

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER - 2022

Northfield Township Board

Foster Transburg, Supervisor (First elected in 2020) 612-213-6954

Ron Sommers, Supervisor (First elected in 2012) 507-645-7058

Brian Peterson, Chairperson (First elected in 1998) 507-649-1888

Jessi Hubers, Treasurer (First elected in 2019) 612-242-8817

Diane Lyman, Clerk (First elected in 2018) 507-663-1068

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:
clerk@northfieldtp.org

The Town Board meets at 7:00 P.M. on the second Tuesday of each month. The known exception is the month of March. The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held on March 14 and the regular March 2023 meeting will be held March 16. Meetings are held at the Northfield Town Hall located at 10901 Jacobs Avenue.

Residents are invited to attend the monthly meetings. If anyone has a special concern to be discussed on the monthly agenda, please call the clerk by Monday noon prior to the meeting date.

Snow Season

Residents are reminded that according to MN Statute 160.2715 **it is illegal and punishable as a misdemeanor to plow, shovel, or place snow onto township roadways.** Similar rules apply on county and state roads. **Snow from your property should be plowed and stored on your own property and not pushed across roads. If you have someone else plow your driveway, etc., please remind them of this state statute.** Civil penalties may apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard that contributes to a motor vehicle crash or pedestrian injury. The civil penalty can extend to both the property owner and the person who places the snow.

Some reminders on Northfield Township's Snow Removal Policies.....

The township's plow usually does not go out until a snowfall has ended. The plow will not be sent out during a time when poor visibility will make plowing dangerous. When possible, the driver alternates starting the snow removal from one of the four quadrants of the township – north, south, east, and west. Salt, sand, and chips are applied, as needed, to increase the safety of the road surface. The township is not responsible for snow thrown in driveways, damage done to mailboxes, fences, etc., due to thrown snow or equipment hitting these objects, or damage to landscaping within the road right-of-way.

Road Maintenance

Northfield Township maintains 37.85 miles of roadway. Each spring the supervisors determine which roads need crushed rock. Heavily traveled roads may need crushed rock every year, but most roads are on a two or three-year cycle. Weather and vendor availability permitting, crushed rock is scheduled to be delivered and spread on roads in late May or early June, and dust control is applied as soon as possible after the new crushed rock is graded. Dry weather conditions in recent years have made it difficult to grade roads on a regular basis. It is best to grade roads after a rainfall as the road surface is easier to manipulate for best driving conditions. The township has warning signs and barricades that can be put in place to alert drivers to hazardous conditions or roads that are temporarily closed. Please call one of the township officers if you find debris on the roads or other dangerous conditions so that they can resolve the problem or take action to warn others if needed.

Dust Control

Most of the roads maintained by Northfield Township have a gravel surface, and a few of the roads maintained by the county within the

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township also have a gravel surface. Each year, the application of liquid chloride is made available to residents to control dust. The cost of this dust control is pre-paid by the resident requesting it. The application of chloride is scheduled after the crushed rock has been delivered and graded. Weather, gravel availability and chloride availability through our vendors are the biggest factors in the timing of application.

In April, residents who participated in dust control the previous year are mailed information about the program. Anyone wishing to apply for dust control for the first time can call the clerk for more information. Stakes are available for marking the area where residents wish to have dust control applied. One of the supervisors rides along with the truck driver who is dispensing the liquid chloride to help with making sure that the product is applied at the correct residences. Timing of the application is determined by weather and vendor schedule.

Roads receive a final grading as close to ground freeze and/or snow fall as possible. During this process, the areas that have received chloride treatment may also need to be maintained by the grader.

Burning Permits

Burning permits are available on-line through the Minnesota DNR's website: www.dnr.state.mn.us/burningpermits. The applicant needs to provide their name, address, phone number, and the legal description of where the burning will take place. The legal description can be found on a tax statement or deed for the property. Information on the website will tell you how to activate the permit(s) on the day or days when you want to burn. The permits are valid for the calendar year. If you have questions about what can be burned and when, visit the DNR's website: www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/questions.html

Driveway Permits

Permits for new driveways, additional driveways or revisions (including paving) to current driveways and field approaches must be approved by the township board and/or road supervisor for residents who live on a road that is maintained by the township. If you live along a county or state road, you must contact the appropriate entity. Driveways must be built according to MN Statute 160.2715. The cost for a driveway permit in 2023 is \$100. When applying for a driveway permit, a resident must also pay a \$500 deposit. When the driveway has been completed, the driveway is inspected by a supervisor and if the requirements have been satisfied, the \$500 will be returned to the resident. Please call the clerk or one of the supervisors if you wish to obtain a driveway permit application.

Right-of-Way Permits

Permits are also required for any work to be done in the right of way. The right of way includes driveway and ditch areas and driveways up to the edge of and to the midpoint on a township road. A Right-of-Way Permit is available from the Clerk and/or on the township website www.northfieldtwp.org As always, you need to contact Gopher State One Call before you dig: 1-866-640-3637 or www.gopherstateonecall.org

Building Permits

Planning and zoning in Northfield Township are handled by Rice County. Residents needing a building permit should contact the Rice County Planning and Zoning Office.

Wild Parsnip

Wild Parsnip is a noxious weed, the sap of which can cause severe blistering of the skin especially in the presence of sunlight. It is found in many areas of Minnesota, often in

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road ditches, drainage ditches and adjacent grassy areas near woodlots. In recent years, with the help of a Minnesota Department of Agriculture grant, Northfield Township has made progress in reducing the infestation in our township using timely mowing and spraying. We did not have grant funding in 2022, but did continue our spot spraying effort to control wild parsnip and other noxious weeds and invasive trees in the township right-of-way. Wild parsnip is generally not a problem in row crop fields, due to producers' weed control programs. However, infestations are frequently found on private land in waterways, grassland and near woodlots. Several producers have extended special efforts to control this menacing weed on their property which helps to prevent its reintroduction to areas where progress has been made on control. Township residents are asked to watch for infestations on their private land and work to control it, as required by law. "Do Not Spray" signs are available for purchase by residents to place in right-of-way areas where they will assume responsibility for noxious weed control. The Board is looking for township residents who will "adopt a roadside" to assist with noxious weed eradication. Those interested can contact Supervisor Brian Peterson to learn more. Training could be made available to learn how to identify noxious weeds and to learn what spot spray chemicals are most effective for eradication. If you have questions about control methods, please contact a township supervisor.

Elections

During government redistricting, Northfield Township was split into 3 precincts. Township and County officials worked to successfully reduce the redistricting split to 2 precincts within our township. If you voted in the primary or general elections this fall, you may have noticed that having 2 precincts didn't make a significant change to your voting process. The town hall served as the polling place for all of our residents for the primary and general elections. We thank you for your

patience as we worked through the process of hosting 2 precincts in our town hall location.

In 2023 the Northfield Town Hall will continue to be the polling place for Northfield Township residents for township, state, and federal elections as it has been in the past. Absentee ballots are administered by the Rice County Property Tax & Elections Department.

Township Day in Minnesota – Election and Annual Meeting

The 2023 Township Election will be held on Tuesday, March 14th. To be elected in 2023 are one supervisor for a 3-year-term (position currently held by Foster Transburg) and one treasurer for a 2-year-term (position currently held by Jessica Hubers). Filing for these offices begins on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 and ends at 5 P.M. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Affidavits of candidacy can be filed with the clerk at 9090 100th St. E., Northfield. Please call the clerk (507-663-1068) to arrange a time to complete paperwork. The filing fee is \$2. On March 14th, the polls will be open at the town hall from 2 P.M. until 8 P.M.

The township **Annual Meeting** will be held at the town hall **March 14, 2023** following the closing of the polls.

A Note from the Clerk

It was a busy election season with both a primary election in August and the general election in November. We are fortunate to have excellent election judges who completed the required training and served long hours on election day to provide residents an opportunity to vote. I greatly appreciate their service and support!

There is so much that goes on behind the scenes to support the infrastructure and residents of our township. Your supervisors are always on call and on the lookout for the safety and well-being of our residents. I thank all of

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our elected officials for their service and hope you will express a word of appreciation to our current board members. The board appreciates the efforts of Mike Groth, Andy Groth and Donnelly Bultman who work around their regular non-township jobs to provide road maintenance and roadside/right-of way maintenance.

Do you have a new neighbor? When real estate changes ownership, the township does not receive notification of the change. If you visit with a new neighbor, please encourage him/her to contact the Clerk with any questions. The Clerk can mail a newsletter to the new resident to assist with quick acclimation to township life.

Township Website

The township website is now available for you to refer to should you have questions regarding permits, etc. You can visit the website at www.northfieldtwp.org

Everbridge Citizen Alert

Rice County Emergency Management utilizes the Everbridge Citizen Alert system as one way to notify residents of an emergency or an important community alert.

This system allows the Rice and Steele 911 Center to quickly provide you with critical information in a variety of situations, such as certain severe weather events, missing persons, or hazardous and/or dangerous incidents that may lead to evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

Once enrolled, you will receive time-sensitive messages via how you specify, such as your home phone, cell phone, business phone, email, or text message. You can subscribe to the type of notifications you want, and can also set a window of time not to receive any notifications, if you choose.

You must be signed up in order to receive notifications and be alerted of an emergency that may affect you. All Rice County residents are encouraged to sign up for this free service. The information entered is protected and will not be used for any other purposes.

To initially sign up, update your contact information, or change your alert settings, go to <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085612579/login> . Direct links to the login page can also be accessed from several places on the Rice County website, including the Sheriff's Office and Public Health. Any individuals who need assistance can register by calling the Rice and Steele 911 Center at 507-444-0341.

Rice County Land Notification

The Rice County Recorder's office has implemented a website called Land Notification. This website allows residents the ability to monitor their personal name or business name for real estate activity. This is a free service for Rice County citizens. It helps property owners prevent fraud by giving them information about documents that are being recorded against their name, business or property.

Once you sign up for Land Notification it will search from that day forward. Each time there is recording activity on a specific property or name, an email is generated notifying the individual of this activity. You can unsubscribe at any time. If interested, sign up by going to the Recorder's website <https://www.co.rice.mn.us/300/Recorders-Office>, look for the link to Land Notification Overview, enter in your personal email address, your personal or business name and you're done. The user needs to have a Google account in order for this to work. ***note** Not all of the Recorder's documents are connected to parcel identification numbers.