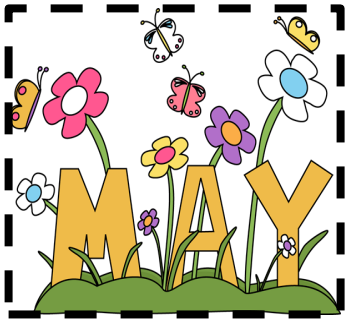
Gnesen Town Office and
Gnesen Community Center
6356 Howard Gnesen Rd
Duluth, MN 55803
721-3158
Office Hours:
Mon & Wed - 7:00-3:00pm

**Upcoming Dates to Note:**

- May 11th 7:00pm Town Board Mtg.
- May 20th 7:00pm P&Z Mtg.
- May 26th 7:00pm Town Board Mtg.


| | |
|---|---|
| Firewise | 1 |
| Minutes | 2- 5 |
| Ads, grant opportunity | 6 |
| Ads | 7 |
| Ads, open walking, hot mix plant complaint line info | 8 |
| Ads, 2026 Fall Fest save the date | 9 |
| Ads | 10 |
| Teen services, Home-school open gym, Church services, Puzzle exchange | 11 |
| Staff | 12 |

# Gnesen News

Gnesen Website http://gnesen.org May 2026 Newsletter

## Gnesen Firewise Preparedness!

**COME** join us Monday, May 18th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the

**Gnesen Community Center**

**6356 Howard Gnesen Road**

**Duluth, MN 55803**

- Join us to help plan future wildfire preparedness activities for Gnesen Township.
- Learn how you can take an active role in helping Gnesen Township be more wildfire resilient.
- Discussion facilitated by St. Louis County Firewise Coordinator.
- **ALL** Gnesen landowners are welcome!
- Snacks and beverage provided.

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

March 9, 2026

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, March 9, 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 was moved by Chair Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

The minutes of the February 23, 2026 Town Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg.

Treasurer's report:

| | |
|---|---|
| Balance for January 2026 | $174,903.97 |
| Receipts for February 2026 | +$20,301.72 |
| | $195,205.69 |
| Disbursements for February 2026 | -$14,861.45 |
| Balance for February 2026 | $180,344.24 |

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

**DISCUSSION**: None

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Hemlock Drive Issue – No new updates.

MATIT – Supervisor Juten reported that he is working on getting some quotes from Holden Insurance, but it will take longer than expected. After some discussion it was decided to pay MATIT at the new values and a $250 deductible, but the township will continue to shop around for lower premiums.

Dave and Marcella Stewart STR – Chair Nelson explained that the attorney said the STR ordinance is not clear enough as to what "compliant" means and whether it also includes "nonconforming compliant" and this is why the Stewarts STR application is getting approved. Verbiage in the STR ordinance will be getting changed to clarify this section and when the Stewarts renew in three years, they will have to have a fully compliant system. There was discussion about when to hold a public hearing which was then scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2026 at 5:30pm. Sarah questioned the occupancy cap since that was one question Chair Nelson asked the attorney but didn't get a response on. Chair Nelson stated that since St. Louis County said they would only allow a maximum of 4 guests then that is what Gnesen is going to require as their cap too since the Stewart's don't have a fully compliant septic system.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report – Darin reported that a culvert on Lawnwood Road was plugged causing water to buildup on the road. St. Louis County was contacted and was able to steam the culvert earlier today.

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

Gnesen Community Center Report – Sarah said she has nothing new to add this month.
Caleb Anderson – Eagle Scout Project – Caleb Anderson a senior from Denfeld High School presented a concept plan to the Board that he would like to do for his Eagle Scout Project. Caleb would be adding new elements to the playscape including a Forest Web, Balance Path, and Stump Walk. The cost of this project would be around $250.00, which Caleb was hoping the township would help fund. Supervisor Juten questioned the timeline for starting the project. Caleb said he would be starting as soon as the ground thaws with completion by June 10, 2026. Supervisor Poppenberg made a motion to accept Caleb's proposal and for the township to contribute $250.00 towards the project, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.
TumbleBee Gymnastics Lease Renewal – Supervisor Juten made a motion to renew the lease as presented, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.
Gnesen Fire Department 2026/27 Contract Renewal – Supervisor Juten made a motion to accept the contract as presented, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.
Board of Appeals Meeting – This is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2026 starting at 10:00am.
Horseshoe Lake – Chair Nelson stated he received an email from the DNR looking for a resident who might be interested in being a lake gauge reader for Horseshoe Lake.

**ZONING SUPERVISOR REPORT** – Nancy had nothing to add since the February P&Z meeting was cancelled.

**ZONING REPORT**: Mike said he is working on a STR application and doing second site visits. Rick said he has been working on a building permit and answering zoning inquiries.

**CORRESPONDENCE**:
St. Louis County – Josh Brinkman regarding Hazard Mitigation Plan
MAT 2026 Spring Short Courses
Couri & Ruppe Township Legal Seminar

Disbursement #16937 through #16965 and 4 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $17,259.05 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 7:55pm with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

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Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

March 23, 2026

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, Monday 23, 2026. The following officers were present:

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|---|---|
| Jon Nelson | Chair |
| Gary Juten | Supervisor |
| Nancy Poppenberg | Supervisor |
| Sarah Blix | Clerk |
| Sara Rowe | Deputy Clerk |

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

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

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Resolution 26-09 Approving Ordinance Amendments to STR Ordinance was made by Supervisor Juten, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Minutes of the March 9, 2026 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg.

Minutes of the March 10, 2026 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, seconded by Supervisor Juten

**DISCUSSION**: Chair Nelson mentioned that the Reorganization Meeting was held earlier this evening and things will continue same as last year.

**OLD BUSINESS**:
Hemlock Drive Issue – No new updates.
Follow up from STR Ordinance Amendment Public Hearing – The proposed amendments to the STR ordinance passed at a public hearing that was held earlier tonight.

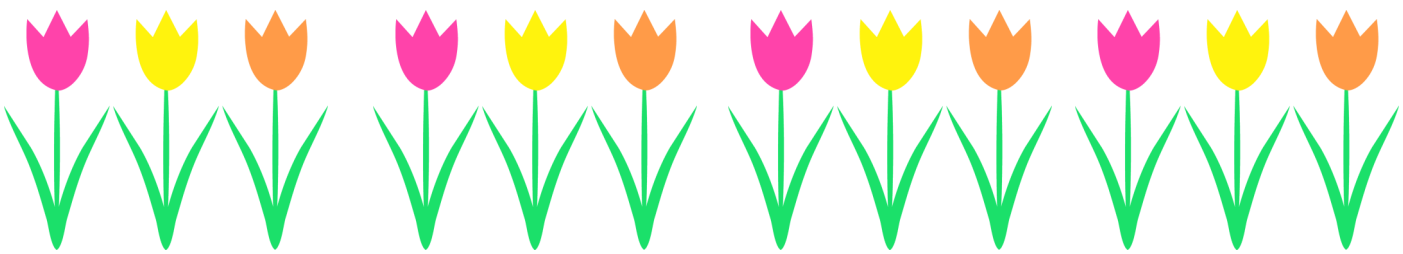
**NEW BUSINESS:**
Ed Franckowiak – Ed contacted Sarah about mowing at the Old Town Hall for the upcoming season. Ed said he would mow for the same price as last year which was $80/mow. Supervisor Juten made a motion to accept Ed's proposal to mow again this year, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.
AWAIR - AWAIR packets were handed out to all employees, and they were asked to review the packets then sign the last page and return to the office by April 13, 2026.
Resolution 26-09 – Approving Ordinance Amendments to STR Ordinance – Motion by Chair Nelson to approve resolution 26-09 as presented, seconded by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

**P&Z BOARD SUPERVISORS REPORT:** There has been a lot of discussion about the STR ordinance. The three commission members up for reappointment, Dick, Kathy, and Joe are all reappointing for another term.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT:** Mike had nothing new to report. Rick said he has been working on two new building permits and three zoning inquiries. All three zoning inquiries were referred to St. Louis County because there were wet land issues.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Notice of public hearing from St. Louis County regarding Ordinance 62 proposed updates.

No further business. A motion was made by Supervisor Juten to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. No objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm. (This meeting was taped for transcribing purposes only.)



**CERTIFICATION/REORGANIZATION MEETING-March 23, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M.**

Chair, Jon Nelson, opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Clerk Sarah Blix swore in Nancy Poppenberg as Town Board Supervisor for a three-year term ending in 2029. At that time Nancy took the Oath of Office and received her Certificate of Election.

A motion was made by Supervisor Poppenberg and second by Supervisor Juten to select Jon Nelson as Town Board Chair and Gary Juten as Town Board Vice Chair. All vote in favor.

We designated Supervisors/employees to fill duties/positions created by the Town Board:
Road Supervisor-Gary Juten
Community Center-Jon Nelson
Planning & Zoning Supervisor-Nancy Poppenberg
Fire Hall Supervisor-Jon Nelson
Town Hall-Gary Juten

Resolution #26-04 Authorizing Contract with Interested Officer. We considered potential conflicts of interest issues and named Supervisor Juten on the conflict form incase his company does any work for the Town of Gnesen. Supervisor Juten will abstain from voting on anything pertaining to this issue. Motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. Two votes in favor, with Supervisor Juten abstaining.

Resolution #26-05 Set compensation for town offices and employees. Carter Williams questioned the title Deputy Zoning Officer and asked if it should be changed to Zoning Officers instead. Supervisor Juten made a motion to make the changes that Carter suggested then approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. Sarah commented that the title Deputy Zoning Officer should remain as is because it actually sets the township up for the future if a deputy zoning officer is ever hired. After some consideration it was decided to rescind the motion. Supervisor Juten then made a new motion to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

At the Annual Meeting held on March 10, 2026, we designated the Duluth News Tribune as our Official newspaper. Resolution #26-06 designated the Community Center, Island Lake Inn, and Gnesen Convenience Store as the posting places for Town Notices. Motion by Chair Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Resolution #26-07 Setting the Town Levy. Motion made by Chair Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Juten to approve the resolution. All vote in favor.

We did not amend any Board policies because nothing has changed in the policies.

AWAIR Safety training packets will be handed out at tonight's regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting. Employees are expected to read through training and then sign and return the signed training acknowledgement form to the office by April 13, 2026.

Confirm the Town's Financial Reporting form has been completed and returned to the State Auditor's Office-Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer has sent it in.

Chair Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Juten. No objections. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Northern Lights TAVERNA

In Greek culture, a taverna is a cozy, family-run place where food is homemade, conversations flow freely, and everyone feels like they belong.

NOW OPEN FOR DINNER WED-SUN

It's not fancy. It's not rushed.
It's *real* food shared in a real community.

At Northern Lights Taverna, we are mixing **Minnesota** comfort, **Mediterranean** flavor, and **Mexican** family-style warmth into a space where all three cultures come together around the table.

7047 RICE LAKE ROAD, DULUTH, MN | 218-391-5295

**CHECK FACEBOOK @NORTHERNLIGHTSTAVERNA FOR UPDATES**

## Looking for funding to help with the removal of dead balsam?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a program offered through the US Dept. of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Landowners can apply for financial assistance with a wide variety of conservation projects. Projects may take place on forest land, agricultural land, and other habitat types. Examples of common projects include clearing buckthorn, thinning red pine, planting native species for pollinators, and growing organic food. There is no minimum project size.

Learn about EQIP and other NRCS programs at:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mn/home/

NRCS office serving South St. Louis:
4850 Miller Trunk Highway
Duluth, MN 55811
218-720-5209

# Do North Pizzeria Sportsmen's Edition

Skillet of the Month - Turkey Pesto
Pizza of the Month - The Aristocrat:
a fun play on America's favorite burger

May 10th: Celebrate the Mother's in your life with a Blueberry Pancake Breakfast & $4 Mimosas
May 16th: Live Music with Shane Nelson 7PM
May 25th: Closed for Memorial Day
May 30th: Karaoke Night starting at 7PM

4101 Normanna Rd 218-721-3568

Now Hiring For All Positions - Apply Online at: sportysinn.com

TAPROOT
LAND MANAGEMENT

OVERGROWTH?
LET TAPROOT MAKE IT DISAPPEAR!

Land Clearing | Stump Grinding
Brush Cleanup | Grading,
Driveways, Trails & Dirt Work

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The Country Craft Shed
7016 Van Rd. • Duluth, MN 55803

SUSAN POIRIER
JOE PUCUSKI

Sat. & Sun.
10:00 - 4:00
218-721-3258

## 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
Pet Sitting Services

Experience with a large variety of both farm animals and household pets.

Contact Sarah for more information at 218-341-7945

*Magnum Storage Facility*

Store With Us—Store With Confidence

**4961 Rice Lake Road**

**Duluth, MN 55803**

**218-724-5303**

24 Hour Access—Tamperproof Locks

Long Term Discounts

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STEVES
218-721-4039

SEPTIC PUMPING
TOILET RENTALS
DULUTH, MINNESOTA
STEVESSEPTICDULUTH.COM
DAVE HAPPY 218-213-1233

# 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.

www.TraceyTellor.com
Broker
MN & WI
Tellor Realty LLC

218-390-3851
Tracey Tellor
TraceyTellor@gmail.com

BULLDOG
COLLISION
Ryan Underthun
ryan@bulldogcollision.com
218.721.5341
5082 Miller Trunk Hwy
Hermantown, MN 55811
www.bulldogcollision.com

Overom Law

Estate Planning should not be stressful!

Gunnar Johnson at Overom Law is here to help with creating an estate plan that is right for you.

Call Gunnar today at 218-625-8461 to schedule your free consultation.

802 GARFIELD AVENUE • SUITE 101
DULUTH, MN 55802
218-625-8463 (PH) • 218-522-4539
(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**

**FILIPINO AUTHENTIC FOOD**
**CUSTOM ORDER AND CATERING AVAILABLE**
**PLEASE VISIT NANAY'S KITCHENBETH'S FILIPINO FOOD FROM THE HEART.**

**SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLIED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC**

**YOUR HEALTH IS IMPORTANT TO US!**
**FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED**
**SOCIAL DISTANCING IS HIGHLY APPRECIATED.**

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PLUMBING & HEATING, LLC
3 Generations in the Plumbing Industry
Steve Sundland
Owner
4196 Waters Edge Drive
Duluth, MN 55803
(218) 348-4394
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Licensed in MN & WI
my place REALTY
Sherri L. Underthun
Direct Line: 218-390-3184
SherriU@MyPlaceRealtyINC.com
*Thank you for the opportunity to help you with your real estate needs*

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Jim Kampa
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Duluth, MN 55803
jkrenovate@gmail.com
Insured - MN Lic.#BC682878

Brent's
SEPTIC SERVICE
729-8072
"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**

**Looking Ahead**

**Classic Car Show**
**Wednesday, May 14, 4 p.m.**

**Quilters meet**
Thursdays at 9 a.m.

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

**Sundays, May**
Open Arms Senior Living Center
10:30 a.m. Worship. Every Second & Fourth Sundays
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<br>Chair<br>GCC Supervisor | 218-349-7743<br>supervisor1@Gnesen.org |
| Gary Juten<br>Vice Chair<br>Road Supervisor | 218-349-6627<br>supervisor3@Gnesen.org |
| Nancy Poppenberg<br>Supervisor<br>P&Z Supervisor | 218-349-2129<br>supervisor2@Gnesen.org |
| Sarah Blix<br>Clerk<br>Editor of Newsletter<br>Website Manager | 218-721-3158<br>clerk@Gnesen.org |
| Sarah Blix<br>GCC Building Manager and Janitor | 218-341-7945<br>clerk@Gnesen.org |
| TBD<br>Deputy Clerk<br>Planning Commission/Sec. | 218-721-3158<br>deputyclerk@Gnesen.org |
| Mary Bjorklund,<br>Treasurer | 218-391-7424<br>treasurer@Gnesen.org |
| Mike Rowe<br>Building Maintenance | |
| Darin Franckowiak<br>Grader Operator | 218-348-1814 |
| Kevin Fredrickson | 218-269-5719 |
| Zoning Officers:<br>Mike Polzin | 218-390-6207<br>zoningofficer1@Gnesen.org |
| Rick Hogenson | 218-390-0651<br>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.