Duluth Township Newsletter

July 2006

Thanks to all contributors to this issue:
Jeanne Anderson, Wendy Anderson, Jim Cowper, Ann Cox, Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooey, Kathy Johnson, Todd Lindahl, Howard McCormick, Janet McTavish 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 or leave a note at the Town Hall.

Upcoming Community Center Class Offering
Jeanne Anderson, Event Coordinator

Classes will begin in September. Mark your calendars! This fall a new class, Mind Body Wellness, will be offered by local physician Susan Nordin. If you have an interest in improving your sense of well being and reducing your levels of stress this class is for you. The classes will focus on five basic themes including stress reduction, healthy eating, movement, self discovery and the group experience. These experiential classes will be held in small group format in which a variety of mind body skills will be introduced. Mind body skills make use of the connection between mind and body, and include techniques such as breath work, imagery, mediation, and movement (such as gentle yoga and dance). They involve the body's "relaxation response" and promote health by decreasing the effects of stress. Past participants of these classes have reported a remarkable increase in their sense of well being. For more information contact Susan Nordin at 525-2702 or msnordin@verizon.net.

Look for a class schedule in the September Duluth Township Newsletter. If you are interested in teaching a class or have comments or concerns, please contact Jeanne Anderson at 525-0663 x208 or by email at janderson@duluthtownship.org.

School Readiness
Kathy Johnson, Preschool Director

School readiness is an important component of education in our schools. At NSCS we now have a scholarship program for enrollment in our community pre-school. Pre-school scholarships are offered to help prepare your child socially, emotionally, physically and mentally for kindergarten. It is designed for 4 and 5 year olds, with preference given to those entering kindergarten the following year. Both parent participation and consistent attendance are required. For more information: Kathy Johnson, Pre-school Director, 525-0663 ext 106.

Come On Home Party
Saturday Afternoon August 12th, 1-4:30pm
At Our Town Hall on Homestead Road

Join your Duluth Township neighbors for lots of music, dancing and refreshments.
It’s FREE! For everyone in our community – new residents, old-timers, kids, friends, young and old.
Its a gathering to have fun and build a strong and caring community. Get to know your neighbors. Find new friendship connections.
Join your community’s Annual gathering!
Bring someone you know, introduce yourself to a neighbor you don’t know.
EVERYONE WELCOME!
For more information call Helen Hendrickson, 525-4154

Please Pick up your 9-1-1 Sign!
Town Clerk, Ann Cox

The following 9-1-1 address signs need to be picked up at the Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 during regular business hours.
Roger Rose, 5252 McQuade Road
Dean Townley, 2255 North Star Road
Leslie Bruckelmyer, 6271 Bergquist Road
Daniel Ring, 5736 North Star Road
Mary Brown, 5385 North Shore Drive
Jon & Elizabeth Luikart, 5710 North Shore Drive
Mandi Jackson, 1390 Torgeson Road
Donna Brenna, 1456 West Knife River Road
David Muonio, 6375 Ryan Road

9-1-1 signs are critical for emergency folks to find you if you call for medical, police or fire help. If you have the old style sign you might consider replacing it with one that is printed on both sides so it can be perpendicular to the road. The cost is $25, a bargain should it be needed!

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department
Barry Lampi, Fire Chief

The Fire Department is preparing the 2007 Clifton Fire Department calendar that is distributed free to Township residents.
If you or your business would like to support the Fire Department by placing an ad in the calendar, please call Jody Anderson at 525-4971.

Mailed to 894 Duluth Township homes and businesses. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to the volunteer Newsletter editor, Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the NewsBox on the Town Hall porch. The Newsletter is printed locally by BB&K Printing, and mailed for us by UDAC.
Newsletter Correction: The speed limit at the Talmadge is 40mph, not 50mph.

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

The Homesteaders

Helen Hendrickson

July 5th  Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Annual Picnic and Bingo.

August 2nd  Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Luncheon Program by Marlene Wisuri.

September 6th  Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Luncheon, and a program on Bird Flu plus some music.

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

Congratulations to resident Sue Lawson on receiving the Bush Foundation Leadership Fellowship, a year-long program on community decision making and alternative dispute resolution. This award was announced in the May 3rd News Tribune. Sue has been very active in the Township on our Planning Commission and she has been called upon to facilitate Township meetings.

Rural North Shore Senior Housing Initiative

A group of residents are exploring ways to help our seniors stay in the community. The next meeting is July 10th (2nd Monday each month) at 7pm in the Town Hall. Interested residents are invited to participate. For more information contact: Janet McTavish, 525-0103 or Helen Hendrickson, 525-4154.

Community Center

Building Addition Team

This is a large and representative committee that is looking into the feasibility of an addition to our Community Center. Meetings are the first Tuesday each month (next meeting is August 1st). Working meetings are open to the public. For more information contact: Sheri Camper (525-0663) or Wendy Anderson (525-0263).

North Shore Community Greenhouse

We are still seeking volunteers to assist with summer maintenance of our greenhouse and gardens at the North Shore Community School. Please call Kathy Johnson 834-5429 if you can help.

Massage Therapy … On the North Shore!

Lisa Richards Massage Therapy

5722 Homestead Road
(218) 428-2858

Lower Level, Cooley Chiropractic Building
On-site or Event Appointments Available

High Speed Internet Update

Kevin Olson of Coop Light and Power reported that some 90 Township residents are using the wireless, high-speed internet service. CLP is planning to add capacity in the area. They are also considering providing phone service over the internet.

The high-speed internet service is like the phone service…problems outside (from the wall outlet to the antenna on your roof) are taken care of by CLP at no charge. Problems on the inside of the house (red wire on in) are a service call for which the service company would have a repair charge.

Some inside problems have been caused by lightning strikes where the inside router (especially the wireless inside routers) have been damaged (possibly even strikes a ¼ mile away rather than direct hits). If this happens, you would lose your internet connection and may have to buy a new router to replace the one you originally purchased (that CLP initially installed). The solution is to turn off the electricity to the router during lightning storms (e.g. turn off the power strip to the router).

Kevin urged users to contact him if they encounter problems such as slower service. Sometimes storms can blow an antenna out of alignment. If you call, they can run diagnostics on your connection from their office.

While you can get service help for inside-house problems from other providers, CLP will schedule a service person if you call them at 834-2226 (this is apparently somewhat less expensive). CLP contracts service and installation from Chris Nyberg at Cable, Dish and Satellite Service. His cell phone number is 393-2142.

A new book by a local resident, Dorothy Aho

“A Journey of Love into Peace is a compilation of wonderful channeled material, and Dorothy’s spiritual journey and experiences.” Ronna Herman

To purchase a copy call Dorothy Aho, 525-7415.

A fire this Fourth of July weekend destroyed the home of John Heise, a Township resident on the App Road. If you can help out with household items, contact his neighbor and our Fire Chief, Barry Lampi (525-4842).
April 13th meeting. All Supervisors were present. The reorganization meeting was slated for April 25th however the new chairperson (Dan Tanner) and vice chairperson (Wendy Anderson) were elected.

Mr. Rajavouri's pending violation of the junk car ordinance was addressed in court. A plan with dates for compliance is being drawn up.

Reports: Fire: reported a mutual aid and two medical calls. A FEMA grant for a water tanker was submitted. The State is requesting a higher relief association payout. Community Center: A grant for upgrading windows was submitted. A 5-year NSCS lease is being considered. Recreational field bids are out. Legal: A draft of the Sexually Oriented Business ordinance was reviewed and discussed. Roads: Heavy rains and poorly maintained driveways can erode roads and owners may be liable. There are water and ice problems on Shilhon and Gamble Roads. Planning: Supervisor Jeff Cook has written our required MS4 stormwater management report. The County passed the resolution adjusting their zoning. Our zoning is now in compliance. Cemetery repairs and cleanup were discussed. Nokomis liquor license was renewed.

April 25th Planning Meeting. Attending: Supervisors Wendy Anderson, Jeff Cook, Steve Dahl and Corlis West. The purpose of the meeting was the annual reassignment of oversight duties among Supervisors (see Supervisor list on front of this Newsletter). The Board also discussed, with department heads that were available, plans for their work for 2007 and issues they will be considering. There was also a discussion of future Township space needs (requested by the Building Addition Team as input for considering the feasibility of future additions to the Community Center). Resident Sue Lawson served as facilitator for the planning part of the meeting. Using this meeting's discussion as a basis, our Town Board organizes a program of work for the coming year. For details, see minutes on the web site or at the Town Hall.

May 9th special meeting. The meeting was to open proposal bids for the Community Center recreational field. Grant funds were received for the project. One proposal was submitted (Walter Carter). As posted, a final decision will be made May 11th. Attending: Steve Dahl, Corlis West and Wendy Anderson. The Board of Supervisors as a whole serves as the Township Recreation Committee.

May 11th meeting. All Supervisors attended. Audience concerns included: Junk car and loose cattle damage and location of Adult Use business. An increase in grave opening expense due to fuel costs (from $350 to $500) was approved. Reports: Community Center: A $6000 planning grant was received for new windows in the building. The window replacement grant will be submitted following the planning phase. The NSCS will request use of Capital Improvement funding for final payment of the sprinkler system. Community recreation field bid for $16,000 was accepted from Carter Construction. The contract will be renegotiated to fit available funds. Various clubs and groups have promised $3,000 for the work. The Township is allowed to seek donations and gifts. Legal: A plan for Mr. Rajavouri to complete work to comply with our junk ordinance was approved. There is no statute regulating runoff from driveways. Our attorney will work on a fire lock box agreement. Town Hall: Floors will be resurfaced. Supervisor Anderson will research off-site record storage options. Planning: Dave Chura was thanked for his extensive work on our Adult Use ordinance. The Public Hearing is May 30th. Gary Berggren was approved as community member on the Board of Adjustment (property assessments). Recycling: WLSSD study of large roll-aways and monthly curb side pickup and recommended a 2-year pilot study of curb side pickup for residents in the DNSSD sewer district area. Other: Lakeview Castle liquor license was renewed.

June 8th meeting. Supervisors Anderson, Cook, Dahl and West were present. No public concerns were raised. The Treasurer reported deposits of $20,718, expenses of $30,369.35 and an ending balance of $615,865.40. A CD coming due will be diversified to another bank. Reports: Police: Mr. Rajavouri is making approved progress on junk car compliance. Questions were raised about a sheet metal fence being used. A Data Terminal for our Police car is being pursued. Community Center: Sprinkler system is being installed. The County grant for the recreation field was $10k (not $20k as requested). NSCS can be eligible for a grant to replace all windows with more energy efficient ones but the Township and NSCS need to agree on a 5-year lease term. This was approved. Legal: Attorney Tim Strom will look into the possibility of limiting the Adult Use ordinance to one zoned site (old missile base). Following the new state statute HF3779 strip clubs will not be included in the ordinance. The amendment was tabled to the July meeting. Town Hall: Floors will be refinished. Planning: Revised fee structure was approved, effective immediately. Compliance of the new ordinance and the North Shore Management plan is being reviewed. Roads: Chloride has been ordered. A resolution encouraging the County Board to support a smoke free policy was approved. The New Scenic Café liquor licence was approved.

The Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thursday) July 13th and August 10th at 7:00pm in the Town Hall. Residents are urged to attend these public meetings.

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

March 23rd meeting. Attending: Hendrickson, Kahl, Lawson and Miller. Dave Miller was elected chair and Dave Chura was elected vice-chair. Adam Hendrickson was elected as the Planning Commission member of the Board of Adjustment.

On March 14th the County Board approved changes in the County zoning that brought those in line with our Zoning Ordinance. Office space for Planning Commission use is being remodeled (the closet by the kitchen). The required MS4 stormwater report is being written by Supervisor Cook and Dave Miller. The sexually oriented business ordinance will be sent to the Board for review. A public hearing is anticipated by June before the moratorium on such businesses expires. John Kessler is updating the land use application form to include more explanatory and educational material. Forms for conditional use permits and planned unit developments are underway. A sub-committee will be set up to review performance standards and definition of the LIU (light industrial use) zone districts in response to audience concerns.
April 27th meeting. Members present were Dave Chura, Janet Green, Adam Hendrickson, Michael Kahl and Dave Miller.

The Planning Director reported the Duluth Planning Commission and the Stoney Point developers are rumored to be working on a land exchange around the Little Sucker River as a resolution to Congdon Trust land legal issues. No new PUD application has been made.

A draft of the sexually oriented business ordinance was discussed. There needs to be some location within the Township where such businesses are permitted. The proposal was the Bomarc Missile site on the Bergquist road (zoned LIU). Gary Berggren questioned why it needs to be in an LIU area. A public hearing on the proposed ordinance was scheduled for May 30th.

Wayne Dahlberg and the owners presented a site plan for a restaurant on a 1.27 acres of commercially zoned land on Homestead Road near the expressway. The plan is for a 2900 sqft building seating 80-100. A stormwater plan will be required. Wayne and Sue Lawson will have to abstant from participation since they are also involved in the design of the building. Mark Johnson or Scott Smith from the St Louis County Planning would handle the permit due to Wayne’s involvement in the design.

Permit fee comparisons with other townships were discussed. Coop Light and Power submitted an environmental review for their proposed substation on Homestead Road. The coordination of land use permits with the D/NSSD sewer district was discussed.

May 25th meeting. All members attended: Chura, Green, Hendrickson, Kahl, Lawson, Levanen and Miller.

Gary Berggren noted that House bill 3779 and Senate bill 3394 apparently state that a township does not have to allow property to sell souvenirs. Lot coverage needs to be documented to proceed.

Audience concerns: Mr. Stan Henricksen inquired about the LIU review process is in planning stages. A letter is being drafted to send to various stakeholders. This will be discussed at the June meeting.

A draft of Planning Commission staff responsibilities was discussed. The 60-day rule was discussed concerning when the clock starts.

A revised fee schedule was discussed and adopted to be recommended to the Town Board.

A strategy for proceeding on projects indicated in our Comprehensive Plan will be discussed at the June meeting.

Audience concerns: Mr. Stan Henricksen inquired about a 1910 streetcar on the Heinz Beachway Motel property to sell souvenirs. Lot coverage needs to be documented to proceed.

Next Planning Commission meetings: (4th Thursday) July 27th and August 24th at 7:00pm, Town Hall. Residents are invited to attend these meetings.
been at work clearing trees and brush along the survey line in preparation for the grading. On May 8th Smith Searles and his cook from the Half Way House stage stop at Palmers was at Two Harbors awaiting the start of construction. At that time, he would return to Palmers where one of the three large contractor crews would be based. They would cook and provide services for the men during construction. This was sort of the last hurrah for the stage stop since the coming of the railroad would put the Barney Lynch's Stage Company out of business.

John S. Wolff, the very same contractor that built the line from Two Harbors to Soudan, won the bid for the new contract. Sub-contracting to him were The Wilson Brothers, Halverson & Company, George F. Fagan & Company, E. E. Erickson - Davis & Company, Theraton & Shaw, McArthur Brothers, LeMay & Company, Dombie & Gray, Starr & Company, and finally Paddy McDonald & Company.

Paddy McDonald ran the crew that cleared the trees and brush from along the right of way. He was a well-known pugilist (Boxer) who had fought some very noted heavyweight contenders. He was also the man who was entrusted by the railroad to carry the payroll by dogsled from Duluth to Two Harbors and then Soudan before the track was completed to there. Alone and at night, he carried in excess of $16,000 in gold and silver coins contained in a heavy wooden box with lid nailed down. A formidable foe with either deadly weapons or fists, he was a man to be reckoned with. Now he ran the crews engaged in clearing the line.

Two locomotives were loaded onto barges at Two Harbors and towed to Duluth to begin working on that end of the line. The excavation in the area of the Rose Garden in Duluth would prove to be the most difficult and was the last part of the line to be completed in late December 1886. There were other areas that required a considerable amount of blasting as well.

Eight large trestles and twenty-seven smaller ones spanned the thirty-five streams along the north shore. The two at the Sucker River were the highest and the one at French River the longest at 320 feet. All eight of the big ones were combination wood and steel Howe Truss bridges. They were replaced by the present iron bridges in 1896. (to be continued in the next issue)
Inside this Issue:

- Township Calendar
- High speed internet and lightning
- Town Board & Planning meetings
- Police & Fire information
- Community Center Class info.
- The DN&IR Lake Division

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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

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, 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) Vice Chair, 525-0263
or Email: WendyAnderson@duluthtownship.org
(responsibilities: Community Center, Board of Adjustment, Personnel, Planning, Senior Housing, Building Addition Team), Recycling (South meetings)

Jeff Cook, (2006-2009) 525-4010
or Email: JeffCook@duluthtownship.org
(responsibilities: Road & Bridge, Planning, DNSSD, McQuade Harbor Joint Powers, North Shore Mgmt Board, RSPT Stormwater)

Email: SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org
(responsibilities: Road & Bridge, Community Center)

Dan Tanner (2005-2008) Board Chair, 525-4087
or Email: DanTanner@duluthtownship.org
(responsibilities: Cemetery, Town Hall, Recycling (South meetings), Personnel, Outside Township Meetings – St Louis County and Duluth)

Corlis West, (2004-2007) 525-7719
or Email: CorlisWest@duluthtownship.org
(responsibilities: Fire, Police, Newsletter, Senior Housing)

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: 3:30-6:30 Wed. Starting April 4th hours: 3:30-6:30 Tues and 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, Jan Green, Adam Hendrickson, Michael Kahl, and Seth Levanen.
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.

Township Recycling Centers
North site – at the Town Hall, on Homestead Road
Bob Abrahamson and Caroline Marino now share staffing the center Tuesday 7-11am, 2-6pm, Thursday 3-7pm, and Saturday 8-12 noon.
South site – Closed due to McQuade Harbor construction
(Drop off only during recycling hours)