Duluth Township Newsletter

January 2006

Thanks to all contributors to this issue:

Jeanne Anderson, Wendy Anderson, Jody Anderson, Ann Cox, Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooey, Shawn Padden, Todd Lindahl, Sherry Rovig, Rich Sill and Mary Ann Sironen. Thanks to Linda Hollinday for her work on our Township web site.

Note: If you would be willing to provide a masthead drawing or picture, please call the editor (525-0103).

Annual Township Resident Feedback Survey

Enclosed is the annual feedback survey of all Township households. It is intended to provide another avenue by which residents can express their views, concerns and suggestions on a range of Township issues.

Please provide your views and either mail the survey form back to the editor or put it in the Newsbox at the Town Hall. Please respond by January 31st. Note that the survey is anonymous, no names are requested. Results will be tallied and a report given to our Town Board and posted on our Township web site. A summary will also appear in the March Newsletter.

Election and Annual Town Meeting

Ann Cox, Clerk of Duluth Township

Duluth Township will hold an election for one 3-year term Supervisor position. Voting takes place March 14th at the Town Hall on Homestead Road from 7:00am to 8:00pm. Candidates for Town office may pay their $2.00 filing fee and file affidavits of candidacy with the Town Clerk from Tuesday, January 3rd to Tuesday January 17th at 5pm. Information about candidates will be provided in the March Newsletter. Be sure to vote.

The Annual Town Meeting is held on March 14th at 8:15 pm at the Town Hall. The March Newsletter will contain budget planning information. Plan to participate.

Duluth Township Community Center Events

Jeanne Anderson, Event Coordinator

Duluth Township Community Center Session III class offerings are listed on an insert in this Newsletter. Sign up! For information: Jeanne Anderson at 525-0663 x208 or email at janderson@duluthtownship.org.

Election Judge Applications

Ann Cox, Town Clerk of Duluth Township

Anyone wishing to be an election judge for the 2006 election season, please contact the Town Clerk (525-5705 by February 2nd. If you have been an election judge in the past and wish to remain on the list, please contact the Clerk.

Recycle old Inkjet cartridges at our Town Hall (by the “Book Exchange”). The proceeds benefit our North Shore Community School.

Township Police Department

Shawn Padden, Chief

Officer Tom Wick has resigned from the Police Department due to his full-time police load. We all thank him for his service to our Township and wish him the best. His patrol time will be temporarily picked up by other officers until a replacement is found.

Loose dogs and livestock are becoming a serious problem in the Township. Complaints come from walkers/joggers, people with children, drivers, etc. Beside being illegal to have animals not in direct owner control, it is dangerous, particularly at night. Legal liability may also be involved. Please keep animals fenced, on a leash, or under direct owner control on your own property.

In November our Police officers responded to 55 recorded events plus regular patrolling and paper work. These included 14 home/business checks, traffic (4 warnings, 2 assists, 2 suspicious vehicle checks, 2 medical emergencies, 5 burglar alarms, 2 careless driver search), 5 harassment/prowler complaints, 4 public assists, 5 animal complaints, 4 public assists, 1 identity theft, 3 damage to property.

To receive notices from our Police Department email Crime Alert service (also on our web site) send your email address to DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org.

Correction: The North Shore Community School address is: 5926 Ryan Road, Duluth, MN 55804. See typo in the “Duluth Township Reference Guide” distributed in the Nov. Newsletter.
January 4th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. New Year's potluck lunch and bingo.

February 1st, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Author Marlene Wius will discuss "The Co-op Label".

March 1st, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Program to be announced.

Everyone is welcome.
For information, call Helen Hendrickson at 525-4154

High Speed Internet
Kevin Olson reported that some 80 Duluth Township residents are connected to the new Coop Light and Power wireless internet service. They are exploring, with Qwest, the possibility of offering high speed internet through DSL lines in the Greenwood Road and Lakewood Road areas.

“9-1-1” Signs Available for Pick-up
Ann Cox, Clerk of Duluth Township

The following red/white 9-1-1 signs are ready to be picked up at the Town Hall during business hours.
- Jon and Elizabeth Luikart, 5710 North Shore Dr
- Mary Brown, 5385 North Shore Drive
- Ed Morris, 2012 Pioneer East

Land Use Permits are Required
The Township issues “land use permits” (commonly but erroneously referred to as building permits, since the Township does not have its own building code). These are available in the Town Hall (distributed with the new “Welcome to Duluth Township” booklet), or you can download the form from the Township web site.

No structure or part thereof shall be erected, constructed, reconstructed, moved or structurally altered including the addition of basements and no land shall change in use until the Planning Director has approved and issued a land use permit (p37, Zoning Ordinance).

The approval process can be as short as about 2 weeks but if there are complications, it could take several weeks longer. Note that if a septic system or sewer connection is involved, the land use permit requires that permit number. Complications include incomplete applications, or the need for a variance or conditional use hearing and its legal notification. See the booklet, Welcome to Duluth Township, and our Zoning Ordinance for details. The new zoning ordinance is available on our Township web site as well.

Note that Township personnel are part-time or volunteer (which saves some on your taxes!). Be sure to allow 2-4 weeks to process normal applications and more for incomplete applications or those with complications.

Submit the permit application and get approval BEFORE you start any part of the project. There is a penalty for beginning a building project before the land use permit application is submitted and approved.

Rural North Shore Senior Housing Initiative
For information, contact Helen Hendrickson at 525-4154.

A small group of residents interested in providing senior housing options for Township residents met November 21st at the Town Hall. They decided to change their regular meeting to the 2nd Monday each month. The next meeting is January 9th. The January meeting will focus on electing leadership and planning goals for 2006. So far a range of types of housing have been discussed; several experts have presented information; an informal survey of interests was reviewed; site options and financing options have been discussed as well.

The regular meeting is the 2nd Monday at 7pm in the Town Hall on Homestead Road. If you are interested, please attend.

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District
Mary Ann Sironen

A benchmark has been reached with the D/NSSD Sewer Project. The ice in the creeks and streams leading to the Lake is white this year! With the construction of the collection system that carries sewage to WLSSD basically complete, the main goal has been met. Frontier Pipeline is finishing up the last few grinder pumps and connections. There are a few problem areas that require some immediate solutions, not the least of which is a defective "scrubber" on the Ryan Road station that isn't doing a proper job of managing the odor in that area. NTS has traced the problem to water leaking into the media and will be resolving it as soon as possible.

A "punch list" of restoration items has been updated and will be addressed as soon as weather conditions allow in the spring. Customers have been asked to submit their needs and concerns to NTS to be sure that all items of concern are on the list.

The Board has turned much of its attention to the business of directing the functioning system. Northeast Technical Services has been given the contract for day to day operations, with Eric Appelwick in the superintendent role. Katie Kuettel has joined the Board as a representative of the City of Duluth to replace Rick Certano who resigned and relocated. Her willingness to serve is greatly appreciated.

The Knife River-Larsmont Sanitary District has paid its portion of the main line construction costs and will be hooking into the system in the near future. The Board and others who worked with the preliminary project of bringing a sewer to the North Shore were saddened by the death of Larry Moon, chair of KR-LSD. Larry worked tirelessly to bring our needs to the attention of the state legislature and was instrumental in getting the grant funding that made the D/NSSD system possible.

As always, customers with concerns or questions should direct them to Eric Appelwick of NTS at 624-8042. Minutes and official business is on the website at dnssd.org. Meetings in 2006 will remain on the second Wednesday of the month at 0700 at French River Lutheran Church. The public is invited.

For information see their website: www.dnssd.org.
I first met Dave Erickson in the parking lot of North Shore School fifteen or more years ago now. He was leaning out the window of his pickup truck as I drove by. Exactly how or why I ended striking up a conversation with him is lost to time and memory. It was just a brief encounter but one that would be repeated many times over during the ensuing course of years: he in his worn pickup truck who drove endlessly around our community collecting “junk”. They did not see the mischievousness that simply couldn’t be hidden. You could see it in the way he loved Emmett his dog, and in the way he would live trap the squirrels that invaded his house, and release them safely back into the woods.

But most people didn’t know that. They only saw the worn man in the worn pickup truck who drove endlessly around our community collecting “junk”. They did not see the man who studied architecture at the University of Minnesota, the man who had been invited to work with (continued on page 4)
Coastal Council.

Ann Sironen was supported as representative on the Town Hall (access to sprinkler system water storage for other fires). The Fire Fees cover her time. Solar panels have been installed and tractor wheels were barrels of pansies and washtubs of daisies. To some a life of such promise may have seemed wasted. Dave never married, he never had any children, he never became a famous architect. Instead he decided to collect the things society was throwing away. He saw value and worth in the forgotten, the neglected, the discarded, the abandoned. His house became filled with the items and they spilled over into his yard stretching further and further out until they covered his fields. To anyone passing it appeared to be nothing more than one big junkyard but if you looked close enough, in and amongst all those items, scattered with the scrap metal and tractor wheels were barrels of pansies and washtubs of daisies.

Summary of Town Board Meetings
(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall and on our Township website: www.duluthtownship.org).

October 13th meeting. All supervisors attended. Mary Ann Sironen was supported as representative on the Coastal Council.

Treasurer report: $27,22.04 receipts, $56,867.10 expenses for an ending balance of $497,786.19. The Board reviewed their Program of Work created at their April 22nd special meeting. Police report (see article). Fire: The Fire Department retirement fund requested an increase from $600 to $700 per year for fire fighter retirement which the Board approved. The State auditor indicated the fund could support $1000/year of service. Community Center: Coordinator Jeanne Anderson has been putting in a great deal of effort organizing classes. Fees cover her time. Solar panels have been installed on the building with educational displays. The Fire Department will not be part of the “Firewise” program (access to sprinkler system water storage for other fires). Town Hall: Federal mileage rate is now $0.485/mile. Planning: Assistant to the Planning Director, John Kessler, will have office hours one day per week at the Town Hall. A preliminary copy of the “Adult Use” ordinance was distributed. Supervisor Wendy Anderson organized an information sheet to be included in the Welcome to Duluth Township booklet (mailed with the November Newsletter). The Board approved Planning Chair Sue Lawson’s request to apply for a grant to purchase a computer and printer for the Planning Commission. It will have the GIS mapping program with Township data to assist Township residents in their planning. Jeff Cook and Dan Tanner (alternate) represent us on the McQuade Joint Powers Board.

November 10th meeting. Supervisors attending Wendy Anderson, Jeff Cook, Chair Stephen Dahl, and Corlis West. A petition to increase the minimum lot size on their own properties to better protect the Sucker River’s future was presented for owners of 422 acres. It was forwarded to the Planning Commission. The Town Board will take the next steps to enforce the junk car ordinance on the Rajavouri property as requested by a resident. Treasurer: $21,548.01 receipts, $24,216.49 expenses, ending in $495,191.71. Community Center: The Board denied a request from a group to use the school trail for “Geo Caching”. Soccer field grant is in but no decisions thus far. The Board discussed a possible request to remove the Community Center reversionary clause. Planning: The fee structure for Planned Unit Developments is initially set at $1,500. StLouis County forest land is certified sustainable which means the Township will be involved in reviewing any proposed sale of tax forfeit land. It was requested that a letter be sent to the sewer board requesting their protocols for obtaining a sewer permit so that can be coordinated with our building permit process. Recycle: A meeting will be requested with the DNR and WLSSD on reestablishing the south recycle center at McQuade. The harbor should be open by Fall, 2006. Community Center: The school is setting up a fact-finding committee to discuss replacing the portable classrooms with a solid structure. Supervisors Wendy Anderson and Steve Dahl will be on that committee.

The Next Town Board meeting: (2nd Thursday) Jan 12th at 7:00pm, Town Hall.

Residents are invited to attend these public meetings.

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

October 27th meeting. To be reported when minutes are available.

Next Planning Commission meeting: (4th Thursday) Special meeting on Jan. 5th and regular meeting on Jan. 26th at 7:00pm, Town Hall.

Residents are invited to attend these public meetings.

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Robin Whaley provides safe, trustworthy care for your pets at your home anytime you need it.
Call 834-6454 for a free initial visit.
Serving the North Shore and Two Harbors Area
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Commercial Fishing Part II – After La Pointe
Todd Lindahl

Northeastern Minnesota had always been and remained Indian land up until 1854. In that year the second treaty of La Pointe was ratified and most of the arrowhead region was opened to white settlement. While the main interest was focused on mineral exploration, there were some that engaged in the commercial fishing business. By 1857 there were 10 fishermen between Duluth and Knife River and 89 more between Knife River and the Cook county line. Most of these gave up and fled the area during the financial panic of 1857. Activity in the region was pretty lethargic until the arrival of the first railroad into Duluth in 1870. The town began to grow rapidly and commercial fishing once again bobbed up from oblivion. By 1885 there were 195 fishermen operating out of Duluth alone. Small collection vessels plied the waters of the north shore collecting fish from isolated fishermen. These small vessels made it an easier and more efficient operation. Unfortunately those

(continued on page 5)
early watercraft were grossly inadequate when it came to being out on Lake Superior. Most of them ended their days at the bottom of the lake or as wreckage washed up on some shoreline. Some of these boats were so unsound that people routinely predicted their demise. In 1884 the A. Booth Fisheries arrived on the north shore with their fleet of freight and passenger packets. Sadly the first four of these boats also ended up on the bottom. Finally the United States & Dominion Transportation Company (The Booth Line) assigned some more suitable boats to the north shore run. The U.S. & D. T. packets are mostly remembered as passenger boats, but their main function was to pick up fish from commercial fishermen along the north shore to Thunder Bay and Isle Royale. Booth Fisheries was the largest fish supplier in the U.S. for many years. During 1899 another major fish collection enterprise, called the White Line Transportation Company, began operating on the north shore in direct competition with Booth. They sold their operation to Booth in 1905 after a series of disasters and bad publicity. When the Str. America sank on Isle Royale in 1928, the U. S. & D. T. ceased their north shore service. By this time most of the north shore fish trade was being collected with trucks. From Two Harbors to Duluth it was either trucks or by railroad. In certain locations special "fish platforms" were provided for the fishermen. By 1946 5,000,000 pounds of herring and 1,000,000 pounds of trout were coming from the north shore. By the end of the 1950's a combination of over-fishing and the accidental introduction of the lamprey all but destroyed the industry. Today fish populations have greatly recovered and sport fishing has become very popular. Commercial fishing however did not bob up from oblivion this time - at least not yet.

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department
Barry Lampi, Fire Chief

Fire personal protection equipment including improved air packs were received and distributed. These were purchased with FEMA grant funds. A grant application is being considered to replace the older water tanker.

Calendars -- Again this year, our Clifton Volunteer Fire Department is distributing their 2006 calendars to each Duluth Township household (free!). Printing is a bit late this year but you will receive one! Extras will be at the Town Hall. Ads in the calendar help support our Clifton Fire Department. Please support the businesses that have ads in our calendar.

Fire Box -- Our Fire Department is considering offering residents, especially businesses, an opportunity to purchase a "Fire Box". This is a box, something like a realtor's key box that would contain a key to your property that only our Fire Department would be able to access (they hold a special key for the box). This would allow the Fire Department to enter your property in case of emergencies. The enclosed survey asks about interest in this item.
Inside this Issue:

- Township Calendar
- Town Board meetings
- The History Corner
- **Annual Resident Feedback Survey**
- D/NSSD report
- Police & Fire information
- Classes at Community Center
- Commercial Fishing Part 2

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.

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Duluth Township Information

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

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

**Supervisors:**

- **Wendy Anderson** (2005-2008) 525-0263
  or Email: WendyAnderson@duluthtownship.org
  (responsibilities: Community Center, Board of Adjustment, NSCS endowment)

- **Jeff Cook**, (2003-2006) Board Vice Chair 525-4010
  or Email: JeffCook@duluthtownship.org
  (responsibilities: Personnel, Police Dept, DNSSD, Zoning, N Shore Mgmt Board, RSPT stormwater team, McQuade Harbor)

- **Stephen Dahl**, (2004-2007) Board Chair 525-4679 or Email: SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org
  (responsibilities: Community Center, Town Hall)

- **Dan Tanner** (2005-2008) 525-4087
  or Email: DanTanner@duluthtownship.org
  (responsibilities: Roads, Cemetery, outside mtgs.)

- **Corlis West**, (2004-2007) 525-7719
  or Email: CorlisWest@duluthtownship.org
  (responsibilities: Roads, Fire Dept, Zoning)

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

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

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

**Cemetery:** Denise Connolly 525-7161 or 525-1902
  or Email: Cemetery@duluthtownship.org

**Planning and Zoning Administrator:** Wayne Dahlberg
  Assistant to the Administrator: John Kessler 393-8500 or Town Hall hours: 3:30-5:30 Wed or Email: JohnKessler@duluthtownship.org

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

**Planning and Zoning Committee:** Sue Lawson (Chair), and
  Dave Miller (Vice Chair), Dave Chura, Adam Hendrickson, Michael Kahl, Seth Levanen, and Jan McTavish.
  Email: PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org

**Peace Officers:** Chief Shawn Padden, Officers: Mike Peterson, Steve Peterson
  Emergencies 9-1-1, Messages 525-5705 or 393-8407
  Email: DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org

**Fire Department:** Chief Barry Lampi, Assistant Chief Bob Engleson
  Email: FireHall@duluthtownship.org

**Community Center Event Coordinator:** Jeanne Anderson
  525-0663 x208 or Email: EventCoordinator@duluthtownship.org

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

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Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

**McQuade Harbor construction area**