



Snowmen Dancing

Duluth Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org

January 2004

Thank you to all contributors to this issue: Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hoey, Todd Lindahl, Shawn Padden, Sherry Rovig, Rich Sill, Jerry Simmons and Mary Ann Sironen. A special thanks to **Katie Sundstrom** for providing the masthead for this month.

We need volunteers to do a sketch for the top of the March and May Newsletters! Call the editor (525-0103) if you have an idea or know someone who would do a drawing.

Town Board Election. In March the Township will be voting on two 3-year positions. Those who wish to run for *Board of Supervisors* need to file an application form with the Town Clerk and pay a \$2.00 filing fee before the **deadline** of January 13th.

Volunteer Fire/First Responder Auxiliary

Sherry Rovig

2004 Calendar. Hopefully most of you have gotten the now annual, Fire Department calendar for 2004. Our goal was to hand-deliver a calendar to each household in our Township. If you were inadvertently missed, please stop by the Town Hall for a copy. *This year we got more sponsors than ever and we encourage everyone to support them with your patronage.* If you are inspired and want to reserve a space for the 2005 calendar, you can contact Trisha O'Keefe at 525-0150. You are also encouraged to let us know if there is an event that should be listed. There was an error in the phone listing for Peterson Excavating. It should read: 390-0217. Please note that if you want to reach Warren. A big thanks to all the firefighters and Auxiliary who helped with this year's effort, St. Luke's who sponsored the photo, and those who purchased an advertisement.

Township Police Department

Shawn Padden, Chief.

The yellow **insert** in this Newsletter lists a number of things you can do to minimize your risk of assault and burglary.

Our Township has had 3 burglaries so far this year compared to 4 for Lakewood, 4 for Normanna, 7 for Gnesen and 8 for Rice Lake Township.

Zoning Ordinance Update

The blue **center section** of this *Newsletter* contains a map and information about our updated *Zoning Ordinance*, our *Steering Committee* and the process. There are several **important events** leading to the adoption of an updated ordinance. These include:

- **Tues. Jan 13th Public Information Open House** between 4:30 and 9pm in the Town Hall. The draft ordinance will be available for comment. Because of printing costs the *Planning Commission* asks that you take only one copy and share it where you can. The draft ordinance will also be available for downloading from our Township web site www.duluthtownship.org.
- **Tues. Jan 27th Deadline for written public comments.** Mail or deliver them to our Town Hall.
- **Tues. Feb. 3rd Final draft released.** It will be available during regular Township office hours and our web site.
- **Tues. Feb 17th Public Hearing, 7pm, Town Hall,** after which (then or possibly a later meeting) the Town Board will act on the ordinance. It then goes to St Louis County for review and final approval.

Volunteers Needed: The *Planning Commission* will be looking for applicants to fill a vacancy expected in March. Interviews in February. Call Caroline Marino (525-6431) or the Town Hall (525-5705).

Driver's License alert from an alert resident! The State no longer sends out reminder postcards when your driver's license needs to be renewed. Check the expiration date on your license so you won't wind up with an expired license! After a short time, once expired, you will have to retake all the exams to get a new license.

THE HOMESTEADERS

Helen Hendrickson

Jan 7th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall, Homestead Rd for their Annual New Year's Pot Luck. Chris Porter will entertain with a variety show. Everyone welcome.

Feb 4th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Entertainment will be by Alexander's Fun-Time Band.

Mar 3rd, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall, Homesteader's 28th Birthday Pot Luck and Bridge.

Everyone is welcome. For information, call 525-4154

Mailed to 841 Duluth Township homes and businesses. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to volunteer *Newsletter* editor Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or in the *NewsBox* on the Town Hall porch. The Newsletter is printed locally by **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by **UDAC**.

Property Tax Information

George A. Sundstrom, Supervisor

At the December '03 Town Board meeting, Supervisor Steve Dahl brought a "letter to the Editor" from State Senator Tom Bakk that had to do with the Legislature's cuts in state aid to local governments, and asked that our newsletter Editor Don McTavish re-print Bakk's letter. I said that if it were all right with the Board, I would write an article specifically about our Township taxes instead. They said OK, so this is my attempt to hopefully shed some light on a topic that most often generates only heat.

Our Township taxes are determined by two factors; our budget request to the County and State aids to reduce the local levy.

The first determinant, *our budget request* is established at the *Township Annual Meeting* in March. Prior to the Annual Meeting, department heads present their proposed department budget to the Town Board. The Board may accept or modify each request that is then proposed to the Township residents at the Annual Meeting. The residents who are present, discuss and vote separately on each department request. The sum of all approved department budgets is then the total town budget proposed for the next calendar year. (On March 9th, 2004, we will vote on the proposed budget request for 2005.) The budget request is then certified by the Town Clerk and submitted to the St. Louis County Auditor to include in the next year's property tax statement.

That's part 1, the easy part. The next becomes much more complicated.

In 2001 (when we all received a tax rebate check from the State) the Legislature cut the maximum tax on all classes of personal property (i.e., residential homestead, apartments, cabins, commercial and industrial property). The highest valued homesteads and commercial/industrial properties received the highest percentage reduction.

Also in 2001, the Legislature *eliminated* our Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA) which, in its last year (2001) paid our Township \$41,698. This amount was a direct reduction in the amount of tax levied in Duluth Township to arrive at our budget request. Also in 2001, the Legislature voted in a *one-time* payment to cities and towns in the taconite tax relief areas for 2002. This amount was \$115,153. for our Township, which reduced our local levy by 42% that year.

In 2003 however, the Legislature and Governor faced a two-year \$5.5 *billion* shortfall. They then cut our Township's budget request by 2% for 2003 and 3% for 2004. This is money we had already counted on because our 2004 budget was set in March of 2003. This totaled **\$12,573**. Where previously we had received aid from the State to reduce our local tax, we will now have to fund our Town budget ourselves.

Thanks to Clerk Ann Cox and Treasurer Janet Johansen for their input to this article. No thanks to the St. Louis County Auditor's office who responded with nothing.

Message Board on the Township Website. You can post a message on the Township website. It is a fine way to communicate events, sales, greetings, etc. See www.duluthtownship.org and click on "messages".

Summary of Town Board Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall and on our Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org).

November 13th meeting. Supervisors present: Bruce Aho, Jeff Cook, Steve Dahl, George Sundstrom, and Corlis West. Minutes were approved. The agenda was approved with some additions. Treasurer Janet Johansen reported expenses of \$56,919.07, deposits of \$27,886.19 for an ending balance of \$140,576.65.

Department reports were heard. The Police Department reported that daytime patrols have increased following two residential burglaries. Note that email reports on current activities are sent to those who request them. The Fire Department reported two false alarms and a grass fire. New Fire Department members Jody Anderson, Paulette MacIntosh, Don Walli and Keith Darsow are attending fire training classes. The Township may be required to replace fire numbers with the new double-sided flag style numbers. This could be a substantial cost to the Township.

Before Phil Strom can request the increased rent for the Community Center (for the mobile classroom addition), a Fire Marshal report and building inspection is required. The report required some corrections and repairs by a deadline. Steve O'Neil from LHB has been hired to provide professional building plans. Our new insurance policy has also been reviewed but a second review was requested.

The Town Hall furnace has been repaired. The NW window of the Town Hall has a light that comes on if heating is not working (so someone might notice and call a Supervisor). Supervisor Dahl will look into a phone system that will automatically call someone if the heat is out.

The Planning Commission has set dates for release of the updated zoning ordinance, an Open House and the Public Hearing (see the blue insert in this *Newsletter*). Zoning Administrator workload is getting too big for one person. It was suggested that an assistant be appointed. This would also provide a second trained person who might take over when an Administrator retires. Our current Zoning Administrator, Wayne Dahlberg, will bring this up at the Annual Town Meeting on March 9th, 2004.

WLSSD paid for moving our south recycle shed to property that the DNR purchased from the Township (McQuade safe harbor site).

It was determined that there was no need to call a special Town meeting before Dec. 29th to cover the \$12,573.00 loss of *Market Value Homestead Credit* cut by the State and County. This aid to Townships lowered the overall Township levy (see article on Taxes in this *Newsletter*). The deficit can be made up at the 2004 Annual Town Meeting.

An **upcoming issue** for our Township is the now-required MPCA "*MP4 Storm Water*" program. The Town Board is required to inspect and map the water flow areas during its Annual Road Inspection. This year we will be required to create a plan. In two years we will begin the creation of a 5-year plan. Discussions about storm water at our Annual Meeting are required to be documented as a permanent record. Public education, identification, storm

(continued on page 3)

(Board minutes from page 2)

water work in our commercial zone districts, road ditching sedimentation and seeding are all included and monitored by this new (so far unfunded) program. It was noted that the program appears to assume that the Township is like a city area; that we have a knowledgeable paid staff available to implement the plan. It is apparently required because of our proximity to Duluth. Fortunately Duluth Township has a Board member (Jeff Cook) who is knowledgeable in this area because of his work.

The Board agreed to the re-election of Kevin Bouvee to the DNSSD Board of Managers (sewer board).

The meeting was adjourned to pay Township bills.

The Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thursday) Jan. 8th, Feb. 12th, Mar. 11th at 7:30pm in the Town Hall. Residents are urged to attend these public meetings.

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department

Jerry Simmons, Fire Chief

Gold Cross donated a 1991 E350, 1-ton ambulance to our Fire Department (estimated value \$15,000). It is in excellent mechanical condition and will be stocked with fire and medical backup equipment. The plans are to use it as a rescue vehicle. It also provides extra emergency-scene lighting and a place for victims, fire and medical personnel to warm up at winter emergency calls.

Thanks, Gold Cross!

Fire permits are required unless there is a continuous 3 inches of snow cover.

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District

Mary Ann Sironen, D/NSSD Secretary

Residents of the D/NSSD have received reminder letters to submit their applications for connection and make arrangements to have their properties inspected for inflow and infiltration from ground water. With connections on the western end of the system scheduled to begin next spring, it's mandatory that these details be completed before a building can hook up to the system. The property owners east of the Ryan Road are being contacted to sign easements that provide a final review of grinder tank and lateral line placement.

Construction itself has halted for the winter but the Board continues to work on finalizing the arrangements with the Knife River-Larsmont Sanitary District and WLSSD as well as the details of rates, charges and billing procedures. Meetings in 2004 will be held at 7:00 am on Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 8, July 13, Aug. 3, Sept. 14, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7 at French River Lutheran Church. The January 2004 meeting agenda will include election of officers.

Property owners with questions or comments are encouraged to call **Eric Appelwick**, of Northeast Technical Services who is providing administrative support now and into the coming construction season. Eric can be reached at **624-8042**. The website, www.dnssd.org, is regularly updated and provides additional information as well as minutes of previous meetings.

Best wishes for a prosperous 2004 from the D/NSSD Board: Lars Fladmark from Duluth Township
Mary Ann Sironen, from Duluth Township
Kevin Bovee from Lakewood
Rick Certano and Scott Smith from city of Duluth.

Township Calendar

See updates on www.duluthtownship.org.

January 2004

- Jan 6, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church Gathering House.
- Jan 7, Wed, 12:30 **HOMESTEADER'S** meet Town Hall
- Jan 7, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- Jan 8,** Thu, 7:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- Jan 13,** Tue, 4:30-9:00pm **Public Information Open House** on our updated zoning ordinance. Public release of the draft ordinance.
- Jan 13, Tue, **Deadline** for candidates for Supervisor to file with the Town Clerk.
- Jan 14, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** maintenance
- Jan 20, Tue, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library.
- Jan 21, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training
- Jan 22, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
No meeting -- meeting shifted to Jan 29th.
- Jan 27,** Tue, Deadline for written comments on the draft zoning ordinance (postmarked or hand delivered to the Town Hall)
- Jan 29,** Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

February 2004

- Feb 3, Tue, Final Draft of updated **Zoning Ordinance released** – see regular Town Hall hours.
- Feb 3, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church Gathering House
- Feb 4, Wed, 12:30 **HOMESTEADER'S**, Town Hall
- Feb 4, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- Feb 11, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** maintenance
- Feb 12,** Thu, 7:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- Feb 17, Tue, 6:30pm **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library.
- Feb 17,** Tue, 7:00pm **Public Hearing on updated Zoning Ordinance**, Town Hall
- Feb 18, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training
- Feb 23, **Deadline** for news for the March **Newsletter**
- Feb 26,** Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

March 2004

- Mar 2, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church Gathering House.
- Mar 3, Wed, 12:30 **HOMESTEADER'S** meet Town Hall
- Mar 3, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
- Mar 9, Tue, 7am-8pm, **Township Election**, Town Hall
- Mar 9, Tue, 8:15pm **Annual Town Meeting**, Town Hall
- Mar 11, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** maintenance
- Mar 12,** Thu, 7:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- Mar 16, Tue, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library
- Mar 16, Tue. (alternate bad weather Town Election day)
- Mar ? Annual Town Meeting, 7pm, Town Hall.**
- Mar 18, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training
- Mar 25,** Thu, 7:00 **Planning Commission** meeting, Town Hall.

I like gravel roads. I always have. I think it goes back all the way to the time when I was a kid growing up in the cities waiting for Sunday afternoons to come around. Sunday afternoon was when our family would often go for rides out in the country. Back then the country didn't seem that far away and it didn't take too long before the highways that led us out, away from our home in the city, became crisscrossed with roads of dirt and gravel.

I would love it when we would turn off onto those roads. I would look out the open window of our family car and watch the passing rows of corn go by. The fields seemed so endless, walls of them on both sides, sliced open on occasion by rutted dirt roads that led to the patches of trees where farm families lived. Farmhouses and barns that were not placed neatly like the homes on city blocks but thrown together, here and there, almost haphazardly, in and amongst the rolling sea of green. If I were lucky, at some point along those gravel roads dad would slowly brake the car and pull over to the side. I would look to him and if he patted his lap I would slide over onto it, grab the wheel and "drive". The feeling of freedom and joy that those moments gave, have never left me.

I think that is why the country has always had such appeal to me. In part it may be that the gravel roads of my memory remind me of simpler times, periods of our history when the vision of why something needed to be undertaken was as important as the speed at which it was completed. Of a time when hope and optimism and dreams were mixed in with the newly turned soil and planted in the ground to grow right along with the corn and beans and grain. Country roads speak of those days and those dreams.

Look at the names of gravel roads that make up our community and one thing almost immediately becomes clear. They are named after the families who first settled here, the families who first turned this ground and planted those seeds, Englund, Shilhon, Korkki, Laine, Alseth, Nappa, and the road I live on, the Mace.

Robert and Clara Mace came to Duluth via Canada, Michigan and Wisconsin. Prior to 1901 the Mace's resided in Milwaukee but in that year Robert, who was purchasing agent for the *Oliver Mining Company*, bought a home at 1631 East Third St. in Duluth. At the time his three daughters Edith, Callie, Bel and a son Harry (also referred to in some accounts as having the name Henry) were already in their early twenties but unmarried and still living with them in Milwaukee. All the children accompanied Clara and Robert to Duluth and the entire family took up residence at the Third Street address.

Within a few years of their move Robert located a quarter section of land along the French River that was to his liking and acquired it as well. The property was located about a mile inland from Lake Superior in an area that the *French River Mining Company* had extensively explored, with little success, for possible copper deposits beginning a half-century earlier. More recently the land had belonged to a man named Jim Erickson. Erickson operated a large water powered shingle mill on the river but was subsequently killed and the mill fell into disuse. Robert Mace's interest in the property focused not on the mill, nor on mining, but on the picturesque qualities of the land;

seeing it as a perfect place to build a retreat and trout fishing hideaway. By the spring of 1910 a large log cabin, complete with front porch overlooking the river, was under construction. On August 7th of that year, according to records listed in the Mace family guest book, a get together that included all the Mace's, plus several prominent Duluth families, was held at the property marking the cabin's completion.

Unlike many of their neighbors who were struggling to make a living fishing or farming, the Mace's were clearly fairly well off. In the early years they would travel by train from their Duluth home to the French River rail stop, then walk up the west side of the river until they reached a foot bridge that allowed them to safely cross to their cabin along the east bank. In later years a road was constructed that provided them more direct access by car off the Ryan. Over the years outbuildings and a barn were added and the sisters would quite regularly travel out to check on the property.

In 1917 Robert donated land for the construction of a new school and a year later, *School 90*, also known as the *Mace School*, opened on their property a few hundred feet north of the present day Ryan and Mace Road intersection. The Mace son, Harry, eventually moved to Texas but the three daughters stayed in Duluth splitting their time between their Third St residence and the cabin.

In 1920 their mother Clara died. Four years later Robert followed her in death. With their parents now gone the sisters, who by now were all in their forties, decided to put a significant addition onto the cabin and in 1927 after it's completion moved out to French River permanently. They converted their homestead into a farming operation and with the help of hired hands, raised ducks and chickens, as well as horses, cows and other farm animals, some of which they would occasionally sell to neighbors or in town. Their lifestyle in some ways was not unlike others who had farms in the area though few probably had the resources for a chauffeured driver, as did the sisters.

Though of a different background and social strata than most, Edith, Callie, and Bel were in no way reclusive and didn't set themselves apart from the rest of their less well off neighbors. They actively participated in the community, hosted the *French River Pleasure Club* as well as the *Women's Auxiliary* at their home, and supported local arts and music through their involvement with the *Community Glee Club*.

Though they remained active for all their lives, none of the sisters ever married. Edith died in 1935 at age 57. Callie lived to 82, passing away in 1959. Bel, the youngest of the sisters, was the last of the Mace family to survive, dying just short of her 93rd birthday on August 3, 1973.

Years ago, when I first moved to the area, an old wood sign was still evident hanging on a tree at the southeast corner of their property. The letters were nearly faded and the sign hard to read but if you looked closely you could just barely make out the words "*Mace Farm*". That old wood sign like the Mace's are long gone from this land. But because of their lives and their work, the gravel road I walk each morning still bears their name and I would like to believe, along with it, some of their hopes and dreams as well.

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

October 23rd meeting. Members present: Chair Sue Lawson, David Edblom, Cindy Hale, Adam Hendrickson, Janet McTavish and Dave Miller. Also attending were Secretary Caroline Marino and Zoning Administrator Wayne Dahlberg plus John Bowen, Bill Allen, Barbara Burke, Greg Strom and Wally Baker.

The September meeting minutes were approved. The Zoning Administrator sent a letter to the Barthell's regarding their illegal sign on the right of way. No response has been received. In the past there have been no gross violations of the sign ordinance. We do not have a budget sufficient to pursue some zoning enforcement.

Scheduled meetings to work on the zoning ordinance were discussed.

A grant application has been made to the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation. A decision is expected in mid-December. If we are chosen it will not be difficult to write a STAR grant for matching funds.

A public hearing was held on a variance request by Bill Allen and Barbara Burke (North Shore Drive) related to expansion of a non-conforming building on a non-conforming ½ acre lot. Greg Strom represented Builders Commonwealth. The request involved lot width, lot area and building height. Two neighbors favor the project as a neighborhood improvement. A motion to approve the request was made by Cindy Hale and seconded by Adam Hendrickson. Wayne Dahlberg felt we should be cautious about the issue. Hardship issues were discussed. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

November 20th meeting. Members present: Chair Sue Lawson, Toni Fladmark, Adam Hendrickson, Janet McTavish, Dave Miller. Also present were Secretary Caroline Marino, Zoning Administrator Wayne Dahlberg, John Bowen, Dale Lewis, and Bruce Duncan. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Dale Lewis (Pioneer Road) requested information regarding impervious surface related to plans to build another barn with an upstairs apartment and indoor arena. Water runoff was a concern.

The Zoning Administrator reported on a gross violation of the zoning ordinance that resulted in a double fee payment. The illegally placed Barthell sign was again discussed. The Town Attorney will be consulted about next procedures.

The increasing workload for our Zoning Administrator was discussed. A replacement may be needed sometime in the near future. It was suggested that we consider Lakewood Township's method of having one or two previous Planning Commission members to serve as assistants. We need to address the budget for adding assistants.

The Planning Commission will meet with our consultants (Jean Coleman) on December 1st to review her comments and recommendations for our updated Zoning Ordinance.

Recognition for Steering Committee members at the Open House or Annual Meeting was discussed. Bruce Duncan will print certificates of recognition.

Grant requests to support our planning work was discussed.

Volunteers Needed: The *Planning Commission* announced it will be looking for applicants to fill a vacancy expected in March. Interviews are planned for the February meeting. Call Caroline Marino (525-6431) or the Town Hall (525-5705).

Next Planning Commission meetings: (4th Thursday) (Jan 22nd meeting postponed to the 29th), Jan 29th, Feb 26th and Mar 25nd at 7:30pm, Town Hall. Residents are invited to attend these public meetings.

North Shore Community School Update

Phil Strom, School Board Chair

NSCS is pleased to announce the award of a \$75,000 expansion grant. The grant from a major private foundation is administered by The *Minnesota Association of Charter Schools* (MACS). NSCS was chosen from among a number of Minnesota charter schools because of its success and proficiency in curriculum design, academic outcome and governance. The money will be used to purchase a new social studies edition and support materials for grades 1 - 6, significant additions and upgrades to its technology suite, and a meteorology station, among other things.

Recycle Inkjet Cartridges for NSCS

Old Inkjet printer cartridges can now be recycled at the Town Hall and our two recycling centers. This is a project of our North Shore Community School and proceeds from recycling go to support NSCS programs.

The Wager

Todd Lindahl

On February 18, 1904 a couple of people in Duluth got into an argument about whether a person could travel by land from Duluth to Beaver Bay and back in less than 24 hours. The argument became quite heated with both parties very certain they were right. Finally a bet was made that would net the winner \$500.00 when it was proven.

The man making the run found a light cutter (sleigh) and a good team of horses that he thought would have the stamina for a long fast trip. An impartial judge was selected to ride along to ensure the entire distance was covered. The time of departure was selected as 9:00 A.M., which meant that they would have to be back at that point before 9:00 A.M. the following day to win. The two men left exactly at 9:00 as scheduled traveling the old stage road and reached Two Harbors at 12:30 P.M. By late afternoon they had arrived in Beaver Bay and turned to head back down. The cold wind bit at their faces as the trotting horses pulled the cutter swiftly down the narrow snowy stage road in the dark. At 1:00 A.M. they again passed through the now quiet and sleeping town of Two Harbors. They arrived back in Duluth at 8:20 A.M. where the winner collected his \$500.00 with 40 minutes to spare.

The total distance traveled was 128 miles proving for the first time that you actually could travel from Duluth to Beaver Bay and back in less than 24 hours. Today you can drive this same distance in about 2 hours in comfort. We have come a long way since 1904.

Duluth Township

Update of our Zoning Ordinance

Our updated *Duluth Township Zoning Ordinance* is nearing completion. The *Planning Commission* wants to give you some preliminary information about the process and to let you know about an informational **Open House** (Jan. 13th), the public written comment period (ending Jan. 27th), and the final Public Hearing on our updated ordinance (Feb. 17th).

Duluth Township decided some years ago that we wanted to administer our own zoning ordinance rather than have outsiders decide for us. Now, our zoning ordinance, adopted in 1976, needs to be updated. Changes over the last 27 years suggested a need to revisit citizen preferences for our Township. We needed to bring our ordinances in line with St Louis County's minimum standards and take account of the new sewer district along the shore and potential development.

The process of updating started about 3 years ago with *Planning Commission* work. About 2 years ago the Township received a grant to hire consultants to help with the updating process. This resulted in a broad-based citizen **Steering Committee** being organized. Notices were posted in the *Newsletter* and elsewhere; encouraging residents to volunteer to serve on the *Steering Committee*. Letters were also sent to a large number of residents thought to represent various viewpoints and groups in the community, asking that they serve on the *Steering Committee*. Some 50 residents attended the first meeting as the official *Steering Committee*. Since then *Steering Committee* working meetings have had 20-30 members present (see the list of participants in the box below). Our *Steering Committee* was subsequently augmented with others who expressed an interest. Meetings were listed in the *Newsletter* and were open to the public. The *Steering Committee* met some 29 times in the process of updating our ordinance!

The first task of the Steering Committee was to update our vision statement about what our residents wished for our Township. Township residents were also surveyed for their input. The resulting statement went through a public information and hearing process. Our updated **Comprehensive Plan** was then adopted by our *Town Board* on August 21, 2002 (a reference copy is at the Town Hall and it is also available on the Township web site www.duluthtownship.org). The *Comprehensive Plan* served as the framework for considering how to update our 1976 zoning ordinance.

Next Events

- Jan 13th Tues, Public Information Open House**, 4:30-9pm Town Hall. Draft zoning ordinance released to the public.
- Jan 27** Deadline for written comments. (Postmarked or delivered to our Town Hall).
- Jan 29 Planning Committee** reviews comments and revises document as needed. 7pm, Town Hall.
- Feb 3rd Tues. Final draft released** to the public (see Town Hall office hours, 12:30-2:30 Tue & Wed/ 9-12, 4-7 Thurs).
- Feb 17th Tues. Public Hearing.** Presenting the draft zoning ordinance to the Town Board, 7pm, Town Hall.
- *Town Board acts* on the document at Public Hearing or later.
- Zoning Ordinance goes to the *St Louis County* for review and approval.

The **second** task was updating our *Zoning Ordinance*. This blue folder is an overview. The draft document will be available at our January 13th Open House.

Essentially everyone in the Township, including *Steering Committee* members wanted to retain our "rural character". However there were many different views of how this should be done to balance individual rights and the broad public interests as well as preserving the quality of our environment.

Steering committee members worked hard at developing solutions as well as conducting respectful conversations where compromises were worked out. Essentially all decisions were made and adopted by consensus. As you might suspect, the process required considerable time so that all viewpoints could be heard and discussed. After the *Steering Committee's* work, the *Planning Commission* met to put the draft document together, making sure the document was internally consistent and making some decisions about technical details and administrative procedures. At the end of the process the consultants were again engaged to use their legal expertise in preparing the final write-up. The *Planning Commission* reviewed their suggestions. A draft zoning ordinance was prepared for release to our community.

Because of the cost of printing the draft, residents are urged to only pick up one copy and to share it with others where possible. The document will also be on our web site: www.duluthtownship.org.

Your neighbors volunteered to serve on the Steering Committee.

Jody Anderson, Jason Bergman, Jim Bourgeois, Regina Bourgeois, John Bowen, Dennis Bruckelmyer, Ed Bruckelmyer, Prudy Cameron, Jeff Cook, Stephen Dahl, Wayne Dahlberg, Bruce Duncan, Dan Dunphy, David Edblom, Kevin Eckholm, Toni Fladmark, Rod Garver, Jan Green, Wendy Gustofson, Cindy Hale, Adam Hendrickson, Pete Hendrickson, John Kessler, Sue Lawson, Carolyn Marino, Don McTavish, Janet McTavish, Kathy McTavish, Dave Miller, Larry Nesgoda, Ellen O'Neill, Jim Sage, Ed Stilestra, Mary Ann Sironen, Scott Smith (St Louis County representative), Babs Strom, George Sundstrom, Dave Sundberg, Corlis West. Several were unable to attend all meetings but some 20-30 attended each meeting. Thanks to all for your good work over many long meetings.

What does the updating involve?

Our **zoning ordinance** provides for **permitted uses** and the rules that apply in each zoned district; **variances** to adjust rules that apply to permitted uses (such as adjusting setbacks - *infrequent*), and **conditional use permits** where a proposed use is not permitted (such as requesting a commercial use in a residential area -- *quite rare*). The zoning ordinance provides rules and guidelines for each of these requests.

The **zone map** (*at the right*) shows the zoning districts in our Township. A larger and more detailed version of this map will be available in the Town Hall at our informational *Open House* on January 13th. Note that the names for the zones have changed to be in line with names that St Louis County now uses. There is little change in district boundaries (old and new maps will be available at the *Open House*).

Summary of Main Changes

The wishes of our residents, as adopted in the *Comprehensive Plan*, were discussed by the *Steering Committee*. The *Zoning Ordinance* was updated to implement that plan. The following is a brief summary of changes organized under the 3 main principles adopted in our *Comprehensive Plan*. The full text of the proposed zoning ordinance will be available at the *Open House* on January 13th and on our web site: www.duluthtownship.org. Written comments on the draft *Zoning Ordinance* can be made through January 27th (postmarked or hand delivered by the 27th to our Town Hall).

A. Maintain our “rural character”. In surveys and discussions nearly everyone said they wanted to maintain our rural character. What “rural character” means varies, different for the shore than inland, but it was the most often mentioned criterion that our zoning ordinance should consider. The Steering Committee spent considerable time discussing this.

- The updated ordinance maintains current zoning districts in most respects. Differences are:
 - eliminating some unused commercial zones (e.g. north end of Homestead Road)
 - adding some commercial zone areas (e.g. Lismore and McQuade area)
 - extending some commercial zone areas (e.g. Homestead, North Shore and McQuade)
 - increasing minimum lot size on the lake side of the freeway, from 1 to 2 acres (St Louis County now requires 2½ acres but will be asked to compromise here on minimum lot size).
- Encouraging screening of buildings from roads and increasing road setbacks.
- Commercial (only) design review standards to maintain the unique character of the Township and North Shore.
- Uses not permitted: “adult” uses, contaminated soil treatment facilities, nuclear waste disposal, spreading of human sewage sludge, airports, off site signs/billboards, junk and salvage yards.
- Planned unit developments may be used as an alternative tool to preserve open space and rural character while allowing for lot size reduction to achieve a density that would be allowed by a normal subdivision.
- Recognizing the publicly owned lands in the Township as an important community resource by maintaining their larger lot sizes of 17 to 35 acres.

B. Maintain a balance between community and individual rights. There was a strong interest in not specifying more rules than necessary to assure the orderly growth of our Township. This ordinance sought to provide tools to guide growth. The Steering Committee worked hard at resolving the meaning of “community and individual rights”.

- Provides for a variety of lot sizes and ways for residents to subdivide their property, while maintaining a broad spectrum of rural character.
- *Encouraging* (rather than requiring) use of good site design to screen views.
- A compromise to maintain current minimum lot size in the 4 ½ acre district by adding a sensitive overlay zone to protect our water quality. In this overlay zone, the minimum lot size remains at 4 ½ acres, but any application for a land use permit on a parcel less than 9 acres would require a site analysis and a possible mitigation plan.
- Increases community participation in the conditional use permit process by ensuring early neighborhood participation, giving the applicant the opportunity to understand and try to mitigate impacts. It also allows neighbors the opportunity to air concerns early in the process.

C. Preserve our natural resources. There was considerable interest in trying to protect water quality, quality of trout streams and natural resources in our Township.

- Adding a “sensitive area overlay” intended to protect natural resources in areas of moderate and steep slopes, drainages, wetlands, erosive or shallow soils and groundwater re-charge areas.
- Lake and stream shoreline overlay that provides for increased protection of our water resources.
- Revising the amount of allowable impervious surface to protect our water resources while allowing for growth. Minimums were adjusted upward to allow for septic systems that the County now includes in its definition of impervious surface.

Written comments on the draft Zoning Ordinance are welcomed. They should be mailed or delivered to the Planning Commission, Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804. The deadline is January 27th (postmark or hand delivered). Comments will then be reviewed and appropriate changes made for release of the final draft on February 3rd.

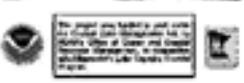
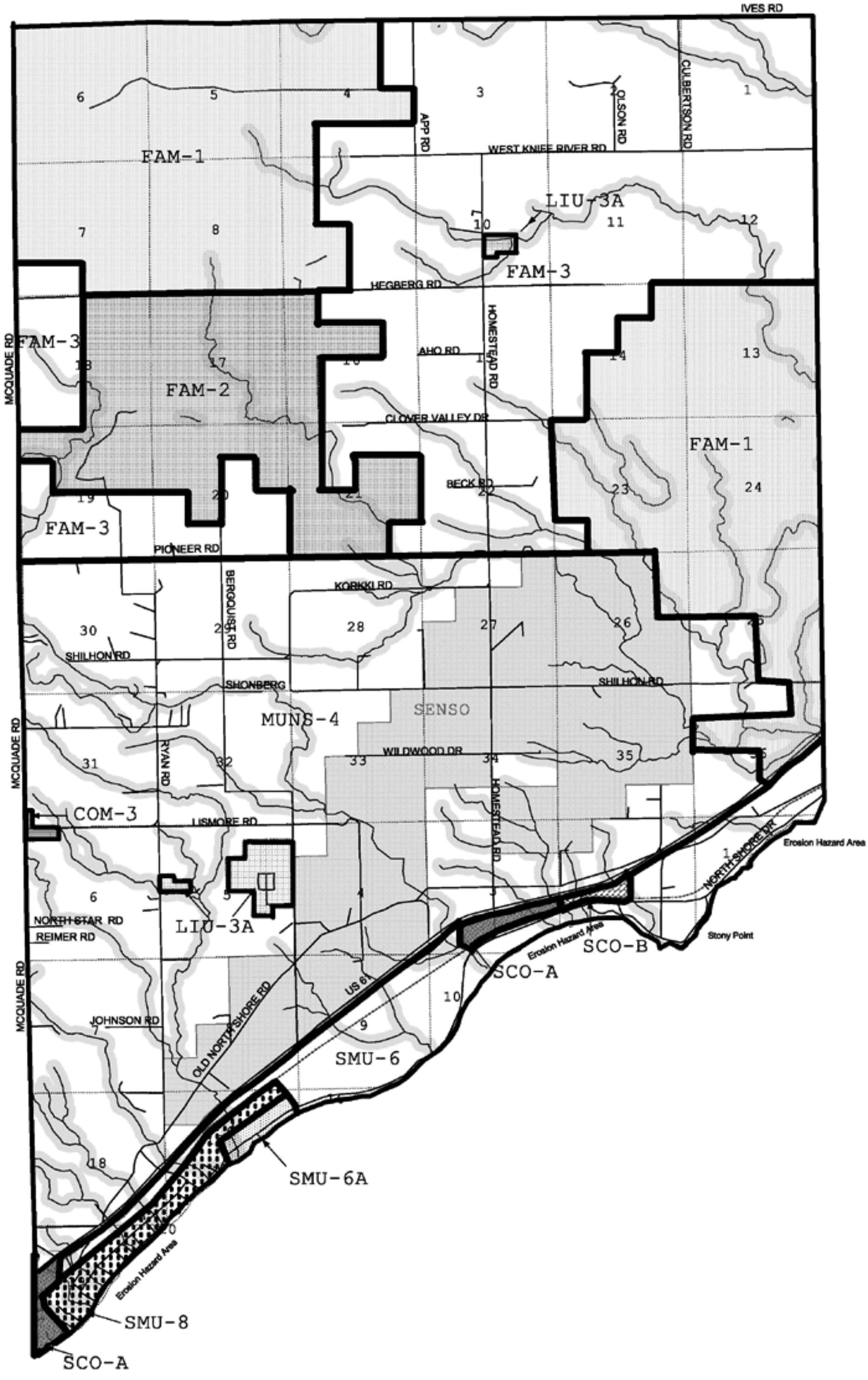


Table 1 - Dimensional Standards for Zoning Districts

Zoning District	Minimum Lot Size	Minimum Lot Width	Maximum Impervious Surface	Minimum Road Setbacks	Minimum Side Yard Setback from Lot Lines		Minimum Rear Yard Setback from Lot Lines	
					Principal	Accessory	Principal	Accessory
FAM-1	35.0 acres	600 feet	2%	(see #3)	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet
FAM-2	17.0 acres	600 feet	2%	(see #3)	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet
FAM-3	9.0 acres	300 feet	5%	(see #3)	75 feet	75 feet	100 feet	100 feet
MUNS-4	4.5 acres	300 feet	(see #1)	(see #3)	50 feet	50 feet	50 feet	50 feet
SMU-6	2.0 acres	200 feet	(see #2)	(see \$4)	35 feet	25 feet	45 feet	25 feet
SMU-8	1.0 acres	200 feet	(see #2)	(see \$4)	20 feet	10 feet	45 feet	10 feet
COM-3	0.5 acres	100 feet	(see #2)	(see #3)	(see #5)	(see #5)	(see #5)	(see #5)
SCO-A	1.0 acres	200 feet	(see #2)	(see \$4)	(see #5)	(see #5)	(see #5)	(see #5)
SCO-B	1.0 acres	200 feet	(see #2)	(see \$4)	(see #5)	(see #5)	(see #5)	(see #5)
LIU-3A	9.0 acres	600 feet	(see #2)	(see #3)	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet
SMU-6A	2.0 acres	200 feet	(see #2)	(see \$4)	20 feet	20 feet	40 feet	20 feet
SLO	(see #6)	see Table 2 below.						
SENSO	These requirements are determined by the site review (if required) in this district.							
All areas	Maximum structure height is 35 feet.							

1. Lot coverage is limited to 6% if not in the Shoreland Overlay or Sensitive Area Overlay district. If this limit is exceeded, a Storm Water Management Plan may be completed by a qualified, licensed engineer. The minimum requirements of the Storm Water Management Plan are identified in Article III, Section 4, Subdivision C of the ordinance.
2. Lot coverage by impervious surfaces shall not exceed 25%. No variance shall be granted on impervious surface thresholds unless a Storm Water Management Plan is completed by a qualified, licensed engineer. However, in any case, lot coverage by impervious surface shall not exceed 50% of the total lot area.
3. Minimum set backs from roads in this district are as follows: On local roads: 100 feet from centerline. On major collector roads: 150 feet from centerline. Larger setbacks are encouraged.
4. Minimum set backs from roads in this district are as follows: On local roads: 68 feet from centerline. On major collector roads: 85 feet from centerline. On major arterials: 110 feet from centerline. Larger setbacks are encouraged.
5. All structures on commercially zoned property must be set back a minimum of 20 feet unless they abut a district other than commercial, in which case they must be set back a minimum of 50 feet from side lot lines and 100 feet from rear lot lines.
6. Lot size is the size required by the District it overlays.

Table 2 –Dimensional Requirements for Shoreland (SLO) District

Type of Water Body	Boundary of Shoreland Overlay (from shore)	Required Setback from Water Body (ordinary high water line or Vegetation Line, whichever is greater)	Maximum Lot Coverage	Minimum Road Setback
a. Trout Streams	300 feet	200 feet	(see #7)	100 feet
b. Tributaries of Trout Streams	300 feet	100 feet	(see #7)	100 feet
c. Other Public Water Courses	300 feet	100 feet	(see #7)	100 feet
d. Unclassified, Established Watercourses with Defined Bottom	50 feet	50 feet	(see #7)	50 feet
e. Lake Superior Shore Line (Non-Erosion Hazard Areas)	Highway 61 Expressway	100 feet	(see footnote #2, above)	100 feet

7. In MUNS-4 zone district on lots less than 9 acres, impervious surfaces shall not exceed 5%. All other zone districts must meet the lot coverage requirements of the underlying zone district not to exceed 25%. No variance shall be granted on impervious surface thresholds unless a Storm Water Management Plan is completed by a qualified, licensed engineer.

Duluth Township

Police Report

Shawn Padden, Chief

With the rash of recent Burglaries and Attempted Abductions in the area lately, I felt it appropriate to make some suggestions to the citizens of our community, which may help in preventing our family members, friends and neighbors from becoming victims of these types of crimes. There is no 100% guarantee that you will never be a victim of crime. There are however, some very easy steps you can take to help safeguard your personal safety while you are out and about during this Holiday Season.

While shopping or running errands-

- Park in a well lighted area
- Do not leave packages or other items of value (camera's, purse, money) in plain view in your vehicle. Put them in the trunk or cover with a blanket.
- Do not flash a large amount of cash at the check out.
- Have your keys in your hand and ready when returning to your car.(they make a great weapon if you are attacked)
- Do a visual scan of the area around your car before leaving the building if possible. Do not approach your car if you see a person just standing nearby loitering around. Have a security person or other employee accompany you.
- Look inside your car prior to getting in. (back seat included)
- Lock your doors immediately upon getting in your car.

While driving-

- **DO NOT** pick up hitchhikers
- Keep your doors locked.
- Know where you are.(sounds silly but you would be surprised how many people can't explain their location when calling for help)
- Carry a cell phone.
- Make sure your car is in good mechanical condition to help prevent breakdowns.
- Equip your car with some survival gear. (Heavy jacket, boots, gloves, hat, candy, flashlight, cell phone charger, "call police" sign for front or rear window.)
- Let someone know your travel plans and routes of travel. Make sure your teen tells you **who** they are with, **where** they are going, **what** route they are taking to get there, **how** long they will be there, and **when** they are expected to return.
- If you break down, stay in your car.
- If someone approaches to help, roll down window less than an inch and ask them to call a wrecker or police to assist you.(if you have forgotten your cell phone)
- Activate your cars emergency flashers if they still operate.
- Do not accept a ride from ANYONE you do not know.
- Fight with every ounce of strength you have if someone attempts to forcibly take you. Utilize any self-defense training you have ever had. Your chances of survival are much better in your environment than it would be in your attackers' environment.

Remember that the best way to protect your body is to use your head!

In an attempt to help from becoming a victim of a property crime, here are a few steps you can take as well.

- **Lock your garage, house and vehicle doors** and windows while away or while sleeping.
- Utilize exterior security motion lights.
- Install an alarm system.
- Install a **gun safe or locker**
- Notify police and/or trusted neighbor while on vacation.
(Our police department has Vacation Watch forms on the web site at www.duluthtownship.org)
- Install decorative bars on "out of sight" basement windows. Many burglars use those basement windows at the rear of the house to make entrance.
- **Video tape and/or take photos of the valuable contents of your home.** (a picture is worth a 1000 words)
- **Record serial numbers** of guns, televisions, VCR's, DVD players, video game players and any other items of value you can.
- Engrave items of value in a conspicuous location with initials or numbers to help identify the item if the bad guys remove the serial numbers.
- **Computer backup.** Download important information once a month from your computer onto a disc, which is kept in a secure location in case your computer is stolen.
- Keep money and jewelry out of sight and in a secure location.
- Dust your home regularly. (This is not my favorite thing to do either but it is much easier for police to detect and collect as evidence a fingerprint left behind on a smooth clean surface than it is a fingerprint left on an inch of dust.)
- **Do not** leave the spare house key under the doormat. The "Leave it to Beaver" days are over folks. Bad guys actually look there for the key, and sometimes find it.
- Retain owner manuals for future reference to serial and model numbers and descriptions.

Some additional things to remember are:

- Report suspicious persons, vehicles or activities that are just simply "not normal" to the area's they are occurring in. We have had many reports of door-to-door sales people in the area lately and I encourage you to call us when these people are in the area so that we can check to make sure they are conducting a legitimate activity. I am assuming this type of activity will increase due to the activation of the "Do Not Call list".
- Record license plate numbers of cars parked along a roadway where there should not be one parked.
- Note descriptions of persons and vehicles that come to your home to ask for directions. You may not wish to call this type of activity in to the police at the time, but if you discover your neighbor has been burglarized sometime that day, you will have the information to share with police when we canvas the area asking about suspicious persons.
- If you believe you are witnessing a crime in progress, call 911 immediately and take appropriate steps to witness such from a safe distance or simply leave the area altogether. I.e.. **Do not** approach someone that is burglarizing your home or that of your neighbor. The burglars we have been dealing with lately have more than likely committed those crimes while under the influence of drugs and should be considered dangerous if confronted. Protecting your property or that of another is not worth risking your safety for.

These are just some of the things you can do to help safeguard your person and property from becoming a victim of crime. If you have any information regarding any criminal activity in this community, please contact the Duluth Township Police Department at 218-**525-5705** or e-mail us at **PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org**. The members of the Duluth Township Police Department are as follows:

Chief, Shawn Padden (who is also a Hermantown Police Patrol Officer)
Officer Steven Peterson (who is also a Duluth Police K-9 Officer)
Officer Tom Wick (who is also a Hermantown Police Patrol Officer)

The members of the Duluth Township Police Department patrol the County, State and Township roads within Duluth Township, as well as conduct business and residence checks on a routine basis and respond to calls for service as allowed by the Town Electorate for a total of 160 hours per month on a part-time employee status.

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

J A N U A R Y 2 0 0 4

Inside this Issue:

- **Zoning Ordinance update**
- Township **Calendar**
- *Town Board* meetings
- *Planning Commission* meetings
- *Fire and Reserve* news
- **Police Report** insert
- Community School news
- DNSSD sewer line update
- *The History Corner*
- The Wager
- Information about taxes

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
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 2004

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

Town Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 12:30-3:30
Thursday 9:00-12:00 and 4:00-7:00

Supervisors:

Bruce Aho 525-4033 or email:
BruceAho@duluthtownship.org
(responsibilities: Board Chairman, roads, NSCS)

Jeff Cook 525-4010 or email:
JeffCook@duluthtownship.org
(responsibilities: Planning Commission, DNSSD,
liaison to many area boards and agencies)

Stephen Dahl 525-4679 or email:
SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org
(responsibilities: Town hall, NSCS)

George Sundstrom 525-5655 or email:
GeorgeSundstrom@duluthtownship.org
(responsibilities: cemetery, Police, DNSSD, mtgs)

Corlis West 525-7719 or email:
CorlisWest@duluthtownship.org
(responsibilities: Fire Dept, Storm Water, other
meetings)

Clerk: **Ann Cox** 525-5705 (Town Hall)
or email: AnnCox@duluthtownship.org

Treasurer: **Janet Johansen** 525-5705 (Town Hall)
or email: JanetJohansen@duluthtownship.org

Attorney: **Tim Strom** 722-4766 (office)
or email: TimStrom@duluthtownship.org

Cemetery: **Denise Connolly** 525-7161 or 392-8511
or email: Cemetery@duluthtownship.org

Planning and Zoning Administrator: **Wayne Dahlberg**
728-4293 (office) or email:
WayneDahlberg@duluthtownship.org

Planning and Zoning Secretary: **Carolyn Marino**
email: CarolynMarino@duluthtownship.org

Planning and Zoning Committee: **Sue Lawson** (chair),
**David Edblom, Toni Fladmark, Cindy Hale, Adam
Hendrickson, Janet McTavish and Dave Miller.**
email: PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org

Peace Officers: **Chief Shawn Padden,**
Steve Peterson, Tom Wick
email: PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org

Fire Department: **Chief Jerry Simmons**
Assistant Chief Bill Cox
email: FireHall@duluthtownship.org

Note: Where possible, email is forwarded to the person,
otherwise it is sent to the Town Hall where it is picked up.

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.)
Note that all sites recycle InkJet cartridges. Proceeds
benefit our NSCS