Gnesen Town Office and
Gnesen Community Center
6356 Howard Gnesen Rd
Duluth, MN 55803
721-3158
Office Hours:
Mon & Wed - 7:00-3:00pm

Upcoming Dates to Note:

- March 9th 7:00pm Town Board Mtg.
- March 10th 8:30pm Annual Mtg.
- March 18th 7:00pm P&Z Mtg.
- March 23rd 7:00pm Town Board Mtg.
- March 23rd 6:00pm Reorg Mtg.

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Gnesen News

Gnesen Website http://gnesen.org **March 2026 Newsletter**

TOWN OF GNESEN
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICERS, AND BOARD OF CANVASS MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given to the qualified voters of Gnesen Township, County of St. Louis, and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March. In the event of inclement weather, listen to local radio stations for election information.

Absentee voting is open February 6, 2026 to March 9, 2026. To obtain a ballot please contact the Town Clerk at 218-721-3158 or stop by during office house which are Mondays and Wednesdays 7am – 3pm.

The Gnesen Town Office is located at: 6356 Howard Gnesen Road, Duluth, MN 55803

The Election Poll hours: Polls open at 5:00 p.m. and close at 8:00 p.m., at which time the voters will elect:

One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term – Nancy Poppenberg is running unopposed.

The Annual Meeting will commence at approximately 8:30 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the following location:

Gnesen Community Center
6356 Howard Gnesen Road
Duluth, Minnesota 55803

The Board of Canvass, which consists of the Supervisors not on the ballot, will meet immediately after the polls close and ballots are counted, to certify the official election results.

Sarah Blix, Clerk

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

January 12, 2026

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, January 12, 2026. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson	Chair
Gary Juten	Supervisor
Nancy Poppenberg	Supervisor
Sarah Blix	Clerk
Mary Bjorklund	Treasurer
Sara Rowe	Deputy Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Nelson. Board Members and residents stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Dave Humes was moved by Chair Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

The minutes of the December 22, 2025 Public Hearing for Cannabis Ordinance #07282025 Amendments were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg.

The minutes of the December 22, 2025 Town Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg.

Treasurer's report:

Balance for November 2025	$132,723.89
Receipts for December 2025	+$136,053.78
	$268,777.67
Disbursements for December 2025	-$83,850.02
Balance for December 2025	$184,927.65

There were two outstanding checks for the month. Motion by Chair Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Juten to accept the Treasurer's report. All vote in favor.

DISCUSSION: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Hemlock Drive Issue – Mike reported that he spoke with Stacy from St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department about the Hemlock Drive property as he learned that the property is going into forfeiture. Stacy informed mike that the property should be put up for auction sometime this summer, but the process could be prolonged if the current owner refuses to leave willingly. At this time, it is up in the air as to what will happen with the property abatement.

MATIT – Mary provided the supervisors with a large packet showing valuation comparisons for all the township buildings. The township is looking at almost a $5000 hike in insurance premium costs, so the supervisors are looking at reducing some of the building replacement costs to reduce insurance premiums. This topic is tabled until the January 26, 2026 Town Board meeting.

Dave and Marcella Stewart STR – Chair Nelson stated that a letter from John Grandson in support of the Stewart's STR was received by all three of the Supervisors prior to tonight's meeting. Chair Nelson said the ordinance clearly states that a STR requires a compliant septic system. The Stewart's have a non-conforming septic. Chair Nelson mentioned that in the letter, John Grandson compared the Stewart situation to the Island Lake Inn short term rental. Chair Nelson said the two are not comparable because the Island Lake Inn went through the process with St. Louis County to upgrade their system and it is now compliant. Dave Stewart questioned what the legal basis is for the township's decision. Chair Nelson said the legal basis is the Gnesen Township short term rental ordinance which states that a compliant system is required to apply for a STR. Dave then read a letter he wrote to the Town Board. Dave asked that the letter be put into record however he was unwilling to give Sarah a copy of the letter.

Dave Humes – Supervisor Juten stated that he met with Dave Humes on his property on Normanna Road. There were

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(Continued from page 2)

two storage containers which seem to have been there for many years and four cars parked in the driveway which look like they came from Dave's business. Supervisor Juten said he would like to follow up with an email to Dave Humes and let him know that the issue on his Normanna Road property is closed. Mike said he has spoken with the neighbors on both sides of Dave's property and neither had any complaints. Both Supervisor Poppenberg and Chair Nelson stated that they support Supervisor Juten's decision.

NEW BUSINESS:

Road Report – Darin reported that the roads are in decent shape. There was several garbage mattresses and a desk chair dumped on Boulder Lake Road that Darin picked up. Supervisor Juten told Darin to bring the garbage to WLSSD.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Mike Rowe discussed two trees that are in the playscape area that are dead and a falling risk. Supervisor Juten asked Mike if he could meet him one day and show him which trees and that Cedar Drive could take the trees down as volunteer work.

Issues with Upholding the Ordinance – There was discussion about the ordinance and the importance to enforce it as it is written. Sarah gave an example of an issue that just came to the office where Mike told the property owners, they could operate a STR when they are not homesteaded residents of Gnesen. Sarah said this issue is happening a lot and that she is asking the Supervisor for help in enforcing with the zoning officers the importance of following the ordinance. There was a lot of discussion about the planning commission and zoning officers and what can be done at meetings and when doing site visits to make sure the ordinance is being enforced. Sarah also mentioned that St. Louis County is in the process of proposing ordinance amendments and one of the reasons they state for the proposed changes is to minimize ambiguity and ensure consistency.

Resolution #26-01 – Appointing Election Judges for 2026 – Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve resolution #26-01, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Resolution #26-02 – Appointing Absentee Ballot Board for March Township Elections – Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve resolution #26-02, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Resolution #26-03 – Adopting a Schedule of Regular Meetings - Supervisor Poppenberg made a motion to approve resolution #26-03, seconded by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

Schedule Board of Audit Meeting – The Board of Audit meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:00pm.

ZONING SUPERVISOR REPORT – Supervisor Poppenberg had nothing new to add.

ZONING REPORT: Mike had nothing new to add.

CORRESPONDENCE:

St. Louis County Proposed Amendments to Ordinance 62

FEMA – Letter of Map Revision

Disbursement #16870 through #16907 and 5 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $17,937.04 with a motion by Supervisor Juten, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor of paying the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06pm with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

January 26, 2026

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, January 12, 2026. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson	Chair
Nancy Poppenberg	Supervisor
Sarah Blix	Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Nelson.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Chair Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Minutes of the January 12, 2026 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg.

DISCUSSION: None

OLD BUSINESS:
Hemlock Drive Issue – No new updates.
MATIT – This topic was tabled until the February 9, 2026 TB meeting when Supervisor Juten will be back in attendance.
Church Road Gates – A resident put in a complaint about the rocks that were placed on both sides of the gate on Church Road. The resident stated that he understands the gate being put up to try to stop people from dumping garbage in that area, however now the blocked off road is not even able to be used by walkers, snowmobilers, horseback riders, etc. Darin said that in the fall he had spoken with the landowner to the west who placed the rocks there and told her that they were on the right-a-way and needed to be removed. Although that was supposed to be done before winter, it did not happen. After some discussion it was decided to open the gates enough for snowmobiles to pass and then once the snow melts the gates would be closed again. Sarah will send a letter to the landowner who placed the rocks there and inform her that they need to be removed by May 1, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS:
Salting Quote for GCC Parking Lot – Sarah stated the parking lot has been really slippery this winter and was questioning if it was time to hire someone with the proper equipment to salt the parking lot on an as needed basis. Sarah did reach out to two local companies for quotes but only got one sent in from Arrowhead Outdoor Services for $150-250/time. Chair Nelson made a motion to contract with Arrowhead Outdoor Services to salt the GCC parking lot on an as needed basis, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor. There was also discussion about the township purchasing their own salting equipment that could then be used on the roads as well. Darin and Kevin will get some quotes and provide them at the February 9, 2026 TB meeting.

P&Z BOARD SUPERVISORS REPORT: Supervisor Poppenberg said ordinance changes were discussed at the January 21, 2026 P&Z meeting. Supervisor Poppenberg said the commission was not in agreement with many of the proposed changes and so not much progress was made. Chair Nelson said he was in attendance at the meeting and that there were several changes to do with the short-term rental ordinance. Chair Nelson said at this time he was not interested in making any changes to that ordinance as it is a new ordinance, to which Supervisor Poppenberg agreed. Carter said a subcommittee has been created to go through Ordinance 10 and look for clerical errors and areas that need clarification. Supervisor Poppenberg said that herself and Chair Nelson will be working with the Planning Commission to implement some new changes so that the meetings run smoother. Chair Nelson also mentioned that there has been posting done to make it so that he and Supervisor Juten can attend more of the P&Z meetings.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT: Mike and Rick both had no new updates.

CORRESPONDENCE: An email was received from St. Louis County regarding their policy about sanding, steaming culverts, etc. If the Township does not send a yearly letter allowing the County to perform these services at their discretion or send an email at the time of need, then these services will not be available for us to request at all. Chair

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Nelson will send a letter to Amanda Mitchell from Pike Lake and request the County to sand, steam, etc. at their discretion.

No further business. A motion was made by Chair Nelson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. No objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm. (This meeting was taped for transcribing purposes only.)

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Town of Gnesen
Reorganization Meeting
Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6pm
Gnesen Community Center

The Gnesen Board of Supervisors will meet at the Gnesen Community Center, 6356 Howard Gnesen Road, Duluth, MN 55803 on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:00pm to conduct the Reorganization Meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to swear in the newly elected official, select a board chair and vice chair, as well as other organizational matters.

Do North Pizzeria Sportsmen's Edition

Happy St. Patrick's Day!
Join us for Irish Stew March 17th

Skillet of the Month - Buffalo Chicken

Pizza of the Month - Sausage Pesto

SEE YOU SOON!
4101 Normanna Rd 218-721-3568

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Saint Louis County
Sheriff's Office • 100 N. Fifth Ave. West, Room 103 • Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 726-2340 • Fax: (218) 726-2171
Gordon Ramsay
Sheriff

ST. LOUIS COUNTY NEW RELEASE
February 5th, 2026

Public Input Wanted as St. Louis County Updates Hazard Mitigation Plan

St. Louis County residents, community leaders, business owners, area agencies and organizations now have an opportunity to share how severe weather events impact their property and lives. There is also an opportunity to share their ideas on how to reduce local impacts in the future.

The St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management is working with U-Spatial at the University of Minnesota Duluth to update the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). This plan update is funded by a grant provided by Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The plan assesses the natural hazards that pose risk to the county, such as flooding, tornados, windstorms, winter storms, extreme temperatures, wildfire, and drought. The plan further identifies local vulnerabilities and ways to minimize damage from future events. As the county works to update the plan, it wants to hear from the public.

The St. Louis County HMP is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers St. Louis County, including all cities and townships within the county. The St. Louis County HMP also incorporates the concerns and needs of school districts, watershed districts, and other related agencies, organizations, or businesses participating in the planning process. The plan will be updated by a planning team made up of representatives from county departments, local municipalities, and other key stakeholders. When completed, the plan will be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for approval.

"Hazard mitigation planning is a central part of our emergency management program," said Josh Brinkman, St. Louis County Emergency Management Director. "Understanding the natural hazards that can cause serious impact to our communities and taking action to reduce or eliminate the impact of future disasters makes us more resilient. Hazard mitigation helps us to break the cycle of damage and repair caused by things like flooding, ice storms, and severe wind events that can damage property, stress economies, and threaten life safety in our county."

Examples of hazard mitigation include:

- Conducting public outreach on severe weather awareness and preparedness
- Improving stormwater management systems to better handle high-rain events
- Removing existing buildings from flood or erosion prone areas
- Increasing defensible space around homes in high-risk wildfire areas
- Constructing tornado safe rooms in vulnerable areas such as mobile home parks
- Burying overhead powerlines that may fail due to heavy snow, ice, or windstorms

As part of the planning process, gathering input from the public is an important and required step. Residents of cities and townships, local businesses, and other stakeholders are encouraged to share feedback on the following to incorporate into the plan:

- **What are the natural hazards you feel pose the greatest risk to your community?**
- **Are there specific populations or assets in your community that you feel are more vulnerable to future storm events?**
- **What concerns do you have, and what sorts of actions do you feel would help reduce damages of future hazard events in your community or the county as a whole?**

To provide your feedback, please contact St. Louis County Emergency Management or submit your comments via the online HMP public feedback form.

There will be additional opportunities for public feedback throughout the planning process. A draft of the plan will be made available for public review prior to submission of the plan to the State of Minnesota. Future news releases will be shared with media to notify the public of these opportunities.

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires counties to update their plan every 5 years to maintain eligibility for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs.

Contact
Josh Brinkman
St. Louis County Emergency Management Coordinator
Phone: 218-625-3960
Email: BrinkmanJ@StLouisCountyMN.gov

Open Walking at the Gnesen Community Center

Want a safe, warm place to get some steps in this winter? Come walk laps in our gym during our open walking time.

Mondays - noon - 3pm
Wednesdays - 2 - 3pm

Please wear clean, dry shoes.

Want to know what is going to be discussed at the Town Board and P&Z Meetings?

Go to Gnesen.org and look under both Town Board and Planning & Zoning Public Notices for links to agendas for the upcoming meetings.

Please note that these agendas are tentative and are subject to change.

Please see our website for a complete list of approved short term rentals and contact information.

NOTICE

In an attempt to reduce printing costs we are asking that if you currently receive the newsletter by mail and are willing to switch to email please email the clerk at clerk@gnesen.org

Please make sure to include your name, address that you currently are receiving the printed newsletter at, and then an email address that you would like to receive the newsletter at in your email.

Thank you!

NOTICE:

If you are experiencing issues with smells relating to Ulland Brother's hot mix plant located at 6246 Rice Lake Road please call their hotline number at 218-288-4660 to report or if you are not comfortable calling the hotline number, Gnesen has set up an email specific for Oscar Pit complaints. These complaints will come straight to the Clerk who will share with the appropriate township personnel and then forward on to Ulland's.

Complaint email:
gnesen6356@gmail.com

marigold lane farms
6165 Howard Gnesen Road
Duluth, MN 55803

Marigold Lane Farms, LLC
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Contact Sarah for more information at 218-341-7945

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Duluth, MN 55803

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Skating Rink

The February warm up did a number on our skating rink and it was decided to call it quits.

We love seeing the rink getting used and hearing all the positive feedback. We are lucky to have such a wonderful group of volunteers to get the rink up and going each year and to volunteer time monitoring open skate times.

More volunteers equal more open skate times with the use of the warming house so please watch the newsletter next year for volunteer opportunities.

Thank you to all who helped flood the rink, maintain the rink, and open the warming house for open skate times.

SAVE THE DATE

The 5th annual Gnesen Community Center Fundraiser Farmers Market/Craft Show will be opening registration next month for this years fall event.

Date:
Saturday, September 12, 2026
9am to 3pm

Both indoor and outdoor space will be available.

Watch the April newsletter for a flyer and information on how to register. Registration will be open for residents of Gnesen first so don't wait to register.

BULLDOG COLLISION

Ryan Underthun

ryan@bulldogcollision.com

218.721.5341

5082 Miller Trunk Hwy
Hermantown, MN 55811

www.bulldogcollision.com

Overom Law

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(FX) •GJOHNSON@OVEROMLAW.COM
www.overomlaw.com

Gnesen Convenience Store & Liquor

Home of Nanay's Kitchen
6049 Rice Lake Road
Duluth, MN 55803
(218) 721-4433

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SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLIED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

YOUR HEALTH IS IMPORTANT TO US!
FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED
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"We're #1 in the #2 business"

Homeschool Open Gym

The Gnesen Community Center Gym will be open every Wednesday for homeschool open gym time.

Come play in the gym and meet new friends!

Every Wednesday from 10am—12pm

TEEN SERVICES

Olivia Blix - 15
218-341-7945
Yard work, pet sitting for house and barn pets, cleaning

Brady Gray-18
218-591-1263
Outdoor yard work year round, fall clean-up, snow shoveling, lawn mowing.

Kylan Bush—13
218-409-5177
Barn chores and yard work

All hiring and compensation for work is handled directly between the person advertising for employment and the employer. The Gnesen Community News does not perform background checks on the persons advertising above and is not responsible for any problems that arise during employment.

Are you looking for something to do in your spare time? Come check out the Gnesen Community Center puzzle exchange. Take a puzzle, leave a puzzle. The puzzle exchange is available to check out anytime the building is open. We are getting new puzzles in all the time and we even have some kid puzzles now too!!

Come Check it Out!!

Welcome to
Family of God Lutheran Church, ELCA
4097 Martin Road Duluth, MN 55803
218-724-9210
www.fogduluth.org
office@fogduluth.org

"Praising God, Strengthening Families, Serving the Community"

Welcome to All Visitors and Guests
8:45 a.m. Worship all Sundays
9:45 a.m. Coffee fellowship
10 - 10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, February 18
Ash Wednesday
6:30 p.m. Worship
Soup Suppers 5:30 p.m. and Worship 6:30 p.m.
March 4 & 18

Quilters meet each Thursday at 9 a.m.

Sundays, February 8 and 22
Open Arms Senior Living Center
10:30 a.m. Worship
Every Second & Fourth Sundays

Men's Breakfast
every Saturday, 8 a.m. at The Other Place

Find worship online
on our Website: www.fogduluth.org and on YouTube

Like us on Facebook: our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/FamilyofGodDuluth

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

GNESEN

Saturday Evening Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Pastor: Fr. Seth Gogolin

6110 Church Rd. Gnesen, MN. 55803

Parish office 218-481-7161

Gnesen Township Newsletter
6356 Howard Gnesen Road
Duluth, MN 55803

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Gnesen Township Officers & Staff

Jon Nelson Chair GCC Supervisor	218-349-7743 supervisor1@Gnesen.org
Gary Juten Vice Chair Road Supervisor	218-349-6627 supervisor3@Gnesen.org
Nancy Poppenberg Supervisor P&Z Supervisor	218-349-2129 supervisor2@Gnesen.org
Sarah Blix Clerk Editor of Newsletter Website Manager	218-721-3158 clerk@Gnesen.org
Sarah Blix GCC Building Manager and Janitor	218-341-7945 clerk@Gnesen.org
Sara Rowe Deputy Clerk Planning Commission/Sec.	218-721-3158 deputyclerk@Gnesen.org
Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer	218-391-7424 treasurer@Gnesen.org
Mike Rowe Building Maintenance	
Darin Franckowiak Grader Operator	218-348-1814
Kevin Fredrickson	218-269-5719
Zoning Officers: Mike Polzin	218-390-6207 zoningofficer1@Gnesen.org
Rick Hogenson	218-390-0651 zoningofficer2@Gnesen.org

Find all township information at:
http://gnesen.org

If your name or address are in error, please contact Sarah at 218 -721-3158 or email clerk@Gnesen.org

Want to place an ad in the Gnesen Newsletter? Our advertising submittal form can be found on the Gnesen website at:

http://gnesen.org/newsletter

Print a copy of the *Gnesen News Advertising Submittal form* and send to the Community Center address
–or–
email your information to:
clerk@Gnesen.org

Ads need to be submitted by the **15th** of the month for the next month's newsletter.