

Duluth Township Newsletter

March 2026

Township website: www.duluthtownship.org



Election Edition



What's Coming Up...

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

Because of the horrible snowstorm, the February discussion of American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins will take place at the March meeting of the French River Readers, which will be held March 19th at 1 PM in the Fireside Room of French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Rd. Enter at the lower level.

This is the last afternoon meeting; beginning in April, our meetings will be held at 7 PM. Carol Surine will be the host in March. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carol Surine at 218-525-4426, text at 218-310-8112, or email at carolsurine@gmail.com.

Homesteaders

Dorothy Aho

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

April 1, 2026: Wednesday 12:30 pm, Town Hall, Sandwiches, salads, and bars. Katya Gordon will be with us to share her years of adventures sailing with her family.

May 6, 2026: Wednesday 12:30 pm, Town Hall. Sandwiches, salads, and bars. Entertainment hasn't been finalized yet.

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, Charlene Brown, Nicole Chatterson, Bob Engelson, Mark Haselow, Beth Mullan, Sherry Rovig, and Carol Surine



Fire Department
 Bob Engelson, Chief
 Sherry Rovig, Secretary



Police Department
 Mark Haselow, Chief
 Paul Johnson, Officer

At the end of 2025, we had been paged out to 151 incidents. We had a busy start to 2026 with 17 calls in January. The pace of calls is unpredictable, but the preparation, response, and aftermath of calls are what we train for. Equipment gets cleaned and made ready for the next page out, reports get logged, trucks get refueled and serviced, turnout gear gets washed to remove soil and toxins, and incidents are reviewed. Our members train together every month and access additional training when able. Pipeline safety training is happening in February, and members are also taking advantage of leadership training and safe vehicle operations.

Jody Anderson retired from active service in January after 22 years as a valued member. We are grateful for her dedication to the department and our community (and her baking skills!). Thankfully she has agreed to continue to help with tasks at the hall. She sets an example as someone who sees a job that needs attention and doesn't wait for someone else to step up. She has been an inspiration and example of sincere caring and commitment to service.

We are excited to welcome a new member, Adam Hahka, who joined us this February. He will be taking Firefighter I & II and hazmat training and possibly EMR training as well. If you are interested in joining our department, you can email us for more information at cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com or call our chief, Bob Engelson, at 218-341-0707.

The long-time Secretary of our department, Sherry Rovig, has passed the position to Nellie Torgerson. Sherry continues as Firewise Coordinator and as an active responder. Jason Bruckelmyer has agreed to take over the Treasurer's position after Ann's retirement. Ken Peterson continues as President. Business officers fill essential roles in the management and running of the department, along with the Chief and Assistant Chief.

Firewise News

A Firewise expo is scheduled for Saturday, April 25. The event will be at North Shore Community School from 1 – 3pm. It will include demonstrations and information about preparedness, evacuation planning, safe pile burning, and biochar. We hope to include representatives from the DNR, Northern Natural Gas Pipeline, Red Cross, St. Louis County Emergency Operations, Dovetail Partners, CLP, MNPower, Northshore Forest Collaborative, and Shoreview Natives. There will be giveaways and refreshments!

Annual Chipper Days will be **May 7–9**. If you are unable to clear and haul woody debris from the zone around your home, you may qualify for assistance. Contact our department at cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com or leave a message at the Town Hall with your name and contact information.

We continue to offer Firewise assessments and free smoke alarms. Please use the application below.

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:

December 2025 & January 2026

Duluth Township deputies responded to a variety of calls for service in December and January.

December 2025 included 4 medical emergencies, 4 motorist assists, and 4 attempts to locate careless drivers. Deputies also responded to 5 fire alarms, 5 car vs. deer crashes, and 2 burglar alarms. Additional activity included fraud complaints (3), vacation home/business checks (3), health and welfare checks (2), traffic warnings (2), and several single-incident calls such as theft, disturbance, animal complaint, garbage dumping, and hazard checks.

January 2026 saw increased proactive and welfare-related activity, including 6 medical emergencies and 8 health and welfare checks. Deputies responded to 5 burglar alarms and conducted 13 vacation home/business checks. Other activity included property damage accidents (2), public assists (2), civil process (2), motorist assists (3), animal complaints (3), and traffic warnings (2). There were no car vs. deer crashes or fraud complaints reported in January.

Deputies continue proactive patrols and respond to calls for service to help maintain the safety of Duluth Township residents

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

- YELLOW FLASHING LIGHTS**
THE BUS IS PREPARING TO STOP
- RED FLASHING LIGHTS AND EXTENDED STOP ARMS**
DRIVERS MUST STOP AND WAIT THE RED LIGHTS STOP

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, as 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.

SMOKE DETECTOR REQUEST <input type="checkbox"/>	FIREWISE ASSESSMENT <input type="checkbox"/>
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 Nesgod, Andrew Aho, and Tony Mancuso. (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 Beth Mullan are available on our Township website: www.duluthtownship.org

January 22, 2026 Planning Commission Meeting. Commission members present: Justin Osadjan, Nate Nesgod, Ken Peterson, and Kit Grayson. Also present: Liz Strohmayer, Planning Director; ArMand Nelson, Town Board liaison to the Planning Commission, Laura Herzog, Planning Secretary, and Beth Mullan, assistant.

A hearing was held for a variance and for a conditional use permit for a proposed commercial use on a property adjacent to Tom's Logging Camp on North Shore Drive. The variance, to allow access from North Shore Drive to a Commercial Use, was heard first. The current Ordinance disallows North Shore Drive as an access road for a commercial business. The current businesses with North Shore Drive access have been grandfathered in. The property also fronts Highway 61, but the State does not permit new access points from the highway. Options to access the property are further limited by the railroad running through the property parallel to North Shore Drive. Hence, the owners of Tom's Logging Camp have provided an easement to use the existing driveway for Tom's Logging Camp to cross the railroad tracks and access the property. The variance was approved unanimously by the Commission.

The conditional use request was for a commercial use in Zone District SC-1B on a property to be purchased for the purpose. The business, Great Lakes Wood, produces wood siding that is superficially burned to enhance its rot and insect resistance, a process called shou sugi ban. The property is the parcel located adjacent to Tom's Logging Camp at 5797 North Shore Dr. No milling will be done on-site. The applicant currently produces the siding at his home and stated that the smoke produced by the process is minimal because the wood is kiln dried, which removes sugars that contribute to smoke. He has had the business for 10 years and currently has 4 employees. He would like to add a couple more employees in the future. He said traffic to the site would be minimal, consisting of a few pickups with trailers a week. The finish used for the siding is mostly water-based and any dust produced in the process is captured with a dust collection system. One person from the neighborhood was present in support of the proposed business and the Township received three emails commenting on it. Two were in favor of and the third was against the business, citing air quality. The applicant acknowledged this concern, but felt that the smoke produced was minimal and unlikely to be a factor over the distance to the property. The Commission approved the request with conditions limiting lighting, signage, and business hours, and requiring vegetation buffers along the north and south property lines.

The Commission discussed a decision from a previous meeting to allow commercial uses as permitted in Zone Districts SC-1A and SC-1B. A conditional use permit is currently required for commercial uses in these zone districts. Some felt that because the districts are heavily residential and conditional use permits have traditionally been required, a CUP should continue to be required so that the community and Commission can continue to have input on potential commercial uses in the zone districts. Others felt that because commercial use is included in the definition for the districts, these uses should be allowed with a permit and not hindered by the CUP process. It was agreed to discuss this further at a subsequent meeting.

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

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

December 11, 2025 Town Board Meeting: The Town Board held its regular meeting on December 11, 2025, beginning at 6:31 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Rolf Carlson, ArMand Nelson, Stacia Grayson, Saprina Matheny, and Jim Ward. Also in attendance were Police Chief Mark Haselow, Fire Chief Bob Engelson, Planning Director Liz Strohmayer, Planning Secretary Beth Mullan, and Clerk Nicole Chatterson.

Financial Report: Treasurer Melinda Peulen reported: Beginning balance: \$625,128.08. Deposits: \$1,362.95. Expenses: \$45,636.07. Ending balance: \$580,854.96. The Board approved the financial statement, payroll, and claims list.

Department Updates

Police: Quiet month in the Township. **Fire:** No update yet on the FEMA grant. The ongoing burn on McQuade Road in Normanna is expected to conclude soon following multiple complaints. **Planning & Zoning:** An ongoing compliance matter involving Mr. Zurcher continues. A letter was received stating the property is being sold and that compliance with the judge's order would not be pursued. A project concern on Ryan Road is being reviewed. A public hearing is scheduled in January regarding a commercial use request for property next to Tom's Logging Camp. **Roads:** A complaint was received regarding a dumpster placed in the turnaround on Swanson Road. The property owner has been contacted. **Town Hall:** Internet and phone issues continue. Carlson Duluth has been approved for plumbing work at Town Hall. Mini-split repairs are scheduled at an estimated cost of \$2,000. The Township was awarded a Solar Grant totaling \$137,865 for improvements to the Town Hall and Fire Hall. The Board approved a motion to provide a 10% down payment (not to exceed \$20,000) from the Capital Improvement Fund to secure the contractor. **ARPA, Materials Management, Cemetery, and Emergency Management:** No significant updates. **Communications:** The transition to a .gov website domain is underway. The January newsletter deadline is next week. **Personnel:** A proposed 2.8% COLA wage increase for 2026 was discussed. A Paid Leave Contribution Notice was received from the State, and related policies will be reviewed at the January meeting. **New Business:** A letter was received from Don McTavish thanking the Board and offering recommendations for future Community Service Award recipients. **Upcoming Dates: Budget Meeting:** February 11, 2026 – 6 pm **Board of Audit:** February 12, 2026 – 6 pm **Bad Weather Date For March Elections/Annual Meeting:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026 (approved unanimously)

January 8, 2026. Town Board Meeting:

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Town Board was called to order at 6:31 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisors present: Rolf Carlson, ArMand Nelson, Stacia Grayson, Saprina Matheny, and Jim Ward. Also present: Police Chief Mark Haselow, Fire Chief Bob Engelson, Planning Director Liz Strohmayer, and Deputy Clerk Hannah Jurek.

Approval of Minutes: ArMand moved to approve the December regular meeting minutes. Jim seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Approval of Agenda:** Items added to the agenda included Election judges (Personnel), Personal matter (Personnel), Solar update (Town Hall), MS4 update and Annual MAT Meeting (Supervisor Report). **Finances:** Treasurer Melinda Peulen provided the financial report: Beginning balance: \$580,854.96. Deposits: \$183,015.10. Expenses: \$49,489.69. Ending balance: \$714,380.37.

ArMand moved to approve the financial statement and payroll. Saprina seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Payroll net pay account distributions and the claims list were approved and signed.

(continued on page 4)

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

What's in the Kitchen?

Nicole Chatterson

There's something about a warm breakfast on a cold morning that just feels like a reset and this baked oatmeal has become one of our go-to recipes — especially during busy weeks. It's cozy, filling, easy to prep ahead, and makes mornings feel a little less rushed. You can mix it up the night before, bake it fresh in the morning, or bake it fully and reheat slices throughout the week. It's simple, wholesome, and endlessly customizable. Why I love it: It reheats beautifully. It keeps everyone full longer than cold cereal. You can swap ingredients based on what you have on hand. This recipe can be easily doubled and baked in a 9 x 13 pan. Flavor Ideas to Try: Blueberry and almond. Apple, cinnamon, and pecans. Banana and chocolate chips. Mixed berry and white chocolate. Peanut butter and dark chocolate.

If you're looking for a simple breakfast that feels homemade without being complicated, this is it. Cozy, practical, and perfect for busy mornings. 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!

Cozy Baked Oatmeal

Ingredients:

- 2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 ¾ cups milk
- ½ cup maple syrup or brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons melted butter or coconut oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup berries, diced apples, or chocolate chips
- Optional: ¼–½ cup chopped nuts

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F and grease an 8x8 baking dish.
2. In a large bowl, mix oats, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk eggs, milk, maple syrup, melted butter, and vanilla.
4. Combine wet and dry ingredients. Stir in fruit or mix-ins.
5. Pour into baking dish and bake for 35–40 minutes, until set in the center.
6. Let cool slightly before slicing.
7. Serve warm with a splash of milk, a dollop of yogurt, or a drizzle of extra maple syrup.

Recycling Reminder:

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

Tuesday Morning: 7-11 am
Tuesday Afternoon: 3-7 pm
Thursday Afternoon: 3-7 pm
Saturday Morning: 8 am-noon



Summary of Town Board Meeting Minutes

- continued from page 3 -

Public Comment: Resident Jon Luikart attended to follow up on previous discussions regarding a columbarium for the cemetery. He presented updated cost figures and asked whether interest remains. The Board informed Mr. Luikart that the matter will be discussed at the February budget meeting and requested updated figures be submitted to Nicole by February 1. Mr. Luikart agreed.

Department Reports

Police: It has been quiet in the Township. ArMand asked whether Sheriff calls are included in the monthly supervisor report totals. Chief Haselow confirmed they are included. **Fire:** No updates on the FEMA grant. The department responded to 151 calls in 2025, with approximately 7% occurring in Alden Township. **Planning and Zoning:** A judge reversed their decision on the Zurcher case. There has been an increase in building without permits. A variance hearing is scheduled at the end of January for the property next to Tom's Logging Camp. Ordinance updates are currently stalled. **Legal** Nothing to report. **Roads:** All is quiet. **Town Hall Solar update:** The contract has been signed. No timeline for project start was available at the time of the meeting. **Materials Management:** No issues reported. **Cemetery:** All is quiet. **Communications:** The January newsletter will reach mailboxes by the end of the week. **Emergency Management:** Meeting scheduled for next month. **Supervisor Report MS4:** Meetings regarding MS4 have been put on hold. The Township will continue using the consulting firm to assist with current stormwater ordinance language. **MAT Annual Meeting:** The annual MAT meeting was educational. Topics included: Paid leave (ArMand provided related information to Nicole) Rural living study Related discussion items The 2027 conference will be held in Nisswa at Grandview Lodge. **Community Announcement:** North Shore Community School will host its Candlelight Ski Fundraiser on February 6, 2026, from 6–8 pm **Personnel** A resident contacted ArMand, Liz, and Saprina regarding the conduct of a Planning and Zoning Commission member. Legal counsel advised holding a separate meeting, including a closed session, to determine how to proceed with potential reprimand. A special meeting has been scheduled for January 14, 2026, at 6:30 pm The Board reviewed a list of election judges. ArMand moved to approve Resolution 01082026 appointing election judges. Stacia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BOOK EXCHANGE UPDATE



"She didn't read books so she didn't know that she was the world and the heavens boiled down to a drop."

- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

Thanks to community donations, we have many fictional titles available 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!



You're someone's type!

Join us at our
American Red Cross Blood Drive



Date & Time: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 – 12 pm - 6 pm

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

All members of the Duluth Township community are welcome to donate blood at this blood drive hosted by the Outreach Committee at French River Lutheran Church. Please come and join us as we help others in need. Your help is always appreciated!

Appointments are 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 StoreSM or Google PlayTM store.
- Contacting Beth Luikart (call 218-525-1596, or e-mail her at bluikart@outlook.com).

In addition to whole blood donation appointments, Power Red appointment times will be available at this drive. 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.

Our Neighbors to the North

Notice to Alden Residents:

To ensure proper handling of township business, please mail all correspondence for the Treasurer or Clerk to the Township P.O. Box rather than personal residences.

Township Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 209
Two Harbors, MN 55616

Alden Township Board Meeting: 12/09/25

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm. Supervisors Helene Hedlund, Evan Sandretsky, and Heidi Haglin were present, along with Treasurer Meghan Cavallin and Clerk Aly Mark. No residents were present. **Approve minutes:** The minutes from the November meeting were approved. **Finances:** Treasurer Meghan Cavallin gave her report. The general fund had a total of \$51,904.05, the road fund had \$87,226.34, the town hall fund had \$8,064.90, the fire hall fund had \$18,840.46, for a grand total of \$166,035.75. The treasurer's report was approved. Bills were presented by Mark, Cavallin and Sandretsky for a total of \$912.67. A motion to pay all the bills was approved, including 2 blank checks to pay CLP. **Correspondence:** Clerk Mark has been in correspondence with St. Louis county in regards to March town elections. **Committee Reports: Town Hall:** Wedding event happening at the end of September. **Fire Hall:** None to report. **Roads:** Sandretsky will finish the remaining road repairs requested by St. Louis County himself. **New Business:** Clerk Aly Mark needs to attend mandatory training for annual Town elections at the GSC in Duluth, and clarified hourly pay rate and mileage reimbursement. The positions open for town election filings are Clerk and office of Supervisor (fire hall, currently Heidi Haglin). Clerk Mark is starting night classes in January and will need deputy Clerk Pat Berger to fill in for monthly board meetings as her classes are Tuesday evenings, she will be able to work March town elections and run the annual meeting. Town elections are March 10th, 2026 5-8 PM, candidate filing is open from Dec 30, 2025-Jan 13, 2026 at 5:00 PM. **Old Business:** Meghan Cavallin suggests we get a common PO Box or secure drop box for all township official mail to avoid mail being sent to incorrect recipients, and is more professional. A motion to get a PO box in Two Harbors with 2 keys and to be checked weekly for a cost up to \$25/ monthly was approved. No volunteers to put on the Holiday potluck this year. Paid leave law- Shelley Peterson agreed to manage quarterly dues with an added expense in addition to what is paid for federal taxes. She will create a contract for the 2026 year and get new prices. Road Supervisor Sandretsky will be gone for the January meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

Alden Township Board Meeting: 1/13/26

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 pm. Supervisors Heidi Haglin, and Helene Hedlund, were present along with Treasurer Meghan Cavallin and Deputy Clerk Pat Berger. No residents were present. **Approve minutes:** The minutes from the December meeting were approved. **Finances:** Treasurer Meghan Cavallin gave her report. The general fund had a total of \$56,672.91, the road fund had \$97,435.32, the Town Hall fund had \$8,911.79, the Fire Hall fund had \$21,392.35, for a grand total of \$184,412.37. The treasurer's report was approved. Bills were presented by Cavallin, and Mark (presented by Berger) for a total of \$1,279.9. A motion to pay bills and for one blank check for COMO LP was approved. **Correspondence:** Nothing to report. **Committee Reports: Town Hall:** Nothing to report. **Fire Hall:** Nothing to report. **Roads:** Not present at meeting. **New Business:** Workers compensation payroll reporting to MATIT due 2/15/26, Cavallin stated this was a W-3 form. A motion to accept the proposed contract from Shelly Peterson Bookkeeping, Inc. was approved. The Town Hall was open from 1-5 PM January 13th, per MN statute for filing candidate affidavits (Aly Mark and Meghan Cavallin split hours). North Star \$500M+ grant for fiberoptics, Alden Town Hall was passed over when other fiberoptics were put in. Mark will need to contact Christopher Lord in regards to potential fiberoptic installation. Election items discussed: Alden need's a head judge for future elections- Helene Hedlund agreed to be head judge, need to train an absentee judge panel- Supervisors present did not know what this position is or what it does. Mark to follow up on this election requirement. A motion was made to increase the election judge pay rate to \$17 and was approved. A motion was made to designate the people listed as possible election judges as long as their election training is up to date was approved: Aly Mark, Ben Nordskog, Carl Jarvi, Dale Olson, Dawn Aune, Diane Dick, Emily Richie, Gene Mino, Helene Hedlund, James Haglin, Kelsey Rogers, Leo Babeu, Molly Negus, Pat Berger, Peg Wagner, Sandra Lumen, Steve Berger. **Old Business:** Town elections are March 10th, 2026 5-8 pm. Township Annual Meeting is March 10th, 2026 at 8:15 pm- needs to be published 1x in the newspaper. Cavallin and Mark to meet to come to an agreement on the annual audit. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

2026 Chipper Day's: Sharing the Responsibility

You Cut and Stack - We'll Chip

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

Event Details

May 7 – 9, 2026

Woody Debris Drop-Off Option for All Residents:

When: Drop-off can happen: from Thursday through Saturday up to 4 pm

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

Pile Guidelines

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

What's Acceptable?

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



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



Sponsored by St. Louis County Firewise Program and Duluth Township

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

Name :

Property address:

Preferred contact information:

Number of hours spent on Firewise Project:

Please return this information to:

Sherry Rovig, Firewise USA coordinator for Duluth and Alden Townships
6092 Homestead Rd., Duluth, MN 55804

Or Email : cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com

Subject: Firewise Project Volunteer Hours

Or call 218-525-9240 and leave message

THANK YOU for your participation!

2026 FIREWISE EXPO



Saturday
APRIL 25

NORTHSHORE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

5926 RYAN RD, DULUTH

1-3 PM Interactive stations will address • Preparing your home and property before a wildfire event • Evacuation planning • Learn about potential Grant funding opportunities • Demonstration/ Information about clearing and what to replant • safe pile burning • biochar demo and more

REFRESHMENTS AND GIVE-AWAYS

EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL SPONSORED BY CLIFTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, DULUTH TOWNSHIP, ST. LOUIS COUNTY FIREWISE, DOVETAIL PARTNERS, MN DNR

What Happens at Our Annual Town Meeting

Township Day, Tuesday, March 10, 2026

For those who may not have attended a Town meeting, here is a bit of background. We gather in our Town Hall on Homestead Road after the polls close (8:15 pm). 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, 2025 activities and expenses, the previously approved 2026 budget, and the proposed 2027 Township budget (on page 9).

Those attending the meeting vote on our budget for 2027 (a year away because our figures have to be included with County and School District figures for tax statements you receive in 2026). In 2026 we are operating on the budget adopted at our 2025 Town Meeting.

Last year's minutes, official bank, and posting places are voted on. The proposed 2027 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 grassroots democracy that depends upon the participation, respect, and good ideas of all of our citizens.

Board of Appeal and Equalization

The Duluth Township Board has transferred the "Local Board of Appeal and Equalization" process to the County Assessors Office. 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 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 Town Board with the County Assessors in attendance. At this meeting property owners were given the opportunity to appeal the new proposed value of their property. 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 using the recommendation of the assessors. If the vote was for no change, the resident then had the option to appeal the no change to the County Assessor.

With the Board passing a motion 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. **Instead, the open book meeting will be held on April 28, 2026 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 question you can contact the County Assessor at 218-726-2304.

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.

Meet the Candidate!



ArMand Nelson

My name is ArMand Nelson and I am running for reelection to the Duluth Township Board of Supervisors. I was first elected in March of 2023.

My wife, Pam, and I have lived in Duluth Township since June of 2022.

I am running for reelection because I am still a strong believer that you need to be involved in the community where you live. I have no agenda other than to help continue the wonderful way of life people enjoy here and to help continue to make sound decisions for the Township.

I am still a member of French River Lutheran Church, where I sing with their choir, the contemporary singing group, I am on Church Council, and I am the Chair of the Worship and Music Committee. I also sing with the Duluth Orchestra Symphony Chorus.

I am currently volunteering at the Two Harbors Area Food Shelf, and I am a member of the Food Shelf Board of Directors.

I also serve as President of the Champlin Police Crime Prevention Fund that supports the City of Champlin, Minnesota, Police Department. I was President of this nonprofit before moving to Duluth Township but continue to lead this organization.

Besides my activities list above I am also serving as the Duluth Township Emergency Operations Director. Representing Duluth Township I also attend the St. Louis County Township Association meetings, the Duluth Association of Township meetings, and the Minnesota Association of Townships meetings.

Since being on the Town Board I have worked and managed to completion installation of Air Conditioning at the Town Hall and interviewed consulting companies to help get the Township compliant with the State of Minnesota on MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System).

I am looking forward to serving the residents of the Township for another three years. Please support me by voting for me as your Duluth Township Town Board Supervisor on March 10, 2026.

Please contact me at armandduluthtownship@gmail.com or call me at 612-247-7197.

Town Election — Tuesday, March 10, 2026 — Be sure to VOTE!!

Polls open from 7 am to 8 pm at our Town Hall. Two Supervisor positions are on the ballot for regular 3-year terms. See below information on past expenditures and the proposed 2026 budget. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Hall during office hours.



Duluth Township Annual Overview of Finances			
	2025 Actual	2026 Approved	2027 Proposed
Township Departments	Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures
Police Department	\$79,907.90	\$71,000.00	\$65,710.00
Fire Department	\$84,164.14	\$99,000.00	\$97,400.00
General Fund	\$163,867.92	\$170,271.00	\$168,300.00
Planning and Zoning	\$86,339.17	\$76,675.00	\$61,400.00
Cemetery	\$13,468.36	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Emergency Operation	-	-	-
Road and Bridge	\$104,193.33	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00
Total Expenses	\$531,940.82	\$544,446.00	\$520,310.00
		Levy:	\$520,310.00

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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www.overomlaw.com

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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 April 15, 2026. Call 525-5705 or email deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.com.





Duluth Township Information 2026

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, Cemetery, 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

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

Planning Commission: 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 Nellie Torgerson
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: Dwyane 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

March 2026

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

March 4: Homesteaders 12:30 pm

March 5: Recycling 2-6 pm

March 7: Recycling 8 am-noon

March 10: Office Closed; Township Elections 7 am—8 pm, Town Meeting to follow. Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm

March 12: Recycling 2-6 pm; Board of Canvass 6 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm

March 14: Recycling 8 am-noon

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

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

March 19: Recycling 2-6 pm

March 21: Recycling 8 am-noon

March 24: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm

March 26: Recycling 2-6 pm; Planning Commission meeting 6:30 pm

March 28: Recycling 8 am-noon

March 31: Recycling 7-11 am, 2-6 pm

April 2026

April 1: Homesteaders 12:30 pm

April 2: Recycling 3-7 pm

April 4: Recycling 8 am-noon

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

April 9: Recycling 3-7 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm

April 11: Recycling 8 am-noon

April 14: Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7 pm

April 15: D/NSSD Volunteer Board Meeting at French River Lutheran Church 7 am

April 16: Recycling 3-7 pm

April 18: Recycling 8 am-noon

April 21: Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm

April 23: Recycling 3-7 pm, Planning Commission meeting 6:30 pm

April 25: Recycling 8 am-noon

April 28: Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm

April 30: Recycling 3-7 pm

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

March 2026

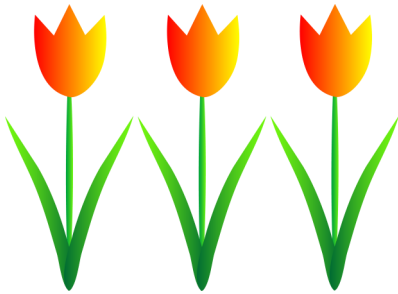
1096 Newsletters are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses, and on request. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send comments and suggestions to Newsletter editor, Hannah Jurek, at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth MN 55804, or use the white mailbox at the Town Hall or email on the website. Our *Newsletter* is printed and mailed locally by ProPrint.

Inside This Issue

- Homesteaders
- Police Report
- Calendar
- Annual Town Meeting
- Blood Drive
- Firewise

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.

