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SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2021

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PHOTO BY EDEN TELLER

A sign in Nathan's Barber Shop in Jordan directs customers to stay home if they're sick, per CDC COVID-19 guidelines.

Savage officials consider security fencing at city campus

BY CHRISTINE SCHUSTER
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Savage police are asking city officials to invest in greater security measures surrounding the police headquarters and city hall property.

During a work session on Monday, city staff urged the Savage City Council to invest an estimated \$160,000 in fencing material to cordon off the property in the event of civil unrest or other emergency situations.

Savage City Administrator Brad Larson pointed to Brooklyn Center in a pitch for fencing materials, alluding to the arson fire that destroyed Minneapolis' 3rd Precinct last year in the aftermath of George Floyd's death.

In April, when protests over the killing of Daunte Wright erupted outside the Brooklyn Center Police Department, chain-link security fencing surrounded the property.

Larson said the fencing, which Brooklyn Center had readily available due to previous concerns of unrest, helped prevent another burning of a police station.

Savage Police Chief Rodney Seurer said local officers have been on "high alert" in light of civil unrest and perceived threats in surrounding communities, such as Burnsville and Shakopee.

"We have threats on each side of us and we're in the middle and I don't want it to happen in the City of Savage," he said.

Fencing to 4 >

DELTA VARIANT CAUSES CONCERN IN SCOTT, CARVER COUNTIES

'We're not out of the woods' with COVID-19, public health director says

BY EDEN TELLER
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As the COVID-19 Delta variant has ripped through southern U.S. states and caused a national surge of cases, Min-

nesota and the southwest Twin Cities metro area have been no exception. While nowhere near the peaks of 2020, health officials in Scott and Carver counties are keeping close tabs on case numbers and the future.

When Gov. Tim Walz lifted the state's mask mandate on July 1, COVID-19 cases were on a steep downward trend, thanks to the three vaccines that have been widely available to the public since spring 2021. However, as COVID cases have surged upward again since early July, Scott County Public Health Director Lisa Brodsky sees a worrying trend.

"I believe that we're going to see a

continued rise in cases. I have no reason to believe that it's going to be different than it was previously, though it may be worse because we know the Delta variant is much more contagious and carries a higher viral load," Brodsky said.

Unlike in the early months of the pandemic, Brodsky estimated that around one in four new Scott County COVID-19 cases have been in people age 19 or younger since July.

"It's a very interesting pattern compared to last time. We have hardly any seniors," Brodsky said. "I attribute that

Delta to 4 >

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VOLUME 28, ISSUE 3

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