

Duluth Township Newsletter



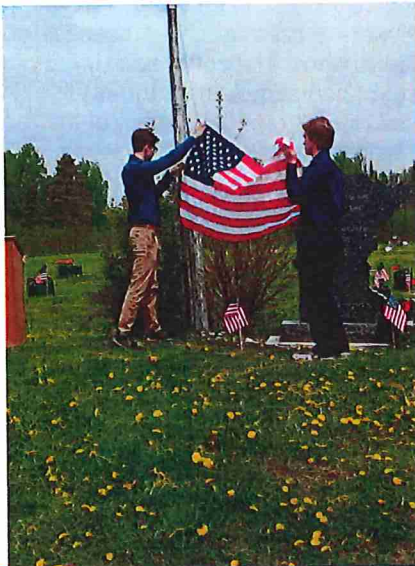
July 2023



Township website: www.duluthtownship.org

What's Coming Up.....

- ◆ Town Board Minutes p. 3
- ◆ County Launches Road Work Website p. 6
- ◆ Emergency Operations p. 6
- ◆ No Poop Fairy p. 9
- ◆ Alden Township News, see insert



Homesteaders

Dorothy Aho

July 12, 2023: Wednesday, 12:30 pm
Our Annual Catered Picnic. It is one week later than usual.

August 2, 2023: Wednesday, 12:30 pm
To be announced later. Sandwiches and bars.

September 6, 2023: Wednesday, 12:30 pm
Two Harbors Ukulele Group.
Sandwiches and bars.

Everyone is welcome!

Memorial Day Ceremony

Dale Sohlstrom

Memorial Day, May 29, dawned as a pleasant day. There was a wonderful turnout at the Lakeview Cemetery Palmers. It was great to see our civic pride on display and a well-put-together program was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to emcee George Sundstrom, the choir from French River Lutheran Church for the special music, Paul Von Goertz for his message and historical accounts of the Civil War, and others who had a hand in organizing this event.

Memorial Day is a day set aside to remember our families, friends, and neighbors who have passed before us. It is a time to remember those who have served in the military to preserve our freedoms and our way of life. And it is especially a time to give thanks to those who made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives while in the service of their country. It is a very meaningful and solemn occasion indeed.

Afterward there was time to mingle with friends and neighbors. We live in a special place where we are able to connect with good hearted people; people with down to earth values.

There was a large turnout for this ceremony, so much so that many cars were parked on the roads in the cemetery, and more on the Old North Shore Road. I was one of those parked on the road. Imagine my surprise when I came back to my car and found that someone had made an error in judgement and drove into the front fender of my car, denting the fender and scraping and breaking parts on the bumper cover. Even more surprising was the fact that the person didn't have the guts to leave a note with any contact information, or any explanation. It's only a car. Nobody was hurt. But I now know that not everybody at the cemetery that day had those "down to earth values."

Thanks again to all who took part in this solemn event.



*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, Valerie Brady, Nicole Chatterson, Bob Engelson, Mark Haselow, Helene Hedlund, Penny Morton, Beth Mullan, ArMand Nelson, Emily Richey, Sherry Rovig, Dale Sohlstrom, Carol Surine, and Liz Strohmayer



Fire Department

Bob Engelson, Chief

Sherry Rovig, Secretary/Emergency Operation Dept. Director



Police Department

Mark Haselow, Chief

Paul Johnson, Officer

Our department has responded to close to 50 calls from the beginning of the year to mid-June. It's been extremely dry, and fire danger is very high. The burning restrictions have increased, and you have probably seen the haze and smelled the smoke from wildfires north of us. Please use caution and help reduce the risk of fire in our community. You can access wildfire danger and burning restrictions on the DNR website, www.dnr.state.mn.us.

We've also been busy familiarizing personnel with our new truck and its capabilities. We are grateful to have a vehicle that safely and efficiently stores our equipment and provides improved access.

By the time this newsletter is printed, our June Chipper Days will be over. Another big response is anticipated as we clean up from the ravages of spruce budworm. There will be another chipper event in the fall, so please continue your efforts. We also want a report of the number of hours you spend on brush clearing and hauling. It all counts as part of our in-kind contribution to our Firewise grant.

We are grateful for a round-up grant from Cooperative Light and Power that has been used to help purchase a new chain-saw. The electric cooperative continues to be a consistent supporter of emergency services in our area.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Clifton Fire Department, please call Chief Bob Engelson, (218)341-0707.

FIRE SIGNS

We hope more residents will step up and install their **FREE** fire signs. If you still have an older one-sided sign or no sign, please help us to help you and go to the Town Hall during office hours to pick up your sign. We are down to around 250 unclaimed signs. Let's get this done!

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 April 2023 and May 2023, there were 121 recorded police events. The following is a complete list of Initial Complaint Reports and officer-related activity within the Township. Most were direct service to residents. There were 41 requests for checks on homes or businesses and 11 animal complaints. There were 7 medical emergencies and mental health crises. There were 6 calls for civil processes and 5 for hazard checks. There were 4 reports each of property damage accidents, disturbance complaints, and traffic related warnings/citations. There were 3 reports of each of the following: public assists, health/welfare checks, assisting other agencies, suspicious activities, fire alarms, and theft complaints. There were 2 reports of each of the following: attempts to locate careless drivers, burglar alarms, neighbor trouble, damage to property, and vehicles in the ditch, no damage. And finally there was 1 report of each of the following: garbage dumping, fraud, and unknown trouble.

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 a response from the Township Police Department is to leave a message on our squad phone (218-393-8407).

FREE SMOKE DETECTORS AND FIREWISE ASSESSMENTS

The Red Cross has provided us with more free smoke detectors for our community. If you lack working smoke alarms in your home or existing ones are out of date and you have difficulty installing them yourselves, you can sign up for our volunteers to do the installation.

We are also offering Firewise assessments for Township residents. This will include a site visit with specific recommendations for ways the property can be improved for fire safety and emergency access.

You can send us this form to sign up, email us at cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com, or leave a message at (218)525-9240 with your contact information, including a phone number. We will get back to you to arrange a convenient time. Please check which service(s) you would like.

SMOKE DETECTOR REQUEST FIREWISE ASSESSMENT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NO. _____

PREFERRED TIME TO BE CONTACTED: _____

MAIL FORM TO: CLIFTON FIRE DEPT.
6092 HOMESTEAD RD., DULUTH, MN 55804



Dave Edblom (ex-Commission member), Blane Tetreault, Angela Wilson, Planning Director Liz Strohmayer, and Dave Meyer. (Not pictured) Pam West, Justin Osadjan, Tony Mancuso, and Nate Nesgoda.



Town Board Supervisors: Penny Morton, Jim Ward, Rolf Carlson, Stacia Grayson. (Not pictured, ArMand Nelson.)

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 Chatterson are available at the Town Hall and on our Township website: www.duluthtownship.org

April 27, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting.

Commission members present: Angela Wilson, Blane Tetreault, Justin Osadjan, Dave Meyer, Tony Mancuso, and Nathan Nesgoda.

New Planning Commission member, Nathan Nesgoda was introduced.

A public hearing was held for a request for a variance of 45 ft from the required 200 ft setback from a trout stream to build a pole barn on a property on Homestead Road. St Louis County and MnDNR both require a 150 ft setback in this situation. The Town chose to be more protective of waters by requiring 200 ft. There is an existing berm for the mound system between the proposed barn location and the stream that will divert runoff. By extending the berm a bit, runoff could be completely blocked from reaching the stream. Three close neighbors to the property voiced strong support for approval of the variance. The variance was approved by a vote of 4 to 2, with Justin and Blane voting against it.

A letter was reviewed from a community member who disagreed with issuing a low-frequency short-term rental permit to the residents on McQuade Rd whose request for a hosted high-frequency STR permit had been denied. They felt issuing this over-the-counter permit circumvented issues raised at the hearing and essentially allowed a business without review or community input. The Commission agreed that LFSTR requirements merited review at a later date and empowered Angela and Blane to respond to the letter.

The Planning Director reported that the MN Department of Health requires a motel license for a STR that rents for periods of less than seven days at a time. They require notification from any governing agency when a permit is granted for such a rental. The Town's Ordinance states only that "owners shall obtain any and all licenses, permits, or other governmental approvals required by any governmental agency, board, department, or other governmental entity with jurisdiction." It is something to take into consideration when next reviewing the Ordinance.

May 25, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting.

Commission members present: Angela Wilson, Blane Tetreault, Justin Osadjan, Tony Mancuso, and Nathan Nesgoda.

A public hearing was held for a request for an Interim Use Permit for a hosted short-term rental on Stoney Point Drive. The applicants planned to rent a self-contained part of their home on a short-term basis to up to 5 guests for a maximum of 150 days per year. They planned to be present during rentals. Neighbor comments in response to the Community Participation Report were generally positive and the Town received one email supporting the use. The Commission was concerned with the applicant's ongoing non-compliance with stormwater regulations in regard to construction of the home and major changes to the site that were in violation of the previous stormwater plan. The applicant has failed to submit an updated stormwater plan or put best management practices in place to deal with erosion from the site, despite repeated requests from the Town. (continued on page 9)

April 13, 2023, Town Board Meeting: In attendance: Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Penny Morton, Stacia Grayson, Jim Ward, and ArMand Nelson. **Reports:** **Treasurer:** Beginning balance \$859,625.07, deposits \$2,037.71, expenses \$169,024.28, ending balance of \$692,638.50. All claims were approved for payment, and the payroll net account distribution and claims list for approval were signed. A discussion was had about banks collapsing. Should the Township investigate having funds in more than one bank, since the FDIC only insures up to \$250,000? Mel had a discussion with Town attorney, Scott Witty, regarding the community risk and the funds distributed. Mel stated that moving forward, any claims over \$10,000 will require that the Board step back, evaluate, and come back next month for review. We also might want to write a resolution to address the escrow account. **Program of work:** Penny moved to approve the program of work, seconded by ArMand. Motion passed. **Program of Work can be viewed on the website.** **Police:** Quiet in the Township. An auction will be held on Spruce Court. The Police Department will make sure no roads are blocked. **Fire:** The new fire truck will be picked up next week. The Board was reminded that the Safe Harbor has a dry hydrant installed for the Fire Department to use, especially in winter. Who's responsible for plowing the area? Jim will reach out to the DNR for an answer. **Planning:** There will be a variance hearing for a pole barn. Liz sent out letters to STRs that are operating in the Township without a permit. Liz is requesting that the Commission help review and update the stormwater management plan. Concerns were raised about significant work done on North Shore Drive that would've required a permit. **Roads:** There is a lot of mud and water. There was a washout on the Alseth Rd. The County will be out to steam the culverts and the road has been repaired. Four road bids were submitted and the Board will meet on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 6:30 pm to discuss them. (Minutes from that meeting can be found on the Town's website.) **Town Hall:** A new pressure tank was installed. There was an ant issue, which was taken care of. **ARPA:** SLRFR reporting was completed by April 30, 2023. **Personnel:** Penny feels a personnel policy should be in place. She and Rolf will investigate. Penny moved to hire Nathan Nesgoda to the Planning Commission, seconded by Jim, motion passed. **Old Business:** Torgeson Road, Nathan and Jim met with JBL for a second bid. Jim will reach out to Warren Peterson to see if he would like to place a bid.

May 11, 2023, Town Board Meeting: In attendance: Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Penny Morton, Stacia Grayson, Jim Ward, and ArMand Nelson. **Reports:** **Treasurer:** Beginning balance \$692,638.50, deposits \$4,041.64, expenses \$60,262.46, ending balance of \$636,417.68. All claims were approved for payment, and the payroll net account distribution and claims list for approval were signed. **Police:** Nothing major to report, a couple theft calls. Auction was successful. **Fire:** The Fire Department showed off the new truck this evening. Bob asked for direction from the Board on the decal. It was advised to go with "Serving Duluth Township." The next truck the department is looking to replace is the '94 tanker truck, a modified truck that was donated by MN Power. Two Harbors Fire Department has a tender truck for sale next year and is possible it will be reasonably priced. With the recent purchase of the fire truck, the department's funds are low and they will look to the Town Board for assistance. **Planning:** The Commission has a HFSTR hearing this month. The variance from last month was approved. A resident had a concern about LFSTRs and suggested changing the ordinance to make it stricter re: LFSTRs. **Roads:** Roads have been quiet. Rodda has been out at least one day a week. Still waiting on bid from JBL on Torgeson Road. (continued on page 6)

Regular Planning Commission meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall

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

Town Board Considers Changing the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Process
ArMand Nelson, Town Board Supervisor

The Duluth Town Board is reviewing the process they currently use for the appeal of proposed property valuations and classifications. Currently, the Town holds an annual Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. This meeting is the yearly process by which property owners in the Township who want to appeal their proposed property valuation or property classification can attend a public meeting to present their cases. This meeting is held at the Town Hall and is presided over by the Town Board with one or more St Louis County assessors in attendance. The calculations used for proposed valuations are based on rules set forth by the state legislature. Property taxes are then based on the property's valuation.

Property owners attending this meeting have the opportunity to present evidence supporting a reduction in the proposed valuation for their property or a change to their property classification. The County assessor presents facts and information to the Board regarding their valuation or classification of the property. They then make a recommendation to the Board in favor of or against a change to that valuation or classification.

After all properties are reviewed, the Board votes and, in most cases, votes in agreement with the recommendation of the County assessor. If the vote is for no change, the property owner then has the option to appeal the decision to Minnesota Tax Court or to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization (or Special Board of Equalization).

The Board is considering changing to what is called an *open book meeting*

Instead of the Town Board conducting an annual Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting, a property owner wanting to appeal the valuation or classification of their property would have the option of scheduling an open book meeting. This is a one-on-one meeting held between the property owner and the County assessor's office to discuss the property owners' concerns regarding their assessments. Property owners would not be required to attend an open book meeting, but could instead, if they preferred, appeal directly to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization (or Special Board of Equalization) and/or Minnesota Tax Court.

Property owners often find open book meetings to be less intimidating than presenting their appeals to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. They can have their questions answered in a more private setting and they don't have to be apprehensive about making a presentation in front of their friends and neighbors. In this one-on-one setting, property owners may spend as much time with the assessor as they need. They can compare the value of their home with the values of similar homes owned by their neighbors. They can present information for consideration of circumstances they feel are unique to their property. The process is often more efficient because concerns and questions can often be resolved immediately. If the property owner is not satisfied with the outcome of the open book meeting, they may appeal to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization (or Special Board of Equalization) and/or Minnesota Tax Court.

The Board is looking for your input.

What is your opinion on keeping the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization process or switching to the open book process? Please let us know by August 1, 2023. Email your comments to townclerk@lakenet.com.

Job Opportunity in Planning and Zoning Department
Liz Strohmayer, Planning Director

Yes, we are still looking for someone for the Planning & Zoning Secretary position!

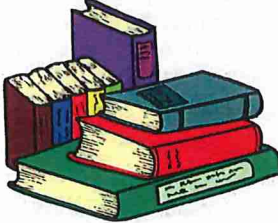
This could be a fun job for someone looking for a little extra income who enjoys contributing to their community. Besides attending one evening meeting per month, options for your working situation are very flexible. No weekends required! Most of the job can be done from home, if that's your preference, and you have an internet connection. A laptop computer will be provided and dedicated for your use. If home is too distracting for work, we have a great planning office with air conditioning and, yes, for the other 10 months of the year, heat! You can choose your hours, get to work with great folks from the community, and look at maps to your heart's content.

The minimum hours required for the position are 5 hours a week, with the opportunity for additional hours up to 15 hours a week.

The minimum qualifications for this position are a high school diploma or GED; computer literacy, personal communication skills; attention to detail; willingness to learn new skills; and experience or interest in planning and zoning.

For complete job description, visit the Duluth Township website: www.duluthtownship.org

Please email resume and a cover letter to townclerk@duluthtownship.org.



BOOK EXCHANGE UPDATE

JoVanna Balquier

Summer is here and that means warmer weather, days by the pool or the lake, and more free time to spend with a good book! Find your next read at the library located in the community room of the Town Hall. We are always accepting donations, but ask that you please refrain from dropping off books in poor condition, nonfiction texts including old textbooks or teaching manuals, and books by popular authors like James Patterson as we have plenty. Thank you and happy reading!

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.

French River Book Club

Carol Surine

Last month we read Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver, a book which was based on David Copperfield by Charles Dickens. Of course, we discussed what we could remember of that book - most of us having read it in high school - and our memories had quite a few gaps! So we decided to read David Copperfield for our July offering. As a classic, it should be available everywhere. The next meeting will be held Thursday, July 20 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room in the lower level of French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Rd. Our host will be Kay Libby.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carol Surine at 218-525-4426 or carolsurine@gmail.com.

Country Kids Day Care 218-343-6370

Infants to School Age

Licensed

Bus to NSCS & Lakewood
Schools

Accepting Full and Part
Time

Paid Advertisement

WAGGIN' Tails
Boarding Kennels
Long & short term
boarding



Reservations
Required

218-525-4942
7003 App Rd.
Two Harbors

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 next edition of the Newsletter. We've had calls looking for workers!

The deadline for the next Newsletter is August 16, 2023. Call 525-5705 or email deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.com.

Estate planning should not be stressful

Gunnar Johnson at Overom Law is here to help you
create an estate plan that is right for you.

Call Gunnar today at 218-625-8461 to schedule your free consultation.

Overom Law

802 GARFIELD AVENUE • SUITE 101 • DULUTH, MN 55802

218-625-8463 (PH) • 218-522-4539 (FX) • GJOHNSON@OVEROMLAW.COM

www.overomlaw.com

Paid Advertisement

Two Harbors Area Food Shelf



Our Mission: To reduce hunger and improve the health of those in need.

Serving Lake & St. Louis
County residents.

Food Distribution on Tuesdays
from 10:00 am to 3:45 pm.

Call 218-391-8191 with any
questions.



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

Summary of Town Board Meeting Minutes

- continued from page 3 -

Town Hall: The message board discussed last fall has gone up in price. Penny made the motion to approve spending up to \$550 plus shipping for the new message center. Seconded by Stacia. Motion passed. ARPA: The annual reporting has been submitted, and a meeting has been set for Tuesday, June 6, at 6:30 pm to narrow down where the ARPA funds should be spent. (*Minutes for that meeting can be found on the Town's website.*) Communications: Alden Township reached out to ask if they can have a few pages in our Newsletter. They are in the process of starting their own in digital form but need a way to get the word out by starting with some Alden Township News in our newsletter. They will be billed for their residents. The Board agreed, starting in July's edition. New Business: Penny moved to approve the liquor license renewal request for New Scenic Café. Seconded by Stacia. Motion passed. ArMand discussed our LBAE process and asked if the Board would consider the open book process. He will put a pros and cons list together for further discussion.

Emergency Operations

Sherry Rovig and Ann Cox

The Emergency Operations group, members of Clifton Fire Department, Duluth and Alden Town Boards, and community volunteers are working with St. Louis County Firewise Coordinator Gloria Erickson on an updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This is a step in the process toward becoming a certified USA Firewise Community. This designation is a requirement in order to receive DNR grant funding going forward. We appreciate everyone's involvement in the process.

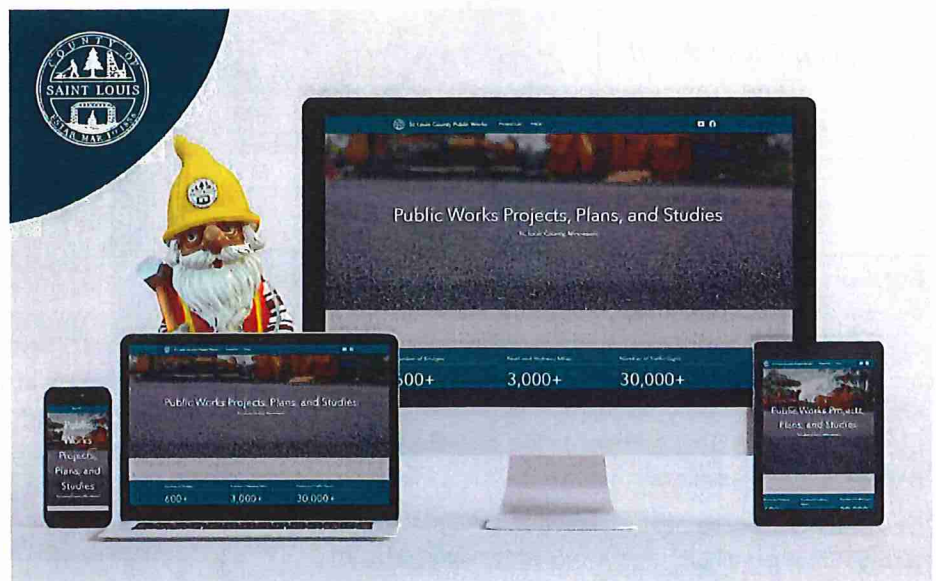
Arrowhead Brownfield Assessment Program

Penny Morton

This note is to bring you information about the Arrowhead Brownfield Assessment program. There are funds available through this program to clean up properties that have been impacted by previous uses. For example, sites impacted by petroleum or hazardous substances. Individuals may apply for these funds if they think their properties have been impacted by previous industrial uses.

Want to be up-to-date on St. Louis County road work?

St. Louis County is always working to maintain the roads, bridges, and infrastructure that is used by our citizens every day. At times, new construction is necessary or is found to be a better option than maintaining roads that have lived their life. This is an ongoing process and there is funding for projects every year. St. Louis County does its best to provide the most accurate information regarding current and upcoming projects so citizens can plan appropriately.



Check out their website: <https://slc-mn-public-works-slcgis.hub.arcgis.com/>

Alden Township News



July 2023
First Edition



Township Communications

We are collecting email addresses of Alden residents! Please email aldentwpcclerk@gmail.com to share your email. We hope to start a simple e-newsletter to directly communicate with Alden residents every other month.

Township Hall Rental

If you wish to rent out the Township Hall, please email Helene Hedlund at hhedlund.dl@gmail.com to request an application. The cost is \$50.00 to rent the Hall per day.

Update on Township Hall Kitchen Remodel

The Board Supervisors have been discussing this update frequently and have received several estimates for the project. More discussion and hopefully decision making will happen at the July Township meeting.

LBAE Meeting

Alden Township was scheduled for a Local Board of Appeal & Equalization (LBAE) meeting on May 4, 2023 at 1:00 pm. The Town Board did not attend the meeting so the County took over the meeting and changed it to an open book format. The County is required to hold an open book meeting for your township's constituents for 2024 as well.

Alden Township will reinstate their LBAE powers for 2025 by having town board members attend LBAE training by the Department of Revenue and then passing a resolution to reinstate their LBAE power for 2025. If you have questions, please call Clerk Emily Richey at 218 591 3918.

Township Meeting Minutes

Township meeting minutes can be found in the Township Hall window.

Township Meetings

Meetings take place at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the Alden Township Hall. If the meeting is changed for the month for some reason, the new time will be posted in the North Shore Journal.

Seeking Firewise Volunteer from Alden Township

Seeking Firewise Volunteer from Alden Township

Did you wake up this morning to a hazy skyline and the smell of smoke from Wildfires like I did?

Well . . . St. Louis County is and has been coordinating a Firewise awareness group to develop strategies related to Firewise landscaping, wildfire safety and preparation, things you can do to protect your home from wildfire, outdoor fire safety, balsam fir and fire, identify evacuation routes, A communication plan to inform Township residents, and other to be determined.

This is a greater community effort that Alden Township has been invited to participate in as a Firewise Community member. As such, we are seeking someone(s) from our Township that would be willing to serve on the Firewise committee. The first meeting was held May 24, 2023 at the Duluth Town Hall. Alden Township Supervisor Helene Hedlund attended that meeting to gather preliminary information. The next meeting is scheduled for July 12 at 10 am at the Duluth Town Hall. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Helene Hedlund, hhedlund.dl@gmail.com or call (218)834-4338 (landline).

Thank you in advance for your willingness to participate.
Helene Hedlund, Township Supervisor

Plastic Film Recycling Education

“Plastic film” is any plastic that is thin and stretchy – things like shopping bags, zip tops, bubble wrap, and pallet wrap. As of the last comprehensive statewide waste characterization study, these types of plastics made up 6.1% of our region’s landfilled waste. If you apply those numbers to today’s waste stream, we can estimate that 3,435 tons of plastic films were landfilled in our region in 2022 (and that doesn’t count black plastics like garbage bags that necessarily hold our trash). 6.1% might not sound like a big slice of the landfill pie, but it’s the largest segment of plastic waste going into our regional landfill, and these lightweight plastics take up lots of room in those landfills relative to their weight. Beyond that, the material nature of plastic films adds urgency and gravity to diversion programs – these lightweight plastics can be pulled out of curbside bins, trucks, tip floors, and during landfill deposition by the slightest breeze. Meanwhile, as ecologically-minded folks try to avoid sending these films to landfill or out into the environment, many of these materials are “wishcycled” – they’re dropped into mixed recycling containers with the “wish” that they will be recycled. Materials recovery facilities that sort recyclables are not equipped to handle these films, and when they do find their way into the sorting process, they become tangled around sorting equipment like strings and wires wrapped around the roller of your vacuum cleaner at home. At Eureka Recycling, a materials recovery center in the Twin Cities that handles material from Hartel’s Disposal among other haulers, these tangles force the sorting line to stop for around two hours a day and cost the facility \$75,000 a year.

Meanwhile, specialty recycling programs designed to handle plastic films are growing in Minnesota. These programs invite residents, businesses, and industries to separate film plastics from mixed recyclables so that they can be processed in a designated facility. Our most recent statewide data show that over 10,000 tons of plastic films were recycled in MN in 2021. That’s a lot, but it’s only about 5% of the total plastic films that could have been diverted from the landfill and recycled. Residents of Duluth Township can participate in these diversion efforts by recycling plastic films in the orange cart at the Township Recycling Center. Accepted plastic films include those that 1) stretch with the poke of a finger, 2) don’t sound ‘crinkly,’ and 3) are clean and dry. Common accepted films include:

- ⇒ Grocery & retail bags
- ⇒ Pallet wrap & case overwrap
- ⇒ Bread bags
- ⇒ Dry cleaning bags
- ⇒ Zip top bags
- ⇒ Produce bags
- ⇒ Bubble wrap & air pillows
- ⇒ Plastic shipping envelopes (like Amazon mailers)
- ⇒ Salt bags & wood pellet bags
- ⇒ Newspaper sleeves
- ⇒ Ice bags
- ⇒ Winterizing window film

Common lookalikes that are NOT accepted include plastics that sound “crinkly” and don’t stretch, like floral wrap, lamination film, candy wrappers, chip bags, and salad bags. The program also does NOT accept material that isn’t a film (a continuous sheet of material), like mesh bags, woven feed bags, and 6-pack rings. The program also does NOT accept films that are dirty or difficult to rid of contamination, like boat wrap, agricultural wrap, PPE (like gloves or masks), and meat wrap. To learn more about acceptable/unacceptable materials, check with your Township Recycling Center staff or visit <https://nextrex.com/view/educate> for the most up-to-date information.

After your plastic films go into their dedicated recycling cart, they’re baled together in a warehouse along with plastic films from other rural recycling facilities and WLSSD facility drop sites. 20 tons at a time (that’s about one year’s worth of our regional program’s accumulation!) are loaded into a semi truck and sent to a NexTrex® facility in Texas, where they will be processed and recycled into outdoor furniture.

The infographic is titled "Plastic Film Recycling" and features the WLSSD logo. It includes a vertical sidebar for "WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANITARY DISTRICT" with icons for recycling, a warning sign, a film roll, and a water drop. The main content is divided into several sections: 1) A text box explaining that plastic film (grocery bags, pallet wrap, zip-top bags) can be recycled into products like furniture and playgrounds, but cannot go in curbside bins. 2) A "Find a film plastic drop site near you:" section listing the WLSSD Materials Recovery Center, WLSSD Household Hazardous Waste Facility, Rural Recycling Sites, and Select Retailers. 3) A "Less is best." section with tips: "Shop with reusable totes", "Store with reusable zip top bags", and "Keep fresh with silicone or beeswax wraps". 4) A "Questions?" section with contact information: "Learn more at wlssd.com or call us at (218) 722 - 3336".

Plastic Film Recycling

Plastic film like grocery bags, pallet wrap, and zip-top bags can be recycled back into products like furniture, plastic lumber, playgrounds, pipe, and plastic bags.

Plastic film can't go in your curbside bin because it could damage recycling facility sorting equipment. Instead, bring your plastic film to any of the region's drop-off facilities* for free.

*Facility hours vary and subject to change.

Find a film plastic drop site near you:

- WLSSD Materials Recovery Center
- WLSSD Household Hazardous Waste Facility
- Rural Recycling Sites
- Select Retailers

Less is best.

Challenge yourself to shop, store, and keep fresh with reusable alternatives.

- Shop with reusable totes
- Store with reusable zip top bags
- Keep fresh with silicone or beeswax wraps

Questions?
Learn more at wlssd.com
or call us at (218) 722 - 3336

WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANITARY DISTRICT

RECYCLING DROP OFF SITES



MIXED PAPER

- Paper of any color
- Pressboard boxes
- Junk mail
- Magazines
- Newspapers and advertisements
- Shredded paper (must be contained in a paper bag)



CORRUGATED CARDBOARD

- Cardboard with a wavy layer between two pieces of thick paper
- No waxed cardboard



MIXED CONTAINERS

- Rinse all food containers
- Plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, jars, and lids
- Glass bottles and jars
- Steel and aluminum cans
- No film or foam including Styrofoam and plastic bags
- No plastic cups, plates, or utensils
- No buckets
- No motor oil or antifreeze containers
- No take-out, deli, or clamshell containers
- No window glass, ceramics, or drinking glasses
- No scrap metal



FILM PLASTICS

- Film must be clean and dry
- Grocery and retail bags
- Newspaper bags
- Bread bags
- Produce bags
- Paper product packaging wrap
- Pallet and case wrap
- No black plastic bags



Last month WLSSD held an Open House at the recycling facility at the Town Hall. It was a beautiful day to chat and learn about recycling. There are new guidelines for recycling plastic film.

If you have any questions, the recycling attendants will be more than happy to provide answers.

Summer Recycling Hours:

Tuesdays 7-11 am; 3-7 pm

Thursdays 3-7 pm

Saturdays 8 am-noon



Plastic Film Recycling Guidelines

Accepted Films:

- Pallet wrap
- Grocery & retail bags
- Bread bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Zip top bags
- Produce bags
- Case overwrap
- Air pillows
- Bubble wrap
- Shipping envelopes
- Soft bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Ice bags
- Winter window film

Not Accepted:

- Sided bags
- Mast wrap
- 5-ply bags
- PE gloves, masks
- Roof covers
- Roof wrap
- Lamination film
- Vinyl shower curtains
- Wind tunnel fabric
- Floor wrap
- Bedding packaging
- Frozen food bags
- Chew bags
- Candy wrappers
- Mesh or net bags
- Animal feed bags

Not on the list?

Recyclable films pass the following tests:



Doesn't rip or tear when stretched



Stretches with the poke of a finger



Doesn't sound crinkly



Must be clean and dry



Questions? Call WLSSD
218-722-3336 • wlsd.com

WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANITARY DISTRICT



What's in the Kitchen?

Nicole Chatterson

We have finally made it to the short-lived season most of us love the most. The sun is shining, our gardens are growing, and outdoor meals are here. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, we will have finally had some rain, easing these dry conditions.

Summertime is when my family cooks most of our meals outside. Keeping the excess heat out of the house is always welcome in the warm, but few summer months we see in the Northland. We grill, smoke, and griddle most of our food. One of my favorite summer side dishes is corn on the cob. It's a common staple at backyard barbeques everywhere. We are starting to see piles of corn in the local grocery stores, just waiting for us to enjoy it. As we all know, corn can be prepared in a few different ways. The traditional way of boiling it is most common, while others might soak the cobs and grill them or even nuke them in the microwave. However, one summer I was at a friend's barbeque where they served many delicious things, one of which was the tastiest corn I had ever consumed. After the meal I asked my friend how they made it so tasty, and they told me their secret. Now I will share that with all of you! Please note that the easiest way to grill corn is to leave the shank attached to the cob once you remove the husk and silks. That way you have a built-in handle and a way to turn it on the grill.

Summer is also the season to have fun summer beverages. I love to make a nice batch of sun tea, using the power of the sun to brew the tea. Fresh squeezed lemonade with fresh blueberries, strawberries, or raspberries is always a refreshing option. A fun drink for the kiddos is the classic Shirley Temple: ice topped with lemon lime soda mixed with grenadine, and a maraschino cherry on top. I recently found a twist on this classic drink that I'll share this month, Creamsicle Shirley Temple. My daughter loves this fun twist and so does the rest of my family. We hope that you enjoy it as well.

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. Happy cooking!

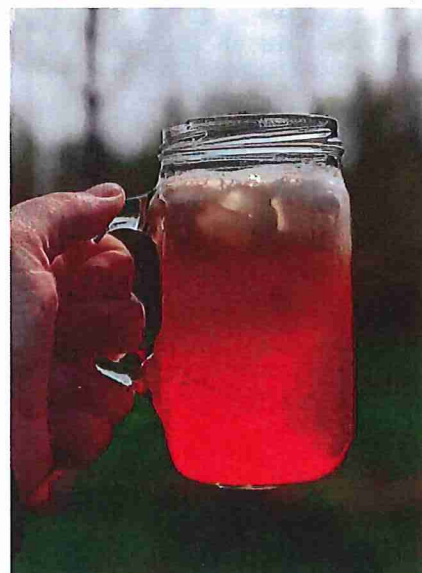
Grilled Corn on the Cob

Ingredients

- Peeled and desilked corn on the cob (keep shank attached if possible)
- Mayonnaise (Hellmann's or similar)
- Salt
- Pepper

Instructions

1. Peel and desilk the corn.
2. Slather each cob with mayonnaise.
3. Salt and pepper each cob to taste.
4. Place corn on hot grill and turn occasionally.
5. Grill for 15-20 minutes or until hot.
6. Enjoy!



Creamsicle Shirley Temple

Ingredients

- Ice (crushed or cubed)
- ½ cup cream soda (regular or diet)
- ½ cup orange soda (regular or diet)
- 1-2 teaspoons grenadine
- Whipped cream, half and half, or heavy whipping cream
- Maraschino cherry for garnish (optional)
- Orange Slice for garnish (optional)

Instructions

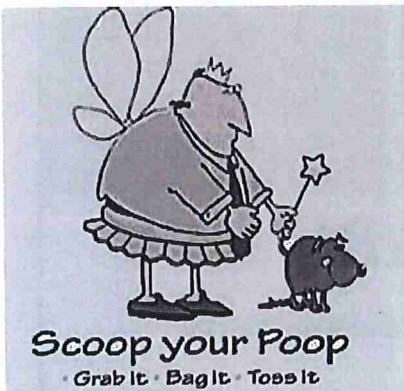
1. Fill a tall glass halfway with ice, crushed or cubed.
2. Pour cream soda, orange soda, and grenadine into glass and give a gentle stir.
3. Top with whipped cream or a splash of half and half/ heavy cream.
4. Top with a cherry and an orange slice on rim.
5. Serve immediately and enjoy with a straw.

There Is No Poop Fairy

Val Brady

Nothing ruins a stroll quite like stepping in ignored and long forgotten piles of pet waste. Why should we out here in the north woods care when there are so many other critters leaving scat on the ground? Well, unlike bear and deer scat, dog poop contains much higher levels of nutrients because we feed our pets such high quality, nutrient-dense food. Our forests and streams just are not ready for that infusion of nutrients (and it's a mess in our yards anyway).

Ultimately, pet waste near ditches and streams that is not picked up and thrown away can send extra nutrients and, potentially, pathogens to the nearest stream. When summer and warmer temperatures finally come around, those nutrients fuel algae blooms that are hard on fish, and the pathogens can cause beach closures or sicken people. All because of pet waste. Please pick up after your pet all year round.



Remember, there is no Poop Fairy to do it for you!

Summary of Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

- continued from page 3 -

The Commission felt the application did not meet the criteria requiring that "adequate utilities, access, drainage, stormwater retention, etc. be in place" and therefore they could not approve the application. It was decided to give the applicant opportunity to rectify the stormwater situation and adjourned the hearing to the July 27th Commission meeting at 6:30 pm.

The Commission reviewed a use, catenary tunnels, not currently included in the Ordinance. A catenary tunnel is a type of high tunnel, the sole purpose of which is for growing crops, that is designed to be moved from area to area in a field. In part because other temporary structures such as Shelter-Logic structures and high tunnels are required to obtain a land use permit, the Commission felt that these structures should require a land use permit as well. It was moved and approved that catenary tunnels be defined as "a type of high tunnel that is designed to have the ability to move from area to area in a field. The sole purpose of the cat tunnel is to extend the growing season and it will not be allowed to be used for other purposes, including storage. Cat tunnels are considered temporary structures. Cat tunnels will be subject to the same requirements as greenhouses except that setbacks can be reduced by agreement between all affected parties."

The Planning Director has sent out enforcement letters to residents in the Township who are advertising short-term rentals without having a permit for them. She has gotten good response from these, with most folks wishing to be in compliance with the Ordinance.

Town Services

Please check the website for any developments, updates, or changes to Town services.

Town Clerk's Office: Open to the public during regular office hours. If you would like, you can conduct your business via email, phone, U.S. mail, or the drop box under the public posting at the Town Hall entrance.

Town Board Meetings: Open to the public.

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 board at the Town Hall entrance. On-site review for Land Use Permits will be conducted by the Planning Director.

Variations 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.

Police Department: For emergencies call 911.

Fire Department or Emergency Medical Responders: Call 911.

Town Roads: See contact on Town website.

Recycling: Open during regular hours (posted on the Township website www.duluthtownship.org).

Town Hall Community Room: Open to the public during office and recycling hours.

Town Hall Rentals: Contact Clerk's office to reserve Town Hall facilities.





Did you know?

There is one structure fire every three minutes in rural Minnesota.

Over the last five years, fire caused an annual average of \$138 million in property damage in rural Minnesota.

Sixty percent of Minnesota's fire loss happened in rural parts of the state during that five-year span.

RURAL AREA FIRE TIPS

- Be sure your address is visible to emergency vehicles.
- Learn first aid. Knowing a few basics will help you get started before first responders arrive.
- Be vigilant around outdoor fires.
- Store your firewood away from your home. If stored too close, it will make the flames spread quickly if there is a fire.
- Make sure your home is accessible for emergency vehicles.



SFM.DPS.MN.GOV

445 Minnesota St., Suite 145, St. Paul, MN 55101

Telephone: 651-201-7200

Fax: 651-215-0525



Duluth Township Information 2023

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. 9 am-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 (2023-2026) 525-0375 Board Chair
Primary contact: Personnel, Cemetery
Alternate: Intergovernmental Relations, Town Hall, CC Liaison/
NSCS Foundation Board

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

Jim Ward (2022-2025) (218) 260-5689
Primary contact: Roads/Invasive Weeds, Public Safety
Alternate: Arts & Heritage, North Shore Mgt Board, Intergovernmen-
tal Relations, CC Liaison/NSCS Foundation Board

Stacia Grayson (2022-2025) (612) 239-2292 or 525-5705
Primary contact: Arts & Heritage, Materials Mgt, Town Hall
Alternate: Cemetery, Intergovernmental Relations,
Communications, Planning, CC Liaison/NSCS Foundation Board

ArMand Nelson (2023-2026) (612) 247-7197
Primary contact: Planning
Alternate: Intergovernmental Relations, Business Mgt, Roads/
Invasive Weeds, Materials Mgt, Public Safety, CC
Liaison/NSCS Foundation 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:	Liz Strohmayer	525-5705 (Message)
Planning Secretary:	Beth Mullan	525-5705 (Message)

Planning Commission: Angela Wilson (Chair), Blane Tetreault
(Vice-Chair), Dave Meyer, Justin Osadjan, Pam West, Tony Mancuso, and
Nathan Nesgoda

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

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

Emergency Operations Department: Co-Directors Sherry Rovig
and Ann Cox

Burning Permits are available online at: mndnr.gov/permits or at
the Clerk's office at Town Hall (office hours), or from Fire Wardens:
Jeff & Carolyn Marino (525-6431) or DNR Two Harbors, 568 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 person 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

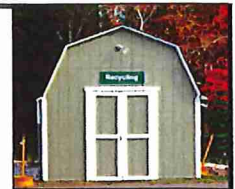
November-March: Tues. 7-11 am & 2-6 pm
Thurs. 2-6 pm
Sat. 8 am-noon

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. Curbside
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

July 2023

July 1: Recycling 8 am-noon
 July 4: Independence Day; Office and Recycling Closed
 July 5: Office Closed
 July 6: Recycling 3-7 pm
 July 8: Recycling 8 am-noon
 July 11: Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Business Meeting 7 pm
 July 12: Homesteaders 12:30 pm
 July 13: Recycling 3-7 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
 July 15: Recycling 8 am-noon
 July 18: Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7 pm
 July 19: D/NSSD Volunteer Board Meeting at French River
Lutheran Church 7 am
 July 20: Recycling 3-7 pm
 July 22: Recycling 8 am-noon
 July 25: Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm
 July 27: Recycling 3-7 pm; Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 pm
 July 29: Recycling 8 am-noon

August 2023

August 1: Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Business Meeting 7 pm
 August 2: Homesteaders 12:30 pm
 August 3: Recycling 3-7 pm
 August 5: Recycling 8 am-noon
 August 8: Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm
 August 10: Recycling 3-7 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
 August 12: Recycling 8 am-noon; Come on Home Party! 1-4:30 pm
 August 15: Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7 pm
 August 16: D/NSSD Volunteer Board Meeting at French River Lutheran
Church 7 am
 August 17: Recycling 3-7 pm
 August 19: Recycling 8 am-noon
 August 22: Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm
 August 24: Recycling 3-7 pm; Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 pm
 August 26: Recycling 8 am-noon
 August 29: Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm
 August 31: Recycling 3-7 pm

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

July 2023

1179 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*.

Inside This Issue

- Homesteaders
- Police Report
- County Launches Road Work Website
- Recycling Information
- Alden Township News

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALDEN TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS INSIDE!!

Information regarding the future of the Townships e-newsletter. Please see the insert for more information.

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.

More photos from the Memorial Day Ceremony at Lakeview Cemetery Palmers. Photos were taken by members of the French River Lutheran Church.

