



Farm Family of the Year
Scott County recognizes the Mark Klehr family
Page 6



Restoring the land
Sticha family restores prairie to diversify, aid pollinators
Page 16



Spring Lake Trailgate
Enjoy a free Fall celebration Sept. 28 at Spring Lake Regional Park
Page 9

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Volunteers help County Fair keep costs down, offer more services

The Scott County Fair just ended a successful five-day run in July, entertaining thousands of people at the Fairgrounds by Jordan. However, the upkeep of the grounds and many of the activities at the Fair would not be possible without the leadership of the Fair Board and the Agricultural Society, and the dedication of volunteers, some of whom spend days assisting at the Fairgrounds.

Jill Westerlund of Prior Lake is one of those “super volunteers.” She was at the Fair nearly all day each day, driving people in the “People Mover” golf carts and working at the Miracle of Birth Center.

“I love it, I really do love it,” said Westerlund. “I enjoy the animals and the joy of the kids when they see the babies at the Miracle of Birth Center. I also enjoy talking to everyone when I’m giving them rides on the cart, and I meet so many wonderful people. They come from all over. This year there were people from the Netherlands and California.”

Along with numerous individual volunteers, the most dedicated group



Scott County Fair Volunteer Jill Westerlund encouraged children to pet one of the goats Fair visitors saw born at the Miracle of Birth Center.

is the Fair Board members themselves, who are elected by the Agricultural Society, which operates the

Fair. The 14 members of the Board do everything from organizing shows **FAIR VOLUNTEERS** to page 7

Road closures planned as downtown Prior Lake road work moves forward

The long-anticipated reconstruction of several major Prior Lake intersections began early this month with utility work at the West Ave./County Highway (CH) 21 intersection. The next phase (Stage 1) will include the closure of CH 21 from West Ave. to Main Street. Stage 1 is anticipated to last from late August to November. Crews will then go on winter work suspension and resume the construction of Stage 2 (Highway 13/CH 21 intersection) in the spring of 2020.

Traffic will be detoured during construction. CH 21 traffic will be detoured via Texas Ave. and County Road 42. Access will still be maintained for those traveling to residences,



businesses, and other local destinations. Detour signage will be in place to guide you to your destination.

To stay up to date during construction, residents can reach out to the project email (movingforward13-21@bolton-menk.com) or hotline (612-357-7270) with questions. Updates will also be posted weekly on the website, via email blasts, and through Facebook posts. You can also sign up for project updates on the website at www.movingforward13-21.com. (See map on bottom of Page 2.)

A road closure on Highway 13 between TH 282 and Fairlawn Ave. continues until mid-August. However, Highway 13 will remain closed for several more months as the MnDOT project continues north.

Expect delays at driver, vehicle services

A combination of a poorly functioning Minnesota Licensing and Registration System (MnLARS) and the roll-out of the new REAL ID program has resulted in longer wait times at most Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) offices, including the Scott County Customer Service counter in the Government Center in Shakopee. Wait times in most DVS centers in the Metro area range from one to three hours.

“Customers should be aware that they should allow extra time for their driver’s license and vehicle transactions,” said Cindy Geis, Scott County Auditor/Community Services Director. “Our staff prides itself on being efficient, but the current demands on the system are making it difficult for both customers and staff. We have to ask for patience during this difficult time. The implementation of REAL ID and Enhanced Driver’s license is a very time intensive process. It requires much more data and many times our customers have to come back multiple times to get their needs met.”

The document requirements for a REAL ID or Enhanced Driver’s License are listed on page 2



Lines at Deputy Registrars’ offices throughout the state -- including in Scott County -- have been unusually long because of the implementation of new programs. Plan ahead to avoid frustration.

Top of the SCENE

By Lezlie Vermillion
Scott County Administrator



Early literacy work group focuses on kindergarten readiness

Several years ago, the Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE) was studying several topics that impact our community. *Housing, early literacy, workforce training, and transit* all rose to the top of the list: They all play a role, both individually and collectively, in the success of (and costs to) our larger community.

All levels of government affect these issues to varying degrees, so it seemed only rational that -- working together with our residents -- we could start to improve our community's outcomes in these areas. As such, an initiative was formed called *Live, Learn, Earn* to bring technical experts, community members with a passion for these issues, and elected officials together.

In this feature, I'll focus on the mission of the Early Literacy Work Group: "Ensure children are developmentally on track and prepared for educational success." To be frank, the data in Scott County were shocking: More than a third of 3rd graders were not proficient in reading (as measured by the MCA-III test). Ample research has shown that third-grade reading proficiency is inextricably linked to school success and positive early childhood experiences. Given that, Scott County and its many public and private partners believe we all have a responsibility to increase early childhood screening at age 3, improve kindergarten readiness, and support grade-level reading.

The Early Literacy Work Group has two initiatives that support kindergarten readiness. One is making sure toddlers are screened by age three. This early screening helps ensure that the school can provide the necessary services to help that child be ready for kindergarten. If we can identify toddlers that may be at risk *and* the school or county provides appropriate support prior to entering kindergarten, the likely success of that student in school rises. All markers indicate that being ready for kindergarten and reading at third grade level bolster the likelihood of high school graduation.

The second initiative -- just rolling out late this summer -- is a texting campaign in which parents and caregivers can enroll. This program is called ParentPowered Texts. ParentPowered Texts provides participants with three weekly text messages of fun facts and easy tips on how to increase a child's motor skills, improve language and health development, and to help get them ready for school. Research shows that when parents use this program, their children are more prepared for school.

After you sign up, you'll receive three texts each week, including a fact, a tip, and a new strategy to support your child's growth. The messages are age-specific to support your child from birth to eight years old, and they're available in English, Spanish, and Somali. Best of all, they're free! To sign up, text "SC" to 70138 for English, "SC ESP" for Spanish, and "SC SOM" for Somali.

If you would like to learn more about early literacy and opportunities to participate in the community in any of these areas, please go to livelearnearn.org.

Have fun
and boost
your child's
learning!



Sign up to receive
free text messages
to boost your child's
learning.

Age 3? Time to Screen!
3 años? Hora de evaluar!

FACT!
Early Childhood Screening is a process that supports children being ready for kindergarten.

HECHO!
La evaluación de niños a la edad temprana para preescolar, es un proceso que apoya la preparación para kindergarten.

DID YOU KNOW?
It is best for your child to be screened at age 3.

¿Sabías?
Lo mejor para su hijo/hija es sea evaluado a los 3 años.

Screening Information in Scott County
Información de detección en el condado de Scott

Parents should make sure their children are screened for kindergarten readiness at age 3. Parents who have a child that age should contact their local school district if they have not been contacted about a screening.

DVS wait times

From page 1

hanced Driver's License are state and federally mandated security measures and the County urges customers to call or research what they need to bring to complete the process. Customers can begin the process online and complete it when they come to the Government Center. Visit <https://realid.dps.mn.gov/> to find out which documents are required to apply.

A new State vehicle registration system is being developed to replace

the current one, but it will take time to implement, said Geis. In the meantime, people who want to simply renew their vehicle registration and receive their license tabs may want to use the mail option that is offered in their renewal notice. The new vehicle registration system will hopefully fix the issues that plague the title and tab transaction issues, but it will not reduce the long lines that are affiliated with the driver's license renewal process, according to Geis.

Local farms to be featured in North Star Farm Tour

The North Star Farm Tour welcomes the public of all ages to a *free*, self-guided tour of Twin Cities and western Wisconsin fiber farms, connecting people to local farmers who produce natural fibers and pasture-raised meat on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 28 and 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's a perfect weekend to enjoy beautiful fall colors, stock up on winter craft projects, and take care of early Christmas shopping.

Farm locations, including two in Scott County, will showcase a unique, diverse assortment of livestock. Tour visitors can design a route to meet yaks, alpaca, sheep, angora rabbits, llamas, horses/ponies, and many other farm animals. Consult www.northstarfarmtour.com for details about each location's available products and the schedule for demonstrations; hands-on activities; other visiting shepherds, authors, and artisans; and available food, facilities, and products. The website will be updated with the latest offerings of natural raw and processed animal and plant fibers, artisan handcrafts, meats, honey, and other farm and art products will be available for sale, including fiber for hand-spinners, fiber art yarn, breeding stock, and items that support the tour for sale at all locations.

Prairie Haven Farm in New Prague

In addition to offering raw locally produced wool fleeces and frozen lamb, they will offer an introduction "Sheep 101" for prospective future shepherds. They will also conduct a similar discussion on "Horses 101" to help potential horse buyers make educated decisions in regard to adding horses in their life. There will be food available both days. You can try lamb to see if you like it! They're expecting many local vendors: Woodworking, fiber, fleeces. There will be spinners and knitters on site demonstrating their craft.

Sutton Ridge Farm near Jordan

Visit this family business, where they grow and raise high-quality food for



See the Scottish Highland cows at Sutton Ridge Farm in Sand Creek Township during the tour.

your table and beautiful, natural fibers for textiles, crafting, and art. Leave the city behind for the weekend and enjoy the peace and serenity of the country!

Look for skilled demonstrators crafting wonderful products out of woolen fibers. Come and learn about the many animals that occupy the farmstead: heritage breed chickens, barn cats, sheep, cattle, dogs, and ewes in the orchard. You can get hands-on with their angora rabbits or a Scottish Highland cow. Make their pigs happy and feed them apples! Stroll into the 109-year-old barn that doubles as a Country Boutique, stocked with "all things farm." You'll find farm florals, woolen hats, cozy socks, animal pelts, and more.

Products: Award-winning raw fleeces (with staple lengths up to eight inches), roving, dyed locks, yarns, artisan mittens, socks, knit hats, 100 percent grass-fed beef, Highland cattle and sheep pelts, wool boot/shoe liners, fluffy sheep-pelt accent pillows, and products from Farmers' Market vendors.

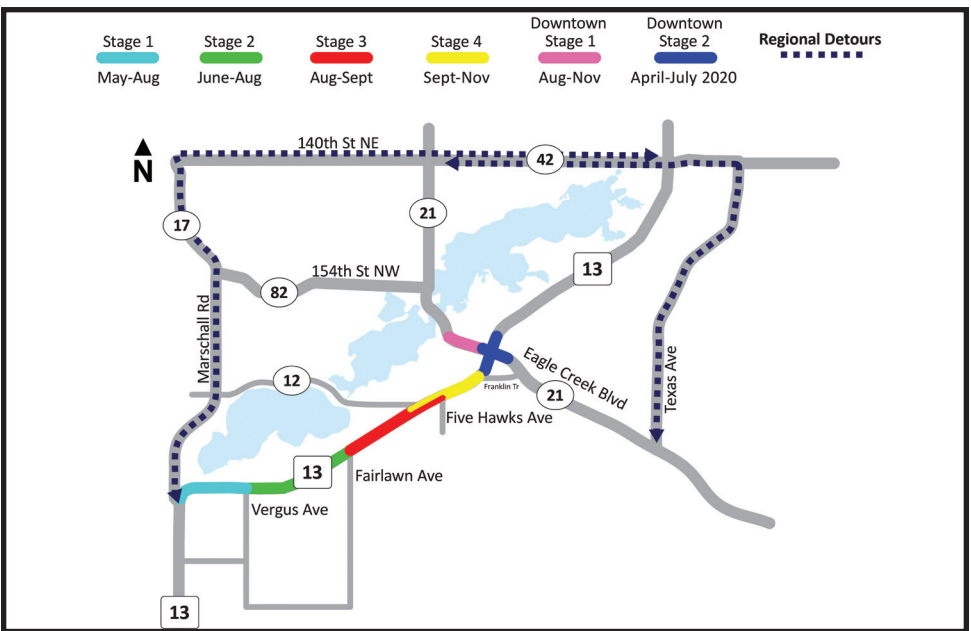
Demonstrations: Sheep shearing with professional shearer Larry Kiewel; knitting, spinning, and needle felting.

Food: Local food truck available all weekend; mini farmers market all day Sunday.

Entertainment: How it's made -- "Sheep to Shawl" video of all the processing steps involved in taking a sheep fleece from shearing to final product.



Watch some of the sheep at Prairie Haven Farm in New Prague get sheared during demonstrations that will also include spinning and knitting.



The map above shows the planned phases of the TH 13/CH 21 project as well as the Highway 13 reclamation project. Additional information is available at movingforward13-21@bolton-menk.com or hotline (612-357-7270).

Commissioners' Corner

County Board Meetings through October 2019

August 13	–	no meeting
August 19	–	Joint workshop with the Prior Lake City Council
August 20	–	County Board meeting
August 27	–	Joint workshop with the Carver County Board of Commissioners
September 3	–	County Board meeting
September 10	–	no meeting
September 17	–	County Board meeting
September 23	–	Joint workshop with the Savage City Council
September 24	–	no meeting
October 1	–	County Board meeting
October 8	–	no meeting
October 15	–	County Board meeting
October 22	–	no meeting
October 29	–	County Board Strategic Plan and Budget Work Session

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

Citizen Committee Vacancies

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

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

Scott Watershed Management Organization (WMO) Planning Commission (2 vacancies). Currently, there are two vacancies representing the Sand Creek Watershed. The Scott WMO Watershed Planning Commission reviews and makes recommendations on the Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan, budgets, and program priorities; the implementation of the Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan; and associated program goals and projects. The commission consists of seven members representing specific watershed areas. This Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 4 p.m.

Commissioner Districts:

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

Want more information about Scott County?

Visit www.scottcountymn.gov/list.aspx to sign up for e-mail and/or text message alerts on everything from County Board and Planning Advisory Commission agendas and minutes to road and transit updates, bid postings, emergency alerts, and much more!



NOTIFY ME

EmergenSCENE

By Captain Scott Haas
Emergency Management and
Communications Director



Severe weather alerts available through multiple methods

In a crisis, obtaining timely, accurate information can be difficult and confusing. Unlike times in the past where information was limited to civil defense sirens, the radio, and local television, there is now an abundance of information at our fingertips. There are quite literally hundreds of methods to get emergency warnings on a smart phone. There are a number of free and subscription-based notification services. Further, social media applications are a good way to learn information that may be impacting you.

Each of these solutions has its own strengths and weaknesses. In Scott County, outdoor warning sirens are activated when measured wind speeds exceed 70 miles per hour; a tornado warning is issued for the area; or dangerous, large hail has been confirmed by a trained weather spotter. This means that sirens are only activated when a situation is **imminently dangerous** to the area. Sirens are only activated for those communities in the impacted area. Residents hearing sirens need to immediately seek shelter and try to seek information once safe.

Local television stations are under considerable pressure when making the decision to break into normal programming. Around the country, several television meteorologists have received threats, complaints, and hate mail for interrupting reality TV shows to report severe weather. Over the past few years, metro emergency managers have partnered with Twin Cities Public Television to develop a public safety television station that delivers weather, health, and safety information. This channel can be found over the air at 2-5, channel 101 on Mediacom, and channel 197 on south metro Charter. A key initiative for this partnership was enabling multilingual warning. Messages broadcast on this channel are translated into Spanish, Somali, and Hmong to reach more members of our community.

NOAA weather radios remain a highly effective way to be alerted to severe weather. Weather radios can often be purchased for less than forty dollars. Some



NOAA weather radio

are battery powered and portable, perfect for camping. Others are designed to plug in at home or work. These models typically have batteries for backup during a power outage. After the alarm is silenced, the text from the weather warning will be read over the speakers. The warning includes a description of the hazard and what communities the threat is impacting. Weather radios can be updated to monitor a different county if you move or travel.

A downside of a NOAA weather radio is that alerts are issued based on the county. Any warning in the county will alert the weather radio. You will need to listen closely to the broadcast to determine if you are in the path of the threat.

The advent of social media has produced a number of ways to stay informed. While these provide excellent ways of verifying information and receiving warning in multiple ways, some of the information is not timely or reliable. In a crisis, inaccurate information can be spread quickly through social media. In some situations, people have confused messages about threats nowhere near their location after seeing a social media posting.

Opt-in services like CodeRED provide emergency warnings to the cellular or home phone when an emergency or severe weather threatens your registered address. Community members that would like to receive CodeRED alerts can sign up through Deputy Emergency Management Director Ron Holbeck at (952) 496-8181 or via e-mail at rholbeck@co.scott.mn.us.

CodeRED®

In a disaster or hazardous situation that requires immediate warning, Scott County Emergency Management can activate a wireless emergency alert and the emergency alert system through the IPAWS interface. These messages will go to all users with modern phones *unless* the user has turned emergency alerts off. Wireless emergency alerts are restricted to only those situations like AMBER Alerts and Flash Flood Warnings where immediate distribution of information is needed to save lives. Currently, wireless emergency alerts are limited to 90 characters. The emergency alert system will send a message of up to 360 characters to local television and radio stations. The stations decide if they will allow the message to interrupt the regular broadcast.

Each community member should identify *more than one* method to receive emergency information at home and at work so that they can make informed decisions to protect themselves.



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Scott **SCENE**

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.

Environmental SCENE

By Steve Steuber
Environmentalist II



Retiring employee reflects upon changes, benefits of recycling

This will be my last article for the *SCENE* as I have retired after nearly 21 years at Scott County, working mostly in solid waste and recycling. When I went to college, the book *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold was almost required reading for those majoring in ecology or environmental science. For this article, I wanted to mention a Leopold quote: "Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest."

When I was out in the field doing inspections, I discovered many times where someone was burning their trash (which is a pet peeve of mine). I basically told them they could not burn their trash. But since they were burning their trash, they generally did not have trash and recycling service. I told them they needed to get rid of the burn barrel and contact a hauler for trash service.

I figured if they got trash service, they would get recycling service too, as all licensed trash haulers in Scott County are required to offer their customers recycling as part of the service. I feel it is important to collect and use recyclables instead of raw materials to manufacture products, as using recycled glass or aluminum saves energy over using raw materials. Saving energy also means fewer greenhouse gases are being produced, thus slowing down the impact of climate change.

However, there are many items that *cannot* go into your recycling cart -- so residents would call our office looking for a place to take their unwanted stuff, and I would give them some options. Their next question was "are they going to charge me for this?" and my answer was most always yes. Sometimes they wondered how they could be charged for a service that should be free. I spent a lot of time trying to explain to people that there is a cost to get rid of the stuff they did not want, which I really did not mind doing; I felt a big part of my job was to educate the residents of Scott County.

There have been many articles recently in the news about the "recycling crisis." I always love to read comments left on websites about recycling and waste generation: Some will say "recycling is a waste of my time" or that "recycling is just another big government program." However, many solid waste facilities in the metro area are private businesses that have invested millions of dollars in equipment and other infrastructure to manage the stuff you no longer want or need, plus there are many people employed in the solid waste industry. Again, there is a cost to get rid of the stuff you don't want.

I do believe there is a value to society if everyone would just take a little time to recycle. To keep it simple, if everyone would at least put their plastic bottles, steel and aluminum cans, mixed paper, glass bottles, and cardboard in their recycling bin, this would go a long way to collect the materials that the recyclers want and may help to keep the cost down by recycling just these items.

I have worked with many solid waste professionals in the public and private sectors, and I've always been impressed with their passion. In recent years, I've seen more young people (as us Baby Boomers retire) coming to meetings who have a lot of enthusiasm for recycling and other waste reduction actions -- so I am feeling very confident that waste management is in good hands going forward. So please don't burn your trash and at least recycle the basics I mentioned earlier. If we can reduce our waste by recycling, all of us will be rewarded with a better environment.



Eyeglasses, sunglasses, hearing aids accepted at HHW Facility

The Scott County Household Hazardous Waste facility (HHW) has been going through some changes, including new wastes, new programs, and changes to wastes collected.

Scott County still has a number of *Home Composter* compost bins for sale. The capacity of these bins is 17 cubic feet. Pickup and purchase can be made at the HHW during regular collection hours. For Scott County residents, the cost is \$44, for all others the cost is \$64. Supplies are limited.

Remember, the HHW takes eyeglasses, sunglasses, and hearing aids too. Scott County has partnered with the Minnesota Lions to make this possible. The eyeglasses do have to be complete, with no missing lenses or frames. They are free to recycle, so bring them in!

Unfortunately, the HHW Facility had to stop accepting plastic bags for recycling, though most grocery stores are still taking plastic bags. Please check our website for any updates.

Finally, some general reminders. Please *do not* mix batteries and bulbs together in the same container. The heavy batteries almost always break the bulbs.



The HHW accepts eyeglasses and sunglasses.

Please remove any ballasts from old fluorescent light fixtures. Make sure any gas/mower engines are drained of fluids. *Do not* place chemicals or paints in plastic bags. They will always spill and could cause potential hazardous conditions. Instead, use boxes and place them upright. Bring someone with you to help with heavy items. And please leave plenty of room between cars when you arrive. Try not to park on the main road, but use the frontage road while waiting for openings.

With these simple reminders, our HHW will continue to be a safe and efficient place to drop off your household hazardous waste. The Scott County HHW is located at 588 Country Trail E, Jordan, 55352. Hours are Wednesdays 12 noon – 6 p.m., Thursdays 12 noon – 4 p.m., and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 12 noon. Please check the County's website at www.scottcountymn.gov for holiday and inclement weather closures.

Don't flush disposable wipes down toilet

"Flushable wipes" are marketed in a variety of ways, such as "septic-safe," "breaks down like toilet paper," and "safe for sewer and septic." The problem is that they can and do clog pipes and create blockages that can cause sewage overflows into basement.

Disposable wipes used for changing diapers, personal hygiene, housecleaning, and more are causing major problems when flushed down toilets for both septic systems and city sewers. The wipes snag on any imperfection in sewer pipes, catch passing debris and grease, and create a "ball" that will grow to plug the pipe. They also get drawn into sewer lines and wastewater treatment plant pumps and clog and damage them. Cities must manually clear out pumps or remove clogs. Disposable wipes are putting stress on community wastewater treatment systems and on-site septic systems, and causing cities and homeowners to spend thousands on premature equipment repair and replacement.

Although many brands of disposable



Even wipes marketed as "flushable" can and do clog pipes and wastewater treatment systems.

wipes are labeled "flushable," *don't flush them*. The clogs and backups they cause may result in expensive plumbing bills for your home, or increased wastewater fees from your city. Instead of flushing wipes, place them in your garbage for collection. When in doubt, remember: Just because an item says it *can* be flushed doesn't mean it *should* be.

Bring sharps to HHW Facility

The Scott County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility is pleased to announce collection of sharps. All sharps need to be contained in a puncture-resistant container designed for sharps waste.

These containers can often be purchased at your local drug store or online (the HHW does not provide the individual containers for use). This container must also be sealed/taped closed with no exposed sharps. Please *do not* commingle your sharps with any hazardous waste.

You will need to let the HHW staff know that you have sharps at the drop off time; they will direct you to the on-site sharps bin. *Please also note that they will not be handling your sharps at any time.* These rules are set in place to protect both the customer and the HHW staff. The staff at the HHW will reject any sharps if there is deviation from



Sharps containers must be sealed/taped closed with no exposed sharps.

these rules.

Do not put medication, medication wrappers, aerosols or inhalers, garbage, batteries of any type, radioactive waste, liquids, hazardous and chemical waste, fixatives and preservatives, non-sharps regulated medical waste, into the sharps container. No business sharps waste will be accepted.

Feel free to contact Scott County at (952) 496-8177 with any questions concerning the HHW sharps program.

MVTA offers express buses to State Fair

The Minnesota State Fair is set for Aug. 22 through Sept. 2, and Minnesota Valley Transit Authority will be offering weekend and Labor Day direct service to and from Marshall Road Transit Station in Shakopee. The weekend service from Marshall Road Transit Station, 1615 Weston Ct., will be hourly from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Return service from the State Fair is from noon to midnight.

Discount round-trip tickets bought online or via app are \$5 for individuals and \$20 for groups of four.

The cost for cash on the bus is \$6 per person, and exact change is required. Save yourself time and money by purchasing your State Fair Express bus tickets online in advance! For more details on payment options, go to www.mvta.com.

MVTA also will provide round-trip bus service from the Burnsville Transit Station and Eagan Transit Station every day of the Fair. Express sites to the Fair every day:

* Burnsville: Burnsville Transit Station, Hwy. 13 and Nicollet Ave. Hourly service weekdays, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; 30-minute service on weekends and Labor Day.

* Eagan: Eagan Transit Station, Yan-



Hourly express service to the Minnesota State Fair is offered on weekends and Labor Day from Marshall Road Transit Station in Shakopee.

kee Doodle Rd. and Pilot Knob Rd. at I-35E. Hourly service on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; 30-minute service from 8 a.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day.

Return service from the Fair is from noon to midnight for all sites. Taking the bus to the Minnesota State Fair is a fast, friendly, and convenient way to attend Minnesota's signature end-of-summer event.

Ages 4 and under ride free!

Note: Go-To Cards, SuperSaver Cards, College Passes and MetroPasses are not accepted for the State Fair Express.

Don't flush medicine; "Take It To The Box"

Stop before you flush old or unwanted prescription or over-the-counter medications down the toilet or drain -- these pharmaceuticals can damage your septic system, pollute the groundwater, and unintentionally expose us to the chemicals in these medications.

A septic tank has its own bacterial environment complete with all kinds of gases, which are the result of those bacteria breaking down any organic material which flows into the septic tank. So, a septic tank is actually something of a living entity. When medications are flushed down a toilet or drain, they enter your septic system and may kill the natural occurring bacteria that treat the sewage. Septic systems and many municipal treatment plants are not designed to remove medications. Some medications have the ability to move through the septic system untreated and into the ground, groundwater, or surface water.

Recent studies have found that medicines flushed down the drain can contaminate our lakes and streams -- which can hurt fish and other aquatic wildlife -- and end up in our drinking water. Some medications, such as hormones and antidepressants, include endocrine



disrupting compounds (EDCs), which interfere with the reproduction and normal growth of many aquatic species, such as frogs and fish.

Instead of flushing unwanted medicines, you can use the County's "Take It to the Box" program. *Take It To The Box* is a program for Scott County residents to dispose of unneeded prescription and over-the-counter medications, pet medications, illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia -- anonymously, at no charge, courtesy of a partnership with Scott County Drug Prevention Task Force and ChooseNotToUse. There is a disposal box located at each City Police Department and the Scott County Sheriff's office. For more information on disposal through the *Take It To The Box* program, visit choosenottouse.org.

Now accepting applications for Master Gardeners

Many of us hear about Master Gardeners and perhaps see them in the community, but have you ever wondered how to become one? There are many reasons to join, including supporting an important mission, continuous learning about horticulture, giving back to the community, teaching the importance of local and sustainable alternatives, and being involved with a statewide network of other Master Gardeners.

The Master Gardener Program is supported by outstanding faculty and staff from the University of Minnesota Extension. The mission is to provide research-based horticultural knowledge and practices, and to deliver educational outreach and project-based efforts that inspire change and promote healthy people, healthy communities, and a healthy planet.

One program administered by the Master Gardeners is the *Schoolyard Gardens* program, which exists throughout the state and assists schools in developing on-site gardens to educate students from K-12 about how to grow

plants, flowers, and vegetables. By providing opportunities to garden on-site, educational materials, and incorporating horticulture learning into the classroom, we promote healthy kids, communities, and the environment. Carver-Scott Master Gardeners currently volunteer at 16 schools in the two counties, teaching over 4,000 children about gardening.

The *Schoolyard Gardens* are but one of many programs. Carver-Scott Master Gardeners volunteer with food shelves, assisted living facilities, Habitat for Humanity, farmers markets, and libraries. We also manage the Yard & Garden Line, which provides free horticulture information to the public. We hold special events such as *Garden Fever* in the spring and the Annual Plant Sale in the fall (this year on August 24). The application process begins in August. If you want to learn more about becoming a Carver-Scott Extension Master Gardener and the timelines to apply, please go to: <http://carverscottmastergardeners.org/how-to-become-a-master-gardener/> or call (952) 492-5390.

Carver-Scott Extension Master Gardener 11th Annual Plant Sale

Mark your calendar today!

Saturday, August 24
9 a.m. - 12 noon
Chaska Cub Foods
Parking Lot



Purchase perennial divisions from Extension Master Gardeners' own yards, plus fresh produce, garden art, and more, all very reasonably priced! Also, you have an opportunity to ask those burning gardening questions. Master Gardeners will be on-site and ready to answer questions and concerns about your home garden and landscapes. For more information, visit www.carverscottmastergardeners.org.
**Proceeds from this sale benefit University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener community programs in Carver and Scott Counties.*

Healthy SCENE

By Brittany Clay
Public Health Nurse



Fight the flu with a vaccination

Flu season is just around the corner, so what better time to refresh yourself on the flu shot and flu basics? Influenza (a.k.a., "the flu") is caused by a virus that attacks your lungs, nose, and throat. Because of these symptoms, it can often be confusing to tell the difference between the flu and the common cold. There is a test for the flu, but it has to be done in the first couple of days of the illness.

In general, cold symptoms will start slowly while flu symptoms start very suddenly. Cold symptoms also are usually milder than flu symptoms and do not often result in serious health problems. The flu *can* result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia, hospital stays, and more infections.

Certain people are more at risk for serious complications from the flu, such as adults 65 and older, pregnant women, young children, and those who have chronic health problems already. So what can you do? Protect yourself from the flu and get the flu shot! Flu shots are generally available starting in September every year. You should get a new one *every* season because the flu virus changes every season. There are medicines that can treat the flu, but getting the shot is the best way to protect yourself. Children who are under nine years old and have never received the flu shot before should get **two** separate flu shots one month apart the first year. After that, you only need one flu shot per season.

The flu shot has mild side effects, which are soreness in your arm or sometimes some mild cold-like symptoms, and these side effects generally only last one to two days. Most people do not have any problems with the flu shot. **You cannot get the flu from the flu shot.** The influenza virus can cause very serious health problems. By getting vaccinated, you can keep yourself from getting the flu, make the flu illness less severe if you get it, and protect your loved ones from the flu. Ask your clinic about the flu shot this season!

If you do not have health insurance for yourself or your child and desire a flu vaccine, call Scott County Public Health at (952) 496-8555. We can help.

IS IT A COLD or FLU?

Signs and Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Headache	Rare	Common

#FIGHT FLU

Second half taxes due Oct. 15

The second half of your property taxes are due on Oct. 15, 2019, and the following options are available for payment of taxes:

You may pay in person at Customer Service in the Shakopee Government Center during the following hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

You may mail taxes. If mailed, they must be postmarked on or before Oct. 15 to be on time.

Tax payment drop boxes are located:

- Inside the Government Center in front of Customer Service and near the *temporary entrance during business hours.
- At all Scott County Libraries from Oct. 8-15. Please check your area library for their hours of operation.
- In Parking Lot E on the south side

of the Government Center through Oct. 15.

- **Curbside drop off** available on Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in parking Lot E on the south side of the Government Center.
- You can also pay your taxes **online!** Go to <https://www.scottcountymn.gov/> and select the "Pay Property Tax" box.

There are convenience fees charged by the processor that depend on how you choose to pay:

E-check = \$1.50 per transaction
Debit Cards = \$3.50 per transaction
Credit Cards = 2.3% per transaction

*Please note that during construction the main entrance to the Government Center has been moved to the south side of the building off of 5th St.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION



The Scott County Board recognized the Mark Klehr family as the 2019 Scott County Farm Family of the Year during its July 16 Board meeting. Pictured (l. to r.) are Commissioners Jon Ulrich and Barb Weckman Brekke, Cameron Klehr; Commissioner Mike Beard; Nick, Mark, and Emily Klehr; Commissioner Tom Wolf; Marcus Klehr; and Commissioner Dave Beer. The Klehr family was also recognized at the Scott County Fair on July 24.

Klehr family named Farm Family of Year

By Colleen Carlson, U of M Extension Educator

The Klehr family farm sits just east of Belle Plaine on the Brewery Creek. Mark's parents, Dick and Mary, purchased the farm in 1971. Mark was raised on the farm, where he did chores and milked cows alongside his father and mother. In 1996, his dad retired and Mark took over the farming operation, eventually purchasing the farm in 2001.

Mark is very proud of his four children and they all help out on the farm. Marcus farms full-time with his dad. Nick helps with the farm management records and the bookkeeping on the computer. Cameron likes to drive tractor, so he pitches in when he can get away from his full-time job. Daughter Emily (a former Scott County Dairy Maid!) fills in as a relief milker when Mark is away from the farm.

Mark and his family currently milk 50 Holstein cows and raise dairy steers for market. The Klehrs' farm consists of 200 acres of farmland which is used to grow corn, alfalfa, and pasture, all of which is used to feed the cattle.

In 2017, they received the Dairy Herd Improvement Association Award for the lowest sematic cell count in Minnesota. This shows the attention to detail that the Klehr's take to assure that the cows are well cared for to produce high quality milk.

In caring for the cows, Mark also takes care of the land and water. Mark has worked closely with the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District to establish filter strips around the creek bank and placed a wire dam in Brewery Creek. In 2016, a new lagoon for their manure management system was installed and most recently they completed a whole farm conservation assessment.

Congratulations to the Mark Klehr family for being selected as the 2019 Scott County Farm Family of the Year!

4-H provides service opportunity at Fair

The Annual Kids' Day at the Scott County Fair brings hundreds of youth to the Fairgrounds for a day of activities and exploration. Scott County 4-H members also gave the youth of Kids' Day an opportunity to give back to their community with two simple items -- lunch bags and crayons.

Each youth attending Kids' Day had the opportunity to unleash their creativity by decorating a plain paper lunch bag. These lunch bags will now be donated to the CAP Agency -- a partnership between Scott, Carver, and Dakota counties -- for use in their home-delivered meal program, often referred to as "Meals on Wheels." CAP's meals are packaged in paper lunch bags and delivered to senior citizens five days a week. Instead of a plain bag, many home-delivered meal recipients will soon receive a hand-decorated bag straight from the fairgrounds.

"In 4-H, we pledge to use our hands for larger service," said Sarah Oden-

dahl, Scott County 4-H Program Coordinator. "Kids' Day at the fair is a fantastic opportunity for youth and families to explore everything that 4-H has to offer, and we want those families to understand what the 4-H values are. One of those values is generosity. Having a group service project that can be done by kids of all ages shows the power of a community coming together to support each other, and that no one is too small to make a difference."

4-H youth members and adult volunteers provided several other Kids' Day activities, including chances to get up close to animals, a demonstration of the motorized amusement park made by members of the LEGO® Robotics club, and a chance to meet Princess Kay of the Milky Way.

For more information on 4-H opportunities in Scott County, or for more information on becoming a 4-H volunteer, please contact Sarah Odendahl at (952) 492-5384 or sodendahl@umn.edu.



Youth decorated bags for the CAP Agency's "Meals on Wheels" program during a Kids' Day at the Fair service project.

Master Gardeners plan tea party

Evenings in the Garden –
Garden Tea Party

Tuesday, Aug. 13, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Scott County Fairgrounds (7151 190th
St. W, Jordan)

Make "teas" and infusions from the herbs grown in the Teaching Gardens. Get into the spirit of the evening by

wearing a floppy hat or whatever catches your fancy. Enjoy both the beauty of the herbs along with the aromas and flavors. Learn which parts of the plants to use to enjoy the flavors. Bring a chair and relax, and find new ways to enjoy the garden. There will also be activities available for children!

Cover crop test plot moves on to year two

Through one of the coldest and wettest springs Scott County has seen in years, the SWCD's cover crop test plot is prevailing through its second year of service! It's just a small strip of land in an unassuming corner of Belle Plaine, but this 3.6-acre field is the gateway into understanding how cover crops behave in Scott County.

The test plot field — part of a larger field farmed by Rob Schultz — is a five-year effort with the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The County and the state of Minnesota as a whole want to understand cover crops on a more personal level, not just through outside findings. The SWCD has partnered with Schultz and rented out 3.6 acres of land on the edge of his field to do experimental comparison. His field was planted with corn this year, and the area encompassing the test plot was interseeded on June 18 with a mix of annual rye, crimson clover, hairy vetch, rapeseed, and cereal rye, while the rest of Schultz's field was left alone. At the end of the growing season, soil organic matter, nutrient levels, infiltration rates, and yields of the field will be gathered and recorded. These findings will start to paint pictures of everything cover crops can do for soil health and integrity in Minnesota.

Tests and experiments show these results throughout the state. In 2015, the University of Minnesota Ex-



The Scott SWCD interseeder -- which is available for rent -- was used to seed cover crops at the test plot in Belle Plaine.

tension conducted trials at field sites throughout southern Minnesota. Results showed all cover crop species germinated, and red clover and hairy vetch were among the most successful overall. The data Minnesota has gathered thus far has been invaluable in ensuring successful cover crop yields, and the comparison sites here in Scott County will add to those good data. The SWCD has comparison sites throughout the County, and each one has a tailored seed mixture to ensure the best viability. With local data in hand, producers will be able to make informed decisions about how and when a potential cover crop could benefit their fields.

So, what exactly can cover crops do? The term "cover crop" gets thrown around with a wide mix of uncertainty, excitement, and partial understanding. To clear up misconceptions, cover crops are simply seed mixes of grasses and legumes planted in between rows of normal crops, or planted after crops are harvested. They provide year-round soil stabilization, bring in nutrients, and prevent weed overgrowth. Depending on the seed mix, cover crops are also an effective pest management tool and pollinator attractants. The possibilities are abundant and customizable for the land's specific needs.

If any of this has sparked your interest, Scott SWCD would love to help! For over 75 years, the SWCD has been working to help landowners preserve and improve their soil, and every year they develop new and improved ways of accomplishing that. The SWCD will work with you to create a cover crop plan specifically tailored to your land and its needs. They also provide equipment rental services, educational workshops, and financial incentives from the Scott Watershed Management Organization and the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District. Give the office a call at (952) 492-5425 or visit their website, scottswcd.org, to sign up and learn more.



Scott County Fair delights thousands



Natalie Biren of New Prague (above) clipped the toenails of her Holland Lop in preparation for judging during the 4-H Rabbit Show. Kristin Klecker of Shakopee (at right) showed her spring lamb at the 4-H Sheep Show.



Children looked for treasures in the KCHK Radio straw dive.



Fair-goers watched an acrobat (at right) during a Kent Family Circus performance.



Fair volunteers

From page 1



The members of the Scott County Fair Board, elected by the Scott County Agricultural Society, gathered on the first day of the Fair for the dedication of a permanently installed Rainbow Play System. The playground was dedicated in memory of the late Dick Ames. Fair Board members donate countless hours of work throughout the year to maintain the Fairgrounds and make the event run smoothly.

to installing a new playground. They can be found throughout the entire fairgrounds each day, often taking vacation from their regular jobs to assist wherever needed.

Many of the Fair Board members volunteer for specific tasks. One will oversee the beer garden, another coordinate the demo derby, the tractor pull, Creative Arts building, or the Miracle of Birth Center. And they bring others with them to help. Westerlund was recruited four years ago by her sister, Wendy Hesse of Elko New Market, who is a member of the Fair Board and is currently serving as secretary for the non-profit organization. Hesse also has her husband, Tom, involved. Other Board members get their children engaged.

Terry Stade of Shakopee serves as this year's Fair Board president, Dave Latzke of Belle Plaine is the vice president, and Jerry Kucera of Shakopee is the treasurer. The other Fair directors are Doug Gauque of Savage, Nick Gerdes of Jordan, Ken Gliszinski of New Prague, Erika Ediger-Connolly of Belle Plaine, Lori Pint of New Prague, Les Quatmann of Jordan, Doug Schmitt of Jordan, Joy Schmitt of Jordan, Pete Shutrop of Jordan, and Jesse Wilson of New Prague.

Many of the Fair Board members grew up attending fairs in Scott County or another location and they want to provide others with some of the same joy they experienced. For example, Stade showed livestock at the Scott County Fair, earning trips to 4-H competitions at the State Fair. Schmitt took numerous projects to the Fair, and now enjoys watching her own children successfully compete in numerous events.

Westerlund said she was not involved with the Fair as a youth, but she certainly is happy to volunteer now, and she encourages others to become engaged. "I already told them to sign me up for the same hours next year," she said.

Visit www.scottcountyfair.org for more information.



in partnership with



Fall in the Parks

The cooler temperatures and changing colors of fall make it one of the best times to explore the outdoors in Minnesota. From golfing, hiking, paddling and more, the parks and trails in Scott County offer a variety of options to enjoy this beautiful season. Plan your adventures today!

Fall Fun at Cedar Lake Farm
Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park is the perfect spot to spend an autumn afternoon. Hang a hammock between tall oak trees and bask in the beauty of the colors around you. Go for an easy stroll on a 1-mile loop, bring food to grill and picnic with friends, or pack your fishing gear and throw a line off the pier.

Fall Golf at Cleary Lake
The scenic rolling hills at Cleary Lake Golf Course make the 9-hole course a beautiful destination for both beginner and experienced golfers. Grab your friends for a round or try FootGolf!

Fall Hiking with Views
Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve is an outstanding spot for fall hiking with nearly 22 miles of trails. The peaceful wilderness and hilly terrain offer stunning views of fall colors, and it's one of the best places to go birding in the Twin Cities. Bring binoculars and watch for migratory birds.

Paddle on Serene Lakes
Cleary Lake in Cleary Lake Regional Park and Murphy Lake in Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve are great for paddling. No gas motors are allowed, making them quiet and peaceful waters to explore and enjoy fall reflections. Rentals are available at Cleary Lake through Labor Day.

Spring Lake Trailgate
Enjoy a free day of adventure in the spectacular fall forest of Spring Lake Regional Park! Bring your family and friends on Saturday, September 28 to ride bike trails (rentals available), sample apple cider, try slacklining, meet live raptors and more. See event details on the following page.

Explore History at The Landing
Located in the Minnesota River valley, The Landing is a beautiful fall destination to add to your list! Explore living history with costumed interpreters and interactive demonstrations. Bring some friends and learn about Minnesota history at a History Happy Hour. Try pioneer-era folk crafts and cooking, celebrate the fall season at Apple Festival and much more!



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.

parks

Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park
25875 Juniper Avenue, New Prague, MN 56071, Phone: 763.694.7777
Hours: 5 AM–10 PM
Located on the south shore of Cedar Lake near New Prague, Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park has family and group picnicking, catered events, swimming, fishing, a 1-mile paved trail to the lake, canoe launch and beach.

Cleary Lake Regional Park
18106 Texas Avenue, Prior Lake, MN 55372, Phone: 763.694.7777
Hours: 5 AM–10 PM
This park is one of the most popular year-round recreation spots in the south metro. With amenities including a 9-hole golf course, campground, picnic area, swimming beach, cross-country ski trails and more, this beautiful park has something for everyone.

The Landing
2187 Highway 101 East, Shakopee, MN 55379, Phone: 763.694.7784
Hours: May 28–October 31: Mon-Sat: 10 AM–5 PM, Sunday: Noon–5 PM
Nestled on the Minnesota River near Shakopee, The Landing – Minnesota River Heritage Park interprets how people have connected with the Minnesota River Valley and the surrounding cultural and natural resources. Discover how 19th-century Minnesotans established their lives on the frontier, farmsteads and in villages. Historical buildings are laid out as a timeline from the pre-territorial era through the late 1800s. Explore the grounds by yourself using interpretive media or while costumed interpreters bring the past alive at living history days and events.

Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve
15501 Murphy Lake Road, Savage, MN 55378, Phone: 763.694.7777
Hours: 5 AM–10 PM
The peaceful wilderness at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve in northeast Scott County features glacial ridges, hilly terrain and an extensive lush forest. This is one of the most challenging cross-country ski areas in the Twin Cities and a favorite spot for mountain bikers. With the exception of the trails and the new 3-acre dog off-leash area, the park reserve remains undeveloped, making it the best park in Three Rivers for birdwatchers to spot woodland songbirds. This park has also been designated an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.

Spring Lake Regional Park
15851 Howard Lake Road, Prior Lake, MN 55372, Phone: 763.694.7777
Hours: 5 AM–10 PM
Scott County's newest regional park includes 3.5 miles of paved trails, a 9-acre fenced dog park, and 1-acre small dog park. Rolling hills, woods, and meadows provide a great experience for walkers, bikers, and in-line skaters.



translation

ThreeRiversParks.org can be translated into 24 languages. Select the language at the bottom of each page.

Translation by phone at: 763.559.6700

nyob zoo

Hola

Hi

scottcountymn.gov • ThreeRiversParks.org

event calendar



CEDAR LAKE FARM REGIONAL PARK NEW PRAGUE

- ★ **FAMILY FISHING**
Learn about types of fish, preparing equipment, bait, and handling the fish once they're caught. Equipment and fishing license provided for class only. Reservations required. \$6. Ages: All. #4SCT5400
September 7 — Saturday 1–3 PM
- ★ **FAMILY ARCHERY**
Learn archery basics and elements of safety. Shoot at stationary targets and compete in games. Equipment provided. Reservations required. \$10. Ages: 8+. #4SCT5001
September 29 — Sunday 9–11 AM

CLEARY LAKE REGIONAL PARK PRIOR LAKE

- CLEARY CUP JUNIOR CLUB GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**
Tuesday qualifier with breakfast provided after; lowest 3 scores in each division receive a trophy. The 20 lowest overall scores compete in Wednesday's championship round; lowest combined score over both days gets a personalized Cleary Cup. \$25/golfer. Ages: 8-17. #8CLE7200
August 13 & 14 — Tuesday & Wednesday 7 AM–Noon
- ★ **FALL COLORS KAYAK TOUR**
Enjoy the crisp air while taking in views of wildlife and beautiful fall colors. Previous paddling experience required. Equipment provided. Reservations required by three days prior. \$40. Ages: 14+. #4SCT5755
September 22 — Sunday 2–4 PM
- TRICK-OR-TREAT GEOCACHING**
Explore the park on a geocaching adventure complete with candy treats and festive tricks. Equipment provided. Reservations required. \$10/trick-or-treater; adults free. Ages: All. #4SCT5550
October 27 — Sunday 1–3 PM

Spring Lake Trailgate

A FREE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 28, 11 AM-3 PM

Spring Lake Regional Park, 15851 Howard Lake Road NW, Prior Lake



- Explore the paved trails and stunning fall forests.
 - Try out rock climbing, slacklining, geocaching and more.
 - Learn about pollinators, meet live raptors, and sample apple cider.
 - Barbeque lunch at noon (while supplies last).
- It is all free – bring your family and friends.**
- UNA CELEBRACIÓN GRATIS PARA LA COMUNIDAD**
El Sábado, 28 de septiembre, de 11 AM-3 PM

 - Explore los senderos pavimentados y los impresionantes bosques en el Otoño.
 - Trate el deslizamiento en rocas, caminar sobre la cuerda(slackline), seconder y encontrar tesoros(geocaching) y más.
 - Aprender acerca de los polinizadores, conozca aves de rapiña vivas, y pruebe la sidra de manzana.
 - Almuerzo a la barbacoa sera ofrecido al mediodía (mientras haya).

Todo es gratis – traiga a su familia y amigos.
- DABAALDAG BULSHO OO LACAG LA'AAN AH**
Sabtida, Sibteembar 28, 11 AM-3 PM

 - Fiiri tareelayaasha lasimay iyo kaymaha biyo dhaca leh.
 - Iskuday dhagax fuulka, wareejiinta, dhalaalinta iyo waxyaabo kale.
 - Waxbadan kabaro xawayaanada ubaxa qaada, arag baqal nool, bahalka tufaaxda u eg.
 - Qadada baabarkuuga (Barbeque) oo galabkii lacuno (inta badeecadu taalo).

Dhamaanteed waa lacag la'aan - keen qoyskaaga iyo saaxiibadaa.
- Общественное празднование бесплатно**
Saturday/суббота, September 28, 11 AM-3 PM

 - исследовать проложенные тропы и потрясающие лесные леса
 - попробовать скалолазание, геокэшинг и другие мероприятия на свежем воздухе
 - Узнайте о опылителях, познакомьтесь с живыми хищниками и попробуйте яблочный сидр
 - бесплатный обед в полдень (во время еды)

это все бесплатно - привези свою семью и друзей



ThreeRiversParks.org • 763.694.6700

MURPHY-HANREHAN PARK RESERVE SAVAGE

- PRAIRIE SEED COLLECTION**
Collect native wildflower seed to help increase plant diversity in over 1,600 acres of restored prairie managed by Three Rivers. Reservations required. Free. Ages: 12+. #7NRM1800
September 3 — Tuesday September 14 — Saturday 10:30 AM–1:30 PM

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK PRIOR LAKE

- SPRING LAKE TRAILGATE**
Explore Spring Lake Regional Park, miles of trails and stunning fall forests. Ride the trails by bike (rentals available), scale a rock climbing wall, sample apple cider and meet live raptors. Try slacklining, geocaching and more. Free barbeque lunch beginning at noon while supplies last. Drop in anytime. Free. Ages: All. #4SCT000T
September 28 — Saturday 11 AM–3 PM

- EXPLORE VOLUNTEERING**
Meet staff while exploring the many ways to give back at your favorite park. Drop in anytime. Free. #4VOL0300
September 28 — Saturday 11 AM–3 PM

THE LANDING MINNESOTA RIVER HERITAGE PARK SHAKOPEE

- LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND**
The past comes alive with costumed interpreters and interactive demonstrations. Join scheduled tours, hands-on activities, and more. Call 763.649.7784 for daily schedules. Enter through the west entrance. Drop-in anytime; last entry at 4 PM. \$8 ages 18-64; \$5 ages 2-17 and 65+; children under 2 free. Ages: All. #4LAN900T
August 31 & September 1 Saturday, 10 AM–5 PM Sunday, Noon–5 PM

- LABOR AND TRADES DAY**
Explore the story behind the Labor Day holiday as you wander through an 1889 village and meet laborers from the past. Watch demonstrations of 19th-century crafts and trades. Hone your own skills with hands-on activities. What would you do for a living in 1889? Enter through the west entrance. Drop-in anytime. \$8 ages 18-64; \$5 ages 2-17 and 65+; children under 2 free. Ages: All. #4LAN000T
September 2 — Monday 10 AM–5 PM

- FRONTIER FOLK CRAFTS**
Try pioneer-era handicrafts while socializing with friends. Learn basic concepts and techniques as well as the story behind the craft. Includes a starter kit to take home. Reservations required by two days prior. \$20/session. Ages: 16+. #4LAN4350
Embroider a Handkerchief September 8 — Sunday 1–3 PM

- MY PRESCHOOLER & ME: EARLY EXPLORERS**
Discover the magic of historic Eagle Creek with your child. Play, sing, read stories and explore outdoors as new themes are investigated each month. Reservations required. \$5/person each session. Ages: 2-5, plus adult. #4LAN0100
Busy Bees September 10 — Tuesday 10–11:30 AM

- CANDLELIT TOURS**
See historic buildings in a whole new light. Experience 19th-century life after dark using the lighting technology of the time — candlelight and oil lanterns. Lighting provided; bring your own flashlight if desired. Enter though the west entrance. Reservations required. Reservations required. \$8. Ages: 18+. #4LAN2550
September 12 — Thursday 7–9 PM

- TEEN NIGHT: CAPTURE THE FLAG:**
Establish a base in the historic 1889 village. Work to defend your flag, complete challenges and puzzles, and try to capture the flag of your enemy. Enter through the west entrance. Free. Ages: 12-18. #4LAN0055
September 13 — Friday 6–8 PM

- A TASTE OF HISTORY**
Develop a taste for the past. Prepare and sample a small meal using authentic period recipes cooked in historic buildings over a wood-burning stove or outside over an open fire. Includes supplies. Reservations required. \$20. Ages: 15+. #4LAN3150
Apples in Abundance – Appetizers to Dessert September 14 — Saturday 10 AM–1 PM

- HISTORY UNLOCKED: AN ESCAPE ROOM EXPERIENCE**
Follow clues throughout the park and complete escape room-style puzzles in authentic historic buildings. Are you up for the challenge? Reservations required. \$15/session. Ages 14+. #4LAN2565
September 14 — Saturday September 21 — Saturday 1–2:30 PM, 3–4:30 PM or 5–6:30 PM

- HISTORY HAPPY HOUR**
Enjoy a drink and socialize while exploring history through informal presentations and hands-on activities. Dive into a new topic each month. Includes two drinks (wine or beer) and light snacks. Enter through the west entrance. Reservations required. \$24/session. Ages: 21+. #4LAN2560
Writing the Past September 24 — Tuesday 7–9 PM

- ★ **FAMILY ARCHERY**
Learn archery basics and elements of safety. Shoot at stationary targets and compete in games. Equipment provided. Reservations required. \$10. Ages: 8+. #4SCT5001
October 6 — Sunday 1–3 PM

- REGISTER ONLINE**
ThreeRiversParks.org/programs
 - To create a new account: Click “Need an account?” and complete the requested information.
 - If your account already exists and you don’t know the password: Click “Forgot your password?” to receive an email to update your password.

Note: Be sure to include birthdays for everyone you are registering.

- CALL 763.559.6700 FOR ASSISTANCE**
Mon.–Fri. 8 AM–4:30 PM SAT 8 AM–2 PM

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

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

- ★ **GROUP PROGRAM DISCOUNTS**
Groups of four or more individuals can receive a 20% discount on any program with an asterisk (★) in the title. To receive the discount:
 - Entire group must pay related fees at the same time.
 - If reservations are not required, ask for the discount when you arrive at the program.

Harmful algae blooms: When in doubt, keep out

When temperatures climb and the summer sun beats down, conditions are ripe for Minnesota lakes to produce harmful algae blooms, some of which can be harmful to pets and humans.

What are blue-green algae?

Blue-green algae are not algae at all, but types of bacteria called *cyanobacteria* that are normally present in many lakes. This type of bacteria thrives in warm, nutrient-rich water. When conditions are right, the bacteria can grow quickly forming “blooms.”

What do blue-green algal blooms look like?

Blue-green algal blooms are often described as looking like pea soup or spilled green paint. However, blooms aren’t always large and dense and can sometimes cover small portions of the lake with little visible algae present. Blooms can also produce a swampy odor when the cells break down.



Blue-green algal blooms are often described as looking like spilled green paint or pea soup.

What are harmful algal blooms?

When blue-green algal blooms produce *cyanotox-*



ins (toxins produced by cyanobacteria) that can make humans and animals sick, they are considered harmful. In general, algae are not harmful.

When do harmful algal blooms occur?

Blue-green algae prefer warm, calm, sunny weather and water temperatures higher than 75°F. Blooms usually occur during summer and early fall, but can occur other times of the year, if conditions are right.

Where are harmful algal blooms found?

Harmful algae can be found everywhere in Minnesota, but thrive in warm, shallow, nutrient-rich lakes. They will often be found on the downwind side of a lake or in a secluded bay or shoreline.

What are the possible health effects?

You can become sick if you swallow, have skin contact with, or breathe in airborne water droplets while swimming, boating, waterskiing, tubing, bathing, or showering in water that has harmful algae or if you drink water that contains algal toxins. If you become sick, you might experience vomiting, diarrhea, rash, eye irritation, cough, sore throat, and headache. Symptoms generally begin hours to two days after exposure.

What should you do if you see blue-green algae in your drinking water source?

Avoid using untreated lake or river water for drinking, cooking, and brushing teeth, particularly for infants and small children. Boiling water will not destroy toxins, and could actually increase toxin levels. Simple treatment options are also not effective, because multiple treatment steps are typically required to remove algal toxins.

Water that may be contaminated can be used for handwashing, bathing, washing dishes, or laundry, though it may irritate skin. Young children should be supervised when bathing to prevent them from swallowing water. After washing, skin and items that go into the mouths of infants and young children (e.g., teething rings, nipples, bottles, toys, and silverware) should be rinsed with uncontaminated water.

Can animals be affected?

Pets, especially dogs, are susceptible to harmful algae because they swallow more water while swimming and doing activities like retrieving a ball from the water. They are also less deterred by green, smelly water that may contain harmful algae. Animals can experience symptoms within minutes of exposure to the toxins. Symptoms they might experience include vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, difficulty breathing, and seizures. In the worst cases, animals have died. If your pet experiences these symptoms after exposure to algae, contact your veterinarian.

What should I do if I see a bloom?

There is no way to tell if a blue-green algal bloom is toxic just by looking at it. Adults, children, and animals should avoid contact with water with blue-green algae. Toxins can persist in the water after a bloom; watch for signs of recent blooms, such as green scum on the shoreline. When in doubt, *stay out!* If you or your pet go into water where there may be a bloom, wash off with fresh water immediately afterwards.

How can we get rid of harmful algae blooms?

We can’t eliminate blue-green algae from a lake -- they are an inherent part of the overall algal community. What we really want to do is control their overall intensity and the frequency of the blooms. Since we can’t control the water temperature, the best thing we can do is to reduce the amount of nutrients getting into the lake. This can best be accomplished by reducing the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen from **TOXIC ALGAE continued on next page**



SCOTT - CARVER
PROJECT COMMUNITY CONNECT

Save the Date:
2019 PCC Sept. 11 at Canterbury Park Expo Center
Canterbury Park will host the 2019 Scott-Carver Project Community Connect (PCC) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Expo Center, 1100 Canterbury Road, Shakopee. This community event offers a one-stop location for direct services to residents of Scott County and Carver County who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Free services include:

- Housing Information
- Employment & Training Services
- Healthcare Services
- Legal Assistance
- Veterans Services
- Haircuts
- Minnesota Birth Certificates
- Drivers License Renewals & ID Cards



Agencies that provide social services, food support, energy assistance, education resources, mental health and chemical dependency services will be on hand to help PCC guests. Free transportation to PCC, lunch and onsite childcare will be provided.

www.ScottCarverPCC.org

Scott-Carver Project Community Connect Personal Care Product Drive

WHO

County residents and employees are invited to participate in a Personal Care Product Drive for this year's Scott-Carver Project Community Connect (PCC) event for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.



WHAT

Collect Regular-Size:

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste



WHERE

Drop off items at any Carver County or Scott County Library.



WHEN

Bring in items between August 1st and Sept 7th. Donated items will be delivered to the Canterbury P ark Expo Center for distribution at PCC on Sept. 11th.

WHY

Remind people these non-food items cannot be purchased with food support (EBT cards), and personal care items are often not available at food shelves, or are in short supply.

HOW

PCC will give out donated hygiene kits to those individuals who are homeless. In addition, the goal is to give donated personal care products to all PCC guests as they leave the event.



The Grand Opening for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) cultural center was held in July.

Public invited to new SMSC cultural center

After years of hard work and anticipation, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) officially opened the doors to Mdewakanton: Dwellers of the Spirit Lake, the public cultural exhibit housed at the Community's brand-new cultural center, Hočokata Ti.

The 3,470-square-foot exhibit provides visitors with a cultural experience that enhances their knowledge and understanding of the Mdewakanton Dakota people and their history in the area.

For a small admission fee, visitors can take a tour of the space, view an assortment of Dakota artifacts, and learn more about the rich history of Native people in the Minnesota River Valley.

After exploring the exhibit, guests are welcome to peruse a variety of Native-made art, books, music, crafts, and beaded and quilled items available for purchase at the library/gift shop.

For more information on tickets and tours, please visit shakopeedakota.org.



Natalie Drescher, Rachel Withers, Daphne Adkins, and Ben Swanson competed in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Four County 4-Hers compete in national competition

Thirty-two Minnesota 4-H youth -- including four from Scott County -- and nine adults represented Minnesota at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships in Grand Island, NE the week of June 23-28. These youth were selected to represent Minnesota through an application process following their participation in the 2018 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational. The 32 youth represented 20 counties in Minnesota.

Scott County was represented by participants Natalie Drescher, competing in .22 Rifle; Ben Swanson, competing in Shotgun; Daphne Adkins, competing in Recurve Archery; and Rachel Withers, competing in Compound Archery.

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program began in the 1980s, and has grown to nearly 4,000 4-H members and 1,000 adult leaders. 4-H members may become involved in the 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program in the following disciplines: Air Rifle & Air Pistol, Archery, .22 Rifle, Muzzleloading, Shotgun, and Wildlife. Adults can become certified discipline instructors by attending a weekend workshop and instructing youth in their

county. To learn more about the Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program, go to <https://sites.google.com/umn.edu/4-h-outdoor-adventures/ssw>.

At the 20th annual National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships, Minnesota 4-H members participated in a number of events to show their skill and knowledge. Youth practiced with a coach prior to participating in the events in Nebraska, and participated as an individual in their events as well as a team. Each participant competed in three different events to compile their total score. Approximately 700 youth from 35-plus states participated in the National Championships.

About Minnesota 4-H: Minnesota 4-H is a youth development program provided through the University of Minnesota Extension. The 4-H mission is to engage Minnesota youth in quality learning opportunities that enable them to shape and reach their full potential as active citizens in a global community. 4-H youth have fun while they learn, grow, and reach their full potential.

The University of Minnesota, including the University of Minnesota Extension Service, is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Law Library News

One-fourth of children depend upon child support payments; walk-in clinic is Aug. 22

If you have child support questions and would like to talk to a Child Support Officer or a volunteer family law attorney concerning child support, come to the **Walk-In Child Support Clinic Aug. 22 from 4 – 7 p.m., Room 112 in the Scott County Government Center.**

Lisa Burkhardtmeier, Scott County Child Support Supervisor, reports "...the program supports a quarter of the nation's children (over 17 million) from all socioeconomic backgrounds. The program increases family self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and encourages both parents to be involved and committed to their children."

The Law Library sees someone with child support questions every day. It may be someone needing to modify their current support, or someone wanting to know how to start child support. Sometimes, it will be an unmarried father who doesn't understand why he can't see his kids if he is paying child support. If you have these questions, we can direct you to the child support court forms to start the process.

Here are a few of the basics about child support:

Created by Congress in 1975, the child support program ensures that children in single-parent households receive a reliable source of private financial and medical support. You can get an order for child support by applying for local child support services, in a divorce, legal separation, paternity case, custody case, or as part of an Order for Protection (OFP).

There are two different court processes that use two different sets of forms. There is the **District Court Process** that usually comes out of a divorce. This process doesn't usually involve the County Child Support Office unless one of the parents applies for child support services. The second process is the **Expedited Process**. This process can only be used for people who have an open child support case with the County. The County Child Support Office and the County Attorney's Office are generally involved in this process. The County Attorney is representing the interests of the County in the case. In the Expedited Process, cases are heard by a Child Support Magistrate rather than a District Court Judge.

Child support has three parts: Basic Support, Child Care Support, and Medical Support. **Basic Support** is for food, clothing, and housing. **Child Care Support** is for paying child care expenses when the custodial parent is at work or school. **Medical Support** addresses health insurance or other medical costs for the child/children. If you have questions about how child support is calculated, go the Minnesota Child Support Calculator at <https://childsupportcalculator.dhs.state.mn.us/>. This calculator

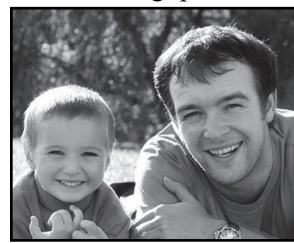
is only a guideline; the final decision is up to the Court. The Court examines the income, assets, expenses, and needs of both parents, and the needs and expenses of the child/children when determining child support.

Child custody and child support go hand-in-hand raising children, but they are two different legal issues. In Minnesota, if a child is born to an unmarried mother, the mother has full custody even if the father has signed a Recognition of Parentage (ROP).

MN Statute 257.541 Subdivision 1. Mother's right to custody.

The biological mother of a child born to a mother who was not married to the child's father when the child was born and was not married to the child's father when the child was conceived has **sole custody** of the child until paternity has been established under sections 257.51 to 257.74, or until custody is determined in a separate proceeding under section 518.156.

Unmarried fathers must request a court hearing, petitioning to establish



The child support system encourages both parents to be involved with children.

legal custody and parenting time. The paperwork needed to ask for the Court hearing is available at <http://www.mn-courts.gov/GetForms.aspx?c=4&p=5> Forms Packet: Request to Establish Custody and Parenting Time For unmarried parents who have signed and filed a Recognition of Parentage form with the Minnesota Department of Health.

District and Expedited Form packets for child support issues can be found at <http://www.mncourts.gov/GetForms.aspx?c=6>. If you are a parent that needs assistance but you are afraid that the other parent will retaliate against you for seeking child support, you should contact your County Child Support Office about child support services, and talk with them about ways they can help you safely establish support.

Here are two excellent resources for more information about child support: The MN Self Help Center website at <http://www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/Child-Support.aspx>; and <https://www.lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/booklet/child-support-basics>. LawHelpMn.org has fact sheets and booklets that explain "overnights," court hearings, motions, motions for review, and more.

If you have more questions about child support, we encourage you to come to the clinic on Aug. 22 or call the Scott County Child Support Office at (952) 496-8183.

Toxic algae

From page 10

man-made sources (such as lawn fertilizer) and runoff from cities, cultivated fields, feedlots, and myriad other sources. Though a reduction of nuisance algal blooms will not be immediate, it is the best long-term solution to minimizing their frequency and intensity.

Who should you call?

If you think you or your pets are experiencing adverse health effects due to contact with, or ingestion of, lake water/algae, seek medical attention

immediately.

In addition, report human health effects to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Foodborne and Waterborne Illness Hotline at 1 (877) 366-3455. For health questions, citizens can contact MDH's Waterborne Diseases Unit at (651) 201-5414 or visit the MDH's Blue-green Algal Bloom web page.

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SCALE

Scott County Association For Leadership And Efficiency

You've probably heard of it, and maybe even read about it already, but we're going to try and make the Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (a.k.a., SCALE) a little more relevant to you and your neighbors 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 – such as how your tax dollars are being put to use. After all, SCALE's mission statement is pretty clear: "To forge new and innovative ways in which government entities can collaborate to provide outstanding service while making the most of limited resources." So watch this page for current and future information from us and our many SCALE partners!

From Savage:

Take the Scoop the Poop pledge

Savage Parks and Recreation Division is launching a social media campaign to remind dog-owning residents to please clean up after your dog. Between July 1 – August 31, residents are encouraged to head to @SavageRecreation on Facebook to take the #SavageScoopThePoop pledge. Then, post a picture on Facebook or Instagram of your pooch, and use #SavageScoopThePoop for a chance to be featured in the 2020 Parks and Recreation calendar. The winner will also receive a \$50 donated My Preferred Pet Sitter gift card for dog walking services. Pet waste is more than smelly and unsightly – it can be a serious public health and environmental concern. "Your dog's poo doesn't magically disappear or fertilize the ground," explains Water Resource Manager Jesse Carlson. "When it rains, pet waste left on trails, sidewalks, and grassy areas gets washed down our storm drains and into our creeks, streams, and rivers. This not only contaminates the water, but it can cause harmful algae and aquatic weeds to grow, and affects our overall water quality."

"We're trying to get the word out, that whether you walk your dog in a public park or let it roam in your backyard, you should always scoop the poop," reminds Public Works Director Greg Boatman. And to make it extra easy, Savage Parks and Recreation is offering free doggie waste bag dispensers that attach to your leash. Stop by and pick one up at City Hall, Savage Police Department, or Public Works during regular business hours (while supplies last). Everyone who takes the pledge will also get their name added to the "I took the scoop the poop pledge" wall at City Hall! Thanks for helping keep our shoes, trails, and waterways clean. #SavageScoopThePoop

Movies in the Outfield, Aug. 23

Bring your family, friends and a blanket or lawn chair for a fun, free movie night under the stars. Popcorn will be available for purchase from the Doc Popcorn truck.

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (PG)

Time: Seating starts at 7 p.m.; movie begins at dusk

Location: Savage Community Park ball fields, 13550 Dakota Ave.

Price: Free

Free paper shredding, Sept. 14

The City of Savage is hosting a free paper shredding event on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Savage City Hall. Residents can bring confidential documents or other paper they would like destroyed. This event is free and open to all Savage residents; limited to the equivalent of two banker's boxes. Accepted items include white and colored paper, and folders. Staples, paper clips, and rubber bands do not

have to be removed. Unacceptable items include cardboard, tapes/CDs/DVDs, three-ring binders, large binder clips, and medical waste. This event is being offered to promote recycling within the community. Funding to support the service comes from the annual recycling day event and related grants. Questions can be directed to City Administrator Brad Larson at blarson@ci.savage.mn.us or 952-882-2641.

From Shakopee:

Shakopee explores higher education partnerships

The City of Shakopee is looking at ways to increase educational opportunities in the southwest metro. In June, the City Council approved a draft Memorandum of Understanding with Minnesota State University, Mankato to explore a potential partnership with the university. The memorandum must be approved by the university's board of trustees.

Over the next several months, Minnesota State Mankato leadership and staff will meet with community leaders to hear about training issues and pathways for degrees for current and future Scott County employees. The city plans to hire a consultant to explore what exactly those needs are and how they could potentially mesh with the establishment of an innovation center. An innovation center is a facility that offers training, post-secondary education, support for local entrepreneurs, and a temporary landing space for companies looking to expand or relocate into Scott County.

The city's consultant will work with Minnesota State Mankato staff on potential curriculum programming and help identify potential training partnerships/opportunities in the region, including:

- Continuing professional education opportunities including but not limited to: Customized training; continuing education; and specialized education for industries
- Off-campus degree completion and graduate certificates and degree programs
- Applied research opportunities for the University with local companies
- Internships and employment opportunities for Minnesota State Mankato students

Minnesota State Mankato also has relationships with Hennepin Technical College, Dakota County Technical College and Normandale Community College, who could potentially bring additional programs to the community, too. Visit www.ShakopeeMN.gov/cityblog for more information.

City enters partnership to provide transportation to seniors

In recent years, the Shakopee Parks and Recreation Department has seen tremendous growth in its active older adult programs. However, chartering transportation to and from activities remains a barrier to keeping senior programming affordable for participants living on fixed incomes.

However, thanks to the generosity of All Saints Senior Living in Shakopee, the department now has access to a small bus – free of charge. The bus allows the department to transport participants to local trip destinations without the expense of rental, which helps keep the program fee lower and allows more 55-plus residents to participate.

The city expresses thanks to All Saints Senior Living for being a great partner in our community.

Show Off Shakopee photo contest starts in September

Photographers who live, work, or attend school in Shakopee are invited to participate in the city's annual Show Off Shakopee photo contest. Submissions will be accepted in September with winners announced in the Winter Hometown Messenger in November. More information is available on the city website at www.ShakopeeMN.gov/showoffshakopee.

News you can use...

From the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community:

2019 SMSC Wacipi offers free admission for all

Join your friends and neighbors at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) for the Community's annual Wacipi on Aug. 16-18. In an effort to make the event more inclusive and accessible to



The annual Wacipi will be held Aug. 16-18.

all interested in attending, this year the SMSC eliminated all entrance fees, making it completely free to attend. Over the course of three days in mid-August, dancers, drummers, Native craft vendors, and food trucks will congregate at the SMSC Wacipi Grounds in Shakopee from all over the country for a weekend of music, camaraderie, and dance. If this will be your first time attending, Wacipi — meaning "they all dance" in Dakota — is a celebration of life that was historically used to celebrate a good hunt, the end of a season, or an important event. Today, the SMSC Wacipi is a contest Pow Wow, where dancers and drum groups compete for top honors in a variety of different categories and age groups. Grand entries are scheduled for Friday, Aug. 16, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 17, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 18, at 1 p.m.

To kick off the weekend, the SMSC will also be holding a Wacipi exhibition on Thursday, Aug. 15, at 2 p.m. in the Mall of America Rotunda. Stop by to get a sneak peek of all the action and excitement of Wacipi weekend! Visit smscwacipi.org for more information.



The Indian Horse Relay will take place at Canterbury Park Aug. 22-24 between the scheduled races.

Experience America's First Extreme Sport at the 2019 Indian Horse Relay

Indian Horse Relay returns to Canterbury Park on Aug. 22-24 for three nights of fearless bareback horse racing by some of Indian Country's top teams. Watch as riders in full Native American regalia race bareback around the track three times, leaping from horse to horse with each lap in a breathtaking display of athleticism and courage. Indian Relay dates back hundreds of years, when the horse became an integral part of many Native American tribes. Live racing starts at 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and at 5 p.m. on Saturday, with Indian Horse Relay races taking place between the evening's scheduled races. As an added bonus, this year's event will feature a youth relay and a maiden's race each night. While you're there, visit the Indian Market in the Canterbury Expo Center, featuring a variety of unique Native American arts and crafts.

Historical SCENE

Telephones evolve from party lines with operators

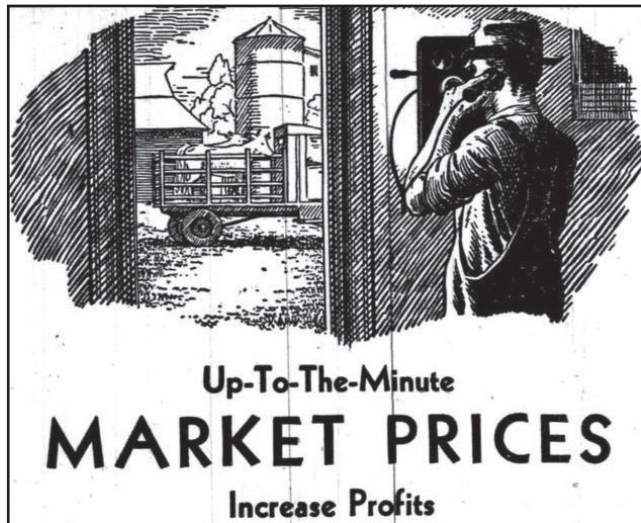
By Rose James, SCHS Program Manager

Today, our phones are permanent fixtures in our lives; most people take their capacity for instantaneous global connections for granted. Yet telephones first came to Scott County in the 1880s, and quickly changed the face of county-wide communication. First, citizens relished the ability to talk to their neighbors. Soon, they wanted the ability to communicate with the wider world.

In 1882, Joseph Strunk of Strunk's Drug Store convinced the Bell phone company to run a line connecting Shakopee to the Twin Cities. The company was initially resistant to his proposal, claiming that Shakopee was not large enough to be worth the effort. Strunk finally got his wish by agreeing to pre-pay for \$500 in long-distance calls to offset the \$1200 cost of installing the line. By 1886, other businesses around Shakopee had hired "unlicensed local talent" to connect their businesses to Strunk's long distance access. Before long, the web of lines had spread throughout the County. These were not private communication networks; like the rest of the nation, Scott County had party lines.

When using a party line, you picked up the phone and talked to an operator. That operator then physically moved a plug to connect your call. There were only so many lines, and only one person could be on them at once. If you were on the phone, your neighbor would hear the call when they picked up the receiver and would be unable to place a call themselves until you were finished.

At the telephone's inception, the first telephone operators were teenage boys -- it was an entry level part-time job, similar to getting a job as a grocery clerk today. Early customers complained about the disrespectful tone and language of these operators. Alexander Graham Bell had the solution of replacing one of them with a woman. At the time, women were thought to be naturally more patient and soothing. By the end of the



Advertisement in the *Shakopee Argus Tribune* promoting telephone ownership, June 1, 1933.



Advertisement in the *Shakopee Argus Tribune* promoting respectful party line use, March 20, 1947.

1880s, the job of telephone operator was considered to be an almost exclusively female trade.

Unfortunately, once the job of telephone operator became "women's work," the pay lowered. Emma Nutt, the first American female telephone operator

Local Phone Workers Idle

Headline from an article on the Shakopee telephone workers strike, April 3, 1947.

who was picked by Bell himself, made only \$10 for a 54-hour week.

In 1919, East Coast telephone operators went on strike for better pay and hours, shutting down phones across New England. They eventually won a wage increase.

This movement for equitable pay in the Telephone industry hit Scott County as well. In April 1947, an ad titled "Telephone Wages Are Good -- No Strike Justified" was placed in the *Shakopee Argus Tribune* by the telephone company. The advertisement went on to state that "[t]elephone people had good working conditions" and "... are paid as well or better than is generally paid for similar skills in each community."

In spite of the company's unusual bid for public sympathy, on April 2, the Shakopee phone operators, along with two linesmen, went on strike. In their coverage of the event, the *Argus Tribune* gave a very light take, noting "[i]t is something new for Shakopee residents to see the little crowd of operators and linesmen assembled in front of the telephone exchange on Holmes Street, wearing armbands and carrying signs

that read 'Strike - National Telephone Workers.' Everything was calm and peaceful, and the group seemed to be getting a touch of enjoyment out of the variation from their routine duties."

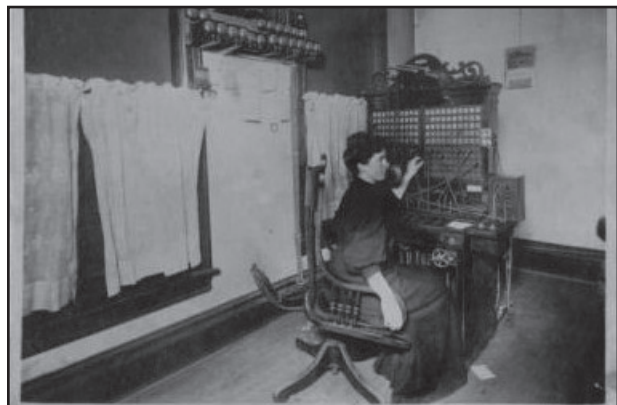
Telephone operators remained a fixture, and still almost exclusively female one, for a long time. The year 1973 saw a national strike of female Bell operators. Along with the strike, the women filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC). They pointed out that almost all operators were female -- a low wage job with little advancement -- while better paying management and repair positions were almost all male. The company responded by hiring more men to be operators, but other positions at the time remained mostly bereft of women.

Operators remained an essential part of telephone service until the late 1990s, an occupation that lasted over 100 years in spite of changing technology. The job even outlasted Strunk's Drug Store, which finally closed in 1977.

Today, Scott County residents (along with the rest of the globe) independently operate the vast communication powers of their own phones, for better or for worse. Come visit the "Tools of the Trade" exhibit at the Scott County Historical Society to try out several eras of Scott County phones, or harness the powers of your own phone and check out our upcoming events at scottcountyhistory.org.



Telephone operators and linesmen, Belle Plaine, 1900. Photo from the SCHS collections.



Telephone operator in New Prague around 1910. Photo from SCHS collections.

New Historical Society director excited to take on challenges

It's been a time of transitions for the Scott County Historical Society with Executive Director Kathy Klehr retiring April 2019 and Heather Hoagland taking her place beginning in early May.

"I'm honored and humbled to be attempting to fill the shoes Kathy has been wearing for over a decade, but I couldn't be more excited for the challenges and opportunities I see for the society in the future," said Hoagland as she began her job with the Historical Society.

The new director lives in Hennepin County, near Lake Nokomis, with her husband Mike, two Great Pyrenees (Shogun and Saga), and a grumpy old cat named Koji. She holds a Bachelor's degree in History from Carleton College in Northfield, and a Master's degree in Museum Studies from George Washington University in D.C.

Hoagland got her start in museums working in fundraising at the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, then moved into exhibitions and collections over three years working for Ford's Theatre. She moved to Minneapolis in 2016 for a position as Collections Manager at Hennepin History Museum, "but the *real* reason we moved back was that my native Minnesotan husband's homing instinct had kicked in and it was time for him to come back home to put down roots. I couldn't be



Heather Hoagland

ing my new job easier and more fun! Thanks also to the Board for their help and support in this transition, and thank you to Kathy, Theresa, and Rachel, for their kind words and encouragement at the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM) conference. And finally, thanks to you for being part of the work SCHS is doing -- I can't wait to meet you!"

happier to be an adopted Midwesterner, and I have come to love this place -- everything *except* the ludefisk," said Hoagland.

She added: "The whirlwind of taking up my position at SCHS has only just begun, but I would like to give an early thank you to Rose and Dave, my amazing team, for already mak-

Scott County Libraries to celebrate 50th anniversary

The Scott County Library is celebrating 50 years of serving the community with Open House events at all locations! Stop by your local library or visit them all to join in the celebration. More details will be on the library's website at www.scottlib.org.

- Belle Plaine Library (125 West Main Street) -- Wednesday, September 25, 4-6 p.m.
- Jordan Library (275 Creek Lane South) -- Monday, September 30, 4-6 p.m.
- Prior Lake Library (16210 Eagle Creek Avenue SE) -- Saturday, October 5, 12-4 p.m.
- New Prague Library (400 East Main Street) -- Monday, October 7, 2-7 p.m.
- Shakopee Library (235 Lewis Street South) -- Thursday, October 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Savage Library (13090 Alabama Avenue South) -- Sunday, October 13, 2-4 p.m.
- Elko New Market Library (110 J Roberts Way) -- Monday, October 14, 4-7 p.m.

Safety SCENE

By Luke Hennen
Scott County Sheriff



First responders changing protocol for active shooter, hostile events

Nationwide and around the globe, communities are facing an increasing number of tragedies involving active shooter and/or hostile events. These acts of mass violence have garnered a need for an integrated preparedness, response, and recovery program and change the way fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and law enforcement train to prepare for these situations.

In response, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the source of American standards for fire and EMS response -- along with a committee that included representatives from the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, the FBI, NSA, police, fire and EMS organizations, hospitals, private security and universities -- developed the "NFPA 3000: Standard for Active Shooter and/or Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program." The NFPA 3000 was released in May 2018, and gives first responders and community leaders a roadmap for creating customized, integrated response and recovery plan during hostile events.

The NFPA 3000 is based on four main principles: unified command, integrated response, planned recovery, and whole community involvement. It is not a "policies and procedures manual," it is a framework to develop programs that integrate planning, response, and recovery to active shooter hostile events. It does not define or dictate how the response concepts will be implemented, as first responder rescue operations vary by jurisdiction, region, state, and nation. There is no single correct way to accomplish the task; each jurisdiction must develop plans and procedures that will work for their community.

The Sheriff's Office has teamed up with police and fire departments and EMS providers county-wide to jointly deliver first responder training that supports our capability to *exceed* the NFPA 3000 standard.

In Scott County, training is jointly provided by police, fire, and EMS providers with participants from multiple jurisdictions and from different public safety disciplines working side by side. This helps first responders understand the perspectives and capabilities of their partner agencies. This also ensures common fundamentals and interoperability among all agencies during an incident response.

The NFPA 3000 standard formalizes capabilities that had already been started by Scott County public safety agencies. The standard provides for a consistent expectation of performance across the country, and allows public safety agencies to work together to rapidly complete critical tasks that should improve outcomes for victims. It addresses failures of public safety agencies to work together and rapidly complete critical tasks that have led to poor outcomes in the past.

Ever since the Columbine disaster, progressive public safety agencies have been reassessing and redeveloping their response capabilities to an active shooter or hostile event. Historically, fire and EMS services followed previous NFPA standards, guiding them to stage a safe distance away from the critical incident until cleared in by law enforcement. Now, a coordinated response ensures that the patients are more quickly stabilized then transported to the hospital.

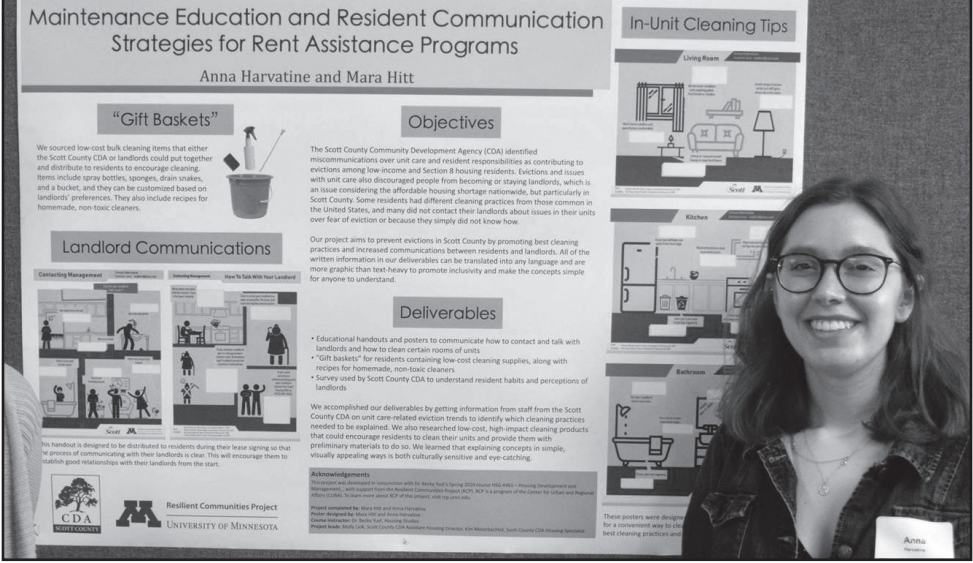
This initial training is just one of the trainings that are building response capabilities in Scott County. These skills will be tested in a large, full-scale exercise involving multiple large entertainment venues in Scott County in 2021.

Active shooter and hostile events can happen in *any* community and *any* jurisdiction. The time to prepare is *before* they occur. Adoption of the NFPA 3000 for a modified response and taking time to train under the new guidelines is a huge step in the right direction and will yield to a better planned and more efficient response and recovery to all emergencies.

As a parent of young children, I cannot ignore the possibility that a mass act of violence could happen in our communities. As your Sheriff, I can make sure that we are prepared as best as possible.

Suspect abuse? Report it!

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



Anna Harvatine and Mara Hitt (not pictured), students in the College of Design at the University of Minnesota, were awarded Best Student Poster at the Resilient Communities Project End of Year Celebration.

U of M student projects aid work in Scott County; partnership celebrated

University of Minnesota students and faculty celebrated with Scott County staff and elected officials last spring at a Resilient Communities Project (RCP) End-of-Year Celebration on campus and this summer at a community celebration at the County Fair.

During the campus event, students presented posters representing their work on Scott County projects, including planning for autonomous vehicles, creating a community land trust, managing household waste, and more. Posters highlighted the findings and recommendations from some of the more than 100 students who worked on a project with the county this past academic year.

Two students in the College of Design, Anna Harvatine and Mara Hitt, were awarded best poster for their collaboration with the Scott County CDA to develop visuals and resources to increase landlord participation in rental assistance programs. Hitt noted the value of working on these types of collaborative projects. "I have taken three classes with RCP projects because the real-world impact has been much more fulfilling in terms of my own growth and the knowledge that my work is contributing to something. It felt good when our partners at Scott County were so excited to put our ideas into motion," said Hitt.

At the campus event, Associate Vice President for Public Engagement Andy Furco expressed appreciation to Scott County for "opening up your doors to allow members of the University to work with you on issues that matter to your counties."

Scott County Board Chair Barbara Weckman Brekke likewise expressed her appreciation to the University, saying that Scott County's "...partnership with RCP has been an amazing gift" and thanking U of MN students, faculty, and

administrators "for not just participating in our projects, but forming true partnerships and giving us results that are going to change the ways we do work and deliver services in the future."

Brad Davis, Scott County's planning director, spoke about the power of the RCP model: "The energy you feel in this room is the exact same energy I felt throughout the year -- when I came to campus and went to different [student] presentations, when I joined field trips around Scott County, when I just did some periodic check-ins. The students were asking such good questions -- and *new* questions -- and making us at the County think about things so much differently." Davis noted that although he knew working with the University through RCP would be valuable for the County and help them achieve important strategic goals, "What I didn't know going into this partnership is the unique thing that happens when you match the energy here at the University of Minnesota with questions and ideas from our staff. It was fun to see it come together in a room, and see the blending of ideas, new ways of looking at these issues."

Student posters were also displayed at the County's booth at this year's Scott County Fair. The year-long partnership provided Scott County with case studies, data analysis, concept plans, designs, and policy recommendations to build community resilience, and offered students in 20 classes the opportunity to tackle real projects as part of their coursework, working directly with County staff, residents, community-based organizations, and business owners. Next year, the County will continue its partnership with RCP to create an edible landscape and to investigate mobility hubs in a suburban context. You can also view all of the projects and final reports at www.rcp.umn.edu.

Conserving water does make a difference

We all know we are supposed to conserve water, but here in Minnesota with water all around, do these small everyday decisions make any difference? Is it worth your time to change your habits to conserve water? *Yes!* Conserving water means conserving energy and resources. Any water that runs down the drain goes to the wastewater treatment facility. All the water entering the facility needs to be treated, which takes both money and energy. And any water that you conserve is water that you do not have to pay for. It is much more efficient to save water by shutting off the

tap when not using it than to let it flow down the drain to the wastewater treatment facility then have it pumped back to you. Plus, when hot water is wasted, you not only pay for the water but also for the energy to heat it.

Here are some ideas for saving water around your home:

- Keep drinking water in your refrigerator rather than running the faucet until water gets cold.
- Shut off the tap when brushing your teeth and when soaping up in the shower.
- Install a low-flow showerhead that



Change habits and conserve water.

- uses less than two gallons a minute of water.
- Wash a full load in the clothes

- washer and dishwasher to get the most for your washing.
 - Compost your vegetable and fruit scraps rather than using the sink garbage disposal.
 - Wash fruits and vegetables in a bowl of water rather than running the tap.
 - Fix any leaky faucets or toilets. You could save over 100 gallons of water per week!
- Remember everything we do on lawns, driveways, and yards eventually ends up in our rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Everyday decisions do matter!

FAST-TRACK Business Challenge offers help, cash

Scott County entrepreneurs are eligible to compete for start-up cash and professional services, in a local "Shark Tank" like business competition, the Scott County FAST-TRACK Challenge. Thanks to generous sponsors, finalists in the FAST-TRACK Challenge will be provided a number of services to help fast-track their business to success. The prize packages valued over \$18,000, currently include the following:

Cash prizes of \$7,000 donated by the following Sponsors:

- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), \$2,500
- Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up, \$1,000
- Old National Bank, \$1,000
- New Prague Chamber of Commerce, \$500
- Scott County CDA-FSS, \$2,000

Professional Services including:

- 10 hours of free legal services provided by KC Haugen Law, LLC, valued at \$3,000;
- 19 hours of marketing and graphic design services provided by Neon Lizard Creative Graphic, valued at \$1,750;
- Business To Business credit reporting services provided by Argos Risk at a value of \$1,800;
- One free virtual membership to Technology Village, in Prior Lake, which includes shared meeting space, cubicle, mailbox, mentorship, and access to educational programs as well as an executive Roundtable Session with the Technology Village Board of Directors, valued at \$4,400;
- Open to Business professional business advisory services including (but not limited to) assistance with business plans, financial planning, pitch preparation, and market research;
- One year free membership to the

Savage Chamber of Commerce, valued at \$280;

- One year free membership to the Prior Lake Chamber of Commerce, valued at \$275;
- One year free membership to the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce, valued at \$350;
- One year free membership to the New Prague Chamber of Commerce, valued at \$250.

It's not too late to join as a Sponsor or Professional Service Provider and play a role in helping entrepreneurs succeed and promoting economic development in Scott County! Businesses interested in making connections with first-stage businesses and paying it forward are encouraged to participate in the event by contacting Jo Foust, Business Development Specialist with Scott County CDA First Stop Shop at (952) 496-8830 or jfoust@scottfss.org.

Entrepreneurs with new products or services are encouraged to apply for the Scott County FAST-TRACK Challenge! Applications are now open and will close on Aug. 31 with finalists named in September for the Oct. 24, 2019 event. Assistance in preparing the pitch and finalizing business plans will be provided at no charge. The application may be found at www.ScottCountyFastTrack.com.

The Scott County FAST-TRACK Challenge began in 2017 and received the 2018 Economic Development Association of MN's Program of the Year Award. This will be the third annual FAST-TRACK Challenge, coordinated by Technology Village in Prior Lake (a business accelerator program -- www.TechnologyVillage.net) and Scott County CDA's First Stop Shop. The goal of the FAST-TRACK Challenge is to support entrepreneurship in Scott County and improve opportunities for business success. For more information contact Jo Foust, Business Development Specialist at (952) 496-8830 or jfoust@scottcda.org.



A colorful lineup

The Credit River Antique Tractor Club held its annual show at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, July 19-21. Unfortunately, heavy rain required the cancellation of the Scott County/Three River Parks MidSummer Festival normally held in conjunction with the show on July 20. Those who want to take part in some free park activities should check out the Trailgate event planned for Saturday, Sept. 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Spring Lake Regional Park. See page 9 for more information.

SCHS Events

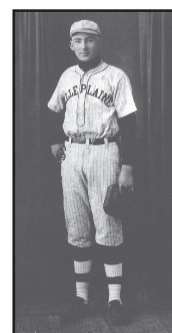
Townball, high school sports are focus of current exhibit

Play Ball! Sports in Scott County.

Explore the rich history of Townball and High School sports! Check out photos and stats in the dugout, try on replica vintage jerseys, take a selfie in the "winners" platform, make your own baseball card, and lots more. On display through February 2020.



Townball in Scott County: Thursday, Aug. 29, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Join us for a conversation on the history and legends of baseball in Scott County with authors Doug Nachbar and Tom Melchior. Melchior is the author of *Belle Plaine Baseball: 1884-1960* and Nachbar authored *The Best of River-Town Small-Ball*. Books will be available for signing and purchase.



Pedaling the Past-Shakopee:

Saturday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m. Join us for a fun and informative bike tour focusing on the environmental and social history of Shakopee. Cost: \$5; SCHS members free. The tour will meet at Memorial Park in Shakopee. Registration required. Register by calling SCHS at (952) 445-0378 or at scottcountyhistory.org



All Things Minnesota Book Club:

Thursday, Sept. 19, 3 - 5 p.m., SCHS. All Things Minnesota book club meets on the third Thursday of every month. September's selection is *Virgil Wander* by Leif Enger. All are welcome to attend!

Scott County Crazy Quilters:

Thursday, Sept. 26, 6 - 8 p.m. at SCHS. Come join us as we stitch! Learn how to crazy quilt or bring any hand-stitching project to work on (quilting, cross-stitching, embroidery, et cetera) New members always welcome!



September Kids Kraft:

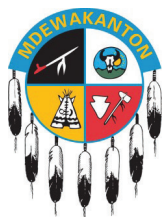
Saturday, Sept. 28, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Kids and their families are invited to visit SCHS for a free craft and story. Kids Kraft happens at SCHS monthly on Saturdays. The program introduces children to museums, promotes literacy, and allows young people to practice "old fashioned" hands-on skills.

Save the Date! SCHS Oktoberfest Fall Fundraiser:

Saturday, Sept. 28, time and location TBD. Join us for a rollicking evening of German music, beer and fellowship, as you support the work of SCHS!



Thank you to the following FAST-TRACK Business Challenge Sponsors



Thank you to the following FAST-TRACK Professional Service Providers



Scott County Senior Expo Active Adults 55+

Twin Oaks Middle School, Prior Lake
Friday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pre-register by Friday, Oct. 11 at the Shakopee Community Center, call (952) 233-9500, or visit www.shakopeemn.gov for more information
\$15 includes breakfast, lunch, and prizes

Main Speaker: Fox 9 weatherman Ian Leonard; plus the Scott County Historical Society will give a presentation about prohibition in Scott County

Couple restores prairie to diversify, aid pollinators

In early July, the view from Dave and Jean Sticha's property is breathtaking. The Black-Eyed Susans, coneflowers, grasses, and other wildflowers add a color and diversity to the land that instinctively feels natural. It's almost impossible to tell, but the rolling 11.5 acres were converted into native prairie only eight years ago. Dave and Jean Sticha, in coordination with the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), are the masterminds behind the magnificent scenery.

The Stichas are always looking for ways to improve the landscape; in fact, they have made a career out of it. Dave and Jean started D&J Landscaping out of New Prague before passing the business on to their son. Jean is also co-owner of Cedar Brook Garden Center near New Prague. With such a strong gardening background, it only made sense that they would want to add more natural areas to their home.

Dave and Jean know all about native plants, planting them in their gardens for years. Dave, with a background in natural resources and an innate love for nature, was captivated by the diversity and wanted to expand that richness to some of his farmland. There were a multitude of factors influencing his decision — everything from the monoculture of the crops, the effect pesticides were having on his neighboring apple trees, and the financial incentives — but Dave's mind was set. In 2011, the Stichas decided it was time to call the Scott SWCD in Jordan to help come up with a plan. Dave and Jean worked with the Scott SWCD to restore two acres along the edge of their crop field into native prairie, while the rest of the field remained farmland.



Dave Sticha stands in an 11.5 acre prairie that he and his wife Jean restored with assistance from the Scott SWCD.

After the two acres of prairie were established, they began to notice more pollinators and wildlife, plus they enjoyed viewing the flowers and grasses that were blooming throughout the spring and summer. In 2017, a house on the opposite edge of their crop field was built for their daughter, so the surrounding fields were no longer being used for crops. "We wanted more wildlife, more diversity, more beauty," Dave said of his mindset back then. Everything was falling into place. It was time to restore the entire 11-acre field to native prairie.

Again, they called the Scott SWCD for assistance and Alyssa Alness, Ecological Specialist, worked with them

through the process of restoring the field to a native prairie, including creating a mix of native flowers and grasses that would work well in their location. The new prairie was seeded last summer and is already looking magnificent. The prairie restoration project was eligible for an incentive payment and cost-share, and Alyssa walked them through the paperwork. In return for this financial assistance, Dave and Jean agreed to maintain the prairie for at least ten years.

Dave and Jean made the decision to convert their land to native prairie in hopes of eliminating the use of pesticides, fertilizer, and the occurrence of erosion on areas so close to their house.

"We also wanted to provide more habitats for wildlife and pollinators," Dave said. And he's right!

Once a prairie is established, it needs no fertilizers and the use of chemicals is limited to spot-spraying noxious weeds with an herbicide, if needed. Native plants grow roots up to 15 feet deep. They help keep the soil in place and increases infiltration of rainwater, so erosion is no longer an issue. As far as providing habitat, native prairie does that too. Many native plants provide seeds for wildlife to forage, and native flowers attract birds, bees, and beneficial insects. In addition to providing food, native plants also provide shelter, cover, and nesting sites for wildlife. "I love watching the honeybees and monarchs come through. And we've got bluebird and tree swallow nests all over," Dave said. "In the future, I want to get more houses for them built, and maybe even restore my meadow into a pond. The possibilities are endless." Nature is real and wild and beautiful, and there's a hidden gem that's a testament to that beauty right here in Scott County. Thank you, Dave and Jean, for all the work you do!

If you are interested in planting native prairie, the Scott SWCD can help you too. They can help you create a plan, put together a seed mix, guide you through getting the prairie planted, and then guide you through prairie maintenance so it stays vibrant and beautiful. They can also discuss financial assistance options they you may be eligible for. To get the process started, call the Scott SWCD at (952) 492-5425.

Sand Creek improves with grant fund projects

The Middle Sand Creek Watershed produces 10 times the amount of sediment compared to all the other subwatersheds for the creek. In 2015, the Scott Watershed Management Organization (WMO) was fortunate enough to receive a Clean Water Fund Grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources to help reduce pollutants from entering Sand Creek. As the sunset date on the grant is fast approaching, there are two things that are clear: first, a lot of conservation practices to reduce those pollutants have been put on the ground; and second, a lot more still needs to be done to reach the water quality goals for Sand Creek.

The number of conservation projects implemented from this grant is remarkable. These projects have the ability to slow runoff, help infiltrate water into the ground, hold back water, and/or reduce erosion -- which in turn helps keep pollutants out of the creek. These practices include 24 grade control structures, almost 800 feet of shoreline stabilization, over 75 acres of native prairie, and almost 600 acres of cover crops, just to name a few. These projects were all installed voluntarily by 34 willing landowners who deserve a lot of recognition for doing their part to improve water quality.

Another type of project has been having much success are bluff stabilizations. These stabilizations are occurring where Sand Creek has meandered outside of its normal floodplain and is destabilizing bluffs that are in the aforementioned Middle Sand Creek Watershed. These bluffs are up to 100 feet in height and several hundred feet long. Once again, these stabilizations are possible by willing landowners who want to help. To date, four different landowners have been involved in these projects.

Each one of these bluff stabilizations is saving an average of almost 150 tons of sediment annually



The bluffs along Middle Sand Creek are up to 100 feet in height and several hundred feet long. Many are eroding.

from entering Sand Creek. That amounts to around 15 regular-sized dump trucks fewer of sediment with attached pollutants, such as phosphorus, mucking up the water. To date, three of these stabilizations have been installed, with the potential that up to five more sites would be constructed within the next year. On top of that, a heavily eroding ravine that led directly into Sand Creek was also stabilized with the use of compacted rock.

The way these bluffs become stabilized is first by working at the toe of the stream, which is essentially where the land meets the water. If the toe of the stream is not stable, then the upper bluff area will continually allow sediment and ultimately the vegetation to "surf" down the slope and into the water. The method used for stabilization on these projects was to build a series log jams at the stream toe. What's a "log jam," you may ask? They're large logs that are stacked on top of each other and then filled in with rock, compacted tree



Each bluff stabilization is saving an average of almost 150 tons of sediment annually from entering Sand Creek. The photo above shows a completed log jam with vegetation growing on the structures.

branches, and soil. Think of oversized Lincoln Logs that are filled in with heavy material to keep the logs from floating downstream. Once the toe of the stream is stabilized, the upper bluff has a shelf to accumulate sediment, which will lead to a stable angle. Once a more stable angle is achieved, vegetation has a chance to start growing on the slope again which will help hold that sediment in place long term.

All of these projects are making a difference in water quality which is evidenced by recent trend analyses completed by the Metropolitan Council for Sand Creek. The analysis found that there was a 57 percent reduction in total suspended solids (i.e., suspended sediment) since 1990. Bottom line: Collective action works!

Tomatoes rotting or plants dying?

The Carver-Scott County Master Gardeners may be able to help with any of your lawn or garden questions. Contact them at www.carverscottmastergardeners.org or call the Yard & Garden Line at (952) 466-5308.



Tomato plant with leaf spots.

Too much garden produce?

Donate it to the CAP Food Shelf, 712 Canterbury Rd., Shakopee, (952) 496-2125.

