

CITY OF SCANDIA

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



Small Levy Increase Proposed for 2016 Budget, Capital Improvement Needs Explored

On September 15, 2015, the City Council approved a preliminary levy of \$2,257,871 or 1.82% increase over 2015. This is the maximum amount the levy could reach for 2016; however, the Council may decide to reduce it before final adoption in December. A public hearing on the budget will be Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. The City Council may hold more work sessions on the budget in October and November. The work sessions are open to the public.

The Council continues to prioritize roads in the annual budget. The tax levy for the Local Road Improvement Fund will increase over 300%. Last fall, the City surveyed residents about road funding and over half of respondents (53%) supported funding needed improvements through the general tax levy as opposed to special assessments (19%) or franchise fees (22%). Despite the increase, this level of funding (\$1 million every other year) only addresses about half of the needs over the next ten years. Next year's project includes reconstruction of 236th Street, 237th Street and Novak Avenue as well as beginning work on a section of Oldfield Avenue.

Operations in most departments will remain the same in 2016. When factoring in the increase of \$115,000 in the transfer to the Local Road Improvement Fund, the General Fund spending actually decreases slightly in 2016.

On average, residential properties in Scandia will see a 4.3% decrease in value in 2016 compared to 2015. As a result, the proposed levy increase of 1.82% would mean a house valued at \$300,100 this year will see an increase in the City portion of their taxes of just under \$9 next year.



Making its return this spring was the Capital Improvement Committee. This volunteer citizen committee of five members spent a couple months reviewing recommendations for the 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plan. A Capital Improvement Program, or CIP, is a multi-year (typically 5 years) capital expenditure plan for a City's infrastructure (such as streets, parks and utility systems), vehicles, equipment and public buildings. It identifies the major projects needed and desired by the community, their potential costs and how they would be financed.

The committee's recommendations for the next five year period includes 22 projects with a total estimated cost of \$5,248,700. Bringing back the Capital Improvement Committee allowed more residents to participate in the process. However, there are still a couple of ways for you to provide your input before final Council adoption in December. The Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on the 2016-2020 CIP on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Also, the Capital Improvement Committee is interested in learning where you think capital investments (projects over \$10,000 and a useful life of 5 years or more) should be made in the future. Please complete the survey on the next page and return to the Scandia City Offices, 14727 209th Street N., fax: 651.433.5112, or email at mail@ci.scandia.mn.us by November 26, 2015.

Inside this issue:

Capital Improvements	2
Free, Fun Family Events at Scandia Fire Department	3
New Faces in Public Works	3
Short Takes	3
Community Calendar	4

Survey of Capital Improvements

Please complete the survey below and return to the City offices by November 26, 2015 in order to share your thoughts with the City Council before final budget adoption in December.

If you had \$100 to spend on Capital Improvements, how would you distribute it amongst the following areas:

- Administration and Finance
- Community Center
- Fire Department
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Works
- Total (Must Equal \$100)

How should Capital Improvements for the Community Center be funded:

- Donations
- Grants
- Tax Levy

How should Capital Improvements for the Fire Department be funded:

- Donations
- Grants
- Tax Levy

How should Capital improvements for Parks be funded:

- Donations
- Grants
- Tax Levy
- Park Dedication Fees

How should Capital Improvements for Public Works be funded:

- Donations
- Grants
- Tax Levy

Below is a listing of the projects in the 2016-2020 CIP (excluding sewer). Please rank your top 10 priorities:

- Fire Station HVAC System
- Fire Department Radio Replacements
- Civil Defense Sirens (Tornado Sirens)
- Fire Department Grass Rig Replacement
- Fire Department SCBA Compressor Replacement
- Fire Department SCBA and Masks Replacements
- Fire Hall/Public Works Roof Replacement
- Zamboni Replacement
- Lilleskogen Park Restoration
- Tennis Court Reconstruction
- Street Maintenance Program (Seal Coating, Crack Filling, Dust Control, Ditching, Tree Trimming)
- Public Works Pickup w/Plow Replacement
- John Deere Tractor Mower w/Broom and Blower Replacement
- Tiger Ditch Rear Mower Replacement
- Tiger Boom Mower Attachment Replacement
- John Deere Tractor Replacement
- Dump Truck w/Plow Replacement
- Ford Ranger Replacement

What other projects would you like to see in future Capital Improvement Plans? Projects must be at least \$10,000 and have a useful life of five years or more.

Free, Fun Family Events at the Scandia Fire Department

Annual Open House—
Tuesday, October 6, from
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Join the Scandia Fire and Rescue Department for their annual Open House. 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 30, from
5 p.m. to 8 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.

Both events: Scandia
Fire Hall, 15040 Scandia
Trail(Hwy 97)



New Faces in Public Works

The Scandia Public Works Department welcomed two new employees this summer.



Rick Regnier joined the department in June as a full-time maintenance worker. Regnier brings

a wealth of public work experience after years of working for the cities of Lakeland, Mahtomedi, and North St. Paul, as well as the Board of Water Commissioners in Stillwater. He previously worked for the City of Scandia

on snow removal operations.

In his spare time Regnier enjoys going to his cabin and horseback riding. Rick owns a restored 1931 Ford model "A" and enjoys attending car shows. He purchased a home in Scandia this summer and looks forward to becoming a part of the community.



New at the helm is Dave Williams. Williams began as Public Works Direc-

tor in July. He comes to us with over 20 years of experience with the City of Oakdale. Williams is looking forward to working in a small town like Scandia and participating in community events.

He resides in Stillwater with his wife and son, Donna, a school teacher in Bayport, and Tristan, a sophomore at Stillwater High School. They enjoy boating, traveling, getting outdoors and spending time with their family.

Short Takes

Benefits of Recycling—

Recycling doesn't just save natural resources, it also saves energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Curbside collection makes it easy and convenient to recycle and new technologies and growing markets are expanding what we can recycle at the curb. By diverting waste to the recycling stream, you could reduce the size of your garbage cart and save money!

Through an agreement with SRC, curbside recycling in single-sort carts is available to all Scandia residents at no cost. Contact SRC at 651.462.1099 for more information.

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 to 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.



CITY OF SCANDIA

Dedicated to Rural Community Values

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

Phone: 651.433.2274
Fax: 651.433.5112
E-mail:
mail@ci.scandia.mn.us
Hours: Mon. thru Fri.
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Scandia, MN
55073
PERMIT #6

facebook



Like us on Facebook for the
Most Up-to-Date Information

Household

Scandia, MN 55073

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
**Dave Williams, Director of
Public Works**
Mike Hinz, Fire Chief
Nick Vivian, Attorney
Eckberg Lammers
Ryan Goodman, Engineer
Bolton & Menk
Sherri Buss, Planner, TKDA

October

- October 6, Fire Department Open House
- October 11, Lions Pancake Breakfast
- October 12, Columbus Day Observed—Office Closed
- October 15, Lions Wild Game Dinner
- October 30, Safe Halloween at the Fire Hall

November

- November 3, ISD 831 Special Election Day, 7 a.m.- 8 p.m.
- November 4, Capital Improvement Plan-Public Hearing, 7 p.m.
- November 11, Veterans Day Observed—Office Closed
- November 19, Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner, Elim Church
- November 20, Turkey Bingo, 7 p.m.
- November 26 & 27, Thanksgiving Holiday—Office Closed

December

- December 2, 6:30 p.m. Public Hearing, 2016 City Budget and Tax Levy

- December 12, Lions Community Breakfast
- December 13, Lucia Dagen, Gammelgarden
- December 15, 7 p.m., Budget Adoption Hearing
- December 24 & 25, Christmas Holiday—Office Closed

January

- January 1, New Year's Day—Office Closed
- January 18, Martin Luther King Day—Office Closed
- January 29 & 30, Vinterfest
- January 30, Lions Pancake Breakfast

February

- February 15, Presidents' Day—Office Closed
- February 27, Fireball

March

- March 13, Daylight Savings Time Begins

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

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