

SOUTH EAGAN NEIGHBORS



THE SPIRIT OF GIVING & SERVICE IN EAGAN

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Building Community One Page At A Time!



THE SPIRIT OF GIVING & SERVICE IN EAGAN

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As the New Year begins, the spirit of giving and service is alive and well in Minnesota's community of Eagan thanks to long-time residents, Scott and Carol Swenson, and their neighbors.

"Carol and I are impressed by the giving and caring of our neighbors in our community," said Scott. "While it would be easy to be frustrated and discouraged there has been much good that has come out of 2020. People needed to try new ways to serve and support each other. We are grateful for the leadership and service we see daily."

The Swenson's are optimistic about this New Year and that they can once again enjoy their family traditions. "In the spirit of giving and service, our family had a Thanksgiving tradition of doing the Walk for Hunger on Thanksgiving morning at the Mall of America," said Scott. "Once we were done with that, our daughters, Anna, Sarah, Laura and I would go donate blood at the American Red Cross in St. Paul. This has been our family tradition."

Due to COVID-19, their family has not been able to spend time at "their cabin" this winter. They hope 2021 will be different. "Our family loves to travel. We travel to Disney World on a regular basis.

It is our cabin," said Scott.

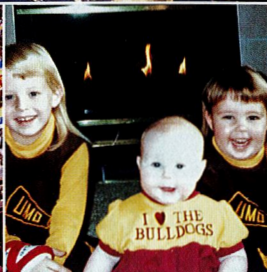
AN AMAZING COMMUNITY

The Swenson's first moved to Eagan over 34 years ago. "For job purposes we relocated to another city. After 2 ½ years my job brought us back to the Twin Cities," said Scott. "We did not even look at another suburb. We knew we wanted to move back to Eagan."

Scott and Carol live in the Hills of Stonebridge in Eagan. They were attracted to the neighborhood, the schools, and the parks. It has been a great neighborhood to raise their daughters, Anna Horner age 31 (Andrew Horner 32), Sarah age 28, and Laura age 25.

"We enjoy the great friendly neighbors," said Scott. "There were lots of kids who were similar in ages to our daughters. We are seeing more young families move in. It is great to see kids around." The Swenson's also have two golden retrievers, Max and Boji. "They enjoy hunting and taking up as much space as possible on the kitchen floor while we are cooking," said Scott.

Carol and Scott say Eagan is an amazing community. "Amazing



schools, services, amenities, and property taxes. The parks are fantastic. The City is well run," said Scott. "I tell our out-of-town friends that Eagan has a small town feel for us. Running into neighbors and friends at the coffee shops or grocery store feels like a small town to me."

Much of their activity involves working with their neighbors on community projects and volunteer activities. The Super Bagging event, which Scott founded, is a great example of that. "I was helping the Eagan High School Interact Club do a fundraiser at Cub Foods. As I watched the interaction between the shoppers and volunteers, it occurred to me that this would be a great way to bring community leaders and volunteers together, to work collaboratively to support a great cause," said Scott.

"I also thought this was an opportunity to get to know each other better during a volunteer shift. The Open Door was a natural partner since I have worked with them in the past on other initiatives. As the project has grown to other Dakota County Cub locations, we have invited 360 Communities and Neighbors Inc to participate. My bank sponsored t-shirts for all volunteers. It is fun to see them around town throughout the year." Scott says there were more than 350 neighbors volunteering this year.

IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY

Scott and Carol met at UMD, where they were both accounting majors. They got married in 1986. Scott has a bachelor's degree in accounting from UMD and a master's in business administration from the University of St. Thomas. After college he spent three years with a CPA firm in Duluth.

Carol also has a bachelor's degree in accounting from UMD. She has taken classes in the MBA program at the University of St. Thomas. Carol is currently working at PWB CPAs and Advisors. Their daughters have followed in their footsteps. "A fun fact is that all five of us have been CPAs," said Scott.

He has spent 35 years in banking. Scott currently works at Drake Bank in St. Paul, where he is the SVP/Chief Banking Officer. "Working for Drake Bank aligns with my personal values of giving back with a bank that is committed to community," said Scott.

VOLUNTEERING IS A WAY OF LIFE

"We have tried to set the example of volunteering for our children,"

said Carol & Scott. "We feel very blessed and like to make a difference when we can."

They attend All Saints Lutheran Church in Eagan. Scott has served as president of the Church Council, treasurer, and Sunday School teacher. Carol has served as a Sunday School teacher and Sunday School Coordinator. In addition to their church involvement, Carol is treasurer for Dakota Center for the Arts. She has also volunteered as treasurer for several local politicians. Carol was on the Eagan Foundation Board and served as treasurer. Their youngest daughter was the student representative for the Eagan Foundation Board.

When their girls were younger Carol was a girl scout troop leader, and Scott was on the EAA board for traveling basketball and in-house basketball. He also coached basketball, fast-pitch softball, soccer, and volleyball.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Scott is a member of the Eagan Rotary Club and has served as President twice. He says Rotary is a great organization that is about making a difference in our community. "The Eagan Rotary Club has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to meaningful community organizations in the form of grants that supported operations and projects," said Scott. "We have also supported a number of Capital projects in Eagan. These include funding the Eagan Rotary Bandshell, purchasing and installing park equipment at Blackhawk Park, funding the Eagan Fire Department Safety Trailer and most recently committing \$150,000 to help start Art Works Eagan."

"Years ago, a group of Rotarians began exploring the idea of building a bandshell as a gift to Eagan as a place where the community could enjoy music," said Scott. "When the community center plan was announced, it was a natural partnership. The vision of those Rotarians made this happen. My role was focusing on ways to build the fundraising at our annual gala. I was involved with sponsorships."

Scott has also served as the Chair of the Dakota County Regional Chamber and was a 9-year board member. "The Chamber is an advocate and connector of the businesses in Eagan and Dakota County. This has been very meaningful to me and the banks I have worked for" said Scott. "The opportunity to work, learn and visit with other business owners has been a key to my career success."

SAVING A GREAT COMMUNITY TRADITION

Several community members, along with a new board of directors deserve credit for continuing Eagan's Funfest, which attracts about 100,000 people every year. About three years ago after 50 years of celebrations, it was decided to discontinue it. "I was one of several community members who met with the City leadership to discuss the idea of continuing the event. We considered options including different dates and possibilities. In the end, we agreed to continue the event." said Scott. "I agreed to be the chair of a new board to keep this great Eagan community tradition going."

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF EAGAN

Of everything hé has done in the community, Scott says chairing Eagan's Sesquicentennial in 2010 has was one of the highlights.. "Over the course of the year, businesses, schools and churches helped us raise funds and awareness for the two food shelves serving Eagan. Initially our goal was to raise 150,000 pounds of food for Eagan's 150 years. We hit that goal early in the year. We decided to raise another 150,000 pounds for the next 150 years of Eagan," said Scott "When it was all said and done, we raised nearly 400,000 pounds of food. So many great people jumped in and helped. What great fun memories!"

WISHING GOOD HEALTH IN 2021

Carol & Scott hope you enjoyed Eagan as much as they have. "We have been blessed by so many friends and community members that have joined us in our community efforts," said Scott. "Without dedicated volunteers, the projects and programs would not have happened. Volunteers are the key reason these were successful."

"In 2021, we wish everyone the best of health and happiness!"