What’s Coming Up?

All Townhall events are canceled until further notice.

All May events are canceled until further notice.

French river Bridge and Wayside Rest Project. Construction starts June 1st. (see page 6)

Wild fire prep and community brush drop. (see page 2)

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Duluth Township Arts and Heritage Group (DTAHG)

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. The DTAHG has been hosting various history and arts programs. DTAHG is supported through grants and donations. Thank you to all who have shown interest in our efforts. We are hoping to have another program this fall, stay tuned.

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 do not have the capacity to store items, so please contact us to make arrangements for having items on display.

DTAHG usually meets monthly. However, at this time we have suspended future meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We will resume meeting at 9:30 am on the Friday following the town board meeting when it is safe to do so.

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The Homesteaders

Dorothy Aho

From the President.

Greetings to the Homesteaders. I hope you are well and enjoying this introspective time with activities like breathing, walking, video chatting, streaming services, watching blue skies, starry nights, plants bursting, and birds sing. I miss you all and look forward to when we can be together again. Hoping for a June gathering.

From Rose and Reijo Vastila.

May 6th, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, sandwiches and bars. Program: Glen Laspi - Acoustic guitar-sing along.

June 3rd, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, sandwiches and bars. Program--Suz and Bryce Thompson, folk singers.

July 1st, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, Annual Picnic.

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Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue

Dorothy Aho, Valerie Brady, Lisa Berndt, Ann Cox, Bob Engelson, Sue Lawson, Don McTavish, Shawn Padden, Jana Pastika, Shelly Person, John Schifsky, George Sundstrom, Carol Surine, Jo Thompson, and Rose and Reijo Vastila
We are still planning to host a community brush drop off and free chipping later this year. We will post the dates on the website and in future newsletters.

Escaped debris fires are the #1 cause of wildfires in Minnesota. It is Spring wildfire season and the DNR has issued burning restrictions. General burning permits are not available until further notice. Variance permits are required for special circumstances. See DNR website for more info.

State Fire Marshal Jim Smith is reminding Minnesotans doing spring cleaning while staying at home to pay attention to their dryer vents and lint traps. Lint buildup could cause serious problems, including a house fire. It’s important to go beyond cleaning the removable screen in the dryer. Lint can collect under the dryer and inside the exhaust tubing that travels from the dryer to the home’s exterior.

Pandemic response
Clifton Volunteer Fire Department continues to provide emergency services. We are coordinating with the state and county to have adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and maintain best practices for safely providing service.

Room for volunteers
We still have room on our roster for a few firefighters. All training and equipment provided. Contact Chief Bob Engelson if interested. 525-6819

FACE MASK DROPOFF
There will be containers at the fire hall on Ryan Rd. and the town hall for people to drop off face masks for distribution to those in need. Please put the bagged masks in the bins and include your contact information so your contribution can be acknowledged.

911 SIGN PICKUP
Those who still need to pick up their 911 signs can call the town hall at 525-5705 during office hours and request their sign (and post, if needed) be placed on the outside of the town hall for pickup.

Emergency Generators. The Township has an emergency backup generator at the Town Hall and at Fire Hall 1 on Ryan Road. The Town Hall and Fire Hall 1 are designated in our Township Emergency Plan as our Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and Backup Center (see the web site for the Plan).

Our current Emergency Management Co-Directors are Ann Cox and Sherry Rovig (EMD’s). There is an Emergency Planning Group that meets to review emergency plans. The current focus is on reducing wildfire threats due to the spruce budworm damage (the FIREWISE cleanup and chipping program) and getting reflective 911 signs distributed and properly installed (sign pick-up is handled by Co-EMD Ann Cox during office hours). Grants have been received for much of this work, thanks to Co-EMD Sherry Rovig and others.

Contact the Town Hall if you are interested in volunteering for the Emergency Planning Group.

For medical & police emergencies call: 911.

Sign up for email police alerts and other urgent or informative notifications at the Township site: duluthtownship.org.
This portion of the tale about the barn with the arched metal roof includes the time from about 1926 to 1930. Absolute time is very approximate; the sequence of events is more accurate.

From here on the story is a ‘might be true’. A story made up to fit some forensic evidence and/or evidence still remaining at the site. “DMT” stands for During My Time, meaning I existed some of the time but not that I recall or ever did know all the “facts”.

I did not know why my father was sitting at the kitchen table drawing curves on rather large sheets of paper. It was very unusual that he was up so late; perhaps 9 o’clock or so at night. I learned years later that he was trying to determine the shape of the roof over the hay mow that he was planning to build. He felt that an arched roof looks better than the usual gambrel roof. But the arched roof barns he had seen in the dairy region of Wisconsin looked a little too “fat”, like a Quonset hut. He wanted his barn to look a little nicer.

Once the shape of the roof was determined, construction could begin. First the (existing) barn was made larger. It needed room for a team of white horses and Mama wanted to have space for some chickens. The barn was extended toward the east; built just like the old part. (A 2019 visual examination of an exposed section of the original wall of the barn shows that it was constructed of stockade style vertical logs hewn to be about 6 x 6 inches, plastered with cement plaster on the inside and wrapped with tar paper on the outside.) That is what it was when adding the hay mow started. The barn was extended a little more than one of the original inside block blocks. (Notice the irregular window spacing.) The north side of the center isle was for the horses and harness etc.; the south side was the chicken coop. That little opening near the ground that looks like it might be a doggy door is for the chickens. Weather permitting, the chickens had “unlimited free roaming” privileges.

The temporary thatched roof was removed and replaced by a flat deck of boards to be the floor of the hay mow. The deck may have already been there. A low wall was built on each of the long sides on which to mount the arches. The exciting work starts now! The arches (an arch is defined here as the curved wood beam 4 x 4 inches in cross section, of the shape to look good and support one strip of corrugated metal roofing from the ridge to the eaves). A flat deck, just a foot or so above the ground and big enough to be a platform on which to lay an arch was made. Blocks were attached to the deck along a curved, full-scale line defining the arch. A 1 x 4 board was bent against the blocks to match the curve. Then another board was bent over the first and the two were nailed firmly together. This was repeated two more times to result in a four by four inch stack of boards nailed together to form one arch.

The boards were the roughest, rough-sawn boards I have ever seen. If a mother porcupine had babies as shaggy as those boards she would abandon them. It seems they were cut on a small, basic, circular blade saw mill. The logs appear to have been very green (never dried) before the boards were sawn to cut so shaggy, and the saw blade was so thin or dull that it drifted when it hit a hard spot like a large knot. If there were any building codes, these arches would never be approved. They are too irregular to calculate the strength. But then, the fact that the boards are so rough makes the arch somewhat stiffer and stronger because the boards will not slip relative to each other. The nails only need to hold the boards together but do not have to prevent slippage (that is shear). A total of about 52 arches was needed.

Sheets of galvanized, corrugated sheet metal were nailed to the arches to form the roof. The sheets are heavy duty industrial weight metalal, heavier and stiffer than that which is typically sold at building supply dealers. They are scrap metal, salvaged from a scrap metal yard, possibly originating from a dismantled iron mining plant in Wisconsin which had gone out of business. It could not compete with the open pit mines on the Minnesota Iron Range. Some sheets already showed some rust. Some have a few one-inch or so holes. Heavy is good because they will last longer but heavy is bad if you want to bend cross wise to the corrugations as required to form the arches. I don’t know how that was done. There is a story that the sharp bends forming the eaves were made by placing the sheet on edge between two very closely spaced birch trees and using a horse to pull the long part so as to form the bend. Roughly 50 sheets of the corrugated metal need that bend. Clever? The number of sheets is approximate, but it gives a feel for how much work it took to get ready to put up the roof.

I have no idea how the arches were raised to be in place. Today a truck mounted crane would be used to lift and hold the arches as they are temporarily nailed in place. Perhaps the end walls were made first and used to help lift the arches. The end walls were constructed like any ordinary frame home of the day. Once the arches were placed and temporarily nailed in place they could provide a structure to haul up the roofing sheets. (However it was done, I hope it was not a windy day.) There is no sheathing or bracing under the metal roofing. Another mystery is that the sheets are seen to be of different lengths so that the end joints of the sheets do not form a straight line from front to back on the roof. I am confident that my father did not favor that irregular look. Maybe because these were scrap metal sheets there were not enough of one length or maybe they were bent so as to fit better in one row then another. Changing the bend on a sheet is probably difficult.

Two cupolas, two foot by two foot and three feet high with simple four-way slanted roofs, were built on the ridge of the barn at roughly the one-quarter points from each end. They look sort of nice and are part of a ventilating system that failed to function. (The story about the ventilation is a little too long to stuff in here.) As of now they have both been blown away.

When you drive by the barn you can count the number of arches by counting the number of sheets of roofing in a horizontal row then add one and multiply by two. (The pictures I have are too small for me to do that).

There are two identical bracing structures inside the hay mow. They stiffen the whole roof in the crosswise direction and also help maintain the arch shape. Each brace consists of two poles, looking like telephone poles, and resting on the floor located to match the pair of support posts in the barn. They are the proper length and tilted toward the outside as needed to strike the roof about five feet below the ridge. A horizontal pole is located eight feet high and attached to each the two vertical posts. (The sections of the horizontal beam that were between the two posts have been removed from both braces.) A second identical beam structure is located on top of the other pair of posts in the barn.

All of the exterior barn walls were covered with ordinary drop siding, common on houses, and painted to look like a red barn. Notice the paint failure in the lower part of the West end wall due to the ventilation flaw. It is estimated that the mow when full would hold 40-43 tons of hay.
Regular Community Meetings
AA meets 7pm on Tuesdays at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road.
To list community meetings, notify the Newsletter editor.

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

Town Book Exchange
Take books. Bring books. *
Open during township office and recycling hours.
*DO NOT BRING:
Cookbooks
Reference/DIY books/guides
Books with torn covers/pages/mildew
Thanks!

INDIVIDUAL / HOUSEHOLD PROJECTS
What can someone do in a single day to help them stay safer from wildfire?
• Check and clear around address and street signs.
• Locate two alternate routes out of your neighborhood and drive them with the family.
• Move wood piles at least 30 feet from your home or other buildings. (This includes project wood under the porch and any stored propane or gas cans near the home.)
• Fully enclose the space under decks and patio, or use 1/8” mesh to screen it in.
• Rake and remove pine needles and leaves from at least 3 to 5 feet around your home and other buildings.
• Cut the grass and weeds in same area.
• Sweep pine needles and leaves from porches and rake from under decks, play structures, etc.
• Clear any needles and leaves out of gutters.
• Remove lower limbs from any trees near your home. You want to keep a fire on the forest floor. Removing lower limbs will take away the “ladder” from the surface to the crown of the tree.
• Create a family communication plan.
• Update your evacuation kit or go bag.
• Sign up for local emergency notifications. Find out the local emergency alert information and share it with your family, friends, and neighbors.
• Set up a neighborhood text tree that lets you send an email via text. This allows for rapid and detailed sharing of emergency information in your neighborhood.

To Place an Ad in the newsletter, contact the newsletter editor at magnellnathan@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
French River Readers Book Club
Carol Surine

It was a narrow winner, but it looks like our choice for May is *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed.

We will meet via Zoom on Thursday, May 21st at 7:30 PM to discuss *Wild*. I will send the invitation shortly before the meeting. I hope to see you all then! And in the meantime, I hope you all stay well.

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

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**Tanka Poetry**

Tankas are a more primitive version of a haiku. A haiku has 5 syllables on the first line, 7 on the second, and 5 again on the third, a tanka has 5 syllables on the first line, 7 on the second, 5 on the third, 7 on the fourth, and 7 on the fifth. Some writers prefer Tankas because it allows a little more room than a haiku, but also keeps it short and concise. Here’s an example I wrote:

A Winter Cabin is a Pie
5 Crisp pan of banked snow.
7 Crust of shingles, drywall, brick.
5 Smokey, pie-bird spout.
7 Cold inhabitants, swelling.
5 Melting from hearth and rich food.

Tankas are traditionally very visual. They *show* and *don’t tell* what’s happening through the senses.

I thought it would be fun activity for members of the community to try their hand at writing a Tanka. These poems could be included as a part of future newsletters. You can send your Tankas to magnellnathan@gmail.com I will include any I receive in the newsletter.

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**Create a Go – Bag**

Some of you have been thinking about making your emergency Go-Bag for months, and now during this time of isolation, is the perfect time to do it. A Go-Bag is an evacuation bag that contains a three-day supply of items you would need to safely evacuate your home. These bags are prepared in advance, before an emergency, and are kept in an easily accessible place.

When creating your Go-Bag, here are a few suggestions of essentials items to include: Cash and extra credit cards Insurance Documents Computer/computer back up Medications and prescription glasses Water and non-perishable food Personal toiletries and clothing Flashlight and batteries First-Aid kit Pet necessities

Additional items might be: Hand sanitizer/wipes Books and magazines Trash bags Rain poncho Blankets Laundry detergent Rubber gloves

What other items would you add to your Go Bag?

Some additional Wildfire preparedness resources:
- National Firewise Program: www.firewise.org
- Minnesota Firewise Program: www.mndnr.gov/firewise
- Fire Adapted Communities: www.fireadapted.org
- Wildland Fire Ready, Set, Go: www.wildlandfireRSG.org
- National Fire Protection Association: www.NFPA.org
- Red Cross Wildfire Checklist: https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/agt/PDF_s/Preparedness___Disaster_Recovery/Disaster_Preparedness/Wildfire/Wildfire.pdf

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**Stuck at home?**

*Help spring clean our ditches and streams.*

By Valerie Brady

As you’re reading this we may still be trying to stay home to help protect our vulnerable neighbors and family members. But because we live out here in the country, we have easy options for getting outside this spring. So this is the perfect time to take a walk up the road on a beautiful spring day. And what better to do on your daily walk then help keep our streams clean? All that trash that’s showing up in the ditches now that the snow is gone will get washed into our streams and rivers if we don’t pick it up. We can help our rivers and Lake Superior simply by keeping our ditches in good shape.
**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)

March Annual Meeting: There was no April meeting to approve the March annual meeting minutes, due to the stay at home order. All meetings are postponed until further notice.

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.

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

No meetings due to the stay at home order. All meetings are on hold until further notice.

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.

**French River Bridge & Wayside Rest Project**

The road will be closed with detour in effect from June 1st – Nov. 13th of 2020 with a temporary 4 day opening in between those dates for the Northshore Inline Marathon. **Detours include: Ryan Rd. And Homestead Rd.**

Project Schedule:

Construction Start: June 1st, 2020 (Detour will be in effect, Grandma’s Marathon cancelled for 2020)

Intermediate Calendar Completion Date A: Sept 16th, 2020 (bridge constructed and temporary paving in place for the Northshore Inline Marathon)

Intermediate Calendar Completion Date B: Nov 13th, 2020 (bridge and roadway construction completed, CSAH 61 shall now remain open to traffic till project completion in 2021)

Substantial Completion Date: July 16th, 2021 (CSAH 61 remains open to traffic, wayside rest now complete except veg. maintenance and final cleanup)

Final Completion Date: Aug 11th, 2021 (Project now complete)

There will be construction updates at https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/public-works/construction/construction-projects (click ‘Road Construction Maps’) once the project starts, which you can subscribe to the project update notifications.

**Disposal of Waste Oil**

After the Snow melted, 16 gallons of waste oil was found thrown into the ditch along Bergquist road. Luckily it was found before it spilled and caused real damage. Be sure to dispose of **ALL** waste properly. Individuals can bring all hazardous waste to **WLSSD, 2626 Courtland St Gate 9, Duluth, MN 55806**, when they reopen after the quarantine. Another option is to sell waste oil. Individuals use it to heat their homes.

For any questions on how to dispose of hazardous waste go to: https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/find-your-household-hazardous-waste-collection-site

**Memorial Day Ceremony**

There will be no memorial day ceremony this year, due to the quarantine and in the interest of public safety. George Sundstrom has a speaker lined up and will make more info available if plans change. A thank you from the newsletter, to all of our veterans and those currently serving.
Duluth Township Information 2020
Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804
Phone (218) 525-5705 (voice message), Email: See note below on using our Township web site.
www.duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9am-noon
Thurs 2-6pm, Fri 9-11am
Planning Office Hours: No posted hours
Call the Town Hall for an appointment: 525-5705

Supervisors: (see web site for email contacts)
Rolf Carlson (2017-2020) 525-0375 Board Chair
Primary contact for Cemetery, Personnel
Alternate for: NS Mgmt Board, Intergov. Relations
Michael Kahl (2019-2022) 525-1554
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, CCR, 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) 525-7711
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)

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, Pam West, Angela Wilson and Larry Zanko

Peace Officers: Chief Shawn Padden, Officer 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:
Email: cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com
Chief Bob Engelson, Assistant Chief Rob Peldo, President Jason Bruckelmyer

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.

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.

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.

A reminder that all events are canceled until further notice. The calendar is provided in case that fact changes. Check the website as well, for further info.

May 2020

May 5th: Volunteer Fire Dept. Business Mtg. 7pm. Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road.
May 6th: Homesteaders 12:30 Town hall
May 14th: Town Board Meeting 6:30pm Town Hall
May 19th: North Shore Sanitary Dist. Mtg. 7am French River Church
May 19th: EMR Training 6pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road
May 19th: Volunteer Fire Dept. Business Mtg. 7pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road
May 28th: Planning Commission Mtg. 7pm Town Hall

June 2020

June 2nd: Volunteer Fire Dept. Business Mtg. 7pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road
June 3rd: Homesteaders 12:30 Town hall
June 11th: Town Board Mtg. 6:30 pm Town Hall
June 16th: North Shore Sanitary Dist. Mtg. 7am French River Church
June 16th: EMR Training 6pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road
June 16th: Volunteer Fire Dept. Business Mtg. 7pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road
June 25th: Planning and Commission Mtg. 7pm Town Hall
June 27th-28th: Clover Valley Tractor Show

July 2020

July 1st: Homesteaders 12:30 Town Hall
July 7th: Volunteer Fire Dept. Business Mtg. 7pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road
July 9th: Town Board mtg. 6:30 pm Town Hall
July 21st: North Shore Sanitary Dist. Mtg. 7am French River Church
July 21st: EMR Training 6pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road
July 21st: Volunteer Fire Dept. Business Mtg. 7pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road
July 23: Planning and Commission Mtg. 7pm Town Hall
Inside This Issue

- What's coming up
- Township Calendar
- Police & Fire Dept. report
- Town Board & Planning mtgs.
- 911 Fire Sign pickup
- Bridge and wayside rest project calendar.

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). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.