year, students of every grade will visit Wolf Ridge at least twice during the year, using these single day trips to explore the natural world in all its seasons.

The kindergarteners and first graders arrived in December to investigate how trees and insects survive the winter.



Mrs. Gunsolus' fifth graders at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. (photo courtesy of Wolf Ridge)

Sixth graders learned about how humans and natural resources affect one another in a class called "Living Lightly."

Third graders plan to help tap maple trees in March.

As Ms. Lounsberry said of her kindergarten students (who sang "the bog song" all

the way home on the bus), "These kids won't forget this experience."

The hope is that they will not only remember, but will build on their experiences each year. Part of the philosophy and value of repeated trips to a familiar but special place is to enrich understanding, develop a sense of belonging, and inspire curiosity and caring about the natural world and our place in it. A sense of place; a sense of wonder. These questions and feelings may be transferred to other places and shared with other people. And they do change lives.

Ask a group of people to select their most memorable experience in school, and most will describe a school experience that actually took place out of school. These activities help address graduation standards, but they also relate to students' real lives, real world and real futures. That's why it's called "lifelong learning."

Ms. Gunsolus' fifth graders may have other names for it, but you can bet they'll not forget the lessons they learned on a winter's day in the ice clouds.

- B.J. Kohlstedt



**A School of Choice
A Tradition of Excellence**

5926 Ryan Road, Duluth, MN 55804

Interim Board Members:

Pat Anderson	Phil Strom, chair
Leo Babeu	Bob Sundstrom
Bob Engelson	George Sundstrom
Lars Fladmark	Gail Trygstad
Julie Igo	

Committee chairs:

Building & Grounds	Bob Engelson
Communications	Leo Babeu
Program & Curriculum	Pat Anderson
Finance	Lars Fladmark
Fund Raising	
Personnel	Gail Trygstad

North Shore Community School Mission Statement

The Mission of the North Shore Community School is to provide meaningful learning experiences that will enable all students to grow, develop critical thinking skills, communicate their ideas effectively, and to promote respect for our diverse human and natural environment. Taking their place among the caring community of intergenerational learners, students are encouraged by example to embrace values of responsible citizenship and a lifelong commitment to learning.

**Applications are still being accepted
for the 2002-2003 School Year.
Call, write or download one today.**

www.northshorecommunityschool.org

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2002

Inside this Issue:

- Feedback Questionnaire Results
- Supervisors on the March 12th ballot
- Township **Calendar**
- Town Board meetings
- Planning Commission meetings
- "The History Corner"
- Community School news
- Upcoming events

Duluth Township Newsletter
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Duluth, MN 55804

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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.

Duluth Township Information for 2002

Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804
Phone (218) 525-5705 (voice message), fax (218) 525-3845, web
site: www.duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30-3:30
Wednesday 12:30-3:30
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 525-5665 or email:
georgesundstrom@juno.com (cemetery, zoning,
outside meetings)
Corlis West 525-7719 (Fire Dept, 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
Planning and 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

Recycle! It's important!

Our two recycling centers now accept mixed paper in addition to corrugated cardboard, plastic, glass and newspapers.

Mixed paper includes paper and pasteboard from:

Letters	cereal boxes	cracker boxes
Computer paper	pasta boxes	newsletters
Tablets	tissue boxes	phone books
Junk mail	magazines	bound books

Township Recycling Centers

North site – Town Hall, **Bob Abrahamson** 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).

(Leave items only when the Recycling Centers are open.)

Upcoming Township Events and Issues

Annual Township Election and Town Meeting is on March 12th. Voting 7am to 8pm, Meeting at 8:15pm. The Duluth Township **Board of Appeal and Equalization** meets from 6pm to 8pm on April 17th at the Town Hall. This is the meeting at which you can request review of your property tax matters.

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