



Properly dispose waste
The Scott County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility reopens by appointment only
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Enjoy reading this summer
Local libraries offer summer reading at-home edition
Pages 6 & 7



Farm family honored
Marschalls honored as Farm Family of the Year
Page 14

FISH network sees abundance of generosity during pandemic

People haven't been able to get out to do as much volunteer work as usual during the COVID-19 pandemic, so they've been finding other ways to assist those in need. And the Families and Individuals Sharing Hope (FISH) network in Scott County has seen an abundance of generosity during the last several months.

"When the shutdown occurred, I wasn't sure what the response would be, but right away 34 requests for help were filled," said Bethany Tjornhom, executive director of FISH, which is a network of faith communities, government non-profit/service groups, and businesses working together to meet the needs of those in the Scott County. "People were in tune with what was happening and wanted to do something," said Tjornhom. "When they're home, it is difficult to do something directly, but working through FISH and our online system, they are still able to help others. It's been very encouraging."

One of the first COVID-related requests was for money for scrubs for staff at St. Gertrude's Health Care Center in Shakopee. About \$3,000 was quickly raised to fill that **FISH NETWORK to page 10**



Responding to a need posted online by the FISH network, Kristy Limberg, a Scott County librarian, made and donated 100 face masks for TransitLink riders who do not have one available.

Dear SCENE readers,

If you've followed this publication over the years, you know – and expect – that this would be our annual "summer events" issue. Clearly, this year is different.

We can't guarantee that the regular community events will be held. We can't bring you the kind of items that we look forward to providing in every June/July issue. But we will do whatever we can to keep you informed – and maybe even a bit entertained – as best we can.

We encourage everyone to keep visiting our website at www.scottcountymn.gov, which is updated regularly. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor, and Instagram. But most of all, we encourage you to stay safe and healthy. We need you around. You matter to us.

Sincerely,
The SCENE team

Register to vote, apply now for absentee ballots

The 2020 elections are fast approaching. Are you registered and ready?

To reduce the amount of time when voting, register to vote now by going to <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx>. You can also check your registration to ensure everything is accurate by visiting <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx>.

Voters can currently request absentee ballots for the state primary and general elections. With Scott County's roughly 90,000 voters, and with COVID-19 infections **ELECTIONS to page 3**



County offers mental health services

For many people, the COVID-19 pandemic has bought with it altered daily routines, uncertainty, financial pressure, and social isolation. This combination can leave some people feeling out of control and in need of help to manage their emotions.

Scott County residents have 24/7 free access to the Scott County Mobile Crisis Response Team (Canvas Health) by calling (952) 818-3702. A caller to the crisis line may receive crisis counseling, information, referrals, or a direct link to a provider who will come to where the caller is located (using social distancing measures) to provide a crisis assessment.

Scott County residents are encouraged to contact Mobile Crisis Response if they or someone they care about is experiencing a crisis involving the following: Suicidal feelings, panic, hopelessness, mood swings, defiance, angry outbursts, severe anxiety, hallucinations, depression, delusions, increased substance use, isolation, self-injury, or other behaviors that indicate a mental health crisis.

Jay Theisen, Scott County Mobile Crisis Response Director, said that the crisis line is open during the COVID-19 pandemic and ready to serve people who are struggling. Many of the assessments can be conducted via telehealth, which allows clinicians to talk face to face with an individual over a computer, tablet, or smartphone. When necessary, a face-to-face intervention can be arranged using appropriate social distancing.

All services of the Scott County Mental Health Center have also continued through telemedicine and telephone therapy during the pandemic, including crisis assessment and intervention, therapy, diagnostic assessment, psychological evaluations, psychiatry, Connect School Therapy, and Reflections Adolescent Day Treatment Services. All insurances, Medical Assistance, and Medicare are accepted and sliding fee based on income is available for Scott County residents without insurance coverage. For all services other than the Mobile Crisis Response Team, contact Intake at 952-496-8481, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

"Most clients made a smooth transition to teletherapy, including those in our Connect school based program, day treatment programs, family therapy, and groups," reported Dr. Terry Raddatz, director of the Scott County Mental Health Center.

Theisen noted that callers to the crisis line have a variety of challenges, but most are mentioning the COVID-19 pandemic as an exacerbating factor to their current mental health. "We're seeing families who have struggled with mental health or substance use in the past who are now faced with the additional stress that COVID-19 has brought to their lives. We're working hard to help them with appropriate interventions and compassion," Theisen said.

Theisen explained that uncertainty about the future is contributing to a significant increase in depression, anxiety, loneliness, and panic **MENTAL HEALTH to page 2**

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ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Top of the SCENE

By Lezlie Vermillion
Scott County Administrator



It's not the summer we planned, but we'll get through this together

Well, this is not the summer anyone had planned, and definitely not the one we'd hoped for. I don't need to tell anyone this, especially those who have been affected by COVID-19-related illness, grieving for lost loved ones, mourning the loss of family or religious rituals and celebrations, people economically stressed and displaced from employment, essential workers who – while still maintaining employment – can't work remotely, those rightfully fearful of what's to come, and parents and caregivers who've had to serve double- or triple-time shifts in managing remote learning throughout the spring. This may be the most stressful and scary time we've had to endure.

But throughout these many months of loss, fear, and exhaustion, I've been truly inspired by the countless stories I've heard about people doing well and people doing good, taking care of themselves and others, and putting forth incredible effort to help each other and the larger community during this time. Just check out the page 1 article about the outpouring of generosity experienced by Families and Individuals Sharing Hope (FISH) page 3's piece on the CAP Agency's expanded programs available to our community, the article on page 5 highlighting the Scott County CDA's mortgage assistance services, our Library system's innovative services featured on page 6, and all of the great (and open) options for de-stressing in the Three Rivers-Scott County parks on pages 8 and 9. And that's barely scratching the surface. Reports abound detailing complimentary hot meal deliveries to essential workers, free transportation for emergency responders and grocery deliveries, "drive-by parade" celebrations organized for kids' birthdays and graduations, spontaneous food drives for local distribution, et cetera.

Crisis reveals who people really are. And Scott County residents have revealed themselves to be some of the most resilient, generous, and community-minded I've ever encountered.

But this doesn't mean that our fears and concerns evaporate, although these efforts do help restore a bit of hope and faith in these challenging times. For our part, the Scott County organization is doing whatever we can to keep services needed for the public operating in a thoughtful and responsible manner. This means providing drop boxes and online services where possible and -- when in-person services are absolutely necessary -- allowing for appointments and creating the safest environment we can for both our employees and our public. We've stepped up our outreach programming, we've been doing our level best to keep our residents and clients up to date on service changes and new developments, and trying as best we can to make sure people can access the programs and services they need – and the needs of our communities are growing with every passing day.

Please revisit page 1 for the piece on some of the mental health services that are offered through or by the County. Check out the short piece on page 6 about ways to "de-stress" out in nature. And please keep checking our website at www.scottcountymn.gov for continually updated information and local resources available to help anyone and everyone. Although it's been used in everything from diaper commercials to car advertising of late, we will get through this together. It's not what we'd planned or hoped for our glorious summer season, but it will be enough. Take care of yourselves and each other.

Appointments needed for driver's license renewals, duplicates, ID card transactions

Scott County Customer Service is now accepting appointments for driver's license and identification card transactions only. This includes renewals, duplicates for address changes, lost or stolen licenses, upgrades to Real or Enhanced DL/IDs. Visit <https://www.scottcountymn.gov/446/Tabs-Registration> for more information, or call (952) 496-8432. All other services such as tabs, title transfers, disability certificates, duplicate titles, and other deputy registrar services will continue to be offered through the drop boxes or mail. Please include a phone number.

Mental Health From page 1

attacks. However, he said, the crisis team's services *are* helping. "We're finding that when people are presented with coping mechanisms and someone outside of their home to talk with, it can be tremendously helpful and calming," Theisen said.

Though each situation is unique, Theisen says, interventions for callers may include de-escalation, short-term safety planning, provisional diagnosis, initial crisis plans, referrals, subacute

crisis stabilization, in-patient hospitalization referrals, and/or referrals to other programming and supports.

The mobile crisis response team is operated by Canvas Health, a nonprofit community mental health agency, and housed in the Scott County Law Enforcement Center in Shakopee. Canvas Health has provided Mobile Crisis Response Services to Scott County since 2017. For more information, visit www.CanvasHealth.org.



Netwave installation technicians and Steve Herman (at right), regional manager of Netwave Broadband, have been busy connecting Scott County homes to internet broadband service that allows residents to work, study, recreate, and meet virtually with medical providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Effort continues to connect residents to adequate internet service

Reliable, adequate internet service is more important to Scott County residents now than ever before as they work, study, recreate, and even virtually meet with their medical providers from home. But not all residents have suitable service.

Rita Stans of Spring Lake Township was one of those residents until about two months ago.

"Like everyone, the COVID crisis changed a lot of things for me," said Stans, who works in Human Resources and was expected to work at home after the Governor's "stay at home" order took effect in March. But Stans didn't have reliable, secure access to the internet. "I suddenly needed to be able to do my job from my home," she said. "Up to the point of the COVID crisis, good internet service just was not available in my area, and what was available was not very affordable." Without a solution, she ended up taking two weeks of vacation as she tried to figure how she was going to get properly connected.

"I was at the end of my rope!" she said. "I was required to begin working from home by the next Monday to do my job."

Then her sister called and suggested she contact one of the Scott County commissioners, and a solution was found. The County and Spring Lake Township had recently entered into an agreement with Netwave Broadband to help bring adequate broadband to areas of the County that are underserved

with Internet broadband services, and she found out she could get hooked up quickly. "I was so excited!" said Stans.

The Spring Lake Township resident said she has been extremely pleased with the service. "The speeds are comparable to being in my office at work," she said. "There haven't been any outages, it hasn't gotten bogged down, and isn't affected by bad weather. And the customer service has been great."

Stans said she is still discovering the benefits of her new-found connectivity.

"One of the things I am so happy about is that I can Facetime the grandkids anytime or talk on Google Hangouts to all of them without having to worry about data limits on my phone. Now that I have this reliable internet service, I'm realizing what I was missing," she said.

Residents who are struggling with inadequate internet service can contact Perry Mulcrone, Scott County business relationship director, at (952) 496-8776. To find out more about the services available through the local government agreement with Netwave Broadband, residents can call them directly at (952) 209-0900 or visit their website at www.netwavebroadband.net. Their new service under the contract is available in most parts of Spring Lake, eastern Sand Creek, Louisville, and Jackson Townships, the southwest portion of Shakopee, as well as the southeastern portion of the County.



Have you completed your 2020 Census?

The 2020 Census is underway, and with restrictions in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to complete the questionnaire online or fill out the paper copy and return it in the mail.

Scott County receives some state and federal aid based on its population, so it is important to count every resident!



Growing trees

Scott County residents ordered and picked up 29,000 tree and shrub seedlings from the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) sale in April. Orders for next year's sale will begin in January.



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.

CAP Corner

CAP Board names new executive director

Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Partnership Agency (CAP) and the Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Executive Director, Jeff Hansen.

Jeff has over 25 years of nonprofit experience, most recently in development and business, community, and government relations for a national nonprofit headquartered in the Twin Cities. Jeff looks forward to guiding CAP Agency in its mission and furthering its reach.

Of his time with CAP Agency so far, Jeff says, "I have been so impressed with all of the CAP staff and volunteers who continue to work to serve our communities during these unprecedented times and circumstances. I am also so grateful



Jeff Hansen

for all the ongoing financial support we continue to receive from our long-standing advocates, as well as those who have recently learned about our services. All this support stays within the communities we serve, helping those who live among us get through circumstances that most of us only read about in history books."

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A CAP Food Shelf volunteer helps stock the shelves.

Commissioners' Corner

County Board Meetings through August 2020

June 16	–	County Board meeting
June 30	–	County Board workshop
July 7	–	County Board meeting
July 21	–	County Board meeting
July 28	–	County Board workshop
August 4	–	County Board meeting
August 18	–	County Board meeting
August 25	–	County Board workshop

The Scott County Board meets at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays (except if indicated otherwise 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. 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.

Extension Committee (2 vacancies). Currently, there is one vacancy in Commissioner District 2 and one youth at-large vacancy. 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 in building 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.

Personnel Board of Appeals (1 vacancy). Currently, there is one at-large vacancy on this Board. The Personnel Board of Appeals is responsible for making findings and reporting to the County Board upon the filing of an appeal by an applicant, employee, or appointing authority under certain circumstances. There are three at-large citizen representatives on this Board. Members are appointed for three-year terms, and there are no term limits. The Board meets as needed.

Commissioner Districts:

- **District 1:** 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:** 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:** The City of Shakopee, precincts 1-4, 6-8, 12A, and 12B.
- **District 4:** The Cities of Prior Lake (precincts 1, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, and 7) and Shakopee (precincts 9, 10, 11 and 13).
- **District 5:** The City of Savage.

CAP programs expanded during COVID crisis

These are challenging times. COVID-19 crisis has seen lives upended, our neighbors who were securely employed suddenly furloughed, out of work, and struggling to pay their rent, bills, and -- in some cases -- to put food on the table. This pandemic struck suddenly and decisively, offering no time to save money, no time to prepare, and it has exposed economic gaps within our society that even the hardest hearts cannot overlook.

At CAP Agency, we have been addressing those needs for decades, working with our communities in Scott, Carver, and Dakota counties to help individuals and families get access to the resources they need on the path to self-sufficiency.

We have increased our efforts during the COVID-19 crisis. In order to maintain safety and still help the community members who need us, we have made significant changes to our food service, housing, and energy assistance programs:

- **CAP Agency Food Shelf (Scott County):** As a safety precaution, we have transitioned to curbside pickup only, with limited hours of 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Extra mobile delivery is available to senior housing buildings, clients without transportation, and those who are sick or in self-quarantine.
- **Senior Nutrition Program:** Congregate dining clients ages 60+ are now receiving one hot meal per day and a weekly 7-pack of frozen meals delivered to their homes, ensuring seniors who are not leaving their homes due to COVID-19 are still receiving the food they need.
- **WIC:** All appointments and nutrition counseling visits and referrals now take place over the phone, and benefits are loaded to the eWIC card remotely.
- **SNAP Outreach:** We are assisting clients with the SNAP application over the phone, connecting clients with resources and making

referrals remotely, and educating all CAP Agency staff on screening and referring clients.

- **Housing:** We have added 15 motel rooms for those experiencing homelessness and most at-risk for COVID -- 5 in Scott County and 10 in Dakota County.
- **Housing:** During the stay-at-home order, there has been an increase in domestic violence and those who need assistance. We received an outpouring of financial support for further motel vouchers to our recent FISH request to help victims of domestic violence during this time of isolation.
- **Energy Assistance:** We have extended the program application deadline through July 1. Visit capagency.org or call 651-322-3500, option 1.
- **Energy Assistance:** We have changed the income and qualification guidelines: Applicants only need verification for the month prior to signing the application, and they need only to be past due (rather than disconnected). We have also increased crisis grant amounts from \$600 to \$1200.

Please know that CAP Agency is here for the communities of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties during this difficult time. If you are struggling during this pandemic crisis, here are some ways to get in touch with us. We can help.

Visit our websites: www.capagency.org or info@capagency.org
Call: Scott & Carver Counties: 952-496-2125;
Dakota County: (651) 322-3500

CAP Agency Food Shelf (Scott County) COVID-19 Hours: 9 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.; For an appointment call (952) 496-2125, option 1
Energy Assistance Program: (651) 322-3500, option 1

Elections

From page 1

rising daily, Scott County election officials are urging voters to get out and vote... but do so by mail. This will ensure you are safe, keep the election judges safe, and make sure that social distancing does not become an issue. You can make an application to receive your state primary and state general ballots by visiting <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>.

If you have any questions, you can



e-mail selelections@co.scott.mn.us or call (952) 496-8560. Please note that Scott County does not have full-time elections staff; you may need to leave a message, but someone will get back to you within 24 hours.

Environmental SCENE

By Jon Knight
Environmentalist II



Nurture children's love of nature

While doing some landscaping in our yard, the disturbance of a rock revealed a critter living beneath within the soil. An earthworm, who noticed it got brighter in its world, tried to escape but was too slow for me to grab it, so I gently held it for my two kids to observe. The excited reactions were shared by both my son (an outdoorsy kid who loves to explore the natural world), but even more surprisingly, by my younger daughter. She had no problem letting the worm wiggle in her hands, showing admiration of the small creature. Many of their peers would be disgusted at the thought of touching such a creature, but my kids seek them out with excitement. They are something to be investigated, appreciated, and respected, not to be feared or grossed out by. In our current day, a love for nature must be taught and modeled. It doesn't always come naturally. Children need exposure to our natural world in order to grow a desire to understand it better.

Growing up, I had an innate interest in the natural world and could be found outside exploring or watching television shows about animals or plants for hours. This passion for everything nature-related translated into my eventual college education choice, a science degree in fisheries and wildlife. The required classes only strengthened my love of flora (vegetation) and fauna (wildlife), especially locally-occurring varieties. My most memorable environmentally-based classes were field courses taken at the University of Minnesota's Itasca Biological Station within Itasca State Park in northern Minnesota. These classes took the mundane classroom instruction and energized them by complete immersion into the chosen courses. I was in love. These courses taught me not only identification of a variety of species, but also the interconnectedness among them and the environment.

My love for the environment has both a nurture and nature origin, and has affected me in multiple areas of my life. Ask anyone who knows me, and they will tell you of my love of animals and a random fact that can be pulled out of thin air about a wide variety of animals and plants. I have also gained interest and passion for a variety of other environmental facts, issues, and concerns. My wife and I have dedicated ourselves to be more knowledgeable and aware about a variety of environmental concerns and issues. The major issues relating to climate change are ever-present in our lives, and limiting our environmental footprint is important to us. We also try to not lose sight of smaller, but still important, things, like what to recycle or recognizing the specific species of ant in front of me and appreciating what amazing things it can accomplish. When we had our children, we devoted ourselves to instilling within them a desire to look beyond the surface at things that normally get overlooked, in the hope that they will care about what happens to the natural world... and maybe be a catalyst for change.

Although they are both young and we currently live in a suburban area, we still try to make sure exposure to things that don't require electricity or a battery are a big part of their lives. One of the most positive impacts on their lives have been our annual participation in wilderness-based camps. Our family takes a week out of the year to drive a few hours north of the Twin Cities with the necessary "unplugging" that recharges quicker than any cord can. This camp encourages commitment to unplugging by purposely having inconvenient electrical access and very limited cell phone coverage, and even worse internet capabilities. The days are filled with nature hikes, scavenger hunts, local fauna and flora education, artwork using natural objects, singing, and an overwhelming and constant push to go off the beaten path and explore. No money can replace the tears that flow the last day we go back to the concrete and human world that we exist in.

I truly believe that the more exposure to and experience with nature, or anything for that matter, the more you care. For this reason, I personally strive to let my kids explore their world, get dirty, and learn about the life all around them. The more you learn about something, the more you care. The more you care, the more you want to see it protected and thriving. It is so important that future generations learn about and see the bigger picture around them so that they can not only care about, but be proactive in, protecting their world. That's been the goal for my children, and it's working.

For opportunities to enjoy nature within Scott County, go to the Three Rivers Park District Partnership page on the Scott County website at <https://www.scottcountymn.gov/823/Three-Rivers-Partnership>. On this page, you can find information on parks and trails, as well as other activities that you can participate in throughout the year. For more information on ways to get out and enjoy nature with kids, or just to chat about related topics, e-mail me at jknight@co.scott.mn.us or call (952) 496-8652. I'd love to hear from you!

Employers of Excellence program postponed

Due to the ongoing uncertainty with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board has made the difficult decision to **postpone this year's Employers of Excellence program** and event. Plans are being made to now hold the event in early 2021, with applications being accepted beginning in January.



Children enjoy observing nature -- such as this tiny turtle -- close up.

Scott County Household Hazardous Waste Facility (HHW) is now open by appointment only

Visit www.scottcountymn.gov/hhw to make an appointment for hazardous waste drop off. Please do not wait at the HHW; we are currently unable to accommodate non-appointment dropoffs.

Cash and exact change preferred for transactions; wearing a face mask is recommended

Appointments may also be made to pick up compost bins that have been ordered.

Note: The Reuse Room remains temporarily closed

Separate, secure items brought to HHW Facility

With so many of us taking this "stay at home" time to get a jump on spring cleaning, the Scott County Household Hazardous Waste Facility is expected to be a pretty popular place this summer. But to keep yourself and others safe, please keep these details in mind:

Proper packaging:

- Treat your hazardous waste like you would treat your valuables. (Gently.)
- Do not place items in breakable containers.
- If the item is made of glass, pack it alone in a cushioned container.
- Mercury is often stored in glass – keep this secure for transportation.



Separation:

- Most household chemicals on their own are safe *if used correctly*.
- A general good rule: Never mix chemicals of any kind.
- It's okay to bring in multiple



containers that are only half full.

- The combination of ammonia and bleach can produce dangerous chlorine gas.

Labels:

- Keep products in their original containers, with the original labels, if possible.
- If the original labels are missing or unreadable, label the container with the contents.
- If you're unsure of the contents, please communicate this to the HHW staff.

Safety during transport:

- After your items are properly packaged, keep them secure during transport.
- You may need to put loose containers into a box so they do not tip over.
- Use a large tote to hold paint cans – it's not easy to clean paint out of your car's upholstery!
- Do not smoke if transporting flammable items (e.g., gas, cleaners, paint thinner).



And remember: If you do encounter a spill of mercury, please visit Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's site at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hhw1-38.pdf>.

Aug. 31 is deadline for FAST-TRACK Challenge

Looking for help to *jump start* your own business, a new product, or a new service? If so, the Scott County *FAST-TRACK* Challenge is for you! This award-winning business competition provides you with the resources to develop or fine tune your business plan, develop a pitch for your business, and potentially be selected as a finalist to compete for mentorship, cash, and professional services to help your business succeed.

The *FAST-TRACK* Challenge is *free* to enter. Please visit www.ScottCountyFastTrack.com to find out information on eligibility and categories for the challenge. Applications are being accepted through Aug. 31, 2020 and may be obtained on the *FAST-TRACK* Challenge website.

Evaluation of applications will occur the beginning of September, with finalists announced mid-September. Prac-



tice pitches with the Technology Village Board and *Open to Business* will take place the end of September and early October, with the 2020 *FAST-TRACK* Challenge Competition will be held on Thursday, Oct. 22, with a virtual option for participants.

For more information on the *FAST-TRACK* Challenge, visit www.ScottCountyFastTrack.com or contact Jo Foust, Business Development Specialist with Scott County First Stop Shop, at (952) 496-8830 or jfoust@scottfss.org.

CDA prepared to help homeowners with mortgage problems

Home matters, and having a home during a pandemic when we have been required to stay at home emphasizes the importance even more. In Scott County, approximately 40,000 households are homeowners compared to just over 8,000 renter households. Even before the current pandemic, over 20 percent of the homeowners (and nearly 45 per-



Consumers must reach out to lenders to discuss their situation and enroll in the programs available.

cent of the renters) were paying more than the recommended rule of thumb of 30 percent of income towards housing. With rising unemployment rates and businesses not yet able to fully open, we know that the number of households struggling to pay. Often their largest monthly bill -- housing -- is rising.

Homeownership staff at the Scott County CDA stand ready to help Scott County homeowners navigate their concerns over their ability to pay their mortgage now or in the coming months. Between September 2019 and March 2020, 84 percent of the foreclosure prevention counseling cases resolved were modified, successfully sold, and/or brought to current. CDA staff can be reached by calling (952) 402-9022 or through their website at <https://scottcda.org/resource/covid-19-community-resources/>.

The CDA is part of a larger network of homeownership advisors that provide free, non-biased confidential services tailored to the specific circumstances of each individual they serve. The network is supported by the leadership and coordination of the Minnesota Homeownership Center (<https://www.hocmn.org>).

The Minnesota Homeownership Center provided the following information for homeowners on its blog on March 31, 2020 (reprinted here with permission). The following are facts all Minnesota homeowners should learn before acting hastily with regard to homeownership:

The Federal Housing Finance Agency has announced that all mortgage loans owned by Federal Home Loan

Banks (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, etc.) will offer temporary relief to those impacted by the Coronavirus whose ability to pay their mortgage is impacted. These individuals will be eligible to temporarily delay making their monthly mortgage payments. During this delay, there will be no late fees incurred; delinquencies will not be reported to credit bureaus; and foreclosure and other legal proceedings will be suspended.

In addition to the loans covered above, most (if not all) consumer-facing financial institutions also are offering relief, including mortgage relief where applicable, to consumers affected by the Coronavirus. Contact your lender to learn more.

In order to take advantage of any of these relief provisions, consumers must reach out to their lenders to discuss their situation and enroll in these special programs! Missing a mortgage payment without reaching out to your lender will not automatically enroll you. Checking the lender's website first may be helpful, as some have more self-serve functionality available than others.

These temporary relief programs are just that – temporary relief. They should be utilized only when you are at risk of defaulting on your mortgage. Any payments delayed will still need to be made eventually, likely with interest. When speaking with your lender, make sure you understand specifics like this, keeping in mind that additional government relief to consumers as well as to banks may further impact things to the positive down the road.

Protect yourself from scams and scare tactics. Never pay for mortgage relief! Scammers and flippers are working overtime during this period of uncertainty and anxiety. **For trusted information and advice, seek the expertise of a Homeownership Advisor** by calling the Scott County CDA at (952) 402-9022. The CDA provides services that are free and deliverable via phone.

The bottom line for homeowners is that banks are expecting many consumers, through no fault of their own, to understandably have trouble in the short term keeping current on their mortgages. While it is imperative that consumers reach out to their lender and discuss their situation, the banks are poised to assist you during this difficult time.

Seem intimidating? Call the experienced homeownership team at the Scott County CDA at (952) 204-9022 to discuss your situation in confidence, empower you with information and let you know what to expect along the way.

Free “restore your shore” webinar set for June 9

Lakes represent so much in Minnesota. They are places of beauty, places to recreate, and places we live on. But recently, we are seeing shorelines in Minnesota wash away. If you live near a lake and are seeing more and more of your shoreline disappear each year, you can help stop the erosion, and do your part to protect local water quality! The Scott Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting a *free*, introductory workshop to teach you the basics of shoreline restoration and native shoreline plantings. \

Where: Zoom webinar. RSVP (required) online at www.scottswcd.org

(under the “News and Events” tab) for the event link, or call (952) 492-5425.

When: Tuesday, June 9, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

The free workshop is an opportunity to learn how to protect and stabilize the area between your lawn and the lake. The course will go over different planting techniques, and it will give you all the resources you need to begin your restoration process. Information will be presented by Scott SWCD Natural Resource Specialist Meghan Darley. Resources will include free technical assistance to design your project, suppliers of equipment and seed, and take-home information for your reference.

EmergenSCENE

By Captain Scott Haas
Emergency Management
and Communications Director



These are strange times

In the last few months, a lot of people have told me that “these are strange times” -- and they are. We have experienced a public health crisis that led to an economic crisis, then a mental health crisis. We experienced an “infodemic” fueled by 24-hour news and partisan politics. By the time this article gets published, we may be in the peak of COVID-19 cases, or we may be on the way back down, heading to our new normal.

In the past, I’ve written articles encouraging people to take small steps to prepare themselves for the inevitability of a disaster. I no longer need to write about supply chain disruptions or the value of stocking a few extra nonperishable goods. We’ve seen just how quickly basic goods and services can be disrupted by panic buying and hoarding.

As an Emergency Management Director, a concern that is always on my mind is the disruption of housing. Imagine a situation where a disaster made your home unsafe for you to live in. Where would you go? Some people have close family and friends they can rely on, but some do not. Scott County Emergency Management has a strong relationship with the Twin Cities chapter of the American Red Cross. In the past, we have benefited from this relationship to shelter evacuees. The current pandemic made open-room sheltering of a large group inadvisable. Alternative emergency housing arrangements have been made.



A volunteer helped care for pets at a temporary pet shelter set up at the SCALE Regional Public Safety Training Facility during a flood evacuation in 2019.

Members of Scott County’s SAF-COM volunteer organization are building a pet sheltering team. We are currently procuring equipment for a small, deployable shelter. Members of the pet sheltering team will receive training on how to safely care for animals in a disaster. During a crisis, team members may be called upon to activate a pet shelter near a location where their human owners are staying. Members will work with other team members to fill shifts during the period of need.

If you are interested in joining the pet sheltering team, or volunteering to support Scott County in a disaster, please contact volunteer coordinator Cara Madsen at (952) 496-8169 or CMadsen@co.scott.mn.us.

Short on toilet paper? Don’t flush wipes!

Due to the stay at home order brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of essential items at stores have been getting scooped up by people purchasing more than they need. Now, when you get to the store and see empty toilet paper shelves, you may want to do a little research before you fill your cart with the alternatives: disposable, or “flushable,” wipes.

Disposable wipes can be used for changing diapers, personal hygiene, housecleaning, and more. However, they can also cause major problems when flushed down toilets. Since these wipes don’t break down the way toilet paper does, they can clog your home’s sewer pipes (or the city’s). By putting stress on wastewater systems, people may be causing cities to spend thousands on equipment repair, or even replacement.

“Flushable” wipes can get caught on any imperfection in pipes, allowing for other debris and greases to collect and form a ball... which leads to clogged pipes. If these wipes get stuck in wastewater treatment equipment, cities must manually clear out pumps or remove clogs.

Although many brands of disposable



Disposable wipes cause problems in homeowners’ pipes and at wastewater treatment plants.

wipes are labeled “flushable,” **do not flush them.** The clogs and backups they cause may result in expensive plumbing bills for your home, or increased wastewater fees from your city. Remember to always put these “flushable” wipes in the trash in order keep our wastewater systems free of unwanted clogs.

Healthy SCENE

By Dr. Terry Raddatz and
Public Health Nurse Brittani Schmidt

Stay healthy during pandemic

Exercise, healthy eating, and fresh air are essential ways to cope with stress during this difficult time with COVID-19. Here are some healthy eating tips, ways to manage your health conditions, and safe activities you can do with your family.

Go outside and play responsibly.

- Enjoy nature walks with your family. It's important that all guidelines from state and local health officials, such as social distancing (at least six feet from others) and practicing good hygiene, are still followed.
- Join your children outside for a game of hide and seek, kick the can, or a scavenger hunt around the neighborhood.
- Take your dog for a walk, go for a jog, and take a bike ride.
- Set yourself and your family "be active" goals: Choose a specific activity, time of day, or number of minutes you will be active every day.
- Spend time outside without distractions, whether it's walking along a trail or sitting in your backyard or patio.

Do your best to eat healthy foods.

- Keep fruits and vegetables on hand if possible.
- Fresh vegetables with longer shelf life include: Carrots, turnips, potatoes, yams, beets, onions, squash, and cabbage.
- Fresh fruit with longer shelf life include: Apples, melons, oranges, grapefruit, lemons, and limes.
- Frozen fruits and vegetables are good too!
- Choose whole grain breads, pastas, and tortillas if possible.
- Drink plenty of water.
- With more time at home, try making new, healthy recipes with your family!

Manage your health.

- Gather any supplies and medications you may need to ensure you have them on hand.
- Ensure you have phone numbers for your doctors, pharmacy, and insurance provider on hand.
- Ask your doctor if virtual visits are available.
- Wash your hands often.
- To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places -- elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, et cetera.
- Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs.
- Avoid crowds.
- Continue routine practices to ensure stability of your health condition.
- Eat healthy and stay active as you are able!

Questions related to healthy eating and physical activity during COVID-19? Contact us at healthmatters@co.scott.mn.us.

De-stress in the woods

As we all look for ways to either take our minds off the Coronavirus pandemic, de-stress from a day of work and/or distance learning, or just looking to pass some time, a simple walk in the woods can help. The woods offer a simplistic way to decompress and relieve stress in your life. In the woods, the trees and the wildlife don't know there is a pandemic occurring. In the woods, there is plenty of space to keep your distance. In the woods, everything has a tendency to *slow down*.

Scott County is part of the "Big Woods" ecological classification. This means that, pre-settlement, vegetation consisted of mostly oak and maple-basswood forests. Today, the landscape looks a little different but there are still plenty of pockets of remnant woods that remain. Local parks are largely still open for use along with State trails that are great resources to get outside.

Relieving stress can take different forms for different people. However, there are some universally recognized activities that can be achieved by spending time in the woods. The most obvious? Just the fact of being outside amid nature where it is quiet and secluded. By taking a walk or hike, a person can get their daily exercise in. Want to start eating healthier foods? There are plenty of healthy wild edibles that the woods offer. (Of course, you'll want to make sure the property you're on

allows the harvesting of plants, and do your research on what is *actually* edible.) This time of the year, we're entering chanterelle mushroom season -- and if you haven't tried them before, they are a delicious find. If breathing helps you relieve stress, there is no fresher air than being in a pristine wood. Maybe just tuning out for a while and taking a break from watching the news and checking social media helps. Turn the phone off in the woods, and try to live in the moment while not worrying about the future.

The woods offer a great opportunity for kids to put down electronics and connect with nature as well. Kids are highly creative, and the woods offer an endless supply of art materials for projects: Create a sculpture out of rocks and sticks, or maybe take some twigs and leaves home to make a project there. Simply stopping to listen to the sounds in the woods can offer an opportunity for even a novice to start learning ornithology (study of birds). Trying listening for the song of an Eastern Phoebe, it is very distinct and sounds exactly like their name: "fee-bee."

When this is all over and life goes back to normal, perhaps you'll have a newfound appreciation for the woods... or possibly a new chanterelle mushroom recipe to make, or a great trivia question on which bird sings its own name at your next get-together.



Put items on hold and schedule a time for a curbside pickup at any of the Scott County libraries when materials are available.

Libraries provide services online, by appointments

While summer feels markedly different this year, your Scott County Libraries are here to help you enjoy it. We've modified existing services and enhanced digital resources to keep you reading, listening, and learning -- no matter where you are. Here are Library services you and your family can take advantage of this summer.

Online library card application

It's easier than ever to get a library card! We'll e-mail you the card number and PIN, and snail-mail the physical library card as a courtesy. Apply through our mobile app or online at www.scottlib.org/apply.

New library mobile app

Easily manage your items, follow updates, and access digital services on the new Scott County Library mobile app. You can even put items on hold and schedule a curbside pickup appointment when they're ready. Search for "Scott Lib (MN)" in your app store, and sign in with your library card and PIN.

Summer Reading Program

Celebrate a season of reading with *Summer Spotlight At Home Edition* for ages birth - 18, Saturday, June 6 – Saturday, September 5, 2020. We're planning 12 weeks of exciting at-home events and mail-out/pickup options for you and your family all summer long! See our full-page ad on page 7 or our website at www.scottlib.org/SRP for more details on:

- How to request a summer fun pack, complete with an age-appropriate 16-page activity book and reading log, at-home projects, and incentives -- all customized to your child's age range. (One packet per child; limited to families in our library service area.)
- Schedule of events, including virtual performances, weekly online activities, and mail-out and pickup events (such as arts workshops and escape rooms).
- How to enter our summer prize drawings for Barnes and Noble gift cards.

Curbside pickup of Library items, printing, and more

We've made it a breeze to stop by your library to pick up library items! Put items on hold using our library catalog or mobile app, and schedule a pickup time when they're ready. You can even do the entire process through our mobile app. Learn more at www.scottlib.org/curbside.

Computers and printing

We're offering access to computers by appointment. To reserve a PC, call your branch or visit us online at

www.scottlib.org/use. Need something printed? No problem! Send us a link or file through our Curbside Appointments page, and we'll get it ready for you ASAP. We'll print up to ten pages in black and white for *free*!

eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines

Our eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines are available 24/7, anywhere you are. Visit our eBooks page to get started at www.scottlib.org/ebooks.

Resources for job seekers and career development

The Library offers a robust set of online resources for skill-building and job seeking, including JobNow and Lynda.com (also known as LinkedIn Learning). Take online training courses, prep for certification tests, get assistance on your resume, and more! Find them at www.scottlib.org/careers.

Summer learning support for youth

Prevent the summer learning slide! We have online resources for students, including *free* online chat tutoring with Homework HelpNow. Students in Shakopee Public Schools ISD 720 and Burnsville-Eagan-Savage ISD 191 are welcome to use their Virtual Student Library Cards to log into our online resources. Teachers may also apply for an Educator Online Access Card, so you can access and recommend those same great resources to your students. Information about student and educator cards is located at www.scottlib.org/schoolcards.

Ask a Librarian

Our "Ask a Librarian" and "Ask a Law Librarian" forms are great ways to contact library staff for information needs. You can also call any of our locations and get in touch with staff in a variety of ways. Get in touch at www.scottlib.org/ask.

Learn about virtual programs in our newsletters

Library staff are online! Sign for our *Adult* or *Kids & Family* newsletters to keep up with our latest virtual programs and activities. We'll be in touch once or twice a week with our newest virtual programs and library updates. Sign up at www.scottlib.org/newsletter.

Keep in touch on social media

Our newsletters and social media posts feature *Staff Recommends* book lists, book scavenger hunts, interesting online activities to share, and even video early literacy classes. You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, and the Scott County NextDoor feed.

Stay tuned and follow library updates at www.scottlib.org!



summer SPOTLIGHT

June 6 – September 5
For ages birth – 18



at Home



**Celebrate a season of reading with
Summer Spotlight At Home Edition!**



We're planning an entire summer of exciting at-home events and activities for kids and families. Visit www.scottlib.org/summer for more details on:


- The schedule of events including virtual performances (featuring library staff and some favorite performers), weekly online activities, mail-out and pickup events such as arts workshops and escape rooms
- How to enter our summer prize drawings for Barnes and Noble gift cards

Why participate?


Engaging in learning activities this summer helps your kids ready to go back to school in the fall. Summer Spotlight At Home features many fun and educational screen-free and real life activities. Get the most out of your summer by requesting your packet below!

How to request a Summer Spotlight at Home packet

- Complete the form online at <https://bit.ly/SCLSpotlight>
- OR: Fill out form below, then either drop in the book return of your Scott County Library or mail to: **Scott County Library Administration**
1615 Weston Court
Shakopee, MN 55379



Funded in part by:



Grownup First and Last Name _____

Mailing Address (House Number, Unit Number & Street, or PO Box) _____ City, State Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address* _____

My Library Location _____

☐ I would prefer to pick up my packet.*
☐ I would prefer to have my packet mailed to me.

Write the number of children you have in each age group.
We will send you a one packet for each child.

Birth - 2 _____ 3 - 5 _____ 6 - 8 _____ 9 - 11 _____ 12 - 18 _____

One packet per child; limited to families in our library service area. *If available, packet pick-up options will be emailed to you.



in partnership with



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, this park offers fishing, picnic areas, almost 4 miles of trails, a canoe launch, group campsite and beach.

picnic areas

The park provides a spectacular setting for a casual picnic with family or friends. Picnic sites are first-come, first-served.

trails

The park features a 1-mile paved trail to the lake. Turf trails in the northwestern part of the park provide 2.7 miles of hiking. Dogs are allowed on a 6-foot, non-retractable leash.

Cleary Lake Regional Park

18106 Texas Avenue, Prior Lake, MN 55372
Phone: 763.694.7777, Hours: 5 AM–10 PM
A popular year-round recreation spot, this beautiful park offers something for everyone. Amenities include a dog off-leash area, over 5 miles of trails, 9-hole golf course, campground, picnic areas, beach, cross-country ski trails and more.

boat launch & rentals

Spend the day on the water. A launch for non-motorized boats is located on the south shore of Cleary Lake. Boat rental available.

dog off-leash area

A 28-acre off-leash area provides great opportunities to exercise dogs. The area is fenced and has a wetland pond. Daily or annual pass is required.

golf

The scenic 9-hole executive course and practice area offer a full range of amenities for both beginner and experienced golfers. The course also features FootGolf, where you follow the rules of golf but kick a soccer ball instead of swinging a club.

picnic areas

The park provides a scenic setting for a casual picnic with family and friends. Picnic areas are first-come, first-served.

Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve

15501 Murphy Lake Road, Savage, MN 55378
Phone: 763.694.7777, Hours: 5 AM–10 PM
The peaceful wilderness of this park features glacial ridges, hilly terrain and an extensive lush forest. It is a favorite spot for mountain bikers, hikers, horseback riders and experienced cross-country skiers. With the exception of the trails and dog off-leash area, the park remains in a natural state, making it a great location to spot songbirds. It has also been designated an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.

boat launch

A concrete boat launch is located off County Road 75. Electric trolling motors only; no gas motors or gas augers are allowed.

dog off-leash area

The fenced, 3-acre off-leash area allows space for dogs to run and includes a water fountain and dog washing station. A daily or annual pass is required.

mountain bike trail

The 10-mile singletrack trail offers easy to advanced loops and presses riders with several technical features. The course is open year-round.



fishing

Cast a line from shore or the fishing pier. Anglers must have a valid Minnesota fishing license.



fishing

Cast a line from shore on an accessible fishing pier. Anglers must have a valid Minnesota fishing license.

trails

A paved 3.5-mile trail loops around Cleary Lake; rest stops and a water pump are available. The trail also connects to the Scott West Regional Trail. Turf trails provide over 2 miles for hiking. Dogs are allowed on a 6-foot, non-retractable leash.



trails

The hiking-only Wood Duck trail is very hilly and goes through oak forest. Horseback riders can enjoy the scenic beauty of this park year-round; a daily or annual pass is required. Dogs are allowed on turf trails on 6-foot, non-retractable leashes.

Spring Lake Regional Park

15851 Howard Lake Road, Prior Lake, MN 55372
Phone: 763.694.7777, Hours: 5 AM–10 PM daily
Scott County’s newest regional park offers over 4 miles of paved trails and a dog off-leash area. This park protects 374 acres of diverse natural habitats that include an old maple-basswood forest, open water wetlands, cattail marshes and a tamarack bog.

dog off-leash area

An off-leash area with a watering and rinsing station provides a wonderful opportunity for dogs to get some exercise. There are two separate, fully fenced areas: 9 acres for large dogs and 1 acre for small and frail dogs. A daily or annual pass is required.

trails

A 4.4-mile paved trail takes visitors through forest and savanna prairie with breathtaking vistas. Each season provides a unique opportunity to explore this beautiful habitat that supports a variety of wildlife. The trail connects the park from north to south, as well as to County Road 12. Dogs are allowed on a 6-foot, non-retractable leash.



fishing

Shore fishing is accessible on Spring Lake from the park. Use the parking lot on the south side of County Road 12 to access the lake.

The Landing - Minnesota River Heritage Park

2187 Highway 101 East, Shakopee, MN 55379
Phone: 763.694.7784, Hours: 5 AM–10 PM
Visit The Landing to 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. The park offers a trail along the river, picnic areas and fishing opportunities.

trails

A 1.1-mile, unpaved hiking trail offers scenic views of the river and some of the best bird watching in the Twin Cities. The trail connects to a gravel path with interpretive stops through the village. The park also connects to the Minnesota Valley State Trail. Dogs are allowed on 6-foot, non-retractable leashes; dogs are not allowed in the buildings.

picnic areas

Dine al fresco in an historic setting. Picnic tables found throughout the park are first-come, first-served.



fishing

The river banks along the unpaved hiking trail provide great shore fishing opportunities.

Regional Parks in Scott County

Before You Visit

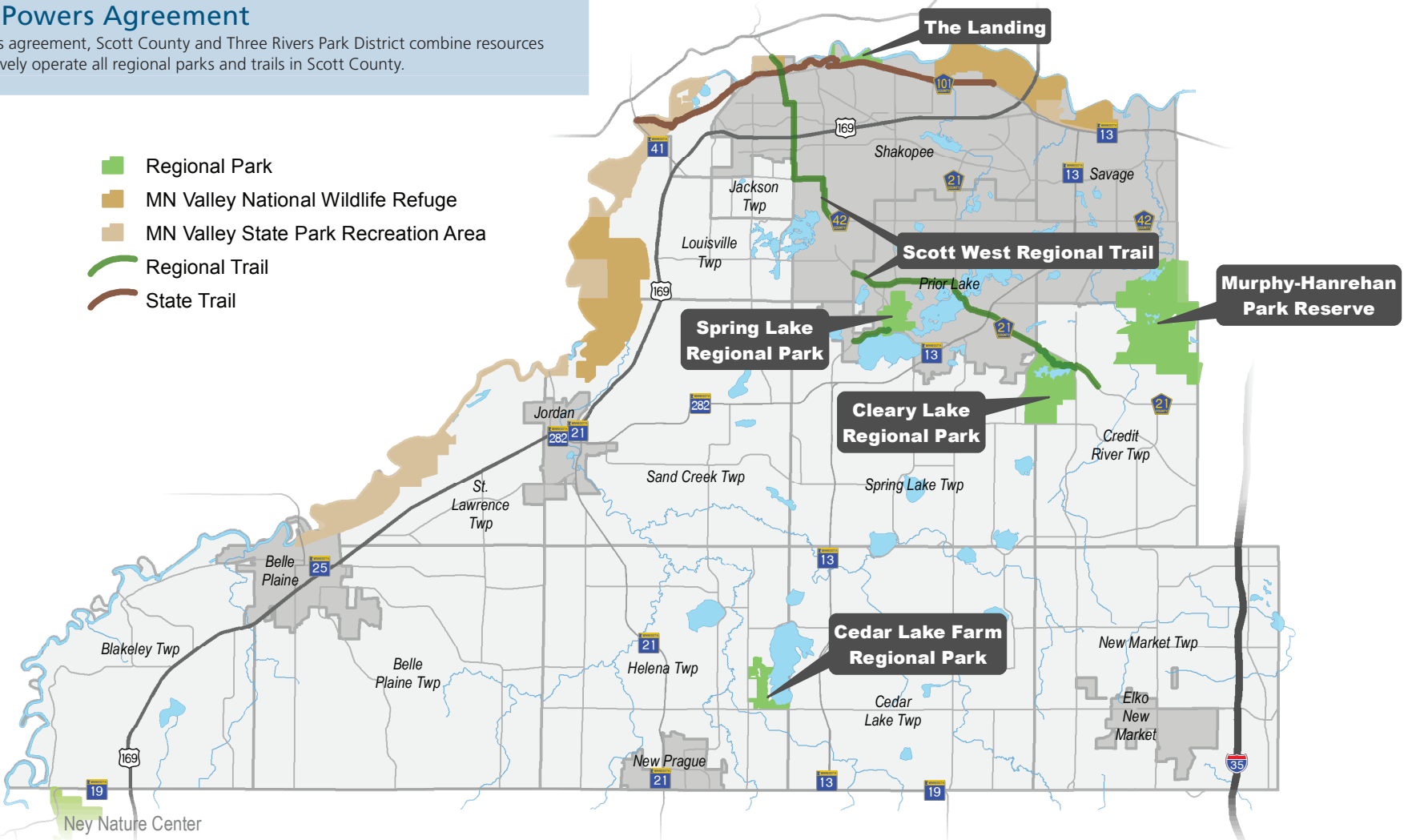
Be sure to check ThreeRiversParks.org for any operational updates before your next visit.

Social Distancing in the Parks

- Please keep 6 feet between yourself and others.
- Say “on your left” when passing on a trail.
- Refrain from gathering in groups.

Joint Powers Agreement

Under this agreement, Scott County and Three Rivers Park District combine resources to collectively operate all regional parks and trails in Scott County.

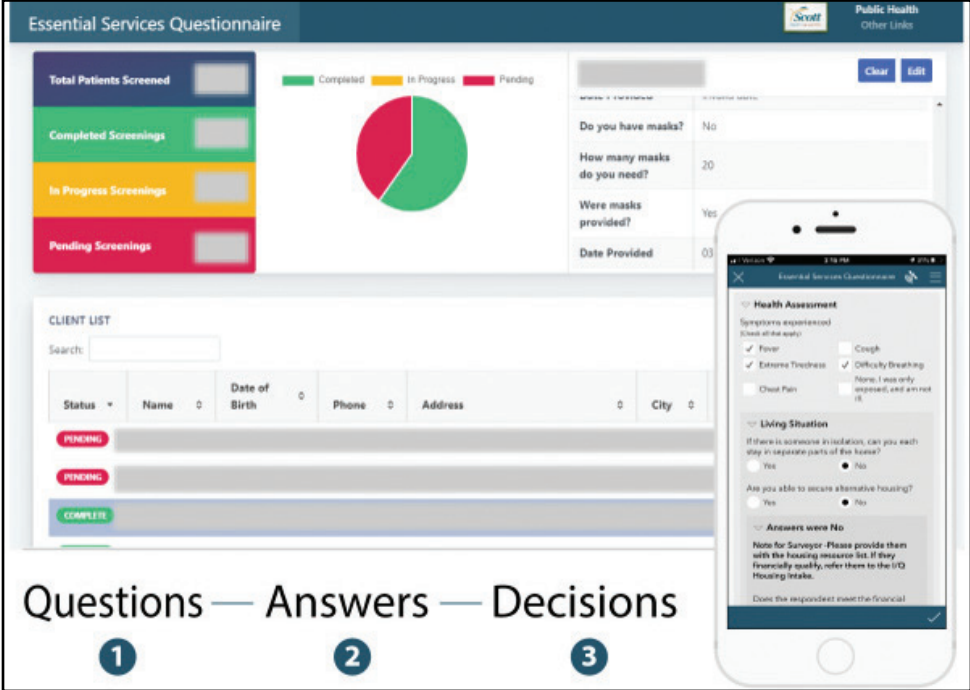


County GIS helps provide COVID-19 data quickly

Compiling data quickly and efficiently and then displaying them for staff and public use has been at the forefront of Scott County’s COVID-19 response. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is helping the County and its local partners make data-driven decisions, allocate much-needed resources, and keep the public informed during the Coronavirus outbreak. Traditionally, GIS has meant maps and map-making, but in today’s world, “GIS is more than just dots and lines on a map, we can use it to turn information into actionable business intelligence,” said Scott County GIS analyst Matt McLees. GIS is now more about interactive real-time information, lookups, dynamic charts, graphs, and data feeds. People are looking for real-time information.

“During a crisis like a pandemic, situational awareness becomes especially important,” said GIS analyst Chris Ross. “GIS is fundamentally built around graphics, visuals, and spatial analysis, making it a go-to tool for something like an outbreak.”

Ross said County GIS staff were able to take the lessons learned from other local disaster response efforts and transfer this knowledge quickly. Staff had developed an easy-to-use, web-based survey tool to collect data in the field, such as damaged buildings from a tornado or washed-out roadways from a localized flood. GIS staff worked with public health staff to repurpose the survey and use it to replace paper-based



An online survey developed through Scott County GIS can quickly get infected residents in touch with essential services.

intake forms for those residents with COVID-19 that had been referred to County services. The survey-based approach helped County staff quickly get residents in touch with essential services that were needed including food, thermometers, and masks.

“Making the intake forms digital allows for streamlined data collection and record keeping, which means we can instantly see what services are needed in real time and respond accordingly,” said McLees, who led the effort to repurpose

this GIS survey. “Staff that need instant access to specific information can quickly see if a resident needs food or medical supplies, and respond accordingly. There is no need to wait for paper forms to be passed around.”

With more than half of the County’s workforce currently working remotely on a typical day, the County needed a quick, easy way for staff to check in daily to make sure critical services were being properly staffed. GIS staff used a software tool that allows quick check-

in capabilities, but -- more importantly -- built a dashboard so supervisors and directors could view the work status of County employees.

The GIS staff also assisted in more traditional ways. They built a map dashboard of local confirmed and active cases within Scott County. This dashboard was provided to the County’s Emergency Management office for daily monitoring and situational awareness. They also helped identify local community resources offering food and essential services.

County GIS analyst Tony Monsour said moving forward in a post-pandemic world, everyone will be looking at how they perform work and the types of interactions they have with their co-workers, patrons, and people they serve differently. Using GIS tools during quarantine, many departments were able to move from paper and face-to-face interactions to digital workflows, allowing for direct customer input.

“It’s all about finding the tools that are going to provide you with the most flexibility and efficiency in a time like this, when you go from being in the office every day to being told you can no longer be in the office,” said Monsour. “Losing out on your day-to-day workflows, interactions, and everything else you take for granted forces you to think creatively.”



Concerns about safety and all the hurdles that would need to be overcome to hold a fair this summer resulted in the difficult decision to cancel this year’s event.

Scott County Fair cancelled for 2020

Although currently not the most pressing concern on peoples’ minds, both young and old are wondering, “Will there be a Scott County Fair this year?” For many people, especially children, the Fair is a highlight of their summer – almost magical. Not having the Fair is like telling them that Santa may not be coming this year.

Please know we did everything we could to have the Fair this year. Unfortunately, we have learned (with crystal-clear clarity) that *we are not in control*. We don’t control the weather; we don’t control what the government may mandate; and we don’t control what liability insurance policies will cover. Although the weather may be late-springtime beautiful, there are just too many obstacles for us to overcome to keep people safe. Since we cannot provide the same level of fun and entertainment under the present circumstances, we have made the very difficult decision to cancel the Scott County Fair for 2020 and have moved our efforts to planning for 2021. Check out the Scott County Fair

website and social media for more information.

For next year’s Fair, we hope for a warm breeze to blow across the grounds as 4-Hers ready their animals for showing, clear skies for the Draft Horse shows (one of the biggest in the nation), and comfortably warm temperatures for the free stages of music and entertainment. Lord willing, there will be live births in the Miracle of Birth center (as nature intended) and milking demonstrations five times a day as scheduled.

If you close your eyes, you can almost see the bright lights of the Gold Star Amusement carnival against the summer night sky and catch the aroma of the food the vendors are preparing wafting through the air as you stroll down the lane with your family and friends. But for now, we must keep our Fairgoers, vendors, entertainers, and staff safe. We hope you understand. We’ll see you next summer. I still believe Christmas is coming this year.

Get out of the house and learn about local history

Due to the current stay at home order, SCHS does not have any in-person events currently planned -- but we are still providing ways to connect with local history!

Historical City Tours

Looking to get out of the house? SCHS has converted many of our popular walking tours into a digital format! Just type the links below into your browser on any computer or mobile device, and you will be able to access an interactive map, complete with photos and local history stories. Even better, you can use Google’s turn-by-turn navigation to move between sites.

Shakopee tour: shorturl.at/xLVW4
Belle Plaine tour: shorturl.at/beMQ0
Jordan tour: shorturl.at/twIY3
New Prague tour: shorturl.at/aglEK

Social media

Looking for some fun distractions? Follow SCHS on Instagram ([scottcohistory](https://www.instagram.com/scottcohistory)) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SCHSHistory>) for daily collections stories, trivia games, maps, and more!



The former Nicolín Hall, which is the current Nicolín Inn in downtown Jordan, is one of the featured historic sites on the Jordan walking tour.

hist) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SCHSHistory>) for daily collections stories, trivia games, maps, and more!

Questions? Comments? Just want to say hi? Don’t hesitate to reach out to us at info@scottcountyhistory.org.

FISH network

From page 1

need. Another request came from the Carver/Scott Counties’ Dial-a-Ride service, Transit Link. They needed face masks for riders who didn’t have them. As soon as Kristy Limberg, a Scott County librarian, saw the request, she responded and made and donated 100 masks. Requests coming from local police for hotel vouchers for homeless individuals they had encountered raised a quick \$600, enough to tide them over until they had time to apply for other housing options. Employees at the City of Savage donated a portion of their paychecks to FISH to fill a need in their community.

Tjornhom said the number of requests have not increased significantly during the pandemic, but the type of

requests have changed. Currently, over half of the requests are for kids and teens dealing with anxiety over the crisis. Crafts, bicycles, and games have been popular items, and needs are being met.

Anyone interested in becoming a FISH partner or affiliate should visit the non-profit group’s website at www.Fish-partnernetwork.org. Once approved, partners and affiliates can post needs after they are vetted by staff, and they can see requests that need to be filled. FISH currently has almost 800 partners and affiliates.

“It’s been very rewarding to see how people are stepping up, but we can always use more people who want to help,” said Tjornhom.



SCALE

Scott County Association
for Leadership & Efficiency

News you can use...

The mission statement of the Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE) 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.” By bringing you SCALE “news you can use” – updates on road projects, local events, community developments and programs, and other things you might want to know – you can see what SCALE partners are doing.



From Savage:
Savage plans resident survey

Every two years, the City of Savage conducts a community survey to provide residents the opportunity to rate the quality of life in Savage. The 2020 survey will be mailed to 1500 randomly selected residents in mid-June. We hope if you receive a survey, that you take a few minutes and give us your feedback -- and please, be honest. Whether it is good news or something we can improve on, we'd like to know. If you were not randomly selected, you can still share your opinions. Watch our website and Facebook for an on-line survey link in mid-July. We will share the results this fall.

From Shakopee:
City plans mountain bike trail at Quarry Lake

The City of Shakopee is working with area partners to develop a mountain bike trail park adjacent at Quarry Lake Park. In April, the City Council approved a license agreement with Xcel Energy for use of its property adjacent to the park to create a three- to four-mile mountain bike course.

The city is also working with the Shakopee School District to develop the course. The school district received financial support from Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community to build a trail for use by the Shakopee Mountain Bike Team.

The trail would be available for public use. For more information about the project, visit www.ShakopeeMN.gov/parkprojects.

Shakopee launches virtual Recreation at Home program

This spring, the Shakopee Parks and Recreation Department took its programming online with a new way to stay connected to residents.

Shakopee Rec At Home includes a variety of virtual recreation activities offered on social media and the city website. The virtual programming includes fitness, family arts and crafts, outdoor activities, water safety tips, and more. The department also compiled online resources at www.ShakopeeMN.gov/recathome.

The creative programming provides ways to keep residents engaged while many city recreational programs and facilities are closed due to COVID-19. Visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page or search for #ShakopeeRecAtHome.

Visit city website for city event and program status. Keep informed of the latest on City of Shakopee events and programs on the web. Events and programs

may be postponed or canceled due to continued precautions related to COVID-19. Get updates at www.ShakopeeMN.gov, or sign up for e-mail and text alerts at www.ShakopeeMN.gov/subscribe.

SandVenture Aquatic Park will not open for 2020 season

Based on public health guidelines from the CDC and the Minnesota Department of Public Health, the City of Shakopee has determined the closure of Sand Venture Aquatic Park during the 2020 summer season is in the best interest of staff, patrons, and the community. The Parks and Recreation Department is working on a plan to reopen the indoor aquatic center at the Shakopee Community Center and resume the aquatics programs in line with public health standards, when permitted and allowed. Watch the city website or sign up at www.ShakopeeMN.gov/subscribe for updates.

From the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

An update on COVID-19 and its impact on the community

Thank you to all of the medical staff, first responders, and front-line workers for helping to keep us all safe! With summer now upon us, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community has been working diligently to safely provide much-needed services and welcome recreational opportunities for our members, employees, neighbors, and friends.

Several SMSC enterprises and services are open to serve the public — with plenty of precautionary measures in place to protect your health and safety. Grab a bite to eat or refuel at Shakopee Dakota Convenience Stores, stock up on healthy household essentials at Mazopiya, get some fresh air with a round of golf at The Meadows at Mystic Lake, and get your yard in tip-top shape for summer by picking up some compost and mulch at the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility. Commercial and residential customers are also able to drop off yard waste for a small fee.

We're here to help you make the most of your summer!

We hope everyone continues to stay safe and healthy. Stay informed with the latest from the SMSC as it relates to coronavirus at shakopeedakota.org/covid19.



The Meadows at Mystic Lake -- as well as all public and private golf courses in the County -- are open for business.

From the Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District
Clearing up Spring and Upper Prior Lakes with alum

Eagle-eyed residents on Spring Lake and Upper Prior Lake might notice improved water quality this summer. This year the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District is treating both the lakes with aluminum sulfate (“alum”) to reduce phosphorus levels and clear up the water in the lakes.



The the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District is treating both the lakes with aluminum sulfate (“alum”) to reduce phosphorus levels and clear up the water in the lakes.

Alum is used to reduce the phosphorus levels in lakes with high internal levels of phosphorus. The alum binds with phosphorus, inactivating it and making the phosphorus unavailable for algae growth.

This year’s alum treatment marks the third and final dose of alum for Spring Lake; the first two parts of the alum treatment were applied in 2013 and 2018. The alum treatment on Upper Prior is the first ever, and is funded in part by a grant from the Minnesota Board of Soil & Water Resources (BWSR). A second dose will be done in two years or when lake conditions warrant.

Spring and Upper Prior Lakes are both highly valued recreational lakes for swimming, boating and fishing. The District is treating these lakes with alum because they are both on Minnesota’s impaired waters list because of poor water quality due to high levels of phosphorus.

An alum treatment is just one of many tools the District is using to clean up these lakes. Visit www.plslwd.org for more info.

Carp management program nets 15,000 pounds of fish

Native to Europe, *common carp* muddy up our lakes with their bottom-feeding habits, releasing phosphorus back into the water. The phosphorus then feeds algae, increasing the potential for algae blooms in the summer.

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District is using innovative methods to locate and remove a significant portion of the carp in Spring and Prior Lakes. Carp have been implanted with different types of tracking tags and released back into Spring and Prior Lakes. These tagged carp allow the District to track the movement of the fish throughout the lakes and connecting channels. When the fish begin to cluster together, commercial fishermen are lined up to net and remove the groups of carp from the lakes. The District also uses underwater speakers to scare the fish into netting locations. Roughly 5,000 pounds of carp were removed from Spring Lake on April 24, and 10,000 pounds from Upper Prior Lake on March 2.

The carp location information also helps identify the areas the carp are using to spawn. Multiple fish barriers have been installed to block the carp from entering these areas, and specialized traps have been installed at the entrance of their spawning grounds to remove carp trying to move upstream.

To find out more about the District’s carp management program or ways that you can volunteer to help, please visit us online at www.plslwd.org/carp or call us at (952) 447-9808.



A team of workers pulled up the nets that were filled with 15,000 pounds of carp over two days.

Legal SCENE

By Ron Hocevar
Scott County Attorney



District Court in a COVID world

District Court in a COVID world has been interesting and challenging. From the very beginning of the COVID shutdown, the Scott County Courthouse has been closed and only essential hearings are being conducted. Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea has issued several orders regarding how court is to be conducted. Her latest order, dated May 1, 2020, extended the limited access to courthouses until May 18, 2020. Remote or virtual technology is authorized and is being used by this office to conduct hearings. Courts are using ITV, WebEx, Zoom, Virtual Courtrooms, and phone bridges. All jury trials have been suspended, and are authorized to begin only after June 1, 2020, at the earliest. Individuals who must participate in remote hearings and individuals who wish to access a remote hearing can go to <http://mncourts.gov/remote-hearings> to obtain information on how to do so.

We continue to be open on a limited basis for in-person hearings that need to be held in a courtroom. In Scott County, our in-person hearings are held in the Law Enforcement Center. Almost all in-person hearings are for those who are being held in custody on new charges, pending sentencing, arrested on warrants, and for probation violations. Where a victim or other party has the right to be heard, we have those individuals call in to the courtroom to speak with the judge on a speaker phone. Our Treatment Court and Veteran's Court continue to operate and are being handled almost exclusively using technology. Scott County District Court continues to accept filings in all case types, and self-help services continue to be conducted by phone or email. Scott County District Court information can be found at <http://www.mncourts.gov/Emergency.aspx>.

It is anticipated that Scott County will have one of the first jury trials in the state when trials resume in June. Guidelines for these proceedings are currently being established to provide for the safety of everyone participating.

Once we get the go-ahead to open the courthouse, many items are being taken into consideration to provide for a safe atmosphere. There will likely be directives regarding social distancing and occupancy in a courtroom. One possibility is conducting the large first appearance calendar via Zoom. Letters would be sent directly to defendants, asking them (if need be) to apply for a public defender in advance, and provide them a link to join the court through Zoom. Other considerations are to have specific times set for each individual that is required to appear in court. That should decrease the number of people waiting in the hallways and conference rooms for their cases to be called.

Although this article will come out after of these timeframes mentioned, I don't expect things to be changing a great deal from a District Court perspective -- even if the Governor opens everything. I am sure the directive will be to provide for social distancing, to still provide and encourage the use of technological participation when appropriate, and to provide for the safety and comfort of all who enter the facility. It is going to take some time for the court system to become safely functional, catch up on what has been continued since the shutdown, while still handling all the new files that come into the system.

It is the County Attorney's Office goal to ensure that all individuals who participate in our court system are doing so safely. If you have questions or concerns about a matter in which this office is involved, please call us at (952) 496-8240.



High water levels on McMahon Lake have resulted in the a "no wake" restriction.

"No wake" restriction in effect on McMahon (Carl's) Lake

If you've driven to McMahon Lake in the last few years, you should have noticed a red and white *No Wake* sign posted at the public access. McMahon water levels are very high for this land-locked lake. It has been under its current no wake restriction since June 2017 due to high waters. When you see the sign, please be respectful of shoreland property by operating your boat at a slow, no wake speed limit of five miles per hour within 150 feet of the shoreline

at all times. Boat wakes cause damage and erosion along the shoreline during high waters.

The Scott County Board Resolution 2014-095 adopted Surface Water Use Ordinance 30, June 3, 2014. Violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500. For more information, look for the ordinance on the County website at www.scottcountymn.gov or call (952) 496-8875.

Thank you for your cooperation!

County plans for watercraft inspections this summer

If you're an angler, boater, wildlife watcher, or hunter, we need your help in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Help us protect our lakes in Scott County by understanding the threat, taking responsibility, and working together to preserve our waters.

This summer, Scott County is contracting with Waterfront Restoration, LLC to provide watercraft inspections on Cedar, McMahon (Carl's), O'Dowd, and Thole Lake accesses. In partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Waterfront Restorations will perform DNR certified Level I inspections on certain days of the week, with the DNR performing inspections on other days. Inspections on Spring, Lower, and Upper Prior Lake will be performed, with decontamination equipment on Prior Lake only. Yet due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the start date for the inspections and decontamination may be delayed.

The goal of the increased inspections is to prevent the spread of invasive species into our lakes through boater education, watercraft inspections, and watercraft decontamination at public water accesses. Inspectors can visually and physically inspect water-related equipment, including the removal, drainage, decontamination, or treatment of water-related equipment to prevent the transportation of AIS. Inspectors can prohibit the launching or operation of water-related equipment if a person refuses to allow an inspection or doesn't

remove water or AIS. Additionally, inspectors can require a watercraft to be decontaminated prior to launching into Minnesota waters.

Inspectors are not law enforcement officers, and are looking for AIS only. They will be looking in areas of the boat that could contain water, or come in contact with water, for possible AIS. Most inspections are quick and can be completed in less than three minutes; however, if a decontamination is required, boaters will be delayed. Only boats with obvious signs of aquatic nuisance species, plants, mud, debris, higher risk standing water, or that have been moored for three or more days will be required to be decontaminated.

Two lake service providers in Scott County offer high pressure cleaning of watercraft: One Choice Detailing in Lakeville (in Credit River Township) and Bricks Boatworks in Shakopee.

We are asking for your help and cooperation with the inspectors with season to follow the law and take precautions to make sure you are not transporting AIS to one of our lakes.

While you're waiting at the boat launch, please remember to practice social distancing to keep yourself and everyone around you safe and healthy. Leave space between yourself and the next person in front of you. Also, remember to continue social distancing practices when you finally make it onto the lake or are fishing from the shore.

Become an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) detector

Do you live on a lake and have a desire to learn about aquatic invasive plants (AIS)? There's an opportunity to join a network of citizen scientists and learn how to identify and report aquatic invasive species to help protect your lake. This is a fun and engaging way to improve your AIS knowledge.

What you'll do:

- Help Scott County and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by responding to reports of AIS and weeding out false positives.
- Be on the lookout for new AIS infestations.
- Provide helpful outreach to others in your community.

Ideal for:

- Lake association members and Master Naturalists.
- Motivated adults 18 years and older.
- Anyone who has a desire to learn about AIS.

How it works:

Sign up for aerial seeding

If you happened to look to the sky late last September to see planes flying over crop fields, you probably caught a glimpse of cover crop aerial seedings.

The Scott SWCD partnered with a local aerial applicator to seed cover crops onto local farmers' fields, and they will be continuing that program this year for the third time. The seed was dropped over 332 acres three to four weeks before harvest, giving it time to germinate and grow before winter set in. The cooperation among the Scott SWCD, Le Sueur SWCD, and participating farmers

made the effort last year successful.

If you're interested in aerial seeding cover crops on your fields this year, contact Scott SWCD Ag Program Specialist Diann Korbel at (952) 492-5414 or dkorbel@scottswcd.org. Requests must be made before Aug. 1 to ensure you are put on the seeding list. The Scott SWCD will not only help you schedule your seeding, they will also help you design and implement your entire cover crop plan. Financial incentives may be available as well.

Historical SCENE

In 1920s, women served as local mayors

Shakopee, Prior Lake elected first female mayors in state following Suffrage

When the Scott County Historical Society is safely able to open our doors, we will do so with two exciting new exhibits: One covering the history of Prohibition in the County, and one chronicling Scott County's Women's Suffrage movement. Many women are profiled in the Suffrage exhibit, including some of Scott County's female elected officials who were able to take office in the wake of the 19th amendment. One of these women was Cora McQuestion, elected mayor of Prior Lake in 1926.

McQuestion was not the first woman elected to a mayoral position in Scott County -- that honor belongs to Elizabeth Ries of Shakopee -- but McQuestion followed close on her heels, assuming office only a year after Ries' 1925 election.

Cora McQuestion was born Cora Maddon in the township of Credit River in 1909, but spent the majority of her life in Prior Lake. She married James McQuestion, and had a single child, a daughter named Celia.

Yet McQuestion's first claim to fame was *not* her election to the office of mayor. On a summer night in 1922, she noticed "bandits prowling about the Prior Lake State Bank seeking an entrance thereto." The McQuestion family home was across the street from the bank, so Cora took it upon herself to get the shotgun and fire upon the bandits, foiling their plan and causing them to flee. The bank rewarded her actions with a public commendation and a monetary reward.

In a March 11 *Jordan Independent* article following her 1926 election, Mayor McQuestion is described as "... A lady of regal appearance, strong character, much determination, and proven courage." The election had a healthy turnout, "probably the heaviest the village ever had." Cora

McQuestion had run against Ed Muelken, described by the *Independent* as a "prominent businessman." While Mayor McQuestion's campaign literature is lost to history, it is noted that she ran endorsing a "law enforcement program." McQuestion won with 83 votes to her opponent's 53.

It seems that Mayor McQuestion was true to her word. During her tenure as mayor, Prior Lake's first police officer (named Hugh) was hired. McQuestion's time as mayor did not fall during turbulent times for Prior Lake. Headlines in the 1926 Prior Lake section of the *Jordan Independent* included "The Corn Crop Looks Fine" (August 12), and "Rather Quiet in Prior Lake This Week" (September 26).

During McQuestion's era, funding for a four-room schoolhouse was approved for Prior Lake. A few months later, playground equipment was added. On July 1, 1926, plans were laid for expansion of the town's water main, and later that summer a project to resurface roads was approved.

Cora McQuestion passed away on Dec. 17, 1942. Her obituary describes her as "avid for learning," "widely read," and "a woman of strong mind and forthrightness."

Mayor McQuestion was more than just a blip in the history of Scott County. The 1920s saw a rapid shift in the roles of women, as the demands of WWI and the Great Depression altered society's perceptions of feminine traits and abilities. The *Jordan Independent's* March 11, 1926 issue described the changes thusly: "Prior Lake is the second municipality in the state to have a woman mayor, Shakopee with Her Honor Mayor Elizabeth Ries being the other. Scott County, containing both towns, is becoming quite the feminist stronghold."



A photo of Cora McQuestion and her daughter appeared in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. She was Prior Lake's first female mayor, elected in 1926. However, she may be best remembered for firing a shotgun at and foiling would-be bank robbers.

Safety SCENE

By Luke Hennen
Scott County Sheriff



Sheriff's Office implements changes during COVID-19 pandemic

As we continue to navigate this challenging and unprecedented time, I want to assure you that the Sheriff's Office is committed to fulfilling the public safety needs of the community, while simultaneously making adjustments to protect our own staff from the virus.

Please be assured that we are in close communication with all levels of government as we navigate the various challenges we all are facing, so that we may provide you with the highest levels of public safety. All the decisions and actions that have been made thus far have been the result of a collaborative effort.

Before a single case was reported in Scott County, local law enforcement leaders discussed the emerging pandemic, began formulating a strategic response, and began implementing various preventative measures in response to this threat. The Scott County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which is housed in the Law Enforcement Center, was immediately mobilized in order to centralize command and control operations for our regional response. The EOC reviews daily information about COVID-19, makes strategic operational changes regarding personnel, coordinates our efforts with other agencies, maintains continuity with our response and expenditures, and relays appropriate information to our personnel in the field as needed.

The knowledge and skills local leaders and staff acquired while participating in various disaster preparedness exercises over the years has clearly paid off. In addition, the County Board adopted a Board Strategy last December to enhance the safety of residents by requiring all County staff to complete National Incident Management System (NIMS) training to be better prepared to respond to public emergencies. The NIMS program is a standardized approach to incident management developed by the United States Department of Homeland Security.

The County's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) is being followed, and it is important for everyone to be aware that we partner with our neighboring Sheriff's Offices very closely in providing back-up dispatch, jail, and patrol services to ensure continuation of operations should critical issues arise.

As we continue to learn more about the virus and the affect it has on our communities, we must make necessary adjustments to our public safety strategies and to the services we provide. Significant changes to our daily staffing were implemented to limit person-to-person exposure, including working in teams with shifts that do not overlap. We are also using remote service tools and handling incidents and contacts by phone, if possible. Much of our support staff is now working remotely, so many of our typical in-person services are available online or by appointment. It is our hope that, by adopting these practices, we may protect and promote the health of our community.

Dispatching protocols have also been changed, which allow our dispatchers

to ask certain health-related questions to help identify callers with symptoms of COVID-19, so our first responders can protect themselves with proper protective equipment if there is a valid concern for their health based on information provided by the caller.

There has been a shift in the nature of the calls into our 911 Dispatch Center. We have seen an increase in domestic violence and mental-health-related calls since the stay at home period began, and we continue to partner with Canvas Health (952-818-3702), the County's mobile crisis response team. Traffic volume has also significantly reduced, as much of the local and commuting workforce is at home. However, the number of high-speed incidents has drastically increased. Please obey all speed limits and signs, be attentive, and drive responsibly. Our Dispatch Center is open 24/7 to answer all calls -- dial 911 if you have an emergency, dial (952) 445-1411 for non-emergencies, and (952) 496-8300 for our general office line.

Our deputies continue to remain out in force throughout the areas we patrol, and are prepared to respond to emergencies as they occur. Calls for service that are not in progress or are not life threatening begin with a phone call from a deputy. They may also ask you to submit information via e-mail, text, or picture message. If you need to speak to a deputy, please call (952) 445-1411.

Our jail is open and continues to accept persons who are arrested. We continue to take proactive measures regarding the prevention of the spread of COVID-19, which include no visiting, no outside programming, and non-contact visits for professionals (such as clergy and attorneys). Inmates can visit with family via telephone and communicate through the U.S. mail. Inmates can also accept money orders by mail or through www.jailatm.com for commissary. All personnel entering the jail are being screened for signs or symptoms related to COVID-19, and we have created various levels of protocols based on specific risk factors should they develop. All new incoming inmates go into a 14-day isolation to prevent the introduction of the virus through the Jail. For jail-related questions, please call (952) 496-8314.

Our community is very fortunate to have such tremendous cooperation among the Sheriff's Office and the local police departments, fire departments, elected officials, and all governmental partners to respond to this crisis. I am also extremely thankful to all the members of the Scott County Sheriff's Office in every division who have responded so well during this stressful time. Everybody has been working diligently to provide excellent service in this time of need.

A special thank you to the residents of Scott County for all the continued support. We have heard from many community members and business owners during this time, and we appreciate all the kindness, donations, and words of thanks. I truly believe in the strength of our community and our ability to rise to these challenges and get through this time together.

We will continue to evaluate information, respond as this pandemic evolves, and keep citizens updated as to what we are doing to keep you safe. The men and women of the Scott County Sheriff's Office stand ready to support the mission in preserving public safety during this critical time.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me anytime at lhennen@co.scott.mn.us; by phone at (952) 496-8625; via social media @sheriffhennen; or by mail at Scott County Sheriff's Office, 301 Fuller Street South, Shakopee, MN 55379. You can also visit our website at www.scottcountymn.gov for updates regarding our services.

Marschalls honored as Farm Family of Year

By Colleen Carlson
UMN Extension Scott County

The current Marschall farm on Zumbro Avenue in Shakopee was established in 1983 by Rick and Michelle Marschall. They rented the farm at first, and then were able to purchase the farm in 1984.

The original Marschall family farm, located in the Canterbury area, was sold by Rick's parents in 1956 to make way for future city of Shakopee development. Rick farmed, milking 50 cows alongside his father and mother, until he married Michelle Theis. Michelle was very involved with her family's dairy farm as well. As a wedding present, Rick gave Michelle a new *Step-Saver*, a milk transfer cart used with bucket milkers.

Rick and Michelle were married just shy of 40 years and farmed side-by-side until her passing in March

2020. They were very proud to carry on the tradition of raising their family on the farm, and having their children and grandchildren involved in the operation. Rick and his family are very pleased to accept the 2020 Scott County Farm Family of Year in honor of Michelle.

Marschall Dairy currently consists of 158 acres and an additional 600 rented acres from an uncle and neighbors. They milk 160 head of Black and White, Red and White, and Jersey cows; raise their own replacement heifers; and raise feeder calves. The milk is sold for fluid milk bottling through Valley View Farms, which provides milk for the Jordan School District where some of the grandchildren attend school. Marschall Dairy is also the home to 47 Boer Goats.

Crops raised are corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and oats, of which a majority is used for feeding the livestock. Field peas and treacle are used as a nurse crop for the alfalfa. For the past three years, the Marschalls have worked with the Scott County SWCD to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion by to planting a cover crop of cereal rye after the silage harvest. In the spring, the cereal rye is harvested for forage.

Rick and Michelle Marschall have four children and eight grandchildren. Rick's role on the farm is to take care of the crop planting, haying, and harvesting along with milking cows. Michelle was well-known for raising healthy calves, taking the best care of them at all hours of day and night. She was innovative in the implementation of feeding pasteurized milk to the calves.

Sons Travis and Trent farm full-time at Marschall Dairy. Travis takes care of the dairy cattle along with his wife Kally, who has stepped up to take care of



Rick Marschall and his family were honored to accept Scott County's University of Minnesota Farm Family of the Year Award this year in honor of Rick's wife, Michelle, who died in March.

feeding the calves. They have four children: Tucker, Trevyn, Taten, and Taylin. Trent mixes the feed, assists with milking, and field work. His girlfriend Emily helps milk cows on weekends.

Daughter Tanya does the bookwork for the farm and works full-time at Greystone Construction. She is married to Justin Graber, and they have two daughters -- Kinley and Katum. Son Tad works full-time at Kusske Construction and helps with the field work. His wife, Tiffany, and he have daughters Taryn and Taya.

Marschall Dairy and the Marschall family are grateful to their part-time helpers, relatives, neighbors, and friends who assist with the tractor driving, hay making, silage harvest, and other chores, including Farmer Marschall, Dale Theis, John Trutnau, Alex Stade, Seth Wermerskirchen, and Cory Dockendorf.

The Marschalls are members of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA), of which Travis is the Vice President. For the past 15 years, Marschall Dairy has earned top honors for low somatic cell count in milk quality. Rick and Michelle were awarded the Outstanding Agriculturalist by the Jordan Commercial Club in 2005, and actively participated in Farm Business Management classes. Marschall Dairy hosts the Petting Zoo at the Marystown Church Festival every

year, and Rick enjoys his annual trip to the Carver County Dairy Expo and FarmFest. Michelle was a dedicated church volunteer serving many funeral dinners and baking bars (she was particularly famous for her broccoli salad and Sloppy Joes).

The grandchildren all enjoy Papa's farm and Papa's combine. The Marschall family grandchildren belong to 4-H, and are thrilled to show the Jersey cows and calves. Travis serves as the adult Animal Science Project Development Committee Superintendent for Dairy at the Scott County Fair.

All of the family members volunteer at the Scott County Fair Miracle of Birth exhibit in July. They start months in advance, planning accurate breeding programs and providing great care so the mother cows, sheep, and goats give birth during the Fair. Marschall family members also take shifts caring for the animals, doing chores, and assisting the animals with the birthing process and with their newborn offspring.

The Farm Family of the Year is awarded by the University of Minnesota Extension, which has existed for over 30 years and honors farm families from throughout Minnesota for their contributions to the agriculture industry and their local communities. All of the honored farm families have made significant contributions to Minnesota agriculture and their communities.

4-H offers online learning opportunities

Though COVID-19 has disrupted everyone's lives, Scott County 4-H members are continuing to learn and explore. The sudden pivot from in-person meetings and events to social distancing came with some bumps in the road, but has paved the way for members and clubs to try new things.

Many clubs and committees have moved their in-person meetings to virtual events, something that was a new experience for many youth. Online meetings require similar, though different, skills to facilitate; hosts must find new ways to engage the group, ensure that everyone's voices are heard, and carefully manage time in an online setting. 4-H members also continue their learning at home exploring different project areas. Some members are birthing goat kids and rabbit kits, some are honing skills in photography or fine arts, and others are engaging in state-wide 4-H opportunities like the chance to Zoom call with engineers who work on the Mars rover program at NASA.

4-H meetings are based on experiential, hands-on learning opportunities for the whole group, but those opportunities can be a challenge when youth have access to differing supplies at home. Scott County 4-H staff used the month of April to create a Facebook STEM challenge of 20 activities that only required a sheet of paper to complete. The activities ranged from creating a boat that floats to designing a ramp for toy cars, and weekly prizes were generously donated by Donut Connection and CTC Coffee Ta Cream.

Online 4-H opportunities will continue to be available throughout the summer. You can keep up with Scott County 4-H's online activities, as well as in-

person events when social distancing eases, by finding them on Facebook at [Facebook.com/ScottCounty4H](https://www.facebook.com/ScottCounty4H) or by visiting their website at z.umn.edu/scottco.

Scott County 4-H
April 8 at 10:15 AM · 🌐

📖 It's Day 3 of the STEM Paper Challenge! Today your challenge is to use your 2020 vision and create a pair of glasses using a single piece of paper. You can cut the paper and tape it if you want, and decorate your glasses however you choose.

How many tries did it take to make your final product?
How did you make sure they fit?

👓 Show us your glasses in the comments + answer the question to be entered to win this week's prize!

🕒 You have until 9pm tonight to make your entry. Include your 4-H club name in your comment (or let us know if you're not a 4-H member yet!)

****Parents, if you are commenting for your youth, please be sure to include your youth's first name with last initial and 4-H club name (or if your youth is not a 4-H member yet).**

Carver-Scott Master Gardeners Evenings in the Garden virtual garden kick-off Tuesday, June 9

Zoom Link: <https://umn.zoom.us/j/97762408397>

Join Carver-Scott Master Gardeners for a virtual *Evenings in the Garden* program on June 9! *Evenings in the Garden* takes place every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, June through August. Master Gardeners have currently moved to online learning, so sit back and enjoy the garden kick-off from the comfort of your own home. Take a look at what is emerging in two Master Gardener vegetable gardens, and check out container gardens, raised beds, traditional garden beds, the "Ruth Stout method," and other ideas for now and future gardens.

Please note: Due to COVID-19, Master Gardeners are moving their programming to online sessions through at least June 30. Visit their website for information about upcoming classes, and for the Zoom web link for each event: www.carverscottmastergardeners.org.

And remember, their Yard & Garden Line is open for your gardening questions at (952) 466-5308.

Master Gardeners plan annual plant sale

Perennials and more

Saturday, Aug. 29, 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Chaska Cub Foods Parking Lot, 200 Pioneer Trail, Chaska

Great low prices



Bus driver Terry Larson of Jordan wore personal protective equipment as he worked. Drivers also sanitize buses after each trip.

TransitLink reduces ridership and delivers groceries during pandemic

Recently, there have been so many changes and disruptions in our daily lives and public transportation has not been immune to COVID-19. Riding TransitLink is a much different experience than a few months ago. More commonly known as Dial-a-Ride, this door-to-door bus service is available to all county residents. In early 2020, these buses provided an average of 7,500 bus trips a month.

As a result of the outbreak, the number of daily trips has gone down by as much as 80 to 90 percent, with only essential trips being delivered. Using public transportation looks and feels much different for both passenger and driver. Routine trips and familiar faces have both been impacted in several ways.

The CDC recommends that people wear face masks to prevent the spread of the virus and while these masks keep everyone safe, they also hide the cheerful hellos and smiles of TransitLink drivers. Physical distancing has also created the need for only single passengers on each trip. TransitLink has also asked that riders sit a reasonable distance away from the drivers.

TransitLink drivers have been busy keeping passengers safe by sanitizing after each trip. Wiping down surfaces on the bus that riders have come into contact with is now common practice for drivers. As we stay home to stay safe, we are thankful for our TransitLink drivers who are providing an essential service to help customers get where they need to go.

We spoke to Terry Larson a TransitLink driver from Jordan, and asked him how COVID-19 has changed his daily routine. "My typical day now involves a lot of disinfecting. We may have less ridership now, but I am just as busy with all the cleaning between riders to ensure their safety. Besides the obvious, extra disinfecting and singular ridership, I miss my regular group of riders. My bus is usually full of people that go to work and other community programs. We see most of them on a daily basis. They be-

come like your family in a sense. I hope they are all doing fine."

When asked what it was like to only have one passenger at a time, Terry's response is an example of how this change in transportation has actually added a more connected element to service. "It is kind of strange because I'm used to having the noise of a bus full of riders. Now, with having singular riders it's so much quieter. Passengers are opening up about their experiences with the COVID-19 outbreak and their concerns. I have gotten to know some of my passengers on a more personal level."

In response to COVID-19 and in the spirit of helping our communities, TransitLink is now delivering groceries to customers in Scott County. Older adults and people who have disabilities are most often using the service. The new, free TransitLink service is easy to use and helps reduce exposure for vulnerable individuals.

Although public transportation has changed in many ways, the drivers and support staff have been able to adjust and continue to provide excellent customer service for riders. We asked Terry what other contributions the TransitLink team has made to protect its customers. "Our drivers got together at work and created an assembly line to produce 200 protection masks for children," he said. "They were donated to a school and daycare that were very excited to get them."



Added safety steps designed for MVTA transit riders, employees

The current COVID-19 health crisis has been a challenging and uncertain time for everyone, and Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) is no exception.

"While the shelter at home guidance has completely upended historical travel and work patterns, MVTA has used that time to implement additional measures to provide the safest trip possible for riders," said MVTA Chief Executive Officer Luther Wynder.

MVTA is the public transit provider for seven cities in Dakota and Scott Counties and has been offering a reduced service schedule for essential trips only during the COVID-19 health crisis.

Once health experts identified the coronavirus as a health concern in Minnesota, Wynder said MVTA's primary focus has been implementing measures on buses and at transit facilities to do everything possible to protect the health and safety of our customers and employees.

Those safety measures include:

- MVTA has promoted social distancing measures that have been recommended by health experts from the Centers of Disease Control and Minnesota Department of Health.
- MVTA is advocating for riders to wear face coverings.
- In accordance with guidance from the state of Minnesota, all MVTA transit stations and park and ride facilities have been locked and closed to limit public congregating. Free parking areas remain open at all facilities along with other public amenities, including benches and awnings.
- MVTA has adopted recommendations from the CDC on enhanced cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting procedures.

MVTA also has exceeded those recommendations by implementing a second stage disinfectant and additional



Luther Wynder
MVTA Chief
Executive Officer

cleaning. The following procedures are currently in place:

- MVTA is sanitizing buses before and after bus trips, which includes disinfecting high touch surfaces (stanchions, handholds, and fareboxes).
- The entire bus also is sprayed with a disinfectant.
- Paper products have been removed from buses to reduce material handling
- Air filters on the buses are being changed daily.
- Lost and Found service has been suspended to reduce material handling.
- All buses are following guidelines to limit the number of customers on buses to comply with social distancing guidelines.
- Seats behind the drivers have been blocked off, and plastic screens have been installed on every bus in operation to create a barrier between the driver and the public.

While the transition back to more normal work and travel patterns is expected to take time, Wynder said MVTA will continue to follow guidance from health experts with the intent of making our service as safe and healthy as possible for customers and employees.

"We thank essential-trip riders who have been riding with MVTA," Wynder said, "and we look forward to connecting more riders to their desired destinations once the health emergency stabilizes."

For updates on MVTA transit service in Scott County, go to www.mvta.com.



Minnesota Valley Transit Authority has enhanced sanitation efforts on buses during the current health crisis.

Schedule a local trip on Dial-a-Ride

SmartLink/TransitLink's Dial-a-Ride buses are operating in Scott County. Weekday, evening, and weekend door-to-door local bus service is available for those in need of transportation. To schedule a ride, please call Customer Service at (952) 496-8341, option 1. **It is requested that all passengers wear a face mask and, if you do not have one, it will be provided for you free of charge compliments of FISH (Families and Individuals Sharing Hope).**

Testing shows arsenic present in some private well water

In 2019, Scott County enacted a focused effort on educating private well users on the possibility of the presence of arsenic in drinking water. Residents of four townships were sent postcards that recommended testing their water due to the possibility of elevated arsenic levels.

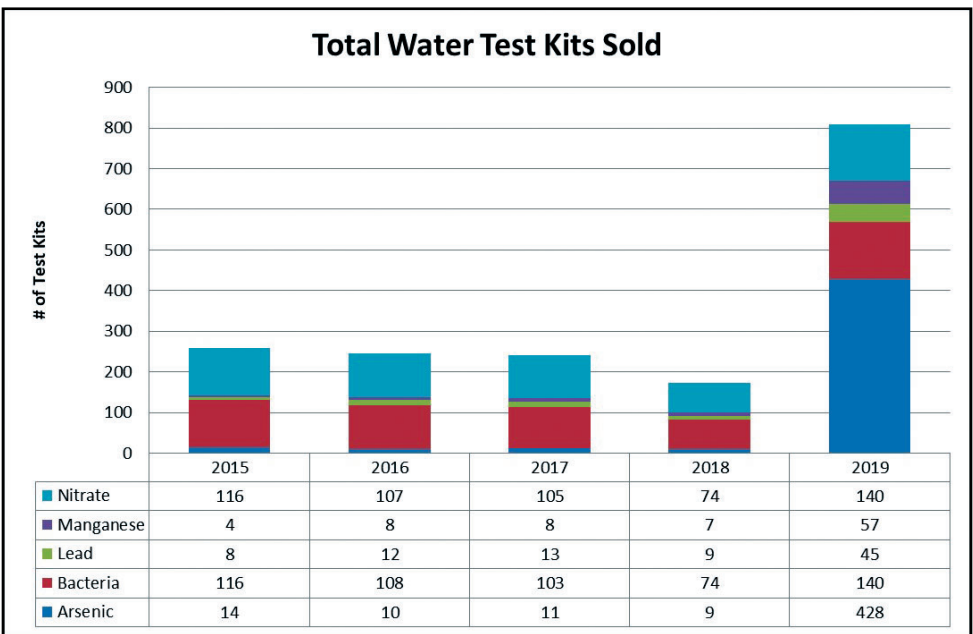
The Environmental Services Department sells a number of different tests for well water quality, including arsenic. The results from the 2019 outreach efforts were impressive. A total of 428 arsenic tests were sold, and 33 percent of the tests resulted in arsenic levels over the EPA's water quality standard. For some perspective, the average number of arsenic tests sold per year by the County over the previous four years was 11.

Not only was there an increase in arsenic testing, but all of the tests that the County offers saw a significant in-

crease. Since private well testing is not regulated as compared to city water testing, it is important that private well owners test their drinking water.

With the 2019 efforts proving to be beneficial in providing education to those on private wells, we expect to continue the efforts in 2020. Already, postcards have been sent to Blakeley and Belle Plaine Townships, with the remaining township residents to receive theirs spaced out throughout the year. However, **not everyone is receiving a postcard**; our mailing is trying to target those on private wells since this does not affect those on city water.

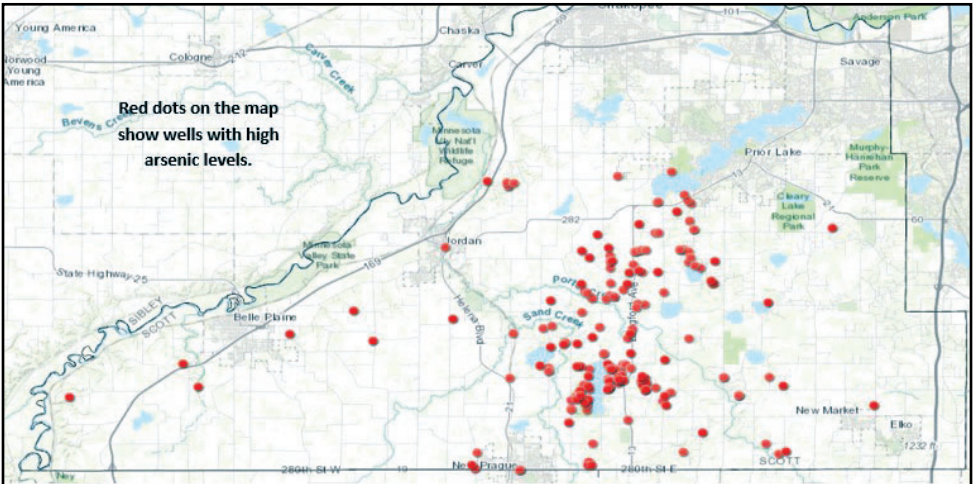
The response we have had to our education efforts so far is incredibly encouraging. It shows that people are being proactive when it comes to their health and acceptance of the science and data. Watch for postcards, and, of course, be sure to test as recommended.



Arsenic test kit sales, testing temporarily discontinued

Due to the closure of the Scott County Government Center during the COVID-19 pandemic, the sale of arsenic test kits has been temporarily discontinued. Also, anyone who purchased a test kit earlier will be unable to return the water sample during the closure.

Visit www.scottcountymn.gov to find out when sales and testing will resume.



Private well owners have been purchasing arsenic test kits through the County. Results above show where high arsenic levels have been detected.

Cooperation among neighbors helps restore O'Dowd shoreline

If you found yourself driving along the western edge of Lake O'Dowd last fall, you probably got a glimpse of the one of the largest shoreline restoration projects undertaken on that lake. Excavation equipment and piles of stabilizing boulders peppered the small sliver of land between Townline Road and the water's edge. On the surface, the operation looked like a well-choreographed dance: Complicated, yet efficient. But underneath the construction, the backstory of how this project came to be is a testament to neighborhood cooperation and stewardship.

The project started in 2017 when lakeshore residents Michael and Sonia Hoppe attended a Scott SWCD workshop. The workshop informed them not only about the negative consequences of receding shorelines and unnatural streambank erosion, but the solutions to those problems and methods of achieving them. For years, the Hoppes had noticed decreasing water quality on O'Dowd, which can be contributed to many things including increased development, increasing boater traffic, and excess nutrient runoff. They were looking for a way to mitigate those problems.

After attending the workshop, the Hoppes knew they needed to use their newfound knowledge to help the lake on which they'd spent 20 years of their life. They wanted to restore the shoreline right outside of their home -- which stretched out to nearly 400 feet of shoreline. What made their aspiration more complex than your typical shoreline restoration was twofold: Their property line and shoreline are intersected by County Road 79; and the shoreline parcel was owned by their neighbor two doors down, Richard Seppi. Over the years, he had enjoyed and shared the land and its lake access with the Hoppes.



Michael Hoppe and Richard Seppi stand in front of their shoreline restoration on O'Dowd Lake.

other neighbors whose houses were across from the proposed project zone. The neighbors discussed the lake's struggles, the changes they'd witnessed, and what they could all do to help. For the lakeshore owners, the decision was easy: *Restore the shore!*

The project then went into the Hoppes' hands. They enlisted the help of Scott SWCD Engineering Technician Todd Kavitz and Natural Resource Specialist Meghan Darley to provide project oversight for their restoration. The Scott SWCD was able to help the Hoppes with things like project design, contractor contact, cost estimates, neighbor communication, and even funding to cover part of the construction costs.

The designs were drawn up in 2018 and finalized in early 2019, with construction beginning and finishing in the fall. Michael and Sonia were on the construction site almost daily, giving workers a hands-on perspective of the entire project. What helped the project go so smoothly? One thing, the Hoppes said, was the help of the SWCD's professional staff who monitored the construction process and ensured the project was being built according to plans and specifications. The shoreline was restored with native vegetation that created a ten-foot buffer between the previous shoreline and the water's edge. With the careful planning, the use of rocks (or "rip-rap") was minimized, and placed only where necessary to prevent undercutting from wave action. As with any shoreline restoration project, the goal was to return the land back to its more natural, pre-developed condition. This project serves as a quintessential example of how that works.

Today, over 400 feet of shoreline on Lake O'Dowd has been successfully restored and stabilized against erosion. This project not only will protect O'Dowd's water quality for years to come, it also serves as an example of Scott County residents' incredible character and dedication to their neighbors and the environment.

If the Hoppes have one other hope about the long-lasting benefits of the project, it's that other O'Dowd residents take the opportunity to see how beautiful a natural shoreline looks. "I would really love to see more lake property owners take advantage of our local resources to preserve their shorelines," Michael Hoppe said. "We can all help preserve the shoreline and help with water quality for our beloved lakes."

If you're interested in your options for restoring your shoreline, the Scott SWCD wants to help! To get the process started, call the Scott SWCD at (952) 492-5425 or visit them online at scottswcd.org.



A University of Minnesota Extension educator is hosting a YouTube Live event in June and July to help parents teach children about money.

Online program will help teach children about money

Do you talk to your children about money, where it comes from, how to use it, or how to make it work for you? When you think back to your own childhood, was it helpful what your parents taught you or did they ignore the topic? If you're hesitant about talking to children about money, a great way to start is by reading books that discuss money.

University of Minnesota Extension Financial Capability Educator, Samantha Roth, will be hosting *Money on the Bookshelf* via YouTube Live events (<https://z.umn.edu/MoneyBookshelf>) on Wednesdays in June and July at 9 a.m. This YouTube Live event is for preschool and early elementary children and a caring adult to hear a book about money as well as participate in an activity together. Check the Scott County Extension website at <https://local.extension.umn.edu/local/scott> for a list of supplies needed for the activity the week before. Supplies will be typical household items and hopefully not require a trip to a store to gather.

Here are some tips for you if you read to your child/children to have an engaged audience.

- **Read the book first yourself.** Knowing the story will help you know what comes next.
- **Ask questions as you read.**
- **Choose a regular story time.** Quiet times are great! Try to keep the same reading time daily.
- **Find a cozy, quiet place to read the story.** Call it your reading spot. Cuddle on the couch together or ask your child to sit on your lap. Reading aloud is one of the best ways to spend quality time with your child.
- **Look for ways to talk about the story.**