What's Coming Up?

Skating Rink Rules (see page 5)

Filing deadline for Town Board Supervisor election is January 14th. (see article pages 3 and 6)

Open House for Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) (see article, page 5)

Annual Town Meeting, March 10th, 8:15pm Town Hall
Township Supervisor Election, March 10th, 7am-8pm, Town Hall. (see page 3)

The March Newsletter will have information on Town Supervisor candidates and budget information.

Political Caucus Day (February 25th) and Presidential Nominating Primary (March 3rd) (see page 8 or your party office for information)

2020 Elections (7am-8pm, Town Hall)
- Presidential Primary Elections, March 3rd
- Duluth Township Supervisor Election, March 10th
- State and Federal Primary Elections, August 11th
- Presidential Election, November 3rd

Welcome Nathan Magnell
Our New Newsletter Editor
Don McTavish

The Town Board appointed Nathan Magnell as our new Duluth Township Newsletter Editor. He will be taking over on January 1st. Nathan is a new Township resident, living on North Shore Drive. He was raised in Gully, Minnesota (near Bemidji) and attended Minnesota State University Moorhead where he received his teaching degree in communication arts and literature. Nathan was a camp counselor with MN Farmer’s Union for 4-18 year olds. He has been a substitute teacher in Fargo and currently in Two Harbors and Duluth. Nathan has had editing and writing experience. He is interested in becoming more involved in our Township and we are fortunate to have him as editor.

I have enjoyed helping with the Newsletter for the past nearly 20 years, building on the tradition of “The Landmarks” edited by Helen Hendrickson (1968-1979), Patti Hellman (1985-1989) and Ann Cox (1989-2001). Thank you to all the volunteer contributors to the Newsletter over the years, to Town Supervisors, our Town Clerk, Township staff, and my wife, Janet. It has been a pleasure to work on the Newsletter with each of you.

The Homesteaders
Dorothy Aho

January 8th, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, Bingo and potluck.

February 5th, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, sandwiches and bars. Program: THUG, Two Harbors Ukulele Group.

March 4th, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, Bingo and potluck to celebrate our anniversary of being Homesteaders another year. Everyone is welcome.

For information call Rose Vastila at 834-5281.

Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue
2019 is our busiest call year ever. Thank you for your support.

911 fire signs are available at the Town Hall during office hours (see page 7).

If you live on a named private road serving more than two primary structures, each of the access driveways need to have a 911 sign positioned within 10 feet of the driveway and clearly visible year-round. MAKE SURE WHICH DRIVEWAY GOES WITH EACH SIGN! This can make the critical difference when our emergency services are trying to find you.

2020 Fire Department Calendars have been prepared and delivered by Auxiliary members and are provided free to Duluth Township households. Thanks to the calendar advertisers. Be sure to consider them when you make purchases.

If you are interested in helping the Fire Department in other ways, consider joining the Clifton Fire Dept Auxiliary. To volunteer or for more information contact Sue Lannon at 720-3987.

Clifton welcomes Nathan Koski to the Department. Nate will take Firefighter 1 and 2 and HazMat training starting in January 2020.

If you are interested in becoming a fire fighter and/or emergency medical responder please contact Chief Bob Engelson at 525-6819.

Volunteer Benefits:
- an opportunity to contribute to your community.
- a pension plan administered by the state.
- all training and protective gear are provided.
- annual appreciation dinner (paid with non-levied funds)
- non-protective clothing with fire dept logo (paid with non-levied funds).

The Fire Department has a business meeting at 7pm on the first Tuesday each month and a training meeting at 6pm on the 3rd Wednesday each month at Hall 1. Occasionally there are special training sessions such as training burns.

Thanks to all who contributed and attended our 16th Annual Harvest Dinner benefit in November. We are very grateful for all the dessert, produce and door prize donations from the community. It is always a great event.

Police Events. Police responded to 203 events in October/November. Most frequent were vacation home/business checks/requested extra patrols (98), medical emergencies (14), property damage/accidents (14), public assists (9), animal complaints (9), traffic violation citations/warnings (5), fire/burglar alarm responses (8), attempt to locate careless drivers (6). There was one residential burglary.

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

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

Winter Burning—If there is at least 3 inches of snow around your burning area, you do not need a burning permit. HOWEVER, not all burnable material is under the snow! Be sure the area is clear of burnable trees, bushes and grasses, and well clear of buildings.

The stack should be of modest size. Burn only plant matter or raw lumber. Do not burn treated or painted wood, plywood or other composites with glue or artificial binders. Burning should occur only later in the day and you should keep your attention on the fire. It is helpful to let 911 know if you are starting a fire that may result in passersby or neighbors calling it in.

If you get into trouble, call 911.
KORKKI NORDIC — Part One

John Schifsky

Mark Helmer was seated in a rocking chair, looking toward the south facing windows of the chalet at Korkki Nordic. Dark was gathering and a small wood stove kept the space comfortable. Earlier, some skiers had been in and out. Then the door opened suddenly and a tall, thin, black-clad man came in, clearly just off the trail as there was a four-inch, cone-shaped ice appendage extending from his chin. A Norwegian native and competitive ski racer from Minneapolis, he had just completed a fifty kilometer training run on the Korkki trails and mentioned he had been concerned, toward the end of his run, about avoiding rock outcrops that are less visible in the dark. Mark tried out his Norwegian and skier responded with effortless fluency and then went on to comment on the fine quality of the track, adding, “this is the coolest place.” The man left and Mark turned to me to say, “That is the reason I do this.”

“This” referred to Korkki Nordic, and more specifically, the ongoing maintenance of a 12 kilometer classic ski trail which today draws skiers, not only from the area but also from the Twin Cities, the upper Midwest, and even farther afield. Korkki’s website refers to the trail as “legendary” and it probably is among classic skiers. The trail, literally cut through the woods, has been the site of the annual Erick Judeen Memorial 10K Classic since 1960. In addition, the seventh annual Balsam Basher 10K Fat Tire Bike Race is scheduled for March and the 37th annual Bangin’ in the Brush Trail Race (“We run, rain, shine or snow”) was run in September. Charlie Banks, who cut the much-loved trail through the woods, would approve. According to Mark, Charlie never had a harsh word for anyone, only words of encouragement and cheer.

Korkki Nordic began on the Hugo and Alma Korkki family homestead. They came from Finland in 1910, farmed and raised nine children. Hugo was a longtime Duluth Township Supervisor who also drove the local school bus. Charlie Banks, considered legendary by classic ski enthusiasts, grew up in the Chester Bowl area, a hotbed of winter sports, particularly ski-jumping. He married Hugo and Alma’s daughter Dorothy, and when his in-laws passed the Korkki eighty acres came to them. Charlie, the Minnesota State Cross Country champion in 1942, Duluth Central cross country coach and tireless advocate of the winter sport, cut the 12K out of the land behind his home. The chalet sits on that home site.

Three or four kilometers of the current trail are on Korkki land, the remainder on adjoining county and state land to which Korkki Nordic Inc. has permanent legal access. Charlie did the trail work by hand, using a shovel and grub hoe. He knew what a cross country ski trail should feel like. He made it challenging, tracking up and down hills, riding ridge tops, building in twists and turns, offering some stretches which are level, allowing a skier to some extended time to kick and glide. But then there will be some feature which interrupts that rhythm, a sharp turn in the middle of a downhill slope, a kink with a quick rise and fall. The track is four to five feet wide (compared to the combination skate/classic trails which are 14 feet wide), and there are some vistas, but for the most part constant attention is essential as the trail climbs through trees and brush on the track’s edge. Skiers feel the silence and are enveloped in the woods. Twenty or thirty others may be on the trail, but one seldom sees or hears them.

Prior to 1992, Charlie held ski events on the Korkki trail, most notably races in the 60’s and 70’s which attracted international racers. He also brought students from Central to train on his trail. While they did win championships, Charlie was more interested in the kids he coached; he loved them for their enthusiasm and determination. Mark Helmer remembers Charlie saying: “All my kids were good kids, even the bad kids were good kids.” The facility and trail today known as Korkki Nordic opened in 1992. “Korkki Nordic will continue in the March Newsletter

Thanks to John Schifsky for his researched articles on Township history for our Newsletter. John has been contributing regularly for over five years. His articles have made the Newsletter interesting and informative.

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 for the March 10th Township election.

There are no special qualifications other than being an adult resident of the Township with an interest in contributing to the operation of our Township. If you are interested, come to a Board meeting (second Thursday at 6:30pm at the Town Hall) or call one of the current Board members or our Town Clerk (see page 7 in this Newsletter).

After the March election, the Board meets to divide up responsibilities and discuss plans for the year. 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.

To file for election, see the Town Clerk during office hours. The deadline is January 14th at 5pm. The filing fee is $2.00.
NSCS 5th grade students presented a music program during the Homesteaders December meeting. Our students love the opportunity to perform for our Duluth Township community members and appreciate being invited each year. A big thank you to our students for their hard work leading up to this program and to Amy Giddings and Jim McLeod for their musical expertise and support.

During our November Annual Board Meeting and Board election, three candidates were elected to our Board of Directors. Sheri Camper and Denny Stolp were elected for another 3-year term, and Steph Love was newly elected to serve as our community member on the Board. Board meetings are typically held on the 4th Monday of the month at 5pm in the library. Updated information can be found on our website.

NSCS is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 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!

Vacancy on the Township Planning and Zoning Commission
Planning Director, Sue Lawson

The P&Z Commission is a 7-member board that guides the 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 4th Thursday of each month, with occasional special meetings as the need arises. Commission members receive a per-meeting stipend.

Interviews to fill the vacancies will be held by the Town Board. Interested residents should submit a letter of interest including relevant past experience by March 31st, to: Duluth Township, Attn: P&Z Commission Vacancy, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804. If you have questions, leave a message for the Planning Director at the Town Hall, 525-5705.

Emergency Management
Sherry Rovig

A good site for information on how to be ready for emergencies is www.ready.gov.

The St. Louis County 2020 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan will be available for public review in January at www.stlouiscountymn.gov.

Residents can sign up to for local alerts on the emergency notification system at www.northlandalert.com.
Our Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update
Open House on January 16th and 18th on the Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan
Planning Director Sue Lawson

Thank you to all, who in 2019, participated in defining our community values that have been used to create a Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). The Community Steering Group has been meeting monthly throughout the last six months to complete a Draft CLUP.

As part of our commitment to a community-based process we will have two Open Houses for folks to review and comment on the Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Draft CLUP will be available on the Town website on January 13th (three days prior to the Open Houses) for your review at www.duluthtownship.org

There are two Open Houses, both at the Town Hall. The first Open House is Thursday, January 16th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The second Open House is on Saturday, January 18th from 9am to Noon.

The Community Steering Group, who has been developing the Draft CLUP, will be at these Open Houses to answer questions and discuss the Draft CLUP. We also hope that you will provide us with written comments. If you cannot make one of the Open houses there are still several ways that you can get your comments to the Community Steering Group.

You may send them via U.S. mail to the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Rd., Duluth, MN 55804
Via email. To do so go to the Town website, click on Planning and Zoning / About P&Z and then click on E-mail: Planning & Zoning.
Drop them off at the Town Hall during office hours.

Comments on the Draft CLUP will be accepted until Feb. 10th.

All of the comments received will remain anonymous and will be reviewed by the Community Steering Group to help provide guidance for changes to the Draft CLUP.

The approval process for adopting the CLUP starts with the Planning Commission holding a Public Hearing. This Public Hearing will occur in the spring with the Town Board making the final decision regarding the adoption of the CLUP.

As we move forward toward completing the Comprehensive Land Use Plan we will be keeping you updated through this newsletter and the Town website. Be sure to look for another update in the March newsletter and/or check the Town website for updates and information on the Public Hearing.

We hope that you will continue your involvement in updating our Comprehensive Land Use Plan and provide us with comments on the Draft CLUP.

French River Readers Book Club
Carol Surine

The next meeting is Thursday, January 16th at 7:30pm in the Fireside Room at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road.

We will be discussing the book The Woman in the Window by A. J. Finn. Our host will be Kay Libby.

The book for February 20th will be The Gentleman from Moscow by Amor Towles, host Rhonda O’Leary.

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

Winter Salt Use
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! When sprinkling salt, a good rule of thumb is to 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. And 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

Skating Rink Rules & Hours
Supervisor Penny Morton

Skating Rink Hours (when there is ice!)
Monday-Friday 6 until 9pm; 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, please call Ron Sundberg (355-8074) or Supervisor Penny Morton (525-5443). A big thanks to Fire Department volunteers who help in getting the rink ice ready.
Town Election Information
Ann Cox, Town Clerk
Candidate filing for Town Supervisor is at the Town Hall until 5pm on January 14th. Note that the Office will be open on the 14th from 1-5pm. The Office will be closed on January 1st, New Year’s day. Absentee voting for the Town Board election begins Friday February 7th through Monday March 9th. The Town Hall Office will be open Saturday, March 7th until 5pm and until 5pm on Monday, March 9th. (NOTE: For absentee voting in other elections see the St Louis County Courthouse).

Duluth Township Art and Heritage
Jo Thompson
The Duluth Township Arts and Heritage Group invite you to a Town Hall Dance and Social - Saturday Night February 22nd, 2020, 6 to 9 pm.

In years past, the Town Hall was one of the social event spots in the Township. These events included Saturday night dances. Come, join your neighbors and revive this spirit.

The dance will be from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be a D.J, so if you have any favorite tunes bring them along. Music will be mixed. Expect anything from waltz, polka, two step, the twist and maybe even the shiggy! You don’t need to bring a partner. If you think you can’t dance, come early (6-7 pm) and instruction will be provided. If you still think you can’t dance, just join in for refreshment’s and socializing with your neighbors. All ages are welcome and encouraged.

There will also be some historical items on display from previous DTAHG programs. We will have light refreshments. If you want to bring something to share, that would be great, but not necessary. The event is free, but donations are always appreciated as the Arts and Heritage group brings you these programs only through donations and grants.

The Duluth Township Arts and Heritage group meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Town Hall Community Room on the Friday morning following the monthly Thursday Board meeting. All are welcome. The next meeting is January 10th.

October 10th regular meeting. Supervisors Rolf Carlson (chair), Michael Kahl, Penny Morton and Corlis West attended along with the Town Clerk Ann Cox and Treasurer Mel Peulen.

Reports: Treasurer: Deposits of $817.17, expenses of $21,424.86 for an ending balance of $492,855.83. The State updated tax tables so employees will note a change in wages.

Public Comment: Nathan Nesgoda explained the road drainage problem on a private portion of Torgeson Road and asked if the Township could take over maintenance. George Sundstrom reported on Homesteaders’ appreciation of the newsletter.

November 14th regular meeting. Supervisors Rolf Carlson (chair), Michael Kahl, Penny Morton, John Schifsky and Corlis West attended along with the Town Clerk Ann Cox and Treasurer Mel Peulen.

Treasurer: Deposits of $1,956.43, expenses of $39,309.37 for an ending balance of $455,502.89.

Public Comment: Mike Kahl, Corlis West, John Schifsky, Rolf Carlson, Penny Morton
**Township Recycling Center**

Carolyn Marino

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

At the Town Hall, on Homestead Road

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

**Household plastic bags accepted in ORANGE bin only.**

**Please do not put black plastic bags, tarps, or plastic feed bags in the plastic bag recycle bin.**

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.

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**Township Calendar**

See calendar updates on www.duluthtownship.org.

Our Official Calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

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**JANUARY 2020**

1. Wed, Office closed on New Year’s day.
4. Sat, 9-12am Coffee and Local History, Town Hall
7. Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
8. Wed, 12:30pm Homesteader’s Town Hall
9. Thu, 6:30pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall.
10. Fri, 9:30am Arts and Heritage meeting, Town Hall
14. Tue, Deadline to file for Town Board Supervisor Office open 1:00pm to 5:00pm
15. Thu, 6:30-8:30 Open House on Draft CLUP, Town Hall
18. Sat, 9-12, Open House on Draft CLUP, Town Hall
21. Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept training Hall #1
21. Tue, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Church
23. Thu, 6:30pm Planning Commission, Town Hall

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**FEBRUARY 2020**

1. Sat, 9-12am Coffee and Local History, Town Hall
4. Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
5. Wed, 12:30 Homesteader’s meet, 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
21. Fri, Deadline for the March Newsletter
22. Sat, 6-9pm Town Hall Dance and Social, Town Hall
27. Thu, 6:30pm Planning Commission, Town Hall

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**MARCH 2020**

3. Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
3. Tue, 7am-8pm President Nominating Primary, THall
4. Wed, 12:30 Homesteader’s, Town Hall
5. Thu, 9-12am Coffee and Local History, Town Hall
10. Tue, 7am-8pm Town Board Election, Town Hall
10. Tue, 8:15pm Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall
12. Thu, 6:30pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall
13. Fri, 9:30am Arts and Heritage meeting, Town Hall
17. Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept training, Hall #1
17. Tue, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Church
26. 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:
- What's coming up
- CLUP Open House
- Township Calendar
- Police & Fire Dept. updates
- NSCS News
- Town Board & Planning mtgs.
- Planning Opening
- Filing for Supervisor deadline is Jan 14th at Town Hall.

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If your name or address are in error or you know of someone who is not receiving a Newsletter, please send a note to the Newsletter editor by using the contact list on our website (www.duluthtownship.org). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

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1122 Newsletters are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses and on request. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send comments and suggestions to Newsletter editor, Nathan Magnell at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the mailbox at the Town Hall or email on the website. Our Newsletter is printed locally by Bob Sundstrom, BB&K Printing, and mailed for us by the folks at UDAC.

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Presidential Nominating Primary (PNP) - March 3rd 7am—8pm, Town Hall

Ann Cox, Town Clerk

This year the President Nominating Primaries are combined on the same day. The process will look like this. When you, as a registered voter, come in to vote your party candidate preference, you will go to the usual spot at the Town Hall to sign in, but first you will have to check your party preference (this will then be disguised by tape for privacy). You then go to the next election judge to get the ballot for your party. It will have only your party’s candidate(s). You vote as instructed and put your ballot in the counting machine as you usually do. State offices assemble all precinct and party votes. Party voter names are sent by the State Office to their party’s official. Except for the party-specific ballots the process is familiar.

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Participating in a Precinct Caucus

Barb Crow

Even though Minnesota now has a Presidential Nominating Primary Election (March 3rd), each party will still hold precinct caucuses on Tuesday, February 25th at 7pm.

A precinct caucus is not just for elections, it’s a gathering of neighbors for the purpose of discussing issues and organizing your local party unit. Any resident 16 years or older can participate in his/her precinct caucus, but to be elected as a delegate, residents must be 18 years old by the November general election. This is your opportunity to have a voice in your local and state politics.

Go to the Minnesota Secretary of State website to find your caucus location: https://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us/.

What Happens at a Precinct Caucus?

Candidates running for local office may come to speak or they may send a representative to speak for them. Precinct party unit officers will be elected for the next two-year term. Your caucus will select delegates and alternatives to represent your precinct at the next level of party unit conventions. Serving as a delegate will allow you to help influence politics in your area and participate in endorsing local candidates. Precinct delegates can go on to be elected as state delegates.

Caucus participants can submit resolutions about issues that are important to them. If passed, they will be submitted to the party for consideration in the party platform. Resolutions are an opportunity for individuals at the precinct level to have an impact on state party vision and action agenda.

Know Your Rights

Minnesota Statutes Section 202A.19 permits Minnesota residents to take time off from work without pay to attend precinct caucuses, provided they give their employer written notice at least 10 days in advance. State Universities, community colleges, and public schools may not hold classes or events after 6pm on the evening of precinct caucuses. State agencies, school boards, township boards, city councils, and all other political subdivisions may not conduct meetings after 6pm on caucus night.