



Food waste piling up
Valuable landfill space consumed with food scraps
Page 4



Thinking summer camps?
Three Rivers Parks open camp sign up
Page 6



Seeking the lost
Sheriff's Office uses technology to locate vulnerable residents
Page 8

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SHAKOPEE, MN
55379
PERMIT No. 155

Scott County Government Center
200 Fourth Avenue West
Shakopee, MN 55379-1220

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Accommodating growth

Move into Government Center West to begin

Despite a few minor delays because of the COVID-19 pandemic, construction of the new Scott County Government Center West building has remained on schedule and many Scott County employees are preparing to move into their new offices beginning at the end of March.

The new, four level, 145,700-square-foot building adjoins the current Scott County Government Center (which will be called Government Center East) and the Scott County Justice Center in Shakopee. It was designed to accommodate County staff through 2040. Using the County's AAA bond rating, the interest rate on the \$69 million in bonds sold for this and numerous other construction and improvement projects (see box below) were favorable enough to allow all the projects to come in under budget. The new County debt is not expected to increase the County property tax levy, and a plan is in place for the County to be debt-free by 2044.

"We've worked very hard to meet the space needs of our growing county while still being good stewards of the taxpayers' money," said Scott County Administer Lezlie Vermillion.

The project began in April 2019 with the demolition of several structures along 4th Avenue and the expansion of parking areas to the north of the existing Government Center.


GOVERNMENT CENTER WEST to back page



The enclosed atrium between Government Center East, Government Center West, and the Justice Center features skylights that will provide natural lighting to the adjoining buildings.

Project details

- 145,700 square foot new building
- \$33.3 million construction cost
- \$228 per square foot average cost
- 175 new parking stalls
- 390 permanent staff in new building by 2040
- \$69.5 million borrowed at 3 percent interest



New Public Works warm storage building

- Government Center renovation (GC East)
- Justice Center renovation
- Public Works building HVAC radiant heater
- Public Works warm storage building
- Law Enforcement Center courtroom
- Medical Examiner's Facility contribution (partial)

Other projects funded by the bonds:

- Public Works Building Roof Replacement
- Marshall Road Transit Station elevator update
- Clearly Lake Maintenance Facility replacement
- Extension building roof replacement



The new Government Center West building was enclosed prior to winter, thereby allowing interior work in recent months.

Location of County staff, services in new Government Center West

Ground Floor: Mental Health Center (moving mid-April), Wellness Center, temporary jury assembly room, storage, and holding cells

First Floor: Human Services Administration and Accounting, Public Health, Veterans Services, conference room suite, temporary Customer Service, Land Records, and Passports

Second Floor: Adult Protection, Community Corrections, Home and Community Care, Developmental Disabilities, temporary offices for Zoning, Budget, Administration, Procurement, Planning and Resource Management, Environmental Health, Parks and Natural Resources, Building Assessments and Taxation

Third Floor: County Attorneys Office, Children's Services, Children's Mental Health, Chemical Dependency, Licensing, Adult Mental Health, Child Support, and temporary offices for EBT and Accounting



The Health and Human Services check-in counter is accessed off 4th Avenue.



The new entrance off of Atwood Street leads into the atrium.



Workers poured holding cell footings.

Top of the SCENE

By Lezlie Vermillion
Scott County Administrator



County staff responds admirably when thrust into pandemic

It's hard to believe a year has gone by since the world as we knew it was changed by the coronavirus. Buildings were shuttered, services paused, and people sent home – either to work remotely or, even worse, through job loss. Even more devastating has been the loss of life and the incredible demands placed on our health care workers, emergency responders, essential staff, and front-line workers. As we move into year two of the pandemic, it's all too easy to reflect solely on what we've lost. But despite the physical, emotional, mental, and economic ravages of COVID-19, I'm choosing to focus here on something else: Our Scott County staff. I couldn't be prouder of they way they have responded – and continue to respond – to this world-upending crisis.

At the top of the list is our Public Health staff. Since the pandemic's beginning, they've been at the forefront of planning and preparation. Since last summer, they have helped administer over 7,600 COVID tests in multiple locations throughout the County. Beginning last fall, they became the contact tracers for our County residents as well, helping us identify the potential for transmission and stopping the spread. Finally, as the vaccine became available towards the end of 2020, they have administered over 5,000 vaccines to our first responders, medical personnel, seniors, and teachers in the community (as of February 21). This all was done as they continued to provide child and teen checkups, home visiting, and other work they have on their plates.

But it was not only Public Health that has had to respond. In 2015, Scott County had started down the road of moving our business (IT) systems to the cloud. The importance of this and ability to support our workers and the public became even more critical as remote working took over much of our landscape. At the beginning of the pandemic, not all staff had the equipment to make this happen – thus, our IT folks had to redouble their efforts to set up and get our staff the needed computers and technology... a huge lift and one completed in record time, with additional security and access measures included. Similarly, our Health and Human Services Division (with IT support) moved one of our largest departments to a paperless system, allowing greater mobility and improved data management.

Other departments quickly adapted as well. The Customer Service area -- which typically had long lines for DMV services, permits, vital statistics, and others -- created an appointment process which allows us to minimize wait times and maintain social distancing and other health protocols. The appointment system includes advising on how to complete any online work or needed documents, which then speeds up the process prior to arriving at the Government Center. Staff will continue to tweak this process, but even a first-time enhanced ID application takes just about 29 minutes.

Our Library System is another service that had to change quickly. Over the last year, we learned that there will likely always be a demand for both curbside pick-up and in-building services. We also know there is a real need to provide computer and internet access to our residents – especially during difficult financial times. We're continuing to plan and move towards our test pilot of an open library in Jordan.

Our Mental Health Center adjusted to providing services, whenever possible, online. Tele-medicine has allowed therapists to continue to see their clients in a safe manner; and while this tool did not and could not replace all in-person appointments -- our staff continued to safely meet with people in crisis who needed that face-to-face contact -- we discovered that online mental health services can be used very well for some clients. (Importantly, the Employee Relations Department and Strategies Team worked hard with *all* business units to make sure that they had the appropriate personal protective gear to meet safely with clients and other customers when that was the required setting.)

The Sheriff's Office is another area that creatively figured out how to quarantine individuals coming into the jail to prevent any type of a COVID spread. Working with the courts, they have found ways to use technology for virtual hearings, which provide safety -- and transportation cost savings -- to the public.

Finally, Scott County also continued to move major infrastructure projects forward in 2020. The completion of the Trunk Highway 169/TH 41/County Highway 78 interchange project and the final leg of the County Highway 42 expansion -- both projects tied to long-term corridor plans the County completed about 20 years ago -- were realized. The completion of the Cleary Lake Maintenance facility and the continued work on the County Government Center Complex all moved forward, taking a lot of grit and ingenuity -- during the pandemic.

No one could argue that it's been an easy year, for some less than others, and it has tried and tested each one of us in an array of ways. But as an organization, times like this help us take a long, hard looks at how we deliver services and examine our options and opportunities to do better. You can be assured that Scott County staff has met these challenges with tenacity, stepped up without hesitation, and remains as dedicated as ever to deliver what matters to you.

New bus route offers east-west connections

Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) has added a new Route 447 that connects Mystic Lake Casino to Apple Valley with stops in Prior Lake, Savage, Burnsville Center, and Apple Valley.

Route 447 is a new, local route that will operate seven days a week, every 30 minutes, from 7 a.m. to midnight. The east-west route primarily serves

the Highway 42 corridor and downtown Prior Lake.

For a link to the new Route 447 schedule, go to mvta.com/routes/447/ where you can download a PDF pocket schedule. To check schedules for other routes, go to mvta.com and click on the routes page or call MVTA Customer Service at 952-882-7500 for scheduling assistance.



The 2020 Scott County FAST-TRACK Challenge Winners included (l. to r.): 1st Place-Jake De St. Hubert, Euroworx Automotive Specialist LLC, New Prague; 2nd Place-Chathu Hettiarachichi and Stacy Sullivan, Fitness Boomers, Shakopee; and 3rd Place-Thomas Kosgei, IntelligentRx, Shakopee.

2020 FAST-TRACK winners named; gearing up for 2021

Euroworx European Automotive Specialist, based in New Prague, was the 2020 FAST-TRACK Challenge first place winner. Highly accredited in Europeans cars, Master BMW technician Jake De St Hubert is the founder and president. Having listened to luxury vehicle owners complain about the inconvenience of having to deliver their European vehicle for diagnostics, maintenance or minor repair, Jake and his team bring diagnostics right to their customers' front doors! Euroworx Automotive received \$3,000 in cash (donated by Minnesota Valley Electric Co-Op Project Round Up, Old National Bank, and the Scott County CDA), legal services donated by Larkin Hoffman, design services from NeonLizard Graphic Design, one year free mentorship from Technology Village Prior Lake, and one year free memberships to the Prior Lake and New Prague Chambers of Commerce.

Second place was presented to Fitness Boomers, LLC., based in Shakopee. Founder Chathu Hettiarachchi is a passionate child educator, certified fitness and yoga teacher, and mother of an eight-year-old daughter. Fitness Boomers LLC is a one-of-a-kind fitness, yoga, and meditation program, serving many public-school districts in Minnesota with a unique service focused on building the younger generations to be emotionally and physically healthy. Fitness Boomers, LLC. received \$1,500 in cash from sponsors, legal services from

Larkin Hoffman, design services from NeonLizard Graphic Design, one year free membership to the Savage Chamber of Commerce and one year free mentorship from Technology Village.

Third place honors went to IntelligentRx, based in Shakopee. Experienced pharmacist Thomas Kosgei is the founder/owner of this digital healthcare startup with a service product designed to increase access to affordable prescriptions to all Americans. IntelligentRx received \$500 in cash from sponsors, graphic design services from NeonLizard Graphic Design and one year free membership to the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce.

The three winners were among five finalists selected from applications submitted in August. Other finalists included Woven Cloth by Wild Ruffle, Prior Lake, and Permits Plus based in Jordan.

The Scott County FAST-TRACK Challenge is a free, annual business competition designed to fast-track start-up and first-stage businesses to success. Plans are now underway for an enhanced Fifth Annual Scott County FAST-TRACK Challenge, to be held on Oct. 21, 2021. Applications to this year's event may be submitted online at www.ScottCountyFastTrack.com until August 31. For more information, to sign up as a sponsor or service provider for 2021, or register for the Oct. 21, 2021 event, please visit www.scottcountymn.gov/fasttrack.com.



presents the

Sip Away for SVA

FRIDAY • APRIL 30 • 7PM • VIRTUAL EVENT

Join SVA and Schram Vineyards in Waconia for a FUNdraiser benefiting domestic violence victims!

Sip Away for SVA will take place on Friday, April 30 and EVERYONE is invited to attend. The event will include a silent auction, live streamed program, as well as virtual wine and beer tastings – all in the comfort of your own home! For event tickets, the link to the silent auction site and info about the live program, visit SVAMN.ORG



Live Streamed Event Program



Silent Auction



Beer & Wine Tasting



No Worrying About Drinking and Driving!

Tickets, silent auction and info available at: SVAMN.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
952-873-4214 or info@svamn.org

www.svamn.org

Commissioners' Corner

County Board meetings through May 2021	
March 2	County Board meeting/ZOOM
March 16	County Board meeting/ZOOM
April 6	County Board meeting, Scott County Government Center West/ZOOM
April 20	County Board meeting, Scott County Government Center West/ZOOM
May 4	Community Health Board and County Board meeting, Scott County Government Center West/ZOOM
May 18	County Board meeting, Scott County Government Center West/ZOOM
May 25	Budget workshop/ZOOM

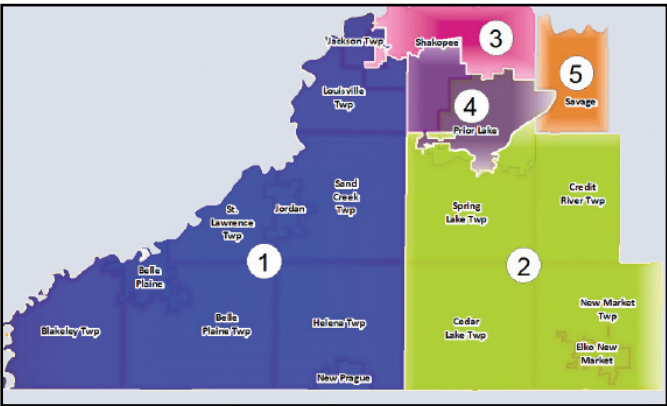
The Scott County Board of Commissioners meets typically on the first and third Tuesdays at 9 a.m. Upcoming meetings dates are listed above. Due to construction, the Commissioners will be meeting remotely during April and May. Visit the Scott County website at www.scottcountymn.gov to view Board agendas, minutes of previous meetings, and on-demand video of Board meetings. For further information about County Board meetings, contact County Administration at (952) 496-8100.

Citizen Advisory Committee vacancies

The Scott County Board of Commissioners is looking for interested citizens to serve on the following advisory committees. If you have any questions or are interested in serving on one of these committees, contact Cara Madsen at 952-496-8169 or via email at cmadsen@co.scott.mn.us. For more information regarding a specific committee visit the Scott County website at www.scottcountymn.gov: click on the box "Get Involved" and scroll to Citizen Advisory Boards and Commissions. Please note that some of the vacancies have incumbents who are eligible to be appointed for another term.

Extension Committee (1 vacancy). Currently there is one youth at-large vacancy. In partnership with the University of Minnesota, the Extension Committee assists in formulating programs, establishing budgets, and selecting and evaluating professional staff to improve the quality of life and enhance the economy and the environment through education, applied research, and the resources of the University of Minnesota.

District 1, Commissioner Barb 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



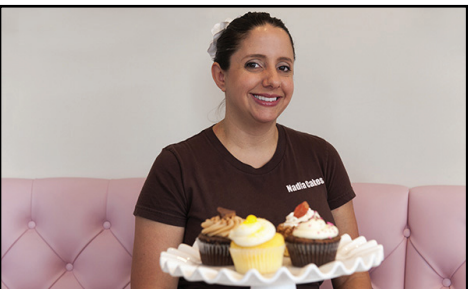
District 2, Commissioner Tom Wolf: The cities of Elko New Market, and Prior Lake (precincts 2 and 3); and Credit River, Cedar Lake, New Market, and Spring Lake Townships.
District 3, Commissioner Michael Beard: The city of Shakopee, precincts 1 - 4, 6 - 8, 12A, and 12B.
District 4, Commissioner Dave 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.

Library offers spring programs

Hands On: Art Exploration for Adults
Coming in March!
Getting a bit antsy for spring? How about creating some interesting and beautiful artwork at home? Our annual *Hands On* classes for adults will begin in March, and will feature something for almost everyone. Each free class will feature an art project with live or video instruction from professional artists in the medium. Registration is required for all classes. To find out more, visit our website at www.scottlib.org/Events.



Take free art classes from home.



Food Network favorite Abby Jimenez Club Book presents: Abby Jimenez Tuesday, April 13, 6 p.m.
Food Network favorite Abby Jimenez is an award-winning pastry chef, and the owner of the world-famous Nadia Cakes cupcakery and custom cake studio. She is also a *USA Today* bestselling romance writer. *Publishers Weekly* commended her debut, *The Friend Zone*, noting that "biting wit and laugh-out-loud moments take priority, but the novel remains subtle in its sentimentality and sneaks up on the reader with unanticipated depth." Jimenez brings this same formula to *Life's Too Short*, which hits shelves April 6. Join us as Abby discusses her book, and how she balances writing with cupcakes!

New Prague youth finds service on Extension Committee rewarding

Logan Biren enjoys being involved in his community. As a 4-H member for 12 years, he used leadership skills he learned in the youth development program to take a seat on the Scott County Extension Committee for two years. Since he is currently attending college at St. John's University in Collegeville, a new youth-at-large representative from Scott County is being sought, and Biren said he would highly recommend that other teens apply.



Logan Biren

Biren said he knew several members of the Extension Committee before joining, but he didn't know there was a youth position available until he saw it in an email from the Scott County 4-H program. "I figured it was something I would enjoy, so I applied," he said.

He received his appointment from the Scott County Board and attended quarterly meetings of the group for almost two years. The group's last few meetings have been done virtually due to the pandemic.

"I really enjoyed the fact that I was involved in the process of building and defining programs that members of Scott County and Carver County benefited from," said Biren, who is a graduate of New Prague High School.

He said being a youth on a committee otherwise comprised of adults "did not bother me."

Spending my youth in the 4-H program has allowed me to become more comfortable in situations like that where I may feel under qualified." In this case, he said, "the other members thirsted for my input during the meetings because

all of them understand that the youth of our community and their input is as important as the adult input."

He felt his input was helpful in several areas, the main one being the development of community gardens at Shakopee elementary schools. "I grew up with a green thumb and loved the idea of teaching the youth of our community gardening," said Biren, who was raised on a hobby farm outside of New Prague.

The son of Dawn Biren, an elementary school principal, and Patrick Biren, a Goodhue County judge, Biren is currently double majoring in Classical Studies and Greek in hopes of becoming an archeologist in the Mediterranean area.

"Although being in 4-H and on the Extension Committee didn't directly correlate to my major and plans for the future, they both put me where I am now. They taught me key skills which have allowed me to succeed on the path to my goal," concluded Biren.

To learn more about signing up to serve on one of Scott County's advisory committees or boards, see the information in the column at left under "Citizen Committee Vacancies."

Cozy Up program aids with isolation, well-being

With COVID-19 health and safety restrictions in place, social isolation and mental well-being has become a concern for many across Scott County. In hopes to address well-being -- not only during a pandemic, but also during the winter months -- Scott County Libraries and Scott County Public Health Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) partnered to create a program known as "Cozy Up," designed to help seniors and adults cope with social isolation and improve their mental well-being.

"Cozy Up" booklets were prepared and mailed out, which included a series of wintertime activities designed to keep seniors mentally active while staying home. The initial mailing was sent out through the end of January and contained a 16-page booklet that included weekly activities focus on well-being, healthy eating, and much more. A resource page included various wellness resources for people to use across the County, such as food shelves/food distribution information, mental health resources, and others.

"This program is an outgrowth of the concern many of us had that winter, coupled with the ongoing pandemic, could really be trying for many of our seniors," said Lindsay Nelson, Scott County SHIP coordinator.

SHIP is a state-based program that works at the local level to support healthier communities by expanding opportunities for active living, healthy eating, tobacco-free living, and well-being.

"Our booklet and activities were designed to have a personal and even chatty element, and we hope that the challenges and activities offer oppor-

tunities for participants to both engage and reflect," said Lisa Pollard, learning and outreach manager with the Scott County Library.

Approximately 1,500 Scott County residents requested the booklets.

Mental well-being is something that should be a focus year-round! Below are tips to improve well-being throughout the year. In addition, a downloadable PDF of the booklet and activities is available at www.scottlib.org/AtHome. The booklet and selected activities are also available in Spanish.

- Track gratitude and achievements in a journal -- include three things you're grateful for and three things you would like to accomplish.
- Take care of your body by eating nutritious meals, drinking plenty of water, and doing a physical activity.
- Try a new recipe, write a poem, or try a new hobby. Creativity and well-being are linked!
- Spend time with friends, family, or a furry friend. This can even be virtual communication via a video call.
- Quiet your mind and learn a mindfulness exercise.
- Set realistic goals.



Food waste is piling up in landfills; action needed

Whether you're an organic food connoisseur, vegetarian, vegan, confirmed meat eater, paleo dieter, fast food fan, or not picky at all, the fact is that a crazy amount of food goes to waste every day. The facts nationwide are this: Forty million tons (or 80 billion pounds!) of food is thrown away each year in the United States. This is equal to the weight of 1,000 Empire State Buildings. The estimated cost of this is \$161 billion dollars of wasted food. When averaged out, this is about 219 pounds of waste per person, and around \$1,600 per family thrown away annually. This is equal to almost 40 percent of the entire U.S. food supply.

Of this incredible amount of food waste that occurs, the majority is sent to landfills. In fact, food is the single largest component taking up the limited available space inside of the country's landfills, up to 22 percent of the municipal solid waste created. Landfills have a cap on how much can be buried

and eventually will fill up to its capacity. Food waste is an unnecessary space filler. We can all have an impact on how much food is wasted.

Food spoilage is one of the largest reasons that food is thrown away. The problem with this is that over 80 percent of Americans discard good food that is still consumable because of misunderstandings with expiration labels. We've all seen the "use by," "sell by," "best before," "expires on," and "best by" labels on a wide variety of food packaging. These are mostly just guidelines to help stores determine when to remove from shelves, or the manufacturer's best guess as to the best food quality date. Each item should be looked at and determined if it should be garbage-bound or not. However, most items will be perfectly fine beyond the printed date on the packaging.

Look into starting to **compost** food scraps. This can be a fun discovery that can keep food out of landfills, and in-



The average amount of annual food waste per person is about 219 pounds. Food waste takes up about 22 percent of limited landfill space.

stead can help give your garden a nutrient boost without fertilizers. There are many resources out there for composting including the right "recipe" that will ensure that great garden food will be created.

Freezing food that you know will not be eaten before it starts to go bad is a great way to save food from landfills. This also can help by storing meal ingredients for a later date where they can be used and not wasted, which also saves money.

Donating food is a great way to help those in your community who are in need, as well as saving them from being thrown away and creating unnecessary waste within landfills. Contact your local food pantry to see what food they can accept and use this option instead of throwing food away. For family and friends, you could also give leftovers of

items that food pantries may not accept as another idea for excess food.

Plan meals and make lists to make sure what you buy is used up and not left to sit in your refrigerator or pantry past when it will be eaten. While you're shopping, look past flaws and blemishes like bruises on produce. These don't impact the quality of the food, taste the same, and may be cheaper due to their lack of popularity with people who think perfect produce is superior.

Landfills are necessary for disposing of a wide variety of waste that is created. Food ending up in landfills makes up a large percentage of what space is used up, but this doesn't need to be. Using more thought when it comes to food buying and use will help to reduce food waste heading for landfills instead of feeding those who could use it.



Food waste can be composted and turned into rich nutrients for soil. For example, Jordan's program information can be found at <https://jordanmn.gov/organics-recycling-faqs/>.

Local farm helps food shelf divert waste

Chickens, goats at Redemption Acres eat spoiled food to keep it out of landfills

In an effort to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste going to area landfills, Scott County partners with MN Waste Wise to provide recycling outreach and education in Scott County to local businesses, schools, and cities with its Business Recycling Grant free of charge. As part of the grant, we also provide funds to help applicants purchase items to help increase or improve recycling, reduction of waste, and re-use of waste in Scott County.

Through the years, this partnership has produced a lot of good stories of local initiatives which helps to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills -- but it has also provided a unique opportunity to work together with a local food shelf.

The Belle Plaine Area Food Shelf has been helping fight hunger in the Belle Plaine community and surrounding areas since 2011, but they wanted a better way to reduce their food waste. So in the first half of 2020, the food shelf reached out to Minnesota Waste Wise with interest in reducing the amount of food scraps going to the landfill.

The organization accepts food donations from grocery and convenience stores as well as from individual donors. While most of what was donated got distributed to people in need, excess bakery goods and produce scrap still created some waste. After some



Chickens and goats at Redemption Acres enjoy food scraps from the Belle Plaine Food Shelf. The animals consume about 1,000 pounds of scraps a month.

research, Waste Wise found that Redemptions Acres, a local farming organization, could put the leftovers to better use as supplemental feed for its chickens and goats. Now, Redemption Acres picks up the extra bakery goods and produce once a week. Since July, the food shelf has diverted an average of 1,000 pounds of food scraps from its waste stream each month.

"Prior to working with Redemption Acres, our



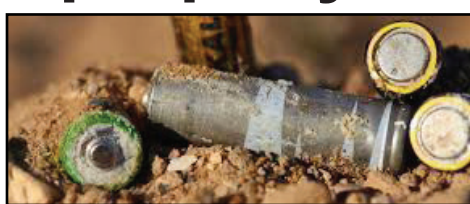
trash container was overflowing. Now, the farm takes our bakery scraps and well-used produce (produce no longer suitable for our shelves). It's been so nice to reduce our waste through this new relationship, and the farm has also donated some of its surplus produce to the food shelf. It's been a very nice partnership for both sites," said Betsy Ollhoff, Belle Plaine Area Food Shelf President.

If you're interested in applying for a Scott County Recycling Grant, or you would like to talk to a MN Waste Wise Sustainability Specialist free of charge about increasing recycling in Scott County, please contact Adam Mehr at MN Waste Wise at amehr@mn-chamber.com or (651) 2921-4675.

Package waste properly before hauling to HHW facility

It's a very common sight at the Scott County Household Hazardous Waste facility (HHW): A large container from a resident filled with an assortment of batteries, bulbs, and other hazardous materials. Batteries could include damaged lithiums, regular AA alkaline, lead acid, and button batteries. Bulbs range anywhere from Compact Fluorescent (CFL), incandescent, HID, and holiday lights. Mixed in might be possible razor blades, needles, e-waste, paint, and other hazardous material.

This combination results in potential safety issues for the HHW staff -- including broken bulbs with sharp glass



Corroded batteries can pose a risk.

edges, possible needle sticks, and hot or expanding batteries. A box like this will have to be manually sorted to remove and package all the material correctly, putting HHW workers at risk.

How can you help?

Please make sure to package your batteries, sharps, and bulbs all in sepa-

rate containers. Let the HHW staff know if you have any sharps to dispose of, where the bulbs are, and if you have any damaged batteries.

Mention any unusual or unknown chemicals or chemicals in unmarked containers. Do stack all hazardous waste, paint, and other chemicals in boxes so



Improperly transported items result in hazardous situations.

that they do not leak. Do *not* place the chemicals in plastic garbage bags. And finally, while at the HHW, please follow all the directions of the helpful HHW staff.

Appointments still needed

Remember that due to COVID the HHW is by appointment only. Appointments can be made by visiting the website at www.scottcountymn.gov/HHW. If there are no time slots available, please check back in a few days. If you do not have an appointment, please do not wait at the HHW as we are unable to accommodate non-appointment drop-offs at this time.

Grading permits required for most land disturbances

As we are approaching spring and anxious to see the snow melt and get back outside, keep in mind that projects involving grading, excavating, and filling may need a grading permit from Scott County.

A permit is needed dependent on the size of the land disturbance and location. Except for sensitive areas (e.g., steep land or near water bodies such as lakes and streams), any land disturbance over 10,000 square feet (100 feet by 100 feet) needs a grading permit. In those sensitive areas mentioned above, thresholds for needing a permit are much smaller. It is always recommended before starting any land disturbance project to reach out to staff at Scott County first to check and see if a permit is needed.

No matter whether the work is being performed by a contractor or the landowner(s), either situation still requires a permit. Penalties and/or restoration of the work may be issued for any work that required a grading permit but did not have one issued before the work started. Requirements for the per-

mit can be found on the Scott County website at <https://www.scottcountymn.gov/381/County-Ordinances>. Specific language about land disturbances is located within Chapters 6 and 70 of Zoning Ordinance No. 3.

These regulations apply for the unincorporated areas of Scott County, which means areas not located within city limits. Any projects located within city limits should follow up with city officials within their respective cities for regulations on land disturbance projects as they will differ from the information above. There are activities that are exempt from needing a permit, such as farming. However, exemptions are limited and need to be verified before starting work.

This information is intended to be a brief and general overview, and does not cover all different situations. It is the responsibility of the parties involved in a project to adhere to all applicable regulations. To contact staff and see if your project needs a permit, please contact us at (952) 496-8177.



Township residents should apply to Scott County for grading permits.



Most businesses in the 7-county **Twin Cities area** must recycle if they collect **4 cubic yards of trash a week.**

Four cubic yards is a dumpster approximately this size, or about 60 bags of trash.

Recycling mandate impacts businesses, public entities

Within the seven metro area counties (including Scott), public entities -- such as government buildings, schools, sports facilities, and certain businesses -- are mandated by state law to provide a recycling option. Along with this requirement is the condition that recycling must include at least three material types. The types of materials that can meet this requirement can be recycled glass, metal, plastic, paper, and organics. Businesses in Scott County that create more than four cubic yards of trash per week must provide recycling.

Although this may seem like extra work and more of a hassle than a benefit, there are many positives to this law that may be surprising. Businesses are always looking to save money, and one great way to do so is by recycling. First, recyclables are tax exempt. Sorting out recycled material can mean creating less waste that goes into your gar-

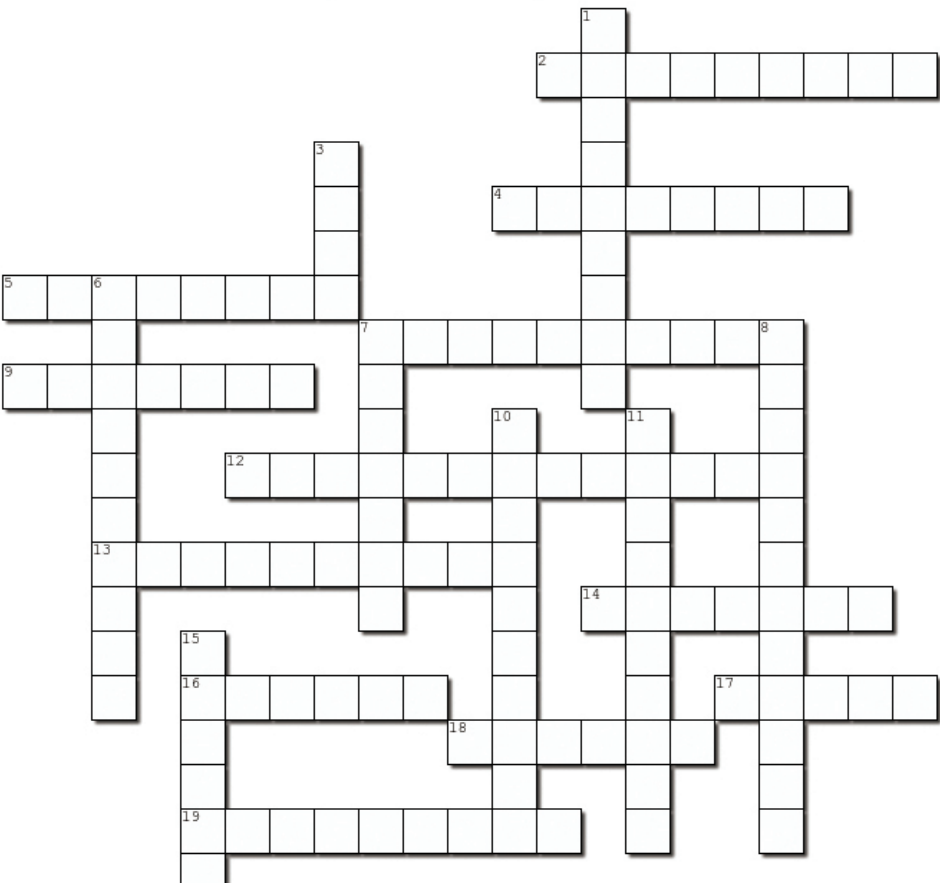
bage dumpster, which in turn may mean reducing the dumpster size or lessening the amount of trash service pick-ups needed. Another benefit to the recycling law is that it is environmentally friendly to recycle and keep as much reusable material out of landfills as possible. Being a business that recycles encourages recycling for staff in their personal habits as well. This may be a mindset change that can ripple throughout the company and become the catalyst for positive change. And having recycling options at the business is a signal to customers that you care for the environment and for your community, which may lead to positive customer feedback and loyalty.

Do you need to start or improve recycling at your public entity building? If so, please visit www.mnwastewise.org or contact Waste Wise at (651) 292-4650. There you will find information and a variety of resources that are available for all things recycling.

Name: _____

Accepted HHW items

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across


- 2. go-to appliance for cooking a quick meal
- 4. used to have to change every 3,000
- 5. Used to power most small engines
- 7. Helps grass and gardens thrive
- 9. Hazardous metal, typically a liquid
- 12. end of life for confidential documents
- 13. Prevents both freezing and overheating
- 14. some you can recharge, some you cannot
- 16. Browse the internet by flipping it open
- 17. typically latex or oil-based
- 18. common window cleaner
- 19. nobody is talking, but we're always on it

Down

- 1. some contain mercury, some don't
- 3. Prime mosquito habitat
- 6. Shake to use, change a color quick
- 7. Keep the ice cream cold
- 8. Usually has temperature controls
- 10. any size, still just \$10
- 11. Can struggle in the winter, don't leave your headlights on
- 15. strong corrosive- sometimes used in laundry

See answers on page 9

Recycle at least **3** types of materials:



- Glass
- Metal
- Plastic
- Cardboard, paper
- Organics: food waste and compostable products
- Business-specific wastes such as textiles, strapping, or wrap



FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SALT REDUCTION SUPPLIES

Apply for up to \$3,000 for new winter maintenance supplies like salt shields, liquid brine tanks and sprayers, and high precision applicators

Visit scottswed.org/chloride for application details



Editorial Policy

The purpose of this publication is to provide information about Scott County government and the opportunities it offers its residents. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Lisa Kohner, Public Affairs Coordinator, at (952) 496-8780 or lkohner@co.scott.mn.us.



in partnership with



ThreeRivers
PARK DISTRICT



Programs

Try various recreation skills or explore Minnesota history. Browse an upcoming list at ThreeRiversParks.link/Programs



Parks

Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park
25875 Juniper Avenue, New Prague, MN 56071
763.694.7777

Located on the south shore of Cedar Lake, Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park offers ice fishing, a 1-mile paved trail to the lake, 2.7 miles of turf trails for hiking and snowshoeing, picnic areas, a canoe launch and beach.

Cleary Lake Regional Park
18106 Texas Avenue, Prior Lake, MN 55372
763.694.7777

A popular year-round recreation spot, this beautiful park offers something for everyone. Amenities include lighted cross-country ski trails, a 28-acre dog off-leash area, 3.8 miles of paved trail around Cleary Lake, 9-hole golf course, campground, picnic area, beach and more.

Share Your Vision!
The master plan for Cleary Lake Regional Park is being updated. Give feedback, take a virtual tour of the park and learn about what's next in the planning process.
LetsTalkThreeRivers.org/cleary-lake-master-plan

The Landing
2187 Highway 101 East, Shakopee, MN 55379
763.694.7784

Visit The Landing to discover how 19th-century Minnesotans established their lives on the frontier, farmsteads and in villages. Historical buildings are laid out as a timeline from the pre-territorial era through the late 1800s. The park offers a trail along the river, picnic areas and fishing opportunities.

Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve
15501 Murphy Lake Road, Savage, MN 55378
763.694.7777

The peaceful wilderness at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve 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 3-acre dog off-leash area, the park reserve remains in a natural state, making it a great location 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 Skuya Drive Northwest, Prior Lake, MN 55372
763.694.7777

Scott County's newest regional park includes over 4 miles of paved trails and a 10-acre dog off-leash area. Walkers, bikers and in-lines skaters enjoy rolling hills, woods and meadows.

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.

ScottCountyMN.gov • ThreeRiversParks.org



Summer camps

Fun-filled adventure! Kids can explore nature, be a woodland fairy, go fishing, play golf, work on the farm and even travel back in time. Three Rivers offers affordable, conveniently located summer camps for children ages 4–15. Registration begins **March 2021**.
ThreeRiversParks.org/SummerCamps

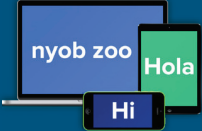


Golf academy

Summer golf lessons are perfect for golfers of all ages and abilities. Improve your skills and have some fun. It's as simple as that. Registration begins March 2021.
ThreeRiversParks.org/GolfAcademy

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.





A group of teen teachers from Shakopee High School participating in the 4-H Youth Teaching Youth program.

4-H Youth Teaching Youth goes to virtual format

For more than 20 years, the 4-H *Youth Teaching Youth* program has brought together high school and elementary/middle school-aged students in a classroom where *everyone* learns. With the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, and many youth attending school in their own homes, *Youth Teaching Youth* (YTY) is going virtual.

The 4-H YTY program traces its history back to 1989, when a group of youth, Extension Educators from the University of Minnesota Center for Youth Development, and members of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety developed a program to teach youth about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol. Since then, the program has expanded to include curricula about alcohol, tobacco and nicotine products, peer pressure, internet safety, healthy choices, and peer relationships. *Youth Teaching Youth* harnesses a dual-learning approach known as “cross-age teaching” -- while the younger students learn about the chosen topic through facts and experiences shared by high school students, the high schoolers gain experience with public speaking, teach-

ing, and leadership skills.

YTY curricula were developed for in-person classrooms, but began being adapted to virtual delivery in spring 2020 with help from several students at Shakopee High School and districts in other counties. “Adapting YTY classes was a challenge because we were adapting digital materials we already had, trying new platforms, and asking our teen teachers to step up to try something new, while also doing it very quickly,” said Sarah Odendahl, Scott County 4-H Extension Educator. “We certainly look forward to the day we can be back inside classrooms, but we’re looking forward to still being able to bring the YTY program to schools whether they are in-person, hybrid, or online.”

Teachers and administrators will have the option of choosing a live, pre-recorded, or hybrid digital experience for their students. If you’d like to know more about the *Youth Teaching Youth* program, how to bring it to your classroom, or how to become a teen teacher, reach out to Sarah Odendahl at (952) 492-5384 or sodendahl@umn.edu.



Youth can learn about outdoor activities through a new video series.

4-H offers a Choose Your Outdoor Adventure series

Join Minnesota 4-H to take a deep dive into the outdoors this spring! The 4-H Choose Your Outdoor Adventure Deep Dive series engages youth in an exploration of a variety of outdoor topics. On the first Monday of every month, youth join in on a live webinar to kick off the topic. When the webinar is over, the learning doesn’t stop — youth will receive weekly activity packets that help them continue to explore on their own.

The series is open to youth grades kindergarten and up. Join in once for a topic that catches your interest, or sign up for every month and gain as much knowledge as you can. Upcoming topics include: March, forestry; April, turkeys; May, fishing; and June, dragonflies and damselflies.

To find out more, visit z.umn.edu/scottco and check the events list; to register, visit z.umn.edu/4hcyoa.

Master Gardeners offer tips for spring planting

How do you know when to start which kind of seed? Here are some tips for new and experienced gardeners:

- Read the information on the seed packet for when to start the seed indoors. If the packet says sow directly outdoors and gives no info on starting seed indoors, those seeds grow quickly outdoors and likely do not need a head start indoors.
- When selecting vegetable varieties, check packets for the number of days until harvest to be sure your choices will ripen before frost.
- Many long-season vegetables must be started indoors in early spring.
- Many annual flowers need an indoor start if they are to bloom during the summer.
- Minnesota’s spring last frost date typically happens between May 10 and 31, depending on where you live.

- * Weather records from 1991 through 2010 show a 10 percent probability of 32°F as of May 10 in the Twin Cities.
- * The last frost date is a guideline for moving your seedlings outdoors.

Suggested starting dates for popular vegetables and flowers:

- Late February or early March:*
- * Impatiens, petunias, leeks, onions
- Early to mid-March:*



Start plants early to enhance season.

- * Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower

Mid-March:

- * Eggplant, okra, peppers

Early April:

- * Tomatoes, kale, leaf lettuce

Mid to late April:

- * Squash, melons, cucumbers

Leeks, onions, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, and leaf lettuce can be planted out before the last frost date because, unlike the other crops listed above, these cool season vegetables can tolerate cooler soils and temperatures.

Resources

Johnny’s Seed Starting Calculator (at <https://www.johnnyseeds.com/growers-library/seed-planting-schedule-calculator.html>) allows you to enter your frost-free date and, with a click of a button, and will calculate the starting date for a long list of flower and vegetable seeds. When to sow the seed, and when to move plants outside is customized based on the frost date entered.

Register now for virtual Master Gardener classes



The Carver-Scott Master Gardener library classes will look a bit different this year. We are beginning the year with virtual learning for our spring classes. Please go to www.carverscottmastergardeners.org to register. There you will be provided with the Zoom link for the class. Please join us for an evening of learning with our University of Minnesota certified volunteers.

Class Offered	Class Date
Food Preservation	March 10, 2021
Starting Seeds Indoors	March 17, 2021
Beginning Vegetable Gardening	March 24, 2021
Grow a Pizza Garden	March 31, 2021
Let’s Get Ready to Garden	April 7, 2021

County Fair to provide thrilling grandstand shows

For many Scott County fairgoers, the grandstand events are the highlight of the five-day summer celebration – this year, July 28 through Aug. 1.

In 2021, we are excited to announce a new grandstand event, Friday Night of Destruction! This event encourages community participation, in which you can enter endurance races, trailer races, a combine derby, and more. We hope you are excited to get a preview of the destruction before the Demolition Derby on Saturday night of the Fair.

The nationally-sanctioned (NTPA) Tractor Pull will be the featured grandstand event on Friday night (July 30), and there will be a truck and tractor pull featuring local pullers on Wednesday night (July 28). Of course, Saturday night (July 31) we will be hosting that crowd favorite, the Demolition Derby. Start preparing your vehicles now to participate in this smashing event.

The Scott County Fair is also welcoming back the Monster Truck Thrill Show on Sunday afternoon (Aug. 1) and



The Monster Truck Thrill Show will take place on Sunday afternoon, and the Friday Night Of Destruction will include a combine derby.



a Motokazie race on Tuesday night!

Check out our website scottcounty-fair.org for information. Plan on attending the Scott County Fair and taking in some grandstand events for “Double the Fun in 2021!”

Voluntary programs aid vulnerable residents

Law enforcement agencies around the country are responding to vulnerable populations in innovative ways, including using voluntary registry programs that provide first responders with critical information on individuals with special needs.

These voluntary registry programs enable law enforcement agencies to obtain information (prior to an actual emergency) that assists in response to calls for service involving an individual with living conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, autism spectrum disorders (ASD), developmental disabilities, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder

(ADHD), epilepsy, brain injury, mental illness, and other disabilities that may affect the way individuals interact and respond to law enforcement personnel and other first responders. The Scott County Sheriff's Office uses two such voluntary registry programs: Project Lifesaver/SafetyNet and Vitals™ Aware Services.

Project Lifesaver

In 2010, the Sheriff's Office began using Project Lifesaver, which is a system to rapidly locate vulnerable people who have a tendency to wander off and get lost. At-risk individuals are outfitted with a tracking bracelet that is turned on if they go missing. The bracelet has a radio transmitter inside and can send a frequency to the Sheriff's Office's device to help track the missing person. It's important to note that no one is tracked until a loved one calls to report the missing person. The service is available free of charge to qualifying individuals through grants and the Scott County Sheriff's Office.

There are currently 13 participants in Scott County.

Vitals™ Aware Services

In 2019, the Sheriff's Office began using another potentially life-saving application to help individuals with intellectual or developmental conditions called Vitals™ Aware Services.

Vitals™ participants or their caregivers create a digital profile, which includes critical information such as disabilities and conditions, allergies, behavior triggers, de-escalation techniques, medications, emergency contact info, and more. Participants wear a beacon that sends a notification to deputies who are within 80 feet of them, giving the deputy temporary access to the individual's Vitals™ profile. Access to this critical information allows for safer interactions (especially during medical or mental health emergencies) by eliminating any guesswork, reducing



Participants in the Project Lifesaver program wear a bracelet with a transmitter that sends a frequency to the Sheriff's Office's device to help track missing persons.

various language barriers, and avoiding risk of misunderstandings. The beacon can also help law enforcement coordinate missing person searches if a person with autism or dementia, for example, goes missing and has a beacon on them.

Vitals™ allows participants and their caregivers the comfort of knowing that when they leave their house, they are protected; they have a safety net that is going to speak for them when they need it the most. The more information Sheriff's Office personnel have about somebody who may be suffering from a mental health crisis or other issues, the better they can customize how we approach them and avoid using use of force tactics for a safer resolution.

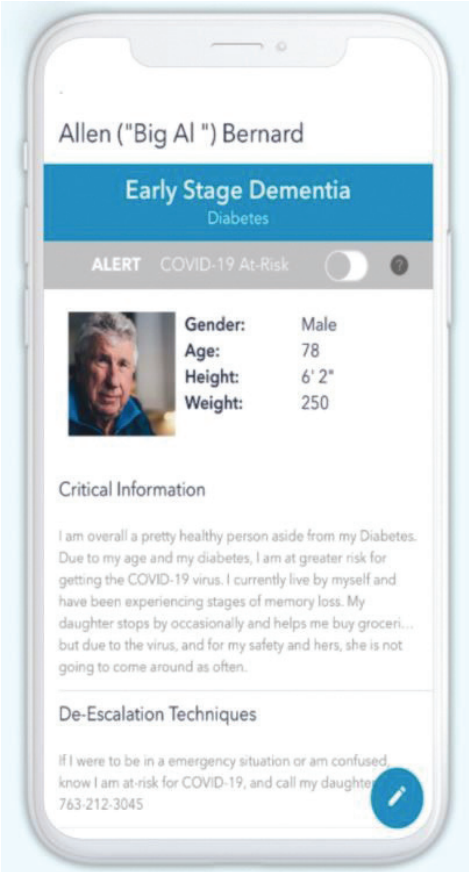
There are currently 45 Vitals™ users in Scott County.

Voluntary registries can promote community safety, improve first responder safety, increase the speed and efficiency in which deputies are able to respond, give community members

peace of mind, and promote community partnerships in responding to special needs community members. Programs such as Project Lifesaver and Vitals™ help deputies respond to the needs of Scott County's most vulnerable community members with understanding, compassion, and customized services.

For more information about Project Lifesaver/SafetyNet, please visit <https://safetynettracking.com/>. For more information about Vitals™ or to create a free profile, please visit www.thevital-sapp.com.

If you have questions about any of these programs, please feel free to contact Scott County Sheriff Luke Hennen any time by email at lhennen@co.scott.mn.us, by phone at (952) 496-8625, via social media @sheriffhennen, or by mail or in person at Scott County Sheriff's Office, 301 Fuller Street South, Shakopee, MN 55379. You can also visit their website at <https://www.scottcountymn.gov/sheriff>.



Vulnerable residents signed up for the Vitals™ Aware program wear a beacon that sends information to nearby officers so they know how to help them.

Free webinars offered on family, financial issues

Join University of Minnesota Extension Educators in Family Resiliency and Health and Nutrition for *free* webinars in March. These free webinars are for anyone residing in Minnesota. Scott County Extension Educator Samantha Roth encourages people to register even if you are unable to attend; they do record these webinars and email recordings to registered participants.

March 9, noon-1 p.m., Food for Your Family in a Disaster

If a disaster happens to you, would you have enough food and water for three days? Do you know how long foods in the refrigerator will be safe to eat after the electricity goes off? In this webinar, you will learn simple steps you can take to make sure you have enough food and water during and after a disaster. You will learn strategies to help feed your family after a disaster and learn how to make sure the food you're eating is safe to eat. <https://z.umn.edu/FoodFamilyDisaster>

March 11, 11 a.m. – noon, Advance Care Planning: Now More than Ever

The COVID-19 pandemic presents an excuse and an opportunity to make sure a person's end-of-life health care wishes are known and in writing--a process called advance care planning. If you've been putting off preparing a Minnesota Health Care Directive or need to revisit your preferences this webinar is for you. Advance care planning is a gift to yourself and to others. <https://z.umn.edu/ACPMarch>

March 18, 1 - 2 p.m., When It's Family: Financial Exploitation of Older Adults

One in 15 older adults is a victim of elder family financial exploitation (EFFE) where a family member illegally or improperly uses an elder's funds, property, or assets. This webinar, designed specifically for adult children and older adults, will address what's known

from research about the myths, realities, and lessons learned from those who have experienced EFFE. <https://z.umn.edu/whenitsfamily>

March 25, 5 - 7 p.m., Presupuesto Familiar:

Planificacion y Formas de Ahorrar en Alimentos (webinar will be in Spanish) ¿Quiere tomar el control de sus finanzas? Un presupuesto es un instrumento valioso que lo ayudará a administrar mejor sus finanzas. Este seminario web proporcionará información y herramientas para abordar necesidades y deseos, hacer un seguimiento de los gastos de alimentación, estimar, presupuestar los alimentos, equilibrar los gastos y los ingresos del hogar, reservar dinero para un fondo de emergencia y ahorrar de forma sencilla. <https://z.umn.edu/finanzas>

March 30, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Make a Plan, Build a Kit, Prepare Your Family for Disaster

Is your family prepared for a disaster? Participants in this webinar will learn how to prepare for disasters by creating an emergency kit and developing a family plan. In addition, ideas will be discussed on how to share the content with other family members, youth groups, and other community organizations. Youth in grades 3 and above are encouraged to participate with their grown-up(s). Youth group volunteers are also welcome. <https://z.umn.edu/PrepareFamilyDisaster>

For more online programs: Check out our UMN Extension Family News Visit <https://extension.umn.edu/families-and-youth/family-news> to stay current with information,



Learn about elder financial abuse during a free webinar.

resources, and programming. Also, follow us on Facebook and Twitter @UMNExtFD. To find additional online offerings from all program areas, visit the University of Minnesota Extension events and courses page (<https://extension.umn.edu/courses-and-events>).



Money Mondays series to cover numerous topics

Did you know that most people find talking about their finances scarier than talking about death, religion, politics, or taxes? If this is the case, how do we learn about finances?

To help combat the scariness of talking about money, Scott County Extension Financial Capability Educator Samantha Roth will be hosting "Money Mondays" -- a half hour Lunch and Learn discussion from noon to 12:30 p.m. on Mondays (April 5 - May 24). Each week will have a different topic to start the discussion such as budgeting, insurance, paying for college, et cetera.

Please register at z.umn.edu/moneymonday for the Zoom link and you can join the weeks that work for you. When you register, there is an option to suggest a topic(s) that you would like to discuss. The list of topics will be posted at <https://extension.umn.edu/local/scott>. For more information, contact Sam at sroth@umn.edu.

Free nitrate testing for well water offered on April 30

If you get your water from a household well, you are among the thousands of people in Scott County who rely on groundwater reserves for drinking water -- and should likely consider getting your water tested for nitrates. Nitrate is a common contaminant found in many wells throughout Minnesota; it can get into your drinking water from septic tank leaks, sewage, fertilizer runoff, and erosion of natural deposits. Wells most vulnerable to nitrates are shallow or dug wells, wells with damaged casings, and wells located in areas with sandy soils where groundwater can flow quickly and sediment isn't picked up as easily by thick soil.

High levels of nitrates in drinking water can cause serious health risk to infants and adults. Nitrates affect how oxygen is carried throughout the blood, so it is especially important to test if infants will be using the water. Even if you have had your well water tested in the past, it is recommended that you get the water tested every two years.

Want your water tested?

For free testing, bring a water sample to the free walk-in clinic at the Scott County Fairgrounds in Jordan. This event is sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and is held in conjunction with the Scott SWCD tree pickup and seedling sale. This clinic is free and open to the public; no appointments are necessary.



Residents with wells can collect a water sample and bring it for free nitrate testing on April 30.

Friday, April 30, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Scott SWCD, Scott County Fairgrounds
7151 W 190th St, Jordan, MN 55352

How to take your sample

To take a sample, run the cold tap faucet for three minutes, then collect about one cup of water in a plastic baggie (double bagged) or a clean disposable water bottle. Collect the water anytime within 24 hours of the clinic, and keep the water cool. Once you arrive, submit your sample and you will receive the results in five to 10 minutes. You may also collect neighbors' or relatives' samples and bring them in for analysis.

If you have a water treatment unit that reduces or removes nitrate—such as a reverse osmosis unit or a distiller—feel free to collect a sample before treatment and after treatment to ensure your system is working properly. If you have a water softener in your home, it is not necessary to collect a sample from before that treatment, as softeners do not reduce nitrate.

Special COVID-19 notice

For the 2021 clinic, the Scott SWCD will implement contactless testing. Residents interested in testing their water should drop off a water sample along with their name, address, and phone number or email. Scott SWCD technicians will then test your sample. Once results come in from your sample, you will receive an email or phone call with your results. To make the process go as smoothly as possible, residents are encouraged to arrive with their water sample and a piece of paper with all their contact information written down.

Want to test your water elsewhere?

If you're interested in other ways to test your well water, please visit the Minnesota Department of Health's page on *Well Testing, Results, and Options*, which lists certified well testing labs and provides instructions for submitting a well water sample.

For questions regarding Scott County's 2021 nitrate clinic, contact the Scott SWCD at (952) 492-5425 or online at scottswcd.org. For more information on nitrates, visit www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/nitrate.html.



County residents can order discounted compost bins and pick them up at the Scott SWCD event on April 30 at the Scott County Fairgrounds.

County offers discounted compost bins

In 2021, Scott County Environmental Services is proud to be partnering with the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Annual Tree Sale for our annual compost bin sale! We will still be offering residents who purchase a bin through this event \$20 off, made possible by funds from the Scott County Environmental Recycling grant.

Scott County residents can purchase bins for \$46 by visiting the Scott SWCD Tree Sale website at <https://www.scottswcdtrees.com/>. The price for non-County residents is \$66. All orders will be available for pick-up on Friday, April 30, (8 a.m. - 7 p.m.) at the Scott County Fairgrounds via contactless order pick-up.

These bins are made of sturdy (yet lightweight), 100 percent recycled plastic, hold 17 cubic feet, have a lockable lid to deter animals, and have a two-piece construction for easy transport and turning of material.

Help increase recycling by composting your food scraps while reducing the amount of waste sent to local landfills! For questions call Nick Reishus, Scott County Recycling and Solid Waste, at (952) 496-8707.

Pre-ordering required for Scott SWCD tree pick up on April 30

Scott Soil and Water Conservation District 2021 tree sale pick-up time is almost here! Come to the Scott County fairgrounds to pick-up your pre-ordered bundles of native trees and supplies.

Friday, April 30, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Scott SWCD, Scott County Fairgrounds
7151 W 190th St, Jordan, MN 55352

Haven't placed your order yet? There might still be time! Check out our website at scottswcdtrees.com to see the latest available inventory and to place an order. Varieties of conifers, deciduous trees, and deciduous shrubs are available until supplies runs out. In addition to offering tree bundles, the Scott SWCD offers a variety of other products, including native seed mixes and tree planting supplies. New this year, the Scott SWCD is selling compost bins as a partnership with Scott County Environmental Services and their annual compost bin sale. See the accompanying insert in this edition of the *SCENE* for further details.

Each tree that is planted in Scott County plays a role in conserving soil and water by holding soil in place and allowing stormwater to seep into the ground. At last year's tree sale, residents purchased 29,000 tree and shrub seedlings to plant for wildlife habitat, property borders, and landscaping.

For additional information regarding this year's sale, or for other inventory inquiries, call the Scott SWCD office in Jordan at (952) 492-5425 or send an e-mail to scottswcdtrees@gmail.com.

Important notice for 2021:

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and in an effort to maintain public safety and the safety of the SWCD staff, the following changes will be continued from last year's sale:



Tree and shrub bundles are available for planting.

- **No extra trees offered on April 30.** The Scott SWCD will not be offering extra trees, seed mixes, or supplies for sale on pick-up day. The only way to receive trees from the sale this year is to place an order online at scottswcdtrees.com.
- **Contactless pickup will be implemented.** The Scott SWCD will be offering a non-contact pick up procedure that will involve customers staying in their cars and having the trees loaded into vehicles by staff. Detailed instructions will be sent out to all customers the week of pickup.

Accepted HHW items
Complete the crossword puzzle below

1. some contain mercury, some don't (lightbulb)

3. Prime mosquito habitat (tire)

6. Shake to use, change a color quick (spraypaint)

7. Keep the ice cream cold (freezer)

8. Usually has temperature controls (refrigerator)

10. any size, still just \$10 (television)

11. Can struggle in the winter, don't leave your headlights on (carbatter)

15. strong corrosive- sometimes used in laundry (bleach)

2. go-to appliance for cooking a quick meal (microwave)

4. used to have to change every 3,000 (motoroil)

5. Used to power most small engines (gasoline)

7. Helps grass and gardens thrive (fertilizer)

9. Hazardous metal, typically a liquid (mercury)

12. end of life for confidential documents (shreddedpaper)

13. Prevents both freezing and overheating (antifreeze)

14. some you can recharge, some you cannot (battery)

16. Browse the internet by flipping it open (laptop)

17. typically latex or oil-based (paint)

18. common window cleaner (windex)

19. nobody is talking, but we're always on it (cellphone)

f

Like us on Facebook
and follow us on Twitter
Facebook.com/ScottCountyMN



SCALE

Scott County Association
for Leadership & Efficiency

News you can use...

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. Watch this page for current and future information from us and our many SCALE partners



Savage Parks and Recreation spring and summer programs will feature lots of fun activities for kids.

From Savage:

Savage Parks and Rec summer program information coming

Savage Parks and Recreation is ready to "Bring the Fun" this summer! We will be offering a full lineup of our regular playground programs, sports camps, and Fabulous Fridays for kids of all ages. Plus, we're adding a new action-packed Community Adventures Camp for kids in grades 1 – 6, and two new virtual adventures called Savage to Seattle and Biking Bingo. Watch for all the details in upcoming *City Connection* newsletters and online at cityofsavage.com. Spring program registration begins April 6 for residents; April 8 for non-residents. Summer program registration will open May 11 for residents; May 13 for non-residents.

Become a Savage bluebird volunteer and monitor nests

Each year, thousands of beautiful bluebirds return to Minnesota from Kansas and Missouri looking for nest sites to raise their young. We are fortunate in Savage to have a group of bluebird nest boxes in Savage Community Park by the McColl Pond ELC. That's where you come in! Volunteers are needed for weekly monitoring to ensure their safety from when the first egg is laid in April until the little ones fledge in August. If you are interested in learning how to become a bluebird volunteer, join us for a virtual bluebird class led by David Schmidt, a Bluebird Recovery Program member, and MN Master Naturalist instructor.



- Saturday, March 20 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. or
 - Thursday, March 25 from 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Virtual training: Send an email to bluebirdsafeg@gmail.com to let us know which session you would like to join.

From Shakopee:

Shakopee hosts annual Easter Egg Hunt March 27

Mark your calendar for the annual Egg Hunt, sponsored by Shakopee Parks and Recreation and JCI Shakopee.

This event will be held at Lions Park from 1-6 p.m. on Saturday, March 27. A registration fee of \$5 will be charged to anyone who wishes to attend; however, kids

2 and under will be free.

Participants should plan on registering for a spot in one of three time slots: 1-2:30 p.m., 2:45-4:15 p.m., or 4:30-6 p.m. Activities will include egg hunts, games, crafts, picture station, and more! Registration opens March 1 at www.ShakopeeMN.gov/registration.

This event will be held outdoors – rain or shine – so dress appropriately and please be on time so you can enjoy all the fun activities.

Clean Up Day for city, township residents April 24

Residents of Shakopee, Jackson Township, and Louisville Township will have the opportunity to recycle and discard old and unusable items during the city's annual Clean Up Day Saturday, April 24. The event runs from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. behind the Shakopee Public Works building, 400 Gorman St., Shakopee. Enter off Fourth Avenue. A list of accepted and non-accepted items, as well as costs, is available at www.ShakopeeMN.gov/cleanupday.

This is a first-come, first-served event. The line to enter may be cut off prior to 11:30 to ensure vehicles already in line are processed.

Construction begins on Ridge Creek Park, Memorial Park pedestrian bridge

In January, construction began on two long-awaited Shakopee park projects. Crews are constructing the new Ridge Creek Park in the Ridge Creek neighborhood, south of County Highway 21. This nature-centric, passive park includes a new regional trail, boardwalk, and realignment of the Prior Lake Outlet Channel. Construction is anticipated through November 2021.

Work also started on replacing the pedestrian bridge at Memorial Park. The bridge is an integral link to the Minnesota Valley State Trail. Substantial completion is scheduled for August 2021. Learn more about both projects on the city website at www.ShakopeeMN.gov/parkprojects.

Townhomes, senior housing co-op coming to Canterbury Commons

Two developers are introducing two new housing options as part of the new Canterbury Crossings development on 14 acres southwest of Canterbury Park.

Pulte Homes plans to build 108 townhomes north of Eagle Creek Boulevard. The units would include a mix of 22 three-story walk-ups and 86 two-story rowhouses. The size of the units range from 1,850 to 2,400 square-feet and range in price from the upper \$200,000s to upper \$400,000s.

Lifestyle Communities also plans to construct a 56-unit senior housing cooperative at the corner of Shenandoah Drive and Schenian Street. The 115,915-square-foot building would include a mix of bedroom types, as well as a variety of amenities and a pickleball court. Residents would need to be at least 62 years old to purchase a unit.

The developer hopes to begin site work in 2021 and construction on the senior co-op in the fall of 2021.

SW Prime provides on-demand transit service to Shakopee

SouthWest Transit is now providing on-demand transit service in and out of Shakopee. SW Prime is an on-demand ride service (similar to Lyft/Uber) that operates in Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, Chaska, Carver, Victoria and now portions of Shakopee. Online booking is available with the SW Prime App or by calling (952) 797-7463.

A one-way ride costs \$4. Rides are available from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Learn more at swtransit.org/shakopeeswprimeservice.



Shakopee is planning improvements for the 50-year-old SandVenture Aquatic Park and has solicited ideas from the public to incorporate into the new Lions Park Master Plan.

Community gives feedback on future of SandVenture Park

For more than 50 years, SandVenture Aquatic Park has been a summer destination for residents and visitors to cool off and dive into fun. Now, community members are helping shape its future. This winter, the Shakopee community has participated in a variety of community engagement activities to share ideas for future improvements at SandVenture and Lions Park.

All the feedback will be incorporated into the SandVenture feasibility study and overall Lions Park Master Plan to be presented later this spring. Learn more at www.ShakopeeMN.gov/parkprojects.

From Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community:

SMSC facilities remain open with enhanced safety measures

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's (SMSC) first and highest priority is to ensure the health and safety of its guests, members, and employees. Through enhanced safety precautions and protocols, face covering requirements, and social distancing parameters, the SMSC's properties remain open and are operating under SMSC Tribal Public Health guidelines. Occupancy limits are continually monitored and maintained at all SMSC properties, all public areas are cleaned and sanitized multiple times each day, and enhanced health and safety plans are strictly enforced. SMSC Tribal Public Health also regularly meets with the Minnesota Department of Health's COVID-19 Tribal Liaison Group to ensure best practices are in place. SMSC Tribal Public Health—in conjunction with Mdewakanton Public Safety—continues to monitor the daily developments regarding the spread of COVID-19 and are committed to providing up-to-date information on a regular basis. Visit shakopeedakota.org/covid19 for more information and for the latest Community updates.

Think spring at the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility

As the ground begins to thaw and warmer days are on the horizon, it is time to start planning your seasonal home improvement projects—and there's no better way to increase your curb appeal than to add vibrant mulch to your landscaping. The SMSC Organics Recycling Facility's high-quality organic mulch is created from a mixture of wood and is available in four colors: natural, red, gold, and dark brown. In addition to mulch, the facility offers a variety of soil amendments to help your yard and garden flourish. Learn more at smscorf.com. Located at 1905 Mystic Lake Drive S in Shakopee.

To learn more about the SMSC, please visit shakopeedakota.org.

Historical SCENE

Sulphur mud baths brought visitors to County

Local legend has it that when Ole Rosendahl went to claim a homestead in Sand Creek Township in the late 1800s, only a single 80-acre tract of land was left. Supposedly, the land was covered with smelly, swampy mud, and no one thought the property had any practical use. Nonetheless, Rosendahl claimed the land and began to build a home on the property.

As Rosendahl remembers it, sometime around 1900 a peddler was crossing his land and got stuck in the mud. He noticed the pungent, sulfurous smell and began to congratulate Ole on his good fortune! At the time, sulfur was thought to treat skin irritation, allergies, arthritis, infection, and more. Rosendahl contacted the University of Minnesota about the correct way of “cooking” his sulfurous mud, and soon began a business, giving curative mud baths in his kitchen.

Ole Rosendahl’s first known treatment was given to Ernie Morrell for ringworm. Morrell claimed to feel much improved after his mud bath and word soon began to spread. In 1906, Rosendahl purchased a large local house and had it moved to his land to create his spa. On December 27, 1906, an ad appeared in the *Jordan Independent* stating, “Mr. Rosendahl assuming ready for patients.”

By 1908, the business had become too big for Ole Rosendahl to handle on his own. He passed management on to his sons, O.J. and Ben Rosendahl. The boys also brought in a medical staff, Dr. T.M. Larsen, and Dr. W.H. Philips. Dr. Larsen was a chiropractor from Denmark, and was an “expert masseur.” He was slick, sales-minded, and charismatic, and threw himself wholeheartedly into promotion. With this new team, the customer base of the spa increased rapidly. The Rosendahl Sulphur Springs was officially incorporated in 1909. In 1911, as business continued to prosper, O.J. Rosendahl and Dr. Larson officially purchased the land and facilities for \$30,000. The name was again changed – this time to Mudbaden Sulphur Springs.

Once Dr. Larsen and O.J. Rosendahl took over ownership, advertising and promotions soared. In 1910, a booklet was created and sent to every practicing physician in Minnesota, many in neighboring states, and past patients. This pamphlet heavily promoted the health benefits of sulfur mud treatments. Local newspapers were dotted with advertisements promoting the health benefits of a visit to Mudbaden – and the fun and relaxation that could be had with a vacation to the resort’s modern facilities.

From this time on, Mudbaden was promoted not only as a medical facility, but as a recreational experience and tourist destination. Along with sulfurous mud baths, Mudbaden hosted banquets, dances, parties, and picnics. They even had their own baseball team. In 1912, a convenient new rail station was built along the Omaha line, 100 feet from the front door of Mudbaden. Trains began to run regular daily routes to and from the facility.

Mudbaden could not have been built at a more apt time. In the early 1900s, health and science were all the rage. cursory knowledge of germ theory and the scientific method became more widespread, and the



The Mudbaden Sulphur Springs Company completed this facility in 1915. While its main attraction was still the sulphur mud baths which were used to treat a variety of ailments, the facility was also promoted as a vacation destination featuring dances, banquets, parties, and picnics for its patients.

public was clamoring for new “scientific” cures that would relieve the suffering from old ailments. Not only this, but with new health practices, a greater percentage of the U.S. population was reaching old age – meaning that Mudbaden’s advertised cures for rheumatism (arthritis) were suddenly in higher demand. In 1912, the proprietors of Mudbaden claimed that patients came from “Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North and South Dakota as well as many other states reaching to the Pacific and Canadian provinces.”

In 1913, Dr. Larsen bought out O.J. Rosendahl’s half interest in Mudbaden and continued to build, adding new summer cottages and electric lighting. Then, in 1914, Dr. Larsen sold his interest in the sanitarium for \$100,000 to a corporation organized under the name “Mudbaden Sulphur Springs Company.” The new owners began plans for construction of a modern building of steel, concrete, and brick at a cost of \$100,000. Patient capacity was increased to accommodate 200.

In 1915, the new facility was completed. It was 242 feet long, making the total length of the sanitarium 425 feet. There were four steam-heated sun porches and two open verandas. The main lobby and dining room were massive, well-lit halls. The lobby boasted two fireplaces and a high ceiling, beamed with quartered oak woodwork. At either end of the dining room were mullioned windows. Diners were served from a large modern kitchen, and adjacent to the dining room was a 40 by 70 ft amusement hall.

When the new building was completed in 1915, a daily bus service began that connected Jordan, Minne-



Sulphur-laden hot mud was used to cover patients seeking remedies for their illnesses.

apolis, and Mudbaden. Transport from the Twin Cities cost only 75 cents each way.

Despite Mudbaden’s fancy new offerings, the base of the spa still rested in the mud. The sulfur-laden mud around the property was harvested each day and taken into the spa for use in treatments.

The health treatments at Mudbaden took place in “mud rooms” that were divided by gender. When patients went in for their treatment, they would be directed to mud tables. These were massive steel tables with a shallow basin on top where hot mud was placed three to six inches deep. As patients laid in the muck, additional mud was placed over them, covering their bodies except for their faces.

The goal of the treatment was to sweat in the sulfur-rich air. After the mud treatment, patients were rinsed in a large tub in the center of the room, and then wrapped in blankets and given sulfur-infused water to drink to increase their sweat. Finally, they were taken to a “cooling room” and given a massage. These treatments all took place in the morning, leaving the afternoons free for entertainment and relaxation.

Mudbaden continued to grow in size and popularity throughout the 1920s. By 1924, the facility had a medical staff of four doctors, four nurses, and one lab technician, as well as three massage specialists. The medical offerings of the resort expanded, adding an x-ray machine and two operating rooms. Forty-two other employees also lived on site, harvesting mud and providing hospitality services.

Mudbaden experienced a bit of a lag during the depression and years of World War II. By 1950, advances in modern medicine had, to many people’s minds, rendered the services offered at Mudbaden obsolete.

On July 1, 1952, Mudbaden closed its doors. The facility was purchased has changed hands several times since, used by The Sacred Heart Novitiate to train priests, and later as a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility.

Today, the former Mudbaden is known as the SCALE Regional Public Safety Training Facility. The buildings are used for training and education opportunities for law enforcement, firefighters, public works, and other public safety services. If you have the opportunity to attend a class or visit the facility, you can still see its former glory in graceful woodwork and large airy windows.



Mudbaden Sulphur Springs featured a lovely dining room with mullioned windows. The main lobby featured two fireplaces and a high ceiling, beamed with quartered oak woodwork. There were four heated sun porches and two open verandas. These features were preserved as the building later saw multiple owners, and they are still seen at the SCALE Regional Public Safety Training Facility, its current use.

Partnership helps eradicate noxious weeds

For the last two years, massive efforts for noxious weed removal have been underway in Scott County.

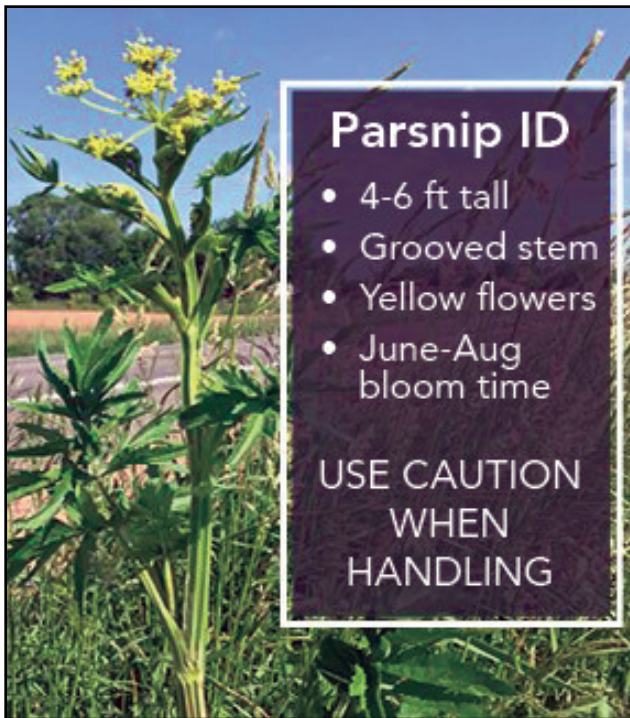
In 2014, the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SSWCD), Scott County Parks Department, Scott County Highway Department, and County townships partnered to create the Scott Cooperative Weed Management Area (SCWMA). A five-year strategic plan was enacted to enhance and preserve the economic, aesthetic, wildlife, and recreational value of open space in Scott County by controlling the establishment and spread of noxious and invasive species.

“Early on, we had great partners who put in the time to stop things before they got out of control. We knew we wanted to focus on monitoring the noxious weeds on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s ‘Prohibited’ list,” said Meghan Darley, Natural Resource Specialist with the SSWCD. “That meant targeting things like wild parsnip first.”

The first step for the SCWMA was to locate invasive species along county roads and highways—wild parsnip in particular. Parsnip is considered a prohibited weed due to its aggressive spread and toxic sap that causes skin burns when in contact with sunlight.

A data-collection program was developed to document all weeds along public roads in 2017 and 2018. With that data, over 100 miles of weeds, 12 different weed species, and 30 miles of wild parsnip were identified.

The SCWMA then came up with a plan for eradication. From 2019 to 2020, various herbicide sprayings and mowings were conducted on all parsnip sightings.



With the two years of effort, the SCWMA has successfully treated all 30 miles of wild parsnip from county roads.

While the SCWMA program has seen massive success, the program at this time does not receive stable, annual funding. If the program is not funded for even one year, significant setbacks could take place. “We

have a good grip on the weeds right now. But we need to keep being proactive if we don’t want to see all our progress go to waste. Future maintenance will be easy, but necessary,” Darley explains.

The SCWMA is currently looking to secure annual funding from its partners.

The Scott SWCD wants to help in your weed removal process. Management assistance is free, and resources may be available to help remove noxious weeds on your property. If you think you have noxious weeds on your property, or if you have any questions about other weeds or invasive species, give the Scott SWCD office a call at 952-492-5425.



Meghan Darley of the SWCD stands with a map of all eradicated wild parsnip in Scott County.

Government Center West From Page 1

The new building was built on the site of an existing parking lot, so additional parking had to be secured. An agreement with two nearby churches allowed the use of their lots during the construction phase, although parking became less of a problem when the pandemic started and many County staff began working remotely.

Government Center East and the Justice Center will both undergo renovations as part of the overall building project. This will require various departments/staff and the services offered to temporarily move to the Government Center West building. For example, the County Board meetings will be held in various locations throughout the remainder of construction. (See page 2 for the current schedule.) The Customer Service counter, which handles such services as vehicle registrations, birth certificates, marriage licenses, and passports, will also temporarily move to the first floor of the new building. Those services are still being offered by appointment only through the County’s website at www.scottcountymn.gov due to the pandemic, but watch the website, local newspapers, and social media for updates on expected changes coming soon. To facilitate the move, the customer counter and services mentioned above will be shut down for a short period of time in early April.

The Scott County Mental Health Center will move to the Lower Level of the new building in mid-April, with its own entrance off of 4th Avenue. New therapy rooms feature special, calming lighting and adequate space for individual and group sessions. Children’s Services, Home and Community Care, Adult Protection, Developmental Disabilities, Child Support, Public Health, Community Corrections, and Veterans Services will all be moving this spring. The public intake area for Human Services will be located on the first floor of the new building, but appointments will still be needed until further notice because of the pandemic. Economic Assistance will not be relocating from the Workforce Development Center to Government Center West until February/March 2022.

A new Women Infants and Children (WIC) Center is scheduled to open on the first floor of the new building in January 2022, according to Public Health Director Lisa Brodsky, who is excited to



Shown above is one of several staff kitchenettes located in the new Scott County Government Center West building. Below, staff looks over a space that will be used for various meetings.



have all of the currently scattered public health staff in one location. “The move will enable us to align our early childhood programs with immunizations and WIC, thus making them more accessible to the public,” she said. The new space includes a special waiting area designed especially for children.

To accommodate the addition of two new courtrooms and a large jury assembly room in the Justice Center, the County Attorney’s office will be relocated to the third floor of the new building and the Community Corrections department will be relocating to the second floor of the new building. A convenient walkway, on the third floor, connects the existing Justice Center and Government Center West. A new holding cell area in the lower level of Government Center

West will securely hold prisoners awaiting trials. This new holding cell area will reduce staffing needs and increase the overall efficiency within the courts. Since the new building and remodeling projects came in under budget, the lower level Government Center West was excavated for the holding cell area, storage, and future space. Savings also funded a fully functioning courtroom to be built out on the third floor of the Law Enforcement Center across the street from the Justice Center. This new courtroom will be used for preliminary hearings for individuals who are being held in the Law Enforcement Center.

“The favorable bids and interest rate we received allowed us to complete several other projects that will serve us well into the future,” said Vermillion.

Initially, the offices on the first and second floors of the current Government Center East building, such as Administration, Taxes and Land Records, Community Development, Human Resources, and administration, will be moved to the second floor of the new building, temporarily. Most will move back after remodeling is completed, and highway engineers, planners, and administrative staff now housed at the Public Works Building will join Community Services (Building Inspections, Parks, Planning and Zoning, and Environmental Health) on the third floor of the remodeled building. The Workforce Center staff currently located off Canterbury Road will move to the new building, and the Anchor Center will move to the newly renovated Government Center East in February/March 2022. The County then plans to sell its space which adjoins the CAP Agency at the Canterbury Road location.

In addition, the County partnered with the City of Shakopee to ensure adequate parking for additional staff and public was accounted for as part of the new Government Center West project. The County also worked closely with the City to install an underground water retention system under one of the County owned parking lots. This will allow for proper regulation of water flow during high peak times – as well as additional filtration prior to the storm water entering the river system.

“The success of the project can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of the County staff, working closely with the project team,” said Dustin Kruger, Scott County’s Facilities Project Manager who oversees all capital building projects for Scott County. “There are several moving parts on a project of this scale, and careful consideration of how the staff and public are impacted during construction remains at the forefront of all decisions/work being completed.”

Kruger has worked directly with each department in Scott County to ensure staff have remained involved throughout the design process, construction, and now the relocation process – whether that be temporary or permanent.

“It’s a big project, but we don’t expect to need more space until at least 2040,” said Vermillion. “We’re happy to see it being delivered on time and on budget.”