

# Duluth Township Newsletter

March 2024

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

## Election Edition

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

- ◆ Town Board Minutes p. 3
- ◆ Annual Town Budget p. 6
- ◆ Board of Appeal Process p. 6
- ◆ Alden News p. 8
- ◆ What's in the Kitchen? p. 10
- ◆ Annual Town Meeting Information p.12

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 the Town Hall.

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



Did you know you can preregister to vote? If you are not registered to vote in Duluth Township, you can visit the Secretary of State website for more information:

<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.

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

### 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

March 6, 2024: Wednesday, 12:30 pm  
Our annual anniversary celebration. It will be potluck.

April 3, 2024: Wednesday, 12:30 pm  
We are hoping to hear from the people that were coming to talk to us about Spruce Bud Worms and a grant. Sandwiches, salads, and bars.

May 1, 2024: Wednesday, 12:30 pm  
The talented Glen Laspi on his acoustic guitar. Sandwiches, salads, and bars.

**Everyone is welcome!**

*Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue*

Dorothy Aho, JoVanna Balquier, Nicole Chatterson, Bob Engelson, Mark Haselow, Helene Hedlund, 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

Our department was busy and productive in 2023. We were called out for emergencies 98 times and continued our chipper days, Red Cross smoke alarm installations, site visits, upkeep of equipment and vehicles, key box installations, and training. We applied for and received grants for equipment, contractors for brush chipping, and training opportunities. We purchased and outfitted a used rescue truck to replace an older vehicle and are pursuing options for replacement of T1, a non-NFPA compliant tender, for a pumper-tender that will better suit our needs. Members logged approximately 810 hours of training.

In the first month of 2024, we were called out 15 times for emergencies. We have two members taking Emergency Medical Responder training, one member taking FF 1 and 2, and two members taking fire instructor training. We are working with the St. Louis County Firewise coordinator to plan another chipper day this year (stay tuned for an announcement of dates.) We will continue to provide free smoke alarms to residents in need, as well as Firewise assessments (see application below).

We were also able to clear the hurdles and are now officially a Firewise USA Community. We have been working with Gloria Erickson, the County Firewise coordinator and Laura Murphy, our DNR Firewise coordinator. With this designation, we are eligible to apply for grants. The program helps us organize and plan activities that help with wildfire and home ignition risk reduction. We are looking for residents of Duluth or Alden Township who are interested in assisting with our Firewise committee in developing a three-year action plan; you can email us at [cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com](mailto:cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com) or call and leave a message stating your interest and contact information on (218) 525-9240.

Our spring wildfire season is likely to be early this year due to our dry winter. Please check the DNR website for updates on burning restrictions and conditions.

**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 yourself, you can sign up to have our volunteers 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](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 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](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

**Police Events:**

For the months of December 2023 and January 2024, there were 101 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 26 requests for checks on homes or businesses, 11 civil processes, and 9 medical emergencies. There were 6 requests for assisting other agencies. There were 4 reports of each of the following: attempting to locate careless drivers, animal complaints, property damage accidents, and traffic related warnings/citations. There were 3 reports of each of the following: public assists, health/welfare checks, unknown trouble complaints, disturbance complaints, and car vs. deer crashes. There were 2 reports of each of the following: burglar alarms, garbage dumping complaints, check hazards, juvenile troubles, fire alarms, and personal injury accidents. And finally there was 1 report of each of the following: child neglect complaint, suspicious vehicle complaint, fraud complaint, suspicious activity, warrant arrest, and theft complaint.

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](mailto: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).

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](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)

### There was no December 2023 Planning Commission Meeting.

#### January 25, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting:

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

There may be a variance hearing on next month's schedule for an addition larger than 25% to a nonconforming structure.

Kathy Zweber was introduced as the incoming Planning Secretary / Assistant. See her introduction below.

The property owner on North Shore Dr has removed both illegal storage buildings. He has since applied for and gotten a permit for stairs down to the shore. In general, stairs are preferred over a path as there is less disruption to the land.

There have been continuing enforcement actions, primarily for property owners who built without getting the appropriate permits. There was a discussion about the possibility of submitting outstanding permit fees to St Louis County for inclusion on the violator's property tax bill.

### Introducing Kathy Zweber, New Planning & Zoning Secretary / Assistant

Planning would like to welcome our new Secretary / Planning Assistant, Kathy Zweber. Kathy's interest in land use and planning was sparked by her involvement in zoning issues from her time as a homeowner in the Twin Cities. In the mid 2000s, she realized her dream of moving to a rural area and relocated to Duluth Township where she and her partner live on a farm with their pets and horses. Kathy runs a small-home-based non-profit that provides training, housing and health services for horses from rescues and sanctuaries that require extra care and attention. She also teaches the foundations of riding and handling, with a focus on mentoring youths through Mentor North and scouting organizations. Her goal is to increase accessibility and affordability of equine activities, especially for youths.

Kathy's urban background and her interests in agribusiness bring a rounded perspective to the Town's Planning team.

**December 14, 2023, Town Board Meeting:** In attendance: Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Penny Morton, Jim Ward, Stacia Grayson, and ArMand Nelson.

**Reports:** Treasurer: Beginning balance \$675,645.88, deposits \$1,181.90, expenses \$66,339.99, ending balance of \$610,487.79. All claims were approved for payment, and the payroll net account distribution and claims list for approval were signed. Public Comment: Paul and Gail Trygstad asked to speak to the Board in regards to using Olson Road to gain access to their property. Bob Sundstrom was also in the audience helping the Board find more bids for the bathrooms. Police: The internet was down for the Department. With help from the Clerk's office it was fixed. There is a home in the Township with a lot of "junk." Mark will have a talk with the landowner. Fire: There was a brush fire on Old North Shore Drive on state land. Clifton responded and reached out to the DNR. The department is working on a FEMA grant to replace the non-compliant truck. Planning: Liz was unable to attend but forwarded an email from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding the MS4 program. In the email she asked the Board who would be involved in the MS4 reporting, stating that historically the Planning Department has been available to provide information, but has not done the reporting part. She also stated that, although someone on staff has to be trained to inspect stormwater plans, it was not included in the duties of Director, nor was she told the Planning Department would be taking on this role. Penny thought that with Liz taking the training, she would take over the role of reporting, and that it was part of the job. She asked Hannah to look back in past minutes to see if that was in fact the case. Hannah will take a look and email her findings to the Town Board. Roads: Torgeson Road Update: We're waiting on the attorney. Nothing major will get done this year. Fix the end and add more gravel to avoid washout. There's fiber line on one side and powerlines on the other, so it's a delicate maneuver. Unfortunately the spruce will have to go. Rodda will do another touch up on the West Wild-wood Road where the washout happened in September. Town Hall: Resolution 10222023: Penny moved to approve Polling Place Resolution 10222023. Seconded by ArMand. Motion passed. ARPA: Stacia received a quote from Seth Lozano to compare with JRS. She hasn't heard back from Litman, but with Bob Sundstrom's help she is hoping to get a third quote. Between Stacia and ArMand, they have been working on getting an installation date for the windows. Communications: Joe from AnySite provided a quote for website services. The Board was able to compare the two quotes between AnySite and Faster Solutions. Penny made a motion to stick with AnySite for the website rebuild going forward. Seconded by ArMand. Motion passed unanimously.

**January 11, 2024, Town Board Meeting:** In attendance: Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Penny Morton, Stacia Grayson, and ArMand Nelson. Supervisor Ward was absent. **Reports:** Treasurer: Beginning balance \$610,487.79, deposits \$184,073.96, expenses \$24,617.43, ending balance of \$769,944.32. All claims were approved for payment, and the payroll net account distribution and claims list for approval were signed. Police: Jim asked Mark to work with the resident on East Shilhon as their junk is spilling onto the road. Fire: There was a mysterious loud boom in the Palmer Court Neighborhood. The department responded but did not find a source. Otherwise, it has been quiet. Planning: There are some interesting cases that we are working on, including dealing with a number of violations.

(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



## American Red Cross Blood Drive at French River Lutheran Church

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024; 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**Place:** French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road, Duluth, MN, 55804

All members of the Duluth Township community are welcome and encouraged to donate blood at this blood drive hosted by the French River Lutheran Church Outreach Committee.

There's no substitute for blood! When a patient receives blood, we know it was given in advance by a generous donor. The need is great throughout the U.S. and especially in the Northland. Who knows? One of our Duluth Township community members may be the next person needing it. Please consider helping out by donating blood this spring.

Appointments are highly encouraged and may be made in one of these ways:

- Going to RedCrossBlood.org and searching in the 55804 zip code for the French River Lutheran Church blood drive. First time donors will need to create a profile with a username and password (if you don't already have one from donating previously).
- Downloading the Blood Donor App by searching "Red Cross Blood" on the App Store<sup>SM</sup> or Google Play<sup>TM</sup> store.
- Contacting Beth Luikart (call 218-525-1596, or e-mail her at bluikart@outlook.com).

Red Cross employees have implemented precautions to ensure blood drives and donation centers are safe for donors and staff. Current COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed.

Further information about the blood donation process can be found online at RedCrossBlood.org.

## Summary of Town Board Meeting Minutes

- continued from page 3 -

**Roads:** Residents from the Torgeson Road were in attendance. They stated that the end of Torgeson Road is not being plowed. They also stated that gravel was to be added and that had not yet been accomplished. The ditching has not been completed yet either. **Town Hall:** The Clerk recommended that the Town have Plunkett's Pest Control visit the Town Hall for ant control and other pests. Stacia spoke with Litman Construction, and they were interested in placing a bid, this should be available by next month. Motion: ArMand moved to approve the initial expenditure of \$1000.00 for ant control by Plunkett's. Penelope seconded the motion passed unanimously. **American Rescue Plan Act:** Waiting for additional bids on upcoming projects related to the ARPA funds. **Materials Management:** Roger had a lengthy conversation with Lorilee Blais. They are building a new dump on Highway 53. It was noted in the conversation with Lorilee, that we have had an increase in recycled material and discussed why our recycling center has had such an increase. It was determined that we are having a lot of commercial entities in the area bring their cardboard and other recyclables to our center. She will be reaching out to some of the businesses, as they should be paying for a dumpster service as this program was intended for residential use and not commercial. **Personnel:** Motion to hire Planning Secretary Assistant: Penny moved to hire Kathleen Zweber as a planning secretary assistant for a probationary period of six months on an hourly basis up to 15 hours a week. ArMand seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Motion to establish wages: Penny moved that the wages be set at \$16 per hour for the Planning Secretary Assistant. ArMand seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **New Business:** North Shore School Endowment Board: A question was asked is the Town can donate to the fundraiser. It was noted that as a town we are unable to make donations. Motion to Approve List of Election Judges for 2024: ArMand moved to approve the 2024 election judge list. Penelope seconded. The motion passed.

## BOOK EXCHANGE UPDATE



JoVanna Balquier

You can't predict the weather in Minnesota but you can predict you'll feel great after

reading a good book! Come find your next read at the little free library located in the Town Hall. Books for all ages are located in the little library. Donations are always welcome! We kindly ask that they are in good condition and that you refrain from leaving textbooks, old magazines, manuals, etc. Thank you and happy reading!

## French River Book Club

Carol Surine

For March we have selected a Book Club in a Bag offering, A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron. Books should be available by Sunday, February 18th. The bag will be on the ledge to the right of the upper doors of the church. Just sign your name next to the number of the book on the log sheet. If you're unable to get a book, contact Carol Surine (218-525-4426 or [carolsurine@gmail.com](mailto:carolsurine@gmail.com)) and she will make sure you get a copy.

The next meeting will be at 1 PM on March 21st in the Fireside Room of French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road. All are welcome, even if you haven't read the book, but beware there may be spoilers! Our host will be Skipper Sironen.

## Scholarship Opportunity

Minnesota Association of Townships

The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is proud to announce its 2024 Scholarship Program, which will award up to five \$2,000 scholarships to high school juniors. All students currently enrolled in 11th grade and attending a Minnesota public, private, or parochial school, or a home-study program, are eligible to apply for this program. Since its inception in 2001, the MAT Scholarship Program has had over 2,500 submissions and 97 winners.

Applicants should submit a written essay using critical thinking on the topic of promoting awareness of township government by June 1, 2024. Winners will be chosen by an independent panel of judges and will be notified in September 2024. They will also be invited to attend MAT's annual conference in December 2024 in St. Cloud.

The 2024 essay question on promoting township government is, *"Describe ways in which broadband internet access improves the lives of rural residents. What challenges exist in providing broadband internet in rural areas? And what policies should governments at all levels (federal, state, and local) adopt to ensure that regardless of geographic location all Americans have equal access to broadband internet?"*

For more information and application details, please call the MAT offices at 1-800-228-0296 or visit <https://www.mntownships.org/about/scholarship-program>. A letter announcing this program has been sent to high schools, as well as newspapers, statewide. We encourage township officers to also forward this information to high school juniors.

The MAT Scholarship Program has made a real difference for our recipients and has also been an opportunity to learn about township government, which embodies the values of 'grassroots government' where local citizens directly participate. We encourage as many high school juniors as possible to apply, whether they are from rural areas or urban cities.

### 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.

## Duluth Township Annual Overview of Finances

|                             | 2023 Actual  | 2024 Approved | 2025 Proposed |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Township Departments</b> | Expenditures | Expenditures  | Expenditures  |
| <b>Police Department</b>    | \$62,542.36  | \$68,462.99   | \$67,600.00   |
| <b>Fire Department</b>      | \$83,220.39  | \$70,670.00   | \$83,000.00   |
| <b>General Fund</b>         | \$124,027.70 | \$120,565.00  | \$122,405.00  |
| <b>Planning and Zoning</b>  | \$62,876.40  | \$44,746.01   | \$37,000.00   |
| <b>Cemetery</b>             | \$12,202.50  | \$7,500.00    | \$7,500.00    |
| <b>Emergency Operation</b>  | -            | -             | -             |
| <b>Road and Bridge</b>      | \$106,726.11 | \$94,500.00   | \$94,500.00   |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>       | \$451,595.46 | \$426,444.00  | \$412,005.00  |
|                             |              | <b>Levy:</b>  | \$412,005.00  |

### Presidential Nominating Primary (PNP) - March 5, 2024, 7 am—8 pm, 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 the presidential candidate they wish for their party to nominate as the candidate for the November 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 the list of voters who selected that party.

### **Board of Appeal and Equalization**

This year the Duluth Town Board voted to transfer the “Local Board of Appeal and Equalization” process to the County Assessors. The “Local Board of Appeal and Equalization” is the process for property owners in the Township to approach the Board with questions pertaining to their proposed home value. The calculations used are based on the rules set forth by the state legislature.

Previous practice was for property owners to attend a meeting with the Board, with the County assessors in attendance. Property owners had the opportunity to say why they disagreed with their proposed property value. The Board and the assessors then reviewed the property records and either recommended an adjustment or proposed no change.

After all properties were reviewed, the Board and assessors made their recommendations for a change or no change. The Board voted and, in most cases, voted according to the recommendation of the assessors. If the vote was for no change, the resident then had to appeal the no change to the County Assessor.

With the Board passing a motion made at the October 12, 2023 Town Board meeting, Duluth Township moved to the open book process and the Board is no longer eligible to hold the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. The open book meeting will be held on April 16, 2024 from 2-3 pm at the County Assessor's Office at AP Cook Building 2503 Rice Lake Road, Duluth, MN 55811. You may also send written appeals to: County Assessor, 2503 Rice Lake Road, Duluth, MN 55811.

If you have any further questions you can contact the County Assessor at 218-726-2304.

*Thank You, Penny!*

By Rolf Carlson

Coming to us after years of teaching geological sciences at UMD, the Town Board found many ways to utilize Penny's background as an educator and a geologist. She has been our liaison with the North Shore Community School's Endowment Board for several years. When we decided we wanted to block off Bluebird Landing with large rocks so people wouldn't be able to drive their cars right down to the lake, it was obvious who should be in charge of seeing to it that we got some really good rocks! Her experience as a university administrator also served us well, particularly when dealing with personnel issues such as hiring, benefits, and personnel policies. Her neighbors have obviously always felt comfortable coming to her with their concerns (and even their complaints). We'll miss her good sense and good humor at our meetings and wish her all the best as she steps away from the Town Board.

*South St. Louis County SWCD Native Tree and Shrub Sale*

By Jo Thompson

As winter begins to wane and your thoughts turn to spring projects, consider adding "plant trees and shrubs" to your list. In addition to tree products (wood, syrup, etc.) and aesthetics, trees and shrubs provide many other benefits. They provide habitat for many other plants and creatures. Many species attract pollinators. They help keep streams cool for trout and they provide windbreaks. Trees can capture and store carbon from the air. Studies have shown that trees (especially evergreens) slow snowmelt through shading, hence slowing runoff. And, in summer, trees and shrubs help slow the flow of stormwater, thereby reducing flooding and erosion.

The South St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District conducts a native tree sale each year. Trees and shrubs are sold in bundles of 25 at a bargain cost of \$20 to \$50 per bundle. I have found that the seedlings have always been of good size and are quite healthy! The sale starts in February and ends April 29, but don't wait, as trees sell fast. Tree pickup is in May at various locations. More information can be found at: <https://www.southstlouisswcd.org/annual-tree-and-shrub-sale/>. Seedlings and transplants can also be found through some area nurseries.

**Recycling Reminder:**

Don't forget, **starting in April** the Recycling Center moves to summer hours:

Tuesday morning: 7-11 am

Tuesday afternoon: 3-7 pm

Thursday afternoon: 3-7 pm

Saturday morning: 8 am-noon



# ***Alden Township News***

## ***Township Communications***

We are collecting email addresses of Alden residents! Please email [aldentwpclerk@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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
- Replacement of 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 the cottage product industry

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



### 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](mailto:condoandhomeadvisors@gmail.com)  
[condoandhomeadvisors.com](http://condoandhomeadvisors.com)

*Paid Advertisement*

### 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 April 13, 2024. Call 525-5705 or email [deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:GJOHNSON@OVEROMLAW.COM)

[www.overomlaw.com](http://www.overomlaw.com)

*Paid Advertisement*

### Two Harbors Area Food Shelf



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

Serving Lake & St. Louis  
County residents.

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

Call 218-391-8191 with any  
questions.



## SolFed Farm

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

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

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

*Paid Advertisement*

***What's in the Kitchen?***  
Nicole Chatterson

Greeting Duluth Township Residents! What a mild winter we have been experiencing. I'm excited for the days to get longer and the seasons to change. Even though this winter has been pleasant I look forward to the warm sun of summer.

This month's recipe is a quick and easy breakfast recipe. All you need is a tube of premade cinnamon rolls, fry pan, rolling pin, butter, and optional toppings like syrup or powder sugar. I had an excess of cinnamon rolls in my fridge that I had purchased on a special. I will normally use them to make a French toast bake or bake them as directed. However, this time I was in the mood for pancakes with a twist. Which led me to the cinnamon roll pancakes.

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!

Cinnamon Roll Pancakes

Ingredients

- 1 tube of Cinnamon Rolls
- Butter or oil

Optional:

- Powder Sugar
- Maple Syrup

1. Place each cinnamon roll between two pieces of parchment paper and roll with rolling pin to ¼ inch thickness or approximately a 3–4-inch circle.
2. Preheat griddle or pan on a medium high heat and grease with butter or oil.
3. Place flattened cinnamon roll in cooking pan.
4. Flip the pancake once the top is starting to get dull or once you have achieved the golden brown you desire.
5. Complete frying the pancake until the appropriate doneness has been achieved.
6. Top with the frosting provided or with other pancake toppers such as syrup or powder sugar.
7. Enjoy!

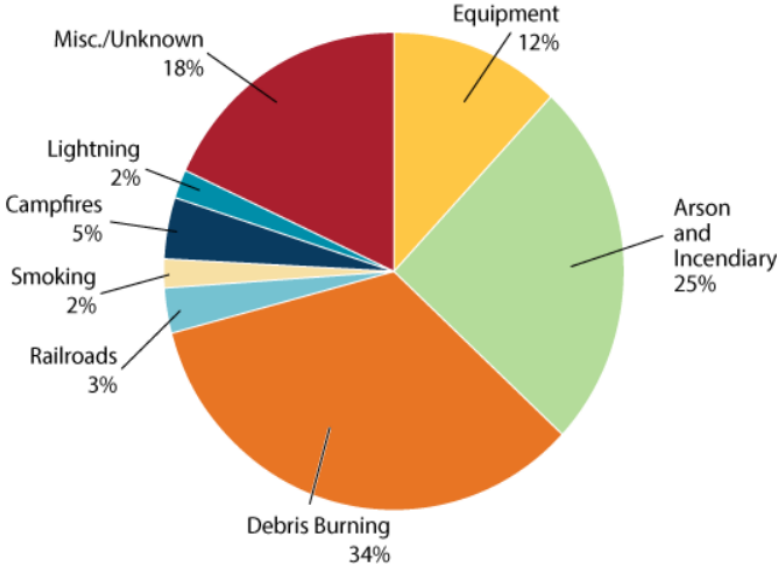


***Wildfire Season***

Spring wildfire season is likely to be early this year. The time between snowmelt and vegetation green up is already a dangerous time of the year for wildfires, but it is even more so with many areas of the Township affected by the spruce budworm outbreak.

According to the DNR, 90% of fires in Minnesota are caused by people. It is important to pay attention to weather, especially wind, when considering burning. Check statewide fire danger & burning restrictions for updated info at [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating\\_restrictions.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html).

**Causes of wildfires in Minnesota**



4 of 10 wildfires are caused by debris fires burning out of control. Unattended debris often mistakenly believed to be extinguished, continues to be leading cause of wildfires.

Since 2013, fires started by vehicles have burned more acres (36 percent of total) than fires started by other equipment. When parking off highway, avoid dry, fine vegetation, such as grass, as hot exhaust can readily ignite it.

Graph and above information from <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wildfire/prevention/causes.html>



### 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](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 Nescoda

**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](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

#### March 2024

**March 2:** Recycling 8 am-noon

**March 5:** Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm; Fire Business Meeting 7 pm

**March 6:** Homesteaders 12:30 pm

**March 7:** Recycling 2-6 pm

**March 9:** Recycling 8 am-noon

**March 12:** Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm

**March 14:** Recycling 2-6 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm

**March 16:** Recycling 8 am-noon

**March 19:** Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7 pm

**March 20:** D/NSSD Volunteer Board Meeting at French River  
Lutheran Church 7 am

**March 21:** Recycling 2-6 pm

**March 23:** Recycling 8 am-noon

**March 26:** Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm

**March 28:** Recycling 2-6 pm; Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 pm

**March 30:** Recycling 8 am-noon

#### April 2024

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

**April 3:** Homesteaders 12:30 pm

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

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

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

**April 11:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm

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

**April 16:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7:30 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

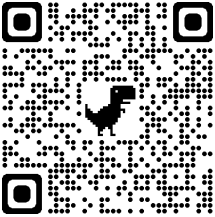
# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## March 2024 Election Edition

**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
- Voting Information
- SWCD Tree and Shrub Sale Information
- Scholarship Opportunity



Duluth Township Newsletter  
6092 Homestead Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

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

### Town Election — Tuesday March 12, 2024 — Be sure to VOTE!!

Polls open from 7 am to 8 pm at our Town Hall. One Supervisor position is on the ballot for a regular 3-year term. See page 6 for information on past expenditures and the proposed 2025 budget. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Hall during of-fice hours.

### What Happens at Our Annual Town Meeting

*Township Day, Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

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

Our Town Clerk, Nicole Chatterson, provides a packet, including minutes from the previous year's annual meeting plus summary information provided by various Township departments, 2023 activities and expenses, the previously approved 2024 budget, and the proposed 2025 Township budget (see page 6).

Those attending the meeting vote on our budget for 2025 (a year away because our figures had to be included with County and School District figures for tax statements residents received in 2023). In 2024 we are operating on the budget adopted at our 2023 Town Meeting.

Last year's minutes, official bank, and posting places are voted on. The proposed 2025 budget, with any adopted amendments, is discussed and the overall budget is approved. Other Township business is raised and discussed, and results of the Supervisor Election are announced at the end of the meeting.

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