

Duluth Township Newsletter

March 2022 Election Edition

Township website: www.duluthtownship.org



What's coming up.....

- ◆ Annual Elections and Town Meeting — March 8, polls open from 7 am to 8 pm, Annual Town Meeting to follow at 8:15 pm. **GO VOTE!**
- ◆ Township Annual Overview of Finances p. 6
- ◆ Meet the Candidates p. 7
- ◆ Homesteaders p. 8
- ◆ Alden Township Part Two p. 9
- ◆ What's in the Kitchen p. 10
- ◆ Community Calendar p. 11

Thank You Mike and John

Penny Morton



Special thanks to Michael Kahl and John Schifsky for their service to the Town. They have both served three years on the Town Board as supervisors and will be stepping down. Mike has been our roads supervisor and has worked tirelessly to get Township roads into better shape. He has also managed to get some Town roads up to county guidelines. In addition he has also been the liaison to the Planning Commission, which has been very busy for the past two years. Thank you, Mike, for your service.

John has been our communications and arts & history guide. He has overseen the publication of the newsletter, which has had four editors under his tenure, requiring him to keep his hand in. He routinely writes fact filled articles for the newsletter about the history of the Town. He has also been persistent in pursuing the Town's interest in Congdon Trust Land. Prior to his tenure on the Board, John served 8 years on the Planning Commission. Thanks, John, for all your work.



We will miss the two of you!

MAT Scholarship Opportunity

The Minnesota Association of Townships is proud to offer a township scholarship program for high school juniors in the state of Minnesota. Up to FIVE \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded. [Please visit the MAT website for full information about scholarships.](#) All students currently enrolled in the 11th grade and attending a Minnesota public, private, or parochial high school or a home study program and who plan to further their education at a college, university, or vocational school are eligible for this program. 2022 Essay Topic: Promoting Township Government. The question is: "The Minnesota Association of Townships has the responsibility to promote public understanding of the heritage and future of township government and its role in the state and federal systems. What are some ways that MAT could promote awareness of township government and inspire township residents and Boards to become involved?"

All applications must be submitted by May 1, 2022.

*To see color versions of the photos in this Newsletter, visit the Town's website: www.duluthtownship.org

Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue

Dorothy Aho, JoVanna Balquier, Val Brady, Nicole Chatterson, Bob Engelson, Stacia Grayson, Sue Lawson, Penny Morton, Beth Mullan, Shawn Padden, Sherry Rovig, John Schifsky, Liz Strohmayer, George Sundstrom, Carol Surine, Jo Thompson, and Jim Ward



Fire Department
Bob Engelson, Chief
Sherry Rovig, Secretary

The department has responded to 13 calls in the first 5 weeks of the new year. Please make sure your fire number is visible over the snow banks and we can reach you when there is an emergency. Don't forget to come get your new fire numbers. They are **free** and at the Town Hall during Town Hall hours.



We currently have a full roster with 2 recruits attending fire school. We receive grant funding to cover the cost of their training. The department also has an in-house training every month for both firefighters and medical responders.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about Clifton Fire Department and possibilities for volunteering should contact our chief: Bob Engelson 525-6819



Police Department
Shawn Padden, Chief
Paul Johnson, Officer

For medical & police emergencies, call 911.

Sign up for email police alerts and other urgent or informative notifications at the Township website:

www.duluthtownship.org

Police Events:

For the months of December 2021 and January 2022, there were 165 recorded police events. The following is a complete list of Initial Complaint Reports and officer-related activity within Duluth Township. Most were direct service to residents. There were 64 requests for checks on homes or businesses, 18 medical emergencies, 12 property damage accidents, 8 civil process, 8 extra patrol requests, 7 public assists. There were 5 of each of the following: attempt to locate careless driver, animal complaints, hazard checks, traffic related warnings/citations, and mental health assists. We responded to 4 burglar alarms, 3 health/welfare checks, 3 theft complaints, 2 fraud complaints, 2 suspicious vehicle complaints, and 2 assists to other agencies. There were 1 of each of the following: child neglect complaint, suspicious activity, damage to property, unwanted person complaint, personal injury accident, predatory offender check, and natural death.

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

duluthwppolice@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 (218-393-8407).

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.



Did you know?

STAY FIRE SAFE

Minnesota fire departments respond to an average of more than 283,000 emergency calls every year.

Minnesotans experience an average of \$233 million in fire losses every year.

Fire experts report that families may have as little as two to three minutes to escape a house fire.

- Pay attention in the kitchen. If you leave the kitchen, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything combustibile at least three feet from space heaters, wood stoves or fireplaces.
- Practice your family escape plan and make sure everyone knows where to meet following a fire.
- Have working smoke alarms in your home. Test them monthly; change the batteries twice a year.
- Keep candles away from combustibles and never leave candles unattended.



SFM.DPS.MN.GOV

445 Minnesota St., Suite 145, St. Paul, MN 55101 Telephone: 651-201-7200 Fax: 651-215-0525

Regular Community Meetings

AA meets at 7 pm on Tuesdays at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road.



Dave Edblom, Blane Tetreault, Angela Wilson, Liz Strohmayer, and Dave Meyer
(Not pictured: Pam West and Justin Osadjan)



Penny Morton, Michael Kahl, Rolf Carlson, John Schifsky, Tim Strom

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

Official minutes by Planning Secretary Beth Mullan are available on our Township website: www.duluthtownship.org

Summary of Town Board Minutes

Official Minutes by Town Clerk Nicole Chatterton are available at the Town Hall and on our Township website: www.duluthtownship.org

December 16 Planning Commission Meeting.

Commission members present: Liz Strohmayer, Dave Edblom, Angela Wilson, Pam West, Justin Osadjan, and Blane Tetreault.

The Commission addressed comments that had been received at the December 2nd Public Hearing for the proposed Zoning Ordinance. In response to comments equating isolated camping sites to short-term rentals, the Commission raised the required lot size for the use to 40 acres, agreed to allow only one site per owner, to require an on-site attendant, and set the maximum number of rental days at 60. In response to comments that short-term rentals are negatively impacting neighborhoods, the Commission decided not to add anything to the currently proposed Ordinance language and see how the new requirements, if enacted, affect the use in the Township. In response to comments that the Town was already overregulated, the Commission felt that they consistently strived to maintain a balance between too much regulation and enough regulation to maintain the character and quality of the community of the Township. In response to comments that allowed livestock units were too restrictive, the Commission felt that the numbers established for animal units allowed in a zone district were derived from research and experience with the Township's characteristics and they had confidence in the process used to arrive at the numbers.

MNDNR and St. Louis County both indicated that they needed additional time to review the proposed Ordinance.

January 27 Planning Commission Meeting.

Commission members present: Blane Tetreault, Justin Osadjan, and Dave Meyer.

Liz Strohmayer had accepted the position of Planning Assistant and was in attendance in her new role. The Commission went over changes to the Proposed Ordinance following comments made by MNDNR and St. Louis County. The Town's Ordinance is required to be at least as restrictive as the County's. In addition, Sue reviewed our Ordinance, comparing it to St. Louis County's, and proposed changes as needed to be compliant with St. Louis County. Regulation of construction in flood plain areas and regulation of extractive uses, namely gravel pits, will be deferred to the County as the County requires permits for these activities and has stringent regulations for them in addition to anything the Town might require. After reviewing the County's requirements for changeable electronic variable message signs, the Commission decided that these signs weren't consistent with the Township's desired character and not to allow them at all. Following the approval of changes, the Recommended Ordinance was approved for recommendation to the Town Board.

Regular **Planning Commission Meetings** are held on the fourth Thursday at **6:30 pm** in the Town Hall

Planning and Zoning Department:

Land Use Permits: Submit applications and fees for Land Use Permits to the Town via email, U.S. mail, at the Clerk's Office during office hours, or in the drop box under the public posting at the Town Hall entrance. On-site review for Land Use Permits will be conducted by the Planning Director following pandemic precautions.

Variances and Conditional Use Permits: Submit applications and fees for permits to the Town via email, U.S. mail, at the Clerk's Office during office hours, or put them in the drop box under the public posting at the Town Hall entrance. Hearings for the permits are open to the public, following state guidelines. Submit comments regarding applications to the Town via email or U.S. mail.

Questions for the Planning Director: Contact the Town Clerk

December 9 Special/Regular Meeting: In attendance: Supervisors Tim Strom, Rolf Carlson, Michael Kahl, Penelope Morton, and John Schifsky; Town Clerk Nicole Chatterton, Treasurer Mel Peulen. Penny excused herself after the agenda was approved .

A special meeting was held prior to the regular scheduled meeting to interview 2 applicants for the Planning Assistant position.

Reports: Treasurer: Beginning balance \$667,860.38, deposits of \$4,414.29, expenses of \$27,527.52, ending balance of \$644,747.15. All claims were approved for payment, and the payroll net account distribution and claims list for approval were signed. A date for the budget meeting was set for Feb. 3, 2022, at 6:30 pm. Fire: Resolution 20211209: John made a motion to increase the benefit level for the volunteer firefighters' vested interest in their retirement plan from \$2,300.00 to \$2,700.00 benefit level per year of service. Seconded by Michael. Motion passed. Town Hall: The cameras and freeze alarms are in progress. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Additional disbursements were received: \$3,662.73. Personnel: Tim made a motion to hire Liz Strohmayer, seconded by Michael. Motion passed unanimously. John made a motion for the Planning Assistant wages to be set at \$22/hr. for 10 hrs. a week, seconded by Michael. Motion passed.

January 13 Regular Meeting: In attendance: Supervisors Tim Strom, Rolf Carlson, Michael Kahl, Penelope Morton, and John Schifsky; Town Clerk Nicole Chatterton, Treasurer Mel Peulen, Deputy Clerk Hannah Jurek

Reports: Treasurer: Beginning balance \$644,747.15 deposits \$148,696.24, expenses, \$36,224.24, ending balance of \$757,219.15. All claims were approved for payment, and the payroll net account distribution and claims list for approval were signed. Board of Audit meeting was set for Feb. 10 at 6 pm. Penny made a motion to remove Ann Cox from the safety deposit box at Park State Bank and add Hannah Jurek, seconded by John. Motion passed. Public Comment: Residents from North Star Road were in attendance to discuss the state of their private road to make a Township road. After discussion, the Board referred the residents to reference Minnesota Statue 164.07 to help them in their process. Police: Penny made a motion to renew the Police contract between the United Steelworkers and Duluth Township for the next three years with a wage increase of fifty cents per hour per year and the rest of the terms stated in the contract. Seconded by John. Motion passed. Fire: Bob will review and complete the 2022 State Aid application and return to Nicole for submission. Planning and Zoning: Planning Commission is working on finalizing Ordinance 6. Once completed, the report will be sent to the Board for their review. American Rescue Plan Act: Board discussed ways on which to educate the electors on how to best handle this approximately \$220,000 of ARPA funds. Cemetery: Rolf made a motion to raise the cemetery hr. rate to Township standard \$13.71 per hr. Seconded by Penny. Motion passed. Personnel: Penny moved to correct wages and salary sent from Planning and Zoning, removing 40 hrs./month and change total from \$10,560 to \$11,440 for the Planning Assistant and accept the other wage increase for the director and secretary. Seconded by Tim. Motion passed. New Business: Ron Sundberg was interested in applying for grant for new boards for the skating rink. Project will cost more than expected. Penny advised he should have a budget and proposal ready for the Annual Meeting for the electors to decide.

Regular **Town Board meetings** are held on the second Thursday at **6:30 pm** in the Town Hall

Salt Smart!

Jo Thompson and Valerie Brady

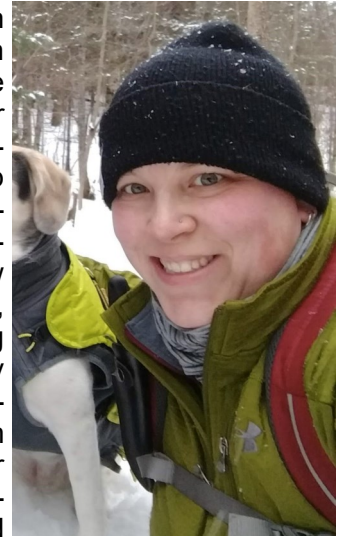
Salt Smart!

Help keep our waters clean: As winter brings us icy walkways and driveways, remember to use salt sparingly. More is not better. Salt does not work below 15° F. Use coarse sand instead.



Meet the New Planning Assistant

Liz Strohmayer has been heavily involved in Duluth Township since moving here in 2015. She is a firefighter and emergency medical responder in our Township Fire Department, participated in the Community Steering Group to develop a new Community Land Use Plan, and has sat on the Planning Commission (most recently Chair) since 2017. She recently started up a Farm Share CSA program on her farm, SolFed Farm on Lismore Rd. Her background



has been working with homeless families and individuals to gain housing and employment, provide mental health treatment direction for individuals seeking mental health support, and creating individualized housing options for people with disabilities. She currently sits on the Mental Health Local Advisory Council for St. Louis County. In her spare time she loves to be outside, enjoying backpacking, winter hammock camping, foraging, fishing, and all things outdoors.

Vacancy on the Township Planning and Zoning Commission

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

Interviews to fill the vacancies will be held by the Town Board. Interested residents should submit a letter of interest including relevant past experience **by March 31, 2022**, to: Duluth Township, Attn: P&Z Commission Vacancy, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804. If you have questions, leave a message for the Planning Director at the Town Hall, 525-5705

Updating the Zoning Ordinance Planning Commission

Town Board to Consider Adoption of Recommended Zoning Ordinance Number 6 and Zoning Map Number 6.

April 12, 2022, at 6:30 PM at the Duluth Town Hall

As you may be aware, the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on Dec. 2, 2021, to take comments on the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Number 6 and the accompanying Zoning Map Number 6. This was part of a nearly year-long process to update the current Zoning Ordinance and Map.

On April 12, 2022, at 6:30 PM the Town Board will have a special meeting to consider adopting the Recommended Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map Number 6.

The following documents will be available for review on the website (www.duluthtownship.org) beginning March 1, 2022, and a paper copy will be available for reading at the Town Hall:

- Recommended Zoning Ordinance Number 6 and Recommended Zoning Map Number 6
- Report to the Town Board on the December 2, 2021, Public Hearing regarding the Proposed Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map

The Town Board welcomes you to attend this meeting regarding the adoption of the Recommended Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map.

Hall Rental

The Town Hall is now available for rental. Contact the Clerk's office to make reservations.

The Community Room is also available for public use during office and recycling hours. The hours are posted on the Town's website: www.duluthtownship.org and on page 11 of this Newsletter.

Masks are **strongly encouraged** and welcomed!

French River Book Club

Carol Surine

Bright new things are happening with the French River Book Club. Look for our May Newsletter for more. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carol Surine at carolsurine@gmail.com or 525-4426

Country Kids Day Care 218-343-6370

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

Paid Advertisement



For our Township youth: Advertise for **FREE!** Any **youth** seeking work or **Township residents** needing help with various jobs suitable for youth (babysitting, lawn and garden maintenance, house cleaning, etc.) can submit an ad by email, by phone, or by dropping it off at the Town Hall to be published in the May edition of the Newsletter. I have had calls looking for workers!

The deadline is April 18, 2022.
525-5705 or deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.com

To place an ad or list community meetings in the Newsletter, contact the Newsletter editor at: deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.com

BOOK EXCHANGE UPDATE

JoVanna Balquier

The Book Exchange is still open and the shelves are still overflowing! Come by and find your next read. Then cozy up to a fire with a nice cup of hot chocolate!

Our children's section has grown and so has our young adult section, but donations are still welcome!

The Book Exchange is open during Township office and recycling hours.

The Book Exchange is located in our Community Room. Stop by today and pick up your next great read!

SolFed Farm

Support local food production and get to know where your food is grown! Offering full and half CSA Farm Shares and seasonal farm stand. Farm shares run June-October. For more information check out our website or follow us on Facebook.

www.solfedfarm.com
solfedfarm@gmail.com

Paid Advertisement

Caretaker/Farm Manager Live-in Position

Ten-acre northeast Minnesota horse farm overlooking Lake Superior and four mature dressage horses need a full-time, year-round Caretaker. Twenty miles from the metropolitan community of Duluth with major medical and educational institutions. Two-bedroom carriage house with room for a personal garden.

Position includes taking exceptional care of the horses, supervising daily workers, barn cleaning, maintaining feed supplies, snow removal, lawn mowing, grooming of indoor and outdoor arenas, and fence maintenance. Scheduling farrier and vet visits. Maintaining all equipment including snow blowers, mowers, and tractors. Cleanliness, attention to detail, and commitment to high quality care of the horses and property required. Horse experience a must.

Position available June 1, 2022. Salary commensurate with experience.

Please send resume with relevant qualifications and references to dslewisht@gmail.com.

Paid Advertisement

| Duluth Township Annual Overview of Finances | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2021 Actual | 2022 Approved | 2023 Proposed |
| Township Departments | Expenditures | Expenditures | Expenditures |
| Police Department | \$66,163.19 | \$64,460.00 | \$65,420.00 |
| Fire Department | \$68,588.24 | \$56,400.00 | \$46,100.00 |
| General Fund | \$124,420.00 | \$140,570.00 | \$130,316.00 |
| Planning and Zoning | \$49,018.90 | \$38,923.00 | \$32,547.00 |
| Cemetery | \$7,604.68 | \$7,500.00 | *\$7,500.00 |
| Emergency Operation | - | - | - |
| Road and Bridge | \$73,241.49 | \$100,000.00 | \$90,000.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$389,036.50 | \$407,853.00 | \$371,883.00 |
| | | Levey: | \$364,383.00 |

American Rescue Plan Act:

The Town has learned that it will receive approximately \$225,000 under the American Rescue Act. Those funds can be used for any legitimate township purpose. The money must be committed to specific uses by the end of 2024 and must be spent by the end of 2026. Suggestions about how those funds should be used are welcome and encouraged, and the Town Board plans to hold one or more public hearings on that topic.

* We have budgeted funds for the Cemetery for 2023, but will not require them to be part of the Levey.



Board of Appeal and Equalization

This year's Board of Appeal and Equalization will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, from 4 pm-5 pm in the community room. All submissions **must** be in written form and must be received by the Clerk's office **no later than: Tuesday, April 19, 2022**

Emailed to: townclerk@lakenet.com

Mailed: Duluth Township
 Attn: Town Clerk
 6092 Homestead Rd
 Duluth, MN 55804

Drop off: At Clerk's office during normal business hours or into the white box under the posting kiosk at the Town Hall

Fire sign update:

Currently, 441 fire/address signs remain unclaimed at the Town Hall. These signs need to be picked up by residents and posted prominently at property entrances. The fire department has padded the budget this year with an additional \$12,000 for installation of these signs by hiring a contractor to complete this task. **We do not need to spend this money if property owners will take it upon themselves to do for themselves that which benefits them.** Taxpayers often look for ways to lower their taxes. This is a straightforward opportunity to do that. The signs, post, and hardware are available for pick up at the Town Hall during regular Town office hours. Please help us complete this project.



Meet your Candidates

Hello! My name is Jim Ward and I am running for Town Board Supervisor.

I have been a lifelong resident of Duluth Township for over 50 years and have been employed at the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the last twenty-six years in highway maintenance.



This will be my second term on the Town Board so I am familiar with local law and statutes, and I feel this is time well spent giving back to our great community.



Remember to Vote

Tuesday March 8, 2022. Polls will be open 7 am to 8 pm. Two Supervisor positions are on the ballot for a regular 3-year term.

My name is Stacia Grayson, and I am a candidate for one of the open positions on the Duluth Township Board of Supervisors.

My husband and I moved to our home in Duluth Township in 2013, just in time for the big November snowstorm, and have added to our family with 5-year-old twin boys, some chickens and a few dogs. We have enjoyed making our house our home and truly appreciate all the outdoor space we have to explore in the area.



I work at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as an Environmental Specialist, and I work in the Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network, which monitors the quality of major rivers throughout Minnesota. I have been lucky to be able to explore the North Shore as part of my job. I have degrees in Biology and Chemistry (both have Environmental emphasis) and I have a strong desire to protect our natural resources.

I hope to be able to serve the Township and listen to what is important to those that live in the area. I have enjoyed watching the community grow and am excited to be part of that in the future.

"Homesteaders Club" The Beginning

George Sundstrom, Sr. ("Jackpine Savage")

Homesteaders Club: The Beginning

This article originally appeared in The Landmarks, March 1986. It has been edited and is included here at the suggestion of resident Helen Hendrickson. The Landmarks was our former Duluth Township community newspaper.

Looking back at past history is not one of my favorite subjects. I had to go back to old minutes from past meetings and, after reading of our early efforts, I could say, like the old "hyacinth squirrel" (skunk) backing into the wind, it all comes back to me now. (Maybe we ought to adopt that as our theme song!)

On March 9, 1976, the "Club" was launched. Our first meeting was held in the basement of the French River Lutheran Church with 14 members attending. Maggie McGillis was there to give us direction and purpose, as well as people from county social services. Also offering advice and encouragement at the early meeting was Helen Budisalovich. But in the end, it was a home-grown community project, and the people of the community deserve the credit for its success.

At the third meeting of the "club," the name **Homesteaders** was chosen at the suggestion of Gunner and Florence Johnson, residents of the Homestead Road. Due to the church stairs posing a challenge for the elderly, it was evident that we needed a more suitable home. We petitioned for the use of the Town Hall and, when the petition was granted, started meeting there. However, due to the growing membership, we outgrew the Town Hall and were in search of a warmer, more modern facility.

When a room at the North Shore Elementary was vacated, we petitioned for use of the room and were given permission to hold future meetings there. To protect the school in the event of injury to any of our members, the Homesteaders incorporated as a state approved unit and registered as such, with a proper constitution and by-laws. Just prior to that we had become a member of the Senior Citizen Coalition of N.E. Minnesota, a combined organization of similar clubs, both urban and rural.

With the use of the room at North Shore Elementary, the Homesteaders undertook the improvements needed to bring the school building up to federal accessibility requirements. This included a ramp for wheelchairs, accessible toilets, etc. The improvements were done entirely by volunteer members of the club. However, after only two years, the room was needed by the school again, and we were back to being homeless. The energy and enthusiasm of our club members was not to disappoint. At a meeting held at the home of Roy and LaVerne Gravelle, we decided to petition the Town Board to apply to the IRRRB for funding to remodel and restore the Town Hall. Over time, that became a reality, and it is with pride that the Town Hall on Homestead Road continues to this day to be home for the club. As of this writing, the club has grown to about 150 members with about 50 active members.



Homesteaders

Dorothy Aho

March 2, 2022: Wednesday, 12:30 pm, Town Hall. Potluck with cake and ice cream to celebrate all the years together.

April 6, 2022: Wednesday, 12:30 pm, Town Hall

May 4, 2022: Wednesday, 12:30 pm, Town Hall

Due to the rising cases of COVID, it has proven difficult to secure entertainers for our group. With that said we will not be having any entertainment at our meetings until further notice. If you have any suggestion on potential entertainment options, contact Dorothy.

Everyone is welcome!

As a club, we have made donations to many worthwhile causes in the area. We have contributed to making hot lunches in school available to all and have sent many youngsters to camp in Isabella each year. We have helped those in need in the Township, including weatherizing several homes in the area and helping with a well installation at another home, all to make lives easier. We've made Duluth Township a better place to live by providing for blood pressure screening and worked to get weekly bus service through Arrowhead Transit. We've provided help and information on the services available to the elderly in our community.

Past history may be interesting, but it is the future we must concern ourselves with now. No organization ever stands still; it goes forward or goes back. As long as we look forward and plan for projects, we will have a future. A suggestion – school will be out soon, how about a junior Homesteaders Club? Maybe a young people's chorus. One of the projects I was working on just prior to my first heart attack was helping the Boy Scouts carve a totem pole depicting the steps in scouting. Can we help them?

At the end of the day, I know there are far too many people who deserve our undying thanks for making the Homesteaders the organization that it is today and to name them ALL would be impossible. But to the ladies, "God bless 'em." We couldn't have done it without them. To Patti Hellman, the editor of the local paper Landmarks, I'm sure there will be those of us proud to say in a few years, "I knew her when she started out." And a sincere thanks to all from the past and present who have made it all worthwhile.

I want to close this article with the words our director of service had displayed on his desk: "As you journey through life you will find three kinds of people: 1. The man who knows not and knows that he knows not – he is a student, teach him! 2. The man who knows not and knows not that he knows not – he is a fool, shun him. 3. The man who knows, and knows that he knows, he is a teacher, follow him."

Alden Township Part Two

John Schifsky

An article titled "Alden Township" appeared in Duluth Township's January Newsletter. That article focused on Alden's history in the period 1920 to 1940. Part Two of that article appears below. The details are taken from Alden Township Board of Supervisors meeting minutes.

Alden Township Board of Supervisors meeting minutes for the period 1970 through 2004 record discussions about a number of issues, some of which are noted below. As in the period 1920–1940, roads and road maintenance continued to demand attention.

It was residents' frustration with road conditions and attendant maintenance and repair expense that led to a 1985 Annual Meeting motion directing the Board to explore dissolving the Township. Frustration with that ongoing expense may have been the motivation. Those advocating dissolution may have believed that in the absence of a governing body, the county would be forced to maintain the roads. No motion for dissolution was made.

Thirteen years later, road maintenance and the attendant costs came up again at the 1998 Annual Meeting. Fifty-six Township residents supported a petition for *dissolution* of the Township, but other residents disagreed. They believed the benefits and powers that came with maintaining township status were important, and these residents developed a petition advocating that position. The petition was circulated door-to-door and then brought to the Town Board.

In an effort to inform residents about the consequences of dissolution, an educational meeting was scheduled for May 1998. Township and other officials spoke and answered questions. The record makes clear that feelings were high and discussion was acrimonious. Some attendees are described as being rude and disruptive. The dissolution proposal did not receive majority support.

Other actions recorded in the 1970-2004 minutes include:

- Sending the St. Louis County Auditor, in June 1972, an itemized list of all the 1972 roadwork bills paid up to that date. The list was accompanied by a request from the Town Board — the county should pay for and do the roadwork for the rest of the year.
- Approval, in 1976, of a resolution to build a new Town Hall. Residents had to wait until 1991 when an IRRRB grant made possible the purchase of materials.
- County approval in January 1980 of a petition by residents of the northern half of Alden Township to separate and become Pequaywan Township. (Townships are typically square, six miles on a side. Prior to splitting, Alden was 12 miles by six miles.) Among the reasons given by the northerners: voting required residents to travel an unreasonable distance; lack of cooperation from earlier town boards; the conviction that there were two separate communities, one in the northern, the other in the southern half of the Township. A Pequaywan resident is recorded as saying northern residents provided 77% of the tax base "and it was hard to see their tax money pay for repairing three times as many roads in the southern part of the township" (Pequaywan website). Pequaywan has 2.7 miles of snowplowed road. Separation had a negative impact on Alden's tax base.
- A decision to have the St. Louis County Sheriff patrol the Township. As much as Alden residents valued having their own law enforcement personnel, the Board accepted that the Township could not afford the state mandated training required of Minnesota township constables.



- Lacking a Planning and Zoning Committee, Township residents had been working together to develop a land use plan and were particularly concerned with what minimum lot size for new construction should be. They were unable to come to a mutually acceptable agreement; minimum lot size reverted to St. Louis County's standard of nine acres.

- Lack of resources and a reduced number of volunteers necessitated a 2002 mutual aid agreement with the Clifton Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD). That department agreed to provide emergency medical service (EMS) and fire coverage to Alden Township. Currently a CVFD engine is housed in the fire hall next to the Alden Town Hall, and one Alden resident is on the CVFD Fire and EMS personnel roster. CVFD continues to provide fire and EMS coverage.

Alden Township meeting records for the period 1970 to the present tell a story probably familiar to Township residents. As was the case in the Township's early years, road maintenance was and is the largest Township expenditure. Some repair projects are delayed because of lack of resources. Washouts, rocks, potholes, washboard road surfaces, plugged culverts, and beaver dams flooding roads periodically made/make travel a challenge.

Interestingly, a traveler on a number of Township roads in October 2021 (Paradise, Nappa, Hill) would have found them in excellent condition, recently graded with class five added in several places. The Paradise Lake Road, in particular, appears to have been improved significantly. Nevertheless there are seven gravel pits in the Township, six of them active on and off. The county is currently using one, a private contractor another. Periodically the state or county bids out logging permits. The gravel and logging trucks pound the roads. In an effort to protect the Hill and Nappa roads, the Township Board designated them Rustic Roads, limiting usage to lighter weight vehicles. The Ives Road is minimum maintenance, limiting usage. But most Township roads are county roads, and load limits can only be enforced for part of the year. Officials insist the state and the county have a legal right to harvest resources on the land they own. Funds generated from those resource sales are essential to the delivery of county services.

Alden's low population (213 in 2010, 196 in 2020) means the Township has a small tax base which has made and continues to make funding Township priorities, including roads, challenging. (An aside: The Cloquet Valley State Forest was created in 1931. The state forest encompasses the northern half of the Township. One of the DNR's missions is to provide for commercial uses of natural resources, so the state forest designation does have consequences for road conditions.)

A county Public Works manager said Alden has 5.85 miles of road. For nearly 25 years the Township has contracted with Bob Rodda for road maintenance. The county plows the roads in the winter for a fixed fee (\$925) and is responsible for Township culverts. A portion of the state/federal gas tax (roughly \$425 a mile) goes into Alden's road budget. Another source of funds is a Township imposed gravel tax, one purpose of which was to reduce the number of trucks on the roads. In 2021, owners of the commercially licensed Fox Farm pit paid a quarterly tax on the material they extracted. In November 2021 the Township treasurer reported receiving \$1,020 from that tax, funds which go into the road budget.

Part Three, the conclusion of "Alden Township," will appear in the May Newsletter.

What's in the Kitchen

Nicole Chatterson, Town Clerk

Cream Cheese Chicken Enchiladas (with Bonus Recipe!)

Sometimes we can get into the rut of the "same old, same old" when we are making our nightly dinners. I'm always looking for ways to spice things up in our house. This recipe was just the ticket. When I found the recipe, I thought it would be a good use for left over rotisserie chicken. However, since this was the first time I was making the recipe, I decided to pick up a chicken from Sam's on my weekly shopping run.

I prepped this in the morning, so when it came time for dinner all I had to do was toss it into the oven and wait. As a mother of a preschooler, having the prep work completed before the kiddo is home can be a lifesaver some days! This meal would be a great candidate for a freezer meal since it is so easy to prepare ahead of time. **Bonus Recipe Alert!** After deboning the chicken, there was still plenty of chicken left over on the bird, so I took the remaining chicken, on the bone, and placed it in my Ninja pressure cooker with some water, some additional stock that I had made from my scrap veggies, (stop by the office if you would like that recipe!) and some lightly sautéed carrots, celery, and onion. I pressured cooked it for 13 minutes, natural released for 10, removed the bones, and turned it into a quick soup – two meals out of one!

What my family liked most about the enchiladas is that we can choose how spicy to make them by changing the spice intensity of the enchilada sauce. If you are in the mood for extra spicy or mild, just change the sauce and go for it.

I am always looking for new recipes to test in my kitchen. If you have a recipe you would like to share with the community, email the Town Clerk, townclerk@lakenet.com. **Keep in mind, you can cut the recipe in half for a smaller portion.** Happy cooking!

Cream Cheese Chicken Enchiladas

Ingredients:

- 4 cups precooked rotisserie chicken
- 16 ounces cream cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- ½ small onion, diced
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 3 cups shredded cheddar cheese-divided
- 8 ounces green chilies
- 10 tortillas
- 20 ounces red or green enchilada sauce

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F
2. De-bone the chicken and shred the meat into small pieces, if you don't have a rotisserie chicken you can use 3 or 4 cooked chicken breasts.
3. In a large skillet combine the chicken, cream cheese, sour cream, 1 ½ cups of the shredded cheese, onion, chili powder, cumin, and green chilies. Heat this mixture until the cheeses are completely melted.
4. Coat a 9x13 baking pan with cooking spray. Then scoop a heaping spoonful of the chicken mixture into a tortilla, roll and place seam side down in the pan. Repeat until all the filling is used.
5. Pour enchilada sauce over the rolled tortillas and sprinkle with remaining cheese – extra if needed.
6. Baked uncovered for 20-25 minutes or until hot.

Field Workshops: Emerald Ash Borer

Please join Minnesota Department of Agriculture staff at one of our free emerald ash borer (EAB) field workshop training sessions being held at multiple locations throughout the state. These hour-long outdoor workshops will provide an opportunity to get a firsthand look at EAB-infested trees and will assist the community in becoming familiar with early detection. Workshops are free of charge through support from the U.S. Forest Service. Hour-long sessions will be held most days at 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, and 1:00 PM.

EAB Topics Covered

Life cycle, host trees, recognizing EAB, progression of symptoms, distribution, quarantines, cold mortality, insecticides, biological control agents, biosurveillance, management approaches, reporting trees and visual inspection of on-site EAB-infested ash trees.

Details

- Dress for the weather as the workshops are held entirely outside
- Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them
- Cancellations due to severe weather only
- No restroom facilities are available on-site at most locations.

Please plan accordingly

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) Provided (1.0 credits) for ISA Certified Arborists

Date & Location of Workshop in Duluth:

[Registration for Central Park in Duluth, MN on 3/22/22 & 3/23/22](#) (St. Louis County)

Babysitter Class

Saturday, April 2, 2022; 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
French River Lutheran Church
5310 Ryan Road, Duluth

Recommended for age 12 years or older; \$20/student, minimum of 10, maximum of 25 students. Open to anyone (you need not attend FRLC to participate). Participants need to follow the current Covid plan of the church at the time of the class; at this time, masks are required.

This course will provide you with the necessary leadership skills and equip you with the essential caregiving skills and safety prevention methods to be a top-notch babysitter, giving parents peace of mind when hiring a sitter. Please bring a bag lunch. Cash or check payment is due on day of class.

Instructor: Michelle Libby.

Register: e-mail Drjockmock@msn.com no later than 3/25/22.



And...watch our Facebook page and website (www.frenchriverlutheran.org) for other classes, such as paddle making, this spring!

Paid Advertisement



Duluth Township Information 2022

Duluth Town Hall
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804
Phone (218) 525-5705
(Voice message)
Email: See note below on
using our Township website.

www.duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Tues 9 am-12 pm, Wed 9 am-2 pm,
Thurs 1 pm-5 pm, Fri 9 am-2 pm

Planning Office Hours: No posted hours
Call the Town Hall for an appointment: 525-5705

Supervisors: (See website for email contacts).

Rolf Carlson (2020-2023) 525-0375 Board Chair
Primary contact: Personnel, Cemetery
Alternate: North Shore Mgt Board, Intergovernmental
Relations

Penny Morton (2021-2024) 525-5443 Vice Chair
Primary contact: Business Mgt, North Shore Mgt Board,
CC Liaison/NSCS Foundation Board
Alternate: Personnel, Intergovernmental Relations,
Communications

Michael Kahl (2019-2022) 525-1594
Primary contact: Roads/Invasive Weeds, Planning
Alternate: Business Mgt, Intergovernmental Relations,
Town Hall, North Shore Mgt Board

John Schifsky (2019-2022) 525-9363
Primary contact: Arts and Heritage, Communications,
Public Safety
Alternate: Cemetery, Intergovernmental Relations,
North Shore Mgt Board

Tim Strom (2021-2023) 525-5705
Primary contact: Materials Mgt, Town Hall
Alternate: Intergovernmental Relations, Planning, Roads/
Invasive Weeds, North Shore Mgt Board

Town Clerk: **Nicole Chatterson** 525-5705 (Town Hall)
Deputy Clerk: **Hannah Jurek** 525-5705 (Town Hall)
Treasurer: **Mel Peulen** 525-5705 (Town Hall)
Attorney: **Scott Witty** 722-4766 (Office)
Cemetery Sexton: **Molly Tillotson** 218-626-7005
Planning Director: **Sue Lawson** 525-5705 (Message)
Planning Assistant: **Liz Strohmayer** 525-5705 (Message)
Planning Secretary: **Beth Mullan** 525-5705 (Message)

Planning Commission: Dave Edblom (Vice Chair), Dave Meyer,
Justin Osadjan, Blane Tetreault, Pam West, and Angela Wilson

Peace Officers: Chief Shawn Padden, Officer Paul Johnson
Emergencies 911, Messages 525-5705 or (218) 393-8407

Clifton Volunteer Fire/EMS Department: Chief Bob Engelson,
Assistant Chief Rob Peldo, President Jason Bruckelmyer,
Secretary Sherry Rovig
Email: cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com

Burning Permits are available online at: mndnr.gov/permits or at
the Town Hall (office hours), or from **Fire Wardens:**
Nicole Chatterson (525-5705), Jeff & Carolyn Marino
(525-6431) or **DNR Two Harbors, 1568 Hwy 2 (834-1418)**

Website Manager: **Hannah Jurek** 525-5705 (Town Hall)

Community Center Rental Coordinator: **Jim Salls** 600-9015

To Email Township Officials and Departments

See Township website, www.duluthtownship.org/contacts for a dropdown
list of personnel and departments you can use to send emails. Note that
copies of all emails go to the Town Hall for Township records. If the per-
son does not have email access, your communication is sent to the Town
Hall to be picked up. Department information is also on our website.

Township Recycling Center

Carolyn Marino

November-March: Tues. 7-11 am & 2-6 pm

Thurs. 2-6 pm

Sat. 8 am-noon

April-October: Tues. 7-11 am & 3-7 pm

Thurs. 3-7 pm, Sat. 8 am-noon

Located at the Town Hall, on Homestead Road

Household plastic bags accepted in ORANGE bin ONLY.

**Please do not put black plastic bags, tarps, or plastic feed bags in
the plastic bag recycle bin.**

Aluminum cans should be recycled with plastics/metal cans. Curb recycling
pickup service is available south of the freeway.
Surveillance cameras have been installed around the Town Hall because
of vandalism and dumping of household garbage.



Township Calendar

See calendar updates on www.duluthtownship.org
Our Official Calendar is posted at the Town Hall

March 2022

March 1: Recycling 7-11 am; 2-6 pm Fire Business
Meeting Hall #1 7 pm

March 2: Homesteaders 12:30 pm

March 3: Recycling 2-6 pm

March 5: Recycling 8 am-noon, **Office open for Absentee Voting 10 am-noon**

**March 8: Election Day Polls open 7 am-8 pm, Annual meeting
8:15 pm; (Office closed) Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm**

March 10: Recycling 2-6 pm; Board of Canvass 6 pm, Town Board
Meeting 6:30 pm

March 12: Recycling 8 am-noon

March 15: Recycling 7-11 am; 2-6 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7 pm

March 17: Recycling 2-6 pm

March 19: Recycling 8 am-noon

March 22: Recycling 7-11 am; 2-6 pm

March 24: Recycling 2-6 pm; Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 pm

March 26: Recycling 8 am-noon

March 29: Recycling 7-11 am; 2-6 pm

March 31: Recycling 2-6 pm

April 2022

April 2: Recycling 8 am-noon

April 5: Recycling 7-11 am; 3-7 pm; Fire Business Meeting Hall #1 7
pm

April 6: Homesteaders 12:30 pm

April 7: Recycling 3-7 pm

April 9: Recycling 8 am-noon

April 12: Recycling 7-11 am; 3-7 pm, Special Board Meeting 6:30 pm

April 14: Recycling 3-7 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm

April 16: Recycling 8 am-noon

April 19: Recycling 7-11 am; 3-7 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7 pm, Board of
Appeal and Equalization 4-5 pm

April 21: Recycling 3-7 pm

April 23: Recycling 8 am-noon

April 26: Recycling 7-11 am; 3-7 pm

April 28: Recycling 3-7 pm; Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 pm

April 30: Recycling 8 am-noon

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

March 2022

Inside This Issue

- Meet the new Planning Assistant
- Homesteaders
- Police Report
- Board of Appeal and Equalization

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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For a color version of this Newsletter, visit the Township website: www.duluthtownship.org



If your name or address is in error or you know of someone who is not receiving a Newsletter, please send a note to the Newsletter editor by using the contact list on our website www.duluthtownship.org. Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

1132 Newsletters are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses, and on request. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send comments and suggestions to Newsletter editor, Hannah Jurek, at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth MN 55804, or use the white mailbox at the Town Hall or email on the website. Our Newsletter is printed locally by Bob Sundstrom, **BB&K Printing**, and is mailed for us by the fine folks at **Twin Ports Mailing**.

Town Election — Tuesday March 8, 2022 — Be sure to VOTE!!

Polls open from 7 am to 8 pm at our Town Hall. Two Supervisor positions are on the ballot for regular 3-year terms. See the Newsletter insert for candidate statements and information on past expenditures and the proposed 2023 budget. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Hall during office hours.

What Happens at Our Annual Town Meeting

Township Day, Tuesday, March 8, 2022

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

Our Town Clerk, Nicole Chatterson, provides a packet, including minutes from the previous year's annual meeting plus summary information provided by various Township departments, 2021 activities and expenses, the previously approved 2022 budget, and the proposed 2023 Township budget (see page 6).

Those attending the meeting vote on our budget for 2023 (a year away because our figures have to be included with County and School District figures for tax statements you receive in 2021). In 2022 we are operating on the budget adopted at our 2021 Town Meeting.

Last year's minutes, official bank, and posting places are voted on. The proposed 2023 budget, with any adopted amendments, is discussed and the overall budget is approved. Other Township business is raised and discussed, and results of the Supervisor Election are announced at the end of the meeting.

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