

# Duluth Township Newsletter

May 2026

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

## What's Coming Up...

- ◆ Town Board Minutes p. 3
- ◆ Book Club p. 5
- ◆ Chipper Days p. 6
- ◆ Columbarium Project p. 7
- ◆ What's in the Kitchen? p. 8

## Memorial Day Ceremony



The Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at Lakeview Palmers, on Monday, May 25, 2026, at 11 am.

The Memorial Day speaker is a friend to many in this Township, whose message will be well worth attending to on this Memorial Day.

Donuts and coffee will be provided by the Women of the French River Lutheran Church.

If weather is inclement, the ceremony will be moved to the Town Hall.

## Thank you, Rolf!



The Town Board extends its sincere gratitude to Rolf Carlson for his dedicated service to Duluth Township over the past nine years, including seven years as Board Chair. His leadership, commitment to public service, and steady guidance have made a lasting contribution to the Township and its residents. We thank him for his time, effort, and many years of service to the community.

## Homesteaders

Dorothy Aho

May 6, 2026: Wednesday 12:30 pm, Town Hall. Sandwiches, salads, and bars. Marlene Wisuri will be with us to speak about the Reindeer in Minnesota. She always brings us good entertainment.

June 3, 2026: Wednesday 12:30 pm, Town Hall. Sandwiches, salads, and bars. Entertainment to be announced.

July 1, 2026: Wednesday 12:30 pm, We have our annual picnic.

## Everyone is welcome!

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

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

Dorothy Aho, Charlene Brown, Nicole Chatterson, Bob Engelson, Mark Haselow, Laura Herzog, Beth Mullan, Ben Nordskog, Sherry Rovig, and Carol Surine



**Fire Department**  
 Bob Engelson, Chief  
 Sherry Rovig, Secretary

Clifton Fire Department is approaching 50 calls for service since the beginning of the year. Training remains a top priority for our department. One member is attending a 44 hour leadership development course. The department has completed vehicle operations training, pipeline safety training, and we look forward to our wildland firefighting refresher for members who wish to retain or obtain red card certification.

We hosted a Firewise Expo at the Town Hall in late April. The event focused not only on emergency preparedness and response, but also on what residents can do to promote a more resilient landscape. Invited representatives from key organizations and resources included the DNR, Northern Natural Gas Pipeline, Red Cross, St. Louis County Emergency Operations, Dovetail Partners, CLP, Resource Renew, Shoreview Natives, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Advocates for the Knife River Watershed, and local contractors to provide demonstrations of efficient clearing.

If you're interested in joining our department, training includes about 144 hours of fire instruction, with a portion of the training online along with hands-on and is typically scheduled around work. We're a close-knit team that supports each other and the community—reach out to learn more at [cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com](mailto:cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com) or contact Chief Bob Engelson at 218-341-0707.

**Spring wildfire season is here. Burn permits are required.**  
 After a milder winter, drought conditions are still in place this spring. As a result of an inconsistent snowpack, fine fuel is present across the state, which is dry vegetation that can ignite and spread quickly. We are once again sponsoring **Chipper Days** to offer an alternative to pile burning and help remove the dry fuels.

**May 7-9: Annual Chipper Days.**  
 Our local fire department is stepping up to help the community— this time by providing our annual Chipper Days. Email or call for a request (218) 525-9240. 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](mailto: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.

**Our department is grateful for the support we receive from residents and values the opportunity to help those in our area.**

**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](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.



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

**Police Events:**  
**February 2026 & March 2026**  
 During February and March, Duluth Township deputies responded to a range of calls, including 7 attempts to locate careless drivers and 10 medical emergencies. There were 3 property damage accidents, 1 personal injury accident, and 5 car vs. deer crashes. Deputies handled 6 disturbance complaints, 6 public assists, 4 motorist assists, 2 civil processes, and 2 fraud complaints. Additional activity included 1 burglar alarm, 2 fire alarms, 2 unknown trouble/911 disconnects, 1 welfare check, and 1 animal complaint, along with 1 neighbor trouble call. Deputies also conducted 4 hazard checks and assisted other agencies twice.

Proactive efforts included 40 vacation home and business checks. Traffic enforcement resulted in 4 warnings or citations.  
 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: [duluthtwppolice@duluthtownship.org](mailto:duluthtwppolice@duluthtownship.org).

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

**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

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, and Tony Mancuso. (not pictured, Kit Grayson)



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

### Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

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

**February 26, 2026 Planning Commission Meeting.** Commission members present: Justin Osadjan, Ken Peterson, Tony Mancuso, Andrew Aho, Kit Grayson, and Megan Gumness. Also present: Liz Strohmayer, Planning Director; ArMand Nelson, Town Board liaison to the Planning Commission, Laura Herzog, Planning Secretary, and Beth Mullan, assistant.

A new Commission member, Megan Gumness, was introduced.

A hearing was held for a variance to rebuild, including exterior structural elements, part of an existing nonconforming garage at 6265 Ryan Road. The applicants were present. The garage does not meet the road setback. Because of the way the property slopes away from the home site, there is not another good option for re-siting the garage. The owners want to rebuild the back portion of the garage on the existing slab and to remove a lean to that is attached to it. They would replace the roof trusses to match the front half of the garage resulting in a decreased overall height of the building. They plan to create a french drain to divert runoff and direct it to a rain garden. There was one person present to comment and they supported the project. There were no emailed or mailed comments. The variance request was granted by unanimous vote.

The Commission continued the discussion of allowing commercial uses as permitted in Zone Districts SC-1A and SC-1B. A conditional use permit is required for commercial uses in these zone districts in the current Ordinance. 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 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. Ken said he would propose new performance standard language for the next meeting.

**March 26, 2026 Planning Commission Meeting.** Commission members present: Justin Osadjan, Ken Peterson, Nate Nesgoda, Tony Mancuso, Andrew Aho, Kit Grayson, and Megan Gumness. Also present: Liz Strohmayer, Planning Director; ArMand Nelson, Town Board liaison to the Planning Commission, Laura Herzog, Planning Secretary, and Beth Mullan, assistant.

The Commission continued with the review of how to permit commercial uses in SC-1A and SC-1B. Commercial uses are listed as allowed with a conditional use in the current Ordinance. At an earlier meeting, Commissioners agreed to allow commercial uses in those zone districts with an over the counter permit.

There was concern that an over the counter permit might not be appropriate for commercial uses in these areas. Continuing with the conditional use process seemed better to some, given the residential nature of the area and the opportunity to review requests in terms of compatibility with the neighborhood and preservation of the scenic nature of the North Shore. It was felt that getting a conditional use permit was not asking too much for someone considering a commercial use.

On the other hand, it was noted that single family dwellings are not required to get a conditional use permit when they are in a commercial zone district. There is not a lot of space for businesses in the Township and perhaps commercially zoned space should not be usurped by residential uses.

It was decided by a vote of 6 to 1 to require a conditional use permit for commercial uses in SC-1A and SC-1B.

The performance standard language for commercial in these zone districts that was proposed by Ken was adopted, adding deliveries to the hour of operation. It was also agreed to add language for control of stormwater and runoff as proposed by Kit.

The Township is no longer under MS-4 rules. The stormwater and erosion control ordinance will still be in effect, but the Town will no longer have the reporting responsibilities required by the program.

### Summary of Town Board Minutes

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

**February 12, 2026, Town Board Meeting:** The regular meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisors Rolf Carlson, ArMand Nelson, Saprina Matheny, and Jim Ward were present. Police Chief Mark Haselow and Fire Chief Bob Engelson were also present, along with Treasurer Melinda Peulen, Deputy Clerk Hannah Jurek, and Clerk Nicole Chatterton.

**Approve Minutes:** ArMand moved to approve the January 8, 2026, and February 11, 2026, meeting minutes, with Saprina seconding. Motion passed unanimously. Approval of the January 14, 2026, closed meeting minutes was postponed due to lack of quorum of supervisors who attended that meeting.

**Approve Agenda:** The agenda was approved with additions, including moving a letter from David Meyer to Personnel and adding review of a Planning & Zoning applicant.

**Finances:** The Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$714,380.37, deposits of \$8,778.83, and expenses of \$97,350.11, for an ending balance of \$625,809.09. Saprina moved to approve the financial statement and payroll, ArMand seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Claims and payroll distributions were approved and signed.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Department Reports:** Police had no formal report; discussion included burglar alarms and a new squad vehicle. Fire Chief Engelson inquired about safeguarding funds designated for a future fire truck through potential board changes. **Planning & Zoning** submitted a written report recommending Megan Gumness for appointment to the Commission. **Roads** reported a quiet month with one complaint regarding icy conditions; the County assisted with grading. At the **Town Hall**, solar panel placement was reconfigured due to structural concerns. An updated bid will be requested for hall improvements. ArMand moved to approve a \$392.90 quote from ASP for a surge protector for the mini-splits; Saprina seconded and the motion passed unanimously. **ARPA** final reporting is forthcoming. **Materials Management** continues work on the 2026 grant request. The Board received notice of retirement from the Cemetery Sexton and will seek a replacement. **Communications** continues work on the newsletter. **Emergency Management** shared a request for public input on St. Louis County's Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

**Personnel:** ArMand moved to approve Resolution #02122026 establishing the 2026 Absentee Ballot Board, appointing Julie Fogarty, Carolyn Marino, Melinda Peulen, Hannah Jurek, and Barbara Jackson; Saprina seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Board also accepted the resignation of David Meyer from the Planning & Zoning Commission.

**Planning & Zoning Appointment:** ArMand moved to appoint Megan Gumness to the Planning & Zoning Commission, with Jim seconding. Following brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### March 12, 2026, Town Board Meeting:

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisors Rolf Carlson, ArMand Nelson, Saprina Matheny, Stacia Grayson, and Jim Ward were present. Police Chief Mark Haselow and Fire Chief Bob Engelson were also present, along with Deputy Clerk Hannah Jurek and Clerk Nicole Chatterton.

**Approve Minutes:** ArMand moved to approve the February Regular Meeting, Board of Audit, Interview, and draft Annual Meeting minutes, excluding the January 14, 2026, closed meeting. Saprina seconded and the motion carried. Saprina then moved to approve the January 14, 2026, closed meeting minutes; Stacia seconded. The motion carried, with ArMand abstaining.

**Approve Agenda:** The agenda was approved with a corrected date.

**Finances:** The Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$629,177.07, deposits of \$41,815.57, and expenses of \$109,917.59, for an ending balance of \$561,075.05. The Board noted a significant expense for the Wolf Track solar project. Saprina moved to approve the financial statement and payroll; ArMand seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Claims and payroll distributions were approved and signed.

(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 Town Board Meeting Minutes

- continued from page 3 -



BEE BUTTERFLY GRASS LILY SEEDS  
 BLOSSOM CHICK KITE NEST SPROUT  
 BUD EGGS LADYBUG PUDDLE TULIP  
 BUNNY FLOWER LAMB RAIN WORM

**Public Comment:** The Board considered Resolution #03122026 supporting a reduced speed limit on App Road and West Knife River Road west of Homestead Road. ArMand moved to approve the resolution, Stacia seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. A resident also shared concerns regarding USPS service; follow-up will be made with postal officials and federal representatives.

**Department Reports:** Police had no report. The Fire Department announced Nellie Torgeson as Secretary, Jason Bruckelmyer as Treasurer, and the retirement of Jody Anderson. Planning & Zoning had no report; the Board discussed including reminders in the newsletter regarding required permits. Legal had nothing to report. Roads reported recent snow events but no major issues. At the Town Hall, an updated bid from JNR for improvements to the Clover Valley Room and kitchen was approved following a motion by Stacia and second by ArMand. Parking lot striping will be reviewed this spring. ARPA reporting is due at the end of April. Materials Management reported that the grant application has been submitted. Cemetery discussions from the Annual Meeting included a future informational meeting on a columbarium, with more information to follow in the May newsletter. Communications noted that the .gov transition is nearing completion. Emergency Management announced a Firewise Expo to be held at the Town Hall on April 25, 2026.

**Supervisor Report:** No updates from the skating rink group; Saprina will follow up. She will also contact the County GIS office regarding lot line adjustments on Stoney Point.

### Duluth Township Website Update

Duluth Township has officially transitioned its website from a .org domain to a .gov domain. This change reflects our ongoing commitment to transparency, security, and providing residents with a trusted and reliable source for official Township information.

Websites ending in .gov are reserved exclusively for verified government entities, offering an added level of credibility and protection for users. By making this switch, Duluth Township ensures that residents can confidently access accurate and secure information online.

Please be sure to update your bookmarks to the new .gov website. [www.duluthtownship.gov](http://www.duluthtownship.gov)

### Land Use Permits Are Required in the Township

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](http://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.

### Recycling Reminder:

Don't forget, the Recycling Center has moved to the summer hours:

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



### BOOK EXCHANGE UPDATE



"Second hand books are wild books... they have come together in vast flocks of variegated feather, and have a charm which the domesticated volumes of the library lack."

- Virginia Woolf

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!

## Barn Worker/Horse Handler

Job opening for experienced Horse Handler. Four retired Dressage horses need care in terms of feeding, grooming, turn-out, lunging, medicine administration, stall mucking, barn cleaning, and hay stacking. Weekly cleaning required of tack, grooming tools, water troughs, stall walls, and buckets.

Grass needs mowing and snow needs blowing.

Ability to work independently a must.

**Desire for cleanliness is very important.**

Current openings four or five days a week from 7:30 to approximately 11 am and 3-5 pm. Located in Duluth Township. Wage is dependent on experience.

Please contact Dale at [dslewisht@gmail.com](mailto:dslewisht@gmail.com).

Thank you for your inquiry.

## *Our Neighbors to the North*

### Meet Your New Alden Township Clerk

I would like to introduce myself as the newly elected Clerk for Alden Township! My name is Ben Nordskog, I was born and raised in the Duluth area and moved into Alden Township 6 years ago. It is an honor to serve our community in this role and I look forward to what comes ahead for all of Alden Township and its residents! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns - I am here to serve you.

Ben Nordskog  
Alden Township Clerk  
[aldentwpclerk@gmail.com](mailto:aldentwpclerk@gmail.com)  
218-590-3058

### Recognition:

A sincere thank you to outgoing board supervisor Heidi Haglin and former Town Clerk Aly Mark for their dedicated service to Alden Township! Their time, effort, and commitment to our community have been greatly appreciated!

### Alden Township Board Meeting 2/10/2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm. Supervisors Helene Hedlund, Heidi Haglin, Evan Sandretsky were all present along with Treasurer Meghan Cavallin and Deputy Clerk Pat Berger. **Approve Minutes:** The minutes from the January meeting were approved. **Finances:** Treasurer Meghan Cavallin gave her report. The General Fund had \$55,179.06, the Road Fund had \$97,667.07, the Town Hall Fund had \$8,663.97, the Fire Hall Fund had \$21,046.20, for a grand total of \$182,556.30. The treasurer's report was approved. Bills were presented by Cavallin and Mark (presented by Berger) for a total of \$462.37. A motion to pay the bills to include two checks to CLP when the bill arrives was approved. **Correspondence:** Sandretsky received an email regarding St. Louis County's authorization to sand/steam culverts. **Committee Reports: Town Hall:** Currently there is no charge for use of Alden Town Hall for residents or non-residents. **Fire:** Nothing to report. **Roads:** Nothing to report. **New Business:** State Mandated in-person absentee voting hours to be held at Alden Town Hall on Saturday 3/7/26 from 10am-12pm. Township has a new P.O. Box #209 in Two Harbors Post office and update will be published in next Duluth Township newsletter. St. Louis County requested annual authorization from township to have culverts sanded and steamed on township roads, there was a motion to approve this annual authorization and it was approved. Treasurer Cavallin requested two laptops to be purchased by Alden Township for the Treasurer and the Clerk as well as debit cards for Township business expenses. Cavallin will research laptops and cost associated. A motion was made to authorize debit cards for the Treasurer and Clerk which was approved. **Old Business:** Town Elections to be held March 10<sup>th</sup> 2026 from 5-8PM. Annual Township meeting to be held March 10<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 8:15PM. March Monthly Board Meeting to be held Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 7:00PM. Mark emailed Christopher Lord regarding a North Star 500M+ grant for fiber optic internet and has not yet received a response. Meeting was adjourned at 7:26PM.

## French River Book Club

Carol Surine

For May we have chosen another Book Club in a Bag offering, Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson. Our next meeting is at 7 PM Thursday, May 21st in the Fireside Room of French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Rd. Enter through the lower level. Our host will be Jennifer Anderson. Copies of the book should be available on the ledge to the right of the upper doors at the church. If you have an issue getting the book, feel free to contact Carol Surine at 218-310-8112 or [carolsurine@gmail.com](mailto:carolsurine@gmail.com).

### Resolution on Speed:

At the April 14, 2026, meeting, the Alden Township Board discussed and passed a "A resolution in support for a reduced speed limit to 30 mph for Two Harbors Road, App Road, and Fox Farm Road" due to the ongoing citizen concerns of vehicles traveling at unsafe speeds for these roadways. The resolution will be presented to St. Louis County for their consideration.

### Alden Township Board Meeting 3/11/2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Supervisors Helene Hedlund, Heidi Haglin, Evan Sandretsky were all present along with Treasurer Meghan Cavallin and Clerk Aly Mark. **Approve Minutes:** The minutes from the February meeting were approved. **Finances:** Treasurer Meghan Cavallin gave her report. The General Fund had \$55,685.96, the Road Fund had \$110,729.59, the Town Hall Fund had \$8,546.75, the Fire Hall Fund had \$21,775.65, for a grand total of \$196,737.95. The treasurer's report was approved. Bills were presented by Hedlund, Haglin, Sandretsky, Cavallin and Mark for a total of \$14,204.23. A motion to pay the bills to include a check for Frontier when the bill arrives was approved. **Correspondence:** Hedlund will be attending MAT short course in April. Mark confirmed pay rate to attend is \$25.00 hourly for their time to attend and that the Clerk and Treasurer should be granted same rate as these trainings are additional responsibilities. A motion to pay Treasurer, Clerk, and Supervisors \$25.00 hourly wage for attending training courses was approved. **Committee Reports: Town Hall:** A new charge of \$50.00 will be implemented for non-residents wanting to rent out the town hall as this was decided by residents present at the 2026 annual meeting. There was discussion about how to best hand off keys to those who rent the town hall as well as options for the future. Additionally, it was discussed to look into getting picnic tables for outside seating at the town hall as it would help the hall be used more. **Fire:** Nothing to report. **Roads:** Nothing to report. **New Business:** New MAT membership cards were mailed to the Clerk and passed out to all officers. Mark will have new officers fill in contact information to update MAT. St. Louis County update requested for county mitigation plan which was posted on town hall window. The board approved updating the check signers at Two Harbors Credit Union to remove Aly Mark and add new Clerk Ben Nordskog as well as retaining Pat Berger as a signer as Deputy Clerk. **Old Business:** Cavallin will wait until the new Clerk Nordskog is in office to acquire the new debit cards. Cavallin provided updates on laptop computers and offered three different options to the board. The board discussed the options and costs and decided to use JAWS to purchase computers. The board authorized the purchase of two Dell Laptops from JAWS at \$659.99 each and authorized a check up to \$1500.00 to be written for their purchase. Haglin provided contact information for The Clifton Fire Department as Bob Engleson at 218-341-0707. Mark will be reaching back out to Christopher Lord for an update on the planned fiber optic internet plan in Alden Township. Meeting was adjourned at 7:56PM.

# 2026 Chipper Days: 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](mailto: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](mailto:cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com)**

**Subject: Firewise Project Volunteer Hours**

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

**THANK YOU for your participation!**

# Columbarium Proposal for Palmers Lakeview Cemetery Informational Meetings

**Wednesday, May 27, 2026**  
**6:30 pm**  
Duluth Township Hall  
6092 Homestead Road  
Duluth, MN

**Thursday, May 28, 2026**  
**6:30 pm**  
French River Lutheran Church  
5310 Ryan Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

Are you considering Palmers Lakeview Cemetery as your final resting place? Are you planning to be cremated? If so, you may be interested in learning more about the Columbarium Project for Palmer's Lakeview Cemetery proposed at the March 10, 2026, Duluth Township Annual Meeting.

Please attend one of the informational meetings noted above during the last week of May. Agenda for each meeting is to provide details about the columbarium project, determine the level of interest by Township residents, and present an early purchase option. If you are unable to attend any meeting but are considering the purchase of a columbarium niche, contact Jon Luikart at 218.464.2625 or Nicole Chatterson at the Town Hall, 218.525.5705.

**Background:** At present, Lakeview Cemetery offers only in-ground burial plots for bodies or ashes, usually marked with a memorial plate or headstone. Over the years the number of people choosing cremation over burial has steadily increased, with the current rate for our local area at 77%. In response to this growing use of cremation, adding a columbarium as a cost-effective above-ground option at Lakeview Cemetery was proposed.

**Project Summary:** A columbarium is an above-ground structure that inters cremated remains in dedicated compartments called niches. These structures serve as a permanent, dignified resting place for urns and a peaceful location for visitation and remembrance. The columbarium project would be funded through the advance purchase of niches by individuals. This would generate the down payment and the Township would commit to the remaining cost. Sales of the niches will repay the capital fund over time, so there will be no financial impact for residents.

The Township's present goal is to investigate the level of interest for this project, get feedback from residents, offer a discounted pre-sale opportunity, and establish a Columbarium Task Force to spearhead the project. If there is not sufficient resident support for a columbarium, the project will not be continued.



## Duluth Township is Hiring – Cemetery Sexton

Duluth Township is seeking a reliable individual to serve as Cemetery Sexton. Responsibilities include overseeing cemetery operations, coordinating burials, maintaining records, and ensuring the grounds are respectfully maintained.

For more information or to inquire about the position, please contact the Town Clerk at **218-525-5705** or [townclerk@lakenet.com](mailto:townclerk@lakenet.com).

# What's in the Kitchen?

Nicole Chatterson

There's always that one must-have item when we order takeout from Golden Inn—and for many of us, it's the crab rangoon. That crispy, golden shell giving way to a warm, creamy crab filling, all dipped in that perfectly tangy sweet-and-sour sauce... it's hard to beat.

But it does make you wonder—why stop at just the appetizer?

What if those same flavors could take center stage in a dish meant to share? Something warm, comforting, and perfect for the dinner table—while still capturing that familiar creamy filling and satisfying crunch we all love. That's exactly the idea behind this crab rangoon-inspired casserole.

It takes everything you crave—cream cheese, crab, a touch of garlic, and that hint of sweetness—and layers it into a simple, crowd-pleasing dish. Add a crispy topping to bring back that signature crunch, and you've got a recipe that feels both familiar and completely new.

If you're like me and never skip the rangoons, this might just become your new favorite way to enjoy those flavors at home.

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!

## Crab Rangoon Casserole

### Ingredients

- 1-pound wide egg noodles
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 8-ounce packs of cream cheese
- 1 pound surimi crab legs, cut into 1-inch pieces (imitation crab sticks)
- 8 ounces mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 8 ounces wonton chips
- 2 bunches of green onions sliced separated
- 1-2 whole garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger, minced
- 1-2 dashes of Worcestershire sauce or soy sauce
- 1-2 shakes of Old Bay seasoning
- 1-2 teaspoons of lemon juice
- Panko breadcrumbs (optional)
- 2 tablespoons of additional butter (optional)
- Sweet chili sauce, for garnish, optional
- Siracha mayonnaise, for garnish, optional

### Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F and grease a 9x13-inch casserole dish.
2. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high heat, add egg noodles, and cook until tender with a bite, 8-10 minutes. Drain and set aside.
3. Melt butter in saucepan and add one bunch of sliced green onions to the pan and sauté for 1-2 minutes or until almost soften. Then add the garlic and ginger until fragrant. Add a couple of dashes of Worcestershire sauce or soy sauce, old bay seasoning, and lemon juice. Mix until combined
4. Add heavy cream and cream cheese and place over medium heat, and cook, stirring until cream cheese has incorporated. About 5 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside.
5. In large bowl (or in the casserole dish) add noodles, top with crab and half of mozzarella. Pour sauce on top and stir to combine. If mixing in large bowl add back to casserole dish and smooth out mixture and top with remaining cheese.
6. Optional: Top with a layer of panko breadcrumbs and drizzle with butter.
7. Bake in preheated oven until casserole is golden brown and bubbly, 25-30 minutes.
8. Remove from oven and garnish with wonton chips, green onions, sweet chili sauce, and siracha mayonnaise if desired.
9. Serve immediately and enjoy!





# Bakery



## Under the Timber Frame

Sunday, July 19, 2026  
5 to 7:30 p.m.

French River Lutheran Church  
5310 Ryan Road, Duluth, MN



### All are welcome!

Proceeds will be donated to the Duluth Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization to provide beds for kids in our community (<https://shpbeds.org/chapter/mn-duluth/>). More details to follow in the July issue of the Duluth Township Newsletter.



### Duluth Township is Hiring– Deputy Clerk

Duluth Township is seeking a qualified and motivated individual to serve as Deputy Clerk for approximately 15 hours per week. This is a salaried position with varied responsibilities supporting the daily operations of the Township office and elected officials.

#### Position Summary:

The Deputy Clerk works under the direction of the Town Clerk and provides administrative, clerical, and public service support. The Deputy Clerk also assumes the duties of the Clerk in their absence.

#### Primary Duties Include:

- Assisting the Town Clerk with all clerical and administrative duties
- Serving as Acting Clerk when the Clerk is unavailable
- Editing and preparing the Township newsletter for publication
- Managing and maintaining the Township website
- Coordinating and managing the Township Hall rental calendar
- Assisting with election preparation and administration
- Attending monthly Town Board meetings and preparing as needed

#### Qualifications:

- Strong organizational and communication skills
- Computer proficiency, including website and document management
- Ability to work independently and maintain attention to detail
- Prior administrative or municipal experience preferred but not required

#### Schedule & Compensation:

- Approximately 15 hours per week
- Salaried position (compensation based on experience)
- Requires attendance at monthly Town Board meetings and election-related duties as scheduled

#### How to Apply

Please submit a cover letter and resume to:

**Nicole Chatterson, Town Clerk**

[townclerk@lakenet.com](mailto:townclerk@lakenet.com)

6092 Homestead Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

**Application Deadline: June 1, 2026**

Duluth Township is an equal opportunity employer.



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



### CONDO & HOME ADVISORS LLC

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*Paid Advertisement*

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

[solfedfarm@gmail.com](mailto: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 June 11, 2026. Call 525-5705 or email [deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.com](mailto:deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.com).

### **Fresh Sourdough and Helping Hands:**

A young neighbor (age 11), with parent support, is offering help with light household cleaning, babysitting for known families, and homemade sourdough bread available for \$5/ loaf. She is very responsible. Her sourdough is made with love, and because it's so fermented it's easier to digest and a lower impact on blood sugar compared to regular bread. The proceeds are saved for her goals (horse). Please call/ text Nellie Torgerson 218-349-8315.



### 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.gov](http://www.duluthtownship.gov)

**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).

**ArMand Nelson (2026-2029) 612-247-7197 Chair**  
Primary contact: Materials Management, North Shore  
Management Board  
Alternate: Cemetery, Planning, Town Hall,  
Intergovernmental Relations

**Saprina Matheny (2024-2027) 715-296-9429 Vice-Chair**  
Primary contact: Business Management, Communications,  
CC Liaison/NSCS Foundation Board  
Alternate: Personnel, Intergovernmental Relations

**Stacia Grayson (2022-2025) 612-239-2292 or 525-5705**  
Primary contact: Cemetery, Town Hall  
Alternate: Arts & Heritage, Communication, Materials Management,  
Intergovernmental Relations

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

**Angela Wilson (2026-2029) 218-216-9098**  
Primary contact: Planning and Personnel  
Alternate: Business Management, Public Safety, and  
Intergovernmental Relations

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

**Planning Commission:** Justin Osadjan, Tony Mancuso, Nathan Nesgoda,  
Ken Peterson, Andrew Aho, Kit Grayson, Megan Gumness

**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](mailto:cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com)

**Emergency Operations Department:** ArMand Nelson

**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

**Township Historian:** Dwayne Madison

**To Email Township Officials and Departments**

See Township website, [www.duluthtownship.gov/contacts](http://www.duluthtownship.gov/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.gov](http://www.duluthtownship.gov)

Our Official Calendar is posted at the Town Hall

#### May 2026

**May 2:** Recycling 8 am-noon  
**May 5:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Business Meeting 7 pm  
**May 6:** Homesteaders 12:30 pm  
**May 7:** Recycling 3-7 pm  
**May 9:** Recycling 8 am-noon  
**May 12:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm  
**May 14:** Recycling 2-6 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
**May 16:** Recycling 8 am-noon  
**May 19:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7 pm  
**May 20:** D/NSSD Volunteer Board Meeting at French River Lutheran Church 7am  
**May 21:** Recycling 3-7 pm  
**May 23:** Recycling 8 am-noon  
**May 25: Memorial Day at Lakeview Palmers 11 am**  
**May 26:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm  
**May 28:** Recycling 3-7 pm; Planning Commission meeting 6:30 pm  
**May 30:** Recycling 8 am-noon

#### June 2026

**June 2:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Business Meeting 7 pm  
**June 3:** Homesteaders 12:30 pm  
**June 4:** Recycling 3-7 pm  
**June 6:** Recycling 8 am-noon  
**June 9:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm  
**June 11:** Recycling 3-7 pm; Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
**June 13:** Recycling 8 am-noon  
**June 16:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm; Fire Training Meeting 7 pm  
**June 17:** D/NSSD Volunteer Board Meeting at French River Lutheran Church 7 am  
**June 18:** Recycling 3-7 pm  
**June 20:** Recycling 8 am-noon  
**June 23:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm  
**June 25:** Recycling 3-7 pm, Planning Commission meeting 6:30 pm  
**June 27:** Recycling 8 am-noon  
**June 30:** Recycling 7-11 am, 3-7 pm

# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

May 2026

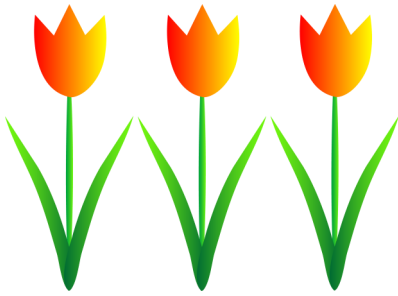
**1096** Newsletters are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses, and on request. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send comments and suggestions to Newsletter editor, Hannah Jurek, at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth MN 55804, or use the white mailbox at the Town Hall or email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

## Inside This Issue

- **Homesteaders**
- **Police Report**
- **Calendar**
- **Memorial Day**
- **Job Opportunities**
- **Bakery Bingo, Under the Timber Frame**
- **Word Find**

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)



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.gov](http://www.duluthtownship.gov)). 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.

**Variances 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.gov](http://www.duluthtownship.gov)).

**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.

