

# CITY OF SCANDIA

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



## Meet Your 2015-2016 Council

### New Appointments to Committees too

Despite many names on the fall ballot, few changes occurred on the City Council. Randall Simonson was elected to a third two-year term as Mayor. Jim Schneider was re-elected to a four-year term on the City Council. Bob Hegland won election to the other four-year Council position. All three men were sworn into office on January 7, 2015. They are joined by Council members Chris Ness and Dan Lee for the next two years. So far this year the Council has reviewed a number of contracted services such as police protection and building inspection. Finding a new assessor is up next on their list as Frank Langer will be retiring May 1, 2015. The Council has also reviewed policies and made appointments to committees.

A few new faces have also joined City committees and commissions. Walt Anderson was appointed to a five-year term on the Planning Commission in January. Long-time resident and business owner Peter Nora joined the Wastewater Advisory Committee as a representative for the Uptown Wastewater System. Former Council member Sally Swanson has replaced Tom Triplett on the Economic Development Authority.

In addition to new appointments on existing committees, the Council has also brought back the Capital Improvement Committee at the request of the Planning Commission. This five member citizen board will meet this summer to research and make recommendations to the Council on capital expenditures such as roads, equipment, buildings, and parks. Members of the Capital Improvement Committee include Brad Borg, Lisa Schlingerman, Michael White, Dustin Hegland, and Cristina de Sobrino.

If you'd like to know more about the issues these committees are discussing, click on Agenda and Minutes on the City's website ([www.ci.scandia.mn.us](http://www.ci.scandia.mn.us)) and then link to the interested committee. Additionally, if you might be interested in serving on a committee in the future, watch the City's website, local newspapers and Facebook page in November of each year. All openings for the following year are advertised for the last few weeks of the year.



Left to Right: Council Member Dan Lee, Council Member Chris Ness, Mayor Randall Simonson, Council Member Jim Schneider, and Council Member Bob Hegland.

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## Council Updates Tree Trimming Policy

On October 16, 2012, the City Council adopted a Tree Trimming Policy. The policy governs tree trimming and clearing of brush in the public right-of-way which serves to protect the City's investment in its roads, to maintain safe roadways for pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and to maintain the general tree health. Property owners will be notified at least 7 days before trimming occurs adjacent to their property, except in the cases of an emergency.

The policy was amended on January 20, 2015 to provide a clear appeals process for property owners. The property owner may contact the Public Works Director within 7 days of receiving the notification letter and ask for an onsite visit. If any issues are unresolved

following the onsite visit, the property owner has 5 days to file a written appeal with the City Clerk's Office. Appeals will be heard at the next City Council meeting following appropriate notice. The Public Works Director will mark all trees to be removed that are at least 6 inches in diameter at a point measured 54 inches above the ground.

A listing of streets where tree trimming may occur over the winter months will be posted on the City's website before or at the time letters are sent to abutting property owners, typically each fall. Generally, tree trimming is planned in areas proposed to have roads seal coated the following summer. The policy is available on the City's website under Services.

## New Recycling Contract, Same Great Service

**New Contract-** In an effort to improve recycling in Scandia, the City has approved a new three year contract with SRC, Inc. for residential recycling services. Recycling containers are provided to residents free of charge up to two 65 gallon bins or one 96 gallon bin. If you're currently with another provider, you may want look into switching to receive a possible cost reduction. The new agreement allows SRC to begin picking up recycling at 6:00 a.m. and requires them to provide at least two educational pieces or attend community outreach events

each year. The City will use the recycling reports from SRC to help identify further outreach and educational efforts. There's no reason we should be recycling the lowest amount of product in the County!

**Clean-Up Week-** City-Wide Clean-up Week is scheduled for Saturday, April 25 through Saturday, May 2 at the SRC/Forest Lake Sanitation site in Wyoming, MN. Residents may drop off rubbish items not taken by their regular trash hauler such as appliances, tires, furniture, mattresses, scrap metal and

wood at the SRC facility located at 6320 East Viking Boulevard, Wyoming, MN. During this week, Scandia residents will receive a 20% discount off regular collection prices. Be prepared to show proof of residency such as a driver's license. Hours of operation are 8:00 am to noon on Saturdays, and 8:00 am to 4:30 pm M—F. Please call SRC at 651.462.1099 for more information. A pricing schedule is posted on the city's website.

**Did You Know? -** Recycling one aluminum can

saves enough energy to power a TV or computer for three hours. Making glass from recycled material cuts related water pollution by 50 percent. Recycling paper doesn't just save trees! Production of recycled paper uses 80 percent less water, 65 percent less energy and produces 95 percent less air pollution than paper production using raw materials. Every Puffs tissue box is made at the Rock-Tenn Co. facility in St. Paul, often out of your reclaimed telephone books.

## Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 13-17



Communities in Washington County are susceptible to all different kinds of hazards! Because severe weather can threaten the lives and property of Minnesotans at any time, April 13-17, 2015 is designated as Severe Weather Awareness Week. This week is intended to increase awareness

and education about steps individuals, businesses, and families can take to better prepare for emergencies. Washington County will mark this week by participating in the Statewide Tornado Drill on Thursday, April 16. Check out their website for more information on how to be better prepared in an emergency and some interesting facts about weather!

[www.co.washington.mn.us/emergencymanagement](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/emergencymanagement) Look under "Severe Weather Awareness"

You can always find more information by following the Washington County Sheriff's Office Facebook Page at:

Facebook.com/wcsomn



## New Faces Around Town

**Building Inspections-** If you're building a new home, addition, or accessory building you may have noticed a new building inspector. However, for some of you it is a familiar face. Scandia resident and former firefighter, Chuck Preisler is the Building Official in Hugo and has recently begun providing those services in Scandia. In Feb-

ruary the City began contracting with the City of Hugo for building inspection services. In addition to Chuck, Scott Baller will also be doing some onsite inspections. Permitting will still go through the Scandia City Offices, but inspection should be scheduled by calling 651.762.6300. Chuck or Scott will generally be in Scandia on Tuesday and Thursday of each week.

**Property Assessments-** After nearly 40 years of providing property assessment services in Scandia, Frank Langer will be retiring May 1, 2015. The Council is still in the process of reviewing proposals for a new assessor. Watch our website for an update soon.

## Accessory Dwelling Units-A New Housing Option?

Last fall, the Economic Development Authority (EDA) held a series of meetings to get feedback from community businesses. One of the recurring concerns was the lack of affordable housing for their workers as well as for seniors in Scandia. One of the obstacles to affordable, lifecycle housing is our current zoning code. So the EDA met with the Planning Commission and the Met Council to discuss ways

to increase lifecycle housing. One option is to allow accessory dwelling units on existing properties. This could include separate living quarters within a current single family home, garage or barn or allow for a new detached accessory building to be built. The Planning Commission has spent the last couple months researching other communities' policies and discussing appropriate perfor-

mance standards for this type of housing. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 7pm in the Board Room at the Community Center. Proposed ordinance language is available in the City offices or our website. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to provide feedback on this proposal.

## Short Takes

**Signs**— Permits are required for all signs, including temporary signs for garage sales and community events. There's no fee for temporary sign permits. No signs may be placed in any public rights-of-way, on any roof, or painted on walls or attached to utility poles.

**Burning Permits**— A (no-charge) burning permit is required for open burning when there is no snow cover. In all cases, please notify the Washington County Sheriff's Office (651.439.9381) one hour before you burn. There may be restrictions depending on weather, time-of-day or air-quality issues. See the City office for more information and for permits.

**Spring Load Limits**— are in effect and are expected to last for about 8 weeks after they went into effect on March 11.

**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. Every second counts.

**Exterior Storage and Parking**— Scandia requires that all personal property be stored in a building or fully screened, with a few exceptions for licensed vehicles and recreation equipment. No more than four passenger vehicles per dwelling unit are allowed on parcels less than 10 acres in size. No more than 2 recreational vehicles (such as campers, boats, trailers, etc.) may be stored in the side or rear yard on any lot.

**Disposing of Leaves**—Did you know that dumping your leaves in the ditch is also illegal? This causes ditches to fill up with sediment prematurely resulting in poor drainage or even

flooding. The decomposition helps to accelerate the forming of algae in our lakes and rivers. Please dispose of your leaves properly.

**Landscaping in the Right-of-Way**—Summer is right around the corner and many people take this opportunity to landscape their yards. Before you do any work, make sure that you are not encroaching into the right-of-way. Landscaping within the right-of-way is not permitted and you may be forced to return it to its original state. Save time and money by checking with the City first.



City of Scandia  
Scandia Community/  
Senior Center  
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mail@ci.scandia.mn.us  
Hours: Mon. thru Fri.  
9 to Noon & 1 to 4  
(except Tues. open  
until 6)



**City Council:**  
Randall Simonson, Mayor  
651.538.4320  
Dan Lee  
651.433.4309  
Chris Ness  
651.707.5689  
Jim Schneider  
651.433.3692  
Bob Hegland  
651.538.2129

**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

## Community Calendar, April 2015—September, 2015

### April

- April 6, 5 p.m. Board of Appeal and Equalization, Community Center Board Room.
- April 25 - May 2 Spring Clean-up Collection Week, SRC, Wyoming
- April 26, Minnesota Ironman Bicycle Ride

### May

- May 2, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lions Chicken Dinner Benefit, Community Center
- May 7- June 25, Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Matter of Balance, Community Center
- May 25, Memorial Day, Office Closed

### June

- June 20, Midsommar Dag, Gammelgården
- June 23, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. Bloodmobile at Community Center

### July

- July 3, Independence Day Holiday Office Closed
- July 11, St. Croix Fat Cat Triathlon

### August

- August 4, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. National Night Out, Community Center
- August 15, Spelmanstamma, Gammelgården

### September

- September 7, Labor Day, Office Closed
- September 12 Taco Daze Festival
- September 19-20 Marine Art Fair

## SUMMER RECREATION BROCHURE INSIDE



For more information and a City meeting calendar, see the website [www.ci.scandia.mn.us](http://www.ci.scandia.mn.us). For **Gammelgården** events, see: <http://www.gammelgardensemuseum.org>.

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