



Duluth Township Newsletter

Duluth Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org

September 2001

This issue announces the September 20th information meeting on progress on the Township Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Our reconvened Township annual meeting authorized acquisition of the North Shore Elementary School property. We have had two successful community events—the Come On Home party and the BBQ and fundraiser for our new public charter school. The Township has a pressing need for volunteers for the Fire Department

Thanks to contributors to this issue: **Leo Babeu, Jeff Cook, Ann Cox, Helen Hendrickson, Ellen O'Neill, Rich Sill and Mary Ann Sironen.** A special thanks goes to resident **Marilyn Ferdon** for this month's masthead!

Duluth Township Is On the Move! Update of the land use planning process.

Ellen O'Neill

Duluth Township, over the next 20 years will be....

Come help write the ending to this sentence. As part of the comprehensive land use planning process, you are invited to help envision the future of the Township. The first of three public open houses will be held at the Town Hall on September 20th. (See the insert in this newsletter). Help us build a future that has you in it!

The comprehensive land use planning process started in May. There is a Steering Committee of 35 residents, including Town Board supervisors and members of the Zoning Commission, who are working with a team of consultants. The Steering Committee has met three times and will continue to meet through May 2002, to complete a plan for the next 20 years for the Township. After the plan is completed, zoning ordinances will be written to reflect the goals of the plan.

The first step in the planning process is to create a vision of what we want the Township to look like in 20 years. The vision includes what we want the natural resources, roads, utilities, housing, tourism, open spaces, commercial and industrial development and community meeting spaces to be into the future. The Steering Committee had an opportunity to hear each other's visions at the meeting August 16th. At the public meeting on September 20th the Steering Committee will have an opportunity to hear **your** vision of the future. The consultants will then draft a "vision narrative" that will guide the next steps of the planning process.

As part of the planning process the Steering Committee looked at information related to growth and change in the Township, Duluth and St. Louis County. This included changes in population, numbers of building permits over the last ten years, taxes, school enrollment etc. (See below for some of this information).

The planning process will result in a land use plan and a set of zoning ordinances that reflect the plan. It will also result in a stronger community because we will be better informed, have had opportunities to agree, disagree and compromise, and had a chance to manage change rather than have change managing us!

OUR GROUND RULES

Duluth Township Land Use Planning Process

- We all have something to teach and something to learn in this process. We are all experts.
- The process of learning requires us to rethink our assumptions. We agree to be open to rethinking our own assumptions and to hearing other people's ideas.
- We will act with respect for everyone's knowledge and experience by:
 - Listening without interrupting or talking over each other
 - Listening without judging someone's ideas or experience
 - Sharing time/space equally with each other
 - Agreeing to disagree respectfully
 - Describing the problem or issue, not the person
- We agree to act in ways that are in the best interest of the Township and move beyond our own self-interest.
- We agree to listen to our neighbors in the public meetings and reflect their concerns, ideas and needs in the planning process and the plan.

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Mailed to 730 Duluth Township families. Extra copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to volunteer newsletter editor Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or in the **NewsBox** on the Town Hall porch. The Newsletter is printed locally by **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by **UDAC**.

Your neighbors who volunteered for the *Steering Committee* and attended its first meeting are: Regina Bourgeois, Jim Bourgeois, Prudy Cameron, Supervisor Jeff Cook, Supervisor Stephen Dahl, Wayne Dahlberg, Bruce Duncan, Dan Dunphy, Kevin Eckholm, Dave Edblom, Toni Fladmark, Rod Garver, Jan Green, Wendy Gustafson, Cindy Hale, Adam Hendricksen, John Kessler, Sue Lawson, Caroline Marino, Jan McTavish, Don McTavish, Kathy McTavish, Dave Miller, Ellen O'Neill, Mary Ann Sironen, Ed Stielstra, Babs Strom, Tom Estabrooks (MPCA Duluth) and a team of four of our consultants.

To contact someone about the planning process, call:

- **Wayne Dahlberg**, our Zoning Administrator, **728-4293** [6022 Bergquist Road, Duluth, MN 55804], or
- **Dianne Desotelle, Project Manager**, Desotelle Consulting **728-1228** [PO 3220 Duluth, MN 55803].
- **Jean Coleman**, Biko Associates, Inc. **612-588-4904** [2634 Vincent Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55411].

Thanks from Duluth Township

The Township thanks **Henry Willemarck** who will be retiring after 40 years service on our Clifton Volunteer Fire Department. Thanks too to **William Cox** for 5 years service on the Planning Commission.

The Homesteaders Helen Hendrickson

The Homesteader's meet Wednesday, **September 5th** at 12:30 and will be entertained by the "Grandma's and Grandpa's" following lunch.

Local artist Arna Tennan will present a program of Norwegian traditional folk music at the Wednesday, **October 3rd meeting** (12:30, Town Hall). She recently spent 10 months studying music in Norway.

The November meeting will be held on Wednesday, **November 7th**, 12:30 at the Town Hall.

The Homesteader's welcome non-members as well as members to their meetings held at the Duluth Town Hall on Homestead Road. Refreshments and a social hour are part of each gathering. *If you have questions, call Helen Hendrickson, 525-4154.*

Vandalism at the Township Cemetery

It was reported that this spring and again a few days ago vandals stole two small (6"), gray, ceramic "guardian angel" figures from Bud Potter's wife's grave in the Township cemetery. If anyone knows about or sees these valuable pieces, please help return them to their proper place. Contact the Town Hall or Town Police (525-5705), the Newsletter editor (525-0103), or call Bud Potter at 525-4005. A wheelbarrow was also taken from the shed.

Making Cemetery Arrangements

Denise Connolly is our Duluth Township sexton in charge of arrangements and records for our Township Cemetery on Old North Shore Road. Call or leave a message at 525-7161.

Note of Thanks from Phil Strom, NSCS Interim President

I am incredibly grateful. Thank you goes to: The NSCS Board for their talent, resourcefulness and hard work...The North Shore community for its unflinching support and encouragement, even during those times when the obstacles seemed insurmountable...To the staff and Directors of Wolf Ridge for their vision, courage, and altruism.... and to God for all of these blessings.

The BBQ party was a great success, netting about \$4000 for the start-up period. Thanks to everyone who participated and contributed. Special thanks to Jan and Karen McTavish whose lovely quilt helped put the raffle over the top. Special thanks also to The AAL Branch for their \$800 matching funds.

Our goal is for the North Shore Community School to be the premier elementary charter school in Minnesota, continuing the tradition of excellence long established. With the continuing support of all of you it promises to be exhilarating journey.

The mission of North Shore Community School (NSCS) is to provide meaningful learning experiences that will enable all students to grow, develop critical thinking skills, communicate their ideas effectively, and to promote respect for our diverse human and natural environment. Taking their place among the caring community of intergenerational learners, students are encouraged by example to embrace values of responsible citizenship and a lifelong commitment to learning.

Our NSCS Interim Board

(North Shore Community School)

Pat Anderson, Leo Babeu, Bob Engelson, Lars Fladmark, Julie Igo, Phil Strom, chair, Bob Sundstrom, George Sundstrom, Gail Trygstad. For information on charter school progress call Phil Strom (chair) at 525-6200, or Leo Babeu at 834-2247. Meetings are open to the public and held the 3d Tuesday at 6:30pm in the North Shore School.

North Shore Community School Update

Leo Babeu

There were many items of **good news** in August to encourage supporters of the plans to open a public community charter school in the fall of 2002:

- The Lake Superior School District board unanimously *voted to confirm* their support of Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center (ELC) (of Finland, MN) as sponsor of the North Shore Community School (NSCS).
- The Board of Trustees of Wolf Ridge will *approve sponsorship of the charter* soon after receiving the School Board's letter of support. State approval of our school's charter application can be expected within the month after ELC officially declares intent to sponsor the school.
- Members of the nine-person interim NSCS Board *attended a Department of Children, Families and Learning (CFL) charter-training workshop* on August 8th.

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CFL has indicated enthusiasm for our project. The Board is preparing to embark on the most challenging leg of the journey. **Tasks to come include:**

setting up the school's financial and administrative processes; detailing its educational plan; hiring staff; publicizing our school to area families and registering students for the 2002-2003 school year.

Most of our staffing and planning needs are dependent on a fairly accurate projection of enrollment. Therefore, we plan to conduct registration for the school beginning in January 2002. *Stay tuned.*

- The Duluth Town Board of Supervisors had been authorized by residents at the reconvened Annual Meeting on August 14th to *negotiate the acquisition of the North Shore Elementary building, grounds, and contents* with the Board of Lake Superior I.S.D. 381. The Town Board and legal counsel will seek to obtain this facility as a community center. Leasing of the building to the community school would yield income from state charter school lease aid that would provide revenue for major maintenance costs of the building for the long-term. The acquisition of the intact North Shore School facility will enable NSCS to continue and expand on the exciting programs experienced at North Shore Elementary School.
- On *August 18th*, over 260 folks enjoyed an excellent outdoor feast at North Shore Elementary. The barbecue and raffle appears to have netted proceeds of over \$4,000 for the community school start-up efforts. Thanks to **Phil Strom** for the abundant cuisine, and to **Aid Association for Lutherans** for \$800 in matching funds. It was a beautiful day and we hope to make this an annual event in some form. *Thanks to all who pitched in and everyone who came.*
- The school greenhouse has been outfitted with a solar powered re-circulation pump for the pond system. On August 12th and 13th, volunteers dug in to landscape and seed the grounds around the greenhouse. Special thanks are due to **Walt Carter** for the soil and Bobcat work. Visit the school and check out the beautiful rock border he created on the south side.

and the evening paper looked through it was time for most adults to gather out on the lawn and talk. Normally most neighborhood folks would migrate down to our end of the block, aluminum lawn chair in hand, and prepare to settle into an hour or two of conversation. Most of the time the talk centered on sports or the weather, how the day at work had gone, the latest operation someone's aunt was recovering from, or a discussion concerning whether the latest model Ford, Chevy or Plymouth was the car to buy.

Whenever the community would gather for bigger celebrations we would head about a mile away to Oak Hill Park. The park was an oasis of trees, trails and fields sandwiched between blocks of neatly built post WW II houses and the biggest industry our town had, the creosote plant. Even today, if I close my eyes I can still sense those huge oak trees outlined against cloudless blue skies and smell the pungent odor of creosote that was always in the air. It was there at Oak Hill that I first remember watching a fireworks display. I must have been about three years old then, lying there, looking up into the twilight as I waited for the blackness to come. Scattered around me on a patchwork of spread blankets, like little geometric islands in a sea of grass were the people who made up my life; aunts, uncles, cousins, schoolmates, neighbors, all waiting as was I for the first burst of color to fall from the sky.

I doubt, back then, if I ever gave a thought to how important those days of summer would someday be to me. Now, nearly a half-century later they fill me with memories of family and friends, of neighbors and neighborhoods, and of a place we all gathered to celebrate what it meant to be a community.

A few weeks ago we too had a gathering that brought many of us together, the picnic fundraiser at North Shore. As important as the event was for our community in its efforts to retain our school I think what was most hopeful to me was watching the children that had come. I'm sure as they ran and played from afternoon into night their thoughts did not drift much beyond the joys and excitement of the day. But let us hope, as years pass, their memories will come to reflect upon soccer games, summer picnics, hot days spent at the creek, walks in the woods, and maybe, for a moment, settle on an August day that celebrated the importance of community.

The History Corner

Richard Sill

As a kid growing up in St. Louis Park my brother and I didn't have to go far to find someone to play with. Houses lined all sides of our block, most of them not more than 30 feet from each other. To the east of us were the Jenkins with their four kids. To the west, lived my second cousin Ruth Ann, just a year younger than me. Adding all the numbers together in just those three houses produced enough participants for just about any backyard game. When you included the Rogne and Woulet clan at the end of the block it brought the total number of kids to 16, just about what you needed for a good afternoon game of baseball. Most summer days, from morning until night, we gathered in one yard or another and played, only retreating back home when our mothers called us for noon dinner (it was never known as "lunch" in our family) or for the evening supper meal.

As much as the day belonged to us, evenings were pretty much our parents time. Once dishes were washed

Local Business Advertising

See current listing on our web page www.duluthtownship.org

Our Township has over 80 small businesses! Artists or owners of small businesses in the Township may have their business added to the 80 now on the Town web site by notifying the editor (525-0103) or e-mailing to dmctavish@earthlink.net.

Local Township businesses can also **place an ad** in the *Newsletter*. Ads are accepted on a space-available basis and size is limited to approximately a business card size for \$20 per issue (see examples in the July *Newsletter*). This will modestly offset regular *Newsletter* printing costs and helps make the small business and artist aspect of our Township more visible. Contact the editor if you wish to place an ad.

Home Services Listing

Several Town residents have indicated they would like to hire local youth or adults if they knew who might be available. We would like to **list home services** Township residents offer such as *mowing, snow removal, home repair, bobcat work, garden tilling, fire wood, landscaping, car pooling, odd jobs, part time work, etc.* A one-line listing of the type of service, a phone and name would be without cost. **Please notify the editor if you have a service we could list in the Newsletter or Township web site** (525-0103).

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District

Mary Ann Sironen, D/NSSD Secretary

An important point on the timeline for the D/NSSD sewer project has been reached. Further work is dependent on the outcome of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) that has just been issued for public comment for a 6-week period ending on October 3, 2001. A copy of the EAW is available at the Town Hall or on the MPCA website at:

www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/duluthnorthshore-eaw.pdf. It includes the draft of the North Shore Land Use Plan that has been compiled through a separate but related project. This information was commissioned by and will be shared by all three municipalities within the district (Town of Lakewood, Town of Duluth and City of Duluth) as well as the Knife River-Larsmont Sanitary District and Lake County.

Comments received will be used by the MPCA in evaluating the potential for significant environmental effects from this project and deciding on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If the EAW is found to be satisfactory, the D/NSSD Board of Managers will be able to put the project out for bid at the end of this year with hopes of construction to begin as early as possible next spring-2002. A number of property owners with pending building projects are anxiously awaiting the final timeline for the sewer project.

In other business, the Board has established two working groups- one for establishing job descriptions and working towards hiring the staff needed to run the District, and a second to work on the many issues involved in Rates and Charges. Property owners of the district are strongly encouraged to join either of these work groups. Future policies and procedures will be formed from these efforts and it's important that as many viewpoints and ideas as possible can be incorporated into them. *Duluth Township representatives to the Board, Lars Fladmark 525-525-4471 or Mary Ann Sironen 525-2010, will be happy to assist in having citizens join the working groups.*

An initiative is under way to attempt to reduce the monthly user fees within the district through a capital budget request to the Minnesota Department of Finance. If successful, this would allow a state appropriation for the North Shore districts. Some of the other issues to be addressed in the near future include easements, inspections of homes and wells, assessment abatement and office locations/staffing.

Further information on these and other activities of the Board are posted on the website. D/NSSD.org. Regular meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7 am

at the French River Lutheran Church, however, the September meeting will be held on the 11th rather than the 4th because of the Labor Day holiday. The public is always welcome.

Summary of Town Board Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

July 12th meeting. In response to a letter regarding 4th of July fireworks and garbage left on Stoney Point the Board will request our Peace Officers to monitor the area more closely and will send letters to the Duluth City Council, Mayor and St Louis County requesting their checking the area. Letters will also be sent requesting better maintenance and policing of Congdon Trust properties located in Duluth Township. A request was also sent to increase Inline Skating Marathon insurance.

Department reports were read. The north recycling shed has been painted by Bob Abramson. The Supervisors will meet for their Annual Road inspection. The 4-H club installed 2 benches and put flowers around the flagpole at the Town Cemetery. Ms Ulanowski presented a petition to vacate a road but the petition was withdrawn to correct the legal description. Wayne Dahlberg requested a map of any road to be vacated. The possible purchase/transfer of the North Shore School property to the Township was discussed. The issue will be raised at a reconvened Annual Township meeting on August 14th after which a special Board meeting may be held.

The Town Hall PA system needs repair. Funds from WLSSD will be sent to offset the move of the north recycling center. The McQuade road public access project has been taken over by the State. They are starting to haul rock. The Township is not responsible for any maintenance on the McQuade road public access. Painting and cleaning the Town Hall was discussed.

Aug 9th meeting: The Treasurer reported deposits of \$37,265.80, expenses of \$23,865.65 with a balance of \$173,788.20. Department reports were heard. There were 3 medical and 2 fire calls last month. Some fire department members wanted non-fire department purchased beer outside the fire hall following meetings. A motion to allow drinking on fire department property after meetings failed. A parking-after-dark problem at French River Lutheran Church was referred to the police. The Planning and Zoning administrator was granted fee increases from \$10 to \$25 for site visits, \$75 per variance/conditional use permit with \$10 for follow-up inspections.

A list of roadwork to be completed this year includes ditching to complete the FEMA flood fund work. Brush is being cut and chloride for dust is being applied. A public hearing was scheduled but the Rowrays were not present and it was rescheduled for October. Ulanowski's petition to vacate a road had three signatures needing to be checked (8 signatures from residents within 3 miles of the road to be vacated are needed). Provision was made for the Annual Town Meeting to reconvene on August 14th and an immediately following special Board meeting to consider Township acquisition of the North Shore School.

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The cemetery report noted a wheelbarrow was taken from the cemetery building. Requests for cemetery lots should go to Denise Connolly, Township sexton.

Mary Ann Sironen and Rick Certano will accept second terms on the Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District Board and letters of support will be sent. The Coastal Council has not acted on Blue Bird Landing and a task force of 4, including a Fire Department member, needs to be formed. Jerry Simmons reported on a meeting of the North Shore Management group. He provided a copy of a tower ordinance adopted by Grand Marias. George Sundstrom moved a moratorium on towers in the Township to August 9, 2002 to allow time to investigate and create an appropriate ordinance. The motion was unanimously approved. The North Shore Management Plan is being revised by CAC to give local control to managing the shoreline.

The Town Hall needs painting but Jeff Scully is unable to do it this year. The siding is chipping and apparently defective. Peggy Dahlberg is researching the possibility of being included in a class action lawsuit against the manufacturer. A replacement for our defective fax machine was approved. At the October Board meeting consultant Dianne Desotelle will present environmental information about the Township (referred to as the NEMO project).

Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thurs) Sept 13th and October 11th at 7:30pm in the Town Hall. The public is urged to attend to keep up to date on Town business.

August 14th Reconvened Duluth Township Annual Meeting. Rod Garver moderated the meeting. Phil Strom made the motion, amended after discussion to read: The Town Board is authorized to acquire, for Town use and purposes, the land, building, personal and other property now known as North Shore Elementary, or any portion thereof. The progress on keeping the school open as a community charter school was described (see article). Passed (33 yes, 1 no). Bob Engelson made the motion, amended after discussion to read: The amount of money allowed for acquisition and transactional costs is \$10,000. Passed (32 yes, 2 no). No special Board meeting was needed.

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

June 28st meeting. Attending: Members Bourgeois (chair), Bowen, Edblom, Fladmark, Gustofson and Lawson plus secretary Marino and several Town residents. Kris Larson, Minnesota Land Trust, presented information on conservation preservation.

A public hearing for a variance for Lannon's proposed house additions at 6311 Homestead Road were considered. Stream setback and home size and height were issues discussed. The Planning Commission approved with conditions including erosion and runoff protection for the stream, landscape shielding of the house from river view and moving smaller structures back from the stream. It was reiterated that knowing the ground rules *before* undertaking a project is essential.

A progress report on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee was given. A contact person was needed and Sue Lawson was appointed along with Wayne to provide input to the consultants regarding our planning process.

The North Shore School property was briefly discussed. It is currently zoned rural residential. Height issues with the Simonson construction on Bergquist Road were discussed (there is a 35' limit). A public hearing is scheduled in July regarding a replacement of a cabin at Dodges Log Lodges.

July 26th meeting. Vice-Chair Edblom presided. Members present were Bowen, Fladmark, and Lawson. Administrator Dahlberg and secretary Marino plus a small group of residents were in attendance.

The public hearing on the Dodges Log Lodges variance request was held. It was for building a larger cabin on the site of an existing one. Height will be almost doubled and the setback from water's edge will be about 30-35 feet. The nearest neighbor does not object. Concerns were for setting a precedent for other small cabins along the shore. A motion to grant the variance with silt fences to protect Lake Superior was made and discussed. The variance would replace the one-time eligibility for a 25% increase as a non-conforming structure.

The Commission was updated on the shore sewer project (which may be a model sewer project). Ms Sorensen required a variance and a hearing was agreed to for Monday, August 13th. Township officials were urged to refer zoning questions to the Zoning Administrator to avoid giving erroneous information.

Interviews with candidates to fill the vacancy necessitated by Bill Cox's work schedule will be scheduled for August. A plaque of recognition to Bill Cox for his service will be presented to him. A visioning exercise for the Steering Committee was discussed.

August 13th hearing. Bourgeois, Bowen, Edblom and Lawson were present to hear a variance request of Sarah Sorensen, 5198 Greenwood Road concerning setback from the road and creek, and non-conforming structure height. Through misinformation she was not aware a variance was needed. The lot is buildable but less than an acre and the remodeled house footprint would not change. A nearby neighbor does not object and St Louis County approved the septic system holding tanks. A motion to grant the variance was made and passed.

Next Planning Commission meetings: September 27th and October 25th at 7:30pm, (4th Thursday), Town Hall.

On Driveway Grading

Jeff Cook, Chair, Township Board of Supervisors

I often notice this and I bet you do too--a large depression across a gravel road that causes you to slow down your car or bottom out! Often a good rain causes this washout. Yet the main cause can be a poorly constructed driveway on the upper side of the gravel road. When all that rainwater roars down the drive it may take part of our Township road with it.

There is an easy fix! The driveway needs to have a small crown to it. When this is done, water will run to the side of the driveway and not rush down the middle. This not only saves your driveway but our road too. One other important point—gravel we save will not wind up as sedimentation in our streams and lakes.

Upcoming Critical Need for Committed Volunteer Firefighters

Ann Cox, Town Clerk (and First Responder), revised and extended by volunteer editor Don McTavish

Recently I was reading an article in the Lakewood Newsletter "The Town Crier" the front cover dedicated entirely to the Lakewood Fire Department. It portrayed the kind of dedication and support that I wish we could muster here. The Lakewood Fire Department has a positive attitude that seems to attract good volunteers.

We, as do most volunteer fire departments, put in many long hours, whenever the pager goes off, if we are available to respond. We have the same training requirements, the same duties to perform and the same State requirements, but for some reason, we do not have the same list of applicants waiting to join.

Over the years the Clifton Fire Department has worked long and hard to build what we feel is a fine fire department. Unfortunately we are a fire department badly in need of support and new personnel to bring new hope and ideas to our Department.

As of this time we have an active membership of 15 with room for an additional 10 new members. Of the 15 active members we have only 3 members available for daytime calls (one additional member may be available depending on his work shift). Of these 4 people, two are first responders. Hank Willemark recently retired after a remarkable 40 years service and others are approaching potential retirement.

An earlier Newsletter listed the available equipment, much of it relatively old. The Department handles most of its own repair work but some is more extensive. Recently a pump blew out and there was a \$7,000 repair bill on another truck.

The consequence of not having enough volunteers and operating equipment is that the Township would have to pay for fire service (such as contracting with another Township fire department) and homeowner insurance rates for all residents would likely increase as fire service becomes more distant. In short, we have a lot at stake. We need volunteers and community support for our volunteers. An earlier *Newsletter* asked for a volunteer "aid" group that could provide coffee and snacks at more extended fires and emergencies.

The Lakewood Town Crier list (adapted) of attributes of needed firefighter volunteers follows:

- They hold permanent or part time jobs but they must drop everything and run during meals, at night, during parties of family celebrations—whenever the calls come in.
- Perform duties in addition to firefighting, including regular meetings twice a month for business and work. They also need to write grants to the DNR, prepare fire reports for the State and Medical EMS reports.
- Are available for emergency calls including: fire, car accidents, alarms and lifting assist calls.
- Answer phone calls on burn permits and questions regarding a variety of issues.
- Need mechanical and construction skills for refurbishing and maintaining fire trucks, fire equipment, fire halls, and emergency medical equipment.
- Training requirements: Initial firefighting training is provided but there is continuing update training (generally held on weekends), live burn training (going into a building that is on fire!), rapid intervention training as backup entry teams and backup at structure fires.
- Reward: This job comes without monetary compensation. The reward is the respect of friends and neighbors in the Township, camaraderie of team members, the sense of a job well done and gratitude from our Township and the fortunate people they have helped.

How about joining our Duluth Township Volunteer firefighters! We need you! Contact Ann Cox at the Town Hall (525-5705).

Background Information for Updating our Duluth Township Comprehensive Plan

Our consultants and others have pulled together some background information that they presented to the 35-member resident Steering Committee (see page 2).

Population Change

Census Years	St Louis County	Duluth Township
1980	222,229	1,604
1990	198,213 down 10.8% from 1980	1,561 down 2.6% from 1980
2000	200,528 up 1.2% from 1990	1,723 up 10.4% from 1990

St Louis County dropped 10.8% in the decade ending in 1990 and has gone up slightly in the last decade. Duluth Township dropped slightly in the decade ending in 1990 but grew by 10.4% in the last decade. This is not a growth in family size since, on average; family size has declined over the past two decades to about 2.6 people currently.

Age Distribution

The median age (half are younger and half are older than this figure) for Duluth Township is 40.7 years, which is somewhat older than median age for the State (34.5 years) or St Louis County (39.0 years).

About 31% of our Township's households have someone under 18 years old and 19% have someone 65 years old or older.

Employment

A significant feature of Duluth Township is the number of small businesses (often home occupations or home businesses). Our web site lists 80 small businesses but a complete list is probably more like 120 if artists and part-time self-employment were fully known.

Employment in Duluth, of course, would be substantial although no data are currently available on place of employment. Many are also retired.

Housing Unit Occupancy

Occupancy	1990 Census	2000 Census
Owner-occupied	534 (93%)	618 (91%)
Renter-occupied	53 (9%)	51 (8%)
Vacant	118 (17%)	45 (6%)
Seasonal	<i>No Data</i>	22 (3%)
Total units	705 (100%)	714 (100%)

Most housing is owner-occupied. Vacant homes have declined substantially over the last 10 years and renter-occupied housing has declined slightly. Seasonal housing is only 3% of our Township's housing stock.

Type of Occupied Housing

Type	1990 Census	2000 Census
Single Family	<i>No data</i>	669 (97%)
Ag. Homestead	<i>No data</i>	16 (2%)
Multi-family	<i>No data</i>	6-8 (1%)

Housing in the Township is almost entirely single family housing.

Number of Permits for New Homes

Year	Single Family	Mobile Homes	Seasonal Cabins	Total Permits
1994	17		1	18
1995	21			21
1996	14	5		19
1997	18			18
1998	15		1	16
1999	15	2	1	18
2000	15	3	3	21

The number of building permits for new housing was 21 in 1995, slowed to 16 by 1998 and grew to 21 this past year.

Average Market Value of Township Housing

Year	Median Housing Market Value
1990	\$ 52,500
1995	\$ 88,009
1996	\$ 92,000
1997	\$ 90,000
1998	\$109,000
1999	\$115,500
2000	\$133,000

Total Market Value of Property in Duluth Township

The total market value of property in the Township (residential, commercial and other) is estimated at \$76.5 million, up 73% from \$44.1 million in 1995. This includes the rise in property values (about 7% per year, higher on lakeshores) plus upgraded or new construction. The Township budget of about \$229,368 for 2001 accounts for about 15.7% of our property tax bill (school district 29.7%; county 53.4%, other taxing districts 0.7%). For 2001 the approximate average monthly cost per household for all Township services is \$26.36 (about \$29.08 for the 2002 budget approved at the Annual Township Meeting last March).

Township Calendar

See updates on www.duluthtownship.org.

- Sep 5, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meeting, Town Hall
- Sep 5, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- Sep 11, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- Sep 13**, Thu, 7:30pm **Town Board**, Town Hall
- Sep 18**, Tue, 6:30pm at NSE School, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting.
- Sep 19, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept work meeting
- Sep 20**, Thu, 6:30-9:30pm First **Public Information Meeting on the Comprehensive Plan** progress, Town Hall. See the Newsletter insert and article.
- Sep 27**, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
- Oct 2, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- Oct 3, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meeting, Town Hall
- Oct 3, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road.
- Oct 11**, Thu, 7:30pm **Town Board**, Town Hall
This meeting will have a slide presentation of environmental issues relevant to Township planning. The public is invited.
- Oct 17, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept work night
- Oct 16**, Tue, 6:30pm at NSE School, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting.
- Oct 23, **Deadline** for news for the November *Newsletter*
- Oct 25**, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
- Nov 6, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- Nov 7, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meeting, Town Hall
- Nov 7, Wed, 7:00pm Volunteer Fire Dept business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- Nov 8**, Thu, 7:30pm **Town Board**, Town Hall

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2001

Inside this Issue:

- **Public Information Meeting** on the Duluth Township Comprehensive Planning process. **Thursday, Sept 20th**, 6:30pm in the Town Hall.
- Town Board meetings
- Planning Commission meetings
- NSCS (North Shore Community School) Charter Information
- Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District (DNSSD) update
- Volunteer opportunities
- Township **Calendar**
- Upcoming events and issues

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

If your name and 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 (News box on the Town Hall porch). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

Duluth Township Information for 2001

Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804
Phone (218) 525-5704 (voice message), fax (218) 525-3845,
web site: www.duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Thursday 9:00-12:00 and 4:30-7:30

Supervisors:

Bruce Aho 525-4033 (roads)
Jeff Cook 525-4010 (chair, outside meetings)
Stephen Dahl 525-4679 (Town Hall, police, zoning)
George Sundstrom 525-5665 or email:
georgesundstrom@juno.com (cemetery, zoning,
outside meetings)
Corlis West 525-7719 (outside meetings)

Clerk: **Ann Cox** 525-5705 (Town Hall)
Treasurer: **Janet Johansen** 525-5705 (Town Hall)
Attorney: **Tim Strom** 722-4766 (office)
Cemetery: **Denise Connolly** 525-7161
Planning and Zoning Administrator: **Wayne Dahlberg**
728-4293 (office)

Planning and Zoning Secretary: **Carolyn Marino**
Planning and Zoning Committee: **Regina Bourgeois,**

John Bowen, David Edblom, Toni Fladmark,
Wendy Gustafson, Sue Lawson, plus a vacancy
Peace Officers: **Chief Shawn Padden, Paul Johnson**
Fire Department: **Chief Jerry Simmons,**

Assistant Chief Bill Cox
Recycling

(leave items only when they are open)

North site – Town Hall, **Bob Abramson** will staff the center *Tuesday 3-7pm and Saturday 8-12noon.*

South site – McQuade & Scenic Hwy, **Caroline Marino** staffs the center *Tues 7:00-11:00, Thurs 3:00-7:00, and Sat 8:00-noon* (phone: 525-4592).

Upcoming Township Events and Issues

Public Information Meeting on Comprehensive Plan, Sept 20, Thursday, 6:30pm at the Town Hall. Be sure to attend for information and your input.

North Shore Elementary Public Charter School. See the summary of progress article in this Newsletter.

Deadline for the November Newsletter is October 23rd. If you have an announcement of broad interest to Township residents, send it to the editor or put it in the NewsBox.