

Comp Plan ready for review
See the map and highlights of the draft 2040 Comp Plan
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Businesses get a boost
FAST-TRACK Business Challenge winners named
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Honoring real heroes
Rescuers recognized for saving three lives in Scott County
Page 7



Winter fun in the parks
Avoid cabin fever and enjoy outdoor activities in area parks
Pages 8 & 9

Serving those in need

County works to protect vulnerable adults

Some people need a little extra protection. Along with children, Scott County has vulnerable adults on its list.

And unfortunately, the number of reports of suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults continues to increase within the County. In 2013, there were 13 reports of maltreatment of this population; by September of this year, there were 121.

“Our largest area of growth in reports is financial exploitation,” said Danielle Fox, Adult Services Manager for Scott County. “Many seniors have assets, and it’s not unusual for a family member who is supposed to be managing funds to be suspected of mismanaging them.” Suspected financial exploitation reports rose from one in 2011 to 34 in 2017 (through September).

Reports of abuse in the community have to be screened within five days (sooner, if the situation warrants it) and possibly investigated. Scott County has two case managers who do that work, Social Workers Jennifer Ayshford and Brianna Foulke, with oversight from Unit Supervisor Brittani Bussie. Reports of abuse in institutions, such as nursing homes, are handled by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

The Scott County team receives reports of suspected abuse through the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center. No longer do counties take the calls directly. Anyone

If you suspect a vulnerable adult is being mistreated, call (844) 880-1574 any time, toll free.



Working to protect vulnerable adults in Scott County is the team of (front, l. to r.) Jennifer Ayshford and Brianna Foulke, Adult Protection workers, and (back, l. to r.) Brittani Bussie, Social Services Supervisor, and Danielle Fox, Adult Services Manager.

who has witnessed or knows of a vulnerable adult who has been the victim of physical or mental abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or unexplained injuries can call (844) 880-1574 any time to file a complaint or report an incident. More information is available at: <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/services/adult-protection/>.

Staff uses a statewide screening criteria to determine **VULNERABLE ADULTS** to page 14

County collaborates with schools to provide mental health services to students

When Scott County youth are struggling with mental health issues, where can they go for help? In most cases, it’s the same place they go most days – their school.

Each year, one in five children in the U.S. struggle with signs and symptoms related to mental illness. This affects children and families across all cities, races, and socioeconomic levels. However, due to a unique partnership between Scott County and local school districts, the Connect Program is helping local youth during the school day.

The Scott County Mental Health Center is currently providing mental health services in 36 schools, including those in Belle Plaine, Jordan, New Prague, Prior Lake/Savage, Shakopee, and Southwest Metro Intermediate. And by all measures, students receiving these services are benefitting from this service delivery system.

“The collaboration we have in Scott County is tremendous. Others are very envious of what we have here,” said Darren Kermes, executive director of Southwest Metro Intermediate School District 288, an education system focused on special education, career and technical education, adult basic education, and alternative education headquartered in Shakopee but serving 11 area school districts in six counties.

Other school and County lead-



Dr. Terry Raddatz (center) director of the Scott County Mental Health Center, oversees the mental health services provided to students at area schools. Working in the New Prague Schools are therapists Dr. Jason Eckerman and Brianna Weiland, who receive support from Amy Johnson, director of special services for the district, and Tony Buthe, director of educational services.

ers agree the key is *collaboration*. “Having the schools accept us into their systems is very important so we can work with social workers, counselors, superintendents, principals, teachers, and other staff to benefit the students,” said Dr. Terry Raddatz, Scott County’s Mental Health Center Director. The districts and the Mental Health Center have a very long and successful history of working together. The Connect Program is funded

through insurance, a state grant received by the county, and district contracts, said Raddatz. Ten school-based therapist positions were added to the Mental Health Center through this funding, demonstrating the districts’ desire to make sure their students’ mental health needs are met. The student health insurance is billed for all eligible services. Contract and School Linked Mental Health grants **CONNECT PROGRAM** to page 11

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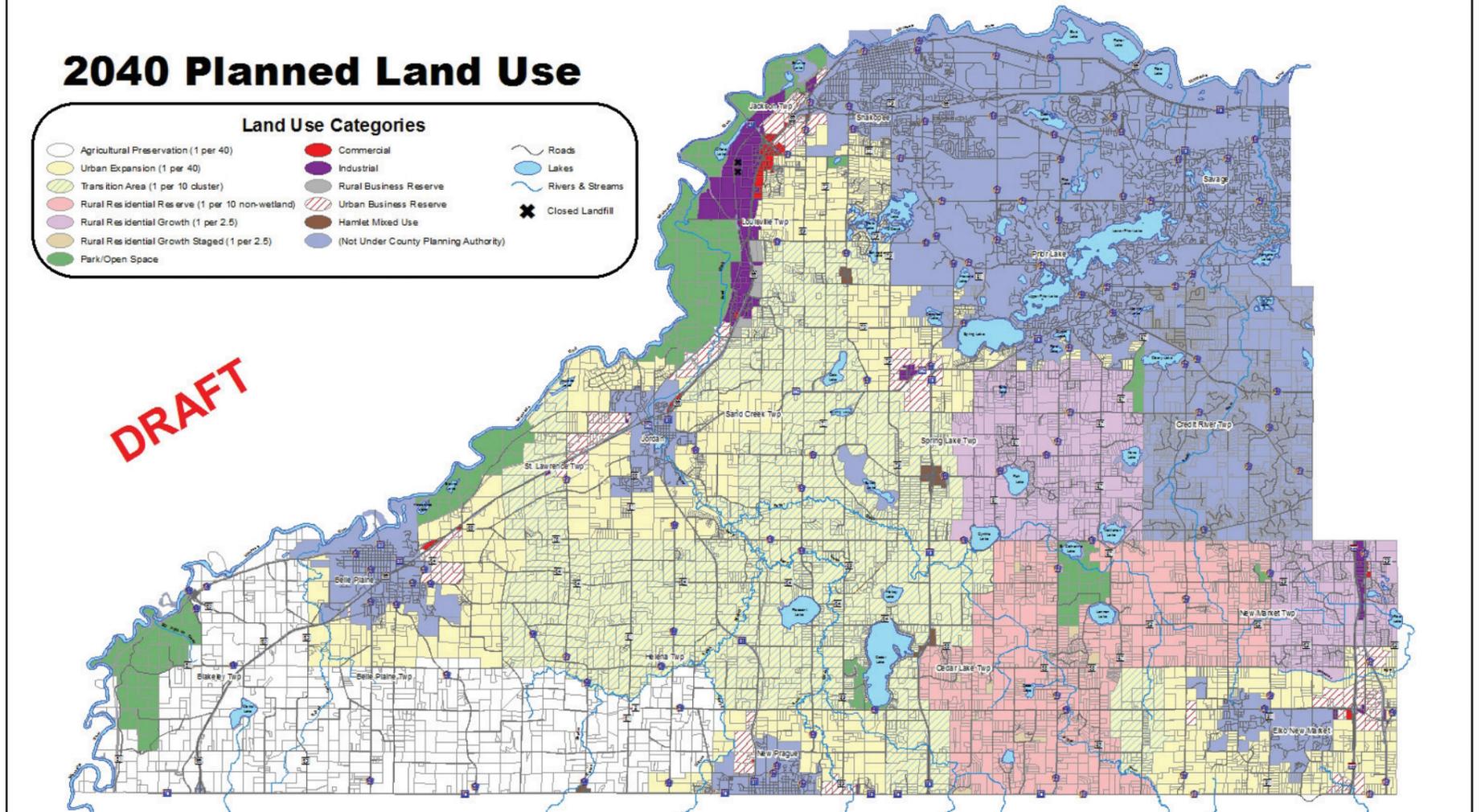
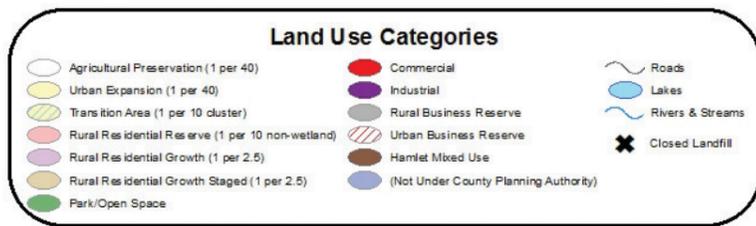
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Scott County 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update



2040 Planned Land Use



This draft 2040 Planned Land Use map showing recommended land uses and development densities for the County's unincorporated areas was reviewed by all of the townships this fall. Based on town board feedback, this draft map (dated December 1, 2017) will be shared and presented at open houses and on-line forums in early 2018. To view this map on line, please visit the 2040 home page on the County website at www.scottcountymn.gov.

Draft of 2040 Comprehensive Plan ready for review

This article is the first in a series highlighting key strategies coming out of the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which will guide growth and development of Scott County over the next two decades. With population growth projected to increase in both the cities and townships, the County's draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan provides a number of new approaches to maintain a high quality of life while protecting the County's unique identity and natural environment. A different strategy will be presented in SCENE issues throughout 2018. The 2040 Comprehensive Plan will be the subject of open houses and public hearings in 2018, and is anticipated to be adopted by the County Board at the end of 2018. To learn more about the plan and view or request notices on upcoming public events, check out the 2040 homepage at www.scottcountymn.gov/439/2040-Comprehensive-Plan.

Over a decade ago, Scott County was preparing and adopting its long-range comprehensive plan at a time of unprecedented growth and development. Heralded as "the fastest growing county in the state" throughout most of the 2000s, the last planning cycle focused on bold, big-picture questions like: "How are we going to plan for a doubling of our population by 2030?" "What does the county look like at full build-out?" "How expansive will our cities grow?" "When will we need a new regional waste water treatment plant to serve urban expansion?" Then the Great Recession of 2008-2010 hit, and the prospects of rapid, unchecked growth slowly diminished, and things returned to normal – not necessarily a "new" normal, but a "previous" normal of moderate growth and change that had occurred in the county well before the boom years of the 2000s.

Today, the County's next-generation of long-range comprehensive planning -- reflected in the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan -- remains a growth-oriented plan, albeit downgraded from the lofty projections made in the past. Countywide population growth is forecasted to add 56,000 residents over the next two decades, from 143,680 today to nearly 199,520 by 2040. But the overall pace, timing, and location to accommodate that projected growth has generally been planned for in the County's current set of land use, transportation, parks and trails, and natural resource protection plans. So, based on feedback from resident surveys and stakeholder groups, the proposed updates reflected in the 2040 land use chapter are a little less "big picture" and a little more focused on where to guide rural development today and where to preserve land for tomorrow. The following spotlights five key updates proposed in the 2040 land use chapter:

1. Promoting small-scale businesses in the historic hamlets.

"Historic hamlets like Lydia, Marystown, St Patrick, and Blakeley are the heart and soul of rural Scott County," a township official said at a recent 2040 planning workshop. "It's time we allow people to re-invest in these important places." The draft 2040 plan reflects this sentiment shared by many township officials, landowners, and residents, and is recommending a new approach to guide development in these rural crossroads centers.

Hamlets are generally small, but distinct, areas of five to twenty-five modestly-sized lots surrounded by a rural landscape of open space, farmland, or natural areas. Lydia, Marystown, Blakeley, Union Hill, and St. Patrick are examples of existing hamlets in Scott County. These hamlets were established prior to the current zoning standards, and consist of a number of small residential lots with a couple buildings maintained for taverns or churches. They are surrounded by large tracts of farmland, bluff land, or woodland, creating well-defined boundaries and unique communities. In Scott County, hamlet lots are serviced by individual septic systems. Hamlets could accommodate the rural lifestyle for individuals that do not want to pay for larger acreage lots but still want to live in the countryside. They also allow for densities that are more conducive to supporting a convenience center or small retail store in the rural areas.

The 2040 plan recommends a new overlay zoning district – called *Hamlet Mixed Use* – for these areas. This type of zoning district would allow a mix of residential, public, and commercial land uses to co-exist within the same zone. It would allow existing uses in these hamlets to expand their buildings or re-invest in their properties. This new zoning district would recognize the mix of land uses that have historically co-existed in hamlets throughout the County. It will need to be determined the types of uses allowed in this district by right, and by conditional or interim use. Lot size, dimension, setback, and coverage standards will need to be set. Site performance standards will also need to be determined to allow development on smaller lots while still retaining the historic character of the hamlets.

2. Directing rural housing development to existing

neighborhoods.

The draft 2040 plan continues to guide most of the four eastern townships for rural residential home sites on two and one-half to 10-acre lots served by a private well and septic system. This has been the development pattern for this part of the County for the past several planning cycles. What's new under the 2040 plan is to allow pockets of land that were set aside when rural neighborhood lots were clustered in the past to develop with additional two-and-a-half-acre lots. This new approach was supported in particular by Cedar Lake Township supervisors, a township where there are about 15 outlots that have been set aside as land was developed with clustered lots. Many of these outlots – ranging in size from five to 85 acres – were actually ghost-platted when the original development was proposed to show future lot layouts and road extensions.

"It makes sense to guide future housing into these existing rural neighborhoods that already have a lot of the infrastructure in place, such as townships roads, stormwater ponds, and -- in some cases -- turn lanes at the intersection of County or state highways," said Planning Manager Brad Davis.

If all of the 100 or so ghost-platted lots actually turn into developable home sites, this new approach could accommodate about a quarter of the new housing forecasted for Cedar Lake Township by 2040, Davis said. Directing future housing into these existing neighborhoods could alleviate some pressure to convert larger tracts of farmland or open space elsewhere in the township into residential development, Davis added.

3. Re-mapping urban expansion areas that more closely reflect city growth.

The draft 2040 plan continues to guide most of the central and western townships for staged, long-term urban expansion. Because the long-term (beyond the year 2040) use of properties in these townships is for small-lot, city-type residential, commercial, or industrial development, the plan continues to show these areas for low density housing (one home per 40 acres or one home per 10 acres, with home sites clustered on smaller acreage lots) and long-term agricultural uses until utilities are available and the land develops for higher density uses.

What is new under the 2040 plan is a more intentional effort to map the boundaries between urban expansion areas (slated for city-type development by 2040) and transition areas (slated for city-type development after 2040). This is particularly the focus around the rural centers of Belle Plaine, Jordan, and

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN to page 12



Commissioners' Corner

County Board Meetings through February 2018

December 12 – no meeting
 December 19 – County Board meeting
 December 26 -- no meeting

January 2 – Regular Annual County Board meeting
 January 9 – no meeting
 January 16 – County Board meeting
 January 23 – no meeting
 January 30 – County Board workshop

February 6 – County Board meeting
 February 13 – no meeting
 February 20 – County Board meeting
 February 27 – no meeting

The Scott County Board meets at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays (except if indicated above) at the Government Center in Shakopee. Visit the Scott County website at www.scottcountymn.gov to view streaming video of Board meetings, Board agendas, and minutes of previous meetings. The Board proceedings may also be rebroadcast on your local government access cable channels; refer to your weekly newspapers for broadcast dates and times. For further information about County Board meetings, contact the County Administration office at (952) 496-8100.

Citizen Committee Vacancies

The Scott County Board of Commissioners is looking for interested citizens to serve on the following advisory committees. Members of advisory committees are provided with a per diem and mileage reimbursement for attendance at meetings. If you have any questions or are interested in serving on one of these committees, contact Deb Brazil (952) 496-8601 or via e-mail at dbrazil@co.scott.mn.us. For more information regarding a specific committee, visit the Scott County website at www.scottcountymn.gov; click on "Your County Government," then "Boards, Commissions, and Committees." *Please note that some of the vacancies have incumbents who are eligible to be reappointed for another term.*

Community Corrections Advisory Board (1 vacancy). There is currently one vacancy on this Board in Commissioner District 4. This Board is responsible for making recommendations to the Scott County Board of Commissioners as they relate to community corrections. The Board is comprised of law enforcement staff, corrections staff, judges, attorneys, social services personnel, educators, and citizens. There are five citizen members, one from each Commissioner District. Advisory Board members are appointed to serve two-year terms, and are eligible to serve three terms. Persons of color and from various ethnic groups are particularly encouraged to apply. This Board meets every other month on the fourth Thursday at 7:30 a.m.

Extension Committee (2 vacancies). Currently, there are two vacancies in Commissioner Districts 4 and 5. In partnership with the University of Minnesota, the Extension Committee assists in formulating programs, recommending budgets, and selecting and evaluating the Extension staff. The University of Minnesota Extension discovers science-based solutions, delivers practical education, and engages Minnesotans to build a better future. Together, we create a better world for today and tomorrow by keeping our food safe and affordable; preparing today's youth to thrive in a complex world; ensuring Minnesota communities are strong; improving our environment; and helping families make better decisions. The Extension Committee meets four times per year (Wednesday evenings, 5:15 p.m.). For more information on Extension, go to www.extension.umn.edu or contact Tammy McCulloch, Extension Regional Director, at tammym@umn.edu or (612) 735-6161.

Human Services Resource Council (4 vacancies). The Resource Council consists of three representatives from each Commissioner District. Currently, there are four vacancies on the council, with vacancies in Commissioner Districts 1, 3, and 5. Members serve two-year terms, and are eligible to serve three terms. The Resource Council participates in development of the Strategic Plan for Health and Human Services; makes recommendations concerning the annual budget of Health and Human Services; makes recommendations related to human services programs, needs, priorities, goals, and objectives to the County Board; and receives, reviews, and comments on special interest group and community at-large input regarding Human Services plans, programs, services, and performance. Professional providers and consumers of Human Services programs are particularly encouraged to apply. The committee meets quarterly, on the third Monday at 6 p.m.

Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District Board of Managers (1 vacancy). There is currently one vacancy on the five member Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District Board of Managers. The District's mission is to manage and preserve the water resources within the District. The Watershed District Board of Managers establishes and oversees the activities of the District, sets policy, guides staff, and makes key decisions on District budgets and priorities. The Board normally meets the second Tuesday of every month at 5 p.m. for a workshop and 6 p.m. for the Board Meeting at the Prior Lake City Hall (unless otherwise noted). Members must reside within the Watershed District. Members are appointed for three-year terms and there are no term limits. *Applications must be submitted by January 12, 2018.*

Commissioner Districts:

- **District 1, Commissioner Barbara Weckman Brekke:** The Cities of Belle Plaine, Jordan (precincts 1 and 2), New Prague (precinct 2), and Shakopee (precinct 5); and Belle Plaine, Blakeley, Helena, Jackson, Louisville, St. Lawrence, and Sand Creek Townships.
- **District 2, Commissioner Tom Wolf:** The Cities of Elko New Market and Prior Lake (precincts 2 and 3); and Cedar Lake, Credit River, New Market, and Spring Lake Townships.
- **District 3, Commissioner Michael Beard:** The City of Shakopee, precincts 1-4, 6-8, 12A, and 12B.
- **District 4, Commissioner Dave Beer:** The Cities of Prior Lake (precincts 1, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, and 7) and Shakopee (precincts 9, 10, 11 and 13).
- **District 5, Commissioner Jon Ulrich:** The City of Savage.

Top of the SCENE

By Gary Shelton
 Scott County Administrator



In all things give thanks

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul says, "Give thanks in all circumstances." To be honest, there have been times in my life when I have thought – you've got to be kidding! Watching my mother struggle for years and eventually succumb to cancer; hearing on my 42nd birthday that my brother had died; and sitting with my wife as her doctor told her that there was nothing they could do to save her right leg from amputation were not circumstances in which I could give thanks. But, over time, I have come to realize that the words of the Apostle Paul to give thanks, even in the midst of great adversity, are keys to healing, forgiveness, and success.

If you really think about it, always giving thanks for everything (no matter the circumstances) can, and will, open your eyes to just how much you have to be thankful for – even when confronted with situations that can be tremendously difficult. My mother's prolonged illness showed me how important she was to me, gave me an opportunity to know her better than I ever had when she was well, and taught me to never take anyone for granted. My brother's sudden and unexpected death brought me and my surviving siblings closer together. And my wife's health issues have made our bond stronger, made us realize just how precious our time together is, and has allowed us to both count and enjoy our many other blessings.

My observation has been that, in today's world, gratitude and thankfulness have become far too scarce. Children forget to thank their parents for all that they do to give them a good life – they take it for granted. Decency and common courtesy are often missing from our daily lives – especially on social media. And not until there is great tragedy do we recognize the genuine good in those around us. In short, we take people for granted, or even complain when they do not meet our expectations. But we need to both recognize and give thanks for those around us—our spouses, our children, our relatives, our friends, and our co-workers all of whom help us in ways seen and unseen every day.

As our celebration of the holiday season continues, I have come to realize that what needs to be taken from Paul's words is that the giving of thanks should not be a once-a-year celebration, but a daily occurrence. For starters, how incredibly lucky are we to have been born in America! A country that is not repressive or degrading, but offers all of us so many incredible opportunities and a way of life that we would never have known in virtually any other country.

My wife and I have had the good fortune of traveling through a number of developing (a.k.a., "Third World") and repressive countries; somewhere in one of these impoverished dictatorships, we realized that we are truly blessed to be Americans. To be able to openly express our views and speak our minds **without fear of imprisonment or retribution** is an incredible, and under-appreciated, privilege. In the United States, those who work hard graduate at the top of their class, become the boss, and maybe even president. If you go for a walk, your lungs will be filled with fresh air from generally clear skies; you can hear both sides of an argument, and not be told what you must think; and you have the freedom to choose, or *not* choose, a religion. In short, we have the luxury of genuine freedom in a land of tremendous economic opportunity – and for that we should give thanks in all circumstances.



Autumn Fare 2017

Seven-year-old Rory Kigin had a wonderful time at this fall's Autumn Fare, partaking in a pie judging contest with Sheriff Luke Hennen, visiting the many vendor booths and exhibits, and snuggling with this adorable kitten. Next year's Autumn Fare will be held on Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018. Mark your calendars!



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www.opentobusinessmn.org
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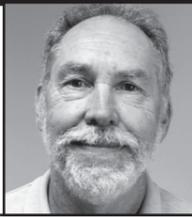
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Environmental SCENE

By Steve Steuber
Environmentalist II



Keep "trash" out of recycling bins

I've been involved in solid waste and recycling for about 20 years at Scott County. Many years ago, when curbside recycling wasn't available in my home town of Fairmont, Minnesota, I would take my newspapers to the mall parking lot on Saturdays where the Boy Scouts would collect them as a way to raise money. There were also a few people who were using an old building down by the railroad tracks on the north side of town where you could take your steel and aluminum cans and bottles for recycling.



Before I left Fairmont in 1990, curbside recycling had been available for about five years. We didn't have to sort as we could put everything in the same container, which we call now "single sort." (For information on where your recyclables go, I wrote an article for the June/July 2016 edition of the *Scott County SCENE* about a Material Recovery Facility [MRF]: <http://www.scottcountymn.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/363>.)

Single sort is pretty much standard now, but it does create some problems. In terms of the volume of recyclables collected, the tonnages are way up compared to when we had to sort everything into smaller bins. So that's a good thing. But unwanted items cause problems at the MRF. The operators of the MRF want clean recyclables that they can sell to other businesses that use these materials to make new products.

So how can we help the MRFs make cleaner bales? Starting in June 2016, representatives from the hauling community, cities, counties, and other regional organizations and associations met to discuss how to improve the quality of recycling through consistent messaging and community outreach. Recognizing the many kinds of recycling messages out there, the Recycling Education Committee (REC) sought to better coordinate on recycling communications and outreach. After a series of meetings, the group identified a set of materials that were universally agreed upon to **always or never be acceptable** for curbside recycling collection. I was asked to be on this committee. Since I am very passionate about recycling, I was very excited to participate.

This committee has been meeting quarterly and, after lots of discussion, it came up with an idea on the top ten items to put in your recycling bin. The committee also created a list of the top ten items not to put in your bin. There will also be pictures for the lists. Just recently, REC shared its lists with the greater community of haulers, counties, cities, MRF owners, and other stakeholders to seek comments and also ask others if they want to be on the committee.

The committee realizes that top ten lists are not one-size fits all. REC has created a Facebook page where all this information will be stored and be available for everyone to use and to provide input. This process will be ever-evolving, as new products come out every day creating new challenges (and opportunities!) for recyclers.

So since those days of taking my newspapers to that truck in the parking lot, recycling has changed a lot -- but for the better. The better we sort our recyclables at home, the better the material will get recycled into new products as it was intended. If you have any questions, I can be contacted at (952) 496-8473 or ssteuber@co.scott.mn.us.

Always recycle in your household bin (containers should be empty, rinsed, and have caps removed):

- steel and aluminum cans
- newspaper and magazines
- office paper and mail
- cardboard
- boxes: food, beverage, toiletries
- glass jars and bottles
- plastic bottles, containers, jugs (#1, 2, 5)
- cartons



Never recycle in your household bin:

- plastic bags
- shredded paper
- "tanglers" (hoses, extension cords, holiday lights, et cetera)
- diapers and pet waste
- hazardous materials (motor oil, propane tanks, et cetera)
- Styrofoam packaging
- egg or ice cream cartons
- medical wastes (sharps, lancets, et cetera)
- scrap metal
- ceramics, mirrors



Editorial Policy

The purpose of this publication is to provide the public with information about Scott County Government and the opportunities it offers its citizens. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Lisa Kohner, Public Affairs Coordinator, at (952) 496-8780 or lkohner@co.scott.mn.us or Claire Robling, Communications and Legislative Coordinator, at (952) 496-8597 or crobbling@co.scott.mn.us.

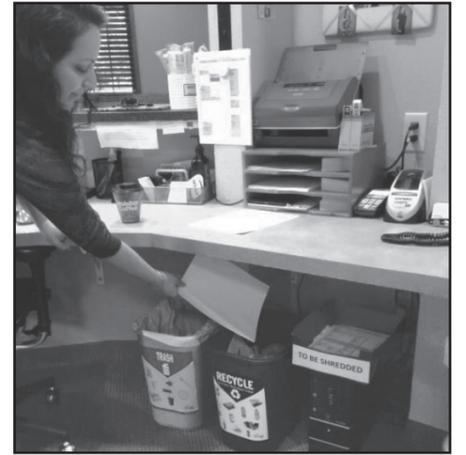
Prior Lake Dental reduces waste, saves money

Waste Wise visited Prior Lake Dental in spring 2017 to help the business reduce waste and increase recycling. At the time of the visit, the building did not have a recycling program through their waste hauler, but dedicated staff had been collecting material to take home for recycling.

This practice worked for a little while, but as the business grew, so did the amount of material that staff had to take home. Ready to find an easier way to recycle, Prior Lake Dental worked with Waste Wise to set up recycling pick-up through their hauler. With the new recycling service came greater capacity to recycle, and in order to make the most of their efforts, the office needed to be equipped with bins so staff could conveniently recycle in all areas of the building. Through the Scott County Business Recycling Grant, Prior Lake Dental obtained free recycling bins and labels.

"It was a pretty easy process," said Melinda Price, the Patient and Financial Coordinator for the office. "We love not having to take our recycling home ourselves. Having our own dumpster and bins has made it easier for us collectively."

With the new improvements, Prior Lake Dental has seen a sizeable increase in their recycling. An estimated 6,394 pounds of additional material is now diverted from the trash each year! Not only are they reducing waste, but they



Prior Lake Dental used a Scott County Business Recycling Grant to obtain free recycling bins. Increased recycling has resulted in \$100 a month in savings for waste removal.

have saved money too: By reducing trash pick-ups, Prior Lake Dental has reduced their waste bill by over \$100 per month.

For more information on possible assistance and funding to improve recycling at your business, church, or other institution, contact Steve Steuber at (952) 496-8473, or consult the recycling business grant information on the Scott County website at www.scottcountymn.gov/1398/Business-Recycling-Grants.

Funding for these grants to businesses comes from SCORE and/or LRD funds provided to the County from the state of Minnesota.

Recycling is a core value for Quad/Graphics

Upon first walking into Quad/Graphics commercial printing plant in Shakopee, it's evident that recycling is a priority for the company. The plant is equipped with containers for recycling plastic film, empty paper rollers, and metals. It also has a compactor for recycling aluminum printing plates, and a baler that turns out large bales of paper scraps for recycling. In fact, Quad/Graphics touts a 99 percent recycling rate!

Last spring, Plant Director Steve Molsather met with Waste Wise to determine if there were opportunities to use Scott County's Business Recycling Grant to take their recycling efforts even further. Steve noted there was one type of material that they needed to find a better recycling solution for: Plastic binding. Much of the company's inbound shipments of materials are packaged in this plastic binding. These long strands of plastic binding become easily tangled and unruly, making it difficult for the recycling company to deal with. Quad/Graphics learned that the recycling company would no longer accept the binding unless it was chopped into smaller pieces.

Waste Wise worked with Quad/Graphics to apply for a Scott County grant to purchase a binding chopper. The chopper cuts the binding into three inch pieces that can easily be collected into a Gaylord Container to be picked up by the recycling company. By obtaining the chopper, Quad/Graphics was able to save 4,200 pounds of plastic binding from going into the landfill each year.

Quad/Graphics also used Scott County grant funding to purchase five new recycling bins to add to areas of the building that did not have them. "Without these, many more recyclable items were ending up in our trash barrels, due to the lack of conveniently placed recycling containers," Steve explained. It's



Quad/Graphics received a Scott County Business Recycling Grant to purchase a chopper that cuts long, unruly strips of plastic binding into smaller pieces for recycling. This kept 4,200 pounds of binding out of the landfill last year.

estimated that the bins divert an additional 2,600 pounds of recyclable material away from the landfill each year.

Steve is pleased with the results of the recent improvements to Quad/Graphics' recycling program. "Doing the right thing is definitely one of our core values, and the grant program helped us do the right thing in continuing to recycle our material properly and avoid sending it to the landfill."

For more information on possible assistance and funding to improve recycling at your business, church, or other institution, contact Steve Steuber at (952) 496-8473, or consult the recycling business grant information on the Scott County website at www.scottcountymn.gov/1398/Business-Recycling-Grants.

Funding for these grants to businesses comes from SCORE and/or LRD funds provided to the County from the State of Minnesota.



The Scott County Fairgrounds has become a popular location for weddings and other events. (Credit: Tony Sou Photography, LLC)

Healthy SCENE

By Lisa Brodsky
Public Health Director



Engage and have your voice heard!

Community engagement is an intentional process of empowering residents to *authentically* engage in and contribute to the planning and implementation of solutions within their own communities. "Authentic" is the key word. Engaging communities means more than informing the public -- it requires having ongoing, two-way conversations. Authentic community engagement is not just about listening to people, it's about *hearing* people... and valuing what is heard. It's about creating opportunities for community members to obtain ownership, power, and authority over their own collective destiny by working with neighbors as decision makers to improve their community.

Community engagement requires a level of uncertainty, risk, and an openness to divergent ideas that can be a little unsettling at times. However, in order to create healthy community change, community engagement is vital and can sometimes create discomfort. This vulnerability is precisely what opens the door to connection, understanding, and empathy — all of which enrich the process of community engagement. Recently, Scott County has worked in tandem with community members and stakeholders to accomplish joint objectives. These include:

2040 Comprehensive Planning: In late summer 2016, Scott County began an effort to discuss key issues with Scott County residents and those employed in Scott County. On-line surveys, pop-up engagement events, and focus groups were conducted. The conversation topics included early education, healthy eating, housing, County parks and trails, active living, transportation, and careers. Conversations around these topics will be used to inform the County's 2040 comprehensive plan, as well as provide insight to the Countywide effort called *50 by 30: Live. Learn. Earn.* The full report can be found at <http://www.scottcountymn.gov/documentcenter/view/8968>.

HealthMatters! On October 24, 2017, about 150 community members gathered to discuss health care access issues and what it means to have a "healthy" community. Initial feedback revealed that community members experience significant language barriers when seeking health care, as well as transportation issues. Solutions suggested included expanding free clinic options as well as providing more education about how to prevent chronic disease. A full report is currently being developed and will be available in December.



Call to Action: Community Conversations about Child Abuse and Neglect: Nearly 70 community members participated in two facilitated conversations about the issue of child abuse and neglect. Participants included residents, social workers, school personnel, child protection workers, foster parents, public health staff, law enforcement, community paramedics and others. The conversations included learning about the scope of the problem in our community, identification of available resources and gaps and an opportunity to help identify community solutions. This information will be used to develop a community strategic plan to address this issue.

Beginning in 2018, Scott County will be conducting several more community conversations as part of the *SCALE Live. Learn. Earn* initiative. These include:

- **Educational preparedness:** Planned for late January 2018, this will focus discussions on how to ensure all children and youth are developmentally on track and gaining the skill sets, mind sets, and content knowledge to succeed.
- **Workforce readiness:** Planned for mid-February, will engage the community in discussions about how to attract more businesses to the County, increase the number of high value jobs, and ensure employees are prepared and have the skill sets, mind sets, and content knowledge skills to take advantage of local employment opportunities.
- **Housing:** Planned for mid-March, this will be a conversation regarding the need for housing options that give people in all life stages and of all economic means viable choices for a safe, stable and affordable home.

Information about these events will be posted on the County's website as it becomes available. Please contact knielsen@livelearnearn.org to learn more.

Authentic community engagement is critical to achieving success in addressing these issues. It offers residents an opportunity to become active leaders. It bridges divides, and builds stronger communities. Your opinion is important, and Scott County is listening.

Forecast: Winter is here, but Fair skies are coming

As night comes so very early on these December evenings, last summer's Scott County Fair seems so long ago. Although we remember the warmth of July when it was still light long into the evening, our thoughts are on the coming holiday season. Still, your Fair staff are already preparing for next year's summer fair.

The Ferris wheel cars have been removed and wrapped in warm blankets, so next year they may provide comfort to Fairgoers when they take them to the stars. The carousel horses are getting a well-deserved break, as they hunker down for a long winter's nap.

Indeed, all the animals that occupied the barns at the fairgrounds in July are home in their own barns, coops, and stalls, safe and warm from Old Man Winter and his friend Jack Frost. But the animals will be back next year, maybe even with a few new faces showing themselves for the first time in the Miracle of Birth Center.

Even though it might not seem like it, winters don't last forever; once again next summer, we will have vendors offering their flavors, musical acts filling the air with their renditions, and roam-

ing performers entertaining us, as we stroll along on a warm summer evening.

Happy holidays everyone from all of us at the Scott County Fair— see you next summer (July 25 - 29)!

Plan your next event at the Scott County Fairgrounds!

- Company and church events and picnics
- Family reunions
- Weddings
- Graduations
- Birthday parties
- Agricultural and horse events

There are many options for rent, including a permanent, newly restored carousel; open areas; buildings; a grandstand; an arena; picnic shelters; and plenty of parking. The beautiful 32-foot gazebo and patio with fountain are very popular for weddings. Call or stop by the Fair office to talk about details of your next event: (952) 492-2436. Let your fun begin at the beautiful 80-acre Fairgrounds! Check it out at <http://www.scottcountyfair.org/off-season/rental-space/>.

Master Gardeners offer free library class series

The Scott-Carver Master Gardeners will once again present a series of classes at the Prior Lake and Shakopee Libraries. Classes are *free* of charge and no registration is necessary.

All classes start at 6:30 p.m.
Prior Lake Library, 16210 Eagle Creek Avenue
Shakopee Library, 235 S. Lewis

Underused Vegetables (Prior Lake, Feb. 25; Shakopee, Feb. 26)
Have you grown tomatoes and cucumbers, but are now looking for something more adventurous to add to your vegetable garden? Please join us in exploring some underused, maybe even unusual, vegetable varieties for your 2018 garden.

"Growing Up: A Fresh Look at Vertical Gardening" (Prior Lake, March 4; Shakopee, March 5)
Running out of garden space? Join us for some new, fun, and creative vertical ideas for your gardens. We will cover vines (of course) along with containers and structures that will take up little of your precious landscape square footage. Although this class

will concentrate on ornamentals, we will touch on a few veggies that can be manipulated for space savings.

Lawn Care: Keeping the "green" on your lawn, in your pocket and out of our waterways! (Prior Lake, March 18; Shakopee, March 12)

Come discuss some basic methods to help keep your lawn healthy, better able to withstand extreme weather, reduce some overall costs, and have your lawn benefit the environment as well as your own curb appeal.

Extreme Gardening: Perennials for Dry or Wet Spots (Prior Lake, March 25; Shakopee, March 19)

With extreme weather becoming more frequent, gardeners would do well to plan gardens that flourish with little water. And if you have a soggy spot, let us help you choose plants that will thrive in moist soil. Let your soil type and the level of moisture determine what you plant.

Two additional classes in the series will be held in April. Topics include **Shrubs: Not Just Foundation Plantings** and **Trees**.

Save the Date

20th Annual Garden Fever

Theme: *Back to Nature, Back to Basics*

Saturday, March 3, 2018

New Location: Chaska Event Center, County Road 41 and old Hwy. 212

Check our website for more information

www.carverscottmastergardeners.org

Legal SCENE

By Ron Hocevar
Scott County Attorney



Domestic violence way too common

Last month, I had the opportunity to provide a donation on behalf of the Scott County Attorney's Office (SCAO) to the Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women (SVABW). This important organization provides crisis support, advocacy, and education to victims of domestic violence and their children. SVABW partners with law enforcement, county legal systems (including the SCAO), and care providers of Scott and Carver counties to make them a better place to live. SVABW and the Scott County Attorney's Office Victim Services personnel work closely with each other in supporting victims and assisting them through the criminal justice system.

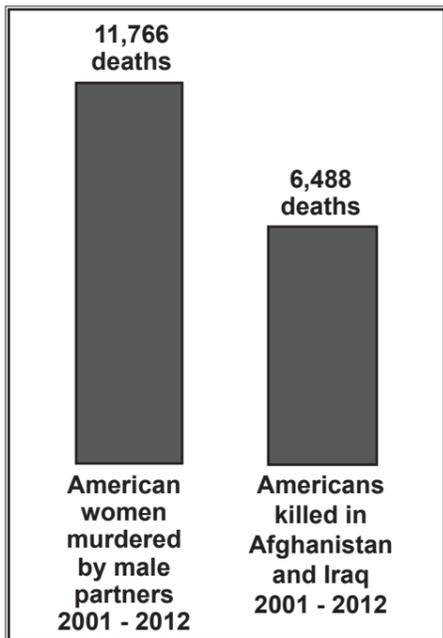
As you can imagine, being a victim of an assault, rape, or other crime perpetrated by a husband, boyfriend, someone you loved... maybe still love... or the father of your children would be extremely upsetting, to say the least. Now that victim faces the prospect of not having a home, not having the breadwinner in the home, not being able to pay the bills, and no help with the children, just to name a few of the obstacles a victim may



County Attorney Ron Hocevar (at right) and his staff work closely with Mary Ann Bigaouette and her staff from the Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women. The County Attorney's Office recently provided a \$7,000 check to the SVABW to help provide victim services.

face. On top of that, a victim is then told she has to take the witness stand and testify in front of a group of strangers and in the presence of the individual she thought she loved (and likely still loves) about what happened to her. SVABW and the employees in my office, together, assist that victim during that process and make it as comfortable as possible.

Domestic violence is never acceptable, and -- by any measure -- is far too prevalent. To put it in perspective: The number of American troops killed in Afghanistan and Iraq between 2001 and 2012 was 6,488; the number of American women who were murdered by current or former male partners during that same time was 11,766. Every day in the United States, three women are murdered by their current or former male partners. In Minnesota, from 2013 - 2016, at least 81 women have died from domestic violence. (The term "at least" is used due to the statistics relying on public records, and not all records will



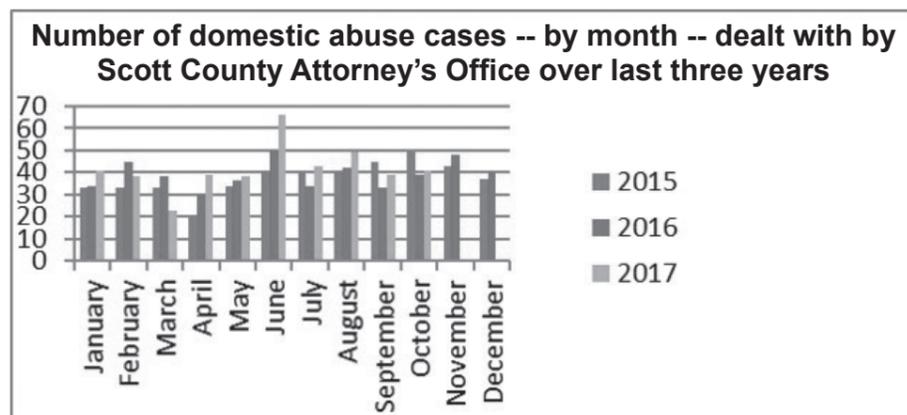
reflect the relationship of the parties involved. Certain segments of the population will go unreported in the mainstream media.)

Unfortunately, while writing this article, the SCAO charged Sergey Balandin with second-degree murder for allegedly killing his girlfriend in the home they shared in Shakopee. Balandin's girlfriend was the third woman killed in an act of domestic violence in the Twin Cities over the very week he was charged.

In 2015, the SVABW worked on 498 Scott County cases of domestic violence. In 2016, that number was 472; and as of October of 2017, that number is 423. These numbers do not include the cases arising out of Carver County, which SVABW also services.

The SCAO deals with many of the same victims as SVABW, but not all. The SCAO only deals with the victims in which the incident has been reported to law enforcement. Many victims of domestic violence will go to SVABW for help, but may choose not to report to law enforcement, and a great many don't seek help at all. In the chart provided below, you can see the numbers, by year and month, of the incidents the SCAO and the victim advocate in this office deal with.

Why don't some victims seek help from organizations such as SVABW, law enforcement, friends, or other family members? Simply stated, they feel they should



SmartLink provides door-to-door service. Call ahead for a reservation. Weekend and evening rides are now available.

Any County resident can reserve a ride on SmartLink Transit

Did you know the SmartLink buses are available for *anyone* to ride? SmartLink staff recently discovered that many residents in Scott County don't realize the SmartLink buses running about town are available for everyone to ride. That's right -- anyone can call to schedule a ride!

Keep in mind the buses are not a taxi service, but rather a reservation-based bus service available for anyone who may not have access to a vehicle or a reliable ride to their destination. Generally, reservations are booked two to seven days in advance, and service includes door-to-door pick up and drop off. Dial-A-Ride is an affordable transportation option for individuals and families needing to get to their appointments, meetings, jobs, and even shopping destinations such as grocery, clothing, and hardware stores, and many more places throughout Scott and Carver Counties.

Here is an example where SmartLink was a great option for a local family with one vehicle. Cindy and Joe are Shakopee residents with two children, ages 3 and 4. Joe works full time, and uses the family car to travel back and forth to work each day; this leaves Cindy, a stay-at-home mom, with the challenge of finding other transportation options when she does not have access to their car. Recently, Cindy scheduled medical check-ups for her children and was not able to find a friend or family member to give them a ride on their appointment day or time. Cindy had heard about SmartLink, had often seen the buses around town, but had never used the service. Cindy called SmartLink Customer Service to inquire about a ride for her and her children to the clinic. She was very happy to find out that SmartLink was not only able to pick her and her two children up at her home, but that children 5 and under ride *free* on the SmartLink bus. Cindy, who enthusiastically confirmed that she'd use the service again, commented, "It was easier

than I thought and very affordable, I just didn't know I could use the bus."

Benefits of riding the SmartLink bus:

- **It's easy to book a ride!** Just call Customer Service to schedule your ride. They will need to know your pick up and drop off location, and how long you anticipate being there. Customer Service can be reached at (952) 496-8341, extension 1.
- **SmartLink provides door-to-door service!** Our bus will pick you up anywhere in Scott County and deliver to your destination.
- **It's a great option for those without a vehicle** or reliable transportation.
- **Our buses run anywhere** in Scott and Carver Counties.
- We have **new weekend hours** on Saturday and Sunday in Scott County (7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) and available weeknights until 9 p.m.
- **Affordable fares are based on time of day with "peak" and "off-peak" rates:**

Hours and fares
6 – 9 a.m. and 3 - 6:30 p.m.,
\$4.50 each way

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.,
\$3.50 each way
(A 75 cent distance surcharge will apply to trips greater than 15 miles.)

New this year:
Weeknights (6:30-9 p.m.)
Weekends
(7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

bear the burden of domestic violence alone. Domestic violence can tear families apart and destroy lives. Having been involved on the legal end of domestic violence for over 20 years, it is my opinion that a great many cases of domestic violence go unreported. The reasons for not reporting and remaining quiet are many -- the main reason being fear. Fear of retaliation, fear of being alone, fear of losing the main income producer, fear of being homeless, fear of being the only parent, et cetera. Additionally, victims of domestic violence can be prone to depression, anxiety, and substance abuse disorders. The longer the violence goes on, the more withdrawn and isolated the victim will become.

If anyone should become suspicious of a family member or friend being involved in a domestic violence environment, don't sit back and say it's "none of my business." Do what you can to make sure that person doesn't become another statistic in a domestic violence homicide report.

Follow me on Facebook @C.A.Hocevar & Twitter @rhocevar1



A large group from New Prague came to celebrate the second chance at life given to Matt Church by New Prague School staff and first responders. Church (front, second from left) is pictured with his wife (at his left), and children (at his right). Not pictured are Deputy Ben Koestner and Officer Dean Duban.



Steven Mohs and his wife Marlene expressed gratitude to Prior Lake Firefighter Tyler Fink (left), and Prior Lake Police Officer Scott Johnson for saving Mohs' life. Officer Matt Nardo not pictured.



Scott County Sheriff Luke Hennen (at left) presented awards to Deputies Vadim Romanets and Jacob Lannon for saving the life of Matt Logeais (second from left).

Celebrating lives saved!

Lifesavers receive awards, gratitude from those they rescued

The lives of three individuals who were experiencing full cardiac arrest were saved during the past year by citizens and first responders who came to their aid. To recognize their service, the lifesavers were presented with the Morris Miller Health Hero Award at the Nov. 7 Scott County Board meeting. The award was named in honor of the late Morris A. Miller, who was highly respected in the Emergency Medical Service community and had worked diligently for many years in the area of pre-hospital care in Scott County and throughout the metro area. His achievements in the realm of public service established the goals and objectives of the awards presented each year by Scott County.

The men whose lives were saved, some family members, and those being honored attended the presentation where Scott County Sheriff Luke Hennen, New Prague Police Chief Jim Gareis, and Prior Lake Police Chief Mark Elliot presented the awards and told the stories of the rescues.

Hennen reported that Matt Logeais is alive and well today thanks to the quick actions of citizens and

emergency responders who assisted him when he had a cardiac arrest on July 18 while coaching his son's baseball team at the Thomas Ryan Memorial Park in Prior Lake. Before Deputies Vadim Romanets and Jacob Lannon arrived, citizens had begun life saving measures. The deputies continued Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and applied an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to restore Logeais' pulse and breathing.

Gareis reported that Matt Church collapsed while playing basketball at New Prague High School on April 18. Bystanders called 911 and school staff members Colin Shepp and Michael Bartusek began performing CPR and applied an AED. Emergency responders arrived at the scene, including New Prague Police Officer Dean Duban and Scott County Deputy Ben Koestner. CPR was continued by the officers, along with North Memorial Medics Pam Schoenbauer and Kirsten Eue. After the fourth AED shock was administered, a pulse was confirmed and Church began breathing before being transported. Church has recovered and is living at home with his family.

Elliot reported that Steven Mohs survived a full cardiopulmonary arrest thanks to Prior Lake Firefighter Tyler Fink and Prior Lake Police Officers Matt Nardo and Scott Johnson. On July 9, a 911 emergency call was initiated for a bicyclist found down along a roadside in Credit River Township. Prior Lake Police Officers Nardo and Johnson responded as mutual aid and formed a resuscitation team, deploying both their AED and the resQPUMP system. Aided by off duty first responder and firefighter Fink, they rapidly defibrillated the patient while providing blood circulation and respirations with resQPUMP system. Mohs has made a complete recovery.

The resQPUMP system was donated and trained by St. Francis Medical Center and Allina Health EMS, respectively. Two of the lives were saved with AEDs donated by the Mdewakanton LIFE program – a program which donates AEDs to organizations in need.

FAST-TRACK Business Challenge winners named

Four finalists from across Scott County provided exceptional business pitches to a panel of five judges on Oct. 26 at the *FAST-TRACK* Business Challenge event, which was held in Savage's City Council Chambers. Each presenter or team of presenters provided information on their unique business product or service, their market, potential sales, and projected employment in Scott County. Following the pitches, a question and answer segment, and the judges' deliberation, the following winners were announced:

FAST-TRACK Challenge first place

Ion Concert Media, Inc. received the top honor and over \$8,000 worth of services and cash for being selected as the first place winner in the inaugural *FAST-TRACK* Business Challenge event. Scott Winters, CEO, and Dr. J. Anthony Allen, CTO, presented information on their software-based media platform that allows live event producers to sync digital files to their performance, while allowing artists to control, share, and monetize their digital show elements. Ion Concert Media,



Scott Winters and Dr. J. Anthony Allen of Ion Concert Media, Inc., took first place in the competition.

Inc.'s market was described as the live entertainment industry, with applications in pop and rock, classical music, education, theater and more. The company is based in Belle Plaine. For more information on Ion Concert Media, Inc. visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66vUUOcsEV4>.

FAST-TRACK Challenge second place

ZIET, LLC. was awarded second place, and approximately \$6,000 worth of services and cash. Mr. Douglas Zietlow, CEO, explained that ZIET, LLC. (d.b.a. Zietlow Innovative Engineering & Technology) conducts engineering research and development and industrial process engineering consulting. ZIET, LLC is the sole owner of a U.S. Patent for Synthetic Coal Cycle Technology™ (synCCT™), a sustainable, carbon-neutral energy conversion and storage process that has significant advantages over batteries and other existing energy storage technologies. They are developing and commercializing synCCT™ for specific applications, including extended manned space missions and wind en-

ergy conversion. The company is based in Savage.

Selected from a pool of applicants, finalists **SafeCup** and **Catboxpro** also impressed the judges and committee with their business plans and presentations. Watch for the continued development of these products and businesses!

Scott County's First Stop Shop and Prior Lake Technology Village would like to thank the *FAST-TRACK* sponsors and service providers who donated cash and business services as prizes packages for the winners of the events. These include **Argos Risk**, **design-a-tivity**, **Fox Tracks**, **KC Haugen Law**, **New Market Bank**, **State Bank of Belle Plaine**, and the *Open to Business* program.

The quality of the business ideas, research conducted and superior presentations illustrates the strong entrepreneurial spirit in Scott County. In 2017, hundreds of new Scott County-based businesses have been registered with the Secretary of State's office. The *FAST-*

TRACK Challenge, Prior Lake's Technology Village, and Scott County's First Stop Shop's sponsorship of the *Open to Business* program are just a few of the resources available to help these entrepreneurs succeed.

Gerry Hughes, Chairman of Board of Directors of Technology Village, explained, "We are now moving into the next phase of expanding the business incubator program to a County-wide program. One of the methods of identifying additional entrepreneurs was the development of the *FAST-TRACK* Challenge. We were very encouraged by the strong interest in the Challenge from start-up businesses throughout Scott County."

For more information on next year's *FAST-TRACK* Business Challenge, Technology Village and its programs, or *Open to Business*, please contact Jo Foust at (952) 496-8830 or via email at jfoust@scottfss.org. You can also visit www.technologyvillage.net, www.scottfss.org, or www.opentobusinessmn.org.



Douglas and Felice Zietlow of Zietlow, LLC, were the second place finishers in the *FAST-TRACK* Business Challenge.



The panel of judges for the *FAST-TRACK* Challenge (pictured from left to right) included Representative Bob Vogel, who also serves as Chairman/CEO of New Market Bank; Prior Lake Mayor Kirt Briggs, who has 30 years of experience in health care; Charles Shannon, VP of Corporate Development for Equus Holdings; Paul Gatz, President/CEO of State Bank of Belle Plaine; and Lisa Bradley, Co-founder of R. Riveter and a Shark Tank participant who walked away with a deal from Mark Cuban. R. Riveter was just listed as one of Inc. 500's fastest growing private companies. Patrick Stroh moderated the event, and Jo Foust was the emcee.



in partnership with



The Partnership

The Scott County-Three Rivers Park District Partnership operates under a Joint Powers Agreement that combines resources to collectively operate all regional parks and trails in Scott County.

Making the most of winter

Cure cabin fever this winter by getting outside and getting active at parks in Scott County. Not sure what to do or where to begin? Here are some ideas for winter adventures that won't stress your wallet.

Cross-country skiing is one of the most popular ways to explore the parks, take in the crisp winter air, and get a low-impact workout. Cleary Lake Regional Park offers ski rentals and 6 miles of beginner-level trails. Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve has 9 miles of challenging, hilly trails great for advanced skiers.

For another great workout, put on a pair of snowshoes and enjoy the silent beauty of the parks on a winter's day. If you have snowshoes, this is a free activity you can do whenever you choose at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve and Cleary Lake Regional Park. Otherwise, rentals are available at Cleary.

If gliding along the ice is more your speed, try kicksledding! It's easy to learn — stand up and hold onto the sled while propelling yourself with one foot, then smoothly glide along the ice. Give it a try at the Kicksled Adventure program on Saturday, February 17, at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park; see page 10 for more information. Families, scouts, schools, and other groups of 10-20 people can book a private kicksled program by calling 763.694.7717.

Winter fat biking also is growing in popularity. Cleary Lake Regional Park is hosting a Fat Bike Fun Race on Saturday, January 27, with free demos of skis, snowshoes, kicksleds and fat bikes available; see page 10 for more information.

Visit ThreeRiversParks.org/activities for more information about these and other winter adventures available in parks within Scott County and across Three Rivers. Some activities may require purchase of a daily or annual pass.

parks

Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park

25875 Juniper Avenue, New Prague, MN 56071
Phone: 763.694.7777
Hours: 5 AM–10 PM

Located on the south shore of Cedar Lake near New Prague, Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park has family and group picnicking, catered events, swimming, and year-round hiking and fishing. New enhancements include a 1-mile paved trail to the lake, improved canoe launch and expanded beach.

Cleary Lake Regional Park

18106 Texas Avenue, Prior Lake, MN 55372
Phone: 763.694.7777
Hours: 5 AM–10 PM

This park is one of the most popular year-round recreation spots in the south metro. Amenities include a 9-hole golf course, campground, picnic area, and swimming beach. Enjoy cross-country ski, fat bike, and hiking trails, leashed dog walking, skijoring, snowshoeing, and dog off-leash areas. This beautiful park has something for everyone.

The Landing

2187 Highway 101 East, Shakopee, MN 55379
Phone: 763.694.7784
Hours: November–March: Mon.–Fri.: 10 AM–4 PM (self-guided tours only)
December 2–23: Sat. 10 AM–4 PM, Sun. 11 AM–4 PM (closed Sat. and Sun. January–March)

Nestled on the Minnesota River near Shakopee, The Landing – Minnesota River Heritage Park (formerly Historic Murphy's Landing) interprets how people have connected with the Minnesota River Valley and the surrounding cultural and natural resources. Discover how 19th-century Minnesotans established their lives on the frontier, farmsteads and in villages. Historical buildings are laid out as a timeline from the pre-territorial era through the late 1800s. Explore the grounds by yourself using interpretive media or while costumed interpreters bring the past alive during Folkways of the Holidays (see Page 10).

Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve

15501 Murphy Lake Road, Savage, MN 55378, Phone: 763.694.7777
Hours: 5 AM–10 PM

The peaceful wilderness at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve in northeast Scott County features glacial ridges, hilly terrain and an extensive lush forest. This is one of the most challenging cross-country ski areas in the Twin Cities and a favorite spot for mountain bikers. Visitors enjoy hiking and leashed dog walking; snowshoers, skijorers, and horseback riders. With the exception of the trails and the new 3-acre dog off-leash area, the park reserve remains undeveloped, making it the best park in Three Rivers for birdwatchers to spot woodland songbirds. This park has also been designated an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.

Spring Lake Regional Park

15851 Howard Lake Road, Prior Lake, MN 55372, Phone: 763.694.7777
Hours: Sunrise–10 PM daily

This regional park includes 4.4 miles of paved trails, a 9-acre fenced dog park, and 1 acre small dog park. Rolling hills, woods, and meadows provide a great experience for walkers, bikers, and in-line skaters.



2018 Facility Reservations

Opens Tuesday, January 2.



Summer Camp Registration

Cedar Lake Farm, Cleary Lake and The Landing
Opens Tuesday, January 23.



Youth Golf Lesson Registration

Cleary Lake—Opens Tuesday, February 27



2017–18 Park Improvements

For complete updates visit ThreeRiversParks.org keyword "Construction Projects".

event calendar



CEDAR LAKE FARM REGIONAL PARK NEW PRAGUE

KICKSLED ADVENTURE

Explore the ice on a kicksled and look for signs of animals. If weather conditions are poor, we will hike instead and enjoy a campfire with s'mores. Reservations required. \$8. Ages: 3+.

February 17 — Saturday #1REC6165-01
1-2:30 PM

BEGINNER ICE FISHING

Discuss equipment and basic ice and cold water safety, and try your luck at one of Minnesota's favorite winter pastimes. Reservations required. \$8. Ages: 6+.

February 17 — Saturday #1REC5400-01
3:30-5:30 PM

CLEARY LAKE REGIONAL PARK PRIOR LAKE

* BEGINNER SNOWSHOEING

Enjoy this Minnesota winter sport with a scenic, guided hike. Equipment provided. We will hike if no snow. Reservations required. \$5. Ages: 8+.

December 22 — Friday #1REC6150-01
3-4:30 PM

FULL MOON SNOWSHOE

Explore winter signs and sounds under the light of the full moon. Equipment provided. We will hike if no snow. Reservations required. \$5. Ages: 6+.

December 29 — Friday #1REC0220-01
6-8 PM

FAT BIKE FUN RACE

Grab your fat bike for a circuit-style race on a 12-foot-wide packed trail. The 5K beginner race starts at 1:15 PM; 10K action race starts at 2:15 PM; prize drawing at 3:30 PM. Limited number of rental bikes available; call 763.694.7777 to reserve. Food concessions available. Open to the first 50 racers. \$12 pre-registration; \$15 day-of. Ages: All.

Register: ThreeRiversParks.org/events
January 27 — Saturday
1-4 PM

* FAMILY SNOWSHOEING WITH HOT COCOA

Explore snow banks, search for animal tracks and warm up with hot cocoa afterwards. Equipment provided. We will hike if no snow. Reservations required by two days prior. \$6. Ages: 4+.

February 2 — Friday #1REC6155-01
4-5:30 PM

INTRODUCTION TO FAT BIKING

Learn to fat bike on beginner winter terrain. Equipment provided. Reservations required. \$15. Ages: 10+.

February 10 — Saturday
2:30-3:30 PM #1REC5150-01
3:30-4:30 PM #1REC5150-02

MURPHY-HANREHAN PARK RESERVE SAVAGE

FROZEN FROLIC FAT BIKE RACE

Challenge yourself in a time trial format racing a 10- to 14-mile singletrack loop through trees and snow after sundown. Warm up at the trailhead after for awards, door prizes and good times. Divisions include men's, women's, and U-17. Additional races at Elm Creek and Lake Rebecca Park Reserves. Helmets and mounted bike lights required. Race starts at 6:30 PM. Make-up date is February 21. \$15 pre-registration; \$20 day-of; \$50 for all four races. Ages: 14+.

Register: ThreeRiversParks.org/events
December 20 — Wednesday
5:30-8:30 PM

* BEGINNER SNOWSHOEING

Enjoy this Minnesota winter sport with a scenic, guided hike. Equipment provided. We will hike if no snow. Reservations required. \$5. Ages: 8+.

January 26 — Friday #1REC6150-21
4-5:30 PM

* FAMILY SNOWSHOEING WITH S'MORES

Explore snow banks, search for animal tracks and warm up with a campfire and s'mores afterwards. Equipment provided. We will hike if no snow. Reservations required by two days prior. \$6. Ages: 4+.

February 10 — Saturday #1REC6156-01
9-10:30 AM

THE LANDING MINNESOTA RIVER HERITAGE PARK SHAKOPEE

FOLKWAYS OF THE HOLIDAYS

Discover the holiday traditions of 19th-century Minnesotans. Watch folk art performances, ride a horse-drawn trolley, and tour homes with culturally-distinct decorations and crafts. Dress for the weather. Great for scouts working on badge requirements. Walk-ins welcome; last admission at 3 PM. \$8 ages 18-64; \$5 ages 2-17 and 65+; children under 2 free. Ages: All.

Register: ThreeRiversParks.org/events
December 2-23
Saturdays, 10 AM-4 PM
Sundays, 11 AM-4 PM

MY PRESCHOOLER & ME: EARLY EXPLORERS

Explore historic Eagle Creek with your child. Play games, sing, and read stories as new themes are investigated each month. Reservations required. \$5/person. Ages: 2-5, plus adult.

Tuesdays, 10-11:30 AM
Fuzzy Furs
December 12 #1LAN0100-01

Whose Tracks Are Those?
January 9 #1LAN0100-02

I Love Winter
February 13 #1LAN0100-03

FOLKWAYS BY CANDLELIGHT

Take a candlelit stroll through the 1800s Eagle Creek Village. Greet costumed residents as they share holiday traditions, watch the Christmas Pageant in the Town Hall at 6:30 PM, and enjoy music by pianist Renae Williams. Enter through the West Entrance. Dress for the weather and an evening stroll. Walk-ins welcome; last admission at 7:30 PM. \$8 ages 18-64; \$5 ages 2-17 and 65+; children under 2 free. Ages: All.

Register: ThreeRiversParks.org/events
December 15 — Friday
5-8:30 PM

FOLKWAYS WINTER BREAK CAMP

Leave the adults at home and experience the holiday traditions of 19th-century Minnesotans. Bake holiday treats on a wood-burning stove and make traditional decorations. Explore the winter landscape on snowshoes and kicksleds. Reservations required. \$155/three sessions. Ages: 6-12.

December 26-28 #1LAN2550-01
Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM

SNOWSHOE WHEN THE MOON IS FULL

Explore the woods and creeks of the Minnesota River Valley on traditional wooden snowshoes. Beginners welcome. Equipment provided. Reservations required. \$5. Ages: 10+.

January 31 — Wednesday #1LAN0250-01
March 2 — Friday #1LAN0250-02
6-9 PM

Snowshoe When the Sun Is Shining
February 17 — Saturday #1LAN6150-01
Noon-3 PM

NEW REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Three Rivers has a new online experience and registration system. Explore your home to the outdoors at ThreeRiversParks.org/programs and create a new account to register for programs.

FOR ASSISTANCE CALL
763.559.6700

TWO-TIER SKI PASS PROGRAM

A two-tier cross-country ski pass program will be available this season:

- **All Parks Pass:** required at Elm Creek and Hyland and valid at all Three Rivers parks with cross-country skiing. Season pass \$75 + tax, daily \$9 + tax.
- **Natural Snow Parks Pass:** valid at Three Rivers parks with cross-country skiing, except Elm Creek and Hyland. Season pass \$55, daily \$6 + tax.

Visit ThreeRiversParks.org for more details or to purchase your season pass online.



VALENTINE'S FAMILY FUN

Celebrate Valentine's Day, the outdoors, and Lincoln's birthday. Make a Victorian Valentine's card, ride a kick-sled, and snowshoe. Tour Eagle Creek Village, hear stories about Lincoln, and assemble kid-sized log cabins. Warm up with a hot beverage. Walk-ins welcome; last admission at 2 PM. \$8; children under 2 free. Ages: All.

February 10 — Saturday #1LAN0300-01
10 AM-3 PM

VICTORIAN VALENTINE'S DINNER

Listen to romantic piano melodies while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and dinner. Visit several buildings on a candlelit stroll and try different desserts. Cozy up to a fire with your sweetheart and enjoy breathtaking views of the Minnesota River. Bring a bottle of wine or beer — must be 21 or older. Reservations required by February 5. \$45/person. Ages: 18+.

February 10 — Saturday #1LAN0305-01
6-9 PM

OFFSITE

@ NEW PRAGUE AQUATICS CENTER

410 Central Avenue N, New Prague

BEGINNER LOG ROLLING

Improve balance, agility, concentration and core strength by trying a sport rooted in the history of the logging era in the Midwest. Reservations required. \$10. Ages: 5+.

February 23 — Friday #1REC5750-01
5:30-6:30 PM

@ NEW PRAGUE GOLF COURSE

400 Lexington Avenue S, New Prague

FAMILY SNOWSHOEING

Explore snow banks and search for animal tracks. Equipment provided. We will hike if no snow. Reservations required. \$6. Ages: 4+.

January 25 — Thursday #1REC6157-01
4-5:30 PM

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

763.559.6700
ThreeRiversParks.org
Mon. - Fri. 8 AM-5 PM

Scholarship Information
Applications are considered on the basis of financial need and funds available. Call for details.

Refunds and cancellations
Check your receipt for applicable refund policies. Programs will take place snow or shine. If a program is canceled by park staff, you will be notified and refunded accordingly.

* GROUP PROGRAM DISCOUNTS

Groups of four or more individuals can receive a 20% discount on any program with an asterisk (*) in the title. To receive the discount:

- Entire group must pay related fees at the same time.
- If reservations are not required, ask for the discount when you arrive at the program.





Quality youth programs lead to success

By Ian Marquez, 4-H Program Coordinator

Which is more desirable, *quality* or *quantity*? The Minnesota 4-H program has been researching this issue. Research has shown that a child who has a poor experience in a badly designed or delivered program does more harm to that child than if they did not participate at all. Knowing this, Minnesota 4-H has been training and designing around *quality*. Current research on youth program quality tells us:

- **Quality matters.** High quality youth programs are linked to a positive impact on the development of young people. Conversely, youth in poor quality programs are worse off than some youth in self-care.
- **Quality can be measured.** Observational tools measure relationships, environment, engagement, social norms, skill building opportunities, and program structure.
- **We don't have enough.** Youth organizations need to invest resources in improving quality in order to achieve desired impacts on youth.



Minnesota 4-H invested in an approach aimed at building staff and volunteer capacity to observe, measure, and coach program quality. Quality was defined in the *Weikart Center's Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA)* tool, which focuses on four large areas: safe environment, supportive environment, interaction, and engagement. The YPQA tool highlights that quality matters the most where young people and adults meet in a setting called the "point of service."

Youth want to be a part of something meaningful. They want an opportunity to develop a sense of self identity, to be accepted by their peers, and to be considered a member of a group (*Eccles & Gootman, 2003*). Young people yearn for a sense of belonging and the feeling that they are competent in ways that are meaningful both to them and others (*Miller, 2003*). When youth feel they belong, they are more responsible, feel more confident, and have a better attitude toward school (*Eccles & Gootman, 2003*).

A quality youth program values the contributions of youth and provides opportunities for youth to be a part of the group (*Roth & Brooks-Gunn, 2000*). Quality youth programs recognize the power of peer influences; high quality programs allow for those friendships, and provide opportunities for youth to belong to both small groups and larger ones as well.

Some characteristics of a quality club include:

- Promotes member development, not competition.
- Changes *how* youth do things, not *what* they do (firm yet flexible).
- Works hard and plays hard.
- Empowers young people.
- Provides communication with and listening to young people.
- Balances firmness with flexibility.
- Has people who affirm and support one another.
- Uses a mentoring system to help new members.
- Values and practices service to other.
- Takes time for training.
- Recognizes that each person brings skills and talents to the group to help achieve the larger goal of the group (*Astroth, K., 1997*).

Scott County 4-H Clubs provide youth with a space to build, connect, and learn through participation in quality programs as well community clubs. In these spaces, along with positive adult interaction and the youth taking charge in their experience, Scott County 4-H helps develop our future leaders. Currently, Scott County has seven community clubs to choose from as well as three project clubs and after-school activities in which to participate. For more information on how to participate, contact the Scott County Extension office at (952) 492-5410.

Source: Brian McNeill

Donors sought for Youth Teaching Youth programs

Today's youth are growing up in a very complex world. Parents try to teach their children to do the right thing and develop a strong value system, but outside pressures have strong persuasion powers. Parents and communities need other sources to help teach children how to make the right choices.

The University of Minnesota Scott County 4-H *Youth Teaching Youth* programs provide resources to help youth make healthy life choices. The program focuses on two major curricula made available to elementary schools: **Alcohol and Tobacco Decisions**, which is a program for 4th and 5th graders; and **Internet Safety**, which teaches 5th graders about being a responsible and respectful digital citizen.

There is a small fee of \$2 per student (an average of \$50 per classroom) to have the high school teen teachers visit one hour once a week for three consecu-

tive weeks. Scott County 4-H is seeking donations to help fund classroom scholarships.

If you're interested in learning more about the program or how you can donate, please contact Sara Wagner at the Scott County office of the University of Minnesota Extension in Jordan at (952) 492-5388 or dunc0088@umn.edu.

Thank you to our 2016-2017 donors that allowed many classrooms to continue programing and allowed over 100 high school teen teachers to complete training and be positive role models to younger members in their community: **Shakopee** – American Legion Aux #2, Shakopee Rotatory Club, Shakopee Eagle's Club

Jordan – Jordan Transformer
Scott County – MN 4-H Foundation, Scott County Pork Producers, Fairmount Santrol, Lions Tap



4-H youth attend leadership retreat

During the MEA school break in October, 19 Scott County 4-Hers in 6-12th grade attended a Fall Youth Leadership Retreat with 60 other teens from the Central Region to learn and practice leadership skills, communication, and develop their leadership resumé. They also learned how to develop a positive social media footprint and to advocate for diversity and inclusion. These skills are tools 4-H youth need to prepare for a rapidly changing world and workforce as they prepare to enter adulthood. Pictured are (back row, L-R): Ian Marquez, 4-H Program Coordinator; C.J. Younger, Shakopee; Bailey Kerkow, Lydian Struffert, and Martha Steinhagen, all of Belle Plaine; Jack Clausen, Himani Joshi, and Catherine McComas-Bussa, all of Shakopee; (middle row, L-R) Logan Biren, New Prague; Grace Wartman and Teagan Bauschke, Shakopee; Greta Steinhagen, Belle Plaine; Maria Braun, Savage; Savannah Berg, Carver; (first row, L-R) Sara Wagner, 4-H Program Coordinator; Natalie Biren, and Amanda Duferson, both of New Prague; Anna Clausen, Anna Yun, and Josh Clausen, all of Shakopee; and (lying in front) Peter Braun, Savage.

4-H volunteer recognized

Jennifer Klecker of Shakopee is the 4-H Volunteer of the Month! Jennifer is an amazing volunteer, giving back to her community by being a co-club leader of the Shakopee Super Seekers, adult rabbit superintendent for the Animal Livestock Project Development Committee (PDC), and Extension Advisory

Committee chair. Jennifer is always looking for ways to pass on the information she has learned to help younger 4-H members. Thank you, Jennifer, for all you give to the Scott County 4-H program. Without our amazing volunteers we would not be able to have a positive impact on the youth in Scott County!

Baking with children can be fun, educational

For some families, it's common for kids to help in the kitchen. For other families, holiday baking might be the only time kids spend cooking. So, with the holidays in mind, here are some suggestions to get enthused about cooking and baking together.

Keep a sense of humor when you work with kids in the kitchen. Begin with talking about family food traditions; children love to hear about what adults did or didn't like to eat as children.

Plan ahead and choose foods the kids can easily help make. Don't choose that caramel recipe that, while delicious, is tricky to make. Have the kids help make the grocery list and plan their role in the baking. Anticipation is part of the excitement!

Consider the ages of your children. Preschoolers have shorter attention spans and like instant results. Have them do simple things like rolling dough into balls, sprinkling decorations, or stirring foods. Elementary-age kids are capable of more involved tasks. With supervision, they can measure ingredients, use a mixer, and help take things out of the oven. Older children can do the whole task with only minor supervision.

Structure the activity. Think ahead to the steps and have some of that planned out, especially with the very young children.

Determine upfront how much mess you are willing to tolerate. This is the thing that probably stops many parents from having their kids cook or bake. Children need to learn that clean-up is part of kitchen duty, so delegate accordingly. No parent should be stuck with the entire clean-up job if it has been a family activity!



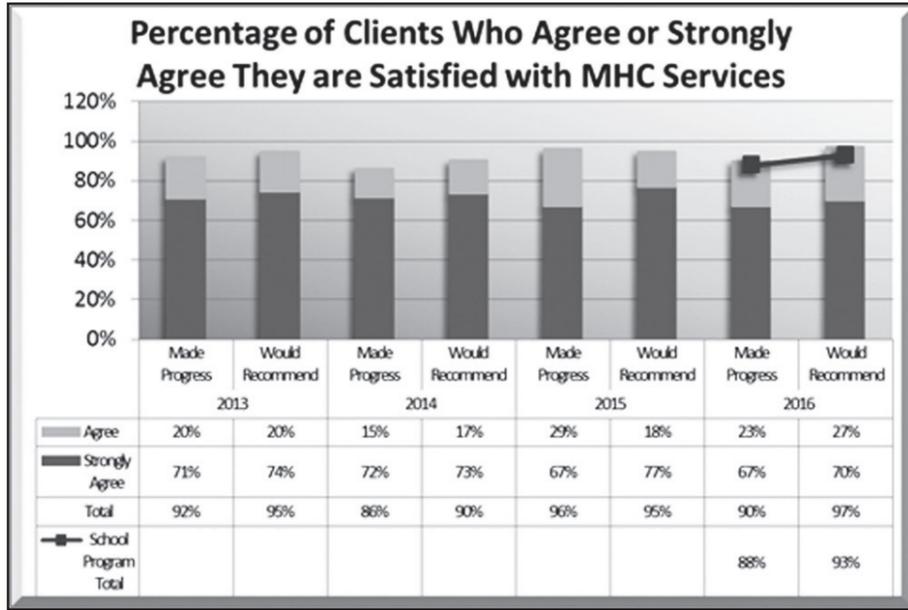
Young children can do simpler tasks like roll out dough and put on sprinkles.

Encourage taking turns with tasks, or work with one child at a time if possible. Stay flexible and calm when something doesn't work out. Your child will pick up clues on how you deal with less than perfect situations and will copy your actions. If the cutout cookies aren't perfect, does it matter? They still taste great!

Holiday baking with the kids is really more about the experience than the end product. Something as simple as baking – and sharing! -- cookies together can contribute to a child's self esteem. The finished product gives children proof of their competence and accomplishments.

With a little planning and forethought, working together in the kitchen at holiday time may become something you do regularly throughout the year!

Source: Colleen Gengler, University of Minnesota Extension



This graph indicates the percentage of clients who receive mental health services at Scott County Mental Health Center (SCMHC) who indicated on a satisfaction survey that they agree or strongly agree that they: 1.) Made progress on their goals, and 2.) Would recommend SCMHC to others.

Connect program from page 1

fund the school/therapist consultation and coordination time that is not covered by insurance.

The Connect Program is operated through the schools as a satellite of the Mental Health Center, said Raddatz, and the same sort of confidentiality and parental approval requirements apply. She said staff meets with parents to develop a treatment plan and goals before students are assessed and begin therapy, and then again at least every 90 days if the students remain in the program. School mental health services are provided year-round since mental health needs do not end when school is out. With the various changes for families in summer, the therapists tend to have availability while at other times during the school year the request for therapy may require a wait. Crisis referrals are provided resources immediately.

“Early intervention and identification is key,” said Amy Johnson, the Director of Special Services for the New Prague Schools. With therapists in the school, response time is fast. Raddatz said the goal is to meet with students within four hours of a request or referral: “We don’t always meet that goal,” she said, “but we do meet with everyone within eight hours.”

Having school staff that is trained in mental health is extremely beneficial, said Raddatz, and training is provided to the staff of each district every year. It covers general information about mental health, early warning signs, and how to work with kids experiencing mental health issues and trauma, said Raddatz.

Tony Buthe, Director of Special Services for New Prague Schools, said training all the staff gives you multiple sets of eyes looking for serious problems instead of just one therapist in the building, something that is extremely helpful.

Having licensed mental health therapists as part of the school culture helps them know the students and reduces the stigma of seeking mental health services, said Raddatz. She said it is not unusual for another student to bring a friend in to see a therapist and say something like, “They really need to see you.”

According to the most recent state-

wide Student Survey, there is an increase in the number of students in Scott County who say they are depressed or suicidal. This is taken seriously. Raddatz said when therapists sit down and talk with students, the therapists often find there is an underlying problem that the student is unsure about how to address. Then efforts are made to address those problems. Last year, the Scott County therapists served 819 youth at local school districts during 12,000 sessions of therapy.

Raddatz said some students begin therapy, meet their goals and move on; some kids need a longer period of time to resolve issues. She said nine months is probably the average amount of time for students to receive services.

Making sure students receive mental health services is a benefit to the districts, officials agree. “Schools have to deal with a lot of issues that are barriers to educating children,” said Buthe. “We would like to simply educate, but students have to be in a position where they can learn.” He said New Prague school administrators and principals “love having the therapists in our schools. We are working together in a smarter way.”

Getting services to students is shown to reduce discipline, increase attendance and grades, improve graduation rates, and increase functioning with peers, family, and in the school, said Raddatz.

All the mental health services are voluntary, and some families choose not to follow recommendations and leave services, said Raddatz. Sometimes, they may leave their program to move to another one, especially if they have a condition not treated by the Mental Health Center, such as chemical dependency addiction and eating disorders. However, County staff can provide referrals for those services.

Kermes said most parents see the value of treatment and don’t hesitate to sign the forms to permit it.

The Connect Program does not serve the Burnsville or Lakeville school districts because they contract with another provider. Therapy can also be provided at a public school or the Mental Health Center for a private school or home schooled student.

Friday, January 26 – Saturday, Jan. 27. At the lock-in, there will be basketball, swimming, arcade games, bowling, ice skating, and much more available! The cost of the event is \$30 for 4-H members and \$35 for non-members. This includes all activities, chaperones, food, drinks, and door prizes. Invite your friends. Call (952) 492-5384 to register.

4-H plans night of fun for youth 6-12th grade 4-H Winter Lock-In at Dakotah Fitness

Do you love staying up all night with friends and having a good time? Then the Scott County 4-H Winter Lock-In is the right event for you! Once again, the Scott County 4-H Program will be putting on their annual 4-H Winter Lock-In at the Dakotah Sports and Fitness Center in Prior Lake from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. on

EmergenSCENE

By Captain Scott Haas
Emergency Management
and Communications Director



Preparing for emergencies in long-term care facilities

In September 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, leaving a path of destruction and death in its wake. One of the many tragic stories that came out of that disaster was the deaths of 35 patients in a nursing home that failed to evacuate. More recently, Hurricane Irma hit Florida this past September and, again, a long-term care facility was at the center of tragedy. Fourteen patients of a nursing home passed away when a facility failed to evacuate and then its generator lost power.

Long-term care facilities aren’t only impacted by hurricanes; they can be impacted by almost any disaster. For instance, when an explosion shook the small town of West, Texas in 2013, window and structural damage to a nearby nursing home led to an immediate evacuation of the facility’s 133 residents. The incident had such a traumatic impact on those 133 residents that the fatality rate for those residents doubled during the next two years.

These are just a few of the larger examples of incidents which have impacted long-term care facilities in recent years. Our loved ones and community members who live in these types of facilities are considered a vulnerable population, and populations like this are usually more susceptible to the impacts of a hazard.

For this reason, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have now required all nursing facilities, home health agencies, and hospice providers who accept Medicare or Medicaid to meet stringent requirements pertaining to emergency planning and preparedness. Because of these new requirements, Emergency Management has been assisting many long-term care facilities throughout the County with meeting their CMS emergency preparedness requirements.

The new requirements consist of four main components: an emergency plan; policies and procedures; a communication plan; and a training and exercise program. Each of these components must be updated annually. Facilities are required to identify their subsistence needs, alternate sources of energy to maintain temperatures within their buildings, and come up with procedures on how they will maintain a high standard of care to their residents during periods of crisis.

Throughout the year, long-term care facilities have reached out to our Emergency Management Department for help with the new guidelines. We’ve assisted several facilities with hazard and vulnerability assessments, given tabletop exercises, and recently helped one facility complete a functional evacuation exercise. We understand the burden this new requirement places on these types of facilities and value the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with these important community partners.

Emergency Management frequently designs exercises to test the response capabilities of our local organizations. Due to the new CMS requirements, we’ll be putting an added emphasis on including our long-term care facilities in some of those exercises so they can meet their new requirements, but more importantly, we can help ensure impacts of any disaster is minimized.



Scott County Emergency Preparedness staff recently assisted with an emergency evacuation drill at St. Gertrude’s Health and Rehabilitation Center in Shakopee.

Social Security benefits to increase 2% in 2018

When the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is announced, there’s usually an increase in the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit amount people receive each month. Federal benefit rates increase when the cost of living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor’s Consumer Price Index (CPI-W).

The CPI-W rises when your cost of living goes up. This means prices for goods and services, on average, are a little more expensive. The COLA helps to offset these costs. As a result, more than 66 million Americans will see a two percent increase in their Social Se-

curity and SSI benefits in 2018.

Other changes that will happen in January 2018 are based on the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax will increase to \$128,700. The earnings limit for workers younger than “full” retirement age will increase to \$17,040 and the limit for people turning full retirement age in 2018 will increase to \$45,360.

Source: <https://blog.socialsecurity.gov/social-security-benefits-to-increase-in-2018/>



SCALA

Scott County Association For Leadership And Efficiency

The Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (a.k.a., SCALA) seeks to provide “news you can use” – updates on road projects, local events, community developments and programs, and other things you might want to know – such as how your tax dollars are being put to use. After all, SCALA’s mission statement is pretty clear: “To forge new and innovative ways in which government entities can collaborate to provide outstanding service while making the most of limited resources.”



Over 1,200 pounds of leaves and 880 pounds of buckthorn were cleaned up by about 45 volunteers during the Community Clean Water Clean-Up in Prior Lake on Nov. 5.

From the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District: **Community Clean Water Clean-Up takes place on Prior Lake**

Nearly 45 volunteers braved near-freezing temperatures to “Rake for the Lake” on Sunday, Nov. 5 at Fish Point Park, located at 15111 Fish Point Road S.E. in the City of Prior Lake. The clean-up was located at the park where the City and the District just completed a water quality improvements project, which included native prairie plantings, wetland enhancements, and installation of an iron-enhanced sand filter to treat incoming stormwater before it reaches Prior Lake.

Volunteers represented the Cub Scouts, Savage Area Women of Tomorrow, Prior Lake Association, the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District’s Citizen Advisory Committee, the District’s Board of Managers, the Mayor of Prior Lake, the City of Prior Lake, and many dedicated neighbors and friends. They raked, blew, and dumped 1200 pounds of leaves that Prior Lake removed and will use as soil enhancement for their tree nursery. They also cut and pulled about 880 pounds of buckthorn (one dump truck load) that was hauled to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community’s Organic Recycling Facility (ORF).

After the hard work was done, volunteers enjoyed hot beverages and snacks and had an opportunity to win a variety of great prizes donated by area merchants. Fall and spring Clean Water Clean-Up events are a Prior Lake tradition. This fall’s clean-up was the seventh, and organizers are looking forward to the spring 2018 event!

From Shakopee: **Community videos showcase Shakopee’s amenities, charm**

Earlier this summer, the City of Shakopee teamed up with CGI Communications, based in Rochester, N.Y., to produce six community tour videos that highlight what Shakopee is all about. The tour includes six videos that highlight Shakopee’s excellent quality of life, entertainment attractions, economic diversity, history, and great parks and trails system. Find the videos on the city’s homepage at www.ShakopeeMN.gov.

City seeks development proposals for former city hall, riverfront site

As construction wraps up on the Downtown Improvements project, the City Council hopes to continue that momentum by redeveloping city-owned land in the downtown area. The city is currently seeking redevelopment proposals for the former city hall site

and 1.2 acres of riverfront near Scott Street North and First Avenue West.

Earlier this fall, the council approved the remediation and demolition of the former city hall building at 129 Holmes St. S. With the site ready for new development, the city is seeking proposals that offer a mix of uses, such as retail or restaurants, at street level.

The second site consists of three parcels along the Minnesota River, just east of Scott Street. The city owns two of the parcels and is in the process of purchasing the third, as its current tenant, Doggie Doos, plans to relocate this spring.

Proposals are due in early January. City staff will review and score them, bringing forward the highest scoring for council to weigh in and select final developers. The intent is to have a contract with the selected firm by late spring 2018. More information is available at www.ShakopeeMN.gov/cityhallredevelopment.

Anglers are invited to trout fish on Quarry Lake

Anglers are invited to drop a line into the frozen Quarry Lake for the winter trout fishing season opener Jan. 13, 2018.

The city has partnered with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to propose designation of Quarry Lake as a trout lake. Quarry Lake is located in Quarry Lake Park, 6201 Innovation Blvd.

This is the second year the DNR has stocked Quarry Lake with trout. Winter trout-in-lake season runs Jan. 13 through April 1. Anglers need a special trout stamp with their fishing license to fish designated trout streams and trout lakes. The stamp can be purchased at a DNR license center, online, or by phone.

When fishing at Quarry Lake, please note *no motorized vehicles are allowed* on the lake or trails. Anglers must enter the lake on foot from the designated trail in the park’s northwest parking lot. Parking is allowed only in the parking lot or on Innovation Boulevard.

Because the lake is spring-fed, the ice may not be consistent. Therefore, anglers should check for ice safety as they proceed onto the lake.



From the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community:

Wozupi Holiday Market

On the lookout for unique, handmade holiday gifts? Search no further! Wozupi’s Holiday Market is open Monday – Friday through December 22, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. The market has all you need to treat your loved ones—or yourself!—with a special, locally crafted present. From honey to maple syrup, handmade beeswax candles to Native American wild rice, we have all you need to show your friends and family how much you care. Browse individual gifts, pick up gift baskets, or add a special touch with a build-your-own basket at the Wozupi cabin, just blocks from Mystic Lake Casino Hotel (2041 140th Street NW in Prior Lake).

Wozupi’s Annual Fruit Tree Sale

Give a fruitful gift this holiday! Online preordering for fruit trees begins December 18, 2017—visit wozupi.com to order today.

Free Christmas Tree Drop-Off

Once the holidays are over, the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility (ORF) will take Christmas trees off your hands—for free! Starting Tuesday, December 26, through Saturday, January 13, Scott County residents can bring their trees, garlands, wreaths, and spruce tops to the ORF, located at 1905 Mystic Lake Drive South in Shakopee, free of charge. Saturday drop-off will be available on December 30, January 6, and January 13 from 8 a.m. to noon. Christmas trees must be cleared of tinsel, flocking, decorations, and everything non-compostable. *The ORF will be closed on New Year’s Day.*

Comprehensive Plan

From page 2

Elko New Market – three cities which saw its population forecasts downgraded slightly since the last planning cycle.

In recent years, many of the cities and townships in the County have either updated or adopted new orderly annexation agreements (OAA) that more precisely show areas for staged urban growth. These OAA boundaries, along with boundaries established in other long-range sanitary sewer service plans or studies, will become the basis for drawing the line between urban expansion and transition on the 2040 plan map. County Senior Planner Greg Wagner explained that the need to refine these mapped boundaries has been driven by landowner interests: “It is important for property owners in the urban expansion and transition areas to have a more realistic expectation for when city sewer and water will be extended to serve their parcel or neighboring parcels,” he said. If public services are not planned to be extended to their property for the next two decades, these landowners would like some land use and development options in the interim, Wagner added.

4. Maintaining long-term farmland preservation areas.

Much of the southwestern portion of the County will remain guided and zoned for long-term agricultural uses. This has been the land use pattern for this area for the past several planning cycles. Farming is the predominant land use in places like Blakeley, Belle Plaine, Sand Creek, St. Lawrence, and Helena townships and remains an important aspect of the County’s identity and character. Again, many of these townships are guided for low density housing (one home per 40 acres or one home per 10 acres with home sites clustered on smaller acreage lots) and other less-intensive uses that are compatible with the farm landscape.

Most of the farmland in the County enrolled in the state’s Metropolitan Agricultural Preserve Program is located in this southwestern quadrant. The purpose of this program is to encourage the use of metro farmland for producing food and other agricultural commodities by incenting a landowner to place a restrictive covenant on their land, essentially prohibiting development. In return, the landowner gets certain benefits, including an agricultural-based tax value of the land. Participation in the program is voluntary; however, the land must remain in the program for a minimum of eight years before the restrictive covenant can be rescinded. Enrollment in the program was declining in the 2000s, but since 2009, enrollment has rebounded and increased nearly 25 percent, from 7,193 acres in 2009 to 8,897 acres countywide, according to 2016 Metropolitan Council data.

5. Reserving areas for rural commercial and industrial development.

The draft 2040 plan continues to promote the idea that most of the retail, office, manufacturing, and larger job-producing land uses should locate in the cities where public utilities and services, such as water, sewer, police, fire, and transit are available (or planned) to serve this type of use. However, the plan also continues to identify areas along major highway corridors, such as U.S. Highway 169, State Highway 13, and Interstate 35 as places appropriate for rural-type commercial and industrial development. These types of uses, such as contractor yards, landscaping businesses, trucking services, and farm-related businesses, often require extensive outdoor storage for materials or equipment. “Many of these businesses around the County started out of their home or smaller rental space in the cities and are looking for a site where they can expand but still remain close to their customer base,” said Davis. “It is important that the plan continue to provide places for this type of small business development in the townships.”

Wrap-up

When the draft 2040 land use plan was presented to the County Planning Commission this fall for an initial review, some members remarked on how important it is to revisit the plan every 10 years. “I think about how much the rural landscape is changing in the County,” said Tom Vohnhof, chair of the commission, reflecting on a recent trip through the County where he drove past community solar gardens, grape vineyards, and apple orchards. “In the future, people will be coming into the County’s rural areas for different reasons than they were before. It’s no longer just for farming purposes.” It is the goal of the 2040 comprehensive plan to manage this change while still preserving the County’s unique identity.

Law Library News

New law takes effect for LLCs beginning Jan. 1

As 2017 winds down and we start to plan programs and clinics for 2018, we would like to remind you that the Law Library is here to assist you with your legal questions and problems. We cannot give you legal advice, but we know someone that can and we can point you in the right direction to navigate the court system. Scott County has the goal of delivering what matters to our Scott County community; at the Law Library, we take that goal seriously and hope you will come see us if you have legal questions in 2018. If it is time for you to make changes: get out of a bad relationship/marriage, ensure your legal rights to your child/children, get your criminal record expunged so you can get a better job or place to live, come see us. We can get you started.

Jan. 1, 2018 will bring some important legal changes for owners of LLCs. If you are a small business owner, you may want to visit the Secretary of State website for an excellent "How To" guide to make the changes required to comply with the new law. You can also see the forms needed at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/business-liens/business-forms-fees/minnesota-limited-liability-company-forms/>.

From the Minnesota Secretary of State website: **Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies**

Committee of the Minnesota State Bar Association Business Law Section
"What Does Jan. 1, 2018, Mean For My Chapter 322B LLC?"

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, all active limited liability companies ("LLCs") organized under Chapter 322B of the Minnesota Statutes, known as the Minnesota Limited Liability Company Act ("322B"), will become subject to and governed by Chapter 322C of the Minnesota Statutes, known as the Minnesota Revised Uniform Limited Liability Company Act ("322C"). This is a mandatory change that will happen automatically without any action by an LLC.

REAL ID Update

Minnesotans can continue to use their driver's licenses for federal purposes -- such as boarding airplanes and accessing federal facilities -- now until Oct. 10, 2018, under an extension granted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

DHS granted the formal extension on Oct. 18, which gives Minnesota time to meet statutory deadlines and ensure Minnesotans have REAL ID compliant cards. The Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services division (DVS) is working to meet the October 2018 deadline.

Safety SCENE

By Luke Hennen
Scott County Sheriff



Deputies undergo stringent training

There are times in the arena of public opinion when I hear concerns about a lack of training in the law enforcement profession. I want to take a minute to explain the training our deputies receive, and the overall importance of training to our profession. What can get lost in these conversations is that, although peace officers in Minnesota are well-trained, additional training will be needed in the future as the needs of our community change. The Sheriff's Office needs to be responsive to the needs of our community, and proper training is a way to achieve that. An example of this is our recent addition of more training to improve our response to mental health crisis.

The Minnesota Board of Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) licenses all peace officers in the state. All of our deputies are all licensed peace officers. In order to maintain their peace officer's license, each deputy must complete a minimum of 48 hours of continuing education in a three-year period. Education is required in the following areas by the POST Board:

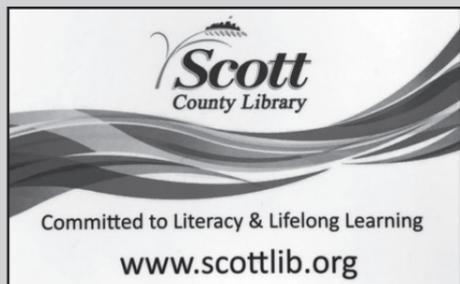
- Use of force
- Readiness aspects of the use of force
- Proficiency with unarmed control measures
- Principles of firearms use
- Weapon proficiency (handgun, rifle, shotgun, less lethal, baton, taser, pepper spray, etc.)
- Emergency vehicle operation
- Crisis intervention and mental illness crises; conflict management and mediation; and recognizing and valuing community diversity and cultural differences to include implicit bias training

In addition to these mandated topics, we have our own training requirements at the Sheriff's Office. All of our deputies, on average, will each receive over 45 hours of training each year. Online training has made training more accessible; we now have online training to cover mandated OSHA requirements to keep our employees safe, while other courses provide legal updates or changes to laws. We also train annually for our response to medical emergencies. In addition to CPR and first aid training, our deputies are all certified First Responders and receive additional instruction on the use of AEDs (defibrillators) and Narcan (to help prevent fatal opioid overdose). There are also deputies within our office who receive specialized training throughout the year for their assignment. Examples of this would be training in SWAT, narcotics, investigations, K9, and civil process.

One area in which the Scott County Sheriff's Office has been focusing our training efforts on is in community engagement. This type of training is designed to bridge the gap between the public and law enforcement in order to form a working network that better serves the needs of the community. This training often gives us the tools needed to enhance our outreach efforts to schools, churches, and community organizations. Training in community engagement is not required to meet our minimum education requirements, but we see the need and benefit of increasing our ability to interact with our citizens.

As Sheriff, it is reassuring to know our deputies are well trained in a multitude of different areas. This job requires a lot of critical thinking, often with minimal time to make key decisions. It is imperative that our deputies are trained frequently, and trained well. This is important not only for the safety of our deputies, but for the safety of the public. The Scott County Sheriff's Office will continue to look for relevant training opportunities for our deputies to ensure they are all trained on key practices that affect the safety, welfare, and health of our citizens.

Get a free library card -- it's your passport to adventure and information!



Library News

Cozy up with a good eBook without leaving home

Access Scott County Libraries wherever, whenever

The Scott County Library system has a lot to offer you, including the books we lend, events and activities for all ages, and online resources. While we love it when you visit us in person, our buildings aren't open 24/7. But you can get your eBooks and Audiobooks *wherever, whenever* with Cloud Library!

It's easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Download the app at www.yourcloudlibrary.com.
2. Log in using your library card number and PIN.
3. Browse, borrow, and start reading/listening!

Read or listen to the latest best sellers and classics during a workout, commute, long road trip, or while you get ready in the morning! Remember, library cards are open to all Scott County residents, just ask staff how to get your library card! Check our website for more details at www.scottlib.org.

Winter is coming – time to read!
Get ready for those four-letter words

– no, not those... we mean "cold," "wind," and "snow." Whether you love it, hate it, or are ambivalent about it, winter is a perfect time to dive into a good book, and maybe win a prize. Welcome to *Winter Reads*, our winter reading program for adults!

How it works: Beginning in January, visit any Scott County Library to check out books or audiobooks (or download eBooks or eAudiobooks from our website at www.scottlib.org/ebooks). When you've finished a book, let library staff know and they will give you a quick star-rating form with room for a brief comment. You'll be automatically entered into a prize drawing at your library. **New this year:** We will be introducing an online option for the program so you don't have to brave the elements to be entered into a prize drawing or get book recommendations. As always, we will be offering a variety of author programs during January and February.

Free tax help available

The 2018 tax season is just around the corner, and if you like to geek out on early preparedness, you might already be collecting your documents in anticipation of filing time. Taxes aren't everyone's favorite thing, but did you know that there are two ways to file your taxes for free?

Qualifying taxpayers can file their taxes for free using www.myfreetaxes.org. You must earn less than \$64,000 per year to use this online option.

Additionally, qualifying taxpayers can get free help preparing their federal and state income tax returns at locations across Minnesota, including right here in Scott County. To be eligible for this in-person service, **your income must meet the following guidelines:**

- Individuals making \$35,000 or less per year; or
- Families making \$55,000 or less per year.

The final locations are announced in mid-January. There are three ways to search for the most up-to-date information on locations in Scott County:

1. The Minnesota Department of Revenue website allows you to search by county at www.revenue.state.mn.us.



2. The IRS website also allows you to search by county: https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers?_ga=1.183921830.1446579883.1445012116.
3. United Way 211: You can reach by dialing "211" on any phone or by accessing online at <https://www.211unitedway.org/>. If your first language is one other than English, you can get 211 help by dialing 1-800-543-7709.

Help with your tax return is available during the entire 2018 tax season. Most free tax preparation sites are open February 1 through April 15. For more information or assistance locating the nearest free tax preparation site near you, contact U of M Extension Financial Capability Educator, Shawna Faith Thompson, at (952) 492-5383 or shawnaf@umn.edu. Happy filing!

Veterans' SCENE

By Jerry Brua
Director of Veterans Services



ID cards, transportation offered to veterans

What is a Veteran Identification Card (VIC) and how do I get one?

Scott County Veterans Service gets this question all of the time. Until now, our answer was that there isn't a "Veterans Identification Card," only a Veterans Health ID (VHIC) card issued to veterans using the VA medical system. Thankfully, this has now changed.

The federal government passed a Veterans Identification card act in 2015 and it was enacted in July 2015. From that time to the present, ID cards were not available. VA began accepting applications for the VIC November 15, 2017. For those veterans who wish to obtain a VIC, they should log into Vets.gov to apply (<https://www.vets.gov>). **This is the only way to apply for the vets ID card.** Your VA medical center/clinic or regional office will *not* be able to assist you. If eligible, you should receive your ID card (at *no cost*) in the mail within three weeks. Questions regarding the new veterans ID card (VIC) can be directed to the Vets.gov Help Desk at 1-855-574-7286.

The purpose of the Veterans ID card is to serve as proof of service in the Armed Forces, which can be used to obtain discounts on good and services offered to veterans. However, the VIC card does *not* qualify veterans for additional benefits through the VA. Also, the ID card will not grant access to military posts or installations.

Do you need a ride to your VA medical appointments?

With winter weather arriving (far too early, in my opinion), it's a good time to remind Scott County veterans that the Veterans Service Office provides *free* transportation to the VA for medical appointments. We operate a 12-passenger bus that can accommodate scooters and wheelchairs. The bus travels to the VA Monday through Thursday each week. The veteran is picked up and dropped off at his or her home. Please call Scott County Veterans Service at (952) 496-8176 for more information on how to schedule a ride and the program guidelines. Advanced notice is required so we can set our travel schedule and give clients their pick up times.

Thank a Veteran Lunch

Scott County Veterans Service hosted their annual Thank a Veteran Lunch on Nov. 7. There was a wonderful turnout for the lunch, despite the cool weather; at least the sun was out. Veterans Service has this event every November on election Tuesday. A heartfelt thank you to all Scott County employees who purchase the lunches for the veterans each year. We couldn't have this special tribute to our veterans without your generosity.

Vulnerable adults From page 1

if an investigation is warranted. If it appears someone may be in imminent danger, law enforcement is called immediately. However, many of the calls are for neglect of a vulnerable person by a caregiver, or it can be self-neglect, said Fox. Some of the calls come from family members, neighbors, health workers, and even bank employees who have noticed something unusual in a person's transactions.

"We want people to keep an eye out for their vulnerable neighbors, family members, and customers," said Fox. "We encourage people to call the hotline if they see something that doesn't seem right." She added that confidential calls are accepted, but it's always better to have contact information in case there are more questions. She added, "Our hope is to reach more of these vulnerable people who are being manipulated or mistreated."

Of the 89 reports screened in for investigation in 2016, only 15 were substantiated. Forty-five were found to be false, four did not involve a vulnerable adult, 17 were inconclusive, three are still pending, and five investigations were not possible, according to a report recently provided to the Scott County Board during a Scott County Delivers presentation.

If needed, the team of County investigators may work with law enforcement or the County Attorney's Office. More often, they refer the vulnerable adult to social services programs (including MnCHOICES Assessments), public health, and mental health programs. "There's a lot of initial and sometimes ongoing support so they can get their needs met," said Fox. An interdisciplinary team meets every other month to

review cases and determine necessary actions that may be needed to support those involved in the cases.

Terry Stier, a Belle Plaine police officer, said the partnership with the County has been great. "The County team has access to financial and medical information that is not easily available to us when we are doing our investigations," said Stier. He said, among other things, the team wants to hold people accountable for financial exploitation.

Brittani Schmidt, a Scott County Public Health Nurse on the team, said it is also important to help vulnerable people without shaming them. She said there has been a noticeable uptick in reports of hoarding, possibly because of the television shows about it, and also because hoarding has been recently classified as a mental health disorder. The County does have services to assist people with this disorder.

The number of suspected abuse cases reported in the County is not expected to decrease anytime soon. Minnesota's populations will undergo dramatic shifts in the next two decades, with Baby Boomers aging and the County's population increasing. According to the Department of Employment and Economic Development, there are also 9,590 people who identify as having a disability in Scott County, or just over seven percent of the general population, indicating a high need for future Adult Protective Services.

Despite the challenges, the County's goal is to provide protective services and supports to vulnerable adults, as well as outreach and referrals to community resources to elderly, disabled, and vulnerable adults so that they may remain safely in their homes.

Kids Kraft, tourism exhibit, book club featured at SCHS

Wish You Were Here: Tourism in Scott County -- Scott County has been a vacation destination for over a century! This exhibit explores the many tourist spots that have attracted visitors over the years, including the resorts at Prior Lake, Mudbaden Sulphur Springs, the Renaissance Festival, Canterbury Park, Mystic Lake, Valleyfair, Elko Speedway, and more! See amazing photos and artifacts, and share your favorite memories of these fun places! Exhibit open until August 2018.

All Things Minnesota Book Club, Thursday, December 21 and Thursday, January 18, 3 – 5 p.m.

The All Things Minnesota Book Club meets monthly at the SCHS. New members always welcome! In December, the club will meet to make their book selections for 2018. *Free* (SCHS requests that book club members become Historical Society members).

Second Saturday Tour at the SCHS, Saturday, January 13, 11 – 11:45 a.m. Come explore the Scott County Historical Society! We'll tour the 1908 Stans House and take a closer look at some of the interesting items currently

on display at the museum. Tours are *free* and all ages are welcome! No registration required; just check in at the front desk before tour start time. Tour starts promptly at 11 a.m.

Winter Fun Kids Kraft, Saturday, January 27, 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. For ages 2-8. The weather may be chilly, but inside we're having lots of cozy fun with winter stories and a special snowflake craft! *Free*, but registration is required for supplies. Visit here to register: <http://bit.ly/2yP7wZ0>. This program introduces children to museums, supports literacy, and provides an opportunity for family fun.

The Scott County Historical Society will be closed on Dec. 23 and 30.

Check us out on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/SCHSHistory> and follow us on Twitter @ScottCountyHist. Unless otherwise noted, events take place at SCHS. Fees may be charged for some events. Call 952-445-0378, email info@scottcountyhistory.org, or visit www.scottcountyhistory.org for more information. The Scott County Historical Society is located at 235 Fuller St. S., Shakopee.

CAP Corner

CAP promotes holiday projects, fundraising efforts

By Joseph Vaughan,
CAP Executive Director

With the holiday season well underway, I want to encourage you to think about the ways in which you are connected to our community. Whether it is through your child's school, a church, sports, or your workplace, everyone has a place in this community, and we are all connected by it. CAP Agency is offering a multitude of programs and events this season that not only help deepen those connections, but also provide for our fellow community members in need.

Hope for the Holiday is underway!

This annual program allows community members to **Adopt a Family** for the holiday season. With budgets stretched thin, it can be difficult for some families to provide the joyous holiday that we all envision. When you sponsor a family, you have the opportunity to shop for gifts or donate money to provide them with gifts based on their needs and requests. This wonderful program connects the generosity of our community with the needs of our neighbors. For more information, visit www.capagency.org/community-outreach/hope-for-the-holidays/ or email awodtke@capagency.org.



Give Where You Live Gala

Thank you to our community members and partners for making our inaugural *Give Where You Live* Gala such a success. On Nov. 15, more than 100 people gathered to celebrate and support CAP and the work we do in our shared community. The evening included a banquet, raffle, wine wall, and stories from CAP clients. If you were unable to attend the event, you can always support CAP by going to www.capagency.org.

[org/donate](http://www.capagency.org/donate). We hope to see you at next year's event!

Senior citizens need household items

Give to a Senior this holiday season! At the CAP Agency, we serve over 300 meals to senior citizens every day. Many of our seniors are on a fixed income and sure could use some basic household items. Please donate whatever you can and we will deliver to our seniors during the holidays. Donations can be dropped at 712 Canterbury Road South, Shakopee. Suggested items include dish soap, dishwasher detergent, laundry soap, dryer sheets, body soap, hand soap, shampoo, hand and body lotion, conditioner, tissue (Kleenex), toilet paper, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, and napkins.

CAP Holiday Shop

The CAP Holiday Shop is now open at the CAP Thrift Shop on Canterbury Road South! At our first annual grand opening on Nov. 17 and 18, there were cookies, cider, holiday décor, and gifts galore! Stop by and check it out this holiday season. Hours are Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thanks for contributions

I want to sincerely thank those who have contributed to our programs and services in the past, as well as those who have contributed to our annual *Give Where You Live* campaign and those who have helped to sustain or organization and our work throughout the year. Without you, our work would not be possible. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us either through our website or by emailing info@capagency.org for more information on volunteering, donating, and who we are and what we do. We look forward to hearing from you. Remember, We Are All Connected.

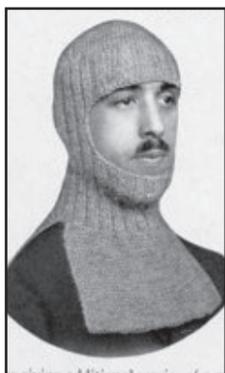
Historical SCENE

It is our duty: Knitting during WWI

By Stephanie Herrick,
SCHS Curator of Education

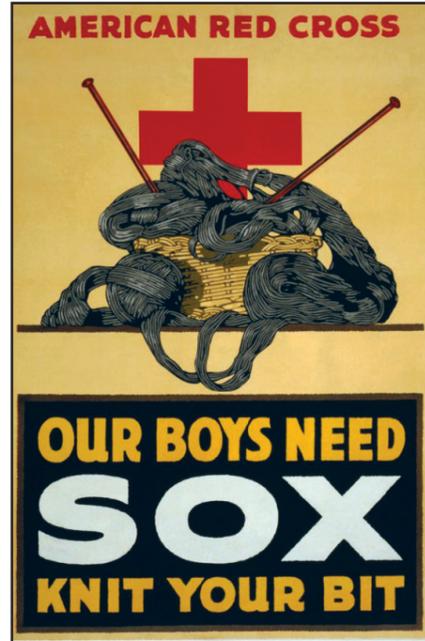
During WWI, soldiers hunkering in the trenches suffered tremendously. The trenches were prone to mud and flooding, as well as insect and rat infestations, foul odors, and disease outbreaks. Furthermore, for U.S. soldiers who had recently entered the war, there was the looming threat of freezing winter temperatures. In the summer of 1917, just after the U.S. joined on the side of the Allies, the American Red Cross issued an urgent plea for knitted items to aid the troops. Specifically, they asked volunteers to make one and a half million pairs of wool socks and wristlets, sweaters, and mufflers to help keep the soldiers warm and dry during the long winter months.¹ Those on the home front enthusiastically answered the call. Women and men, girls and boys, individuals and every kind of church and civic group imaginable took up their needles and began to “Knit for Sammy.”

The American Red Cross was not the only relief organization calling for knitted goods (the Navy League Comforts Committee and others were also doing so), but it led the effort. However, prior to 1917, the Red Cross was a largely unknown organization, with only about 100 chapters in the United States. Once the U.S. entered the war, the organization grew rapidly, jumping to 3,800 chapters and 22 million members.² In Scott County, the first Red Cross chapter was organized on June 26, 1917, as reported by the *Scott County Argus* newspaper. The initial meeting took place at the offices of Julius A. Collier; he and other meeting participants decided to call themselves the “Scott County Chapter” and determined that they would have jurisdiction over all Red Cross activities in Scott County and Chanhassen.³ Additional Red Cross branches soon sprung up around the County until nearly every city and township had its own. Red Cross volunteers immediately went to work knitting for the troops. The local newspapers kept a running tally of items knitted by Scott County volunteers. For instance, *The Shakopee Tribune* reported in January 1918 that the Scott County Red Cross had thus far knitted 286 pairs of socks, 125 sweaters, 146 pairs of wristlets, 73 mufflers, and 9 helmets.⁴



A knit “helmet”

Across the nation, knitters were churning out garments of gray



and khaki wool for soldiers as well as items for the war’s many orphans and refugees. They knitted everywhere: at home, at school, in the office, at church, in the theater, and on public transportation. In Seattle, a sitting grand jury knitted socks, and in New York, the Philharmonic Society had to ask audience members not to knit during performances, as it was too distracting!⁵ Women often made knitting into a social occasion, gathering to talk and enjoy apple cider, cake, and Victrola music as they worked. In big cities like New York, socialites hosted lavish knitting teas which appeared in the pages of *Vogue* and other magazines.⁶ Knitting became such a widespread activity that it began to influence women’s fashion. Knitting bags became extremely popular, and women often matched them to their outfits. Knitting skirts were also in style; these were skirts with wide hip pockets for holding knitting supplies. There were even hats made to look like a piece of knitting.⁷ The influence of knitting also extended to beauty products, with one company claiming that their hand cream made fingers smooth for more comfortable knitting, and another company advertising its face powder by reminding women that “To look her best is part of a woman’s patriotic duty,” and declaring that “In thousands of America’s busiest knitting bags you will find the little box of Dorine.”⁸ Yet the underlying reason for all of this knitting was never far from anyone’s mind.



A knit “wristlet”

The Scott County Red Cross asked that the community “Remember Scott

County boys will be on the firing line. It is our duty to aid, to comfort and to succor them.”⁹ In Jordan, a group of women got together and formed the “Woman’s Loyalty Club” to knit and see what else they could do for “the home boys now in the service.”¹⁰

It was not just women who knitted for the troops – men and children also did their part. Wounded soldiers laid up in hospital beds knitted, as did men who had not gone to fight. Police and firemen, politicians, veterans of previous wars, even prisoners contributed to the effort.¹¹ Meanwhile, children’s organizations like the Junior Red Cross, the Boy and Girl Scouts, and the Campfire Girls encouraged girls and boys to get involved and knit.

For those who wanted to help but did not know how to knit, there were various options. Non-knitters could purchase and donate yarn, or assist with other tasks like winding yarn and making simpler items like bandages. In fact, a 1918 article in *The Shakopee Tribune* described how two members of the local Red Cross wound more than 100 pounds of yarn which took as long as knitting nine pairs of socks, therefore saving knitters a lot of time and energy.¹² There were also many opportunities to learn how to knit, as knitting instructors regularly made the rounds. For instance, in September 1917, the *Belle Plaine Herald* reported that Mrs. McKnight of Minneapolis would be coming to town to show the women of Belle Plaine how to make various items. The article stated, “All women are encouraged to attend, particularly those who plan on sewing or knitting. It is desired that all women of the surrounding communities be present.”¹³



Knit socks

Of course, there were also knitting patterns everywhere, including in Red Cross brochures, women’s magazines, newspapers, and books, though some volunteers complained about how picky the Red Cross patterns were. (A 1918 article in *The Shakopee Tribune* tried to convince women otherwise, stating, “The impression has gone forth that the Red Cross sewing is difficult to do and also that they are over particular about the work, but when ladies first come to work they find that it is so easy.”¹⁴) One especially popular book of patterns was the *Khaki Knitting Book*, published in 1917 by Allies Special Aid. This book included patterns for various kinds of

hats and caps, including wool helmets and trench caps; mufflers and scarves; wristlets; various kinds of socks including stump socks (for soldiers with amputated limbs); and comfort bags to include necessities like sewing and letter-writing supplies, toiletries, and shoelaces.¹⁵ Soldiers desperately needed warm wool socks, as their boots had iron heels and hobnails that conducted the cold into their feet. Additionally, trench foot – a fungal infection caused by exposure to cold and damp conditions – was a constant concern. A WWI Red Cross poster emphasized the importance of socks to the soldiers, declaring, “Our Boys Need Sox, Knit Your Bit.”¹⁶

By the end of the war, volunteers had produced 6.5 million refugee garments and almost 24 million military garments. Across the United States including here in Scott County, volunteers had indeed knit their bit.

To learn more, visit the Scott County Historical Society at 235 Fuller Street South, Shakopee or check us out online at www.scottcountyhistory.org. The Historical Society’s WWI exhibit “The Great War in Scott County” is currently on display.

(Endnotes)

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- 5 Burgess, Anika, “The Wool Brigades of World War I, When Knitting Was a Patriotic Duty,” *Atlas Obscura*, last modified July 26, 2017, <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/when-knitting-was-a-patriotic-duty-wwi-homefront-wool-brigades>.
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- 11 Burgess, Anika, “The Wool Brigades of World War I, When Knitting Was a Patriotic Duty,” *Atlas Obscura*, last modified July 26, 2017, <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/when-knitting-was-a-patriotic-duty-wwi-homefront-wool-brigades>.
- 12 “Red Cross Notes,” *The Shakopee Tribune* (Shakopee, MN), Jan. 25, 1918, 1.
- 13 “To Instruct in Red Cross Work,” *Belle Plaine Herald* (Belle Plaine, MN), Sep. 27, 1917.
- 14 “Red Cross Notes of Local Interest,” *Shakopee Tribune* (Shakopee, MN), Feb. 15, 1918, 1.
- 15 Whiting, Olive, ed. *Khaki Knitting Book* (New York: Allies Special Aid, 1917).
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Knitters...
The SCHS is collecting knit/crochet scarves for our veterans this winter. Please drop off your item at the museum front desk.



235 Fuller St. S., Shakopee

Keep up-to-date on the past

Sign up for SCHS email at:

www.scottcountyhistory.org

Events -- Workshops
Collections -- Highlights
History Tidbits



Now is best time to remove buckthorn

As winter settles in, you may think your outdoor projects are done for the year. But if you have buckthorn removal on your list of chores, late fall and early winter are great times to get it done. Why bother expending the time and effort to remove buckthorn? There are many reasons this invasive, non-native shrub is better taken out than left to take over our native woodlands.

Buckthorn:

- Out-competes native plants for nutrients, light, and moisture.
- Degrades important wildlife habitat and food sources.
- Can host pests, such as crown rust fungus and soybean aphids.
- Contributes to erosion by out-competing plants on the forest floor that help hold soil in place.
- Forms an impenetrable, messy layer of vegetation.
- Seeds can stay viable in the soil for up to three years.

How do you know if you have buckthorn on your property? **The characteristics of buckthorn include:**

- Egg-shaped leaves that stay green into late fall (even after all other trees have lost their leaves).
- Large, round, berry-like clusters of black ¼-inch fruit (on female trees).



Buckthorn has black berry clusters and leaves that stay on into late fall.



Buckthorn can be removed by hand or with an "Uprooter."

- Brown bark with elongated, silvery, corky projections, similar to native plums or cherries.
- Cut branches expose yellow sapwood and orange heartwood.
- Heights of up to 25 feet tall.

Removal recommendations:

- Remove small seedlings by hand or with an "Uprooter."
- Spray foliage of short buckthorn or seedlings with herbicide.
- Cut buckthorn two inches in diameter or more at soil surface, and treat stump with herbicide.
- Followup buckthorn control in areas where you have previously removed buckthorn.
- Monitor areas that are relatively buckthorn-free, and control buckthorn plants right away if detected.
- Replant native trees and shrubs in areas where buckthorn has been removed.

Replacement trees and shrubs can be purchased through the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District. Visit www.scottswcdtrees.com for more information.

Salt pollutes! Shovel before applying chemicals

We all lead busy lives. And if and when it snows overnight, we don't always have extra time to do a perfect job of shoveling. We scrape off the snow as best we can, throw a few handfuls of salt on sidewalk and driveway, and get on with our day. This may seem harmless, but that salt ends up in our local rivers, lakes, and streams. So this winter, if you plan to use ice-melt products, it's important to remember to use them sparingly and choose the products that best fit the conditions and temperatures outside. Here are some helpful tips:

- Remove as much snow as possible with a shovel or snow blower.
- Choose the correct products. Different products work at different temperatures.
- Use sand, not rock salt, for traction. It's a better choice for the environment.
- Less than four cups of a product will cover your average two-car driveway and sidewalk.

All de-icers, including rock salt, are harmful to our environment. When snow melts, it travels to our lakes and rivers through storm drains; just one



Ice-removal chemicals pollute; apply sparingly. Photo Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

teaspoon of salt can pollute *five gallons* of water. The salt never disappears or breaks down, and once it is in the water, it is expensive to get it out. The best way to reduce the amount of salt in our lakes and rivers is to stop it from getting there in the first place.

Some de-icers also contain chloride, which interferes with the immune and reproductive systems of fish, and can cause serious and deadly dehydration in many mammals that live around lakes, streams, and rivers. So before throwing that extra handful of salt on your sidewalk, keep the environment in mind – it will thank you!



Tour attendees view the City of Jordan's Sediment Basin on the Scott WMO's and SWCD's Fall Conservation Tour.

Annual tour highlights local conservation efforts

As they stepped off the bus in Jordan, local elected officials had a chance to view a new sediment basin, which is part of the City's solution to prevent flooding and keep sediment from moving downstream. This stop was part of the Scott Watershed Management Organization (WMO) and Scott Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) annual Fall Conservation Tour, which gives their partners a first-hand look at the conservation projects being installed across Scott County. The City of Jordan was able to install the sediment basin with assistance from the WMO and the SWCD.

The tour also featured filter strips, native prairie plantings, grassed waterways, and a streambank stabilization project. They also made a stop at a farm near New Prague to view water and

sediment control basins which were installed to help stop erosion and improve water quality.

The tour concluded with dinner and recognition of Krueger Dairy as the Scott SWCD's Conservation Leaders for 2017. Scott Schneider of the Scott SWCD explained how Krueger Dairy has been a leader in conservation by planting cover crops, using no-till, installing filter strips and alum-treated bio-logs, and being involved in Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District's Farmer Led Council and Citizens Advisory Committee. Tour attendees included County Commissioners, the Scott County Watershed Planning Commission, Scott SWCD Supervisors, Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District Managers, and Senator Eric Pratt.

Field day promotes benefits, information about cover crops

Many people have heard of cover crops, but may not be familiar with the specifics. To help get the word out about what cover crops can do for farmers and the land, the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District held a cover crop field day early in November.

The first stop was a field run by Vern Wick. In late September, he rented a no-till drill from the Scott SWCD to seed cover crops on 100 acres. He planted a mixture of cereal rye, radish, and turnips with the goals of improving soil health, nutrient recycling, and nitrogen fixation.

The second stop was a field run by Joe Hentges. In September, he had 100 acres aerial seeded into cover crops by helicopter. Joe found that the aerial seeding worked well for him because he did not have to take as much time out of his busy schedule to get his cover crops in the ground.

On both farms, soil samples were

taken before cover crops were planted, so they can see exactly how the crops are changing the soil. They will also look at future yields on these fields as anecdotal evidence of additional benefits of cover crops. Once these producers have a few years of cover crop evidence and experience, they can share that knowledge with neighbors and friends. With this knowledge in hand, other producers in Scott County may just start using cover crops as well.

Currently, incentives are available for planting cover crops in Scott County through the Scott SWCD, Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District, and the Scott Watershed Management Organization, so now is a great time to look into it. If you are interested in learning more about these incentives or have questions about how cover crops can work for you, contact the Scott SWCD office at (952) 492-5425. They can provide resources and help sign you up for an incentive program.



Tom Kavitz of the Scott SWCD talks about cover crops at a recent field day.