Thank you to all contributors to this issue: Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooey, Todd Lindahl, Trisha O’Keefe, Rich Sill, and Mary Ann Sironen. A special thanks to John Kelly who provided the sketch of North Shore Community School.

We need volunteers to do a sketch for the top of the November or January Newsletter! Call the editor (525-0103) if you have an idea or know someone who would do a drawing. Both school kids and adult artists are needed!

Survey about Community Center Activities

A questionnaire is enclosed. Its purpose is to find out how much interest there is in having various community activities during open times at our North Shore Community School site. Suggested activities include classes, group meeting times, sports, open times for use of computers or the library, etc. You may have other ideas.

Please complete the questionnaire by September 30th. Return it to the Town Hall by mail or put in the green News Box at the Town Hall. Results will be presented in the November Newsletter. Thank you for your help.

Volunteer Fire/First Responder Auxiliary

Mark your calendars! Harvest Dinner Fundraiser for the Fire Department is on October 11th, Town Hall, 5-8pm. It’s a chance to see our Fire equipment too! Funds will be used to purchase needed fire equipment for the Township. More information will be posted at the Town Hall and on our Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org.

Ads are currently being accepted for the fire department fundraiser calendar for 2004. The first annual calendar was produced last year and it succeeded in raising money for the fire department as well as providing an opportunity for local businesses to advertise to their neighbors. If you would like to be included in the 2004 calendar, contact Trisha O’Keefe at 525-0150.

Concerned About Your Medications?

On Wednesday, Sept 3rd at 12:30, the Homesteaders will host a local pharmacist who will speak about the possible side effects and interaction of medications you take, and ways to save costs of medications. After the presentation, the pharmacist will meet one-on-one (if you choose) to go over the medications you are currently taking. If this sounds interesting, please bring a list of the medications you take or your bottles of medication for the

Continued on page 2
Fire Rating: The Fire Department is waiting for official notice that our ISO rating has improved from its current 9 to an 8! When the Township receives this letter you can get a copy from the Town Hall. This is information you will want to give to your homeowner’s insurance agent if you are paying insurance under a higher ISO rate.

Helicopter Training. The Fire Department, First Responders and the Fire Auxiliary will participate in a special training session on helping medical helicopters land at emergency scenes. This is more complicated than it appears! The special training is scheduled for September 3rd around 8pm, unless the medical helicopters are on an emergency call. The training site is likely to be on Ryan road up from the Fire Hall.

Volunteers are needed for firefighting, first responders and the Auxiliary. Training and equipment are provided.

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District

Mary Ann Sironen, D/NSSD Secretary

With the construction season in full swing, a number of crews are at work on both the main and lateral lines of the sewer system. *S. J. Lewis* crews are finishing North Shore Drive and making the loop back to the west into the challenging rock ledges along the Old North Shore Road. A second contractor, *Frontier Pipeline*, is making good progress in putting in the lines from the main sewer to individual homes in the City of Duluth portion of the project and working their way east.

The Board has contracted individuals to aid in the work associated with construction of the system. *Eric Appelwick* of *Northeast Technical Services* acts as a coordinator and liaison between the Board, residents, engineers and construction teams. He is available at 624-8042 for questions and comments. John Miller of *Liohn Consulting* is currently visiting 225 of the approximately 450 customers to obtain easements into individual properties for the lateral lines. The remainder of the owners will be contacted in a second phase of easement procurement. The community’s own Jeff Cook is visiting homes to inspect the plumbing to assure their readiness to hook up to the grinder pump pipes.

Work continues at the Board level in finalizing the details and funding for the *Residential Extended Hook Up* program. This is an additional undertaking that will provide the connections from the grinder pumps to the

homes through a single contractor. Other Board activity includes: a) work to establish the Hook Up/Connection policies, b) rates and charges, c) planning for the 2004 Budget and, d) updating sewer district ordinances.

Regular meetings for the rest of the year are September 9, October 7, November 11 and December 9. The general location is at the French River Lutheran Church but during their building project, meetings are held next door at the *Gathering House* (previously the parsonage.) Meetings are at 7 a.m. The public is welcome.

Check the website www.dnssd.org for the current status of the project.

The History Corner

Rich Sill

I nosed the car into an open grassy area and turned off the ignition. Grabbing my hat and sunglasses I exited from air conditioned coolness and entered once again into the heat and humidity of another August day. Slipping the car keys into my pocket, I quickly surveyed the small parking area and headed directly towards the lake. Clearly, from the number of vehicles scattered around, I was not alone in my endeavor. The heat had driven others to Knife River Beach as well. People were gathered in small groups both up and down the shore. A few of the braver ones were in the water but most were not. After all this is still Lake Superior. I passed a group of adults sitting on blankets, and worked my way among their children, who were mostly throwing rocks or involved in a game of “tag”. I watched them as they ran between waters edge and the bordering woods, chasing each other, laughing and screaming as only children in the sheer joy of play can do.

Someone waved at me. As I got closer, I realized it was a neighbor of mine who lived just down the road. I waved back. We yelled quick hellos to each other before he turned to run and dive back into the lake. His determination impressed me but didn't tempt me. I hadn't come to swim but to do a little exploring. I continued on until the beach turned from cobblestones to boulders. The hiking here was not as leisurely, each move requiring a more concentrated effort as one hopped from rock to rock hoping not to make a misstep. Occasionally, broken pieces of concrete, wave washed and smooth, appeared along the shore giving me hints that I was getting closer to my destination. I worked my way a few hundred yards further. Boulders had now given way to bedrock. In places blue harebell and common yellow tansy poked upward through cracks providing a brief brushstroke of color to the backdrop of grayish stone. I walked to the edge of the water and sat down. Across from me, not more than a couple hundred feet out in the lake, lay the rock and concrete island that my daughter Kali calls, “the old railroad bridge”. To her and her friends it is a destination to canoe to, and to swim off from. To me it is the last vestige of an incredibly unique piece of our history, the concrete dock marking the southern terminus of the old Alger-Smith Rail Line.

In 1898 Russell Alger, a former Governor of Michigan and eventual United States Senator, along with M.S. Smith, a prominent Detroit financier announced their plans to build a new railroad (officially called the Duluth and
Northern Minnesota) inland from Knife River to harvest the then mostly inaccessible tracts of timber along the North Shore. Within a year seven miles of rail line had been built, much of it concentrated along the eastern edge of Duluth Township near where today's Shilhon, Korkki and Homestead Roads run. By 1901 the main line had extended to over 46 miles with countless secondary lines crisscrossing through much of French River and Clover Valley country. For the first ten years trainload after trainload of prime white pine logs arrived daily in Knife River, were transferred on to the Duluth and Iron Range Line, and then hauled to Alger-Smith's main sawmill facilities on Rice's Point in Duluth. In 1909 the company decided to expand operations into the pulp trade and it was then that the concrete dock was constructed. Pulpwod was in demand by eastern paper mills and the dock was built to permit trains direct access to boats as they docked and loaded before heading east across Lake Superior. It also allowed for the unloading of goods such as eastern coal that was distributed locally. Eventually Alger-Smith's operations would extend to the Canadian border, consist of over 400 miles of track, and have under it's hire more people than any other employer in Duluth but for all its accomplishments there is little tangible that remains today to tell us of its glory days. That's why I came to sit and gaze at the concrete dock. It's one thing that time has not yet been able to take away.

I looked down to see two ladybugs crawling up my arm. I watched them for a while and then carefully brushed them off onto the rocks. It was time to start back. I decided on my return to forego the shore and instead headed inland. Here the tansy, which had struggled to find a foothold in the bedrock, grew in abundance, marking the line of the old rail bed. As I parted a path through the nearly shoulder high flowers I uncovered a few hidden raspberry plants and stopped to pick a handful of ripe berries. As I ate them I looked back towards the lake. There were no sounds of pulp being loaded, no smoke of steam engines in the air, no trains to rumble the ground beneath me. But just beyond the tansy and the trees and the waters edge, lay a battered island of concrete that will probably outlast us all.

Kane Siding on the Alger Line

Todd E. Lindahl

Frank Kane arrived in Knife River in 1898 when the Alger-Smith Lumber Company moved its logging operation here from Michigan. During the summer of '98 he was put in charge of part of the construction crew building the Duluth & Northern Minnesota Railway north towards the timber stands. The company had expected to build about 15 miles of track that year, but finished the construction season with only 7½. The mosquitoes and flies were so bad that workers quit their jobs in large numbers, which slowed the work to a crawl. A good portion of this first part of the mainline is within Duluth Township. This included the important site that became known as "Kane Siding" 2¼ miles north of Knife River. Today, the Kane siding site would be almost a half-mile north of the West Shilhon Road on the old abandoned

(continued on page 4)
grade. The siding tracks were on the east and west side of the mainline track. A wye track enabled locomotives to be turned when necessary. The grade going north from Knife River was steep and difficult for trains headed up the line. It was common practice to "double" every northbound train between mile 1 and Kane Siding. At mile 1 the train would be cut in half and the forward section taken to Kane Siding. There, the front half was set out on one of the siding tracks. The engine alone then backed down the grade to mile 1 to retrieve the rear section of the train. Arriving back at Kane Siding, the train was reassembled and continued on to its destination in the north woods. All of the southbound trains stopped at Kane Siding to set up their brake retainers before descending the hill into town. In the peak years later on, loaded cars were stored on the sidings and wye when the yards at Knife River filled to capacity. Before starting down the hill the conductor had to call the dispatcher on the company telephone to get clearance.

Frank Kane spent many years working as a logging camp foreman during the winter months. During the summer of 1900 he was given the task of building 20 miles of new track. Eventually he became superintendent of the Duluth & Northern Minnesota Railway, and was instrumental in laying out many of the numerous spur lines that radiated into the timber. His skills were legendary when it came to selecting the best route. In spite of his considerable skills and his high positions in management, Frank Kane never learned how to read or write.

In 1919 the Alger-Smith Lumber Company ceased its logging operations in northeastern Minnesota. By this time the railroad was well over 100 miles in length and north of Grand Marais in Cook County. The official end of track was at 99.8 miles, but in reality the track continued on past that point.

The Minnesota Railroad & Warehouse Commission forced the railroad to continue passenger service until July 21, 1921. On that day the last D&NM passenger train, pulled by engine number 3, passed through Kane Siding on the final run. The Alger-Smith Company ultimately sold the D&NM to the Cloquet Lumber Company in 1923. They started pulling up the rails at the north end in May of that year. On November 14, 1923, while working in the rain, the wrecking crew removed the rails at Kane siding. By the 30th they had finished picking up the last of the rails in the Knife River yards. It was the final curtain for the Alger line and the most colorful logging railroad in Minnesota.

March 31, 1903 - a D&IR train hit a logger named Smithfield on the Sucker River trestle. The force of the impact knocked him off of the trestle causing him to drop 80 feet to the riverbed below. The train was stopped and backed to the trestle where the crew descended the riverbank and found Smithfield very dead in the water. The man had stolen two "turkeys" (a logger's knapsack) from a nearby logging camp and was attempting to make his escape by running down the tracks. It was later found that Smithfield had been drinking heavily prior to the accident, which undoubtedly contributed to his bad taste, bad morals, and bad timing.

Historical note by Todd Lyndahl
Come one, come all
NSCS Fall BBQ set for 5 p.m. on Sept. 12

Begin the 2003-04 school year by gathering with friends, neighbors and students at the North Shore Community School Fall BBQ. You’re invited to meet the NSCS staff and board members to get an overview of the coming school year.

This year’s event promises to be as exciting as years past, as North Shore Community School kicks off its school year. All students, parents, NSCS staff and community members are invited to attend and partake of a special barbecue menu of hotdogs, corn on the cob and other delicious items. Donations to support the event are appreciated and essential to continuing such celebrations at NSCS.

The Old Apostolic Lutheran Church, located at 5755 Ryan Road, has once again graciously made their parking lot available to use with shuttle service. The service will be available before and after the event.

The event is co-sponsored by the NSCS Board and the NSCS PTA. Festivities begin at 5:00 pm.

- Heidi Horoshak

From the Director:
NSCS team prepared for 2003-04 school year

Minnesota Commissioner of Education, Cheri Pierson Yecke, in her Department of Education Reorganization speech stated, "Minnesota will continue to lead the nation in innovation as we create a new focus on academic standards and build on the success of charter schools, post secondary options, and open enrollment."

North Shore Community School is one of 78 Minnesota charter schools serving 13,000 students. As the enrollments grow in the state, so have the enrollment figures for NSCS increased, with a projected count of approximately 230 students for the coming year.

This past year was one of great success, but not without challenges and hours of dedication and hard work by everyone involved.

NSCS now prepares for the 2003/2004 school year.

(Continued on page 2)

NSCS assumes sponsorship of North Shore Pre-school

North Shore Pre-school will begin it’s 15th year of serving area children under new ownership. North Shore Community School has taken over the operations of the program. Kathy Johnson, pre-school teacher, will act as director.

Johnson founded North Shore Pre-school in 1987, operating out of the Duluth Town Hall. She and Trudie Berg guided “The Little Homesteaders” at that site until 1993, when space became available at North Shore Elementary.

As part of ISD 381, the pre-school came under the umbrella of Community Education for the next 10 years.

(Continued on page 2)
**NSCS’ August 2003 Chairman’s Report**

The North Shore Community School Board is pleased to report that the school’s financial books were closed on the first operational year, ending June 30, on an operating surplus in excess of $190,000 (fully audited financials will be available to members and interested parties in our annual report at the November Annual Meeting).

This is notable in light of the facts that: our academic outcomes measured by testing results this spring showed very positive comparables in nationally normed composites, the staff compensation and benefits compare well with surrounding public schools, and it strengthens the business rationales that the board used to make a case for keeping a school open in our community.

The operating budget for the year begun on July 1 anticipates an operating surplus of more than $160,000. These combined surpluses will be held as operating reserves in the event of more difficult economic times, should they arise.

The NSCS board feels strongly that prudent business practices are particularly important for charter schools, in lieu of the tax levying authority enjoyed by traditional public schools. The positive enrollment trend your community school enjoys helps support good economic results, and the board is pleased to announce a student count increase of about 9 percent over last year.

The August Board meeting was held in one of the new portable classrooms! It was another sultry evening, and the air conditioning that these new facilities enjoy was a welcome respite from the heat. Please take the opportunity to visit these new additions to the school. They have been made possible because of the strong partnering relationship between the Community School and Duluth Township. The Board expects them to serve the school and Community Center for the next six years, or until together we’ve grown the reserve fund to accommodate a permanent expansion, referred to as “Phase II.”

In addition to the new classrooms, the summer break has allowed a number of projects to be completed.

"-Phil Strom, Board Chairman"

**From the director, continued from page 1**

**This year, NSCS added to the team, hiring a part-time (one-fifth) art teacher and a part-time (also one-fifth) counselor. Introducing:***

- Carla Tamburro, Art Specialist
- Janna Dreher, School Counselor
- Angela Ferrari, 4th Grade Teacher
- Roberta Tietge, Paraprofessional
- Cynthia Ensign, Paraprofessional
- Nick Olson, Wolf Ridge graduate

I am excited and proud of this school. We are ready! Let the school year begin!

"-Phil Carlson, Director"
Summary of Planning Commission Meetings
(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

**June 26th meeting.** Attending: Chair Sue Lawson, Toni Fladmark, Cindy Hale, Adam Hendrickson, Janet McTavish, Dave Miller, Zoning Administrator Wayne Dahlberg, Secretary Carolyn Marino. Six residents also attended.

A public hearing was conducted on a conditional use permit for Charles Ensing on Homestead Road to add a second home on the 10-acre property. After extensive discussion, the motion to approve with three conditions passed. The CUP (conditional use permit) must be reviewed 3 months prior to listing for sale once the elder family member no longer uses one of the residences. At that time, one of the two residences and any secondary septic system must be removed or not used as a residence, and existing screening between all structures and the road must be maintained. The reasoning was that the CUP was temporary and would not jeopardize desired development in that zone area.

Our building permit form is being updated.

Meeting dates for work sessions on the zoning ordinance were set for July 17, 24 and July 31st.

**Next Planning Commission meetings:** (4th Thursday)
Sept 25th and Oct 23rd at 7:30pm, Town Hall. Residents are invited to attend these public meetings.

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Locally Grown Farmers’ Market
Saturday, Sept 6th from 9am to 4pm there will be a “Harvest Festival” at Leif Erikson Park. It is organized “to bring producers and consumers together to develop a healthy and sustainable local food system.” It’s a free event by the Sustainable Farming Association featuring locally produced food.

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Township Legal notices (meetings, hearing, 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.

Be sure to respond to the Community Center survey that is included as an insert in this Newsletter. Your responses will help determine what kinds of arrangements will be made for community activities at our North Shore Community School. Please return your questionnaire to the Town Hall by September 30th. Thanks for your help.

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WANTED: Church Secretary for 10 hours per week. French River Lutheran Church. For more information, call 525-5659 or send your resume to French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road, Duluth, MN 55804.

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Township Recycling Centers
North site – Town Hall. Bob Abrahamson staffs 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 Recycling Centers are open.)
Inside this Issue:

- Survey on Community Center
- Township Calendar
- Town Board meetings
- Planning Commission meetings
- Fire and Police news
- Community School news
- DNSSD sewer line update
- History Corner
- “Kane Siding on the Alger Line”

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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.

Community Center Survey Enclosed
Please Respond by September 30th