What’s Coming Up?

FIREWISE Demonstration, May 4th — (see page 2)
Spring Brush Cleanup, Brush Chipping Request (see page 2)
911 Sign Pickup, May 4th (see page 2)
Special District 5 Primary Election, Tuesday, May 14, Town Hall.
To fill vacancy for our District on the St Louis County Commission
(see article on page 3)
Township Memorial Day, May 27th Palmers Cemetery (see page 5)
Township Comprehensive Plan Review (see page 6)
NSCS News (see page 3)
2020 Census and Census Jobs. (see page 5 and 6)
Youth Seeking Jobs (see list on page 6)
Roads Forum—Wed. May 8th, Town Hall (see page 5)
Grandma’s Marathon June 22nd road closures (see page 5
French River Bridge update. At a public information meeting
a schedule for replacing the bridge was presented. While some
preparation work will occur in 2019, the replacement and Scenic
Highway detour is scheduled to start June 22nd 2020.

Special District 5 Primary Election
Tuesday, May 14th
The special primary election is to fill the vacancy in
the office for 5th District St. Louis County Commission
(Commissioner Stauber was elected as Minnesota’s 8th District U.S. Representative to Congress). Polls
will be open at the Town Hall from 7am-8pm.

The run-off General election held on August 13th.
The July Newsletter will have more information.

Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue
Dorothy Aho, Roger Beck, Valerie Brady, Ann Cox, Bob Engelson,
Sue Lawson, Todd Lindahl, Carolyn Marino, Janet McTavish, Beth Mullan,
Jim Munger, Shawn Padden, Mandi Peterson, Shelly Pierson,
Sherry Rovig, George Sundstrom, Jo Thompson, Rose Vastila,
and Corlis West.
Police Events. February had 92 police events. Most frequent were vacation home/business checks (49), property damage accidents (11), and medical emergencies (5).

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.

French River Readers Book Club
Carol Surine
The book selection for April was picked after the Newsletter went to press. Contact Carol Surine for book and host information.

The next meeting is Thursday, May 16th at 7:30pm in the Fireside Room at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road.
For information call Carol Surine, 525-4426 or email: CarolSurine@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**, Licensed Minnesota Broker, 218-720-3987

**Free 911 Sign Campaign**
Residents who have an out of date address sign (onesided, non-reflective) or lack any sign, are urged to pick up their free sign (and post, if needed) at the Town Hall on May 4th between 8am and noon.
You should contact Gopher State One Call (811) to mark underground wires before you pound in your post! Neighbors may want to coordinate to have their underground lines marked at the same time.
Other pickup times will be posted in the Newsletter, at the Town Hall, and on the Township website: www.duluthtownship.org

**FIREWISE Demonstration, May 4th, Town Hall 10-noon Information was mailed earlier.**

**Spring Brush Cleanup and Chipping for Wildfire Protection**
(see article and chipping request form below)

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

**Congratulations to Everett Swartz**
For 6 decades of volunteer service to Fire Departments in Duluth and Normanna Townships. Everett was one of the founding members of both departments. Your dedication and service is very much appreciated.
Congratulations also to **Shane Kerby** for 10 years of service to our Clifton Volunteer Fire Department.

**Spring Brush Cleanup for Wildfire Protection**
We will have **free brush chipping** again this spring and hope to make it even more accessible for our residents. Please fill out and return this form or email the info to us indicating your interest in **curbside brush pickup and chipping**. We will then determine suitable routes for the chipping service. Announcements will be made with the dates, routes and other pertinent information.

**Free Brush Chipping Request** - submit request online or at the Town Hall.

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Phone: ________________________________  email: ________________________________

Check this box if you need assistance with clearing around your residence.

Email information to: cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com, or drop it off at the Town Hall.
**The Homesteaders**
Dorothy Aho

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

**June 5th**, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, coffee and snacks. Steve Solkala plays polka music with accordion.

**July 3rd**, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, Annual picnic with great food, plus bingo.

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

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**2019 Annual Town Meeting and Election**

John Schifsky and Michael Kahl were elected to 3-year terms on the Town Board of Supervisors. Rolf Carlson was elected moderator of the Annual Meeting. Town Clerk Ann Cox provided a handout summarizing 2018 audit and expenditures, the 2019 budget that was approved last year, and the proposed 2020 budget. Lake Bank was voted to continue as our bank of deposit. North Shore Journal was named as the newspaper of publication IF it covers the whole Township. Otherwise Duluth News Tribune will continue as newspaper of publication. Official posting places continue to be the Town Hall, Fire Hall #1 and North Shore Community School (the Scenic was dropped due to lack of posting space).

Proposed departmental budgets were presented. The proposed levy was increased $50,000 to potentially service the fire hall addition debt as required by the bank. This amount is dropped from the levy before it is turned in late summer if, as anticipated, it is not needed. As planned, non-levy funding is sufficient to service the fire hall debt.

A motion to approve the maximum total 2019 Township levy of $385,200 passed unopposed (down over 5% from that approved for 2019). Some 47 residents voted in the Supervisor election.

VENDORS WANTED for a Flea Market at Clearwater Grille, June 1-2. Call Susie Lannon for details.

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**The Art and Heritage Group**
Jo Thompson

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 the 2nd week on Friday morning at 9:30am in the Town Hall Community Room. The next scheduled meetings are May 10th, June 14th and July 12th at 9:30am. All are welcome.

**Scheduled Events:**

*First Saturday Coffee and Conversation*—Bring your recycling to the Town Hall then stop in the Community Room for coffee and conversation. Share stories about Township art and history. All welcome: 9-10am, May 4th and June 1st.

*Fall Event*—Saturday Night Out. We’re working on the history of dances, halls, etc. Stay tuned for details.

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**Shelly Pierson, Executive Director**

NSCS students and staff, and the 4th grade class in particular, will be unveiling a mural and holding the 4th grade music program, on **May 16th**. Fourth grade students worked with *The College of St Scholastica* artist/professor Sarah Brokke Erickson to design and paint a mural for our building depicting the natural surroundings of our area through fall, winter and spring. Fourth grade personal murals, videos of 6th grade scientist presentations and the Book Fair will take place during this event.

NSCS will be showing the video, *ScreenAgers*, for parents, students and the local community on Wednesday, May 8th from 6:30-8. If you should like to attend, please call the NSCS office to RSVP.

Specific dates and times of all school events and May music programs are located on the NSCS website calendar. Check the calendar for the most up-to-date information.

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**North Shore Community School Preschool**

*Shelly Pierson, Executive Director*

The preschool program has some exciting news to share! *Linda Johnson* will be moving from kindergarten to preschool. The NSCS Preschool program will also be extending its full day start time to coincide with our K-6 start time. **Full days** for 4 & 5 year olds, 8:15-2:45. **Half days** for 3, 4, & 5 year olds, 8:15-11:30. Busing is available for 4 & 5 yr olds, space permitting. Children may attend 2, 3 or 4 days a week, Mon-Thur.

A monthly tuition fee is charged, and scholarships may be available through the Northland Foundation AFTER July 1st. Scholarship information can be found at www.northlandfdn.org or by calling 723-4040.

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact the NSCS office at 525-0663 Ext. 100.

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**Northland Foundation**

AFTER

**Part of Mural**

*www.northlandfdn.org* (located on the NSCS website calendar. Specific dates and times of all school events and May music programs are also be extending its full day start time to coincide with our K-6 start time. **Full days** for 4 & 5 year olds, 8:15-2:45. **Half days** for 3, 4, & 5 year olds, 8:15-11:30. Busing is available for 4 & 5 yr olds, space permitting. Children may attend 2, 3 or 4 days a week, Mon-Thur.

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For more information or to schedule a tour, contact the NSCS office at 525-0663 Ext. 100.
February 28th regular meeting. Commissioners Wayne Dahlberg, Dave Edblom, Jerry Hauge, John Schifsky, Liz Strohmayer, Jo Thompson (chair) and Larry Zanko attended plus Planning Director Sue Lawson, Secretary Beth Mullan and Board Liaison Rolf Carlson.

Director’s Report: Stormwater training is available. The Community Steering Group (CSG) for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan met and developed a draft of the core community values. Comments from the community survey fell into three broad categories: ruralness, natural environment and community. An additional coastal program grant is being sought for the next phase of the update process beginning in September. There was concern about representation of Greenwood Beach. It was noted that residents in the Greenwood Beach area were contacted and invited to the CSG but all declined. The community survey and public open houses provide other opportunities for input. An NRRI/UMD conference on “Our Climate Futures” was available on March 19-20.

March 28th regular meeting. Commissioners Wayne Dahlberg, Dave Edblom, Jerry Hauge, John Schifsky, Liz Strohmayer, Jo Thompson (chair) and Larry Zanko attended plus Planning Director Sue Lawson, Secretary Beth Mullan and Board Liaison Rolf Carlson.

Director’s Report: There have been several requests for subdividing lots. A form has been developed to help in the process. Residents need to apply to the County which then goes to the Township Planning and Zoning Commission to approve the proposed subdivision. The form is on the web site and in the Town Hall. The CSG edited a draft of the core values document that will be presented at the April 18th open house. Comments will be used by CSG and the document will then be recommended to the Town Board. The process is not to approve these values as core community values, but to agree to use them in crafting the Comprehensive Land Use Plan update. Other opportunities to comment will be scheduled.

John Schifsky and Jo Thompson were thanked for their service on the Planning and Zoning Commission. They have been a part of a very busy Planning Commission these last few years but their terms have now been completed.

April 18th Public Information Open House. This was a special event for the public to discuss the draft of our Core Community Values document. This is the first phase in developing an update of our Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Other public information events will be announced (see article above).
Trash-free Ditches Keep Our Rivers Trash-free
Valerie Brady

Ever follow the ditch on your road down to where it finally empties out into something that isn’t a ditch? That “something” is often a stream, wetland or swamp that doesn’t need our trash and dirt. The water from our ditches and everything flowing with it will probably eventually end up in one of our trout streams or rivers. We can help our rivers and Lake Superior simply by keeping our ditches in good shape. Here’s some things that will help our streams this spring:

1. Remove trash from ditches
2. Check for culverts blocked by debris from winter
3. Look for problem areas to keep an eye on after big storms—these are areas where the ditch is becoming deeper, has steep sides, is starting to meander (wander) back and forth, or where the sides are slumping in. If any of this is severe, you may need help now.

If you need help now, notify the Township Road Supervisor if you live on a Township road (see page 7). If you live on a County road, contact the County Maintenance Supervisors for our area (Gordy Halverson, email: halversong@stlouiscountymn.gov, 720-1508; or Bradley Olson, email: olsonb@stlouiscountymn.gov, or 720-1509.

New Chairs for the Town Hall
Roger Beck

Through the efforts of The Homesteader’s Senor Citizen’s Club, we were able to acquire sixty-one new, padded chairs for the Town Hall. If funds become available in the future we may purchase more to replace the older metal ones.

Funding for the chairs came from proceeds of the annual “Come on Home Party”, other contributions, and a matching grant from The Cooperative Light and Power’s “Operation Round Up”.

Special thanks to Bill Aho, Rose Vastila, Carolyn Mar-ino, Skipper Sironen and Helen Hendrickson for arranging for the funding. (Ed. Note: Thanks especially to Roger and Julie Beck for arranging the purchase and pick-up of the chairs for us). Great Job!

Roads Update
Supervisor Corlis West

Roads Forum Wed. May 8th at 6pm, Town Hall
To discuss Township roads. All are welcome.

Obstructions on Township road shoulders can be a problem for properly grading and crowning our gravel roads. For example, if driveway blacktopping extends onto the shoulder of the road it will likely be hit by a plow and cause the homeowner added expense. Please be sure that obstructions do not extend into the road shoulder. If you have questions, contact the Road Supervisor (see page 7). If you have concerns, come to a Board meeting to express them, not with our road contractor.

Join your neighbors in honoring service men and women from our Township

Township Memorial Day Ceremony
At our Palmers Lakeview Cemetery
North Shore Road just east of Homestead Road
11am on Monday, May 27th
Our Memorial Day Speaker is
George Sundstrom

Other participants include Boy Scout Troop #162, music led by members of the French River Lutheran Church, women of French River will provide coffee and donuts.
Mark your calendar and attend this community event!
For further information, contact event organizer
George Sundstrom, 525-5655

The 2020 U.S. Census
April 1st, 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!

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

Grandma’s Marathon
Mandi Peterson

The 43rd Annual Grandma’s Marathon is set for Saturday, June 22nd. Grandma’s Marathon will begin at 7:45am just outside of Two Harbors. The Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon will begin at 6:15am approximately three blocks north of Clearwater Grille which is on Scenic Highway 61 near McQuade Harbor.

The races will cause the following roads to close to traffic at 4:15am. Scenic Highway 61 along the lakeshore between Duluth and Two Harbors; and Lakewood Homestead, Ryan and McQuade roads between Scenic Highway 61 and the Expressway 61.

To volunteer: email tara@grandmasmarathon.com or call: 727-0947.
Page 6

Our Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update
Core Community Values—Opportunities for Input
Planning Director Sue Lawson,

Thank you to all who came to the April 18th Community Open House and gave us input on the draft Core Community Values. Your input has been aggregated together and will be used by the Community Steering Group to finalize the recommended core community values. These recommended core community values will be posted on the Township web site.

There are two more opportunities for the community to give input regarding the core community values: At the May 23rd Planning Commission Meeting at 6:30pm and the June 13th Town Board meeting at 6:30pm.

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 a community holds, its resources, assets and aspirations. A vision 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 and our Township web site.

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
• 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.
• Young man, age 12 looking for work, including lawn mowing and general yard work. Experienced. If interested, please call Konrad, at 830-9514.

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 (July) Newsletter is June 23rd.

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

Community Meetings
AA meets 7pm on Tuesdays at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road.

Youth Groups
If there are other community meetings, please notify the Newsletter editor.

APPLY ONLINE FOR 2020 Census office and field jobs.
2020census.gov/jobs or call 1-855-562-2020 for more information and help applying.

Country Kids Day Care, 218-343-6370
Infants to School Age, Licensed
Bus to NSCS & Lakewood Schools
Accepting Full and Part Time

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 welcome.
**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

Town Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9am-noon
Thurs 2-6pm, Fri 9-11am
**Office closed for election, May 14th.**

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  Board Chair
Primary contact for Cemetery, Personnel
Alternate for: NS Mgmt Board, Intergov. Relations

Michael Kahl (2019-2022) 525-1594
Primary contact for Planning & Zoning
Alternate for: Bus. Mgmt, NSMB, Introgov Rel, Roads

Penny Morton (2018-2021) 525-5443  Board Vice Chair
Primary contact for: Business Mgmt, CClr,NS Endow
Alternate for: Personnel, NS Mgmt Bd, Intergov Rel.

John Shifsky (2019-2022) 525-9363
Primary contact for Arts&Heritage, Communications,
Public Safety
Alternate for: Cemetery, Intergov Rel, NS Mgmt Bd.

Corlis West (2017-2020) 525-7719
Primary contact for Materials Mgmt, Roads, Town Hall
Alternate for: Intergov Rel, NS Management Board

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, Dave Edblom, Jerry Hauge, Liz Strohmayer, and Larry Zanko.
and two vacancies

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 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 email 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.

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**Township Recycling Center**
Carolyn Marino
At the Town Hall, on Homestead Road

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

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

**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.
Our Official Calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

**MAY 2019**
1, Wed, 12:30 Homesteader’s meet, Town Hall
4, Sat, 10-12am FIREWISE Demonstration (see p2)
4, Sat, 9-10 Coffee and Local History, Town Hall
7, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
8, Wed, 6pm Roads Forum, Town Hall
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 3)
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, 11am Township Memorial Day Ceremony, At the Palmers Lakeview Cemetery
(see article, p5, for details)

**JUNE 2019**
1, Sat, 9-10am Coffee and Local History, Town Hall
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
14, Fri, 9:30am Arts and Heritage meeting, 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, Sat, Deadline for the July Newsletter
27, Thu, 6:30pm Planning Commission, Town Hall

**JULY 2019**
2, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
3, Wed, 12:30pm Homesteader’s, Town Hall
6, Sat, 9-10am 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
25, Thu, 6:30pm Planning Commission, Town Hall
Inside This Issue
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- Township Calendar
- Police & Fire Dept. updates
- Town Board & Planning mtgs.
- Jobs wanted: Township Youth
- Roads update
- Comprehensive Plan update
- 2020 Census and Job openings
- Arts and Heritage events
- NSCS News, Preschool info.
- FIREWISE demonstration
- 911 Free sign program
- Spring Brush Cleanup Chipping

The Duluth Red Lake Falls & Northern
Todd Lindahl

Duluth Township might have been a very different place today if the DRLF&N had ever become a reality. This new railroad was just in the planning stage in June 1891 when it created a stir on the north shore. The plan called for a railroad terminus and community at the mouth of the Sucker River, which was to be named “Sucker Bay.” A breakwater would extend out into the lake to protect harbor and loading facilities. The mainline track would run northwesterly and eventually reach the Mesabi Range mines. By mid-summer 1891 a surveyor by the name of Jonte and a crew of four men were running the preliminary survey line for the new railroad.

As far as the Duluth & Iron Range Railway was concerned, having another ore hauling railroad in the neighborhood was totally intolerable. They countered by creating their own new railroad based out of Marble siding west of Two Harbors. Their new railroad would be called the "Mesabi Short Line Railroad" and would parallel the line of the DRLF&N all the way to the Mesabi Range. D&IR survey crews immediately took to the field laying out the preliminary survey line. Back in 1886 the H. H. Porter group had used the threat of a competing railroad to force Charlemange Tower into selling the D&IR to them. The strategy worked then, and it worked again now. The DRLF&N "dropped dead in its tracks" and along with it the community of Sucker Bay. The Mesabi Short Line was never built either. The D&IR did build to the Mesabi Range, but that line was from Allen Junction near present day Hoyt Lakes west. One can only wonder what might have been.

(reprinted from the May 2002 Newsletter)

Vote in the May 14th District 5 Primary
Duluth Town Hall 7am-8pm
(see page 3)