



Shafer Scoop

City of Shafer is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

October 2020

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020 AND 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

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 Reminder!!

Just a reminder that the next quarterly water bills will be sent out the first week of October. Watch for your bill in the mail.

Call City Hall 651-257-4726 EXT 0 if you do not get your bill by October 10. 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.*



2020 General Election Date & Info

Polling location for the City of Shafer is: Shafer City Hall, 17656 303rd St, Shafer, MN 55074

Tuesday November 3, 2020 - General and City Election Day

There are 2 seats (4-year terms) that are up for election this year: 2 Councilmember seats will be on the ballot on November 3, 2020. Hours for the General Election are 7:00am to 8:00pm at Shafer City Hall, 17656 303rd Street, Shafer, MN 55074.

You can learn more about elections at the Minnesota Secretary of State website at this link: www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/

If you want to vote early or by mail-in ballot please contact the Chisago County Auditor-Treasurer Department: Phone 651-213-8500 Website: <https://www.chisagocounty.us/140/Absentee-Voting>

Read on to see the profiles of the 3 candidates who have filed for Council.

Election Year 2020!

These are the profiles for the 3 Candidates running for Shafer City Council

Diane Chmielewski

I am Diane Chmielewski and I am running for a seat on the Shafer City Council. I was born in Little Falls and grew up in Mpls., but I have lived in MN, CA, VA, IL, and four provinces of China. Over the years I have earned an AA degree from Palomar Jr. College, a BES degree from St. Cloud State University, and a MAR degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. My work experience included nine years in the US Marine Corps, several years working my way up from a computer programmer to a senior systems analyst in private industry, and nearly 28 years as a missionary in China. Through it all, I have taught computer programming in the US and English in China. I also registered an NGO (non-governmental organization) in China through which I facilitated teacher training programs, midwife training programs, a child sponsorship program and multiple medical clinics in poor tribal villages. My last couple years in China were spent running my own coffee shop/restaurant in a small town with all local staff. All of this was done while also engaging in church planting activities in tribal minority villages during the last 16 years. I returned to MN in April of 2016 and retired shortly thereafter. I then moved to Shafer, MN in May of 2017. For more than a year now I have been on the Parks Commission and have been Chair of the Planning Commission. I would consider it a privilege to serve my community on our Shafer City Council.

Brad Swenson

I am Brad Swenson. I am running for re-election on the city council. I have been a Shafer resident since 2001. I have been on the city council since 2017. While being a council member, I have been active on several committees which include Wellhead Protection, EDA, Roads, and Public Works. At this time, we are in the planning stages of our water tower rehab project. My main goal has been trying to keep city taxes down. I have enjoyed serving the residents of Shafer for the last four years and I hope that I can continue to do so.

Terry Smith

My name is Terry Smith and I am running for re-election for city council. I was born in South St. Paul and grew up in Inver Grove Heights. I moved to SHAFER in 1993 and have been here ever since for a total of 27 years. I have no children. My husband Denny was on city council and passed away in 2003. He was just re-elected for a second term. I received the opportunity to be appointed to his position on the council. I have served on several of the city commissions. I have seen the city grow with a lot of changes taken place. I will listen to concerned citizens that have questions and want to see changes. I like to volunteer to give back to the community and I also like to be out doors among people. I like the out doors in the summer to do boating, fishing, swimming, and camping. In the winter it is ice fishing and snowmobiling. I like to do things with friends and family. I would love to keep our town a small feeling even though it will grow and be able to stay strong on changes that take place. Get out and vote for me. I would appreciate it and have the honor of serving you in the community of SHAFER. Thank you. Terry Smith



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



Watch the Skies for Severe Weather



With the chance of severe weather still upon us, this is a reminder that severe weather warnings are indicated by a long steady tone from the city's siren.



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 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.



Shafer Compost Site is Open

Beginning April 18, 2020 the Shafer compost site is open for the season from dawn to dusk, 7 days a week. The compost site is to be used by Shafer residents only and **can only be used to dispose of grass clippings, leaves and branches up to 3 inches in diameter.**

THIS IS A COMPOST SITE NOT A TRASH DUMP!

If we continue finding trash or other unacceptable items the compost site will be closed.

Please be considerate of your neighbors and don’t dump junk here.

**NO STUMPS, NO TRASH, NO GARBAGE,
NO APPLIANCES, NO RECYCLING ACCEPTED!**

Watch upcoming newsletters and the city’s website for announcement of winter closure of the compost site.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!!!!



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

City Fax 651-257-6916
Email: 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

Tuesday October 6 City Council
Tuesday October 13 EDA

Tuesday October 20 City Council
Monday October 26 Parks 6:00 pm
Tuesday October 27 Planning