



**Our 2010 Town Board**

Mary Ann Sironen, Dan Tanner, Dave Mount, Steve Dahl, Wendy Meierhoff



# Duluth Township Newsletter

Duluth Township web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org) MAY 2010

## What's Coming Up...

**School District #381 Operating Levy** will be voted on by mail ballot May 15<sup>th</sup>. (See *IDS #381 News article, page 5*) Ballots will be mailed to registered voters at the end of April. See *St Louis County Court House* to register to vote. *May 18<sup>th</sup> at 8pm is levy voting deadline.*

**Community Center addition** is being planned for this summer. (see article on page 7)

**Beaver abatement meeting.** May 11<sup>th</sup> MNDNR presentation on beaver removal efforts in Knife River watershed. 7pm Town Hall. (see article on page 8)

**NSCS Community Celebration,** 6pm on Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup> at our school on Ryan Road. *Fred and Betty Poe* will be honored by the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

## Police Department

Shawn Padden, Chief

### Recorded Police Events

2009	1028
2008	1034
2007	1088
2006	881
2005	972
2004	1057
2003	969
2002	773

There were 82 police events in February and 87 in March. For the 2 months, main events were vacation/home checks (59), traffic warnings/citations (18), 5 animal complaints, 4 criminal sexual conduct complaints. 4 medical emergencies, 5 property damage accidents, 6 permits to acquire or carry handguns and 5 property damage accidents. This last month has been especially busy handling animal neglect (cats) and sexual harassment issues that have been widely reported in the local news.

The **CRIME MAPPING** web site maps area crimes [www.crimemapping.com](http://www.crimemapping.com). You can enter your address and see a map with the location of our Police Office and any recent crimes in your area. The site provides some detail about the police events.

**Welcome our new Planning Commission member, Brigid Pajunen.** The Town Board held interviews and made the appointment at their March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.

## Results of Township Supervisor Election and Annual Town Meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>

Dave Mount and Steven Dahl were elected for an additional term as Township Supervisor. Only 55 residents voted and all voted for the slate. The Town Board had a reorganization and work planning meeting (April 13<sup>th</sup>) and new Supervisor task assignments are listed on page 3. Our Town Clerk, Ann Cox, opened the Annual Meeting this past March 9<sup>th</sup> and provided the informative summary packet of 2009 activity and budget data. Corlis West was elected meeting chair. Official banks are Lake Bank and North Shore Bank of Commerce. Official posting places are: Town Hall, Scenic Café, Fire Hall #1, Lighthouse Restaurant, and our Community Center. The Duluth News Tribune is the official newspaper for legal notices.

The **2011 budget of \$352,765** was approved (still 2% lower than that approved for 2010). This total levy includes an increase of \$3,000 for Planning to more realistically reflect anticipated permit fee income. Also, a resident proposed adding \$15,000 (later reduced to \$7,500) to the levy for a community education coordinator and recreation field maintenance. After considerable discussion, this was included in the approved levy. The Board will appoint a recreation committee.

The 2011 Annual Town Meeting will be March 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:15pm. This meeting was closed with a potential follow-up meeting scheduled for Aug. 12, 2010 at 7:15pm.

## The Homesteaders

Helen Hendrickson

**May 5<sup>th</sup>,** Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Talks will be by Jody Johansson of Regency Home Health Care and Marcy Stromgren, South St Louis County Water and Soil Conservation District representative. Coffeetime follows.

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>,** Wednesday, 12:30, Town Hall, Program is by Diane Butterfly Rose Christian, musician and storyteller. Coffeetime follows.

**July 7<sup>th</sup>,** Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Annual Summer Picnic and Bingo.

**Everybody is welcome.**

For information call Helen Hendrickson at 525-4154.

### Thanks to all contributors to this issue:

Ann Cox, Leo Babeu, Steve Dahl, Bob Engelson, George Hagglund, Deserae Hendrickson, Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooey, Sue Lawson, Janet McTavish, Dave Mount, Beth Mullan, Shawn Padden, Sherry Rovig, Rich Sill, Mary Ann Sironen, and our Webmaster, Linda Holliday.

Guidelines for using 9-1-1  
*Bob Engelson, Chief, Clifton Volunteer Fire Department*

We all know to dial **9-1-1** when in an emergency situation and need help right away. Following are some guidelines for using 9-1-1, courtesy of the *St Louis County Sheriff's 9-1-1 Division*.

- **When do you call 9-1-1?** When someone needs help from law enforcement, fire department, or emergency medical service.
- **What if you are not sure if it is an emergency?** When in doubt call us out. It is best to get the needed emergency services rolling and on the way as soon as possible. If it turns out emergency services are not needed, the call can be cancelled by the 9-1-1 dispatcher.
- **What will the 9-1-1 dispatcher need to know?** Be prepared to tell the dispatcher the address where help is needed, the nature of the problem, your name and your phone number. Speak slowly and clearly and stay on the telephone to answer any questions the dispatcher may have. Do not hang up until told to do so by the dispatcher. Help is on the way as you are speaking.
- **Make sure children know their address and phone number.** Post information by every phone to help children when reporting an emergency such as: the name and age of family members, home address, home phone number, landmarks near the home, parent's work numbers, and information for a contact person (neighbor, friend or relative).
- **Discuss special potential emergency situations your family may have** (*i.e. diabetes, seizures, and special needs of family members*) and be prepared for them.
- **In the case of fire, always leave the building first** and call 9-1-1 from another location.
- **If 9-1-1 is called by mistake, stay on the line** and tell the dispatcher of the error.
- **Make sure you have a prominently displayed address sign** and address numbers on your mail box which are large enough to read from a moving vehicle at night. *We can't help you if we can't find you.*



**Sherry Rovig** is secretary of our Clifton Volunteer Fire Department and its Relief Association. She initially became involved with the Department 8 years ago with Auxiliary functions and proceeded to become a First Responder 5 years ago, and then a Fire Fighter last year. Sherry lives on the Lismore Road with her partner, Barb, who works in the Surgery Department at St. Luke's.

Sherry is an assistive technology practitioner with BlueSky Designs, Inc. ([www.blueskydesigns.us](http://www.blueskydesigns.us)). She designs enabling products for people with disabilities and the general public. Sherry is proud of the contributions the Department and Auxiliary make to the community. One of her favorite events is the Harvest Dinner. "We have a great time preparing for it. The spaghetti sauce recipe comes from my brother-in-law, who used to own an Italian restaurant. It's always a hit."

**Rain Barrels & Composters  
For Sale**

**One day only!**

**May 22, 2010**  
9 am - 3 pm



\$50



\$40

**Lake Superior College**  
2101 Trinity Road, Duluth

More info: 218-722-0761 or [www.wlssd.com](http://www.wlssd.com)  
**WLSSD & The Regional Stormwater Protection Team**

web site: [www.wlssd.com](http://www.wlssd.com) or  
[www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)



**Don Walli** has been a Fire Fighter with the Clifton Volunteer Fire Department for 8 years. He lives in Alden Township which is in the Clifton service area. Don also helps tend the Alden fire hall on Lismore Road. He is pleased about the new fire equipment and gear that the Department has been able to acquire in recent years. Don volunteered when he was new to the area as a way to contribute to the community and get to know people in the area. His regular job is machinist at LaBounty in Two Harbors. Don's hobbies include fishing and hunting.



**Dan Roselund** is one of our new volunteers with Clifton Volunteer Fire Department. He is a qualified first responder and in training as a fire fighter. Dan always wanted to contribute in this way and the opportunity arrived and he took it! He is impressed by the way everyone gets along and works together.

Dan is an electrician for Benson Electric. He grew up in Wyoming and now lives on the Ryan Road with his wife, Julie. Hobbies include hunting, fishing and travel.

**Pre-school Registration**

*Kathy Johnson*

Registration is still being accepted for the 2010-2011 Pre-school at NSCS. A few sessions have already been filled, so please enroll now.

Classes are offered for 3, 4 and 5 year olds on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, both morning and afternoon. A monthly tuition fee is charged and there is a \$25 non-refundable registration fee.

Scholarships will hopefully be available again to assist area families. If you would like to help sponsor a child, contributions can be made to NSCS Pre-school at 5926 Ryan Road. For more information, contact Kathy Johnson, 525-0663 ext 106.

**DRIVEWAYS — build or repair**

*will recommend or your choice of 4 materials — Also large rock, growing dirt, sod and backhoe work.*  
**Call Walt Carter at 525-5092.**

Duluth Township Information — 2010  
 Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804  
 Phone (218) 525-5705 (voice message),  
 fax (218) 525-3845, web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org).  
 or Email: [TownHall@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TownHall@duluthtownship.org)

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

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

**Stephen Dahl**, (2010-2013) 525-4679 or  
 Email: [SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org](mailto:SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org)  
 Responsibilities: , Community Center, Recreation  
 Facilities (JOC) , Board of Adjustment, Insurance,  
 Alternate for Roads.

**Wendy Meierhoff** (2008-2011) 525-0263  
 or Email: [Wendy@duluthtownship.org](mailto:Wendy@duluthtownship.org)  
 Responsibilities: Personnel, Police, Finance/Banks,  
 Board of Adjustment, Alternate on Planning.

**Dave Mount** (2010-2013) **Board Chair** 525-7961  
 or Email: [DaveMount@duluthtownship.org](mailto:DaveMount@duluthtownship.org)  
 Responsibilities:, Board Chair, Town Hall, Planning,  
 North Shore Mgmt Bd, Board of Adjustment.

**Mary Ann Sironen**, (2009-2012) **Vice Chair** 525-2010  
 or Email: [MaryAnnSironen@duluthtownship.org](mailto:MaryAnnSironen@duluthtownship.org)  
 Responsibilities: Community Center Recreation  
 Facilities (JOC), Communications, Community Ed/  
 Rec, Duluth/St Louis Assn of Twps, Senior Housing,  
 Board of Adjustment, Duluth/North Shore Sanitary  
 District, Alternate: Board Chair.

**Dan Tanner** (2008-2011) 525-4087  
 or Email: [DanTanner@duluthtownship.org](mailto:DanTanner@duluthtownship.org)  
 (Responsibilities: Roads, Cemetery, Fire Dept,  
 Environmental Stewardship (RSPT, MPCA, SWPPP),  
 Town Hall. Board of Adjustment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Planning and Zoning Commission:** **Dave Chura** (Chair),  
**Barbara Crow, Jan Green, Michael Kahl,**  
**Bill Lannon, Brigid Pajunen, Yvonne Rutford**  
 Email: [PlanningZonng@duluthtownship.org](mailto:PlanningZonng@duluthtownship.org)

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

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

**Burning Permits** are available online or during **Town Hall**  
 office hours, and **Fire Wardens:** Jay Zink (525-5589),  
 Jeff and Caroline Marino (525-6431), or the **DNR**  
 office in Two Harbors (1568 Hwy 2, 834-6609).

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

## Township Calendar

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

### MAY 2010

- 4, Tue, Community Center Facilities Committee  
 5, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall  
 5, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business  
 meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road  
 11, Tue, 7pm Beaver control in Knife River water  
 shed. Presentation by MNDNR. Town Hall.  
 13, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall  
 17, Mon, 6:30pm **North Shore Community School**  
**Board** meeting, NSCS Library  
 18, Tue, 6:00pm Community Celebration at NSCS.  
 18, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District**  
 meeting, French River Lutheran Church  
 18, Tue, 8pm Deadline for voting on ISD381 Levy.  
 19, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall #1  
 22, Sat. 9-3 Rainbarrel/Composter one-day sale, at  
 Lake Superior College (see page 2)  
 23, Sun, 3pm Locavores meet, Town Hall  
 27, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

### JUNE 2010

- 1, Tue, Community Center Facilities Committee  
 2, Wed, 12:00 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall  
 2, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business  
 meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd  
 10, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall  
 14, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School**  
**Board** meeting, NSCS Library  
 14, Mon, 2010-2011 NSCS New Student Application  
 deadline.  
 15, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District**  
 meeting, French River Lutheran Church  
 16, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** training, Hall#1  
 23, Wed, **Deadline for July Newsletter**  
 24, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

### JULY 2010

- 6, Tue, Community Center Facilities Committee  
 7, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall  
 7, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business  
 meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road  
 8, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall.  
 19, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School**  
**Board** meeting, NSCS Library.  
 20, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District**  
 meeting, French River Lutheran Church  
 21, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** training Hall #1  
 22, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

### Township Recycling Center

At the Town Hall, on Homestead Road —Staffing by  
 Carolyn Marino, Al Anderson, Marlys Livingston, and Kathy Peer

**April-October: Tues. 7-11am and 3-7pm,**  
**Thurs. 3-7pm, Sat. 8-noon.**

Nov-March: Tues. 7-11am, 2-6pm, Thurs. 2-6pm,  
 and Sat. 8-noon.

**(Drop off only during recycling hours)**

Curb recycling pickup service is available below the freeway,

## Barn Work

George Hagglund

Back in the Thirties, local families eked out a living by a father working in town, owning a few cows (anywhere from three to twelve), and a garden where we grew vegetables. Kids were an economic asset that helped families get through hard times. Usually around the age of eight, we were told, "now that you are big, you can help with barn work." It was a part of every farm kid's life to some extent, although chores were not always divided out equally. We squabbled among ourselves over who did what, but our contribution was essential.

There was no running water, so we started out at the outdoor pump and toted the buckets to the barn. Cows develop a powerful thirst from eating dry hay, so it was no small task for an 8-year old to work the pump handle, carry the pail into the barn, and then place it in front of each cow. A big cow might need six 12-quart buckets, so it was a strenuous chore for a little kid

Once the cows were watered, we went up into the hay mow, threw down fodder, and forked it into the manger of each cow and heifer. We had to know how much hay to put in front of each animal. Climbing up and down into the haymow inevitably meant an occasional tumble down the ladder onto the floor if we weren't careful; we survived in spite of it.

From watering livestock, we graduated to cleaning the barn, our least favorite task. We got out the shovel, and worked our way down the gutter, filling the wheelbarrow and then taking the manure to the pile in back of the barn. It was a daily part of our schedule. Then we put down bedding in each stall.



Next came milking. In those days milking machines were unheard of. Usually each kid had an assigned number of cows to milk, and we got to know them well. Some were crabby and would kick if they didn't like what we were doing. Some were placid and gave no trouble. Some were sneaky and would gradually pin the unwary kid to the wall of the stall. We gave them a whack if they misbehaved.

The milk had to be separated next, and this meant cranking the handle of the cream separator. If the herd was small, there wasn't enough to justify sending milk to the creamery, and besides, we needed skimmed milk to feed the calves.

We then had to feed the calves, sometimes adding formula. We had to train the calves how to drink out of a bucket; they were eager drinkers so we had to be aware of them butting and tipping over the pail. There were cats to be fed, which were numerous and always waiting for their share of milk when we'd finished milking.

There were plenty of other chores, including trips to the pasture to bring the cows home, putting feed out, separating the milk, a chore that involved cranking the handle of the cream separator and pouring milk or cream into cans for transportation to the creamery.

When chores were done, it was back to the house, to eat breakfast, wash our hands, and change into our school clothes. Chores took a good bit of time, so we were driven out of bed around 5:30 in the morning.

The same process went on in the evening, so we were kept busy. We were never kept after school because our parent's wrath would land on the school principal if their unpaid labor was not home on time. It was hard for some kids to participate in activities after school because they were needed at home.

Many of us carried the barn aroma with us to school. We didn't know it was part of our being, the teachers were used to it; it was all part of farm life. I never realized how powerful the aroma was until I attended a high school graduation some 12 years after leaving school, while working in the city.

Chores dictated how far we could get from home every day, when we could be away, and when we had to return home. The needs of the livestock superseded all else. They were the boss, parents were next in the pecking order, and kids were last, except perhaps for the dog and cats. Overnight trips to visit relatives were impossible. We knew we were important, though, because when the kids moved away the parents sold the cows. Looking back, most of us are happy that it's history.

Those subsistence farms are mostly gone now, except for a few hobby operations run by city folks. The Township is no longer populated by farm folk; instead we now have suburbanites working in town and professionals who want to live close to the earth. Yes, the place has changed, but for the better?

**WAGGIN' Tails**  
Boarding Kennels  
Long & short term boarding  
Reservations Required  
218-525-4842  
7002 App Rd.  
Two Harbors  
Paid Advertisement

### Community Services in Duluth Township

**AA** meets Monday at 8pm at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road.

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

**Cub Scouts:** call David Hooey 525-6617

**Boy Scouts:** call Jim Atkinson 343-0119; or jbatkison@allete.com

**Girl Scouts:** call Julie Igo 726-4710

*(Note: If other community service groups should be listed, please leave a note for the Editor at the Town Hall.)*



### North Shore

Locavores  
Sherry Rovig

The next meeting will be Sunday, **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at our Town Hall. An educational hour starts at 3pm, Topic: drip irrigation, followed by 4pm meeting with a pot luck meal following.

For more information, see our Township web site:

[www.duluthtownship.org/locavore](http://www.duluthtownship.org/locavore), or call: Sherry at 525-0489 or Georganne at 525-4679.

**Meetings are free and open to the public.**

## Lake Superior School District Operating Levy

*Leo Babeu, Chair ISD381 School Board*

Although ISD381 has had slowly declining enrollment this decade, we have also built a modest fund balance during my 4 years on the Board. This has been achieved by diligent attention to expenses by Superintendent Minkinen and staff. Spending has been stringently limited. In 2007 we cut 25 employees and \$1.3 million from our budget. In 2009, facing two years of flat or worse State funding, District employees agreed to hard wage freezes through 2011. Even as we use grants to start a valuable new program in pneumatics/hydraulics, most other District elective courses are at risk for future cuts.

There is no sign that State funding for public education will be adequate or even predictable over the next 4-5 years. A full recovery in income tax revenue isn't foreseen by State economists until at least 2014. The District faces cuts in staff and programs next year if no operating levy funds are approved. We are at a tipping point now.

**Without operating levy funds** the District will spend down its fund balance during the coming school year, even if we operate on a 4-day/week school schedule. If faced with a second year of deficit spending, we will be compelled to make cuts in teaching staff.

Over 200 Duluth Township students attend Two Harbors High School (THHS) in grades 7-12. They are the seeds of our families' and Township's future. They and all the rest of the District's students would feel those cuts in their classrooms. In March the Board ordered an increase in course offerings at THHS by 2011-12. Operating levy funds will allow that plan to be implemented by the new principal and her/his staff. Without that support, staffing cuts will instead likely lead to course losses and larger class sizes.

Other decisions the Board faces will hinge on the need to further reduce operational costs. The adoption of a 4-day school week for 2010-11 is likely if no levy questions pass. Projected savings of \$250,000 could be used to purchase new buses and needed reading curriculum.

*NOTE: Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters in the District. There are three questions. Vote on each one. They are separate questions and only the highest valued one (if any) will take effect. Deadline to vote is May 18<sup>th</sup>.*

**Levy Question 1** allows us to buy essential curriculum, technology, and buses; fund arts programming; lower our extraordinarily high student activity fees; and maintain a 5-day school week. This \$550 per student measure is what I believe will adequately support our students while being fiscally prudent.

**Levy Question 2**, seeks \$425/student to fund curriculum and bus purchases and a 5-day school schedule.

**Levy Question 3**, is for \$300/student. It allows purchase of critical curriculum and buses, but does not assure that we can maintain the 5-day week.

This is the community's chance to pass a levy that will enable the District to continue the 5-day operation as many Township parents have requested. They have convinced the Board that a majority of parents agree with the decision that NSCS has made to maintain 5-day schooling. The levy choices were developed first to fund core programs and purchase buses and curriculum, and then refined to address concerns that the fifth day costs and disruptions for families outweigh the potential benefits of innovative programs on the fifth day and savings for the District.

If passed, Question 1 would raise your household's property tax contribution for schools only back to where it was in 1996. This is not a request for extras — the Board

asks for basic support for your District at a reasonable cost, approximately 59% of the average levy in the MN. **Remember that you must vote on each of the 3 ballot questions if you want your vote on each of the questions to be counted.** The levy questions and tax information and sample ballots should be in the mail now, with actual ballots to follow this week. Follow the instructions carefully, and **return the ballots to the District Office by 8 pm on May 18.** Contact me at 834-2247 or by e-mail: [leobabeu@lakenet.com](mailto:leobabeu@lakenet.com) with any questions.

### **Why should we vote yes?**

*Rich Sill*

As residents of Lake Superior School District we are asked to vote in favor or opposition to an operating levy. Convincing arguments can be made for both sides. Our schools deserve support, yet these are tough economic times. Voting yes means a few more dollars each month out of all our pockets. In the end, the decision for me comes down to one simple, irrefutable fact — in order for our area to stay young, we have to stop growing old.

There's nothing wrong with growing old as an individual, but growing old as a community is different. We have a full school at the heart of our community but we are not the norm. Since 1990 the number of school age children (5-18) living from French River to Grand Portage has dropped by more than 400, while the percentage of older residents continues to grow. People who once came here to find work and raise families now come here to relax and retire. The effect of all this has been a dramatic drop in students graduating from our high schools.

To a great extent the viability and health of our communities depends on the vitality and vibrancy of our youth. If you don't believe that, roll your window down the next time you pass a school playground and listen for a moment to the laughter and joyous chaos, attend a football game at the high school, or simply sit at Stoney Point, watching as a young child throws cobblestones into the lake. In many ways, by investing in education I am not only voting to preserve those scenes today, but I am also strongly hedging my bets in favor of an even brighter tomorrow. A vote yes, in and of itself, will not be a guarantee that our young people will stay, our communities prosper, or our high schools will be filled with students. But if it in any way provides fertile ground for that brighter future it will be worth it. It's a small price to pay for the hope of vibrancy.

### Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

*(Official minutes by Planning Secretary Beth Mullan are available at the Town Hall and on our Township web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org))*

**January 28<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.** Present: Dave Chura, Jan Green, Mike Kahl, Seth Levanen, Bill Lannon and Yvonne Rutford. Also present were Planning Director Sue Lawson, Assistant Director John Kessler, and Board representative Dave Mount.

**Audience concerns:** Bill Mittlefehldt who lives next to the Worden's short term rental property described at least 14 violations of the 11 conditions on their short term rental conditional use permit. The owners of this Greenwood Road rental property live in Litchfield. There are concerns about enforcement of the conditions including its presumed expiration date. Worden's attorney's letter to the Board indicated he didn't believe that conditional use permits could have time limits. A statute says that a conditional use permit shall remain in effect as long as conditions are met. There is an ongoing discussion about how

*(Planning continued on page 6)*

(Planning, continued from page 5)

to deal with short term rentals in the Township. Ideas expressed included licensing rather than CUP's, shifting all related costs to the landowner involved, and limiting STR's in densely populated areas.

Russ Krook, Pine Park Road on the shore, is asking for a doubling of the number of horses permitted on his conditional use permit. A hearing notice goes to neighbors.

The budget proposal for 2011 was discussed. Land use permit fee income was \$9,000 in 2009, down from earlier years.

**February 25<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.** Present: Barb Crow, Jan Green, Mike Kahl, Seth Levanen Bill Lannon and Yvonne Rutford.

Public hearing (Zimmerman/DeHarpporte) for conditional use permit to build a subordinate residence above their garage in MUN-4 district (allowed for immediate family members and is not transferable). Planning Director reviewed ordinance provisions, criteria for judgment and a map of the area. Public input was sought and one neighbor testified in support. The CUP was approved.

Senior Housing. Greg Schendel, Odyssey Development, indicated their interest in senior housing and inquired about the Township's vision and how zoning rules might affect such a development. Possible models of mixed independent living and assisted living units were discussed. Most of the Township's Senior Housing group also participated.

Other conditional use permit applications were discussed: Krook's request for added horses, Abrams' request to rezone property on Alseth and Hwy 61 (adjacent to Tom's Logging Camp, for a commercial enterprise. A half-mile area of notification was set.

Bieraugel case (small lot on the shore by Blue Bird landing): Options were discussed. Bieraugel's haven't responded to an inquiry about re-hearing a new proposal.

**The Next Planning Committee meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7pm in the Town Hall): May 27<sup>th</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Special hearings are posted at the Town Hall.

Residents are urged to attend these public meetings.

### 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](http://www.duluthtownship.org)).

**February 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.** Attending were Supervisors Dahl, Meierhoff, Mount and Tanner. Audience concerns included a summary of the resident feedback survey, George Sundstrom's report on the Community Center property tax issue, a request for funding to improve the skating area at the Community Center, and John Bowen's note that the Duluth North Shore Sanitary District annual audit will be forwarded to the Board.

The Treasurer reported deposits of \$25,919.66, expenses of \$45,667.35 for a January ending balance of \$902,816.41. **Department reports:** Planning reported on Abram's request for commercial rezoning of property on Alseth and Hwy 61, Worden's short term rental CUP expired, the judge returned the Bieraugel appeal to the

Planning Commission to review its hardship, and a final plat for Odyssey's Stoney Point addition will be decided. **Roads:** A stormwater meeting is slated for 6:30 on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Ice problems were reported. **Town Hall:** There is an opportunity for an election machine grant to bring our machine up to County standards.

**March 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.** All Supervisors attended. No audience concerns. The Treasurer, Janet Johansen, reported a February ending balance of \$946,466.32 (our Community Center fund is about \$706,000 of this). We received taconite production tax funds of \$25,000 and road aid of \$7,917.50. Claims were reviewed and bills paid. **Department reports:** Planning approved the final Stoney Point development plat. There was a discussion of Odyssey's possible interest in senior housing. **Community Center:** IRRB Community Center grant opportunity \$30,000 will be sought. The legislature and governor are favorable to Representative Dill's bill to exempt property taxes on township property leased to schools. There was an extensive discussion of the need for portable classroom space to accommodate enrollment. A motion was approved to purchase 2 modular classrooms contingent on verifying the project's feasibility (approximate cost \$150,000). (Note this motion was rescinded at a later meeting when a permanent addition was found to be feasible). A request was received for water supply and repair of our hockey rink. A recreation board could be created. Sue Lawson will find out how other townships handle recreation boards. The Red Cross has not responded to our response to their inquiry about using the Community Center as an emergency site. The topic will be dropped. Meeting was closed. A continuation meeting was scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm due to the lengthy agenda and late hour.

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> continuation meeting.** Supervisors present: Dahl, Mount, Sironen and Tanner. Also present were North Shore Community School Board members. **Department Reports:** Police: Chief Padden asked the Board to look into the creation of an ordinance limiting the number of animals (following discovery of pet crowding and abuse reported in the local news). **Planning:** March 31<sup>st</sup> is the date for interviewing for a new Commission member. **Roads:** Stormwater meeting April 8<sup>th</sup>. DNR presentation on beaver control on Knife River watershed is slated for May 11<sup>th</sup>. **Community Center:** Following a lengthy discussion of need for added rooms, a motion was approved to hire Bdp Architects to prepare bid specifications for purchase and installation of 2 modular buildings. Jo Thompson and Kay Libby have expressed interest in the position of Community Education Coordinator (action tabled to the April 13<sup>th</sup> program of work meeting. **Town Hall:** The south door and flag light have been repaired. Licensing short term rentals topic tabled until April.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> special meeting.** All Supervisors attended plus Sue Lawson, Dave Chura and Jan Green from the Planning Commission. The meeting was to interview the two applicants for the vacant Planning Commission position. In a 2-3 paper ballot of the Town Board members, Brigid Pajunen was offered the position. Thank you to both applicants for offering to help out.

**April 8<sup>th</sup> stormwater information meeting.** Prior to the regular Board meeting, Valerie Brady made a special

(continued on page 7)

*(Board meetings, continued from page 6)*

presentation to those attending about sources of stormwater problems and consequences for streams and fishing. The Township is required to keep residents informed and file an MS4 report each year. Valerie has been contributing her expertise to prepare these reports for our Township.

**April 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.** All Supervisors attended. We have a March-ending balance of \$956,149.66 (*deposits of \$37,135.09 and expenses of \$27,451.75*). After discussion, a motion was adopted to move forward with planning for a permanent addition to the Community Center. Bdp Architects will develop plans and bid documents (*see article*). Liquor license renewal approved for New Scenic Café, Nokomis, and Lighthouse on Homestead. The *Fire Department* reported one grass fire. *Planning:* Yvonne Rutford was approved for a second 3-year term on the Planning Commission. Thanks to a bill introduced by Representative Dill, our Community Center property is now exempt from property tax. Representative Dill also helped acquire \$30,000 Taconite Funds planned for a warming shed, kiln and storage at the Community Center. A computer will be purchased to replace our old one. Purchasing a (required) new voting machine was approved.

**April 13<sup>th</sup> program of work meeting.** All Board members were present. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss projects that need attention in the upcoming year and to assign responsibilities to Town Board members. Assignments are shown for each Supervisor on [page 3](#). Work projects include handling the Community Center addition, organizing community recreation and education functions, reviewing the Community Center insurance, acquiring and updating cemetery records, painting the Town Hall and refinishing the floors.

**The Next Town Board meetings: (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)  
May 13<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Town Hall.  
Residents are urged to attend these public meetings**

#### About the Community Center Addition *Dave Mount, Chair, Town Board of Supervisors*

As most Town residents are aware, the Town owns and maintains the grounds and buildings at the site of the former North Shore Elementary School as its Community Center. As a part of the agreement to acquire the property for \$1 from Independent School District #381, the Town was required to lease the property to a public school, which was and continues to be the North Shore Community School (NSCS). If it ceased to operate as a school during the ensuing 10 years, the property would revert to ISD #381.

Under the Town's lease agreement with NSCS, the Town receives lease payments in return for use of the property. In keeping with the intent of the Town Board at the time the Town acquired the property, lease income is maintained separate from other Town funds, and is used to cover the expenses of operating, maintaining, and enhancing the facility. In recent years, this fund has provided for significant projects at the school, including an extensive renovation of the septic system and a new roof. Even after these investments, the Community Center

fund has expanded to its current balance of about \$720,000.

During this period, the charter school has prospered as well, with enrollment increasing from 179 students to its current enrollment of nearly 300 students. This success has resulted in significant space pressures within the building, for both classrooms and necessary support spaces. In 2008, the Town developed a long range plan for the future of the building, envisioning future expansions that could accommodate both the future of the school and uses of the property by community members for recreation, meetings, education, and other uses.

In March, the school board of the NSCS approached the Town Board with a request to add two portable buildings to the facility, which would allow the school to increase from 2 to 3 class sections in kindergarten and first grades. Increasing to three sections in these grades would allow the school to maintain smaller class sizes appropriate for these beginning grades, and at the same time matriculate sufficient students to fill two sections of grades 2 through 6. Another significant factor was the demand from prospective student families for space in kindergarten, which increased to the point that members of the community would not be able to have their children attend NSCS.

The Town Board agreed to explore the feasibility of the school's request. In doing so, the Town Board came to the belief that the community would, in the long term, be better served by implementing a portion of the existing long-term plan to add permanent space to the building, rather than bringing in temporary buildings that would have a much shorter lifetime. Accordingly, at its April meeting the Town Board moved to enter into a contract with BDP Architects to develop the plans and bid specifications necessary to solicit proposals for constructing an addition to the Community Center, and to oversee construction if a bid is accepted. The addition would be roughly 4,200 square feet, consisting of three main rooms with associated hallways and support spaces. The intention is to have draft bid specifications prepared for Board approval at the Town Board's May meeting and to have construction completed by fall 2010.

The estimated cost of this project is approximately \$500,000. It is important to emphasize that the funds to support this effort will come entirely from money already in the Community Center fund. Further, that fund is sufficient that the Town can afford the project and still maintain a balance of more than \$200,000 in that fund, in case of any unexpected emergency repairs or expenses. Funding will not come from the Township's levied funds collected through property taxes, and will therefore not require increases in the Town's budget. Pursuing the addition will help the NSCS sustain its educational goals, which in turn helps provide the Town with the funds to continue to operate the Community Center. The Town Board is also using this opportunity to work with the school to further opportunities to enhance and expand recreational, social, and educational services to the community.

# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

M A Y 2 0 1 0

## Inside this Issue:

- What's Coming Up
- The proposed School District 381 Levy. Mail ballots by May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Community Center addition
- Township **Calendar**
- Town Board & Planning Meetings
- Police and Fire Information
- Composting insert
- NSCS News insert
- *Barn Work*



Duluth Township Newsletter  
6092 Homestead Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

PRSRTSTD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 721  
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.*

929 are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses and on request. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to the volunteer Newsletter editor, Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the NewsBox on the Town Hall porch.



**Open daily at 11am  
Specials**  
Wed. night: All you can eat Fish Fry  
Sat. & Sun. Breakfast 11am-2pm  
Saturday: Prime Rib  
Sunday: Turkey Dinner  
Monday: Kids 10 or under eat free  
Bus to shop Albertville – call for details.  
5730 Homestead Road • 525-4525

Paid Advertisement



• **Cat Care**  
• **Dog Daycare**  
• **Livestock**  
Daily • Weekends •  
Vacations • Holidays  
**218-834-3310**  
**Dependable pet care in your home.**

Paid Advertisement

*Sign up for urgent Township email messages at our web site. So far 62 residents have signed up!*

911 Address Signs Ready to Pick Up  
(at our Town Hall on Homestead Road, during office hours)  
Town Clerk, Ann Cox  
Max **Bruckelmyer**, 5848 Ryan Road  
Kim **Carlson** 1989 Patterson Lane  
Nicholas K/Tara Caine/**Damyranovich**, 1190 Shilhon RoadE.  
Jerry & Sheryl **Granmo**, 1751 Wildwood Road  
Ed & Monica **Grohndahl-Ostrander**, 2041 Swanson Road  
Mark & Dana **Horlocker**, 2114 Johnson Road  
Ken **Johnston**, 2294 Lismore Road  
Dan **Libby**, 5565 North Shore Drive  
Nicholas **Massie**, 1935 Pioneer Road East  
Erik & Christine **Nelson-Glynn**, 2112 Pioneer Road East  
Marlin & Anna **Nelson**, 6137 Ryan Road  
Roger **Rose**, 5252 McQuade Road  
Mark and Leah **Wagner** 5824 Homestead Rd  
Jason **Zimmerman**, 2184 Johnson Road

Beaver Control on the Knife River Watershed  
Deserae Hendrickson, MNDNR

**Duluth Town Hall, Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**  
Deserae Hendrickson from the MNDNR Duluth Area Fisheries Office will be giving a presentation on beaver removal efforts in the Knife watershed. The presentation will include: historical beaver abundance in this area, impacts that beavers have on North Shore streams and adjacent wetlands, how beaver can impact trout populations, and the extent of control efforts in recent years in the Knife watershed.  
If you have questions or concerns about beaver control to benefit trout resources, please plan on attending.