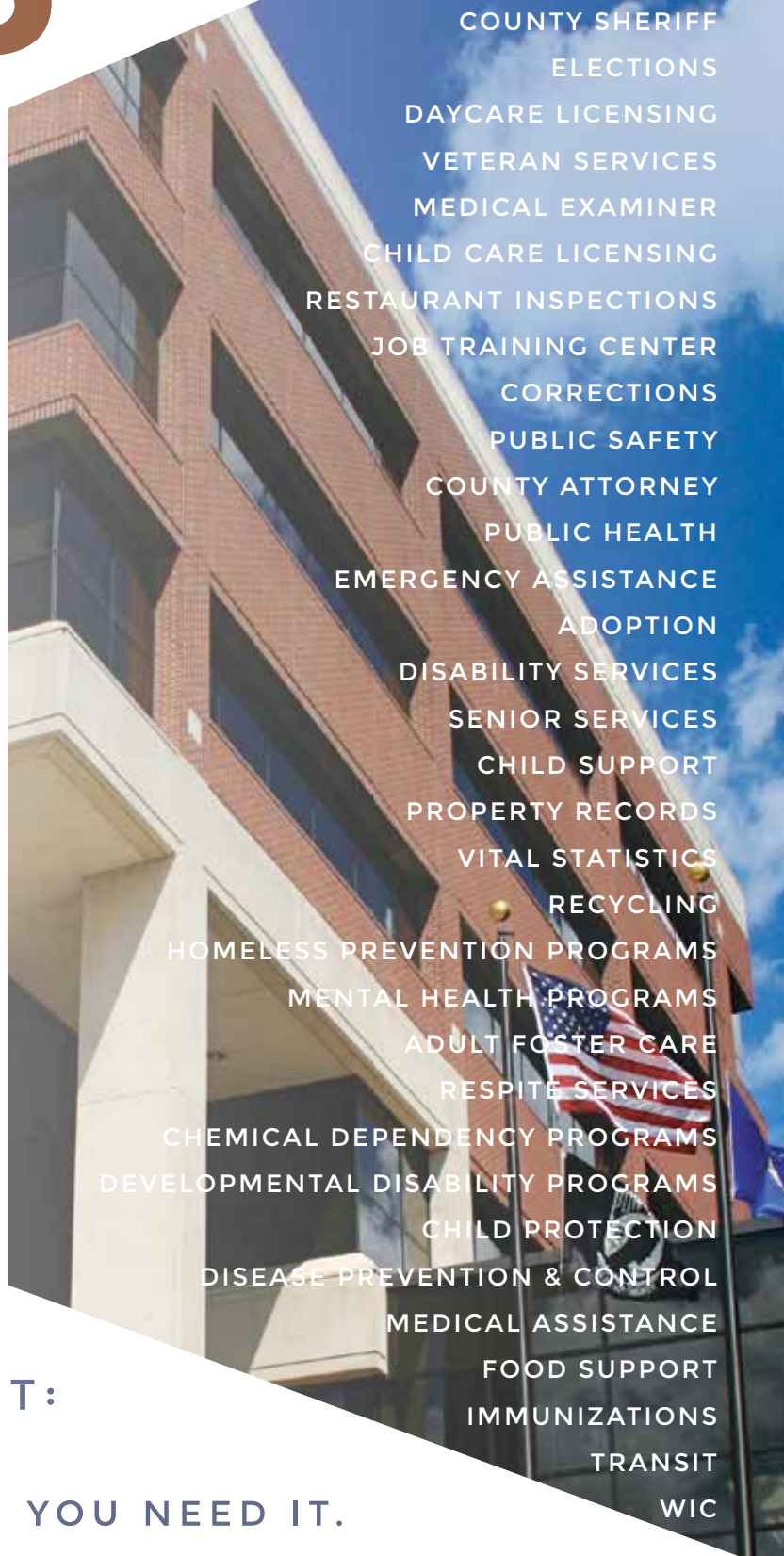


ANOKA COUNTY NEWS

Volume 2-2017



COUNTY GOVERNMENT:
OFTEN INVISIBLE,
BUT ALWAYS THERE WHEN YOU NEED IT.

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- LIBRARY
- PARKS
- HIGHWAYS
- COUNTY SHERIFF
- ELECTIONS
- DAYCARE LICENSING
- VETERAN SERVICES
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- CHILD CARE LICENSING
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- JOB TRAINING CENTER
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Long history of 4-H at the county fair



The adventure pool at Bunker Beach Water Park offers hours of splishy-splashy fun!



COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFTEN INVISIBLE, BUT ALWAYS THERE WHEN YOU NEED IT

Quick, name something county government does for you. That's a tough assignment for many because county government is often called the invisible layer of government. Despite being far less noticeable than the federal, state, or even city arms of government, counties provide services you use every day.

Did you drive anywhere today? Chances are you used a county road for at least part of your journey. Have you ever bought or sold a house? Anoka County keeps official records on all property – who owns it and what it's worth. Did you vote in the last election? Counties are responsible for registering voters and administering elections, from school district referendums to presidential races. Are you married? Have children? Anoka County maintains a record of all vital statistics so they are available

should you ever need an official copy or want to look up family historical information.

County government originated in ninth century England, where districts called "shires" were established as the administrative arms of the crown. (The representative of the king in each shire was called a "reeve." Over time, the term "shire reeve" was shortened to shirev and eventually, sheriff.)

In Minnesota, counties were established more than 150 years ago to act on behalf of the state and provide services to rural areas. Traditionally, these administrative duties mandated by the state included property assessment and records, vital statistics, maintenance of rural roads, elections, keeping the peace, and providing relief for the poor.

While those are still among the primary duties of county government, today our responsibilities have expanded to include social services, corrections, child protection, libraries, public health, parks, recycling, and more.

"Our goal is to serve citizens in a respectful, innovative, and fiscally responsible manner," said Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah, chair, Anoka County Board. "That's our mission statement and it's how we strive to conduct business each and every day. So even though it's not always readily apparent, know that when you call 911 during an emergency, are looking for licensed child care, or are renewing the tabs on your car, your county government is always right here when you need it."

52

Anoka County residents and businesses recycle 52 percent of their garbage, including metal, glass, plastic, paper, cartons, and organics. Anoka County has two compost sites, located in Coon Rapids and Lino Lakes, where residents can bring leaves, grass, tree waste, and – new this year – organics. Organic waste includes food scraps and non-recyclable and food-soiled paper, such as pizza boxes, tissues, and napkins. There is no charge to drop off organics. Read about more ways to recycle at anokacounty.us/recycle.



519

Looking for quality child care? Use the convenient online *Child Care Locator* to find one of the 519 in-home child care providers licensed by Anoka County. Go to anokacounty.us/childcare to find a link to the locator.



4

Anoka County maintains 423 miles of county roads, including four roundabouts: two in St. Francis, one in Blaine/Lino Lakes, and one in Columbus.



224

Anoka County's *Open to Business* program advised 224 businesses in 2016, from start-ups to existing businesses. The program offers free one-on-one counseling with a business advisor.



2,326

The Midwest Regional Forensic Lab at the Anoka County Sheriff's Office received 2,326 new cases in 2016. The lab analyzes drug chemistry, DNA samples, blood and other bodily fluids, ballistics, fingerprints, and other physical evidence for law enforcement agencies.



ANOKA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

by the numbers...

100,000

The Anoka County Sheriff's Office had more than 100,000 citizen contacts in 2016. Sheriff James Stuart is the 17th sheriff in Anoka County since the office was established in 1857.



55,809



Volunteers with Anoka County's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program contributed 55,809 hours of service in 2016. Find out how to join RSVP at anokacounty.us/rsvp.

454

The Anoka County Attorney's Office Civil Division acts as an in-house law firm for the county, advising county departments on legal matters and representing them in court. The Civil Division reviews and drafts contracts for virtually every county department, ranging from simple purchase agreements to major infrastructure projects. Last year, the civil team created 454 new contracts for other county departments.



24

Body art (i.e., tattoo, piercings) establishments are licensed by Anoka County. Each year, inspectors from the Community Health and Environmental Services Dept. visit the 24 body art establishments in Anoka County to make sure health and safety standards are being met.



3,090

Anoka County's License Centers – located in Blaine, Coon Rapids, Ramsey, Ham Lake, and Columbia Heights – processed 3,090 game and fish licenses in 2016. Go to anokacounty.us/license for hours and locations.



22,975

Anoka County has the fourth highest veteran population in Minnesota with 22,975 veterans. Our Veteran Services office helps veterans obtain the benefits they've earned through military service. All five of our County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO) have served in the military and are well versed on laws and issues relating to benefits for veterans. Anoka County Veteran Services is a walk-in office and does not accept appointments. Veterans can check in using a touchscreen computer monitor that allows them to specify the reason for their visit and even which CVSO they want to see. The automated system lets CVSOs closely monitor wait times and better prepare for their session with clients. Learn more at anokacounty.us/veterans.



2

Skip the long drive to campgrounds up north! Instead, visit either of Anoka County's two campgrounds (Bunker Hills Campground in Coon Rapids and Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Campground in Centerville), both of which offer sites with water and electrical hook-ups, as well as more rustic options. To reserve a spot, go to anokacountyparks.com and click on "camping."



67

Last year, Anoka County's Career Pathways Training program helped 67 low income adults learn marketable skills that helped them find jobs in high demand fields, such as health care, office and administrative technology, and precision sheet metal. Take the first step to your new career; go to anokacounty.us/careerpathways.



2,417,325

The Anoka County Library has 2,417,325 items available to lend out to cardholders. Materials include books, e-books, audio books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, maps, newspapers, business directories, large print books, book club kits, power meters and even bike locks at some library locations. Online databases offer information on auto repair, homework help, family trees, and other research projects.





\$14.1 million in state funds for Hanson Blvd. safety project

Anoka County secured \$14.1 million in funding for the railroad grade separation project on Hanson Blvd. in Coon Rapids during the 2017 legislative session. The project will reconstruct a section of Hanson Blvd. to provide a highway overpass over the BNSF railroad. Two additional bridges are a part of this project, including a street connection for 108th Lane/Ave. north of the railroad and a pedestrian/bike trail south of the railroad. The total project cost is \$25.2 million.

Hanson Blvd. is an important north-south route through Anoka County and the city of Coon Rapids. More than 12,500 vehicles per day use the roadway, including a Metro Transit bus route, and medical and fire emergency responders. On average, about 80 trains per day currently

use the rail line. BNSF has plans to add a third line in the future to accommodate growing freight and commuter rail traffic.

"This is one of the busiest at-grade rail crossings in the state," said Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte. "Separating rail and vehicle traffic will improve safety and mobility for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists as well as boost response time for emergency services."

This is a high priority project for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Anoka County, and the city of Coon Rapids. Preliminary design work has been completed and construction is scheduled to begin late in 2017 with completion slated for late 2018.

Preparing for a new I-35 interchange in Columbus

Anoka County received \$9 million in local road improvement funds in the 2017 legislative session. The funds will be used to realign West Freeway Drive, Lake Drive, and Hornsby St. in Columbus in preparation for the new interchange at I-35 and TH 97 (Lake Drive). The realignment of West Freeway Drive will include two roundabouts: one at the Lake Drive intersection and a second one a quarter mile south of Lake Drive.

In a separate project, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will replace the existing two-lane bridge over I-35 at Hwy. 97 with a new four lane "diverging diamond" interchange. This project was made possible through a financial commitment by the county to MnDOT. The existing bridge is too narrow and pieces of the crumbling bridge deck have fallen onto the interstate below. During peak morning travel times, traffic is backed up on Lake Drive east of I-35 for nearly a mile.

"The realignment of West Freeway Drive is an important first step to address significant safety and capacity issues for area motorists," said Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah,

chair, Anoka County Board. "Then, through our financial commitment with MnDOT, the entire interchange will be fixed to provide the safety and mobility that motorists and businesses expect."

Construction of the local road improvements is expected to begin this fall with completion scheduled for late 2018. Construction of the new interchange will take place in 2018/19.



SHORT TAKES



CENSUS 2020

Preliminary work for the 2020 census is underway. Anoka County is assisting municipalities in confirming boundaries and updating address data to obtain an accurate population count. Why is that important? Federal funding for economic development, public health, education, housing, and research depends on accurate population data. It also is used for redistricting at national, state, and local levels. A new online response option will make it easier than ever to be counted. Go to census.gov to learn more.

ONLINE ORIENTATION

Interested in becoming an in-home licensed child care provider? Take the first step by completing Anoka County's Family Child Care orientation, now available online. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/I96g39v> to get started. Questions? Call Anoka County Child Care Licensing at 763-324-1235.

HOME REHAB FUNDS AVAILABLE

No interest, deferred payment home improvement loans are available for qualified Anoka County homeowners to correct health, safety, and accessibility issues. No monthly payments are required and over time, a portion of the loan may be forgiven.

Applicants must be current on mortgage, property tax, and insurance payments. Homeowners also must meet income guidelines and have less than \$25,000 in assets.

Loans become payable when the home is sold or deeded to another person. Learn more at anokacounty.us/cd.

PREPARE FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Do your kids know what to do in an emergency? Add emergency preparedness to your back-to-school to-do list:

- **Have a password**
A family password is a great way to keep your kids safe if they get separated from you. Tell them no one is allowed to pick them up if they don't know the password.
- **Know who to contact**
Make your child a booklet or laminated card with important family numbers on them; not just Mom and Dad.
- **Make a map**
What would happen if your children needed to get home on their own? Would they know the way? Make a fun family activity out of creating a clear, easy to read map for them to keep.
- **Refresh your kits**
Pick up a few items when you're back-to-school shopping to freshen up your emergency kits. Check expiration dates on food and make sure batteries are still working.
- **Ask about school or childcare emergency plans**
You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family during an emergency if you plan ahead and communicate with others in advance.



OPEN TO BUSINESS

Are you an entrepreneur at heart? Need a trusted business advisor? A free business consultant? Money to start or expand your business?

The Anoka County *Open to Business* program could be just what you need. We offer free one-on-one counseling with a business advisor and assistance in identifying financial resources. For more information or to get started, call 763-438-7315, go to opentobusinessmn.org or email kduchene@mccdmn.org.

SAVE ON RX DRUGS

County residents who pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs could save 10-70 percent under a discount drug program offered through a partnership of Anoka County and Pro-Act, a pharmacy benefit management company. Learn more at ProActRxSavings.com or call 1-877-776-2285.

8 IDEAS FOR FUN (& LEARNING!) AT THE LIBRARY

The Anoka County Library's Summer Library Experience continues in full swing through August! There's still plenty of time for kids of all ages to join the fun.

- 1 EXPLORE IDEAS.** Create and discover with hands-on programs like the *Young at Art* series or a four-day songwriting workshop. Discover the fun of creating!
- 2 GET INSPIRED.** Dig deep into books: print books, audio books, ebooks, board books, picture books, and chapter books. Find them all in the library or online!
- 3 FIND INFORMATION.** Attend STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) programs, featuring cool hands-on activities. STEM programs are run by teen volunteers to expose STEM topics to younger children and give teens leadership skills.
- 4 EARN REWARDS.** With the *Read Write Draw* program, read a book, then write or draw a review to earn a book to keep. In the *Read It! Rate It!* program, for every book read, kids have a chance to win rewards to great local attractions. Programs end Saturday, August 19.
- 5 ATTEND A PERFORMANCE.** Music! Magic! Puppets! It's all happening at the Library. (See schedule on the next page for dates, times, and library locations.)
- 6 ENJOY A STORYWALK.** Read a story and take a walk at the same time. (See schedule on the next page for dates, times, and library locations.)
- 7 READ DOWN YOUR FINES.** For every 15 minutes of reading done in the library, one dollar is removed from library fines and fees. **Program ends July 31.** For kids age seven and younger.
- 8 COME TO A SPECIAL EVENT.** Trucks, tomatoes, and a special back-to-school night! (See schedule on the next page for dates, times, and library locations.)

anokacountylibrary.org

CATCH A PERFORMANCE

Jerry Frasier Magic Show	Wednesday	July 26	10:30 a.m.	Coon Rapids High School
Bazillions Music Show	Thursday	July 27	10:30 a.m.	Coon Rapids High School
Bazillions Music Show	Thursday	July 27	2 p.m.	Johnsville Library, Blaine
Roe Family Singers	Monday	July 31	12:30 p.m.	Rum River Library, Anoka
Brodini Magic Show	Tuesday	August 1	2 p.m.	Mississippi Library, Fridley
Schiffelly Puppet Show	Wednesday	August 16	2 p.m.	Johnsville Library, Blaine



ENJOY A STORYWALK

Wednesday	July 26, August 2 & 9	Noon	Crooked Lake Library, Coon Rapids
Wednesday	August 2 & 9	Noon	Northtown Library, Blaine
Monday	August 7, 14, & 21	1 p.m.	Centennial Library, Circle Pines



ATTEND A SPECIAL EVENT

Big Truck Day	Monday	July 31	noon	Rum River Library, Anoka
Library Day	Wednesday	August 16	3 p.m.	Coon Rapids Farmers Market, 11000 Crooked Lake Blvd.
Back-to-School Night	Wednesday	August 23	6 p.m.	Crooked Lake Library, Coon Rapids

Coming this fall: MN Writes MN Reads

Local authors are an important part of our community and too often, they are underappreciated and under-utilized. Beginning this fall, Anoka County Library will help connect local authors with local readers through an exciting new service called *MN Writes MN Reads*.

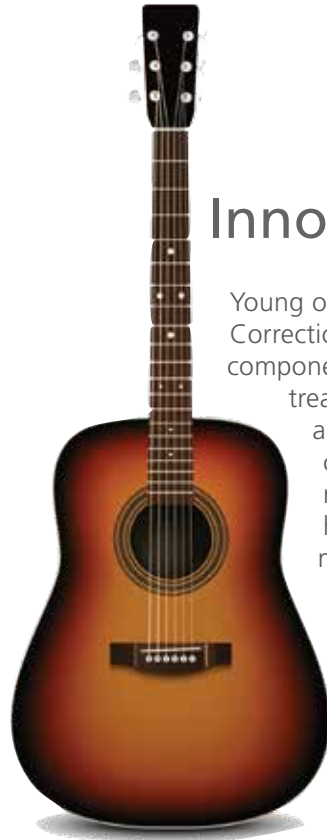
The new service will allow the Library to put a new spin on traditional e-books. Local authors will be able to design and export their own e-book using *Pressbooks*, then upload it to a statewide collection using *SELF-e*.

Finally, using *Biblioboard*, readers will be able browse these books and check them out to enjoy on their e-reader, mobile device, or PC. Go to anokacountylibrary.org for more information about *MN Writes MN Reads*.

In addition to new digital tools for local authors, the Library is also physically connecting authors and readers. The Library's second annual Local Author Fair takes place at the Rum River Library September 30, 2017, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

"Come to the fair to meet local authors, discuss their works, and purchase books directly from them," said Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache, who is the county board's library board liaison. "This free event is a great opportunity to connect the community's passion for good books with the authors who provide the passion and talent right here in Anoka County."





Innovative music program for young offenders

Young offenders in the Anoka County Corrections system now have an added component to their rehabilitation and treatment plan. Along with group and individual therapy; family counseling; and education and recreation programs, juveniles have the opportunity to take music lessons, thanks to the donation of guitars from *Jail Guitar Doors*, a nonprofit organization.

Anoka County received an initial donation of 10 guitars. A Corrections Department

staff member has volunteered to teach youth the basics of tuning, playing, and creating music with a guitar.

Jail Guitar Doors was founded in England in 2007 by Billy Bragg, a member of *The Clash*. The organization donates musical instruments to correctional facilities, with the aim of enhancing rehabilitation efforts.

“Studies show that music programs like this can help inmates and individuals in residential programs better manage their emotions and work with others,” said Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad, who is vice chair of the county’s Human Services Committee. “It can also increase self-discipline and build a greater sense of self-worth.”



Students from Franklin Elementary School in Anoka donned hard hats for the George Enloe Park redo groundbreaking ceremony.

A new play space for everyone

The Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee (MNSBHC) Legacy Fund has awarded Anoka County a \$50,000 grant to install a rubberized surface and special playground equipment at George Enloe Park in Anoka to make it more accessible for children with disabilities.

by awarding grants to 52 communities to improve the health and wellness of young people.

“This park is a popular play destination not only in Anoka, but for children and families in surrounding communities,” said Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look. “The Legacy Fund grant will help make this play space inclusive for all children so they can get outside and be active.”

The grant is part of the 52 Weeks of Giving campaign, a year-long effort to make Super Bowl LIII a statewide event

New system allows faster, easier title transfers

A new computer system that changes the way transactions are processed is being introduced at all state license centers, including all five Anoka County License Centers. The new Minnesota Licensing and Registration System (MNLARS) is being phased in beginning with motor vehicle transactions in mid-summer 2017 and driver’s license transactions in late 2018 or early 2019.



Customers may notice longer wait times as MNLARS is implemented. Under the new system, all information for tab renewals, title transfers, or new vehicle registrations is collected and recorded at the license center while you wait. As a result, once you’ve paid to register a vehicle or do a title transfer, the record of that vehicle is immediately updated. Your name will appear as the registered

owner so there’s no need to carry proof of transfer while you wait for the paper copy of the title from the state. You’ll receive the title much faster with MNLARS too. Currently, it takes six to eight weeks for the state to mail a title. Under the new system, most customers will receive the title in two weeks.

“MNLARS is a much more efficient way to conduct business,” said Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West. “The benefits of having your vehicle records updated immediately outweigh the slightly longer wait times you may encounter at the license center.”

Note: During installation of the new system, all license centers statewide will be closed July 20-24.



Anoka County’s association with Greater MSP, a regional economic development organization, resulted in **325** new or retained jobs and more than **\$25 million** in capital investment in 2016. Since 2011, the partnership has yielded nearly **1,400** jobs and close to **\$89 million** in capital investment.

Real ID deadline Jan. 2018

Minnesotans will be able to get REAL ID compliant driver’s licenses and ID cards in 2018 under a new state law passed this year. The new law requires that licenses compliant with the federal REAL ID Act be issued beginning October 1, 2018.

Minnesotans can continue to use their current driver’s license as a form of identification to board domestic flights until January 22, 2018. REAL ID compliant driver’s licenses or IDs won’t be available until next year, so there is nothing for card holders to do at this time. And there is no need to get a new license unless it’s time to renew an expiring license. If your driver’s license expires before October 2018, individuals will renew it in same way they do today.

Minnesota is requesting an extension from the federal government that would allow current licenses to be used for all federal purposes while steps are taken to provide REAL ID compliant licenses to Minnesotans.





DISCOVER LIFE ON THE WATER

Did you know that the Anoka County Parks offer spectacular opportunities on the water? With abundant lakes, rivers, and creeks, summer activities are calling! Anoka County Parks offers introductory level canoeing, kayaking, and stand up paddle boarding programs at several locations in the county. These programs are intended for people of all ages to learn something new, get a great workout, or just enjoy the beauty of Anoka County Parks.

Being out on the water can provide mental, physical, and emotional benefits. It is easy to see that learning to canoe, kayak, or stand up paddle board can teach problem-solving skills, develop perseverance, and provide a new way to exercise. For example; the ability to maneuver around a branch or rock



CANOE AND KAYAK RENTAL IS AVAILABLE AT WARGO NATURE CENTER IN LINO LAKES.

in the river can call upon creative problem-solving skills as well as determination. Water sports provide great exercise, using different muscles and motions. These activities will challenge your skills and allow you to see nature from a new perspective.

"The fun part of being on the water is exploring new areas of the county that are only accessible by boat," said Anoka County Commissioner Jim Kordiak, who chairs the county's Parks and Community Services Committee. "A canoe or kayak allows you to discover the beauty of Anoka County from the water."

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- FRIDAY EVENING PADDLES
- CANOE AND KAYAK BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON
- RICE CREEK PADDLING ADVENTURE
- YOGA STAND UP PADDLE BOARDING
- VOYAGER CANOE

REGISTER FOR THESE PROGRAMS AND MORE AT ANOKACOUNTYPARKS.COM OR 763-324-3350

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

● DIVERSITY OF LIFE MINI BIOBLITZ

WHERE Wargo Nature Center
WHEN August 14; 9 am - 4 pm

Ages 18+ Are you feeling nostalgic for summer camp, or maybe just wanting to take some time to fully appreciate the Minnesota summer? Join us at our first ever Adult Summer Camp. We'll spend a fun day exploring Wargo as we do a mini BioBlitz – a survey of the species diversity of the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park. You'll have a chance to try out some of Wargo's most popular summer camp activities, like kayaking and catching bugs, all while learning about the diversity of life that surrounds us here in Minnesota. Pre-registration is required. **\$30/person (+ tax)**

● BUTTERFLY WALKS

WHERE Bunker Hills Regional Park
WHEN (Meet in front of the Activities Center) August 25; 2 - 3 pm

WHERE Wargo Nature Center
WHEN August 26; 2 - 3 pm

All Ages Come and join us for an introductory class on butterfly identification. We'll meet for a brief introduction and then take a stroll through prairies and flower gardens throughout the park. You will get a chance to spy butterflies and other pollinators through binoculars. Binoculars are provided but feel free to bring your own! Pre-registration is required. **\$5/person (+ tax)**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR WARGO NATURE CENTER'S **FREE FALL FESTIVAL** OCTOBER 15; 2-4 PM • CIDER PRESS, NATURE ACTIVITIES, AND MORE!



BUNKER STAMPEDE 5K

SEPTEMBER 10, 9AM

REGISTER TODAY

REGISTER ONLINE AT ANOKACOUNTYPARKS.COM

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

—100 YEARS OF—

University of Minnesota Extension Anoka County



4-H members Irma, Cora Belle, Willard, and Donald Walburn. Irma won the Anoka County Fair purebred live lamb class with her Shropshire, "Dolly." Donald won second place in the Guernsey calf competition. All photos courtesy Anoka County Historical Society.

The University of Minnesota Extension Anoka County celebrates 100 years of activities and services in Anoka County this year.

L.O. Jacob was hired as the first Anoka County Extension farm agent in 1917 and the following year, he became involved with 4-H

youth exhibiting at the county fair. In 1936, a former dance hall was converted to become the first dedicated 4-H building at the fair.

4-H is open to all children in kindergarten through one year post high school. It is the largest Extension program in Anoka County

and the fair still serves as a showcase for 4-H members' projects and for families and clubs to encourage and support each other. The 2017 county fair is July 25-30. Projects will be displayed in the 4-H Building at the fair until July 30. Animal shows begin with poultry and rabbit shows on

July 24 (before the fair officially begins) and wrap up with the llama and alpacas show on July 30. Spectators are welcome!

Go to extension.umn.edu/county/anoka/4-H for further details on 4-H show dates and times.



4-H has long been a big part of the Anoka County Fair. Clockwise from top left: Crowning the 4-H Style Queen, 1940; Monica Borman with her prize-winning horse, 1937; Lowell Beckenbach and Everett Spohn earned a trip to the state fair with their presentation on the production of clean milk, 1940; George Waldoch with his prize-winning Holstein yearling, 1937; Girls entered in the First Year Clothing contest, 1937.



NEW FEE STRUCTURE AT COMPOST SITES

New this year! There is no charge for Anoka County residents for the first four cubic yards of grass and leaves at Anoka County's compost sites located in Coon Rapids and Lino Lakes. That's roughly the equivalent of 32 paper yard waste bags. Additional four cubic yard increments are \$5 each. Tree waste and brush rates remain the same. Go to anokacounty.us/yardwaste for compost site locations, hours, and additional information.



Leaves, Grass, & Non-Woody Yard Waste

Acorns, garden waste, grass clippings, leaves, pine cones and needles, sod (residential quantities), soft-bodied green plants, and weeds. Leaves and grass must be debagged.



Tree Waste

Brush, evergreen boughs, logs, shrub trimmings, stumps. The price depends on the size and amount of material. Loads are measured to determine the quantity being dropped off. Tree waste may be loose or bundled; the more compact the load, the lower the fee.



Organics

There is no charge for county residents to drop off organic waste. Materials accepted include food scraps, non-recyclable uncoated paper, and compostable products certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI). Learn more at anokacounty.us/organics.

Recycling champions

Anoka County residents and businesses recycled 213,963 tons of materials last year. That's 52 percent of all waste generated in the county! Municipalities, private waste haulers, service organizations, individuals, schools, and businesses were recently recognized by Anoka County for their efforts to improve recycling and waste diversion.

St. Francis and Linwood Township received special "Most Improved Municipal Drop-off Program" awards for improving by 85 percent or more the amount of recyclables collected through their drop-off programs. A new award was presented this year to schools that went above and beyond to increase recycling and organics recycling. This year's recipients were PACT Charter School in Ramsey and the Fridley School District. Individual "Recycling Champions" were also recognized for their efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

"Thanks in large part to convenient, easy-to-use municipal drop-off programs, recycling has become second nature in most households," said Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look, who serves on the county's Recycling & Resource Solutions Committee.



From left: Anoka County Commissioners Robyn West and Jim Kordiak; Recycling Champions Tammy Ostgard, Hank Senger, and Taj Kahn; Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache; Recycling Champions Bernice Olson and Stan Mraz; Anoka County Commissioners Scott Schulte and Julie Braastad; and Recycling Champions Ron Usher and Karen Kramer.

Anoka County
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 Anoka MN 55303-5024

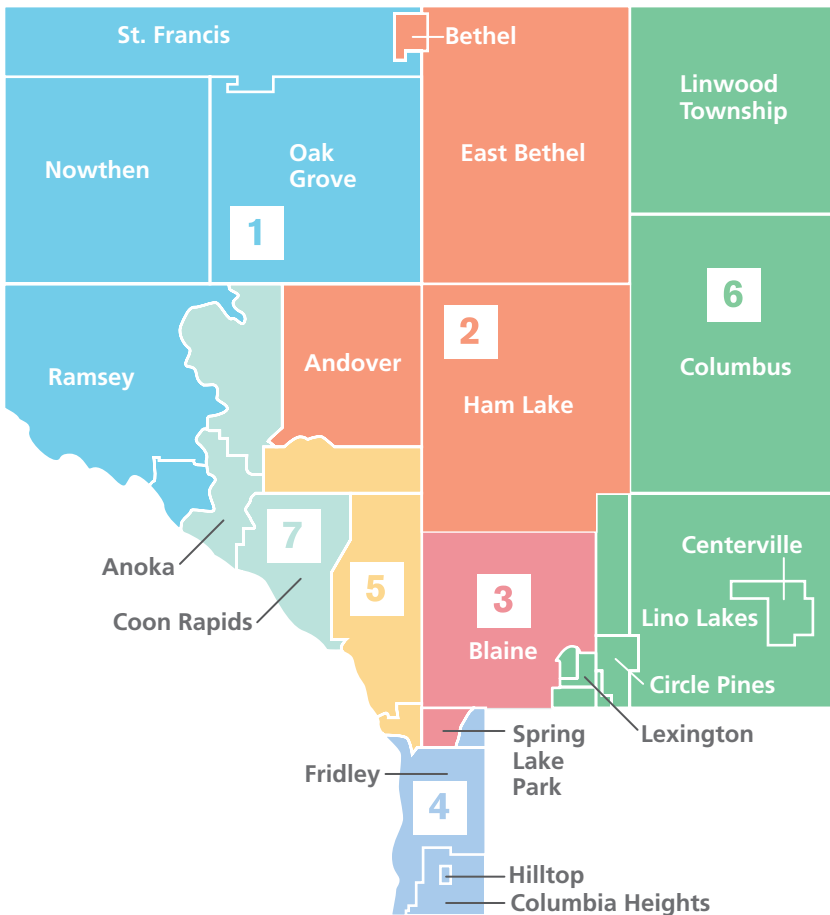
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Visit our website!

ANOKA COUNTY LEADERSHIP

763-324-4700



As elected officials, the County Board, County Attorney, and County Sheriff set policy and direction for their areas of responsibility.

County board meetings are generally held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. in Room 705 of the Anoka County Government Center in Anoka. Watch board meetings live at anokacounty.us. "Anoka County News" is produced by Anoka County Communications, Erik Thorson, Director, 763-324-4612 publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us • anokacounty.us/newsletter
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