

# Eureka! The News

A Publication of Eureka Township, Minnesota

1st Quarter – Winter 2015



## Eureka Township Supervisors

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

Seat 5 Kenny Miller, Chair

952-469-4803, term thru 3/16

Seat 2 Cory Behrendt, Vice Chair

952-985-5411, term thru 3/17

Seat 1 Brian Budenski,

952-292-6028, term thru 3/17

Seat 3 Mark Ceminsky

612-819-1334, term thru 3/15

Seat 4 Steve Madden

952-393-7801, term thru 3/15

## Eureka Planning Commission

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

Butch Hansen, Chair

612-490-0091, term thru 4/15

Lucretia (Lu) Barfknecht, V.C.

952-469-3513, term thru 4/16

Philip (Phil) Cleminson

952-985-7240, term thru 4/17

Carrie Jennings,

952-469-4976, term thru 4/17

Allen Novacek

952-690-5940, term thru 4/15

## Township Contact

Clerk – Mira Broyles

Deputy Clerk – Cheryl Murphy

Treasurer – Marcia Wilson

952-469-3736, Fax 952-469-5525

## Town Hall Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays

10a.m. – 2 p.m.

Address: 25043 Cedar Ave. S.,

Farmington, MN 55024

**Drop Box** – Items may be placed in locked drop box near the Town Hall front door.

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

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

**Phone:** 952-469-3736

## Township Roads:

Cory Behrendt 952-985-5411,

Brian Budenski 952-292-6028

**Building Officials:** 952-469-3736

**VRWJPO Permits:** 952-891-7546

[Travis.Thiel@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:Travis.Thiel@co.dakota.mn.us)

[www.vermillionriverwatershed.org](http://www.vermillionriverwatershed.org)

**Emergency/non-emergency authorities –**

**all contacts - 911** (ambulance, police, fire)

**Official Notices** - posted on the bulletin board on the south (parking lot) side of the Town Hall and published in Sun ThisWeek and Dakota County Tribune newspapers.

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

[jodyarmanjones@gmail.com](mailto:jodyarmanjones@gmail.com) Ass't Editor

Cheryl Groves, [mncgroves@msn.com](mailto:mncgroves@msn.com)

## 2015 Eureka Township Election



**Tuesday, March 10**  
**7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Eureka Town Hall**

### General election and voting information

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/government/votingelections/pages/default.aspx> or 651-438-4305

<http://mnvotesinfo.sos.state.mn.us/> or 651-215-1440

### Are you registered to vote?

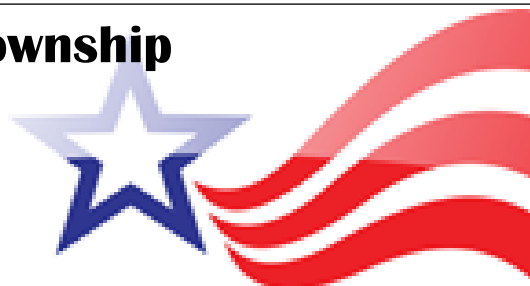
<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx>

### Absentee Voting information

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/VotingElections/Absentee/Pages/default.aspx> or 651-438-4305

## 2015 Eureka Township Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, March 10**  
**8:15 p.m.**  
**Eureka Town Hall**



## Planning Commission Applicants

Two positions on the Planning Commission will be available for appointment in 2015. The three-year terms run from the second Monday in April 2015 through the end of March 2018. The Planning Commission meets monthly, usually on the first Monday of the month. Commissioners receive a stipend of at least \$60 per meeting and standard IRS mileage. The Eureka Planning Commission is a citizen advisory committee appointed by the Town Board that assists them on matters related to planning and development. Visit the Township website at <http://eurekatownship-mn.us/planning.html> for more information about the Planning Commission and Commissioners. Interested persons should send a letter indicating interest in serving on the Planning Commission to the Town Clerk via e-mail at [eurekatn@frontiernet.net](mailto:eurekatn@frontiernet.net), or by USPS to 25043 Cedar Ave. S., Farmington, MN 55024. Letters should be **received** no later than **Thursday, April 9 2015**. Interested persons should be present at the April 13, 2015 Town Board meeting in order to be interviewed.



# **2015 Candidates for Town Board Supervisor**

**Two three-year terms to expire March 2018 (candidates listed in alpha order)**

## **Supervisor Candidates - Position #3**

**Mark Ceminsky** - I have lived in the Northeast section of Township since 2008.

I am a graduate of Burnsville High School and Dakota County Vocational Technical Institute – Advertising/Graphic Arts Course, J.J. Keller and Associates Hazmat Training Course, LMI Strong Leadership Group Management Training Course, Bachelor of Science Degree Brown College, and ProSource/Kaplan General Contractor Courses. I have been a business owner for 36 plus years, started a non-profit in 2009, hold a Minnesota State Contractors' License, Minnesota State Commercial License (double, triple, multiple combination), and have knowledge in all types of commercial and residential construction including underground sewer systems, road construction, permit applications and materials.

I am currently Eureka Township Supervisor Seat 3, current North Cannon River Watershed and Vermillion River Watershed liaison, past Road Supervisor 2012 and 2013, current Dakota County Agricultural Society Director (Dakota County Fair) past Treasurer Dakota County Agricultural Society 2014, 2009 - Current Director 1776 American Legion Riders, a Non-Profit benefiting Veterans, serving Military and Military Families, American Legion member for past 25 years, Patriot Guard member, honored by Minnesota National Guard Families Program in 2010, 2011, and 2012, WCCO Good Neighbor Award in August 2011, Appointed to Eureka Township Planning Commission March 2011, Awarded Dakota County Leadership of the Year Award 2014, supported Apple Valley 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration 1985 – 1997, Jaycee's member 1978 – 1981.

The Major challenges I see are: Unfair and inequitable administering of Township ordinances, causing unnecessary legal actions, protecting our existing rural lifestyle while allowing adequate commercial growth to sustain the existing rural way of life, reducing tax burden on the citizens.

Issues that I consider priorities include the Township budget, fair administration of Township ordinances, maintaining an environment that our rural society can co-exist with limited commercial business, reducing tax burden on citizens of Eureka Township, keep budget to a minimum, resolve inconsistencies as they arise, minimize government's role in day to day life of the citizens of Eureka Township, address pressure on the Township by other governmental agencies.

I have a proven track record of creating revenue as Supervisor and Road Supervisor that lessened the tax burden to Eureka Township citizens. I will work hard for the citizens of Eureka Township equally. I believe government should play a minor role in the day to day lives of the Township, and I understand the challenges of living in a rural community.

**Carrie E. Jennings** - I have lived in the southwest quadrant of Eureka for 26 years. Professionally, I am a geologist focusing on surface deposits and water and worked at the Minnesota Geological Survey for 22 years before moving to the Department of Natural Resources for the last three years. I also teach at the University of Minnesota.

I served three years on the Town Board, and for the past two years on the Planning Commission, one year as chair.

I was on the Board of the Cannon River Watershed Partnership, spoke at the last two Minnesota Association of Townships annual meetings on the topic of gravel resources for roads, was featured at the Governor's Conference on Emergency Management, and at the Minnesota Floodplain Managers Conference.

As the first non-homesteader-owners of our farm, my husband, son and I felt a sense of responsibility and protected 100 acres through the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Areas Program. We hike, ski and hunt mushrooms in our woods and canoe on Chub Lake and area rivers.

Challenges ahead of us in Eureka Township include:

1. We are a small government but should be professional in conveying information to the public. All should be treated respectfully and given clear direction.
  2. Ordinances are only enforced when there are complaints (and many would argue not even then.) The investigation process is slow, allows room for favoritism, and results in uneven enforcement.
  3. Eureka controls its future through zoning. Only a handful of townships have this authority. We have a well-crafted Comprehensive Plan and need Board Supervisors who will enforce the ordinances for the common good.
- If elected, I will come to meetings prepared, listen respectfully and be fair in the implementation of our ordinances. I believe that the results of the Eureka election will directly affect your quality of life.

## **Supervisor Candidates - Position #4**

**Dan Rogers** - I served on the Eureka Township Board for nine years (2003-2012) and have lived in the Township for 20 years, in the Eureka Estates development area.

I am a U.S. Navy veteran (13 years active duty and 14 years Navy Reserve), and retired from Lockheed Martin in 2008 after a 32-year career as a technician, customer trainer, manager and Logistics Project Engineer.

My community involvement includes nine years as a Eureka Town Board Supervisor, past president of the Lakeville Pan-o-Prog celebration, volunteered at the Community Action Council (CAC), volunteered at Dakota Village at the Dakota County Fairgrounds, and for the past three years volunteer three times a week at the VA Medical Center and one day a week at the Lakeville Heritage Center for Active Adults.

I look forward to serving on the Eureka Township Board and am sure there will be many challenges in the next several years. I feel the most important will be to ensure our ordinances are followed by all residents of the Township. I hope my previous service to the community has been satisfactory and look forward to the challenges ahead.

**Pete Storlie** - My family and I have enjoyed living on 235<sup>th</sup> St. West (northwest quadrant) since 2002.

I'm currently employed by Anytime Fitness as a Senior Construction Manager. My experience in commercial construction management includes team management, budgeting, forecasting, contract reviewing, vendor/contractor sourcing and management, building code research, project permitting and brand development.

My involvement in the community includes the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), former Planning Commission Member, and former Township Supervisor. I'm also a volunteer youth coach and grade coordinator with the Lakeville baseball Association, volunteer youth coach with the Lakeville South basketball Association and a member of Hosanna! Lutheran Church in Lakeville.

During my past tenure as a Township Supervisor, I've worked hard to help complete the following:

- Worked to pay the town hall off early, saving the Township approx. \$4000 in interest.
- Developed the Road Committee to involve citizen input to provide oversight of the road budget (the largest expense to the township) and for future road projects for Town board review.
- Worked with the Road Contractor on improving the conditions of our roads in conjunction with reducing overall maintenance cost. Saving the Township approx. \$5,000 on average in monthly maintenance cost.
- Held CAPX/ Great River Energy and other utility companies' financially accountable for damages to Township Roads. Saving the Township approx. \$100,000 in maintenance cost, during their time working in the Township.
- Worked to revise the Township budget for improved detail, resulting in better control of spending.
- Helped to create right of way/ large utility permits to protect the township, town roads & right of ways.

I believe that as a community, we need to allow land owners the opportunity to be good stewards of their land and the right to reasonable use of their land. Neighbors working with neighbors, to me, that rural characteristic is important and needs to be valued as the Township plans for the future. I promise to work hard, listen to all concerns, use available resources to continue to educate myself, and provide equal and fair representation based on the facts.

## Updates

**Agri-Tourism Task Force** – The Planning Commission is in the process of fine tuning the proposed agri-tourism ordinance, following a second open house at the end of October. They have agreed to work from the Township attorney’s version of a draft ordinance, and are working their way through that draft, line by line. Currently, challenges include:

1. large gatherings
2. traffic regulation
3. square footage definitions

**A public hearing will be held at the Town Hall on February 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission is expected to forward their recommendation to the Town Board for their March meeting.

**“Mining” Ordinance Text Amendments** – In November 2014, Kenny Miller of Eureka Sand and Gravel, Inc. submitted an application for text amendments to the existing Eureka Township Ordinance 6, Mineral Extraction. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on November 20, 2014 after neighborhood notification. In December, Mr. Miller amended the portion of the requested text amendment to address only Ordinance 6, Chapter 7, Section 2.K, Accessory Uses: third sentence, delete the words, “or ready-mix concrete production plant,” as seen in red in the following:

*Accessory uses must be identified in the permit. Accessory uses not identified in the permit are not allowed. The accessory uses of a concrete block production plant **or ready-mix concrete production plant** or asphalt production plant, shall be strictly prohibited. A concrete recycling plant and an asphalt recycling plant are also prohibited, except as stated in Chapter 7, Section 1 (B). The storage, stockpiling, sale, and mixing of materials that have been excavated off-site are strictly prohibited, except for the mixing of materials as provided in Chapter 7, Section 1 (B). Accessory uses will terminate when the principal use terminates.*

At the January Town Board meeting, discussion continued with a motion made to set another public hearing date, notifying the entire Township rather than just those near the current mining Eureka Sand and Gravel, Inc. operation. Notification will be by mail, posting on the Town Hall bulletin board and in the official Township newspapers.

## **Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO)**

**Permitting Process** – Currently, Township citizens living within the boundaries of the Vermillion Watershed (northern two-thirds of the Township) who want to obtain a building permit are required to obtain permission from the Vermillion Watershed Joint Powers Organization, in addition to Eureka Township. That will change beginning March 1, 2015, when the Township will take over the permitting process and enforcement authority for the Vermillion Watershed. No changes in requirements will occur, but a separate permit from the VRWJPO will no longer be needed, but rather obtained from the Township as one step in the building permit process.

**Medical Cannabis** – In October 2014, Eureka Township received inquiries from Organica Gardens, one of twelve organizations that applied to the State of Minnesota to become a medical cannabis manufacturer. The location of the proposed facility was described as existing facilities on the northwest corner of Highview Ave. and 250<sup>th</sup> St. in Eureka Township. The Town Board sent a letter to Organica Gardens to inform them a Conditional Use Permit would be needed in order to move forward, should their application be selected by the State of Minnesota. In December 2014, the State of Minnesota announced the choices for Medical Cannabis manufacturers would be LeafLine Labs and Minnesota Medical Solutions, negating the need for action by Eureka Township and Organica Gardens.



**Please do not push snow across any road.  
Fines may be levied.**

***“It is illegal and punishable as a misdemeanor to plow, shovel, blow, or place snow onto Township roadways.”*** Similar rules apply on County and State roads. A number of residents have been plowing out their driveways by pushing the snow across roads. This has been causing difficulties and delays for the road plows and ***is illegal.*** **Snow from your property should be plowed and stored on your own property and not pushed across roads.**

## Fire Management

In January 2015, the Town Board renewed its agreements for fire protection services. This occasion serves as a good time to remind residents about fire management in Eureka Township.

Eureka Township is served by two local *volunteer* fire departments, both in existence since the 1880's - Farmington on the east side and Lakeville on the west, roughly using Cedar Ave. as the dividing line. Farmington has 50 paid on-call firefighters and a service area of 75 square miles, serving a population of approximately 25,000 citizens. Lakeville has 83 paid on-call firefighters and a service area of 58 square miles, serving a population of more than 57,000.



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oversees issues related to fire and fire management statewide, but local governments may choose to create more stringent controls. Responding to concerns of health and safety of Township residents and escalating costs of fire protection (particularly in the area of illegal or negligent fires), the Town Board passed ***Ordinance 2011-03 Regulating Open Burning Within the Township and Authorizing a Service Charge for Certain Fire Calls in May, 2011***, in part stating, "recovery of fire call costs from those responsible for illegal or negligent fires is necessary to protect the Town's taxpayers."

### RECREATIONAL FIRES

Farmington requires a burning permit (one time or annual) for **ALL** fires, **including** recreational (campfire) burns. Winds must be no more than 5 mph, contained to 3x3x2 foot area and fires must be extinguished by 10 p.m.

Lakeville requires permits for all fires **EXCEPT** recreational fires contained to a 3x3x3 foot area, which must be 25 feet from a combustible structure, with wind speeds no more than 15 mph, and the fire must be extinguished by midnight.

Only clean-burning, untreated wood and charcoal may be burned in recreational fires - no grass, leaves, brush, building materials, etc. **No household waste/garbage/rubbish may be burned at any time.**

Adult supervision is required for recreational fires, with fire-extinguishing equipment (extinguisher, garden hose, sand) readily available.

If complaints (especially regarding smoke) are registered, fires will be required to be extinguished.

**BURNERS** - More information on legal burners may be found at:

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/wildfire/burnbarrel.pdf>

**Household waste/garbage/rubbish may NOT be burned in a burner.** Vegetative material, such as: grass, leaves, brush and untreated lumber are the **ONLY** items permitted to be burned in burners. **All burners require a permit.**

All fires are subject to discontinuance by the Fire or Police Department.

**Note:** State, County or Township issued burning restrictions/bans may impact burn policies.

**Permits for burning may be obtained from the following:**

**Farmington** (generally east of Cedar), 651-280-6940

[www.ci.farmington.mn.us/ForResidents/LicensesPermitsApps/BurnPermitApplication.pdf](http://www.ci.farmington.mn.us/ForResidents/LicensesPermitsApps/BurnPermitApplication.pdf)

**Lakeville** (generally west of Cedar), 952-985-4700

[www.ci.lakeville.mn.us/departments/departmentspdf/BurnPermit.pdf](http://www.ci.lakeville.mn.us/departments/departmentspdf/BurnPermit.pdf)

To view the entire Eureka ordinance call the Town Clerk at 952-469-3736 or see: <http://eurekatownship-mn.us/ordinances/Ordinance%202011-03%20Fire%20Calls.pdf>



**This newsletter, Eureka! The News, is now digital! If you wish to receive a copy, please contact the Town Clerk at 952-469-3736 or [eurekatn@frontiernet.net](mailto:eurekatn@frontiernet.net) . There will no longer be a blanket mailing to property owners and residents. The newsletter will also be available for viewing on the website <http://eurekatownship-mn.us> .**



## 2015 Eureka Township Calendar

Events held at Eureka Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave., unless otherwise indicated

January 28	Thursday	noon	Applications due for February Planning Commission Meeting
February 2	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
February 9	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
February 17	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Public Hearing for Proposed Agri-Tourism Ordinance
February 24	Tuesday	noon	Applications due for March Planning Commission Meeting
February 26	Thursday	1 – 3 p.m.	VRWJPO Board Meeting, Apple Valley
March 2	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
March 9	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
<b>March 10</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>until 8 p.m.</b>	<b>TOWNSHIP ANNUAL ELECTION</b>
<b>March 10</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>8:15 p.m.</b>	<b>TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING</b>
March 26	Thursday	noon	Applications due for April Planning Commission Meeting
March 26	Thursday	1 – 3 p.m.	VRWJPO Board Meeting, Apple Valley
April 6	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
April 9	Thursday	noon	Deadline to submit letter of interest for Planning Commission
April 13	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
April 23	Thursday	noon	Applications due for May Planning Commission Meeting
April 23	Thursday	1 – 3 p.m.	VRWJPO Board Meeting, Apple Valley
May 4	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
May 11	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
May 28	Thursday	noon	Applications due for June Planning Commission Meeting
May 28	Thursday	1 – 3 p.m.	VRWJPO Board Meeting, Apple Valley
June 1	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
June 8	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
June 25	Thursday	noon	Applications due for July Planning Commission Meeting
June 25	Thursday	1 – 3 p.m.	VRWJPO Board Meeting, Apple Valley

**\*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 Hall at 952-469-3736 or [eurekatn@frontiernet.net](mailto:eurekatn@frontiernet.net) .**

**Also, please check with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) and Shoreland/Floodplain Zoning. VRWJPO permits must be applied for at the same time as permit application is submitted to Eureka Township. PLEASE NOTE - Beginning March 1, 2015 Eureka Township will be managing the permitting process for VRWJPO permits.**

Eureka Township Ordinances are available from the Town Clerk at \$5 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, the Eureka Town Hall and the Dakota County Law Library.

## ADS and ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Eureka Sand & Gravel

5100 West 235<sup>th</sup> Street  
Farmington, MN 55024  
651-460-4700  
www.eurekasands.com

### LaVerne's Pumping Service

Septic System Maintenance  
Pumping – Cleaning - Inspection of Septic Tanks  
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the surrounding area since 1966

**952-469-2489**  
LavernesPumpingService.webs.com



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Member of  
ASID, BBB & MNLA

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

No endorsement of products, services or business status is implied. 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 which will help defray costs of this newsletter. Thank you for your support.

### Town Hall Site Photo Contest



Periodically, the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT), publishes brochures that include photos of the various Town Hall sites around Minnesota. In an effort to update the Eureka photo, shutterbugs are invited to digitally submit their photos to the Town Clerk at [eurekatn@frontiernet.net](mailto:eurekatn@frontiernet.net) The new storage building is complete, and the winter snow is providing a beautiful landscape backdrop.



### Township Road Committee – Volunteers Needed

The Town Board is forming a new Road Committee, expected to include the two road supervisors, a road contractor, one Planning Commission member and up to three citizen volunteers. The entire committee will be volunteer and meet 4-6 times a year. Work would include creating a detailed road budget, capital improvement projects, road maintenance and general road planning. Any interested applicants should submit a brief letter of interest to the Town Clerk. Applicants would need to attend a Town Board meeting, to be interviewed and appointed. The term would last for one year and applicants may re-apply for additional terms.