

Safety SCENE

By Luke Hennen
Scott County Sheriff



Citizens' Academy helps residents understand Sheriff's Office

There are many different aspects of a Sheriff's Office, and the general public may not know the full spectrum of services their local Sheriff's Office provides. With over 170 employees working in five different divisions (providing coverage 24 hours per day, seven days per week), there is a lot going on beyond what most people see in the public eye. For this reason, the Scott County Sheriff's Office hosts a Citizens' Academy every year.

The Citizens' Academy is an opportunity for Scott County residents to learn more about the inner workings of the Sheriff's Office. Residents who attend the class are immersed in a six-week program where they are taught about a wide range of topics, including Civil Process, Emergency Management, Investigations, Response to Resistance, crime scene processing, and traffic stops. Participants will partake in several activities such as tours of the Jail, the 911 Dispatch Center, the Regional Training Facility, and more. A visit from our most popular Deputy, K9 Deputy Floyd, is also on the schedule.

The Citizens' Academy has been offered at the Scott County Sheriff's Office for the past decade and gives our office a safe, fun, and interesting way to strengthen our partnership with the community by offering participants the ability to gain perspective on the many challenges faced by local law enforcement.

The program was already popular when I took office in 2016, but I wanted to make it an even better experience for participants in hopes of enhancing the positive relationship between our deputies and the community. To improve the experience of our Academy participants, we reviewed every program within our office and evaluated which would be the most interesting to the public. We then looked at how to present these vital services that are often hidden from the public's eye in an interesting and entertaining way. The final step we took was to increase the size of the class so more of our residents could take part.

The results of our changes were felt immediately. Participants were immersed in a weekly behind the scenes look at the life of Corrections Officers, Deputies, Dispatchers, Emergency Managers, and more. The feedback we got from participants was incredibly positive. One of our 2018 participants said, "This was a really great program. So much to hear about the Sheriff's Office and I never gave a thought to it before the class. It was fun as well." This type of feedback has been common with those who have gone through the Citizens' Academy. The program is a testament to the transparency of our office, the hard work done in each department, and our desire to continuously work alongside our community members.

The next Scott County Sheriff's Office Citizens' Academy begins on February 4, 2019 and will take place on Monday evenings. The six-week course is designed with the participant in mind, giving them a feel for the types of careers within our office, the challenges and rewards faced in those jobs, and the many hidden processes behind the scenes within the public safety community.

Registration for the 2019 Citizens' Academy is now open! If you are interested in attending Citizens' Academy, you can register on our website at www.scottcountymn.gov under "Sheriff's Office," then "Community," and finally "Community Programs." We look forward to meeting you, addressing any questions you may have along the way, and increasing your awareness of public safety within Scott County.



Karen Carr Hanson tried on some of the heavy police gear during last winter's Citizens' Academy.



Citizens' Academy participants tried to spot a hidden gun in a car during a simulated traffic stop. Participants in the Academy are exposed to a variety of challenges faced by local law enforcement.



Past Scott County Fair Board members include (l. to r.) Mike Kellen, Dave Minar, Lloyd Friske, Rob Edberg, Ed Bowler, and Terry Fahey.

County Fair depends upon volunteer Fair Board members

The Scott County Fair Board is made up of 15 volunteer members of the Scott County Ag Society, each serving three-year terms. Generally, incumbents are reelected, which often results in many years of uninterrupted service to the Fair.

This year, the Board said good bye to one such incumbent, Terry Fahey, as he has chosen not to run again. Two years ago, it was Rob Edberg who made the same decision. Together, they represented almost 50 years of service to the Scott County Fair. Even though it is difficult to replace that level of commitment or experience, we must try.

We can fill an empty chair with another warm body, but there is an empty space in the hearts of the remaining Board members that will never be filled. These gentlemen and others who have

served on the Fair Board gave of themselves unselfishly and completely and became our close friends and confidants.

The current County Fair Board members would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our past board members. They have been a big part of the success of our Fair.

Consider joining the Scott County Agricultural Society! Benefits of a \$30 membership fee include:

- Free season parking pass to the Scott County Fair
- Board of Directors election eligibility
- Newsletters
- Voting privileges
- Show of support for the Scott County Fair



The Scott County Fair Board members volunteer countless hours of time to keep the Fairgrounds in top shape and make sure events run smoothly.

CAP Corner

CAP supporters show generosity with holiday donations, contributions

By Joseph Vaughan
Executive Director

With the holiday season well underway, I once again reflect on the ways in which we are all connected to our community. Whether it be through a child's school, a church, sports, work, or just calling this place home, everyone has a place in this community... and we are all connected by it. CAP Agency is offering a multitude of programs and events this season that not only help deepen those connections, but also provide for our fellow community members in need.

One of our long-standing programs at this time of year is *Hope for the Holidays!* This annual program allows community members to Adopt-a-Family, donate toys, or Adopt-a-Senior for the holiday season. This wonderful program connects the generosity of our community with the needs of our neighbors, and I thank everyone who participated in it this year. For more information, visit www.capagency.org/commu-

outreach/hope-for-the-holidays/ or email atjbaker@capagency.org.

Thank you to our community members and partners for making our annual *Give Where You Live Gala* such a success. A special thank you to our event sponsors: Shakopee JCI, Smoke Signals, Shakopee Public Utilities, and Kwik Trip. On Nov. 14, we gathered to celebrate and support CAP and the work we do in our shared community. The evening included a banquet, raffle, wine wall, and stories from CAP clients. If you were unable to attend the event, you can always support CAP by going to www.capagency.org/donate.

I want to sincerely thank those who have helped to sustain our organization and our work throughout the year. Without you, our work would not be possible. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us either through our website or by emailing info@capagency.org for more information on volunteering, donating, and who we are and what we do. *Remember, We Are All Connected.*