

Let's ride!

Murphy Hanrehan park has facilities for horseback riding. See Page 9.

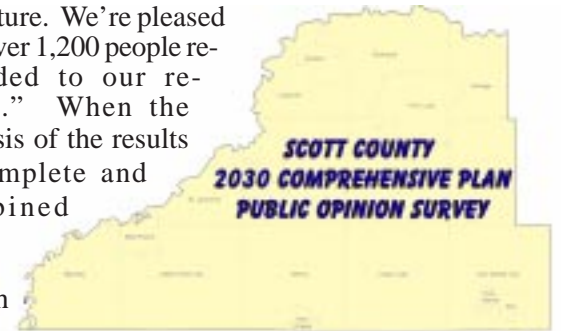
Survey results nearly completed; 1,200 property owners respond

Within a three-week interval this winter, over 1,200 Scott County property owners responded to a post-card request sent by Scott County Community Development – a request to spend a few minutes answering fifty questions about Scott County. Fifty questions about land use concerns and considerations, the transportation needs and transit goals, environmental protection efforts and emerging policy issues – all which relate directly to the upcoming 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update process.

The survey, which was administered on-line and managed through the issuance of parcel-specific access codes, represented one of the most ambitious and large-scale requests for public input in the County's history. While the survey itself did not allow for conventional statistical controls (such as advanced randomized sampling methods and the elimination of self-selection bias), it did give all property owners the opportunity to weigh in on such questions as: "Where should the County focus its transportation investments?" and "Would you support or oppose encouraging community septic systems in the rural areas of Scott County?". In addition, other public issues – such as community services, economic development, and environmental initiatives – that affect land use and development patterns were addressed through the survey questions.

"In short," said Scott County Principal Planner Tom Kreykes, "we were asking for a snapshot of our property owners' preferences, concerns, and ideas for the future. We're pleased that over 1,200 people responded to our request." When the analysis of the results is complete and combined with the growth and development issues identified by city and township officials during last year's public workshops, Community Development staff will have a solid foundation with which to identify areas for further consideration and possible policy discussion.

While the analysis of the results is still in the preliminary stage, several important issues and trends have already emerged from the data: First, the respondents – with few significant exceptions – tended to reflect the current population makeup of the County (for ex-



New day services offered for vulnerable adults

Dignity. Security. Energy. Purpose. Community. Activity. Friendship. Humanity.

Lovely words, all. But for Peggy Gaard and Gail Skoglund – Executive Directors of SarahCare® Minnesota – these words aren't merely nice concepts, they're principles.

Most people, and most Americans in particular, don't eagerly anticipate growing older. But in an era where people are living longer, and staying healthier, the myths and mystery that surround the aging process are slowly eroding... with the help of dedicated professionals like Peggy and Gail.

The philosophy that drives SarahCare®, an adult day service center which opened locally last summer, is that people are unique individuals as well as members of a larger community. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, adult day facilities such as SarahCare® "... provide social


activities and health care services for adults with physical difficulties or cognitive impairments, [which] can improve the quality of life of those who attend and help each person function at their best." And while adult day services are still primarily used by seniors, all adults who require daily supervision or assistance can benefit. Moreover, while the vast majority of SarahCare® clients either live at home or with a primary caregiver, their programs and services are open to those who live in assisted living or group facilities as well.

One meeting with Peggy and Gail, who have a combined 35 years of expertise and experience in adult day programs, leaves no question as to their enthusiasm over this new facility in Savage. And it's fairly easy to see why: upon entering this expansive center, it doesn't feel clinical. It doesn't feel sad. It feels like... home. A really nice home. From SarahCare to page 14



SarahCare, an adult day service center in Savage, features many amenities, including a cafe (partially shown above), fireplace, hair salon, indoor recreational and craft opportunities, and physical, occupational, music, and pet therapy.

Dolls provide smiles
New Options' doll project makes the world's children smile.
Page 8



Ready to hop a bus?
A recently completed survey indicates County residents want improved transit options.
Page 3

Scott County Jail -- a look back
The County Jail has evolved from an eight-cell jail in 1880 to a modern facility with 400 cells.
Page 15

Top of the SCENE

By Dave Unmacht
Scott County Administrator



A transformation of our culture

On Saturday, March 12, I walked for the umpteenth time in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Belle Plaine. My wife's family (the Dalys and Devines) is proud of their Irish ancestry. All four sides of her family descend from Ireland; all four of my grandparents heralded directly from Germany. (I have long since given up the argument why a full-blooded German should be walking in an Irish parade – my symbolic protest to wear red failed miserably to impress anyone.) The celebration in Belle Plaine each year is typical of countless community celebrations across our country, honoring various cultural origins, history, and heritage.

Throughout the 150 years of Scott County's history, we have long been recognized as a center of Irish, German, and Czech ancestry. A quick glance at many familiar names and you find Murphy, Wolf, O'Brien, Theis, Menden, Hennen, Fogarty, Bohnsack, Sticha, Tupy, and Kubes. These names — and many others — have long dominated the white pages of our phone directories. Generations of family members have been born and raised in Scott County, reared to honor and recognize their ancestry and to be proud to call Scott County their home. Many third, fourth, and even fifth-generation families continue to live and settle in neighborhoods and communities not too far from their original birthplace. Yet as Scott County continues to grow, more new families are settling here and our landscape, people, and communities are changing before our eyes.

It is amazing and exciting to witness the transformation of our culture first hand. This experience is certainly not unique to Scott County; listening to stories told by my father-in-law Tom Devine about the differences between the German Catholic and the Irish Catholic churches gave me a great understanding of how challenging it has always been to merge cultures and communities. Yet in many respects, we are experiencing what is commonly considered a uniquely *American* phenomenon: we are, after all, a nation of immigrants. The integration of different cultures and ethnicities within an established – and likely homogenous – community is the story of our last two hundred years. One need only spend a few minutes inside the “link” of the Scott County Government Center (the main lobby area) and you can witness how the face of Scott County is changing.

New individuals and families are moving to Scott County to discover what our predecessors sought: opportunity, liberty, and self-sufficiency. Today's new citizens – Latinos, Russians, Somalians, Vietnamese, to name a mere few — are now adding names such as Lopez, Sanchez, Tabakov, Ali, and Tang to our local telephone books. Is it really that surprising that they, too, are learning and discovering what we already know? The United States, the state of Minnesota, Scott County, and all our local communities represent a welcome center – an embassy, if you will — for different cultures, histories, traditions, and perspectives.

It is not hard to feel the influence of our diversifying culture already. Drive through the business community in Shakopee, and you will see new businesses – businesses like El Burrito Mercado — that have emerged. Spend a few minutes at the local health club, and it is common to hear a group of young men of Russian descent talking and laughing. Drive by a local church and don't be surprised if you cannot read the exterior sign announcing the name of the church and the time of the services.

Yet, just as most of our new residents become established, prominent, and active in our community, many need a bit of help. State, county, and municipal services are available to help and provide support to *all* citizens. As our population grows, we do see the importance of providing assistance to the neediest families who are just getting started or, for whatever reason, are struggling. We see new residents having difficulty understanding the prevailing culture, seeking employment opportunities, speaking English, and finding their way in their new world. What we take for granted, they are learning anew. What is second nature to us is just out of their reach. What we accept as “customary” is truly foreign to them. And, frequently, what we have long forgotten – the bicentennial celebrations, the intermittent flooding of the Minnesota River valley, the local inductee to the amateur baseball hall of fame – are the subjects of immense interest for our new friends and neighbors.

So, how can we fully understand what it is these new residents are experiencing? The oft-used phrase “put yourself in their shoes” might be the most reliable way to grasp the challenges and opportunities that our new citizens are going through. Imagine that you and your family are leaving all you know and moving to Mexico City, Minsk, Mogadishu, or Hanoi. Imagine that you know little, if anything, about the language, the culture, the history, the politics... even the food. Now imagine that you need to find a place to live, a place to work, a place to educate your children... frankly, it's almost impossible for me to fathom. But for a few mindful moments, I can try to walk in their shoes.

The question for our legacy is not only experiencing the cultural transformation, but what we do as citizens and communities to make it successful for everyone. That will be how we will be judged by our future generations.

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. We encourage you to contact Lisa Kohner, Scott County Public Affairs Coordinator, at 952-496-8780 or lkohner@co.scott.mn.us if you have questions you would like answered or a suggestion for a future topic. All questions will be promptly answered.

Commissioners' Corner

County Board Meetings Through June

April 12	—	County Board meeting
April 19	—	no meeting
April 26	—	County Board meeting
May 3	—	County Board meeting
May 10	—	County Board meeting
May 17	—	no meeting; County Board satellite visit
May 24	—	County Board meeting; Community Health Board meeting
May 31	—	no meeting; County Board workshop
June 7	—	County Board meeting
June 14	—	County Board meeting; Board of Equalization meeting
June 21	—	no meeting
June 28	—	County Board meeting

The Scott County Board meets at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays (except if indicated above) at the Government Center in Shakopee. The Board proceedings are re-broadcast on your local government access cable channels. Please refer to your weekly newspapers for broadcast dates and times. If you wish to obtain a copy of the Board meeting in VHS or DVD format, please call the Scott County Administration office at (952) 496-8100; there will be a slight charge. Additionally, Board agenda, meeting minutes, and “Board Brief” summaries are available on the County's website at www.co.scott.mn.us, or by calling Recording Secretary Tracy Cervenka at (952) 496-8164.

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, please contact Recording Secretary Tracy Cervenka at tcervenka@co.scott.mn.us or at (952) 496-8164.

Board of Adjustment and Planning Advisory Commission (2 vacancies).

This Committee consists of one member from each Commissioners District, and two at-large members. Currently, there are vacancies in Commissioner Districts 3 and 5. The purpose of the Planning Advisory Commission and the Board of Adjustment is to prepare and recommend amendments to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan in the townships; review all applications for conditional use permits, interim use permits, variances, plans for subdivisions of land, and amendments; and to make recommendations for approval or denial to the County Board. This Commission meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Human Services Resource Council (3 vacancies). The Resource Council consists of three representatives from each Commissioner District. Currently, there are vacancies in Commissioner Districts 2, 3, and 5. The Resource Council participates in the formation of the Strategic Plan for the development, implementation, and operation of programs and services of the County Board; makes recommendations concerning the annual budget of the Community Services Division; develops and recommends 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. The Resource Council meets quarterly on the third Monday of the first month of each quarter at 7:00 p.m.

Community Health Advisory Committee (4 vacancies). There are currently three at-large vacancies and one youth at-large vacancy on this Committee. This is a subcommittee of the Human Services Resource Council. The Committee helps with planning and community integration of public health services and make policy and budget recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The Committee meets four times per year.

University of Minnesota – Scott County Extension Committee (1 vacancy).

This Committee consists of one representative from each of the Commissioner Districts, and one at-large youth member. Currently, there is a vacancy in Commissioner District 5. 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. Meets five times per year.

Commissioner Districts:

District 1 – Jackson, Louisville, St. Lawrence, Sand Creek, Blakeley, Belle Plaine, and Helena Townships; and the cities of Jordan, Belle Plaine, and the portion of New Prague within Scott County.

District 2 – Spring Lake, Credit River, Cedar Lake, and New Market Townships; and the cities of Elko, New Market, and precinct 6 in the City of Savage.

District 3 – The City of Shakopee precincts 1-6, 8, and 10

District 4 – The City of Prior Lake, and precincts 7, 9, 11, and 12 in the City of Shakopee.

District 5 – The City of Savage, except precinct 6.

The Scott County SCENE is produced in part with funding from the Office of Environmental Assistance. It is printed on recycled paper. Please recycle it again.



Study shows residents want improved transit services

There are a lot of exciting things happening with Scott County Transit! One of the program's top priorities was the creation of the Unified Transit Management Plan (UTMP), a comprehensive study evaluating *all* of the public transit services operating in Scott County. This study was conducted cooperatively by the Cities of Prior Lake, Savage, and Shakopee, Scott County Transit, Metropolitan Council, Scott County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

One of the questions addressed by the UTMP was what types of improved transit services should be provided. To answer this, interviews with business and community leaders and several riders and non-riders were conducted. A general consensus emerged; citizens wanted:

- ... coordinated transit services;
- ... improved services;
- ... better equipment;
- ... better signage at bus stops and park-n-ride lots; and
- ... more marketing and public education.

Other improvements that have been identified so far in the study include:

- ... commuter services to major



To find out more about transit services available in Scott County, call (952) 496-8341.

employment locations;

- ... local fixed route services connecting the major communities within Scott County;

- ... commuter and other express services from downtown Minneapolis to the major entertainment attractions in Scott County; and

- ... improved dial-a-ride services connecting the rural portions of the

County with major transit services.

Scott County Transit is very anxious to see the final recommendations from the study, which is expected to be completed in April 2005.

Another top priority is the possibility of becoming the primary transit provider for citizens that conform to Americans Disabilities Act (ADA). Due to the

recent addition of the fixed route service from Shakopee to the Burnsville Transit Station, Metro Mobility is obligated to provide ADA services that connect to these routes. Typically, it is more cost-effective to contract with the local transit provider, so Metro Mobility is discussing with Scott County Transit the possibilities of providing this service. If Scott County Transit would become the certified ADA provider, our residents would see many positive changes, including:

- ... becoming part of the regional fare structure;
- ... reducing one-way fares connecting to the Metro region;
- ... better transit services for our seniors and persons with disabilities; and
- ... additional revenue sources.

Last — but not least — Scott County Transit has replaced many of the older vehicles with newer ones designed for passenger safety and comfort. They have also changed the vehicles' appearance so that they will be more identifiable to the general public.

As always, Scott County Transit looks forward to providing you with quality services. To contact them, you may call their customer service agents at (952) 496-8341. *See you on the bus!*

Library News

Friends of the Library help with programs, fundraising, events

If you've visited any of the new library buildings in Scott County, if your child has used one of the children's computers or participated in the Summer Reading Program, if you've ever found that perfect book at a library book sale... you've been a beneficiary of the Friends of the Library. Each of the seven branch libraries in Scott County have a Friends of the Library that serves as one link between the community and the library. Our Friends donate untold hours of time each year to our libraries.

Although the Friends of the Library are not an "official" part of the library, everything that they do is in cooperation with the Library Board of Trustees and the Library Director. In fact, they're a vital resource for the libraries: They raise funds to supplement the regular library budget and to raise awareness of the library. They have book sales... lots of book sales. Recently, our Friends recently worked together to produce a cookbook. They also work with local businesses and service groups to purchase artwork, computers, and other items that are not included in the Library's budget. They may write grants and solicit foundations for support. Our Friends in all of the libraries have purchased children's workstations for use by the community. They help the libraries purchase paper and other supplies that are used for storytime and for special occasions. They participate in the Summer Reading Program, providing prizes, parties, and programs. The New Prague Friends of the Library have worked closely with the librarians to purchase craft kits and to assist with storytime for many years, and the Jordan Friends have sponsored children's programs during the year.

Our Friends of the Library have worked tirelessly to champion new li-

brary buildings, sometimes for more than 20 years. In Belle Plaine, the Friends of the Library have used charitable gaming to help the City pay for

To find out how to become involved with your local Friends of the Library chapter, contact your library.

the new library building. The Prior Lake Friends of the Library paid for a successful referendum that resulted in new parks, new ball fields, and the new library building. Our Friends in Savage and Prior Lake have been successful in purchasing artwork for their libraries that is representative of their community and produced by local artists.

Our Friends of the Library help with library programs, open houses, and special events. They have sponsored author programs, provided refreshments, and acted as hostesses and hosts. All of our Friends have helped us celebrate our history in quilts, and right now they have been a part of celebrating the diversity in Scott County. Our Friends help introduce the community to the library. The Shakopee Friends sponsored a series of programs featuring local authors to help celebrate the opening of the new library building. Our Friends have helped us be a presence in community events, showcases, and parades. And this barely begins to tell the whole story. It would be impossible to enumerate all that they do for the Scott County Library System and all of its patrons. Wouldn't it be great if everyone could have Friends like these?

ATTENTION TAXPAYERS

Scott County has several tax payment options for your convenience!

While no one is ever really thrilled to pay property taxes, Scott County is trying to make it a little more convenient for everyone... here are a few options for you:

- ◆ **You can make a payment at the Customer Service Counter at the Scott County Government Center:**

Open Mondays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- ◆ **You can drop off your tax payment from your car:**

You can **drive up** to the designated area near the entry of the Government Center on **Monday May 16th** (since the 15th is on Sunday) and not even leave your car.

- ◆ **You can drop your tax payment off during or after hours:** *Tax payment drop boxes are located...*

Inside the Government Center in front of Customer Service and near the front receptionist desk.

Outside the Government Center from May 2-16.

At all Scott County Libraries from May 9 -16. (Please check local libraries for hours.)

- ◆ **You can make a direct payment:**

You can also have your property taxes **automatically deducted** from your checking or savings account on the due dates that are shown on your tax payment stubs. For more information on direct deposit, call (952) 496-8153.



You can drive up to the front entry of the Scott County Government Center on Monday, May 16 to pay your property taxes.

What might be causing the decline of amphibians?

Over the last few decades, a number of amphibians, commonly known as frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts have declined dramatically while some have even become extinct. In many cases, these declines can be linked to human activities such as deforestation, draining of wetlands, and pollution. In 1988, however, herpetologists (scientists who study amphibians and reptiles) from many parts of the world reported declines in amphibian populations in areas where one would think these animals would be protected, including national parks and nature reserves. This could mean that there may be one or more global factors that are affecting amphibians. But why does it matter if amphibians are declining?

The loss of plant and animal life should be a cause of concern to all of us. Many, if not most, groups of life on earth are declining as well. As we modify our environment for our own ends, the destruction of the habitats of other species leads directly to their disappearance. However, more recently, we have begun to observe more subtle impacts of human activities on a global level. Depleted ozone levels; pollutants accumulating in the natural systems on which we and other organisms depend; potentially altering weather patterns; spreading wildlife diseases, and non-indigenous species being disseminated around the world, out-competing the native species. It is possible that amphibians are responding unfavorably to these slow -- albeit important -- changes.

There are several theories for recent amphibian declines that can be broken down into two major categories. The first category includes habitat destruction, alteration of the environment, introduced species, and over-exploitation (like poaching or legally over-harvesting). In this category, scientists have a better understanding of what is causing the declines. The second category is more complex; Amphibians have also declined in relatively "pristine" environments. The more complicated issues may include climate change,



increased UV radiation, and chemical pollution. The connection between loss of species and these global problems is more complex. It's difficult to point out a single cause, as it may be a combination of global issues causing the decline.

Frogs, newts, and other amphibians are becoming threatened worldwide, and their rapid decline appears to be worsening. Scientists are observing unprecedented levels of decline and extinctions. There is a variety of reasons for some of the losses, while others remain a mystery. Amphibians have permeable skin.

Oxygen can be taken in through this skin -- so if something is in the water, the chemical could enter the animal. Amphibians may be a type of warning system, like the canaries that miners used to take with them to test for dangerous gases that can occur in mines. If the bird died in the mine, then the air was not considered safe for humans.

Other declines remain mysterious as well. Declines have taken place even within well-protected areas, such as Yosemite National Park in California and parks around the world. Some studies have associated these unexpected declines with a fungal disease that tends to occur at higher elevations and stream-side locations. The subtle effects of climate change may also be at work. Also, the use of pesticides may be a factor if they are soluble in water, since that is where the amphibians live. Banning the use of a widely used pesticide may not be popular in Minnesota where a large part of the economy is agricultural.

A California scientist was removed as a keynote speaker at the 2005 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) environmental conference because of his latest research on pesticide's relationship to frog abnormalities. Professor Tyrone Hayes of the University of California at Berkeley said, "Initially, before the MPCA uninvited me, they asked if I would remove the words 'Atrazine' and 'pesticide' from the title of my talk, and of course, I refused to do that because that's what I work on." Another keynote speaker was brought in to replace Professor Hayes at



the MPCA conference.

However, Professor Hayes did get an opportunity to speak in Minnesota when he provided the keynote address at the January 22, 2005 meeting of the Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota (EJAM) at the Minneapolis Urban League. Minnesota State Rep. Keith Ellison, a member of EJAM said, "We believe it's important that the public get a chance to hear about his research linking the pesticide Atrazine to frog abnormalities." As a result, Ellison planned on introducing legislation in the 2005 session that would ban the use of Atrazine in Minnesota. "Atrazine is already banned in the European Union due to groundwater contamination and there are a number of respected environmental organizations calling for a ban in the U.S.," Ellison said.

Currently, Minnesota has 20 species of amphibians, including 14 frogs and toads and six salamanders. One of these species, the Northern Cricket Frog, is considered an endangered species in Minnesota. The Minnesota Frog and Toad Calling Survey (MFTCS) was developed in response to concern over the potential for population declines in Minnesota's frogs and toads. Volunteers throughout the state have helped the MFTCS program to grow and be successful. However, there are areas in the state that still need volunteers to run MFTCS routes. Volunteers do not capture or handle frogs but instead, listen to the frog calls at night along their assigned route. The MFTCS data analysis continues,



and with more years of data collection it will be possible to evaluate if species are declining or changing in distribution in Minnesota.

This article was compiled using various websites including Minnesota Environmental Partnership, Duluth News Tribune, Organic Consumers Association, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Minnesota DNR, and Insight News.

Tips to help reduce your need for pesticides

The word "pesticide" is a commonly-used term that collectively includes chemicals such as insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and rodenticides. Pesticides are designed to kill a wide range of organisms, including insects, weeds, molds, and rodents. Obviously, in order to perform that task, they must be toxic to the target organism in some way. Because of this toxic characteristic, they may pose a real danger to animals and humans, and *especially* children. In an effort to keep our families safe, we should try to reduce the use of pesticides in and around our homes. But how? One important fact to remember is this: all pests need three things to survive. They need food, water, and a place to live. By depriving them of any one of these three essentials, we can improve the odds that they will not dwell in our homes or yards.

In Your Home -- The best way to control pests such as bugs or rodents within your home is to keep them out in the first place. Seal any cracks or gaps around your doors or windows with caulk and/or weather-stripping. Check your foundation for cracks or spaces. This will help to remove any easy paths of entry into your home. By eliminating easy access to food and/or water, your home will be less attractive to these pests. Clean up crumbs and spills quickly, and store your food in tightly

sealed containers. Repair plumbing leaks or damp basements, as they can provide an essential source of water for insects.

In Your Yard - A strong and healthy lawn is the best defense against pests in your yard. Keeping your grass at least 2 1/2 to 3 inches tall is perhaps the single most important thing you can do to improve the health of your lawn. By keeping your grass a little longer, you will promote the growth of strong and deep roots, and help to shade the soil. This will reduce the need for watering during dry periods, and make it more difficult for weeds to become established in your lawn. Leave the grass clippings on your lawn when you mow, as they will break down and provide nutrients for your lawn. Making sure your mower blade is clean and sharp will keep your lawn looking greener, and will reduce the risk of disease.

Try to water your lawn less frequently, but for longer periods of time. During dry periods that last longer than a few weeks, water your lawn once a week and make sure it receives a good soaking of at least 1 inch of water. The best time to water your lawn is early in the morning. If you water during the heat of the day, most of that water will be lost to evaporation, while evening watering can lead to disease problems in your lawn.

If you are thinking of applying a fertilizer, consider having your soil tested first. The U of M Soil Testing Lab offers such a test (for just over \$10), as will most area garden centers. When it comes to applying lawn fertilizer, remember the old adage: "make sure you know why before you apply." By knowing which nutrients are in short supply within your soil, you can give your lawn exactly the amount and type that it needs and avoid causing excess nutrient runoff. Careless use of fertilizers (especially those that are high in phosphorus) can cause pollution of nearby lakes, streams, and rivers. Apply your fertilizer in the fall, around the middle of October. At that time of year, the nutrients will be taken up and stored in the plant so they can provide a healthy burst of growth in the spring. Follow label instructions to ensure best results.

If you have bare spots in your yard (or the grass is thin throughout your lawn), reseed or over-seed in early spring or near the end of August. If salt from your sidewalk or driveway has caused dead areas, consider reseeding with a more salt-tolerant variety. Always be sure to plant varieties that are adapted for our climate and your soil type.

Controlling weeds is an ongoing struggle. September is the best time of the year to treat weeds such as dandelions, creeping Charlie, plantain, and other broadleaf perennial weeds. Of course,

the best defense against weeds is a thick and healthy lawn. Controlling your weeds may be as simple as adjusting your lawn care practices. If there is only a small number of weeds present, consider removing them by hand rather than reaching for a herbicide. If your number of weeds is a bit larger, you may want to be creative: Imagine your potentially phenomenal success in weed removal by giving your teenager a dandelion remover and a promise to pay a nickel per dandelion.

Aerate your lawn if your soil is compacted or if you have a significant thatch build-up. You can find lawn aerators at most rental stores. They will remove a small core of soil from the ground and place that core on the lawn surface. The cores will decompose naturally while also helping to decrease your thatch, and the holes poked in the ground will improve your soil aeration.

By following these simple steps, you could end up with one of the greenest yards on your block -- along with a pest-free home. And all of this can be accomplished while protecting your family's health by reducing your use of pesticides!

Keep reading the Scott County SCENE for more information on reducing waste and toxic chemicals in your day-to-day life.

Small businesses used fluorescent, HID lamp collection set for May 10

To help small businesses properly recycle used fluorescent lamps, bulbs or tubes, there will be a used **fluorescent lamp collection held on Tuesday, May 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Scott County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility. The Scott County HHW Facility is located at 588 Country Trail East (Highway 282), just ½ mile west of the intersection of County Road 17 and MN Highways 13 and 282.**

Scott County is not directly involved in the actual collection event. This collection is being held in the parking lot of the Scott County HHW Facility because Retrofit Recycling asked Scott County if they could provide a central location in order to make it easy and convenient for local businesses to participate in the program. These collections represent a one-time recycling opportunity which may not be repeated at this location in the future.

Businesses will once again be charged low rates for the disposal of their various items. Payment will be required at the time of collection (payable by check to "Retrofit Recycling"). If possible, transport your used lamps to the collection in their original cartons (or similar containers) as this will help to minimize or prevent breakage. Broken lamps are considerably more expensive to recycle. In addition, when the lamps break, harmful mercury vapor is released into the air.

As in the past, several local utility companies have agreed to pay for the disposal of the first 10 lamps from any of their commercial and/or industrial customers (at no cost to you). Be sure to bring proof of your business account,

such as a billing statement or receipt, to show that you have an account with either Minnesota Valley Electric (MVEC), the New Prague Utilities Commission, Shakopee Public Utilities, or Xcel Energy (formerly NSP).

This collection offers an affordable option for businesses to properly dispose of fluorescent and HID lamps. Partici-



pation by local units of government, churches and other non-profit or civic groups is strongly encouraged.

If you have large quantities (over 1000 lamps), please contact Retrofit Recycling Inc. directly at 1-800-274-1309 to arrange for a pickup at your location. For more information on business waste management and disposal, please call Scott County Environmental Health at (952) 496-8475. You can also visit our web page at www.co.scott.mn.us and then click on County Services, Environmental, Hazardous Waste, and finally 2005 Small Business Used Fluorescent Lamp Collections to learn more about these fluorescent lamp collection events.

Please note: This collection event is the only time this year that business waste of any kind will be accepted at the Scott County Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Questions about wells? Minnesota Department of Health has answers

The Scott County Environmental Health Department is frequently contacted by homeowners seeking private well information and assistance on well disclosures for the sale or transfer of property.

Individual well information available online

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) regulates well water, including the drilling of wells, in Scott County. The MDH now has private well information available on their website, called CWI Online. The CWI (or County Well Index), database contains basic information, such as location, depth, and static water level for wells drilled in Minnesota. The database contains construction and geological information from the well log for many wells. CWI Online also provides mapping of wells onto aerial photos, allowing users to visually identify well locations. For more information on CWI Online go to www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/cwi/index.html.

Well disclosure for property transfer

Well disclosure is the process by which the seller of property provides information to the buyer and the state about the location and status of all wells

on the property. This process is required by state law.

Before signing an agreement to sell or transfer real property, the seller must disclose in writing to the buyer information about the status and location of all known wells on the property. The well disclosure statement includes:

1. The legal description and county;
2. A map showing the location of each well; and
3. Whether each well is in use, not in use, or sealed. In the February/March issue of the *SCENE*, it was mistakenly reported that the Scott County SWCD and the Minnesota Department of Health have funding available to help with the cost of sealing your old well. Currently, this is not the case.

At the time of closing of the sale, the information on the well disclosure statement; the name and mailing address of the buyer; and the quarter, section, township, and range or lot, block, and addition name of the property must be provided on a Well Disclosure Certificate. The Certificate is available from many realtors or MDH.

For more information on well disclosure, visit the Department of Health website at www.health.state.mn.us or call them at (651) 215-5800.

Environmental SCENE

By Allen Frechette
Environmental Health Manager



Community Sewage Treatment Systems

Scott County amended its Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Sewage Treatment System Ordinance in 2001, introducing a new method in managing sewage from homes in rural developments. The new sewage treatment systems are called Community Sewage Treatment Systems, or CSTSs. There was one major developer in 2001 that was interested in this approach: Territory, the single largest rural residential development ever proposed in Scott County (and perhaps in Minnesota) not connected to a municipal sewage treatment system. Territory is under construction now with CSTSs permitted for several phases of their development. Since then, a number of other developments have been permitted with CSTSs. There hasn't been much information printed about such systems, so I thought I would use my space in this edition of the *SCENE* to explain the general concept.

Some of the technology for these systems has been around for years. For example, in Scott County we have three mobile home parks and several campgrounds that are served by large on-site sewage systems. These systems are essentially larger versions of a standard home individual sewage treatment system (or ISTS). Like just about everything these days, sewage treatment systems have improved over the years with advancing technology. The systems being constructed or proposed in Scott County now include additional treatment technology to "pre-treat" the sewage effluent following the standard septic tanks before it is pumped to soil infiltration systems. The pre-treatment being chosen in Scott County has focused on recirculating gravel filters and, more recently, a technology based on this concept but using a non-degradable fabric filter system where the sewage eating microorganisms live and consume the sewage nutrients. Just as it takes useful bacteria in our intestines to break down the food we eat and make the nutrients available to our cells, the bacteria work inside septic systems to further break down the sewage. This technology has been around for many years on a larger scale in municipal systems, and even swimming pool recirculating sand filters work somewhat on the same principle.

Scott County encouraged consideration of the CSTS concept by offering developers the option of more homes per acre of land developed. We did this because we recognized the advantages of a publicly managed sewage treatment system over individual systems. There are the obvious advantages of better use of limited land, as well as economies-of-scale to cover costs for roads and other infrastructure, but there is one more major advantage. Individual sewage treatment systems need to be maintained. Scott County has a program to remind people to maintain their systems, but only about 80 percent of the people even come close to properly maintaining their systems. We did not want an "ignore it until it fails" approach to grow because the cost for fixing a failed ISTS can be considerable, and sometimes -- where there is insufficient good soil -- they cannot be replaced at all, leaving only the exorbitant cost of pumping a holding tank regularly.

The new CSTSs will be managed by a township entity established under state law called a Subordinate Service District. Four townships have established such districts and hired professionals to manage the CSTSs under their control. The CSTSs can be monitored via the Internet, so when something isn't working properly, a state licensed professional will be alerted to check and resolve the problems. This is sort of like having a computer on your car connected to all vital components, alerting a professional mechanic via direct cell phone access whenever something isn't working properly -- and having the mechanic come to your home to fix your car during the evening without disrupting you. You are probably thinking, boy, this must be expensive. Truthfully, it is more expensive for the homeowners within one of these developments than it would be if they lived in a city connected to a municipal system. But, of course, there are other municipal costs they don't pay.

The neighborhoods that are served by these CSTSs are called "Open Space Design" developments, or OSD for short. An OSD must provide a specified amount of public open space, trails and other amenities. Some, like Territory, are providing elaborate club houses on the scale of a private country club, access to an adjacent golf course, regional trail system, and natural areas to enjoy wildlife and natural habitat.

HHW Facility busy in 2004

The numbers are in from last year, and the growth trend continues! During the last several years, the number of residents served each year by the Scott County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program has continued to increase, as has the amount of hazardous material that has been collected for recycling and disposal. In 2004, the Scott County HHW Program collected over 388,500 pounds of wastes and served a total of 3,303 residents. The cost to properly manage that waste was just over \$41 per participant.

The RE-USE Room also continues to grow in popularity. In 2004, Scott County residents took home almost 30,000 pounds of good, usable products

from the RE-USE Room. These products include paint, stain, varnish, automotive chemicals, household chemicals, and yard and garden products. Stop by and see what great items are available for FREE in our newly-expanded RE-USE Room!

The Scott County HHW Facility is open on Wednesday from 12 noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon (except on major holidays). The RE-USE Room will close 15 minutes earlier than the HHW Facility.

For more information on the Scott County HHW Facility and Program, visit our web page at www.co.scott.mn.us and then click on "Quick Links" and "Household Hazardous Waste."

Ten easy steps toward energy savings

Are you using too much energy to heat and cool your home? Are your utility bills growing too quickly? If you could reduce your energy consumption, you would realize an instant benefit by saving money on your energy bills each month. However, by reducing the amount of energy you consume, you will also produce positive results for the environment! Here are some simple steps that you can follow to save energy in your home or apartment.

Switch to compact fluorescents in your five most-used lights! While a compact fluorescent lamp may cost a bit more to purchase than a regular incandescent bulb (they will cost anywhere from \$2 to \$15



each), you will quickly recoup those costs. Studies have shown that compact fluorescent bulbs use at least two-thirds less energy and last six to 10 times longer than conventional

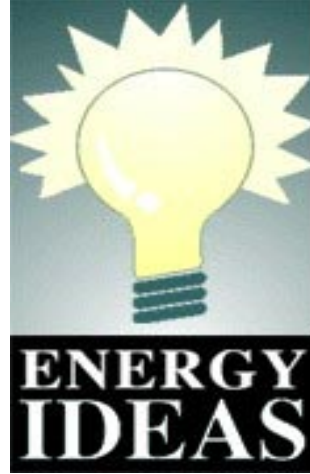
bulbs. In fact, a single compact fluorescent bulb will trim up to \$60 off your energy bill during its lifetime. In addition, some utility companies will refund part of your purchase price in an effort to promote energy efficiency within their system. After all, as you begin to use less energy, fewer costly upgrades and expansions are needed on their end.

Insulate your windows! If you don't have double-pane energy-efficient windows (and are unable to install them), consider putting up plastic. Window plastic kits cost as little as \$4 to \$6 per window, and are available in most hardware stores. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the pocket of air created between the plastic and your window serves as insulation, reducing your heat loss by 25 to 50 percent.

Use hot water efficiently! Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads. You will use less hot water, so you'll have to heat less water. The DOE reports that a low-flow showerhead can reduce the amount of water you must heat by around 20 gallons, without reducing the quality of your shower. A good low-flow showerhead might cost from \$10 to \$20, but you will

recover that in only three to four months with energy savings. Also, wash your clothes in cold water whenever possible, and wash full loads instead of partial loads. Set the thermostat on your water heater between 120 and 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Watch your appliances! Older appliances use a lot more energy, while newer "Energy Star" appliances use 10 to 50 percent less than the standard models. When cooking, reduce the urge to open the oven door and peek – doing so will reduce the temperature in the oven by around 25 degrees. Keep your refrigerator set at 36 to 38 degrees, and your freezer at 0 to 5 degrees. Don't overload your clothes dryer, don't over-dry your clothes, and don't mix heavy clothes (jeans) and lightweight articles in the same load. Be sure to clean your lint filter after each use so your dryer will operate more efficiently. Also, if you regularly use fabric softener sheets in your dryer, be sure to wash your lint filter every few months with warm soapy water and a soft brush (to help your dryer operate more efficiently and to reduce your risk of a fire). Remember, many household appliances draw power even when they are switched off, so unplugging them while they are not being used will save energy. Your computer should be set to "hibernate" when not in use.



Use your blinds and curtains! In the winter, open your window coverings during the day and let the sunshine in! Then shut them during the night to keep the heat in. During the summer, shade your windows during the day to reduce the solar heating of your home.

Pay attention to your thermostat! Set your thermostat at 68 degrees during the winter while you are home, and down to 60 degrees at night or when you are away from the home for more than a few hours. A programmable thermostat will help you with this task. For each degree that you set your thermostat below 70 in the winter, you will save up to 5 percent on your heat bill. In other words, by simply bumping your

thermostat down from 70 to 68, you will save up to 10 percent on your heating bill. The same thing occurs when you set your thermostat above 70 during the summer months. Your air conditioner works less hard to cool your home, and you will save money! By making these changes one degree at a time, you will find that the change is virtually unnoticeable...but the savings aren't!



Don't forget the sweater and fuzzy slippers! Before you turn up the thermostat on a cold winter day, ask yourself if you might be just as comfortable putting on an extra layer of clothes. Remember that tightly knit clothing is warmer than loose-knit, and wool is warmer than cotton.

Reduce drafts through windows and doors! It is estimated that you can cut your energy bills by 10 percent simply by sealing up air leaks in your home. Pay special attention around windows and where siding or bricks and wood trim meet. Caulking, sealant, and weather stripping should do the job, and are available at most hardware stores. Cute "draft blockers," which can be purchased at craft stores or fairs, can be very helpful with reducing winter wind infiltration.

Close doors and vents to unused rooms! Many of us live in houses that have more space than we need, and yet we continue to spend money heating that unused space. The DOE estimates that by closing the vents to just one spare bedroom in a five-bedroom house, you can cut your heating bills by up to 20 percent.

Insulate and ventilate your attic! If you are a homeowner, consider installing both additional insulation and additional ventilation in your attic. By reducing the amount of heat lost into your attic during the winter, you can greatly reduce the amount of energy you will use to heat your home. Increased ventilation in your attic will not only reduce your cooling costs in the summer, but it will also reduce the likelihood of ice dams forming on your roof in the winter (and, you will prevent the damage that ice dams can cause to your home).

West Nile Encephalitis is in Minnesota

West Nile Encephalitis is a viral disease transmitted to people and horses through the bite of an infected mosquito. West Nile virus (WNV) is cycled through one or more species of mosquitoes and birds. Current research is focusing on which mosquitoes and birds are most important in this cycle. WNV is usually found in Africa and southern Europe. The virus was first reported in North America during a 1999 outbreak of encephalitis in New York City.

How serious is West Nile virus?

Most people who are infected with WNV will have either no symptoms or a very mild illness. However, a small percentage of people -- especially elderly patients -- may develop encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). Approximately 10 percent of these encephalitis cases are fatal. Most of the severe human cases of WN encephalitis begin with sudden onset of fever, headache, stiff neck, and vomiting. The illness progresses quickly to include confusion and other mental status changes, altered reflexes, convulsions, and coma. There is no treatment for WN encephalitis other than supportive care. Approximately 33 percent of symptomatic horses are put down or die from WNV infections.

What is the risk of a West Nile Encephalitis outbreak in Minnesota?

Since 1999, WNV has moved rap-

idly to 47 states, the District of Columbia, 7 Canadian Provinces, 24 Mexican states, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, and the Cayman Islands. WNV

was first detected in Minnesota on July 23, 2002. During 2004, a total of 1,191 cases of human WNV illness were reported in 37 states across the United States; within Minnesota last year, there were 36 documented cases of WNV in humans, while 159 dead birds tested positive for the virus. With the abundant mosquito and bird populations that are present in Minnesota, it is expected that WNV will likely become permanently established here. Similar to other mosquito-transmitted diseases already established in this area (like La Crosse encephalitis, Western equine encephalitis, and Eastern equine encephalitis, for example), WNV will likely cause sporadic illness in humans and horses.

What can you do to prevent West Nile Encephalitis

Personal protection measures -- such as use of mosquito repellents, avoiding outdoor exposures at dusk and dawn (peak feeding times for many mosqui-



toes), and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants -- can reduce the risk of WN encephalitis. Removal of water-holding containers (mosquito breeding sites) from residential areas will reduce numbers of several mosquito species present near your home. There is a vaccine available for horses to prevent WN encephalitis. Please contact your veterinarian for their thoughts and recommendations regarding vaccine. A human WNV vaccine is still in development.

Can you help look for West Nile virus?

The first indication of WNV in an area is usually an outbreak of the disease in wild bird populations. Over 255 species of birds have been found to be infected, but dead American crows and blue jays are particularly affected in outbreak areas. If you find dead birds during the summer months (especially July-September), please report them to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). This year the MDH is offering a web-based dead bird reporting system. Simply visit the MDH webpage at www.health.state.mn.us, and then scroll down the menu to access the submission form. These submissions will be reviewed daily by MDH staff, and a small sample of birds will be collected for testing. If you are unable to report online, dead birds can also be reported over the phone at (612) 676-5055.



NOT recycling costs money and resources. Don't throw it in the trash... RECYCLE!

All licensed waste haulers in Scott county offer curbside recycling programs. Check with your hauler if you have any questions about recycling or composting.



Pet walk planned as fundraiser in New Prague

The First Annual *Pets for Nature Pet Walk* will be held **Saturday, May 7** at Southside Park in New Prague. The event is being held to raise funds for New Prague's walking paths. It is being sponsored by Vacation Pet and Plant Sitting, New Prague's first professional at-home pet sitting services.

What? The *Pets for Nature Pet Walk* is a fundraising event for New Prague's walking paths. Food, beverages, pet snacks, and pet products and services will be available – and there will be a participant raffle after the walk!

Who? Anyone who loves pets and enjoys nature is encouraged to participate!

When? Saturday, May 7, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – *rain or shine!*

Why? To enjoy Minnesota's beautiful spring, New Prague's wonderful park, to have fun with your pet, and to help keep New Prague's walking paths clean and delightful. Funds from the pet walk will purchase trees, benches, and litter receptacles.



Participant Rules:

- 1. Fees:** \$10 per pet. Please make checks payable to: City of New Prague (memo area: Pet Walk).
- 2. Register and check in** between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. at the Welcome Area (under the tent).
- 3. Pets must be current on their vaccinations.** Please be prepared to provide proof of current vaccinations.
- 4. Disclaimer Statement** must be signed at the check-in before the walk.
- 5. Dogs must be leashed at all times,** and the leashes no longer than 6 feet.
- 6. All walkers are required to use the roped-off exercise area** to relieve their pets. If your pet has an "accident" elsewhere in the park or along the walking route, **walkers must pick up after their pet.** Doggie bags will be provided.
- 7. Please keep your pet on the route path** and off personal property.
- 8. You must be present to win** at the participant raffle after the walk.

Dr. William Vollmar of the New Prague Veterinary Clinic will be on call for emergencies during the pet walk hours.

Parking is available in the Southside Park parking lot and on the street adjacent to the park.

Questions? Call Mona at (952) 758-4598.

Jordan Summer Festival seeks artists for juried show

An art festival, bike tour and picnic in the park will highlight the *Jordan Summer Festival* scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26 in historic downtown Jordan. The event is hosted by the Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce, with the art festival sponsored, in part, by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, and Pork in the Park Picnic sponsored by the Jordan Jaycees.

Area residents are invited to apply for participation in the second annual **Jordan Art Festival**. There was an enthusiastic response to the 2004 Festival, and this year's event promises to be an even more gala event. The **Jordan Art Festival** is a juried show for art and fine crafts.

Combined attendance is expected to be over 2,000. Extensive advertising will be provided. In addition, flyers will be provided for each artist to send to their own mailing list. There is no admission fee for spectators.

If you haven't visited Jordan, you can find out more about the community and events at www.jordanchamber.org.

The location of the Art Festival takes advantage of the city's charming 19th Century river town atmosphere. Outdoor spaces will be located in verandas, patios, parks, garden areas and various "green spaces." Sixty artists will have space for their displays.

For questions, please contact Maureen Carlson, Festival Jury Chair,



A potter demonstrated his skill during last year's Jordan Art Festival. (Photo courtesy of the Jordan Independent.)

at maureen@weefolk.com or call (952) 492-3260. Deadline for submission of applications is April 15, and must include three photos or slides of the applicant's work plus one display photo or slide. Entry fee is \$50.

It's never too early to plan for the County Fair

Are you ready for the Best Five Days of Summer? The Scott County Fair is set for **Wednesday, July 27 through Sunday, July 31**. It's fun, it's exciting, there's always great food – and there are ribbons and premiums to win! What can you enter? *Lots of stuff!*

- ◆ Photos
- ◆ Homemade candy
- ◆ Stamp art
- ◆ Vegetables
- ◆ Pencil drawings
- ◆ Quilts
- ◆ Needlework
- ◆ ... and much, much more – even *chickens!*

It's easy to enter your items – just pop onto www.scottcountyfair.com, click on "premium list entries," and look up your project under the Dept A – Creative Arts. Then all you need to do is put your information on the Creative Arts Registration Form and mail it to the Scott County Fair by **July 15, 2005**. All that's left is to bring your stuff to the Fair on the designated days – they'll be judged and displayed in the Creative Arts Building. Animals can also be entered in the open class



competition. Visit the website and check the guidelines for entering.

NOTE: No premium books will be published this year. For all premium information, go to www.scottcountyfair.com

No internet? *No problem!* Just call the Scott County Fair office by July 1, 2005:

Scott County Fair
7151 West 190th Street, Suite 145
Jordan, Minnesota 55352
(952) 492-2436

See you at the Fair!

Historical Society plans events at museum

Threaded Stories

Lunchbox Lecture: April 13, 2005 at 12 noon

Bits of Minnesota are stitched into quilting stories told by local quilter, **Sandi Andersen**. Enjoy a noon break by listening to her stories about the art of quilting. Come early or stay after and explore SCHS's "A Tisket A Tasket, A Brightly Quilted Basket" exhibit.

Free for SCHS Members, \$4 Adults, \$2 Students.



their own May Day basket to welcome spring and brighten a neighbor's doorstep.

Raffle drawing for a variety of basket quilt items (donated by the Scott County Crazy Quilters) will take place at 2 p.m.

Free for SCHS Members, \$4 Adults, \$2 Students.

Hook, Line, and Sinker: Fish Tales from Scott County Past and Present

May 12, 2005 6:30 p.m. (Exhibit Opening)

The Scott County Historical Society explores how the hot fishing spots have changed since the late 1800s. How did local fishing resorts thrive? Did the lakes change, and how? Why does SCHS love "fishy" stories about the ones that got away? Get answers to these questions and more!

The Exhibit runs **May 12, 2005 through September 2005**. Look for special events hooked to this exhibit in the summer and fall.

Free for SCHS Members, \$4 Adults, \$2 Students.

All inquiries are welcome! Call us at (952) 445-0378 or visit us online at www.scottcountyhistory.org.

Bountiful May Day Celebration

April 30, 2005, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

What exactly is *May Day*? What are *maypoles*? Why should a May Day basket be given anonymously? Get answers to these questions and much more at the Scott County Historical Society's Bountiful May Day Celebration. Kids and adults alike can design and create

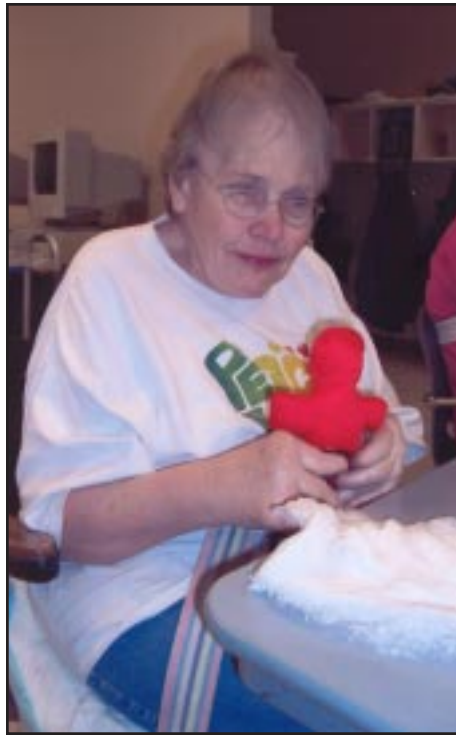


New Options' doll project makes the world's children happy

New Options clients have literally put a smile on thousands of children's faces in several places throughout the world. Almost ten years ago, a New Options staff member found a pattern in a *Woman's Day* magazine and thought that making dolls for local charities might be a way for the clients to become a part of the bigger community. New Options' clients collaborated with local senior citizens and started making dolls out of donated scrap materials in anticipation of making children happy. Since 1996, New Options clients have made and donated over 4,000 of these colorful and unique dolls.

In the beginning of the project, **Lois Giesen**, a staff member at New Options, asked her mother **Alma Nytes** if she would be interested in cutting the material and sewing the dolls together. She agreed — and became the primary volunteer who designed, decorated, and sewed over 3,000 dolls. New Options clients stuffed the dolls with batting and volunteers sewed the bottom of the dolls shut, a process that continues to this day. Recently, relatives of other staff have taken over sewing the dolls together.

Some of the places that the dolls have been donated to are the Queen of Peace Hospital Emergency Room, the Jordan and Prior Lake Police Departments, local preschools, local women's shelters, Mary's Place in Minneapolis, and the CAP Agency. The dolls have been welcomed with open arms. A quote from a thank you card from a local hospital says it all: "There are a lot of little children walking around with smiles on



New Options client Marilyn Jacobs helps spread happiness throughout the world as she makes cloth, stuffed dolls for children.

their faces with huggable dolls tucked under their tiny arms... the dolls, which you sewed and donated to the hospital, were given to children who were ill, hurting, or just plain scared when they came to the hospital." The dolls have also been flown to an orphanage in Russia through **Dr. Jan Adams**, with an organization sponsored by Dr. Patch Adams, and to an elementary school in Africa with **Alice Doll**, a massage therapist



South African orphans were among those who received the dolls put together by New Options clients and local volunteers.

from In Touch Rehab.

Mary Miller, a staff member at New Options, has a daughter, son-in-law, and seven grandchildren who are missionaries in South Africa through the Evangelical Baptist Missions. The family is working with churches to build orphanages for the hundreds of children orphaned by AIDS. Mary flew to South Africa in 2003 and handed out 50 dolls to the orphans. She said she wished she would have had room in her suitcase to carry even more to distribute. Although it was painful to see the doll-less children just walk away, Mary commented that the kids never fought over the dolls.

This past Christmas in South Africa, the dolls were put in Christmas stockings along with fruit, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and books, and handed out to the children. They were absolutely thrilled to receive the gifts. For many of the children, it was their only Christmas present.

New Options clients are thrilled to hear the stories and praises from people who have benefited from the dolls. They recently voted to send 120 dolls to the children in Iraq, with staff donating money to pay for the postage. New Options will continue to make the dolls for as long as there is a need and children to love them... *in short, forever!*

Camp helps kids deal with divorce

You may have heard of the *Sandcastles* program, which has been in operation for six years and provides guidance to youth ages 6-13 in coping with the effects of divorce in their families. **Jean Cody**, program coordinator of *Sandcastles*, has identified a need to reach teenagers as well through a program called *Camp T.E.D.* (Teens: Experts on Divorce).

With over half of all marriages ending in divorce, there is a clear need to support our community's youth in dealing with this difficult situation. Since the spring of 2003, a small group of community members has been working to organize a program that will reach this (12-17) age group. Last summer, over 15 teenagers took advantage of this three-day opportunity.

Organizers are in the process of fundraising and collecting applications for the upcoming second season of *Camp T.E.D.* Expenses include insurance, facility rental, training and materials, brochures, and meals. To meet an anticipated budget of \$10,000, donations are being sought from both community organizations and private citizens. To date, approximately \$5,000 is still needed. The *Camp T.E.D.* organization has received non-profit status, so all donations are tax deductible.

Taken from a proven program in Winona County, *Camp T.E.D.* utilizes a curriculum and trained counselors, including both adults and teens. Daily activities include large and small group activities, team building activities, camp fires, meals, and free time. This summer the camp will be offered to youth ages 12-17 at a cost of \$110. ***Camp T.E.D.* will be held July 28-30 at Camp Tanadoona in Excelsior.**

To request an application, to volunteer or provide financial assistance, or if you know of a teen that may be interested in attending the camp, contact Elizabeth Duehr at (952) 496-5141. Donations can be mailed to *Camp T.E.D.*, Attn: Elizabeth Duehr, 627 Providence Dr. Shakopee, MN 55379.

If you know a younger child (ages 6-13) who would benefit from the *Sandcastles* program, the next *Sandcastles* event dates are April 23 and 30 at Shepherd of the Lake. Contact Jean at (952) 447-8525 for more information.

CAP Corner

"Coats for Kids" drive underway

CAP Agency Ninth Annual Coats for Kids Project

It's time once again for the Minnesota seasonal closet switch. Have you looked at your bulky coat closet lately and asked yourself, "How is it that one person — or family — can possibly own so many coats?" Do you find that when guests come over, you have to pile their coats on a bed because your closet is too full with your own coats? Are you debating whether to keep the coats that didn't get worn... *again* ... for one more year, "just in case?"

If you have answered "yes" to any of these questions, the CAP Agency can help...

The CAP Agency is hosting its Ninth Annual *Coats for Kids* winter coat drive to benefit families throughout Scott and Carver Counties. During this drive, the CAP Agency will gladly take any unneeded children's winter coats off your hands, as well as extra hats, gloves, and snow pants. Their only request is that all donated winter items be clean and gently used.

The CAP Agency will hold its annual coat distribution in mid-August. In 2004, coats were given to 1,200 children from families in Scott and Carver Counties. The estimated value of these donated coats was \$6,000. "We decided to hold the annual coat drive in the spring, when people are giving their closets a spring overhaul and wondering where to store all their extra winter coats," said **Linda Shelton**, CAP Agency Community Services Director. "The main reason for this change in the project is to better accommodate the people donating coats — we have the space to store coats all summer that many people may not be able to squeeze out of the closets at home."

Coats for Kids donations will be accepted between the hours of **8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the CAP Agency Thrift Shop located at 712 Canterbury Road South in Shakopee.** Any schools, churches, or organizations interested in hosting a coat drive on behalf of the CAP Agency *Coats for Kids* are asked to contact Linda Shelton at (952) 402-9856 for more information.

The CAP Agency Thrift Shop is open to the public and accepts donations of gently used seasonal clothing and small household items throughout the year.



Volunteers assisted with last fall's CHORE Program fall yard clean-up. Volunteers are being sought to help clean up the yards of local senior citizens who need help with their spring yard work.

CAP Agency CHORE Program Spring yard clean-up

Scott and Carver county senior citizens age 60 or older may receive assistance with their spring yard clean-up through the CAP Agency CHORE Program. Spring services include raking and removal of leaves and other seasonal chores.

The CAP Agency CHORE Program uses community volunteers and other service providers to assist older adults with seasonal yard work, snow removal, minor home maintenance, heavy household, window washing, and other home services to maintain independent living. If you are interested in receiving this service or volunteering for the CHORE program, contact Anne Harnack at the CAP Agency at (952) 402-9833.

The CAP Agency is a private, non-profit organization serving children, families, and senior citizens of Scott, Carver and Dakota counties. For more information contact the CAP Agency at (952) 496-2125 or visit its website at www.scdcap.org

News from Three Rivers Park District

Take time to hear the songbirds, watch the eagles

The extensive forests of **Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve** make this one of the best parks around for woodland songbirds. In 2004, the park was just one of eight in Minnesota to be designated as an "Important Bird Area" by the National Audubon Society. Murphy-Hanrehan provides habitat for numerous bird species, including the only-known breeding population of hooded warblers in the state, as well as blue-winged warblers, Acadian flycatchers, yellow-crowned night herons, loons, red-shouldered hawks, Cerulean warblers (a species of special concern in Minnesota), and Henslow's sparrows (an endangered species in Minnesota).

You don't have to go far to see the nation's bird in flight. Visitors to **Historic Murphy's Landing** in Shakopee frequently see soaring bald eagles patrolling the Minnesota River.

It's easy to become a birder... all you need is pair of binoculars and a bird book. The Park District offers numerous birding programs. For a complete schedule, visit www.threeriversparkdistrict.org or call (763) 559-9000 and request a copy of "Discoveries," the Park District's quarterly publication.

Take Your Horse Camping!

Don't leave your favorite horse at home the next time you decide to go camping. **Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve** has a group campsite that can accommodate 20 horses and 20 humans. Reservations are required and must be made at least three weeks in advance. For more information, call (763) 559-6700.

Cleary Lake Golf Course is "Springing" to Life!

Grab your clubs – it's time to head to the links. The 9-hole, par 27 golf course at Cleary Lake Regional Park provides an enjoyable challenge for both beginning and experienced golfers. Trees, wetlands, and meadows surround this quiet, family-oriented course. Space remains for junior golf lessons for kids with no experience or who play at an advanced level. Stop in the clubhouse and meet our new golf pro, Laura Porras. She has been involved with The First Tee



The 9-hole, par 27 golf course at Cleary Lake Regional Park provides and enjoyable challenge for both beginners and experienced golfers. Tree and wetlands surround this quiet, family-oriented course.

and LPGA-USGA Girls golf programs for several years. Laura works with students to reach their individual goals, always focusing on the fundamentals. Laura is also the co-head coach for the Augsburg women's golf team.

Volunteer Your Time and Talents at Historic Murphy's Landing

Do you love to garden, sew, or have an interest in history? **Historic Murphy's Landing** in Shakopee is looking for volunteers to share their passion and time with park visitors. Located on the scenic Minnesota River, Historic Murphy's Landing depicts Minnesota life as it was during 1840-1890. It takes a wide variety of volunteers to create a fun educational experience for the thousands of visitors and school groups that tour the living history park each year.

There are two different ways to volunteer at Historic Murphy's Landing. New this April, each Monday is set aside for people to stop in and help with a variety of tasks. For example, you may help with brochures, sweep an historic building, tend the garden, or help prepare for an upcoming program. This is a great opportunity for individuals or

groups. Volunteers just need to call Historic Murphy's Landing at (763) 694-7784 to let staff know you are coming. The second way to get involved is to sign up for a specific volunteer position.

A wide variety of positions are available:

- * **Site Enhancement Volunteer:** Gardener, historic heirloom gardens, weekdays or weekends.
- * **Costumed Presenter, Musician:** Weekdays and weekends, year-round
- * **Farm Animal Care Volunteer:** Weekdays and weekends, year-round
- * **Artifact Inventory Assistant:** Involves photographing items, entering basic information and labeling.
- * **Miscellaneous Project Volunteer:** Sewing, painting, research, program prep, etc., flexible schedule
- * **School Group/Summer Camp Volunteer:** Weekdays
- * **Office Volunteer:** Year-round, flexible schedule
- * **Data Entry Volunteer:** Sort and enter information gathered from surveys

and coupons, year-round, flexible schedule

A site orientation is required for all positions, and includes an overview of 19th Century Minnesota history, a tour of the site, an overview of volunteer opportunities, and additional training requirements for each position and level. Call Lynn Ehrke at (763) 694-7788 for more information and to sign up.

Upcoming programs

Walk When the Moon is Full:
Tree Moon

**Sunday, April 24, 7:30-9:30 p.m.,
Historic Murphy's Landing**

Let the glow of the rising full moon light the way during a naturalist-guided hike. During April, branches sketch their patterns on the face of the moon and the darkening sky – can you hear their wind song? Chorus frogs and wood frogs are not so subtle as their calls fill up the night. \$4. Ages 6+. Reservations preferred; (763) 559-6700.

Walk When the Moon is Full:
Frog Moon

**Monday, May 23, 7:30-9:30 p.m.,
Historic Murphy's Landing.**

Reconnect with nature and awaken your senses under the full moon on a guided hike with a cultural twist! \$4. Ages 6+. Reservations preferred; (763) 559-6700.

*Military Life in Minnesota:
1850s-1870s*

May 28 – Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

May 29 – Sunday, noon-5 p.m.

**May 30 – Monday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Historic Murphy's Landing**

Minnesota is honored for its military contributions during the Civil War, but our state's military history is founded in the challenges of establishing order on the territorial frontier. Experience the rigors of military life for those both at home and away. Demonstrations, military and civilian encampments, guest speakers and more. Adult, \$8.50; youths and seniors, \$7; children under 5, free.



In appreciation

On March 22, Commissioners Jerry Hennen, Bob Vogel, and Barbara Marschall, (L – R) and HRA Board Chair Marge Henderson, HRA Director Bill Jaffa, and HRA Assistant Director Linda Voxland (R – L) presented Congressman John Kline (center) with a plaque expressing their appreciation for his successful efforts in securing \$150,000 in federal funding to be used for modernization of the Scott County HRA's 32-unit Belle Haven Apartment complex. "The rapid growth of Minnesota's Second Congressional District presents unique housing and community development challenges," said the Congressman. "The Scott County Housing and Redevelopment Board is setting an excellent example of finding innovative ways to meet the needs of our communities. I am pleased to have been able to contribute to their efforts and am honored to receive this award."

The SCENE can help promote summer events

Are you interested in listing your upcoming event in the "Summer Events" issue of the *Scott County SCENE* (June/July)? Each year, the *SCENE* lists as many fun activities – from Derby Days to the Scott County Fair, BBQ Days to the St. Patrick's Church Festival – as we can possibly pack into one issue! Just give us the details (who, what, when, and where) by April 25, and we'll be happy to include you on the calendar of events.

To submit your event, please contact Lisa Kohner, Public Affairs Coordinator, at (952) 496-8780, via e-mail at lkohner@co.scott.mn.us, or via fax at (952) 496-8180. Don't forget to provide your contact information as well (for any questions or follow up). See you in the *SCENE*!

Scott SCENE now online

Looking for some information that you saw in the *Scott SCENE*, but you can't find your printed copy? Or was there information you'd like to pass on to a friend, co-worker, or family member? The *Scott SCENE* can now be viewed online through a link on the Scott County homepage:
www.co.scott.mn.us

Drug, alcohol prevention for youth should start early

It is important to lay the groundwork *early* to talk about underage drinking, tobacco, and drugs. By the time most children enter preschool, they have seen adults drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes in real life, in the media, or both. Today, even elementary school children may hear about or see illegal drug use.

Talk and play with your kids, and *learn* about them. Let them know you love them. Be involved now and you and your children will find it easier to talk about alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs as they get older. Studies have found that parents who talk to their children about alcohol, tobacco, and drugs help them avoid substance abuse.

What children learn early in their lives often forms lifelong habits and attitudes. Young children can learn the difference between healthy and unhealthy activities. They know how to follow rules. They can practice making decisions and gain the confidence and wisdom to say "no."

TIPS ON TALKING

Talk with your children. No matter how old they are, *talking with them* is one of the most important things you can do to help children grow up confident and secure. When they start school with strong communication skills, they will be better prepared to learn and become successful students.

Ask questions that require more than a one word answer, such as "yes" or "no." Ask them to explain something or talk about a story you read together. Answer your children's questions thoughtfully and encourage them to answer their own questions. If you don't know an answer to a question, tell them so - and suggest ways to find the answer together.

Value your children's answers. Don't use your talks as a chance to criticize or blame. If your children are unafraid to talk with you, you can more easily help them improve or change behavior. *Listen closely.* If your children believe their feelings and ideas are valued, they will be more likely to talk openly and you can learn a great deal about how they think and what they feel. You can help set the stage for your children to continue to share their thoughts and feelings as teenagers.

Read stories to your children. Let them see you read. Take them to the library for storytelling and to



choose books to take home and share with you. Reading together helps children learn about language and share something wonderful with you in a close, warm atmosphere. And it opens their world to authors of all kinds of books and stories from all over the world.

Tell stories to your children. Children love to hear stories. Tell your children stories about when they were younger. Children love hearing these, and the stories make children feel valued. Tell them stories you loved hearing when you were a child. Tell stories about yourself when you were a child and about other family members. These stories give children an important understanding of family history. They also show how family members work, play, make mistakes, and celebrate successes together.

TIPS ON RULES

Young children who are used to **clear rules and consistent consequences** are less likely to risk using alcohol and other drugs as they get older. They are also more likely to have the self-confidence to say "no." On the other hand, studies show that children are at greater risk for drug abuse in homes where punish-

ment is too severe -- or where there is no discipline.

Below are seven steps to positive discipline:

1. Discuss how rules protect health, safety, and the rights of children and others. Let children know you love them too much to let them take dangerous risks or get into trouble. Set rules to help them take care of themselves, avoid dangerous situations, and respect themselves and others.

2. Discuss how different families have different rules. Let your child know that, in different houses and in different countries, families may have different rules. In your family, your child follows your family's rules.

3. Discuss your rules and expectations in advance. Make clear rules with your child. Make sure everyone understands the consequences for breaking the rules. Don't make *too* many rules—you might not remember or enforce them all consistently.

4. Follow through with the consequences. Children need to know that rules are enforced. Young children test their boundaries. Clear messages let them know potential dangers.

5. Don't make any rules you do not intend to enforce. Rules without consequences have no meaning for children, so set rules you know you can and will enforce.

6. Don't impose harsh or unexpected new punishments. Stick to consequences that have been set ahead of time. Be sure that anger doesn't influence your discipline. If you need one, give yourself a "cooling off" period before confronting your child.

7. Praise children when they follow the rules. Positive reinforcement helps them develop self-confidence and trust in their own judgment.

Monitoring young children's activities has been shown to be important in preventing alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug use. Start now so that your children become used to telling you about their daily activities, asking permission, and knowing that their friends' parents know who you are. These habits will stay with them as they grow.

For more information drug and alcohol prevention for youth please visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse for Drug and Alcohol information at www.ncadi.samhsa.gov.

Metal charms recalled due to lead poisoning risk

Have you heard the latest news? Those cute metal charms in your child's necklace may be hazardous to their health! A New Jersey company recently recalled almost 3 million metal charms because they contain high levels of lead. These charms were sold at several arts and crafts retailers nation-wide. This recall was prompted by initial reports from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) that a 6-year-old girl had apparently suffered lead poisoning last December after placing in her mouth a charm that she wore as a necklace. Further studies indicated that the charms do indeed contain high levels of lead. Lead is a powerful neurotoxin that can harm almost all body organs, including the central nervous system, red blood cells, and kidneys.

The recalled charms were sold as decorations for greeting cards and gift bags, and also were used to make necklaces and bracelets. Studies have consistently found that even small amounts of lead ingested by children can cause neurological damage or behavior and learning problems. Some experts have even urged the CPSC to require this industry to test all pieces for lead. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-California) introduced legislation last month that would ban lead in all products for young children.

The mostly silver-color charms, usually made in China, were sold in packages holding anywhere from two to 12 pieces for \$3 to \$4 at Michaels Stores from July 2002 to February 2005; at ReCollections from October 2004 to February 2005; and at Hancock Fabrics from January 2004 to January 2005. Consumers who have purchased these items for their children are urged to take these charms from their children and call 800-873-

Parents should limit, monitor, discuss children's TV viewing

According to the American Association of Pediatrics, children more than 2 years old should spend no more than two hours a day watching television. This means that it's important to help children select good programs and appropriate times for TV watching.

Television can be a good way for children to wind down after playing outside or spending a full day at kindergarten. But the television should not always be a "babysitter" while parents or caretakers get other things done. Here are some tips for making television time a good time for you and your children:

- **Set a TV schedule.** Since time for television viewing is limited, your child has to make choices. This is an excellent way to help your children learn to set priorities. Schedules also help young children begin to grasp the concepts of "before" and "after" or "morning," "afternoon," and "evening."

- **Monitor TV programming quality.** Even if you help your child pick out shows through a TV guide, you can't be sure of the quality of the programs unless you watch them, too. Remember, not all cartoon shows are appropriate for young children. With older children, have them look for appropriate TV Parental Guideline symbols for the shows they would like to watch.

- **Provide alternative activities.** Since you are limiting your child's TV time, you need to have alternative activities available. Outdoor playtime is an excellent addition to the daily schedule. If it's cold and rainy outside, have books, music, and arts and crafts items on hand. Or set a schedule for your child to work with you—setting the table, stirring the gelatin, or feeding the dog.

- **Watch TV with your children.** Television programs can help your family discuss important ideas, learn new lessons, or reinforce academic concepts.



For example:

1. Look for positive role models in television programming—the child or cartoon animal who goes to bed on time or chooses to do the "right" thing.

2. During breaks, ask your child what he or she thinks will happen next. Then watch and discuss what does happen. Were you surprised? Why?

3. Make TV time interactive by having children jump if they hear a number or color word. Or sing along with the music together.

Resources:

- *"Tips for Limiting TV: You Can Do It!"* from the Whole Family Parent Center.

- *Berenstain Bears and Too Much TV* by Stan and Jan Berenstain, from Random House, 1984. (Available at your local library or bookstore.) Mama Bear decides that the whole family is watching too much television, so she bans it for a week.

Spring lawn and garden tips

Jackie Smith, Carver/Scott Master Gardener Program Coordinator, suggests the following tips for April and May:

April

- **Planting trees and shrubs** - move young plants within the landscape as soon as the soil is no longer frozen and is dry enough to work without clumping together. Dig the hole in the new location first, then dig the plant. Dig as large a root ball as possible, and transport the plant carefully to keep the soil and the root ball intact.



Plant quickly in the new location, making sure the root flare is at soil level. Water carefully to remove air pockets, and mulch the root area with 3 to 4

inches of organic matter (wood chips, straw, or spoiled hay all work well), keeping the mulch at least four inches away from the trunk.

- **Pruning trees and shrubs** - most pruning should have been completed in March. Pruning April through July can actually seriously endanger certain species such as Oak, Elm, Honeylocust, and Apple, and should be avoided during these months

- **Lawns** - assess lawns carefully and reseed thin areas by scattering seed and then raking into the soil. Press the seed into the soil with the back of a hoe or a roller. A sparse scattering of straw will help retain soil moisture and a very light sprinkling of water is helpful whenever the soil surface becomes dry. Hold off on mowing the reseeded areas until the new grass is tall and established.

- **Perennials** - plants that weren't cleaned up in the fall should be cut back at this time, and tops composted or disposed of in accordance with your city regulations.

- **Vegetables** - Cut old asparagus tops back to ground level and remove from the beds. Watch carefully for new spears to appear, and snap the top, tender portions from the stalk for your first taste of spring from the garden!

May

- **Ornamentals** - visits to local nurseries can

overwhelm you with sheer numbers of plants to select from for your annual and perennial gardens. Select perennials by paying attention to their hardiness zone (we garden in USDA Zone 4 -- Zone 5 isn't tough enough for us), sun requirements, and mature size. Annuals will generally perform best if purchased and planted out before they bloom. If the plants are already in bloom when you buy them, be ruthless — pinch off *every single flower* at planting. They will reward you with increased vigor and bloom through the remainder of the growing season.

- **Bulbs** - as blooms fade on tulips, daffodils, crocus, and other spring bulbs, be sure to snip off the flowers to prevent seeds from forming — but allow as much of the stem as possible and all of the leaves to remain as long as they are green. Only when they've turned completely tan should they be pulled or cut back. Keep in mind that green means chlorophyll -- and chlorophyll is feeding the bulbs to make even bigger and better blooms the next year.



- **Vegetables** - many vegetables can be sown directly outdoors during May. The vegetables that do just fine in cool weather and can be planted early in the month include peas, lettuce, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, broccoli, onions, radishes, and spinach. Wait until the third week of the month (when the weather and soil are warm) to plant beans, cucumbers, melons, squash, pumpkins, and sweet corn. Wait another week to plant tomatoes, and hold off until the nights are reliably at 50F or more before planting eggplant, peppers, and sweet potatoes — often this means waiting until mid-June.

- **Lawns** - mow lawns frequently enough that you never cut off more than 1/3 of the blade at any cutting. Thus, if you normally cut your lawn at 2" tall, be sure to mow when it reaches 3" in height. If crabgrass was a problem last year, you will want to put down crabgrass preventer around May 10 (a little earlier if we've had a warm spring). If you use a crabgrass preventer/fertilizer combination, this should be your first fertilizer application of the season. Do not use crabgrass preventer on newly seeded areas.



Free Yard & Garden Help Desks offered

Master Gardeners in Scott and Carver Counties are again sponsoring free **Yard and Garden Help Desks** throughout the summer. The Help Desks will be held this year **every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon** in conjunction with the Prior Lake Farmers' Market, located just off Highway 13 in Prior Lake on Pleasant Avenue. **Help Desks begin May 7 and continue through September 24, 2005.**

Residents may bring plant, insect, and disease samples to the Help Desks where University of Minnesota trained Master Gardeners will be glad to diagnose problems and answer your yard and garden questions.

Instructions for bringing a sample:

For plants: Bring a portion about 8-10 inches long, including leaves, flowers, and fruit (as available). Include both healthy and damaged material where appropriate.

For lawns: Cut a three inch square of sod, including roots.

For insects: To preserve the specimen, place in a screw-top jar and store in the freezer until ready to bring to the help desk.

For insect/disease problems: Note if some or all of your plants are affected. Also note where on the plant the problem occurs (branches, leaves, roots), and exact pattern of the damage (inner leaves, topmost leaves, random, et cetera). Is the problem spreading? When did the problem start?

Help Desks are also available every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Carver County Extension Office, 609 West First Street in Waconia. For more information, contact the Scott County Extension Office at (952) 492-5410.

Hay auction tests for quality

The "Quality Tested" Hay Auction was started by the Central Minnesota Forage Council to promote quality testing in the marketplace and to create a marketplace for buyers/sellers of hay. The hay brought to the auction is tested for moisture, protein, and relative feed value (RFV). Also recorded is the price/ton that the hay sold for.

The full results of the sale for tested hay lots and bedding material are posted at www.stearnsdhialabs.com. A summary of this data is prepared by UofM Extension Technical Advisor Dan Martens and can be found on the new *MN Crop eNews Hay Auction*



Information site. The summaries include comparisons to recent and last year's sales.

The Quality Tested Hay Auction is now run by the MidAmerican Auction Company. It is conducted on the **first and third Thursday of each month from October through May at the Trucker's Inn Truck Stop just off I-94**. Hay lots are to be on site by 10:30 a.m. so samples can be tested at the Stearns DHIALab. The sale starts at 12:30 p.m.

For more information contact Laura Torbert, ag educator for the University of Minnesota Extension Service, at (952) 442-4496 or at (952) 492-5410.

News from SWCD

April showers bring May... wetlands

When most people think of wetlands, they think of swampy, marshy areas complete with ducks and cattails. While those areas are indeed wetlands, many other wetlands look quite different — and may even be completely *dry* for the majority of the year. Some wetlands support trees and shrubs and some may even be farmed. The Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) provides technical support and acts as the "clearinghouse" for local governments, County departments, and citizens with wetland and water-related questions.

Historically, wetlands were considered "wasted space" and drained and filled for development and crop production. In Minnesota, an estimated 11 million acres of wetland area have been lost over the last hundred years, leaving about 7.5 million acres... a 60 percent loss. In Scott County, at least *80 percent* of our pre-settlement wetlands have been lost. Wetlands provide many important benefits — which have only become apparent as their abundance has dwindled — including:

- ◆ Storage area for excess water during flooding;
- ◆ Filtering of sediments and nutrients before they enter lakes, rivers, and streams;
- ◆ Fish and wildlife habitat;
- ◆ And public recreation.

Recognizing the important benefits of wetlands, in 1991 the Minnesota Legislature enacted the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). The WCA gives administrative authority to local governments. The Scott SWCD is available to assist cities, townships, and individual landowners to determine if an area is a wet-



land and administer the WCA.

What should you do if you are working in or near a wetland area?

- ◆ **Contact the Soil and Water Conservation District.** Our office has been designated as the "clearinghouse" for wetland information. If we don't have the information you need, we will direct you to the correct office.

- ◆ **Find out if the land you want to alter is a wetland.** Remember, an area can be wetland even if it doesn't hold standing water.

It is important that you design your project to accord with nature and begin your planning process early. It is not realistic to expect to start the permitting process one week and begin work on the project the next week. If you are considering a project that may alter wetlands, please contact our office at (952) 492-5425.

Safety SCENE

By the Scott County Sheriff's Office



Scott County Law Enforcement Memorial Scholarship

In 1983, a group of Scott County citizens with an interest in the field of law enforcement wanted to honor those peace officers in Scott County who had died during their law enforcement careers. At the time, the Sheriff's Office was grieving over the recent loss of one of their investigators, **Detective George Lill**. George was one of the best athletes produced in the area. He was molded by family and his military training, and rose in the ranks of the Scott County Sheriff's Office to become Chief Investigator. George worked on several very serious criminal cases plaguing Scott County, including some for which the County became famous... or infamous. He died at the age of 40.

Similarly, in 1974, the Sheriff's Office lost **Deputy Laverne Realander** and the Shakopee Police Department lost **Officer Terry McGovern**. Laverne Realander was the first woman peace officer in Scott County — and among the first in the state. She carried her responsibilities proudly and always adhered to the highest standards of the law enforcement profession, while breaking ground for the generations of female Scott County law enforcement officers to follow in her footsteps. Laverne died at the age of 56.

Officer Terry McGovern, patrol officer for Shakopee Police, was known as a "bull" with massive features that implied strength and foreboding to those who violated the law. However, Terry was filled with gentleness and a concern for others, especially the young people in the community. Terry's career was cut short at the amazingly young age of 38.

To memorialize these three special law enforcement officers, the group decided to establish a scholarship fund as a "living memorial." They determined that the purpose of the scholarship would be to honor Lill, Realander, and McGovern annually and to provide funds to local residents who are pursuing careers in law enforcement. In 1984, the first annual banquet was held in May, in conjunction with National Police Week. This year, the committee proudly celebrates its 22nd year.

Then, as now, the committee consists of various members from the Scott County community, including business owners, members of law enforcement, and relatives of the deceased. While the annual banquet is a major fundraiser, the committee also accepts gifts from individuals and corporations. There is no set number of scholarships given out. Each year, the scholarship committee reviews applications and considers the amount of funds available for scholarships. The Scholarship Committee is responsible for raising funds annually. In 2004, a total of seven scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$1,250 each. To date, a total of \$105,000 has been given to local men and women to aid in their pursuit of a law enforcement career. Fifty percent of the recipients of the Memorial Scholarship are in uniform in Scott County communities today!

The scholarship is open to Scott County residents or those people employed in Scott County who are pursuing careers in law enforcement. Candidates are required to validate their academic achievement and preferences may be given to candidates who must relinquish their regular employment to attend the law enforcement skills course.

This year's award banquet will be held on **Thursday, May 12 at the Shakopee American Legion in Shakopee**. Hosting the event is **former Scott County Sheriff Bill Nevin**. Speaker for the evening is **Scott County Administrator Dave Unmacht**, with a special invocation by **Lorrie Niemann**. Lorrie's husband, **Jon**, was added to the Memorial Scholarship this year after his tragic death in December 2003. Deputy Jon Niemann kept everyone in the Sheriff's Office on their toes with his great sense of humor, particularly with impressions of celebrities and co-workers. Jon's background with the Marine Corp made him disciplined, dedicated, and committed. During his tenure at the Sheriff's Office, Jon worked as a patrol officer, bailiff, civil service, and as a proud and valuable member of the Sheriff's Office Special Response Team. Ironically, Jon — who had no tolerance for drunk drivers — was killed by a drunk driver at the age of 37.

Scott County has always had an outstanding reputation for its high standards for professional law enforcement officers. Because of the desire to remember our officers who have died while actively employed in law enforcement, the Scott County Law Enforcement Memorial Scholarship Committee continues to promote law enforcement professionalism through this annual scholarship. For tickets, more information, or to donate, contact Joan Lill Heise at (952) 440-8252. Tickets are also available through the Scott County Sheriff's Office during business hours.



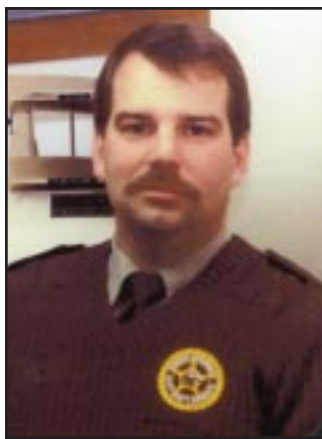
George Lill



Laverne Realander



Terry McGovern



Jon Niemann

Acquaintances most likely to steal personal information

A new study conducted for the Better Business Bureau shows that while identity theft can occur online, the majority of information is taken from lost or misplaced wallets and purses. Unfortunately, friends, neighbors, and family members make up half of the identity thieves. Identity theft committed by relatives has higher total costs, higher out-of-pocket costs, and requires more time to resolve.

Thieves gain access to your information by pawing through your wallet or pocketbook. One way to make it more difficult for them is to **put these items away**. Don't lay them on a kitchen counter, dresser, or desk top. Put them in a drawer or closet making it more difficult to find or casually look through. **Don't** leave purses sitting on work space counters. **Don't** leave your wallet or credit card sitting on a restaurant table.

Buy a shredder. Shred all paper information which has identifying information, bank, or account information.

Your trash goes by many hands before being recycled, **don't** hand them information they can use to gain access to your personal accounts.

Check your bank accounts often by internet. Careful examination of bank and credit statements is the *number one* way to catch identity theft quickly. The study found that checking statements more often than the once a month report resulted in a faster and less costly loss to identity theft activity.

Parents need to make sure their children understand **not to share credit card numbers or other personal information** with their friends or over the computer. Parents should approve internet purchases and check on the security of the chosen site.

Identity theft is expensive and frustrating. Do what you can to avoid being a victim! For more information or a speaker on identity theft, call the Scott County Extension Office at (952) 492-5383.

Online shopping -- Steps to security

Online shopping has become a part of our lives. It is quick, handy, and easy. However, there are some steps you can take to keep it safe and your information secure:

Trust your instincts. Don't fall for the "you need to order immediately" pressure. Think through the choice and your feeling of security at that site.

Familiarize yourself with the policies of website auctions. Know their policies, and be careful with large purchases until you feel sure of this business.

Read the privacy policy for each site. If a site doesn't have a privacy policy, you might not want to do business at that site.

Review return, refund, and shipping policies carefully. Check out any legal terms you don't understand.

Are the internet connections secure? Look for the security icon or a change in the URL to indicate security measures are in place before giving any personal information.

Pay for your orders with a credit card. The card will provide you options if the purchase isn't as advertised.

Print out your order sheet, and the terms and conditions of the sale. Put them with your records until the purchase arrives and is examined. Use a shredder to destroy the copies, unless you need to keep them for warranty and future claims.

Inspect your purchase as soon as it arrives. Tell the seller *in writing* as soon as you discover any problem. Also, contact your credit card vendor in writing about the problems with the purchase.

Contact your Family Resource Educator at the Scott County/University of Minnesota Extension office at (952) 492-5383 for further information on this or other issues. Keep your personal information safe!

These tips have been adapted from information from the Better Business Bureau.

Farmers: guard ammonia tanks from meth producers

The spring planting season means increased danger of thefts from anhydrous ammonia tanks to produce methamphetamine, or "meth."

A significant amount of meth is produced locally in meth labs. These labs are often located in isolated or abandoned farm buildings, homes, cabins, or even in vehicles such as vans, trailers, or old campers. One of the popular methods for producing the drug involves using anhydrous ammonia, a fertilizer used to grow corn and other crops. Anhydrous ammonia is stolen out of tanks in fields or on farm sites.

"Farmers have an important role in the fight against meth," says John Shutske, agricultural health and safety specialist with the University of Minnesota Extension Service. Shutske has these suggestions to help you prevent the theft of anhydrous ammonia on your

property:

- **Try not to leave anhydrous ammonia tanks** sitting around in fields or on your farmstead. Plan ahead so that tanks are delivered to the field right before they're needed.

- **Realize that lab operators need very little ammonia** to make their product.

- **Be alert for signs of tampering.** If you notice any indication of tampering, **do not approach the tank** — **contact local law enforcement officials immediately.**

- **Never enter any area where you suspect that a meth lab may be or was located.** The residue is highly toxic. Simply call the sheriff or police.

- **Property owners beware!** If a meth lab is discovered on your property, the cleanup costs can easily *exceed \$10,000* — and you're responsible.

Public Health protects and promotes health

Prevent! Promote! Protect! Prepare! Respond!

These words describe a set of clearly defined areas of Public Health responsibility that have been set forth as activities that every Minnesotan should expect across the state. "Prevent! Promote! Protect! Prepare! Respond!" are often the words that come to mind when people think about Public Health.

In the past year, the Minnesota Department of Health set the standard for Public Health, and created a comprehensive snapshot of what needs to be on the local level to protect and promote the health of citizens. These are the six areas of responsibility for Scott County Public Health.

Minnesota's counties share responsibility with the state for protecting and promoting health in many ways. This includes encouraging healthy behaviors, acting quickly to prevent the spread of disease, making sure that babies get off to a healthy start, and making sure that all people have access to health care.

Scott County Public Health has an active maternal child health program that fulfills two of the above areas of responsibility – *Promoting Healthy Behaviors* and *Assuring the Quality and Accessibility of Health Services*. Education, resources, and support are given to high-risk pregnant women, teen mothers, and families about childbirth, newborn care, and parenting skills. *The Child and Teen Checkup Program* assists children enrolled in various Medical Assistance programs to receive health care at clinics in Scott County. Children with special needs are also provided with a range of preventive, medical, and rehabilitative support services.

To assure accessibility of services for the elderly and disabled, Scott County Public Health provides *long-term care consultations* to assist family members in developing plans of care through various state programs for in-home care. These services are presented at the level of understanding of the client and are very practical in nature. They assure that medications are taken appropriately and that other health treatment is followed according to physician's orders. These services extend the amount of time that a client may remain in their own home, often postponing nursing home placement.

Creating healthy neighborhoods, families, and individuals is also the shared responsibility of a number of governmental agencies, including Emergency Management, and Environmental Health, particularly in the arena of *Bioterrorism Preparedness* and assisting communities in the recovery phase of a disaster. More

Six Areas of Public Health Responsibility		
Assure an adequate local public health infrastructure	Promote healthy behaviors and healthy communities	Prevent the spread of infections and diseases
Protect against environment hazards	Prepare for and respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery	Assure the quality and accessibility of health services

importantly, it is the shared responsibility of the entire community. As such, many of the local activities depend upon community partnerships, coalitions, and collaborations to achieve results.

The Safe Communities grant is an example of community partnerships and collaboration with other agencies. Scott County Public Health obtained these grant monies from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, and aims to reduce the number of road fatalities and serious injuries. In 2004, Scott County was sixth in the state (up from ninth in the previous year) for the number of alcohol-related fatalities and serious injuries.

Partners in this collaboration include four Scott County departments (Sheriff's Office, Extension, Highway Department, and Transportation), two hospitals (St. Francis Regional Medical Center and Queen of Peace), two school districts (Prior Lake and Shakopee), and two police departments (Prior Lake and Shakopee). One of the strategic initiatives of the Scott County Board of Commissioners — "To Develop Strong Public Partnerships and an Active Informed Population" — is exemplified by this Safe Communities Collaborative.

Counties and local public health departments across the state vary in terms of geography, financial status, and available community resources. Thus, these six responsibilities are carried out in different ways and to varying degrees. Every Minnesotan should expect to be protected from disease by having access to an immunization program, but that program may be implemented differently in surrounding counties.

National trends within professional public health associations continue to focus on healthy outcomes for populations of people. States and county agencies are being encouraged to develop comprehensive performance systems that measure indicators in population-based health. Scott County is right on track with these local public health activities, ensuring that this is a healthy place to live.

Medical Reserve Corps seeks volunteers

Scott County Public Health is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping their community in a time of need. The Medical Reserve Corps of Scott County is part of a nationwide initiative to mobilize and coordinate volunteers. Volunteers donate their time and expertise in the area where they live, making it easier for them to help their own families, their neighbors and their community.

Who Should Join?

- **Healthcare professionals**, such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, nursing assistants, respiratory therapists, psychiatrists, veterinarians, paramedics, EMTs, and other healthcare professionals.
- **Those with an interest in helping their community.**
- **Professionals with essential emergency response skills**, such as social workers, counselors, interpreters, chaplains.

To learn more, please call (952) 496-8698 or visit our website at www.co.scott.mn.us under Public Health.

Cooking up summer grill safety

Spring is finally here -- it's time to clean your grill up for another summer of grilling fun for your family! Remember to "think safety" when you fire up your grill this year. According to the National Fire Protection Association, outdoor grilling causes more than 600 accidental fires and explosions and costs consumers \$5 million in property damage each year.

"A few simple precautions around the barbecue grill will protect not only the hamburgers and hot dogs, but the chef too," said John Drengenberg, manager of Consumer Affairs for Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL). "Everyone loves backyard barbecuing, so we light up grills about 3 billion times a year. Unfortunately, though, our good times can be spoiled if we are not careful."

Put safety first when entertaining outdoors!

Here are five simple tips for summer safety when using a charcoal grill:

- Always place the grill at least 10 feet away from your house or any other building;
- Never leave your grill unattended, especially when young children or pets are nearby;
- Never use gasoline or kerosene to light a charcoal fire;
- Never attempt to restart a flame by adding additional lighting fluid to an already-lit grill -- as this can cause a dan-



gerous flare-up;

- Dispose of charcoal away from kids and pets, and cool it down with a hose. Coals get VERY HOT – in fact up to 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit! When grilling, use insulated flame-retardant mitts or long-handled barbecue tongs and utensils.

Any gas grill user should always follow the manufacturer's instructions that accompany your grilling product. If the manual has been misplaced, manufacturers will usually replace it at no charge.

- Check the grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes or leaks. Make sure there are no kinks in the hose or tubing;
- Check the tubes leading into the burner for any blockages from insects,

spiders, or grease. Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear any obstruction and pass it through to the main part of the burners;

- Check for gas leaks, according to the manufacturer's instructions. If you smell gas, particularly when you reconnect the grill to the propane tank, be sure to call a qualified repair person.
- Move the gas hose as far away from hot surfaces and dripping grease as possible.
- Replace connectors that are scratched or nicked, as they may begin to leak in time.

Be sure to keep a fire extinguisher handy for your backyard barbecue, just as you do for the kitchen stove. Most importantly, make sure everyone knows how to use it, based on the PASS method: **P**ull pin; **A**im at **b**ase of fire; **S**queeze handle; and **S**weep from side to side.

No matter how frequently (or how seldom) you use your gas grill, always take a moment to perform a routine safety check before each use. It is a simple step that will help to assure a safe and enjoyable summer for you and your family.

Watch for an article in the June/July issue of the SCENE outlining some simple steps you can follow to reduce the chances of a food-borne illness spoiling your next family cook-out!

Survey Results

From Page 1

ample, Belle Plaine Township residents make up approximately 1 percent of the County's population, and reflected 1.2 percent of the total survey respondents). Second, key areas of major concern – e.g., taxes, transportation, and "keeping the small town/rural feel" — were remarkably similar to the findings of the 2004 Citizen Survey. Third, general support for agricultural preservation, clustered development, and "having development pay for itself" appeared strong, while respondents were fairly evenly split on such issues as expanding public health services.

The final report of results will be made available in both hard copy and electronic versions, and a more detailed summary of the findings and next steps will be outlined in a future issue of the SCENE and on the Scott County web site (www.co.scott.mn.us). Additional information on the Comprehensive Plan Update can be found on the County's website; click on the "2030 Comp Plan Update" under the "Quick Links" section. For future opportunities to provide input on the Plan Update, please contact Tom Kreykes at (952) 496-8839.

Veteran's SCENE

By Roger Willmore
Scott County Director of Veteran's Services



VA Long Term Care Benefits

One of the most confusing and least known benefits many veterans have is **Long Term Care**. Long term care benefits include Nursing Home Care, Domiciliary Care, Adult Day Health Care, Geriatric Evaluation, and Respite Care.

Who qualifies? Any veteran who has a service-connected disability rated at 70 percent or more qualifies for nursing home care. Veterans whose service-connected disability is clinically determined to require nursing home care also qualify even if their disability is rated at less than 70 percent. In all cases, care will be provided in a VA nursing home or contract nursing home only.

Veterans who need **nursing home care** and have a disability of less than 70 percent may be provided nursing home care **if space and resources are available**. Only approximately 10 percent of all nursing homes have a contract with the VA. This makes availability difficult. In all cases, VA can pay for care only in nursing homes that participate in the VA's contract program.

Veterans who *do not have a service-connected disability* (non-service-connected) must complete an income and asset assessment to determine whether they will be billed for nursing home care. Some veterans who do not have a service connected disability may not be eligible at all if their income and assets are over the VA's income limit. A good general rule to consider: if the veteran's household income is less than \$45,000 after deducting medical expenses and assets (not to include home and vehicle) are less than \$120,000, the veteran may be eligible.

Domiciliary care provides rehabilitative and long-term health maintenance for veterans who require some medical care, but do not require all the services provided in nursing homes.

Adult day health care is a therapeutic day care program which provides medical and rehabilitation service to disabled veterans in a group setting. Adult day health care is part of the basic benefits package.

Respite care provides supportive care to veterans on a short-term basis to give the caregiver a planned period of relief from the physical and emotional demands associated with providing care.

There are also **home care** and **hospice care** available through the VA.

What are the costs? Veterans with a compensable service-connected disability are exempt from long-term care co-payments. Veterans who do not have a service-connected disability may be subject to long-term care co-payments. The co-payment is based on the veteran's income and assets. The VA does not require a co-payment for the first 21 days of long-term care services. For those who are required to make co-payments (eligible non-service-connected veterans), the maximum rates that can be charged for long-term care service are:

- ◆ **Nursing home, inpatient geriatric evaluation, inpatient respite:** \$97 a day
- ◆ **Adult day health care, outpatient geriatric evaluation, Outpatient respite:** \$15 a day
- ◆ **Domiciliary care:** \$5 a day

However, the monthly co-payment amounts will vary from veteran to veteran based on current financial information. The amounts listed above are the maximum co pays and only apply to those veterans who do not have a service-connected disability.

If the veteran is receiving his/her care at the VA Medical Center, their physician will determine what services, if any, are needed. Eligible veterans who are **not** enrolled or receiving care at the VA must first be enrolled before any long term care benefits can be established.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR FAMILIES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

A support group for families and friends of military personnel on active duty will meet every **third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Shakopee American Legion, 1266 E. 1st Ave** in Shakopee. Each month, there will be representatives from different organizations — such as the Red Cross, military personnel, et cetera — with information and to answer questions. For more information, contact Gary or Sandy at (952) 496-1900.

Roger Willmore can be heard on KCHK Radio (AM 1350) every third Monday of each month at 8:40 a.m.

Free seed available for wildlife food/cover plots

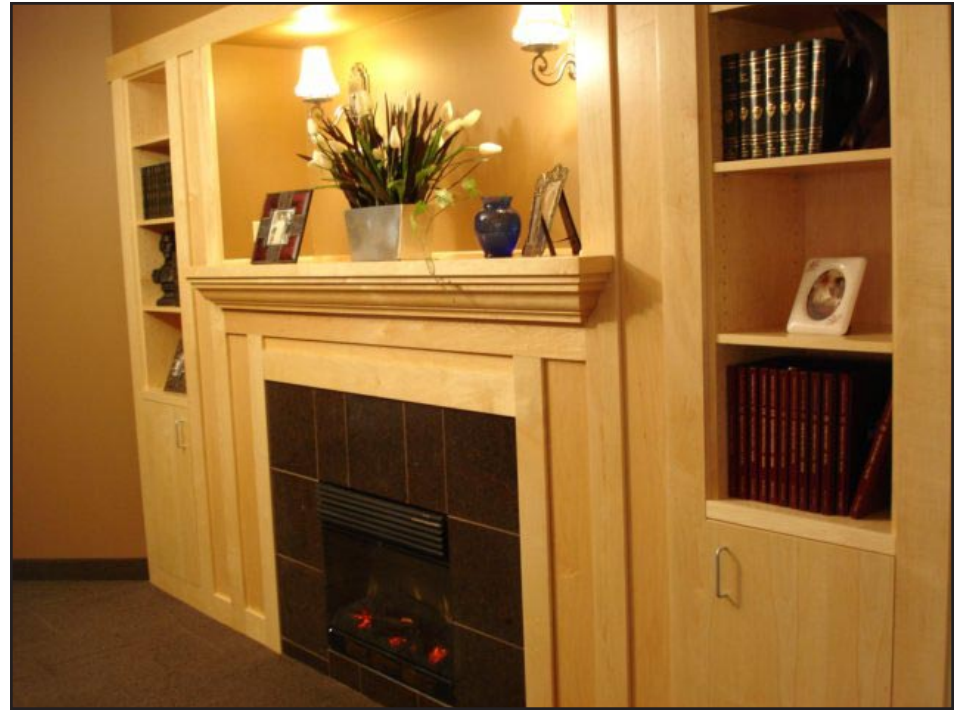
The Scott County Chapter of **Pheasants Forever** will be providing free corn and sorghum seed for set-aside acres or other land for those who wish to plant cover and food plots for wildlife.

Corn and **sorghum** are generally accepted as the more appropriate and reliable food sources.

After selecting a food plot variety, the two most critical factors to consider are the **size** and **location** of the plot. It is not uncommon for blizzards to fill the outer 25 to 50 rows of standing corn or sorghum in a single storm. Large (three to 10 acre) food plots are most desir-

able for countering winter blizzards.

Pheasants Forever has supplied the Scott SWCD with seed for the past 19 years. The types of seed available for the 2005 planting season will include corn and sorghum blend. The food or cover plots are to be left over winter of 2005/2006. The plots are not to be harvested till spring of 2006. *The seed provided is to be used for wildlife habitat only.* Sign up and pick up seed at the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District office in Jordan. For further information, please contact Jodi Worm at (952) 492-5416.



Tranquil areas such as this are available at SarahCare, an adult day service center in Savage.

SarahCare

From Page 1

the spa-inspired bathing room to a full-service beauty salon and barber shop, from sidewalk café-style eating areas to a tastefully masculine men's club room, the facility looks perfectly appropriate for a cover of an interior design magazine.

But it's not all about mere appearances. Each space was designed for specific purposes: the memory and tranquility room — complete with a fireplace, a softly gurgling fountain, and comfortable furniture — provides a soothing space for those suffering the effects of anxiety or just in need of a quiet place to visit with friends and family. The cheery craft room provides ample room and materials for the variety of projects and programs SarahCare® offers. The spacious and artistically decorated great room is as appropriate for enlivened conversation as it is for physical exercises, occupational therapy, and creative programs with youth and other community volunteers.

And that doesn't even begin to describe SarahCare®'s approach to total well-being. Gracefully tumbling over each other's words with an infectious energy, Peggy and Gail ticked off an illustrative list of services and programs: music, pet, and horticultural therapy; adult education; community service; indoor golf and bowling; inter-generational community-building with area students; field trips; therapeutic, personal, and physical care... all within a gracious, safe environment that makes everyone — clients, family members, caregivers, and guests — feel good.

"We hope our participants arrive each day anticipating a day ahead of them filled with familiar activity and shared friendships," said Gail. "And each day I arrive at SarahCare® knowing that I will be deeply touched by the people here. While each comes from differing circumstances and life experiences, they are able to encourage each other to meet new challenges and continue to find purposes in their lives."



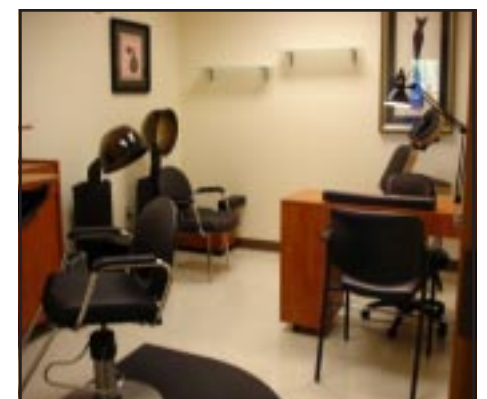
The game room at SarahCare offers a variety of activities.

"The adage 'it takes a village to raise a child' really continues throughout the lifespan, as each generation comes to the community with their own needs and service possibilities," added Peg. "When you bring these groups together in a supported environment to share their talents, interest, and compassion, it can only enrich their lives and strengthen the community."

Adult day service centers like SarahCare® are becoming an increasingly attractive option for providing care and companionship to adults with assistance needs. While they provide a healthy and stimulating facility for the clients themselves, they also allow daily caregivers something of a respite, as well as a supportive environment in which to share advice, have open conversations about some of the unique problems encountered with aging family members, or simply make friends. And brick by brick, wall by wall, they are helping to break down the barriers of fear and misunderstanding between generations and communities.

"There are so many benefits to adult day service centers," said Tim Walsh, Scott County Community Services Director. "First of all, they allow seniors to remain more independent and engaged in the life of the community. They can relate with other seniors, remain with their families and loved ones, and still be vital part of the larger community. Without seniors sharing their history, experiences, and their wisdom — and just being part of our day-to-day life — it would be like not knowing the final chapters of a great novel. Every life story is a story worth sharing."

SarahCare® Minnesota (www.SarahCaremn.com) is located at 4833 W. 123rd Street in Savage, and can be reached at (952) 465-0555 or via e-mail at info@SarahCaremn.com. For more information about this or other senior or adult day service options, please contact Scott County Public Health at (952) 496-8555.



A full service beauty salon and barber shop are available on site.

Scott County Jail – a look back:

From an eight-cell jail in 1880 to a modern facility with 400 cells

Local baseball aficionado **Tom Melchior** is taking a well-deserved break this spring (preparing for more “boys of summer” stories, in all likelihood!)... but, in the meantime, Scott County Historical Society **Kathleen Klehr** was kind enough to provide an historical overview of the Scott County Jail. Enjoy!

I have been watching construction of the new County Jail for quite a while now. Every day on my way to and from work, I take time to look for what is new, how high the walls are, where the tricycle is now. Watching the new construction made me wonder about the original County Jail... when was it first constructed? How big was that building? I had all sorts of questions. So, like any good historian, I started digging.

In 1882, the County issued bonds to build an eight cell jail and sheriff's residence at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Holmes Street in Shakopee. By 1882, construction was completed at a cost of \$4,577, with additional \$4,990 for equipment.

Those costs seem so small when you think they were constructing two buildings, until you look at the economy at the turn of the century. At that time the average wage was \$0.22 an hour, and the average annual salary was between \$200 and \$400. Sugar cost 4 cents a pound, eggs 14 cents a dozen, and coffee was 15 cents a pound. Most homes had no central heating or running water, and electricity was a luxury. Along with changes in economy, it was interesting to learn that women could be arrested for smoking in public, and the maximum speed limit was 10 mph. Quite a lot has changed in 125 years.

I began researching the history of the County Jail in the Scott County Historical Society's newspaper records, which turned up a surprising article. Back in 1882, just after the new jail was opened, two prisoners escaped with the help of “Bluebeard's Toothpick.”

“Just after a nice supper, two prisoners make their escape using a couple of sticks [broom handle] to pry open a corridor door.”

“Now, after all the fuss about the quality of steel in the jail bars, the really weak points appear to be in the apparent fact that the jail is not properly put together, in [that] the doors are too far apart, which gives but a half-catch to the lock-bolt...”

*(Shakopee Courier
September 14, 1882)*

It appears the problem with the jail doors was corrected because the jail and sheriff's residence were in constant use throughout the decades. However, in 1949 there were more rumblings...

“Scott County's antique jail and sheriff's residence will finally be replaced seems likely”

*(Shakopee Valley News
May 5, 1949)*

This clipping from the *Shakopee Valley News* offers the opinion that the buildings were in need of repair and were “an obvious eyesore.” Heated debates continued for quite a few years regarding whether to replace or repair the buildings:



The current Scott County Jail Annex in rural Jordan was originally part of the Mudbaden Sulphur Springs complex. It also served as a Catholic Seminary and a chemical dependency treatment facility before becoming a minimum security jail.

“During the past twenty years or so, Scott County crime, like the county itself, has become urbanized. Yet, according to law enforcement officials, the police...have been handicapped in the performance of their duties by lack of adequate facilities...”

*(Shakopee Valley News
July 12, 1954)*

Condemned County Jail Becomes Musty Storehouse

The *Shakopee Valley News* reported in 1956 that...

“The condemned and dilapidated Scott County jail...has had a long and stormy history.” “The condemnation process began prior to August 1933. [But it was in 1933 that] the sheriff was authorized to transport all prisoners to the Minneapolis Workhouse...”

From this article, it seems that since 1933 there were no prisoners housed at the Scott County Jail.

Newspaper articles are not very clear on the timing when the jail was closed to prisoners, or if the sheriff's residence was vacated. However, by careful search and cross-referencing with **Sheriff Schroeder's** scrapbooks, a timeline emerged:

1952 - Judge Harold E. Flynn ordered closing of Scott County jail

- ◆ Prisoners transported to the jail in Chaska, Carver County; Carver County billed Scott County a per diem for housing prisoners

- ◆ A \$75,000 bond was proposed to construct new jail

- ◆ There continued strong debate on whether to build a new jail or improve current buildings

1957 - Original Scott County Jail and Sheriff Residence fall to the wrecker's blows

1959 - New jail is completed at construction cost of approximately \$175,000

The new Scott County jail opened to a “full-house,” according to Sheriff W. B. Schroeder. A total of 10 prisoners were housed in the new 8-cell unit. The extra two were placed on special cots in the hall.

Although a new jail was built, the sheriff's residence passed into history. Today's adults that lived in the residence as children remember hearing their father book prisoners in the kitchen – or hearing prisoners cry in the night. These adults remember playing in the jail when there weren't any prisoners. One man



The Scott County Jail and Sheriff's Residence was built in the 1880s and served the County for many years.

remembers locking his buddies in cells on a dare. Another related this story...

“[Sheriff Schroeder] got a surprisingly strong shock turning on a light. After mopping the jail floor, he went to turn on the light by pulling a metal chain. His wife, hearing his yelp, ran to the fuse box without a moment's hesitation. Quite a close call!”

Cleaning the jail and feeding the prisoners were the sheriff's responsibility. One deputy remembers having to run back to the jail to feed the prisoners lunch. In fact, the wife of the sheriff was responsible for providing breakfast, lunch, and dinner to all the prisoners (including lunches for work release) into the 1980s. Mostly, prisoners were left on their own in their cells – they were not watched overnight, perhaps because the sheriff's residence was attached to the jail.

In the 1970s and 80s, Scott County experienced strong growth. In 1987, the County bought the Lynnville Treatment Center in Jordan for a minimum-security Jail Annex. The purchase of this center for an Annex introduced another building's history to the Scott County Jail story.

Ahhh – the joys of MUD. In the 1890s, **Ole Rosendahl** stumbled on sulfur water and mud oozing from a marsh on his property near Jordan. Because sulfur mud was proposed to have medicinal properties, Ole began to offer mud treatments in his home. Word got around and soon his business picked up. In 1910, Rosendahl Sulfur Springs became the world famous Mudbaden health spa.

By 1912, Mudbaden boasted a four-story structure with 100 rooms, and their own *Mudbaden Station* rail stop. Sulfur mud treatments became famous for curing rheumatism and much more, including alcoholism. People arrived from all over the U.S. and beyond.

“Rates for board, room, and treatments in 1927 ranged from \$35 to \$45 a week, \$5 to \$7 a day.”

(Currents, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 36)

However, new advances in medicine and a decline in patients brought Mudbaden to a close in April 1952.

The building did not stay empty long. In July 1952, the University of Notre Dame of South Bend, Indiana began remodeling Mudbaden for a training and education center for prospective Catholic priests. A little over ten years later, the building would change hands again. The University believed it would be beneficial for the priests to be trained in closer relationship with an educational institute. Therefore, in January 1967, Valleyview Manor Inc., which planned to develop a senior citizen residence (which never happened), briefly owned the buildings and grounds.

Instead, in 1969, Abbott-Northwestern purchased the property, opening *Lynnville*, a drug treatment center in 1970. (Ironically, DWI sentences are now served at the Annex.) Finally, in 1986, Scott County acquired *Lynnville* for a minimum-security jail, which is still in use today.

Another page in Scott County Jail History Begins

Between 1990 and 2000, Scott County's population exploded, growing at a rate exceeding an astounding 54 percent.

The 1959 Jail is “licensed to hold 40 inmates... but fails to meet pre-1974 standards in a variety of areas.”

*(Shakopee Valley News
November 4, 1999)*

In 2001, the Minnesota Department of Corrections informed Scott County that it needed to build a new jail or lose its license to operate the aging, non-compliant facility.

“Loss of the main jail would require the county to shut down its Jail Annex in Sand Creek Township...” “...Annex received an annual income averaging about \$1 million for housing inmates from other jurisdictions.”

*(Shakopee Valley News
April 5, 2001)*

The Scott County “committee studying the future of the jail poised to recommend...[that] a new jail be built.”

*(Shakopee Valley News
April 5, 2001)*

This time, debate to build a new jail was much less heated, and the decision to build a new facility was made. Today, you can see the final touches being made to the new modern facility. As I look back over the research, it strikes me that a new jail was needed and built approximately every fifty years. By the looks of the new building, I think this one may last quite a bit longer.

Are you living paycheck to paycheck? Tips can help you manage money better

Statistics from the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Federal Reserve, and the National Endowment for Financial Education point to the ever-growing need for American families to pay attention to their financial picture. Half of all Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, and little or nothing is put into savings for emergencies or for retirement. *More young people filed for bankruptcy than graduated from college in 2001.*

Ask yourself the following questions to see if your family could use more time spent on financial planning and discussion:

- **Do you have a liquid savings account which could pay your bills for three to six months?** What would happen if you lost your job, or became ill for an extended time? Would you lose your home?
- **Are your housing expenses greater than 33 percent of your income each month?** That is a safe amount for most families to handle.
- **Do you save 10 percent of your income each month for retirement costs?** Are you building a savings account that is earning interest?
- **Do you talk to your children regularly about**



how to save, balance a checkbook, or make sound decisions?

- **Do you and your spouse or partner communicate about money issues?** Do you really listen to the other persons concerns and goals. Approximately 57 percent of all divorces are due to arguments about money.

For more information, or a one-on-one consultation about your money management decisions, call your Family Resource Management educator at the Scott County/University of Minnesota Extension Service at (952) 492-5383.

Tired of the ordinary life? FOSTER A TEEN!

Scott County Foster Care Needs You! If you are up for a challenge that may be very rewarding, Call Scott County Foster Care Licensing at: 952-496-8505

Scott County Foster Homes Needed

Have you ever thought about becoming a foster parent? Scott County Human Services needs foster homes throughout the County to provide care for teenagers and sibling groups.

There are opportunities to provide occasional overnight or weekend care, as well as long term care for older teens.

You can be married, single, with or without children, but preferably have a strong desire to work with challenging youth and a willingness to participate in training. Professional support, training and a daily rate are provided by Scott County.

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS ON YOUR PROPERTY!

Notice is hereby given this 15th day of April 2005, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83 Subd. 1 (1992), that all persons in Scott County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they own, occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method, but the methods may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the General Notice may mean that an individual notice will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with the individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work is hired done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. You may obtain a list of the plants that are noxious and a list of the members of the appeal committee from your County Agricultural Inspector or local weed inspector. The local weed inspectors are township supervisors, and city mayors or their appointed assistants.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWNSHIP AND CITY WEED INSPECTORS

TOWN OF BELLE PLAINE Robert Koenig Richard Klehr Gary Schmitz	TOWN OF LOUISVILLE John E. Weckman Marion Schmidt Susan K. Morevec Donald Theis, Inspector	CITY OF JORDAN Ron Jabs, Mayor Dave Bendzik, Inspector
TOWN OF BLAKELEY John Busse Brian Schmidt Robert Wagner	TOWN OF NEW MARKET George Silverness Harry W. Anderson LeRoy Clausen	CITY OF NEW MARKET Jim Friedges, Mayor
TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE Robert Puncchar Wilfred Wagner Gerald Williams Fritz Novotny, Inspector	TOWN OF ST. LAWRENCE Ted Kornder Hubert Jeurissen Les Quatmann	CITY OF NEW PRAGUE Craig Sindelar, Mayor Dennis Seurer, Inspector
TOWN OF CREDIT RIVER Bruce Nilsen Daniel Casey LeRoy Schommer	TOWN OF SAND CREEK Cy Wolf Leslie Thill Bill Heimkes Tom Kes, Inspector	CITY OF PRIOR LAKE Jack Haugen, Mayor Al Friedges, Inspector
TOWN OF HELENA Duane Deutsch Joseph Pexa, Jr. Terry Maas Kevin Green, Inspector	TOWN OF SPRING LAKE Gene Berens John P. Henschel Michael Borka	CITY OF SAVAGE Thomas Brennan, Mayor Jon Allen, Inspector
TOWN OF JACKSON Norbert Theis Don Hedlund Chris Brinkhaus Charles Wellen, Inspector	CITY OF BELLE PLAINE Tom Meger, Mayor Al Fahey, Inspector	CITY OF SHAKOPEE John J. Schmitt, Mayor Mike Hullander, Inspector
CITY OF ELKO Kent Hartzler, Mayor		

The Board of County Commissioners asks your cooperation in this weed control work
Pete Shutrop, County Agricultural Inspector
in cooperation with the State Department of Agriculture, County Extension Educator
and Lezlie Vermillion, Public Works Director

Roadside spraying is optional

Beginning in May, the Scott County Highway Department — as part of its vegetation management program — will be scheduling some roadside vegetation work along all Scott County highways. The unwanted brush will be cut and/or treated with herbicide. Your land *may* be adjacent to the roadside scheduled for treatment.

The goals are to eliminate the brush and to promote grass cover along the roadside. Brush along the road reduces driving visibility, obstructs road signs, and reduces driver reaction time to crossing wildlife. Brush presents maintenance problems by retaining water along the roadbed, obstructing ditches, and damaging equipment.

To meet these goals, the Highway Department uses selective herbicides that control the brush and noxious weeds but *allow the grasses to grow unharmed*. All herbicides we use have been fully tested and are approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

This is a spot spray operation, targeting only undesirable vegetation. We take care to avoid sensitive areas adjacent to the right-of-way, such as tree plantations, ornamental plantings, crops, gardens, front yards, lakes, and streams.

If you would like to maintain the right-of-way adjacent to your land in some other fashion (such as mowing), please follow these instructions:

1. Stop at the Scott County Highway Department building located on Highway 282 just west of Highway 13, prior to May 1, 2005 and fill out the proper form including the property description.

2. Post the "DO NOT SPRAY" signs that you will be given.

3. Remove the brush and/or noxious weeds within that site by May 15 and continue to maintain it. If the brush and/or noxious weeds are not removed, then we must treat the area as part of our vegetation management program.

If you have any questions, please call the Scott County Highway Department at (952) 496-8346, or Pete Shutrop, Scott County Agricultural Inspector, at (952) 496-8497.