

# *Duluth Township Newsletter*

May 2023

Township website: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

## *What's Coming Up.....*

- ◆ Town Board Minutes p. 3 & 4
- ◆ Annual Meeting Summary p. 4
- ◆ Emergency Operations Update p. 6
- ◆ June Events in the Cemetery p. 7
- ◆ Chipper Days p. 9 & 10

## *Homesteaders*

Dorothy Aho

May 3, 2023: Wednesday, 12:30 pm  
The talented Glen Laspi on his acoustic guitar.  
Sandwiches and bars.

June 7, 2023: Wednesday, 12:30 pm  
Suz & Bryce Thompson, folk singers from Siren,  
WI. Sandwiches and bars.

July 5, 2023: Wednesday, 12:30 pm  
Our Annual Picnic & Bingo.  
Sandwiches and bars.

**Everyone is welcome!**

## *Memorial Day Ceremony*

The Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at Palmers Lakeview Cemetery on Monday, May 29, 2023 at 11:00 am.

Our Memorial Day speaker this year is Paul VanGoertz of Knife River.



\*To see color versions of the photos in this Newsletter, visit the Town's website: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

## *Thank you, Jody!*

Long-time resident Jody Anderson is retiring from many years as Town Hall custodian. Jody continues to be an active volunteer firefighter/EMR with our Clifton Volunteer Fire Department where she has responded to emergencies for 20 years. Her violin and stringed instrument repair business is well known in the Township and the broader musical community of our region. Jody shares her love of music, playing at Township events, church services, and Homesteaders, often with others such as resident Alice Dahlberg. You will have seen Jody's hand behind many Township activities, including recycling, Memorial Day services, the annual Come On Home Party, the Volunteer Fire Department benefit dinners, the annual Fire Calendar production and distribution, as well as other various Town projects. Jody is always there when someone needs a bit of help. Jody's support and friendly assistance to many residents, her friendly greetings — a smile and often a hug, as well as her years of volunteerism stand out to many as the spirit and face of our Township.

## *Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue*

Dorothy Aho, JoVanna Balquier, Valerie Brady, Nicole Chatterton, Bob Engelson, Mark Haselow, Beth Mullan, Sherry Rovig, Carol Surine, Liz Strohmayer, and Molly Tillotson



**Fire Department**

Bob Engelson, Chief

Sherry Rovig, Secretary/Emergency Operation Dept. Director



**Police Department**

Mark Haselow, Chief

Paul Johnson, Officer

Our department now has 2 more responders training to the EMT level. Deb Sanders and Kelsey Dooley will join Mark Herman and Mason Eckman as department members with more advanced emergency medical rescue training. Four members will be attending cold water rescue training and some other members will be attending an Urban Wildland Firefighting class as part of the DNR's 2023 Wildfire Academy. We are fortunate to receive training grant funds from the State that enable us to improve and maintain our skills. We have also received a CLP roundup grant for \$900 to help purchase a chainsaw. We hope that our "new to us" response vehicle is safely in our fire station by the time this newsletter is printed. Our call volume is already at 24 in early April.

Weather is always challenging in the spring. If it's too wet we are dealing with flooding, and if it's too dry the fire danger goes up. Melting snow can ice up roads and walkways. We train for all kinds of conditions and hope residents use common sense when activities intersect with dicey conditions. The desire to drive to your destination, despite flooded roads, can end with a 911 call. A simple spring burn pile to clean up a yard has gotten out of control more than once. Some emergencies are avoidable, many are not. One of the ways that our community can help is by reducing the accumulation of woody debris. We are, once again, sponsoring FREE brush drop-off at 2 fire halls June 21-25. Please check the flyer in this newsletter for more information. We are also continuing to work with Red Cross to install FREE smoke alarms in homes that need them. You can find an application in this newsletter.

We still have many 911 signs and posts that haven't been picked up from the Town Hall. Please stop in during office hours to retrieve yours. This winter was also hard on 911 signs that were already installed. Check your sign to make sure it's in good position for viewing. The general rule is within 10' of the driveway, sign perpendicular to the road, and at least 4' higher than the crown of the road.

Anyone who is interested in joining the department should contact our chief, Bob Engelson (218)341-0707 or email [cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com](mailto:cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com)

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

**Police Events:**

For the months of February 2023 and March 2023, there were 159 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 78 requests for checks on homes or businesses and 11 civil processes. There were 8 traffic related warnings/citations and 7 property damage accidents. There were 6 assists to other agencies and 5 of each of the following reported: medical emergencies, animal complaints, welfare checks, suspicious activity complaints, and disturbance complaints. There were 4 reports of attempting to locate careless drivers and 4 reports of burglar alarms. There were 3 reports of assisting the public, fraud complaints, and hazard checks. There were 2 reports of personal injury accidents and 2 reports of mental health crises. Finally, there was 1 report of each of the following: child neglect complaint, suspicious vehicle complaint, unknown trouble complaint, arrest warrant, assisting other agencies, fire alarm, neighbor trouble, damage to property, and vehicle off the road in the ditch with no damage.

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:

[duluthtwppolice@duluthtownship.org](mailto:duluthtwppolice@duluthtownship.org).

**Note:** If you need/want/expect a police squad to respond immediately, call 911. Other than 911, the quickest way to get 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 your existing smoke alarms are out of date, we can provide new ones and have one of our volunteers do the installation. We are also offering Firewise assessments for Township residents. An assessment includes a site visit with specific recommendations for ways the property can be improved for fire safety and emergency access. To sign up for any of the above services, mail the form below or email us at [cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com](mailto: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 indicate 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, Blane Tetreault, Angela Wilson, Planning Director Liz Strohmayer, and Dave Meyer. (Not pictured) Pam West, Justin Osadjan, and Tony Mancuso.



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

### Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

Official minutes by Planning Secretary Beth Mullan are available on our Township website: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://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](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

#### February 23, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting

In attendance: Commission members, Angela Wilson, Dave Edblom, Justin Osadjan and Dave Meyer; Planning Director, Liz Strohmayer; and Secretary, Beth Mullan.

The meeting was held over Zoom with a representative at the Town Hall due to winter storm and illness.

A complaint had been received about a business in the Township that had changed its type of use by adding apartments to the existing business. No permit applications had been received by the Planning Office for this change in use. It was decided that the Planning Director would talk to the owner of the business to determine their plans, and go from there.

The folks on McQuade Road who were denied a bed & breakfast interim use permit in January applied for and received a permit to rent their property as a low-frequency short-term rental, which is a rental that can occur no more than four times per year.

The Town Board had asked the Commission to consider regulation of potential THC enterprises in the Township given the legalization of the sale of certain THC products under Minnesota Statute 151.72. The Statute does not provide further guidance. The Commission felt that the State would probably be addressing this in their current session and that a 12-month moratorium on any THC related businesses, including distribution, manufacture, retail, and storage would make sense until the State provided further guidance. They moved to make that recommendation to the Board.

#### March 23, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting

Attending: Commission members, Angela Wilson, Dave Edblom, Pam West, Blane Tetreault, Justin Osadjan, Dave Meyer and Tony Mancuso; Planning Director, Liz Strohmayer; and Secretary, Beth Mullan.

A resident on W Knife River Road asked about placement of a garage on her property. She had applied for a land use permit for the garage in March of 2022 but had been told that she would have to move the site to the east to meet the 75 ft side yard setback. She purchased the property with the pad for the garage already built up, 30 ft from the side yard. The Planning Director confirmed that she would either have to move it an additional 45 ft to the east or apply for a variance. She agreed to visit the site with the resident to look at the options.

A public hearing was held on a request from Joe Perrault for an extension of his interim use permit for the high-frequency short-term rental (HFSTR) unit in his home on North Shore Dr. The Township had received no complaints about the rental and there was no negative public testimony so the interim use permit was extended for a period of two years. No conditions were applied to the permit.

A public hearing was held on an application by Rita Bergstedt and Amy Nakamura for two variances in order to proceed with an interim use application for a HFSTR on a property they recently purchased on River Road. The new property has a second dwelling on it that had an interim use permit for a HFSTR that expired following the change of ownership. They would like to continue renting this home as a HFSTR in addition to maintaining the HFSTR on their adjacent parcel. *(Minutes continued on page 4.)*

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

#### February 9, 2023, Town Board Meeting:

In attendance: Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Penny Morton, Tim Strom, and Jim Ward. Supervisor Grayson was absent. **Reports:** Treasurer: Beginning balance \$878,243.16, deposits \$5,617.16, expenses \$23,502.45, ending balance of \$860,357.87. All claims were approved for payment, and the payroll net account distribution and claims list for approval were signed. Mel initiated a conversation with Scott Witty regarding the NSCR claim request. She shared that email conversation with the Board, and Tim stated that he too talked to Mr. Witty and that this topic would be best discussed when Mel is present. The Board tabled the conversation until the following meeting. Mel also provided a quote for a new laptop, as hers is over 8 years old. Penny moved to approve spending up to \$1,000 for a new laptop. Seconded by Tim. Motion passed. Public Comment: Sue Lawson was there to present her proposal on how she would like to see the Township spend ARPA funds, as she will not be able to attend the public meeting on Feb. 21. Molly Tillotson presented a proposal for the cemetery. She asked the Board for approval to engage the Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps for nine days at the cost of \$12,000, plus the price of materials estimated at \$5,000. Penny made the motion to engage NBHPC for \$12,000 for their team and \$5,000 on materials. Seconded by Tim. Motion passed. Nathan Nesgoda was in the audience to discuss the Torgeson Road. He discussed the history he has had with past road supervisors and the handshakes that were had in regards to fixing his road. Last fall there was discussion on standing water and ditching that would be nice to get done. Jim talked to Rodda; unfortunately Rodda didn't get a chance to get to the ditching before winter. Mr. Nesgoda also brought up the future of a turnaround at the end of the road, also stating that the County has been plowing the road for 15 years to the end of the road until recently, with that said, the Township should have some responsibility. Jim will talk to Mr. Witty about the matter. Police: One citation was issued. Otherwise all is quiet in the Township. Fire: Chief Engelson asked the Board for approval to purchase a new (used) rig for the Fire Department. Tim made the motion that the Town Board authorize the Fire Department to acquire the heavy rescue fire rig we discussed, out of Fire Department funds, for an amount to not exceed \$150,000. Seconded by Penny. Motion passed. Planning: There will be an opening on the Planning Commission in March. It will be advertised in the newsletter, website, email blast, and Facebook. There have been no inquiries for the hybrid Planning assistant/secretary position. The Town received a letter from the County regarding cannabis sales. Tim encouraged the Board to have the Planning Commission look into the matter and report back. Roads: The roads contract with Rodda will expire at the end of March, and the Board will need to seek bids for the next contract. Town Hall: During the November's election, it was noted that the Town should consider purchasing additional ballot booths. There was a water issue at the Town Hall and Rasmussen Well Drilling came out to address the issue. It was recommended to replace the pressure tank. Tim moved to authorize the Clerk to move forward with the quote from Rasmussen to purchase and install two new pressure tanks. Seconded by Jim. Motion passed. ARPA: The open house style ARPA meeting is scheduled for Feb 21. The Board discussed how to organize this meeting. Tim stated he was planning to have a poster board or flip charts around the room but will be unable to attend. Penny, with help from the Clerk's office, will follow through with Tim's idea. Materials Management: New bids coming soon. Carolyn is working on completing the grant application for 2023. *(Minutes continued on page 4)*

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

### *Summary of Planning Commission Meetings, Continued*

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

In order to do this, they would need variances from the definition for a HFSTR, one, to operate two HFSTRs in the Township when only one is allowed, and two, to not have to occupy the new HFSTR as their primary residence for nine months of the year as required. Four emails were received as public testimony, three of which were in opposition to granting the variances. In addition, a verbal comment against the variances had been received. The applicants felt that their situation was unique because the HFSTR was an existing HFSTR and as such would not change the neighborhood and because the Ordinance had only recently changed to disallow them from having it. The request for the variances was denied because it failed to meet the variance criteria that a variance must be in harmony with the general purposes and intent of the Ordinance.

This was Dave Edblom's last meeting as a Planning Commissioner. He served a total of six years. He was a valued member of the Commission and brought a very insightful and thoughtful perspective to the Commission. We will miss him! Blane Tetreault's first 3-year term was over and he agreed to serve an additional term of three years.

The Planning Director spoke to St Louis County and learned that they would consider the change of use to apartments at the business discussed in February a planned unit development. Because the Township has to be at least as restrictive as the County, she will work with the owner of the business to bring it into compliance.

The Town Board did not agree to the Commission's recommendation for a moratorium on businesses involving THC because a moratorium cannot be put in place unless the Town plans to undertake a study on the matter. A new business such as this would require applying for a conditional use permit, so that will be sufficient until the State takes further action.

### *Job Opportunity in Planning and Zoning Department*

Liz Strohmayer, Planning Director

Duluth Township is seeking a Planning and Zoning Assistant/Secretary. The minimum hours required are 5 hours a week, with the opportunity for additional hours up to 15 hours a week at \$16/hr.

Responsibilities will include preparing for and taking minutes at Planning meetings, reviewing and processing Planning applications, issuing permits, preparing for and assisting with public hearings, creating decision documents for public hearings, maintaining records and files, helping with the Planning portion of the Town website, maintaining the Zoning Ordinance, analyzing Planning data, responding to inquiries from the public, and general assistance to the Planning Director.

The minimum qualifications for this position are a high school diploma or GED; computer literacy, including proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel, as well as the ability to learn additional programs; personal communication skills for working with Township staff and the general public; attention to detail; willingness to learn new skills; and experience or interest in planning and zoning.

Preferred qualifications include a bachelor's degree in natural sciences, social sciences, or planning (or equivalent experience) and knowledge of zoning and land use issues.

Training will be under the direction of the Planning Director and current Secretary.

Please email resume and a cover letter to [townclerk@duluthtownship.org](mailto:townclerk@duluthtownship.org).

For complete job description, visit the Duluth Township website: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

### *Summary of Town Board Minutes, Continued*

Official minutes by Town Clerk Nicole Chatterson are available at the Town Hall and on our Township website: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

**Personnel:** The Board interviewed two candidates for the open custodial position. Tim moved to hire Phillip Chatterson for the custodian position. Seconded by Penny. Motion passed. The Board thanked Jody for her dedication to the Town and expressed appreciation for all the work she has done over the years. **Resolution 02092023.01** Absentee Ballot Board appointment: Tim moved that we approve the Resolution 02092023.01 appointing absentee ballot board. Seconded by Penny. Motion passed. **Resolution 02092023.02** Election Judge List: Tim moved to approve Resolution 02092023.02 appointing election judges. Seconded by Jim. Motion passed.

**March 9, 2023, Town Board Meeting:** In attendance: Supervisors Tim Strom, Rolf Carlson, and Stacia Grayson. Absent: Supervisor Morton and Supervisor Ward. **Reports:** **Treasurer:** Beginning balance \$860,357.87, deposits \$39,786.33, expenses \$40,519.13, ending balance of \$859,625.07. All claims were approved for payment, and the payroll net account distribution and claims list for approval were signed. **Public Comment:** Nathan Nesgoda and some neighbors on Torgeson Road were there to discuss a bid he received from Rodda for a turnaround. The Board discussed sanding and ditching for spring. The Board also will look into the legal side of the situation. Residents on Torgeson Road were encouraged to attend the upcoming Annual Meeting. **Police:** There was a complaint filed against the department, specifically against Shawn. Mark will reach out to Shawn to get this resolved. **Fire:** The check was cashed for the new fire truck. Bob questioned the disposal of the old rig. Some options include selling or donating. The Board will leave the decision to the department. **Planning:** There were two public hearings in March. There was a certified letter sent to a resident that was rejected. Liz will have our Police Department serve the letter. The Commission sent recommendation to place a moratorium on THC product. **ARPA:** How does the Board want to present the information gathered at the Feb. 21 meeting at the Annual Meeting? Rolf will explain the meetings we had and the data collected from the people who attended the meetings. **Materials Management:** Carolyn submitted the roughly \$15,000 grant application to WLSSD.

### *2023 Annual Meeting and Election*

ArMand Nelson was elected to the Town Board of Supervisors for a 3-year term. Rolf Carlson was elected as a write-in candidate and accepted a 3-year term. Tim Strom was the elected moderator for the Annual Meeting. Town Clerk Nicole Chatterson provided a handout summarizing the 2022 audit and expenditures, the 2023 budget that was approved for the following year, and the proposed 2024 budget. Proposed departmental budgets were presented as well as the general Township budget, which was presented by Board Chair Rolf Carlson. A motion was made to approve the total levy for 2024 of \$406,444.00. The motion failed to pass. A motion was made that the Town budget and levy should be set at \$426,444.00 for 2024. The motion was seconded. After discussion the motion passed for a levy amount of \$426,444.00. Motion was approved unanimously.

Nicole Chatterson thanked Rolf Carlson and Tim Strom for their years of service to the Board and Township. She also acknowledged Sue Lawson for everything she has done while in service to our community and for all the hard work she and the Planning Commission did in completing and updating the Ordinance.

The motion was made to continue the Annual Meeting on August 17, 2023, at 6:30 pm, at the Town Hall upon the call of the Town Board.

## 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](http://www.duluthtownship.org) and on page 11 of this Newsletter.

## French River Book Club

Carol Surine

The April meeting of the French River Readers was postponed due to unfortunate weather conditions, so the May book title is not available as of this publishing date. The May meeting will be held on May 18 in the Fireside Room of French River Lutheran Church at 7:30 pm. Please note the time change; we meet in the evenings May - October. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Surine at [carolsurine@gmail.com](mailto:carolsurine@gmail.com) or 218-525-4426.

## Country Kids Day Care 218-343-6370

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

Paid Advertisement

**WAGGIN' Tails**  
Boarding Kennels  
Long & short term  
boarding  
Reservations  
Required  
218-525-4842  
7002 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 June 16, 2023. Call 525-5705 or email [deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.com](mailto:deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.com).

## BOOK EXCHANGE UPDATE

JoVanna Balquier



Summer is almost here, and there's no better companion to take to the lake or pool than a good book. Find your next read at the little free library located in the Community Room at the Town Hall! If you bring donations, we kindly ask you to refrain from leaving nonfiction books like teaching manuals, textbooks, etc. Thank you & happy reading!!

## 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](http://www.solfedfarm.com)

[solfedfarm@gmail.com](mailto:solfedfarm@gmail.com)

Paid Advertisement



French River Lutheran Church  
Vacation Bible School

June 12-14, 2023  
9 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10/child

Age 3 (potty trained) - Completed 4th Grade

5th Grade and older: We'd love to have you as a helper!!

Return form to the church office or email  
[FRLCYouth@gmail.com](mailto:FRLCYouth@gmail.com) by May 31.

Registration form:



*Lawn Care Season is Just Around the Corner*

Val Brady

Despite the expanse of mud I see from my window right now, the sun is warm and I smell spring. Soon, I'll be hearing the familiar hum of my neighbor's lawn mower on calm, sunny evenings. Before the green appears, take this window of opportunity to consider how your lawn care practices can be tweaked to grow healthier grass, while also keeping our waterways clean and healthy! For everyone who loves online quizzes, check out this lawn care quiz at [lawntolakemidwest.org/quiz](http://lawntolakemidwest.org/quiz) to find out how your current lawn care practices are impacting your nearest waterways. Next, head over to [lawntolakemidwest.org/the-basics](http://lawntolakemidwest.org/the-basics) and peruse Lawn to Lake's quick guide to growing a healthy stand of turfgrass that naturally combats drought, disease, weeds, and pests, while also acting as a sponge - absorbing water, trapping pollutants, and ultimately preventing pollution from reaching your nearest waterway. And for those of you who would like to spend less time pushing that mower, did you know that you can get paid to convert part of your lawn to pollinator habitat? It's true! To learn more about Minnesota's Lawn to Legumes Program, visit [bwsr.state.mn.us/L2L](http://bwsr.state.mn.us/L2L).

There you will find an application for a small grant, which will pay for the materials needed, as well as lots of resources that will prepare you to turn your yard into a pollinator-friendly, water-purifying masterpiece!

Do you have flooding concerns?

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Public Meeting**

**Knife River Stormwater Plan**

**Knife River Rec Center,  
199 Alger Smith Rd  
May 4, 5:30-6:30 pm**

We want to hear about stormwater issues in Knife River! Local concerns will be incorporated into a stormwater plan to reduce flood damage and stormwater pollution.

**Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
Call 218-834-8514 for more information

*Emergency Operations*

Sherry Rovig and Ann Cox

Duluth Township has made it a priority to support the well-being of our community. Our Fire Department is the first line of support in emergencies. The Emergency Operations Group is another component of our response when large-scale events impact our area. Depending on the situation, Federal, State, or County may be involved and provide resources and direction. The purpose of our Emergency Operations Plan is to coordinate resources to protect the public in cases of major emergencies that are not fully addressed by other agencies. Our facilities, equipment, personnel, and skills are included in our Emergency Operations Plan as well as our mutual aid agreements and responsibilities.

The Emergency Operations Group is in the process of reviewing and updating the plan that was drafted in 2017, as well as reviewing and updating our community wildfire protection plan. You can view the existing plan on our Township website.

If you have an interest in joining the emergency response group, you can leave your contact information with the Town Clerk and we will be in touch.

**No time to visit all those websites? No problem! Here are some highlights:**

**Mow high.** Maintain a grass height of three to four inches.

**Leave grass clippings** to return nutrients to the soil and reduce fertilizer needs by up to 25%.

**Water efficiently.** Water deeply and infrequently; allow water to soak in, encouraging deep roots. Water early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation. Avoid wasting water on hard surfaces like sidewalks and driveways. This will also reduce nutrient runoff.

**Fertilize in the fall,** and *only* if nutrient inputs are needed. Use zero-phosphorus fertilizers, unless recommended by a soil test. Look for slow-release (water-insoluble nitrogen) fertilizers and avoid "weed and feed" products. Always sweep excess fertilizer off hard surfaces and back onto your lawn.

**Use fewer lawn chemicals.** If weed or pest problems arise, hand pick weeds or correctly identify the problem and spot-treat with the least-toxic recommended product.

Adapted from "Lawn to Lake Midwest: The Basics"

## June Events at the Cemetery

Molly Tillotson, Cemetery Sexton

Next month our Township cemetery will be hosting a crew from Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps. From June 13 through June 21 there will be multiple crews learning an array of skills while improving the cemetery building, replacing the split rail fence, and cleaning and resetting monuments. It will be a busy place, and I am excited to see some much-needed physical improvements at Lakeview Palmer Cemetery. I am also looking forward to meeting the AmeriCorps members who will be doing the work. These are young adults interested in history and in learning preservation skills. I want to thank Clover Valley Farms for providing camping space for the crews; this is a big gift to the cemetery and the Township.

Sunday, June 18, the crews will host a gathering for the community. Please stop by the cemetery between 10 am and 2 pm to learn and try out some cemetery skills, hear about AmeriCorps programs, and have some lunch with the corps members.

Northern Bedrock is a Duluth-based nonprofit that trains and coordinates AmeriCorps crews every summer. These crews work throughout the state camping and restoring historically significant structures. Look them up - [www.northernbedrockcorps.org](http://www.northernbedrockcorps.org).

Molly Tillotson  
Cemetery Sexton  
(218) 626-7005

### Help wanted:

Looking to hire someone to help with general light to moderate house cleaning. Cleaning would include but not limited to: washing floors, vacuuming, and dusting. Looking for someone to come once every 1 to 2 weeks for about 4-6 hours. Flexible schedule. If you are interested or have question please contact Sue at 218-343-5005.

*Paid Advertisement*

**COMMUNITY**  
**RUMMAGE SALE**  
FRENCH RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH PARKING LOT  
JUNE 10, 2023  
SATURDAY 08:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
It's time to purge! And/or shop for new treasures!  
Vendor spots are available for \$10.  
Email: [Frlc5310@gmail.com](mailto:Frlc5310@gmail.com) to reserve your spot!

*Paid Advertisement*

Hello newsletter reading residents of Duluth Township,

I'm looking for a place to call home in Duluth Township (Clover Valley or surrounding areas) for myself and my 6-year-old blind dog Bat (references available upon request). A single family home/apt with access to land/wild space within 0-10 miles proximity of Lake Superior is desired. I'm 45 and work as the Manager of External Partnership for Planned Parenthood (12 years). I've rented an 1890s Victorian in Duluth's Endion neighborhood for the past 9 years that I adore. My beloved 95-year-old landlord just went into assisted living and our house goes on the market May 1. If Bat and I can't live there, I want a well-cared for, well-lighted place in the woods up the shore for our next chapter. I'm open to renting or owning. Any help securing such a home is appreciated.

Many thanks,

Erin O'Daniel  
919.632.9820  
[erhino.tusc@gmail.com](mailto:erhino.tusc@gmail.com)

*Paid Advertisement*

## The Clover Valley Farm Trail

The Clover Valley Farm Trail is a cooperative group of locally-owned, small farms located in or near Clover Valley, a farming community between Duluth and Two Harbors, Minnesota.

Locals and visitors can visit the farms to purchase a variety of produce, baked goods, crafts, and other items from self-serve farm stands.

The Farm Trail is where a farmers market meets a Sunday drive while supporting our local economy.

All farm stands on the Farm Trail will be open Sundays from noon-5 pm, Memorial Day weekend (May 28) through October.

Many farms have additional open hours and on-farm activities so check their websites for more information!

For a map of the Farm Trail and more information on the Clover Valley Farm Trail visit their website: <https://www.clovervalleyfarmtrail.com/>

As I write this edition's recipe, I look out the office windows and view the mountains of snow, hoping that they will leave soon. So, hopefully by the time this reaches your mailboxes, it will be looking more like spring and not the dead of winter. The days are getting longer, and it is *trying* to warm up. You may be planning your summer activities, responding to wedding RSVPs, or hoping you can plant your garden before July. Whatever you might be planning, this salad is bright with color and flavor, and would be a perfect accompaniment to a barbeque.

This salad has a bright citrus flavor with fresh vegetables, making it a tasty side dish, or you could add some grilled chicken breast to make it a meal. There are three parts to making this salad. (1) Cooking the couscous. (2) Making the dressing. (3) Making the salad. You will most likely spend more of your time chopping the vegetables than assembling this salad.

Although couscous looks like a grain, though it is technically a pasta made from semolina flour. This makes it a great alternative to white rice. Couscous is a source of selenium, protein, and fiber. It is also a very healthy 'fast food' as it only takes 5 minutes to cook.

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](mailto:townclerk@lakenet.com). Happy cooking!

## Mediterranean Couscous Salad

### Ingredients

#### For the Couscous

- 1 cup of water
- ¼ teaspoon salt or to taste
- 1 tablespoon of olive oil
- 1 cup uncooked Moroccan couscous (Pearl couscous is fine as a substitute)
- ½ tablespoon butter

#### For the Dressing

- ½ cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- 4-6 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar OR white wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon runny honey
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder or 1 tablespoon fresh minced garlic
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano or more to taste; OR you may also use your favorite fresh or dried herbs
- Salt and pepper to taste

#### For the salad

- 1 pint of Roma cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2 medium cucumbers finely diced
- 1 large yellow, red, or orange pepper, finely diced
- 1 small-medium red onion finely diced
- 1 (15 ounce) can of chickpeas drained and rinsed
- ½ cup pitted kalamata olives, roughly chopped; or your preferred olive choice
- ½ cup freshly chopped herbs (I use dill, oregano, parsley, or Mint)
- ½ cup crumbled feta cheese



### Instructions

1. Cook couscous: bring water, olive oil, and salt to a boil in a medium saucepan. Add couscous, stir, and cover with a lid. Turn off the heat and set aside for 5 minutes.
2. After the 5 minutes are done, open lid, add butter and fluff with fork; distributing the butter throughout. Set aside and cool.
3. Make dressing: While the couscous is resting, combine all the dressing ingredients in a medium bowl or Pyrex four cup measuring cup. Set aside until salad is assembled.
4. Make the salad: Add couscous to a large salad bowl, with all the remaining salad ingredients. Pour dressing over the salad and toss to combine. Serve immediately or refrigerate, covered for up to a day.

# 2023 Chipper Day: Sharing the Responsibility

## You Cut and Stack - We'll Chip

This is an opportunity for your neighborhood to reduce risk to your homes by implementing wildfire prevention strategies.

### Event Details

**When:** June 21-25

### Woody Debris Drop Off Option for All Residents:

**When:** Drop off can happen: from Wed. June 21st through Sunday June 25th up to 4pm

**Where:** Fire Hall 1 on Ryan Road & Fire Hall 3 on Laine Rd

### Pile Guidelines

- Cut and pile your woody debris along the driveway
- Piles must be stacked neatly with ends facing the road
- No limit to the number of piles, please make sure they are not obstructing traffic or under power lines.

### What's Acceptable?

- Woody limbs and branches and trees
- Small trees, branches and limbs (balsam fir, spruce, and brush will be accepted)
- No construction or building materials
- Piles only, no bags allowed
- No trash, weeds, root wads, dirt, or rocks, or buckthorn
- No grass clippings or bags of leaves
- No household garbage

Questions? Contact: Clifton Volunteer Fire Department 218-525-5705  
cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com



Sponsored by MN DNR Firewise Program, St. Louis County Firewise Program and Duluth Township

**Firewise Recording of Volunteer Hours (This counts toward the grant)**

**Name :**

**Property Address:**

**Preferred Contact information:**

**Number of hours spent on Firewise Project:**

**Please return this information to:**

**Sherry Rovig, Emergency Operations Director for Duluth Township  
6092 Homestead Rd., Duluth, MN 55804**

**Or Email : [cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com](mailto:cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com)**

**Subject: Firewise Project Volunteer Hours**

**Or call 218-525-9240 and leave message**

**THANK YOU for your participation!**



### 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](http://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, Intergovernmental  
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

<b>Town Clerk:</b>	<b>Nicole Chatterson</b>	525-5705 (Town Hall)
<b>Deputy Clerk:</b>	<b>Hannah Jurek</b>	525-5705 (Town Hall)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Mel Peulen</b>	525-5705 (Town Hall)
<b>Attorney:</b>	<b>Scott Witty</b>	722-4766 (Office)
<b>Cemetery Sexton:</b>	<b>Molly Tillotson</b>	218-626-7005
<b>Planning Director:</b>	<b>Liz Strohmayer</b>	525-5705 (Message)
<b>Planning Secretary:</b>	<b>Beth Mullan</b>	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](mailto:cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com)

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

**Burning Permits** are available online at: [mndnr.gov/permits](http://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](http://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](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

Our Official Calendar is posted at the Town Hall

#### May 2023

**May 2:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Business Meeting 7 pm

**May 3:** Homesteaders 12:30 pm

**May 4:** Recycling 3-7 pm

**May 6:** Recycling 8 am-noon

**May 9:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm

**May 11:** Recycling 3-7 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm

**May 13:** Recycling 8 am-noon

**May 16:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7 pm

**May 17:** D/NSSD Volunteer Board Meeting at French River  
Lutheran Church 7 am

**May 18:** Recycling 3-7 pm

**May 20:** Recycling 8 am-noon

**May 23:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm

**May 25:** Recycling 3-7 pm; Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 pm

**May 27:** Recycling 8 am-noon

**May 29: Memorial Day**

**May 30:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm

#### June 2023

**June 1:** Recycling 3-7 pm

**June 3:** Recycling 8 am-noon

**June 6:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Business Meeting 7 pm

**June 7:** Homesteaders 12:30 pm

**June 8:** Recycling 3-7 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm

**June 10:** Recycling 8 am-noon

**June 13:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm

**June 15:** Recycling 3-7 pm

**June 17:** Recycling 8 am-noon

**June 20:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7 pm

**June 21:** D/NSSD Volunteer Board Meeting at French River Lutheran  
Church 7 am

**June 22:** Recycling 3-7 pm; Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 pm

**June 24:** Recycling 8 am-noon

**June 27:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm

**June 29:** Recycling 3-7 pm

# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

May 2023

**1190** 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**
- **Township Annual Meeting**
- **Chipper Days**
- **What's in the Kitchen?**
- **Clover Valley Farm Trail**

Duluth Township Newsletter  
6092 Homestead Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

PRSRSTD  
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PERMIT NO. 705  
DULUTH, MINN.

For a color version of this Newsletter, visit the Township website: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://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](http://www.duluthtownship.org)). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

## 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](http://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.