

# ANOKA COUNTY NEWS

Volume 1-2018



By 2030, one in five Minnesotans will be age 65 or older. Learn how Anoka County programs are supporting seniors (and their caregivers).

*Page 4*

# CONTENTS

- 4**  
County programs support “aging in place.”
- 6**  
Get help filling out property tax refund forms.
- 11**  
Time to sign up for summer camps in Anoka County Parks!
- 15**  
What you need to know about REAL ID.



**Winds of March,  
we welcome you;  
There is work for you to do.  
Work and play and  
blow all day.  
Blow the winter wind away.  
Author unknown**



**Anoka County**  
**MINNESOTA**

Respectful. Innovative. Fiscally Responsible



## SUPPORT FOR SENIORS, CAREGIVERS

In Minnesota, the number of people turning 65 in the coming years will be greater than in the past four decades combined, according to state demographers. By 2020, Minnesota will have more retirees than school age children; by 2030, one in five Minnesotans will be age 65 or older.



**Caregivers spend close to 20 hours a week providing unpaid care for a loved one.**

Most seniors share a common goal: to remain independent and “age in place” in their own

community. When seniors need help to continue living independently, it’s most often family members – especially spouses, daughters, and daughters-in-law – who step in and assume the role of caregiver.

Nearly 60 percent of family caregivers have jobs in addition to their caregiving duties. According to the



**60% of family caregivers have a full- or part-time job.**

American Association of Retired People (AARP), nearly 70 percent of caregivers report having to

make work accommodations in order to care for a loved

one: arriving late or leaving early, taking time off during the day, reducing hours, or leaving their job entirely.

“The ultimate goal is to keep seniors safe, healthy, and living independently for as long as possible,” said Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah, chair, Anoka County Board. “Seniors and family caregivers need to know they are not alone in what is sometimes a stressful and challenging journey.”



**The dollar value of care provided by family caregivers in MN tops \$7.9 billion per year.**



**The average family caregiver is a 49-year-old working woman who is caring for a parent with a long-term physical condition.**

The State of Minnesota provides a range of services to support

seniors and their caregivers. Anoka County Disability and Aging Services provides case management for many of those services. Case managers help qualified participants arrange and coordinate services and act as ongoing advocates for clients. *(Read on for more information about Anoka County senior services.)*

An estimated 64,200 people age 65 and older will be living in Anoka County by 2050. Anoka County Social Services works to meet the needs of these individuals by providing case management services for three state programs that help seniors:

**ELDERLY WAIVER**

This is a federal- and state-funded program for people age 65 or older who need nursing facility level of care. To qualify, you must be a Minnesota resident, be eligible for long term care payment through Medical Assistance, need



**Support programs help seniors age in place**

at least one supportive service to remain living safely in the community, and pay any applicable waiver obligations.

**ALTERNATIVE CARE PROGRAM**

This is a state-funded program for people who need nursing facility level of care but who are not financially eligible for Medical Assistance. To qualify, you must be a Minnesota resident, be over age 65, meet additional financial eligibility criteria, and pay the asset and income-based fee for services.

**ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT (ECS)**

This program is for Minnesota residents over age 65 who

are not eligible for Medical Assistance and who need at least one service to assist in their safety, independence, and quality of life living in the community. ECS differs from Elderly Waiver and Alternative Care in that people do not need to meet a nursing facility level of care. ECS provides a portion of funds, based on assessed needs, to assist with basic level supports in the home. Depending on eligibility, covered services may include: medical alert systems, such as Lifeline; grab bars in bathrooms; home-delivered meals; assistance with cleaning and shopping; medication set-up by a home care nurse; respite for family caregivers; and assistance with bathing.

To find out if you are eligible for any of these programs, contact Anoka County Long Term Services and Supports Intake at 763-324-1450. To initiate an application for Medical Assistance, call the EZ Info Line at 763-422-7200.

**Find respite at "The Gathering"**

The Gathering is a daytime, out-of-home group respite program for family caregivers and care receivers. It is a safe, enjoyable place for seniors who are living with a long-term illness to socialize with others and for caregivers to have several hours of respite from the stress and responsibility of caregiving. An assessment is required prior to participation for all care receivers.

Dedicated, trained volunteers, supervised by a social worker or nurse, operate the program. Participants enjoy fellowship, lunch, and activities during the five-hour sessions. Caregivers may attend a support group meeting whether or not their

loved ones participate in The Gathering.

The Gathering sessions are held at the following locations:

- Coon Rapids Evangelical Free Church  
2650 128th Ave. N.W., Coon Rapids
- Coon Rapids United Methodist Church  
10506 Hanson Blvd. N.W., Coon Rapids
- Linwood Covenant Church  
6565 Viking Blvd. N.E., Wyoming
- Zion Lutheran Church  
1601 4th Ave. S., Anoka

The Gathering typical schedule:

9:45 a.m.	Arrive
10 a.m.	Snack, coffee, conversation
10:30 a.m.	Brain stimulation activities: reminiscing, simple games, drawing/painting, storytelling, stretching/gentle exercise
12 p.m.	Lunch
1-3 p.m.	Music, puzzles, bingo, etc.

To learn more or to schedule an assessment, call Family Caregiver Connection Coordinator Jill Agyekum at 763-324-1608 or email caregivers@co.anoka.mn.us.



**KEEPING SENIORS SAFE**

by Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart

The Sheriff's Office has a long history of working with seniors to prevent them from becoming victims of crime and to help them live safely on their own. In the 90s, the *Are You Ok?* program made automated daily phone calls to a senior's home. If the phone wasn't answered, a deputy was dispatched to check on his or her welfare. Another program called *Watch My Car* asked seniors to place a sticker on their vehicle that allowed police to stop the car if it was operated between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m., an indicator that it was likely stolen.

While these programs are no longer available through the Sheriff's Office, as the crimes that target seniors have changed, so too have the tools we use to protect them. The focus today is on education. Senior centers, law enforcement agencies, medical providers, insurance companies, and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) all have greatly improved

their educational offerings. The Sheriff's Office presentation most often requested by the senior community addresses scams and frauds that target older adults, including the grandchild impersonation, computer tech support, dating websites, IRS, and home repairs, to name a few. Through ongoing education, we seek to prevent further victimization. **Sadly, almost half of the crimes committed against the elderly (41 percent) are committed by family members.** For the last five years, our office has worked with the Anoka County Attorney's Office to train deputies on the Minnesota Stop Abuse & Financial Exploitation (MN S.A.F.E.) Elders Initiative to help train deputies to recognize potential abuse while out in the community.

In addition to helping educate seniors about crimes, we have partnered with



the Andover Fire Department to offer the *Remembering When* program. This program is geared to helping seniors stay in their home by focusing on 16 key safety messages relating to fire and fall prevention.

There is no one device or program that will effectively prevent all types of crimes or abuse that affects seniors. However, by working with multiple organizations and taking a comprehensive approach through education, creating safe environments, and advocating for effective laws, we will continue to make positive impacts.

**ELDER ABUSE OFTEN NOT REPORTED**

by Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo

As the senior population in Minnesota continues to rise, so do reports of elder abuse. But experts in the field know the abuse is underreported and difficult to track.

Elder abuse is generally defined as the mistreatment, neglect, or exploitation of an older, vulnerable person. The

The Anoka County Attorney's Office has long been a leader in fighting elder abuse. The office has a prosecutor and a victim/witness specialist who specialize in elder abuse cases.

In 2012, this office founded the Minnesota Stop Abuse & Financial Exploitation (MN S.A.F.E.) Elders Initiative, which worked to reduce elder abuse through training, policy, and education. MN S.A.F.E. later merged with the Vulnerable Adult Justice Project, a partnership that evolved into a non-profit now known as the Minnesota Elder Justice Center.

**The Anoka County Attorney's Office has flagged more than 230 cases as elder abuse since 2009.**

abuse or maltreatment often occurs at home or in a residential facility, and at the hands of a loved one or caregiver.

Anecdotally, elder abuse is known to be a widespread problem. However, data on elder abuse are relatively new and can be difficult to obtain. National studies show that 1 in 10 seniors have experienced some form of abuse, but

for every one case reported, there are 24 not reported. According to the Minnesota Elder Justice Center, adult protective services agencies statewide received 20,000 reports of vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation in 2011. That number jumped to 34,667 in 2013. The Anoka County Attorney's Office has flagged more than 230 cases as elder abuse since 2009.

The attorney's office continues its efforts to educate the public and train its staff to navigate these cases. But the real power to spot and stop elder abuse lies with those closest to the victims. If you or a someone you know is being abused or exploited, call the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center at 1-844-880-1574. If someone is in immediate danger, call 911.



Trained volunteers are available to help senior citizens and people with disabilities apply for their homeowners/renters Minnesota property tax refund/Form M1PR. (See below for dates and locations. Please attend a session in the district where you live.)

You will need to provide:

- Federal Form 1040 (if you filed one) OR records showing your 2017 total household income

- Homeowners: Copy of your 2018 real estate tax statements
- Renters: Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP)

The State of Minnesota will mail tax credit refund checks to eligible renters in mid-August and to eligible homeowners in late September.

LOCATION	DATE	TIME	COMMISSIONER DISTRICT
Columbia Heights Senior Center Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill St.	April 23 April 30 May 7	9 AM-11 AM 9 AM-11 AM 9 AM-11 AM	District 4: Jim Kordiak
Fridley City Hall 6431 University Ave.	April 26	9 AM-11 AM	District 4: Jim Kordiak
Parkview Villa Senior High Rise 965 40th Ave., Columbia Heights	May 2	1 PM-3:30 PM	District 4: Jim Kordiak
Anoka County Government Center 2100 3rd Ave., Room 715, Anoka	May 3	1 PM-4:30 PM	District 1: Matt Look District 7: Scott Schulte
St. Francis City Hall 23340 Cree St.	May 9	1 PM-3 PM	District 1: Matt Look
Andover Senior Center/City Hall 1685 Crosstown Blvd. N.W.	May 10	9 AM-11 AM	District 1: Matt Look District 2: Julie Braastad District 5: Mike Gamache
Spring Lake Park Community Center 1301 81st Ave N.E.	May 14	1 PM-3 PM	District 3: Robyn West
Mary Ann Young Senior Center 9150 Central Ave. N.E., Blaine	May 16	8:30 AM-12 PM	District 3: Robyn West District 6: Rhonda Sivarajah
Coon Rapids Senior Center 11155 Robinson Dr N.W.	May 21 June 11	8 AM-12 PM 8 AM-12 PM	District 5: Mike Gamache District 7: Scott Schulte
Circle Pines City Hall 200 Civic Heights Circle	May 23	1 PM-4 PM	District 6: Rhonda Sivarajah
Lino Lakes City Hall 600 Town Center Parkway	May 24	1:30 PM-3:30 PM	District 6: Rhonda Sivarajah
Linwood Senior Center 22817 Typo Creek Drive N.E., Stacy	June 5	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	District 6: Rhonda Sivarajah
East Bethel City Hall 2241 221st Ave N.E.	June 6	10 AM-12 PM	District 2: Julie Braastad
Ham Lake Senior Center 15544 Central Ave N.E.	July 19	9 AM-12 PM	District 2: Julie Braastad

## RSVP to make a difference

Seniors interested in giving back and making a positive difference in their community should consider joining RSVP, Anoka County's Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

RSVP matches people who are age 55 and over with non-profits and social service programs based on your skills and interests. RSVP participants decide which volunteer opportunity to pursue and how much time they can contribute. Here's a sampling of available volunteer opportunities:

- Give a veteran or senior a ride to a doctor appointment.
- Provide respite for a caregiver.
- Fight hunger by stocking shelves at a local food shelf.
- Tutor an adult learner.
- Help with special events at local

- elementary schools.
- Become an Anoka County Courthouse Ambassador. Be the first point of contact and help people find where they need to go.



To enroll in RSVP, contact Tricia Lehti at 763-324-1661 or download the volunteer application form at [anokacounty.us/rsvp](http://anokacounty.us/rsvp).

## Property tax relief for seniors, veterans



The state of Minnesota offers two programs that help seniors and veterans pay their property taxes.

The **Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral** program limits the amount of property tax a senior pays to three percent of their total household income. This is not

a tax forgiveness program; rather, it is a low interest loan from the state. A lien is attached to the property, meaning the state can take possession of the home as payment if a senior leaves the program and doesn't pay back the loan.

To be eligible, you must be age 65 or older and have a household income of \$60,000 or less.

Learn more by calling the Tax Operations Division of the Minnesota Department of Revenue at 651-556-4803.

The **Disabled Veterans' Homestead Property Tax Exclusion** program reduces the market value of the home that is subject to property taxes. There are two exclusion levels:

Up to \$300,000 of market value is excluded from property taxes for:

- veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 100 percent permanent and total;
- surviving spouses of qualifying veterans and service members;
- qualifying primary family caregivers of permanently and totally disabled veterans.

Up to \$150,000 of market value is excluded from property taxes for:

- veterans with a 70 percent or higher service-connected disability rating;
- qualifying primary family caregivers of veterans with a 70 percent or higher service-connected disability rating.

Learn more by contacting Anoka County Veteran Services at 763-324-4500.

ANOKA COUNTY  
**SENIOR EXPO**  
Saturday, May 12 • 9 a.m. - noon  
Lord of Life Church  
1450 Nowthen Blvd., Ramsey

**CELEBRATE HEALTHY LIVING!**

- Open to seniors & their families.
- Free pancake breakfast
- Information booths
- Blood pressure checks
- Mini massages • Entertainment
- Memory Screenings
- Handicapped accessible

Sponsored by:  
Alliance for a Violence Free Anoka County  
& Anoka County Human Services.  
Questions? Call Mary at 763-760-3699.

# ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARY

SEE MORE OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AT [ANOKACOUNTYLIBRARY.ORG](http://ANOKACOUNTYLIBRARY.ORG)

## SENIORS

### MEMORY MAKER KITS

Memory Maker Kits are designed for use by caregivers and family members who are caring for people experiencing memory loss. Kit materials include books, CDs, and hands-on activities. All materials were selected to help create conversation, spark memories, and allow for positive interactions and engagement between those with dementia or Alzheimer's Disease and their caregivers.

Contact Janet Kleckner at 763-324-1513 or email [janet.kleckner@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:janet.kleckner@co.anoka.mn.us) for more information.

### BOOKS BY MAIL

Anoka County Library offers its *Books By Mail Program* free of charge for all persons residing within Anoka County who are unable to get to their local library. Items sent through the program include: paperback and hardbound books, large printed books, audio books or music on CD, magazines (except the most current issue), and DVDs.

For more information contact the Outreach Librarian at 763-324-1529 or email [Outreach.Librarian@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:Outreach.Librarian@co.anoka.mn.us).

### DEMENTIA DIALOGUE

A book and film discussion group that explores dementia through stories, both real and fictional. The group meets the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Rum River Library. For more information, contact the Rum River Library at 763-324-1520 or visit [anokacountylibrary.org](http://anokacountylibrary.org).

### AARP FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Get help filling out your 2017 tax forms at the library. Anoka County Library does not distribute tax forms, but librarians can help find them online and print them if you know the name or number of the form. Assistance is first come, first served and is provided by the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program.

April 1, 8, and 15; 1:30-5:15 p.m., Northtown Library.



Anoka County News

## YOUTH

### STORYTIME

Storytimes for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. Every library, various days and times. Share books, songs, and rhymes with your children at storytimes designed to promote school readiness. Librarians, caregivers, and children will sing, talk, read, write, and play together to build early literacy practices. Spring storytime season lasts through April 2018. Most storytimes are walk-in. Find the full schedule and register for baby storytime at [anokacountylibrary.org](http://anokacountylibrary.org).

### READ TO A DOG

Children are invited to practice their reading skills in 15-minute sessions with licensed, trained therapy dogs. Program geared toward grades K-3.

Saturday, April 14, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Crooked Lake Library. Register by calling 763-324-1530.

Saturday, April 14, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Johnsville Library. Register by calling 763-324-1550

### READ TO A RABBIT

Children are invited to read aloud to a rabbit. 15-minute sessions are available. Program geared toward grades K-3. Registration is required.

Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., Rum River Library. Register by calling 763-324-1520.

### LUPITA DOESN'T WANT TO SLEEP: BILINGUAL PUPPET SHOW

This is a story about a feisty little girl who always finds a way to keep playing when it is time to go to sleep. The show highlights the joyful moments of parent-child relationships. Performed in English and Spanish.

Tuesday, May 8, 6:30–7:30 p.m., Northtown Library. No registration, but seating is limited.

### TEEN SHORT STORY CONTEST CELEBRATION

Learn, then celebrate, the winners of the *Write On!* teen short story contest. Sponsored by the Friends of the Anoka County Library.

Saturday, May 19, 2–3 p.m., Rum River Library. No registration required.

## ADULTS

### IDENTITY THEFT

What would you do if your identity was stolen? Identity thieves can hijack your tax refund, alter medical records, and prevent you from getting credit, or employment. Make identity protection part of your regular routine and learn what identity theft is, how to protect yourself, and what to do if it happens to you. Presented by Twin Cities Media Alliance and funded by MELSA.

Saturday April 7, 2-4 p.m. Johnsville Library

### TALES OF TRICKERY AND WIT

Storyteller Nothando Zulu recreates colorful characters from African and African-American folktales in this lively performance. This program funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Saturday, April 21, 2-3 p.m., Rum River Library. No registration, but seating is limited.

### VIETNAM 360

Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) invites you to a community conversation to explore the Vietnam War and its legacy from several points of view. Drawing upon speakers with very different experiences, the conversation will expand on the recent Ken Burns and Lynn Novick Vietnam War documentary. Related videos and books will be highlighted. This conversation is part of TPT's ongoing *Minnesota Remembers Vietnam* initiative ([mnvietnam.org](http://mnvietnam.org)).

Saturday, April 21, 2-3 p.m., Northtown Library. No registration, but seating is limited.

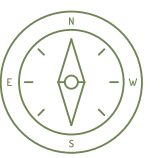
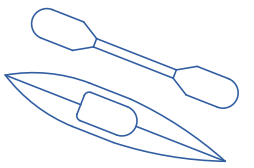
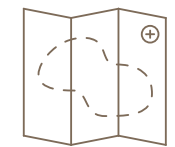
[anokacountylibrary.org](http://anokacountylibrary.org)



# ANOKA COUNTY PARKS OFFER EVERYDAY ADVENTURES

## PARKS EXPLORATION SERIES

Explore a wide variety of parks throughout the county this summer with Wargo Nature Center. Each trip will be unique as we discover the special features of each park. June - August weekday trips include paddling program with all equipment provided.



**May 12, 10 am - 12 pm;** Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, Centerville Beach

**May 23, 8 - 10 am;** Mississippi West Regional Park

**June 9, 10 am - 12 pm;** Rum River Central Regional Park

**June 27, 6 - 8 pm;** Martin-Island-Linwood Lakes Regional Park (Paddling, Pre-Registration Required)

**July 18, 6 - 8 pm;** Rum River South County Park (Paddling, Pre-Registration Required)

**July 28, 10 am - 12 pm;** Locke County Park

**August 8, 6 - 8 pm;** Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park (Paddling, Pre-Registration Required)

**August 25, 10 am - 12 pm;** Bunker Hills Regional Park, Campground Visitor Center

Parks Exploration Series sessions are FREE, however, please PRE-REGISTER AT ANOKACOUNTYPARKS.COM OR CALL 763-324-3350

## EVENTS

### EARTH DAY

April 21; 12:30 - 3 p.m.  
Wargo Nature Center

### EARTH DAY SERVICE PROJECT

From 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### KIDS FISHING CLINIC

May 5; 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
East Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Openings for Bunker Beach Water Park, Chomonix Golf Course, Park Services, and Park Maintenance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY VISIT [ANOKACOUNTY.US/JOBS](http://ANOKACOUNTY.US/JOBS)

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Whether you enjoy a quiet trail, crackling campfire, wild waterslide, or round of golf, Anoka County offers access to unique recreational opportunities close to home. Anoka County encourages you to get outside and explore the 11,500 acre park system. Not sure where to start? Here are some great opportunities to have an everyday adventure.

### BUNKER BEACH WATER PARK

Minnesota's largest outdoor water park is located right here in Anoka County. Bunker Beach offers towering waterslides, a 900-foot lazy river, and the famous wave pool. In addition to water features, there are unique programs available. Cardio Club is a before and after hours fitness opportunity to walk against the current of the lazy river and our Tot Time program offers before hours access for preschool children and parents.

### CHOMONIX GOLF COURSE

Chomonix provides golfers a low pressure, relaxed environment. Whether a frequent golfer or someone just wanting to work on their game, Chomonix offers a wide variety of opportunities to enjoy the game of golf.

### CAMPGROUNDS

Reconnect with nature, family, and traditions at one of Anoka County's two campgrounds. With over 150 sites available for reservation, it is an easy way to enjoy the camping experience with the convenience of being close to home.

### WARGO NATURE CENTER

Take in a program or explore the waterways with a canoe or kayak rental at the nature center. To learn about the programs, events, and other recreation opportunities available visit us online or call 763-324-3350. [anokacountyparks.com](http://anokacountyparks.com)



2018 SUMMER  
**CAMPS**  
WARGO NATURE CENTER

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES! (PRESCHOOL - ADULT)

- WORMS, DIRT, MUD CAMP • ADVENTURES WITH TOM AND HUCK • SURVIVAL ADVENTURES
- BUILD, LAUNCH, EXPLORE • KAYAK CAMP • JUNIOR ECOLOGIST CAMP • BE A KID FOR A DAY

### REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE

Register by May 7, 2018, and save \$5 per participant on preschool and grandparent camps and \$10 on school-aged camps. \*Discount does not apply to Adventures with Tom and Huck Camp

REGISTER ONLINE AT [ANOKACOUNTY.US/SUMMERCAMPS](http://ANOKACOUNTY.US/SUMMERCAMPS) OR CALL 763-324-3350

## MASTERFUL GARDENERS

In 1983, the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Program in Anoka County (ACMG) began training volunteers to provide research-based advice on home landscaping and gardening.

Initially, county extension agents addressed gardening questions as part of their general support of farm life. Starting in the 1940s, Extension hosted “home beautification” tours and offered classes, such as *A Well Mowed Lawn* and *Beautiful Shade Trees*. They also assisted garden clubs with classes and advice.

Beginning in the 1950s, Anoka County was growing more urbanized. Classes and home visits became the means of providing advice about landscaping, tree diseases, dealing with sandy soils, lawn care, and fertilization.

By the 1990s, ACMG volunteers had launched a lecture series titled, *Lasting Landscapes*, along with a phone answering line. In addition, plant health clinics and “Ask a Master Gardener” booths were available to answer questions in person. These services continue today with minor format and name changes. The *Home Landscaping and Garden Fair* has replaced *Lasting Landscapes* classes and the phone line service is now a statewide line instead of a county line.

Extension Master Gardeners are also involved in local schoolyard garden programs, community gardens, youth programming, *Habitat for Humanity*, local community environmental programming, and Extension horticulture research programs. The *Veterans Peace and Memorial Garden*, located at the Bunker Hills Activities Center in Andover, was first installed in 2007. The garden features shrubs, small trees, perennials, and a new theme display of annuals every year.



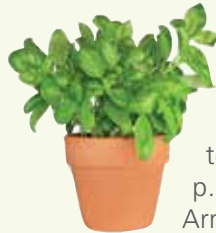
Extension Master Gardener Dave Berger, right, works with students on a schoolyard garden project at Crossroads School and Vocational Center in St. Francis.

University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity employer.

## 2018 Master Gardener Events

### HOME LANDSCAPING & GARDEN FAIR

Keynote speaker: Mike Heger, author of *Growing Perennials in Cold Climates* and owner of Ambergate Horticultural Consulting. Classes on growing flowers, growing herbs and vegetables, specialty topics, and a vendor fair. April 7, 2018, from 8:20 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Bunker Hills Activities Center.



### ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Shop for perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, native plants, houseplants and more. Proceeds help support the programs of the Anoka County Master Gardener program. May 15 from 3-7 p.m. & May 16 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Anoka Armory, 408 E. Main St., Anoka

### PLANT AND INSECT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

A free service for Anoka County residents to help identify plants and diagnose common insect and disease problems. Wednesdays, June 6 - August 22 from 6-8 p.m. Bunker Hills Activities Center,



### A WALK IN THE GARDEN EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Free, informal classes in the Veterans Memorial Peace Garden. Select Wednesday evenings June - August from 7-8 p.m. at the Bunker Hills Activities Center. Pre-registration required. Watch for details at [anokamastergardeners.org](http://anokamastergardeners.org).



### VETERANS MEMORIAL PEACE GARDEN

Open to the public for self-guided tours. Bunker Hills Activities Center. Directions at [anokamastergardeners.org](http://anokamastergardeners.org).

### ASK A MASTER GARDENER BOOTHS

Want to talk plants? Bring your gardening questions. Various dates and locations. Learn more at [anokamastergardeners.org](http://anokamastergardeners.org). Have questions about gardening, insects, plant diseases, trees, lawns, and common wildlife issues? Call the Arboretum Yard and Garden Line at 952-443-1426.



**Extension Master Gardener Program in Anoka County**  
Bunker Hills Activities Center  
550 Bunker Lake Blvd. N.W., Andover  
[anokamastergardeners.org](http://anokamastergardeners.org)  
[extension.umn.edu](http://extension.umn.edu)

## No wheelage tax in Anoka County

Anoka County has not collected the \$10 wheelage tax since the county board repealed the tax in 2013. The tax applies to vehicles that are required to be registered annually, such as automobiles and trucks, and is based on where the vehicle is kept. While Anoka County is one of 35 Minnesota counties that does not collect the wheelage tax, all of its bordering counties do. A small number of Anoka County residents who live in areas served by a post office outside the county have mistakenly been charged the \$10 tax by the State when they paid their vehicle registration fee. (Ex. Columbus resident with a Forest Lake mailing address.) If your vehicle registration notice for a vehicle kept in Anoka County includes a wheelage tax, please visit your local license center and let them know about the error. License center staff will be able to remove the wheelage tax and process your registration renewal.



## Home rehab loan funds available



No interest, deferred payment home improvement loans are available for qualified Anoka County homeowners to correct health, safety, and accessibility issues or to improve energy efficiency. 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 limits and program guidelines. Loans become payable when the home is sold or deeded to another person. For more information, go to [anokacounty.us/cd](http://anokacounty.us/cd) or call 763-324-4650.

## Help kids prepare for emergencies

Preparing for emergencies shouldn't fall on your shoulders alone. Young children and teens alike need to be part of the process — for their own safety and sense of empowerment.

- Work together to build an emergency kit.
- Sit down as a family to talk about your communications plan.
- Role-play what you would do during a disaster.
- Make sure your children know what a fire alarm sounds like or what an emergency alert is.
- Practice fire drills in preparation for Severe Weather Awareness Week. April 9-13, 2018.

- ✓ **Get a kit.**
- ✓ **Make a plan.**
- ✓ **Be informed.**

Find more tips on preparing your children for an emergency at [ready.gov/kids](http://ready.gov/kids) and [sesamestreet.org/toolkits/ready](http://sesamestreet.org/toolkits/ready).

## ANOKA COUNTY 2040 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Anoka County Highway Department is holding a public information meeting for our draft 2040 Transportation Plan. Join us at an open house:

Wednesday, March 28 • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Bunker Hills Activities Center, 550 Bunker Lake Blvd., Andover

Questions? Please call Jack Forslund, Anoka County Transportation Planner, at 763-324-3179 or email [jack.forslund@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:jack.forslund@co.anoka.mn.us)





## Organics collection efforts expanding

- Organics are the compostable portion of trash including:
- food scraps, such as leftovers, peels, and spoiled food;
  - soiled, non-recyclable papers, such as paper towels, napkins, pizza delivery boxes;
  - certified compostable products, such as tableware and bags labeled with a Cedar Grove Composting or Biodegradable Products Institute logo.



**Why recycle organics?** Organics make up 25-35 percent of what we throw away. Organics can be recycled into compost, a valuable soil amendment, instead of being thrown away. Compost benefits all soil types and greatly improves moisture retention in sandy soil.

**Who is collecting organics?** Organics collection has really begun to take off in the last few years. There are drop-off programs in Columbia Heights, Columbus, Coon Rapids, Ham Lake, Lino Lakes, Linwood Township, Ramsey, and Spring Lake Park; and at both of the county's compost sites (see below for open hours). Columbia Heights and Fridley will begin curbside organics collection this spring. In addition, more and more schools and restaurants in Anoka County have started organics collection programs. Organics collection is also happening at community events and high traffic destinations, such as Bunker Beach Water Park. To learn more, go to [anokacounty.us/organics](http://anokacounty.us/organics) or call Recycling & Resource Solutions at 763-324-3400.

## COMPOST SITES BEGIN EXTENDED HOURS APRIL 1

### WARM WEATHER HOURS: APRIL-NOVEMBER

Bunker Hills Compost Site  
13285 Hanson Blvd. N.W., Coon Rapids  
Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-7 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sunday 12 p.m.-5 p.m.  
763-767-7964

Rice Creek Compost Site  
7701 Main St., Lino Lakes  
Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. • Sunday 12 p.m.-5 p.m.  
Closed Monday, Wednesday, & Friday  
651-429-3723

*Both sites are closed on major holidays.*

### Materials accepted

- Grass, leaves, non-woody yard waste. Free for the first four cubic yards.
- Tree waste. Fee charged, depending on size of materials.
- Organics. Free; place materials in separate container.

Go to [anokacounty.us/yardwaste](http://anokacounty.us/yardwaste) or call 763-324-3400 to learn more.

**Are You A Recycling Champion?**

**Do you know an individual, group or organization passionate about reducing, reusing, recycling and composting? Nominate a friend, neighbor or coworker today to be recognized as a recycling champion at the Recycling & Resource Solutions Department's Annual Recognition in May.**

**For a nomination form and details go to:**  
**[AnokaCounty.us/recycle](http://AnokaCounty.us/recycle)**



## REAL ID deadline extended to October 10, 2018\*

Minnesota has been granted an extension to October 10, 2018, to comply with the federal REAL ID law. An additional extension to October 2020, the federal deadline for full compliance of the law, may be requested by state officials to allow enough time for state residents to get REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses/IDs. The bottom line? Minnesotans traveling by air will not need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license/ID to get through security until after October 10, 2018. Note: Consider getting a passport book or passport card to be certain you'll be ready for the 2018 REAL ID deadline. Apply for both the passport book and card at Anoka County Passport Centers located in Coon Rapids and Blaine. Appointments strongly encouraged. Learn more at [anokacounty.us/passport](http://anokacounty.us/passport).  
*\*Subject to change*



### PASSPORT BOOK

Use for all foreign travel: land, sea, and air and entry to federal facilities, nuclear power plants, and military bases. Apply for a passport book at Anoka County Passport Centers located in Blaine and Coon Rapids. Appointments strongly encouraged. Bring a birth certificate or previously issued passport book to apply. Valid 10 years.



### PASSPORT CARD

Use for land and sea travel in the U.S., Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, and the Caribbean and entry to federal facilities, nuclear power plants, and military bases. Apply for a passport card at Anoka County Passport Centers located in Blaine and Coon Rapids. Appointments strongly encouraged. Bring a birth certificate or previously issued passport book or card to apply. Valid 10 years.



### ENHANCED DRIVER'S LICENSE/ID (EDL)

Use for air travel in the U.S., Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, and the Caribbean and entry to federal facilities, nuclear power plants, and military bases. Currently not available at Anoka County license centers. Learn how to apply for an EDL at [dvs.dps.mn.gov](http://dvs.dps.mn.gov).



### REAL ID COMPLIANT DRIVER'S LICENSE/ID

Available beginning October 1, 2018.\* Use for air travel in the U.S. and entry to federal facilities, nuclear power plants, and military bases. Fee varies by type of license. Valid four years.



### DRIVER'S LICENSE/ID

Use to drive in the U.S. Can be used for air travel in the U.S. until October 10, 2018\*. Fee varies by type of license. Valid four years.

Anoka County  
 2100 3rd Ave.  
 Anoka MN 55303-5024

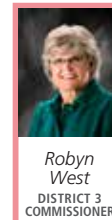
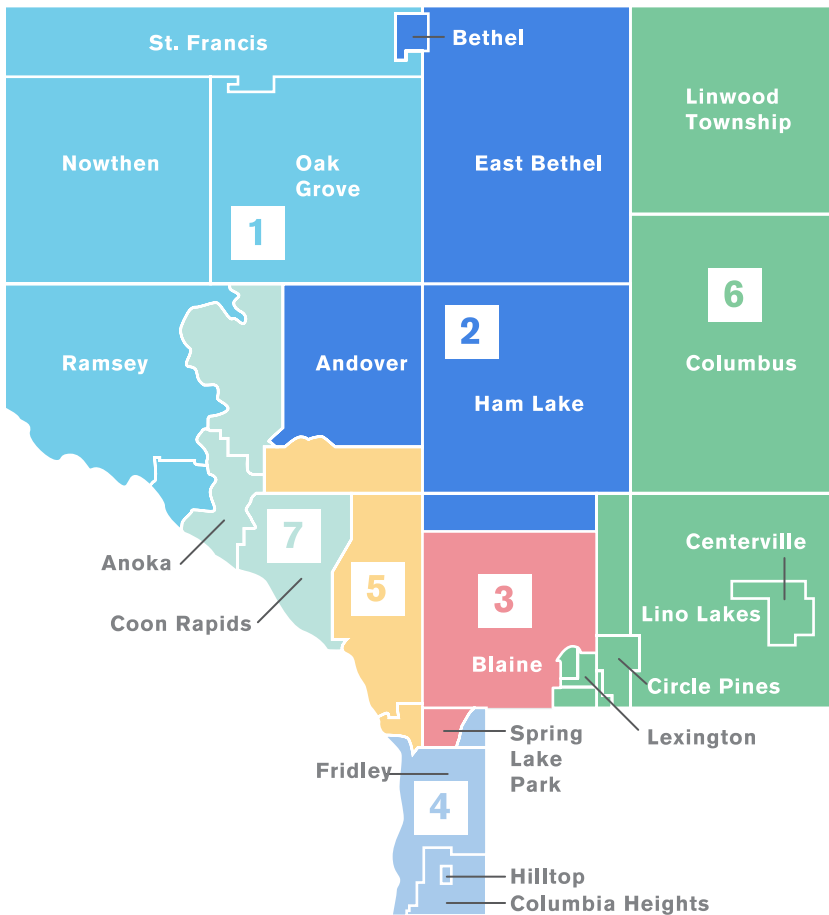
PRSRT STD  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 ANOKA COUNTY



*Visit our website!*

## ANOKA COUNTY LEADERSHIP

763-324-4700



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](http://anokacounty.us). "Anoka County News" is produced by Anoka County Communications, Erik Thorson, Director, 763-324-4612 [publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us) • [anokacounty.us/newsletter](http://anokacounty.us/newsletter)  
 Printed on 30 percent post-consumer recycled paper.

