What’s Coming Up…

Community Center Addition—contract was let for work to begin the week of July 5th. Layout is for 3 rooms. (see articles and schematic drawing on insert)

Come On Home Party — A Duluth Township community event on August 14th 1-4:30, at our Town Hall. All ages are welcome (see article)

Gypsy Moth Spraying—week of July 12th (see article)

Recycling Changes—plastic/tin/glass can be combined, household hazardous waste pickup on July 27th (see article)

Upcoming elections—Primaries Aug. 10th, General Nov. 2nd (see article on absentee ballots)

Town Hall closed July 23rd to Aug 3rd for scheduled floor maintenance.

Special Acknowledgments

Representative David Dill was thanked by our Board for his work on our behalf to settle the school property tax issue. He introduced a bill, now passed, that exempts Township-owned property leased for school use. Representative Dill also alerted us to apply for a one-time $30,000 grant from Taconite Tax funds which we will use to construct a skating warming building at our Community Center/NSCS. It will also house the school’s pottery kiln and provide outdoor storage.

George Sundstrom was thanked by the Town Board for his work with legislators and the Board in settling the school property tax issue.

Jody Anderson received an award for her many years of service as a good citizen in our Township.

Seth Levinen received an award acknowledging his years of service on the Planning Commission.

Our Town Board was thanked at the Annual Town Meeting for their hard work for our Township. A special thanks to Supervisors Steve Dahl, Wendy Meierhoff, Dave Mount, Mary Ann Sironen, and Dan Tanner.

Apologies for these acknowledgments being late. The May Newsletter was overflowing but our thanks is enduring!

The Homesteaders
Helen Hendrickson

July 7th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Annual Summer Picnic and Bingo. Everyone welcome, 525-4154

August 4th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Sing—a-long led by Cindy Gritzmacher. Coffee time follows. Everyone welcome 525-4154

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

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

Please Help Update Township Cemetery Records
Valerie Brady

The Township is moving our cemetery records from paper to the computer and we want to be sure that these records are accurate.

If you have purchased a plot for the Lakeview Palmers Cemetery in the last few years, please email the following information to Dan Tanner (email: Town Clerk@lakenet.com):

Name of the plot owner, year purchased, plot location information (section, block, lot, grave). If someone is buried in this plot, please include their name (if different from plot owner).

If you don’t have email, call the Town Hall during business hours and give your information to Town Clerk, Ann Cox (or the mailing address is Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804).
The Fire Department received a FEMA grant for extrication equipment. We will reapply for a FEMA truck and apply to the DNR for a grant to replace hose.

The Fire Department Auxiliary is accepting ads for the 2011 Township Calendar. They will contact businesses who advertised in the past. Anyone interested in placing an ad should contact Jody Anderson (525-4971) before August 31st.

The Fire Department appreciates the continued support it has received from our Township’s residents.

Bill Cox is both a fire fighter and first responder in our Clifton Volunteer Fire Department and is currently its President. He has served 24 years, responding to a call to help the then short-handed Fire Department. Bill recalls progress over the years, including a new fire hall on Ryan Road, getting younger recruits involved, and the increasingly supportive Township community. He is Field Representative for Labor Local #1091. Bill and his wife, Kelly, are life-long residents of the Township. They live on the Korkki Road with their 9-year-old daughter Sydney. Bill enjoys hunting, fishing, camping and winter sports.

Jerry Simmons is a fire fighter with our Volunteer Fire Department. He has been with the Department for over 20 years which he characterizes as enjoyable work. His father, Jim, also served on our Department. Jerry was fire chief for 7 years during which time our Township’s ISO insurance rating improved from 9 to 8 (currently a 7). He is pleased to have been a part of the Department upgrading its fleet with 3 new trucks. Jerry is Parts Manager for Kolar Chevrolet. He has a host of hobbies including hunting and fishing. Jerry has served 14 years with Courage Duluth in helping disabled children. For 7 years he has been a snowmobile safety instructor for the State of Minnesota.

There were 84 police events in May. Of the 24 types of events, the main events concerned vacation/home checks (26), serving civil process (7), traffic warnings (5), public assists (5), medical emergencies (4), juvenile runaway complaints (4), ATL DWI (4) and animal complaints (4). The June report will be available at the Town Board meeting on July 8th and online.

The CRIME MAPPING web site maps area crimes www.crimemapping.com. You can enter your address and see a map with the location of our Police Office and any recent crimes in your area.
Duluth Township Information — 2010
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. 8:30am-12am
Thursday 9am-12 and 4-6pm

Planning Office Hours: No posted hours, call the
Assistant Director for an appointment (393-8500)

Supervisors:
Stephen Dahl, (2007-2010) 525-4679 or
Email: SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Shares Roads, Community Center,
Recreation Facilities (JOC))

Wendy Meierhoff (2008-2011) 525-0263
or Email: Wendy@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Community Education/Recreation
Coordinator, Police, Alternate on Planning, Shares:
Recreation Facilities (JOC) and Community Center)

Dave Mount (2007-2010) Board Chair 525-7961
or Email: DaveMount@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities:, Board Chair, Planning &
Zoning, North Shore Mgmt Bd, Shares Town Hall.)

Mary Ann Sironen, (2009-2012) Vice Chair 525-2010
or Email: MaryAnnSironen@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Personnel, Newsletter/web site,
Duluth/County Assn of Twps, Senior Housing, Board
of Adjustment, Duluth/North Sanitary District, Alternate:
North Shore Management, Board Chair)

Dan Tanner (2008-2011) 525-4087
or Email: DanTanner@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Cemetery, Fire Dept, RSPT,
MPCA, SWPPP, Shares Town Hall and Roads)

Town Clerk: Ann K. 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: Town Clerk 218-525-5705
or Email: Cemetery@duluthtownship.org

Planning Director: Sue Lawson
Assistant Director: John Kessler 393-8500,
Email: JohnKessler@duluthtownship.org

Planning and Zoning Secretary: Beth Mullan
Email: PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org

Planning and Zoning Commission: Dave Chura (Chair),
Barbara Crow, Jan Green, Michael Kahl,
Bill Lannon, Brigid Pajunen, Yvonne Rutford
Email: PlanningZoning@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

Fire Department: Chief Bob Engelson, Assistant Chief
Keith Darsow, President Bill Cox
Email: FireHall@duluthtownship.org

Burning 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).

Community Education Coordinator: Jo Thompson and Michele
Libby, email: EducCoordinator@duluthtownship.org

Note: Where possible, email is forwarded to the person, other-
wise it is sent to the Town Hall where it is picked up.

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

JULY 2010
6, Tue. Community Center Facilities Committee
7, Wed. 12:30 Homesteader's meet, Town Hall
7, Wed. 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business
meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
8, Thu. 7pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall.
19, Mon. 6:30pm, North Shore Community School
Board meeting, NSCS Library.
20, Tue. 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District
meeting, French River Lutheran Church
21, Wed., 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept training Hall #1
22, Thu., 7pm Planning Commission, Town Hall
23, Fri., Town Hall closed until Aug. 3rd for floor work.
27, Tue., 2pm-6pm Household Hazardous Waste pickup
at our Town Hall parking lot.

AUGUST 2010
3, Tue., Community Center Facilities Committee
4, Wed. 12:30 Homesteader's meet, Town Hall
4, Wed. 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business
meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
10, Tue., Primary election, Town Hall
12, Thu., 7pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall
14, Sat, 1-4:30pm COME HOME PARTY, Town Hall
16, Mon., 6:30pm North Shore Community School
Board meeting, NSCS Library
17, Tue., 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District
meeting, French River Lutheran Church
18, Wed., 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: training, Hall #1
18, Wed., 7-8:30pm Community Education Instructor
training workshop. Community Center
cafereria.
23, Mon., Deadline for September Newsletter
26, Thu., 7pm Planning Commission, Town Hall

SEPTEMBER 2010
1, Wed., 12:00 Homesteader's, Town Hall
1, Wed., 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business
meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
7, Tue., Community Center Facilities Committee
9, Thu., 7pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall
15, Wed., 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept training, Hall#1
20, Mon., 6:30pm, North Shore Community School
Board meeting, NSCS Library
21, Tue., 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District
meeting, French River Lutheran Church
23, Thu., 7pm Planning Commission, Town Hall

Township Recycling Center
At the Town Hall, on Homestead Road — Staffing by
Carolyn Marino, Al Anderson, Marlys Livingston, and Kathy Peer
April-October: Tues. 7-11am and 3-7pm,
Thurs. 3-7pm, Sat. 8-noon.
Nov-March: Tues. 7-11am, 2-6pm, Thurs. 2-6pm,
and Sat. 8-noon.
(Drop off only during recycling hours)
Curb recycling pickup service is available below the freeway.
See Article on New Recycling Rules.
Watch for Low Flying Planes this Summer as they Slow The Spread of Gypsy Moth

Jo Thompson

In 2009, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) set traps to monitor gypsy moth infestation. (Some of you may have had some of these little cardboard boxes hanging on your property.) The numbers of gypsy moths found were concerning and warrant an effort to combat these little critters. Gypsy moth caterpillars, which are different than our beloved army worms, are extremely destructive and have caused millions of dollars of damage to trees as they spread from New England to Wisconsin. In early March, MDA held a public information session at the Duluth Town Hall about their proposed effort to slow the spread of gypsy moths across our area.

MDA’s plan is to apply two types of biological control products. One product is a bacterium called Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki (or nickname Btk). Btk produces a protein that is toxic to the feeding gypsy moth caterpillar, but causes no harm to people, pets or most other animals. The plan was to spray it from an airplane on an early morning in June. Btk application did or will occur on approximately 51 acres on the west side of Homestead Rd near Hegberg Rd. The second treatment method involves a mating disruption product that interferes with the ability of the male moth to find the female moth. (Don’t worry! It only works with gypsy moths.) The application of this product is planned for mid to late July when gypsy moths are in their adult stage and are ready to mate. This product will also be dispensed by airplane starting anywhere from sunrise to late in the day and will be applied over all of Duluth township, part of Alden and the SW part of Lake Co, including Knife River.

There are no known health effects of either of these agents for humans, but if you have individual health concerns you may wish to avoid exposure. For more information about this, please see the MDA website at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/pesticide/bt.html or call 651-201-4899.

The MDA will make notification of the exact dates and times of application of treatments through various media outlets, including local newspapers, TV and radio. MDA’s “Arrest the Pest” Hotline (888-545-6684) will be updated with treatment information frequently.

More detailed information about the program can be found at: http://www.mda.state.mn.us/gypsymoth or contact Michael Schommer at 651-201-6629 or Michael.schommer@state.mn.us.
May 13th regular meeting. All Supervisors attended (Steve Dahl, Wendy Meierhoff, Dave Mount, Mary Ann Sironen, and Dan Tanner).

Main Actions: Approve April 8th and 13th minutes. Approved paying bills after reviewing claims list. Tabled Duluth road signs, traffic sign by school (being reviewed by County). Upheld Planning Commission recommendations of not rezoning Alseth/Expressway parcel as commercial because it was not consistent with the neighborhood. School lease of Community Center signed. A lengthy resolution laying out reasoning behind moving forward to get bids on a Community Center addition as in the best interests of our Township was passed (Towns are not allowed to pay for schools although an addition will also benefit our lease). Supervisors Sironen and Dahl were authorized to approve the final bid package for the addition for publication. A request for funds to replace boards on the hockey rink was approved for up to $4,500 to be taken from the Community Center Capital Improvement fund.

Other Business: Audience concerns included a complaint about long term parking of vehicles on McCuaide north of Pioneer Road. Reports: There was no treasurer report. Departments reported on last month’s activity. The Planning Commission held a hearing on a request to rezone the Alseth/Expressway property and recommended it not be rezoned. The ongoing legal issue on the small Bieraugel property by Blue Bird landing will be reviewed by the Planning Commission. The Bieraugel’s submitted an amended variance plan for consideration. Bdp Architect agreement for the Community Center addition has been signed. Calcium chloride has been ordered for the roads. Architect drawings of the proposed Community Center addition were presented by Architect Wayne Dahlberg. It was noted that Duluth Township’s zoning ordinances are stronger than anywhere else in the Knife River area. Jo Thompson and Michele Libby would like to work together on Community Education. A recreation board will be formed.

A required new voting machine has been received. It will work with the new ballots now being used by the County. Riverside Flooring will be refinishing the Town Hall floor this summer. Thanks to Valerie Brady, cemetery records are being reviewed and computerized.

June 10th regular meeting. Supervisors attending were Stephen Dahl, Wendy Meierhoff, Mary Ann Sironen, and Dan Tanner. The Treasurer reported deposits of $93,924.68 and expenses of $44,470.53 for an ending balance of $961,982.23 (including the Capital Improvement Fund).

Actions: The May 13th minutes were approved.

Other Business: Bills were paid. Our current check signing practice and policies will continue even though the bank no longer checks signatures. Department reports. Police “nice and quiet”. Fire reported on a FEMA grant for equipment. Planning noted the Bieraugel public hearing on June 24th (the judge asked the Planning Commission to look at the case under a practical difficulty standard). Attorney Strom will review the contract for the Community Center addition. The WLSSD rain barrel sale was highly successful and Supervisor Tanner’s participation counts toward our MS4 report. Greenwood road will be graded but not as a special Grandma’s Marathon grading. The addition bid opening was scheduled for June 15th with an award decision June 22nd. There is a new facilities manager, Aaron Molino. The skating rink warming house was discussed (grant funding). Wayne Dahlberg will be asked to evaluate plans to see that they meet fire and other codes. In-floor heating is planned. The old newspaper dispenser was removed per resident complaint. Homesteaders have requested minor Town Hall repair items.

June 15th special meeting. All Supervisors were present with the architect, Wayne Dahlberg, Clerk, Ann Cox, Attorney, Tim Strom, and construction company representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to open bids submitted for Community Center addition construction.

Action: none at this meeting

Other Business: Six contractors submitted bids: Don Holm, E. Hanson, Johnson Wilson, Lipe Brothers, Reuben Johnson and Rihilouma. Base bids ranged from $589,700 to $676,000. Alternatives were also bid. Attorney Strom felt he had a potential conflict of interest and removed himself from the process until bids have been awarded. The award decision will be June 22nd.

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

April 22nd regular meeting. Present: Dave Chura, Barb Crow, Jan Green, Michael Kahl, Bill Lannon and Brigid Pajunen.

Public Hearing: John Abrahams request to rezone a parcel on Alseth Road and the expressway as commercial. Planning Director Sue Lawson reviewed the request and ordinance provisions. John Abrahams presented his plan and it was opened for public comment. Twelve residents spoke. The Commission discussed the request and prepared a motion with its reasoning. The requested change in zoning was not approved and the recommendation will be forwarded to the Town Board for action.

Other Business: Jan Green and Barb Crow will consider further what the Commission might do regarding short term rentals. An issue is non-local ownership and responsibility for issues that may arise. The Commission (continued on page 6)
Garbage at the Recycling Center

Someone has been illegally dumping their household garbage in the aluminum can recycling cage at the Town Hall. If you know who is doing this or see someone dumping household garbage, please notify the police. It would be helpful to have their vehicle license or other identification. Thank you.

Recycling News
Carolyn Marino, Shed Keeper

If you have visited our Township Recycling shed recently, you may have noticed that the signs are different and the recyclables look like they have been mixed up. That's because residents only need to sort their recyclables into 4 different categories (instead of the usual 8). The change is a space saver at home and a time saver at the shed.

Inside the shed, all the carts are used for mixed up containers now. There is no need to sort out the different colors of glass from the plastics or the metal cans. They can all go into the same cart.

Outside, the situation has changed a little bit. Mixed paper will still go into its own dumpster as will the corrugated cardboard. But now there will be a new dumpster for all the newspapers. And the plastic dumpster is relabeled for mixed containers too (as overflow from inside the shed).

So, there is one category inside the shed—mixed containers, and three categories outside—mixed paper, corrugated cardboard and newspaper (with the extra dumpster for shed overflow, just in case). Stop in and check it out!

Just a quick reminder about which plastics we cannot accept at the shed. These plastics were mentioned at a recent Shed Keepers meeting and we were told by Hartel's/DBJ, our hauler, that they were NOT acceptable.

1. Flower pots.
2. Grocery deli containers (black bottoms, clear tops), green/clear plastic berry baskets or lettuce containers.
3. 5-gallon buckets and larger kitty litter containers.
5. Plastic waste baskets.
7. Orange/brown plastic prescription containers.

If you have any questions, please ask the attendant on duty.

Also, we will be having a Household Hazardous Waste Pickup at the Town Hall parking lot on Tuesday, July 27th from 2-6pm. Many products you use in your home and yard contain hazardous materials. Improper disposal of these products can cause fires, injuries to people and animals, and groundwater contamination. A truck and WLSSD representative will be on hand to pick up these products. (i.e. paint, lighter fluid, transmission fluid, varnish, drain cleaner, fertilizer, furniture polish, spot remover, weed killer, etc. If you have questions, please ask a shed keeper for information.

I hope you are all having a great summer

Remember to recycle!!

The Next Planning Committee meetings (4th Thursday at 7pm in the Town Hall): July 22nd and August 26th. Special hearings are posted at the Town Hall. Residents are urged to attend these public meetings.
Two separate, but integrated, Township efforts are gaining momentum.

Community Education

Have you ever wanted to learn to talk Norwegian? Would you be interested in classes in dancing, crafts, cooking, gardening, gun safety, snowmobile safety? Perhaps you would like to know more about contract, accident, or constitution law! Are you interested in learning about living wills, reducing your car insurance by taking a driver refresher course, learning how you can save on energy costs in your home, or taking a required trades course close to home? Would you be interested in township sponsored opportunities to participate with others in book, singing, or knitting groups? How about skating, basketball, volleyball, etc.? These are just a few of the possibilities.

Michelle Libby, Mary Ann Sironen and Jo Thompson have been working on the logistics for putting a community education program together. Look for opportunities in the September newsletter. Your ideas and suggestions would be most welcome.

Recreation Planning

On June 7, Ray and Ron Sundberg, Steve Dahl, Jo Thompson, Tim Strom and Mary Ann Sironen met to discuss needs for coordinating the Township’s recreational planning and use of our Community Center. There was a consensus that a Recreation Council should be established to cooperate in using and maintaining the facilities at the Township Community Center at North Shore Community School. Foremost on the agenda was the need to improve the hockey rink. The Township Board approved $5000 to increase the rink size and purchase boards for the perimeter. Ray Sundberg is exploring the potential to purchase used boards. Volunteers will be installing or building them if used ones can not be found.

The Township has also received a grant to improve our warming shed. Input is being sought on what approach would best fit the needs for our Community Center and community for this project. It is expected that in January, 2011, a Recreation Coordinator will be hired by the Township.

If you would like to be notified of future recreation planning meetings or volunteer opportunities, please leave a message at 525-2010 or email at MaryAnnSironen@duluthtownship.org.

Share What You Know……TEACH

If you have a particular skill or area of expertise, consider teaching a Duluth Township Community Education course or workshop.

Instructor Training

Not sure how to get started? Michelle Libby will be offering an instructor’s workshop to teach you facilitation skills and help you organize your lesson plan.

This instructor workshop will be: Wednesday, August 18, 2010 from 7:00-8:30pm. North Shore Community School Cafeteria. There is no charge for this class. Reserve your spot by calling Michelle Libby at 525-5032 or email at libby@lakenet.com.

We welcome your participation and encourage you to work with us to grow the Community Education program and make it a viable resource for our community.

911 Address Signs Ready to Pick Up
(at our Town Hall on Homestead Road, during office hours)

Town Clerk, Ann Cox
Max Bruckelmyer, 5848 Ryan Road
Kim Carlson 1989 Patterson Lane
Ed & Monica Grohndahl-Ostrander, 2041 Swanson Road
Mark & Dana Horlockner, 2114 Johnson Road
Ken Johnston, 2294 Lismore Road
Nicholas Massie, 1935 Pioneer Road East
Roger Rose, 5252 McQuade Road
Mark and Leah Wagner 5824 Homestead Rd
Jason Zimmerman, 2184 Johnson Road

Vote Results for the ISD #381 School Operating Levy

Results of the vote on the school district operating levy this past spring can be seen on their web site: www.isd381.k12.mn.us. In summary, 5,021 people sent in their ballots. Results of the three questions were:
1. 1,420 for, 3,551 against a $550/student levy
2. 1,676 for, 3,244 against a $425/student levy
3. 1,773 for, 3,164 against a $300/student levy
Inside this Issue:
- What's Coming Up
- Community Center construction
- Recycling changes
- Cemetery records updating
- July 27th Hazardous Waste pickup
- Township Calendar
- Town Board & Planning Meetings
- Police and Fire Information
- Gypsy moth spraying
- NSCS News insert

If your name or 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 (email: Editor@duluthtownship.org). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

931 are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses and on request. 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.

Open daily at 11am
Specials
Tues. night: live music on the patio
Wed. night: All you can eat Fish Fry
Friday night: Fish Boil
Sat. & Sun. Breakfast 11am-2pm
Saturday: Prime Rib
Sunday: Turkey Dinner
5730 Homestead Road • 525-4525

Paid Advertisement

Care for Soccer Nets at NSCS
Amy Bergerson, North Shore Soccer Club
Parents, please remind your children the soccer nets at NSCS are not for hanging from or climbing on. These goalposts and nets are expensive. They are owned by the North Shore Soccer Club. Please be respectful.

Paid Advertisement

Absentee Ballots for Primary and General Elections
Ann Cox, Town Clerk
If you need an absentee ballot for either the upcoming Primary (August 10th) or the General Election (November 2nd), contact the St Louis County Auditor’s Office, room 212 in the Court House in Duluth.

Our Township does not have absentee ballots for Federal and State elections.

Paid Advertisement
Community Center Addition

Dave Mount, Supervisor

As reported in the last Newsletter, in May the Town Board initiated the process to prepare plans and solicit bids for an addition to the Duluth Township Community Center, which leases space to the North Shore Community School. This addition is roughly 4,200 square feet, consisting of three rooms with associated hallways and support spaces.

The bid solicitation was issued in late May, bids were received and opened June 15th, with the base bids ranging from $589,700 to $676,000. After reviewing the bids together with the architect, the Town Board voted on June 22nd to accept the lowest bid from Riihilouma Construction of Cloquet, along with four alternatives to the bid which will be paid for by the North Shore Community School. Assuming acceptable contract terms can be negotiated, construction is expected to begin the week of July 5th.

Funding for this project will come entirely from the Community Center Capital Improvement Fund, which is funded by lease payments for the Community Center, and not from the Township’s tax levy.

Other Improvements

In addition to the construction of extra space at the Community Center, there are many other changes underway. Plans are underway for a new warming house by the skating rink, paid for by the $30,000 grant of Taconite Funds. This will also house the school’s new pottery kiln. The hockey rink will be upgraded with new rink boards. Volunteers are fixing up the soccer field and working on landscaping.

North Shore Community School is making many improvements to the educational facilities inside the building this summer, including upgrading the floor covering, installing a new water-saving hand washing sink for students, upgrading the freezer space in the kitchen, painting the gym, upgrading fire alarms, improving other safety items, etc. The School will also be providing educational items needed in the added rooms. Over the years, the North Shore Community School has been active in acquiring grants to improve the building for educational use.

Filing Period to Open for the Duluth-Alden Representative on the Lake Superior School District 381 Board

Leo Babeu, Our Current Representative

My 4-year term on the School Board is over at the close of 2010. Anyone interested in serving in this vital local government position must file for the November 2nd general election ballot in August. The candidate filing period runs from Tues. Aug. 3rd through Tue. Aug. 17th. Candidates should contact District Executive Assistant Mary Guzzo at 834-8216 (ext 8216) for a filing packet. You can contact her also at mguzo@isd381.k12.mn.us. Office summer hours are 7:30am to 5:30pm Mon.-Thurs. District Offices are located on the southwest corner of the Two Harbors High School, immediately off the west parking lot which is directly accessed off of State Hwy 2. The mailing address is: District Office, ISD 381 (Attention Mary Guzzo), 1640 Highway 2, Two Harbors, MN 55616.

What is the job of a school board and the role of a board member? Vision—with extensive efforts for community input, the board envisions an educational future and formulates goals, defines outcomes, sets the course for our public schools. Structure—the board creates an environment in which all students have the best opportunity to attain their potential through effective policy and setting high standards. Accountability—the board is accountable to the local community and hence is continually assessing all the conditions affecting student achievement. The board fosters the highest possible performance by schools and students by monitoring achievement and instituting corrective programs and policies, and fulfilling all the board’s governance responsibilities required by law.

Advocacy—the board celebrates student achievement, partners with the community to open innovative educational opportunities in and out of school, and addresses issues that affect educational outcomes.

The position is a 4-year term. Minnesota School Boards Association provides necessary training in school finances and key board work. There are a minimum of 2 meetings per month. I have attended up to 90 meetings per year. Your commitment might be a lot less if you do not participate in labor negotiations. There is a stipend for the job—contact the District Office for the exact pay scale.

I am happy to discuss the nature of the work, its challenges and perks, with anyone who’s interested. Contact Leo at 834-2247, or by email at: leobabeu@lakenet.com. I welcome anyone to contact me with concerns over school issues or join my school issue email list via my email.

4-day school update: the District re-submitted a very detailed Flexible Learning Year Plan application to the MN Dept. of Education on June 24th. Action by the State to approve this plan is expected in the next several weeks. I fully expect approval of the 4-day school week plan, to begin on September 7, 2010. This will, at least in the short run, help us to continue valuable educational programs.

(Editor’s note: Leo Babeu, our current representative, indicated he may run for re-election.)
Duluth Township Community Center

Partial Floor Plan
4,500 sq. ft.
3 Classrooms
2 Washrooms
Office

East Elevation

South Elevation