



Thanks for special artwork by NSCS students & art teacher Carla Tamburro .

# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

TOWNSHIP WEB SITE:  
[WWW.DULUTHTOWNSHIP.ORG](http://WWW.DULUTHTOWNSHIP.ORG)

## Township Day—Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup>

Election of two Supervisors (7am-8pm), and our Annual Town Meeting (8:15pm). See [page 8](#) for details and see the [insert](#) for budget information and candidate statements. Be Sure to Vote and Attend!

### What's Coming Up?

**Annual Town Meeting and Supervisor Election**  
Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> in the Town Hall.  
See the insert for candidate statements and budget information. Page 8 describes the day.

**NSCS News** (see page 3)

**2020 Census Jobs.** (see page 5)

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

**Township Comprehensive Plan Review**  
(see article, page 6)

**Vacancies on Planning and Zoning Commission.**  
Applications welcome. (see article page 5).

**Township Memorial Day** (see page 5)

**Special District 5 Election, Tuesday, May 14, Town Hall.** This is to fill a vacancy in St Louis County Commissioner for our District. (see p4)

### Coffee and Local History

Duane Madison

Stop in at the Town Hall Community Room 9-10 on the first Saturday each month to see local pictures and history on the big screen TV. Get help with your genealogy. Family photos can be scanned and stories recorded. Especially desired are family biographies and photos that weren't included in our previous historical writings. Everyone including residents from Lakewood, Normana, Alden and the Knife River area are welcome.

### Total Township Assessed Value

Data provided by the St Louis County Assessor

Year	Land	Structures	Twp Total
2018	\$80,897,400	\$165,366,900	\$246,264,300
2017	\$80,691,000	\$159,499,900	\$240,190,900
2016	\$90,923,700	\$140,871,900	\$231,795,600
2011	\$82,542,300	\$130,204,300	\$212,746,600
2010	\$81,969,800	\$128,111,700	\$210,081,500
2009	\$80,375,200	\$120,316,600	\$200,691,800

### THE HOMESTEADERS

Dorothy Aho

**March 6<sup>th</sup>,** Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, Anniversary celebration, Potluck and Folk Singers.

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>,** Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, coffee, snacks and bingo

**May 1<sup>st</sup>,** Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, coffee and snacks. Glen Laspi sings along with his acoustic guitar.

**Everyone is welcome.**

For information call Rose Vastila at 834-5281.

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

Dorothy Aho, Rolf Carlson, Ann Cox, Bob Engelson, Dewey Johnson, Beth Kleinke, Sue Lawson, Carolyn Marino, Janet McTavish, Penny Morton, Dave Mount, Beth Mullan, Shawn Padden, Shelly Pierson, Sherry Rovig, John Schifsky, Carla Tamburro (and her students), Jo Thompson, Rose Vastila,.

## Police Department

Shawn Padden, Chief

**Police Events.** December and January had 190 police events. Most frequent were vacation home/business checks (108), medical emergencies (17), traffic citations and warnings (10), and animal complaints (8).



### Recorded Police Events

Year	Events
2018	1123
2017	1267
2016	1129
2015	1180
2014	1166
2013	1165
2012	1265
2011	1208
2010	1164
2009	1028
2008	1034
2007	1088
2006	881
2005	972
2004	1057
2003	969
2002	773

**Summary of 2018:** The Department reported 1123 police events for 2018. Most frequent were requested vacation home/business and extra patrols (534), traffic citations/warnings and related traffic events (173), medical emergencies (50), public assists/information (42), animal complaints (33), and check welfare calls (20). There were 4 natural deaths and 5 suicide related events.

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.

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

## Emergency Operations

Sherry Rovig

**Neighbors helping neighbors.** It is essential for every residence to have a visible 911 sign so emergency services can find you when you need help. A great way to accomplish this project is for neighbors to help each other. Do you know your neighbors? If you can, get a group of nearby addresses to share information and resources, it will make emergency preparedness easier in many ways. It will be more efficient when *Gopher State One-call* comes to mark the utility lines before sign post installation. You can also determine which neighbors might need a hand installing their signs or other assistance. Once you have made the neighborhood connections, the EOC (our Emergency Operations Center) can help you establish phone trees, arrange wildfire assessments for your property, assist in fuel reduction activities, and help your neighborhood pool resources for a "Firewise Community".

## Clifton Volunteer Fire Department

Bob Engelson, Fire Chief



The Fire Department's newly elected officers for 2019.

Robert Engelson, Chief

Rob Peldo, Assistant Chief,

Dan Rosenlund 1st Captain

Devon Cahoon, 2nd Captain

Ken Peterson, 3rd Captain

Thanks to all for their service to our Township.

**FIREWISE Update** — We are participating in an AIM grant <https://co-co.org/programs/aim-partnership/> to continue wildfire risk reduction activities in Duluth and Alden Townships in 2019. The grant was secured by Gloria Erickson, St Louis County Firewise coordinator through the non-profit group, *Dovetail*, [www.dovetailinc.org](http://www.dovetailinc.org). We will have another fuel reduction demonstration this spring and the grant pays for more free brush chipping opportunities. Notices of times and locations will be posted on our Township website and in our Newsletter. Please continue to log your hours spent in risk reduction activities (*it helps us provide "in kind" contributions to our share of grant funds*).

The 911 signs and posts that we acquired through last year's Firewise grant arrived in January. The new signs and posts will be distributed this spring for installation after the ground thaws. Thank you to all the residents who participated in the wildfire risk reduction activities. We will continue to provide resources whenever possible.

**Reminder:** Clear the snow from your emergency/secondary exits AND your 911 fire sign.

**FREE SMOKE ALARMS** are still available. If your home doesn't have smoke alarms or they are 10 years or more old, it's time for alarm installation. Contact [cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com](mailto:cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com) or leave contact information at the Town Hall to sign up for free alarms from Red Cross.

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

## Tree Health and Tree Care Class

Beth Kleinke, St Louis SWCD District Forester

South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is hosting a free educational event on tree health and tree care. Healthy trees and forests benefit the whole community. Presentations will include information on forest insects, diseases, weather damage, creative solutions for preventing and treating common problems. Thursday, March 21st 5:45-8pm at Harrison Community Center, 3002 West Third Street, Duluth. This is a free event and all are welcome. Register at 730-8002 or [bethk@southstlouisswcd.org](mailto:bethk@southstlouisswcd.org).

Duluth Township Community Center  
**Skating Rink Rules & Hours**  
Supervisor Penny Morton

**Skating Rink Hours**  
(when there is ice!)

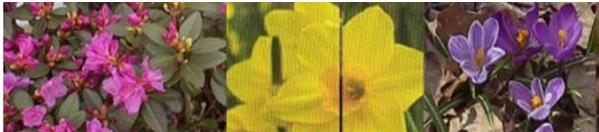
**Monday-Friday 6 until 9;  
Saturdays noon to 8pm.**

The rink will not be open if there is no adult supervision.



- No foul language.
- No fighting.
- Respect other people and their belongings.
- No hockey sticks on the pleasure rink.
- No children under ten that are left unsupervised.
- Please park in designated areas.
- Have fun!

Please remember that rink attendants are all volunteers and we need them to keep volunteering. If anybody is interested in volunteering for rink flooding or attendant, please call Ron Sundberg (355-8074) or Supervisor Penny Morton (525-0576). A big thanks to Fire Department volunteers who help in getting the rink ice ready.



**St Louis Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Dewey Johnson

St Louis County Emergency Management Coordinator

St. Louis County is updating its *Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan* as is required every 5 years by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). We are asking our cities and townships to assist us in getting the word out about the update and to ask for suggestions. This link explains the update and reasons for the plan.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNSTLOUIS/bulletins/228285b>.

**Advocates for the Knife River Watershed**

Shary Zoff

The Advocates for the Knife River Watershed (AKRW) will be having a presentation on results from a two year study on Brook Trout, Beavers and habitat in North Shore streams with some focus on the Knife River. The presenter will be Katti Renick, a graduate student who is working with Dr. Andrew Hafs at Bemidji State University. The presentation is on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Duluth Town Hall. For more information, go to our *Facebook* page, "Advocates for the Knife River Watershed".

North Shore Community School



Shelly Pierson, Executive Director

NSCS is celebrating art, music and reading in our schools with a variety of activities. For **Music**, we had a visit by the Lyric Opera of the North presenting *Elixir of Love*, and the presentation of the operetta, *Stone Soup: A Rock Opera*, by first grade students. A big thank you to Mrs. Giddings for arranging these presentations.

In **Art**, 4<sup>th</sup> grade students have been working with Sarah Brokke Erickson from the College of St Scholastica to design and paint a mural for our school. During the process, other students will have an opportunity to join in painting through after school events. A big thank you to Mrs. Tamburro and Sarah Brokke Erickson for all they are doing to engage our students in the artistic process! The unveiling will take place in mid to late April. Stay tuned for more information on the mural unveiling event!

For our **I Love to Read** activities, we are bringing in guest readers from our area. If you would like to be a guest reader in March, please contact the office at 525-0663 extension 100 to discuss times.

NSCS is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. At this time, we do not have a waiting list. Applications for the upcoming school year can be found through visiting our website: <https://northshorecommunityschool.org/enrollment-forms/>. Help spread the word about our amazing school and all we have to offer!

**NSCS Endowment**

Carla Tamburro, Chair of Endowment Committee

The NSCS Endowment Fund is accepting grant applications for the 2019-2020 school year. Applications are available on March 1<sup>st</sup> and **DUE** in the NSCS office by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Proposals should engage NSCS students and community, foster outside the classroom learning, facilitate creative teaching methods/curriculum, develop relationships between students and community members, and sponsor special festivals, visitors and events for students and community members.

Questions: Carla Tamburro, Art Teacher and Chair of the Endowment Committee at [ctamburro@nscsk6.org](mailto:ctamburro@nscsk6.org).

**North Shore Community School Preschool**

Shelly Pierson, Executive Director

NSCS Preschool has 2<sup>nd</sup> semester openings. Children ages 3-5 may attend 1, 2 or 3 days a week, Monday-Thursday. Half-day session: 9:00am-12:15, full day session: 9:00am until 2:45. A monthly tuition fee is charged. Please contact Jessi Anderson at 525-0663 to schedule a tour or enroll.

### 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

- 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 525-0090.
- 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.

**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 (May) Newsletter is April 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### French River Readers Book Club

Carol Surine

The book chosen for the March Book Club is *The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride. The next meeting is Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm in the Fireside Room at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road. Our host is Kay Libby.

For information call Carol Surine, 525-4426 or email: CarolSurine@gmail.com

#### Country Kids Day Care, 218-343-6370

Infants to School Age, Licensed  
Bus to NSCS & Lakewood Schools  
Accepting Full and Part Time

Paid Advertisement



Rolf Carlson, Penny Morton, Dave Mount, Barb Crow, Corlis West

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

**January 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.** Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Barb Crow, Penny Morton, Dave Mount (*chair*) attended plus Town Clerk Ann Cox and Treasurer Mel Peulen.

**Reports:** Treasurer reported deposits of \$145,403.02 (includes second half of the levy), expenses of \$72,011.70 for an ending balance for December of \$476,626.31. The claims list was reviewed and approved.

**Police:** The 3-year contract with \$.50/hr raise was approved.

**Fire:** Most of the final payment for the bay addition was made except for a small list of items to be completed. Sherry Rovig was thanked for her work on the Firewise grant and getting new 911 signs. **Planning:** A list of those willing to work on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan was provided to the Board.

Their first meeting was January 17<sup>th</sup>. **Town Hall:** 2019 election judge list was approved. The budget meeting was scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> (*cancelled because of snow and rescheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>*). **Personnel:** The regular COLA wage adjustment for per-meeting rates was set. It will be \$43 for the Treasurer, Clerk and Planning Commission.

**February 14<sup>th</sup> 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:** The Treasurer reported \$43,157.47 in expenses, \$11,060.72 in deposits for an ending balance of \$444,529.56. A Census representative briefed the Board on the 2020 Census and asked for help in underscoring the importance of residents fully completing the online or paper census form. Census day is April 1, 2020. There are also census jobs available and an application can be completed online (*see article p5*).

**Planning:** There are 21 resident members of the CLUP steering group. Twenty-nine people responded to the request for input sent to all households in the January Newsletter. These comments are included in information being reviewed by the steering committee. Future meetings and events to get public feedback on draft documents will be posted (*see articles in this and the January Newsletter which is available online*).

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 public meetings.*

#### Special District 5 Election—Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

The special election is to fill the vacancy in the office for 5<sup>th</sup> District St. Louis County Commissioner (*Commissioner Stauber was elected as Minnesota's 8<sup>th</sup> District U.S. Representative to Congress*). Polls will be open at the Town Hall from 7am-8pm.

The May 14<sup>th</sup> election will be a General election UNLESS a Primary is needed because more than two candidates file for the office. In that case, May 14<sup>th</sup> will be the a Primary election with the General election held on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

The May Newsletter will have more information.

*Spring will be here in a few short weeks (Really!)*  
**Stormwater Run-off, Land Disturbance and  
 Construction Activities.**

*Jo Thompson*

With spring rain and snow melt, water run-off increases erosion and carries sediment, salt and other pollutants to ditches and to our streams. These pollutants can have a negative impact on fish and other organisms. As you are planning your spring and summer projects, consider how you might reduce erosion and pollutant loading, and slow the flow for the future. Retention ponds or "rain gardens" are an excellent feature for slowing flow and trapping pollutants. Maintaining as much tree cover as practical, especially evergreens, helps to slow snow melting and intercept rain, thus slowing flow. If you have dirt piles, be sure these are covered or put barriers in place to keep the dirt from washing away. If you have bare ground from land disturbance activities, be sure to stabilize these areas with vegetation as soon as possible. If you are planning large construction projects, be aware that if the area of disturbance (including clearing) is 1 acre or more, you will need a stormwater construction permit from the State of Minnesota. If you are disturbing less than 1 acre, but more than 5,000 square feet, you will need to apply for a Land Disturbance Permit from the Township.

**Vacancies on the Township Planning and Zoning  
 Commission**

*Planning Director, Sue Lawson*

The P&Z Commission, a 7-member board, guides implementation of the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. No special qualifications are necessary to serve on the P&Z Commission other than an interest in the Township's future and a willingness to serve. Commission members serve 3-year terms and cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. The Commission holds regular monthly meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, with occasional special meetings as the need arises. Commission members receive a per-meeting stipend.

The Planning Commission is planning to fill 2 vacancies, starting in April, 2019. Interested residents should submit a letter of interest by March 1, 2019. Please include relevant past experience and send it to: *Duluth Township, Attn: P&Z Commission Vacancy, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804*. Interviews to fill the vacancies will be held by the Town Board. If you have questions, leave a message for the Planning Director at the Town Hall, 525-5705.

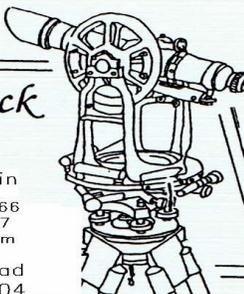
NORTH COUNTRY  
 LAND SURVEYOR, INC.

*Anthony Lueck*  
 Surveyor

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

6098 Ryan Road  
 Duluth, MN 55804

GPS  
 Drafting  
 Mapping  
 Property Lines



Paid Advertisement

**A Special Thank You to  
 Supervisors Barb Crow and Dave Mount!**

Residents **Barb Crow** and **Dave Mount** stepped up to serve another term on the Board when others were reluctant three years ago. We are especially indebted to them for their experience, leadership and thoughtful, energetic and friendly service to our Township. They have guided the Township through some difficult issues over the years. Thank you!

This year two residents have stepped up to run to fill the two opening positions (*see the insert*).

**The 2020 U.S. Census**

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 is the official "census day", the 10-year census of the U.S. population. Essential as a basis for our democracy, it is critical that everyone in the US be counted. *For us in Minnesota, a complete count assures us receiving our fair share of federal funds and it may mean that we retain or lose one Representative in Congress. It is also the basis for congressional redistricting.* Many things important to us rely on having a full and accurate census!

The Census process has already begun with double checking to see that all known residences are on census lists. A Census representative updated our Town Board at the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and urged us to form a small committee to help get the word out about the census and urge full participation. There will be requests for folks to self-complete the Census form. It is required by law and is confidential by established law. Individual information can not be disclosed to anyone including other government agencies. After more than seventy years, individual records may be released. They are useful in genealogical research.

Please respond fully to the Census. Encourage others to respond fully too. The 2020 Census also has employment opportunities.

**APPLY ONLINE FOR 2020 Census  
 office and field jobs.**

[2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs) or call 1-855-562-2020 for more information and help applying.

**Township Memorial Day Observance History**  
*George Sundstrom*

Memorial Day this year is Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendar. The May Newsletter will have details about our community gathering at our Palmers Cemetery.

If anyone in the Township is aware of the history of our Memorial Day observances at the cemetery, please let me know. I took over as MC when asked by Robert (Bob) Abrahamson and I seem to remember my father also speaking there. Before that - nothing. So if there is anyone who can help, I would appreciate it and will report on it then later.

My phone # is 525-5655. Thanks for your help.

**Our Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update  
Open House on April 18<sup>th</sup>:  
Draft of Our Core Community Values**

Supervisor Rolf Carlson, Planning Director Sue Lawson,  
Planning and Zoning Chair Jo Thompson

Thank you to all who responded to the questionnaire in the last Newsletter seeking your views on our Township's core community values. Your responses have been aggregated together and will be used by the Community Steering Group to help develop our Township's core values.

As part of our commitment to a community based process, we will have an Open House for folks to review and comment on the Township's *draft* Core Community Values. We welcome and encourage you to continue helping to define them. That Open House is on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30pm at the Duluth Town Hall.

Community Steering Group will use your comments from the Open House to help finalize our Township's Core Community Values. The Community Steering Group will then forward their recommended core values to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission, at their May 23rd meeting, will review the recommended core values from the Community Steering Group and forward a recommendation to the Town Board. The Town Board will make the final decision and approval of the core community values.

Our core Township community values will be used to help develop a vision for our Township. A vision is a weaving together of the values of a community, the connections between the people and the land, and creates a picture of the community as a whole that is desired in the future. When a vision has been agreed upon, the next step in the planning process is to develop guiding goals and policies to help move us toward that vision.

As we move forward updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan we will be keeping you updated through this Newsletter. There will be more community open houses as we move along. We hope that you will continue your involvement in updating our Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

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.*



**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  
**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.)*

**Summary of Planning Commission Meetings**  
*(Official minutes by Planning Secretary Beth Mullan are available on our Township web site [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org))*

**January 24<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.** Commissioners Wayne Dahlberg, Dave Edblom, Jerry Hauge, John Schifsky, Liz Strohmayr, Jo Thompson (*chair*) and Larry Zanko attended plus Planning Director Sue Lawson, Secretary Beth Mullan and Board Liaison Rolf Carlson.

*The primary items from the January meeting were:* 1)

the Commission defined a listed "use" for Guest Cottages, and 2) they approved a high-frequency short term rental Interim Use Permit for a period of 2 years for a property on the Aho Rd.

A guest cottage is defined as a non-commercial dwelling for temporary guests. It is subject to the same requirements as an accessory use and is subject to all zoning requirements regarding an accessory use. Temporary use is defined as a stay by guests not to exceed thirty days per each period of stay. Performance standards are listed in the Ordinance, Article VIII, Section 9. Check with the Planning Director if you have questions.

The first meeting for the Steering Group for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) update was January 17<sup>th</sup>. It was introductory in nature. The next meeting is February 21<sup>st</sup> and then March 21<sup>st</sup>, both at 6:30 at the Town Hall. The meetings are open to the public and are posted on the website on the Planning page.

Land Use Permits Beth Mullan		
	Single	Total
<b>2018</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>33</b>
2017	9	37
2016	7	39
2015	9	33
2014	0	29
2013	4	25
2012	3	17
2011	6	24
2010	8	28
2009	9	30
2008	10	39
2007	3	28
2006	10	44
2005	20	67
2004	23	70
2003	24	69
2002	18	57
2001	18	66



*Paid Advertisement*

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

**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*



## Duluth Township Information 2019

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](http://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, 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**

**Emergencies 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](http://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](http://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.

**Town Hall Community Room is open during office hours and during recycling. Other times by arrangement.**

## Township Recycling Center

Carolyn Marino

At the Town Hall, on Homestead Road

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

**April-Oct: Tues 7-11, 3-7pm, Thurs 3-7pm, Sat 8-12.**



**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.

**Recycle only during recycling hours. No household garbage.**

## Township Calendar

See calendar updates on [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org).

Our Official Calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

### MARCH 2019

- 2, Sat, 9-10am Coffee and Local History, Town Hall
- 5, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
- 6, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall
- 8, Fri, 9:30am **Arts and Heritage** meeting, Town Hall
- 12, Tue, **7am-8pm Town Board Election, Town Hall**
- 12, Tue, **8:15 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, Town Hall**
- 14, Thu, 6:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- 19, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** training, Hall #1
- 19, Tue, **7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 28, Thu, 6:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

### APRIL 2019

- 2, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 3, Wed, 12:30pm **Homesteader's**, Town Hall
- 6, Sat, 9-10aam Coffee and Local History, Town Hall
- 9, Tue, 4-5pm **Board of Appeal and Equalization**, Town Hall
- 11, Thu, 6:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall.
- 12, Fri, 9:30am **Arts and Heritage** meeting, Town Hall
- 16, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** training Hall #1
- 16, Tue, **7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 18, Thu, 6:30-8:30pm **CLUP Open House**, Town Hall
- 23, Tue, **Deadline for the May Newsletter**
- 24, Wed, 6:30pm **AKRW** meeting, Town Hall (see article)
- 25, Thu, 6:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

### MAY 2019

- 1, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall
- 4, Sat, 9-10 Coffee and Local History, Town Hall
- 7, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 9, Thu, 6:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- 10, Fri, 9:30am **Arts and Heritage** meeting, Town Hall
- 14, Tue, 7am-8pm **District 5 Special Election**, Town Hall. (see article page 4)
- 21, Tue, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall #1
- 21, Tue, **7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 23, Thu, 6:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
- 27, Mon, **Memorial Day** ceremony, Palmers Cemetery

# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

## Inside This Issue

- What's coming up
- **Supervisor Election** (*insert*)
- **Annual Town Meeting** (*budget*)
- Township **Calendar**
- Police & Fire Dept. updates
- Town Board & Planning mtgs.
- Jobs wanted: Township Youth
- P&Z Vacancies announced
- 2020 Census and Job openings
- Arts and Heritage events
- NSCS News, Preschool info.
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Special Election, District 5

Duluth Township Newsletter  
6092 Homestead Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

PRSRTSTD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 721  
DULUTH, MINN.

For a color version of this Newsletter — Township website: [duluthtownship.org](http://duluthtownship.org)

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 by using the contact list on our web site ([www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

1120 Newsletters are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses and on request. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send comments and suggestions to volunteer Newsletter editor, Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the mailbox at the Town Hall or email on the web site. Our Newsletter is printed locally by Bob Sundstrom, **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by the folks at **UDAC**.

## Town Election — Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> — Be sure to VOTE!

Polls are open from 7am to 8pm at our Town Hall. Two Supervisor positions are on the ballot for regular 3 year terms. See the Newsletter insert for candidate statements and information on past expenditures and the proposed 2020 budget. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Hall during office hours.

### What Happens at our Annual Town Meeting

Township Day, Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

Two Duluth Township Supervisor positions are up for election. Polls are open 7am-8pm at the Town Hall. Our Annual Town Meeting begins at 8:15pm.

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

Our Town Clerk, Ann Cox, provides a packet, including minutes from last year's meeting plus summary information provided by various Township departments—2018 activities and expenses, the previously approved 2019 budget and the proposed 2020 Township budget (*see the insert*).

Those attending this meeting vote on our levy for 2020...a year away because our figures have to be included with County and School District figures for tax statements you receive in 2020. In 2019 we are operating on the budget adopted at our 2018 Town Meeting.

Last year's minutes, official bank and posting places are voted on. The proposed 2020 budget, with any adopted amendments and recommendations is discussed and the overall budget is approved. Other Township business is raised and discussed and results of the Supervisor election are announced at the end of the meeting.

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

## Tax Levy Budgets and Expenses — 2014 to 2020

Township Departments (Levied Funds)	Actual Ex- penditures for 2014 <sup>(1)</sup>	Actual Ex- penditures for 2015 <sup>(1)</sup>	Actual Ex- penditures for 2016 <sup>(1)</sup>	Actual Ex- penditures for 2017 <sup>(1)</sup>	Actual Ex- penditures for 2018 <sup>(1)</sup>	Budgeted for 2019	Proposed Budget for 2020
Police Department <sup>(2)</sup>	\$50,913	\$54,295	\$55,105	\$50,758	\$59,394	\$61,880	<b>\$62,840</b>
Fire Department <sup>(2)</sup>	93,328	54,774	30,645	35,637	161,219	67,700	<b>45,400</b>
General Township	98,073	91,198 <sup>(3)</sup>	86,797	107,934	128,172	104,875	<b>114,110</b>
Planning & Zoning	22,744	22,660	29,265	30,725	33,379	23,070	<b>20,350</b>
Cemetery	7,198	19,069	5,950	10,889	14,393	7,500	<b>7,500</b>
Road & Bridge <sup>(2)</sup>	92,790	54,959	78,225	81,600	82,396.64	85,000	<b>85,000</b>
Community Ed/Rec. combined	15,174	16,620	1,879			5,000	<i>(in general fund)</i>
Emergency Planning				823	1,041	1,000	<b>0</b>
<i>Total expenses<sup>(1)</sup></i>	<b>\$380,220</b>	<b>\$313,575</b>	<b>\$287,866</b>	<b>\$318,366</b>	<b>\$479,995</b>	<b>\$356,025</b>	<b>\$335,200</b>

### Listed Below are approved and the proposed Tax Levy Budgets

*These exclude income from non-levy sources such as permit fees, various grants, funds from WLSSD for recycling expenses, Taconite Relief, Community Center, etc.*

<b>Approved/proposed levy</b>	\$362,616	\$344,506	\$344,065	\$352,018	\$350,563	\$356,025	<b>\$335,200<sup>(4)</sup></b>
<b>Approximate average annual cost per household<sup>(5)</sup></b> <i>(depends on assessed property value.)</i>	\$473	\$455	\$455	\$465	\$463	\$474	<b>\$447</b>

#### Footnotes:

- (1) Note that the **actual** expenditures include expenses that may be partially covered by fees (e.g. permits), grants (e.g. FEMA road grant and Alden Township's contract for fire coverage, grants for fire training, FIREWISE programs, and fire equipment). **Budgeted** levy amounts are reduced by expected income from fees. Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.
- (2) Some Departments designate funds for special projects: Road emergencies (\$35,000), Police escrow for squad updates, Fire for construction of Hall #1 bay. These funds are included in the year end balances shown in our Clerk's report at the Annual Meeting.
- (3) General Township expenses for comparison. In addition, \$220,310 in saved Township funds were used toward the Town Hall addition.
- (4) The budget amount we approve may be reduced, when levied, by State or County aid to local governments.
- (5) The average annual cost per household uses the Census estimate of the number of occupied households for comparisons. The 2010 U.S. Census counted 750 occupied homes in Duluth Township and the Minnesota Demographer estimated that there were 757 occupied households in 2017, a figure used for 2016 - 2018. They estimated 750 occupied houses in 2017. *(There are about 105 additional part time, vacation or vacant households in the Township).* The Newsletter is currently mailed to 879 households.

### Township Expenses and Budget

The table above shows actual expenses for 2014 through 2018, the budget for 2019 (*which was adopted at last year's Annual Town Meeting*), and the proposed budget for 2020. In some cases, actual expenses include income from various sources other than the tax levy, such as permit fees, grants and the loan for the fire hall bay addition.

**The proposed 2020 budget decreased 5.8% from 2019. The Fire budget decreased reflecting the completion of the fire hall bay addition.** Detailed information will be distributed at the Annual Town Meeting where each budget will be presented.

Your total property tax includes County and State levied budgets and special assessments (*e.g. school district, sewer*), in addition to the Township levy, less any homestead credit or State aid for local governments.

The 2020 budget will be discussed and voted on at the upcoming **March 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting**. Plan to attend!

Each candidate for Town Board Supervisor was asked to provide a statement and picture for the Newsletter. These statements are presented as written to provide residents with background information.



### Michael Kahl

My name is Michael Kahl and I am running for a 3-year term for the Duluth Town Board of Supervisors.

In recent years I served six years on the Township Planning and Zoning Commission. During that time I became acquainted with many of the talented and hardworking residents who also gave their time for Township

causes; as fellow committee members those seeking to develop in the Township, others having concerns about community safety as well as those new to the community.

I've been a resident of the Township for 35 years. I am a strong supporter of Township beliefs as identified in its Long-Range Planning. Realizing that the character of the Township has deep roots and yet must also deal with the progressive nature of society and the pressures which affect our daily lives.

My work career as a Biologist with a fisheries background spans 39 years. I am currently a Biologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Duluth and have been at that location for 35 years. During the early 1990's I was on staff at the University of Wisconsin Superior and laboratory manager for the Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI). I am environmentally minded but also know that there are two sides to every story, and getting all the information on issues is important.

I have been involved in volunteer activities; MN firearm safety instructor for 4 years, coached a Township little league team at Lake Park League fields for 3 years, I am an avid sportsman, enjoy summer and winter camping and spending time with family and friends.

I am looking forward to again serving the residents of the Township. Please support me by voting for me as one of your Duluth Township Town Board Supervisors on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019. (Comments or questions, contact 525-1594)

### John Schifsky

My name is John Schifsky and I am a candidate for one of the two open positions on the Town Board. My wife and I have lived off North Shore Drive, Duluth Township, for 19 years, having moved from Duluth where we had lived since 1969. We chose this location because of the woods and proximity to the lake. We like to say we are proud owners of 20 acres of scrub, second growth. Both proximity to the lake and time spent walking along the shore have reinforced my commitment to protecting the remarkable environment in which we live.

I taught at The College of St. Scholastica for many years retiring as an Emeritus Professor of English. During my tenure I acted as a department chair and School of Humanities Chair, gaining experience in managing budgets, hiring, working with administration, and fellow faculty members. Most private colleges are not resource rich; I learned to listen and work with others so we could advocate together to reach goals that respected the College's values, met student needs, and recognized tight budget constraints.

Residents of the Township prize its rural character and atmosphere. Those values are enshrined in our Comprehensive Land Use Plan. I served eight years on the Planning Commission, and those character and atmosphere values were and continue to be priorities. I have also learned a great deal about the Township's history and people in the course of writing articles on aspects of that history, articles which have appeared, since 2014, in the *Duluth Township Newsletter*. I have a great deal of respect for residents, both living and passed, who shape/ shaped our history.

If you have comments or questions, please call me at 525-9363.



### The Art and Heritage Group

Jo Thompson

Our Town Hall offers space for people to gather to share experiences and memories. The Arts and Heritage group consists of community members who have been working on identifying ways in which the Town Hall can be a resource center, display space and gathering place and they welcome your input.

If you have stories, historic artifacts, photographs, maps, paintings, quilts, fiber art and other items that reflect our many talents and heritage that you would be willing to loan for inside display please contact Jo Thompson (woodfarm1785@gmail.com or Duane Madison at 525-5645).

We meet on the Friday morning following the (*second Thursday*) monthly Town Board meeting, at 9:30am in the Town Hall Community Room. All are welcome. The next scheduled meetings are March 15<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Scheduled Events:** *First Saturday Coffee and Conversation*—9-10am, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>. Share stories, arts, history. *Fall Event*—Saturday Night Out. Stay tuned for details on history of dances, dance halls and other Township entertainment. If you have stories or old pictures, let us know! We are also planning a program of related music for this event.