

EUREKA! THE NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF EUREKA TOWNSHIP, MN.

JANUARY, 2007



MESSAGE FROM EUREKA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COM.

Eureka Township Begins to Prepare Land Use Plan

The process of planning for Eureka's future is well under way. Last August, an advisory committee of Eureka residents, landowners, and business people was appointed by the Town Board to prepare a plan to guide future land use and development in our community. Since then, the Eureka Strategic Vision Citizen Advisory Committee has met monthly to discuss conditions, issues, and opportunities, and to formulate and debate alternatives. The goal is to complete the plan by this coming June.

To provide an opportunity for public input in the process, a community opinion survey was mailed to every landowner in the Township last November.* Of all the surveys sent out, a whopping 50 percent were completed and returned. The results of the opinion survey, which will help the committee write the plan, can be viewed on the Eureka Township website at <http://eurekatownship-mn.us/taskforce/StrategicVision.html>.

On Tuesday, February 20, the Citizen Advisory Committee will host a "Town Forum" at the Town Hall (Cedar Ave. & 250th) for the public to learn more about current conditions and planning alternatives in the Township, and to voice their ideas. The meeting will begin at 7 pm.

A second Town Forum will be held this spring to provide an opportunity for the public to review a draft plan. For the date and time of this meeting, watch future newsletters or the Township calendar (posted on the Township website and outside the Town Hall).

All meetings of the Citizens Advisory Committee are open to the public. Committee meetings have typically been held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Interested citizens should check the website or Township calendar for dates and times of future meetings.

Ultimately, the report of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be sent to the Township Planning Commission, which will recommend a plan for final approval by the Town Board. Public hearings will be conducted to hear comments on the draft plan before any final plan is approved.

**Numbers on questionnaires were added strictly at random and in no way identifiable. It was done to eliminate any chances of duplicate responses. For more information about the planning process or Citizen Advisory Committee, visit <http://eurekatownship-mn.us/taskforce/StrategicVision.html>.*

MESSAGE FROM TOWN BOARD CHAIR, CORY BEHRENDT

Over the last year, the Township has been faced with many difficult issues; as a result many Township residents have joined together in various groups to establish common interest and goals. It is encouraging to see these activities, as it is often the catalyst to change and a greater discussion.

Throughout the next few months there will be opportunity to guide the Township's future through the Strategic Visioning Town Forum (Feb. 20th) and annual meeting and election (Mar. 13th). Please make every effort to attend these critical events; they are key to the eventual future of the Township.

Eureka Township Supervisors
Meet monthly, 2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Cory Behrendt, Chair
952-985-5411, term to 3/09
Gary Smith, Vice Chair
651-463-8045, term to 3/07
Gloria Belzer, term to 3/08
612-202-5821
Cheryl Monson, term to 3/08
952-469-1835
Dan Rogers, term to 3/09
952-469-3739

Eureka Planning Commission
Meet monthly, 1st Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Mike Greco, Chair
952-469-8418, term to 4/08
Rich Stevens, Vice Chair
651-463-4609, term to 4/07
Sharon Buckley, term to 4/09
952-469-2290
Kevin Flaherty, term to 4/08
612-325-7361
Nancy Sauber, term to 4/09
952-469-5146

Township Contact, Clerk/Treasurer
Nanett Champlain, 952-469-3736
Monday, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
At other times, calls transferred to voice mail; all calls are returned.

- for general information
- to get on meeting agenda
- for building, etc. permit info.

E-mail: eurekatn@frontiernet.net

Website: <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

- official meeting minutes
- ordinances, calendar, etc.
- permit applications

Township Roads:
Dan Rogers, 952-469-3739

Emergency 911: ambulance, police, fire (non-emergency 651-437-4211)

Official Notices published in *This Week Life and Times* newspaper, and posted on bulletin board outside the Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave.

Editor: Carolyn Papke, 651-463-8546
Mailings by Georgie Molitor

TOWN BOARD ISSUES & REVIEW 2006

The Town Board is continually in the process of making decisions about Building Permits, Split Lots, Non-Conforming Use Permits, Conditional Use Permits, and issues that are not in compliance with our Ordinances. For specific information, refer to the minutes of Town Board Meetings on our website.

2006 Review: The Town Board and Planning Commission engaged in many regular and special meetings, training, inspections, and research to conduct the business of the township. They also handled an array of written complaints this year regarding junk vehicles, derelict buildings, noise, and right of way issues, some of which can result in misdemeanor actions if ignored. In 2006 there were 34 building permits approved, 8 lot splits approved with county registration essential. See Town Clerk for details.

MinnCan Update :

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has tentatively scheduled a final public hearing on the MinnCan Pipeline issue for Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at the PUC headquarters in St. Paul. The PUC is not required by law to take testimony from the public at this meeting. However, public advocacy groups and individuals affected by route adjustments for the proposed pipeline have lobbied the PUC to allow additional public comment on the matter, and it appears that they will do so. Because the meeting date is tentative at this time, check the township website calendar (<http://eurekatownship-mn.us/calendar.html>) in early February to confirm the date and location of the meeting. --Mike Greco

Legal Concerns :

Over the past several years there has been an increasing amount of Board decisions that have been legally challenged by applicants. While most applications are fairly straight forward, there are periodic applications that are new or unique to the township. While contentious applications are challenging to citizens in the Township they are also challenging to the Town Board to properly review and make sound decisions. In an effort to reduce legal challenges and contention in the Township, the Board has taken several steps in making better decisions including: supervisor educational sessions with Township attorneys, engaging legal council early in the application process and employing better research and documentation. Although the Township is not in control of the applications that are brought to the Board, we can ensure fair and equitable decisions for all applicants and Township residents alike. --C.Behrendt

Township Roads : Citizen concerns about winter road surfaces have been heard: a new mixture of 3/8" clear lime rock will now be used on our gravel roads, providing better traction, and less icing, as well as adding to the road base in an environmentally friendly way. You should notice considerable improvement. --Supv. Dan Rogers

At the November 2006 Town Board meeting, the Board approved two contracts: one for Road Maintenance and the other for Snow Removal, both with Otte Excavating out of Randolph, MN. This contract will extend through June 30th, 2007 at which time the contracts will be re-bid. In case you are wondering, Chris Neilson who has been maintaining our roads for several years has joined forces with Otte excavating and is still a primary operator for road maintenance. Road projects for 2007 are currently being analyzed from annual road and contractor reviews. After study, the Board will propose top priority projects based on the available funding from last years approved levy. As always if you have concerns about road conditions, please contact the Clerk or road supervisors listed in the Newsletter. --Cory Behrendt, Chair

EUREKA PLANNING COMMISSION MESSAGE

New Policy for Building Permit Applications

- To allow enough time to evaluate building permit and land use requests, the Planning Commission has adopted a new due date for applications. For building permit or land use applications to be placed on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting, **a complete application must be received by Thursday at noon, 10 days before the meeting.** Applications received after this deadline will not be acted on until the following month's meeting. Please plan ahead to ensure your application is complete and submitted on time.

- For information on building permit and land use requests—including application forms, instructions sheets, and answers to frequently asked questions—visit the Township website at <http://eurekatownshipmn.us/permits.html>) or contact Town Clerk Nanett Champlain at eurekatn@frontiernet.net or 952-469-3736.

New Application Forms Are Easier to Use. . . . At least we're hopeful that they will be! Over the last several months, the Planning Commission has been diligently working to update and organize the many forms, instructions sheets, and procedures for requesting building permits and land use permits.

- The new application forms and instructions are designed to be easier to understand and to provide better record-keeping for the township. They are available on the Township website at <http://eurekatownship-mn.us/permits.html> or from the Town Clerk at 952-469-3736 or eurekatn@frontiernet.net. Please take time to review these forms and instruction sheets when requesting a permit; it will make the application process easier and more efficient and will help ensure your project gets completed on schedule.

- Last fall the Town Board and Planning Com. also streamlined the process for applying for permits for pools, decks, porches, plumbing, mechanical, re-roofing, windows and door replacement, new siding, and septic systems. In most cases, a permit for these projects can be obtained directly from the Town Clerk without having to attend a Planning Com. or Town Board meeting.

- A reminder that permits are required for all of the following (this is not a complete list): residential buildings, pole buildings (both agricultural and residential), residential additions and remodels, plumbing and mechanical projects, re-roofing, door & window replacement, new siding, decks, pools, driveways, signs, septic systems, private dog kennels, lot splits, and excavation in township right-of-ways. Unsure whether a structure or project requires a permit? Contact Eureka Town Clerk at 952-469-3736 or eurekatn@frontiernet.net.

Note: Eureka Township Ordinances are available from the Town Clerk at \$25 for hard copy, \$5 for CD disk, or can be accessed on our website, or at Farmington or Lakeville Libraries, or Eureka Town Hall, or the County Law Library.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

All candidates were asked: "name, address, education/occupation, what background experience do you bring to township supervisor position, and why have you chosen to run for town board." Their responses follow. *The Town Board is not endorsing candidates, nor bears responsibility for the veracity of these statements.*

Supervisor Position #1 - one year remaining (currently Cheryl Monson) - vote for 1

Supervisor Cheryl Monson is resigning her office effective March 23, 2007 for personal reasons. Thank you, Cheryl, for your township service on the Planning Commission and Town Board.

Brian Budenski, 24235 Highview Ave., Lakeville, Mn. 55044

- BA in Finance & Economics, Augsburg; Real Estate Broker and Developer.
- After 25 years of attending town board and planning commission meetings and due to my occupation, I feel I am familiar with procedures, ordinances, and zoning issues to help Eureka township look toward the future.
- As a resident for 15 years, I feel a civic duty to the township. I like the rural character, but I also appreciate landowner concerns about the current and future land use within the township. As a result the township is a project in motion and I will do what is required of me to help this project succeed.

Charles Butch Hansen, 26120 Highview Ave, Farmington (Mr. Hansen did not provide a response by the time of printing)

Supervisor Position #5 - a 3 year term (currently Gary Smith) - vote for 1

Peter C. Johnson, 8684 250th St. W., Lakeville, MN 55044

- Graduate of Lakeville High School 1976. Employed by Lakeville Public Schools - custodian/grounds.
- I am a life long resident of Eureka Township. I have a vested interest in our community since my family has resided here since 1856. I served on the planning commission in the late seventies.
- I would like to insure that the board decisions represent the needs of the people in the community now and into the future. I would also like to see that the decisions made by the board assist and protect the landowners. To accomplish this task, I need to get involved personally and listen to those who the board members are elected to represent.

Jeff Otto, 25580 Dodd Blvd., Lakeville, MN 55044 Lakeville

- Graduate, BME from University of Minnesota, specialized in Industrial Engineering. Retired from railroad industry as planner, project manager, and internal consultant on technology.
- Raised on farm in Burnsville, helped Dad build Orchard Gardens Golf Course, and have served in leadership roles throughout my career. With wife Linda, we have made our home on the farm she grew up on.
- Have spoken at public hearings. Member of the Eureka Township Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC).
- I enjoy the challenge of planning and pursuing practical solutions to balance the goals of land owners, businesses, and residents. Supervisors must administer ordinances as written fairly and properly. Ordinances also need to be reviewed periodically, which will be a natural follow-on to the recommendations that will be coming from the current CAC and Planning Commission efforts.

BUDGETS AND YOUR TAX DOLLARS.....Where does the revenue for the Township come from?

Based on the Minnesota State Auditors office, our Township revenue largely comes from local property taxes. Other primary sources of funding include state, county and local grants, interest on investments and license and fees the Township collects. So who sets the local property taxes? The amount assessed by the Township is set by voters at the annual meeting in March. Township residents are directly responsible for approving a levy for our Township to operate under. There are various requirements placed on the Township by statutes, etc. that require certain amounts be collected to provide road maintenance, cover debts, etc. Townships are the few forms of government which are only limited by the voter's authority to limit an approved levy. Where does the money go? Based on the same State Auditors report, roads and bridges are the biggest expenditure, followed by: general government expenses; fire, police and rescue services; debt payment (such as the town hall) and professional services (such as legal and planning). In general it is the boards' sole discretion to approve expenditures within the general budget / levy limit; using citizens input and statute requirements to do so. Specifically designated accounts such as roads and bridges must be used as designated. ---Cory Behrendt, Chair

ACTIVITIES IN THE TOWNSHIP

ART DISPLAYS IN THE TOWN HALL:

Nov-Dec: Pottery by D. Palmquist & C. Riley Jan-Feb: Paintings by Donna Rollins March: Eureka Pictures of the Past on loan from residents

Please loan your framed pictures of remembrances of Eureka Township so they can be viewed in March at the annual meeting and election. Framed pictures or items than can be hung should be brought to the Town Hall office by March 1 with your name and phone contact. We would like to borrow them for the month of March to expand the Eureka history theme. For further information, contact Donna Rollins, 952-469-2827.

EUREKA HISTORY PROJECT is on track and will be unveiled on March 13 at the Annual Meeting. You will be surprised and impressed with the Town Hall's history wall representing so many people who have contributed their time and effort to our Township! There will be an opportunity during the week of March 5 for all past and present elected officials to be in a group photo that will be published in the Lakeville This Week Life & Times. Additional donations to cover project expenses are still needed. Call Ray or Lorraine Swedeen, 651-460-8294, for details.

THANK YOU • Patty Smith for the donation of her beautiful framed ink drawing of the old Town Hall.. It hangs near the entry.

- Gary Smith and son, Jason, for installing the township name sign on the front of the Town Hall.
- Kenny Miller and Gary Smith for moving the large storage container from the former space to the new Town Hall area.
- Bachman's for evergreen trees around the Town Hall property, and Don Cross for coordinating landscaping at the Town Hall.

OLD TOWN HALL building was donated to resident David Tousignant and moved at his expense. A "home" for it has been sought since 2005; Dakota City was unable to acquire it. The old site has been reclaimed and is now usable for overflow parking.

NOTE FROM THE TOWN CLERK

• There will be **one opening on the Planning Commission**, a three-year term beginning May 1, 2007. The Town Board will make the appointment at the April 9 Board meeting. Anyone who is interested in this position should submit a letter to the Town Clerk. See Ordinance No. 2, Chapter 3 (page 27) for more information.

- Absentee ballots for Election of Supervisors are available beginning February 9, 2007, from the Town Clerk.



Eureka Township
 P.O. Box 576
 Lakeville, MN 55044

25043 Cedar Avenue
 Phone 952-469-3736
 Fax 952-469-5525
 Email:
 eurekatn@frontiernet.net
 Website:
 http://eurekatownship-mn.us

2007 EUREKA CALENDAR.....events at Eureka Town Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Jan. 23	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Eureka Strategic Vision Citizens Advisory Com. (CAC)
Jan. 25	Thurs.	10:30 am - noon	Completed building permit applications due for Feb.
Feb. 5	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Planning Commission Meeting
Feb. 12	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Township Supervisors Meeting
Feb. 20	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Town Forum sponsored by ESV Citizens Advisory Com. (CAC)
Feb. 22	Thurs.	10:30 am - noon	Completed building permit applications due for March
Mar. 5	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Planning Commission Meeting
Mar. 12	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Township Supervisors Meeting
Mar. 13	Tues.	10:00 am - 8:00 pm	Public Election of 2 Township Supervisors
Mar. 13	Tues.	8:15 p.m.	Eureka Township Annual Meeting
(Mar. 20	Tues.	alternate date for election/annual meeting in event of severe weather 3/13)	
Mar. 22	Thurs.	10:30 am - noon	Completed building permit applications due for April
Apr. 2	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Planning Commission Meeting
Apr. 9	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Township Supervisors Meeting

In 2007 the following Conditional Use Permits will come up for review at regular Town Board meetings (See 2005 Eureka Ordinances, p. 40 and 61)

- | | |
|--|--|
| February | April: |
| Airstrip: 26120 Highview Ave, Fgtn., Charles B. Hansen | Spirit Ranch 1: 24005 Dodd Blvd, Lakeville - Terri Petter |
| | & 26190 Highview Ave, Fgtn., Mark Hansen |
| Gravel Mines: | Spirit Ranch II: 10132 W 235 |
| Madden Pit: 225th St W., Lakeville | May: |
| Operator: Eureka Sand and Gravel | Airstrip: 5255 265th St., Farmington - Mark Nelson |
| Sauber Pit: 225th St W., Lakeville | Dick's Gunsmithing: 25791 Dodd Blvd, Lakeville - Dick Wagaman |
| Operator: Eureka Sand and Gravel | July: |
| Barton Sand and Gravel: | 2nd Farm Dwelling: 26120 Highview Ave, Farmington, Charles Hansen |
| Tiller Corporation, 10005 235th St W., Lakeville | Dog Kennel: 24315 Dodd Blvd, Lakeville - Jeffrey & Andrea Krapu |
| Storlie Gravel Pit: 23449 Dodd Blvd, Lakeville | December: |
| | Wat Lao of Minnesota Buddhist Temple - 22605 Cedar Ave, Farmington |

BUSINESS ADS BY RESIDENTS and/or LANDOWNERS IN EUREKA TOWNSHIP

Carol S. Cooper, Attorney at Law
26437 Galaxie Ave., Farmington, MN 55024

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.....a place for your ad.....

.....here.....

Eureka landowners/residents, who wish to advertise their businesses, can place a "business card ad" by the quarter at \$35 or annually for \$125. It would also be possible to purchase a double space at double the price. Any revenue would be applied to the cost of printing & mailing the newsletter. To do this economically, we need a minimum of 8 or a maximum of 12 business card ads for a one-page insert. The first 12 responses will be in the insert. Others will be returned. Mail to Carolyn Papke, 5965 W. 235th Str, Farmington, Mn. 55024, with business card and check to Eureka Township no later than Mar. 30, 2007, for April newsletter.

This is not meant as an endorsement of products, services, or business status by Eureka Township.