Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue
Ann Cox, Mary Anne Daniel, Dave Edblom, Kate Edblom, Bob Engelson, Kathy Johnson, Sue Lawson, Carolyn Marino, Janet McTavish, Beth Mullan, Shawn Padden, Sherry Rovig, John Schifsky, Don Sitter, Carol Surine, and Rose Vastila.
The Department received a $3,520 grant for fire training. Recent training involved jaws of life use to help in vehicle crash events. Remember to check chimneys, fire extinguishers and smoke/carbon monoxide detectors...new batteries too!

***Clifton Fire Department Auxiliary***

*Sherry Rovig*

The Auxiliary started in 2003 with a handful of residents who wanted to support our local Fire Dept. Two main fund-raising projects were organized and continue each year — the calendar and the harvest dinner. The funds that are raised go towards items that are not covered by levied township funds and contribute to the morale and retention of members of Clifton Volunteer Fire Dept. An annual appreciation dinner; monogrammed clothing, such as jackets and hats; and occasional meals at trainings are good examples of how the funds are used. The unpaid hours that fire fighters and emergency medical responders (formerly called First Responders) volunteer to respond to calls, train and maintain the necessary equipment and halls are many. We hope the Auxiliary’s efforts help show the community’s appreciation for their dedicated service.

Any residents within the Clifton Fire Dept. response area are invited to participate in auxiliary activities or events. We do not have dues or officers. We do meet several times a year to plan for our events. If you wish to be notified of opportunities to contribute, please contact either Jody Anderson 525-4971 or Pat Halvorson 310-2975.

We need some help to distribute the free 2016 Fire Calendar to Township Household mailboxes. If you can help out, call Sherry Rovig at 525-0489.

**To volunteer as a fire fighter or emergency medical responder, call Chief Bob Engelson, 525-6819**

Training and turnout gear are provided.

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**Emergency Planning**

*Supervisor Mary Anne Daniel, EMD*

The Emergency Planning team will discuss our Township’s emergency plan with the Town Board at 6:30, Nov 12th, before the regular Board meeting. They will talk through one of the potential emergency events that might call for a broader community response. As usual, all Board meetings are open to the public.

Training for emergencies. Lake County will be conducting a citizen training program and Duluth Township residents may attend. The program provides residents with knowledge of how to respond to an emergency or “event” in our community to help their own family and neighbors. It is scheduled for 9am-5pm on Sat. and Sun., Feb. 6th and 7th, plus Sat. Feb. 20th. Details will be in the January Newsletter.

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**Hockey Rink Improvements**

At the October 8th Town Board meeting, a volunteer committee of Ray Sundberg, Ron Sundberg, Nick Massie and Shane Stolp presented a proposal for updating the Community Center’s adult hockey rink and providing a new youth hockey rink. The Town Board unanimously approved the proposal and financing, pending approval by ABC Inc. and the NSCS School Boards. The proposal, estimated at $8,412, included safety items, ideas for future improvements, plus the volunteer committee’s plans for implementation.

Earlier this summer, the Town Board committed up to $62,000 for four Community Center project ideas, pending developed project proposals and ABC Inc and NSCS Board action. The hockey project was the first completed proposal. Thanks to the volunteer committee for their work and planning. Hockey improvements are slated to be ready this winter.
Community Youth Groups

Clifton 4-H Club: call Kate Edblom, 525-1276
(see article)
Cub Scouts: call David Hooey, 525-6617
Boy Scouts: call Chris Roningen 525-5308
Girl Scouts: call Tracy Mandelin, 525-4148
(Note: If other community service groups should be listed, please contact the Editor at the Town Hall.)

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 Job
• Young man, age 11 looking for work, including lawn mowing and general yard work. Experienced. If interested, please call Konrad, at 830-9514.
• Mason Stolp, age 13 years, looking for work (mowing, shoveling, yard work, cleaning, general labor). Call Mason at 525-0576.
• Mature, hard working, experienced 14 year old looking for work (yard work, cleaning, mowing, pretty much any chores). Just call Bridger at 525-0090.
• Cameron Nelson, age 13, lawn mowing, snow shoveling, general yard work, general labor. Call Cameron at 525-0208
• Ryan, age 15, is looking for work. He is interested in yard work, lawn mowing and babysitting. Call 525-9065.

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 email: editor@duluthtownship.org.

WANTED
Kathy Johnson

3, 4, and 5 year olds to join the Play and Learn family at North Shore Community School. Classes are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:15 to 11:30 and 12:15 to 2:30. Children may attend 1, 2 or 3 days per week. A monthly tuition fee is charged.
To become a PAL... contact Kathy Johnson at: 525-0663 Ext 106, or 834-5429.

From the Chair
Supervisor Don Sitter, Board Chair

Here are just a few of the highlights since our last newsletter.

The Town Hall expansion is nearly complete. We will be holding an open house/ribbon cutting ceremony on November 14th, starting at 1 pm. See the article on page 1.

The trails committee held another open house on Oct. 15th. A preliminary plan was presented for residents to review. This plan has been designed (and funded) by MIC and ARDC. We received good input from residents who attended the open house. A formal plan will be presented to the Planning Commission at the Nov. 19th meeting which starts at 7pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Town’s first PUD (Planned Unit Development) is proceeding along nicely. This project is being proposed as an 8-unit owner-occupied condominium residential housing on what was previously the Nokomis restaurant site. An informal open house was held on Aug. 10th. The Community Participation Report was generated from the many comments received at the open house. The Planning Commission gave preliminary approval of the plan at their Aug. 27th meeting. Final plans are to be presented at the Oct 22nd Planning Commission meeting.

Another successful Harvest Dinner was held on Oct. 10th. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped put together this 12th annual event. (See page 2 for a summary.)

Hockey rink improvements are underway at the NSCS site. These improvements include not only resolving some of the safety issues on the large hockey rink, but also a new youth hockey rink. These are being built with the dollars approved by the Town Board, but more importantly, many, many hours of volunteer labor. Our many thanks to the volunteers that are spending their free time to make these improvements for all in the Township to enjoy! (See the article on page 2.)

Other planned improvements at the school site are in the planning stages, more details will be communicated as they become available.
As always, your comments and suggestions about Township matters are welcome and important to us all.

It is sad to report that a local tradition is passing. It was announced that the Lighthouse at Emily’s restaurant has closed its doors in late October. Thanks for contributing to our community.
August 13th regular meeting. Attending: Supervisors Mary Anne Daniel, Dave Edblom, Wendy Gustofson, Don Sitter and Travis Stolp. Treasurer reported $453,426.99 spendable balance after $183,113.07 deposits, $123,889.03 expenses, $200,000 Township Reserve and a frozen fund of $300,000. Reports: Police: noted DOT has put up divided highway signs on Hwy 61 after an accident. Fire: Wayne Dahlberg and Chief Engelson will meet on preliminary planning for an added bay to Hall #1. Planning: Ordinance wording will be ready for the next Board meeting. Trails Steering Committee reviewed survey results. Eighteen people attended the Kiviranta PUD open house. Recreation: A candidate for the combined Community Center Rental Coordinator/NSCS Custodian position, Jim Salls, was interviewed and ultimately hired. Roads: North Ryan Road signs, ditch mowing and Greenwood Road run-off and trees blocking signs were reviewed. Town Hall: We are on budget but close. Recycling: A shed keeper was sought and a volunteer was interviewed and appointed. Welcome to the staff, Colette, and thanks for helping out. Emergency Planning: A revised Emergency Plan was provided to Supervisors. At 6:30 pm before the November 12th meeting, Pat Halverson and Sue Lawson will discuss an emergency scenario with the Board. Cemetery: Sexton Molly Tillotson was thanked for her professionalism. Tipped stones are being reset. The garage floor needs to be redone. Old Business: Pros and cons of recording Board meetings were discussed but action was postponed.

September 10th regular meeting. All Supervisors attended plus the Town Clerk, Treasurer and Town Attorney.

Main Actions: The Zoning Ordinance was adopted unanimously, revoking #4 and adopting #5 effective December 31st. The Stormwater Ordinance and fee schedule were also unanimously adopted. A motion was approved to change the content of Board minutes to reflect decisions, votes, reasoning, and background supporting the decision. Discussion: Treasurer report: deposits of $35,012.88, expenses of $165,164.07, Township reserve $200,000, and frozen CC fund $300,000 for a spendable balance of $323,275.70. Jo Thompson was approved as Township representative to Coastal Council conference.
Early Road Construction — Duluth Township

John Schifsky

The journal entry reads “Town of Duluth – May 1st 1899. Meeting of the Road Supervisors. Those present were Barnes, McDonald and Alek Postal.” A paragraph further on Alek Postal, the clerk, records the following: “The Supervisors reported that the roads in the Town were not in a dangerous condition. It was moved that the overseers commence work on the Homestead extension west to put the Road in a passable condition and not to spend over six hundred dollars to the mile.” Which seems, to this writer, a great deal of money for that period, 116 years ago.

The quotation above was taken from one of more than two dozen Town record books, spanning the period 1894 – 1988. These books as well as treasurer’s records, birth and death records, wolf bounty certificates, road records, chattel mortgage records, elections records, building permits, and fire department records are filed in six boxes stored at the Iron Range Research Center (IRRC) in Chisholm. In 1983 the research center received a federal grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to assist municipalities on the Iron Range with the care and preservation of their historical records. Duluth Township records were moved to the IRRC in 1989 where they are available to the public.

The Town record books are impressive to look at and hold: formal: large format (13 1/2 by 8 ½), leather bound ledgers, the paper a rich, cream color, ruled, and of heavy weight. Entries are by hand in ink, the writing cursive, and legible for the most part.

For the period 1898 through the 1930’s the Town Meeting Minutes concern themselves primarily with the placement of roads, their construction and maintenance. Township residents filed road petitions (there are three folders of such petitions, each petition generated by one or more individuals, the petition most often simply stating that a road needs to be extended from an existing road to a residence.) For example the 1899 records document that “A request was received from Martin Mortinson to have the Town aid him in building a road from the Homestead Road into his place.” The board discussed the matter and asked Mr. Mortinson to petition in the “regular way” which meant completing a formal petition.

The App Road came up for discussion at that same 1899 meeting. “The Supervisors reported that the route was feasible but not of the best, and that the road was necessary as there were several settlers who the road would benefit.” The supervisors approved the road and later “moved that the App Road be cut out and cleared to 10 ft wide all necessary bridges and culverts built and put in.” A few sentences later the clerk writes “the Board take steps to turn the Lake Shore Road back to the county.” This resolution is interesting in that the “Lake Shore Road” is mentioned in 1895 and funds were allocated for its survey, as well as for necessary bridges and culverts. North Shore Drive (Lake Shore Road) has been a county responsibility since that time.

In the years following 1899 residents petitioned for other roads; the boxes of Township records at the Research Center include a well-thumbed yellow legal pad, pages filled with information about road openings and expenses. The names are familiar: Anderson Road in 1908, Olson Road in 1909, Aho Road in 1909, Wildwood Road in 1909, Simpson Road in 1910. The listing runs through 1976 with the date the petitions were accepted and filed as well as identifying survey information including section numbers and the beginning and ending points of the road. The “Stiff Line Road” (Homestead Road), “beginning at Palmer’s Station on the D. & I. R. Ry., in section 3, Twp. 51-13 and running west about 40 rods . . . as laid out and constructed by the Township of Duluth in Section 10, Twp. 52-13” was officially recognized as a public highway by St. Louis County and cared for by the county.

As noted above, road maintenance was a constant responsibility. In 1911 the Town Board allotted $3225 to the roads, the work “to be carried out as soon as possible funds allowing the same to be done.” Familiar road names follow: Agnew, Anderson, McDonough, Postal, Hogland, Bergquist, Croft, Johnson, etc. (More on Township roads, their construction and maintenance in the January Newsletter.)

Clifton 4-H News
Kate Edbloom

It all began nearly 18 years ago when my own children were members of the Clifton 4-H Club. Along the way, I have enjoyed the rewards of working alongside youth and their families. It is now time for me to share this experience with a fresh new leader(s).

If you love working with youth of all ages, would enjoy watching lives transform in roles of leadership, and can offer time to help develop worthwhile life skills in our community youth, this is a volunteer opportunity for you! The Clifton 4-H Club is one of the oldest clubs in Minnesota History. I would love to pass on the torch and keep it growing. I would be happy to work with you until you are comfortable. Kate Edbloom, 525-1276.
Police Department
Shawn Padden, Chief

Police Events. There were 221 police events in August and September. This included 38 traffic violation warnings or citations, 82 resident requested vacation home/business checks, 9 medical emergencies, 9 animal complaints, 7 suspicious activity calls, 7 burglar alarm responses, and 6 attempts to locate careless drivers, and 6 theft complaints. See our web site for a full listing of events.

If you have information about any criminal activity in our community, please contact the Duluth Township Police Department at: 218-525-5705 or our mobile phone: 393-8407, or email: DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org.

For medical or police emergencies call 911.
Go to the Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org to sign up for email police alerts and other urgent or informative notifications.

MNDOT plans to replace the bridge and provide more access parking were discussed at an Oct 28th meeting.

French River Readers Book Club
Carol Surine

The book for next month is A Complicated Kindness, by Miriam Toews. The next meeting is Nov. 19th at 7:30pm in the Fireside Room at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road. Host to be determined, perhaps Carol Surine.

For information call Carol Surine, 525-4426 or email: CarolSurine@gmail.com, or www.duluthtownship.org/bookclub.
To Email Township Officials and Departments
Our Township web site, www.duluthtownship.org/contacts, has a dropdown list of personnel and departments you can use to send emails. Note that a copy of all emails automatically goes to the Town Hall for Township records.

Note: If the person does not have email access, your communication is sent to the Town Hall where it is picked up. Many Departments have a web page. See our web site).
You are Invited to the
Town Hall Update/Addition Open House and Ribbon Cutting!
starting at 1pm on Saturday, November 14th
Tour the new offices and community room...coffee and cookies!