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

Gnesen News

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

Upcoming Dates to Note:

- July 13th 7:00pm Town Board Mtg.
- July 15th 7:00pm P&Z Mtg.
- July 27th 7:00pm Town Board Mtg - Cancelled

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AUGUST 4, 2026
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Come join us for this year's National Night Celebration!

*Tuesday August 4, 2026
From 5pm – 7pm

We will be hosting a Memorial Blood Drive from 3:30pm – 6:30pm.
Pre-sign up early and help us meet our goal to max out donations!!
Please contact Sarah today at 218-341-7945 or clerk@Gnesen.org to get signed up.

Meet members of the Gnesen Volunteer Fire Department and the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department

Donate Blood

Porketta sandwiches and ice cream sundaes with all the toppings!

Meet new neighbors

Fun activities for the kids

GNESEN COMMUNITY CENTER
6356 Howard Gnesen Road
Duluth, MN
55803

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

May 11, 2026

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, May 11, 2026. The following officers were present:

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

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 Board of Appeal meeting update was moved by Chair Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

The minutes of the April 27, 2026 Town Board meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg.

The minutes of the May 8, 2026 Road Review meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, seconded by Supervisor Juten.

Treasurer's report:

Balance for March 2026	$172,230.89
Receipts for April 2026	+$3,410.35
	$175,641.24
Disbursements for April 2026	-$26,986.61
Balance for April 2026	$148,654.63

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: There was discussion on the P&Z training that our attorney, Andrew offered to provide the township for free. Chair Nelson stated that Andrew said he could provide the training Friday, June 19, 2026. Sarah said she will put it on the agenda for the next P&Z meeting and see what everyone's availability looks like before committing.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hemlock Drive Issue – Chair Nelson stated that a certified letter was sent to Scott Thienes last week to notify him of the upcoming abatement. Abatement will start May 21, 2026 and will last three weeks. Dumpsters will be delivered the day before. Supervisor Juten questioned if a sheriff deputy will be present when dumpsters are delivered, to which Mike said he had not set that up. Supervisor Juten said he thought it would be important to have a deputy present for dumpster drop off. Mike will set this up.

Firewise – A Firewise meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2026 at 6pm.

Board of Appeals Meeting Update – Chair Nelson reported that there were 52 total appeals and 24 reductions made. Chair Nelson stated that revisits from St. Louis County made a big difference for several residents and resulted in valuation reductions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Road Report – Darin reported that the road review meeting was held May 8, 2026. Gravel on township roads will be set up for early to mid-June. Sarah will get pricing for calcium chloride. A copy of the road form that Supervisor Juten got from last month's short course training was provided for all to review. Supervisor Juten said he would like to implement the form. Sarah will create a form for each township road and leave them in the township truck for Kevin and Darin.

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Sarah said she received a complaint from a resident who said the rocks alongside the Church Road gate have not been removed yet. Sarah said the rocks were supposed to be removed by May 1, 2026. Sarah contacted the person who placed the rocks and reminded her that the rocks need to be removed and asked for a set date when that would happen. Sarah said she is waiting for a call back from the landowner as to when the rocks will be removed otherwise it will need to be discussed at the next meeting as to what the next steps will be.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Sarah said that the playscape project has been completed. Roadside clean up along Howard Gnesen Road from Emerson to Normanna Road was completed May 3, 2026. One of the windows in the community room has a large crack. Supervisor Juten asked about the cost of just replacing the entire window versus having St. Germain's replace the glass. Kevin said it would likely be cheaper to just replace the entire window. Sarah will work with Kevin on getting the window fixed.

May 8, 2026, Road Review Update – Three signs were noted to be missing, two from Needle Lane and one from Bergstrom Road. Supervisor Juten made a motion to purchase the three replacement signs, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Updates to Website – Sarah stated she would like to do some cleaning up on the website and add a button where the newsletter can be archived for people to view. Sarah said there is 1hr 40minutes remaining in our retainer from Faster Solutions. After some discussion it was decided to allow Sarah to proceed with the website clean up and changes.

ZONING REPORT: Mike reported that he is focusing on Hemlock Drive. Rick said he has been working on new building permits to allow Mike to focus on the Hemlock Drive abatement. Rick said there is a land alteration permit that has been turned in where a landowner is requesting to do extensive work in front of their home which is situated 50ft from Island Lake. Several questions need to be answered before the permit can be issued. A 15-day letter was sent out today informing the landowner. Questions about constructing a campground up in the north end of the township and whether an EAW is needed to proceed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

MAT – Notice of new District 10 representative

St. Louis County – Noxious Weed

Disbursement #17012 through #17045 and 4 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $18,701.81 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 7:48pm with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

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Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

May 26, 2026

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Tuesday May 26, 2026. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson	Chair
Gary Juten	Supervisor
Nancy Poppenberg	Supervisor
Sarah Blix	Clerk

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(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 DAT meeting update and discussion on future meetings was made by Chair Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Minutes of the May 11, 2026, Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion about a property on Rice Lake Road north of Island Lake where it has been noted that a person has been living in a camper for the last month with no running water or electricity. An increase in traffic was also mentioned. It was suggested that an official complaint be made so that one of our zoning officers can investigate the complaint. Dave asked when the lighting for the flagpole was going to be installed. Sarah said that lighting was not part of the DNR grant, however when the parking lot was getting redone, conduit was ran under the parking lot so that in the future wire could be run and lights installed. Chair Nelson asked Sarah to get a few quotes on installing lighting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hemlock Drive Issue – Abatement was supposed to commence Thursday, May 21st but was cancelled last minute because the volunteers that were lined up from NERC were concerned about safety. Chair Nelson, Rick, and Mike had a meeting earlier today with several key players who were going to assist with the abatement to figure out a plan to move forward. After much discussion it was decided that a couple of sheriff deputies and Mike will meet with Scott on his property to give him a two-week warning and to see if Scott is willing to clean up more of his property himself. If Scott is not willing to cooperate, Gnesen will move forward with the abatement, but this time hire Trailer Trash or a similar company to do the clean-up. Dave questioned how much money the township has already spent on this issue. Sarah said that to date the township has spent a little over $5000 on attorney fees and mailings. This number does not include personnel wages. Chair Nelson commented that he expects the price for abatement will be double that amount and that we likely will not get reimbursed. Carter questioned how we determine when the abatement is complete. Chair Nelson stated that the order allows everything to go except usable items such as tools. Gnesen's ordinance also allows 5 unlicensed vehicles to remain on the property. Both Supervisor Juten and Supervisor Poppenberg stated that they are in support of this plan moving forward.

Firewise Meeting Update – Carter reported that there was a meeting held on May 18, 2026. Several people were in attendance including a few from neighboring townships. Carter said the goal for this year is to hold another brush drop off event in September as last year's drop off event went so well. Carter said that there are DNR grants available for townships, road associations, and landowners for removing dead trees caused by Spruce Budworm. The grants are matching grants, but labor can be used as part of the landowner's match.

Signs on Bergstrom Road/Needle Lane – It was noted during road reviews that Bergstrom Road was missing a curvy road sign, however Sarah said there is no curvy road sign listed in the sign inventory. As for Needle Lane, Supervisor Juten confirmed the sign that was missing that needs to be replaced. Sarah also provided the resolution from 2021 that removed the minimum maintenance status from Needle Lane so the minimum maintenance sign that was noted missing does not need to be replaced.

P&Z Training – Sarah said that the June 19, 2026 training date was discussed at the P&Z meeting, and it was decided that holding a training on a Friday in June would not be the best decision so they asked if the training could be moved to a Friday in late September instead. Chair Nelson will reach out to our attorney to get this set up.

DNR Grant Update – Sarah said she has submitted the final reimbursement paperwork for the grant extension that was for purchasing pickleball nets and raising a portion of the bog bridges that were under water.

Rocks on Church Road - Sarah said she has been communicating with the landowner who placed the rocks in the right of way by the gates on Church Road. The landowner was supposed to have the rocks removed by May 1, 2026, however they have not been moved yet. Sarah reported that the landowner said she had a landscaping company who would remove the rocks, but she has not got an exact date yet for when that will happen. Supervisor Juten said Cedar Drive will have a truck with a mini in that location on Friday and said he will move the rocks off to the side so that residents on ATV's,

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UTV's, horses, biking, etc. can get by the gates.

NEW BUSINESS:

Calcium Chloride – In 2025, Maki Trucking charged $1.73 per gallon for calcium chloride, and Gnesen purchased 6,102 gallons. The 2026 price is $1.78 per gallon. Supervisor Juten made motion to use Maki Trucking again this year to apply calcium chloride, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Data Centers – The Planning Commission is looking for feedback from the Town Board as to how they would like to handle data centers. Many townships and cities are putting verbiage in their ordinance or placing moratoriums on data centers to protect their communities while they work on creating ordinance verbiage. Kathy asked if rather than placing a moratorium would it work to add a definition into the ordinance with a line after it that reads, "not allowed in the township." Chair Nelson said he will reach out to our attorney for guidance on this. Sarah will reach out to MAT.

DAT Meeting Update – Supervisor Juten gave a report on what was discussed at the last DAT meeting. Topics included: data centers, the city of Rice Lake extending the public water line along Rice Lake Road, broadband, and the 2026 Board of Appeals. Supervisor Juten said that many townships are angry with the increasing property valuations and that at the August 20th DAT meeting each township will be choosing a representative who will be part of a local group to meet with our state representatives and fight MN property valuations at the state level.

Future Meetings – There was discussion about the need to continue holding two meeting each month. Chair Nelson suggested just cancelling the 2nd meeting of the month through the summer. Supervisor Juten made a motion for June, July, and August only holding the 1st meeting of the month, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

P&Z BOARD SUPERVISORS REPORT: Supervisor Poppenberg reported that MN Power finalized the Tomahawk Point Plat. P&Z made amendments to the short-term rental application and created a short-term rental renewal application. P&Z had a discussion on visit/evaluation criteria and when it should be used and the $100 fee charged.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT: Mike – no new updates. Rick – Moving forward with building permit and second site visits. Dealing with a land alteration permit on Island Lake that the DNR has several concerns with.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Mary Moline regarding LBAE – The board explained that they have very limited power when it comes to reducing valuations and even though Mary had done a ton of research and provided a lot of information, their hands were tied.

Two letters from Linda Lenard regarding her gymnastics operation

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 8:13pm. (This meeting was taped for transcribing purposes only.)

At the May 26, 2026 Town Board Meeting the Board of Supervisors voted to cancel the second meeting of the month for June, July, and August.

Town Board meetings for the summer will be held the following dates:

Monday, June 8, 2026 at 7:00pm
Monday July 13, 2026 at 7:00pm
Monday August 10, 2026 at 7:00pm

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

In 1976, we opened our doors with one goal: Customer Satisfaction. Fifty years later, we are proud to have helped thousands of customers in Duluth and surrounding areas. While technology and styles have changed, our commitment to excellent service has never wavered. To our employees and customers—past and present—thank you for making us a part of your story.

Here's to the next 50! #50YearsStrong

Elections 2026

State Primary Elections
Tuesday, August 11, 2026

State General Elections
Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Polls will be open from 7am to 8pm

Polling location:
Gnesen Community Center
6356 Howard Gnesen Road
Duluth, MN 55803

Interested in becoming an election judge?

Please reach out to Sarah at 218-721-3158 with any questions of for more information.
Thank you!!!

DO NORTH PIZZERIA SPORTSMEN'S EDITION

Monthly Specials

Skillet of the Month: Taco

Pizza of the Month: Crab Rangoon

Upcoming Events

July 4th: Closed
July 11th: Live music with Shane Nelson 7 PM
July 18th: Karaoke Night
July 24th: Live Music with Ricky Carl
July 27th: Car Show with music by Donny Buck
Every Thursday: Topless Thursday

4101 Normanna Rd 218-721-3568

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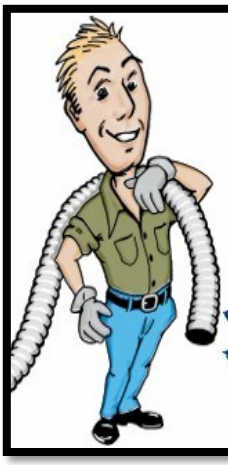
SUSAN POIRIER
JOE PUCUSKI

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



GENE'S
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& surrounding areas!

218-721-5185

Open Walking at the GCC

The Gnesen Community Center Gym is open for residents to walk laps in all year long.

Hours are:
Mondays from noon-2pm and Wednesdays from 2pm—3pm

Please no children or pets and 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:

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

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Duluth, MN 55803

218-724-5303

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DAVE HAPPY 218-213-1233

5TH ANNUAL GNESEN COMMUNITY CENTER FUNDRAISER FARMERS MARKET/CRAFT SHOW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 | 9AM-3PM
GNESEN COMMUNITY CENTER 6356 HOWARD GNESEN ROAD

Taking applications now!
For more information please call:
Mary – indoor craft coordinator at 218-391-7424
Sarah - outdoor farmers market coordinator at 218-341-7945

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.

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

Gnesen Convenience Store & Liquor

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Duluth, MN 55803
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SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLIED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

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FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED
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Direct Line: 218-390-3184
SherriU@MyPlaceRealtyINC.com
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Duluth, MN 55803
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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

Amelia Blix - 13
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

Ben Sundland -17
218-348-8020
Lawnmowing

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!!

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
No Sunday School for the summer

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, July 1
Senior Lunch with Kenwood Lutheran
11:30 a.m. at the Breeze Inn
5168 Jean Duluth Road

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

Sundays, July 12 & 26
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 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
TBD 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.