

EUREKA! THE NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF EUREKA TOWNSHIP

December 2001



Eureka Township Supervisors 7:30 pm, 2nd Monday of Month

Beverly Topp, Chairperson
952-469-4859
Don Pflaum, Vice Chairperson
651-463-3577
Connie Anderson
952-469-2355
Kenny Miller
952-469-4803
Clark Smith
952-469-3352

Oliver Leine, Town Clerk
952-469-2294
Nanett Leine, Treasurer
952-469-3736

Eureka Planning Commission 7:30 pm, 1st Monday of Month

Greg Gudbjartsson, Chair
952-469-3963
Paul Boyum
952-469-3800
Mark Malecha
507-645-4015
Francie Madden
952-469-2958
Calvin Pflaum
651-463-3577

Township Contact

Nanett Leine
by telephone: 952-469-3736
Monday - 8:00 AM to noon
Thursday - 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
E mail:
eurekatn@frontiernet.net

Editor: Bob Papke
651-463-8546

Official notices published in:
Farmington Independent and
This Week/Life and Times
newspapers, & outside on the
Town Hall bulletin board.

Citizen Participation in Local Government

Citizens are really getting involved in the affairs of Eureka Township!

Resident volunteers performing specific tasks, and task teams consisting of our citizens, have been an effective way for town officials to get help in obtaining and processing information as well as getting other tasks done.

Citizens bring to township government, willingness and a capacity to work, commitment to resolving issues, varied and valuable experiences, and intelligence. This adds up - that we are all in this together for the good of our community.

Work done by volunteers in these areas in 2000 and 2001:

Mining Task Team - developed a proposed mining ordinance for town officials to prepare for resident review and discussion.

Painting of the Town Hall - completed in 2000.

Envisioning Task Team - developing scenarios on what Eureka Township might "look" like sometime in the future.

Town Hall Research Task Team - exploring all of the issues in determining the "status" of the town hall - repair, build anew, rent, etc.

October 6 Tire Collection - helped with the tire recycling effort.

Getting the Town's Newsletter out to residents & landowners - an ongoing effort by volunteers.

Hats off and thanks for the following volunteers who did their work with diligence!:

Larry Ahrens, Brian Anderson, Connie Anderson, Erland Anderson, Gloria Anderson, Laura Anderson, Scott Anderson, Troy Anderson, Jody Arman-Jones, Linda Bohrn, Wally Bohrn, Jeff Bruheger, Sharon Buckley, Laurie Gossler, Mike Greco, Greg Gudbjartsson, Gary Gunderson, Mark, Hawanchak, Brian Kadlec, Mark Kadlec, Phil Kadlec, Ray Kadlec, Ray Kaufenberg, Oliver Leine, Francie Madden, Pat Mahowald, Will Mako, Kenny Miller, Amy Nielsen, Chris Nielsen, Carolyn Papke, Bob Papke, Janice Schwanz, Marv Schwanz, Glen Shirley, Gary Smith, Brian Swedin, Jerry Swedin, Tim Swedin, Pat Steege, Don Storlie, John Strunk, Bev Topp, Pat Tutewohl, Randy Wood and all those members & parents of Chub Lake Beavers 4H who painted the town hall.

Some of the above volunteers were active in more than one task. Some volunteers were also town board supervisors or members of the Planning Commission.

OCTOBER TIRE COLLECTION

What a success! Somewhere between 2500 to possibly 3000 tires were turned in! We eliminated a significant source of breeding grounds for "bad" mosquitoes. Residents - take a deep and well-deserved bow on this one.

MAINTAINING TOWNSHIP ROADS

The roads have been maintained to prepare for winter. The contractors have been alerted for the need to remove snow as expeditiously as possible. Contact Connie Anderson or Don Pflaum for problems involving roads on the east side of Cedar Ave: Kenny Miller or Clark Smith for roads on the west side of Cedar Ave.

The town board is developing a one year plan for road maintenance that will be presented at the annual meeting in March 2002. The plan will include the replacement of box culverts.

THE WATERSHEDS IN EUREKA TOWNSHIP

As is well known, the township has two major watersheds: **Chub Creek Watershed** and the **Vermillion River Watershed**. Both are significant for providing habitat for wildlife. Southern portions of the township drain to the north branch of Chub Creek and Chub Lake through Chub Creek and then out of the township.

Recently an assessment was completed of the the "health" of the **Chub Creek Watershed**. It was found to be in "fair to good health." However, the creeks have contaminants such as fecal coliform bacteria and excess amounts of nitrogen, ammonia and phosphorus thus limiting their use for human consumption or swimming. The watershed areas that have the most wetlands, woodlands and stream buffers, were found to have the least amount of contaminants. Copies of this report are available to the public.

The **North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization** has a great interest in the **Chub Creek Watershed**; Chub Creek flows into the Cannon River. They are looking for persons in the township who may be interested in serving on a citizen advisory committee. The purpose is to develop a plan to manage the water and natural resources in the North Cannon River Watershed. Contact Laura Jester at 651-463-8546 for more information.

The Vermillion River actually originates in Scott County, flows through Eureka and on east to the Mississippi River. To facilitate efforts to improve the **Vermillion River Watershed**, the Dakota County Board has passed a resolution to adopt the Planning Commission Model (PCM) and to meet with the Scott County Board to create a joint powers agreement (JPA). Through this agreement both boards would have joint jurisdiction over the PCM. The PCM would provide advice on policy, improvement projects, and budgets. It may take up to a year before all of the planning and implementation of plans begin to bear fruit. We'll keep a watchful eye on all of this and give you more information in the June newsletter.

Contact Connie Anderson at 952-469-2355 to obtain more information about the **Vermillion River Watershed**.

Dakota County Environmental Education Program has recently produced a very large map and poster of the **Vermillion River Watershed**. Ms. Jester will be presenting information about this map and poster at the town board meeting on December 10, 2001 at 8:30 pm.

Election of Township Officials, March 12

Two 3-year Supervisor positions & the Town Clerk

Filing Date: Jan. 1-15, 2002

Mondays: 8 a.m. to noon

Thursdays: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Filing Location: Town Office, 24797 Highview Ave

Polling Place: At the town hall

Voting Hours: 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

ANNUAL MEETING

of Eureka Township

is scheduled for

Tuesday, March 12, 2002, at 8 p.m.

The location is being determined and will be published in Lakeville and Farmington newspapers and posted at the town hall.

> CHAIR'S CORNER <

The events of September 11th were just occurring when the last edition of *Eureka! The News* was being distributed. Since that time it seems most of us have gone from numbness and fear, to resuming our lives, although with less certainty about how the future will look for us and for our descendants.

It seems that for most our values have been reordered - we watched as "the worst horror of which humans are capable brought about the very best" in ordinary U.S. citizens, and we asked ourselves what is really important in life.

It is with this background that the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors are doing final reviews on the Mining Ordinance. The public hearing held on November 5th was an excellent one. We received inputs from many different citizens representing sometimes very different views. And the meeting progressed in an attitude of mutual respect for the democratic process.

It is now our job to finish crafting an ordinance that will allow for the capture of aggregate, which recently has been named a seriously diminishing resource needing protection and development. But in this process we are also called on to include the protections needed to assure our citizens a reasonable quality of life and to safeguard the natural environment.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the process.

I was recently at a seminar which discussed the impact of 9/11 on the liberties of the American people. There were many excellent thoughts expressed in the discussion. But one which continues to roll around in my mind and whose concepts I know I was taught growing up holds special significance with this wording -- "***No single branch of government can be trusted to operate by itself. That's how power operates. The 4th branch of government, THE PEOPLE, is critical to keep the other three branches in check.***" Your township elected officers work very hard to make decisions which balance the private interest with the public good. But your participation informs them of many issues and facts needed to make good decisions.

I hope the holiday season finds all of you in good health and good spirits as you spend precious time among your family and friends.

May we all hope that the new year will bring greater understanding and peace in a troubled world.

Commercial Task Force

The township is still forming a task force to study and recommend possible commercial land use changes to the present zoning ordinance. The time commitment for this project is with weekly or bimonthly meetings with interim assignments until completion of the project in September 2002.

Interested township citizens or property owner should submit a letter addressing their interest in being on the task force.

Skills in fact finding, writing and objectivity along with some experience in working in a group setting are a plus in serving on the task force.

If interested send your application by an e mail (eurekatn@frontiernet.net) to the Eureka Town Clerk. Or you can send a letter of application to Eureka Town Clerk, 24498 Cedar Ave., Farmington, MN 55024.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's Note: In the first edition of this newsletter, we sought responses from the residents in the township. While residents have talked with town officials, none have come my way. Until now. Here are the first five bullets of material I received along with a card:

BALANCE

Re: Mining In Eureka

Balance, it's all about balance.

And to this extent, I charge the Eureka Board of Supervisors to answer:

- Pretend they are operators. Dream the dreams of an entrepreneur with far-reaching goals;
- at the same time pretend they would live right next door to a mining operation and cope or get used to a crusher 750 feet away.
- I charge the neighbors to appreciate the gravel in their own driveways and basement walls and in the roads to work. Realize that someone has to provide this resource. Consider if it would be okay for Eureka to benefit from giving up some resources.
- I charge the operator with thanking the neighbors for allowing him to practice free enterprise and make a decent living at it, and show his appreciation by contributing to the community in some other way.
- Let neighbors and operators work out win-win situations

Balance. It is all about balance. Remember we call Eureka our home.

Pat Steege

[Dated: 11/5/01]

All meetings start at 7:30 PM
in the Town Hall on old
Cedar Avenue, a block south
of 250 St. W.

Planning Commission
January 7
February 4
March 4

Town Board
January 14
February 11
March 11

Calendar of Meetings

Eureka Township
24797 Highview Avenue
Lakeville, MN 55044
Tel: 952.469.3736

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Nonconforming Commercial Businesses

The Town Board and Planning Commission will be seeking public comment on a working draft of an ordinance governing nonconforming commercial businesses at a public meeting that will be held on

January 7, 2002

at 8:00 PM

in the Town Hall

This meeting provides an opportunity for the public to review and discuss the working draft of an ordinance prepared by the township attorney.

TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

- for general information
- to get on the Town Board meeting agenda
- to get information on the requirement for a township building permit
- tentative agendas of meetings are available at the town hall

CONTACT: Nanett Leine
Email: eurekatn@frontiernet.net

OR

at 952-469-3736

for immediate response on:

Monday 8:00 AM to noon
Thursday 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Other days & evenings, calls are transferred to Voice Mail. All calls will be returned.