Duluth Township Newsletter

Duluth Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org

May 2006

Thanks to all contributors to this issue:
Bob Abrahamson, Jeanne Anderson, Ann Cox, Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooey, Kathy Johnson, Dave Yungner, Todd Lindahl, Janet McTavish (a special thanks for all the graphic work), Dave Miller, Don Mount, Shawn Padden and Mary Ann Sironen. Thanks to Bob Sundstrom and BB&K for donating the color in this issue.

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

Public Hearing
Proposed Sexually-Oriented Business Ordinance
Dave Miller, Planning Commission Chair

A Public Hearing will be conducted on Tuesday, May 30, 2006 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall to hear public comment on the proposed Sexually-Oriented Business Zoning Ordinance. The Town of Duluth Planning Commission will conduct the Public Hearing in front of the Town Board who will make the final decision after the Hearing. The proposed ordinance is on the Township web site and copies can be obtained at the Town Hall. The purpose of this Ordinance is to protect the health, safety and general welfare and property values of the citizens of Duluth Township.

The ordinance is not designed to affect nor place limitations or restrictions on the content of any materials nor to deny access to such materials as protected by the Constitution of the United States. It is designed to place limitations on locations and to prevent concentration of such businesses and to prevent additional criminal or otherwise harmful or undesirable behavior in residential neighborhoods, protect property values, and otherwise accomplish and promote the purposes of this ordinance.

The Ordinance was developed by reviewing similar ordinances in other locations and then adapting them to Duluth Township. The proposed Ordinance has been fully reviewed by the Town Attorney. Copies of the Ordinance are available on the Town web site or in the Town Hall.

What’s Coming Up?
Some Topics and Issues Being Considered.

Sexually-Oriented Business Ordinance. It is being reviewed and will be available at the Town Hall after May 11th. A Public Hearing is planned for May 30th at 7:00pm in the Town Hall. See the article in this Newsletter.

Feasibility of a Community Center addition. The Township and North Shore Community School (NSCS) are assessing future space needs at our Community Center. Working meetings of a large, representative group are noted in the calendar. The public is welcome.

McQuade Safe Harbor is under construction and the rumor is that it will be open sometime in 2007.

Community Center Classes this term includes a one-evening class on wills and trusts. See the insert.

Community Planning Projects. The Planning Committee is reviewing visions in our Comprehensive Plan to see which projects can be implemented.

Note that burning bans and road load limits are on.

Township Memorial Day Service
Bob Abrahamson

Our Township’s traditional Memorial Day observance to honor our service men and women will be held at 11am on Monday, May 29th at our Palmer Lakeview Cemetery. The Township cemetery is located on Old North Shore Drive east of Homestead Road. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

A prominent speaker is being arranged and will be introduced by George Sundstrom. The local Boy Scout Troop is the honor guard presenting the flag. The French River Lutheran Church choir will provide music. Donuts and coffee are provided as a gift to the community by the French River Lutheran Church women’s group. Resident Elle Johnson will be remembered. She put out memorial flags at the cemetery for many, many years, kept a log of our veterans, and was a 4H leader. She died recently.

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.
Supervisor Election Results
Ann Cox, Clerk of Duluth Township

66 people voted for Township Supervisor this past March, an unusually light turnout. Congratulations to current Supervisor, Jeff Cook who was elected for a 3-year term by a vote of 60 of the 66 voting.

Township Police Department
Shawn Padden, Chief.

Online safety for your kids—Our office received a packet of information from the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office related to MySpace.com and Teen Internet Use, outlining the potentially dangerous risks that social networking websites present to children.

Educational materials from the Attorney General provide tips for online safety (e.g. avoiding sex predators and problems on chat room sites). Note that on-line information is public to the world, leaving permanent records that can be reviewed and retrieved by others including banks, future employers, etc.

The packet includes information for parents, teachers and students. Information is available at the Town Hall.

Speeding: It’s fishing season! Slow down for cars parked along the Scenic Highway. Because of increased complaints about speeding along the shore, our police are aggressively enforcing the speed limits from Knife River to the McCuade Road. This includes the 30mph zone around the Safe Harbor construction site. The speed limit from the Talmadge River to the Lake County line is 50mph and will be enforced.

Our police reported 225 initial police events in the first quarter of this year. Over the three months this included 69 requested vacation house/business checks, 16 traffic warnings, 9 burglar alarms, 9 warnings for traffic violations, 6 medical emergencies, 6 checking hazards, 5 suspicious vehicles and 5 recovered stolen property.

Crime Alert reported that there have been some mailbox thefts on West Knife River Road. 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.

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department
Barry Lampi, Fire Chief

The Department applied for a federal grant to acquire a tanker truck outfitted with a pump.

Fire Box. Our Fire Department can provide and install a fire box on your property. This is a locked box containing a key to your property that is accessible only to fire and emergency personnel (the alternative in a health or fire emergency if a building is locked is to find a way to break in!). If you would like a fire box you can order one by contacting the Town Hall (about $30).

Please, No Artificial Flowers at the Cemetery

The Township has been having problems with the mess created by aging artificial flowers. This spring, like others, several large garbage bags of old flowers, wires and related trash that blows into the surrounding woods needed to be picked up. The flower stem-wires also create quite a hazard for lawn mowing. So, the new rule is that there should be no artificial flowers at our cemetery. A good alternative would be to plant crocuses, daffodils and tulips on grave sites. Please help keep the Township cemetery cleaned up. Thanks.

Duluth Township Community Center Events
Jeanne Anderson, Event Coordinator

Community Ed. Classes will start again in the Fall and please look for a list of class offerings in the September Township Newsletter. The classes that were offered had a pretty good turn out. Tai Kwon Do, Piano Lessons, Spanish (1st-6th grade) and Yoga were offered each session and we had enough interest to keep those classes going all through the school year. In the winter we offered Adult Volleyball, Fly Tying and a Stained Glass Class. These too were a success. Participants enjoyed having an activity like Volleyball during the winter months so that they could stay active and enjoy a team sport. Fly Tying participants learned how to tie their own flies so they could fish using their own flies. Stained Glass participants came out of class with their very own finished stained glass project and the ability to complete another project.

This Fall Duluth Township Community Education will be offering classes again. Please look for a class schedule in the September 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.

The Homesteaders
Helen Hendrickson

May 3rd, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Luncheon Program by The Mood Swings.
June 7th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Luncheon, Music by Jody Anderson and Sherry Rovig.
July 5th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Annual Picnic and Bingo.

Everyone is welcome. For information, call 525-4154.
Want to Car Pool?

Gas prices too high? Does it cost you $5+ for each trip to Duluth? How about trying car pooling? How about volunteering to help organize car pooling for our Township residents? If you could help out or are interested in car pooling to Duluth or Two Harbors (or elsewhere), leave your name (address, phone, email address, destination area, and days/times to help with the match-up), with the Town Clerk or email information to the Town Hall. Hopefully, someone will agree to help with the organization but on the first pass we may call or mail the list to each interested person. If you have better ideas, send them to the Editor.

Stay At Home Pet Care Services
Robin Whaley provides safe, trustworthy care for your pets at your home anytime you need it. Call 834-6454 for a free initial visit. Serving the North Shore and Two Harbors Area

Paid Advertisement

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

Paid Advertisement

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District
Mary Ann Sironen

RESTORATION! ...is the big project for Spring. Most customers whose sewers were installed last construction season still need work done to get their properties back in shape after the digging. A conscious decision was made by the Board last construction season to complete grinder pump and lateral line installations to hook up all customers before winter. That pulled crews away from the restoration work last fall so it’s a priority now. Frontier Pipeline has moved its major equipment and crews on to another job so customers will see a sub-contractor completing this restoration work. Eric Appelwick is the contact for this final part of the project as well as ongoing issues with the sewer system.

In other business, the Board is working with Duluth Township Planning and Zoning representatives to coordinate building permits. Requests for new sewer hook ups and the processes surrounding those applications require careful planning with the municipalities (Towns of Duluth and Lakewood, City of Duluth) and regulatory agencies (WLSSD, MPCA) involved.

Board meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at 0700am at French River Lutheran Church. The public is welcome. Check the website, www.dnssd.org, for current minutes and further information.

Township Calendar

See updates on www.duluthtownship.org. Official calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

May 2006

3, Wed, 12:30 Homesteader’s, Town Hall
3, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
8, Mon, 7pm Senior Housing group meeting
9, Tue, 7:00pm Community Center Building Committee meeting, Town Hall (feasibility of a future addition)
10, Wed, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Church
11, Thu, 7:00pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall
15, Mon, 6:30pm North Shore Community School Board meeting, NSCS Library.
17, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept: training, Hall #1
25, Thu, 7:30pm Planning Commission, Town Hall
29, Mon, 11am, Memorial Day Ceremony, Palmer Lakeview Cemetery (Old North Shore Road)
30, Tue, 7:00pm Public Hearing on our Sexually-Oriented Business Ordinance, Town Hall.

June 2006

7, Wed, 12:30 Homesteader’s, Town Hall
7, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
8, Thu, 7:00pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall
13, Tue, 7:00pm Community Center Building Committee meeting, Town Hall (feasibility of a future addition)
12, Mon, 7:00pm Senior Housing group, Town Hall
14, Wed, 7-9am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Training Hall #1
19, Mon, 6:30pm, North Shore Community School Board meeting, NSCS Library
21, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept: training
22, Thu, 7:00pm Planning Commission, Town Hall
23, Fri, Deadline for July Newsletter

July 2006

5, Wed, 12:30 Homesteader’s meet Town Hall
5, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
10, Mon, 7pm Senior Housing group meets, Town Hall.
12, Wed, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Church
13, Thu, 7:00pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall.
17, Mon, 6:30pm, North Shore Community School Board meeting, NSCS Library.
19, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept: Training Hall #1
27, Thu, 7:30pm Planning Commission, Town Hall
06 Annual Town Meeting

As required by law, Clerk Ann Cox opened the Annual Meeting. George Sundstrom was elected moderator. The 2005 minutes were approved as were The Lake Bank as bank of deposit, Duluth News Tribune as newspaper for publication of legal notices, and the Town Hall, Fire Hall #1 (Ryan Road), Scenic Café, and North Shore Community School as official posting places.

An outside auditor had been hired to audit the 2004 books and found them in keeping with Standard Accounting practices.

Department budgets for 2007 were presented and discussed. The only changes from that printed in the March Newsletter were that the Community Center figure was combined under the General Township budget and a $3000 item was added for two defibrillators (one for the Town Hall and the other for the police vehicle). The total 2007 budget is $305,785.50.

Election results for the 3-year Supervisor position were announced: Jeff Cook (60), George Sundstrom (4), Jan Green (1) and Beth Mullen (1).

Our 2007 Annual meeting date is March 13th.

The Treasurer reported deposits of $1,603.66 and expenses of $21,938.47 for a balance of $629,133.88.

Reports included: Community Center: Building Addition Team (BAT) purpose was distributed. This is the committee looking into the feasibility of a future addition to the Community Center. The NSCS is exploring having someone who works for the School, rather than Johnson Controls, to handle maintenance. Legal: Reversionary clause for the Community Center is being reviewed. Attorney Tim Strom recommended the Board get a copy of the Rural Minnesota Journal (www.ruralmn.org).

Planning: Planning Director, Wayne Dahlberg, reviewed St Louis County Board of Commissioners agenda for March 14th when they will act on suggested changes in the St Louis County Zoning Ordinance to make it fit with our new Zoning Ordinance. The Light Industrial Use (LIU-3A) zone district is being reviewed. Odyssey Development requested a cancellation of the planned public hearing.

March 26th Community Recreation Meeting (the Township Recreation Committee is currently the full Town Board). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and create a bid for the Duluth Township Community Center recreation field using the $20,000 recreational grant received from St. Louis County. It is for a regulation soccer field and space for the softball field. Bid deadline is May 9th and bids will be awarded at the May 11th Board meeting.

The Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thursday) May 11th and June 8th at 7:00pm in the Town Hall.

Residents are urged to attend these public meetings.

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

Next Planning Commission meetings: (4th Thursday) May 25th and June 22nd at 7:00pm, Town Hall.

Residents are invited to attend these meetings.

Avian Flu Report

Avian Influenza (bird flu) has the potential for being a pandemic that could have a variety of serious effects on you and your family as well as our broader community.

Jim Gangl of the St Louis County Health Department provided helpful information on things that families and communities ought to think about. The Newsletter will include some of this information from time to time. It’s time to inform yourself on this threat.

A serious influenza pandemic could cause problems that we all need to consider and prepare for. One estimate is that as many as 25% of the population would be sick at about the same time (with another 25% caring for them). Because of this, a number of services you count on could be curtailed or closed (e.g. your workplace, schools, banks, stores, public transportation and public services that depend upon people to operate). Health facilities would be busy and various supplies would likely be scarce. This could happen with a serious weather event too. So, it’s worthwhile to be informed and prepared.

There are a number of resources available to help you consider how you might need to be prepared.


Keep up on the news. Attend local informational events (for example, a recent event was put on by St Scholastica School of Nursing).

Some Questions and Answers:

- Is it safe to eat poultry? Yes, proper cooking would kill this virus (cook eggs until the yokes firm).
- How do people get avian flu? So far, only from wild and farm birds. Worldwide 200 humans have been infected and 113 deaths reported (4/27 News Tribune article), none in the US thus far. If the flu virus changes so it can be passed from human to human, then a serious problem would occur.

What can you do now?

- Be prepared at home (food, medicines, water, books, battery radio, credit card and/or money, etc. so your family could stay at home for a couple of weeks if necessary.)
- Stay healthy. Wash hands frequently, cover mouth and nose when you cough (use your upper sleeve if you don’t have a tissue), eat well, get rest, exercise, stay home if you are sick.
- Get informed: www.pandemicflu.gov or the Center for Disease Control hotline 1-800-232-4636. There are checklists of things your family, your work and our community should consider.
- Consider ways you could help those around you in the event of a serious pandemic. Consider how you could volunteer to help our community.
Spring afternoon along the Ryan Road

The Town of Buchanan
Todd Lindahl

For many years there had been countless rumors about copper, silver, gold, and other valuable minerals waiting to be found along the north shore of Lake Superior. Now, after the second treaty of La Pointe in 1854, the Ojibwa people finally ceded the land north of the lake to the U.S. Government. Work began immediately to survey the new land and also plat new town sites for the people that the government was sure would flood into the region. They guessed wrong and the flood turned out to be only a trickle. Most of these towns such as Waterville, Marmota, Burlington, and Saxton never developed any farther than lines on paper. Oddly, the future site of Two Harbors was not platted for any community at all.

Buchanan was one of only three towns that actually became reality. W. G. Cowell laid out Buchanan in October of 1856 and construction in earnest began immediately afterward. During the following year the U.S. Land Office moved from Portland (Duluth) to Buchanan giving the new community an impression of permanence. Sam Clark and John Whipple became the officials for the government. Before long there was a boarding house, hotel, and several inevitable saloons added. A dock with rock cribbing allowed boats, including the small steamer Seneca, to land.

When winter arrived the only way to get to Duluth was by dogsled, snowshoes, skiing, or walking on the frozen lake ice. A year later in 1857 the first newspaper printed on the north shore appeared. It was named the North Shore Advocate with Steven Walsh as its publisher. The paper ran for about a year and then ceased publication during 1858. About the same time that the newspaper began, a severe financial crisis hit the U.S. Investment or any interest in business quickly evaporated. North shore mineral exploration up to this point had produced insignificant and discouraging results. Worse yet, the "Mt. Everest of insults" came when it was discovered that the Government Land Office had mistakenly been built on somebody else's land.

As a result of these things, the Land Office moved back to Portland in the early summer of 1859. The remainder of the residents soon followed. Buchanan, the town with such a bright future, had become the first ghost town on the north shore. Today a stone monument marks the location of what was supposed to be the original town site of Buchanan. The monument however is a half-mile off from the correct location. It seems that after almost a hundred years, the government still couldn't get it right. Some things never change I guess!

Note: Buchanan was located on the eastern edge of Duluth Township at the west edge of Knife River at about the place that the railroad bridge crosses North Shore Scenic Highway. The Seneca delivered mail to an old dock on Lake Superior during Buchanan's 2 years existence. Residents in the area reported some old foundations and evidence of Indian trading.

The North Shore Community Greenhouse
Kathy Johnson

The North Shore Community Greenhouse is now handicap accessible due to the success of the "Engrave-a-Brick" fund raiser. Thank you to everyone who purchased a brick. Please stop in and enjoy the space!

Donations of time and money are always appreciated. If you can help, call Kathy Johnson, Greenhouse Chair. 834-5429.

Volunteer Opportunities include:
- Summer Greenhouse maintenance
- Adopt-a-plot landscape maintenance
- Helping with the Three Sisters Garden

Rural North Shore Senior Housing Initiative
Janet McTavish, Convener

The next meeting is May 8th (2nd Monday each month) at 7pm. This meeting is to walk a potential site for a senior housing project. The group will meet at the Community Center (North Shore Community School) on Ryan Road. Future meetings will generally be held at the Town Hall. Interested residents are invited to participate. For more information contact: Janet McTavish, 525-0103 or 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 McCaule Road
- Dean Townley, 2255 North Star Road
- Leslie Bruckelmyer, 6271 Bergquist Road
- Daniel Ring, 5726 North Star Road
- Mary Brown, 5385 North Shore Drive
- Jon & Elizabeth Luikart, 5710 North Shore Drive

Preschool Enrollment for Fall, 2006
Kathy Johnson

Enrollment for pre-school 2006-2007 are now being taken. Children ages 3, 4 and 5 are eligible to attend either 1, 2 or 3 days per week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday). Morning and afternoon sessions are offered. A registration fee of $25.00 is required to hold a space. For more information, contact Kathy Johnson, Pre-School Director, 525-0663 extension 106, or 834-5429.
Inside this Issue:

**Township Calendar**

- Town Board & Planning meetings
- Police & Fire information
- **Public Hearing** on Sexually-Oriented Business Ordinance
- Community Center Class info.
- **The Town of Buchanan**
- Avian Flu report

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6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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