

ANOKA COUNTY NEWS

VOLUME 2 - 2018



Geared for **Growth**

A unique partnership for prosperity is working to build a bright future for economic development in Anoka County.

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Anoka County
MINNESOTA

Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible

BOLSTERING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



During the spring of 2017, a group of businesses approached Anoka County with this question: “How can the county attract, retain and grow business in our area?”

That question got the ball rolling on the creation of a road-map with ideas from Anoka County and its key partners: the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce, Connexus Energy and local city economic development officials. The aim of that plan was to increase economic development in the county. Anoka County has always prided itself on having a business-friendly County Board that works to keep taxes low with a “pay-as-you-go” philosophy to lower debt. This mindset has been important for business development and retention, but more still needs to be done to make Anoka County an attractive place for businesses to set up shop and remain.

Subsequently, Anoka County and its key partners selected the nationally-recognized firm, ADY Advantage, to conduct an in-depth economic development study and prepare strategic analysis for our county region. The result was a 212-page Economic Development Business Recruitment Roadmap that was completed in December of last year. Visit www.anokacounty.us/business to view or download the report.

“Now, with this analysis in hand, there is real momentum building and support happening between local communities, businesses, utility providers and Anoka County to bolster economic development,” said Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah, chair, Anoka County Board. “There are multiple stakeholders when it comes to economic development in the county, and we’re all working together to ensure a prosperous future.”

The roadmap report is important because it serves as a starting point for identifying how to develop good-paying

jobs close to home for Anoka County residents, thus expanding the tax base and cutting down on commute times, which would reduce area highway congestion. Less time on the road also means more time with family. Although the report is county-wide, it still allows cities to pursue/develop their own economic development plans.

Three “first steps” were identified after the completion of the report: Marketing/Differentiation (changing perception about Anoka County), Readiness (preparing for development from both a talent and sites/buildings perspective) and Alignment and Regionalism (defining roles as it relates to marketing, staffing, incentives and more).

With a plan in place, county action has commenced. One of the first steps the board took in terms of increasing economic development in the county was to hire a full-time economic development specialist. As time goes on, the board will be looking to implement more initiatives to attract and grow business in Anoka County. Having a robust economic climate in Anoka County is of tremendous benefit to the entire region because it draws people to the area, which allows for the showcasing of the county’s diverse cities, products, talent and quality of life. (Read on for more information about economic development).

Highlights of Anoka County Report

- *Close to core metro area.*
- *A mix of rural/sub-urban lifestyle.*
- *Low crime rates and poverty levels.*
- *Affordable land and homes.*

Anoka County is already focusing on areas that are integral to economic advancement: roads and workforce development. Several transportation projects are in the works to improve Anoka County's infrastructure, which is a key component to making the county a desirable place to live and work. The county also seeks to make its workforce skilled and competitive, a process that is accomplished in part through the Anoka County WorkForce Development Center in Blaine, which offers a wide range of employment-advancing services to residents.

SELECTING INDUSTRIES

By identifying those industries that best align with Anoka County's assets, the county can target site selectors and ensure it's ready for development with a trained talent pool and an up-to-date inventory of land/buildings.



Economic Development Specialist to Aid Anoka County



Hajder has been employed in the economic development field by three Minnesota cities and holds a bachelor's degree in real estate and finance from the University of St. Thomas. She's won two Stofer/Stensby Real Estate awards, and she serves on multiple professional organizations that focus on real estate and economic development. She has experience in creating and implementing short and long-term economic development plans, working with an array of businesses on relations, retention, expansion and planning, and she's skilled in administrating financial incentive programs that help bolster economic development.

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners at its June 12 meeting approved the hiring of Jacquelin Hajder as the county's new economic development specialist.

The county's economic development partners that Hajder will be working with include local cities, the Metro North Chamber of Commerce, Connexus Energy, regional planning and economic development organizations, and commercial real estate brokers. Together, they will assess the economic development needs of the region and develop an effective strategy for engaging key stakeholders.

Board Backs Hunting Works Group

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution at its June 26 meeting in support of Hunting Works, a shooting/hunting group that seeks to promote strong economic relationships between the hunting community and the local economy.

"Minnesota has more than 500,000 licensed hunters who spend not 5.5 million hours, but 5.5 million days in the field and spend more than \$733 million annually on hunting and shooting sports," said District 1 Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look. "It's incredible."

Ryan Bronson, conservation director of Federal Premium Ammunition, said Anoka County is the first county in America to recognize the Hunting Works project.

Anoka County has a strong tradition of hunting, and the pastime is ingrained in its business community. The county is home to many businesses that focus on hunting, including Federal Premium Ammunition and the Wildlife Research Center. The county is also home to the annual Game Fair in Ramsey.



IT'S CONSTRUCTION SEASON; BE PATIENT

Orange cones, detours and the smell of asphalt are almost as much of a rite of summer in Minnesota as boating, fishing and backyard barbecues.

It's construction season, and in Anoka County there are a handful of major projects either already in the works or on the docket this year. There are also more than two dozen smaller projects to be completed in 2018. It's key to keep informed about the progress of projects to avoid construction-related traffic frustration.

NEW CONSTRUCTION (MAJOR PROJECTS)



1. Lake Drive (County State Aid Highway 23; cities of Lexington and Circle Pines): This project will stretch just under a mile from Hamline Avenue to Village Parkway. Construction has started and will be completed by the end of September. The project is to address access management improvements; a new frontage road is being constructed to better control the continuity and progression of traffic in the area. There will be side street closures and minor delays on Lake Drive.

2. 125th Avenue (CSAH 14) from Opal Street (Blaine) to 4th Avenue (Lino Lakes): 1.2 miles of pavement rehabilitation was recently completed in this area. Pavement was removed from the roadway, crushed, and then used as a base for the overlay.

3. Hanson Boulevard (CSAH 78) railroad grade separation (Coon Rapids): This is a bridge construction and roadway reconstruction project. Construction has started and will be completed by the end of 2019. Motorists might have noticed there doesn't seem to be much activity with the project right now, but that's because most of the work is underground — foundations are being laid, and utility work is being completed. This year, expect minor delays and lane closures in the area; traffic is anticipated to move fluidly during much of the construction. In 2019, there will be major delays and lane closures.

4. Main Street (CSAH 14) bridge repair: The county discovered a structural failure in the westbound lanes of the bridge in late January of this year and promptly shut the bridge down for safety reasons. Partnering with the Mn-DOT State Aid Bridge unit and the engineering firm TKDA, the county implemented a temporary fix and got those lanes open again in March, but a long-term solution is needed. This project is slated to start in August and end in the middle of October.

"There are a number of road improvement projects being worked on right now in Anoka County that will improve infrastructure and address traffic issues," said Commissioner Scott Schulte, vice chair, Anoka County Board. "It's important to exercise patience while these important projects are being completed and plan ahead to find alternate routes around construction areas."

- For a full list of all the road projects planned in Anoka County this year, visit www.AnokaCounty.us/Highways and click on the "current projects" tab.

USING TECHNOLOGY TO HELP IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW

There's a huge monitor on a wall in a back room at the Anoka County Highway Department building in Andover. It shows multiple intersections across the county and how the signals at those crossings are functioning.

This monitor, coupled with a cutting-edge computer system, is Anoka County's Advanced Traffic Management System. Not all the county's intersections have cameras that link into the system, but the hope is that within the next 5 years about 75 percent of the intersections will be monitored and managed through ATMS.

ATMS is turning out to be an important technology when it comes to traffic management. The county uses it to re-time signals at intersections to optimize traffic flow, conduct traffic counts, and reset signals that have experienced errors.



Are You an Entrepreneur at Heart?

Need a trusted advisor? A business consultant? Money to start or expand your business? The Open to Business program offers free, one-on-one counseling with a business advisor. The program also offers assistance in identifying financial resources. For more information, email info@opentobusinessmn.org or call 763-438-7315.

WorkForce Center has much to offer

Anoka County has the most comprehensive WorkForce Center in the state, offering more than 20 services at the Blaine location: 1201 89th Ave. NE, Suite 235. It's truly a one-stop shop.

Some of those services include:

- A resource center that assists people with returning to work as soon as possible.
- A host of workshops that include advanced interviewing, resume creation, and getting started with LinkedIn.
- Basic adult education opportunities for people to acquire and improve their literacy and math skills, obtain GEDs/ Adult Diplomas and take English as a Second Language classes.
- The Educational Opportunity Center: onsite assistance with school and financial aid information.

- Veterans services.
- Multiple public aid programs that include cash, medical, supplemental nutrition, child care assistance and more.

The WorkForce Center also seeks to connect employers and job seekers. Businesses that partner with the Anoka County WorkForce Center can receive help in such areas as employee recruitment, hiring incentives and tax credits, MinnesotaWorks.net (a free online job bank for finding employees), identifying resources and experts to provide business solutions, and labor market information.

A branding change to the WorkForce Center system will be unveiled in October, but that won't affect any of the services available.

For more information about the Anoka County WorkForce Center, visit www.anokacounty.us.jtc or call 763-324-2300.

Anoka County Sheriff Receives Magnus Princeps Award

The National Command and Staff College presented Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart with the MAGNUS Princeps Award at the National Sheriff's Association Conference June 17. The award represents recognition of Sheriff Stuart's work in "implementing bold initiatives that created synergy and trust between the citizens of your community and your agency."

"I am truly humbled to receive this national recognition; however, it is not mine alone," Sheriff Stuart said upon receiving the award. "Leaders are only as good as the people who choose to follow them. I am blessed to have an

amazing group of talented individuals who come together as a team to ensure we are pushing ourselves to be better, to provide superior services, and to work with others to make positive impacts in our communities. We will continue striving to maintain the tradition of excellence that is the Anoka County Sheriff's Office."



County Attorney's Office Moving to Electronic Case Management System

The Anoka County Attorney's Office is home to legal tomes dating back to the early days of Minnesota statehood. They are treasured for their historical and nostalgic value, but they no longer serve much purpose. In this booming digital era, our library is now relegated to a certain vellichor – "the strange wistfulness of used bookstores, which are somehow infused with the passage of time," as author John Koenig delightfully put it.

Information once found in annually printed publications is now provided in digital collections – often updated daily. And large filing cabinets with paper files dating back decades are now a thing of the past.

The County Attorney's Office is pursuing a new case management system to store and organize our files and data. Much of the information replicates what used to be on pa-

per. But a growing portion of our data storage is dedicated to digitized law enforcement evidence, such as body and squad camera footage.

The information we collect comes from a variety of agencies and is, in turn, shared with others. Electronic data-sharing systems eliminate the need for hand-delivery of hard copies. In that vein, recently installed fiber optic cables now connect us to the nearby public defenders' office to quickly and safely share data.

We must also comply with legal requirements for data retention and filing processes. Minnesota courts have implemented an e-filing system, with a paperless process on the horizon. And data practices laws require our agency to be good stewards of public information. Electronic data storage makes that effort easier and more reliable.

Anoka County Working Through MNLARS Issues



The impact of the Minnesota Licensing and Registration System rollout has been clear to many Minnesota residents who've had to update their tabs, secure title transfers, obtain disability certificates or get

new license plates over the past year.

The issues with the MNLARS computer system, which was launched July 24, 2017, to replace a 1980s-era mainframe system, have been well documented: Wait times at license centers have doubled or tripled in some cases, the workload of staff at these centers has increased, errors with the system have resulted in people getting incorrect tab renewal notices or not receiving tabs after they'd been paid for, and there's been a negative financial effect.

MNLARS is a state-implemented system through the Driver and Vehicle Services Division. Deputy registrars in counties are required by DVS to administer the system, without compensation from the state for the services they offer; they rely entirely on filing fees collected for completed transactions. The five license centers operated by Anoka County as a deputy registrar complete approximately 450,000 transactions each year, resulting in the collection of nearly \$40 million in state revenue.

Because of the errors with MNLARS, revenues at license centers have sharply decreased. Anoka County will likely finish the year hundreds of thousands of dollars below its historic norms.

Even with the challenges presented by MNLARS, the license

centers in Anoka County are still running as effectively as possible. Thankfully, the county has operated very efficient license centers, so revenues have historically covered expenses, with extra money going into the county's general fund. A few years ago, the county moved some of that money into a special account for the license centers, which has helped to address the negative financial impact of MNLARS. Other counties in the state have had to supplement their license centers through other means.

"There have been some difficult situations with MNLARS, but Anoka County's proactive approach to budgeting has helped the county through this period of reduced revenue," said District 5 Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache.

This past legislative session, there was strong support for \$9 million in compensation to registrars to address the decreased revenue, but that funding did not come to fruition this year. Even with that hurdle, there still might be light at the end of the tunnel. There's hope progress could be made next legislative session, and the state has solicited requests for information to determine what they might be able to do to fix or replace MNLARS; three companies responded.

For residents who are worried online transactions through MNLARS might result in errors, the best course of action would be to come to any one of the county's license centers, located in Blaine, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Ham Lake and Ramsey. Staff at those locations can help licensing business go smoothly. Additionally, for residents who are looking to update their tabs, there are drop box locations at the Blaine and Coon Rapids license centers, as well as on the main floor of the Government Center in Anoka.

Anoka County Receives HOPE 4 Youth Awards

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners and the county's WorkForce Center were among the community partners that received awards at HOPE 4 Youth's Inspiring Hope Luncheon June 12 at Leopold's Mississippi Gardens in Brooklyn Park.

HOPE 4 Youth is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Anoka that serves youth experiencing homelessness in the north metro suburbs.

The Anoka County Commissioners have helped HOPE 4 Youth grow. The Commissioners have supported HOPE 4 Youth through providing nearly \$100,000 in Community Development Block Grant dollars last year to make outdoor improvements at HOPE Place, including a backyard pavilion, raised vegetable garden, basketball court, as well as allowing HOPE 4 Youth to purchase a van to remove the transportation barrier that homeless youth face. They also bring

awareness to the work that HOPE 4 Youth does through sharing posts on their social media accounts and stories with community members.

"We are honored to receive this recognition from HOPE 4 Youth," said Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah, chair, Anoka County Board. "HOPE 4 Youth makes positive changes in the lives of adolescents facing homelessness, and the board is proud to be a partner in that cause."

The Anoka County Workforce Center has been making significant change happen within HOPE 4 Youth's walls and in the lives of homeless youth. The Center, and especially Jenilee D., works with youth both at the drop-in center and at HOPE Place to find education and employment pathways.



LIBRARY

Ideas, Information, Inspiration

See sidebar for dates, times, and locations

READING & WRITING

Local Author Fair

Third Annual Local Author Fair with keynote speaker Sarah Stonich, internationally-acclaimed writer of novels such as "Vacationland" and "These Granite Islands."

Club Book-Curt Brown

Author Curt Brown is a newspaper byline known to many through a popular and long-running Sunday history series in the Star Tribune.

Seating is limited; doors open at 6:15 p.m.



TEENS

Teen Game Club

Bring your own games to share with other gamers or play games provided by the library including board and video games.

Teen Read Week Book Discussion

Book discussion at Rum River of this year's top ten nominees for teen novels.

Teen Read Week Activities

Drop by St. Francis and create a recycled book project, play games, and share your reads for teens.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Skeletons in the Closet: A Bilingual Puppet Show

Esqueletos en el armario: Una demostración bilingüe de marionetas

A tender story that celebrates love, the cycle of life and the meaning behind the Day of the Dead celebration.

Nalah and the Pink Tiger Puppet Show

A story about Nalah, a girl who has a big imagination and what happens when a pink tiger follows her home from the zoo.

What to do at Tea Time: Parlor Games

Get back to the basics and bring the whole family and your sense of humor for some good old-fashioned fun and games.

Visit anokacountylibrary.org for more details and events.

Centennial Library Closes For Renovations Aug. 26, 2018 through Summer 2019.

Centennial Library will continue offering programs at other community locations.



EVERY WEEK

BOOK A TECH TUTOR

Thursdays 10 a.m. - Noon
Mondays 5 - 7 p.m.
Northtown Library

SEPT 04

DEMENTIA DIALOGUE

Rum River Library | 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

SEPT 05

TEEN GAME CLUB

Rum River Library | 2:30 - 4 p.m.

SEPT 12

CRAFTERNOON SOCIAL

Rum River Library | 4 - 6 p.m.

SEPT 15

THE ONLINE CLASSROOM

Crooked Lake Library | 2 - 4 p.m.

SEPT 19

HOMESCHOOL MIXER

Northtown Library | 3 - 4 p.m.

MAKE THE MOST OF GOOGLE DRIVE AND GOOGLE DOCS

Rum River Library | 5:45 - 7:45 p.m.

SEPT 20

HOMESCHOOL BOOK LOOK

Northtown Library | 2 - 3 p.m.

INTRO TO SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING

Rum River Library | 10 - 11:30 a.m.

SEPT 29

CREATING A MARKETING PLAN FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Northtown Library | 2 - 4 p.m.

OCT 01

MOBILE MENDERS CLINIC

Mississippi Library | 5 - 7:30 p.m.

OCT 02

DEMENTIA DIALOGUE

Rum River Library | 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

OCT 03

TEEN GAME CLUB

Rum River Library | 2:30 - 4 p.m.

Anoka County News

CRAFTING COMMUNITY

Crafternoon Social

Come socialize! Register for the featured craft of the month: painted Mandala Stones.

Crafty Mondays

Teens and adults can drop in and bring their favorite craft. Create while getting to know others in the crafting community.

HOMESCHOOL AND EDUCATION

Homeschool Mixer

Homeschooling families can network, share ideas and resources. Learn how your library supports your family's education and drop by to explore new topics each month.

Homeschool Book Look

- Sept. 20: "Fuzzy Mud"
 - Oct. 18: "The Terrible Two"
- Grades 3-6: Join us for an hour of readings and activities based on the book. Register online.

The Online Classroom

You can learn where to begin and explore online education through websites like Codecademy, Khan Academy, and Coursera. Register online and bring your laptop or device if possible.

FEATURED SERVICES



ALLDATA is the preferred resource for automotive repair and maintenance information with step-by-step procedures, printable wiring diagrams, recall information, Technical Service Bulletins, and more. Accessible in the library buildings.



Your back-to-school resource, HelpNow provides one-to-one tutoring for students in a variety of subjects, including practice tests, flashcards games, and virtual study rooms.

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FOR ADULTS AND SENIORS

MacPhail Music for Life: Traditional Folk Tunes

A program designed for people with Alzheimer's and their caregivers; beginners and lifelong musicians come together for an afternoon full of folk music singing, learning, playing, and story sharing. Registration is required.

Dementia Dialogue

Monthly drop-in discussion group that explores dementia through book and film titles. Call the library to request the current title for the monthly discussion.



Mobile Menders Clinic

On-the-go, onsite sewing service that provides free mending clinics. Walk-ins welcome. This is a first-come, first-served event; limit is three (clean) items per person. Visit www.mobilemendersewing.com for more information.



TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS

Book a Tech Tutor

One-on-one help from a private technology coach. Register online or call 763-234-1510.

OCT 04

TEEN READ WEEK BOOK DISCUSSION

Rum River Library | 4 - 6 p.m.

OCT 06

WHAT TO DO AT TEA TIME: PARLOR GAMES

St. Francis Library | 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

LOCAL AUTHOR FAIR

Northtown Library | 10:15 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FACEBOOK 101

Northtown Library | 2 - 4 p.m.

OCT 08

BEST SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR YOUR BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Library | 5:45 - 7:45 p.m.

TEEN READ WEEK

St. Francis Library | Week of Oct. 8 - 13

OCT 10

CRAFTERNOON SOCIAL

Rum River Library | 4 - 6 p.m.

CREATING A MARKETING PLAN

Rum River Library | 5:45 - 7:45 p.m.

OCT 12

CLUB BOOK - CURT BROWN

Northtown Library: 7 - 8 p.m.

OCT 13

COFFEE AND CRAFTS

Mississippi Library | 10 a.m. - Noon

INTRODUCTION TO IMAGE EDITING

Crooked Lake Library | 2 - 4 p.m.

SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET ESQUELETOS EN EL ARAMARIO

Northtown Library | 2 - 3 p.m.

OCT 17

VIDEO EDITING ON THE CHEAP

Rum River Library | 2 - 4 p.m.

HOMESCHOOL MIXER

Northtown Library | 3 - 4 p.m.

OCT 18

HOMESCHOOL BOOK LOOK

Northtown Library | 2 - 3 p.m.

OCT 20

NALAH AND THE PINK TIGER PUPPET SHOW

Johnsville Library | 11 a.m. - Noon

OCT 22

CRAFTY MONDAYS

Mississippi Library | 6 - 7:30 p.m.

OCT 24

USING VIDEO IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Rum River Library | 5:45 - 7:45 p.m.

OCT 25

MACPHAIL MUSIC FOR LIFE: TRADITIONAL FOLK TUNES

Rum River Library | 1 - 2 p.m.

OCT 27

HOW TO BLOG

Johnsville Library | 2 - 4 p.m.



A PERSPECTIVE FROM THE WATER

Looking for a new perspective and a way to view unique areas of the County? Canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddle boards are versatile, light watercrafts that can be enjoyed by all ages. Anoka County offers programs on the lakes and rivers throughout the county for all levels of experience. Whether looking for a evening cruise across a tranquil lake or enjoying a full day adventure down a creek or river, water activities can provide mental and physical benefits while being out in nature.

Here are three of the many benefits of getting out on the water:

Low Impact Workout:

Paddling requires participants to use consistent strokes to stay in motion. While the physical strain is not challenging, the repetition will ensure you are working your upper body and core muscles.

Stress Relief:

Gliding quietly through the amazing scenery of Anoka County's unique habitats and natural settings are a proven way to reduce stress levels

and disconnect from busy everyday lives.

Community:

There are not many activities that are suitable for all levels of fitness and provide the opportunity to engage and socialize with others. Paddle sports are unique as they are suitable for individuals, couples and friends.

Adventure awaits out on the water. Don't miss these great opportunities to experience Anoka County in a whole new way this summer.

PROGRAMS INCLUDE

Introduction to Kayaking
Aug. 28, 31
Kayaking - The Next Level
Aug. 27

Stand Up Paddle Boarding
Aug. 14, 28
Yoga Stand Up Paddle Boarding
Aug. 21

Friday Evening Paddle
Aug. 10, 24
Rice Creek Paddling Adventure
Aug. 9

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

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

Call 763-324-3350 for conditions and availability.

Anoka County News



WARGO NATURE CENTER'S FREE



OCT. 21

2-4 P.M.

CIDER PRESS, NATURE ACTIVITIES,
AND MORE!

Anoka County Parks is developing a park system plan to provide direction over the next 10 years.

A draft system plan is available online for public feedback, and suggestions are encouraged.

www.anokacounty.us/planyourparks

BUNKER STAMPEDE 5K

09/08/2018

RUN FOR SUMMER CAMP

BUNKER HILLS REGIONAL PARK

Funds raised from the Bunker Stampede will provide scholarship opportunities for families on limited incomes to participate in nature-based summer day camps at Wargo Nature Center. Kids can also participate in the ¼ mile Fun Run, which will immediately follow the 5K race. Professional timing, Stampede Swag, and a race t-shirt will be guaranteed for 5K racers who register by August 20.

Veterans' Memorial Built at Coon Lake County Park



District 2 Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad, flanked by members of the Blaine VFW Post 6316 Honor Guard, addresses those in attendance at the July 7 veterans' memorial dedication ceremony.

Visitors who come to Coon Lake County Park to fish, enjoy the beach, hike or have lunch at the picnic pavilions now have a place at the park to reflect on the sacrifices of military members and their families.

A veterans' memorial, located near the Coon Lake beach facility, has been constructed, and a dedication ceremony for the memorial was held July 7. The memorial is composed of seven flags — the American flag, each of the U.S. Armed Forces flags, the MIA-POW flag, and a memorial stone with a plaque.

The memorial is a partnership between Anoka County, the Coon Lake Improvement Association and the Coon Lake Community and Senior Center. The association and the

center each contributed \$5,000 toward construction of the memorial, and the rest of the cost was footed by charitable gambling organizations in the area. Anoka County donated the land for the project, and the county's Parks Department helped it come to fruition.

Ed Fiore, a U.S. Navy Korean War veteran, was on a committee with four other area veterans who oversaw the project: Don Fineran, U.S. Army, Vietnam War; Christopher (Rooster) Larson, U.S. Navy, Gulf War; Joe Morgan, U.S. Marines, Vietnam War; and Dale Voltin, U.S. Air Force, Vietnam War.

Fiore said working with the county on this project has been "outstanding," and he noted when he approached District 2 Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad with the plan for the memorial, she thought it was a great idea.

"This veterans' memorial at Coon Lake County Park serves as a tribute to current, former and planning-to-serve military members and their families," Braastad said. "Most importantly, it pays homage to military members who gave their lives in service to our country."

PURCHASE A PAVER

- **TWO SIZES (small: \$95, large: \$150).**
- **CAN BE INSCRIBED IN TRIBUTE.**
- **CALL ANOKA COUNTY PARKS TO BUY: 763-324-3300.**

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 www.anokacounty.us/cd or call 763-324-4650.

Board approves designation of Purple Heart County



The Anoka County Board of Commissioners stand with Chapter 987 members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart before the board's May 22 meeting.

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners on May 22 unanimously passed a resolution designating Anoka County as a Purple Heart County.

Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart were

present at the county board meeting for the adoption of the resolution, which brings special recognition to all military service personnel from the county who have been killed or wounded in combat.



Chuck Jones, Military Order of the Purple Heart department adjutant, presented the Anoka County Board of Commissioners with two road signs that will be placed along thoroughfares in the county. These signs show Anoka County's continued dedication to supporting its veterans.

"The board is honored to be able to do this," said District 1 Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look. "Anoka County is committed to its veterans; they deserve to be recognized for the sacrifices made in service to our country."

Anoka County has the fourth highest veteran population in Minnesota, with more than 22,500 veterans calling the county home, including many recipients of the Purple Heart.

The history of the Purple Heart goes back to 1782, when George Washington, then commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, established the award as a Badge of Military Merit. In 1932, the award was renamed the Purple Heart.

Parks Developing Outdoor Gathering Areas

The Anoka County Parks Department is excited to be developing two outdoor gathering areas at the Bunker Hills Activities Center through the Parks and Trails Legacy program. The first gathering area will be a 120-person capacity, ADA accessible deck added on the south side of the building. The additional space will provide for meetings, family gatherings, and weddings to take advantage of the beautiful natural settings of Bunker Hills Regional Park. The second area converts the existing, non-functional greenhouse area to an exterior patio accessible from the inside as well as the outside. Construction will begin in late summer with completion in the fall of 2018. "These gathering spots will be used by many Anoka County residents and visitors from other areas," said District 4 Anoka County Commissioner Jim Kordiak. "They are both great additions to the activities center."



Become a Foster Care Provider



Are you responsible, caring, compassionate and have a desire to help children? If so, consider becoming a foster parent in Anoka County. There are upcoming trainings for residents to learn about this opportunity.

763-324-1230.

Orientations will be held at the Anoka County Government Center, 2100 Third Ave., Anoka - Room 710 (7th floor county boardroom)

Schedule of Upcoming Sessions

6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13.

10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Nov. 8.

Visit www.anokacounty.us/3226/Orientation to find an online registration form.

To register by phone or for questions about orientation, call Volume 2-2018









It is Time to Get Back to the Basics of Good Recycling

The fact is that some recycling actions make a bigger impact than others. Please remember these three basic rules the next time you recycle:

1. **Recycle all empty plastic bottles, cans, paper cartons, clean paper and cardboard boxes.** See the list below for acceptable items.
2. **Keep all food, liquid, plastic film and greasy or hazardous items out of your recycling.**
3. **Place recyclables directly in your cart. Do not bag them. Return plastic bags to a local grocer or retailer. Go to AnokaCounty.us/recycle for options.**

You'd be amazed by how big of an impact just following these simple rules can have! There are increasing amounts of non-recyclables being sent to recycling sorting facilities, and every single one of them must be removed by hand or mechanically sorted, or they end up contaminating valuable recyclables. Non-recyclable items placed in recycling containers end up in the garbage, which increases the cost of the recycling process. The right thing to do is put the correct recyclables in the containers and don't hope or wish that the haulers can magically recycle them. When in doubt, throw it out or contact Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions at AnokaCounty.us/recycle or 763-324-3400.

WE RECYCLE

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Paper (clean, staples OK): mail, office and school papers, magazines and catalogs, newspapers and inserts, phone books. |  |
|  | Boxes (flatten): cardboard, cereal, cracker and pasta boxes, shoe, gift and electronic boxes, toothpaste and other toiletry boxes, tissue boxes. |  |
|  | Plastic bottles and jugs (empty, rinse, caps on): water, soda and juice bottles, milk and juice jugs, ketchup and salad dressing bottles, dish soap bottles and detergent jugs, shampoo, soap and lotion bottles. |  |
|  | Plastic cups and containers (empty, rinse, lids on): yogurt, pudding and fruit cups, clear disposable cups (no straws), margarine, cottage cheese and similar containers, clear produce, deli and take out containers. |  |
| | Cartons (empty, rinse): milk cartons, juice cartons, juice boxes, soup, broth and wine cartons. | |
| | Metal: (empty, labels OK): food cans, beverage cans. | |
| | Glass (empty, labels OK): food and beverage bottles and jars. | |

Leave these out, since they ...

Damage equipment: plastic bags, ropes, hoses, chains, scrap metal, bulky items.

Harm workers: medical sharps, diapers, batteries, hazardous products.

Are not recyclable: foil pouches, bags, wrappers, dishes, vases, mirrors, plastic straws and utensils, refrigerator and freezer boxes, polystyrene.



Anoka County Launches New Recycling App

Aluminum cans and newspapers are easy to recycle. But what should you do with those plastic bags or pizza boxes?

Now, finding how to recycle, compost or dispose of hundreds of items is right in the palm of your hand! Download our free recycling app on your device today. Simply search "Anoka County Recycles" in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Anoka County Using E-Poll Books



Beginning with the Primary Election Aug. 14, Anoka County voters will check in at their voting precincts using a secure electronic poll book system which offers a more accurate and efficient check-in and registration process on Election Day. Anoka County is just one of many more counties moving forward with implementation of the e-poll book system in 2018.

The e-poll books replace the paper check-in process and instead use iPads with the voter rosters electronically loaded onto them. Minnesota laws and rules that guide the process on Election Day remain the same, but the tools used to perform those tasks will now be automated.

The voter registration information in the e-poll books is never connected to the ballot counting machines or results reporting process. The two systems function independently of each other and never share information. On average, each polling place will have four e-poll books, but that will vary dependent on the size of the precinct. "These accurate, simple-to-use e-poll books will streamline the process on Election Day, which will allow voters to spend less time in line," said District 3 Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West.

Across the country, jurisdictions in at least 34 states currently use e-poll books. Anoka County's specific e-poll book product, the KNOWiNK Poll Pad, has been used in 23 states, and over 8 million voters were processed using the system in 2016.

Parents Satisfied with Anoka County Child Care



Anoka County is fortunate to have a committed force of licensed family child care providers available to serve the needs of our communities. This dedicated group often goes unrecognized for the valuable services they provide to families. Anoka County Child Care Licensing sends out requests for parent-user feedback as child care providers near their license renewal. To illustrate the quality of Anoka County child care providers, data was gathered from parent evaluations the county received over the past year.

Of the 343 responses received, 90 percent indicated significant satisfaction with their providers. Resounding themes expressed included "amazing; very caring and loving; patient; attentive; respectful; understanding; loves each child as her own; knows each child's needs; effective communicator; organized; great structure/routine; and a safe environment."

Though Anoka County currently has approximately 500 in-home licensed child care providers, the county continues to hear about the need for affordable infant care. For those who have a big heart for children, are concerned about children's development, health and safety and prefer to work from home, consider pursuing a challenging career in early child care. Contact Child Care Licensing at 763-324-1235, or visit www.anokacounty.us/childcarelicensing

Get Recommended Shots On Time

Minnesota law requires all students enrolled in grades K-12, and all children enrolling in early childhood and early childhood special education programs, to show they have received recommended immunizations or have an exemption. For most children pre-K and above who have received all their infant shots, this means receiving shots before kindergarten and seventh grade.

To keep children healthy, it is important parents get their children immunized early in life. Minnesota children are still getting diseases such as measles, whooping cough (pertussis), and mumps. As a parent, you can protect your children by making sure they get all their shots on time.

Visit your child's primary medical provider for immunizations. Anoka County also offers two public immunization clinics every month for uninsured and under-insured children and adults. If you don't have a provider, are concerned about the cost of shots, or would like more information about vaccines and/or our clinics, visit <https://www.anokacounty.us/2285/immunizations> or call 763-324-4240 — shots are available by appointment for eligible children and adults.

Remaining 2018 Clinics

Blaine Human Service Center (1201-89th Ave. NE, room 315, Blaine)

- 2 to 7 p.m. Aug. 23, Sept. 27 and Oct. 25.
- 3 to 6 p.m. Nov. 29.

Anoka County Government Center (2100 Third Ave., Suite 600, Anoka)

- 1 to 4 p.m. Aug. 7, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 6, Dec. 11.

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

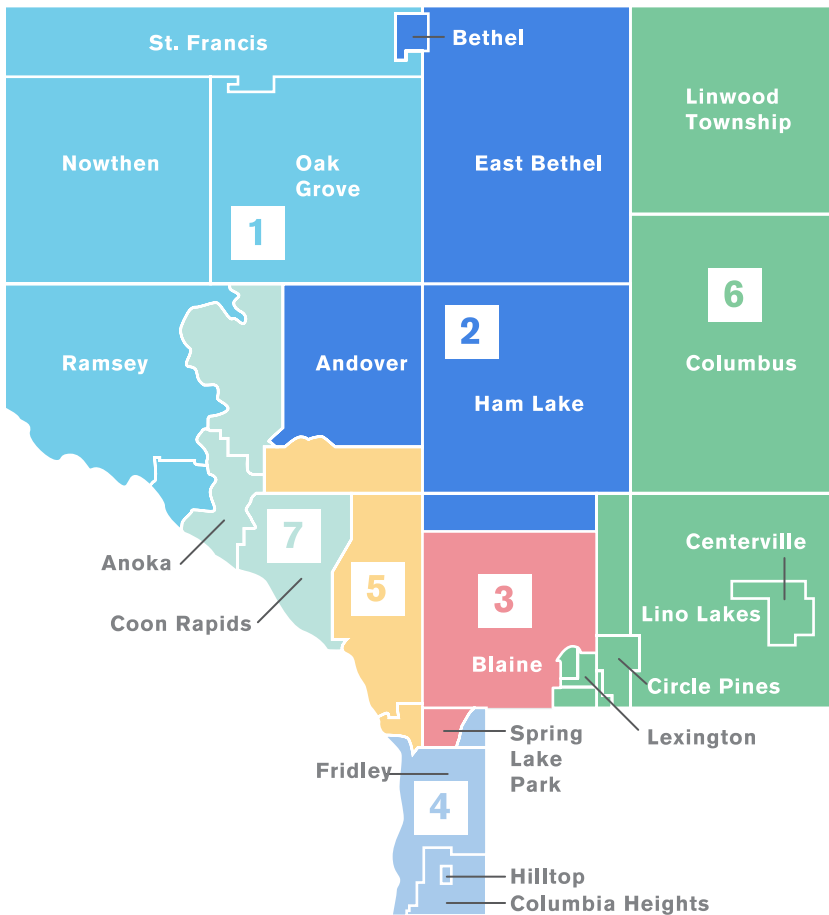
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ANOKA COUNTY LEADERSHIP

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

