



HAPPY NEW YEAR



Duluth Township Newsletter

January 2024

Township website: www.duluthtownship.org

What's Coming Up.....

- ◆ Town Board Minutes p. 3
- ◆ NSCS News p. 5
- ◆ Alden Township News p. 6
- ◆ The Invasion Is on in Duluth Township p. 8-9
- ◆ What's in the Kitchen? p. 9

Duluth Township Looking for Election Judges

Every year the Township needs trained election judges to help with the elections held in our Town Hall. Free training is provided through the County. If you are interested in being on the list of qualified election judges, contact our Town Clerk, Nicole Chatterson, during office hours at the Town Hall or call 525-5705.

Preregister to vote in the Presidential Primaries by February 13, 2024. Visit the Secretary of State website:

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/>

If you have any questions, feel free to call the Town Clerk's Office — 218-525-5705

2024 Clifton Fire Department Calendars!!!



Please take one!



One per resident.

Please bring one to your neighbor, if able to!

SPREAD THE WORD!!

CALENDARS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PICK UP HERE AT THE TOWN HALL DURING OFFICE AND RECYCLING HOURS!



Homesteaders

Dorothy Aho

January 3, 2024: Wednesday, 12:30 pm
We have our annual New Year's potluck and bingo.

February 7, 2024: Wednesday, 12:30
We have Colette Bitz with us again with her wonderful exercise for seniors.

March 6, 2024: Wednesday, 12:30 pm
Our annual commemoration when we celebrate when Homesteaders began. More coming about this.

Everyone is welcome!

*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, Nicole Chatterson, Bob Engelson, Mark Haselow, Helene Hedlund, Uwe Kausch, Beth Mullan, Emily Richey, Sherry Rovig, and Carol Surine



Fire Department

Bob Engelson, Chief

Sherry Rovig, Secretary/Emergency Operations Dept. Director



Police Department

Mark Haselow, Chief

Paul Johnson, Officer

The department is on track to respond to over 100 emergency calls in 2023. We are ending the year with a full roster of 25 responders. Two of our newest recruits are starting EMR certification training and one is also starting FF I and II and hazmat certification training. We are grateful to the MN Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE) for providing us with grant funding for much of our training.

One of the year's highlights was getting the rescue truck and outfitting it with necessary gear. It is by far the most organized and well-equipped emergency response vehicle the Township has owned. We will soon have the Clifton Fire Department decals on the truck. We are also putting Duluth Township decals on and hope they make our identity more obvious than just Clifton Fire.

Other noteworthy activities this year included 2 successful chipper events with hundreds of cubic yards of brush removed and chipped, highlighting the need for continuing fuel mitigation activities. Research done in Canada showed that the potential for forest fire in budworm-killed balsam fir stands is significantly higher for a number of years following the death of the trees. Crown breakage, tangled trunks and branches, and increased fuel loads peaked 5 to 8 years after the trees died. Fire potential peaked during that time until the fuels began to decompose and understory vegetation greened up. The potential for summer fires were elevated as well due to the accumulated fuel load. We still have our work cut out for us.

We had training with the DNR in November on the use of the Firewise Assessment App that was developed to help educate homeowners on the Firewise status of their properties and what they can do to lower their fire risk. Our members are available for guided assessments for interested residents. The assessment also provides useful information to agencies responding to fires. You can sign up for an assessment on the application form.

Firewise USA Community organizers needed! We are applying for status as a Firewise Community and are looking for board members. The board will work with the County Firewise coordinator to complete a community risk assessment, determine mitigation actions, document activities completed and plan for future activities. The Firewise Community designation is now required for future grant funding from the DNR. It is also a great way to help our community! Contact Cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com or call the fire hall at (218) 525-9240 to volunteer or request more information.

Smoke Alarms

We continue to work with the Red Cross to provide smoke detectors for residents. The detectors are free and are installed by our department. They are available to homes without existing alarms or to replace expired alarms. You can sign up on the application form and we will contact you to schedule.

(continued on page 4)

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.

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 October 2023 and November 2023, there were 98 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 24 requests for checks on homes or businesses and 10 car versus deer accidents and 10 medical emergencies. There were 6 reports of attempting to locate a careless driver and 6 disturbance complaints. There were 4 reports of each of the following: animal complaints, burglar alarms, health/welfare checks, suspicious activities, assisting other agencies, and traffic related warning and citations. There were 2 reports of each of the following: property damage accidents, public assists, unknown trouble complaints, hazard checks, fire alarms, and neighbor troubles. And finally, there was 1 report of each of the following: civil process, suspicious vehicle complaint, extra patrol request, juvenile trouble, personal injury accident, and a mental health crisis.

If you have any information about 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:

duluthtwp@police@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).

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 Meyer, Justin Osadjan, Chair Angela Wilson, Tony Mancuso, and Nate Nesgoda. (Not pictured, Pam West and Blane Tetreault)



Town Board Supervisors: Penny Morton, Rolf Carlson, Stacia Grayson, Jim Ward, and 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

October 26, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting.

Commission members present: Angela Wilson, Blane Tetreault, Dave Meyer, Tony Mancuso, and Nathan Nesgoda. Also present: Liz Strohmayer, Planning Director, Beth Mullan, Planning Secretary, and ArMand Nelson, Town Board liaison to Planning.

There was a public hearing for an extension of an Interim Use Permit for a high frequency short-term rental on Aho Road. The permit was originally granted in October 2021 and extended for another year in December 2022. The permit allows the home to be rented for 120 nights per year. The property is in FFL-1 and all dimensional requirements are met except for setback from the road, which is 75 ft. There were no comments from the public or complaints to the Township. The closest neighbor to the rental indicated to a Commission member that it was going well and he had no complaints. The Commission extended the IUP for a 13 month period so that it would expire at the end of 2024. They allowed 10 extra rental nights for the extra month.

A second public hearing was held for a property at 6734 Homestead Road for a variance from the required lot width of 300 ft to 260 ft to construct a home. The parcel was originally a part of the old Clover Valley High School property and was sold as it exists now by St Louis County. The property has a trout stream and extensive wetlands on it. A map showing those areas and the accompanying setbacks showed very limited areas suitable for building on the parcel. Besides the proposed site there were two other sites at the far corners of the property that would require extensive driveway construction. One of those sites would require an easement, as well. Due to these environmental factors, the owners were opting to request a lot width variance to build near the road. Although the property is wider towards the back, the part near the road where they propose to build is 260 ft wide, 40 ft short of the required 300 ft. There were no comments from the public on the proposed variance and the Commission voted unanimously to approve it.

Liz reported that issues from prior months were ongoing. She has been working closely with someone from the DNR on some of these things and that has been very helpful in clarifying areas of responsibilities. The high-frequency short-term rental for the property on Stony Point that was originally applied for in May was denied because the owner did not meet the deadline for submitting required stormwater documentation.

November 16, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting.

Commission members present: Angela Wilson, Blane Tetreault, Pam West, Justin Osadjan, Dave Meyer, and Tony Mancuso. Also present: Liz Strohmayer, Planning Director, Beth Mullan, Planning Secretary, and ArMand Nelson, Town Board liaison to Planning.

A hearing had been scheduled for a hosted high-frequency short-term rental, but the hearing was canceled because staff realized the proposed rental was for an accessory structure, which isn't allowed by the Ordinance. The application is not likely to be resubmitted because a variance would be required and variances are only considered for allowed uses.

A tentative date was scheduled for meeting in December in the event any applications were received that required a public hearing.

October 12, 2023, Town Board Meeting: In attendance: Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Penny Morton, Jim Ward, and ArMand Nelson. Supervisor Grayson was absent. **Reports:** Treasurer: Beginning balance \$753,014.51, deposits \$21,483.06, expenses \$57,487.39, ending balance of \$717,037.18. All claims were approved for payment, and the payroll net account distribution and claims list for approval were signed. Police: The department had its annual audit performed by the POST Board; they passed. The Chief recommends that the Town revisit the junk ordinance, recommending that we add a step up in violation fines if not in compliance. A citation was issued on the Englund Road. He is in discussions with the Town Attorney. Fire: The pump work was done on Engines One and Two. Chipper Days will be held October 19-22. Planning: No public hearing last month and it was a short meeting. There will be one public hearing in October as of now. Roads: Torgeson Road Update: The surveyor is working with the Town Attorney to get all the information necessary to move forward. The County fixed the culvert on Spruce Court. ArMand noted that he received complaints regarding the lack of visibility of the stop signs on Greenwood Road. He will trim the trees back. The recent rain event dropped 10 inches of rain, resulting in damages to the Johnson Road and West Wildwood. Culverts were replaced. Todd Thomas retired, but provided a referral for someone who is willing to take the Englund and Mace Roads. Jim also met with JBL, who might be interested. They have larger trucks and a grader. Kurt Rodgers will still plow the Town Hall, and Jim will reach out to Keith Darsow about plowing the Fire Department lot. Town Hall: Resolution 10222023: Penny moved to approve Polling Place Resolution 10222023. Seconded by ArMand. Motion passed. ARPA: Stacia has been reaching out to contractors seeking bids for the bathrooms. Materials Management: The grant was received by WLSSD. Communication: Hannah presented a quote from Faster Solutions to update the Town's website. She also reached out to anySiteSolutions, still waiting to hear back. Old Business: ArMand found some information regarding open book process and adopting that process. He made the motion that the Town move to the open book process per the MN property tax book and adopt it for the three-year minimum. Then at the end of the three-year minimum the Town Board will review and make a decision at that time if they wish to continue the open book process or move back to hosting the LBAE. Seconded by Penny. Motion passed. New Business: After last month's weather event, St. Louis County asked for contacts in the Township. Jim and ArMand will be those contacts.

November 9, 2023, Town Board Meeting: In attendance: Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Penny Morton, Stacia Grayson, and Jim Ward. Supervisor Nelson was absent. **Reports:** Treasurer: Beginning balance \$717,037.18, deposits \$5,547.58, expenses \$46,938.88, ending balance of \$675,645.88. All claims were approved for payment, and the payroll net account distribution and claims list for approval were signed. Police: Township has been quiet. Nothing new to report. Fire: Nothing new to report. The Fire Department is working on a FEMA grant for a new truck. Planning: Liz asked Scott Witty to send a certified letter to a gentleman in the Township who still has not produced a septic permit number or the additional 4x after-the-fact fee for building a house and driveway without a permit. This situation has been ongoing since the summer. She has also had to partner with Scott Witty regarding a very site-specific driveway request that runs into a number of potential legal issues. Scott and Liz will meet to discuss it later this week. October's Planning Commission Meeting held two public hearings. She also reported that there continues to be a high number of folks building without first acquiring permits. Penny talked about the Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District Management Board meeting she attended. *(continue on page 4)*

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

Fire Department Report

- continued from page 2 -

2024 Fire Calendars Are Available

We are no longer able to distribute calendars to residents' mailboxes. They will be available for pickup in the town hall during office or recycling hours. If you are unable to retrieve your calendar, please email or call us at cliftonfire-department@gmail.com (218)525-9240 or call Jody at (218)525-4971 **Please support our calendar sponsors!**

911 Signs

The backlog of 911 signs is finally gone. Huge thanks to ArMand Nelson and John Luikart who spent over 50 hours installing the remaining signs! Thanks to all the residents who took care of their own 911 signs as well. It has been a community effort and there will continue to be a need for maintenance and updates on our signage over the years. A well-positioned and visible sign is vitally important for emergency response.



Did you know?

Most home fires occur in the winter and peak in January.

Each year in the United States there is more than \$2 billion in property loss due to winter home fires.

Over the last five years in Minnesota, 41 percent of fire deaths occurred in November, December and January.

FREEZE OUT WINTER FIRES

- Keep all doors and windows that could be used for an escape route clear of snow and ice.
- Keep all vents — fireplace, dryer, furnace and oven — clear of snow, ice and debris.
- Never use a blow torch to thaw frozen pipes.
- Use flashlights, not candles, if you lose power.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from heat sources; do not use your oven to heat your home.



SFM.DPS.MN.GOV

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

Summary of Town Board Meeting Minutes

- continued from page 3 -

She reported that next year the management board will be updating their ordinance and will be looking for support and inclusion with all along the North Shore, including Duluth Township. There are committees working on it now, but there will be another meeting come January/February. Penny proudly reported that the only MS4 group is Duluth Township. **Roads:** There was some miscommunication between Scott Witty and Ron Kruger regarding Torgeson Road. But Jim contacted Ron and Ron contacted Scott Witty, so that is back on track. JBL will be working with the Township plowing the Mace and Englund Road. The snow contract will be filed in the Clerk's Office. Jim also chatted with St. Louis County regarding last winter's lack of sand use. Expressing how disappointed he was with the lack of sand, given how icy the roads are, that the salt mixture being used didn't not alleviate the slippery roads. He had a good chat with Kelly from the County, and they will do better with placing sand down this upcoming winter. It was also brought to Jim's attention at that time that there are some overhanging trees and some sight lines that need to be cleared up on the county plowed roads. Something that will be tackled next summer. Rodda will take advantage of the next weather coming up and finish grading the roads, so they are ready for winter. **Town Hall:** With the approval of covering the remaining balance on the new stove for the kitchen, Nicole had the question on what account should the funds come out of, general or ARPA? It was decided that the funds would come out of the general fund. Roger stated that the Homesteaders will be paying \$950.00 for the new stove. They have one picked out, just waiting for a day when both Nicole and Roger are available to go purchase the stove. Nicole received a letter from Jon Blevins at St. Louis County stating that we are no longer required to re-establish a polling place. The new coffee makers are installed, they are still waiting for a filter. Once that's here Phil will put that together. There was also a zone valve malfunction resulting in the very warm community room. Belknap was called and they are ordering the part and will fix the issue. For now, the zone is shut off, and the mini split is heating the community room. **ARPA:** Stacia gave an update on the bathroom quotes, stating that Litman Construction has yet to get back to her with a quote. Penny gave a suggestion to reach out to Seth Lozano, which Stacia did, and Roger will be meeting with him on Monday. She is still waiting to hear back from GrumdaHL regarding the windows installation; she will follow up. **Materials Management:** There was a dumpster break-in the weekend of October 21. Using the security footage, Roger and Officer Johnson were able to figure out who it was and reached out to them. Roger contacted WLSSD about the incident and they encouraged him to fill out an incident report that will get forwarded to Waste Management, and they will decide what to do from there. The new sign is in place with the hours of operation and the Board was presented with the WLSSD Budget. **Personnel:** Rolf and Penelope are still working on the maternity leave resolution with Scott Witty. Penelope made the motion to approve the cost-of-living adjustment for 2024 provided by Nicole. Seconded by Stacia. Motion passed unanimously. Mel sent a request to the Town Board respectfully asking for a 50% raise in her salary as Township Treasurer, her overall workload has exceeded by 50% with the state-mandated changes due to the Wage Theft Law, resulting in running payroll twice a month instead of once a month. Penelope made the motion to raise the treasurer's salary by 50% until such time we resolve the twice-a-month payroll, if possible, in effect starting November 1, 2023. Seconded by Stacia. Motion passed unanimously. **Old Business:** Resolution 11092023: Resolution of Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project. Stacia made the motion to approve Resolution 11092023 supporting the Rick Lake Road corridor project. Seconded by Jim. Motion passed unanimously. Resolution 11092023 A.: Resolution electing members to the Board of Manager of the Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District. Penelope made the motion to adopt Resolution 11092023 A. resolution electing members Kenneth Stocco and Christine Penney to the Board of Manager of the Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District. Seconded by Stacia. Motion passed unanimously. The Town Board will set the date for the Budget meeting at December's meeting. The Board of Audit will be on February 8.

BOOK EXCHANGE UPDATE



JoVanna Balquier

Winter is upon us and there is no better season to cozy up with a book! Find your next read at the little free library located in the Community Room at the Township Hall. Come peruse the selection during Town Hall and recycling hours. Donations are always welcome! We kindly ask that they are in good condition and that you refrain from leaving nonfiction books such as textbooks. Thank you and happy reading!

Don't forget to come out and vote at the Township Elections on March 12, 2024. The polls open at 7 am and close at 8 pm at Town Hall.

The Annual Meeting will shortly follow the closing of the polls.



French River Book Club

Carol Surine

The French River Readers will meet at 1 pm on January 18, 2024, in the Fireside Room of French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road. If you have any questions you can contact Carol Surine, 218-525-4426 or carolsurine@gmail.com.

Are you interested in local government? Would you like to be a voice for our residents of the Township? This March, elections will be held for 1 Town Board Supervisor positions on the 5-member Town Board of Duluth Township. If you are interested, please look below for more information:

Notice of Filing for Township Election

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of Duluth Township, that filing for town office will be held for a two-week period beginning Tuesday, January 2, 2024, to 5:00 pm to January 16, 2024.

Affidavits of Candidacy shall be filed with the Town Clerk at the Duluth Township Hall, 6092 Homestead Road Duluth, MN 55804, during regular business hours from January 2, 2024, to January 16, 2024. A filing fee of \$2.00 will be accepted at this time.

Filing will close on January 16, 2024, at 5:00 pm. The Town Clerk office will be open Tuesday, January 16, 2024, as per MN Statute §205.13, subd 1a, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Offices to be filled at the March Annual election are:

1 Supervisor Positions for 3-year terms

Presidential Nominating Primary (PNP) - March 2, 2024, 7am—8pm, Town Hall

This year the Presidential Nominating Primaries are combined on the same day. The purpose of the PNP is for voters who identify with a major political party to vote for a presidential candidate who they wish for their party to nominate as the candidate for the November state general election. Voters MUST choose their ballot preference prior to being allowed to vote. This will happen when you sign the voter roster. There will be a privacy shield to protect your choice. The ballot preference selection does not obligate a voter to vote in line with that particular party in future elections. You then go to the next election judge to get the ballot for your party. It will have only your party's candidate(s). You vote as instructed and put your ballot in the counting machine as you usually do. State offices assemble all precinct and party votes. Major political party chairs will only receive political party list of voters who selected that party.



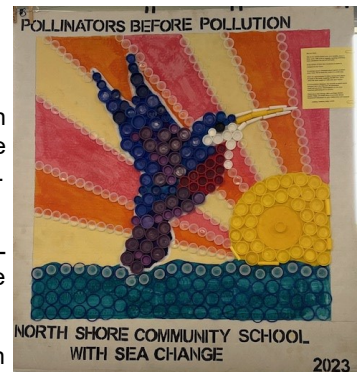
January 2024

North Shore Community School News
Shelly Pierson Evans, Executive Director

"A Sea Change for Superior" Documentary: "A Sea Change for Lake Superior" documentary was filmed in partnership with our Sea Change guest visitors, Katya and Mark Gordon, with some of last year's 6th grade students. The premiere debuted on Thursday, November 30, at The College of St. Scholastica, with Mrs. Rolfe, Ms. Jackson, and a number of students and their families in attendance.

Endowment Fundraiser at Korkki Nordic Center: The Endowment Committee will be hosting a ski fundraiser at Korkki Nordic Center on Friday, February 9, from 6:30-8:30. Save the date, and more information will be coming!

Recommitment News: Recommitment forms will be sent to families in January. Please return them as soon as possible.



Enrollment News: For enrollment information or to complete an application for the 2024-2025 school year, visit our website: <https://northshorecommunityschool.org/enrollment-forms/> or call the office at 218-525-0663 x100 for more information. Forms for the 2024-2025 school year will be available by January 8, 2024.

Preschool News: Check out our amazing preschool! Our preschool offers a 2-day or a 4-day option for 4- and 5-years-olds (must be 4 years old by September 1, 2024). We also offer a half-day 3-year-old program on Fridays. Our preschool fills fast, so you will want to apply as soon as possible. Applications for the upcoming school year can be found through visiting our website starting on January 8, 2024. Questions on our program or scholarships available? Please reach out to the office or email Linda Johnson, our preschool teacher, at ljohnson@nscsk6.org.

Skating Rink/Warming House Hours: The Skating Rink is open after school hours and on the weekend, weather permitting. The Warming House is staffed Monday to Friday, 6-9 pm, Saturday 12-9, and closed Sunday. Thank you to the North Shore Community Rink Board for their work and dedication to our skating rink!

Alden Township News

Township Communications

We are collecting email addresses of Alden residents! Please email aldentwpclerk@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 Rentals

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

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*.

Kitchen Update

Yes . . . the Supervisors have secured a contract to update the Alden Township kitchen. It will be a comprehensive project that includes (in no particular order)

- Removal of old appliances
 - Replace kitchen window
 - New flooring
 - Open shelving cabinets with nonporous countertops
 - New appliances (stove, refrigerator)
 - Nonporous paint
- Plumbing to meet standards for folks who work in cottage product industry

The work is scheduled to begin after the first of the year.

The supervisors are currently researching rental agreements for implementation once the kitchen is complete.

More details to follow . . .

Helene Hedlund
Township Supervisor Chair

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.



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Two Harbors

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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 February 13, 2024.
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.

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The Invasion Is on in Duluth Township

Uwe Kausch

Happy fall, everyone. We have lived on the Wildwood Road since 2000. In the last 10 years or so, I have noticed a marked increase in invasive plant species in our area. Two of the worst are common buckthorn (below) and glossy buckthorn (below). Common buckthorn's leaves have small ridges around their leaf edges, while glossy buckthorn's leaf edges are smooth.

These plants were introduced into North America in the late 1800's as ornamental plants but quickly spread throughout most of the US, mainly through their berries. Berries are found at the base of the leaves in small clumps. The berries look close to the color and size of chokecherries, but they mature in the fall instead of summer. They are readily eaten by birds, but the seeds are not digested, which allows them to spread throughout our woods



when the seeds pass through the birds digestive systems.

Left unchecked, buckthorn will quickly overtake the understory of our forests, out-competing our native shrubs and small trees, as deer don't particularly care to eat them and native insects don't recognize them as food either, since they did not evolve with these plants.

The best time to identify and remove buckthorn is in the fall, before they overtake your property. Both types retain their leaves longer than any of our native plants, making them easy to spot. For small seedlings, you can pull them by hand. If

you have trouble pulling them, there are several hand tools on the market (www.rootalon.com, www.theuprooter.com, www.extractigator.com, etc.) that will aid in pulling them manually. If that is not an option, then cutting them close to the ground and applying Roundup to the stump will be your next best option. You do not need to soak the ground with Roundup, but rather just put it around the perimeter of the stump, where the living tissue is. It is important to treat the stump right after cutting it, as the plant will pull the herbicide to its roots, which will then kill the plant.

If you would like to find native shrubs to plant in your yards to attract birds and other wildlife, here are a few that I would highly recommend.



(1) Serviceberry (also called juneberry) (*Amelanchier arborea*)—Serviceberry is already quite prevalent in Duluth Township. It is commonly found along creeks and rivers and growing under taller trees. The berries are not only great for birds, but also for humans, with a taste reminiscent of blueberries with a hint of almond. The leaves of the serviceberry provide food for several species of caterpillar as well,

which in turn provide needed protein for baby birds. Birds like robins, bluebirds, thrushes, cedar waxwings, flickers, and others relish these berries, so in all likelihood, you will be lucky to get them before the birds do.



(2) Nannyberry (also called wild raisin) (*Viburnum lentago*)—I have had very good luck planting this shrub in my yard. It can reach about 8 feet tall and produces clusters of white

flowers in the spring and dark berries in the fall.



(3) Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)—Elderberry, once established, produces

clusters of small purple berries that are relished by birds. The berries' small size also makes them available for smaller birds .



(4) Common Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)—Common chokecherry is a terrific wildlife plant and is easily grown in our area. Many species of caterpillars use this plant as a food source. These caterpillars again provide high-protein food for baby birds. Later in the summer the berries provide nutritious fare for young birds after they leave the

nest and for their parents, as well.

(5) Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)—Red osier dogwood is very common in Duluth Township. It is a great plant, not only for birds, once their white berries ripen in the fall, but also for deer, which browse on their red stems like candy. There are two other types of dogwood to consider as well, gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) and round leaf dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*).





6) American Mountain Ash (*Sorbus americana*)—American mountain ash, although really a small tree, is one of my favorites as its berries not only attract a wide variety of birds in the fall, but its sap is a favorite food for the yellow bellied sapsucker. The sapsucker drills holes in the bark of the tree and laps up the sap. This sap also attracts ruby throated hummingbirds, along with flies and other insects, which are in turn readily eaten by other birds. The photo on the left is from a picture I took last year in my

front yard. The bird is a young cedar waxwing that was enjoying the ripe berries.

There are a lot of other native species of plants that you can plant in your yards that will attract and benefit wildlife. The key is to plant a wide

variety of native species, which will in turn attract a wider variety of species. Please note that most greenhouses in the area still offer many non-native species. Make sure you read the labels and Google them to ensure they are native. A great source for native shrubs is **Prairie Restorations** (Boreal Natives), which is located just outside of Proctor at 3943 Munger Shaw Road. You will need to call before going, as they may not be there during stretches in the day. Their number is 218-729-7001. **Shoreview Natives**, in Two Harbors, specializes in installing gardens that feature local and regional native plant species. Their number is 218-341-5286, www.shoreviewnatives.com. Another great source is through the **South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District**. They sell shrubs and trees in clumps of 25. They start taking orders in early February, so if you are interested, go online and order right away, as their order book fills up fast. <https://www.southstlouisswcd.org/annual-tree-and-shrub-sale/>

If any of you have any questions I can help answer, give me a call or shoot me a text at 218-340-1566. If there is enough interest out there, I would be happy to conduct a presentation at the Town Hall sometime this winter.

What's in the Kitchen?

Nicole Chatterson

Out with the old in with the new! Happy New Year! My wishes that your holiday's were merry and bright, and you enjoyed all the amazing foods that come with this time of year. I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and that we hopefully have some snow on the ground at this point. The recipe I'm sharing in this edition was a requested recipe. This is one of my favorite shortbread cookies I bake for the season. One thing to note is that I use a dark chocolate melting wafer, but you may use the chocolate of your choice, like a white or milk, to finish the cookie.

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!

Chocolate Covered Cherry Cookies

Ingredients

- ¾ cups unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon almond extract
- 1 tablespoon maraschino cherry juice
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 16 maraschino cherries, drained and chopped
- Optional 4-8 ounces of chocolate melting wafers and sprinkles



Instructions

1. Using a handheld or stand mixer with a paddle attachment, beat butter on high speed until creamy.
2. Switch mixer to medium speed and add sugar, vanilla, and almond extracts. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl as needed.
3. With mixer running on high, slowly drizzle the cherry juice. Beat for one minute.
4. With mixer off, add flour. Turn mixer on low and slowly beat dough; a very soft dough is formed.
5. Add chopped cherries, beat until the cherries are disbursed in the dough.
6. Press dough down to compact either in mixing bowl or another small bowl. Cover with plastic wrap and chill until firm, at least 4 hours or up to three days. If the cookie dough is not sufficiently chilled, your cookies will spread.
7. Preheat oven to 350°F and line two baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats.
8. Once dough is chilled, shape the dough into balls, approximately a tablespoon in size. Make sure they are nice and smooth. If your cookie dough has become sticky and/or has gotten a little soft after rolling, place the balls of dough back into the refrigerator to firm up. You absolutely DO NOT want soft dough.
9. Bake for 11-12 minutes, or until very lightly browned on the edges. The cookies will puff up and spread slightly. DO NOT over bake. I will often bake for 10 minutes as I like them a little softer. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to cooling rack.
10. Once cookies are cooled melt your chosen chocolate and dip the tops of the cookies.
11. Optional: You may shake some seasonal sprinkles on top of the chocolate before it hardens, if desired.

North Shore Community School Endowment Foundation

As we venture into a new calendar year, think about giving a gift that will go on giving for generations. Invest in your community and make a charitable contribution to the North Shore Community School Endowment Fund

The NSCS Endowment Fund is a special fund that provides money for projects or programs at our school. The fund is managed by the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation, which manages and invests all donations. Each year, the NSCS Endowment Advisory Board awards money from the interest earned on the principal investment to selected school programs or projects. Only the interest earned on the principal is used each year. The donations remain invested for the future. Awards are granted to projects that focus on strengthening our children's education and furthering our mission:

North Shore Community School excels in connecting our student's learning to their natural and social environments in a nurturing community setting.
Here are some examples:



Mr. Dover purchased a maple sap evaporator with funds from the endowment. Collecting maple sap continues to be a long-running tradition at North Shore Community School. However, we used to have the kitchen staff boil it and the students never got to see the whole process. Now, our Environmental Educator is able to boil our own sap and have each class come out to watch. The students get to enjoy the maple syrup on pancakes for a special lunch.



Mrs. Giddings uses funds from the Endowment to invite the Lyric Opera Of the North Opera (LOON Opera) to come visit the North Shore Community School in the spring. They spend a whole day at our school putting on performances for all of the grades. They even have select students from all grades at North Shore participate in the opera! This is a great way to bring the Fine Arts right to our school for the kids to enjoy!

Donations of ANY amount are appreciated!

-----Detach Here and Return-----

Name _____

Donation Amount

Address _____

\$500

\$100

\$50

Other \$ _____

Check here if you prefer to remain anonymous

Please send this form and your tax deductible gift to:

NSCS Endowment Fund

5926 Ryan Road

Duluth MN 55804

(checks payable to NSCS Endowment Fund-leave memo blank)



Duluth Township Information 2024

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,
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

<u>Town Clerk:</u>	Nicole Chatterson	525-5705 (Town Hall)
<u>Deputy Clerk:</u>	Hannah Jurek	525-5705 (Town Hall)
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mel Peulen	525-5705 (Town Hall)
<u>Attorney:</u>	Scott Witty	722-4766 (Office)
<u>Cemetery Sexton:</u>	Molly Tillotson	218-626-7005
<u>Planning Director:</u>	Liz Strohmayer	525-5705 (Message)
<u>Planning Secretary:</u>	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

January 2024

January 2: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm; Fire Business Meeting 7 pm

January 3: Homesteaders 12:30 pm

January 4: Recycling 2-6 pm

January 6: Recycling 8 am-noon

January 9: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm

January 11: Recycling 2-6 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm

January 13: Recycling 8 am-noon

January 16: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7 pm

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

January 18: Recycling 2-6 pm

January 20: Recycling 8 am-noon

January 23: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm

January 25: Recycling 2-6 pm; Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 pm

January 27: Recycling 8 am-noon

January 30: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm

February 2024

February 1: Recycling 2-6 pm

February 3: Recycling 8 am-noon

February 6: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm; Fire Business Meeting 7 pm

February 7: Homesteaders 12:30 pm

February 8: Recycling 2-6 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm

February 10: Recycling 8 am-noon

February 13: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm

February 15: Recycling 2-6 pm

February 17: Recycling 8 am-noon

February 20: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7:30 pm

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

February 22: Recycling 2-6 pm; Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 pm

February 24: Recycling 8 am-noon

February 27: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm

February 29: Recycling 2-6 pm

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

January 2024

1165 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 and mailed locally by ProPrint.

Inside This Issue

- Homesteaders
- Police Report
- Alden Township News
- NSCS News
- Voting Information



Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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 Township's e-newsletter. Please see page 6 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.

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.

