

Duluth Township Newsletter

January 2026

Township website: www.duluthtownship.org



What's Coming Up.....

- ◆ Town Board Minutes p. 3
- ◆ Book Club p. 4
- ◆ What's in the Kitchen? p. 5
- ◆ North Shore Community School News p. 8
- ◆ Township Election Info p. 9



2026 Clifton Fire
Department
calendars are here!

Stop by the Duluth
Town Hall during office and/or recycling
hours to get your calendar!

Spread the word!

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.

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



Homesteaders

Dorothy Aho

January 7, 2026 Wednesday, 12:30 pm,
Town Hall. New Year's Celebration with potluck.

February 4, 2026: Wednesday 12:30 pm,
Town Hall. Sandwiches, salads & bars.
To be announced.

March 4, 2026: Wednesday 12:30 pm,
Town Hall. Potluck with cake and ice cream to
celebrate all our years together.

Everyone is welcome!

Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue

Dorothy Aho, Charlene Brown, Nicole Chatterson, Bob Engelson, Shelly Pierson Evans, Mark Haselow, Beth Mullan, Sherry Rovig, and Carol Surine



Fire Department

Bob Engelson, Chief
Sherry Rovig, Secretary

Our department responded to over 140 calls by December 15. It has been a full year for many reasons with special trainings, major wildfires, structure fires, significant donations and grants, Firewise events, new (to us) vehicles, and the retirement of one of our longest active members.

Most residents in our community have known Ann Cox as the Township clerk for many years. She also previously served on the St. Louis County Rescue Squad and joined Clifton as an emergency medical responder in 1994. Her knowledge and connections in the community were an invaluable part of her service. She often knew who to contact to help a resident in an emergency – whether it was to take care of children, pets or plants while you were indisposed or to follow a patient to the hospital. Ann’s compassion extended beyond medical intervention. She also served in various leadership roles as secretary and then treasurer of the department. It’s an understatement to say we counted on her and she will be missed. We wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement.

Please contact us If you are interested in joining our department. You can reach us via email at cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com or call our chief, Bob Engelson, at (218)341-0707

We still offer free Firewise assessments and smoke alarms. Please use the application to contact us for either of these services.

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, you can sign up for our volunteers to do the installation.** (We do not provide them for the homeowner to install, per Red Cross direction and there is also an educational component in the visit)

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.



Police Department

Mark Haselow, Chief
Paul Johnson, Officer

For medical & police emergencies, call 911.

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

www.duluthtownship.org

Police Events:

October and November 2025 Incident Summary Report: Overview

This report highlights key incidents and activities handled by law enforcement and emergency services over the past months.

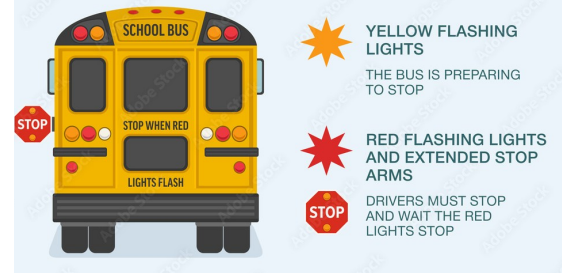
The Police Department responded to a total of 9 attempts to locate careless drivers, 13 medical emergencies, and 3 animal complaints. Officers handled 2 property damage accidents, 2 public assists, and 2 burglar alarms, along with 9 civil process services. There were 4 suspicious vehicle complaints, 3 fraud complaints, and 3 unknown trouble or 911 disconnect calls, as well as 3 juvenile trouble incidents and 2 assists to other agencies. Safety-related responses included 4 hazard checks, 5 fire alarms, and 7 traffic-related warnings or citations. The department investigated 1 personal injury accident, 1 mental health crisis, and 1 damage-to-property complaint, and provided 1 motorist assist. Seasonal activity was reflected in 30 vacation home or business checks and 10 car-versus-deer crashes. No incidents were reported for vehicle theft, child neglect, theft complaints, warrant arrests, neighbor trouble, or extra patrol requests during this period.

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:

duluthwppolice@duluthtownship.org.

Note: If you need/want/expect a police squad to respond immediately, call **911**. Other than 911, the quickest way to get a response from the Township Police Department is to leave a message on our squad phone (218-393-8407).

SCHOOL BUS LIGHTS



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



Planning Commission members: Ken Peterson (Vice-Chair), Justin Osadjan (Chair), Nate Nesgoda, Andrew Aho, Tony Mancuso, and Dave Meyer. (not pictured, Kit Grayson)



Town Board Supervisors: Saprina Matheny, Jim Ward, Rolf Carlson (Chair), Stacia Grayson, and ArMand Nelson (Vice-Chair).

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

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

October 23, 2025 Planning Commission Meeting. Commission members present: Justin Osadjan, Ken Peterson, Tony Mancuso, Andrew Aho, and Kit Grayson. Also present: Liz Strohmayer, Planning Director; Beth Mullan, Planning Secretary; and Laura Herzog, incoming Planning Secretary.

A hearing was held for variances on a property on Ryan Road. The requested variances were from the rear and side yard setbacks to relocate an existing garage and from the rear yard setback for a new garage. The lot is an irregular shape that makes it difficult to place structures without encroaching on the required setbacks. The property owners wanted to move the current garage to another location on the property and place a new larger garage with guest quarters in that spot. The property slopes in such a way that it would be difficult to place the buildings elsewhere on the site. The existing septic system has the capacity for the guest quarters. Two neighboring property owners were present who spoke in support of the project. The variances were approved.

The Commission reviewed changes to the Ordinance that had been approved at previous meetings for recommendation to the Board. The only change resulting from this review was to add North Shore Drive to the list of roads that Commercial Uses and Public/Semi-Public Uses were allowed on.

There was a discussion of cutting trees on the shore for a view of Lake Superior. There was no specific direction regarding such cutting in the Congdon land trust documents that the Town has. Beth read from a 2001 document from the City of Duluth that stated that their intent at that time was to stop the activity of cutting down trees. It was decided to table the discussion to the next meeting.

It was decided to add a definition for Shore Impact Zone to the Ordinance using language from the NSMB 2016 plan: "The shore impact zone is defined as the area within 50 feet of the vegetation line."

Liz reported that the Township prevailed in the lawsuit regarding stormwater violations and an illegal high-frequency short-term rental on a property on Stoney Point. The judgment gives the property owner 30 days to comply.

There was a discussion about proposing that the Town adopt a policy regarding signing NDAs. The subject will be brought up with the Board.

A Planning Commission meeting was set for December 4 to replace the meetings that would fall on Thanksgiving and Christmas of this year.

December 4, 2025 Planning Commission Meeting. Commission members present: Justin Osadjan, Nate Nesgoda, Ken Peterson, Dave Meyer, Andrew Aho, and Kit Grayson. Also present: Liz Strohmayer, Planning Director; Laura Herzog, Planning Secretary; and Beth Mullan, Planning Secretary Assistant; and ArMand Nelson, Town Board liaison to the Planning Commission.

The Commission reviewed Table 5.3, Zone District Land Use Matrix, from the Ordinance for errors and currentness. There was a discussion about Commercial Use in zone districts SC-1A and SC-1B. With allowing North Shore Drive as an access road, and given the definitions of these zones, it was agreed that Commercial Use should be PS (permitted with performance standards) in SC-1A and SC-1B.

It was agreed to allow Commercial, Waterfront as a conditional use under SC-1A and SC-1B. It was agreed to add Commercial/Industrial Greenhouses as a conditional use in SC-1B and LIM-1. Home Based Business was added as allowed with a conditional use in SSUR-1. Recycling Centers were changed to be allowed with a conditional use in all zone districts. Accessory Structure 2000 sq ft or more was changed to be allowed with a conditional

(continued on page 4)

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 9, 2025, Town Board Meeting: The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 p.m. Supervisors Rolf Carlson, ArMand Nelson, Stacia Grayson, Saprina Matheny, and Jim Ward were present. Police Chief Mark Haselow, Treasurer Melinda Peulen, Deputy Clerk Hannah Jurek, and Clerk Nicole Chatterson were also present. **Minutes Approval:** ArMand moved to approve the September regular meeting minutes and the Snow Bid minutes. Saprina seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Agenda Approval:** Added under Supervisor Reports: St. Louis County Commissioners and November Board Meeting. With additions, the agenda was approved as written. **Finances:** The Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$699,313.52, deposits of \$19,752.62, and expenses of \$40,925.44 leaving an ending balance of \$578,140.70. The financial statement and payroll were approved.

Department Reports:

Police: Squad vehicles are being swapped; the new squad will be ready next week. Supervisors reviewed the Bill of Sale for the old squad being sold to Grand Lake Township. **Resolution 10092025 – Sale of Police Squad to Grand Lake Township** ArMand moved to approve the resolution. Saprina seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Fire: Records Request:** The Fire Department received a records request. Nicole contacted Jesse at Hanft Fride for legal guidance. Saprina will follow up.

Firefighter Pay: Jesse anticipates a draft memo next month. He noted that proposed changes may be feasible if kept under a 20% increase. Questions raised: Will firefighter payments be issued via 1099? What is the dollar amount associated with a 20% increase? Saprina will continue researching.

Planning and Zoning: Liz was unable to attend due to EMR training but submitted a written report: Zurcher lawsuit is in progress; response and rebuttal have been completed. Two variance hearings next month for proposed garages encroaching side/rear setbacks. Ordinance non-compliance is increasing as residents rush before winter. Stupnick withdrew their building request to develop a more complete plan aligned with DNR and Commission feedback; expected to return next year.

Legal: Update on Congdon Trust: City attorney has been contacted twice and is expected to follow up soon.

Roads: Jim will contact St. Louis County to determine whether they can plow the Township lot. Plowing may be delayed until County roads are cleared, possibly leaving the lot unplowed during recycling and office hours. Roger suggested proceeding with the County or contacting Keith Darsow. JBL may assist if timing expectations are relaxed. Fall grading will begin soon.

Town Hall: Stacia will follow up with Carlson regarding the water heater issue and new sump pump installation.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): ArMand moved to spend \$9,244.24 from ARPA funds toward the remaining balance for the emergency vehicle. Stacia seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Materials Management: Ongoing issues with dumpster locks. Roger requested a meeting with WLSSD for shed keepers. Grant funds have finally been received.

Cemetery: Several plots have recently been purchased.

Communications: Work continues on the newsletter. Hannah has not received a response from Joe at AnySite. Saprina recommends exploring alternative website options.

Supervisor Report: St. Louis County Commissioners will meet at the Town Hall on October 28, 2025; ArMand will attend. Saprina contacted Mr. Stolp regarding required documentation for funding requests. ArMand will not be attending the November Board Meeting.

(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

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 Meeting Minutes

- continued from page 3 -

use in SSUR-1 to correct an earlier omission. Saunas in RR-1 was corrected to permitted with performance standards from P.

The Overlay columns of the table will be reviewed at a subsequent meeting following further research.

Under Director's Report, the Town has submitted a petition to the State to be removed from the MS-4 stormwater program. Changes in the way MS-4 areas are defined means that the Township may not be required to be a part of the program. The Town would still have a stormwater ordinance that reflects MS-4 requirements but would no longer have to meet reporting requirements.

Land Use Permits Are Required in the Township

Even though we're not yet half way through winter, spring will be here in no time. Spring is building season and Planning & Zoning staff would like to remind anyone considering construction that permits are required in the Township for construction of dwellings, accessory structures, decks, and driveways, and for land disturbance over an area of 5,000 sq ft or more. Permits must be acquired before commencing construction. Failure to secure an approved permit prior to construction will result in a penalty of 4 times the original permit fee. Permit applications can be found on the Town website, www.duluthtownship.org, or picked up at the Town Hall during business hours. Additional information regarding permits can be found in the Town of Duluth Zoning Ordinance No. 6. Land disturbance information can be found in the Stormwater, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance. Both of these documents are available on the Town website. If you still have questions, please call the Clerk's office at 525-5705 during business hours.

French River Book Club

Carol Surine

The Christmas Party for the French River Readers has been postponed until 1 pm January 15. It will be in the Fireside Room of French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Rd. Bring an appetizer - sweet or savory - as well as some small gifts for the dice game. Our book for December was The Twelve Dogs of Christmas by Susan Wiggs, and we may talk about the book for awhile, but we'll mainly have fun and food! And bring some good ideas for books for next year!

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

Summary of Town Board Meeting Minutes

- continued from page 3 -

Personnel: Saprina is working with the Minnesota Association of Townships regarding the new Paid Leave Program. Nicole will attend an informational session hosted by Minnesota Paid Leave and the Duluth Area Chamber on October 24, 2025. Before January, the Township must: Designate a Paid Leave Administrator (Nicole), develop and adopt Paid Leave policies, further guidance is expected after the session.

Old Business: A letter was received from Don McTavish stating he will be unable to attend the Harvest Dinner to receive the Community Service Award due to his daughter's surgery. The Board discussed alternatives and decided to proceed with the Saturday presentation as planned.

New Business: The Clerk's Office received an email from Kit Sitter reporting that equipment had been dumped into Big Sucker Creek near McQuade Road and East Pioneer Road. Nicole contacted the DNR, who recovered a snow-blower from the creek. Kelly Gonsorowski at St. Louis County was contacted for disposal arrangements.

November 12, 2026. Town Board Meeting: The regular meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. All supervisors were present.

Minutes Approval: The October regular meeting minutes were approved.

Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved with additions.

Finances: The Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$700,981.18, deposits of \$3,152.17, expenses totaling \$79,326.75, and an ending balance of \$624,806.60. The financial statement, payroll, and claims were approved.

Public Comment: No public comments were made.

Department Reports:

Police: The new squad car is now on patrol. The former squad was purchased by the Grand Lake Township Fire Department. **Fire:** State Farm grant funds are being used to build a new brush/wildland truck. The department is awaiting word on a FEMA grant. A structure fire at the north end of the McQuade property resulted in a total loss. **Planning and Zoning:** Several non-compliance issues remain under review. The Township prevailed in the Zurcher lawsuit. A Shiloh Road compliance issue is being addressed with the MPCA. Due to legislative changes, the Township no longer qualifies for the MS4 program and has submitted a withdrawal request. The Board accepted the resignation of the Planning Secretary, appointed her as Planning Secretary Assistant, and approved retaining her for six months at half salary during completion of the ordinance update. **Legal:** No updates.

Roads: All summer maintenance and grading is complete. Class 5 gravel was placed on Shonberg Road. Snow removal contracts were finalized, including approval of JBL for Mace and Englund Roads for the 2025-2026 season.

Town Hall: The Board authorized applying for the Minnesota Solar on Public Buildings Grant, which could fund solar installations at the Town Hall and Fire Hall #1. A supervisor was authorized to work with Wolf Track Energy on the application. **ARPA Fund:** All ARPA funds have been fully spent. **Materials Management:** Duluth Township continues to lead all collection sites in film recycling volume. **Cemetery:** Updated information was requested from the resident proposing a columbarium project. **Communications:** Work continues on the Township's transition to a .gov website.

Supervisor Reports:

The St. Louis County Commissioners held a meeting at the Town Hall. Discussions continued regarding potential firefighter pay and related agreements. The City inquired about transferring Congdon Trust land within the Township. Supervisor packets will be distributed 24 hours in advance of meetings.

Personnel: The Township will begin collecting the required Paid Leave payroll tax on January 1, 2026. **Old Business:** A response letter was sent regarding a Fire Department data request. **New Business:** Resolution 11132025 electing managers to the DNSSD Board of Managers was approved unanimously.

What's in the Kitchen?

Nicole Chatterson

The start of 2026 is the perfect time to gather, cheer, and share good food. To kick off the new year, I'm sharing a few game day appetizers that are easy to make, easy to serve, and perfect for watching the big game with family and friends. These dishes are also great for potlucks any time of year, as they can be made ahead of time.

This month's featured recipes include Rotel sausage dip, buffalo chicken dip, and cowboy caviar—all crowd favorites that never disappoint.

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!

Rotel Dip

Ingredients

- 1 pound of sausage browned and drained.
- 1 pack of cream cheese (preferred) or 16 ounces of Velveeta
- 1 can Rotel

Instructions

1. Brown sausage and drain.
2. Add cream cheese (or Velveeta) and Rotel. Cook until melted and well combined. Mixture may also be transferred to a slow cooker to keep warm.
3. Serve with your favorite chips and crackers.

Make-Ahead Tip: Brown the sausage up to 2 days in advance and store it in the refrigerator. When ready to serve, combine all ingredients and reheat slowly on the stove or in a crock pot until warm.

Storage & Leftovers: Store leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 3–4 days. Reheat gently on the stovetop or in a slow cooker, stirring occasionally. Add a splash of milk if needed to loosen the dip.

Buffalo Chicken Dip

Ingredients

- 2 cups cooked, shredded chicken (can chicken works well with this recipe)
- 1 (8 oz) block cream cheese
- ½ cup ranch or blue cheese dressing
- ½ cup buffalo sauce
- 1 cup shredded cheddar or mozzarella

Instructions

1. Add everything to slow cooker.
2. Cook on LOW 2–3 hours, stirring occasionally, until smooth.
3. Serve with tortilla chips, celery, or crackers.

Make-Ahead Tip: This dip can be fully prepared 1–2 days ahead and stored in the refrigerator. Reheat in the slow cooker or oven, stirring occasionally, until warmed through.

Storage & Leftovers: Refrigerate leftovers in a sealed container for up to 3 days. Reheat slowly to prevent separation, stirring well. This dip is not recommended for freezing.

Cowboy Caviar

Ingredients

- 1 (15-oz) can black beans drained and rinsed
- 1 (15-oz) can black eyed peas drained and rinsed (or pint beans)
- 1 ½ cups corn fresh, frozen, or canned corn*
- 1 red bell pepper chopped (or half of a red and half another color)
- ¾ cup red onion diced
- 1 jalapeno seeded and finely chopped
- ¼ cup fresh cilantro chopped

For the Dressing:

- ¼ cup olive oil or avocado oil
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar or fresh lime juice (or a combination of the two)
- 1 small garlic clove minced
- ½ tsp sea salt or to taste
- ¼ tsp black pepper or to taste

Instructions

1. Open the cans of black beans and black eye peas (or Pinto) and drain them into a colander. Rinse well with cool water and toss a few times to eliminate any excess water.
2. Transfer the black eyed peas (or Pinto) and black beans to a large bowl along with the corn, chopped bell pepper, onion, jalapeno, and cilantro.
3. In a small bowl, stir together the ingredients for the dressing until well combined. Pour the dressing over the cowboy caviar and toss everything together until it is well coated in dressing.
4. Serve with tortilla or corn chips for dipping or serve cowboy caviar as a condiment, side salad, or side dish.

Make-Ahead Tip: Cowboy caviar tastes even better after chilling. Prepare up to 24 hours in advance, cover, and refrigerate. Stir before serving to redistribute the dressing.

Storage & Leftovers: Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 4 days. Drain off excess liquid if needed before serving leftovers.

PAINTING EVENT

FEBRUARY 2 AT FRENCH RIVER LUTHERAN



If you missed her previous class at French River Lutheran Church, here's another opportunity to play with color and warmth in the dead of winter! Create your own masterpiece in a relaxed and fun group setting with step-by-step instruction from Carly, artist/owner of Northern Exposure Art. All materials to paint a 16x20 canvas will be provided and no experience is necessary! Light refreshments will be available to enjoy while you paint.

Date: February 2, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Address: 5310 Ryan Rd, Duluth, MN 55804 – French River Lutheran Church

***Sign up by scanning the QR code. Event must meet a minimum of 10 participants. Carly will notify you should we not meet this requirement. Please arrive no later than 5 minutes before class.**

For more information about Northern Exposure Art, visit <https://northernexposureart.com/>

ALSO AT FRENCH RIVER LUTHERAN: All levels welcome; come when you can!

CRIBBAGE * Wednesdays, 10:00 AM-Noon
MAH JONGG * Fridays, 10:00 AM, starts Jan. 9

BOOK EXCHANGE UPDATE



"Fill your house with books, in all the crannies and all the nooks."

— Dr. Seuss

Have you stopped in at the Town Hall to see the many novels waiting for you to enjoy? Take as

many as you want and leave books for your neighbors. We only offer fiction, but the variety is amazing!

Thanks to community donations, our shelves are overflowing in the Little Free Library located in the community room at our Town Hall. Feel free to explore and find your next read during Clerk's Office and recycling hours.

Thank you, and happy reading!

Paid Advertisement





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



January 2026:

North Shore Community School News

Shelly Pierson Evans, Executive Director

Recommitment and New Enrollment: It is hard to believe we are already planning for the 2026-2027 school year! North Shore Community School is a free, chartered public school serving families in Duluth Township, as well as Two Harbors and Duluth. Enrollment information is available on our website at: <https://northshorecommunityschool.org/enrollment-forms/>

Key NSCS Enrollment Information:

- Open to all Minnesota residents, admission is free. **Kindergarten:** Age 5 by September 1, **First Grade:** Age 6 by September 1

Enrollment Priority: Preference is given in the following order for applications received by March 1:

1. Students living within a **five-mile radius** of the school
2. **Siblings or foster siblings** of currently enrolled students
3. **Children of NSCS employees** (working 480+ hours per school year)

How to Apply:

- Submit an **enrollment application by March 1** to be included in the lottery
- If applications exceed capacity, a **random lottery** is held on the **second Tuesday of March**
- Remaining applicants are placed on a **waiting list**
- Families are notified after the lottery and **do not need to be present** at the lottery

NSCS Preschool is accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year. We offer Preschool for 4-5 year olds with full and half day options. More information can be found on the school website:

<https://northshorecommunityschool.org/play-and-learn/>

Wondering how North Shore is doing? You can access our authorizer's annual evaluations here:

<https://northshorecommunityschool.org/key-documents/> and select [Authorizer: Osprey Wilds Key Documents & Evaluations](#)

New Strategic Plan: With our new strategic plan, grade levels will begin the process of identifying community partnerships aligned with their grade level focus. We will be sharing more about partnerships and ways the community can be involved through this year. You can also view our current Strategic Plan on our website at:

<https://northshorecommunityschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Strategic-Plan-2024-2027.pdf>

NSCS School Board Opening: One Parent and One Community Member

The NSCS Board Election Committee is seeking one parent and one community member to run for the NSCS School Board in the April 27, 2026 election. Board members attend monthly meetings (held on the 4th Monday at 5:00 pm), review materials in advance, and serve on one board committee. Elected members must complete required training prior to beginning a three-year term.

Eligibility for the Two Open Positions: Parent or guardian candidates must have a student currently enrolled at NSCS. Community member candidates must have no affiliation with the school and may not be a parent or guardian of a student, a relative of a student, or a spouse of an NSCS employee.

If you are interested in becoming a parent or community candidate—or would like to suggest a community member—please contact Darcie Rolfe at 525-0663 ext. 142 or drolfe@nscsk6.org, or Heather Hefter at hhefter@nscsk6.org by February 23, 2026 at 3:00 pm

Thank you for considering this important leadership opportunity!

New Year's Word Search

J A N U A R Y F R I E N A C E
 F R I E N D S Y A S R I L A H
 N E Y S E R T I E M O W B L C
 B S I L Y F A E N E I Y A E O
 N O C R N V N V E Y D L B N U
 A L D C L O C K L T I E Y D N
 R U V E W M I D N I G H T A T
 V T O A S T W S N O L Y I R D
 G I A N I N G S E V E U A R O
 C O N F E T T I T M I N G S W
 R N O L C E L E B R A T I O N
 A J A N U E L V E I M K E R A
 Y P A R T Y H A A P Y S E V W
 N E W Y E A R C L O K S O R Y
 S H A P P Y E B A L L R E S O

BABY	FAMILY	RESOLUTION
BALL	FRIENDS	TOAST
CALENDAR	HAPPY	
CELEBRATION	JANUARY	
CLOCK	MIDNIGHT	
CONFETTI	NEW YEAR	
COUNTDOWN	NOISEMAKER	
EVE	PARTY	



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Reminder: Township Elections – March 10, 2026

Don't forget to come out and vote in the Township Elections on March 10, 2026!

Polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the Town Hall.

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

Make your voice heard – vote!

Absentee voting is February 8, 2026– March 9, 2026



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 2 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, December 30, 2025, to 5:00 pm January 13, 2026. The Office will be closed Wednesday, December 31, 2025—Friday, January 2, 2026 in observance of New Year's Day and Clerk out of town.

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 December 30, 2025, to January 13, 2026. A filing fee of \$2.00 will be accepted at this time.

Filing will close on January 13, 2026, at 5:00 pm. The Town Clerk's office will be open Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 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:

2 Supervisor Positions for 3-year terms.

Terms ending: Rolf Carlson (seat 3) and ArMand Nelson (seat 5)

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.



CONDO & HOME ADVISORS LLC

Properties of Distinction
Property Management • Sales & Leasing

Are you looking for a home to rent?
Do you have a home to rent?
We can help! 30 years of excellent service.

SUSIE LANNON
Broker/Owner

OFFICE: 218-720-3987
CELL: 218-340-1284
condoandhomeadvisors@gmail.com
condoandhomeadvisors.com

Paid Advertisement

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



food
TWO HARBORS AREA
shelf

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.

Paid Advertisement

WAGGIN' Tails
Boarding Kennels
Long & short term boarding



Reservations Required
218-525-4842
7002 App Rd.
Two Harbors



SolFed Farm

Support local food production and get to know where your food is grown! Seasonal farm stand. For more information check out our website or follow us on Facebook.

www.solfedfarm.com

solfedfarm@gmail.com

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 February 12, 2026. Call 525-5705 or email deputyclerkduluthtpw@gmail.com.

Duane Madison

218-525-5645

North Shore Historian-Genealogist
revmadison@lakeconnections.net

All absolute truths have an ambiguous margin of error.



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. 10 am-4 pm,
Thurs. 9 am-5 pm, Fri. 9 am-12 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

ArMand Nelson (2023-2026) (612) 247-7197 Vice-Chair
Primary contact: Planning
Alternate: Intergovernmental Relations, Business Mgt, Roads/
Invasive Weeds, Materials Mgt, Public Safety

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

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

Saprina Matheny (2024-2027) (715) 296-9429
Primary contact: Business Mgt, CC Liaison/NSCS Foundation Board
Alternate: Personnel, Intergovernmental Relations, North Shore Mgt
Board, Communications

<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>	Laura Herzog	525-5705 (Message)

Planning Commission: **Dave Meyer, Justin Osadjan, Tony Mancuso, Nathan Nesgoda, Ken Peterson, Andrew Aho, and Kit Grayson**

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 Ken Peterson,
Secretary Sherry Rovig
Email: cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com

Emergency Operations Department: **ArMand Nelson**

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

Township Historian: **Duane Madison**

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 2026

January 3: Recycling 8 am-noon

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

January 7: Homesteaders 12:30 pm

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

January 10: Recycling 8 am-noon

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

January 15: Recycling 2-6 pm Recycling

January 17: Recycling 8 am-noon

January 20: 7-11 am, 2-6 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7 pm

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

January 22: Recycling 2-6 pm, Planning Commission meeting 6:30 pm

January 24: Recycling 8 am-noon

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

January 29: Recycling 2-6 pm

January 31: Recycling 8 am-noon

February 2026

February 3: Recycling 7-11 am, Recycling 2-6 pm; Fire Business Meeting 7 pm

February 4: Homesteaders 12:30 pm

February 5: Recycling 2-6 pm

February 7: Recycling 8 am-noon

February 10: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm

February 12: Recycling 2-6 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm

February 14: Recycling 8 am-noon

February 17: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7

February 18: D/NSSD Volunteer Board Meeting at French River
Lutheran Church 7 am

February 19: Recycling 2-6 pm

February 21: Recycling 8 am-noon

February 24: Recycling 7-11 am 2-6 pm

February 26: Recycling 2-6 pm, Planning Commission meeting 6:30 pm

February 28: Recycling 8 am-noon

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

January 2026

1100 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
- Calendar
- Recycling Winter Hours



Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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

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

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 and other 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.

Palmers Lakeview Cemetery: Contact Molly Tillotson, Cemetery Sexton, at 218-626-7005 or the Town Clerk for more information.

