



Drawing by Marilyn Fredon (1950-2004),  
a friend of many in our Township.

*Thank you to all contributors to this issue: Jeff Cook, Ann Cox, Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooley, Todd Lindahl, Trisha O'Keefe, Sherry Rovig, Rich Sill, and Mary Ann Sironen.* A special thanks to the Fredon family for permitting the use of this sketch by Marilyn.

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

### 2005 Duluth Township Calendar Ads

Ads from businesses are being accepted for the 2005 Duluth Township calendar. This is your chance to advertise your business to your friends and neighbors and support our Township Fire Department as well.

For more information, call Trisha O'Keefe at 525-0150.

### The Homesteaders

Helen Hendrickson

**September 1<sup>st</sup>**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall.

Luncheon, Tom Holden, Marine Museum will provide a program titled: "The 1905 Storm".

**October 6<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Luncheon,

Sgt. Mark Baker of the Minnesota Highway Department will talk on "Safe Driving".

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall,

Luncheon, *Turkey Bingo!*

**Everyone is welcome.** For information, call 525-4154

### Is There A Meeting?

Are you concerned that you will miss a Township meeting? Stop at the Town Hall. Clerk Ann Cox keeps an up-to-date calendar of meetings posted on both doors. These are also available to pick up at Board meetings.

### Updated Township Map & Information

Save the insert in this Newsletter for reference. Note that we have four new road names on the Township map: Copperline Trail, Deerview Trail, Hill Road, and North Bergquist Road.

# Duluth Township Newsletter

September 2004

Duluth Township web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

## VOTE!

**Primary Election is Tuesday,  
September 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00am to 8:00pm,  
Town Hall, Homestead Road**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harvest Dinner

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harvest Dinner will be at the Town Hall on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 pm.

It is a benefit for the Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders in our Township.

If you are interested in helping with the event, have items to donate for door prizes, or have questions, please call Sherry Rovig at 525-0489 or Jody Anderson at 525-4971.

C'mon down for some great food, music and company!  
**Support our volunteer firefighters and first responders.**

### Zoning Ordinance Update

The Planning Commission conducted the official Public Hearing on our updated Zoning Ordinance before the Town Board on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Some 100 people attended and about 30 gave public testimony (some wrote letters which were included as public testimony). Overall positive and negative comments were approximately even. These comments and suggestions were organized and reviewed by the Planning Commission and recommendations for changes were forwarded with all comments to our Town Board for review and action.

The Town Board held working meetings on Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> to go over the proposed ordinance and make final decisions. They will have another working meeting on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. The Board is carefully reviewing each part of the ordinance. The minutes of these meetings will be available on the Township web site:

[www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org), and at the Town Hall. A summary of the minutes is given in this Newsletter.

### North Shore Pet Sitters

Gail Johnson, 343-6775 -- In-your-home pet care.  
*Serving the North Shore area from Duluth to Two Harbors*

Mailed to 856 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**.

## Township Police Department

Shawn Padden, Chief

School starts here on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Use extra caution when approaching school buses loading and unloading children.

There have been several incidents of concern in this area this summer. One occurred in the 5100 Block of the McQuade Road. A homeowner returned home in the evening to find a makeshift pipe bomb had been placed in the *News Tribune* paper box. Our squad responded, notified the *148th Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit* at the Air Base and they responded to destroy and examine the item. If anyone has information regarding this event or knows of any other similar type of activity in the area, please contact **911** or our Department. If you find a suspicious package or pipe-type item in or around your mailbox, please call 911 and *do not touch it!* Items duct taped or with wires hanging out should be avoided.

The State Patrol speed trailer has been placed along North Shore Drive and in other areas to monitor traffic speed. There have been numerous complaints of speeders in the S-curve where the Old North Shore and Ryan Roads intersect. It is a cautionary 35 mph zone due to limited visibility and road curves. Watch your speed!

There have also been reports of political signs being illegally removed. Please respect the property and views of others in our community.

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](mailto:PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org).

### "Clean Water – Everybody's Business" 10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

(from a handout by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks and roads.
- Never dump anything down storm drains.
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
- Compost your yard waste
- Avoid pesticides; learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
- Check car for leaks, and recycle motor oil.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.

## Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District

Mary Ann Sironen

Greenwood Road has been the recent focus of a concerted effort by *Frontier Pipeline* to connect those residents to the main sewer line. All available crews and equipment have been concentrating on that area during the last half of August. Many of the homes will have a gravity line which requires open cutting (digging trenches) as compared to most of the other connections that have grinder pumps with connections made by drilling. Every effort will be made to finish this section of the D/NSSD project as soon as possible and complete the restoration of yards and driveways.

A significant number of residences are hooked up and operational now. The first set of bills will be sent out with

current residential charges about \$63/month. The breakdown:

- 50% is for loan repayment on the backbone/main line of the sewer.
- 32% is for operations and maintenance,
- 8% is on repayment of the loan for the extended hookup program,
- 8% is for WLSSD treatment and
- 2% is set aside as the obligated reserve that's required by the PFA loan.

The *Knife River-Larsmont Sanitary District* voted in July to connect to the D/NSSD pipe rather than refurbish their present sewage treatment plant. The boards of the two districts are working together to finalize the arrangements for that connection.

S.J. Lewis, the contractor for the main line, has finished its work and withdrawn its equipment. Any further restoration needed along that line will be done by *Frontier Pipeline* as they do their restoration of the lateral connections. Residents are encouraged to **call Eric Appelwick, 624-8042**, with issues still remaining on their properties.

A newsletter was sent out in July to residents of the District urging them to review the legal documents that they need to have signed to complete their connections. All properties need to have:

1. A signed easement for the D/NSSD to construct and maintain the lines and equipment on their property.
2. An inspection of their building(s) for Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) because storm/rainwater cannot go into the sewer.
3. A permit application to hook up to the sewer.

If any of these items are missing, a substantial daily fee can be added to the monthly bill until such paperwork is completed.

The project is still on budget and ahead of schedule. It is hoped that all or most of the residents will be connected by the end of this construction season. All commercial customers will be hooked up. The Board, engineers and construction crews appreciate the cooperation and patience of the residents of the District as their summer is disrupted by drills, digging and muddy yards. Thank you very much!

Board minutes and other information are available on the DNSSD web site – [www.dnssd.org](http://www.dnssd.org).

## Clifton Volunteer Fire Department

Barry Lampi, Fire Chief

It appears to be time to give wood stoves a checkup! Be sure that stovepipes and chimneys are cleaned and checked to prevent home fires.

Our Fire Department responded to 10 calls this past two months. Fires included the Allen Nelson family home fire at 6240 Homestead Road and a vent fan fire in the Two Harbors High School.

Hats off to our District School Board representative, **Kay Jacobs**, who was concerned enough to show up at the August 7<sup>th</sup> Two Harbors High School fire to see that everything was being handled well. Hats off too to family and friends who helped rebuild a home for the Nelson's.

## Storm Water Planning

Jeff Cook, Supervisor

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*

Here's what we need to do for the third of the six elements:

**Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination.** The Township needs to be engaged in a process of detecting and eliminating illicit discharge from installations as sewers, septic systems, and the D/NSSD (Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District) system, plus waste dumped in roadside ditches. The Township is responsible for any illicit discharge or dumping along our roads. In practical terms, this means that the Township has to notify the MPCA duty officer and follow up on the handling of a problem. That agency will enforce compliance with clean-up and other solutions. The Township needs to maintain a map of the D/NSSD sewer system so that we can describe the location of any spill or discharge from that system. These are all added oversight responsibilities that the Township now has that we didn't have before the storm water mandate.

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

- Construction Site Runoff Control
- Post Construction Runoff Control
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

### Internet Connection Speed

Is your internet connection **S L O W**? The phone modem on your computer may go at speeds of 56k or better but is your actual phone-line connection speed only 21k or even 16k? The slow speed is apparently due to Quest's poor phone line/service.

If you experience slow internet connection service, would you like a faster connection? Does the slow speed have an effect on your work? Do you have suggestions on how Duluth Township can get faster service? If you would be interested in seeing if we can get faster internet service in Duluth Township, let me know. Drop a note at the Town Hall or [NewsletterEditor@duluthtownship.org](mailto:NewsletterEditor@duluthtownship.org).

**Correction:** Lipe Brothers Construction, erroneously listed among business in the July Newsletter, is no longer in business in the Township. The number in the last Newsletter is not a business number.

**Thanks.** The Nelson family whose home on Homestead Road was destroyed by fire a few weeks ago, want to thank friends, family, members of our community, and the Red Cross who were so generous in helping them cope with their loss. Their home was replaced in record time and they are in the process of settling in.

## Township Calendar

See updates on [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

### September 2004

- Sept 1, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall  
 Sept 1, Wed, 7:00pm *Volunteer Fire Dept:* business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd  
 Sept 2, Thu, **SCHOOL STARTS** at NSCS  
 Sept 8, Wed, 7:00pm *First Responder's* meeting, Hall #2  
**Sept 9**, Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall  
**Sept 14**, Tue, 7:30am – 8pm **PRIMARY ELECTION.** Voting and registration at the Town Hall.  
 Sept 14, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church lower level.  
 Sept 14, Tue, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library  
 Sept 15, Wed, 7:00pm *Volunteer Fire Dept:* training  
**Sept 21**, Tue, 7:00pm, **Town Board working meeting.**  
**Sept 23**, Thu, 7:00 **Planning Commission**, Town Hall.

### October 2004

- Oct. 5, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church lower level.  
 Oct. 6, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet Town Hall  
 Oct. 6, Wed, 7:00pm *Volunteer Fire Dept:* business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road  
 Oct. 13, Wed, 7:00pm *First Responder* meeting, Hall #2  
**Oct. 14**, Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall.  
**Oct. 16, Sat. 5-7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harvest Dinner** to support our volunteer firefighters and first responders. Town Hall. Everyone welcome!  
 Oct. 19, Tue, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library.  
 Oct. 20, Wed, 7:00pm *Volunteer Fire Dept:* Training, Fire Hall #1  
**Oct. 21**, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall  
 Oct 23, **Deadline** for news for the Nov. *Newsletter*

### November 2004

- Nov 2, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church lower level.  
 Nov 3, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall  
 Nov 3, Wed, 7:00pm *Volunteer Fire Dept:* business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road  
 Nov 10, Wed, 7:00pm *First Responder* meeting, Hall #2  
**Nov 11**, Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall  
 Nov 16, Tue, 6:30pm **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library.  
 Nov 17, Wed, 7:00pm *Volunteer Fire Dept:* training  
**Nov ?**, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall (date to be announced)

Note that you can recycle Inkjet cartridges at the Town Hall and all Township recycle sites.

Proceeds benefit our school.

## The History Corner

Rich Sill

I have a four-drawer filing cabinet at home filled with nothing but old maps. On second thought, that's not exactly true. It isn't just maps crammed into the files. The cabinet is also stuffed with travel guides, old resort brochures, out of date AAA books, as well as such gems as the hand scribbled (and now nearly illegible note) describing the exact location of the "best hidden hot spring in western Montana". Why I keep all of it, and worse yet keep adding to it, is something of a mystery even to me. On occasion I have tried to sort through it all, reducing its bulk to a reasonable size, maybe two drawers instead of four, but instead of tossing something out I more than likely will start refiling what I come across. After all, finding a torn and faded map of Idaho filed under "Halifax and the Maritimes" is frustrating. But then, instead of simply discarding it as I should, I more than likely will tape it together, refold it, and place it back where it belongs, under "Idaho--winter trip '72".

I tell you this since it might help better explain my reaction and my interest to the discovery of a box marked "old PTA minutes" uncovered by staff at North Shore Community School a few months ago. It's not that the box had been lost, more likely it had been stored away years ago and then ignored and overlooked, being moved to various storage rooms and closets within the school as the need for classrooms and space changed. Eventually, however, after being "rediscovered" this spring the box came to the attention of Heidi Horoshak, administrative assistant at the school, and she, knowing me and my interest in local history, gave a call, curious if I might want to look through it.

Within a few days I was able to get up to school and along with Heidi looked into what the box held. In it we found stacks of old notebooks, newspaper clippings about the school, records of awards, information on past carnivals and school events, as well as lists of former PTA "volunteers". As we dug through it there was one booklet more than the others that caught my eye. It was simply headed "Council By-Laws and Minutes". The spiral notebook was thick and when I opened it, it was clear the pages were filled from cover to cover with hand written minutes. Adding significantly to the booklets bulk, stuffed in folders and sandwiched between the pages were many articles, letters, and clippings cut from newspapers or school publications. I turned to the page where the minutes first began and reflected on the opening sentence at the top. It read "The organizational meeting of the Clover Valley Community Council (is) called to order, Sept. 11th, 1959." My curiosity was heightened and I turned to Heidi and asked if I could take the notebook home and spend time reading through it. She nodded somewhat quizzically as if to say "Sure, if you want".

I had heard of the Council in conversations over the years but really knew nothing about their mission or purpose. Having some time to go over the notes in greater detail strengthened my assumption that though the Council was tied closely to school issues, it was not exclusively involved only in educational matters. It did indeed have a committee simply entitled "schools" but had

also formed subgroups in a number of other areas. Those areas included roads, community recreation, legislation,

Page 4

and social/welfare issues. The minutes I read covered a period of eight years from 1959 to 1967 and it was interesting to note how some of the concerns that surfaced for discussion forty or more years ago are still relevant today. For instance: to what extent should sex education be taught in the schools, the problem of low attendance at committee meetings, ongoing fundraising needs, township zoning and planning issues, as well as the ever present concern about taxes were all discussed at length in the notes.

On the other hand some issues that were important to the time, such as determining appropriate civil defense evacuation routes (the Bomarc missile base was just then under construction) and whether tree rows planted along township roads should replace snow fences as winter windbreaks, seem dated. I found some of the most interesting information contained in the notebook to be the historical data that was tucked away here and there amongst the recorded minutes. Such things as to how the building, destined to replace the then aging Bloomingdale School, came to be called *North Shore Elementary*, as well as notes detailing the lengthy and often heated discussion surrounding the closing of Clover Valley High School and the eventual consolidation of it's students with Two Harbors provided some enlightening and insightful reading. In upcoming issues of the Township News, further information on those topics and other historical details found in the minutes will be discussed. But for now I still have quite a bit more reading to do.

### Summary of Town Board Meetings

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

**June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Supervisors attending: Jeff Cook, Steve Dahl, George Sundstrom, and Corlis West.

*Audience concerns:* Jerry Lipe has a road request for a planned development on North Shore Drive.

*Audit:* The Township arranged for McGladrey and Pullen, a CPA firm, to conduct an audit of our general purpose financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2003. They reported an "unqualified" opinion that the financial statements fairly presented the financial situation in accordance with general accounting standards. They noted, with appreciation, assistance they received. A motion to accept the report passed. Thanks to our Town Clerk **Ann Cox** and Treasurer **Janet Johansen**, for their good work for our Township.

Duluth Township streams are included in a new Federal listing of impaired waters.

The Treasurer reported expenses of \$9,442.67, income of \$24,259.81 for an ending balance of \$238,276.26.

*Department reports:* Police report of activity was read.

Fire: Neal Myrdal is new Relief Association treasurer. A request for year-per-service payout to be raised from \$400 to \$600 based on the Relief Association audit. The request was below the \$849 which would be possible.

Corlis moved and Steve seconded a motion to approve. Motion passed. Community Center: BJ Kohlstadt

recommended that the Community Center and Township collaborate in requesting matching funds for an  
(continued on page 5)

(Board minutes continued from page 4)

Americorps person to act as community education coordinator for 12 months. The cost to the Township would be \$1,250 which is available from the budget approved at the Annual meeting. Motion passed. NSCS is interested in helping with the Energy Program presented by Supervisor Dahl last month. A packet of \$135,000 in improvements for the Community Center was tabled. Legal: Attorney Tim Strom has been working with the Planning Commission on proposed amendments dealing with signs and "adult uses". Jeff Cook received a revised agreement for the North Shore Management Board. It needs work. The proposed \$750 participation will be brought to the next Annual Town meeting. Robert Lipe requested use of a "paper road" for a proposed development off North Shore Drive. His lawyer will contact Tim concerning the request. Town Hall rental agreement was tabled. Zoning: Wayne Dahlberg presented a proposed schedule for the Public Hearing and Board action on the zoning ordinance. Roads: The road inspection was tabled. We have two new road names off Homestead Drive: Copperline Road and Deerview Trail. Other Business: The living wage item was postponed pending more information. McQuade harbor work was scheduled to begin in August. Liquor licenses for Shorecrest and Lakeview Castle were approved.

**June 15<sup>th</sup> special working meeting.** This was a meeting arranged by the Town Board and Planning Commission to give copies of the draft ordinance to Board members and familiarize them with its contents prior to the Public Hearing. Supervisor Steve Dahl attended along with several Planning Commission members and our Zoning Director. Chair Sue Lawson prepared a special presentation that summarized the various provisions.

**July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.** All Supervisors attended. There were no audience concerns. We have an ending balance of \$386,138.48 after expenses for the month of \$29,528.52 and deposits of \$177,266.81. Auditor's recommendations have been implemented. The North Shore Management Plan has been completed.

Department reports: Police provided a written report of activity. Fire reported 5 calls and 3 first responder calls. Community Center: The Americorps grant for a community program coordinator was trimmed, focusing on children, due to Americorps funding decreases. A mentor program was suggested. Legal: No contact from Mr Lipe's attorney regarding the proposed development on the shore. Phil Strom and the attorney will meet regarding how to handle the Capital Improvement Fund that could be used to replace the portable structures at the Community Center in 2009. Planning: The public hearing will be July 13<sup>th</sup>. A new Planning Director will be needed. Wayne Dahlberg has served many years. He has expressed a wish to step down sometime soon due to other commitments. The Board took steps to request resumes of those who would be interested in the position. Wayne will continue as Zoning Director until a new director is found. Wayne will be included in the interviewing process. Supervisor Cook has accepted an invitation to serve on the Governors Council for the Great Lakes. The Council manages and preserves the quality of the Great Lakes. Recycling is

busy. Roads: Supervisor Aho will report on the annual road inspection. A request was made for road name

clarification. The former Jacobson Road had been renamed the North Bergquist. The Hill road should be noted. Road work needs to be done in the Greenwood area as sewer construction is completed. Cemetery: Supervisor Sundstrom has been looking for someone to repair the gate arch. Old Business: The living wage proposal was tabled until the August meeting.

**August 5<sup>th</sup> special working meeting.** Supervisors present: Jeff Cook, George Sundstrom, Corlis West, Steve Dahl. There was a small audience (about 5). The purpose of this working meeting was to review comments on the proposed Zoning Ordinance from the July 13<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing. The Planning Commission had organized the comments and made some suggestions for change based on those comments. The Board had the full text of all comments. There was extensive discussion by the Board. (Note: Changes in the document are detailed and refer to specific sections of the document. For details, see the full minutes of the meeting on our web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org) or at the Town Hall.)

In summary: Recommended adjustments in the zoning map (except the Mace Road LIU which was tabled for legal review), lighting, signs, method of appointment of Planning members, and the shoreland overlay were adopted. Action on the sensitive area and community participation sections were tabled. A number of technical corrections were accepted. The meeting was recessed to August 17<sup>th</sup> to continue review of the ordinance.

**August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.** All Supervisors were present with a small audience (about 8) and our Town Clerk, Planning Secretary, Attorney, and Zoning Director. Chair Corlis West received a letter indicating that Homestead Road is slated for resurfacing in 2009.

Department reports: Police reported 106 police events including 5 animal complaints, 4 fire alarms, 4 medical emergencies, 12 traffic warnings or citations, and 39 requested vacation house and business checks. Fire 3 large fires and 4 first responder calls. Community Center:

The attorney will review the Johnson Controls maintenance agreement. Planning: Mr. Billie requested an appeal of a variance decision (a similar request on the same lot was denied about 10 years ago). Board of Adjustment members for the hearing are Supervisor Jeff Cook, Planning Commission member Dave Miller and at large member Bob Abrahamson (substituting for John Bowen who recused himself). Roads: Supervisors Aho and Cook made the annual road inspection report. Other Business: Proposed election judges were approved. The living wage topic was again tabled for more information.

**August 17<sup>th</sup> special working meeting.** Supervisors Cook, Dahl Sundstrom and West were present as were the Town Attorney, Tim Strom, and Town Clerk Ann Cox plus an audience of 11. This was a continuation of the working meeting on the zoning ordinance. Interested residents should refer to the official minutes for details.

In summary: The Mace LIU issue was again tabled for further legal details. The sensitive area was discussed and again tabled. Some Supervisors were seeking a way to make this provision more "objective" rather than

invoking study and judgment, but it was agreed that the area indicated by the overlay needed added protections.  
(Continued on page 6)

(Board minutes, continued from page 5)

The community participation provision was accepted as were some technical changes in building height (to conform to the more strict St Louis County rules) and deck definitions. The working meeting was recessed to reconvene September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm.

**The Next Town Board meetings: (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, and Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 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)

**June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Members present: Co-Chairs Sue Lawson and Dave Miller, Adam Hendrickson, Seth Levanen, and Janet McTavish. Assignments were made to help give out materials at the public information meetings on the proposed zoning ordinance. There were three public hearings:

Charles Billie (White Bear) regarding lot coverage, rear and shoreline setbacks on non-conforming lot on North Shore Drive across the road from a lot with a house they also own. They propose to build a 1400-1500 sqft house on the lake side lot. A similar request was denied 10 years ago by both the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment. Neighbors attending did not support a variance. The variance was denied.

Mark Bruckelmyer's request for a conditional use permit was presented by Les Bruckelmyer. The property was zoned limited industrial in 1976. He did not want to change the zoning on the property but wanted to build a house on 5 acres of the former Clover Valley School property. A home to rent or sell on the LIU property would require 9 acres. A caretaker residence is allowed. A neighbor felt that a caretaker unit would be beneficial to help with vandalism problems. The variance as requested was denied.

Mrs Bagstad requested a variance to divide off a cabin from a home, both on a 2.7 acre lot. Both structures existed since the 1950's. She would sell the house and retain the cabin as a rental property. A neighbor felt that nothing would change if the variance were permitted. It was felt that this met the criteria for a hardship. The variance was approved if the lot is divided in more equal parcels to better meet setbacks. It was suggested that the number of hearings per meeting be limited.

**July 13<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing.** Town officials present were Supervisors Aho, Cook, Dahl, Sundstrom and West; Planning Commission members Fladmark, Hendrickson, Lawson, McTavish and Miller; Planning Director Dahlberg; Planning Secretary Marino, Attorney Strom and our Town Clerk Cox.

In line with our ordinance, the Planning Commission conducted the public hearing on the proposed zoning ordinance before the Town Board. Some 101 people attended, 27 signed up to speak and 20 made statements. Eighteen written comments were received (some from those who read their statements as well). The Hearing opened with an introduction of the Board and Planning Commission members. Sue Lawson, co-chair of the

Planning Commission, presented an overview of the proposed zoning ordinance. Co-chair Dave Miller moderated the meeting where those who wanted to make statements could address the Board. Testimony was recorded and this was duplicated in notebooks for the Planning Commission and each Board member. A copy is available for public review in the Town Hall during office hours.

No Board decisions were made at this hearing. As announced, the Board scheduled August 5<sup>th</sup> as their first working meeting to review the ordinance, Planning Commission recommendations based on the testimony, and the transcript of the testimony itself. At the end of their review, the Board will take action on the ordinance.

**July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.** Members present: Co-chair Dave Miller, Toni Fladmark, Cindy Hale, Adam Hendrickson, Seth Levanen, and Janet McTavish. The scheduled public hearing on the Barthell off-site sign was tabled due to the death of Mr. Barthell that day. There was a discussion of the status of M-1 properties on the St Louis County zoning map and the process for administering planned unit developments. A work session was planned for July 29<sup>th</sup> to review technical material, wording, language and content of the proposed ordinance prior to the August 5<sup>th</sup> Town Board working meeting.

**Next Planning Commission meetings: (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday) Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm, Town Hall. Residents are invited to attend these public meetings.**

**Building Permit Tally**

| <b>Building Permits</b> | <b>2000</b> | <b>2001</b> | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004 (to date)</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Single Family           | 18          | 17          | 20          | 19          | <b>18</b>             |
| Seasonal Cabins         | 3           | 6           | 0           | 2           | <b>1</b>              |
| Commercial              | 3           | 0           | 0           | 1           | <b>0</b>              |
| Alteration/Accessory    | 34          | 42          | 37          | 45          | <b>37</b>             |
| Church/School/Utility   | 3           | 0           | 0           | 2           | <b>0</b>              |

Two of the single family home permits are in process at press time. Declared value of projects was \$3.5 million. Average declared value of single family home permits this year is \$155,470, ranging from \$35,000 to \$500,000.

**Project ChildSafe**

Police Chief Shawn Padden announced that our Police Department will be participating in the Project ChildSafe program. It is the nation's largest and most comprehensive firearm safety education program. It is dedicated to educating firearm owners on proper handling and storage techniques to make homes safer and prevent firearm accidents. It is funded by a grant from the US Department of Justice and managed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Dates for when the program is in our Township will be announced. Free gun locks and safety education materials will be available.

Chief Shawn strongly recommends that Township residents participate in the event and get their free gun locks and other safety information.

about to happen soon at French River starting in the next year.

## The French River Section House

Todd Lindahl

Duluth Township had within its borders two Duluth & Iron Range Railroad section houses. One was located at French River and the other at Palmers. The French River section house was the older of the two dating back to May 1887 and generally not as well known. It became section # 3 since it was the third section house from the start of the D&IR line at Endion. Peter Norman became section foreman at French River until 1899 when Peter Johnson replaced him.

The number of men stationed here fluctuated over the years, but for much of the time it was home base for a foreman and six laborers. In September 1900 Foreman Peter Johnson complained to his boss that the handcar they had was in such bad shape and was so dangerous that the men were considering quitting if they had to continue riding on it. Johnson went on to say that they could not get any gravel for the track and that he had only three men, which resulted in little work being accomplished. Unless things improved soon, he too would quit along with his men. Apparently all of these were legitimate complaints since the railroad immediately set about correcting the shortcomings.

Laborers had the option of living in the section house if they wished and paid a small fee for room and board. For the single men this was a pretty good deal since the price was much less than what they would have paid elsewhere. In many cases the section foreman's wife did the cooking and cleaning. The groceries and other sundry items were ordered and arrived sometime later on the train. In 1910 the railroad allowed Matt Johnson, the French River section foreman, a half tariff rate for items in less than carload lots (called LCL) that were intended for servicing the section house. This special rate was also extended to Mrs. Sanberg at the Palmers section house. The practice continued for three years until 1912 when the railroad assumed that items not intended for use on the railroad were being sold to or by private individuals. Whether this was fact or just rumor is unknown, but the railroad stopped the half-rate service anyway. Perhaps it was simply an excuse for the railroad to get out of their half-rate policy.

The French River section house not only served the purpose of boarding the section crew, but also served as a passenger depot. The west end of the building contained a waiting room with 6 settees for people to sit on while waiting for the train. This service continued for 72 years until the depot closed permanently on March 11, 1959. Other buildings also located here were a freight depot built in August 1912, a handcar & tool house, outhouse, and icehouse. A two-story barn built in 1923 had four stalls for cows and an indoor chicken coop. In August 1927 a 17-year-old girl with a 6-month-old baby had been hired as caretaker. At this time there was one cow and two pigs that were kept in the barn.

During the winter months of 1916 foreman Matt Johnson had only Sam Lahti and Matt Lahti working with him. This was a normal procedure for the winter months during this period in time though. Some big changes were

In 1917 the Duluth & Northern Minnesota Railway. (The Alger – Smith Line) decided to take up the rails on its Greenwood Lake branch. It was along this branch that the State of Minnesota had its fish hatchery. Since no roads existed to access the hatchery, it would therefore become totally isolated with no way to get the fish out. An immediate search for a new hatchery site was begun after which the state selected French River as its new home.

In early June 1918, at the request of E. W. Cobb Superintendent of Fisheries, a new 325-foot siding was put in across from the section house. This track was intended for use during the construction of the hatchery complex and then later for routine fisheries operations. This plan worked well at first, but soon forest products began to accumulate next to the siding. This prompted the railroad to extend the siding in 1920 to provide more space for the fisheries. A road was considered from the hatchery to the freight house, but amazingly the old French River Mining Company was still in existence and owned the land where the road needed to go. Before very long the new highway 61 would be built adjacent to the hatchery.

As the stock market crash approached in 1929 there was one foreman and six laborers working out of French River. By 1930 things were starting to deteriorate rapidly. The railroad began to look at ways to save money by eliminating as much as they could. In June 1933 the French River section house was retired from service in this cost cutting strategy. The crew from section house # 2 at Lester Park was then assigned to handle all of the French River track maintenance duties.

On December 7, 1940 Lester Park foreman Charles R. Swanson ran his speeder into the wreckage of the derailed Ely local freight train.

Sadly, he was totally and permanently disabled as a result of this terrible accident. Gilford Axelson, who was also onboard the car, was badly injured as well. This was the climax of the Lester Park section and it was afterward consolidated with the Endion section crew. All of the track work between Duluth and Two Harbors was now the responsibility of the crews from Endion, Palmers, and Two Harbors. The former sections working out of Lakeside (London), Lester Park, and French River had vanished forever. At its peak there were almost 400 men working in the track department on the Duluth & Iron Range division alone. Today there are roughly 35 men covering what's left of the division. I wonder what Peter Johnson would have thought about that?

### Timber & Agricultural Land Assessed Values Increase

Our Township received a letter from St Louis County regarding "State Board of Equalization Assessment Changes (2004 Assessment Taxes payable in 2005)". These are State-ordered changes to equalize assessments in our area.

For Duluth Township, the MN Department of Revenue ordered an increase in the assessed value of timber land (+25%) and agricultural land (+25%). State-ordered changes cannot be appealed to the Minnesota Tax Court.

# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 4

## Inside this Issue:

- Road Map & Township Info. insert
- Township **Calendar**
- *Town Board* meetings
- *Planning Commission* meetings
- *Zoning update*
- *Storm Water Planning*
- Community School news insert
- The French River Section House

Duluth Township Newsletter  
6092 Homestead Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

PRSRSTSD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 721  
DULUTH, MINN.

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

## 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](http://www.duluthtownship.org), or  
email: [TownHall@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TownHall@duluthtownship.org)

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

### Supervisors:

**Corlis West, Board Chairman,** 525-7719 or email:  
[CorlisWest@duluthtownship.org](mailto:CorlisWest@duluthtownship.org)  
(responsibilities:, (Clerk and Treasurer, Fire Dept,  
Duluth Area Townships meetings)

**Bruce Aho** 525-4033 or Email:  
[BruceAho@duluthtownship.org](mailto:BruceAho@duluthtownship.org)  
(responsibilities:, Roads, Community Center)

**Jeff Cook** 525-4010 or Email:  
[JeffCook@duluthtownship.org](mailto:JeffCook@duluthtownship.org)  
(responsibilities: Planning Commission, Fire,  
DNSSD, McQuade Hbr, N Shore Mgmt Bd)

**Stephen Dahl** 525-4679 or Email:  
[SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org](mailto:SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org)  
(responsibilities: Vice Chair, Town Hall,  
Community Center)

**George Sundstrom** 525-5655 or Email:  
[GeorgeSundstrom@duluthtownship.org](mailto:GeorgeSundstrom@duluthtownship.org)  
(responsibilities: cemetery, Police, S. StLouis mtg)

Clerk: **Ann Cox** 525-5705 (Town Hall)  
or Email: [AnnCox@duluthtownship.org](mailto:AnnCox@duluthtownship.org)

**Treasurer:** **Janet Johansen** 525-5705 (Town Hall)  
or Email: [JanetJohansen@duluthtownship.org](mailto:JanetJohansen@duluthtownship.org)  
**Attorney:** **Tim Strom** 722-4766 (office)  
or Email: [TimStrom@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TimStrom@duluthtownship.org)  
**Cemetery:** **Denise Connolly** 525-7161 or 392-8511  
or Email: [Cemetery@duluthtownship.org](mailto:Cemetery@duluthtownship.org)  
**Planning and Zoning Administrator:** **Wayne Dahlberg**  
728-4293 (office) or Email:  
[WayneDahlberg@duluthtownship.org](mailto:WayneDahlberg@duluthtownship.org)

**Planning and Zoning Secretary:** **Carolyn Marino**  
Email: [CarolynMarino@duluthtownship.org](mailto:CarolynMarino@duluthtownship.org)

**Planning and Zoning Committee:** **Sue Lawson** (co-chair),  
**Toni Fladmark, Cindy Hale, Adam Hendrickson,**  
**Seth Levanen, Janet McTavish and Dave Miller** (co-  
chair).

email: [PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org](mailto:PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org)

**Peace Officers:** **Chief Shawn Padden,**  
**Steve Peterson, Tom Wick**  
Email: [PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org](mailto:PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org)

**Fire Department:** **Chief Barry Lampi**  
**Assistant Chief Bill Cox**  
Email: [FireHall@duluthtownship.org](mailto: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.)

## Calendar of Events

Aug. 30 4—7 p.m.  
Fall Goal-setting  
Conferences  
Book Fair begins

Aug. 31 12—7 p.m.  
Fall Goal-setting  
Conferences

Sept. 2  
First Day of School  
School starts at 8 a.m.

Sept. 6  
Labor Day/No School

Sept. 13  
PTA Meeting  
6:15 p.m. Social Time  
6:30 p.m. Meeting:  
Orientation to NSCS  
*Questions? Learn about  
the educational excellence  
at NSCS*

Sept. 15  
First Late Wednesday  
School starts at 9 a.m.  
every Wednesday until  
May 25

Sept. 17  
NSCS Community Fall BBQ  
5-6:30 p.m. Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Program  
*Community invited to  
attend.*

Oct. 4  
PTA Meeting  
6:15 p.m. Social Time  
6:30 p.m. Meeting: Math  
Night/Costume swap  
*Pizza will be served.*

Oct. 21-22  
MEA Break/No School

Oct. 29  
PTA Halloween Carnival  
*Fun for all ages. Funds  
raised support NSCS Edu-  
cational Enhancement.*

## ***NSCS Chairman's Report:*** **School ready, '04 enrollment strong**

The halls, cafeteria, gym and classrooms are waxed and buffed in preparation for the Fall 2004 school opening.

Observers have noticed the major expansion and improvement of our school parking lot. Parking has been a growing problem as the student population increased, particularly during major school events. With an expanded and striped lot, about 30 more cars can be accommodated.

Efforts are underway to secure signage that will designate about five slots adjacent to the portable classrooms as a "pickup and drop-off" zone to help alleviate the safety concern of children racing to or from their cars at the front of the main entry. The elongated slots adjacent to the sidewalk should be kept clear for school busses. Please be aware of these new school parking lot practices for the safety of all.

At the regular August Board meeting, a new provision was passed unanimously to petition the Minnesota Department of Education for a waiver to the statutory requirement that at the end of NSCS' third operational year, the board composition be a majority of licensed teachers.

The modification, if approved by MN DOE, would allow board membership of three licensed teachers, three community members and "a staff employee" (not necessarily licensed). This would broaden board participation to include other NSCS staff. The move is designed to take the burden of the majority off the teachers, while potentially expanding the role of NSCS dedicated non-licensed staff. More information will be communicated before the annual November election.

Enrollment is strong again this year. In the last year of operation as North Shore Elementary, there were 176 students. NSCS opened in Fall 2002 with 205 students and in 2003 with 222. This fall, 247 students are expected to attend. Openings exist in a few grades with waiting lists in others. If you know someone who is interesting in enrolling their child, please have them contact Mabelle at 525-0663.

The enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism of our staff, under the leadership of Mrs. Camper as director/principal, promises another great school year at NSCS.

*-Phil Strom, Board Chair*

## ***NSCS Fall BBQ set for Sept. 17***

North Shore Community School is once again kicking off its school year with a community BBQ. The event, set for Sept. 17, not only offers a delicious barbecue menu, but an opportunity to meet the NSCS staff, board members and other families and supporters of NSCS.

All students, parents, NSCS staff and area resi-



*Great food is just one reason to attend the NSCS Fall BBQ.*

dents are invited to attend. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. with dinner being served until 6:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., the NSCS staff have a special program planned.

Weather permitting, the event will be held on the front lawn of the school.

Donations to support the event are appreciated and essential to continuing such celebrations at NSCS.

The event is co-sponsored by the NSCS Board and the NSCS PTA.

## Pre-school orientation scheduled

Orientation for new pre-school students and parents will be held Sept. 15 at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Room 6 at North Shore Community School. All students are required to have a current immunization record on file prior to attending pre-school.

Pre-school classes begin Sept. 21. Class offerings are as follows: 1 day/week Wed. only; 2 days/week Tues. & Thurs.; 3 days/week Tues., Wed., & Thurs.

Both AM (9:15-11:30 a.m.) and PM (12:15-2:30 p.m.) classes are offered each day. Children going to Kindergarten the following year are encouraged to attend the three day program. Fees are collected monthly.

Class needs include: 4 oz. squeeze glue, 1 glue stick, 8 pack crayons (classic colors).

For more information, contact Kathy Johnson at 834-5429.

## NSCS welcomes new staff members

North Shore Community School introduces three new staff members for the 2004-05 school year.

**Robbie Tietge, First Grade Teacher**, received her teaching license from UMD in May 2002, but also holds a degree in biology and worked in the field as a biologist since 1983. She has been a NSCS parent, volunteer, and Duluth Township community member for 18 years. She has designed and taught numerous 'after school' science and environmental education programs.

**Derek McCorison, Technology Coordinator**, has a degree in Computer Science/Information Systems from the College of St. Scholastica and seven years of experience in working with technology.

**Sarah Selhorst, Food Service Assistant**, has two children attending NSCS and will enjoy being a part of their school day as she serves lunches. Her previous experience includes working as assistant cook at Minnehaha School in Two Harbors.

## Grants to fund Science/EIC mentor position, Roots for the Future curriculum development

The North Shore Community School Grants Committee was successful in obtaining two grants that will enhance education at NSCS.

The first is a grant for an AmeriCorps position funded for a ¼ time Science Program Mentor position for the '04-05 school year. Kevin Zak will work on Science curriculum development, with special emphasis working with 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and students.

In addition, the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation has funded Roots for the Future proposal with \$7,500.

"We plan to use the funds to allow teams of community members and teachers to work on grade level local history units," said B.J. Kohlstedt, Curriculum Director. "We are grateful for the opportunity to expand both of these programs, and eager to get started."

### Director's Corner:

## Reflections on school accomplishments, year ahead

I would like to thank all the community members, parents and staff that I have encountered over the summer for their positive responses to my appointment as the NSCS Director.

It is wonderful and amazing to feel so supported. While I have been busy getting my feet wet under Phil Carlson's desk, I have been thinking about all the things we have accomplished in our two years as a charter school family - an abundance of training for our excellent staff, increasing student enrollment, fabulous parent and community involvement, and tremendous facility and grounds improvements. WOW!

I am blessed to have the opportunity to facilitate and lead our school community while we continue accomplishing the things which make NSCS a great place for children to learn and grow.

Staff has continued to have training highlights as we enter our third year of charter status. Ann Ferrari and Anne Wiszowaty had a week

of Level 1 Responsive Classroom training, while myself, Tone LaBonne, Kristi Lounsberry, and Tara McCall attended Level 2 Responsive Classroom training.

All classroom teachers attended training for our brand new social studies curriculum, published by Houghton Mifflin, and for the new student system software, SiPS (Student Information and Performance System by AltonaEd). Teachers will take attendance and lunch count using SiPS and eventually parents will be able to access student records and check lunch accounts from home!

Teachers also reviewed the new Minnesota standards for science and aligned our science curriculum to them while enjoying some team building activities at our sponsor's location, Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center.

As you can see, we are off to a busy start of 2004-2005 as we strive to offer the finest possible education for your children.

*Respectfully, Sheri Camper*



*A School of Choice  
A Tradition of Excellence*

5926 Ryan Road, Duluth, MN 55804

[www.northshorecommunityschool.org](http://www.northshorecommunityschool.org)

Sheri Camper, Director  
Machelle Lampela, Ass't Bus. Mgr.  
Heidi Horoshak, Admin. Assistant  
B.J. Kohlstedt, Curriculum Director

**The public is invited to attend Board Meetings scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the NSCS Library. Agenda items need to be submitted to the office 3 days in advance.**

**For more information, call NSCS at 525-0663.**