

# 2030 Comp Plan identifies natural area corridors

## Efforts will be made to manage and protect natural resources

This is the second in a series of articles highlighting key initiatives of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, which will guide growth and development of Scott County over the next twenty years. With major growth expected to continue, the 2030 Comprehensive Plan provides a number of innovative ways to maintain a high quality of life while protecting the County's unique natural environment. A different initiative will be discussed in each SCENE issue throughout 2008. The 2030 Comprehensive Plan update is anticipated to be adopted by the County Board at the end of this year.

Scott County's 2030 Vision recognizes how important natural resources are in shaping the landscape (picture the rolling hills in New Market Township), defining a place or community (such as

the wooded bluffs around Jordan), sustaining the health of the environment (the Minnesota River Valley refuge areas), and adding to the quality of life for current and future residents (the return of songbirds and waterfowl over the bluffs of Blakeley). Furthermore, the 2030 Vision recognizes that these images could be at risk over the next two decades if the County does not properly respect and manage these resources in the face of continued growth and development.

To establish a more proactive approach to managing these resources and create a "green print" for the future, the County's 2030 planning process included an effort to comprehensively inventory, map, and outline strategies to preserve and protect critical natural resource areas. This process included tech-  
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The rolling hills of New Market Township, the wooded bluffs around Jordan, and the Minnesota River refuge areas are among the natural area corridors that have been identified for preservation in Scott County's 2030 Comprehensive Plan update.

### 2008 tax payment options

Scott County has several property tax payment options for your convenience:

- ◆ **Property taxes can be paid at Customer Service (at the Government Center) on:** Mondays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Drive-up tax payments are available...**  
You can **drive up** to the designated area near the entry of the Government Center on the due date, Thursday, **May 15**, and not even leave your car. Staff will be available from **8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** to take your property tax payment from you.
- ◆ **There are additional tax payment dropoff boxes around the County as well...**  
**Inside** the Government Center in front of Customer Service and near the front receptionist desk.  
**Outside** the entry of the Government Center near the postal mailbox (May 1- May 15).  
**At all Scott County Libraries** (May 5 - May 15). Please check local libraries for hours.
- ◆ **Direct payment:**  
You can have your property taxes automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the due dates. For more information on direct deposit, please call (952) 496-8153.

# Scott County Transit: Getting you where you need to go

### What is Scott County Transit?

Scott County Transit offers affordable public transit services for the residents of Scott County with many options available to serve individual needs. Everyone can use it... there are no income or age restrictions (except that children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult). Our comfortable buses are all wheelchair lift equipped.

Scott County Transit is committed to providing the highest quality transportation services, emphasizing safety, training, and value. Additional information and downloadable brochures can be obtained from the Scott County website at [www.co.scott.mn.us](http://www.co.scott.mn.us).

### Where Can Scott County Transit Take Me?

Scott County Transit can take you to work, shopping, banking, on medical or dental appointments, to college classes, visiting, or on other errands. The choice is yours!

### What Are My Transportation Options?

There are many transportation service options, depending on your individual circumstances and needs. Scott County Transit offers residents the following choices:



### Dial-A-Ride

Dial-A-Ride is a reservation-only, shared ride service for Scott County. Other passengers will be picked up and dropped off during your ride. Door-to-door assistance is available. The driver can assist you to the first door of your home or destination, but cannot supervise or stay with passengers during their trip. Scott County Transit integrates with the Dial-A-Ride services of the surrounding communities to get you where you need to go. Rides are reserved up to five days in advance and are subject to availability. Fares depend on which cities a passenger is traveling between. Call (952) 496-8341 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on week-  
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**The State's Party**  
Scott County will celebrate Minnesota's 150th birthday Saturday, May 17 in Shakopee  
**Page 15**



**Prepare for severe weather**  
Do you and your family know what to do if severe weather approaches? Be prepared. Practice April 24 during the statewide tornado drill.  
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## Top of the SCENE

By Dave Unmacht  
Scott County Administrator



### Good advice: Follow your gut

One quick glance at the books at home and in my office, and you can quickly get a good sense of my reading interests. I like to collect and own books, mostly hardcover, but a good soft cover book is not turned away if it fits into my category of interests. On my shelf includes **history**: primarily WWII and Civil War; **sports**: mainly stories of people, places, and events; **political science**: politics and policy in America; and **leadership**: advice and suggestions on leading and managing organizations. Of course, there is a smattering of "misfits" on the shelf, from a biography here and there to countless coffee table books, not to mention copies of literary masterpieces that I thought I *should* own (whether I like them or not).

As I contemplated the topic of this column, one book title leapt out at me as particularly apropos for my subject matter. **Jack Welch**, a popular yet controversial figure in American business, wrote a book in 2001 called **Jack: Straight from the Gut**. Welch's claim to fame rests in his creative and innovative leadership of the massive General Electric Corporation. The book is about his influence, impact, and insight into his long running tenure at GE. This column borrows from the title with a timely and, yes, "straight from the gut" message about the interconnectivity and subsequent challenges of our federal, state, and local finances. Based on our federal system, we – local governments, that is — are third in the pecking order and our position is both tenuous and fully dependent upon our larger and more prominent partners.

First, the feds. By all accounts, the federal government is bankrupt. Not in a legal or statutory way, of course, but it is the only level of government in our federal system that can legally deficit spend. Economists and politicians argue the value of deficits; I don't know if deficits are inherently good or bad, but I do know we are living on borrowed time as well as money with our obligations. "Federal revenue sharing," the national government's attempt to aid local governments, began under Nixon and ended its short life during the Reagan administration. We have a lot of challenges at our federal level and — outside of the occasional grant, road project, and/or public safety appropriation — the federal government is no place to look for ongoing revenues or meaningful property tax relief. Frankly, that was how the system was designed to work. Despite the magnitude of our local needs, let's be real: The federal government has a lot of its *own* problems that need its time, money, and resources.

In my business, I think more about the state of our state's economy. Honestly, I am worried. The state financial crunch has a greater influence on you, me, and how we run our local government than anything else. (Granted, the state economy is connected to and influenced by the national and international economy, but the result on our local governments is felt more as a result of the state's decisions.) Our state system is highly shaped by the overall state of the economy, by virtue of its dependence on the collection of income and sales tax. The fluctuations in income and sales are generally cyclical, and often predictable.

Today, we have a deficit of just under \$1 billion; *tomorrow*, we should prepare for a deficit of even greater proportion. A few years from now, we may have a surplus — but these wild "boom/bust" fluctuations and swings just aren't good business. Certainly, no one can argue this fact; however, my gut tells me our state leaders need to spend more time on finding a way to release our state's future from the erratic ups and downs of our economy. I know this is no easy charge, and it would require both strong political will and great political skill, but the historical budget solutions that involve tinkering, accounting shifts, gimmicks, and cuts won't do the job any longer. The political culture is focused on solving the immediate crisis and not addressing the underlying problem.

This is no way to run a business, and the state of Minnesota is one big business.

Unlike the federal government, both the state and local governments must balance their budgets. But the similarities end there. The state balances its budget on a *forecast*. Local governments actually balance their real revenues and expenditures each year... no exceptions. By some measures, our job can be easier. But what makes our job harder is that a proportion of our income is derived from the state. (Logic would suggest that the more state money we get the less local money [i.e., property tax] we need. True in some instances, but my gut suggests that this outcome makes us more and more dependent upon a state that within recent years is becoming less and less dependable.)

See the dilemma? Financially speaking, our two larger partners are either unavailable or unreliable. In other words, the pressure is on *us*. So what do we do? I will highlight three ideas Scott County is considering:

- **Reallocate where aid dollars go.** Except for dollars that go directly to a specific program, we could phase out the state's general property tax aid dollars in the operating budget. We could consider using what money we do get for one-time expenditures or capital purchases.

- **Focus on our core mission and purpose.** The County Board is actively involved in setting priorities for 2009 and beyond, with the *2030 Comprehensive Plan* and a new and engaging budget process. This will help set priorities and allocate tight resources in a tough market.

- **Create more efficiency in our work.** Productivity *matters*, and since new money will be scarce, we should look inward. Two major initiatives are underway: We are rebuilding our financial applications with a drive toward efficiency and accountability, while at the same time focusing our training and leadership development around enhancing our customer service.

My dad was a gym teacher and coach. While there are likely few similarities between him and businessman Jack Welch, there is one possible exception: My dad always told me to "trust my gut." Well, I do, and I *am* — but not without the expertise, advice, and hard work of many of my local government colleagues and staff. When we get through this immediate crisis, we'll all be the stronger and the better for it.

## Commissioners' Corner

### Scott County Board Meetings Through June 2008

April 15	—	no meeting
April 22	—	County Board meeting
April 29	—	no meeting, County Board workshop
May 6	—	County Board meeting
May 13	—	County Board meeting
May 20	—	no meeting
May 27	—	County Board meeting
June 3	—	County Board meeting
June 10	—	no meeting
June 17	—	County Board meeting; Board of Equalization meeting
June 24	—	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](http://www.co.scott.mn.us), or by calling Deputy Clerk to the Board 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. Members of advisory committees are provided with a per diem and mileage reimbursement for attendance at meetings. If you have any questions or are interested in serving on one of these committees, contact Deb Brazil at [dbrazil@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:dbrazil@co.scott.mn.us) or (952) 496-8601.

#### Board of Adjustment and Planning Advisory Commission (1 vacancy).

There is currently one vacancy in Commissioner District 3. The purpose of the Planning Advisory Commission is to hold public hearings on amendments to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan in the townships; review all applications for conditional use permits, interim use permits, plans for subdivision of land; and to make recommendations for approval or denial to the County Board. The Board of Adjustment holds public hearings and makes decisions on variance requests. These Boards meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

**Human Services Resource Council (2 vacancies).** The Resource Council consists of three representatives from each Commissioner District. There are currently two vacancies -- one in Commissioner District 4 and one in Commissioner District 5. Members serve two-year terms, and are eligible to serve a total of three terms. 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 committee meets quarterly, on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m.

**New Options Advisory Committee (1 vacancy).** The New Options Advisory Committee is a subcommittee of the Human Services Resource Council. Currently, there are two vacancies on this Committee representing the business community and parents of clients utilizing the New Options Program. This Committee provides oversight for program planning and represents the individuals served by the program, the employers, applicable professions, and the community at large. The Committee meets four times per year on Monday evenings.

**Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District (1 vacancies).** The Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District Board of Managers provides technical reviews of land development proposals; coordinates its water management responsibilities with local units of government; and furnishes information to local units of government and the public about protecting the District's special natural resources. The Board meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. Members must reside within the Watershed District.

#### 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; the City of Elko New Market; and precincts 6 and 8 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 the City of Shakopee precincts 7, 9, 11, and 12
- **District 5** – The City of Savage, except precincts 6 and 8.

### Scott SCENE now online

The Scott SCENE can now be viewed online through a link on the Scott County homepage:

[www.co.scott.mn.us](http://www.co.scott.mn.us)

## 2030 Vision From Page 1

nical analysis and research conducted by County staff, as well as policy input from three advisory commissions (parks, planning, Scott WMO Watershed), the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board, and township officials. This group held six workshops over the course of 2006 and 2007 to compile inventory data, create a ranking system for evaluating natural feature qualities, identify draft corridors, and discuss various implementation policies.

The diversity of opinions and perspectives on natural resource protection from these different advisory group members added great value to the process, said Natural Resources Program Manager Paul Nelson. "It was very clear from the start that there is a strong conservation ethic in Scott County. But there is also a desire for respecting private property rights," Nelson said as he reflected back on some of the discussions. "The outcome of this program, I think,



reflects both perspectives," he added.

The group's efforts resulted in the identification of "Natural Area Corridors" and a corresponding map. A Natural Area Corridor is defined as a linear connection of natural features which may include areas with known sensitive species or communities, unique natural communities, and high and medium quality natural communities. Designating Natural Area Corridors is *not* intended to prohibit development. Rather, the intent is to guide development-related decisions as outlined within the following corridor purpose statements:

- Guide where resources can be enhanced and/or restored (e.g., what types of vegetation should be planted, where stormwater ponds should be located);
- Allow for movement of wildlife in order to meet their basic habitat requirements for feeding, breeding, and resting;
- Provide connectivity between larger preservation areas;
- Guide where trailways (e.g., bittuminous, woodchip, and vegetative paths) may be located, if determined to be compatible and appropriate;
- Create viewsheds to help maintain rural "feel" of the community and the landscape that attracts many residents to the area;
- Buffer a resource from the impact of development;
- Guide where high priority areas may be targeted for public acquisition and/or regional parks;
- Guide transportation corridor planning; and
- Protect and buffer water resources.

The mapped Natural Area Corridors will serve several functions: water quality, preservation of indigenous plant and animal species, native wildlife habitat, open space, recreation, education and

rural character. "The Natural Areas Corridors plan is unique in terms of its many dimensions of protection," said Patricia Freeman, Senior Natural Resource Specialist with the County. "Whereas isolated small pockets of preserved lands rarely result in sustainable benefits to wildlife, a corridor-based system will protect large core-habitat areas benefiting wildlife, especially the region's rare and threatened species, long-term. Certainly the human dimension of the livability of a community is enhanced and protected through a corridor system. Scenic views, the feeling of rural character and open space, and opportunities for public recreation and connection to nature can slip away in a community before one realizes they are gone. The corridor system will help preserve and provide these functions."

Scott County Community Development staff will begin offering a two-pronged approach to achieve this countywide corridor system. The first approach would occur through private land development, where any parcel proposed for development within a mapped Natural Area Corridor could be eligible for additional density if the natural area is permanently protected through a conservation easement. This would be a voluntary approach, but the extra density could be an incentive to provide permanent protection of the resource.

Another approach does not rely on land development, but rather promoting land stewardship practices with landowners through cost-share programs. The County, Scott WMO, and Scott SWCD have a very active cost-share and incentive program to promote land conservation practices such as shoreland restoration, wetland restoration, and filter strips. According to Nelson, over 80 conservation projects have been initiated through the cost-share program in the past two years. The total cost for these projects is about \$1.5 million; however, the County has been able to leverage state, local, and federal funds such that the landowner share is typically about ten percent of the costs.

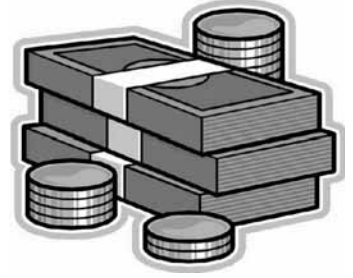
Whether through land stewardship or protection through land development, the County's Natural Area Corridors program will help preserve quality natural resources; protect wildlife, plant community habitats, and migration stopovers; and enhance water quality of wetlands and streams. Achieving this countywide system of open space will take decades, likely occur in a piecemeal pattern, and rely on a combination of opportunities from the private sector and investments from the public sector. But in the end, these corridors could become the landscape feature that helps distinguish Scott County from the rest of the Twin Cities metro area and adds to the overall quality of life for current and future generations.

For more information on the 2030 Comprehensive Plan or to view the draft Natural Area Corridors map, contact the Planning Department at (952) 496-8475 or visit the County's website ([www.co.scott.mn.us](http://www.co.scott.mn.us)) and click on "2030 Comp Plan" under the "Property, GIS & Land" tab.

## Economic stimulus package

### What will you do with *your* check?

Wow, it isn't every day you receive extra money! But this summer, most Americans will receive a check as part of the federal Economic Stimulus Package. This is all spendable income, as it won't be taxed. (However, if you owe back taxes, child support, or you've defaulted on student loans, it may be intercepted for payment).



The rebate was designed to be spent to support the economy, but spending it *thoughtfully* can help you meet some important goals and still have some "fun money." You might want to consider dividing the money into thirds.

◆ **Start or add to your emergency savings account.** Many people don't have any cushion to cover a crisis which may come up. Here would be some money to have for car repairs, an unplanned doctor visit, or a freezer that quits on you.

◆ **Pay down some high interest debt.** The cost of interest on debt robs

many families of any freedom to have options on spending. Paying that debt down with some of your rebate may save you many additional dollars in the months to come.

◆ **Make consumer choices thoughtfully.** If each family member is savoring the idea of cash to buy what they've been dreaming of, some family members may be disappointed. Discuss the options for spending this money wisely. What will provide the most future value or satisfaction? It may be that buying diapers, school supplies for next year, using it for youth activity registration or adult education may be more useful than buying other consumer goods.

**To claim your Economic Stimulus Payment, you must file a 2007 Federal Tax Return. If you need help or more information, please visit the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov); call the IRS hotline at 1-866-234-2942, or visit a taxpayer assistance clinic in your area.**



### Providing an anti-meth message

Staff at the Shakopee Senior High School wore t-shirts March 7 supporting "Choose Life Not Meth" to help bring awareness to the students about the dangers of using chemicals, both legal and illegal. The shirts were provided by the Scott County Meth Task Force which continues to educate residents about the dangers of meth and enforce laws that deal with the illegal production, sale, and use of drugs.

### Postal rates increase May 12

On May 12, the United States Postal Service will be adjusting prices for mailing and shipping services, including first-class mail, standard mail, periodicals, package services, and special services.

As of May 12, a first-class mail stamp will be 42¢. (Customers can continue to use the "Forever Stamps" that they purchased prior to May 12 at 41¢, even after the price change.) To accommodate increased demand, the USPS will have 5 billion "Forever Stamps" in stock before the price change. "Forever Stamps" are widely available through post offices, contract postal units, consignment locations, automated postage centers, vending, and at [The Postal Store®](http://ThePostalStore.com). USPS also will have a 62¢ stamp available shortly after May 12 for one-ounce nonmachinable first-class mail letters, such as square greeting cards.

For more information on this and other pricing changes, please visit [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) (and click on "New Prices May 12" under News and Alerts).

## 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](mailto:lkohner@co.scott.mn.us) if you have questions or a suggestion for a future topic.**

## Healthy SCENE

By Jennifer Deschaine  
Community Health Director



### What does this flu season's "mismatch" mean?

This year's flu vaccine was *not* a perfect match for all of the strains of flu that were expected. The press coverage on this vaccine "mismatch" created considerable concern and many questions.

#### How did this happen?

Each year, several strains of influenza type A and influenza type B circulate around causing varying degrees of flu symptoms. A vaccine is not available to address all of the different strains that exist, even though researchers are trying to develop such a vaccine.

Each year the Center for Disease Control creates a vaccine based on the most recent wintertime circulating strains of influenza. The vaccine always contains two influenza A strains and one influenza B strain. During the first part of this year's flu season, 90 percent of the flu that has been seen in Minnesota was a good match for one of the three vaccine strains included in this year's vaccine. But since February, there has been a rapid increase of two strains of flu that were *not* included in this year's vaccine.

#### Why can't they perfectly match the vaccine?

The vaccine is created from an egg-based process developed in the 1950s. There are several steps to this process. First, the most recent winter flu season is evaluated for the three strains of flu viruses that most frequently made people sick in the Southern Hemisphere. Then a single vaccine is created that includes these three viruses. Because the process to grow and harvest the viruses from the egg-based technology is quite time consuming, the process to create the vaccine must start *nine to ten months* before the next flu season. Manufacturing and distribution for the entire population is also part of the process. The length of the process does not allow for vaccine adjustments to include changes in the viruses that may emerge just before the flu season hits. Even though the vaccine does not match exactly, the match is fairly good — and the protection for most of the population is very good.

The time-consuming process for developing flu season viruses is the very reason that the preparedness and planning efforts for a pandemic influenza are so paramount. From the time that we identify the *exact* strain of virus that would be causing a pandemic, it would take several months to create and distribute a vaccine. Being able to protect yourself and your family through staying at home and "social distancing" is the underlining reason that public health and emergency management are educating the public and providing tool kits for preparedness.

#### So why even receive the vaccine?

According to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), even if the circulating strains are not an exact match to the strains included in the vaccine, they are likely to be a close enough match for the vaccine to provide a good level of protection. Although flu viruses can change over time, the vaccine viruses are still similar enough to the new virus to offer some protection. Even without a perfect match, the vaccine can still be effective. *Basically, if you already received a flu vaccine, you are still less likely to get sick. And if you do become sick, your illness is likely to be milder, or at least manageable.*

As of March 14, there have been two confirmed pediatric influenza-related deaths that occurred in Minnesota. In February, the first death occurred in an unvaccinated 12-year-old girl in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. She had asthma, which carries higher risks for influenza. The second death occurred in March in a 5-year-old girl in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area. She was vaccinated after her illness had already started. Both of these deaths are very tragic, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the families. Illnesses can come on very suddenly in children and become serious in a short period of time. Childhood deaths from influenza each year can range from zero to five or six. In the 2006-07 flu season, six children and one middle-aged adult died in Minnesota from influenza. Nationally, there have been 32 flu deaths this season. Most influenza-related deaths occur in the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions that make them more likely to have complications.

#### Who should be vaccinated?

The flu season doesn't end until late spring, so vaccination is recommended through the end of April. Under the newly revised CDC recommendations, the following people should be vaccinated:

- Anyone **six months of age and older** can receive the influenza vaccine. Priority groups for vaccination include:
- All children age **six months to 18 years**
- Women who are **pregnant**
- All persons **50 years and older**
- Children and adults with certain **underlying health conditions**, including: heart disease, pulmonary disease (including asthma), metabolic disease (diabetes), kidney disease, immune deficiency, blood disorders, long-term aspirin therapy, and neurologic disorders.

If your child is six months through eight years old and is getting the flu vaccine for the first time, he or she may need two doses. If you have a moderate to severe illness, you may be asked to wait until you are well to be vaccinated.

Scott County Public Health holds an immunization clinic every Monday from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Workforce Development Center in Shakopee. Scott County Public Health has flu vaccine available. For more information and directions, contact (952) 496-8555. To locate other flu shot clinics, visit the MDH Web site at [www.mdhflu.com](http://www.mdhflu.com).

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## Is someone you know struggling with mental illness? There's help!

The Scott County Chapter of NAMI (the National Association for Mental Illness) will be meeting on the first and third Wednesday of the month beginning in May (May 7 and 21) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Valley Green Workforce Center (at 752 Canterbury Road South, Shakopee). NAMI is dedicated to working for responsive mental health services in the community and improving public understanding about mental illness.

The first meeting of the month (on the first Wednesday) is primarily for adult family members, significant others, friends, or others concerned about someone close to them who is struggling with managing a mental illness. This meeting may be especially helpful to those trying to support someone who is ill but who hasn't been willing or able to understand, accept, and/or effectively manage their troubling condition on their own. Difficulty in recognizing the illness for what it is — and engaging in effective treatment — is especially common with schizophrenia, schizoaffective dis-

order, and bipolar disorder.)

The second meeting of the month (on the third Wednesday) is open to all who are interested (including those living with a mental illness).

The goals of the group are:

- To lessen the feeling of being alone with the illness or alone with the challenges in supporting someone struggling with a mental illness.

- To problem-solve and develop practical approaches and strategies in dealing with the challenges at hand through education and the sharing of ideas.

- To refute the idea that there is something "wrong" or "shameful" about mental illness. *Mental illness is, after all, an illness.*

For more information, please contact Janet Williams, NAMI — Scott County, President, at (952) 890-1669 or Kevin Wineman, Scott County Adult Mental Health, at (952) 496.8515. You may also visit the NAMI — Minnesota website at [www.nami.org/namimn](http://www.nami.org/namimn)

## Co-signing loans means liability, responsibility

"I need a co-signer for a loan. It's no big deal. All you have to do is come with me to the bank and sign something."

Not so fast! Co-signing is a big deal, especially if any kind of financial setback prevents the borrower from making payments in a timely manner. Co-signing for a loan is a legal agreement that if the debtor doesn't *pay each payment, on time*, and the *full amount* as agreed, the lender can immediately turn to you for complete payment of the debt. Also, the debt is listed on the co-signer's credit history and used to determine their credit score as if it was their own debt. It could prevent you from receiving a loan or credit arrangement of your own if your credit is damaged because your friend (or child) isn't paying the bill. Late payments and missing payments are a part of your credit history too.

Before agreeing to co-sign for a loan or credit arrangement, make sure you could afford to pay off the debt if it was "called in" by the lender. Do you have savings that would cover the debt? Do you bring in enough discretionary income (income beyond what you need to cover your monthly bills) to pay monthly payments if the debt is shifted to you?

Have a heart-to-heart discussion with the person requesting your help. Do



they really have the income, and the intent, to pay the bill on time each month? Do they understand what this commitment means for your credit record? Should they run into trouble paying any month, ask them to tell you immediately and not hide the fact. As co-signer, you might be able to just pay one month's payment to allow the borrower to get over a difficult month.

If you are concerned about the willingness or ability of the borrower to pay the lender, or your ability to cover the loan, it might be best to just say, "...I'd like to help, but I can't at this time." There are times people really need a co-signer to rebuild credit or get started building a credit history, but don't put your own family in jeopardy! For more information on family finances, or to plan so that you can afford the things you need, contact Sue Hooper, U of M Extension Family Finance Specialist at (952) 492-5383 or via e-mail at [hoop0011@umn.edu](mailto:hoop0011@umn.edu).

#### Continued from at left

#### How else can I protect myself and my family?

The flu vaccine is still the best protection, even when it isn't a perfect match. Other steps that can be taken to prevent exposure to others is **stay home from work and school** when you have flu-like symptoms for the duration of the illness, usually several days. **Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue** — or your sleeve — when you cough or sneeze, and then throw the tissue away and wash your hands. **Wash your hands** frequently and thoroughly. If water is not immediately available, use an **alcohol-based hand sanitizer** to rub on your hands. Keep yourself healthy through **regular exercise, good nutrition, and getting plenty of rest.**

**Note:** Do **NOT** give aspirin to children with influenza; use acetaminophen (Tylenol) to relieve fever or other flu symptoms. Contact your healthcare provider if you have any questions or concerns. For further information refer to the MDH fact sheet, *Influenza (flu) Information for Parents*, available on the MDH website at [www.mdhflu.com](http://www.mdhflu.com).



# Geothermal heat pumps reduce energy costs

(Note: This article will provide a general background of geothermal heat pumps (GHPs). Part two will be based on the real world experience of a Scott County employee who uses a GHP for a primary source of heating and cooling and heating hot water in his home.)

Geothermal heat pumps (sometimes referred to as GeoExchange, earth-coupled, ground-source, or water-source heat pumps) are a technology that has been around for about 60 years. With the price of energy increasing ever faster, homeowners and business owners are making old ideas new again.

There are a couple types of heat pumps: GHPs, and air-source heat pumps -- which are cheaper to install but are less efficient than a GHP. There is also dual source heat pumps which combine air source and geothermal. This particular article will address geothermal heat pumps.

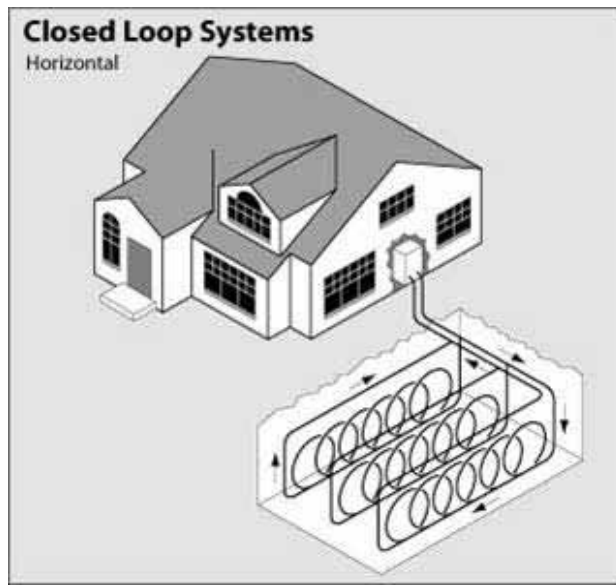
The basis of a geothermal heat pump is to use the constant temperature of the earth as an exchange medium to heat and cool buildings. In Scott County, below a few feet, the ground is a steady temperature of about 50° Fahrenheit. Like a cave, this ground temperature is warmer than the air above it during the winter and cooler than the air in the summer. The GHP takes advantage of this by exchanging heat with the earth through a ground heat exchanger.

The ground heat exchanger in a GHP system is made up of a closed loop pipe system in which high density polyethylene pipe is buried horizontally at a proper depth, or vertically at 100 to 400 feet deep. These pipes are filled with an environmentally friendly antifreeze/water solution that acts as a heat exchanger. In the winter, the fluid in the pipes extracts heat from the earth and carries it into the building. In the summer, the system reverses and takes heat from the building and deposits it to the cooler ground.

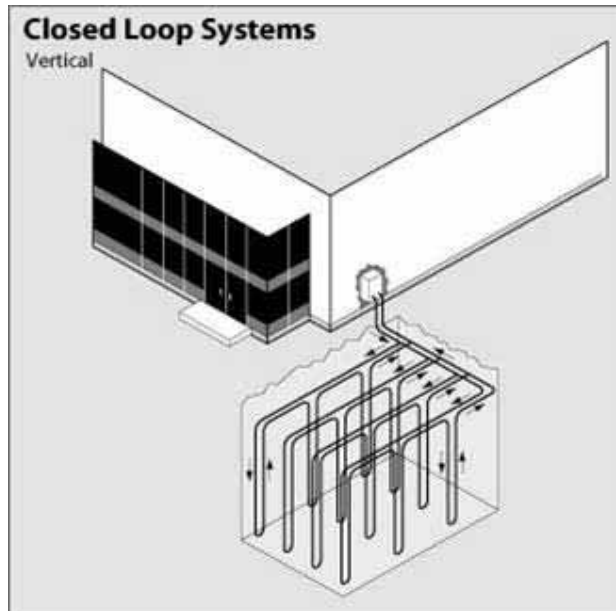
The air delivery ductwork distributes the heated or cooled air through the house's duct work, just like conventional systems. The box that contains the indoor coil and fan is sometimes called the air handler because it moves house air through the heat pump for heating or cooling. The air handler contains a large blower and a filter just like conventional air conditioners.

This principal allows for three to six units of energy to be produced for every unit of energy expended to run the pump. Compare this to a high efficiency furnace, which yields about 0.9 units of energy for every unit of energy consumed.

As with any heat pump, geothermal heat pumps are able to heat, cool, and — if so equipped — supply the house with hot water. The system consists of two basic parts, the ground loop, and the indoor component. The ground loop can be either horizontal or vertical in nature; both utilize a closed-loop system. (Open loop systems — or “pump and dump” systems — have been installed in the past. However, as new information is being learned regarding the finite



**Geothermal heat pumps cost more to install but save money every month in energy costs. Property owners with more land often install the horizontal system, while the vertical method is more common in commercial buildings and schools.**



amount of groundwater available, they are being retrofitted to closed loop systems.) The horizontal type of installation is generally most cost-effective for residential installations, particularly for new construction where sufficient land is available. This method circulates liquid in horizontal pipes at sufficient depths below the frost line to utilize the earth's constant temperature.

The vertical method is more common in commercial buildings and schools because the land area required for horizontal loops would be prohibitive. Vertical loops are also used where the soil is too shallow for trenching, and they minimize the disturbance to existing landscaping. For a vertical system, holes (approximately four inches in diameter) are drilled about 20 feet apart to depths of 100–400 feet. Two pipes

that are connected at the bottom with a U-bend to form a loop go into the holes. The vertical loops are connected with horizontal pipe (i.e., manifold), placed in trenches, and connected to the heat pump in buildings.

## Economics of Geothermal Heat Pumps

Geothermal heat pumps save money in operating and maintenance costs. While the initial purchase price of a residential GHP system is much higher than that of a comparable gas-fired furnace and central air-conditioning system, it is more efficient, thereby saving money every month in energy costs. Typical annual energy savings range from 30 to 70 percent, depending on factors such as energy prices, climate, soil conditions, the system features you choose, and available financing and incentives. According to the federal government, one may even recoup the initial investment in five to ten years through lower utility bills. In turn, the resale values of a home or business with a properly installed and functioning GHP will increase due to the energy savings. System life is estimated at 25 years for the inside components and 50-plus years for the ground loop.

To find out more about financing and incentives that are available to you, visit the Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE) website at [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org). The site is frequently updated with the latest incentives. In addition, check with your electric utility and ask if they offer any rebates, financing, or special electric rate programs.

Because of the technical knowledge and equipment needed to properly install the piping, a GHP system installation is not a do-it-yourself project. To find a qualified installer, call your local utility company, the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association, or the Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium for their listing of qualified installers in your area. Installers should be certified and experienced. Ask for references — especially for owners of systems that are several years old — and check them. Also check with your local unit of government to see if any permits are required. Minnesota Department of Health regulates the drilling of wells; a plumbing permit may also apply.

The amount and layout of your land, heat transfer ability of the soil, landscaping, and the location of underground utilities sprinkler systems and septic systems (if you have them) will contribute to your system design. Horizontal ground loops (generally the most economical) are typically used for newly constructed buildings with sufficient land. Vertical installations or more compact horizontal “Slinky™” installations are often used for existing buildings because they minimize the disturbance to the landscape. Keep in mind the area of land that is above the closed loop system must be treated with about the same care as treating an in-ground absorption field of a septic system. For example, do not compact soil or drive anything larger than a garden tractor on it.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## Three Rivers Park District plans spring activities

**Saturday, April 26**

**Spring Hike**

**Noon - 3 p.m., The Landing, Shakopee (Formerly “Murphy’s Landing”).**

Enjoy an early spring hike through the Village of Eagle Creek and along the Minnesota River. Join a guided tour of several buildings. Enjoy light refreshments, music, and the warmth of the fire. Dress for the weather and walks among buildings. Enter the site through the west entrance. The cost is \$7, and the event is for all ages. Reservations are required; call (763) 559-6700 and use activity #23840106.

**Saturday, May 17**

**Minnesota’s 150th**

**10 a.m. - 5 p.m., The Landing, Shakopee**

The State of Minnesota turns 150 years old in May! Join the Three Rivers Park District in commemorating this anniversary at The Landing. Event includes: Horse-drawn trolley rides, tours of original 19th Century buildings, costumed interpreters, children’s games,

music, and food. A special presentation will highlight the history of the State of Minnesota. *Free admission*, all ages!



**Saturday, May 24 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)**

**Sunday, May 25 (Noon - 5 p.m.)**

**Monday, May 26 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)**

**Rivertown Days, The Landing**

Experience life along the Minnesota River! Meet steamboat pilot George Merrick and hear his tales of river travel. Visit the encampment of the 5th Minnesota Infantry and learn about the Civil War. Enjoy an imaginary ride upriver via *Professor Wylie’s Magnificent Moving Panorama* show. Ride the horse-drawn trolley and play games. Visit Mr. Robert’s lunch counter at the depot. Special ceremony each day commemorating Memorial Day. All ages are wel-

come. Costs: 12 and up, \$8.50; ages 3-11 and seniors, \$7.

**Spring at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve**

**Monday, May 12**

**Spring Bird Watching**

**7 - 9 a.m. at Murphy-Hanrehan, Savage**



new tree leaves make birds easier to find and we’ll listen for their spring courtship songs. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. Meet at the trailhead parking lot on Highway 75. The cost is \$5, and the event is designed for ages 18 and up. Reservations are required; call (763) 559-6700 and use activity #21131400.



### About Three Rivers Park District

Three Rivers Park District is a natural resources-based park system that manages park reserves, regional parks, regional trails and special-use facilities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Park District offers facilities for every season, including picnicking, swimming, creative play, boating, fishing, downhill skiing, snowboarding, golf, camping and sledding; extensive trails for hiking, biking, in-line skating, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, as well as program sites for nature, recreation, historic, and farm education.

Three Rivers Park District’s mission is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system. The Park District owns and operates over 27,000 acres and serves more than 5 million visitors a year.

## Environmental SCENE

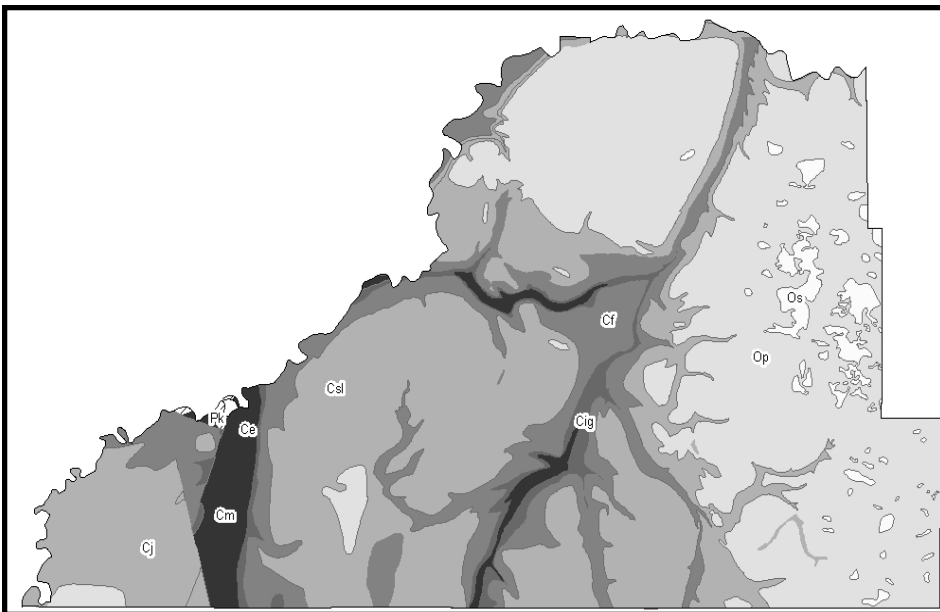
By Allen Frechette  
Environmental Health Manager



### Rich in natural resources

Scott County may not be rich in oil, coal, or gold, but we are rich in a natural resource that is in short supply in many parts of the world (and even being fought over in some places): **Clean water.** Scott County obtains all of its drinking water from underground aquifers. If you are confused by the term "aquifer," let me draw a mental picture: Let's say we were to slice through the earth beneath Shakopee like cutting a huge piece of cake. What we would see are different layers. The top layers would include layers of sand, gravel, and clay. The next layer would be limestone with cracks and holes in it (called *Prairie du Chien* limestone), beneath that would be sandstone with the consistency of a sugar cube called *Jordan* sandstone. Beneath these two water-containing, porous rock formations are *more* layers of porous rock separated by less porous, shale-rich formations. Limestone formed from the calcium-rich sediments of sea life that existed billions of years ago; sandstone formed from sands that slowly cemented together, and shale formed from clay sediments. If you live above an area where limestone and sandstone are the first bedrocks encountered, then you generally have a good supply of ground water available from a well. Conversely, if you live in an area where shale is the first bedrock encountered, then you either need to look for water-bearing sand and gravel above the bedrock or in other layers of limestone and sandstone deposits that might exist below the shale. These layers are generally hundreds of feet thick and form the aquifer.

The map below shows some of these layers depicted in different shades with light gray representing the *Prairie du Chien* limestone and darker gray the *Jordan* sandstone which cover most of the northern and eastern half of Scott County. This map shows what the County would look like if all of the overlying sand, gravel, and clay were scraped and washed away and the different layers of bedrock were shaded distinctively. The areas where you see ribbons of gray close together are buried bedrock valleys that were created by ancient river channels that scoured through the rock. These valleys have obviously been filled in with soils over millions of years—otherwise, we would have our own Grand Canyon between Shakopee and Savage.



The map shows some of the layers of sandstone in Scott County with the light gray representing the *Prairie du Chien* limestone and darker gray the *Jordan* sandstone.

Now that you have a visual image of the geology and how the soils and rocks are saturated with water, you should also have a visual image of our local aquifers and the source of our water. If you drill a well in sandstone — as most municipal wells are in Shakopee, Savage, and Prior Lake — then you have pretty clean, naturally filtered water. Recognizing that water flows through sandstone relatively easily and knowing that the sandstone is 80 to 100 hundred feet thick, covered by limestone that is 150 to 200 feet thick, and that both are filled with water, you should appreciate that we have quite a bit of water available to us. There are another 500 feet or so of additional porous rock formations interlayered by shale formations also filled with water beneath these two layers. So we have a lot of groundwater beneath us.

Generally, this water is of excellent quality and is being replenished or recharged by precipitation that seeps down. Of course, some of the rain and snow-melt runs off. So the capacity for this ground water to meet our future needs is a simple matter of recharge minus withdrawal. When withdrawal exceeds recharge, then it is only a matter of time before the aquifers begin to dry up. This is what is happening in the Great Plains states from the southern Dakotas to northern Texas in another aquifer called the Ogallala aquifer.

You may have learned that Scott County is preparing its *2030 Comprehensive Plan Update* to help guide where and how future development should occur. (See article on page one.) One question that is being asked for the first time in the metropolitan area is whether or not water resources are available and sustainable for proposed development. The Metropolitan Council has secured funding from the Legislature to conduct a region-wide analysis of the availability of water. In addition, Scott County has received funding from the McKnight Foundation to help us plan future growth wisely.

Recently, the Metropolitan Council met to present their preliminary ground water modeling scope with County staff. Their modeling for our region covers all of the areas south of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers and north of a line

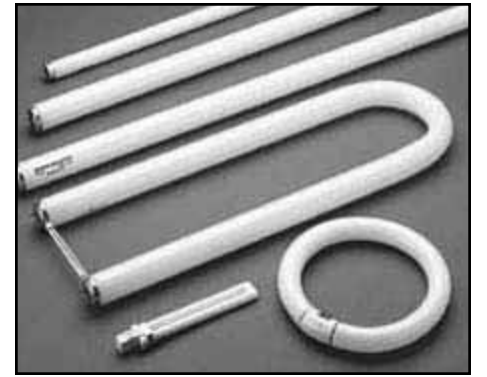
**ENVIRONMENTAL SCENE Continued at right**

## 2008 Small Business Fluorescent Lamp Collections to be held May 13 and October 14

In order to help small businesses properly recycle their used fluorescent lamps (fluorescent bulbs or tubes) in 2008, there will be a used fluorescent lamp collection held on **Tuesday, May 13 and Tuesday, October 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** This collection event will be held in the **parking lot** of the Scott County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility, 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. Please note that while business waste cannot normally be brought to the Scott County HHW Facility itself, the **HHW parking lot** will be used for this business bulb collection event due to its central location within the County.

Businesses will once again be charged low rates for the disposal of their various items (see [www.co.scott.mn.us](http://www.co.scott.mn.us) for information on fees and items accepted). Payment is required at the time of collection (if you bring a check to pay the disposal fee for your items, the check can be made out to "Retrofit Recycling, Inc"). Whenever possible, transport your used lamps to the collection in their original (or similar) containers since this will help to minimize or prevent breakage. When fluorescent lamps are broken, mercury vapor is released into the air.

Once again this year, several local utility companies have agreed to pay for the disposal of the first ten lamps from any of their commercial and/or indus-



trial customers (at **no charge** to you). Be sure to bring proof of your business utility account, such as a copy of your billing statement from either Minnesota Valley Electric (MVEC), New Prague Utilities Commission, Shakopee Public Utilities, or Xcel Energy.

If you have large quantities (over 1000 lamps), please contact Retrofit Recycling Inc. directly at 1-800-795-1230 to arrange for an on-site pickup.

This collection offers an affordable option for businesses to properly dispose of fluorescent and HID lamps. Participation by local units of government, churches and other civic groups is strongly encouraged.

**Please note: Absolutely no business waste can be brought to the HHW Facility at any other time without prior approval or arrangements! Call (952) 496-8652 for more information.**

## Sandcastles helps kids whose parents are divorced

Divorce is hard on everyone... especially the kids. But there is help.

Sandcastles is a special, two-part program for youth ages 6 to 12 whose parents are divorced, separated, or in the process of divorcing. Sandcastles has been designed to help kids with the practical skills, gain a better understanding of everything that's happening, and provide a safe place for them to feel and express their emotions.

Children of divorced or separated parents often feel terribly alone... Sandcastles helps them understand that they are not.

All programs are hosted at the Shepherd of the Lake in Prior Lake:

Monday, April 21; 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (registration begins at 5:30 p.m.)



Monday, April 28; 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Parents may stay for an informational video and other informational opportunities. Refreshments will be served before the program begins. For more information or to pre-register for the Sandcastles program this spring, please contact Jean at (952) 447.8525.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SCENE Continued from left

roughly drawn between Cannon Falls and LeSueur.

Hopefully, this model will provide information about whether or not future forecasted growth will have sufficient water available. If you look at the map, you will note that some areas of the County have less water than others; the bedrock layers that contain water in the northern and eastern portions of the County are missing in the southern and western ("toe and arch") part. Another concern is that the water within the bedrock actually flows generally toward the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. In Scott County, the water in the blue areas generally moves from Elko New Market toward Savage. Thus, if Elko New Market builds out in the future to the forecasted 80,000 people, they will be taking water out of the aquifer upstream from Prior Lake and Savage... and this may jeopardize the availability of water for those communities with their wells in the Jordan sandstone aquifer.

The Metropolitan Council/Scott County groundwater study is expected to be completed within a year or so, and will be one of several factors considered in the future development plans in the Comprehensive Plan. If you are interested in learning more about groundwater in your area, check out the full County Geologic Atlas series on the County's website under "Parks, Library, and Environment and Geology." You can also zoom in on your location of interest by using the *Environmental Mapper* in the "GIS Maps" section on the County's website at [www.co.scott.mn.us](http://www.co.scott.mn.us).

## EmergenSCENE

By Chris Weldon  
Scott County Emergency Manager



### EMS personnel honored in May

Scott County Public Safety is served by a number of highly trained law enforcement and fire service professionals. Another very important piece of the public safety puzzle in our County includes our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel.

Scott County Emergency Management would like to take this opportunity to thank these dedicated individuals for their service to our County. They are so important to our well being, and sometimes due to our busy, fast-paced lives we simply forget just how important they are. Can you imagine how different our communities would be without these caring people?

With that in mind, we would like to remind all citizens about *National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week*. This important event is scheduled to take place from May 18 - 24, 2008. The purpose of the celebration is to honor EMS providers nationwide who deliver lifesaving care in our time of need.

The theme for this year's celebration — "EMS: Your Life is Our Mission" — was chosen for the purpose of recognizing the commitment that emergency medical personnel make to the communities they serve. This dedication to their mission includes public education and round-the-clock care to people in need across the nation.

Scott County is served by a number of providers. These providers include the New Prague, Northfield, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux, Allina, and Ridgeview Ambulance Services. The members of these services are dedicated, professional, and caring EMS providers. They work hard and train hard in order to provide the very best pre-hospital care to the residents of the County.

We also need to remember that there is a great deal of time spent forming partnerships among the groups mentioned above along with hospitals, emergency physicians, and public health providers. These groups recognize that, along with time spent honing their skills, this type of collaboration is important and occurs on an ongoing basis. This is accomplished through training together, meeting to discuss and resolve common concerns, and obtaining input from the citizens they serve.

Remember, regardless of the day, time, weather, or other events, if there is a call to help someone with an injury or medical condition, EMS responders are there to provide immediate lifesaving care and transportation. Please support them whenever possible, and sometimes a simple thank you goes a long way.



### SAFCOM assists Sheriff's Office

We would like to honor another group of individuals that have been assisting the Scott County Sheriff's Office with various issues throughout the years.

This group is known as SAFCOM (Safety and Communications), and is comprised of approximately 30 dedicated volunteer members from around the County. During the summer weather season, these individuals could be called out at any time to help look for dangerous weather that may be threatening our area. Other calls for assistance include searches, traffic control at certain events, and supporting law enforcement and community celebrations by delivering and maintaining emergency command/communication trailers when requested.

SAFCOM is formed under the direction of Emergency Management. There is an Executive Board made up of SAFCOM members and these members help administer the program. General membership meetings are held several times a year in the Law Enforcement Center in Shakopee.

Training is required to join and maintain membership. We feel training is important not only to the members but also to the public. By completing this training, members can feel confident in their ability to perform certain duties.... and the public can have confidence that their safety is being considered.

By learning skills (such as first aid and CPR), you can help make those around you and the larger community a safer place. Other training includes required classes such as weather spotting, radio procedure, search and rescue, and classes in other areas of emergency work.

Emergency Management would also like to thank the current and former SAFCOM members for their work and dedication throughout the years. Much of the work of this group is completed "behind the scenes" at times, but your contributions and dedication is appreciated.

This group is always looking for more members. If you are interested in becoming involved or have any questions, please contact the Scott County Emergency Management Office at (952) 496-8181. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have and send you an application.

## Filings open soon for SWCD supervisors' seats

Anyone concerned about environmental issues in Scott County should consider filing to run for the position of supervisor of the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District. The filing period is July 1 to 15 at the Scott County Government Center

"Supervisors play an important role in how our community deals with a wide variety of resource management issues, including wetlands, water quality and soil erosion," said Pete Beckius, District Manager. "Serving as a supervisor is a terrific opportunity for

people who want a voice in how we use our environment," he said. SWCDs are "special purpose" local units of government that manage and direct conservation programs, such as the state Cost-Share Program and Scott WMO Cost-Share Program. Elected boards govern each of Minnesota's 91 SWCDs.

The District currently has openings for candidates living in Districts 1, 2, and 3. Candidates are elected at-large on the ballot on Nov 4. The term is four years.

Supervisors meet monthly to discuss the business

of the SWCD, including state grant allocations to landowners, district conservation priorities, coordination with local units of government and state agencies, and legislative priorities. Supervisors do not receive a salary, although they do receive compensation for attending meetings and are reimbursed for expenses.

Anyone interested in filing to run for supervisor should contact the Scott SWCD at (952) 492-5425 for more information or visiting our website at [www.scottswcd.org](http://www.scottswcd.org).

## Prepare for severe weather Tornado watches, warnings explained

Another important week to be aware of this spring is **Severe Weather Awareness Week** (April 21 - 25, 2008). This year, Scott County cities will be sounding their sirens on **Thursday, April 24** (the Statewide Tornado Drill day). The time for this drill will be at 1:45 p.m. In addition, Scott County will be conducting a second tornado warning drill on that day at 6:55 p.m.

In 2007, Minnesota reported 18 tornadoes to the National Weather Service. This was the fewest number of reported tornadoes since 1990 when there were 12. While that is good news, we still need to be aware of the dangers these storms present and to prepare ourselves and our families for dangerous weather situations. Severe Weather Awareness Week is a good time to review what to do during times of severe weather and to be aware of the differences between "watches" and "warnings." There is a distinct difference between the two and knowing what these differences are could save your life or your family's lives.

When the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a **tornado watch**, *atmospheric conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes*. Residents of Scott County should listen to broadcast advisories from any of the local radio and television stations, and be ready to take cover. If a **tornado warning** is issued, it means that *a tornado has been sighted* in your area by a trained weather spotter, or is strongly indicated by radar.

Both watches and warnings are transmitted by local radio and television stations, which receive their information from the NWS. The National Weather Service is also in direct contact with Scott and other counties experiencing severe weather for the purpose of sharing information as severe weather develops.

Most communities in Scott County use sirens to help notify people that severe weather may be occurring. You should be aware, however, that **sirens are meant to warn people who are outside and are not intended to warn people inside their homes**. Even so, you might hear these sirens if you are indoors; if you do, please remember to take cover in your basement or other available shelter areas. Turn on a battery-operated radio or television (if you have power) so you can monitor what is happening. This will also help you to know when it's safe to return outside.

If you continue to hear sirens, stay in your shelter area as additional storms may have been sighted. Your best chance for safety is in your shelter area, *not* outside watching the storm. Again, rely on a radio or television for additional information.

Another option for getting warning information would be to buy a "weather-alert" radio that monitors only the NWS frequency. You can turn it on and get the weather 24 hours a day, or it can be set on "Alert Mode" (this means the radio will automatically turn on when the

Scott County cities will sound their sirens on Thursday, April 24 (the Statewide Tornado Drill day) at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.



NWS issues a watch or warning for the areas you have selected). These radios are available at various electronic retailers and vary in price.

#### Warning Terms to Remember

**Tornado Warning** — A tornado has been detected; *take shelter immediately*. If you are inside, go to a safe place to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. If you are outside, hurry to the basement or to the nearest sturdy building, or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area. Stay away from power poles. If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety.

**Tornado Watch** — Tornadoes and severe thunderstorms are possible. Listen to your local radio or television station for updates. Be alert to changing weather conditions. Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you (many people say it sounds like a freight train).

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning** — A line of thunderstorms (or a severe thunderstorm) has been detected at a specific location, and the direction and speed of movement is being monitored. Be attentive to developing weather conditions, and stay tuned for the latest advisory information.

For more information on how to protect yourself during severe weather contact the Scott County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Department at (952) 496-8181 or the following websites.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)  
[www.hsem.state.mn.us](http://www.hsem.state.mn.us)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [www.fema.gov/hazard/index.shtml](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/index.shtml)

National Weather Service (NWS)  
[www.crh.noaa.gov/mpx/safety.php](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mpx/safety.php)



# Homeowners struggling with mortgages have resources

## Struggling with your mortgage?

Don't panic. Get help! Scott County residents who are struggling with mortgage payments do have several resources:

◆ **The Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program** at the Carver County Community Development Agency serves residents in both Carver and Scott Counties. Contact them at (952) 448-7715.

◆ **Call the Homeownership Preservation Foundation** hotline at 1 (888) 995-HOPE or visit their website at [www.995HOPE.org](http://www.995HOPE.org).

◆ **"Project Lifeline"** is spearheaded by Bank of America, Citigroup, Countrywide, J.P. Morgan, Washington Mutual, and Wells Fargo, which account for 50 percent of the mortgage servicing market. *They are offering a 30 day moratorium on foreclosures.*

## What to do when foreclosure looms

By Michelle Pastor (Accredited Financial Counselor with Sand Creek) and Janet Hughes

Mary and John's finances have spiraled out of control. They can't pay their credit card bills anymore, they barely juggle their other bills, and the scariest part of their situation is that their mortgage payment is behind. They are in constant fear of losing their home.

Unfortunately, many Americans today find themselves in the same situation. With such overwhelming stress bearing down, and the short time in which to

act, it's difficult to know what to do. Here are some suggestions:

### ◆ Contact the lender.

When you first realize you may become delinquent on your house payment, the most important thing you can do is **contact your lender immediately**. Lenders don't actually *want* possession of your house. If you ask, they often have options available to help borrowers through difficult financial times.

◆ **Address the situation immediately.** Do not ignore the problem. The further behind you get, the harder it will be to reinstate your loan and find alternatives. Know your mortgage rights by reading through your loan documents to know what your lender may do if you can't make payments. **More than one-third of borrowers who reach out for assistance are successful in finding alternatives to foreclosure.** Some options are refinancing, forbearance (the lender allows a missed payment to be pushed out until the end of the loan), and loan modification (the lender temporarily reduces the interest rate).

◆ **Prioritize your spending.** Keeping your house should be among your top priorities. Review your finances and see where you can cut spending to make your mortgage payment. Look for optional expenses such as cable television, memberships, and entertainment.

◆ **Bring in more cash.** Take advantage of your assets by selling a second car, jewelry, or a whole life insurance policy. Also consider taking on a second job to bring in additional income.

### ◆ Get free help from your EAP (Employee

**Assistance Program).** A financial counselor can help you take control of the situation before it gets to the point of foreclosure. If you can't keep up with the mortgage payment and your house slips into foreclosure, there are more steps to take.

◆ **Open your mail.** You should open and respond to all mail from your lender. The first notices you receive will offer good information about foreclosure prevention options. Mail in the later stages may include important notices of pending legal action.

◆ **Study up.** Learn the foreclosure laws and timeframes in your state (every state is different) by contacting the State Government Housing Office.

◆ **Get help.** Contact a HUD-approved housing counselor. To find one in your area, call (800) 569-4287.

◆ **Ask for a short sale.** Lenders will sometimes agree to have you sell the house for what you can and cancel your debt, even if it's short of what you owe. A real estate agent with experience in short sales can help you negotiate the deal.

◆ **Beware of scams.** Avoid foreclosure prevention companies as these for-profit companies charge a hefty fee. Most important, beware of foreclosure recovery scams. If you sign a document appointing someone to act on your behalf, you may be signing over the title to your property and becoming a renter in your own home. **Never sign a legal document without reading and understanding all the terms and getting professional advice.**

*Reprinted with permission from The Sand Paper, Fall 2007, newsletter of the Sand Creek Group, Ltd.*

# Scott and Carver Counties plan 4-H Project Day

If you've ever wanted to explore the opportunities that 4-H has to offer in a one-day session, then don't miss out on this! On Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at the Carver County Extension Office in Cologne, it is the "Scott and Carver County 4-H Project Day!"

At this event, we will be exploring a variety of project areas — and you will have the opportunity to sign up for three different classes to get a feel for what 4-H is all about. The classes include:

### Session 1:

**Entomology Fun:** This class is for bug lovers! The entomology project lesson will show you how to collect, preserve, and display your collection. At this session you will even create your own bug display box!



**Tissue Paper Illustration:** You will be creating a drawing, and then paint it

with torn pieces of colored tissue paper and glue water. At this class you will experiment with color blending as you learn to overlap different colors and watch the various shades of color through the layers. This is a fine arts class you don't want to miss!

**Bread Mania:** This is a two session workshop, where you will be learning how to make bread in a bag! It's an easy way to create homemade delicious bread. You will also be able to take a loaf of dough home that day to bake in your own oven.



**Demonstrations:** Have you ever wanted to learn how to be more comfortable talking in front of groups? Then

attend the demonstration workshop and get pointers on polishing up your own demonstration techniques while also learning the basics. You will be able to build your own poster stand too, which will help you in delivering presentations.

### Session 2:

**GPS Adventure:** Explore the world through the Global Positioning System (GPS)! Come and learn about the world of GPS. You'll learn how to mark locations to find your way, learn about geocaching, and much, much more!

**Activities to do at club meetings:** Looking for fun activities to do at your club meetings? Are you also looking for fun new projects to try with your club? Come to this session and find out about projects kits that you can check out at your local Extension Office.

**Tissue Paper Illustrations:** See de-

scription in session one above.

**Bread Mania (part 2):** Continuation from first session

### Session 3:

**4-H 101:** This class is a question-and-answer session for all 4-H families and prospective families. Topics can include how to get ready for the County Fair, records, policies, and other various 4-H questions.

**Design a Journal:** You will design your own journal cover, then select the inside pages from salvaged colored office paper. Tie the bindings with twine or ribbon and use for photos, story writing, recipes, or addresses and phone numbers.

**GPS:** Same as session one.

The cost for the project day is only \$5, so don't wait to get registered! The classes will fill up fast. To register, call the Scott County Extension Office at (952) 492-5410 or e-mail us at [torg0016@umn.edu](mailto:torg0016@umn.edu).

# 4-H project helps youth become better shoppers

Do you like to shop? How about turning your shopping hobby into a 4-H project? Join Carver and Scott County 4-Hers for a night of learning how to be a smart and savvy clothing shopper! The clothing project is very popular for 4-H members in Scott County. Within the clothing project area, we have three different categories: Clothes you make, clothes you buy, and fashion review.

In the clothes you make category, you'll be able to make a constructed garment of your choice, either using a pattern or your own design. Your garment can be for you or someone else. In the clothes you buy project area, you'll be able to put your shopping skills to work in finding an outfit that fits into your current wardrobe at a reasonable price. And finally, in the fashion review project area, you'll learn how to model your clothing project.

At this workshop, we will take a



The 4-H Clothing Project helps youth purchase, make, and model outfits for themselves or others.

closer look at your wardrobe and find ways to get the most out of the clothes that you buy, how to pick out clothing that is appropriate for you, and how to add lasting pieces to your wardrobe. We will also discuss just what judges are looking for when you go to clothing exhibitions and how to put together a clothing inventory.

This is a fun evening for anyone who really likes clothes and fashion!

**When:** Monday, May 12, 2008  
6:30 – 8 p.m.

**Where:** Scott County Extension Office, at the County Fairgrounds in Jordan.

**Who:** Anyone in grades K-12<sup>th</sup>. You do not need to be in 4-H to attend.

**Cost:** Cost is free, but we ask that you register by April 25 by calling (952) 492-5410.



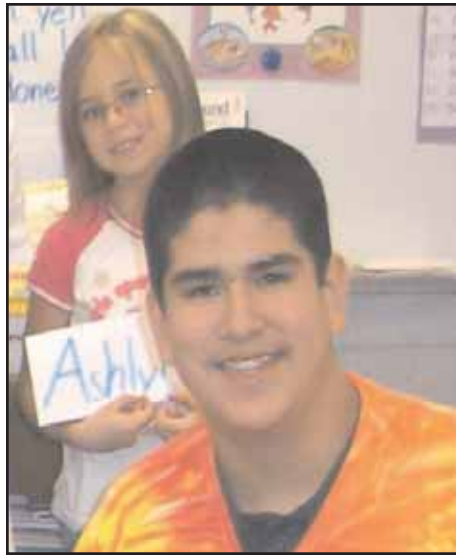
## Scott County 4-H Junior Leaders In the Spotlight

### Eder Castillo

**School:** Shakopee Junior High School High School  
**Grade:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
**4-H Club:** Youth Teaching Youth  
**Parents:** Javier and Sonia Castillo  
**Years in 4-H:** One year  
**Years as Junior Leader:** One year  
**Projects of Interest:** Youth Teaching Youth

This is Eder's first year as a Scott County Youth Teaching Youth Teen Teacher, and he is leaving his mark on Shakopee Elementary Schools. Eder is an outstanding teen teacher and positive role model for younger students. He enters the classroom calmly and in control.

Eder is always willing to visit with the younger students and takes time to listen and answer their questions. As a first year teen teacher, he has even stepped in to teach a class by himself if



Eder Castillo

needed.

Eder is a great role model to the community of Shakopee and Scott County. What's more, the students at Pearson and Eagle Creek Elementary have enjoyed his visits!

### Amanda Abu-Salen

**School:** Shakopee Junior High School  
**Grade:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
**4-H Club:** Youth Teaching Youth  
**Parents:** Alia and Issa Abu-Salen  
**Years in 4-H:** One year  
**Years as a Junior Leader:** One year  
**Projects of Interest:** Youth Teaching Youth

Amanda is in this month's Junior Leader SpotLight for her outstanding contribution to the Scott County Youth Teaching Youth Program. Amanda has accepted every opportunity to visit with young students in Shakopee and help them learn ways to solve conflict with their words. She is a positive role model



Amanda Abu-Salen

who enjoys visiting the area classrooms almost as much as the classrooms enjoy her visits!

## 101 youth serve as teen teachers for younger students

Have you been looking for a positive teen role model in your community? Here are 101 outstanding teenagers that have been visiting elementary students in Scott County and teaching other students about saying no to peer pressure; the truth about alcohol, tobacco, and advertisements; learning ways to solve conflict without fighting; and developing positive character. If you are a 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grader at Shakopee, New Prague, Belle Plaine, Jordan, or Prior Lake/Savage Schools and are interested in teaching elementary age students, contact Sara Wagner at the Scott County Extension Office at (952) 492-5410.

#### Jordan Teen Teachers

Marsha Bartholomay; Melissa Kreuser; Alex Worm; Jason Stocker; Katie Worm.

#### Prior Lake/Savage Teachers

Nicole Peterson; Katie Nelson; Kayla Burfeind; Laura Mollenhoff; Lauren Kappers; Abby Chaudek; Tara Wright; Marissa Rieckhoff; Katie Baker.

#### Belle Plaine Teachers

Jennifer Carpenter; Tanna Raley; Jackie Keopp; Michelle Carpenter.

#### Shakopee Teachers

Elizabeth Benoss; Mollie Geske; Ashley Wittman; Joe Moser; Sreytouch Nai; Liz Combs; Ellie Ferdwsi; Missy Bigot; Rachel Carkuf;

Miah Gilbertsen; Emma Ruthenbeck; Kayla Worm; Ashley Edberg; Callie Nesgoda; Cassidy Tangeman; Sydney Schleif; Melissa Kohourt; Kyle From; Tim McComas-Bussa; Miah Winterfeldt; Nathaniel Leonard; Kirstie Berg; Katie Wilson; Katie Spadino; Jenny Ernst; Jessica Hechsel; Nikki Gaebel; Sami Roth; Eder Castillo; Virginie Chan; Megan Westlund; Mackenzie Menke; Emily Schroeres; Erin Logeais; Paula Hammer; Kayla Adams-Kalman; Ashley Leadstrom; Rachel Hentges; Trina Stack; Mollie O'Brien; Rachel Theis; Haley Breeding; Amelia Hames; Alyssa Sorenson; Natalie Kudrle; Jessica Algoo; Elizabeth Olsen; Judy Pathammavong; Amanda Abu-Salen; Emily Furst; Rebecca Kisor; Katelyn Edstrom; Jessica Toth; Julia Dovolos; Cassie Fennern; Amanda Bren; Jaymond Huynh; Maddie Folse; Corban Walters; Aaron Teslow; Chelsea Vanloon; Amy Baumgarther; Elizabeth Mayberry; Luis Pineda; Shelby Kessler; Jared Ruhland; Mike Rimnac; Brennin Benson; Ashley Schwanbeck; Jean Theis; Katie Martel; Katie Poppler; Joey Tasto; Shelby Breggemann.

#### New Prague Teachers

Sarah Salaba; Mariah Malecha; Samantha Hertauss; Peter Ryan; Austin Flum-Straw; Mark Barten; Amelia Ryan; Lindsay Rybak.



## Plan your 2008 "Victory Garden"

By Jackie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator

Historically, "victory gardens" were connected with the World Wars, when citizens were encouraged to grow vegetables at home to help reduce the pressure on the public food supply. Food gardening became a family or community pastime.

Today, our country's situation is quite similar, though our personal motivation may be different. Most of us purchase fresh produce at the supermarket, where food travels an average of over 1,000 miles from farm to store shelves. The process of fertilizing, harvesting, processing, packaging, and transporting that food uses a lot of energy, often leading to higher costs and increased pressure on our environment.

A victory vegetable garden can range from a couple of tomato plants snuggled in with the petunias to soldierly rows of every imaginable kind of vegetable. The Master Gardeners are offering classes on vegetable gardening at "From the Ground Up" on April 15 (see related article), and at the Prior Lake Library on April 21.

You can do your part to reduce energy usage and provide the highest quality food for your family at the same time... start your own victory vegetable garden this year!

For questions on growing vegetables, or more information about classes, contact the Scott County Extension Office at (952) 492-5410

## Master Gardeners' Summer Events

The Scott/Carver Master Gardeners are pleased to announce these exciting events for the 2008 gardening season:

□ **Class Series: "From the Ground Up"** offers four environmentally concerned classes – "Butterflies, Bees, and Beneficials" on April 8; "Organic Gardening: From Seed to Table" on April 15; "Rain Gardens/Bog Gardens: Variations on a Theme" April 22; and "Xeriscaping" April 29. All classes are offered at Carver County Government Center in Chaska, and cost \$10 per class (or all three for \$25).

□ **2008 Master Garden Tour** is a drive-it-yourself tour of six Master Gardener gardens in Jordan, Prior Lake, Shakopee, and Chaska. The wonderful demonstration gardens at the Scott County Fairgrounds are included on this tour and also on the City to Country Tour, scheduled for September 20. Cost for the Master Garden Tour is \$10 in



advance, \$12 on the day of the tour.

□ **The Yard & Garden Line** is available year-round. The public is invited to leave a voicemail gardening question, and a Master Gardener will return the call within 48 hours. Access this free service by calling (952) 466-5308.

For brochures or more information, contact the Extension office at (952) 492-5410 or visit the Master Gardener website at [www.extension.umn.edu/county/scott/mg/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/county/scott/mg/).

## Garden tips for April and May

#### Mid to Late April:

#### Lawns

◆ Seeding is easiest to do in the fall, when there is less weed competition; but if you cannot wait, the second best choice is from now through the end of May.

◆ Lay sod now through the middle of June.

◆ Hold off on fertilizer until the grass is actively growing and ready to mow.

◆ For best results, hold off to apply crabgrass preventer to lawns until the first week in May

#### Trees and Shrubs

◆ Move small trees and shrubs within the landscape as soon as possible, while soil and weather are still cool and damp.

◆ As a general rule, **do not** prune oak, elm, honeylocust, apple, or pear trees after April 1.

#### May:

#### Ornamentals

◆ For best performance, purchase non-blooming plants at your local nursery. If plants are already in bloom, pinch off the flowers at planting.

◆ Tougher bedding plants (geraniums, petunias, snapdragons, et cetera) may be planted outdoors around Mother's Day.

◆ Our average frost-free date is May 21. Wait a week or so **beyond** that date to plant frost sensitive plants such as coleus, basil, or cannas.

◆ Avoid wetting foliage when watering plants. Wet leaves are invitation for all sorts of fungal diseases. If you must sprinkle, do so early in the morning so leaves can dry quickly in the morning sun.

#### Vegetables

◆ Most vegetable transplanting and direct seeding may be safely done in the garden once all danger of frost is past.

◆ Acclimate transplants gradually to the outdoors before planting by setting them outside in a protected location for an hour or two the first day. Increase the time outside by a couple hours each day over a period of one week before planting.

◆ Harvest rhubarb stalks by gently pulling the stems, one at a time, away from the crown of the plant. Be sure to always leave at least one leaf at each growing point to help feed the plant. Discontinue harvest when the leaf stalks become woody, or around the end of May. Although the stalks are tasty and safe to eat, be sure to remove and discard the leaves which contain high amounts of oxalic acid.

# Plan now to construct conservation practices

Construction season for conservation practices is fast approaching — and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) would like to encourage all farm producers who have an Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contract for structural practice(s) to start planning ahead.

Structural practices include Grassed Waterways, Water and Sediment Control Basins, Grade Stabilization Structures, et cetera. For those contract holders who are planning to install structural practices this spring and have not started looking for contractors, we encourage you to get started. You will need *at least three estimates from three different contractors* on what it would cost to install each practice. A list of contractors is available upon request.

Remember, the Jordan Conservation Office is here to provide technical assistance as well as answer any questions you may have in order to make sure you install all practices on schedule. For those producers who have contracts that are not on schedule, we encourage you to contact our office as soon as possible so that we can discuss a possible revision to your contract.

Failure to contact us may result in possible recovery cost, up to 20 percent of the contract. If you have any questions, please contact the NRCS office at (952) 492-5425.

## Have a Failing Septic System?

The Agriculture Best Management Practices Loan Program (Ag BMP Program), which was created by the state legislature in 1994, brings low interest loans to farmers and other rural landowners for the mitigation and prevention of non-point source pollution. The program is funded through the State Revolving Fund

(SRF), which was a result of the 1987 federal Clean Water Act.

Low interest loans are available to farmers and rural landowners in Scott County to bring their septic systems into conformance with water quality standards. In addition, low interest loans are also available for livestock holding facilities and also to help implement other stormwater control practices such as those needed to protect streambank, lakeshore, roadside and agricultural land from erosion.

These are low interest loans of three percent, plus 1½ percent origination fee.

### Program Facts

- ◆ Projects must be located in rural Scott County.
- ◆ Must be a system replacing an existing failing system.
- ◆ Project must be pre-approved by the Scott SWCD before any work begins.
- ◆ Applicant may borrow up to 100 percent of the cost of the project, with a maximum loan amount of \$100,000.
- ◆ Application packets can be obtained by contacting Shelly Tietz at the Scott SWCD at (952) 492-5412.

## No-Till Drill and Grass Seeded Rental Program

Looking for some inexpensive no-till equipment for your land? The Scott SWCD will have three drills and a hand seeder available to rent for the upcoming planting season. Rentals for all our equipment is taken on a first come, first served basis. The District has worked hard to promote and encourage no-till production in Scott County because of the environmental and economical benefits it provides. It is encouraging that

many County residents have responded positively to this alternative method of crop production.

**The John Deere 1560 No-Till Drill model** has a planting width of 15 feet. The drill is equipped for soybeans and small grain, with a grass seed attachment to interseed alfalfa or renovate pastures. The most common practice of no-till has been solid seeding soybeans or sorghum into corn residue.

**The Great Plains No-Till Drill** has a planting width of seven feet. The drill is equipped for seeding native grasses, small grain, grass and legume. Boxes allow for seeding a variety of grasses and legumes. The drill is also very useful in renovating pastures and seeding waterways and filter strips.

**The Brillion Grass Seeder** has a planting width of 10 feet. The seeder is equipped for seeding native grasses, alfalfa, brome grass, and turf grasses. The drill is very useful in seeding filter strips, lawns, CRP fields, and waterways. This drill is intended to be used on clean tilled land only.

**The Native Grass and Wildflower hand seeder** is ideal for areas that are too small, too steep, or inaccessible for other types of seeding equipment. Areas one to two acres or less are perfect candidates for this piece of equipment.

The cost to rent the drills will depend on the land location within Scott County and the amount of residue remaining after planting. Contact the office for rental rates and drop charges if they apply. If you are interested in renting any of the above equipment, or would like more information, please contact Scott Schneider or Jodi Worm at the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District office at (952) 492-5425.

# Save energy, money with these easy tips

Most of the energy we use today comes from coal, oil, and natural gas. Those types of energy are all fossil fuels, and take millions of years to form. They are called nonrenewable resources, because we can't simply create more overnight. Americans need to save energy whenever we can, and each one of us can help that effort! Remember, reducing your energy consumption will not only save valuable resources, it will also save you *money!*

**Reduce waste:** A good way to save energy is to produce less waste. Try to minimize your use of disposable (paper or plastic) towels, cups, and plates. Those items are used once and then thrown away. When writing or printing, use both sides of your paper. Use a lunch box and thermos instead of paper bags and drink boxes. Buy one big bottle of juice instead of a six pack of little ones, or buy one big bag of chips instead of eight little ones, et cetera.

*Reducing waste saves energy.* It takes energy to make things, and more energy to get rid of them. Buy things with less packaging. Some processed foods have even more plastic around them than food inside the package!

**Reuse things:** Try to use things more than once. Wash out plastic sandwich bags and reuse them, or better yet, bring your sandwich to work in a reusable sandwich container. Use the comics from old newspapers to wrap presents (remember those holiday presents from your childhood that were wrapped in the "Sunday comics"?). Buying toys and other things at yard sales also saves energy — *and* money. Use your big sister's old bike instead of a new one. You can always paint it a bright, funky color if you want to personalize it! Fix old things whenever you can, and give your old clothes and toys to someone who needs them, or donate them to a

local charity like the CAP Agency — *don't* throw them away.

**Recycle:** Many things can be recycled: Cans, paper, glass, and plastic. It only takes a minute to recycle, and it saves energy. It takes a lot more energy, for example, to dig up and process the ore necessary to make a new metal can than it does to make a new can from an old one. Furthermore, metal cans are able to be recycled over and over.

Believe it or not, plastic bottles can be used to make clothing or rugs. Paper can be used to make boxes, bags, or phone books. Don't throw anything away if it can be recycled!

**Save electricity:** We can reduce our electricity consumption with a few simple actions. For instance, don't turn on two lights if you only need one. Be sure to turn off the light when you leave a room, and the same goes for your television and/or video games. On a sunny day, read by the window instead of turning on a light. Unplug unused items whenever possible, since many devices continue to use electricity even when turned off.

Keep the refrigerator door closed whenever possible. Know what you want before you open the door. If you are pouring a drink, don't leave the door open. It takes a lot of energy to cool things. If the air conditioner is on, keep your doors and windows closed. Don't go in and out any more than necessary. Often, on a warm day, you can simply wear light clothes and use a fan instead of relying on an air conditioner.

Be sure to install a programmable thermostat in your home. That way, your furnace and AC won't have to work as hard to maintain the temperature while your family is away at work or school.

**Save heat:** It takes a lot of energy

Stop treating us like garbage.



Recycling is good for the environment and our local economy. Learn what you can do at home.

[recycleminnesota.org](http://recycleminnesota.org)

to heat houses and water. If the heat is on, keep your doors and windows closed. Wear warm clothes instead of turning up the heat. At night, use a blanket to stay warm. When you take a bath, use only the amount of water you will need, and don't stand in the shower for a long time.

**Save gasoline:** Walking or biking whenever you can will not only save a lot of gas, but it will also help you become a healthier person. If you and some of your friends are going to the same place, make plans to go together. Take the bus instead of asking for a ride to school. Minimize your driving when possible.

**Take the Minnesota Energy Challenge:** How much energy can you save? By taking the Minnesota Energy Challenge, you agree to take steps to reduce CO2 emissions and save money on your utility bills at the same time! You can also register yourself on their website, which gives you access to the forums, the "Energy Expert," and — most importantly — allows your savings to be

added to the savings of others across the state. Energy savings are tracked and posted. So far, Prior Lake is number seven on the list of over 600 participating cities! (They've saved over \$180,000 by following some simple energy saving steps!) St. Michael's School in Prior Lake is in first place while Prior Lake High School is currently in second place out of more than 100 participating schools, with a savings of over \$102,000 and \$83,000, respectively!

The Minnesota Energy Challenge website is sponsored by the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), a non-profit organization that works to promote the responsible and efficient use of natural and economic resources. CEE has provided environmental and housing rehabilitation services to utilities, private corporations, neighborhood organizations, municipalities and public agencies for over 25 years. These services include financing, building audits, technical research and training, program design and delivery and evaluations.

Visit [www.mnenergychallenge.org](http://www.mnenergychallenge.org) today to see what simple steps you can take to reduce your energy consumption!



# Follow yard tips to achieve cleaner water

It's an almost impossible urge in Minnesota... as soon as the weather warms up, we all want to get out into the yard and start working on something. After all, the season is short and we all want to make the most of it! As you head out with shovel and rake in hand, remember that how we care for our yards affects the health of our rivers, lakes, and wetlands. It's true — rainwater running off of our property into street storm drains can carry soil, nutrients, bacteria, and other harmful materials into the waters we love. Be "storm drain savvy" and follow these yard care tips for cleaner water:

- **Dump no waste!** Never use storm drains for disposing materials, such as engine oil, antifreeze, or cleaners. When you wash your car, wash it on your lawn so dirt and soap does not run into the storm drain. The same goes for when cleaning lawn equipment and tools.

- **Keep soil in place.** Silt from eroding soil fills in wetlands and clogs river and lake bottoms. In addition to destroying wildlife habitat, silt carries phosphorus, the plant nutrient that turns lakes green with algae. Cover bare areas of soil immediately with mulch and plant to a suitable cover. Soil piles from landscaping and construction projects can be covered with tarps to keep from washing away. Be especially careful when planting boulevard gardens so soil does not enter the street.

- **Rake up and sweep up.** Grass

clippings and tree seeds and leaves are also sources of phosphorus. Mow so that grass clippings are directed back into the lawn and not into the street. When done mowing, sweep sidewalks, driveways, and streets clean of grass clippings. When fall comes, rake the street clean of leaves along with your yard.

- **Pick up after pets!** In addition to containing phosphorus, pet waste contains bacteria which can lead to beach closings. Collect pet waste in plastic bags and place in the trash. Never use storm drains for disposing pet waste!

- **Soak up the rain.** Natural landscapes soak rain up like a sponge. As we create hard surfaces like roofs, roads, and parking lots, the amount of rainwater soaking in decreases and the amount of rainwater running off increases... and the result is more flooding and more polluted runoff. When possible, direct your downspouts onto vegetated areas where water can soak in. If you are adventurous, you can create a rain garden, a shallow depression designed to capture and soak up rainwater.

- **Follow the law!** Minnesota's new lawn phosphorus fertilizer law requires the use of phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer unless seeding a new lawn or a soil test shows need for phosphorus fertilization. It is also the law to follow label directions when using pesticides. Doing so will protect you, others, our water, and make sure the plants you are trying to protect are not damaged.

These tips can be summarized in the



MINNESOTA WATER  
LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN

*How we care for our yards affects the health of our water. Sweeping up lawn clippings prevents phosphorus from entering lakes and reduces pea-soup green algae blooms.*



## Well water can be tested for contaminants

You know that testing your well to make sure that it is safe to drink is a good idea. However, the list of possible contaminants is so large that it isn't feasible to test for all of them. The most practical way to test your drinking water is to start with the basic total coliform and nitrate test. To better understand this issue, visit the Minnesota Department of Health Well Unit at [www.health.state.mn.us/water](http://www.health.state.mn.us/water).

**Total coliform:** Water is usually tested for one particular group of bacteria known as the total coliform group. These organisms serve as an "indicator species" of bacteria, essentially indicating how sanitary your water is. Coliform bacteria can be found everywhere on the land surface, but are usually not found more than a few feet below the soil surface. Coliform bacteria are also found in the intestinal tract (and fecal wastes) of all warm-blooded animals. Most coliform bacteria do not cause disease by themselves. However, if they show up in a water test, it may indicate that surface contamination has somehow entered the water supply and that disease-causing organisms may be present.

**Nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>)** is a chemical containing nitrogen and oxygen which moves easily through the soil and into the groundwater. Some nitrate occurs naturally in groundwater that is near the surface, but the levels are usually low, less than 1 milligram per liter (mg/L). Nitrate levels of 1 mg/L or greater in groundwater usually indicate contamination from fertilizers, animal wastes, or on-site sewage systems. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L (reported as nitrogen) can cause a condition known as infantile methemoglobinemia, or "blue baby syndrome," in infants less than six months old.

If your well water contains nitrate-

nitrogen levels between 1 and 10 mg/L, you should test the well at least annually. If the level is above 10 mg/L, the well should be inspected to find out if it is properly constructed or if it is too close to a potential source of contamination, such as a septic system or feedlot. If there is a problem, determine if the well can be repaired. If necessary, drill a new well. Boiling the water will not remove the nitrate — in fact, it will actually increase the concentration of nitrate in your water.

**Other contaminants:** There is no single test that covers all possible contaminants. To determine whether you should consider testing for other contaminants in your water supply, contact the Scott County Environmental Health at (952) 496-8475. If the nitrate concentration of your water is less than 1 mg/L, it is unlikely that the water is contaminated with chemicals (such as pesticides and volatile organic compounds).

**Arsenic** occurs naturally in the groundwater, but is typically not found at significant levels in Scott County.

**Fluoride** is naturally present in the groundwater in some areas, but usually in low concentrations in Scott County. A test for natural fluoride will give your dentist useful information about whether children or adolescents should be using fluoride supplements.

**Iron** is naturally present in some groundwater. It is typically not a health concern, but concentrations above 0.3 mg/L cause an objectionable metallic taste and rust stains.

**Iron bacteria:** Water that tastes or smells "swampy" or like rotten eggs or causes red, slimy growths in toilet tanks may indicate that you have iron bacteria

phrase, "Only rain down the drain." When rainwater runs off your property, make sure it enters the storm drain clean, and not carrying pollutants it has picked up along the way. You can learn more about these tips by visiting the *Minnesota*

*Water — Let's Keep it Clean* website at [www.cleanwatermn.org](http://www.cleanwatermn.org).

Water is important to life in the Land of 10,000 Lakes. Let's do our part to protect the water that makes spring, and all the other seasons, so special.

in your well and water system. These bacteria do not cause disease, but they can clog valves and be a nuisance.

**Manganese** is naturally present in some groundwater. It is typically not a health concern, but concentrations above 0.05 mg/L cause an objectionable metallic taste.

**Pesticides** are sometimes found in Minnesota wells. The levels are usually low, but there are exceptions. Wells that have high levels of nitrate are also more likely to have detectable levels of pesticides.

**Radon** is a naturally occurring radioactive element that exists as a gas dissolved in some groundwater. It can be released to the air when you run water inside your home.

**Sulfate** is a naturally occurring ion present in groundwater, particularly in the southwestern part of Minnesota. A "rotten egg" smell in well water may indicate the presence of hydrogen sulfide gas, which can be produced by sulfur bacteria. They often occur together with iron bacteria.

**Volatile Organic Compounds** (or "VOCs") are common components of gasoline and other fuels, as well as products such as solvents, paints, cleaners, and degreasers. It is estimated that about one private well in 50 has detectable levels of one or more VOCs. Long-term exposure to VOCs at levels above state health limits may damage the central nervous system, liver, or kidneys. Exposure to certain VOCs has been known to cause cancer. If you live near a commercial or industrial area, a gas station, or a landfill, and especially if your well is old or shallow, you should consider having it tested for VOCs.

## Water Quality Stewardship Workshop set

You may have heard — Scott County has impaired waters. And improving water quality will be a true community effort.

Would you like to learn how you can help improve the quality of our water resources? No matter where you live, you can help protect water quality. Gardening with water quality in mind can be done by anyone. Creating raingardens, native gardens, or shoreland buffers doesn't mean your property has to look unkempt. Native plants can bring natural beauty to your property, and have deep root systems that will slow erosion and increase rain infiltration.

**When:** Wednesday, April 30, 2008, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Public Works Building, Jordan

**Cost:** Free!

**Sponsored by:** The Scott Watershed Management Organization

Individual choices by many have cumulative impacts on our lakes, streams, and wetlands. Space is limited to 40 people, and RSVP is required. For information, visit the Scott WMO website at [www.co.scott.mn/wmo](http://www.co.scott.mn/wmo) or contact Melissa Bokman at (952) 496-8887 or via e-mail at [mbokman@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:mbokman@co.scott.mn.us).

## Safety SCENE

By the Scott County Sheriff's Office



### Law Enforcement Memorial Scholarship Banquet set for May 15

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 ever born in the area. He was molded by his family and his military training, and rose through the ranks of the Scott County Sheriff's Office to become Chief Investigator. George worked on several very serious criminal cases plaguing Scott County. Tragically, he died at the young age of 40.

Similarly, in 1974, the Sheriff's Office lost **Deputy Laverne Realand** and the Shakopee Police Department lost **Officer Terry McGovern**. Laverne was the first female peace officer in Scott County... and among the first in the state. She carried her responsibilities proudly and 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 suddenly at the young age of 56.

Officer Terry McGovern, patrol officer for Shakopee Police, was known as a "bull" – complete 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 shockingly young age of 38.

The most recent addition to the memorial is **Deputy Jon Niemann**. Jon kept everyone in the Sheriff's Office on their toes with his great sense of humor, particularly with his spot-on impressions of celebrities and co-workers. Jon's background with the Marine Corps made him disciplined, dedicated, and committed. During his tenure with the Sheriff's Office, Jon worked as a patrol officer, bailiff, civil process, 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 in 2003 at the age of 37.

To memorialize these special law enforcement officers, the group decided to establish a scholarship fund as a "living memorial." They determined the purpose of the scholarship would be to honor Lill, Realand, McGovern and, later, Niemann on an annual basis by providing funds to local residents pursuing careers in law enforcement. The first banquet was held in May 1984, in conjunction with National Police Week. This year, the committee proudly celebrates their 25<sup>th</sup> 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 fundraising event, the committee also accepts gifts from individuals and corporations year-round.) 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. Of the funds raised, 99.5 percent are given out in scholarships. Approximately 130 scholarships have been awarded to date, awarding over \$123,500. Over 60 percent of the scholarship recipients are currently working in the field of law enforcement. (And over 60 of these are in uniform in Scott County communities today!)

Applicants who relinquish their regular employment to attend law enforcement skills training are granted preferences. 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.

This year's award banquet will be held during National Police Week on **Thursday, May 15** at the **Shakopee American Legion in Shakopee**. Social hour starts at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. The speaker for the evening is **Steve Johnson**, one of the original committee members.

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, please contact Sgt. Duane Jirik at (952) 496-8725, Captain Greg Muelken at (952) 496-8134 or any of the following committee members: Tim McGovern, Eve Rudolph, Kevin Heise, Bill Nevin, Barb Lill, Bob Lill, Barb Norring, Larry Norring and Joan Heise.

Scott County Law Enforcement Memorial Scholarship Committee: A committee and fund dedicated to recognize the future of law enforcement, while remembering the past, for those who died while serving in active duty within Scott County.



Detective George Lill



Deputy Laverne Realand



Deputy Jon Niemann

## Commissioner Marschall named Outstanding Woman in Government

Scott County Commissioner Barbara Marschall (District 4 – Prior Lake) was recently honored as the recipient of the annual *Outstanding Woman in Government Award* at the 2008 Minnesota Women of Today convention held during the weekend of February 8-10.

Marschall was nominated for the *Outstanding Woman in Government Award* by the *Prior Lake Women of Today*, a local service club that leads a number of community fundraisers and charitable events. President Marianne Breitbach submitted the nomination for the club, noting that "... [Barbara Marschall] is certainly a role model for all of us in addressing important local issues, whether it is as simple as reminding people to vote in government elections or [the] implications of action being considered for infrastructure needs, transportation, and human services." Dave Unmacht, Scott County Administrator, echoed these sentiments by adding: "Always engaged, dedicated, and honest in all of her relationships with her colleagues, staff, and citizens, she is thorough in her research and analysis, yet open to diverse opinions."



Barbara Marschall

"I am honored and humbled by this award," Marschall recently said. "I've always considered it an unparalleled privilege to serve this community, the

larger County, and the metropolitan area. I thank those who nominated me, those who offered their encouragement, and the entire community for its support and guidance throughout my tenure."

The Women of Today is a national, non-profit, civic organization promoting community service and fellowship opportunities. Fundraising activities to sponsor the Dollars for Scholars programs and Breakfast with Santa are coordinated annually. Proceeds from the benefits support local charities, the CAP Agency Food Shelf and scholarships for secondary education to area students. There are over 100 chapters and 1,700 members in Minnesota.

## Transit options From Page 1

days to reserve a ride during the service hours of 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### ADA Service

Scott County Transit is the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) provider for Scott County. This transportation service is available for persons who meet the following criteria:

- ◆ They cannot use regular route buses due to a disability;
- ◆ They have received certification through the Metro Mobility Service Center; and
- ◆ They are traveling to or from eligible Scott County communities.

To request an ADA certification application, call (651) 602-1111 (TTY 651-221-9886). To schedule a ride, call (952) 496-8001. ADA service hours and days vary between cities. Connections are available to other ADA transit providers serving Hennepin, Dakota, and Ramsey Counties. Fares are determined by Metro Mobility and are different for peak and non-peak hours.

### Circulator Service

The circulator routes (Shakopee Route 496 and Prior Lake Route 491) are fixed, hourly, repeating routes to major civic, retail, and population centers within the Cities of Shakopee or Prior Lake (some service is seasonal). There is no need to call and schedule a ride. Passengers can ride to almost anywhere within the city limits. Route buses will pick up and drop off anywhere along the route. Passengers can do this by flagging the bus down with their hand when the bus approaches. Deviations from the posted route are not made, and route buses offer the lowest fare.

### BlueXpress

Starting last summer, Scott County and the Cities of Shakopee and Prior Lake joined together to provide non-stop commuter service directly to downtown Minneapolis. The service operates Monday through Friday during the morning and evening rush hours.

Passengers can leave their car in one of the free Park & Ride lots at Southbridge Crossings Transit Station (in Shakopee) or Shepherd of the Lake



Church (in Prior Lake) and board the 490 BlueXpress bus directly. Shakopee residents also have the option of riding one of the 498 shuttles from multiple locations in Shakopee to connect with the BlueXpress buses at Southbridge Crossings.

Regional fares apply for this express service and are based on peak and non-peak hours. BlueXpress buses also accept all regional fare passes, including Super Saver, 31day, Stored Value Cards U-Passes, Go-To Cards and Metro Pass. For more information and to view current bus schedules, go to [www.BlueXpressbus.com](http://www.BlueXpressbus.com)

### What's in the future for Scott County Transit?

Beginning in April, the circulator service will be adding four additional early morning routes on the Shakopee Route 496 Circulator. Additionally, we will be adding stops in the Valley Industrial Park to this route to meet the increasing demand for service to this area.

In May we will offer the annual Summer Shuttle Service that will allow passengers access to and from Valleyfair, Canterbury Downs, and the Southbridge Crossings area.

In the upcoming year, we will be implementing a cooperative effort up to and including a merger of services with the public transit system of Carver County (CARTS). This will allow for expanded and better use of our resources, roads, and transit options that will benefit our passengers as well as our environment.

Scott County Transit always welcomes your comments and suggestions. For more information regarding any of our transit services or to share your thoughts with us, please call (952) 496-8341 or write to Scott County Transit, 828 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. E., Shakopee, MN 55379.

We look forward to seeing you on the bus!



# New Options program to celebrate 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

On May 18, an Open House will be held at New Options from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. to recognize 40 years of service to individuals with developmental disabilities in Scott County.

In 1966, the Scott County Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC), with the support of the Scott County Commissioners, formed a Board of Directors to begin a day treatment and habilitation center. Originally named the Scott County Day Activity Center, the program opened its doors on March 11, 1968 in a former elementary school in Belle Plaine. The first program provided services to 12 children, ages 5 to 16, with developmental disabilities.

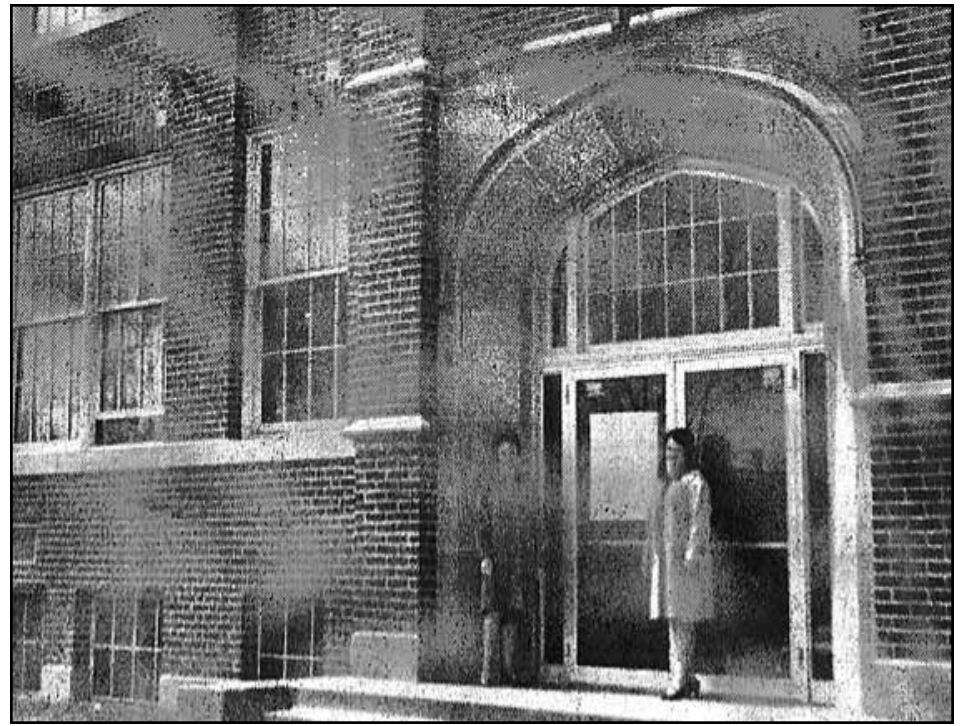
The locations changed over the years to include the "Chateau" near Belle Plaine; the former St. Joseph School between Lydia and Jordan; the former elementary school in Lydia; the Suel Building on Scott Street in Shakopee; Shakopee Town Square; and finally, the Workforce Development Center Building on Canterbury Road in Shakopee.

Now called New Options, the pro-

gram currently serves 82 adults with developmental disabilities. While the ages of the people served and locations have changed, the mission has remained the same...to serve individuals with developmental disabilities, helping them achieve their highest potential.

The Open House will celebrate the history of the program along with recognition of community/service organizations and volunteers who have contributed over the years. The public will be able to tour the facility and see samples of in-house client work, community jobs, client work simulation, leisure activities, learning activities, sensory activities and exercise activities that clients participate in. Attendees will also be able to experience New Options history through a DVD presentation and picture displays. The public is welcome and encouraged to join in our celebration. Refreshments will be served.

New Options is located at 792 Canterbury Road, Shakopee, Minnesota. For further event information, please call (952) 403-7979.



The first Scott County Day Activity Center was located in a former elementary school in Belle Plaine and served 12 children with developmental disabilities.

## 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 2008, 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

<b>TOWN OF BELLE PLAINE</b> Robert Koenig Richard Klehr Gary Schmitz	<b>TOWN OF LOUISVILLE</b> John E. Weckman Robert N. Pieper Susan K. Morevec Val Theis, Inspector	<b>CITY OF JORDAN</b> Ron Jabs, Mayor Michelle Guscette, Inspector
<b>TOWN OF BLAKELEY</b> John Busse Brian Schmidt Robert Wagner	<b>TOWN OF NEW MARKET</b> George Silverness Kenneth Chlan LeRoy Clausen	<b>CITY OF ELKO</b> <b>NEW MARKET</b> Kent Hartzler, Mayor Mark Nagel, Inspector
<b>TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE</b> Robert Puncchar Norman Sticha Gerald Williams Fritz Novotny, Inspector	<b>TOWN OF ST. LAWRENCE</b> Ted Kornder Hubert Jeurissen Les Quatmann	<b>CITY OF NEW PRAGUE</b> Bink Bender, Mayor Dennis Seurer, Inspector
<b>TOWN OF CREDIT RIVER</b> Bruce Nilsen Brent A. Lawrence LeRoy Schommer	<b>TOWN OF SAND CREEK</b> Cy Wolf Leslie Thill Bill Heimkes Tom Kes, Inspector	<b>CITY OF PRIOR LAKE</b> Jack Haugen, Mayor Al Friedges, Inspector
<b>TOWN OF HELENA</b> Duane Deutsch Joseph Pexa, Jr. Terry Maas Darryl Perkins, Inspector	<b>TOWN OF SPRING LAKE</b> Gene Berens Michael Borka John P. Henschel	<b>CITY OF SAVAGE</b> Janet Williams, Mayor Jon Allen, Inspector
<b>TOWN OF JACKSON</b> Tom Weckman Don Hedlund Chris Brinkhaus Charles Wellen, Inspector	<b>CITY OF BELLE PLAINE</b> Tom Meger, Mayor Al Fahey, Inspector	<b>CITY OF SHAKOPEE</b> John J. Schmitt, Mayor Ryan Hughes, Inspector

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  
 Lezlie Vermillion, Public Works Director and Mitch Rasmussen, County Engineer

## CAP Crisis Nursery works to prevent child abuse

**Blue Ribbon Campaign calls attention to preventing child abuse**

April is *National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month*. In 1989, to help raise awareness and prevention of child abuse and neglect, a Virginia grandmother began a national Blue Ribbon Campaign as a memorial to her three-year-old grandson and victim of child abuse. The Blue Ribbon Campaign occurs each April in conjunction with National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month.

Locally, the CAP Agency Crisis Nursery organizes Blue Ribbon Campaign volunteers each year to help distribute blue ribbons throughout communities in Scott and Carver Counties. This effort is intended to spread the word about the campaign and to enforce the belief that asking for help is a sign of strength.

Last year, 397 crisis nursery placements were made through CAP Agency Crisis Nursery for 91 children living in Scott and Carver Counties. The primary goals of the CAP Agency Crisis Nursery Program are to strengthen families and to prevent child abuse and neglect. Many of the families who access the Crisis Nursery are isolated, experiencing crisis, and have little or no informal resources. The Crisis Nursery is available to these families as a safe, nurturing childcare resource offering short-term parenting support. Families wishing to access the Crisis Nursery can call the 24 hour hotline at (612) 839-5101 to reach a CAP Agency Crisis Nursery Advocate. This support gives parents the opportunity they need to focus on managing their current situation and ultimately strengthen their family.

The CAP Agency Crisis Nursery phone is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by licensed social workers or trained community advocates. When a family makes a call to the Crisis Nursery phone line, it may result in resources, a referral to another agency/program, crisis counseling, or a Crisis Nursery placement of the family's children who are ages six weeks through age twelve.

No one wants to see children hurting especially in our own community.

**CAP Crisis Nursery to Raise 10,000,000 Pennies**

Crisis Nursery is offering the community an opportunity to become involved in keeping the children in our communities safe by participating in an annual fundraising event called **The Power of Pennies** during Child Abuse Prevention Month. The premise of the Power of Pennies is that everyone can participate, including children, teens, adults, businesses, community civic groups, and corporations.

One penny may not seem like a lot, but the power of that penny — when combined with 10 million others — is powerful enough to help a child in need and sustain a community-based Crisis Nursery program. Look for more information in April on how you can participate in the Power of Pennies or contact Nancy at (952) 402-9829.

## Veterans' SCENE

By Todd Kubinski  
Director of Veterans Service



### New veterans cemetery proposed

In order to provide additional dignified burial places and a lasting memorial for veterans and their families, especially those in northeastern Minnesota, Governor Tim Pawlenty recently announced a plan to have the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) transfer 60 acres of land in Jay Cooke State Park to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) for development of a new state veterans cemetery.

Legislation is required to transfer the land from DNR to MDVA. If the Legislature approves the Governor's plan, MDVA will apply for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to fund design and construction of the new state veterans cemetery. The federal government would cover those costs, estimated to be approximately \$8 million. The state would handle annual operating costs of approximately \$300,000 per year.

The site of the proposed new state veterans cemetery is about 20 miles south of Duluth. This would be the second state veterans cemetery in Minnesota. The first was established seven miles north of Little Falls in 1994 and is the final resting place of more than 2,700 veterans and family members.

"We must support and remember veterans and their families with our words and our deeds," Governor Pawlenty said. "This new cemetery will allow us to honor our heroes and remember their remarkable commitment, courage, and sacrifice with an appropriate final resting place that is close to home for families in northern Minnesota."

\* This information was provided by the Governor's news release, dated 3/11/08.

### Photos sought for Memorial Day display

The Scott County Veterans Service Office is seeking photos of deceased veterans from Scott County so we may honor them this Memorial Day. The pictures will be on display at the Government Center in Shakopee. It is preferred the photo be of the veteran in their military uniform; however, any photo could be used. The photos can be brought or mailed to our office, where they will be scanned and immediately returned to the owner.

In addition to the photos, the following information is needed: Name of veteran, date of birth and death, branch of military service and city (e.g., Prior Lake, Jordan, Belle Plaine, Shakopee, Savage, Elko New Market, New Prague). Our office address is:

Scott County Veterans Service, Government Center Room 212  
200 Fourth Ave West, Shakopee, Minnesota 55379

We anticipate having 400-plus photos displayed of departed veterans from Scott County who served their country to ensure our freedom. The display will be presented May 19 through June 6 in the Link area of the Government Center. Please call our office at (952) 496-8176 with any questions.

\*If a photo has previously been submitted to our office, you need not bring it in again.

## Financial workshops can be tailored for group, individual needs

Making decisions about money is a daily exercise. Almost without thinking about it, we're making our decisions about whether to save or spend, which product to buy, or choosing to use credit or cash virtually all the time. However, many people haven't had the benefit of much training in money management, and sometimes merging a couple's beliefs in money management causes serious issues. As retirement plans change and become more complicated, it's hard to know what questions you should be asking about your money.

Scott County and University of Minnesota Extension have a family resource management education specialist, Sue Hooper, who can tailor a workshop or family discussion to meet your needs. Call Sue at (952) 492-5383 or e-mail her at [hoop0011@umn.edu](mailto:hoop0011@umn.edu) to set up a meeting.

Individuals who wish to solve a specific problem, or just get a handle on spending, can be assured of a *confidential* conversation. We can find a good place and time to work together on your questions.

Workshops can be planned for any size group. Basic financial management, understanding retirement funding, and

*Workshops can be planned for any size group. Topics can range from basic financial management, understanding retirement funding, and credit history and credit scores.*

making sense of your retirement plan are a few of the topics we can cover. Credit history and credit scores are other popular subjects. What questions does your group have about their income, debt, and future financial situation?

Call today to discuss your needs or set up an appointment or workshop.

## Library News and Updates

### Manage your library accounts

Yes, library accounts, plural. If you have a Scott County library card, you have an account with the Scott County Library System. If you have ever used MnLink, the state-wide library catalog, you have an account with MnLink. If you have registered your Scott County library card with any other public library in the state, you have an account with them as well. The first two accounts (Scott and MnLink) have features that allow you to review and manage your requests, PIN numbers, and many other aspects of your library life.

#### Scott County Library Card

To get to your library account, go to the website at [www.scott.lib.mn.us](http://www.scott.lib.mn.us) and select "Web Catalog and Account Information" in the left column. Log onto the member catalog using your user ID (on your library card) and your PIN. If you do not remember your PIN, please call your branch library and have your library card number ready. Select "My Account," and you will be given three options: 1) review my account, 2) user PIN change, and 3) renew my materials. (The fourth option, change my address, doesn't work yet.)

**Review My Account** allows you to see what is checked out on your card and when the materials are due. It also allows you to see any charges on that account and the reason for the charge. You can also see any items that you have requested from our catalog, where it will be sent for pickup, and your place in the queue.

**User PIN Change** allows you to change your PIN. You will be asked for your current PIN again and, just as you must do everywhere, you will need to enter your new PIN twice. Your PIN must be four digits (7659 and 1234 — not recommended! — et cetera), preferably four digits that you will remember. If you forget your PIN, you can call your branch library with your library card and ask the library staff for help. (You will be asked questions to make sure that you are actually, well, you.) If you are registering a library card from another library system or you are registering your Scott County library card in another system, you must specify a PIN. It can be the same PIN as you use in other library systems (as long as it is four digits), but it must be entered in our database.

**Renew My Materials** allows you to see what you have checked out and when the items are due to be returned. You can ask to renew everything you have checked out, or only selected items. Be sure to check the next screen because it will tell if the renewal request was successful and when the items are now due to be returned. Library materials can be

renewed twice if no one else has requested the item. You can also renew materials by calling the renewal line at (952) 890-9184, or by calling or visiting your branch library.

#### MnLink

MnLink is the statewide catalog. It includes the catalogs of all the public libraries (including Scott County), the University of Minnesota, the private and public colleges and universities, many of the technical schools, a few public schools, and other libraries that are not normally accessible to the public. You can search for items on this extensive catalog, and you can frequently place a request on the items using the "Get It" button. Because these requests go to libraries outside Scott County, we cannot control or even track the requests. You can, however, check on your own requests and check your record.

If you sign on to MnLink with your library card number, you can, among other things, search the catalog, make requests, use the ELM online resources, and check on the status of your requests. If you check on the status of your requests, you will be able to see what you have checked out as well as what is still on request. If an item cannot be filled, that will be noted on the request.

**An important note:** If you request an item from the Scott County library catalog, your request will remain active for up to one year. If you request an item using the "Get It" button on MnLink, your request will only remain active until the libraries owning the item have said the item is not available. For example, if you requested the latest Harry Potter book, 1) the request would go to each of the libraries or library systems (in turn), 2) they would report (in turn) that it was not available, 3) you would be informed that the item was not available, and 4) the request will be deleted. There are no waiting lists on MnLink!

If you have any questions, would like a demonstration, would like a hand-out, if you want anything at all, please call or visit your branch library. The library staff are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to inform and assist you.

Scott County Library System (all numbers are 952 area code)

[www.scott.lib.mn.us](http://www.scott.lib.mn.us)

Renewal Line 890-9184

Administration 707-1760

#### Branch Libraries

Belle Plaine 873-6767

Jordan 492-2500

Elko New Market 461-3460

New Prague 758-2391

Prior Lake 447-3375

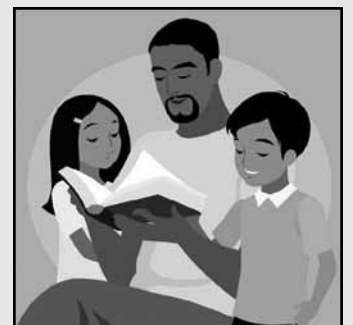
Savage 707-1770

Shakopee 233-9590

Law Library 496-8713

### Foster care providers needed

-- Foster homes needed for children, teens, adults --  
Providers must be 21 years old, married or single, and participate in training on parenting issues.  
There is no charge for licensing.



Call Margie Nickerson at (952) 496-8505 at Scott County Human Services for more information about the Foster Care Program.



## Historical SCENE

# Scott County plans to celebrate State's 150 birthday

Minnesota commemorates its statehood sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup> birthday) this year with celebrations of our collective history. Scott County is recognizing this milestone with a special event at The Landing (formerly known as "Historic Murphy's Landing") on **Saturday, May 17, 2008.**

People have lived in the Minnesota River Valley since water runoff from the melting glaciers carved it nearly 10,000 years ago. Evidence of these early people is visible in burial grounds along the river valley. Inhabitants of the valley, believed to be Dakota ancestors, built these earthen mounds between 2,000 and 300 years ago. Unfortunately, many mounds are gone or have been damaged due to erosion, agriculture, road building and other activities.

Minnesota grew in prominence through fur trading, logging, and farming. Her natural resources were a boon to industry and settlement. First riverboats, and later railroads, made the movement of goods and people possible to all corners of the territory.



**The last battle between the Ojibwa and the Dakota people took place shortly after Minnesota became a state in the area near Murphy's Landing in Shakopee.** <sup>7</sup>

Statehood did not come easily to Minnesota. The U.S. Constitution of 1787 stated that new states would be accepted into the union alternately as "slave" and "free" states. However, in 1850, California was admitted as a free state out of turn. "To secure the admission of another slave state and thus restore the 'equality of states' and the 'equilibrium of the senate' at once became a chief and immediate demand of the proslavery propagandists."<sup>1</sup> Southern politicians wanted to admit Kansas as a slave state before any other territory applicant, to bring about the "equilibrium." There were heated debates over admission of Kansas and Minnesota into the Union, which "...understood that Minnesota must stand waiting at the door until after Kansas had been ushered in."<sup>2</sup> Kansas was admitted as a slave state<sup>3</sup> on March 23, 1858, and the very next day the Minnesota bill for admission to the Union was renewed.

There was heated debate in Congress regarding Minnesota's Constitution; particularly that Minnesota Senators had been elected *prior* to the admission of Minnesota to the Union. After two days of vicious filibustering, the vote was taken — 127 to 63 — and Minnesota was admitted as a state of the Union on May 11, 1858.<sup>4</sup> The appointment of state senators and representatives was based on a guess of 247,500 inhabitants. (In actuality, the Census was not yet completed. In fact, the Census of 1860 listed the total population at 172,033, including 2,369 Native Americans. St. Paul had the most residents at 10,401, followed by St. Anthony at 3,258 and three other cities at about 2,500 each.<sup>5</sup> The most people resided around river communities.)

Three days after Minnesota's first state officers were inducted, a battle took

place along the Minnesota River between the Dakota and Ojibwa people. Although the Dakota were exiled to reservations on the upper Minnesota, many bands returned to their summer homes along the Minnesota River. In May 1858, Shakopee's band was camped at their traditional home just below the village of Shakopee on the Minnesota River. Early in the morning of May 27<sup>th</sup>, some men fishing along the river were shot at from the north bank. The Dakota rallied at Murphy's Ferry crossing (now located at The Landing), and were put across the river. The Ojibwa attacked in detachments, but departed before the end of the day. Conflicting reports of the battle and results were given in the *Pioneer and Democrat* and *Minnesotian* papers.<sup>6</sup> This was the last battle between these two great Indian nations in Minnesota. Statehood meant progress, settlement, and untold wealth to many newcomers; however, it was the end of a lifestyle for Native Americans, including the Dakota of Scott County.<sup>7</sup>

Although the Territorial Legislature did not establish Scott County until March 5, 1853, travel on the Minnesota River was already thick and heavy. Steamboats quickly brought new settlers and land speculators up river. One such speculator was Thomas Holmes, who opened a trading post at Shakopee in 1851. Czech immigrants landed in Shakopee in 1856, where residents directed them south to Anton Philipp's settlement, where they carved New Prague out of the thick forest of the Big Woods. The town of Hamilton, platted in 1857 at a time when town development was rapidly occurring along the Minnesota River, changed its name to Savage in 1903 to honor Marion W. Savage, businessman and owner of the famous horse Dan Patch. Railroad service shifted the center of activity from Spring Lake (founded in 1852), to the Village of Prior Lake. Thomas Holmes' brother, William, homesteaded upriver from his brother at a settlement known as "Holmes Mill." Later the settlement changed its name to Jordan. Judge Andrew Chatfield took claim to 192 acres of grassland in 1854, platting the town of Belle Plaine, French for "beautiful prairie."

From these beginnings well over 150 years ago, Scott County has continually participated in the economic, social, and political changes in Minnesota — booming in population along the way. As of the 2000 Census, Scott County had a population of 89,498 within 365 square miles. Join us as we commemorate Minnesota's birthday at The Landing!

<sup>1</sup> Folwell, William Watts, *A History of Minnesota, Vol. II*, The Minnesota Historical Society, 1961, p. 10.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 11, and *Congressional Globe*, 497-505, 518, 512.

<sup>3</sup> Kansas was admitted with Lecompton constitution. (1) "The right of property is before and higher than any constitutional sanction, and the right of the owner of any property whatever"; (2) "The legislature shall have no power to pass laws for the emancipation of slaves without the consent of the owners, or without paying the owners previous to their emancipation a full equivalent in money for the slaves so emancipated." Cardinal, Goodwin, *The Establishment of State Government in California, 1846-1850*, (New York, 1914), p. 339-342

<sup>4</sup> Folwell, p. 18; <sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 64

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p. 25; <sup>7</sup> Battle of Shakopee Map — Folwell, p. 24

## Scott County Celebrates Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood

THE LANDING (Formerly Murphy's Landing)  
2187 E Highway 101, Shakopee

Saturday  
May 17th

9 am - Noon	Bike Tour Shakopee to Chaska along the Riverfront start at Memorial Park
10 am - 5 pm	Horse Drawn Trolley Rides
10 am - 5 pm	Living History Tours
10 am - 5 pm	Historic Games/Activities for Children
11 am - 3 pm	Picnic Lunch
11:30 am - 12 noon	Minnesota Historical Society History Player Virginia Mae Hope, WWII Pilot
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Minnesota 150th Presentation
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	19th Century Baseball Game Quicksteps vs. Northfield Silver Stars
5:00 pm	The Landing Closes
Dusk	Movie In The Park at Huber Park

## Scott County Historical Society — Where history is FUN!

**Donor Night at the Museum:** April 18. SCHS invites its donors to a behind-the-scenes look at the Museum

**Girls May Day Tea:** Saturday, April 26, 2008 (at 10:30 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m.). Make May Day baskets together and learn the history behind May Day! When the baskets are finished, we will don our ~~his~~ gloves for tea and treats ~~house~~ or garden — weather permitting. (Girls may bring their American Girl Dolls to the tea for free!)

\* Event not sponsored by American Girl LLP

**Volunteer Luncheon:** May 1. SCHS celebrates and thanks its generous volunteers with a scrumptious lunch!

**MN 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration at The Landing (formerly known as Historic Murphy's Landing):** May 17. (See above) Free admission!

**Catholic Cemetery Walking Tour:** Shakopee, May 29, 2008. **Betty Dols** weaves marvelous stories of German and Irish pioneers. Purchased in 1877, the cemetery was the second Catholic cemetery in Shakopee. Take a walk and learn about the Benedictine connection, a family murdered, the intrepid widow, and other stories.

**Wine**

**Making Class:**

June 5. Discover the mystery behind homemade winemaking, and learn the tips and tricks it takes to make wine at home from your garden's

bounty — including rhubarb, beet, strawberry, watermelon, elderberry, carrot, pear, apple, and more! Presented by local winemaker **Clarence Johnson.**

**A Second Skin: Uniform Identities:** Exhibit opening summer 2008.

**Seed Art (MN 150<sup>th</sup> activity):** Kids creatively decorate the State of Minnesota with seeds! Hands-on seed art activity presented at Scott County Libraries June 10 to 13.

**All Things Minnesota Book Club** — meets at 6:30 p.m. in the historic Stans House the third Thursday of each month.

**Scott County Crazy Quilters — Knitters Welcome Too!** — meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Unless otherwise noted, events take place at the Scott County Historical Society. Fees may be charged for some events.





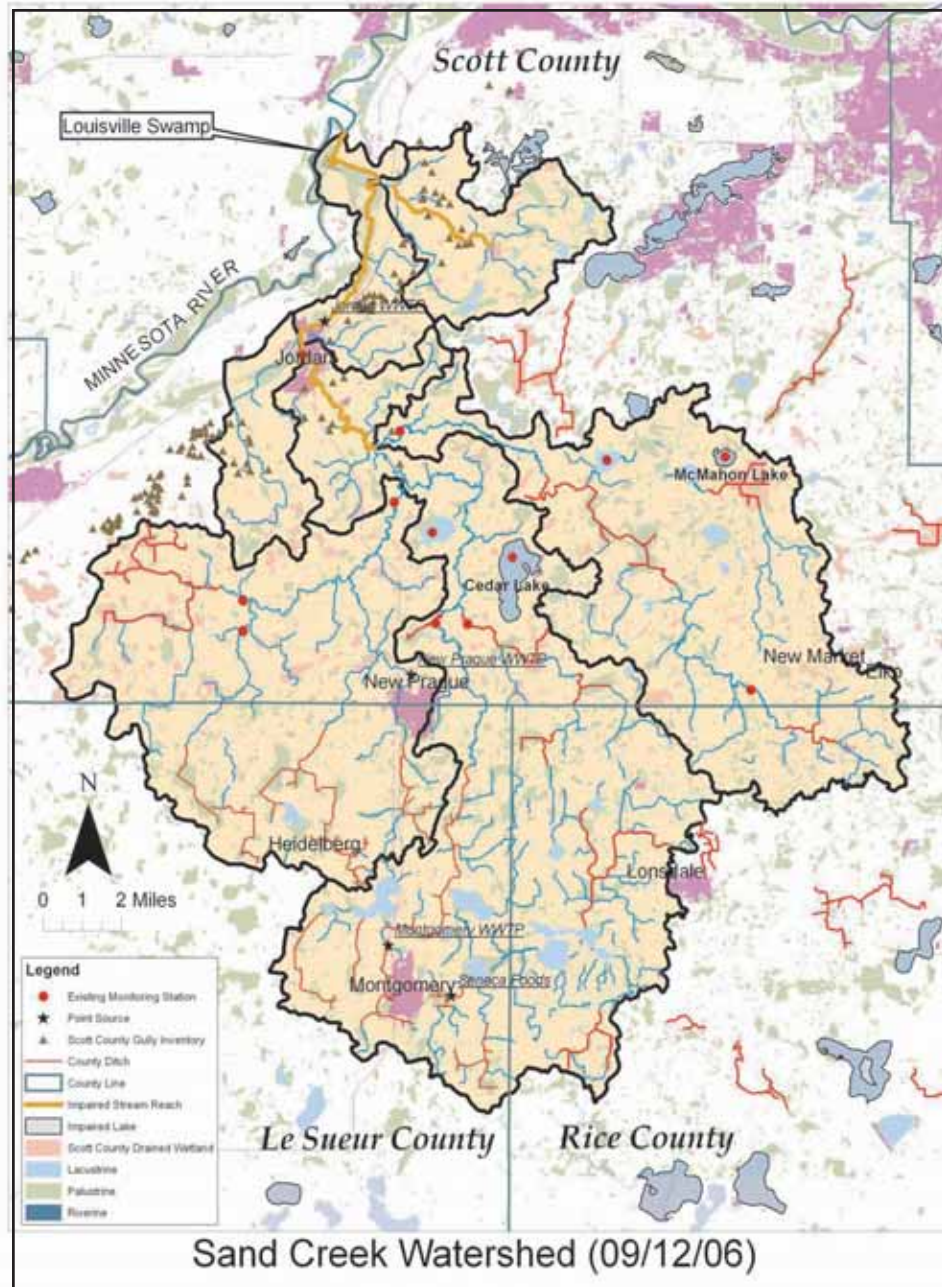
# Studies show impairment of water in area watersheds

The Scott Watershed Management Organization was recently selected for *Clean Water Partnership Legacy Grants* from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to develop TMDLs ("Total Maximum Daily Loads") for the Credit River, Cedar Lake, and McMahon Lake.

**The Credit River** starts in New Market Township, and flows generally north through Credit River Township, before discharging into the Minnesota River in the City of Savage. The Credit River has a drainage area of approximately 51 square miles (32,865 acres).

The Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), on behalf of the Scott Watershed Management Organization (WMO), completed a stream bank erosion inventory of Credit River in 2006. This inventory identified over 5.5 miles of slight to moderate stream bank erosion along the river and its tributaries. In 2007, the Scott WMO initiated a "Fluvial Geomorphic Assessment" of the river to diagnose the factors contributing to the bank erosion, and to develop a strategy for restoring more natural fluvial processes. That report is now complete and is available to the public on the website at [www.co.scott.mn.us/wmo](http://www.co.scott.mn.us/wmo) (under "Programs & Projects").

The TMDL study is expected to take two to three years and will address water quality impairments of the Credit River. The Credit River is considered *impaired* for aquatic life due to elevated turbidity levels. ("Turbidity" is a measurement of water clarity and measures the degree to which light traveling through a water column is scattered by the suspended organic and inorganic particles, including algae.) Turbidity is primarily affected by the amount of sediment in the water, and sometimes by iron or bog staining. High levels of turbidity can negatively affect aquatic organisms such as fish, insects, or mussels. Turbidity may cause aquatic organisms to have trouble finding food, may affect gill function, and the sediment associated with turbidity may cause spawning beds to be covered. Suspended organic and inorganic particles also transport nutrients from lands to receiving waters causing an increase in production of al-



gae growth.

The other project area consists of the **Sand Creek watershed** (which covers portions of Scott, Rice, and Le Sueur Counties with about sixty percent of the area in Scott County, as indicated on the map). The Sand Creek watershed drains 271 square miles, and is tributary to the Minnesota River. Drainage in the watershed is generally south to north with headwaters areas in Rice and Le Sueur Counties. Prior to discharging to the Minnesota River, the creek flows through Louisville Swamp, which is part of the Minnesota Valley National Wild-

life Refuge. The project addresses water quality concerns of Sand Creek, Cedar Lake, McMahon Lake, and an unnamed tributary to the Minnesota River in Scott County. These water bodies are listed as impaired by the MPCA on the Federal Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list as follows:

- ◆ Sand Creek from the mouth to confluence with Porter Creek is impaired for aquatic life due to turbidity and fish "Index of Biotic Integrity" (IBI). An IBI represents a way to quantify attributes of the biological community that are sensitive to their environment. IBIs in-

corporate a scoring procedure in order to produce an overall score for a site.

- ◆ Unnamed tributary to Sand Creek (near Louisville Swamp) is impaired for aquatic life due to fish IBI.

- ◆ Cedar and McMahon Lakes impaired for recreation due to excess nutrients and impaired for aquatic consumption due to mercury.

The study began in 2007, with water quality monitoring at 17 sites throughout Scott, LeSueur, and Rice Counties. The study will continue in 2008 with additional water quality monitoring and related studies. The project will compile watershed information such as land cover, feedlot locations, geomorphology, drained wetland inventories, and erosion surveys, collect water quality monitoring data, and develop water quality models for Sand Creek, Cedar Lake and McMahon Lake TMDLs. The project will involve the public and decision makers, and will complete draft TMDL studies for Cedar and McMahon Lakes. Year three of the project will consist of data analysis, modeling, and report preparation. (The project does *not* address the mercury impairments, since they are more regional in nature and are addressed by the MPCA's recently completed statewide mercury TMDL.)

Outcomes of these studies will include a better understanding of the factors contributing to the waters' impairments, and help devise strategies to address the impairments.

The Scott WMO is joined in these projects by a number of additional local sponsors, including the Metropolitan Council; Credit River and New Market Townships; the Cities of Savage, Prior Lake, Burnsville, and Lakeville; the Black Dog Watershed Management Organization; the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District; the Three Rivers Park District; the Counties of Rice and Le Sueur; the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Scott and LeSueur Counties; the Cedar Lake Improvement District; and the Cedar Lake Sewer District. Additional information on these studies can be found on the Scott WMO website at [www.co.scott.mn.us/wmo](http://www.co.scott.mn.us/wmo) or by calling the WMO at (952) 496-8054.

## Don't flush unused medication down toilets

Large amounts of pharmaceutical drugs — from antibiotics and anti-convulsants to mood stabilizers and hormones — have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans, according to a recent *Associated Press* investigation.

To be sure, the concentrations of these pharmaceuticals are well below the levels of most medical doses. And municipal water utilities are quick to insist that their water supply is safe. But the presence of so many prescription drugs — and over-the-counter medicines, like acetaminophen and ibuprofen — in our drinking water concerns scientists of the possible long-term consequences to human health. For the sake of our own health, we must take steps to reduce the amount of medication finding its way into our environment.

There are two main ways for those drugs to get into our water in the first place. When people take medication, their bodies absorb some of the medication but the rest of it passes through their urine and is flushed down the toilet. In addition, people often flush their unwanted or unused medications down the toilet. All of that wastewater is treated before it is discharged into reservoirs, rivers, or lakes. Some of that water is cleansed again at drinking water treatment plants and piped to consumers; unfortunately, though, most treatment plants are not able to remove all of those drug residues.

Some scientists stress that the research is extremely limited so far. However, most agree that the health problems discovered in wildlife bring to mind ques-

tions regarding potential health problems for humans. With limited research funds, perhaps a greater emphasis should be put on studying the effects of drugs in water. According to Shane Snyder, research and development project manager at the Southern Nevada Water Authority, "It's time... to study these effects, both human and environmental."

There is growing concern in the scientific community that certain drugs, or combinations of drugs, may harm humans over decades of exposure -- because water, unlike most food, is consumed in sizable amounts every day. Our bodies may shrug off a relatively big one-time dose, yet suffer from a smaller amount delivered continuously over a half century. Pregnant women, the elderly, and the very ill might be more susceptible.

And while drugs are tested to be safe for humans, those tests usually run over a few months, rather than a lifetime. Pharmaceuticals also can produce unintended side effects and interact with other drugs. That's why most pharmaceuticals are prescribed to people who need them, not delivered to the entire population.

### Safe Disposal

So, the question then becomes: How should we dispose of our old or unwanted medications in order



to reduce the amount flowing into our water? For many years, in order to prevent accidental ingestion, people were encouraged to flush unwanted medication down the toilet or pour it down the drain. However, that is no longer the case. To safely dispose of unwanted prescription or over-the-counter medications, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency recommends:

- **Keep medications in their original container.** The labels may contain important safety information, and the caps are typically childproof. Leave the content information visible, but be sure to scratch out the patient's name or cover it with permanent marker.

- **Modify the contents to discourage consumption.** With solid medications, add a small amount of water to pills or capsules to at least partially dissolve them. For liquid medications, add enough table salt, flour, charcoal or nontoxic powdered spice, such as turmeric or mustard, to discourage consumption of the contents, or simply pour the liquid contents of smaller containers into a sealable bag filled with paper towels. With blister packs, wrap the packages in multiple layers of opaque tape, such as duct tape.

- **Tape the medication container shut with packing or duct tape and put it inside an opaque bag or container,** such as an empty yogurt or margarine tub, to ensure that the contents cannot be seen. Then discard these items in your garbage can. Do not place the medicine into your recycling bin, and do not conceal them in food products, because they could be inadvertently consumed by scavenging wildlife.