



Duluth Township Newsletter

Duluth Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org

May 2013

What's Coming Up?

Vacancy on Planning and Zoning (see article, p6)

Township Memorial Day Service - May 27th, 11am, at Palmers Township Cemetery (see article, p5).

Stormwater public meeting - May 9th (see article, p5)

Community Center History (see article, p7)

High Speed Internet alternatives (see article, p5)

Recreation summer program (see article, p2)

Locavore's annual seed and plant swap, May 26th

Traffic Detour on Scenic/Hwy 61 through June 19th due to the *Lakewalk* extension project.

New Town Board responsibilities and Community Calendar (see insert)

2013 Road Program of Work (see article, p6)



Thank you to Supervisor **Dave Mount** who steps down from our Town Board after six years of great service to our Township. At the recent Annual Town Meeting, Supervisor Mary Ann Sironen presented a bowl hand-made by Supervisor Barb Crow, in traditional appreciation of exceptional service to the Township.

During his tenure Dave guided the Board through a number of events including long range plans for our Community Center, updating our Zoning Ordinance, a major Community Center addition to better support our NSCS tenant, grants for planning and improvement to Community Center athletic and skating facilities, Town Hall maintenance, dealing with legal issues, careful fiscal management, etc. In addition to representing the Community and Board in various venues including the North Shore Management Board, Dave found time to work with others on a number of maintenance projects around the Town Hall (*its flooring, drainage problems, replacing entry steps, building a roof extension over the Fire Hall sidewalk and a lockable space for our copier, etc*).

Perhaps most remembered will be Dave's open, friendly and thoughtful leadership style and carefully researched attention to the increasing amount of detail Township governance now involves. Thank you, Dave!

Congratulations to Jan Green

The St. Louis River Alliance announced Environmental Stewardship Awards. A special *Lifetime Achievement Environmental Stewardship Award* was presented to Jan Green. Jan has served our Township in a number of capacities, most recently as a member of our Planning Commission.

Emergency Preparation

It's a good idea to be prepared. Web sites that provide suggestions are:

www.stlouiscountymn.gov/lawpublicsafety/emergencymanagement.aspx

www.SevereWeather.state.mn.us

Our Township has formed a group that is considering emergency planning steps that we could take. Suggestions will be included in future Newsletters.

The Homesteaders

Rose Vastila

May 1st, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Coffee & snacks. Dave Hanson will talk about senior cooperative housing.

June 5th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Coffee & snacks. Robi Meyerson will play and sing plus a sing-along.

July 3rd, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, Annual Picnic with chicken and bingo.

Everyone is welcome.

For information call : Rose Vastila at 834-5281.

Thanks to all contributors to this issue

Ann Cox, Bob Engelson, Tera Freese, Kathy Johnson, Sue Lawson, Michelle Libby, Todd Lindahl, Janet McTavish, Dave Miller, Dave Mount, Beth Mullan, Shawn Padden, Kevin Pettis, Sherry Rovig, Mary Ann Sironen, George Sundstrom, Jo Thompson, Molly Tillotson, Rose Vastila and Webmaster Linda Hollinday.

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department
Bob Engelson, Fire Chief

Thanks to volunteer **Mark Simonson** who joined our Clifton Fire Department over a year ago to contribute to the community and gain experience. Mark is a first responder as well as a fire fighter with training from Lake Superior College and Gold Cross. He lives on the Aho Road with his wife, Sheila, and their family of 6 girls and a boy, two in NSCS and one in Two Harbors. He and his wife have lived here for 10 years. Mark works for CMI as a mason. He enjoys family camping and scouting, hiking, hunting and fishing. Thanks for your service, Mark.



The Fire Department received a Wild-land Fire grant and will be purchasing fireproof suits, helmets, gloves, and grass fire fighting tools.

Burning permits are required. Be especially careful of dry grass in ditches to avoid starting a fire.

Call 911 to report wild land fires.

For information, contact Fire Chief Bob Engelson 525-6819 or leave a message at 525-5705.

JOBS WANTED

For our Township Youth

An effort to match up residents who have work suitable for our youth with youth in the Township who may want a job.

Seeking Jobs

- Mature, hard working, experienced 11 year old looking for work (yard work, cleaning, mowing, pretty much any chores). Just call 525-0090.
- Holly, age 17, phone (cell) 349-7274 (home) 525-9065. Elementary tutoring, babysitting, housekeeping, yard work, some maintenance. Available to work most Fridays and weekends.
- Allison, age 16, home 525-9065. I am interested in doing the following jobs: babysitting, mowing, raking, gardening, painting, pet watching and walking.

Advertise for free: For Township youth (under 25yrs) who are seeking work and Township residents who need help with various jobs suitable for youth (babysitting, lawn, garden, maintenance, snow shoveling, house cleaning, etc.).

Leave your ad & contact information at the Town Hall or leave a message 525-5705 or editor@duluthtownship.org (The next Newsletter is July, deadline June 23rd)

Reading Help!

Personalized tutoring for any age using the *Orton Gillingham Method*.

Connie Carlin, B.S., M.Ed. 525-4723

Duluth Township Recreation Corner
Kevin Pettis, Recreation Coordinator

As I write this, I wish I could say that spring is here but it's not; however, recreation in general doesn't stop just because mother nature has dealt us a bad hand.

Throughout March and April I have been running a basketball league and clinic at our Community Center. The clinic and league wrapped up April 27th and both were very successful programs. I expect to do these again next year. We have also had soccer clinics in the gym helping improve skill sets of our young participants for upcoming spring and fall programs. There are ongoing volleyball rentals at the Community Center as well. They seem to be having a lot of fun. Even though this has been a long winter, we always seem to find a way to cope. Thanks to all who have signed up and participated in these programs this winter. Programs like this will always be available and will help make winter a distant memory. We will have more programs available next winter through Community Recreation and Community Education.

I plan on running baseball and football clinics this summer. Please watch for students bringing home flyers from NSCS about times and dates. Check postings on our outdoor **recreation board** which hangs on the back of our baseball backstop. These programs are for children aged 8 to 13 years. My goal for each and every program is to teach fundamentals of the sport being offered. If some children are more advanced, I help extend their skills. That depends upon the number of participants. For example, we had 13 participants in the basketball clinic this year and we were able to give a lot of one on one attention. One of the most important aspects of these clinics is to teach participants how to have fun with the sport. If they have fun, it will help them advance their skills and they will want to participate in the future. Watch for flyers. Event dates will also be listed on our Township website: www.duluthtownship.org.

This summer I plan on our Community Center being very busy. I will post times when fields will be available to use on our outdoor recreation board.

RENTING: These fields are available to rent for teams interested in renting for practices or for families who want to hold a party at the pavilion. If you are interested in renting or have questions or concerns, please call me at 218-830-0052. You can also email me at: RecreationCoordinator@duluthtownship.org. If you are interested in renting rooms or the gymnasium you should fill out a rental agreement at the Town Hall. Then I will contact you.

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE WHEELED VEHICLES ON COMMUNITY CENTER ATHLETIC FIELDS!

Senior Housing in Duluth Township

Information on possibilities for senior housing in our Township will be provided as it becomes available.

PART TIME PET-SITTER WANTED

Lakewood to Larsmount

Email resume to robin@stayathomepetcare.com

No phone calls please.

Summary of Town Board Meetings

(Official minutes by Town Clerk Ann Cox are available at the Town Hall and on our Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org).

February 14th regular meeting. Supervisors attending: Barb Crow, Mary Anne Daniel, Dave Mount, and Mary Ann Sironen. **Main Actions:** Planning Commissioners Jo Thompson, Brigid Pagjunen and John Schifsky were reappointed for a second 3 year term ending March 2016. Bob Rodda's road contract was extended to 2015. **Discussion:** Treasurer reported \$40,117.58 deposits, \$21,905.79 expenses for a January ending balance of \$999,749.10. Claims were reviewed and paid. **Police:** The Police contract was signed. **Fire:** We have switched to the new ARMOR radios received from St Louis County. Old radios purchased by the Town will be loaned to NSCS. Other unwanted obsolete communication equipment will be sold. **Planning:** The Board expressed appreciation for work reviewing our Comprehensive Plan. The Plan will continue to be our guiding document and reviewed again in 5 years or sooner. **Legal:** The Charter School has raised the question of their owning the Community Center. It was suggested that NSCS provide a detailed proposal referring to relevant statutory language. A motion passed to authorize Supervisors Crow and Sironen to work with the Town Attorney to develop the letter to NSCS. **Roads:** Jo Thompson and Val Brady were thanked for their work on the MS4-required Illicit Discharge Ordinance covering Township ditches. **Community Center:** Keyless entry for doors was discussed and tabled for further information. **Town Hall:** To be re-keyed. **Cemetery:** Sexton Molly Tillotson plans to post a diagram of plots in the cemetery to seek information on unmarked graves. Burial rates will be reviewed. **Communication:** Disaster plan is being discussed. **Personnel:** Planning and staff stipend, last raised in 2002, will be raised from \$35 to \$38.50 per meeting reflecting inflation.

March 14th regular meeting. Supervisors attending: Barb Crow, Mary Anne Daniel, Dave Miller, Mary Ann Sironen. Supervisors Miller, Daniel and Sironen attended a meeting at NSCS where the school board discussed creating a building corporation and the relationship of the Township and NSCS. Bills were reviewed and paid. **Fire:** CenturyLink will repair the faulty phone line to Fire Hall #2. The Alden Fire Hall is little used since there are no longer firefighters from Alden Township. The future of that Hall will be discussed with the Alden Board. **Planning:** Priorities for the year are structure size, lot size, wind generators, the Congdon Trust land along the lake, and safe school routes for kids. There is one opening on the Planning Commission to be filled by the Board. **Community Education:** A motion was passed to pay each of the co-coordinators \$100/mo. beginning Jan. 2013. **Town Hall:** Plans are being pursued to replace the Board meeting desks.

April 6th special meeting. Supervisors attending: Barb Crow, Mary Anne Daniel, Dave Miller, Mary Ann Sironen, and Don Sitter. This is an annual "program of work" meeting to assign oversight duties among Supervisors for the year. (See the insert for the new assignments.)

April 11th regular meeting. Rescheduled to April 18th due to the snow storm and that meeting also had to be cancelled for the same reason. The next regular meeting is May 9th.

The Next regular Town Board meetings: (2nd Thursday at 7pm in the Town Hall) May 9th and June 13th.
Residents are urged to attend these public meetings

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

February 28th regular meeting. Members present: Wayne Dahlberg, Jerry Hauge, Brigid Pajunen, Don Sitter, and Jo Thompson, plus Beth Mullan, Secretary, Sue Lawson, Planning Director, and Supervisor Barb Crow. **Discussion:** Jo Thompson, Dave Miller and Bob Rodda are going to a ditch and culvert design workshop. Priorities for the plan of work for the year were discussed and tasks divided among members: **Congdon trust land**—John, Jo, and Wayne **Structure size vs. acreage**—Brigid and Jerry **Trails (incl. safe route to school)**—Jo, Paul and Wayne **Alternative Energy**—Don and Jerry
In addition the Township brochure will be updated and information for commercial design standards will also be pursued. There may be grants to help in some of this planning.

A task force is working on a Township Emergency Management Plan. Members so far are Mary Anne Daniel, Don McTavish, Mary Ann Sironen, and Ann Cox. Jo Thompson and Hillarie Sorensen (*MN Sea Grant representative*) will also participate.

March 28th regular meeting. Members present: Wayne Dahlberg, Jerry Hauge, Brigid Pajunen, John Schifsky, Jo Thompson and Paul Voge, plus Beth Mullan, Secretary, Sue Lawson, Planning Director, and Supervisor Barb Crow,

Discussion: The adopted tasks for the year were discussed and points to consider and steps to take were layed out. The planned Finish cultural center on the Scenic Highway was unable to acquire a suitable building.

The Next Planning Committee meetings (4th Thursday at 7pm in the Town Hall): May 23rd and June. 27th.

Special hearings are posted at the Town Hall.
Residents are urged to attend these public meetings.

We residents of Duluth Township owe special thanks to our Town Board members for unusually effective and extensive service to our Township this past year, to Clerk of Town Ann Cox, Treasurer Janet Johansen, Planning Director Sue Lawson, P&Z Secretary Beth Mullen and Planning Commission members, Chief Bob Engelson and our Fire Department and First Responders, Police Chief Shawn Padden and Officers, Recycling leader Caroline Marino and recycling staff, and all who help make our Township a good one.

Consider volunteering!
It's a price worth paying for a great Township to live in!

The Minuteman Missile Train

Todd Lindahl

The Cold War prompted changes in the U.S. military to a degree far greater than any "hot war" had ever done previously. Nikita Khrushchev's boast that, "the Soviet Union was turning out nuclear bombs like sausages" made many uneasy. In retrospect those sausages were mostly bologna and never existed but for a few.

One of our defense strategies in October 1959 was to create 20 to 30 minuteman missile trains, which would be armed with intercontinental ballistic missiles. The idea was to keep them moving constantly over different railroads in the Midwest making them elusive. The DM&IR Railway lobbied hard to get the support base built on the Iron Range and offered to provide the maintenance of the train cars and engines at their Proctor shops. Oliver Iron Mining officials were aghast when the railroad president suggested the Air Force could hide some of the nuclear warheads on mining company property. They countered by saying that maybe they should put them in the Proctor roundhouse instead. This effectively ended those unofficial negotiations abruptly.

There were some advantages to having a support facility here and I will mention just a few. At the time this process was taking place in 1961, the Bomarc Missile Base was being built on the Bergquist Road (*Ed: the water tower site*). The Bomarc was a surface to air (SAM) interceptor missile with a range of roughly 400 miles. It was primarily meant as a defense against incoming bombers. The "bomber gap" of this period, where the Russians were supposed to have many more than us, was just another case of Soviet bologna. The 343rd Fighter Squadron was based in Duluth at the time and the 756th Radar Squadron's Finland Radar Base, built back in 1951, kept a close watch on the sky to the north. All three were linked to the SAGE (*Semi Automatic Ground Environment*) building in Duluth, which served as the nerve center (*Ed: now NRRRI by the airport on Hwy 53*). All would have provided protection for the Minuteman Support Base if it had become a reality. For unknown reasons the area was dropped from the list of potential sites. Today the SAGE building, the Finland Radar Base, and the Bomarc Missile Base are all long gone and are now just a reminder of when we lived in fear of Russian bologna.

Behind the story... The reason the DM&IR was so interested is because shipping iron ore had dropped from a high of over 49 million tons in 1953 to just over 18 million tons in 1961. While Reserve Mining and Erie Mining were established in the taconite process, U.S. Steel, and thus DM&IR, were not until 1967. They held out until the Taconite Tax Amendment was passed before getting involved. In the mean time the natural ore was running out and mines were shutting down. For this reason there was less work hauling ore or maintaining diesels and rolling stock. Getting the support base would give a boost to the economy of the area as well as the railroad.

There were eleven areas selected as possible sites for the support base around the U.S. This area had a lot of



assets including the military ones of which the Bomarc base played a role. We were close to the Canadian Border and any attack by Russia would come from over the North Pole since it is the shortest route. This includes both missiles and aircraft. Our land-based ICBM's are all in the Midwest as far away from the edges of the country as they can get. This way any attacking force would have to cross a considerable amount of our territory to get to them. The problem is that these missile silos are stationary and thus can be specifically targeted. A missile train is hard to pinpoint and harder to target. It was estimated an enemy would have to expend around 10,000 warheads to have any hope of destroying the trains. At any rate, Ogden, Utah seemed to be favored in the end even though it is 400 miles farther south of the Canadian border than the Iron Range. North-east Minnesota was dropped from consideration and on January 18th, 1963, the railroad shops in Two Harbors closed in what is known as "*Black Friday*". Tonnage had dropped to 16.5 million tons.

Fred Voss was the president of the railroad who was attempting to get the support base here. It was no doubt an effort to save the jobs of some employees and help the region. Unfortunately, Mr. Voss died suddenly from a heart attack shortly before *Black Friday*. He had come up through the ranks of the railroad to finally be president and knew many of the employees on a personal basis. I believe the stress may have contributed to his untimely death. The next president was brought in from out east to handle the layoffs since he knew nobody here. One has to wonder how different things may have been if the support base had become a reality. We'll never know.

Police Department
Shawn Padden, Chief

A new squad vehicle has been leased. As planned, the old vehicle with high miles and over 5 years service was sold. The new one is shown below.

In the first 3 months of 2013 there were 291 officer initiated or calls for service. 123 of these were requested vacation home/business checks and another 7 extra patrol requests, followed by 26 citations/warnings for traffic violations, 17 public assists, 15 property damage, 13 animal complaints, 11 involving ATL drivers, 10 suspicious activity, 9 medical emergencies (*1 suicide, 1 natural death*), 8 permit to acquire a handgun, 7 civil process serving. There were responses to 6 burglar alarms, 4 burglaries and 2 thefts. Newer to the list were an incident of road rage, child neglect, school bus stop arm violation and a hit and run accident.



Our Township web site has a full list of police response events. You can sign up for email notification as well. **Note:** *If you need/want/expect a police squad to respond immediately, call 911. Other than 911, the quickest way to get our police response is to leave a message on our squad phone (393-8407). We may work 5 days in a row, but may not always get into the office during that time. Our main office where we spend 90% of our time is in our squad vehicle.*

Annual Town Meeting and Election

On March 12th 97 residents voted and elected the two candidates who stepped up to serve our Township, **Mary Anne Daniel** (3yr term), and **Don Sitter** (3yr term). (See the March Newsletter for candidate information).

Clerk of Town Ann Cox provided an information packet and opened the meeting. Those present (*a modest crowd*) elected Corlis West to moderate. Motions affirmed banks of deposit (*Lake Bank and North Shore Bank of Commerce*), Newspaper for official publication (*Duluth News Tribune*) and official posting places (*Town Hall, Scenic Café, Fire Hall #1, and North Shore Community School*).

Board Chair Dave Mount provided background information on expenditures and proposed budgets. Departments presented their proposed 2014 budgets (*see the table in the March Newsletter*). These were discussed and questions answered. The Road budget was reduced by \$25,000 because rules changed so we did not have to budget a higher amount this year to receive gas tax monies and could budget what we need. The revised 2014 levy of \$362,616 was approved (*this is up 5.6% from that approved for 2013 which was down 12% from that approved for 2012*). There was a question about having the Township election in conjunction with any November State or National election. This will be discussed by the Board. The meeting was closed, permitting an Aug 8th 8pm continuation meeting if necessary. The 2014 Annual Town Meeting and election will be on March 11th.

Given special recognition for their service were **Val Brady** and **Jo Thompson** (*for their work on Stormwater management*), and **Dave Mount** (*for his 6 years of service on our Town Board*).

Weeds!

Supervisor Mary Ann Sironen

The Town Board is charged with the task of eradicating and controlling noxious weeds in the Township. The **ERADICATE** list, so far, includes Yellow Star Thistle, Grecian Foxglove, Oriental Bittersweet, Japanese Hops, Dalmatian Toadflax, Common Teasel, Cut-leaved Teasel, and Giant Hogweed. Luckily, these haven't

been seen in the Township so far, but as plants emerge, it will be important to watch for their entry into our area. Each property owner is held responsible by the State to get rid of any that are on their land.

A list of weeds that we are required to **CONTROL** includes plants that we more commonly see in our Township: Leafy Spurge, Canada Thistle, Musk Thistle,

Plumeless Thistle, Garlic Mustard, Purple Loosestrife, Wild Parsnip, Common Tansy, and Spotted Knapweed.

Land owners are charged to control their spread, to reduce established populations and to prevent further spread. Information and pictures to aid with identification of these pests are available at a link from our website to:

www.mda.state.mn.us/en/plants/badplants/noxiouslist.



Duluth Township Stormwater Meeting Valerie Brady

Duluth Township will hold its annual stormwater meeting on Thursday, May 9th at 6:15pm at the Duluth Town Hall prior to the regular Town Board meeting.

Please attend and learn why reducing stormwater runoff is important to preserving stream, river, and Lake Superior health, and what everyone can do to help. Learn why our Township is required to manage stormwater runoff, and what it means to keep stormwater runoff "clean".

Bring your questions, including pictures of problem areas on which you would like advice.

Join your neighbors in honoring service men and women from our Township

Township Memorial Day Ceremony

At our Palmers Lakeview Cemetery
North Shore Road just east of Homestead Road
11am on Monday, May 27th

Memorial comments to be announced.

Other participants include Boy Scout Troop #162 and music led by members of the French River Lutheran Church who often also provide coffee and donuts. Mark your calendar and attend this community event!

For further information, contact George Sundstrom

Update on Higher Speed Internet Alternatives

Lakenet Administrator Kevin Olson announced that Coop Light and Power has upgraded their internet towers and now offers 7mbps internet service with no data caps (*unlike satellite or cell wireless service, but a "fair access" policy applies*) for \$60 per month. The current 3mbps service is \$50/month. For more information contact Kevin Olson at CLP in Two Harbors, 834-2226 or kolson@clpower.com.

Thanks to LAKENET for providing the Town Hall with free internet WiFi service that they have upgraded to their faster service (*Note: residents can use this free hot spot from their car in the parking lot or from the Town Hall during Town office hours*).

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At the Town Hall on March 5th **Lake Connections** Project Manager Jeff Roiland and his marketing group updated nearly 100 interested residents on construction and equipment for the new fiber-optic service planned for Duluth Township sometime later this year. Information about proposed service, schedules and costs were not available. An April 4th construction meeting indicated that the project in this area could start by May 6th and run for 200 days (*excluding weekends and storm days*).

To keep informed, residents are referred to the **Lake Connections** web site: www.lakeconnections.com and the tab "Gaining Speed" for construction progress. **Lake Connections** is at 409 17th Ave, Two Harbors. 218-834-8320 or see www.lakeconnections.com.

Vacancies on the Township Planning and Zoning Commission
Supervisor Barbara Crow

Due to the election of Don Sitter as Township Supervisor, the Duluth Township Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission has an immediate opening to fill out his term (*scheduled to end March 2015*). We are currently accepting letters of interest for the opening.

The P&Z Commission is a 7-member board that guides the implementation of the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. No special qualifications are necessary to serve on the P&Z Commission other than an interest in the Township's future and a willingness to serve. Commission members serve 3-year terms and cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. The Commission holds regular monthly meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month, with occasional special meetings as the need arises. Commission members receive a per-meeting stipend.

Interviews to fill the vacancies will be held by the Town Board. Interested residents should submit a letter of interest including relevant past experience, to: Duluth Township, Attn: P&Z Commission Vacancy, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804. If you have questions please feel free to contact Supervisor Barb Crow: at 525-0489 or email her at: BarbaraCrow@duluthtownship.org.

D/NSSD Update
Supervisor Mary Ann Sironen

The Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District has completed another successful financial audit and is making some changes in its operational support.

Northeast Technical Services, based in Virginia, MN, has been sold to *People Services, Inc.* headquartered in Omaha, NE to provide maintenance and support to the D/NSSD sewer system. **Eric Applewick** will remain as the contact person with the phone numbers and web site remaining the same for North Shore customers. The change in ownership brings additional staff along with help and expertise in managing wastewater systems. The Board and customers should find response and support as good or better than it's been in the past.

In other business, additional odor control efforts at the Ryan Road transfer station are being undertaken to provide a more dependable and long term solution. The item on customer's property taxes (listed as "service fee") that pays for interest on the construction debt has gone down again this year to \$875. Although this is still a significant cost, the addition of the sewer along the shore has proven to be a good thing for property owners and the environment.

A great Thank You! To Dan Korri and Angie Braud for their dedication as Duluth Township's representatives to the D/NSSD Board. Those meetings are at 0700 monthly on the third Tuesday at the French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road.

Contacts: D/NSSD Emergency: 590-5889, Email: EAppelwick@nettechnical.com or beckym@fiop.biz or call 612-234-4740.

Please call D/NSSD not Duluth Township if you have questions about sewer charges on your property tax statement or about sewer system problems. The Township does not have authority over D/NSSD. Call D/NSSD sources, above, if you have questions.

Note: Our Town(ship) of Duluth, Town Hall also gets calls from irritated people who want the City of Duluth or can't get through to their electric utility. The Township can sympathize but can't help with their problem!

Road Program of Work
Supervisor, Dave Miller

In 2013 the road program will continue to emphasize improving the road surfaces, culvert replacement and ditching. Most of the Township culverts are too short and too small to handle the volume of storm water we have experienced, so when we replace old culverts we will use longer and larger culverts. This will cost more in the short term, but will save money in the long term. Chloride will be applied as needed; and rather than chloride the entire road surface we will use an "intermittent" treatment system where part of the road surface has chloride applied and part is left untreated. This system uses less chloride and should still reduce the dust. Our \$35,000 Emergency Fund has been restored after last year's flood.

The following is the program of work for 2013:

Grading: (\$24,000)

- All roads in the spring and fall
- Greenwood an additional 2 times in the summer
- Torgeson, E&W Wildwood, E&W Clover Valley, Alseth and Lismore one additional time in the summer.
- Additional grading as needed due to unanticipated washboard conditions.

Ditching: (.6 miles; \$12,000)

- Alseth (.2 miles)
- Lismore (.2 miles)
- E & W Wildwood (.2 miles)

Surface Improvements: (1.0 miles; \$20,000)

- Greenwood (.2 miles, west end)
- Shilhon (.4 miles)
- East Lismore (.4 miles)

Culvert Replacement: (\$9,000)

- 1 west end of Greenwood
- 2 Shilhon
- 2 W Wildwood

Complete FEMA Mitigation Work: (\$13,000)

- Johnson Road

Snow Plowing: (Contract with County; \$11,000)

Miscellaneous: (\$5,000)

- Culvert steaming
- Chloride

Total: \$94,000

Drive safely and please let me know about any road issues you may have (*see insert for contact information*).

Community Center History

In the early 2000's, the Lake Superior School District (ISD 381) announced plans to close North Shore Elementary School, at the intersection of Ryan and Lismore Roads. To prevent the loss of our local elementary school, a group of community members organized an effort to transition the school from North Shore Elementary School (under ISD 381) to a public charter school, which we now know as the North Shore Community School (NSCS). This group convinced the ISD 381 School Board that it would be in the best interests of the school district to cooperate with the formation of the charter school; their argument was that if a local elementary school were not available, a lot of parents in the area served by the former North Shore Elementary School would opt to send their children to elementary school in the Duluth School district and, once in that system, would likely continue to secondary school in the Duluth district. In contrast, if an elementary school remained in the local community, more graduating students would likely transition to secondary school in Two Harbors, increasing enrollment in the Two Harbors High School. This would give ISD 381 the savings associated with closing North Shore Elementary School, but still provide the financial support associated with student enrollment in ISD 381's secondary schools.

But there was a wrinkle in this plan. At the time, the rules that governed Minnesota charter schools prohibited a charter school from owning their own building. Accordingly, it would not be possible for ISD 381 to simply transfer ownership of the school building and grounds to the newly forming NSCS. Instead, a third party had to be found to own and operate the building, then lease space to the NSCS. A plan was developed for the Town of Duluth to be that third party. While a Town does not have the legal authority to operate a school, it does have the authority to own and operate a community center. So, ISD 381 sold the building and grounds to the Town of Duluth for \$1, for the Town to use the facility as a community center. The Town would then lease space to NSCS, and use the lease payments to cover the expense of operating, maintaining, and improving the facility.

The creation of this partnership was guided by two general principles. The first was that the Town would keep the lease income received from NSCS in an account separate from other Township funds, and use this money to cover the expenses and investments associated with owning the community center. The second principle was that the Town entering into this agreement should not increase burden on Township taxpayers; this second principle was also facilitated by the separate management of lease income, as costs associated with the Community Center could be tracked and charged against that separate account. Since 2002, the first year of NSCS operation, the Town Boards for Duluth Township have continued to operate the Community Center under these principles, and the NSCS has prospered, growing from a student population of about 179 during the last year of operation under ISD 381, to a current enrollment of well over 300 students. During this time the Boards of Duluth Township and NSCS have worked together to make this partnership help both parties. The arrangement allowed the NSCS to operate and grow in its current building, and the Town of Duluth has benefited by gaining a community center and an income stream (lease money from NSCS) to provide the financial resources to cover the expense of owning and operating the facility. Owning the community center has fostered the initiation and growth of a Community Education program in the Township, as well as a popular and growing Community Recreation Program, centered around the gymnasium, skating rinks, and soccer and baseball/softball fields.

When the facility was originally transferred to the Town of Duluth, there was a clause in the agreement called the "reversionary clause", which stated that if at any point during the following ten years the facility did not contain an operating public school, that the property ownership would revert back to ISD 381. This was a logical protection for the school district, since its interest was to maintain the local elementary school as a feeder to Two Harbors High School. As the agreement began in 2002, this reversionary clause expired in 2012, and the Town of Duluth now has unrestricted ownership of the facility and grounds.

In recent years, there have been changes to the rules governing charter schools in Minnesota. One of those has been the creation of a building ownership option by something called an "affiliated building company" (ABC). An ABC is an organization affiliated with, but administratively separate from, a charter school, whose function is to own and operate the school's facilities. This is similar to the role the Town of Duluth has served for NSCS, but would not be constrained by some of the rules and processes that apply to Township governments.

Earlier this year, representatives of NSCS approached the Town Board with the concept of transferring the building and grounds leased by the NSCS to an ABC formed explicitly to support the NSCS. That proposal asserted that transferring the property to the ABC would relieve the Town of the administrative burden of overseeing and operating the facility, would eliminate duplication (e.g., dual insurance policies) and additional administrative process created by having the Town own the facility, and would avoid the possibility of future financial liabilities if the State changed its current policy of making the community center exempt from property tax. It was further proposed that the ABC could enter into an agreement with the Town to assure continued access to the facility for the Town's Community Recreation and Education programs.

At this time, the Town Board has had only preliminary discussions of this proposal and has not made any decisions. There are a number of issues to be weighed by the Town in deciding the best path forward; the Town is now sole owner of the community center building and grounds, and the current relationship with NSCS provides a means to facilitate continued development of the Community Recreation and Education programs. The Town Board has indicated that soliciting community input via public meetings would be an important part of the discussion and decision process. As of April 2013, no specific dates for such meetings have been established, but may occur in the coming months. Public notices will be made when the details have been determined.

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

M A Y 2 0 1 3

Inside This Issue:

- Township **Calendar** (*insert*)
- Memorial Day Ceremony plans
- Town Board & Planning Meetings
- Police and Fire Information
- 2013 Road Program of Work
- Community Center History
- "The Minuteman Missile Train"
- *Jobs wanted by Township youth*
- Recreation news
- NSCS News (*insert*)
- **P&Z Vacancy**

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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DULUTH, MINN.

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.

980 Newsletters 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. Our Newsletter is printed locally by Bob Sundstrom, **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by the folks at **UDAC**.

Preschool Registration is Underway

"Early Learning Sticks Like Glue"
Kathy Johnson

We are now accepting registration for the 2013-2014 school year! Both morning and afternoon classes are offered for 3-5 years olds on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Thursdays. Your child may attend 1, 2 or 3 days per week. A monthly tuition fee is charged and there is a \$30 non-refundable registration fee to hold your spot. Please contact Kathy Johnson at 834-5429 or 525-0663 x106 for further information.

Rain Barrel & Composter Sale

One Day Only!



\$55



\$45

Sat, May 18
9am - 1 pm

Lake Superior College
2101 Trinity Rd, Duluth

more info: 218-722-0761 or wlsd.com
Regional Stormwater Protection Team & WLSSD

Duluth Township Community Education
Michelle Libby and Tera Freese, Coordinators

The next classes will be announced in September.

Community Ed is always looking for community education ideas and instructors. If you have a skill and/or knowledge you would like to share and would like to make some extra cash while doing it, please consider teaching a class. If interested contact: EducCoordinator@duluthtownship.org or call 525-0663 ext 300.



North Shore Locavores
"Producers and consumers of local food."
Sherry Rovig and Molly Tillotson

ANNUAL SEED AND PLANT SWAP

Sunday, May 26th, 3pm, Town Hall

Future topics and events will be posted in the Newsletter and on our web site. If you have ideas that you would like to share, want to get on our email list, or need information, let us know.

See our "Locavores" link on the Duluth Township web site or email Northshorelocavores@gmail.com.

or call: Sherry (525-0489) or Molly (525-6933).

Meetings are free and open to the public.

Duluth Township Knitters

"Helping to Build Community, one Stitch at a Time"

We will take a break until September

If you would like more information or would like to be added to the Knitters email list, contact Jo Thompson at 525-5854 or [wood-](mailto:wood-farm@wildblue.net)



[farm@wildblue.net](mailto:wood-farm@wildblue.net).

Duluth Township Information — 2013

Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804
 Phone (218) 525-5705 (voice message),
 web site: www.duluthtownship.org or
 email: TownHall@duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9am-noon
 Thurs 2-6pm, Fri 9-11am

Planning Office Hours: No posted hours

Call the Town Hall for an appointment: 525-5705

Supervisors:

Barbara Crow (2011-2014) 525-0489
 or Email: BarbaraCrow@duluthtownship.org
(Primary contact for Personnel, Finance/Banks, Insurance, Town Hall; Alternate: Comm Ctr, Env. Stewardsp, Planning and Zoning, Senior Housing).

Mary Anne Daniel, (2012-2013) 260-9123 or Email:
MaryAnneDaniel@duluthtownship.org
(Primary contact for Fire, Cemetery, Emergency Preparedness, Police; Alternate: Communications).

Dave Miller (2011-2014) 525-1555 **Vice Chair**
 or Email: DaveMiller@duluthtownship.org
(Primary contact for Roads, Community Ctr/Facilities, N Shore Mgmt Bd, Env. Stewardship; Alternate: Community Ed & Recreation).

Mary Ann Sironen, (2012-2015) **Chair** 525-2010
 or Email: MaryAnnSironen@duluthtownship.org
(Primary contact for Communications, Senior Hsg, Community Ed/Rec, DNSSD Materials mgmt; Alternate: Emergency Preparedness).

Don Sitter (2013-2016) 525-4138
 or Email: DonSitter@duluthtownship.org
(Primary contact for Planning and Zoning, Town Hall; Alternate: North Shore Mgmt Bd, Personnel).

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 Sexton: **Molly Tillotson** 218-525-6933
 or Email: Cemetery@duluthtownship.org

Planning Director: **Sue Lawson** messages: 525-5705

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

Planning and Zoning Commission: **Wayne Dahlberg, Jerry Hauge** (Mar2015), **Brigid Pajunen** (Mar2013), **John Schifsky** (Mar2013), **Jo Thompson**, (Mar2013) vice chair, **Paul Voge**, chair (Mar2014), and a vacancy
 Email: 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

Fire Department: **Chief Bob Engelson, Assistant Chief Keith Darsow**, President **Shane Kerby**
 Email: FireHall@duluthtownship.org

Burning Permits are available online at mndnr.gov/permits or the **Town Hall** (office hours), or from **Fire Wardens:** Jay Zink (525-5589), Jeff & Carolyn Marino (525-6431), or **DNR Two Harbors**, 1568 Hwy2, 834-1418.

Community Education Coordinators: **Michelle Libby & Tera Freese.** EducCoordinator@duluthtownship.org

Recreation Coordinator: **Kevin Pettis** 525-0663 ext 301
RecreationCoordinator@duluthtownship.org

Note: Where possible, email is forwarded to the person, otherwise it is sent to the Town Hall where it is picked up. Many Departments have a web page. See our web site (above).



Township Recycling Center
 At the Town Hall, on Homestead Road
 Staffed by Carolyn Marino, Patrick Kelly,
 David Hooley and Roger Beck.

**April-Oct: Tuesday 7-11am & 3-7pm,
 Thursday. 3-7pm, Saturday 8-12.**

Nov.-March: Tues. 7-11am, 2-6pm, Thurs. 2-6pm, & Sat. 8-noon.
*(Recycle drop off only during recycling hours
 and no household garbage, please.)*

Curb recycling pickup service is available below the freeway.

Aluminum cans should be recycled with plastics/metal cans.

Township Calendar

See calendar updates on www.duluthtownship.org.

Our Official Calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

MAY 2013

- 1, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall
- 1, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 9, Thu, 6:15pm Annual Stormwater meeting, Town Hall
- 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
- 26, Sun, 3pm Locavores spring meeting, Town Hall
- 27, Mon, 11am **Memorial Day Ceremony**, Palmers Cemetery on Old North Shore Road

JUNE 2013

- 5, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall
- 5, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
- 13, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- 17, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library
- 18, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 19, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** training, Hall #1
- 23, Sun, **Deadline for July Newsletter**
- 27, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

JULY 2013

- 3, Wed, 12:30pm **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall
- 3, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 11, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall.
- 15, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library
- 16, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 17, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** training Hall #1
- 25, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall



Certified Instructors Inc.
 Firearms Safety Instruction
 Basic Pistol • Concealed Carry • Personal Protection



Certified N.R.A. Pistol Instructor
Stephen R Brown

1702 W. Knife River Rd.
 Two Harbors, MN 55616
 c.i.inc@dishmail.net (218) 525-2483

Paid Advertisement



Want your mower-tiller-snow-blower out of the garage?
 BUILD A TOOL SHED, raised garden beds, etc.
 with rough lumber from our local saw mill.
 Call George Sundstrom 525-5655

Paid Advertisement

Country Kids Day Care, 525-1073
 Infants to School Age, Licensed
 Bus to NSCS & Lakewood Schools
 Accepting Full and Part Time

Paid Advertisement

Community Services
 in Duluth Township

Clifton 4-H Club: call
 Kate Edblom, 525-1276

Cub Scouts: call
 David Hooey, 525-6617

Boy Scouts: call Chris
 Roningen 525-5308

Girl Scouts: call
 Julie Igo, 726-4710

(Note: If other community
 service groups should be
 listed, please contact the Edi-
 tor at the Town Hall.)

WAGGIN' Tails
 Boarding Kennels
 Long & short term
 boarding



Reservations
 Required

218-525-4842
 7002 App Rd.
 Two Harbors

Paid Advertisement



AAA — 24 hour service
525-4415

Jump Start, Door unlock,
 Tire change, Fuel delivery.
 All major credit cards accepted.

Serving the Two Harbors Area
 Torgeson Road

Paid Advertisement



Open 7 days a week
at 11am
 Takeout available.

218 Scenic Drive, Knife River

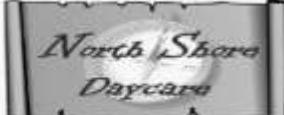
Wed: All you can eat **fish fry**; Thur: **Swedish meatballs**;
Friday: **Fish cakes and fish specialties**, live music 6-8;
Sun: Full **Turkey dinner** w/all the trimmings
834-2501 • www.lighthouseatemilys.com

Paid Advertisement

LOOKING FOR A HOME TO RENT? or
LOOKING FOR A RENTER FOR YOUR NICE HOME?

Call **Apartment & Home Advisors** – we can help!
 We specialize in properties of distinction and we help
 “take the stress out of moving”.
 Call Susie Lannon at 218-720-3987

Paid Advertisement



Courtney Kappes
 Northshoredaycaremn.com
 Tel: 218-522-0123
 courtneykappes@msn.com

Accepts full/part time children of all ages
 Hours: 7am to 5pm Mon-Fri
 Small group size
 Convenient location

Your childs adventure awaits...

Paid Advertisement

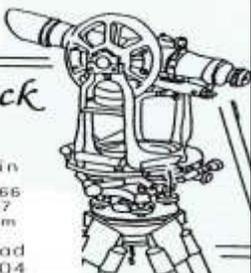
NORTH COUNTRY
 LAND SURVEYOR, INC.

Anthony Lueck
 Surveyor

GPS
 Drafting
 Mapping
 Property Lines

Minnesota/Wisconsin
 MN.LIC. 24587 / WI.LIC. 2366
 BUS.TELE 218-348-8037
 anthonylueck@northic.com

6098 Ryan Road
 Duluth, MN 55804



Paid advertisement

NOW OPEN – CAPE SUPERIOR BOTTLE SHOP
 Your friendly neighborhood bottle shop!
 Located in the **Cape Superior Inn**—5133 North Shore Dr
 Mon.- Sat. 12:00-8:00pm.
 Wine, beer, liquor, pop & ice. *Special occasion?*
 We will make up a gift basket for you!! *In a hurry?*
 Call ahead and we'll have your order ready to go.
Weekly tasting events!
 218-525-3340 or www.capesuperiorbottleshop.com

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218-834-3310



Stay at Home
 Pet care in your home.
 Daily • Weekends • Vacations • Holidays

www.stayathomepetcare.com

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