



# Duluth Township Newsletter

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

March 2014

## What's Coming Up?

### Township Day —

**Town Board Election**, Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 7am to 8pm Town Hall, (see insert for candidate statements)

**Annual Town Meeting**, Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> Town Hall 8:15pm, after the election. (see the insert for budget information.)

**Township Feedback Survey**, planned for the May Newsletter. Topics include views on roads and trails.

**Board of Equalization** April 9<sup>th</sup> 6pm Town Hall (for tax valuation concerns, see your St Louis County Valuation Notice)

## Road Update

Supervisor, Dave Miller

2013 was another busy year for maintaining the 11.45 miles of Township Roads. Although the wet spring prohibited us from accomplishing all the work we had planned, we did accomplish the following:

- Graded all roads at least once and the more heavily used roads two to three times.
- Replaced 8 driveway culverts with larger (14") Culverts to better handle the water flow.
- Replaced 5 cross-culverts.
- Ditched approximately .5 miles of roads.
- Continued the contracts with the County for snow plowing and sanding roads.

In addition to the above, we completed the last of the flood damage to Township roads caused by the 2012 flood. For this work we received the final FEMA reimbursement for a total of \$86,000 to the Township. We restored \$35,000 to the Township Emergency Road Fund.

As we look forward to 2014 we will continue the work started in 2013 as well as gravel several roads in need of surface material.

Drive safely and please let me know about any road issues you may have (see page 7 for contact information).

### Roadwork 93 Years Ago!

Road reports for 1921 include the name of the "team" driver and how many hours it took to add gravel to a road. Culas Road gravel was added and spread by John Culas and (horse) team. It took 44 hours and they earned \$35.40 at a rate of 80¢ per hour.

**BE SURE TO VOTE IN YOUR ANNUAL TOWNSHIP ELECTION AND ATTEND YOUR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
March 11th, Town Hall

## The Homesteaders

Rose Vastila

**March 5<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Potluck, Homesteader's Anniversary Cake, bingo.

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, coffee, sandwiches and Jeff Roiland of Lake Connections on the fiber optic project.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Coffee, sandwiches and Darnell Nelson, master gardener.

**Everyone is welcome.**

For information call : Rose Vastila at 834-5281.

### Thanks to all contributors to this issue

Valerie Brady, Ann Cox, Dave Edblom, Bob Engelson, Kathy Johnson, Sue Lawson, Janet McTavish, Dave Miller, Beth Mullan, Shawn Padden, Kevin Pettis, Sherry Rovig, Don Schreiner, Mary Ann Sironen, Marcia Stromgren, George Sundstrom, Carol Surine, Rose Vastila and our webmaster Linda Holliday.

## Preschool Registration is Underway

*"Early Learning Sticks Like Glue"*

Kathy Johnson

We are now accepting registration for the 2014-2015 school year! Both morning and afternoon classes are offered for 3-5 years olds on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Thursdays. Your child may attend 1, 2 or 3 days per week. A monthly tuition fee is charged and there is a \$30 non-refundable registration fee to hold your spot.

Please contact Kathy Johnson at 834-5429 or 525-0663 x106 for further information.

## DO NOT CALL LIST

Cell phone numbers are public as of last month (and you may be charged for these incoming calls). To get on the *Do Not Call List* call: 888-382-1222. You need to call from the phone you want blocked. It takes only a minute and it blocks your number for 5 years.

## French River Hatchery Report



The Hatchery Report that reviews technical and other aspects of our DNR Hatchery on North Shore Scenic Road by Ryan Road. The full report is on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources web site: [www.DNR.state.mn.us/areas/ fisheries/lakesuperior/index.html](http://www.DNR.state.mn.us/areas/ fisheries/lakesuperior/index.html).

See the report link at the bottom of their web page. The document is long

(300pgs) but the *Executive Summary* is informative.

There is also a tab for a recent report of a trout angler survey showing angler usage.

## Possible NSCS Priority for Local Kids

Our Representative **Mary Murphy** has included language in HF1964, a bill relating to enrollment policy for Minnesota charter schools. The relevant new language she proposed is: *"A charter school that is located in a township and admits students in pre-kindergarten through grade 6 must give enrollment preference to students residing within a five-mile radius of the school and to the siblings of enrolled students."*

Passage is uncertain as of this writing. Currently, charter schools can not give priority to local community children and children seeking to enroll in North Shore Community School are taken on a first-to-register basis with a waiting list from which vacancies are filled by a random drawing.

To contact Representative Mary Murphy, email: [rep.mary.murphy@house.mn](mailto:rep.mary.murphy@house.mn) or call 800-890-5428. Thanks to George Sundstrom for alerting us to this potential legislation.

## Township Email

If you get email you should sign up to get email notices from Duluth Township. These are primarily urgent notices and reminders. Main Police events in the Township are provided. Go to the Township web site and see the tab for email notices. 100 people have signed up.

## Reminders from the January Newsletter

- As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, coal tar driveway sealant is prohibited. There are alternatives at local stores.
- Leo Babeu, our representative on the ISD 381 School Board, ends his service Dec. 2014. If you would like to serve on the Board, sign up. The election is in August. For information call Leo at 834-2247 or [leobabeu@lakenet.com](mailto:leobabeu@lakenet.com).
- Advocates of Knife River Watershed. For information about meetings, call 834-2247.

## Township Business List Update

We need to update our Township business listing. It is published in the Newsletter and listed on our Township web site...all free in support of local businesses.

If your listing is out of date or if your business (*formal or informal*) is not on the current list, let us know. Leave a message at the Town Hall 525-5705 or email to [editor@duluthtownship.org](mailto:editor@duluthtownship.org).

## An Early Duluth Township Vote

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1917 there were 39 names on the Election Register list for our Township. All 39 residents voted — 100% turnout! The question was *"Shall the Sale of Liquor be Prohibited"*. 35 Yes and 4 No.

*Thanks to our Town Clerk, Ann Cox, and a newly discovered box of old Township records in the back of a Town Hall attic closet! Early Township records are also kept at Ironworld.*

## Duluth Township Emergency Operations Plan

A Township committee is developing a draft Township plan to help coordinate efforts in case of a widespread emergency. The plan will be reviewed and discussed as a draft becomes available.

Duluth Township's *Emergency Operations Plan* coordinates with County, State and Federal emergency planning. 911 is still the emergency number to call and our Police and Fire Departments are the key responders in any emergency. The planning effort is intended to help us anticipate emergency needs and fit in at points when outside help is not yet available. A Township *Emergency Management Director* would help coordinate local planning and a Town Supervisor would be designated to see that plans are reviewed and updated as needed.

BJ Kohlstedt, Lake County Emergency Manager, will meet with our planning group. She has a couple of excellent emergency preparedness articles in recent *North Shore Journal* newspapers, starting last December.

Web sites that provide suggestions for your planning are: [www.stlouiscountymn.gov/lawpublicsafety/emergencymanagement.aspx](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/lawpublicsafety/emergencymanagement.aspx) or [www.SevereWeather.state.mn.us](http://www.SevereWeather.state.mn.us)

## June Clover Valley Tractor Show!

Mark down June 28-29, 2014 for our Township's very own old tractor show! It will be located at the corner of Homestead and West Knife River Roads. Corlis West is the organizer. More information will be in the May Newsletter.

**LOOKING FOR A HOME TO RENT? or  
LOOKING FOR A RENTER FOR YOUR NICE HOME?**  
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Call Susie Lannon at 218-720-3987

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Email: [robin@stayathomepetcare.com](mailto:robin@stayathomepetcare.com)

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

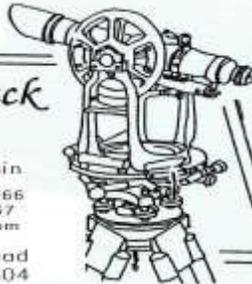


1702 W. Knife River Rd.  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
c.i.inc@dishmail.net (218) 525-2483

Paid Advertisement

NORTH COUNTRY  
LAND SURVEYOR, INC.

**Anthony Lueck**  
**Surveyor**



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

6098 Ryan Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

GPS  
Drafting  
Mapping  
Property Lines

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Community Youth  
Groups

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

**Cub Scouts:** call  
David Hooley, 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 Edi-  
tor at the Town Hall.)

**WAGGIN' Tails**  
**Boarding Kennels**  
Long & short term  
boarding



**Reservations  
Required**

**218-525-4842**  
7002 App Rd.  
Two Harbors

Paid Advertisement

**Protecting Our Streams Means Protecting Our  
Ditches**

*Valerie Brady*

We have a number of very nice streams running through our Township, many of which still support trout and other neat aquatic critters. Protecting these streams means keeping our water clean, and one way to do that is to keep our ditches from adding dirt to the streams during rainstorms.

Ditches carry rainwater (and snow melt!) to the nearest stream very quickly and efficiently, but they can really run full during heavy storms. If the sides of the ditch are raw dirt (no plants to hold it in place), it is very easy for that dirt to start eroding during heavy rains and get washed into the nearest stream. Very muddy water running through ditches is never a good sign.

If you see ditches that have exposed dirt, are not growing plants well, or seem to have problems, please let us know so we can try to get this fixed. After ditch work, workers should spread plant seeds over exposed dirt and probably need to put down straw or other protective covering. This is required for most ditch work by county workers and contractors.

**Report problems with county road ditches to:**

St Louis County Public Works Department,  
218-625-3820.

**Report problems with Township road ditches to:**

Dave Miller, Township Road Supervisor,  
218-525-1555.



**THE LIGHTHOUSE**  
Casual Riverside Dining AT Emily's

**Open at 11am  
Wed. thru Sun. ,  
Closed Mon. and  
Tues.**

Wed: All you can eat **fish fry**; Thurs: **Swedish meatballs**;  
Fri.: **Cook's choice fish specialty**, live music Fri. and Sat. 6-8;  
Sun: Full **Turkey dinner** w/all trimmings

Takeout available. [www.lighthouseatemilys.com](http://www.lighthouseatemilys.com)  
**834-2501 • 218 Scenic Drive, Knife River**

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Personalized tutoring for any age using the *Orton  
Gillingham Method.*  
Connie Carlin, B.S., M.Ed. 525-4723

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Infants to School Age, Licensed  
Bus to NSCS & Lakewood Schools  
*Accepting Full and Part Time*

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Police Department  
Shawn Padden, Chief



**Police Events.** In January and February our officers responded to 224 calls for service. Among the more frequent were 99 requested vacation home/business checks (*plus 8 extra patrol requests*), 20

property damage accidents, 12 civil process served, 8 citations/warnings for traffic violations, 8 responses to burglar alarms, 8 public assists, and 6 medical emergencies. In January there was one residential burglary and one burglary arrest...none in February. Our Township web site has a full list of police response events.

2013 was a busy year for the Police with 1165 police events, a bit lower than 2012. The most frequent were 399 business/vacation home checks followed by 115 traffic citations/warnings, 43 medical emergencies, 40 property damage accidents, 40 public assists, 30 response to burglar alarms, and 16 business or residential burglaries.

**Recorded  
Police  
Events**

|      |      |
|------|------|
| 2013 | 1165 |
| 2012 | 1265 |
| 2011 | 1208 |
| 2010 | 1164 |
| 2009 | 1028 |
| 2008 | 1034 |
| 2007 | 1088 |
| 2006 | 881  |
| 2005 | 972  |
| 2004 | 1057 |
| 2003 | 969  |
| 2002 | 773  |

*Officer Steve Peterson*  
If you have information about any criminal activity in this community, please contact the Duluth Township Police Department at: 218-525-5705 or our mobile phone: 393-8407, or email: [DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org](mailto:DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org).

**Note:** If you need/want/expect a police squad to respond immediately, call **911**. Other than 911, the quickest way to get our police response is to leave a message on our squad phone (393-8407). We may work 5 days in a row, but may not always get into the office during that time. Our main office where we spend 90% of our time is in our squad vehicle.

**Emergency Communication**

One of the issues being addressed by the Emergency Planning group is how residents would be contacted if an emergency situation should arise. One hope was that the internet could be used. The Township offers an email contact option that individuals can sign up for free. It provides quick information about burglaries and other police emergencies in the Township.

So far, only 100 of our 1965 residents have signed up...assuming one per household, that's only 13% of our 775 resident households.

**If you haven't signed up, please do!** Go to the Township web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org), and click on the email enrollment tab. The Township provides notification for emergencies and important events. You can select *Police Reports, Community Center, and Newsletter* or all three.

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department  
Bob Engelson, Fire Chief

The Department held their annual appreciation dinner thanks to our Fire/Medical Auxiliary. We are seeking a grant for a turnout gear washing machine for Hall 1. Our Hall 1 furnace was repaired/updated.

New thermostats which make warning calls when the temperature gets low, are being installed at our fire halls and the Town Hall. There were a few narrowly averted temperature emergencies when fuel ran out or furnaces malfunctioned.

The Department has been especially busy with special training, updating skills, and seeking grants.



**Jim Rogers** is a new Alden Township member of our Clifton Volunteer Fire Department. He is a first responder and fire fighter and is finishing special fire training. Jim works full time as an auto and diesel mechanic at Sonju in

Two Harbors, skills that also help the Department. He said that he had wanted to serve as a fire fighter and when Alden Township needed firefighters last summer, Jim joined. He is a ten-year resident of Alden Township and lived in Rice Lake Township before that. Besides bow hunting and fishing, Jim is a bee keeper, now for 4 years, and makes beer and wine as a hobby. Jim responds using the fire engine at the Alden Fire Hall on the Laine Road.

Thanks, Jim, for your service to Alden and Duluth Townships.



Alden Fire Hall, Laine Rd

**French River Readers Book Club**

Meets monthly on the third Thursday at 7:30pm in the Fireside Room of French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road. For the current selection, see our web site: [www.duluthtownship.org/bookclub](http://www.duluthtownship.org/bookclub). Questions? Call Carol Surine, 525-4426 or email [carolsurine@gmail.com](mailto:carolsurine@gmail.com). All are welcome whether you have read the selection or not!





**Thanks to Supervisor Barb Crow** — Barb will be stepping down at the end of her term as a Township Supervisor. It has been an especially busy 3 years. Barb has had special responsibilities on the Board for finance/banking and insurance, personnel, and the Town Hall, among others. This past year involved many extra meetings as the Community Center/NSCS transfer to ABC Inc was negotiated.

Always an upbeat and a supportive influence, we will miss Supervisor Barb Crow's insights, energy and contributions to our Township's governance.



Duluth Township Recreation Corner  
*Kevin Pettis, Township Recreation Coordinator*

Winter is definitely here and I think we can all agree that this is a winter that we will all remember for a long time! The new warming building is full on a nightly basis which means that we have a lot of residents out using the pleasure skating rink and hockey rink...which is great! It's been a challenge keeping everything plowed on a timely basis this year and I thank all volunteers who have helped make it possible for residents to use the facility. The concession stand has been going strong which is also run by volunteers *with proceeds going to the PTA*. A big thank you to those volunteers that have helped run the concession stand throughout the season. New hockey nets have been purchased and set up. They're a big hit and the other two nets have been fixed so we should be set for a lot of years to come. With the way the weather is, we may be skating into the second week of March, or even longer, but *watch for notices on the door that will let you know if the rink will be closed when warmer weather is melting the ice.*

The Community Center cafeteria and gymnasium have been popular in terms of **renting the facility** this year. We are currently working on updating our policy with ABC Inc (*new owners of the school property*) and NSCS but the Township *will still be responsible for scheduling the use of the building when NSCS is not in session.* If interested in renting the Community Center please call me at 218-525-0663 ext 301.

We will also be starting our **Competitive Basketball Program** on March 15<sup>th</sup>. We will run K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade programs on Saturday mornings starting at 8:00am and 7<sup>th</sup> grade to adult basketball will follow. Sign-up will be on the morning of March 15<sup>th</sup> for both programs.

In addition, we will have two sessions of **Open Gym** in March. *Open Gym* dates are March 20<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. Basketball will be the only thing being played, residents can also come and just shoot around as well. This will be limited to 30 participants only..

**Joint Use Committee Membership**

*Supervisor Mary Ann Sironen*

The **Joint Use Committee** (JUC) continues to meet to work through community use issues between the Township, NSCS and the Affiliated Building Corporation (ABC Inc). Committee membership has been updated to include these representatives:

Town of Duluth: *Dave Miller and Dave Chura*

NSCS: *Susan Rose*

ABC Inc: *George Sundstrom*

Community Member: *Wendy Meierhoff*

With continuing excellent leadership from facilitator *Sue Lawson*, and support from *Ann Cox* and *Beth Mullan*, the committee will address current and future uses as they arise. Thank you to everyone who's worked, and continues to work, on this complex arrangement.



Supervisors Barb Crow, Dave Miller, Chair, Mary Ann Sironen, Don Sitter, and Mary Anne Daniel

**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)).

**December 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.** All Supervisors attended.

**Main Actions:** Minutes for Nov 14 and Nov 25 were approved. Wendy Meierhoff was approved as the fifth member of the Joint Use Committee (JUC). The Committee is a part of the Joint Use Agreement (*see the Township web site*) which is designed to work out any issues related to the Community Center/NSCS/ABC Inc on the Community use of the property on Ryan Road. The School and grounds are now completely owned by ABC Inc which leases the school facilities to NSCS. The Clearwater Grill liquor license was approved.

**Discussion:** The Treasurer reported deposits of \$152,289.38 (*includes second half of levy from the County*), expenses of \$45,155.21, for a November ending balance of \$1,109,059.19. Community Center liability insurance was discussed. The Township covers its employees and volunteers but others need to be covered on their own. Usually homeowner's insurance covers others. George Sundstrom encouraged the Board to hire an audit. Books are already audited by the State. Dale Solstrom thanked the Board for buying locally and having him build the new Supervisor desks. **Police:** burglars have been captured. **Planning:** The MS4 (*required stormwater*) application was approved. Our stormwater ordinance will need to be updated mainly on stormwater issues related to new construction. **Roads:** Rodda will remove snow from the parking lot. **Town Hall:** The handicap door/entrance plan is waiting on the outcome of a grant request to facilitate election access. **Personnel:** A 1.5% COLA for employee wages starts in January.

**January 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.** All Supervisors attended.

**Main Actions:** Per meeting rate for the Treasurer and Clerk was raised to \$40/meeting. Dave Chura was appointed to the Joint Use Committee (*Dave Miller is our other representative*).

**Discussion:** **Treasurer:** \$107.00 deposits, \$23,220.04 expenses for a December ending balance of \$1,088,774.25. **Fire:** Heating system was approved for replacement up to \$10,000. **Roads:** Johnson Road brushing by Wrights Tree Service. The Town Hall ran out of fuel for a second time. Low temperature warning thermostats will be researched for Town and Fire Halls. The Joint Use Committee is working on a document clarifying responsibilities related to Community use of the property outside school hours (*e.g., skating rinks*)

**January 11<sup>th</sup> budget meeting.** All Supervisors attended.

A draft of department budget information was assembled by Town Clerk Ann Cox. Proposed 2015 department budgets were reviewed. Fuel costs were of primary concern. See the insert for budget information to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**The Next regular Town Board meetings:**  
 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs at 7pm in the Town Hall) Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup> .  
 Residents are encouraged to attend these public meetings

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

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting.** Commissioners Wayne Dahlberg, Jerry Hauge, Brigid Pajunen, John Shifsky, Jo Thompson, chair Paul Voge and Larry Zanko attended. Jo Thompson and Valerie Brady were thanked for their work completing the MS4 Stormwater report. The proposed 2015 Planning budget was discussed and will be submitted at the Supervisor's Budget meeting. It will be discussed at the Annual Town Meeting, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The area to be notified for the Seering's request for a short term rental off Wildwood Road includes the required property owners within a quarter mile plus all owners on West Wildwood Road. The hearing will be in March. Clint Little, Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program, contributed to a discussion of potential trails in the Township. The Commission requested a survey of residents about trails. Other Planning Commission projects are progressing: working with Duluth on managing the Congdon Trust land on the shore, possible zoning adjustments to take account of structure size in relation to lot size, and updating the Township brochure.

**The Next Planning Committee meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7pm in the Town Hall). The next scheduled meetings are Mar. 27<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>.**  
 Special hearings are posted at the Town Hall.  
 Residents are encouraged to attend these public meetings.

| <b>Land Use Permits</b> |               |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Beth Mullan</i>      |               |               |
| Year                    | Single Family | Total Permits |
| <b>2013</b>             |               |               |
| <b>2012</b>             | 3             | 17            |
| <b>2011</b>             | 6             | 24            |
| <b>2010</b>             | 8             | 28            |
| <b>2009</b>             | 9             | 30            |
| <b>2008</b>             | 10            | 39            |
| <b>2007</b>             | 3             | 28            |
| <b>2006</b>             | 10            | 44            |
| <b>2005</b>             | 20            | 67            |
| <b>2004</b>             | 23            | 70            |
| <b>2003</b>             | 24            | 69            |
| <b>2002</b>             | 18            | 57            |
| <b>2001</b>             | 18            | 66            |
| <b>2000</b>             | 17            | 56            |

## Duluth Township Information — 2014

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

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

**Planning Office Hours:** No posted hours

Call the Town Hall for an appointment: 525-5705

**Supervisors:**

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

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

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

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

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

**Town Clerk:** **Ann K. Cox** 525-5705 (Town Hall)  
 or Email: [TownClerk@duluthtownship.org](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 Sexton:** **Molly Tillotson** 218-525-6933  
 or Email: [Cemetery@duluthtownship.org](mailto:Cemetery@duluthtownship.org)

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

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

**Planning and Zoning Commission:** **Wayne Dahlberg, Jerry Hauge** (Mar2015), **Brigid Pajunen** (Mar2016), **John Schifsky** (Mar2016), **Jo Thompson**, (Mar2016) vice chair, **Paul Voge**, chair (Mar2014), **Larry Zanko** (2016)  
 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 Shane Kerby**  
 Email: [FireHall@duluthtownship.org](mailto:FireHall@duluthtownship.org)

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

**Recreation Coordinator:** **Kevin Pettis** 525-0663 ext 301  
[RecreationCoordinator@duluthtownship.org](mailto:RecreationCoordinator@duluthtownship.org)

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



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

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

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

*(Recycle drop off only during recycling hours and no household garbage, please.)*

Aluminum cans should be recycled with plastics/metal cans.  
 Curb recycling pickup service is available below the freeway.

Surveillance cameras have been installed around the Town Hall because of recent vandalism and garbage dumping.



Carolyn Marino

## Township Calendar

See calendar updates on [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org).

Our Official Calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

**MARCH 2014**

4, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd

5, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall

11, Tue, **Township Day—Supervisor Election 7am-8pm**  
**Annual Town Meeting 8:15pm, Town Hall**  
*(see the insert for budget and candidate information.)*

13, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall

18, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church

18, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** training, Hall #1

27, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

**APRIL 2014**

1, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road

2, Wed, 12:30pm **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall

10, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall.

15, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church

15, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** training Hall #1

23, Wed, **Deadline for May Newsletter**

24, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

**MAY 2014**

6, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road

7, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall

8, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall

20, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church

20, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall #1

22, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014

## Inside This Issue:

- *Candidate statements (see insert)*
- *Budget Information (see insert)*
- Town Board & Planning Meetings
- Police and Fire Information
- *Jobs wanted by Township youth*
- Recreation news
- Skating/Hockey rink rules.
- Township **Calendar**



Duluth Township Newsletter  
6092 Homestead Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

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DULUTH, MINN.

If your name or address are in error or you know of someone who is not receiving a Newsletter, please send a note to the Newsletter Editor at the Town Hall (email: [Editor@duluthtownship.org](mailto:Editor@duluthtownship.org)). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

992 Newsletters are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses and on request. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to the volunteer Newsletter editor, Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the NewsBox on the Town Hall porch. Our Newsletter is printed locally by Bob Sundstrom, **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by the folks at **UDAC**.

## JOBS WANTED

### For our Township Youth

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

### Seeking Jobs

- Mature, hard working, experienced 12 year old looking for work (yard work, cleaning, mowing, pretty much any chores). Just call Bridger at 525-0090.
- Allison, age 17, home 525-9065. I am interested in doing the following jobs: babysitting, mowing, raking, gardening, painting, pet watching and walking.
- Ryan, age 13, is looking for work. He is interested in yard work and babysitting. Call 525-9065.
- *You could be listed here!*

**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](mailto:editor@duluthtownship.org)

(Deadline for the next (May) Newsletter is April 23<sup>rd</sup>)

## Skating Rink Rules & Hours

Kevin Pettis, Township Recreation Coordinator

### Skating Rink Hours

Weekdays, Monday thru Thursday, 4pm — 9pm  
Weekends, Friday thru Sunday, 10am — 10pm

- No one under age 10 will be allowed on the pleasure skating or hockey rinks without adult supervision.
- Please park your vehicles in the parking lot. Do not park in front of the Warming Center building for safety.
- Do not run snow machines on Township fields.
- Children under 12 have priority on the hockey rink until 7:00pm
- No hockey playing allowed on the pleasure skating rink.
- Recommended protective gear must be worn by all hockey players on the hockey rink.
- No smoking or alcohol is permitted on Duluth Township Community Center property grounds
- The Township and/or North Shore Community School will not be responsible for thefts, accidents or injuries.
- Lost and found items will be kept for 10 days only. After 10 days, items will be donated or discarded.

## For Internet Updates

**Lake Connections'** (fiber optic service) web site is [www.lakeconnections.com](http://www.lakeconnections.com). It contains information on services and costs plus progress on installation. *Lake Connections' office is at 409 17<sup>th</sup> Ave, Two Harbors. 218-834-8320.*

**Lakenet** For information contact Kevin Olson at Coop Light and Power in Two Harbors, 834-2226 or [kolson@clpower.com](mailto:kolson@clpower.com).

## Two Candidates for Two Town Supervisor Positions

Each candidate was asked to provide a statement and picture for the Newsletter. These statements are presented as written to provide residents with background information.



### Dave Edblom

My name is David Edblom and I am seeking election for Duluth Town Board Supervisor. I have lived in the Town of Duluth for the past 17 years. I am married to Kate and have four adult children. For the past 28 years I have been a self-employed builder. I am familiar with problem solving, finances, budgets and being an active listener.

My community service experience is as follows:

- 6 years on the Planning Commission for the City of Branch.
- 6 years on the Planning Commission for the Town of Duluth.
- 3 years on the French River Lutheran Church Board.
- Member of the Rural Senior Housing Commission.
- 3 years on the North Shore Community School (NSCS) Board participating as a member on the Finance and Facilities Committees.
- Founding member of the Affiliated Building Company of NSCS.

I feel maintaining the good work and trust that exists between the Town and the NSCS and supporting realistic growth in the community, while keeping our rural feeling and values are important. Citizen input is vital in the foundation for good governance.

I welcome all questions and discussion (218-525-1276).

Thank you for your consideration.

### What Happens at our Annual Town Meeting

For those who may not have attended a Town meeting, here's a bit of background. We gather in our Town Hall on Homestead Road after the polls close (8:15pm). Our Town Clerk, by law, calls the meeting to order and we nominate and elect a resident to lead the meeting.

Our Town Clerk, Ann Cox, hands out a packet, including minutes from last year's meeting plus summary information provided by various Township departments—2013 activities and expenses, the previously approved 2014 budget and the proposed 2015 Township budget (*see Newsletter insert*).

Those attending this meeting vote on our budget for 2015...a year away because our figures have to be included with County and School District figures for tax statements you receive in 2015. In 2014 we are operating on the budget adopted at our 2013 Annual Town Meeting.

Last year's minutes, official bank and posting places are voted on. The proposed 2015 budget with any adopted amendments is discussed and the overall budget is approved. Other Township business is raised and discussed and results of the election are announced at the end of the meeting. The meeting is usually suspended rather than adjourned. This permits a special meeting to be called later in case there is business that needs to be conducted by Town residents.

The Town Meeting is also a good place to meet your neighbors and to discuss important Township issues. This meeting is grass-roots democracy that depends upon the participation, respect and good ideas of all of our citizens.



### Dave Miller

My name is Dave Miller and I have filed for re-election for one of the open positions on the Town Board. My family moved from Duluth to the Township 10 years ago and built a house off Bergquist Rd and Old North Shore Drive. My daughter and her family live nearby in Lakewood Township and our two granddaughters attend Lakewood Elementary School.

I am running for Supervisor because I believe I can contribute to the Township as a good place to live and work. I became familiar with many of the issues in the Township serving on the citizen working group that updated our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance and 6 years as a member of our Planning and Zoning Commission. I support efforts to develop senior housing and the policies our community has adopted in its Comprehensive Plan

During my last three years as a Town Supervisor, I have had the primary responsibility for Township Roads and as the liaison person between the North Shore Community School and the Town Board. As Township Road Supervisor my priorities have been to maintain the roads to a high standard by grading on a regular basis, replacing old culverts with new, larger ones, ditching to keep water off the road surface and by replacing gravel material, as needed, on the road surface. After the flood damage in June of 2012, I worked to repair damaged roads in a timely manner. Working with FEMA the Township received approximately \$90,000 in reimbursement for the work we accomplished.

As the liaison Supervisor between NSCS and the Town Board, I attended monthly meetings with School Staff to determine proper expenditure of funds and to coordinate projects that had an impact on both the School and the Town. Now that the School has been transferred to a non-profit organization (ABC), I represent the Town Board on the Joint Use Committee which has the responsibility for coordinating appropriate projects between the School Board, ABC Board and the Town Board.

I encourage you to vote in the March 11<sup>th</sup> election and I would appreciate your support to continue to represent you on the Town Board.

Please contact me to discuss these or any other Township issues. Phone 525-1555. Email [damiller1988@msn.com](mailto:damiller1988@msn.com).

Thank you for your consideration.

| Township Departments                | Actual Expenditures for 2008 | Actual Expenditures for 2009 | Actual Expenditures for 2010 | Actual Expenditures for 2011 | Actual Expenditures for 2012 | Actual Expenditures for 2013 | Approved Budget for 2014 | Proposed Budget for 2015 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Police Department <sup>(2)</sup>    | \$65,707                     | \$32,187                     | \$45,199                     | \$45,331                     | \$44,096                     | \$70,952                     | \$53,555                 | <b>\$55,315</b>          |
| Fire Department <sup>(2)</sup>      | 77,384                       | 281,299                      | 53,166                       | 114,163                      | 44,287                       | 45,784                       | 56,000                   | <b>\$52,650</b>          |
| General Township                    | 151,248                      | 161,220                      | 140,346                      | 136,113                      | 145,671                      | 116,212                      | 133,711                  | <b>104,091</b>           |
| Planning & Zoning                   | 32,453                       | 25,037                       | 20,811                       | 21,153                       | 22,217                       | 22,994                       | 28,550                   | <b>29,550</b>            |
| Cemetery                            | 4,919                        | 5,358                        | 10,599                       | 8,245                        | 8,943                        | 5,689                        | 7,000                    | <b>7,000</b>             |
| Road & Bridge <sup>(2)</sup>        | 85,399                       | 59,969                       | 96,156                       | 89,111                       | 144,437                      | 102,086                      | 80,000                   | <b>90,000</b>            |
| Community Education <sup>(5)</sup>  | —                            | 3,297                        | 1,795                        | 4,796                        | 5,835                        | 6,744                        | 2,000                    | —                        |
| Community Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> | —                            | —                            | —                            | 6,695                        | 9,244                        | 8,495                        | 8,000                    | <b>8,900</b>             |
| <i>Total expenses<sup>(1)</sup></i> | <b>\$417,110</b>             | <b>\$568,367</b>             | <b>\$368,072</b>             | <b>\$425,607</b>             | <b>\$424,730</b>             | <b>\$378,954</b>             | <b>\$368,816</b>         | <b>\$347,506</b>         |

**Listed Below are (approved and the proposed 2015) Tax Levy Budgets**

*These exclude income from non-levy sources such as permit fees, various grants, funds from WLSSD for recycling expenses, Taconite Relief, Community Center and other non-levy sources.*

|  |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |                                |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Approved/proposed levy</b>  | \$327,304 | \$332,755 | \$360,295 | \$352,765 | \$390,400 | \$343,496 | \$368,816 | <b>\$347,506<sup>(3)</sup></b> |
| <b>Approximate average annual cost per household<sup>(4)</sup></b><br><i>(using 740 households, depends on assessed property value.)</i> | \$442     | \$450     | \$487     | \$477     | \$528     | \$464     | \$512     | <b>\$470</b>                   |

**Footnotes:**

- (1) Note that the **actual** expenditures include expenses that may be partially covered by fees (e.g. permits), grants (e.g. FEMA road grant and Alden Township's contract for fire coverage, grant for fire truck), or carry-over funds. **Budgeted** levy amounts are reduced by expected income from fees. Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.
- (2) Some Departments designate funds for special projects: Road and Bridge emergencies (\$35,000), Fire and Police to replace aging vehicles. These funds are included in the year end balances shown in our Clerk's report at the Annual Meeting.
- (3) The budget amount we approve may be reduced, when levied, by State or County aid to local governments (*cut in recent years*).
- (4) The average annual cost per household uses 740 as the number of households for comparisons here. The *Newsletter* is currently mailed to about 992 addresses, 775 are households in the Township (the U.S. Census counted 750 occupied homes in Duluth Township in 2010).
- (5) At the 2009 Town Meeting residents voted to add \$7,500 to the levy under the General Township budget for a Community Center recreation coordinator. Community Education funds came from an initial Township budget plus class fees. In 2012 a separate line item is included.

**Township Expenses and Budget**

The table above shows actual expenses for 2008 through 2013, the budget for 2014 (*which was adopted at last year's Annual Town Meeting*), and the proposed budget for 2015. In some cases, actual expenses include income from various sources other than the tax levy, such as permit fees, grants (*e.g. FEMA for storm damage to roads*), and carryover from budget savings in a prior year. Part of the carry-over is for escrow (*e.g. fire and police vehicle replacement*) and emergency funds (*e.g. roads*).

**The proposed 2015 budget DECREASED by 5.8% compared to the 2014 approved budget.** All 2015 proposed budgets are close to those approved for this year. Fire and General Town budgets are lower and Road and Bridge is higher.

Detailed information will be distributed at the Annual Town Meeting where each budget will be presented.

Your total property tax includes County and State levied budgets, and special assessments (*e.g. school district, sewer*), in addition to the Township levy, less any homestead credit or State aid for local governments.

The 2015 budget will be voted on at the upcoming **March 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting**. Plan to attend!