What’s Coming Up?

**Fall Arts and Heritage event on the Cloquet Fire**
Duluth Township, Nov. 3rd. (see article below)

**Emergency Planning.** Suggestions on your Emergency Planning at the Nov 3rd Heritage event.

**Youth seeking jobs** (see list on page 4)

**NSCS News** (see page 2)

**Filing for Town Board Supervisor** election is January 1st through 15th. (see article page 2)

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**The Homesteaders**
Mary Ann Sironen

November 7th, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall. Harvest Potluck and Bingo.

December 5th, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, coffee and snacks. NSCS students will provide music.

January 2nd, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, New Year Potluck and Bingo.

*Everyone is welcome.*
For information call Rose Vastila at 834-5281.

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**Plastic Bag Recycling**
Carolyn Marino

There is an orange barrel at the Town Hall recycling center for plastic bags (or similar quality plastic sheets/bags). Please do not put plastic bags in the bin with tin cans and other plastic bottles. The orange container is by the recycle shed.

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**The Art and Heritage Group**
Ellen O’Neill

In October 1918 the Cloquet fire swept through our region. Duluth Township was affected by this fire too.

The Duluth Township Arts and Heritage Group (DTAHG) invites you to an event, 7-9pm on November 3rd in the Town Hall, that focuses on what happened in our Township during that fire.

It will include the history, maps, stories about families, and examples of how people pulled together to help save lives, farmsteads, livestock and rebuild their lives.

There also will be information and materials available on creating a “firewise” property.

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Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue

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Duluth Township Newsletter

Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org

November 2018

**VOTE: Tuesday, Nov. 6th!**

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Plan to VOTE Tuesday Nov. 6th!

Our Township polls are open 7am to 8pm. Duluth Township usually has a good turnout. Keep it up.

**If you want to vote by absentee ballot** you need to go to the St Louis County Courthouse in Duluth, Elections Office, Room 212 (you could request an absentee ballot by mail or online but official absentee ballots must be received by election day). If needed, you can register at the polls. The Township does not have absentee ballots.
Collaboration is a prominent cornerstone of NSCS. Working together, we can do so much more, providing opportunities for our students beyond the walls of our building. We are fortunate our opportunities expand into our beautiful wooded setting as we move through the change of seasons. Recent opportunities for communication and collaboration have included: Grandparents and Grandfriends Day, a parent forum with the Board of Directors, and a meeting regarding possible changes in parent drop off and pick-up to increase student safety.

**Annual Meeting and School Board Elections:**
NSCS will hold their Annual Meeting on November 8, 2018, at 5:30 in the library. Election results will be shared at this meeting. The regular November Board Meeting will be held on November 24, 2018, at 5:30 in the Library. Conferences will be held December 3, 6, and 11, in the evening.

Follow us on Facebook and checkout our calendar on the school’s website for up to date information: northshorecommunityschool.org.

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**North Shore Community School Preschool News**

Shelly Pierson, Executive Director

NSCS Preschool Has Openings: Preschool Sessions run Monday-Thursdays for 2, 3, or 4 days. Half days: 9:00am until 12:15, Full Days: 9:00am until 2:45. Contact Jessi Anderson at 218-525-0663 to schedule a tour or stop by the office to enroll.

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**Turkey Bingo**

Sunday, November 11th, 5:30-7:30pm
French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road
Proceeds go to Two Harbors Area Food Shelf.

Boards range from 25¢ to $1.00. Bring a non-perishable item for the food shelf and receive a 25¢ board free (one per player for the evening). Food you can purchase too. Join us for family fun, fellowship and great prizes! Everyone welcome. For more information call 525-5659 or email fric5310@gmail.com.

**Scandinavian Christmas on the Shore and Olde World Baked Goods**

Saturday, December 8th
French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road

Your one-stop Christmas shop! A variety of vendors and products and ethnic treats (yes, we have lefse). Swedish Smorgasbord served 11am—1pm. Everyone welcome. For more information, call 525-5659 or fric5310@gmail.com.

**Serving on the Town’s Board of Supervisors**

Consider contributing your skills and effort to help run our Township for a 3-year term. Two positions on the 5-member Town Board will be on the ballot in the March election.

After the election, the Board meets to divide up responsibilities and discuss plans for the year. The Board meets the second Thursday each month at 6:30. Board members receive a modest stipend per meeting. It’s an opportunity to contribute to our Township and learn about how a Township operates to be successful. Volunteering is the price for living in a good Township.

To file for election, see the Town Clerk between January 2 and 15. The cost for filing is $2.00.

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The Harvest Dinner benefit was a success! Thanks to all who attended in support of the Fire Department. Thanks to the great Fire Auxiliary cooks and great music!
August 23rd regular meeting. Commissioners Dave Ed-blom, Jerry Hauge, Liz Strohmayer, Jo Thompson (chair) and Larry Zanko attended plus Planning Director Sue Lawson and Secretary Beth Mullan and Board Liaison Rolf Carlson.

Hearing: The Lillo hearing involved two variance requests on property on the inside corner of Shihlon as it turns north to Korkki: a) the non-conforming lot is smaller than required for building, and b) building a shed. After discussion, variances for lot size and a storage structure were approved. No comments were received at the time of the hearing but an adjoining property owner sent an objection later. Lillo’s need a Land Use Permit for the shed.

The new Town Hall screen and projector are in place.

September 27th regular meeting. Commissioners Wayne Dahlberg, Jerry Hauge, John Schifsky, Liz Strohmayer, and Larry Zanko attended plus Planning Director Sue Lawson and Secretary Beth Mullan and Board Liaison Rolf Carlson.

There were no hearings at this meeting. The discussion focused on the SMU-8/Greenwood Road lot requirement work that Commissioners had been pursuing. A grant will help with the review of our Comprehensive Land Use Plan next year. It was decided to wait on the lot requirement issue until the CLUP process is complete.

Regular Planning Commission meetings are held on the fourth Thursday at 6:30pm in the Town Hall. Special hearings are also posted at the Town Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend these public meetings.

Summary of Amendments to Duluth Township Zoning Ordinance Number 5: Amendments
Adopted October 11, 2018
Dave Mount, Chair, Town Board

The Duluth Township Board of Supervisors has ordained amendments to the Town of Duluth Zoning Ordinance Number 5 (originally adopted Dec. 31, 2015). These amendments include: 1) altering requirements for driveway placement and design; 2) amending the process for proposal, evaluation, public hearing and adoption of amendments to the Zoning Ordinance or Map; 3) altering public notice requirements for variances; 4) establishing requirements for residential solar energy systems; 5) establishing definitions, applicability, performance standards, conditional use requirements for commercial uses not falling under existing commercial use definitions; 6) altering the fee table for permits falling under the purview of the Zoning Ordinance; and 7) a minor change to the zoning map.

A printed copy of specific changes is available for inspection by any person at the Duluth Town Hall (6092 Homestead Road) during the Town Clerk’s normal business hours. The document is also available on the Township web site, www.duluthtownship.org.

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department
Bob Engelson, Fire Chief

Fire Hall 1 addition is complete (bay door on right).

FIREWISE Update—Due to reduced cost for a bulk order, we are now able to provide new 911 signs for all the addresses in Duluth and Alden Townships that we surveyed last year that have either an old 911 sign (one-sided, non-reflective) or those with no current sign. We will also have 7 foot posts and attachment hardware where needed.

A notice will be posted on the Township web site and in the next Newsletter when they are available.

The cost of these signs is covered by our FIREWISE grant.

Residents will be expected to install the new signage according to the requirements provided by the County. Assistance will be available to those unable to do their own installation.

Volunteers who are interested in becoming firefighters and/or emergency medical responders should contact Bob Engelson at 525-6819.

Police Department
Shawn Padden, Chief

For medical & police emergencies call: 911.

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

Police Events. July, August and September had 268 police events. Of these, 126 were requested checks on homes or businesses, 10 medical emergencies, 15 traffic citations/warnings, 13 attempts to locate careless drivers, 15 public or agency assists, 21 responses to suspicious activity or disturbance complaints, 15 response to burglar or fire alarms (3 residential burglaries), 9 animal complaints, and 11 accidents (personal injury or property damage).

If you have information about any criminal activity in our community, please contact the Duluth Township Police Dept. at: 218-525-5705 or mobile phone: 393-8407, or email through the Town web site contact list.
JOB WANTED
For 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
• Cameron Nelson, age 14, lawn mowing, snow shoveling, general yard work, general labor. Call Cameron at 525-0208
• Hanna Peldo, 15 years old, looking for babysitting jobs. Has taken babysitting class. Call Hanna at 525-9884.
• Young man, age 12 looking for work, including lawn mowing and general yard work. Experienced. If interested, please call Konrad, at 830-9514.
• Trevor Simonson, age 14, is looking for work such as mowing, general yard work, or snow shoveling. Call 525-7552.
• Collin Bruckelmyer, age 14 looking for work: yard work, gardening, anything! Call 525-1780.
• Mature, hard working, experienced 16 year old looking for work (yard work, cleaning, mowing, pretty much any chores). Just call Bridger at 525-0909.

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 (Jan.) Newsletter is Dec. 23rd

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French River Readers Book Club
Carol Surine

The book for November discussion is The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery. The next meeting is Thursday, November 15th at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road. For information call Carol Surine, 525-4426 or email CarolSurine@gmail.com

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Classical Guitar Group
Jana Pastika

Beginning guitar player is looking to organize a group to meet regularly in the Clover Valley area. We may be able to use the Community Room at the Duluth Town Hall. I can provide sheet music initially.

If you are interested or have questions, contact me at jmpastika@gmail.com.

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Summary of Town Board Meetings
(Official minutes by Town Clerk Ann Cox are available at the Town Hall and on our Township website: www.duluthtownship.org).

August 9th regular meeting. Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Barb Crow, Penny Morton, Dave Mount (chair) and Corlis West attended plus Town Clerk Ann Cox and Treasurer Mel Peulen. Reports: Treasurer: deposits of $107,053.09, expenses of $121,543.03 for an ending balance of $666,624.85. The Community Center fund was closed with the remaining balance dedicated to the playground zip line project. The Sinclair gas station has blocked or limited fire and police vehicle charge cards. The company has been contacted and is largely unresponsive. Ways around the problems are being pursued. The annual Stormwater meeting was held, led by Val Brady. Thanks to Val Brady and Jo Thompson for the presentation and work on the MS4 reports. Planning: Zoning ordinance updates were submitted for Board consideration. A Star Grant was received to help with updating our Comprehensive Plan. Cemetery: Entrance under the archway was repaired.

September 13th regular meeting. All Supervisors attended plus the Town Clerk and Treasurer. Reports: Treasurer reported deposits of $30,513.12, expenses of $59,580.23 and an ending balance of $637,557.74. Police: Congratulations to the Department for passing its MN Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training review. Fire: The new bay addition is progressing with the water tank installed and new (LP donated siding) installed. Roads: Potholes and washouts were repaired, the Beck road was damaged by Stack Brothers equipment and they will be asked to do repairs. The road contact was discussed for continuation. Town Hall: The floors will be cleaned and recoated. Supervisors Mount and Morton will review the renewal insurance policy. Emergency Operations will have a display at the November 3rd Heritage event. Cemetery: We are waiting for another quote for updating the shed at the cemetery.

October 11th regular meeting. All Supervisors attended plus the Town Clerk and Treasurer. Main Actions: The Zoning Ordinance and map changes were approved (see summary, page 3). Reports: Treasurer reported deposits of $1,452.59, expenses of $150,333.14 for an ending balance of $488,677.19. Roads: Grading will occur when the roads have dried out satisfactorily. Communications: A postcard mailing will be made to correct the midterm election date that was in error in the September Newsletter. Community Center: A non-profit volunteer organization was created to oversee use of the skating and hockey rinks and facility. The Board had previously voted to donate $5,000 for the purpose.

Regular Town Board meetings are held on the second Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall. (special meetings are posted at the Town Hall). Residents are encouraged to attend these public meetings.
The October 1918 Fire in Duluth Township
John Schifsky

The October 12, 1918, fire burned into the memories of residents of Northeastern Minnesota. A series of destructive conflagrations swept through rural areas and towns in Carlton, Pine, and St. Louis Counties, as well as many surrounding counties. The first sentence in the opening chapter of The Fires of Autumn by Francis Carroll and Franklin Raiter declares, "It was the greatest calamity ever to occur in northern Minnesota." The Minnesota Forest Fires Relief Commission report, published in 1921, documents 1,500 square miles (250,000 acres) destroyed by fire, 453 people killed outright, 85 people seriously burned, 11,382 families displaced, and more than 52,000 affected (injured, lives disrupted). More than 4000 homes, 6000 barns, and 4000 animals were lost. Ten towns and villages were completely destroyed; there were heavy losses in and near Duluth, and 16 other towns and villages experienced some degree of destruction. Total property losses were estimated at 30 million dollars.

The epicenter of the 1918 fire which destroyed Cloquet and parts of Duluth was along the Great Northern Railway at Milepost 62, north and west of Cloquet. Many fire survivors blamed the railroads as sparks and embers blown from the smokestacks were common. But there were other significant factors contributing to the fires' destructive force. These included extremely dry conditions; a sudden drop in humidity due to a cold front, a large supply of fuel from lumber slashings; tens of thousands of cords of piled timber products, peat bogs that had been burning for months, and a lack of equipment, supplies, and trained firefighters.

There were several major fires. The largest is called the Cloquet fire and extended beyond the eastern border of Duluth. A dramatic photo of two, tall, fire blackened chimneys surrounded by burnt debris, shows the remains of Northland Country Club. Maria and Alfred Burk lived on Lakewood Road, and they chose to stay at their home and fight the fire, sending their children to the top of Abrahamson Hill, perhaps not the safest place, John Stromgren, grandson to Maria and Alfred, reflected.

Further east, a fall fair was being held at the John A. Johnson School, when the approaching fire was reported. Jens Solem attempted to fight the fire at his homestead on French River Road and defeated, put his family in a wagon and drove east to Palmers. Survivors recall finding shelter in ditches or creeks, or wrapping themselves in water-soaked blankets and taking refuge in bogs and other lowlands. They lay down in the roads or plowed fields, hoping the fire would pass over them. Areas to the west in Lakewood Township burned to the shoreline. Fishermen, with homes closer to the shore, took refuge in the lake.

Winds were so strong they blew out the lanterns, necessary because of the thick smoke, carried by residents who went to check on neighbors. Those same winds carried burning debris far in advance of the actual fire line, the debris starting spot fires which threatened some residents’ homes while leaving others close by undamaged. At the Len Culbertson place on Two Harbors Road, the fire burned up the hill almost to the tower at the top. The Victor Gustafson family lived on Homestead Road and Rudi Gustafson recalls the fire coming in from the northwest where it threatened a lumber pile and sawmill north of the home. The house was saved as Rudi and others carried buckets to the roof and poured water down the walls. Ten-year-old Rudi was convinced the fire burned to Knife River.

No residents of Normanna or Duluth Townships died in the fire, and property damage is hard to assess. Many of the men from this area worked in Duluth and being unable to get back home, had great anxiety about whether their families survived. But the oral histories remark again and again how neighbors helped one another, fighting fires that threatened homes and outbuildings and putting up those without shelter. In the months that followed, with winter coming, they came together to help one another rebuild.

(Thanks to Duane Madison for sharing the photos. The 1919 structure still exists north of Pioneer Road.)
Community Youth Groups

Clifton 4-H Club: call Stacia Donovan, 728-2483
Cub Scouts: call David Hoey, 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.)

Township Emergency Planning Group
Sherry Rovig and Ann Cox, Co-EMD

We are in the process of dividing our Township into areas to set up phone trees in case of emergency. We are looking for volunteers to be road ambassadors/leaders for area phone trees and other very localized communications. If you are interested and willing to help, please contact the Town Clerk at 525-5705.

We are also compiling a list of willing residents who have important resources or skills that could be called upon in a Township emergency. For example, heavy equipment and operators, ham radio operations, watercraft, transportation equipment, tree clearing and construction skills or equipment.

Gentle Yoga
Chair Yoga 3:15 and Gentle Yoga 4:30
Wednesdays
at French River Lutheran Church
A wellness class for beginners
$10 per class
kshamapractice@gmail.com

More Ice, Stay Safe, Salt Less!
Jo Thompson

Be mindful of reducing the use of salt on sidewalks and driveways this winter.
Salt is harmful to pets, concrete, the environment and your gardens. More salt does not mean more melting! A rule of thumb is leave about a 3 inch space between granules.

Keep in mind that salt has little to no effect at temperatures below 15°F. Below this, it is better to use sand. Rather than salt crystals, try using brine or alternative products such as alfalfa meal or sugar beet juice. Sand, ash, kitty litter, bird seed and used coffee grounds provide darker color which, in addition to providing traction, helps to melt ice by absorbing heat.
Finally, stay safe! Wear proper footwear for icy conditions, make sure your vehicle tires have proper tread, and go slower!

For more tips on salt use, see:
https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/10-smart-salting-tips-protect-minnesota-waters
Duluth Township
Information 2018
Duluth Town Hall, 6092
Homestead Road, Duluth,
MN 55804
Phone (218) 525-5705
(voice message).
www.duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9am-noon
Thurs 2-6pm, Fri 9-11am
Office will be closed Nov. 6th, 22nd, 23rd, and Jan. 1st.
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, Planning
Alternate for: Roads
Barb Crow (2016-2019) Vice Chair, 525-0489
Primary contact for Public Safety, Communications,
Arts and Heritage
Penny Morton (2018-2021) 525-0576
Primary contact for: CC Liaison, Alternate: NS Mgmt
Co-Primary for: Business Management
Dave Mount (2016-2019) Chair, 525-7961
Primary contact for Personnel, NS Mgmt Bd
Co-Primary for Town Business Management.
Corlis West (2017-2020) 525-7719
Primary contact for Materials Mgmt, Roads, Town Hall

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) and Larry Zanko.
Peace Officers: Chief Shawn Padden,
Officers Steve Peterson, Paul Johnson

Emergency 911, Messages 525-5705 or 393-8407

Emergency Management Co-Directors:
Sherry Rovig, Ann Cox. Messages: 218-525-5705

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.

Website Manager: Supervisor Barb Crow.
Community Center Rental Coordinator: Jim Salls 600-9015
Town Hall rentals: contact the Town Clerk, 525-5705.

To Email Township Officials and Departments
See Township web site, www.duluthtownship.org/contacts,
for a dropdown list of personnel and departments you can
use to send emails. Note that a copy of all emails goes 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 web site.

Township Recycling Center
At the Town Hall, on Homestead Road
Staffed by Carolyn Marino, Roger Beck
and Volunteers

Nov.-March: Tues. 7-11am, 2-6pm,
Thurs. 2-6pm & Sat. 8-noon.
April-Oct: Tuesday 7-11am & 3-7pm, Thurs. 3-7pm, Saturday 8-12.
Recycle drop off only during recycling hours
and no household garbage, please.

Plastic bags accepted in ORANGE bin only.
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.

NOVEMBER 2018
3, Sat, 1918 Fire! Art and Heritage Event, 7-9pm at
our Town Hall.
6, Tue, Election, 7am-8pm, Town Hall — VOTE!
7, Wed, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting,
Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
7, Wed, 12:30 Homesteader’s meet, Town Hall
8, Thu, 6:30pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall
10, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: training, Hall #1
20, Tue, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District
meeting, French River Lutheran Church
22, Thu, 6:30pm Planning Commission, Town Hall
22-23 Town Hall closed

DECEMBER 2018
4, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting,
Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
5, Wed, 12:30 Homesteader’s, Town Hall
13, Thu, 6:30pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall
18, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept training, Hall #1
18, Tue, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District
meeting, French River Lutheran Church
23, Sun, Deadline for the January Newsletter
27, Thu, 6:30pm Planning Commission, Town Hall

JANUARY 2019
1, Tue, Office closed
2, Wed, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business
meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
2, Wed, Start of filing to run for Town Board Supervisor
2, Wed, 12:30pm Homesteader's, Town Hall
10, Thu, 6:30pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall.
15, Tue, Office hours today are 1-5pm
15, Tue, Last day to file to run for Town Supervisor
15, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept training Hall #1
15, Tue, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District
meeting, French River Lutheran Church
24, Thu, 6:30pm Planning Commission, Town Hall

Town Hall Community Room is open during Town office
hours and during recycling. Other times by arrangement.
Inside This Issue
- Township Heritage Day Nov 3rd
- The 1918 Fire article
- Election Day Tuesday, Nov 6th
- What's coming up
- Township Calendar
- Police & Fire Dept. updates
- Town Board & Planning mtgs.
- Jobs wanted: Township Youth
- NSCS News, Preschool info.
- Emergency Planning

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

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

Be Sure To Vote
Tuesday
November 6th

Duluth Township Town Hall Polling Place
Opens from 7am to 8pm

(see article page 1 for absentee ballots at St Louis County Court House)