

# Eureka! The News

A Quarterly Publication of Eureka Township, Minnesota

January 2008



## Eureka Township Supervisors

Meet monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Dan Rogers, Chair  
952-469-3739, term to 3/09  
Jeff Otto, Vice Chair  
952-469-8561, term to 3/10  
Corey Behrendt, term to 3/09  
952-985-5411  
Gloria Belzer, term to 3/08  
612-202-5821  
Brian Budenski, term to 3/08  
952-292-6028

## Eureka Planning Commission

Meet monthly, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Mike Greco, Chair  
952-469-8418, term to 4/08  
Sharon Buckley, Vice Chair  
952-469-2290, term to 4/09  
Kenny Miller, term to 4/10  
952-469-4803  
Ken Olstad, term to 4/08  
952-985-7248  
Nancy Sauber, term to 4/09  
952-469-5146

## Township Contact, Clerk/Treasurer

Nanett Champlain, 952-469-3736  
Fax 952-469-5525

## Town Hall Office Hours:

Monday, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Thursdays 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

At other times, calls are transferred to voice mail; all calls are returned.

- for general information
- to be placed on meeting agenda
- for permit information

**E-mail:** [eurekatn@frontiernet.net](mailto:eurekatn@frontiernet.net)

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

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

## Township Roads:

Brian Budenski 952-292-6028  
Jeff Otto, 952-469-8561

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

**Official Notices** are posted on the bulletin board located on the south (parking lot) side of the Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave. and published in ThisWeek Life and Times newspaper.

**Editor:** Jody Arman-Jones, 651-463-2876

**Mailings:** Georgie Molitor



## *"Old" Town Hall is a Winner!*

The retired Eureka Town Hall that stood across the street from the current Town Hall is the subject of a multi-award winning picture. The pencil drawing received a blue ribbon, an award of excellence ribbon and a premium from the 2007 Dakota County Fair. Created by Patty Smith of Rosemount, well known for her portraits, the Town Hall image is her first attempt at depicting a building. Drawing since she was nine years old, selling her work since age 16, Patty trained at Dakota County Technical College. Her first projects were entered in the Dakota County Fair in 1984 and since then, have received many awards for outstanding work. This year alone, she won three blue ribbons and two awards of excellence ribbons.

Patty explained that she was asked to take on the task of capturing the "old" Town Hall for posterity by her friend and former Township supervisor, Gary Smith (no relation) in October of 2006. Working from a photograph, she estimates it took approximately 25 hours to complete the picture, and yes, she did take some artist license adding trees and animals in the background for additional interest. The entire drawing is in black pencil on white paper, with the exception of American flag, which is strikingly depicted in red, white and blue colored pencils.

The picture will permanently remain in the "new" Eureka Town Hall, and currently hangs on the wall to the right as visitors enter the main lobby. Patty is available for commissions, and can be reached at 651-460-2104 or 651-460-2114.

The retired Town Hall was purchased by Eureka residents Lisa and Dave Tousignant and moved to its new location near Cedar Ave. and 235<sup>th</sup> St., where it hosts *Rusty Rabbitique with Garden Iron Accents* occasional sales.

## ***CURRENT TOWN BOARD INFORMATION***

***New Building Inspection Firm Hired*** - The Township has selected a new building official to represent the community and enforce the Minnesota State Building Code. Waldron & Associates, Ltd has been serving communities in Carver, Hennepin, Scott, Sibley, Meeker, McLeod, and Wright counties since 1984 and has 18 employees ready to assist the citizens and builders in the Township with their projects. Scott Qualle is President of the company and the Eureka Township designated building official. Scott's credentials include:

- Minnesota Certified Building Official
- ICC Certified Building Official
- 2-10 Sanctioned Home Warranty Inspector
- State Licensed Residential Building Contractor
- AAS degree in Building Inspection Technology
- BSB Degree in Accounting
- Masters degree in Business Administration
- State Licensed Real Estate Broker

"Building Confidence through Code Compliance" is their motto, and they emphasize successful outcomes through education, information, and inspections for builders and homeowners alike. "Most people don't think that the building code is an important part of their daily lives, but without the building code, we would hear about accidents, injuries, and deaths all the time in the news" says Qualle. "Getting us involved in a project before you have spent a lot of time and money is the best time to find out what the code does and doesn't allow" he added.

"Our chosen approach to achieve code compliance is through Education. This takes place at the job-site, in pre-construction meetings, and through local involvement in teaching community education classes. We work with the building officials in other communities, and we strive for uniform code interpretation and enforcement. We believe that issuing a "red tag" to halt construction has its place in the enforcement toolbox, but it is only to be used when nearly every other means of communication has been exhausted. Timely completion of the project with satisfactory Code compliance is our goal."

As a reminder, maintenance permits, for work such as re-roofing, re-siding, or changing windows are required by the Minnesota State Building Code. The Code allows for a flat fee for these types of permits. It should be noted that one permit may be used for multiple window replacements if the project is being completed all at once.

Handouts and guide sheets can be obtained at the Township hall and will soon be available online. Waldron & Associates is available by phone (952-442-7520 or 888-446-1801) from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for questions. Their website address is [www.mnspect.com](http://www.mnspect.com), which includes an "Ask an Inspector" link so you can get a response, via email, to any question you might have.

***Northern Natural Gas Pipeline Update*** - Work on this pipeline has been substantially completed, though maintenance and clear cutting of the easement has been ongoing in November and December 2007.

***MinnCan Project Update*** - Landowners in the area have been contacted to expect the survey crews to begin their work in the near future. Those landowners who have had their land condemned will have visits from the appointed court eminent domain commissioners sometime in mid-February 2008. MinnCan reports that in order to comply with construction permits, right-of-way clearing will be completed in all counties by mid-March 2008, and actual pipeline construction in McLeod, Carver, Sibley, Scott and Dakota counties is scheduled to begin in April and run through late 2008. Assuming the project remains on schedule, Larry Van Horn, vice president for Operations of the Minnesota Pipeline Company states a late 2008 completion date is anticipated, at which time 165,000 barrels of Canadian crude oil are expected to be transported daily. In the mean time, MPIRG (Minnesota Public Interest Research Group) and a landowners group continue to wait for a scheduled date for their Petition of Reconsideration and Petition of Rehearing to be heard by the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

***CAP X 2020 Project Update*** - The November 28<sup>th</sup> Eureka Township hosted meeting for Dakota County citizens affected by the CapX proposal for large transmission lines was very successful, drawing 80 people including citizens from Rice County as well as Dakota County. Officials from the regulating agencies explained the Certificate of Need (CON) process and groups who are participating actively and represent alternatives to the proposed lines, discussed their analysis of the CapX proposal. An attorney who has participated extensively in CON proceedings discussed what options citizens have in providing effective input to the process. A panel of CapX, North American Water Office, Windustry, and Matrix Energy Solutions answered excellent questions from the audience.

At the close of the meeting, Eureka resident Bev Topp asked that interested citizens sign up to form a task force to address citizens' opportunities in the CapX CON proceedings. This task force met formally for the first time on January 3, 2008 at the Waterford Town Hall and chose "Citizens Energy Task Force" (CETF) for their name. Twelve people attended and others have expressed interest in being a part of CETF. Because the deadline for important comments to the Environmental Review process for the proposal was January 14<sup>th</sup>, the task force spent most of the meeting becoming more familiar with the process and history of the proposal to date and discussing the areas of concern and alternatives they wanted to address in the CETF comments to the Department of Commerce Environmental Review.

You can view comments from CETF as well as others if you visit the following website: [www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/DocumentSearch.do](http://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/DocumentSearch.do). Pick upper left "Search documents: (YOU DO NOT NEED TO REGISTER) Under: Document Number, Yr., select 06, under Number type 1115. Hit "Search" (the other boxes are unnecessary) and you will be sent to a document accessing historical documents on the CapX proposal. Pick the comments of each group you want to view (toward top) and you can read them. This is detailed but necessary, to navigate the agency sites. Activists are working with the agencies in an attempt to make information more accessible to the public. Another citizen's group, The Institute for Local Self Reliance, has added links to all important happenings on CapX, including CETF minutes, comments and the same historical document. The link is: <http://www.ilsr.org/capx/>.

The next CETF meeting is on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. at the Waterford Town Hall. The agenda will include whether or not CETF wants to register for formal intervention in the CON process, a status which will give them more rights than simply citizen status. They will also address what specific areas they would focus on if filing as an intervenor. Please consider attending this meeting to add your voice to this important opportunity to exercise citizens' democratically protected rights in developments that have the potential to affect their property, their health, and their economic rights.

***Town Hall Use Update*** - As of January 1, 2008, the Town Hall is available to rent Sunday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. through 11:30 p.m. A form (available online and in person at the Town Hall) must be completed and submitted to the Town Clerk in order to obtain permission. A fee of

## *ANNUAL ELECTION AND TOWNSHIP MEETING*

**On Tuesday, March 11, 2008, Eureka Township will hold its annual election of Town Board Supervisors, followed by the Annual Meeting. Polls will be open at the Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave. South, from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. The Annual Meeting will begin at 8:15 p.m. at the Town Hall. Please see the Township website <http://eurekatownship-mn.us/election.html> for more information, including access to absentee ballots and how to become a registered voter, or call the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office at 651-215-1440 or Dakota County at 651-438-4380.**

### *Supervisor #1 Candidates - three year term to expire in 2011*

***Brian Budenski*** - Brian has lived on Highview Ave. near Eureka Estates for 16 years and is an Augsburg College graduate with degrees in Finance and Economics. He has been self employed for 26 years, first as a developer and currently as a real estate broker. Mr. Budenski is the incumbent Supervisor for this Eureka Town Board position, and is also an active volunteer at Highview Christiania Lutheran Church and coach for Lakeville youth baseball and soccer. Brian views honesty and integrity in government, planning for Eureka's future, good stewardship of Township roads and maintaining our rural quality of life as major concerns of the Township. He envisions tough decisions about growth and land use, to which he is committed to good planning and will bring to the table his knowledge and abilities rather than a personal agenda. "I feel a civic duty to the Township. I like the rural character, but I also appreciate land owner 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....I would strive to represent the interest of all Township residents."

### *Supervisor #2 Candidates - three year term to expire in 2011*

***Alberta (Bertie) Gelineau*** - Alberta, a Certified Public Accountant and Paralegal, has been a resident of Eureka for 33 years. She owns and operates Alberta B. Gelineau, CPA and Paralegal, a public accounting practice and Angels Unlimited, Inc., an Antique, Fine Art and Furniture business in Burnsville. Ms. Gelineau is the mother of two sons, one employed at United Health Care, one serving in the U.S. Army in Iraq. Alberta has a B.A. in Finance and Accounting, with a minor in Psychology from The University of St. Thomas. She is or has been a member of DEA and River Country Cooperatives, Audit Committee for Christiania Lutheran Church, New Friends Community at Hosanna Lutheran Church, Minnesota Association of Public Accountants, Advisory Board of Dakota County Vocational Technical Institute, and Eureka Concerned Citizens regarding the Moratorium on new gravel pits. Ms. Gelineau has also been an adult leader of Dakota County 4-H, recruiter for American Society of Women Accountants & MAPA, Judge for DECA Competitions, and the recipient of Public Recognition for Encouraging & Supporting Small Business. As your supervisor, Alberta will strive to provide all citizens of Eureka Township with the utmost quality of life especially in regard to preservation of assets. She is prepared to address any civic and/or governmental issues especially where safety, environmental and growth/expansion issues are concerned.

***Carrie E. Jennings*** - Carrie has lived on the southern border of Eureka, 280<sup>th</sup> St. (County Road 86), for 19 years. She has a B.A. in Geology from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Minnesota. For the past 20 years, she has worked for the Minnesota Geological Survey at the U of M, and served as professor of Geology at the U of M, as well as visiting professor at Carleton and Macalester Colleges. Her primary emphasis, however, involves field work for mapping; interacting with landowners; working with state, federal and local government officials as well as watershed districts; using the expertise of natural resources professionals like soil scientists, hydrologists and ecologists; and exchanging information with others who use geologic information in their work like well drillers, farmers, on-site septic system installers and environmental consultants. Locally, she has served on the Chub Lake Greenways Committee, the Non-Conforming Land Use Task Force, and the Strategic Vision Citizens Advisory Committee. Ms. Jennings states "all of the short-term pressures that we are facing [in Eureka] relate to the growth of the metropolitan area: development, annexation, increased traffic, and infrastructure construction (pipelines and power lines). We may object to these uses because of the way they affect our quality of life, our views and sense of place. But I think that in order to succeed against what seems like inexorable forces, we need to de-personalize our objections and make sure that the proposed land uses for Eureka Township do not degrade the resources of the area—the surface and groundwater quality, the integrity of ecosystems and the soils we farm. Those are the irreplaceable things that form the basis for our quality life, and by making those concerns the priority and the focus of our planning efforts, I think that a wise, long term plan will crystallize. When I bought my farm from the daughters of Elvira Borg, they said they were looking for someone who would be a good steward of the land. I take that responsibility seriously...and I think that it is out of a sense of stewardship that I am running for Town Board Supervisor. I feel a responsibility to do something for the collective good and for the long term. This does not mean that I support a static, frozen-in-time status for the Township. From my year on the Visioning Committee, I think that is a naïve and unrealistic stance. Instead, I will commit myself to helping make wise decisions for land use with the best research available."



## Business Ads by Residents and/or Landowners in Eureka Township

This is not meant as an endorsement of products, services or business status by Eureka Township. Eureka landowners and/or residents who wish to advertise their businesses in this newsletter, may place a "business card ad" for the price of \$35.00 per quarter or \$125.00 per annum. Any revenue obtained will be applied to the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. Contact the newsletter editor at 651-463-2876.

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

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**Water Exercise**



Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
January - May 2008 \$5.00/visit

Mount Olivet Retreat Center  
7984 – 257<sup>th</sup> St. West, Eureka

Facilities (pool, sauna, whirl-  
pool) available 8: a.m. -10 a.m.  
Guided class 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Karin Grossman  
952-469-3742  
Jody Arman-Jones  
651-463-2876

\$25.00 per block of four hours and \$200 deposit is also required to be made at least two weeks ahead of the event. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and the occupancy limit of the Town Hall is 140 persons, Additional limits include no alcoholic beverages, gambling or smoking on the premises. Events may not be of a commercial, promotional or sales nature, no admission may be charged, nor may fund-raisers be held. No food preparation or cleaning facilities are available. For more specific information, please see the Township website at <http://eurekatownship-mn.us/policies.html>, Town Hall Use Policy or contact Nanett Champlain, the Town Clerk at [eurekatn@frontiernet.net](mailto:eurekatn@frontiernet.net) or 952-469-3736.

### ***PLANNING COMMISSION MESSAGES***

***Comprehensive Plan Update*** - In December, the Township signed a contract with the planning consulting firm TKDA, located in St. Paul, to assist the Township with its ongoing comprehensive plan update. Minnesota law requires all municipalities within the seven-county metropolitan area to update their comprehensive plan and submit it to the Metropolitan Council for review every 10 years in the years ending with an 8. Eureka's update is due to the Met Council no later than December 2008.

In January, the Town Board appointed an eight-member Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee to work with TKDA on updating Eureka's plan. The committee includes the current planning commission members (Sharon Buckley, Mike Greco, Kenny Miller, Ken Olstad, and Nancy Sauber), Town Board members Cory Behrendt and Jeff Otto, and the former chair of the Strategic Vision Citizen Advisory Committee, Jim Sauber. The committee will meet monthly over the next six to eight months to work on the comprehensive plan, and will hold several open houses to keep residents informed about the process and gather public input. The committee also plans to meet with residents of the Chub Lake area to address specific concerns about planning in this area of the Township.

Check the Township calendar for the dates and times of upcoming meetings and open houses. More information about the comprehensive plan update and the work of the Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee can be found on the township website at <http://eurekatownship-mn.us/CompPlan/CompPlanUpdate.html>.

***Planning Commission Openings*** - Two planning commissioner terms expire this April. If you are interested in applying for a position on the planning commission, watch the Township website and the local *Lakeville This Week/Life and Times* newspaper for a public notice in March announcing the application deadline and procedures. One of the qualifications expected of applicants will be familiarity with the comprehensive planning process the Township is currently engaged in (see "Planning Commission Update" elsewhere in this issue).

***Building Permit Time Limits*** - Did you know that the Minnesota State Building Code places a time limit on building permits? The code states, "Every permit issued shall become invalid unless the work authorized by the permit is commenced within 180 days after its issuance, or if the work authorized by the permit is suspended or abandoned for a period of 180 days after the time the work is commenced. The building official may grant, in writing, one or more extensions of time, for periods not more than 180 days each. The extension shall be requested in writing, and justifiable cause demonstrated" (1300.0120, Subp. 11). The Township building inspector is required by law to enforce this rule, and tracks permits to ensure compliance. If you need to request an extension of a building permit, contact the Township building inspector, Scott Qualle, by phone at 952-442-7520 or e-mail at [scott@mnspect.com](mailto:scott@mnspect.com).

### ***NOTES FROM THE CLERK***

***Township Drop Box*** - The drop box is available for people to drop off application forms and other Township-related business when the clerk does not have office hours. It is located on the outside wall of the front door of the Town Hall.

***Election Judges*** - In 2008 Eureka Township will hold three elections - March 11 is the annual Township Election, September 9 is the Primary Election, and November 4 is the General Election. Persons interested in becoming an election judge are encouraged to apply to the Town Clerk. General requirements include: 18 years of age or older (trainee election judges must be 16 or older), registered voter in the State of Minnesota, able to read, write and speak English, not be related to any other working election judge or candidate in that precinct. It is not necessary to be a resident of the polling place. Appointment of judges must be made at least 25 days prior to the election and training is required prior to working an election. Please see the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us) or call 651-215-1440 for more information, or see the Township website <http://eurekatownship-mn.us> or call the Township Clerk, Nanett Champlain, at 952-469-3736.

### ***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***

***Carpooler(s) Wanted!*** Share commuting and parking costs to downtown St. Paul Monday through Friday. Please contact Pat Mahowald at 6429 - 265<sup>th</sup> St. West, Farmington, home phone 651-463-4458.

***Dakota County Sheriff Warning to Residents*** - A Dakota County sheriff's deputy came to January Town Board meeting to present their quarterly update to the Township. He reported that burglaries in rural Dakota County, including Eureka, continue to be a problem. The most frequent targets have been homes with long driveways where houses are hidden in the woods and not visible from the road. Burglars generally enter through unlocked or poorly secured doors or windows. The Sheriff's department asks that people be on the lookout for, and report any suspicious or unfamiliar vehicles that appear to be "casing" homes in Eureka. License plate numbers are particularly helpful.

Another crime on the rise has been mailbox thefts - either stealing outgoing mail left in roadside mailboxes to look for credit card information or for checks that can be "washed," reproduced, and then used to purchase items, or stealing incoming mail looking for personal information useful for identify theft. He suggested not putting outgoing mail in insecure roadside mailboxes, and installing a locking mailbox.



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

Your e-mail address may be added to the list for current updates of monthly calendar, agendas, minutes, etc. Blind copies are sent, so e-mail addresses are kept private. Send the e-mail address to the clerk ([eurekatn@frontiernet.net](mailto:eurekatn@frontiernet.net))

**2008 Eureka Calendar...events at Eureka Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave., unless otherwise indicated**

February 4, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
February 11, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting
February 12, 2008	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee Meeting
February 21, 2008	Thursday	12 noon	Deadline for receipt of applications for March '08 P.C. meeting
March 3, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
March 10, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting
March 11, 2008	Tuesday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Annual Township Election
March 11, 2008	Tuesday	8:15 p.m.	Annual Meeting
March 18, 2008	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee Meeting
March 27, 2008	Thursday	12 noon	Deadline for receipt of applications for April '08 P.C. meeting
April 7, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
April 8, 2008	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee Meeting
April 14, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting
April 24, 2008	Thursday	12 noon	Deadline for receipt of applications for May '08 P.C. meeting

**Note:** All new structures, most types of remodeling (both interior and exterior), and some types of repairs require a building permit under the Minnesota State Uniform Building Code and Eureka Township Ordinances. If you are in doubt about whether a project requires a permit, please contact the Town Clerk at 952-469-3736.

Eureka Township Ordinances are available from the Town Clerk at \$25 for a hard copy, \$2 for a CD disk or can be accessed on the website, <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>, or at the Dakota County libraries in Lakeville and Farmington, or Eureka Town Hall or the Dakota County Law Library.