



# Shafer Scoop

City of Shafer is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

November 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](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 Reminder!!

Just a reminder that the last quarterly water bills were sent out the first week of October with a due date of November 3, 2020.

After November 3 a late fee of \$25.00 will be applied to all delinquent accounts.

### **Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic no water shut-offs will take place in November.**

Call City Hall 651-257-4726 EXT 0 if you have any questions.

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 303<sup>rd</sup> 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 303<sup>rd</sup> 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/](http://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.*



## 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)

**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.



**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.*



**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.



**Winter and Snowplowing Season are here!**

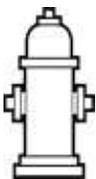
Reminder that there is no parking on any city street between 2am-6am *and* during a snow fall until they have been plowed curb to curb. The post office will not deliver your mail if they are unable to reach your mailbox. The city plow cannot completely clean out the areas in front of mail boxes so you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

**Wednesday November 11 – Veterans Day**

**&**

**Thursday November 26 and Friday November 27, 2020**

in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

*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***



**Hydrant flushing to be scheduled soon!**

**Watch for sign at trailhead and on website for dates**

**Fire hydrants are scheduled to be flushed during the months of October/November**

Your water may become discolored. Flushing is important for our distribution systems for a variety of reasons. It ensures that each fire hydrant is in proper working order should the fire department need it. It also serves to remove sediment and mineral deposits that settle on the bottom of water mains.

Residents and businesses may notice discolored water shortly after the hydrants are flushed. This water is **not harmful to drink** but could cause laundry stains. Clear your pipes of discolored water by running cold water taps nearest the water meter to full flow for a short period of time after crews have left the area.

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**

**Tuesday November 3 City Council-CANCELLED**

**Tuesday November 10 EDA**

**Tuesday November 17 City Council**

**Monday November 23 Parks 6:00 pm**

**Tuesday November 24 Planning**