

Eureka! The News

A Publication of Eureka Township, Minnesota

2nd Quarter – Spring 2016



Eureka Township Supervisors

Meets monthly, 2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.

- Seat 1 Brian Budenski, Chair
952-292-6028, term thru 3/17
- Seat 2 Cory Behrendt, Vice Chair
952-985-5411, term thru 3/17
- Seat 3 Carrie Jennings
952-469-4976, term thru 3/18
- Seat 4 Dan Rogers
952-469-3739, term thru 3/18
- Seat 5 Lu Barfknecht, term thru 3/19
952-469-3513

Eureka Planning Commission

Meets monthly, 1st Monday, 7:00 p.m.

- Nancy Sauber, chair
952-469-5146, term thru 4/18
- Fritz Frana
952-693-5177, term thru 4/17
- Ralph Fredlund
952-469-1335, term thru 4/19
- Donovan Palmquist
507-645-9868, term thru 4/18
- Randy Wood
651-460-2347, term thru 4/17

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
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 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: clerk@eurekatownship-mn.us

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

Phone: 952-469-3736

Township Roads:

Dan Rogers, 952-469-3739
Brian Budenski 952-292-6028

Building Officials: 952-469-3736

**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

2016 Eureka Township Election and Annual Meeting Results

282 votes were cast in the Annual Election on Tuesday, March 8, 2016.
That's 24% of the 1,011 registered voters in Eureka Township at the
beginning of Election Day. 271 votes were cast at the Town Hall, 11
absentee ballots were received by Dakota County. There were seven
new voters registered the day of the election.

Supervisor #5 Race

Lu Barfknecht 153

Allen Novacek 127

write-ins 2

The 2017 levy was set at \$457,450, up \$21,785 from 2016, due in part,
to anticipated higher costs of professional services (particularly for the
2040 Comprehensive Plan), Town Hall Capital Improvement Plan (CIP),
legal fees, roads and postage.

2016 – 2017 Board Supervisor Assignments

Attorney Contact – Lu Barfknecht, alternate Brian Budenski,
Town Zoning Administrator, Town Clerk

Lakeville & Farmington Fire – Dan Rogers

North Cannon Watershed – Carrie Jennings

Vermillion Watershed – Carrie Jennings

Weed Inspector – Dan Rogers

Allina Ambulance – Dan Rogers

Roads – Dan Rogers and Brian Budenski

DNR/Wetlands – Carrie Jennings

Airlake Airport – Dan Rogers

Town Hall – Cory Behrendt, Town Clerk

Dakota County Contact – Carrie Jennings

Sheriff Contact – Dan Rogers

Compliance Officer – Cory Behrendt

Building Inspector – Brian Budenski

Official Newspaper – Sun ThisWeek, Dakota County Tribune

Official Bank – Castle Rock Bank

Attorneys – Kelly & Lemmons, P.A., Chad Lemmons – Lu Barfknecht
(primary), Brian Budenski (secondary)

IT Consultant – Buds & Bytes, Town Web, Rack Space - Cory
Behrendt

Professional Services Consultants – TKDA – Lu Barfknecht

Our Thanks to Kenny Miller

Many thanks to Kenny Miller as he leaves Township government after serving eleven years as a Town Supervisor (including several stints as Board Chair) and four years as a Planning Commissioner. His family has been in the Township since the 1880's and with Kenny's tenure in Township government, he was often called upon to provide historical perspective. Best wishes in all future endeavors, Kenny, and thank you for your many years of service to our Eureka.

Planning Commissioner Appointed

At the April meeting of the Town Board visited with two Eureka citizens who indicated an interest in serving as Planning Commissioner for a single, three-year term on the Planning Commission. Ralph Fredlund was selected to serve through April 2019. Ralph and his family have lived in the northwest quadrant of the Township since 1980 and he is retired from his career in accounting. He will take up his position at the May Planning Commission meeting.

Township Updates

Airlake Airport Possible Annexation – In October 2015, representatives from the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) sent a letter to Lakeville suggesting Lakeville enter into discussions with Eureka to annex an additional 452 acres of Airlake Airport from Eureka Township, thereby enabling the Airport to hook up to Lakeville sewer and water.

No formal discussions have occurred between Eureka and Lakeville, but citizens at the Annual Meeting directed the Town Board to pursue having Eureka provide services by accessing sewer from the interceptor that passes through the Township. In response to that directive, Metropolitan Council representatives, Patrick Boylan, Kyle Colvin and Wendy Wulff, were invited to a March 29 Special Meeting of the Town Board with the Planning Commission to discuss the possibilities. It is anticipated that the Township will follow up with the suggestion made by Met Council representatives to appear before the Environmental Committee of the Metropolitan Council to explore the possibility of Eureka providing services to Airlake Airport. At its April meeting, the Town Board indicated it is awaiting a checklist from Met Council representatives on what information should be submitted in the exploratory request to allow Eureka to provide services; at which point the request will be forthcoming.

Comprehensive Plan Review – At least once every 10 years, city councils, town boards, and county boards throughout the Metropolitan area are required to update their local comprehensive plans. A local comprehensive plan represents a community's vision of how it wants to grow and change – how it will develop its land, redevelop older areas, ensure adequate housing, provide roads and sewers, protect natural areas, and meet other community objectives.

The Eureka Planning Commission has been working on the 2040 update for the last several months with direction from TKDA planner, Sherri Buss, and hope to have a preliminary report in to the Met Council by mid -2017. At their March 29 meeting several areas of the current plan were reviewed, including transportation. Met Council representatives Patrick Boylan, Kyle Colvin and Wendy Wulff were present to answer questions regarding issues related to the possible annexation of Airlake Airport, an issue which may not be resolved prior to the Comprehensive Plan due date.

Fence Setback Ordinance Review – Discussions and clarifications continue. Clarification is requested from the Township lawyer regarding a definition of a division fence. A fence is considered a "structure" by State definition, and thereby subject to setback requirements. The suggestion has been made at the April Town Board meeting that in Eureka a fence should remain a "structure," but that it should be exempt from setbacks.

Recodification of Township Ordinance Book – The Planning Commission held a January 27, 2016, Public Hearing. No members of the public were present. The Board has approved the recodification, but is holding publication until the solar and possibly the fence ordinances have been finalized.

Township Updates (continued)

Solar Energy Moratorium – In order to provide more time for continued study, at the March Town Board meeting a six-month extension of the existing moratorium on solar projects larger than eight kilowatts was unanimously passed.



REWARD



\$10,000.00



A bicyclist was hit by an unknown vehicle Tuesday March 8, 2016 at approximately 5:30pm. He was in the area of 250th Street W. and Highview Avenue, Eureka Township when he was hit. He is in critical condition. We are looking for any information regarding this accident. If you know anything or have anything you think may be important to this case, please contact Detective Ryan Fitzgerald at the Dakota County Sheriff's Office 651-497-0622 or Ryan.Fitzgerald@Co.Dakota.MN.US



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

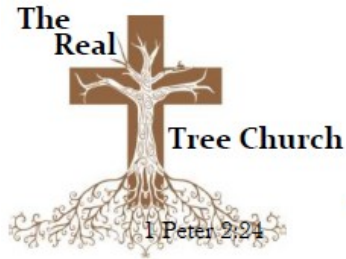
2016 Eureka Township Calendar

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

May 2	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
May 3	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on May Town Board agenda
May 3	Tuesday	8:00 p.m.	Public hearing to consider a text amendment Ordinance 6, Chapter 13, Section 2.H.1. – Source of Materials
May 4	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Roundtable meeting of Planning Commission and Town Board
May 9	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
May 10	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Comp Plan meeting, Sherri Buss, TKDA
May 26	Thursday	noon	Applications due for May Planning Commission Meeting
June 6	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
June 7	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on June Town Board agenda
June 13	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
June 23	Thursday	noon	Applications due for July Planning Commission Meeting
July 5	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
July 6	Wednesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on July Town Board agenda
July 11	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
July 21	Thursday	noon	Applications due for August Planning Commission Meeting
August 1	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
August 2	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on August Town Board agenda
August 8	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
August 25	Thursday	noon	Applications due for September Planning Commission Meeting
September 6	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
September 6	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on September Town Board Agenda
September 12	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
September 22	Thursday	noon	Application due for October Planning Commission Meeting
October 3	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
October 4	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included October on Town Board agenda
October 11	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
October 27	Thursday	noon	Applications due for November Planning Commission 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 Hall at 952-469-3736 or clerk@eurekatownship-mn.us . Also, please check Shoreland/Floodplain Zoning. PLEASE NOTE – As of March 1, 2015, Eureka Township is managing the permitting process for VRWJPO permits.***

If you are applying for a Transfer of Building Rights you must have certified copies of deeds when making application. Eureka Township Ordinances are available from the Town Clerk at \$5 for a CD 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.



Chub Lake/Palma Feed Becoming Real Tree Church

The previous location of Chub Lake/Palma Feed Store is now under renovation to become the new home of The Real Tree Church. Organizers are planning a sanctuary for 250, classrooms and meeting rooms. The Real Tree Church first met in the Town Hall under the leadership of Shon McIntyre in early 2012, before moving to Boeckman Middle School in Farmington. If all goes according to plan, the building should be ready for occupancy in September 2016. Welcome back to the Township!

Beware Mail Thefts

Both the Dakota County Sheriff's office and a local citizen are reminding residents to be aware that mail theft from unlocked mailboxes in our area is on the rise again. More than just looking for checks, or other negotiable items, identity thieves are at work. The use of a locking mailbox or renting a Post Office box is strongly recommended. Postal boxes are available at Post Offices in Castle Rock, Farmington and Lakeville for as little as \$50 per year. An additional precaution, any trash or recycled papers should be shredded to prevent unauthorized accessing of personal information.



Expect More Township Notices!

At the Annual Meeting a majority of those present requested that a postcard notification go out to all residents and land owners for *any* public hearing that involves a change in the Ordinances. Those requiring hearings would be any **zoning** Ordinance changes.



Under state statute, the Township is required only to publish notification of text amendment newspapers. (It also does this for IUP and CUP hearings.) **The change is that the Township is now going to send out a notice to each household, in addition to the publication for any text amendments, requesting a change in land use, which is Township-wide.** This requirement will be added to the Ordinances.

The notification that is sent to neighbors within 1,000' of a proposed use already allowed under the Ordinances (IUP or CUP) versus a proposed addition to what will be allowed land uses. The latter will affect the entire Township and is not limited to the property that the applicant may have in mind for the new use. In the case of an IUP or CUP the letters sent have, in the past, been required under our Ordinances to go to those within that distance since they *are* those most to be affected by the initiation of that (already allowed Township-wide) use.

- Cost of letters to neighbors within 1,000' is borne by the IUP or CUP applicant.
- Cost of letters to all for text amendments is borne by the applicant for the amendment.
- Cost of notification to all for any Ordinance change public hearing (initiated by the Board or Commission in the course of their usual updating of the Ordinance) is borne by the taxpayers at large.

Illegal Dumping Costs

In March 2016 alone, it cost the Township \$960 to dispose of illegally dumped materials along Township Roads. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity by calling 911. Vehicle descriptions and license plate numbers are particularly helpful. If you notice piles of items along the Township roads, please notify the Township Road Supervisors Dan Rogers, 952-469-3739 or Brian Budenski, 952-292-6028. For refuse along County Roads, please notify Dakota County.



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ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LaVerne's Pumping Service

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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 \$20.00 per quarter or \$75.00 per annum.

Thank you for your support.

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

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