

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

TOWNSHIP WEB SITE:
WWW.DULUTHTOWNSHIP.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2017



Steamer at Palmers on the North Shore Railroad—August 2017

14th Annual Harvest Dinner Oct. 14^h

Come to the Clifton Volunteer Fire Department benefit dinner. Saturday, Oct. 14th, 5-7pm, Town Hall.

With live music, lots of door prizes, fantastic homemade dinner.

A family/community event.

Support our fire fighter and medical first responder volunteers!

If you could volunteer to help with this event, call Jody Anderson (525-4971) Thanks!

THE HOMESTEADERS

Rose Vastila

September 6th, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, sandwiches and bars. Music by THUG, the Two Harbors Ukulele Group.

October 4th, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, sandwiches and bars. Information on immunization shots. You can get your flue shots before the meeting.

November 1st, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, Potluck and turkey bingo.

December 6th, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, sandwiches and bars. Music by NSCS students.

Everyone is welcome.

For information call Rose Vastila at 834-5281.



French River Readers Book Club

Carol Surine

We are reading *The Boys in the Boat*, by Daniel James Brown. Our next meeting is Thursday, September 21st at 7:30pm at French River Church and hosted by Beth Luikart. For information contact Carol Surine at carolsurine@gmail.com or call 525-4426.

Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue

Ann Cox, Bob Engelson, Sandra Gredzens, Sue Lawson, Kristi Lounsberry, Carolyn Marino, Janet McTavish, Beth Mullan, Shawn Padden, Jana Pastika, Sherry Rovig, John Schifsky, Carol Surine, Jo Thompson, Rose Vastila and webmaster Barb Crow



Gentle Yoga
 Wednesdays 4:45-5:45pm
 at French River Lutheran Church
 A wellness class for beginners
 \$10 per class
 kshamapractice@gmail.com

Paid Advertisement

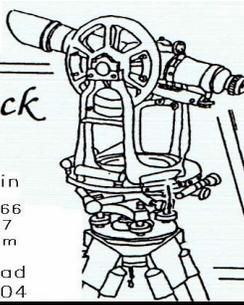
NORTH COUNTRY
 LAND SURVEYOR, INC.

Anthony Lueck
Surveyor

GPS
 Drafting
 Mapping
 Property Lines

Minnesota/Wisconsin
 MN.LIC.24587/WI.LIC.2366
 BUS.TELE.218-348-8037
 anthonylueck@northlc.com

6098 Ryan Road
 Duluth, MN 55804



Paid Advertisement

LOOKING FOR A HOME TO RENT?
 or,
LOOKING FOR A RENTER FOR YOUR NICE HOME?
 Call **Apartment & Home Advisors** – we can help!
 We specialize in properties of distinction
 and we help “take the stress out of moving”.
 Call Susie Lannon at 218-720-3987

Paid Advertisement

Country Kids Day Care, 525-1073
 Infants to School Age, Licensed
 Bus to NSCS & Lakewood Schools
 Accepting Full and Part Time

Paid Advertisement

Northshore Welding and Field Repair
 218-404-9061

Paid Advertisement

JOBS WANTED
For our Township Youth
 An effort to match up residents who have work suitable for our youth with youth in the Township who may want a job.

Seeking Jobs

- Mature, hard working, experienced 15 year old looking for work (yard work, cleaning, mowing, pretty much any chores). Just call Bridger at 525-0090.
- Cameron Nelson, age 13, lawn mowing, snow shoveling, general yard work, general labor. Call Cameron at 525-0208
- Hanna Peldo, 14 years old, Looking for babysitting jobs. Has taken babysitting class. Call Hanna at 525-9884.
- Young man, age 11 looking for work, including lawn mowing and general yard work. Experienced. If interested, please call Konrad, at 830-9514.
- Collin Bruckelmyer, age 13 looking for work Yard work, gardening, anything! Call 525-1780.

Advertise for free: For Township youth who are seeking work and Township residents who need help with various jobs suitable for youth (babysitting, lawn, garden, maintenance, snow shoveling, house cleaning, etc.). Leave your ad & contact information at the Town Hall (messages: 525-5705).
 Deadline for the next (November) Newsletter is October 23rd

WAGGIN' Tails
 Boarding Kennels
 Long & short term boarding



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

Paid Advertisement

Community Youth Groups

Clifton 4-H Club:
 Call: Stacia Donovan, 728-2483

Cub Scouts:
 Call: David Hooley, 525-6617

Boy Scouts:
 Call: Chris Roningen, 525-5308

Girl Scouts:
 Call: Tracy Mandelin, 525-4148
 (Note: If other community service groups should be listed, please contact the Town Hall.)

Town Hall Community Room



Meet friends, browse the **free library**, use the free WiFi, etc.
 Small groups can meet and share the room. Coffee maker, microwave, refrigerator, Wifi and ADA bathroom are available. See the Town Hall about rentals.

So far, Community Room hours are:

Tuesday	7am—noon & 2pm-6pm
Wednesday	9am — noon
Thursday	2pm — 6pm
Friday	9am — 11am
Saturday	8am — noon

Volunteers are needed to keep the Community Room open for more hours. Please contact the Town Hall office if you can help out (messages 525-5705).

Duluth Township Book Exchange

Jana Pastika, Librarian

The Duluth Township Book Exchange in the Town Hall Community Room needs you. Its full of good books! Take home as many as you would like to read. They don't necessarily need to be returned. The book exchange is open during the Town Hall's normal business and recycling hours (*see page 2*).

If you have books to donate, please use the guidelines:

We accept novels, mysteries (*we have enough James Patterson!*), romance, and other works of fiction in good condition (*no tears, missing covers, water damage, mildew*).

Because of space limitations and reader preferences, we don't accept nonfiction books (*no cookbooks, how-to books, comic strip books, guides, etc.*). CDs, DVDs, books on tape and magazines should also go elsewhere.

Visit soon and thanks for your help!

Police Department

Shawn Padden, Chief

For medical & police emergencies call: 911.

We have a new squad car replacing the older and higher mileage squad. This is a planned and budgeted periodic upgrade with required emergency police upgrades.

Sign up for email police alerts and other urgent or informative notifications at the Township site.

www.duluthtownship.org.

Police Events. Our police responded to 215 events in June and July. Most frequent were 86 vacation home/business checks or extra patrol requests, 21 traffic warnings/citations, 11 medical emergencies, 11 public assists, 10 attempt to locate careless drivers, and 8 fire or burglar alarm responses. The full list is on our Town web site.

If you have information about any criminal activity in our community, please contact the Duluth Township Police Department at: 218-525-5705 or our mobile phone: 393-8407, or email: DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org.

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department

Bob Engelson, Fire Chief

Fire Hall 1 Bay Addition:

As of this Newsletter, plans are to open bids Sept. 14th. The Town Board held a special meeting to discuss financing. An informational open house was held July 25th.



The free Smoke Detector is still open (*the notice and application were in the March and May Newsletters*).

Harvest Dinner Oct 14th a benefit for our volunteer fire fighters and medical first responders (*see page 1 article*).

Free 2018 wall calendars will be distributed by the Fire Auxiliary later this fall. If you can help deliver calendars to Township mailboxes, call Sherry at 525-0489.

FIREWISE events — see page 8

- > A FIREWISE pamphlet on how you can protect your home from wildfire is included in this Newsletter.
- > FIREWISE wildfire fuel reduction demonstration by DNR Forester Jeff Jackson will be held on Saturday Sept 16th at Fire Dept volunteer Bruce and Angela Hauger's residence at **5800 Bergquist Road** starting at 10am. Come to see suggestions on making your home safer from wildfires.
- > **Brush Drop-off Day.** Trim up your yard to protect your home. You can dispose of trimmed branches and small logs on Wed-Sat, Oct 18-21 at the free FIREWISE drop-off site at our Fire Hall 1 on Ryan Road. The FIREWISE grant will pay for chipping up branches and small logs on **Chipper Day**, Oct 21st from 9-5am, Fire Hall 1 on Ryan Road.

FIREWISE Volunteers Needed: Volunteer to put your name on a Township call list for residents who are physically unable to do the trimming or can't haul brush to the drop-off site. Please call volunteer Bruce Hauger at 590-2768 or leave your name and contact information at the Town Hall (525-5705).

To volunteer as a fire fighter or emergency medical responder, call Chief Bob Engelson, 525-6819.

2017 Lake Superior 20/20 Studio Art Tour

Rose Vastila and Sandra Gredzens

As crisp fall temperatures and colors fill the air in Northern Minnesota, the Lake Superior 20/20 Studio Art Tour embarks on its 6th year with a new route with many new and returning artists. The tour has a PDF printable map on their web site: www.lakesuperior20/20.com.

The tour includes studios of local artists, many from our Township. These include fiber artists, painting, jewelry, wood, glass, drawing, photography, writers, ceramics, wood design, pottery, etc.

The tour is the last weekend on **September 29, 30 and October 1st**. Tour hours are Friday through Sunday from 10am to 6pm. Mark your calendar. Additional information is on their web site www.lakesuperior20/20.com.



The Art and Heritage Group

Jo Thompson

The Duluth Township Arts and Heritage Committee needs your help! A fall event **“Celebrating Our Common Ground in Images, Words and Music”** is in the planning stages. It will include historical photos of gardens, orchards, and fields as well as a photo/art exhibit by Township residents who farm, tend gardens, preserve their food, and keep orchards, farm animals and bees. It will also include readings and music.

The event is **Saturday, November 4th** at the Town Hall. We need photos, art work, musicians and writers to share your work. If you can contribute or help out or if you have questions, please contact Jo Thompson (woodfarm1785@gmail.com or Duane Madison at 525-5645).

The Art and Heritage Group will meet next Friday, September 8th at 9:30am in the Town Hall Community Room. Everyone is welcome.



Help Keep our Streams Healthy, Avoid Concrete Washout!

Jo Thompson

While our Township construction activities seem to be doing a good job controlling discharge and potential contamination to streams, there have been reports from the Duluth area that cement trucks leaving construction sites appear to be discharging wash water into road ditches and dripping concrete from the chute onto roads. If wet concrete is washed onto roads or into ditches, the material eventually drains to a stream untreated.

Concrete washout water is highly caustic and corrosive and can inhibit plant growth and harm aquatic life if runoff reaches a water body. It also contains sediment that coats the stream bed and destroys habitat.

For more information see the fact sheet at: <https://www3.epa.gov/npdcs/pubs/concretewashout.pdf>, which describes best management practices and alternatives for handling concrete wash water as well as the damage that can result from improperly managed wash water.

HOW DO I ORDER A REPLACEMENT SIGN?

Anyone who wants or needs a replacement red and white reflective address number sign can submit a request to St. Louis County's 911 Communications division by calling 218-726-2921 or emailing: addressing@stlouiscountymn.gov

Be prepared to provide the following:

- Parcel ID number (or Property ID #)
- Quantity: whether you need more than one replacement sign (for example, if you have shoreline access as well as road)
- Mailing address if different than the address on file. Note the sign order typically takes approximately 2 months.
- Billing address for the sign replacement cost \$35 (only if different from the mailing address).

Once we receive the information, we will confirm the address in the county's Master Address Repository, and add the address number to our next bulk sign order. An order is placed roughly every few months.

Once we receive the bulk sign order in from the manufacture, we mail them out to each individual along with installation instructions, and an invoice for \$35.

Simply submit your payment, and replace your sign with the replacement sign.

NSCS

Kristi Lounsberry, Interim Director

North Shore Community School is gearing up for the start of our 16th year! The outside grounds have gotten a huge facelift this summer. The new grass will look wonderful when it comes up next spring. The parking lot has new blacktop and lines which will help with student safety during drop off and pick up times. Inside, all of the classrooms in the original part of the building have new doors. We are looking forward to welcoming all the new and returning students back to school on September 6th.

We would like to invite the whole community to join us for an **ice cream social on Friday, September 15th from 4:30-6:30**. It will be an opportunity to visit with staff and check out the building if you have not been here for awhile.

Roads Update

Supervisor Corlis West

There will be some selected road-side tree trimming to clear branches that could hit St Louis County snow plows.

Turnaround Permission letters will be sent to property owners at the end of dead-end Township roads seeking permission to use their driveway for road maintenance plows to turnaround. If adequate turnarounds aren't available, County plows may not be able to plow the road beyond an adequate turnaround.

A Township road forum is being planned for later this fall. It's purpose is to inform residents about road issues the Board is considering and to receive input from residents.

Please watch for children waiting for the bus or walking along our roads. Remember, stop for school busses as our children get on and off. Our new speed trailer will be in evidence to remind you to slow down!

Duluth Township Land Cover: Before and After Logging

John Schifsky

In the previous *Township Newsletter* (May 2017) the origin and characteristics of Duluth Township soils was described in general terms, the purpose being to provide background for at least two more articles, one focusing on pre-settlement and early settlement vegetation, and another focusing on soils, vegetation and erosion in the Knife River watershed.

The 2002 Comprehensive Plan states that “52% of the Township is covered by mixed forest composed of approximately equal amounts of deciduous and coniferous species. Another 6% is coniferous forest and 3% is deciduous. The dominant forest type is aspen-birch.”

But prior to settlement by Europeans, this area was part of what is called the Great Lakes Pine Forest which occurred over glacial till and was characterized by stands of eastern white pine and red pine. In the area which became Duluth Township, tree composition was largely determined by fire cycles. While red pine typically occurs on coarse textured, dry sites, white pine stands may have been more dominant closer to the lake because the soil was wetter, these areas being less subject to fire.

A further insight into the forest cover prior to widespread homesteading and clearing comes from Public Land Survey (PLS) records which, in Minnesota, date from 1848 to 1907 and consist of survey reference points, plot drawings, and specific description of the natural features and geography of about 3,800 of Minnesota's townships, Duluth Township being one. The PLS surveys, initially ordered by the 1785 Congress, were done, not to sample vegetation, but to raise revenue for the government through the sale of public lands to private individuals or companies. Whatever the original purpose, these records provide valuable information about trees and vegetation at the time of the survey. These data are especially valuable where the vegetation has been altered greatly in the past century.

The PLS surveys were the focus of Francis J. Marschner's attention who, from 1929 to 1931, took on the massive task of creating one of the most comprehensive and detailed maps on Minnesota vegetation by poring over the surveys and piecing them together. He created a remarkable map titled *The Original Vegetation of Minnesota*. The tree cover in Duluth Township (mid 1800's), as shown on Marschner's map, was approximately 90% mixed white pine and red pine with small islands of mixed hardwood, white spruce, black spruce and balsam scattered in several areas of the Township.



That general picture can be supplemented by PLS records of Historical Bearing Trees in the Township. (*Bearing trees are a special kind of witness tree which the surveyors notched, blazed, and scribed in a standard way to facilitate the relocation of the survey corner should the wooden corner post or corner stone be lost or moved. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources makes available an electronic copy of the PLS record.*) But, and this is an important qualification, researchers and ecologists warn that PLS data is, at best, a biased ecological sampling. Surveyors may have been instructed to choose trees or a certain species or diameter for marking, or they were biased in their choices.

Given the caution above, the bearing tree data offers some useful corroboration to Marschner's study and suggests that, post logging, the kinds of trees species in the Township, excluding white pines, have not changed radically. There were 162 documented bearing trees in Duluth Township. Thirty-four were white pine, the majority of which occur in an east-west belt in the Township's lower half. There were 37 spruce, generally scattered through the whole area, 23 birch generally scattered, and 22 aspen, mostly in the western half of the area. In addition there were fir, tamarack and white cedar in small numbers.

Loggers were active in this area in the 1880's and '90's; the Alger Smith railroad, expressly built to move logs from the field to Knife River, was closed in 1921. Some big trees remained and early settlers harvested them both for building materials, heating, and a source of some additional income. Logging the pine and spruce led to natural reforestation; aspen and alder brush, in this area, were and are the most aggressive species, as can be seen through the Township today. A recent GAP Minnesota DNR land cover map of Duluth Township shows tree cover to be largely upland deciduous (aspen, birch, maple, alder, ash) with areas of upland conifer (pine, spruce, white cedar), lowland conifer (tamarack, spruce, balsam). In addition, there are large areas of crop/grassland.

(Historic Logging Pictures are from National Park Service, MN Forest Service and Historic Society online files.)

Summary of Town Board Meetings

(Official minutes by Town Clerk Ann Cox are available at the Town Hall and on our Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org.)

June 8th regular meeting. Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Barb Crow, Dave Mount (*chair*), Travis Stolp and Corlis West attended plus Town Clerk Ann Cox and Treasurer Mel Peulen.

Reports: *Treasurer:* deposits of \$4,730.60, expenses of \$63,010.83 for an ending balance of \$501,678.85. Bills were reviewed and approved for payment. *Police:* Police Chief Shawn Padden announced that the speed trailer is in use. *Fire:* Air tanks need to be upgraded and grants are being explored. Estimated cost of the bay were discussed and final plan modifications will be made. A public open house on the bay addition project is planned.

Planning: Jo Thompson and Val Brady are working on our MS4 report. Updates noted: the Bille variance (*approved*), the commercial greenhouse on Shilhon road (*removed*), and Breezway Motel remodeling. Jo Thompson was elected chair and Wayne Dahlberg vice chair.

Roads: A response letter on Beck Road was approved. The County requested some turnaround widening and tree trimming to better accommodate plows. Designation of road terminations are being studied. **JUC:** A motion to pay \$450 to support the summer reading program at NSCS was approved. A motion to pay ABC, Inc. for \$38,272 for NSCS landscaping was approved. **Town Hall:** Parking lot repair and striping was discussed. **Arts & Heritage:** A motion to spend up to \$650 for a permanent system to hang pictures and artwork in the Town Hall was approved.

June 26th special meeting: Beck Road, Bille appeal.

Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Barb Crow, Dave Mount (*chair*), Travis Stolp and Corlis West attended plus Town Clerk Ann Cox, Town Attorney Scott Witty, Planning Director Sue Lawson and Planning Secretary Beth Mullan.

Beck Road: After discussion a letter responding to the property owner's attorney was approved.

Bille Appeal: The appeal of the Planning Commission decision was approved thereby denying the variance application of Charles Bille. The decision was based on the variance request not being consistent with the Township's Comprehensive Plan nor in harmony with the general purposes and intent of the Zoning Ordinance. The extent of requested variances was noted.

July 13th regular meeting. Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Barb Crow, Dave Mount (*chair*), Travis Stolp and Corlis West attended plus Town Clerk Ann Cox and Treasurer Mel Peulen.

Reports: *Treasurer:* reported expenses of \$45,275.61, deposits of \$9,008.69 (*the levy allotment was just received and not included in these totals*) and an ending balance of \$465,411.93. **Public Comments:** Bille read a letter for the record. *Police:* There have been positive comments on the speed trailer and its apparent calming of traffic. *Fire:* Finances for a fire hall addition will be discussed at a special meeting July 19th. A public information open house will be held July 25th. **Planning:** The PCA is planning an audit of our stormwater education efforts.

The Commission was asked to revisit location the long term rental provisions in our Zoning Ordinance. The County will sell the three parcels of CV high school together. **Roads:** A letter asking for permission to use driveways at the end of Township roads for plow turnaround will be sent to our attorney for review. Up to \$5,000 was approved to remove limbs hanging over Township roads as requested by the County to protect plows. A motion was approved to spend up to \$2,000 for resealing the Town Hall parking lot. Recycling grant funding was received. Complaints were received about a resident dumping carcasses along the side of a road and complaint about junk cars.

July 19th regular meeting. Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Barb Crow, Dave Mount (*chair*), Travis Stolp and Corlis West attended plus Fire Chief Robert Engelson. Bids have not gone out so there is no update on cost for the Fire Hall 1 bay addition. Travis suggested using \$85,000 from the Fire Department, \$15,000 from roads, \$20,000 from the general fund, \$35,000 from the Community Center fund, \$7,000 from sale of the old sprinkler system, and \$25,000 from capital improvement fund. The Township has about \$50,000 from taconite tax revenue. Estimating the total cost of the project at about \$385,000 we would then borrow \$250,000. That loan would be largely paid off with taconite relief funds we expect to receive each year.

Regular **Town Board meetings** are held on the second Thursday at **6:30pm** in the Town Hall.
(special meetings are posted at the Town Hall).
Residents are encouraged to attend these meetings.

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Change for High Frequency Short Term Rentals

Sue Lawson, Planning Director

The Town Board directed the Planning Commission to review zoning requirements for high frequency short term rentals (*sometimes referred to as "vacation rentals" "VRBO's, AirBnB, etc."*). After reviewing, the Commission recommended that the lot size requirement and the side yard setback requirements be *moved* from performance standards to a conditional use requirement. One of the effects of this recommendation is a high frequency short term rental lot must be at least two acres and the short term rental dwelling must be at least 50' from the side yard property lines (*requirements not subject to a variance*).

There will be a **Public Hearing on these proposed changes on Sept. 28th at 7pm at the Town Hall.** The Town invites you to weigh in on this proposed change. If you wish to comment, please provide written responses or appear in person at the Public Hearing.

At the Public Hearing the Planning Commission will hear all comments, deliberate, and then make a recommendation to the Town Board. The Town Board is the final decision-maker on Ordinance changes.

The proposed Zoning Ordinance change is available for your review at the Town Hall and on the Town's web site.



Duluth Township Information 2017

Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804
Phone (218) 525-5705 (voice message),

Email: See note below on using our Township web site.

www.duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9am-noon
Thurs 2-6pm, Fri 9-11am

Planning Office Hours: No posted hours
Call the Town Hall for an appointment: 525-5705

Supervisors: (see web site for email contacts)

- Rolf Carlson** (2017-2020) 525-0375
Primary contact for cemetery and Planning
Alternate for Town Hall, DNSSD, Materials Mgmt
- Barb Crow** (2016-2019) 525-0489 Vice Chair
Primary contact for Arts/Heritage, Communications/IT-web, Intergovernmental relations, rental coordinator.
Alternate for Business Management, Personnel
- Dave Mount** (2016-2019) Chair 525-7961
Primary contact for Business Mgmt, and Personnel,
Alternate for Communications
- Travis Stolp** (2016-2018) 525-0576
Primary contact for Public Safety
Co-Primary for Roads, Alternate for Cemetery
- Corlis West** (2017-2020) 525-7719
Primary contact for Town Hall, NS Mgmt Bd, DNSSD, Materials Management
Co-Primary for Roads

Town Clerk: Ann K. Cox 525-5705 (Town Hall)
Treasurer: Mel Peulen 525-5705 (Town Hall)
Attorney: Scott Witty 722-4766 (office)
Cemetery Sexton: Molly Tillotson 218-525-6933

Planning Director: Sue Lawson messages: 525-5705

Planning and Zoning Secretary: Beth Mullan

Planning and Zoning Commission:

Wayne Dahlberg (vice chair), Dave Edblom,
Jerry Hauge, Liz Strohmayer, John Schifsky,
Jo Thompson (chair), Larry Zanko.

Peace Officers: Chief Shawn Padden
Officer Steve Peterson

Emergencies 911, Messages 525-5705 or 393-8407

Clifton Volunteer Fire/EMS Department:

Chief Bob Engelson, Assistant Chief Rob Peldo,
President Jason Bruckelmyer

Burning Permits are available online at mndnr.gov/permits or the Town Hall (office hours), or from **Fire Wardens:** Jeff & Carolyn Marino (525-6431), Jay Zink 525-5589 or **DNR** in Two Harbors, 1568 Hwy 2, 834-1418.

Community Center Rental Coordinator: Jim Salls 600-9015

Town Hall rentals: contact the Town Clerk, 525-5705.

Website manager: Barb Crow.

To Email Township Officials and Departments

Our Township web site, www.duluthtownship.org/contacts, has a dropdown list of personnel and departments you can use to send emails. Note that a copy of all emails automatically goes to the Town Hall for Township records.. Many Departments have a web page. (see our web site).

Township Recycling Center

At the Town Hall, on Homestead Road
Staffed by Carolyn Marino, Roger Beck and volunteers

**April-Oct: Tuesday 7-11am & 3-7pm,
Thurs. 3-7pm, Saturday 8-12.**



Nov.-March: Tues. 7-11am, 2-6pm, Thurs. 2-6pm & Sat. 8-noon.

(Recycle drop off only during recycling hours and no household garbage, please.)

Aluminum cans should be recycled with plastics/metal cans.
Curb recycling pickup service is available south of the freeway.
Surveillance cameras have been installed around the Town Hall because of vandalism and dumping household garbage.

Township Calendar

See calendar updates on www.duluthtownship.org.
Our Official Calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

SEPTEMBER 2017

- 5, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
- 6, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall
- 6, Wed, **First day of school - NSCS - watch out for kids!**
- 8, Fri, 9:30 **Art and Heritage Group**, Town Hall
- 14, Thu, 6:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- 15, Fri, 4:30-6:30 **Ice Cream Social**, NSCS (article p4)
- 16, Sat, 10am **FIREWISE** home demo (see article)
- 19, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept training**, Hall #1
- 19, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 28, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
With a Public Hearing on high frequency short term rental ordinance change (see p6)
- 29, Fri, 10-6pm Start of 3-day 20/20 **Studio Arts Tour**

OCTOBER 2017

- 3, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 4, Wed, 12:30pm **Homesteader's**, Town Hall
- 12, Thu, 6:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall.
- 14, Sat, 5-7pm **Harvest Dinner**, Town Hall
A Fire Dept Benefit. Families welcome!
- 17, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 17, Tue, 7-9pm **Volunteer Fire Dept training** Hall #1
- 23, Mon, **Deadline for the November Newsletter**
- 26, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

NOVEMBER 2017

- 1, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall
- 4, Sat, **Celebrating Our Common Ground**, Town Hall
- 7, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 16, Thu, 6:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- 21, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall #1
- 21, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 23, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

Inside This Issue

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- Jobs wanted: Township Youth
- FIREWISE insert pamphlet
- Roads update

For a color version of this Newsletter, go to the Township website: duluthtownship.org

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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If your name or address are in error or you know of someone who is not receiving a Newsletter, please send a note to the Newsletter Editor at the Town Hall ([email: editor@duluthtownship.org](mailto:editor@duluthtownship.org)). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

1106 Newsletters are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses and on request. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to the volunteer Newsletter editor, Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the Drop Box on the Town Hall porch. Our Newsletter is printed locally by Bob Sundstrom, **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by the folks at **UDAC**.

Be FIREWISE! Protect your home from wildfires.

Sherry Rovig

Stop at the Demonstration at 10am Saturday Sept. 16th at 5800 Bergquist Road. See what you can do to reduce the risk of wildfires and protect your family, home, and property. Our area is becoming more susceptible to wildland fires due to tree damage from storms, spruce bud worm, other tree diseases, and periods of drought.

Information — Read over the enclosed FIREWISE pamphlet for ideas on how to reduce the risk of wildfires at your home or business.

Fuel Reduction Demonstration — 10am Saturday, September 16th at Bruce and Angela Hauger's residence, 5800 Bergquist Road. Jeff Jackson, MN DNR FIREWISE Specialist for Northeast Minnesota will demonstrate how to reduce the chance of wildfire at a home site.

Before Chipper Day — October 18-21st, Wed-Sat. Take brush and small logs from your fuel reduction efforts to Fire Hall 1 on Ryan Road. Do not leave brush or logs after Chipper Day. Thanks,

Need Help: If you need help with fuel reduction at your home...lopping off limbs, trimming brush, etc. (*not major tree felling*) call one of the volunteers who are listed at the Town Hall.

Chipper Day — October 21st from 9-5pm is when Wright's Tree Service has been contracted to chip up all the brush and small logs that have been stacked at Fire Hall 1, paid for by the FIREWISE grant our Fire Dept received.

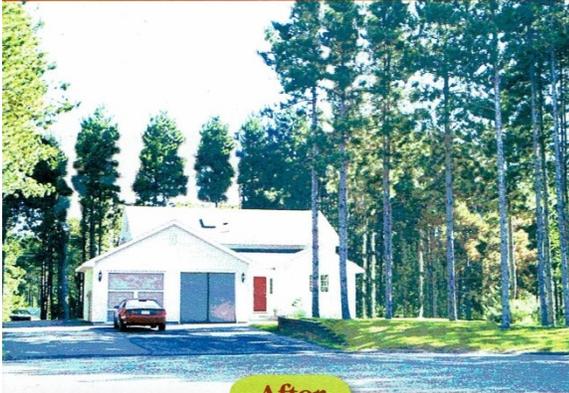
911 Fire Sign Inventory — we will be traveling roads in the Township to see if Fire Signs are showing where emergency vehicles will be able to see them. If you have the one-sided, not-reflective fire signs, please consider ordering one of the new double-sided reflective signs. Call St Louis Communications at 218-726-2921 (*see the article on page 4*)

How You Can Help! — If you would be willing to have your name listed as a volunteer to help someone with FIREWISE tree and brush trimming, hauling brush to Fire Hall 1, or helping install new 911 fire signs, please leave your name and contact information with Bruce Hauger (590-2768) or leave a message at our Town Hall (525-5705).

Creating a Firewise Property



Before



After

Creating a defensible space around your house can enable your home to survive a wildfire. It also provides access to your home for firefighters in case of a wildfire.

Much of the threat to your home comes from the amount of fuel continuity from the wildland surrounding your home. Look at your property—Is there a fire resistant green belt around your structures?

Heavier fuels, such as brush and coniferous trees, are very hazardous. They produce a more intense fire than light, fast burning grassy fuels.

Defensible Space Zones

Intensive Zone is the area of maximum modification and treatment. It consists of a 30-foot radius around all structures in which a majority of the flammable vegetation is reduced. The zone is measured from the outside edge of the home and any attached structures, such as decks, garages or outbuildings within 25 feet of the home. If it is attached to the house or within 25 feet of the house, consider it part of the house.

Extensive Zone is an area of fuel reduction. The size of this zone depends on the general conditions. Typically, this zone should extend at least 70 to 100 feet from the structure. In high risk situations this zone may need to extend to 200 feet or more from the structure. Within this zone, the continuity and arrangement of vegetation is modified. Remove stressed, diseased, dead or dying vegetation. Thin and prune the remaining trees and shrubs. Be sure to extend fuel modification along either side of your driveway all the way to your main access road.

General Management Zone is an area of traditional forest management and is of no particular size. It extends from the edge of your defensible space to your property boundaries.

Prescriptions

The size of the **Intensive Zone** is 30 feet, measured from the edges of the structure. Within this zone, several specific treatments are recommended.

- Plant nothing within 3 to 5 feet of the structure, particularly if the building is sided with wood, logs or other flammable materials. Decorative rock creates an attractive, easily maintained, nonflammable ground cover.
- If the house has noncombustible siding, widely spaced foundation plantings of low growing shrubs or other "fire resistant" plants are acceptable. Do not plant directly beneath windows or next to foundation vents. Be sure there are no areas of continuous grass adjacent to plantings in this area.
- Do not store firewood or other combustible materials in this area. Extend the gravel coverage under the decks. Decks within 5 feet of the ground should be enclosed with metal screening or sheeting. Do not use areas under decks for storage unless completely enclosed with metal screening.
- Frequently prune and maintain plants in this zone to ensure vigorous growth and a low growth habit. Remove dead branches, stems and leaves. Keep grass mowed short (1-2").
- Ideally, remove all conifer trees from the Intensive Zone to reduce fire hazards. If you do keep a few conifer trees, be sure they are well spaced with at least 10 feet between their crowns and that they are pruned up at least 8 feet. Remove any branches that are within 10 feet of the roof or chimney. Remove all "ladder fuels" from beneath the tree. (Ladder fuels are tall grass, small shrubs, trees, tree limbs and other materials that allow fire to climb into the tree crown.)
- Propane tanks pose a special hazard near homes. Tanks up to 1200 gallons are best located inside the defensible space but **MUST BE** at least 10 feet from the structure itself. In addition, grass and bushes **MUST** be cleared around the tank for 10 feet. Contact your local fire marshal before moving an existing tank.

The next area, referred to as the **Extensive Zone**, is the next 70 to 100 feet (or more) around your structures. It is an area of fuel reduction designed to reduce the intensity of any fire approaching your home. Follow these recommended management steps.

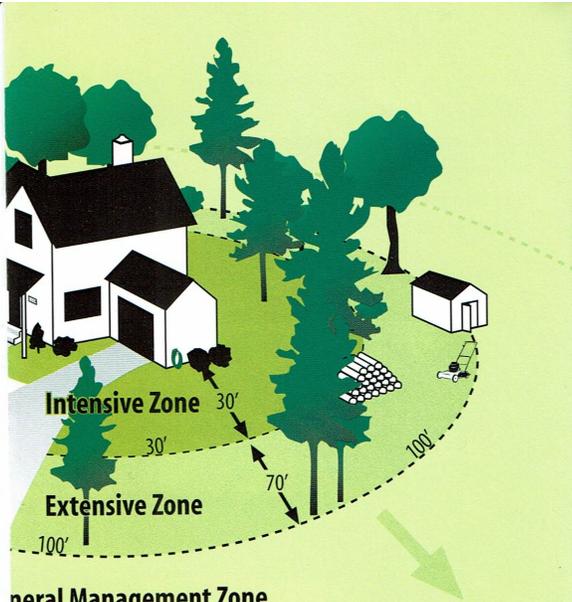
- Thin trees and large shrubs so there is at least 10 feet between crowns. Crown separation is measured from the outer

Defensible Space Zones



most branch of one tree to the closest branch on the next tree. On steep slopes, allow more space between tree crowns. Remove all ladder fuels from under these remaining trees. Carefully prune trees to a height of 10 feet, but not more than one-third the live crown.

- Because the Extensive Zone forms an aesthetic buffer and provides a transition between zones, it is necessary to blend the requirements from the other two zones. Thin the inner portions of the Extensive Zone more heavily than the outer portions. Gradually increase tree density as you approach the General Management Zone.
- Isolated shrubs may remain, provided they are not under tree crowns. Prune and maintain these plants periodically to maintain vigorous growth. Remove dead stems from trees and shrubs annually.
- Limit the number of dead trees, or snags retained in this area. Wildlife need only one or two snags per acre. Be sure any snags left for wildlife cannot fall onto the house or block access roads or driveways.
- Mow grasses as needed through the growing season to keep them low, a maximum of 6 to 8 inches. This is extremely critical in



General Management Zone

the fall when grasses dry out and cure or in the spring after the snow is gone but before the plants green up.

- Stack firewood and woodpiles uphill or on the same elevation as the structure but at least 25 feet away. Remove flammable vegetation within 10 feet of these woodpiles. Do not stack wood against your house or on or under your deck, even in winter. Many homes have burned from an easily ignited woodpile next to the home!
- Dispose of slash, (limbs, branches, etc.) from your trees and shrubs by chipping or composting. Some communities have brush disposal sites. Avoid burning this material. Another alternative is to lop and scatter slash by cutting it into very small pieces and distributing it over the ground to speed decomposition. Avoid heavy accumulations of slash. Make it lay close to the ground to speed decomposition. If desired, no more than two or three small, widely spaced brush piles may be left for wildlife purposes. Locate these towards the outer portions of your defensible space away from trees, especially evergreens, where they would create a fuel ladder.

The **General Management Zone (GMZ)** is of no specified size. It extends from the edge of your defensible space to your property lines. In this area, you are encouraged to manage your forests in a more traditional manner. Typical management objectives for areas surrounding homesites or subdivisions are: provide for recreational opportunities, aesthetics, tree health, and wind, noise, dust and visual barriers. Some sites may support limited production of firewood, fence posts, Christmas trees, and other forest commodities.

- Specific management requirements will be dictated by your objectives for your land. However, most thinning will be done "from below" and leave the biggest and best trees. Contact a professional forester and make a management plan.
- Thinnings sanitize and improve the forest stand by removing trees that are damaged, attacked by insects, infected by disease, or are of poor form or low vigor.
- Tree spacing usually depends on the species being managed and factors such as susceptibility to wind throw or damage from heavy snow loading. For pine, a good rule of thumb for stem spacing is diameter +7. Measure diameter in inches at about 4½ feet above the ground. For example, if the average tree to be left following your thinning was an 8-inch red pine, then use the formula $8 + 7 = 15$, for a spacing of 15 feet between trees.
- A greater number of dead trees can remain in the GMZ. Make sure that they pose no threat to power lines or fire access roads.
- While pruning generally is not necessary in the GMZ, it may be a good idea from the standpoint of personal safety to prune trees along trails and fire access roads. If you prefer the aesthetics of a well-manicured forest, you might prune the entire area. In any case, pruning helps reduce ladder fuels within the tree stand, and enhances wildfire safety. Mowing is not necessary in the GMZ.
- Any method of slash treatment is acceptable for this zone, including piling and burning, chipping or lop-and-scatter. Burning is discouraged since it is a major cause of wildfires. Contact local authorities for approved methods.

Driveway Standards

During a wildfire, firefighters will not drive their engine into your driveway if they feel it is unsafe for them to do so. What makes

a safe driveway? Basically it is the same as defensible space around your home: Clearing and thinning vegetation from the roadway both horizontally and vertically, as well as providing a

turnaround big enough for the engine, and turnouts to provide room for other vehicles to pass by safely.



Width of driveway: The all weather surface should be at least 12 ft. wide, 20 feet if longer than 150 feet.

Vertical clearance: Engines and their equipment are tall. Prune tree branches to provide at least 14 ft. of clearance.

Turnaround: A turnaround near your house should be provided with at least a 30 ft. radius. A "Hammerhead - T" with a minimum of 60 ft. across the top, is a good alternative.

Turnouts: A turnout is a wide place in your driveway that will allow another vehicle to pass. It should be at least 10 ft. wide and 30 ft. long. If your driveway is over 800 ft. long, a turnout should be provided at least every 400 ft.

Firewise programs are cooperative efforts. This publication contains materials from Colorado, Wyoming, and Wisconsin publications.

Making your home Firewise does not mean damaging the beauty of your property. The photos on the front of this publication show the difference between being unsafe and Firewise. Can you spot the changes?

**For more information on
Firewise, visit:
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise>**



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This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling (651) 296-6157 (Metro Area) or 1-888-MINNDNR (MN Toll Free) or Telecommunication Device for the Deaf/TTY: (651) 296-5484 (Metro Area) or 1-800-657-3929 (Toll Free TTY).

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