



# Shafer Scoop

City of Shafer is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

February 2021

## SHAHER CITY HALL REMAINS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Due to COVID-19 concerns Shafer City Hall will be closed to outside personnel during office hours. If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk at 651-257-4726 ext 0 Or email: [cityhall@shafermn.com](mailto:cityhall@shafermn.com)

If you come to city hall please knock on the door during business hours. Please call ahead so we can make arrangements to keep both you and city staff safe.



### Water Bill Payment Reminder

Payments for water bills dated 1-4-21 are due February 5, 2021

Payments received for the water bills dated 1-4-21 *after February 5, 2021* will have a late fee of \$25.00 added to them. It is city policy to not shut off water during the winter months and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, though the late fee will remain on the account until it is paid. For your convenience there is a blue drop box for payments outside the city hall entrance.

*The city currently only accepts Cash, Check or Money order for payments. The closest thing to an online payment option is to set up "Bill Pay" with your bank.*



### Pet Licenses for dogs and cats

The 2021 pet licenses are now available at the city clerk's office. You will need a copy of the animal's current rabies vaccination. Spayed or neutered animals are \$10.00 per year, non-spayed or non-neutered animals are \$15.00 per year.



### Shafer/ Franconia Fire Department News



Please recycle your cans in the can collection bin on the west side of the fire department. All proceeds go to the fire department.



## DRINKING WATER PROTECTION

In August 2020, the city sent full-color brochures to every water customer in the city. This brochure was to help educate and familiarize the importance of backflow prevention and keep our city's drinking water safe. Following are some excerpts from that brochure:

One of our primary and most important roles as a public water agency is to ensure that we deliver safe, potable water to your home or business. Part of providing a safe supply of water is preventing potential cross connections between our distribution system and other water sources. The City's distribution system is designed to keep water moving in one direction, from our wells to our customers. However, sometimes hydraulic conditions change, and the water flow can be reversed. This creates a backflow condition, which causes the potential for contaminants to enter Shafer's water distribution system and possibly cause acute health issues.

For this reason, the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry (DLI) adopted the national plumbing code effective January 23, 2016 which requires that all water purveyors establish a Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program. An important component of this program includes the municipality's responsibility to educate the public. This education is to not only explain the causes and effects involved with backflow and cross connections, but to also make residents aware that they may already have a testable backflow device or may be required to install one to help protect our drinking water.

### BACKFLOW IN A RESIDENTIAL SETTING

In a normal house, backflow could occur if a water main break or a fire occurred in your neighborhood. Events like these and other similar events can cause a sudden drop in water pressure, creating the potential for water to flow backwards into the city watermain.

### BACKFLOW IN AN INDUSTRIAL SETTING

In an industrial setting, backflow can occur when a non-potable water system operating under high pressure (by means of a pump or boiler) is connected to the drinking water system. If pressure is suddenly lost in the city main, water from the non-potable system will be sucked into the public drinking water system.

**DO I NEED TO GET MY DEVICE TESTED?**

Yes, it must be tested by a certified and licensed backflow tester (approved by DLI). Inspection reports must also be filed with the City of Shafer. The following situations would warrant a test being needed:

1. Immediately after installation.
2. Annually.
3. After device has been relocated, repaired, or replaced.
4. Under other circumstances the City deems necessary.

**SURVEY QUESTIONS**

Location Survey Questions	Check if Yes*
Do you have a lawn irrigation system?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a boiler?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a pool, spa or hot tub connected to the water supply?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any other alternate water sources on the property such as wells, ponds, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>

\*If you have checked Yes to any of the above questions you most likely have a backflow prevention device that needs to be tested annually and rebuilt every 5 years.

If you have any questions about your backflow device please contact Shafer Public Works at 651-257-7604.

For more information go to [www.safewatercommission.com](http://www.safewatercommission.com)

**Reminder letters will be sent out with the April 2021 water bills.**



**Building Permits are required for most projects-when in doubt CALL City Hall**

Building permits/zoning permits are required for most projects, including decks, fences, sheds and pools. Check the city’s website for application forms.

If you are not sure if your project needs a permit, call City Hall 651-257-4726 ext 0 or call Building Official Jack Kramer at 651-351-5051. If a project is done that requires a permit without obtaining one, the fees are doubled.

***Also, NO WORK MAY BE DONE IN THE CITY’S ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY WITHOUT A PERMIT. (Driveways and irrigation systems to name a couple possible items).***

***Please check the city’s website for all city codes and information:  
[www.shafermn.com](http://www.shafermn.com) or contact city hall 651-257-4726 ext 0***



**Do not flush!!!**

**Do not flush** articles of clothing, wipes, feminine hygiene products, paper towels and medication. Despite some product labeling as flushable, certain items do not break down during the Wastewater Treatment process. They can cause expensive repairs when they clog up the sewer lines. Please dispose of trash appropriately.

Unused and/or expired medication (prescription and over-the-counter) needs to be disposed of properly. There is a **free** drop-off site at the Sheriff’s Office located in the new Public Safety Building at 15230 Per Rd, Center City.



**Winter and Snowplowing Season are here!**

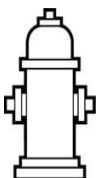
Reminder that there is no parking on any city street between 2am-6am **and** during a snow fall until they have been plowed curb to curb. The post office will not deliver your mail if they are unable to reach your mailbox. The city plow cannot completely clean out the areas in front of mail boxes so you will need to shovel out the snow in those areas.

**Please keep garbage and recycling cans behind the curb.**

**Also, Minnesota State Statute 169.42 makes it illegal to plow snow across roads.**



**Please keep hydrants clear**



**If you have a fire hydrant on your property please keep it cleared of snow during the winter in case it is needed for a fire emergency. Thank you!**



# City Notes

City Hall and Public Works will be closed these days:

- **Monday, February 15, 2021** in observance of Presidents' Day

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## Shafer Compost Site closed for the winter

The compost site will re-open next Spring.

Watch the newsletter or check the city's website for that announcement.

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## Openings on City Committees

There are available seat(s) on some of the city's Committees:

**Parks = 1 opening.** Parks meets once a month; 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 6:00pm (see meeting schedule)

If you are curious and interested in what this committee does please come to a meeting.

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## Skating and Hockey Rinks



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Ice skating season is upon us. The City of Shafer does the flooding/clearing for the hockey rink at Shafer Meadows park and for the skating rink at Buffalo Ridge park. Flooding generally takes place on Tuesdays and Fridays in the morning, so the rink can be ready to skate on that afternoon.

When it comes to clearing the rink, the city's main priority is clearing the roads first. We will try to clear the snow on the rink by the next business day. Please be patient with us. If you decide to try to clear the by yourself or with your friends please remove the snow over the boards so we can keep good ice on the rink.

Thank you, have a safe and fun season!!

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## 2021 Celebration of the Lakes!

***FEBRUARY 11 - FEBRUARY 14, 2021***

Celebration of the Lakes is a community festival celebrating winter and all the fun to be had on ice and snow!

Check it out at the link below:

[Celebration of the Lakes - Feb 11, 2021 to Feb 14, 2021 \(chisagolakeschamber.com\)](http://chisagolakeschamber.com)

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City of Shafer  
17656 303rd Street  
Shafer, MN 55074

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**Report street light outages**

If you notice street lights out in your neighborhood or anywhere in the city, please make note of the pole location (closest street address and cross street) and contact city hall 651/257-4726 ext 0.

We will report any outages as quickly as possible to Xcel Energy.

**City Hall 651-257-4726 ext. 0**  
**Website: [www.shafermn.com](http://www.shafermn.com)**

**City Fax 651-257-6916**  
**Email: [cityhall@shafermn.com](mailto:cityhall@shafermn.com)**

**Shafer City Hall office hours are:**  
**Mon– Thurs 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Closed Daily Noon-1:00 pm**  
**Fridays 8:00 – Noon**

**All Meetings @ 7:00 p.m. at City Hall unless noted**

<b>Tuesday February 2</b>	<b>City Council</b>	<b>Monday February 22</b>	<b>Parks 6:00 PM</b>
<b>Tuesday February 9</b>	<b>EDA</b>	<b>Tuesday February 23</b>	<b>Planning Commission</b>
<b>Tuesday February 16</b>	<b>City Council</b>		

*Zoom meeting links can be found on the city's website calendar for all Council meetings.*  
[City of Shafer, Minnesota 55074 - Official City Website \(shafermn.com\)](http://City of Shafer, Minnesota 55074 - Official City Website (shafermn.com))