

# Eureka! The News

A Publication of Eureka Township, Minnesota

2nd Quarter – Spring 2017



## Eureka Township Supervisors

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

- Seat 1 Donovan Palmquist  
507-645-9868, term thru 3/20
- Seat 2 Butch Hansen  
612-490-0091, term thru 3/20
- Seat 3 Carrie Jennings, Vice Chair  
952-469-4976, term thru 3/18
- Seat 4 Dan Rogers  
952-469-3739, term thru 3/18
- Seat 5 Lu Barfknecht, Chair  
952-469-3513, term thru 3/19

## Eureka Planning Commission

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

- Nancy Sauber, chair  
952-469-5146, term thru 4/18
- Ralph Fredlund  
952-469-1335, term thru 4/19
- Bill Funk  
651-442-5172, term thru 4/20
- Julie Larson  
952-469-3512, term thru 4/20
- Randy Wood  
651-460-2347, term thru 4/18

## 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 am-2pm  
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](mailto:clerk@eurekatownship-mn.us)

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

**Phone:** 952-469-3736

## Township Roads:

- Dan Rogers 952-469-3739  
Donovan Palmquist 507-645-9868

## Building Inspector – Darrel Gilmer

651-775-6118, [gilmerexc@yahoo.com](mailto:gilmerexc@yahoo.com)

**VRWJPO** - Mark Ryan 952-891-7596

[Mark.Ryan@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:Mark.Ryan@co.dakota.mn.us)

**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)

## Township Election and Annual Meeting

386 total votes were cast in the Annual Election on Tuesday, March 7, 2017; 369 votes were cast at the Town Hall, 18 absentee ballots were processed by Dakota County.

### Supervisor Position #1

Allen Novacek 183  
**Donovan Palmquist 193**

### Supervisor Position #2

**Butch Hansen 195**  
Nancy Sauber 189

## 2017 – 2018 Town Board Supervisor Assignments

<b>Attorney</b>	Lu Barfknecht and Carrie Jennings
<b>Lakeville Fire Department</b>	Dan Rogers and Butch Hansen
<b>Farmington Fire Department</b>	Dan Rogers and Butch Hansen
<b>North Cannon River Watershed</b>	Carrie Jennings
<b>Vermillion River Watershed</b>	Carrie Jennings
<b>Weed Inspector</b>	Dan Rogers
<b>Ambulance</b>	Dan Rogers
<b>Roads</b>	Dan Rogers and Donovan Palmquist
<b>Wetlands/DNR</b>	Carrie Jennings
<b>Dakota County Soil and Water</b>	Carrie Jennings
<b>Airlake Airport</b>	Carrie Jennings
<b>Town Hall</b>	Butch Hansen
<b>Dakota County</b>	Carrie Jennings
<b>Dakota County Sheriff</b>	Dan Rogers
<b>Compliance Official</b>	Donovan Palmquist
<b>Professional Services</b>	Lu Barfknecht
<b>Building Inspector</b>	Butch Hansen & Donovan Palmquist
<b>IT Consultant</b>	Cory Behrendt

### Official Service Providers

<b>Bank</b>	Castle Rock Bank
<b>Newspapers</b>	Sun/ThisWeek, Dakota County Tribune
<b>Attorneys</b>	Kelly & Lemmons, P.A., Chad Lemmons
<b>IT Provider</b>	Broadview Technology Solutions
<b>Professional Services Consultants</b>	TKDA

## Planning Commission Meeting Day Changes to First Tuesday of the Month

In order to accommodate the meeting schedule of Township attorney, Chad Lemmons, the Eureka Planning Commission has changed its meeting day from the first Monday of the month to the first Tuesday of the month, beginning with the May 2017 meeting. Please see the Township calendar

later in this newsletter or on the Township webpage at

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

## Township Updates

### Thank You Cory Behrendt

Cory Behrendt chose not to run again for a Town supervisor position. He concluded his second “tour of duty” in March 2017 as Chairperson of the Board. His attention to detail, organization, organizational skills, thoughtful responses and commitment will be missed. Cory will continue to serve as a technology consultant. Thank you for your public service to the Township and best wishes on keeping up with very busy family life!

### Planning Commissioners Appointed

At the April 2017 Town Board meeting, three Planning Commissioners were appointed. They include:

- Julie Larson - appointed to a three-year term through April 2020. She lives in the heart of the Township, near 250<sup>th</sup> and Highview Ave. and has previously assisted the Township in a number of ways, including as assistant and interim clerk.
- Bill Funk - appointed to a three-year term through April 2020. He lives in the Rice Lake Heights area of the northwest quadrant of the Township. This is Bill’s first foray into a position in Eureka Township government.
- Randy Wood - appointed to a one-year term through April 2018, to fulfill the remainder of the term vacated by Donovan Palmquist who was just elected to the Town Board. Randy lives in the northeast quadrant of the Township and has served the Township on several task forces and previously on the Planning Commission.

Thank you very much for your willingness to serve the Eureka Township!

### New or Revised Ordinances

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 25, 2017, to take public comment on four proposed new or revised ordinances. The proposed ordinances were then discussed at the May 2 Planning Commission meeting and the May 8 Town Board meeting. The following actions were taken:

#### Sump Pump

1. Sump pump systems must discharge from the structure directly onto the ground no nearer than 20 feet away from the foundation of the structure.
2. The discharge line shall not be nearer than 20 feet from any septic drain field.
3. Water can be discharged into an approved drainage system specifically designed for the discharge of sump pump water.
4. The discharge line shall be set back no nearer than 30 feet from adjacent or neighboring properties.
5. Any permanent discharge line installed to the nearest storm drainage ditch adjoining a public right-of-way at the time of adoption (5/8/2017) of this ordinance shall be permitted to continue.

#### Accessory Building Size

The maximum total area of all accessory buildings shall not total more than 5,000 square feet on 2 to 5.999 acres and not more than 10,000 square feet on over 6 acres. There shall be no maximum limitation to total area for agricultural buildings and agricultural buildings shall not be considered in the total sum of accessory buildings on an individual parcel.

#### Horticulture Language

The use of land for production and sale of fruits, including apples, grapes and berries, vegetables, flowers, nursery stock, including ornamental shrubs, trees and cultured sod. This shall include the right to sell fruits, vegetables, flowers and nursery stock as described above which are harvested from land which is non-contiguous and is harvested and sold for the purpose of supplementing the fruits, vegetables, flowers, and nursery stock including ornamental shrubs, trees, and cultured sod, which are produced on the land at which the sale is occurring.

#### Agriculture Language

Any person engaged in Commercial Agriculture shall have the right to store and sell field crops, livestock products and livestock which are harvested or raised by that person on land located either within the Township of Eureka or outside its boundaries.



**This newsletter, *Eureka! The News*, is 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](mailto: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> .**

## 2017 Eureka Township Calendar

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

June 6	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
June 6	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on June Town Board agenda
June 12	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
June 22	Thursday	noon	Applications due for July Planning Commission Meeting
June 22	Thursday	1 – 3 p.m.	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meeting, Apple Valley
July 3	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
July 3	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on July Town Board agenda
July 10	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
July 27	Thursday	noon	Applications due for August Planning Commission Meeting
July 27	Thursday	1 – 3 p.m.	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meeting, Apple Valley
August 1	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
August 1	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on August Town Board agenda
August 14	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
August 24	Thursday	noon	Applications due for September Planning Commission Meeting
August 24	Thursday	1 – 3 p.m.	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meeting, Apple Valley
September 5	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
September 5	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on September Town Board agenda
September 11	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
September 28	Thursday	noon	Applications due for October Planning Commission Meeting
September 28	Thursday	1 – 3 p.m.	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meeting, Apple
October 3	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
October 3	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on October Town Board agenda
October 10	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
October 26	Thursday	noon	Applications due for November Planning Commission Meeting
October 26	Thursday	1 – 3 p.m.	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meeting, Apple Valley
November 6	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
November 6	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
November 7	Tuesday	7 a.m. – 8 p.m.	ISD 194 Election
November 7	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on November Town Board agenda
November 29	Thursday	noon	Applications due for December Planning Commission Meeting
November 29	Thursday	1 – 3 p.m.	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meeting, Apple Valley

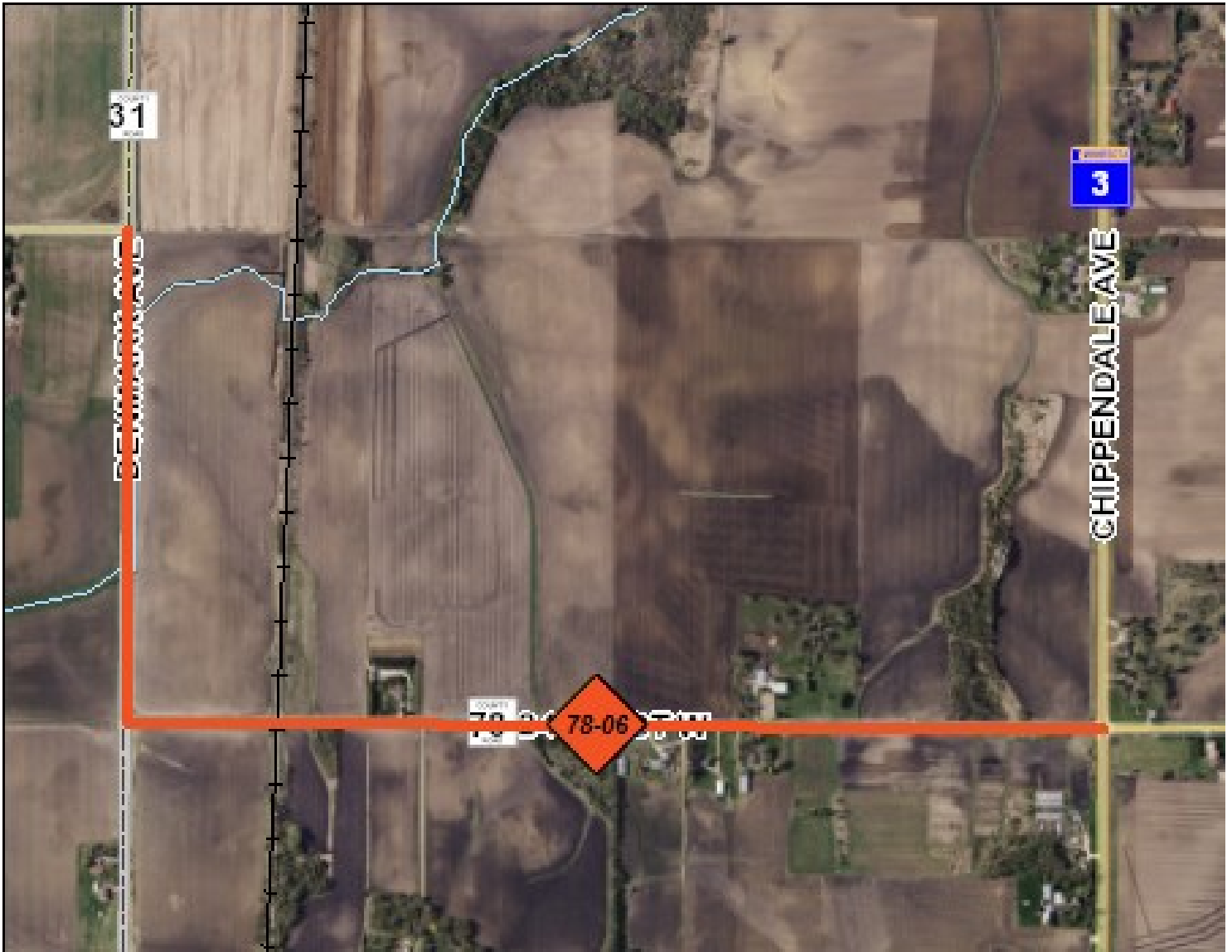
***\*Note: All new structures, most types of remodeling (both interior and exterior), and some types of repairs require a building permit under the Minnesota State Uniform Building Code and Eureka Township Ordinances. If you are in doubt about whether a project requires a permit, please contact the Town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

**PLEASE NOTE – As of January 26, 2017, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization is again overseeing parts of the permitting process for anyone who lives in the Vermillion River Watershed (northern 2/3 of Eureka Township). Those residents will need to contact the VRWJPO BEFORE applying for a building permit from the Township. Contact Mark Ryan at [Mark.Ryan@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:Mark.Ryan@co.dakota.mn.us) or 952-891-7596.**

***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.

# Dakota County Updates

## Transportation Department - Road Construction in Eureka Township in 2017 Dakota County Road 78 (235<sup>th</sup> and 240<sup>th</sup> St. W.) in Eureka Township



County Road 78 (Denmark Avenue & 240th Street) from the County Road 78 (235th Street) and County Road 31 intersection to Highway 3 will be reconstructed and paved. The project will include paved shoulders and the installation of railroad crossing signals and gates.

**Project timeline:** May–September 2017

### Get email updates

To receive email updates for this project, email Erin Borchert at [erin.borchert@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:erin.borchert@co.dakota.mn.us). Please include “CP 78-06 Updates” in the subject line.

Any questions or comments concerning this or any highway projects, email Dakota County Transportation Department or phone 952-891-7900.

## Dakota County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Sheriff Smith stopped in at the May 8, 2017 Town Board meeting to report the following:

- Trailer thefts - criminals back up to a trailer, hook up, and drive off. Please store your trailers in a locked storage area.
- Irrigation equipment damage and thefts



**The Sheriff's department will be actively looking for illegal burning, either burning without a permit or fires such as in a burning barrel burning improper substances.**

**A burning permit is not needed:**

- for a "campfire"—a fire set for cooking, warming, or ceremonial purposes, which is not more than 3 feet in diameter by 3 feet high, and has had the ground 5 feet from the base of the fire cleared of all combustible material
- when the ground is snow-covered — by definition, when there is a continuous unbroken cover of snow 3 inches deep or more surrounding the immediate area of the fire, sufficient to keep the fire from spreading
- for a fire contained in a charcoal grill, camp stove, or other device designed for cooking or heating
- for a fire in an approved burner and there is no combustible material within 5 feet of the base of the burner, and it is in use between the 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

**You may burn vegetative material, such as grass, leaves, brush, and untreated lumber.**

**You may not burn:**

- hazardous wastes
- industrial solid waste
- demolition debris of commercial or institutional structures  
(farm buildings are not considered commercial structures)
- salvage operations
- motor vehicles
- oils
- rubber
- plastics
- chemically treated materials
- other materials which produce excessive or noxious smoke, such as tires, railroad ties, chemically treated lumber, composite board, drywall, wiring, paint, or paint filters
- garbage, defined as discarded material resulting from the handling, processing, storage, preparation, serving, or consumption of food.







## DAKOTA COUNTY SEPTIC SYSTEM TAX ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

### FAQ

#### Overview

In 2017, the Dakota County Board established a county-wide septic system tax assessment loan program to ease the financial burden to homeowners who are upgrading a failing septic system. The loan is an assessment on the property taxes – not a lien. The program is voluntary.

#### Eligible Properties

Any residential property in Dakota County that is homesteaded, and is serviced by a septic system is eligible. It must be the primary residents of the owner/applicant, and the property taxes must be current. There is no income limit qualification or disqualification.

#### Eligible Improvements

Funding can only be used for the design, site evaluation, repair or replacement of existing non-compliant (failing) septic systems. It may not be used to facilitate new building construction or expansion, including increasing capacity due to adding of additional bedrooms, or for commercial properties.

#### Terms

The property will be assessed 3% interest over a of five-year period for loans under \$5,000; or assessed 3% interest over a ten-year period for loans over \$5000. The principle and interest payment of the assessment will be collected twice per year, corresponding with property tax payment due dates. The assessment must be paid in full immediately upon the sale, transfer, or conveyance of the property. The property owner may pre-pay the assessment at any time without penalty. No septic work can begin without the application approval, unless it is not to be included in the Assessment (e.g. permit fees; paying for the site evaluation and design out of pocket.)

#### Fees

There is a no application fee for review and approval of documents. There will be a permit/inspection fee from the local regulating authority (city, township, or county).

#### Application Process

1. The property owner completes the mandatory tax assessment loan application and signs and returns the "Notice to Property Owner".
2. Water Resources staff reviews the application and verifies homestead status, and the property taxes are current. Water Resources staff notifies the applicant their application has been approved or denied.
3. If approved, the applicant contracts with a licensed septic professional to design and install the system.
4. The septic system installation is inspected by the local regulatory authority (city, township, or county).
5. An as-built inspection record/certificate of compliance is sent to Dakota County by the local regulating authority or licensed septic professional. (The County must receive this report before proceeding.)
6. The Contractor submits invoice for payment.
7. Water Resources staff completes the Assessment and Waiver of Irregularity and Appeal with the amount of the assessment and estimated accrued interest. Water Resources returns to the property owner, the Assessment and Waiver of Irregularity and Appeal for signing and notary.
8. Property owner returns the original signed and notarized Assessment and Waiver of Irregularity and Appeal.
9. Water Resources staff submits to the Property Taxation and Records Department, the signed original Agreement of Assessment and Waiver of Irregularity and Appeal which authorizes the assessment. Property Taxation and Records assesses the property.
10. Water Resources staff submits the contractor invoice for payment. If you are paying a portion of the septic system installation out of pocket, it must be reflected on the invoice that the contractor submits to the County. The septic system contractor is paid directly by the County.

Contact Dee McDaniels at 952.891.7024 or [dee.mcdaniels@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:dee.mcdaniels@co.dakota.mn.us) with questions and to receive an application.

# Low Income Grants - Failing Septic Systems

Any homeowner in Dakota County using a septic system who meets income eligibility requirements can apply for a low income grant.

Eligibility is based on the homeowners' combined adjusted gross income and the number of members in the household. Households include all homeowners and any dependents. The homeowners' adjusted gross income must be equal to or less than the dollar amount shown. Adjusted gross income is based on the June 15, 2016 USDA Rural Development data for the Twin Cities area, including Dakota County.

# in household	Adjusted gross income
1 person	\$46,050
2 people	\$52,650
3 people	\$59,200
4 people	\$65,800
5 people	\$71,050
6 people	\$76,350
7 people	\$81,600
8 people	\$86,850



## Maximum grant amount

The County will reimburse homeowners up to 50 percent of the cost to replace or repair failing septic systems, not to exceed \$10,000. In order for funds to be released, an inspection as-built form must be submitted for the new system, along with a receipt showing the installer has been paid in full, or that a payment arrangement has been agreed upon between the homeowner and installer.

## How to apply

To apply for a fix-up grant, homeowners must complete an application and provide the following information:

- A copy of the Notice of Non-compliance (failed compliance inspection report)
- A copy of your current Minnesota tax return (for proof of income requirement, please block out your social security number)
- A septic design by a state licensed septic designer

## Call Dakota County at 952-891-7024 to request an application.

Grant funds are provided through the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment and distributed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to Dakota County.

## Costs to upgrade a failing septic system

Costs to upgrade a failing septic system include septic design, township or city permit fee, installation, and final inspection fee. If your property is located in the Dakota County shoreland district, city of Randolph, city of New Trier or Randolph Township your permit and final inspection fees will be waived by Dakota County.

## Low interest loans


The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District has low interest loans available for



## Low Income Grants - Failing Septic Systems (continued)

upgrading failing septic systems. Call the Soil and Water Conservation District at 651-480-7777 to request information.

### Requirements for failing septic systems

 Dakota County Ordinance 113 requires failing septic systems to be upgraded within 10 months of the "Notice of Non-compliance" or at the time of property sale. Cities and townships in Dakota County adopted the County Ordinance 113 standards and are responsible for making sure all non-compliant septic systems are upgraded within the 10-month period. Dakota County is responsible for compliance in the shoreland district, the city of Randolph, city of New Trier and Randolph Township

## ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



- SEPTIC PUMPING : Residential & Commercial
- Licensed Septic System Inspection & Design
- Service Provider for all types of septic system repairs
  - Sewer & Drain cleaning of all kinds
  - Jetting Service - thawing of sewer lines

[www.LaRoches.com](http://www.LaRoches.com), [info@laroches.com](mailto:info@laroches.com)  
952.469.2489 / 888.527.6243

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# WANTED

## Building Right to Transfer



Jeff and Andi Krapu are looking to purchase a building right to transfer onto their property.

Please contact us at 612-202-5823 or 612-247-0486.



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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.



# Minnesota State Update

## Emerald Ash Borer

EAB has been found in Dakota County.

### What can I do about EAB?

- Don't import materials to Minnesota that could harbor EAB such as ash firewood. MDA Certified Firewood Certificate
- Don't move firewood unless it's MDA Certified firewood (look for the MDA Certified Seal)
- Remember that it is illegal to move all hardwood firewood outside of EAB quarantine areas. See map of emerald ash borer status in Minnesota.
- Become knowledgeable about recognizing EAB and remain vigilant to the condition of your ash trees.
- Stay informed on EAB by signing up to our monthly Plant Pest Insider e-newsletter.
- If you suspect a reportable pest...
  - ✓ Note the exact location
  - ✓ Take a digital photo if it is possible,
  - ✓ Contact Arrest the Pest - Voicemail: 888-545-6684, email: [Arrest.the.Pest@state.mn.us](mailto:Arrest.the.Pest@state.mn.us)

