



City of Scandia
Scandia Community/
Senior Center
14727 209th St. N.
Scandia, MN 55073

We're on the web!
www.ci.scandia.mn.us

City Council:
Dennis Seefeldt, Mayor
651 433-5999
Dolores Peterson
651 433-2229
Pete Crum
651 433-5034
Donnette Yehle
651 433-3602
Mike Harnetty
651 433-4883

Regular Council Meeting:
Third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
**Council/Planning
Commission Meeting:**
First Tuesday, 7:00/7:30 p.m.

City Staff:
Anne Hurlburt, Administrator
Brenda Eklund, Deputy Clerk
Colleen Firkus, Treasurer
John Morrison, Public Works
Supervisor
Steve Thorp, Building/ Code
Enforcement Official
David Hebert, Attorney
Hebert & Welch PA
Tom Peterson, Engineer, BRA
Dick Thompson, Planner, TKDA, Inc

City Office:
Phone: 651 433-2274
Fax: 651 433-5112
E-mail: mail@ci.scandia.mn.us
Hours: Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to Noon & 1p.m. to 4 p.m.

Dedicated to Rural Community Values

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Scandia, MN
55073

Household
Scandia, MN 55073

Community Calendar, October '07—March '08

October

- October 20, 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (Saturday)
Comprehensive Plan Open House
- October 23, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
(Tuesday) Comprehensive Plan Open House
(see story inside)

November

- November 6, Election Day (Schools)
- November 12, Veteran's Day— Office
Closed
- November 15, Lutfisk Dinner, Elim Church
- November 16, Turkey Bingo
- November 22 & 23, Thanksgiving Holiday—
Office Closed

December

- December 3, 7:00 p.m. (Monday) Truth in
Taxation Public Hearing (see story inside)
- December 8, Lions Pancake Breakfast
- December 9, Lucia Day, Gammelgården/
Elim Church
- December 18, 7:00 p.m., City Council
Budget Adoption Hearing

- December 24 & 25, Christmas— Office
Closed
- December 31, New Years Eve— Office
Closed

January

- January 1, New Year's Day— Office Closed
- January 21, Martin Luther King Day— Office
Closed

February

- February 3, Lions Pancake Breakfast
- February 18, President's Day— Office
Closed
- February 23, Fireball 2008

March

- March 20, Vernal Equinox— First Day of
Spring

For more information and a complete calendar of city
meetings, see www.ci.scandia.mn.us.

For Gammelgården and Elim Church events, see:
<http://www.gammelgardensemuseum.org>

A TWICE-YEARLY
PUBLICATION
FOR RESIDENTS
OF THE CITY OF
SCANDIA,
MINNESOTA



Volume 1, Issue 2

October, 2007

Scandia Plans for the Future *Comprehensive Plan Update is Underway*

The time has come again for Scandia to plan for its future. Every ten years, the city is required to submit an Updated Comprehensive Plan to the Metropolitan Council. This document functions as a blueprint for the city – describing how natural resources will be protected, where development will take place, and how Scandia will continue to maintain its rural character and provide a high quality of life to all its citizens.

The last Comprehensive Plan for New Scandia Township was adopted in 1998, and so Scandia's next comprehensive plan must be adopted by the end of 2008. Issues to be addressed in the comprehensive plan include; demographics, natural resources, land use, housing, economic development, cultural resources, parks and trails, transportation, and public facilities.

Work has already started on the plan update. The City is leading the planning effort and has formed a Comprehensive Planning Committee. The Committee is chaired by Mayor Dennis Seefeldt, and includes members of the City Council, the Planning Commission, the Parks and Recreation Committee, and citizen representatives. A consultant team has been hired to provide the Committee with professional guidance and assistance throughout the planning process. The consultant team is lead by Jean Coleman of CR Planning in association with professionals from URS Corporation and Emmons and Olivier Resources.

Citizen involvement is essential to the success of the Comprehensive Plan update and so the Committee hopes to involve the citizens of Scandia in the planning process as much as possible. Public "visioning" meetings will be held at the Scandia Community/Senior Center on Oct. 20th from 9 to 11 a.m., and on Oct. 23rd from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Comprehensive Plan Committee is eager to learn what the citizens of Scandia envision for the future of their city. Additional citizen involvement will occur throughout the planning project. A series of focus groups will be held near the end of this year, and public meetings will again be held in March 2008.

The Comprehensive Plan Update is set to be completed by June 2008. A graphic timeline is included on page 2. Major tasks between now and June 2008 include defining a community vision, developing a future land use map, creating goals, policies and objectives, and developing implementation strategies. Citizen input is welcomed throughout all phases of the process. If you have any questions or comments about the comprehensive plan update process, please contact Anne Hurlburt, City Administrator at 651 433-2274.

For more information, check the City website (www.ci.scandia.mn.us) for meeting agendas, minutes and reports.



Mayor Dennis Seefeldt chairs the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Also pictured: Greg Zauner and Mike White (citizen representatives), Moose Malmquist and Peter Schwarz (Planning Commissioners).

Inside this issue:

Scandia Needs 2
Your Vision...
Attend a Comp
Plan Meeting on
October 20 or 23

Citizens Serve on 2
Committee

New City Staff 2

"Truth in Taxa- 3
tion" Hearing Set

Where do My 3
Tax Dollars Go?

Community 4
Calendar



Scandia Needs Your Vision...

Plan to attend a Comprehensive Plan Meeting in October

Let's talk about the future....

- What does "Rural Character" mean to you?
- What will Scandia look like in 20 or 30 years?
- How will our woods and waters be protected?
- Where will you shop?
- How will you get to work?
- Where will your children or grandchildren play?

Plan to attend one of the two public meetings to learn more about the comprehensive planning process, and to make sure your voice is heard. Citizen involvement is essential to creating a plan that works for everyone. Both meetings will be held at the Community Center. Call the city office at 651 433-2274 with any questions.

Public Meetings

Saturday,
October 20, 2007
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
or
Tuesday,
October 23, 2007
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Comprehensive Plan Timeline



Citizens Serve on Comprehensive Plan Committee

Everyone who lives or works in Scandia is invited to participate in the development of the Comprehensive Plan. But the following people deserve some special recognition for rolling up their sleeves and volunteering to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. They will meet at least twice a month for the next year to help plan Scandia's future.

Committee members are: Mayor Dennis Seefeldt, chair; Councilmember Mike Harnetty; Planning Commissioners Chris Ness, Moose Malmquist, Christine Maefsky, Peter Schwarz and Kevin Nickelson; Parks Commission Rep Karen Schik; Citizens-at-Large John Lindell, Michele McNulty, Michael White and Greg Zauner; City Attorney Dave Hebert and City Administrator Anne Hurlburt.

New Staff Members Join Scandia

New city, new faces! In the last six months, three new staff members have joined the Scandia team. **Mike Egelkraut** is the new full-time Maintenance Worker. Mike will assist Maintenance Supervisor John Morrison with all public works functions. His previous experience includes working for the Chisago County Highway Department, and with Northwest Airlines as an aircraft mechanic.

Steve Thorp is Scandia's new Building and Code Enforcement Official. In addition to inspections, Steve is available during office hours and by appointment to help residents plan their building projects and answer code questions. He will monitor and enforce conditions of approval for new developments and zoning permits, and investigate complaints. Steve most recently

worked as a Building Inspector for the City of Blaine and has served several other communities.

Donna Thordson is the new part-time office assistant. Donna's duties will include receiving visitors, answering the phone, helping with licensing and permits, filing and general clerical support for the Council, committees and staff.

Scandia Needs You!

Volunteer to serve your community. Members are needed on the Park and Recreation Committee and in many other capacities. See the website for applications and more information.

Council to hold first "Truth in Taxation" Hearing on 2008 City Budget

When Scandia was New Scandia Township, the budget and property tax levy were set at an annual Town Meeting. As a city, the process is a little bit different.

In September, the City Council reviewed a draft budget and determined the maximum property tax levy needed to fund city services for 2008. In early November, each property owner will receive a "Truth in Taxation" notice with their estimated 2008 property tax bill from each of the property taxing jurisdictions. The county, school district and city will each have their own "Truth in Taxation" hearings, at which citizens are invited to comment on the proposed property tax levy.

Scandia's hearing will be on Monday, December 3 (7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.) If necessary, the hearing will be continued on December 10.

After the "T in T" hearing, the property tax levy can be reduced, but cannot be raised beyond the maximum levy certified in September. The final budget and tax levy will be finalized after the adoption hearing scheduled for December 18, 2007.

2008 Budget— The city's operating budget is expected to

increase by 2.02% from 2007 to 2008. The increase is less than the rate of inflation, even as some costs are increasing faster. For example, the police services contract with Washington County will increase by 12.02%. Health insurance costs will go up 17.6%.

Changes between the 2007 and 2008 budgets include:

- Hiring new and replacement staff members, and initiating basic employee benefits to attract and retain a quality workforce
- Funding capital expenditures to improve efficiency (such as computers, a salt/sand storage structure for public works) and maintain existing facilities
- Implementing some recommendations of the new Capital Improvements Committee, including starting an equipment replacement fund to better plan for major purchases, and preparing a pavement management plan to recommend the most cost-effective methods to maintain roads

Levy and Tax Rate— The total city property tax levy will increase by 11.06% from 2007 to 2008 (from \$1,533,930 to \$1,703,589)

The tax increase is more than the operating budget increase because other revenues (interest, permit fees, state aid) are down. Also, a large part of Scandia's resources are spent on road paving projects, including debt service. This is a continuation of the program started by New Scandia Township over fifteen years ago.

The 6% growth in taxable property value from 2007 to 2008 absorbs some of the levy increase, so the tax rate would increase by 4.67%. The proposed 2008 tax rate of 25.116% is less than the New Scandia Township tax rates for 2005 (28.036%) and 2006 (26.551%).

Impact on Individual Taxpayers—City property taxes on the average value home in Scandia (\$391,700 in 2008) will increase by a maximum of 6.15% (\$56.61.)

Part (about one-fourth) of this increase is due to an increase in the average home value, which was \$387,000 in 2007.

Scandia has consistently ranked low for municipal property tax burden compared to other Metropolitan Area communities. In 2006, Scandia ranked 82nd among 113 cities and towns above 2,300 population.

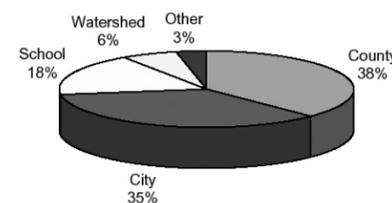
"T in T" Hearing
When: Monday, December 3, 2007 7:00 p.m.
Where: Scandia Community Center, 14727 209th St. N.
What: Comment on 2008 Property Tax Levy



Where do my property tax dollars go?

Your "Truth in Taxation" notice will show the proposed 2008 property taxes for each of the jurisdictions receiving a part of the "property tax pie." The chart to the right shows how the dollars were distributed in 2007. City services represent about 35% of the average property tax bill. Your own tax bill may differ, depending on your school district and watershed district. This example is for property in the Forest Lake School District and the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District.

2007 Property Taxes, City of Scandia (ISD 831/Car Mar Watershed)



The city logo design includes an image of the Dala Häst (Horse), part of the folk art and lore of Sweden. In 1850, Scandia was the site of the first Swedish settlement in Minnesota.