Thank you to all contributors to this issue: Jeff Cook, Ann Cox, Greg Garmer, Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooey, Charlene Johnson, Sue Lawson, Todd Lindahl, Mary Negus, Rich Sill, and Mary Ann Sironen. Thanks to the anonymous artist for the masthead.

If you would be willing to provide a masthead drawing, call the editor (525-0103). Thanks.

The Homesteaders
Helen Hendrickson

November 3rd, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, Luncheon, Turkey Bingo!

December 1st, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Holiday Pot-Luck Lunch and North Shore Community School presents a musical program under the direction of Mrs. Amy Giddings.

January 5th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Luncheon, New Year’s Pot-Luck Lunch

Everyone is welcome. For information, call 525-4154

Russian language classes at our North Shore Community School

Russian language classes will be offered at the North Shore Community School after school on Tuesday afternoons (2:45-3:45) to any interested elementary school students. Students who do not normally attend North Shore Community School are welcome to attend. These beginning classes will be taught by Irina Boggie, who also offered these classes at the school a few years ago. The cost of the classes depends on participation, but may be about $30 for 9 classes. Classes are scheduled to begin on October 26th in the science room.

If your child is interested in this opportunity, please call Molly Negus at 834-5668 and leave your name, your child’s name, your child’s grade, and telephone number.

Please note that these classes are not a part of the NSCS curriculum, but space for the classes is being generously provided by the NSCS and Duluth Township.

Election is Tuesday, November 2nd
Polls open 7:00am to 8:00pm, Town Hall on Homestead Road

Read the two special Newsletter inserts:

? Duluth Township Citizen Workshops on
  - Stormwater management (Nov 9th 6:30 Town Hall) (Planning committee includes Jeff Cook, Cindy Hale, Charlene Johnson, Seth Levanen, and Sue Lawson)
  - Renewable energy (Dec 7th 6:30, Town Hall)

? North Shore Community School News — find out what’s happening at NSCS! See page 5-6. In the History Corner Rich Sill gives the story of why the school is located where it is.

Check to be sure your FIRE NUMBER is visible and posted at the end of your drive. See the Town Hall if you need a fire number. This is very important to help fire and police locate your home in case of an emergency.

French River Lutheran Church
Dedication and Open House

At 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 31, 2004 French River Lutheran Church will hold a worship service to dedicate its newly expanded and remodeled building. All in the Duluth Township Community are welcome to attend this special service and the fellowship meal that follows at 11:00 a.m. One of the congregation’s main intentions in this project is to make our facility more serviceable to the community for various needs, including meetings and gatherings. Although finishing details are still being completed, the building’s purpose for outreach and welcome is already being actualized. For that reason it is felt that now is the time to dedicate its use.

Stay At Home Pet Care Services
Robin Whaley provides safe, trustworthy care for your pets at your home anytime you need it. Call 834-6454 for a free initial visit.
Serving the North Shore and Two Harbors Area
In September, there were some **91 police calls/events** for our Police Department. These included 25 home or business checks requested by residents (see the Town Hall or web site for the vacation check request form), 11 public assists, 10 traffic warnings or citations, 7 suspicious vehicles checked, 4 medical emergencies, and a range of other calls such as suicide attempts, assaults, warrant arrests, property damage, etc.

Remember that we do not have a full-time Police Department. Currently we budget for 160 hours of police work per month. **If there is a problem that needs immediate attention, please contact 911.**

**ChildSafe Gun Locks** are available (free) for pick up at the Town Hall during business hours or by appointment with the Police Department. A large number have already been picked up by Township residents.

Our Police Department maintains an **email Crime Alert** service (it is also on our web site). To receive notices send email address to PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org.

**Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District**

Mary Ann Sironen

D/NSSD had 144 properties hooked up and paying the $63/month bill in September. By the end of the rapidly approaching construction season, the sewer system will be complete to the Ryan Road with a few customers on the western side of the French River included. The contractor of the main line, S.J. Lewis, has left the area with substantial completion of that part of the project declared. Frontier Pipeline will take care of any remaining restoration issues and continue installing lateral lines as long as the weather allows.

The Rates & Charges committee of the Board continues to wrestle with how to charge properties with multiple structures, properties with no buildings or water but wishing to be included in the system and details of sending out bills. Northeast Technical Services has increased operational responsibilities as the system expands.

**Eric Appelwick (624-8042)** continues to be the main contact for customers. He can also be reached at eappel@cpinternet.com. Eric and Dan Nitz, also of NTS, have responded to a number of “blinking light” alerts associated with the grinder pumps. **NTS is on call 24 hours a day and has provided timely resolution to those minor problems.**

At the October meeting, the Board reaffirmed their position as stated in the District’s ordinance that there is no intent to expand the present boundaries of D/NSSD. They go from the Lester River to the Lake County line in Knife River, between the expressway and the Lake.

Terms of Rick Certano, City of Duluth and Mary Ann Sironen, Duluth Township, are up at the end of the year. Mary Ann has agreed to serve another term at the discretion of the Duluth Township Board of Supervisors. Meetings for the rest of 2004 continue to be on the first Tuesday morning of the month at 0700 at French River Lutheran Church. A change in meeting date is anticipated for 2005. Details on that will be communicated in minutes and posted on the D/NSSD website.

Board minutes and other information are available on the DNSSD web site – www.dnssd.org.

**Clifton Volunteer Fire Department**

Barry Lampi, Fire Chief

It’s been a busy couple of months for the Fire Department. They participated in a County simulation of a terrorist emergency and burned the old fire hall on the Scenic Drive by McQuade as fire training for Clifton and neighboring fire departments.

Clifton Fire Department acquired a 1982 Ford 4-wheel drive fire truck (a mini-pumper with a 500 gallon capacity and foam capability). It was donated by the DNR and will be housed in Alden. Thanks to the DNR! The new fire truck will replace our oldest truck.

You can help by making sure that your **fire number** is posted at the end of your driveway so it is highly visible. If you don’t have a fire number, see Clerk Ann Cox at the Town Hall.

**Township Resident Feedback Questionnaire**

A brief questionnaire will be mailed out with the January Newsletter. Its purpose is to provide another opportunity for all Township residents to give their suggestions and views. Results are tabulated and provided to the Town Board and other departments and published in the Newsletter prior to the March Annual Town meeting. While the format and some questions will be similar to the 2003 questionnaire, it will ask about the need for better phone internet connections. If you have suggestions for other topics to include please forward them to the editor.

**Running for Town Supervisor?**

If you are interested in running for Duluth Township Supervisor, you should be sure to file with Clerk Ann Cox at the Town Hall between December 28th and January (the deadline is early in the month – watch for postings at the Town Hall or in the Clerk’s calendar). The filing fee is $2.00. Two positions are up for election. The election will be held during the day before the Annual Township meeting, March 8th. The March Newsletter will include statements from those who are running for this office.

**State Budget Cuts and Local Property Taxes**
St Louis County is seeking ideas for Township County collaboration to prevent State budget cuts from again falling disproportionately on local governments (see the letter printed on page 7, below). They are preparing their legislative agenda for the 2005 legislative session. Our Town Board will be considering a response at their November 4th meeting. If you have a good idea, please jot it down and give it to one of the Board members or bring it to the November 4th meeting.

In 2003, our Township was included on a Federal List for Storm Water Planning (MS-4). The main objective of the mandate from the MPCA is to keep waters as clean as possible by holding local governments responsible for their waters. To help implement good standards, the MPCA has six program elements that we must meet as part of our Storm Water Plan:

- Construction Site Runoff Control
- Road construction and maintenance
- Building site
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping
- Alteration/Accessory
- Church/School/Utility

**Construction Site Runoff Control**
This includes road construction and maintenance and A acres or more commercial building sites.

**Road construction and maintenance**
A Town Supervisor will need to make a site visit with the road contractor. They would review a map of the roadway area, discuss the type of work that is needed, and what type of action is needed to protect our waters. This would include consideration of erosion and sedimentation control. For example, for ditching, planting grass and possibly sedimentation barriers or baffles. What is used depends on what is needed for each site. This can be simple to very extensive.

**Building site**
Project site and analysis. Our Planning Director would be the person to contact for this situation. What would they need to do? Have map on hand. Look at plans with the interested party or parties. See what needs to be done to protect our waters by looking at the actual site. Identify steps to be taken. The site would have to be checked during construction to make sure everything is being done in order and correctly. The Planning Director might have to make adjustments as the work is being done. Again, what type of work is needed depends on the site. It could be sedimentation barriers and buffering or just keeping as much of the site undisturbed as possible. The plan should be in place before any work is done. After all is completed, there would need to be a post-construction meeting (a topic for the next Newsletter).

Driveways and what you do around your property can directly affect our water quality too. Driveways crown from the center and if it is on a steep slope it might be built with some curves in it. You will be able to get up and down it more safely in winter and you will keep more of that expensive gravel on your driveway. You should keep your property as undisturbed as possible and plant a few greens if you want.

In future Newsletters, the other Plan elements will be explained further concerning what is expected of our Township. These elements are:

- Post Construction Runoff Control
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

### Building Permit Tally

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### Township Calendar

**November 2004**

2. Tue, **Election day** polls open 7am-8pm Town Hall
3. Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader’s**, Town Hall
4. Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
5. Tue, 6:30-8:30 Duluth Township Citizen Workshop on **Stormwater Management**, Town Hall.
6. Tue, 7:00pm **First Responder** meeting, Hall #2
7. Thu, **Holiday**, Town Hall office closed today.
8. Wed, 6:30pm **North Shore Community School Board meeting**, NSCS Library.
9. Thu, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
10. Thu, **Thanksgiving holiday**.
11. Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall (date to be announced)
12. Thu, 7:00pm, **Town Board working meeting**.

**December 2004**

1. Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader’s**, Town Hall
2. Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
3. Thu, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church bsmt
4. Thu, 6:30-8:30 Duluth Township Citizen Workshop on **Renewable Energy**, Town Hall
5. Thu, 7:00pm **First Responder**’s meeting, Hall #2
6. Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
7. Thu, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board meeting**, NSCS Library
8. Thu, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall #1
9. Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall. (date to be announced)
10. Thu, 7:00pm, **Town Board working meeting**.
11. Thu, 7:00pm **Town Board working meeting**.
12. Thu, 7:00pm **First Responder’s** meeting, Hall #2
13. Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
14. Thu, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall #1
15. Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall. (date to be announced)
16. Thu, 7:00pm **Town Board working meeting**.

### January 2005

4. Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church bsmt
5. **Wed,** 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet Town Hall  
5. **Wed,** 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting  
   Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road  
? **Deadline** for filing for Town Supervisor  
   (See the Town Hall calendar for the date)  
12. **Wed,** 7:00pm **First Responder** meeting, Hall #2  
13. **Tue,** 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School**  
   Board meeting, NSCS Library.  
18. **Tue,** 6:30pm, **TOWN BOARD,** Town Hall.  
19. **Wed,** 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** Training, Hall #1  
20. **Thu,** 7:30pm **Planning Commission,** Town Hall  
20. **Thu,** 7:30pm  

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**The History Corner**  
*Rich Sill*  

For any of us who use or visit North Shore Community School, especially the teachers, students and parents who frequent it on a regular basis, the new improvements in the parking lot and driveway are a very welcome change. If it seemed to you as if the muddy conditions of the parking area each spring, the icy and treacherous sidewalks of every winter, the puddles, the potholes, and the never ending problem of parking, are situations that we have dealt with forever at school, well, let me assure you-we have.  

For those of us who haven't lived here our entire lives we may ask, why? Why, for instance was North Shore School built in a location that was so obviously low and wet, especially when higher ground with improved drainage clearly lay just a few hundred feet to the south? For the answer to that question we have to go back more than forty years. By the late 1950's it was becoming clear that a new elementary was needed for our community. School # 93, better known as Bloomingdale School, had been built in 1922 and was showing its age. Having only three classrooms, the school, located just east of the crossroads of Shelhon and Ryan, was by then serving only students in grades 1-4. Clover Valley High School, the community's other school, was made up of grades 1-12. Both schools at the time were a part of what was known as the St. Louis County Unorganized School District, a large, geographically diverse, and loosely organized district made up of dozen of schools scattered across rural St. Louis County.  

Because of our community’s affiliation with the St. Louis County School District the decision on a replacement for the Bloomingdale School was not a local matter but one that needed to be determined by their school board. In time the decision to move forward was approved, a replacement site was sought, and eventually a piece of land was chosen. Located at the intersection of the Ryan and Lismore Roads the property that was selected for the new school was on the original homestead site of the Erick Johnson family. The Johnson's had farmed the acreage and for several years had also operated a small store out of their house. And herein lies the answer to question of why the school is where it is. The family offered to sell acreage to the district, but did not want to part with all of the original homestead property. They optioned to retain the twenty acres on the corner, choosing to sell only the north twenty, the lowland where the school now sets.  

The school board accepted the restrictions and the purchase was completed. Soon architectural plans were being drawn up and bids were being requested for construction. Everything was moving forward when a Johnson family member communicated to the board that they had changed their minds and were now willing to include the southern twenty in the sale as well. But by then it was too late. St. Louis County Superintendent W. W. Salmi had all ready made the announcement that Willie Construction Co. had been awarded the bid to build the school on the original north site at a cost of $471,455.00. At the time many local people expressed concern that the selection process had been flawed and the school would be better placed on the higher ground to the south. But by then there was no looking back. Ground was scheduled to be broken and construction was soon underway. In May of 1961 Bloomingdale closed its doors for the last time and in September of that year the newly completed school was opened and into it 265 students in grades 1-6 entered for the first time. Three months later on Sunday, November 5, 1961 an event was held formally dedicating the newest addition to the St. Louis County School District, North Shore Elementary School.  

Now, over forty years later, we are through another transition-from North Shore Elementary to North Shore Community School. Many things have changed in those years. We have evolved from a St. Louis County School to a Lake Superior District School to an independent community school in our own right. But even with all the changes, one thing remains constant. Those twenty acres to the south are still a lot higher.
Summary of Town Board Meetings
(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall and on our Township website: www.duluthtownship.org).

(Note that the regular Nov 11 meeting is rescheduled for Nov 4th due to the Veteran’s Day holiday)

September 9th meeting. Supervisors attending: Jeff Cook, Steve Dahl, and George Sundstrom.

? Audience concerns: Mr. Lindberg was again assured that the LIU status of his land had not changed and the draft zoning ordinance is being reviewed but has not been adopted.

? The Treasurer reported deposits of $636.66, expenses of $18,946.96, and an ending balance of $363,648.86.

? Department reports: Community Center. Phil Strom requested that the Johnson Controls contract not be signed pending a September 29th NSCS meeting. Steve and George will negotiate with Johnson Controls for the Township. A modified school lease between NSCS and the Township will be reviewed by Attorney Tim Strom and School Board Chair Phil Strom. NSCS Director Sheri Camper has received a number of requests for community education type classes. This use is covered in our insurance. Costs would be offset by tuition. Legal: Tim Strom will review whether paying the Fire Chief and Assistant Chief for maintenance on fire vehicles constitutes a conflict of interest. The Township is facing some tough, hard regulations with the State’s mandatory storm water plan for our Township. Tim will see if other Townships are concerned with these requests.

Town Hall: The Supervisors authorized replacing the broken office computer.

Planning: The Board of Adjustment denied the Bille property request. A job description for Zoning Administrator was requested.

Cemetery: A motion to require artificial flower removal from gravesides by October 15th was passed (these blow into the woods during winter).

September 21st special working meeting. Four of five Supervisors attended: Jeff Cook, Steve Dahl, George Sundstrom, and Corlis West. The LIU area issue was tabled until the attorney could clarify its history and status.

The Sensitive Overlay was raised for review. Corlis West and George Sundstrom brought proposals for making this a useable part of our ordinance. Earlier discussions raised the question about whether it could be made more uniform and less dependent upon expensive review and judgment. The wording that was moved and adopted replaces the draft article 7 (see the Board minutes for the details). The purpose was stated as protecting water quality of streams and Lake Superior. It applies to any application for a land use permit on a parcel less than 9 acres in the (previously defined) sensitive area. Impervious surface area is limited to 5%. A stormwater mitigation plan is needed only if the area includes wetlands, springs, steep slopes, shallow soil, etc. (subject to verification by the Planning Director). Wetland credit use (i.e. creating new wetlands outside this area to offset wetlands destroyed in this area) is not permitted.

The meeting was recessed to October 12th.

October 12th special working meeting. Four of five Supervisors attended: Jeff Cook, Steve Dahl, George Sundstrom, and Corlis West. Minutes for the August 5th and 17th and September 21st special working meetings were reviewed and approved. The last issue to be handled is the light industrial use (LIU) areas. Attorney Tim Strom reviewed the known history of these areas. After some litigation, our areas had been designated ML with some restrictions appropriate to rural residential areas. Later, St Louis County created the LIU designation and put ML and M1 (a more permissive industrial district) together.

The Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thursday) Nov. 4th and December 9th at 7:00pm in the Town Hall. Residents are urged to attend these public meetings.

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings
(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

August 26th meeting. Members attending: Co-chairs Sue Lawson and Dave Miller, Toni Fladmark, Cindy Hale, Adam Hendrickson, Janet McTavish.

The July minutes were approved. The Barthell’s offered to remove the resort sign on the Scenic Highway. It was on railroad property. Planning Director, Wayne Dahlberg,
has received complaints from neighbors of a contractor home business because of noise, dust and loud trucks. The situation is being monitored. Building permits for garages were reviewed. A separate building permit is needed for each separate structure. A house with a garage that is under the same roof is counted as one structure. A separate garage building requires a separate building permit.

Wayne plans to leave his post as Planning Director although a date has not been set. The position was posted but no one has applied. Dave Miller suggested that the position might be contracted out or shared with another Township. There might be some advantages to having someone who is not too involved in the Township.

Apparently the County has plans to update Homestead Road in 2009. There may be federal money for adding a multipurpose wider shoulder on Homestead Road. The County Engineer will be contacted and invited to attend a meeting in the Township to discuss the plans.

Wayne will check on a concern about horses pastured close to a septic system on a steep slope. We are obligated to enforce County ordinance regulations.

John Bowen resigned from the Board of Adjustment for the meeting in which the Bille property request is being considered. Robert Abrahamson will replace him.

Next Planning Commission meetings: (4th Thursday) Dates for the November and December meetings will be set and posted in the Town Hall. Jan 20th at 7:30pm, Town Hall. Residents are invited to attend these public meetings.

The French River Mystery Body
Todd Lindahl

The year was 1958 and the construction work on the new north shore four-lane highway was about to start. Some of the first work was to start at the Ryan Road and proceed eastward from there. The first task was to cut brush and trees along the survey line that had been laid out earlier by the engineering crew. Just a stone’s throw from the Ryan Road starting point the survey line crossed the French River. As the men cut the brush and trees descending to the riverbed they made a startling discovery. Hidden in the grass and brush half way down the bank was an ancient tombstone! It had been chiseled out of local rock and the person who had made the monument also carved some lettering into it. The weathered text must certainly have been some information about a possible body or bodies that might be interred there. It appeared that the lettering had been done with a hammer and chisel too and seemed to be only the last name of some person.

The construction foreman was notified and he instructed the men to work from the east bank on so they would not disturb the site. The state archeologist was called in and an excavation was begun. Before long human remains were located proving that there was indeed a burial in this most unusual of places. On the west bank there were signs of a very old road cut into the riverbank angling down to the water. On the east bank the ancient road could be seen angling back up again from where it must have crossed the river. What road was this and who built it? A very early road, which was not much more than a glorified trail, ran from Fond du Lac to Grand Portage about 1810 and was in general use by the fur companies and local Indians. In 1854 the land north of Lake Superior was ceded to the United States government in the treaty of La Pointe, which opened the region to settlement. By 1873 this “road” was seeing increased use by prospectors searching for gold and copper. Scattered all around this area are several old copper excavations mostly from the 1860’s to the 1890’s. By 1879 it was reported that the “road” had been improved so that “two horses side by side” could fit in most places along the route.

In 1883 a stage road was built between Duluth and the new town of Two Harbors that probably used the old original road where it was convenient. This new road however crossed the French River above the place where the tombstone was found. This portion of the 1810 road was bypassed in 1883 and thus abandoned after that time.

The grave was positioned in a flat spot just off to the side of this old road half way down the bank. So who was this French River mystery man? A traveler who drowned while trying to cross the river during high water? Perhaps a voyageur who succumbed to the elements or disease? Maybe some early copper miner who met with disaster while searching for his “big strike.” We will probably never know.

Today the site where the body was found lies under the roadbed in about the center of the four-lane highway where it crosses the French River. The mystery man’s grave lies directly under the intersection of the oldest road on the north shore and the newest.
Inside this Issue:

- Township Calendar
- Town Board meetings
- Planning Commission meetings
- History Corner
- Duluth Township Citizen Workshops
- Storm water planning
- NS Community School news
- “The French River Mystery Body” (a story for Halloween!)

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.