

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

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E-mail:
mail@ci.scandia.mn.us
Hours: Mon. thru Fri.
9 to Noon & 1 to 4
(except Tues. open

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City Council:
Randall Simonson, Mayor
651.538.4320
Dan Lee
651.433.4309
Chris Ness
651.707.5689
Jim Schneider
651.433.3692
Sally Swanson
612.501.1504

Regular Council Meeting:
Third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
Council Work Session:
First Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission:
First Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

City Staff:
Kristina Handt, Administrator
Brenda Eklund, Deputy Clerk
Colleen Firkus, Treasurer
Tim Kieffer, Public Works Director
Mike Hinz, Fire Chief
Nick Vivian, Attorney
Eckberg Lammers
Ryan Goodman, Engineer
Bolton & Menk
Sherri Buss, Planner, TKDA

October

- October 7, Fire Department Open House
- October 12, Lions Pancake Breakfast
- October 13, Columbus Day Observed—Office Closed
- October 31, Safe Halloween at the Fire Hall

November

- November 4, Election Day, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
- November 11, Veteran's Day Observed—Office Closed
- November 20, Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner, Elim Church
- November 21, Turkey Bingo, 7 p.m.
- November 27 & 28, Thanksgiving Holiday—Office Closed

December

- December 3, 6:30 p.m. Public Meeting, 2015 City Budget and Tax Levy
- December 13, Lion's Community Breakfast
- December 14, Lucia Dagen, Gammelgarden

- December 16, 7 p.m., Budget Adoption Hearing
- December 25, Christmas Day—Office Closed

January

- January 1, New Year's Day—Office Closed
- January 19, Martin Luther King Day—Office Closed

February

- February 6-7, Vinterfest
- February 7, Lions Pancake Breakfast
- February 16, President's Day—Office Closed
- February 28, Fireball 2015

March

- March 8, Daylight Savings Time Begins

For more information and a City meeting calendar, see: www.ci.scandia.mn.us.

For **Gammelgården** events, see: <http://www.gammelgardennuseum.org>.

CITY OF SCANDIA

A twice-yearly publication for residents of the City of Scandia, Minnesota



Roads, Roads, Roads

How would you like to see road improvements funded?

Like many other communities, Scandia's main challenge is finding the funds necessary to maintain City infrastructure such as its nearly 75 miles of roadway. The cost to maintain roads can vary from a few dollars per lineal foot for patching, crack filling, and seal coating to \$150 per lineal foot or more for full-depth reconstructions. The City has been budgeting about \$300,000 annually for patching, crack filling, and seal coating.

Unfortunately, according to the 2008 Pavement Management Plan, nearly 40% of the roads in Scandia were rated at a 6 or below and, therefore, require greater work such as a mill and overlay, reclamation or full-depth reconstruction. Roughly \$10 million worth of road projects have been identified for the next 5 years. While the City Council has begun to set funds aside specifically for road projects, it is not at the level needed to fund these improvements.

As the Council struggles to find a way to fund the needed road improvements, they would like to hear back from the community. Currently, there are three financing options available for roads: general tax levy, special assessments, and franchise fees. Funding \$500,000 per year will allow the City to tackle significant reclamation work every other year. The annual \$500,000 goal is used only as an example to illustrate the different funding mechanisms below.

Financing roads through the general tax levy spreads the cost over all taxable property in the City. Increasing the tax levy to the Local Road Improvement Fund by an additional \$150,000 over the draft budget would result in a 7.5% levy increase. The Council could consider smaller increases over a couple years to reach that level.

The City's current special assessment policy would assess properties abutting the road improved by a full-depth reclamation in an amount equal to 30% of the cost. This would allow the City to borrow for the remaining funds and spread the cost over multiple years so as to minimize the impact on the tax levy. Under state law, the City must assess at least 20% of the cost in order to be able to borrow without a referendum. Cities cannot charge an amount greater than the amount the improvement will increase the value of the property. It may be difficult to find a \$15,000 increase in value after a road is fully reconstructed, which is the estimated assessment for some roads in the 5 year plan.

Lastly, the City could charge a franchise fee to the gas and electric utility companies in exchange for their being allowed to place their infrastructure in the public right of way. The utility companies then charge back the fee to their customers each month. The City may explore monthly fees in the \$7-\$9 range in order to raise \$150,000 annually for roads.

Please complete the survey below and return it to the City office or online at www.ci.scandia.mn.us. Results will be reviewed by the Council in December.

Please check your preferred method for funding road improvements below:

General Tax Levy

Special Assessments

Franchise Fees

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2015 Budget Draft Available

The City Council held three workshops in August and September to begin preparing the 2015 Budget. On September 3, 2014 the Council certified the preliminary maximum property tax levy payable in 2015 at \$2,217,509. This is an increase of \$46,435 or 2.14% compared to taxes payable in 2014.

The Council continues to focus on roads and growing the Local Road Improvement Fund (LRIF). The tax levy for this fund increased by nearly \$220,000 compared to last year. 2015 will also see the first expense from this newly created fund. Quinnell Avenue is proposed to be reclaimed in conjunction with the Log House Landing Improvements. Quinnell Avenue will be

funded in part by the LRIF and in part by County turn back funds.

The Council will hold a public hearing on the 2015 budget on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. The hearing will take place in the Council chambers at the Community Center, 14727 209th Street North. The draft budget is available at the City Office or City website.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4th

Minnesotans will go to the polls to elect a new Governor, Senator, Members of Congress and state representatives on November 4. All Scandia residents vote at the Community Center Hall, 14727 209th Street North. Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Scandia will also choose a Mayor and two City Council members. The Mayor serves a two-year term, and the Council members will serve four-year terms, all commencing on January 5, 2015 (the first Monday of the new year.)

Candidates for city offices are—

Mayor: Sally J. Swanson, Dan Lee, Randall F. Simonson

Council member: Darrin Gould, Robert Pilz, Michael White, Jim Schneider, Bob Hegland, Dustin Hegland

Absentee Ballots are Available Now— You may vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to vote in person on Election Day. **Absentee ballots are not available at the city office.** You may vote in person at any Washington County Service Center or at the Government Center in Stillwater.

Vote during regular business hours Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Saturday before the election.

Registering to Vote— If you were previously registered to vote in Scandia, and have voted at least once during the last four years, you are already registered. If you moved since you voted last, even if it is just to a new address within the city, you must update your registration. When you register to vote on Election Day, please be prepared to show proof of residency.

For more election information including links to downloadable registration and absentee ballot application forms, please see the City website at www.ci.scandia.mn.us and click on "Election Information" on the home page.



Why Should You Recycle?

Scandia became a MN GreenStep City this spring. Help us reach our sustainability goals. Did you know recycling your junk mail can save up to seven trees per year? Every glass bottle recycled saves enough energy to light a 100-watt light bulb for 4 hours. It takes 75% less energy to recycle steel than to produce steel from iron ore. Recycling saves energy, ben-

efits our economy, and protects our natural resources. More items can be recycled now, and we expect to see more recycling opportunities in the future. By reducing waste and increasing your recycling, you could also save a little green yourself by utilizing a smaller trash can from your garbage collector.

The City of Scandia contracts with SRC to provide recycling services to every residence **FREE** of charge, even if you use a different garbage hauler. In 2012, Scandia had the lowest ranking in Washington County for recycling participation at only 274 lbs. per household. Call SRC at 651.464.2321 TODAY to get your free recycling container.

Free, Fun Family Events

Annual Open House— Tuesday, October 7, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Join the Scandia Fire and Rescue Department for their annual Open House at the Scandia Fire Hall, 15040 Scandia Trail. Bring the kids and learn about fire safety, see the fire trucks and other equipment, and meet your neighbors for some fun and food.

Safe Halloween Party— Friday, October 31, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

This is a fun event for all ages at the Scandia Fire Hall. Activities will include a large bonfire, games, hot dogs & hot chocolate. Co-sponsors are the Scandia Marine Lions Club, Elim Lutheran Church, Helke Tree Service and Country Rentals.

Vinterfest 2015— Friday, February 6, and Saturday, February 7.

Mark your calendar for our annual community celebration. This year's theme is "Celebrate the Saami Reindeer Herders of Scandinavia." Details will be announced on our website. Be sure to visit www.ci.scandia.mn.us.



Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare



September was National Preparedness Month!

So...what does that mean? National Preparedness Month aims to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emer-

gencies, including natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes, and blizzards as well as lengthy power outages.

With children back in school and fresh beginnings on everyone's mind, now is a perfect time to take stock in how prepared is your family and home. There are many ways to be prepared! One inexpensive way is to create a Communication Plan.

Even if you are not directly impacted by a disaster, nearby events can create issues with cell phone usage and loved ones may not be able to reach

you to see if you are safe and well. A Communication Plan should include relevant school contact information, medical contacts, and insurance information as well.

For more information on Family Communication Plans, please visit:

<http://www.ready.gov/emergency-planning-checklists>

Washington County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management



Short Takes

Looking for ways to deter or prevent crime at your residence? There are many simple, easy and fairly inexpensive ways to do so. The Sheriff's Office can conduct a no cost survey of your home and give you ideas. Simply call 651.430.7889 to set up an appointment.

Make Sure Public Safety Officers Can Find You When You Need Them— Is your address clearly marked at the street? If not, public safety officials (police, fire, EMS) may be delayed in reaching you when it matters most. Please make sure your address is marked on your mailbox and/or at the end of your driveway. The Fire Chief also reminds folks to trim the trees along their driveways to allow for fire trucks to access your property. Every second counts in an emergency.

Snow is Coming... is Your Mailbox Ready? Before you know it the snow will be falling. Now is a good time to look at your mailbox and landscaping within the right-of-way. If your mailbox is in need of repair, consider replacing the post with a swing-arm style support. Detailed specifications are available on the City's website or at <https://www.usps.com/manage/know-mailbox-guidelines.htm>, which shows the proper installation for a mailbox. Staff will be driving their routes and noting which mailboxes are not to specifications. The homeowner will be responsible for damaged mailboxes that are not to code. Landscaping along the road is another thing to consider.

Obstacles may get buried after several snowfalls. Make sure no obstructions are in the right of way that a plow driver might hit when pushing back wing rows. Lastly, make sure not deposit snow or ice within the right of way. It creates a hazard for traffic and City staff; and it is against the law. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated and make plowing the roads easier and safer.

