Duluth Township Newsletter

Duluth Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org September 2008

What’s Coming Up...

Primary Voting — Tuesday, Sept. 9th, 7am-8pm in the Town Hall. See sample ballot on page 4.

Harvest Dinner benefit for our Volunteer Fire Department, Saturday, Oct 11th, 5-7pm, Town Hall.

Presidential Election — Tuesday, Nov. 4th, 7am-8pm in the Town Hall.

Registering to Vote — New Township residents (and others) who would like to register to vote can do so at the St Louis County Court House Elections Office (in the Auditors Office).

Absentee voter ballots are obtained at the St Louis County Court House Elections Office.

Police advisory — school has started. Stop for busses and use caution and watch for kids at roadside.

Annual Harvest Dinner!
The 6th Annual Harvest Dinner to benefit the Clifton Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders will be Saturday, October 11th from 5-7pm at the Town Hall.

Once again, we will be featuring local produce and home-cooked cuisine that’s sure to please. Live music, great desserts, and plentiful door prizes make this a memorable evening. Plus, you get to show your appreciation for some very hard-working community volunteers.

Anyone interested in assisting with this event or donating a door prize can contact either Jody Anderson at 525-4971 or Sherry Rovig at 525-0489.

Save Gas — Ride Share Parking
Parking spaces at the Town Hall have been designated to encourage ride-sharing. A map is posted at the Town Hall so parking doesn’t interfere with recycling and other Township functions (4 parallel parking spaces at south end of the road fence).

LOST: Cat named Buddy missing since July 10th. All grey with bright gold eyes, medium length coat. ID collar fell off. If you have seen him or have information, please call Jana Pastika at 525-3177, Thank you.

A special thanks to Supervisors Dan Tanner, Dave Mount, and Volunteer Firemen Bill Cox and Dave Dahlberg for the roof addition to Fire Hall #2 (by the Town Hall) to cover the sidewalk and prevent winter ice buildup.

Thanks to all contributors to this issue:

How about contributing to the Newsletter! — short articles about our history, poetry, pictures, masthead drawing or picture, etc. of interest to Township residents, leave a note for the editor at the Town Hall or email: dmctavish@lakenet.com

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**The Homesteaders**

*Helen Hendrickson*

**September 3rd**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall.
Luncheon, Program by local historian Todd Lindahl — Whiskey Row 2008.

**October 1st**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Harvest potluck. Program by Marlene Wisuri: *1958 Revisited.*

**November 5th**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall, Turkey Bingo.

_Everybody is welcome._
For information call Helen Hendrickson at 525-4154.

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**HELP WANTED** — Commercial photographer in Duluth Township seeking part-time office manager to manage image library in computer plus general office duties. Must be organized and detail oriented with general computer skills. Contact: rolf@rolfhagberg.com.

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**PART TIME PET SITTERS wanted**
flexible hours. call: 834-3310.

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**WANTED — Church Choir Director**

_French River Lutheran Church_ is seeking a director for the adult choir. Rehearsal on Wed. eve, one Sunday service. Position available Sept. 2008. Responsibilities 5-6 hrs/week, Sept-May. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications. Send resume to French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road, Duluth, MN 55804.

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**Growing soil, rotted manure, sand, gravel, rocks, big rock — Replace that old cast iron sewer pipe before it hits you in the dead of winter. Call for free inspection. (call Walt at 525-5092)***

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There is a need for a listing of various chore services for people in Duluth Township. Needed services might include mowing, snow shoveling, minor repairs, house cleaning, tilling, pick-up and delivery, etc. If you want to be listed in the Newsletter or Township web site, leave a note for the Editor at the Town Hall or email: editor@duluthtownship.org.

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**Fire Department Calendar Ads**

Anyone wishing to place an ad or highlight an event date in the 2009 Clifton Volunteer Fire Dept. calendar should contact either Jody Anderson at 525-4971 or Sherry Rovig at 525-0489 ASAP due to an early September printer’s deadline.

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**LOOKING FOR POETS** to start a poetry group in the Township. If interested, call Janet at 525-0103

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**Early Rural Electrification**

The Cooperative Light and Power Association of Lake County started May 14th, 1936 with a $60,000 loan from the Rural Electrification Administration, according to a CLP 25th anniversary publication provided by Ed Engelson. The publication describes efforts, initially by some 60 local farmers to get electricity into rural Lake County, by forming a cooperative. Initially, some 272 people signed up for co-op membership ($1).

Line construction started in September 1936. Frank Shelhon from Clover Valley served on the Co-op Board. Mr. Clayton Hopkins was the first Co-op engineer.

At first, power was purchased from Two Harbors. On February 28, 1937, 93 homes were lighted when lines to Waldo, Knife River and Knife River Valley were energized. Additional REA loans and additional applicants helped spread rural electrification to a broader area including part of our Township.

We take for granted what didn’t exist barely a lifetime ago.
From the beginning of settlement here, Duluth Township has relied upon the good intentions of its citizens to help create and build the community we desire. As was explained in one of the early essays, our zoning ordinance is the mechanism through which we encourage the most appropriate uses of our lands, protect their rural character and their natural resources to ensure a sustainable place for future generations. We continue to rely on the good intentions of our citizens to comply with the provisions of the zoning ordinance, including securing a land use permit for any activity being planned to erect, add onto, move, or in some cases, remodel; permitting is also required for large quantities of tree and brush cutting, and earth moving. If you have any questions about the need to obtain a permit for your project, please give us a call at 218-393-8500 — we’ll be happy to answer your questions.

The basic areas of land in any governmental unit are known and dealt with in our Zoning Ordinance as zoning districts, which you no doubt know about to some extent, within Duluth Township. References have been made in these essays to various locations or zones in which the rules for the use of the land are sometimes quite far apart. Most notably, what can be done in the upper sections against Alden Township can be very different than on Lake Superior’s shoreline.

Broadly speaking, the ordinance defines five different categories of “space”, or “zones”, in which usage is defined, and specific dimensional requirements for constructing buildings, drives and parking areas are spelled out. Here, in a nutshell, are the five zones and a brief description of each:

- **Forest Agricultural Management — FAM**: three sub-areas (FAM-1, FAM-2, and FAM-3) allow uses on land sizes ranging from 9 to 35 acres. These districts are intended to recognize, enhance and promote the Township’s forestry and agricultural industries, always recognizing its rural character.
- **Multiple Use Non-Shore Land — MUNS-4**: as defined, a moderately low level of development while maintaining and promoting the rural character of the Township is important in this zone, which is one of the largest zone districts in the Township. Current uses include residential, agricultural, recreational and home businesses.
- **Shore Land Mixed Use — SMU**: nodes of residential and commercial uses currently coexist, consistent with the recreational and natural attributes of Lake Superior. Limited expansion is encouraged while protecting existing residential lifestyles and property values. Minimum lot sizes vary from one to two acres with slight differences in setbacks from parcel boundaries.
- **Commercial**: Non-Shore Land — COM-3: only two small parcels are dedicated for concentrated commercial development, away from the lake, as defined.

(Planning Points, continued)
Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District

D/NSSD Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7 in the morning at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road. The public is welcome. For sewer service, contact Eric Appelwick, Northeast Technical Services, 624-8042, cell: 590-5911, Email: eapelwick@netechnical.com.

Senior Housing Initiative
Dave Edblom, Chair

In the next 3 months, the Senior Housing Initiative Committee will be focusing on ways to obtain land for the development of a senior cooperative housing complex in Duluth Township, as recommended by a recently completed research study funded by St. Louis County. A concept plan is being finalized to present to potential investors, housing developers and other governmental and non-profit entities. The Committee welcomes input from residents as they proceed.

The group usually meets the 2nd Monday at 7pm in the Town Hall. September’s meeting will be posted.

Recent Events
McQuade Safe Harbor grand opening was held July 18th with our legislators and a nice crowd attending.
Public Open Information Meeting on building plans at our Community Center, July 22nd.
Come On Home Community Party was held Aug 9th with a good community group attending.
Board of Adjustment appeal of denial of variance for Odyssey Development at Stoney Point.
Reworking and resurfacing Homestead Road

Pre-school Orientation
Orientation for new pre-school families will be held Tuesday Sept. 16th at 10:00am and 1:00pm in Room 16 at North Shore Community School. Classes begin Wednesday, Sept. 17th. Needs: 8-pack of crayons, 4oz “squeeze” glue, 1 glue stick.
A few openings remain. Scholarships are available to assist families with tuition costs. A current immunization record is required to attend. To register, contact Kathy Johnson at 525-0663 ext. 106 or at 834-5429.
The 2008 excavation of Whiskey Row has brought to light new insights into the early days of the fledgling community on Agate Bay as well as unexpected evidence indicating a prehistoric presence. Old questions have been answered, but equally mysterious new ones have emerged out of the soils of the murky past.

On September 3rd, I will be revisiting the Whiskey Row site in a program presented to the Homesteaders at Duluth Town Hall, at 1pm. This is a continuation of the program presented last year.

New artifacts, a number of which are unidentified and presently a mystery, were unearthed starting with the public dig June 23rd through 27th. During that week, untrained volunteers could sign up to get involved in actual hands-on archaeology work. The result was a total of 932 hours of excavation time and numerous artifacts and structural elements belonging to Whiskey Row buildings. At least two structures have been identified as saloons and additional relics have provided a window into the forgotten world that was Whiskey Row.

Some of the items located were identifiable as period pieces available between 1883 and 1887. Others are not so easily classified or understood. One prairie species plant root was dug up belonging to a plant not normally found in this area. Its leaves are known to have been used as a tobacco and a medicinal tea by prehistoric people. It also requires a long-standing grassy opening (such as prairie) to maintain a presence. Why is it here?

These and other questions will be addressed during the course of the program on September 3rd.
(Editor note: Come early! Homesteaders welcomes everyone. See the Homesteaders notice on page 2).

The State Attorney General offers several tips for Online Safety

- When you are online, anyone can see and read what you post.
- Never get together with someone you “meet” online.
- Never respond to messages that are hostile or inappropriate.
- Protect yourself: keep your identity private.

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings
(Official minutes by Planning Commission are available at the Town Hall and on our Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org)

June 26th meeting. Members attending: Dave Miller, Janet Green, and Chair Dave Chura, Michael Kahl, Yvonne Rutford. Dave Chura provided a copy of the public hearing process to be used in public hearings. A review of the Worden short term rental conditional use permit was discussed. A number of letters have been sent to the Worden’s concerning meeting conditions which were part of the approval for short term rental by the agreed deadline. After a lengthy discussion in which the Worden’s and neighbors spoke, a motion to revoke the conditional use permit for non-compliance of conditions was passed. The Worden’s are requesting a further conditional use permit for a second short term rental building in the Greenwood area. A community participation report was received.

Beth Mullen was hired as Planning Secretary.

A citation will be issued to Allen Nelson regarding refusal to abide by building permit regulations. Many letters and calls have been made over many months to resolve the issue but legal action appears to be necessary.

A grant was received for projection equipment. The County Land Use Commissioner will be asked to meet with the Planning Commission and Town Board to discuss tax forfeit land policies.

A policy was approved to entertain a variance when non-conformities are removed on non-conforming structures or lots.

A Planning Commission Policy Book will be created. There was a suggestion that example templates for participation reports be created. A policy discussion of the SENSO area was proposed.

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Pine Park Road. Mr. Schifsky presented a plat of this division. If there are no legal issues, it will become a matter for the Pine Park Road Association.

Whiskey Row — The Second Year
Todd Lindahl

Fire Safety Reminders

Check and clean stove chimneys to prepare for the heating season.

Check/replace batteries in all smoke alarms.
June 12th meeting. All Supervisors attended. A motion was made and approved for the 3rd Sunday in July to be “Lake Superior Day”. Minutes were approved and the Treasurer reported an ending balance for May of $758,634.65. A motion approved not to renew the $174,000 in CD’s coming due. Bids for a new FEMA grant fire tanker were referred to the Fire Department for review (Forstner Fire Apparatus $191,830 and Crimson Fire $302,000). Department Reports: Police: The new squad car is in use. There is a trespassing issue on Greenwood Road. The animal problems on the West Knife River road have been taken care of for the moment. Fire: Three fire calls last month. Roads: Road inspections near completion. Several small culverts will be replaced but roads look good. Community Center: NSCS lease agreement with a small increase was approved. Wendy provided a schedule for completing the comprehensive building plan. Contracts for BDP Architects and roof replacement with BDP Architects overseeing the contract were approved. The comprehensive land use plan survey was completed. We are in the second phase of the septic system update. Supervisors Meierhoff and Dahl were authorized to spend up to $5,000 to match the LP grant for improvements to the recreation fields. Legal: Several pending issues were reviewed (Elden cartway, Nelson building permit issue, Pine Park Road land use permits, Worden short term rental). Planning: Organizational meeting for the Board of Adjustment is July 16th. The number of land use permits is up this year. Tax forfeit land south of the Old Clover Valley high school will be discussed with the County Land Commissioner. Town Hall: Supervisors Tanner and Mount will share responsibility for Town Hall issues. A barrier will be constructed to prevent driving between the Fire Hall and the Town Hall to get water (it is over the well area). Wayne Dahlberg gave advice on extending the roof of Fire Hall #2.

June 17th special meeting — Elden Cartway hearing. Supervisors present: Jeff Cook, Dave Mount, Stephen Dahl, Wendy Meierhoff. Town Clerk Ann Cox and Town Attorney Tim Strom attended. Others present were Robert Roningen, Kim Maki, Greg Bolf, Rona Everson. Attorney Tim Strom moderated the meeting. Tim passed out an outline of items required for the proceeding. The Board found that petitioners own more than 5 acres of land and do not have access to a public road. After a lengthy discussion regarding cartway location, a motion was passed to recess the hearing to July 16th.

July 10th meeting. All Supervisors attended. George Sundstrom requested the Township subsidize the 08/09 pre-school program (special meeting scheduled for July 16th). The issue will be forwarded to our attorney for review. Concerns about County notification of sale of tax forfeit land and selling riparian land were raised. The County Land Commissioner will be invited to discuss these matters. Our Treasurer reported deposits of $202,750.22 (includes one of the twice per year tax payments from the County), expenses of $38,081.71 for an ending balance of $923,303.16. Department reports: Community Center: Wendy will handle details of the design plans and bids for the required septic system upgrade. Energy efficient windows are slated to be installed before school starts (using grant funds). The well was air-bound, not failing, and has been repaired. If Pine Park Road Association documents are sufficient, we can begin the permitting process (held up due to road access problems). Planning: Board of Adjustment will handle two appeals of Planning decisions. Paul Voge is chair. One is Odyssey variances for their Stoney Point development. The second is Worden’s appeal of revoked short term rental conditional use permit for non-compliance. Beth Mullen is the new Planning Secretary. Town Hall: Approved purchase of energy-saving “on demand” water heater. The new roof edge over the sidewalk on the Fire Hall was installed. Roofing of the Town Hall and Fire Hall will begin at the end of August.

July 16th special meeting. Supervisors present: Jeff Cook, Dan Tanner, Dave Mount, Stephen Dahl.

A resolution on replacement cost provided by the Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance and Trust was adopted. Our property and casualty deductibles were increased to $1,000 to help reduce insurance costs.

The Elden Cartway hearing was reopened. The parties are involved in negotiations and agree to continuance of a hearing set for August 19th.

Two contract packages for Coastal Grants were approved. One was to accept a grant for equipment purchase (projector/screen/speaker) with our required match of $1,066. The second contract was for $5,000 to offset the cost of the Center for Changing Landscape contract to help in planning grounds at our Community Center.

July 22nd special meeting. Supervisors present: Wendy Meierhoff, Stephen Dahl and Dave Mount.

George Sundstrom provided a resolution requesting that the Township donate $5,000 to help fund a community pre-school program. After discussion, a motion was made to provide a one-time support payment of $4,500 from the Community Center fund to support the pre-school program at the Duluth Township Community Center in recognition of its role as a center for youth activities. Motion passed.

The Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thursday) Sept 11th and Oct 9th at 7pm in the Town Hall. Residents are urged to attend these public meetings.

Our Representatives
St Louis County Commissioner District 5: Peg Sweeney (218-726-2450)
State Legislator District 6A: David Dill (800-339-0466)
State Senator District 6: Thomas M. Bakk (651-296-8881)
Governor: Tim Pawlenty (800-657-3717)
U.S. Representative: James Oberstar (218-727-7474)
U.S. Senators: Norm Coleman (651-645-0323)
Amy Klobuchar (612-727-5220)
President: George W. Bush (202-456-1414)
### 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](mailto:TownHall@duluthtownship.org)

**Town Office Hours:** Tues. and Wed. 8:30am-12am
Thursday 9am-12 and 4-6pm

**Planning Office Hours:** Assistant Director: Tue. 4-6pm

**Supervisors:**
- **Jeff Cook,** (2006-2009) 525-4010
  or Email: [JeffCook@duluthtownship.org](mailto:JeffCook@duluthtownship.org)
  (Responsibilities: Road & Bridge, Police, McQuade Harbor, Board of Adjustment)
- **Stephen Dahl,** (2007-2010) 525-4679 or
  Email: [SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org](mailto:SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org)
  (Responsibilities: Recreation Facilities, Duluth Assn of Townships, BAT, Community Center)
- **Wendy Meierhoff** (2008-2011) Vice Chair 525-0263
  or Email: [Wendy@duluthtownship.org](mailto:Wendy@duluthtownship.org)
  (Responsibilities: Newsletter, Website, Community Education, Personnel, BAT, Senior Housing, Community Center)
- **Dave Mount** (2007-2010) Board Chair 525-7961
  or Email: [DaveMount@duluthtownship.org](mailto:DaveMount@duluthtownship.org)
  (Responsibilities: Town Board Chair, Town Hall, Personnel, Planning & Zoning, BAT, North Shore Management Board)
- **Dan Tanner** (2008-2011) 525-4087
  or Email: [DanTanner@duluthtownship.org](mailto:DanTanner@duluthtownship.org)
  (Responsibilities: Cemetery, Fire Dept, RSPT, MPCA, Annual SSP)

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

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

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

**Cemetery:** Denise Connolly 525-7161 or 525-1902
or Email: [Cemetery@duluthtownship.org](mailto:Cemetery@duluthtownship.org)

**Planning Director:** Sue Lawson
  Assistant Director: John Kessler 393-8500,
  Email: [JohnKessler@duluthtownship.org](mailto:JohnKessler@duluthtownship.org)

**Planning and Zoning Secretary:** Beth Mullen
  Email: [PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org](mailto:PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org)

**Planning and Zoning Commission:**
- **Dave Chura** (Chair),
  **Jan Green,** Michael Kahl (Vice Chair), Bill Lannon, Seth Levanen, Dave Miller, and Yvonne Rutford
  Email: [PlanningZonng@duluthtownship.org](mailto:PlanningZonng@duluthtownship.org)

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

**Fire Department:**
- **Chief Bob Engelson,** Assistant Chief
  **Keith Darsow** Email: [FireHall@duluthtownship.org](mailto:FireHall@duluthtownship.org)

**Community Education Coordinator:** (to be announced)
  Email: [EduCCoordinator@duluthtownship.org](mailto:EduCCoordinator@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 Calendar

See updates on [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org). Official calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

**—SEPTEMBER 2008—**

2, Tue School starts — watch for busses and kids
3, Wed, 12:30 Homesteaders’ Town Hall
3, Wed, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
4, Thu, 7pm, BAT and Town Board meet with BDP Architects to review conceptual plans for our Community Center building, Town Hall.

**—OCTOBER 2008—**

1, Wed, 12:30 Homesteaders’ meet, Town Hall
1, Wed, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
8, Wed, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Church
9, Thu, 7pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall.
11, Sat, 5-7pm 6th Annual Harvest Dinner a benefit for our Clifton Volunteer Fire Department, Town Hall, see article
15, Wed, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: Training Hall
18, Fri, 2-4pm McQuade Safe Harbor grand opening
20, Mon, 6:30pm, North Shore Community School Board meeting, NSCS Library.
23, Thu, 7pm Planning Commission, Town Hall
23, Mon, Deadline for November Newsletter
26, Sun, 4pm Locovore’s meeting, Town Hall

**—NOVEMBER 2008—**

4, Tue, 7am-8pm ELECTION DAY, Town Hall
5, Wed, 12:30 Homesteader’s meet, Town Hall
5, Wed, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
12, Wed, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Church
13, Thu, 7pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall
17, Mon, 6:30pm North Shore Community School Board meeting, NSCS Library.
19, Wed, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: training, Hall #1
23, Sun, 4pm Locovore’s meeting, Town Hall
27, Thu, 7pm Planning Commission, Town Hall

### Township Recycling Center

North site – at the Town Hall, on Homestead Road
Staffing by Carolyn Marino and Al Anderson, Marlys Livingston, and Kathy Peer Tuesday 7-11am, 2-6pm, Thursday: Nov-March 2-6pm, April-Oct 3-7pm and Saturday 8-noon.

Below freeway curb recycling pickup service is now available.
(Drop off only during recycling hours)
Clifton Volunteer Fire Department
Bob Engelson, Chief

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Burning Permits required — You will need a burning permit if you need to burn brush/etc. Permits are available from the Town Hall during office hours, and from Fire Wardens: Jay Zink (525-5589), Jeff and Caroline Marino (525-6431), or the DNR office in Two Harbors (1568 Hwy 2, 834-6609).

The Fire Chief does not handle burning permits!

National Do Not Call List.
To have your phone number put on the “do not call” list, you can call 1-888-382-1222 or use the FCC web site: www.donotcall.gov.

Be Sure to Vote!

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department
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Mailed to 935 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 Bob Sundstrom, BB&K Printing, and mailed for us by UDAC.