


ANOKA COUNTY NEWS

Volume 1-2019



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Culture of Innovation

Innovation Abounds *in Anoka County*

Employees and county commissioners at Anoka County are constantly working to streamline processes, save taxpayer dollars, and serve the community in better and more innovative ways.

These efforts do not go unnoticed. Anoka County is often recognized for its creativity and successes at the annual Local Government Innovation Awards, held at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. In December of 2018, the county received two awards: one for the Anoka County Library's VolunTeen program and another for the Connected Kids Initiative.

The VolunTeen program focused on revamping the library's longstanding teen volunteer program, from the ground up, using best practices from the youth development and after school fields to infuse quality into its program. This revamp resulted in a youth-focused volunteer program. In 2015, prior to the program redesign, just 4 of 16 teens worked consistent hours in all three summer months at the pilot library. After changes were implemented, 19 of 21 teens logged consistent hours all summer long, only one of whom had volunteered previously, showing that the VolunTeen program changes both attracted and better

retained teen volunteers. The VolunTeen program was also recognized for its excellence with a 2018 Association of Minnesota Counties Award.

The Connected Kids Initiative was developed to help Anoka County mitigate the dwindling amount of licensed foster care homes available to serve families. It created innovative and collaborative pathways to reach the target audience and engage the community, increasing awareness of the needs, interest in becoming a foster family, and supporting foster care families within their community.

"Anoka County is able to utilize collective partnerships and inventive ideas by county staff to design successful programs and generate creative solutions to problems," said Rhonda Sivarajah, chair, Anoka County Board. "Receiving Local Government Innovation Awards for our efforts affirms that we're serving our citizens in the right way."

Continue reading to learn more about how Anoka County uses innovative approaches to operate local government in an effective, thoughtful way.

Past LGIA Awards Anoka County



A History of Excellence

Anoka County has been recognized numerous times for its innovations at the LGIA Awards. Only five counties in the state receive awards each year.

2017: Child Care Licensing Online Orientation

- The county developed a streamlined system that allows potential applicants to pursue a license at their own pace from the convenience of their own home. This reduced the number of staff needed to process applicants and cut down paper use.

2016: S.M.A.R.T Strategic Management Analytics & Reporting Tool

- Anoka County created a series of MS-Access-based data dashboards to put real-time information at the fingertips of Anoka County Community Social Services & Behavioral Health managers. That data was used to monitor progress toward goals, support sound decision making, and report on performance.

2015: How Are Property Taxes Like Pie?

- This video made a complicated topic easy to understand. It used a simple pie concept to demonstrate how someone's "slice" of the overall property tax levy can change in size based on the number of slices being extracted from the pie, along with the value attributed to each slice.

2013: Enhanced Treatment Program

ETP is a highly successful drug and alcohol treatment program targeting women at risk of losing custody of their children. It offers supportive services that improve a client's likelihood of success during and after treatment.

2010-2011: Anoka County Emergency Management Paid On Call Program

- Essentially, by adopting a similar staffing system used by the majority of fire departments, Anoka County Emergency Management was able to achieve needed staff enhancements for the department. When the "call" goes out, these paid on-call emergency management staff come to provide quick and effective support to their department. Implementing this type of system was a first for Minnesota and potentially the country.

Anoka County Human Services Upfront Services to Keep Families Together

Anoka County shifted from a court-centered, no-risk model in addressing child protection issues to a safety model, with impressive results. The county witnessed a turnaround in recidivism and skyrocketing out-of-home placement costs in just two years. Costs dropped \$1,117,000 over two years. The number of children in placement fell 27 percent.

New Website Developed to Help Bolster Economic Development

Anoka County now has a cutting-edge resource that serves as a means to attract businesses to the county and showcase the assets that make the area a great place to live, work, and do business.

Launched in February, the county's economic development website, anokacountysuccess.org, is the go-to place to learn about commercial



properties for sale or lease in Anoka County, regional economic development news, quality of life information, and more.

One of the key features of the site is an interactive map that highlights properties for sale or lease; it offers a variety of important information, including the exact location of the properties, the type, price and size, and additional information that helps prospective buyers narrow down which of Anoka County's commercial properties are the best fit for their businesses. There are about 500 commercial properties for sale or lease in the county, so there's plenty to choose from.

The website also includes a "featured sites" section, which highlights commercial properties that have an array of attributes. Featured sites are usually 10-plus acres and can include buildings that are 100,000-plus square feet.

"This website will serve as an important tool to boost economic development in our county," said Anoka County District 1 Commissioner Matt Look. "Those looking for commercial properties in the area will be able to easily browse through sites to find the perfect property for them."

Economic development in Anoka County is on the rise, due to its many attractive qualities: low crime rates, ample access to beautiful parks, low taxes and a cost of living that is about 35 percent lower than the metropolitan area. The new economic development website offers expanded information on all those qualities — and more data that explains the areas in which Anoka County excels — so visit the site to learn what our county has to offer.



Anoka County
MINNESOTA

Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible

Helping Victims

Anoka County launches new tool to combat domestic violence

Building on its innovative and effective approach to combatting domestic violence, Anoka County has created and launched a new tool for victims.

Domestic Abuse Connect is an online resource providing step-by-step details on bringing a domestic violence case to court. Site visitors can also access resources and service providers.

The digital resource center, which includes videos and written materials, is the collaborative effort of Anoka County criminal justice and advocacy agencies that have been working together since 2010 on the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP).

The Lethality Assessment Program was created because of a need to address domestic violence homicides, amid an increase in deadly assaults in Anoka County. The Anoka County Attorney's Office obtained a federal grant to fund the effort, which resulted in the LAP screening tool and Intensive Domestic Assault Pre-Trial Program (IDAPP).

The lethality program is designed to identify cases where there is a high risk for lethality and to immediately connect a victim with supportive services. The abuser is placed under pre-trial supervision when appropriate, and the case is fast-tracked through the courts.

The Domestic Abuse Connect website is aimed at further closing the gap of information and services for victims, offering one more place to turn for help. Video vignettes

feature all the agencies involved in a domestic abuse case, starting with the 911 call to the judge and disposition.

"Helping victims and their families understand the court process goes a long way in reducing their fear of the process," Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo said. "It makes it easier for them to get the help they need."

The newly launched website can be viewed at anokadomesticabuseconnect.com.

PARTNER AGENCIES:

- Alexandra House
- All law enforcement agencies in Anoka County
- Anoka County Communications Department
- Anoka County Attorney's Office
- Anoka County Central Communications
- Anoka County Community Corrections
- Anoka County District Court
- Anoka County municipal prosecutors
- Anoka County Victim/Witness Services
- Coon Rapids and Fridley Victim Witness Program

Hanson Boulevard Closed in Coon Rapids During Construction

Year two of the Hanson Boulevard Railroad Grade Separation Project in Coon Rapids is now underway. Three bridges will be constructed adjacent to the railroad crossing to allow Hanson Boulevard to go over the tracks. This will improve the operations of Hanson Boulevard as well as emergency services response time to Coon Rapids and the surrounding area. To facilitate the construction of the three bridges, Hanson Boulevard will be closed to traffic in both directions beginning in early March. To learn more about the project schedule and details, visit www.anokacounty.us/2565 — you can also visit www.anokacounty.us/list.aspx to sign up for weekly construction updates via email.

Anoka County Wins AMC Award for Chemical Health and Heroin Initiative



Anoka County was recognized with an award from the Association of Minnesota Counties for its Chemical Health and Heroin Initiative during AMC's annual conference Dec. 2 to 4, 2018. Awards were given to counties that displayed valuable innovations and improvements in county government.

In 2016, six separate heroin overdoses occurred in Anoka County within a 12-hour period. Two of the six ended in death. Following these tragedies, Anoka County took action in an effort to mitigate future overdoses and deaths.

Three forums were organized to educate on the dangers of heroin, other opiates and prescription painkillers. Feedback collected at these forums led to the creation of the Chemical Health and Heroin Initiative. Three workgroups were established. These workgroups engaged with community partners to provide education, support and prevention around the current drug crisis.

"We are honored to be recognized with an AMC award for our Chemical Health and Heroin Initiative," said Rhonda Sivarajah, chair, Anoka County Board. "This initiative focuses on saving lives. If we have an engaged community that's informed about the dangers of opiates, we can hopefully prevent drug abuse and drug-related fatalities."

Library Director Presented with Distinguished Career Award



Anoka County Library Director Maggie Snow was presented with the William G. Asp Distinguished Career Award at the Minnesota Library Association's annual conference, held Oct. 11-12, 2018, in St. Cloud. The award is given to individuals in recognition of significant and major contributions by members to the work of the MLA. In addition to Snow's innovative work in Anoka County, she's also been part of the MLA for years, and she served as MLA president in 2015.

Snow has worked in libraries for over 20 years, and the knowledge and expertise she's developed during that time is impressive. Here are just some of her accomplishments during her tenure as Anoka County library director:

- She partnered with the Anoka County Parks Department to publish a joint event guide, which increased the library's reach significantly through the dispersal of 10,000 additional guides.
- She created an art committee, composed of community members, for the Centennial Library, which will curate art collections to be featured on displays within the stacks.
- She tapped into the power of social media by creating a Social Media Team. This team has increased the library's social media presence by 25 percent. By utilizing social media effectively, the library is able to share more information about programming and resources with patrons.
- She completed a workload analysis of library staff; this study yielded valuable data that will guide future staffing strategies.

"Maggie Snow is an asset to this county, and we know she and her staff put in hard work every day to ensure Anoka County Library patrons have the best experience possible at our libraries," said Anoka County District 5 Commissioner Mike Gamache.



Well Water Wise Week is May 6-10

For information on private well testing, go to the Anoka County Environmental Services Well Water Testing webpage, www.anokacounty.us/2009/Well-Water-Testing

County residents may pick up a well water test kit at Environmental Services, Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3rd Ave., Ste. 600, or participating city and township offices.

Featured Events

Available at the Library

THE LIBRARY OUTSIDE OF THE LIBRARY

Coon Creek Watershed

Saturday, April 13
1 to 3 p.m.
Northtown Library

All ages can learn more about the Coon Creek Watershed and then help improve the environment by participating in a volunteer event.

Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 20
12:30 to 3 p.m.
Wargo Nature Center

Celebrate Earth Day with Anoka County Library and Wargo Nature Center. A storywalk, an Earth art project, and a community fair showcasing Earth-friendly products and services are just some of the fun in store. The Roe Family Singers will also perform at 1 p.m.

This program is made possible in part with funding from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Storywalk @ Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve



Friday, April 19
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Nature lovers of all ages join librarians and naturalists in the Lindeman Center for a spring-themed storywalk and activities. Enjoy the outdoors during the storywalk "Birds" by Kevin Henkes, weather permitting. Check the library event calendar for more storywalks system-wide all summer long.

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve is at 2660 Fawn Lake Dr. NE, East Bethel.



Photo courtesy of Anoka County Parks.

Explore Anoka County Parks with a Backpack Kit

Head outdoors and check out the Anoka County Parks system with a backpack kit, now available for checkout at Anoka County Libraries. Each backpack contains a set of binoculars, a magnifying viewer, leaf rubbing plates and a field guide to help explorers identify plants and wildlife. Parking passes are also included with a map for each kit, allowing explorers to visit local parks for free thanks to the Anoka County Parks Department.

Explore Summer Learning Fun

Tuesdays, June 11 to July 30
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Bunker Hills Activity Center in Andover

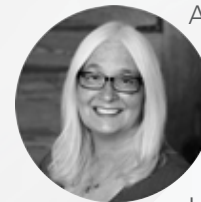
Kids and families enjoy a variety of programs with performers that include The Jolly Pops, Lalo's Lunchbox, Brodini Comedy Magic, and more.

Family fun continues with more Summer Reading programs offered at all Anoka County Library locations.

Check the online events calendar for more programs:
www.anokacountylibrary.org

Club Book | Linda LeGarde Grover

Monday, April 8
7 to 8 p.m.
Northtown Library



Award-winning novelist and poet Linda LeGarde Grover is a poignant chronicler of the modern Native American experience. Her new Anishinaabe novel, "In the Night of Memory," is a follow-up to her popular and poignant "The Road Back to Sweetgrass."

Her new title hits shelves April 2. A member of the Bois Forte Band of the Chippewa Tribe – and long-time professor of American Indian studies at UMN Duluth – Grover first made waves in the literary world with her 2010 short story collection "The Dance Boots," which garnered her the prestigious Flannery O'Connor Award. Seating is limited. Doors will open 45 minutes before the event starts.

This program is part of the Club Book series sponsored by the Metropolitan Library Service Agency and is funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

NEW COLLECTIONS

American Indian Collection

Available for holds and checkouts at Northtown Library through a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Education. This project connects Minnesota educators with appropriate and authentic resources by and about American Indians. Materials are selected to address Minnesota Academic Standards relating to the contributions of Minnesota's American Indian tribes and communities.

Board Games Collection



Trending table-top games geared for teens and adults available for holds and checkout. New titles are being added to this growing collection all the time.



MONTHLY BOOK CLUBS

Crooked Lake Library Book Club Mondays at 6 p.m.

Centennial Library Book Club Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

During the library renovation the Centennial Library book club will meet at Circle Pines City Hall until the library reopens.

Mobile Menders

Saturday, April 27
10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Mississippi Library

On-site free mending clinics — get help with sewing projects on a first-come, first-served basis, limit of three clean items per mending session. Walk-ins are welcome!

NEW FEATURED DATABASES & SERVICES

Mobile Hot Spots

Connect to the internet from anywhere using a mobile hot spot. Now available for holds and checkout at Anoka County Libraries. Checkout period is for 1 week.



Cloud Library

eBooks and eAudiobooks

Featuring My Book Bag — a great way to keep track your books for the whole family with a checklist. The CloudLibrary app also offers:

- Virtual library cards
- Interactive receipts

Download the app at: <http://ow.ly/VzTV30mYlpJ>

Follow the prompts and simply login with your library card number and PIN.

* There are no overdue fines for eBooks and eAudiobooks.



Anoka County Seeking Input on Housing, Community Development Needs

You are invited to participate in an online survey to provide input on housing and community development priorities.

Anoka County is preparing its 5-year Consolidated Plan for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The consolidated planning process provides an opportunity for residents to offer input on housing, economic and community development needs and priorities for potential investments of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds. The purpose of these programs are to potentially fund activities that provide decent housing, create suitable living environments and expand economic opportunities—principally for low- and moderate-income persons and neighborhoods.

As part of this process, Anoka County is seeking your feedback to identify local housing and community development needs. Your participation will assist Anoka County to identify high priority needs. This user-friendly survey takes just a few minutes to complete. Please rate each program or activity based on what you feel is the level of need for your community.

To complete the survey online, visit www.AnokaCounty.us/cd or call 763-324-4650 to request a printed copy of the survey.

Self Service Technology Helps Save Time



One of the ways the county is providing more time-saving services for its constituents is through the use of technology. This includes more self-service and self “check in” functionality for services provided by the county.

In a fast-paced world, finding ways to save time and still obtain quality services is key to providing high-quality customer service. To assist with the processing of information, the public can now use kiosks to sign up for services at the county’s license centers, Veteran Services office, and for Economic Assistance programs at the Government Center and Blaine offices.

We are using technology to improve efficiencies in many other areas. County employees are providing more information and services through electronic workflows, interactive systems that can connect field workers to information in their offices, and mobile technology to allow for efficiencies when working with the public throughout the county.

SELF SERVICE helps citizens:

- Find the right assistance resources.
- Discover all available services.
- Prepare necessary documentation.
- Get routed to the right service provider.
- Obtain information in multiple languages.

Sheriff’s Office Keeps up with Changing Tech, Public Expectations

The Anoka County Sheriff’s Office has gone through many changes in the last 5 years. Changing technologies and public expectations have driven the needed changes in law enforcement.

The Sheriff’s Office has moved to a paperless records management process. This process has also decreased the repetitive data entry that had been required in the past with paper and pen reports. Central Communications (911), enters address data from calls for service, and deputies are not required to repeat that entry. Deputies then run licenses and enter people’s information into the computer and do not need to enter the data again into a report. Simply, they do not need to enter data more than once throughout the entire process, saving significant time and resources.

Two years ago, the Sheriff’s Office developed the first FAA-authorized drone or UAS (unmanned aircraft system) program in the state. This technology allows for Sheriff’s Office personnel to quickly locate victims and suspects without utilizing large search teams and resources. We are saving lives and locating dangerous individuals faster, with less resources,

than ever before.

Smart phone technology has allowed the Sheriff’s Office to discontinue purchasing cameras, digital voice recorders, video recorders and data-transferring devices such as USBs or cords. Deputies are now able to complete digital tasks with one platform. They utilize an iCloud app that sends digital evidence and dictated recordings to our records management system from a smart phone. This technology not only saves time but saves significant cost in repairs and replacement of several digital technology devices. The ease of such evidence processing also creates more opportunity for collecting valuable evidence. The easier the collection process, the more evidence is gathered.

The Sheriff’s Office has worked very hard to embrace a culture of innovation while ensuring fiscal responsibility and accountability to the residents of Anoka County. The technologies the Sheriff’s Office has purchased and implemented provide significant and demonstrable benefit to the County.

Anoka County Welcomes New Commissioner



For the first time in 64 years, the District 4 seat on the Anoka County Board of Commissioners will be filled by someone with a last name other than Kordiak.

Mandy Meisner was sworn into the post at the County Board’s Jan. 8 organizational meeting. She replaces Jim Kordiak, who spent 32 years as the District 4 representative on the board. Prior to Jim’s tenure his father, Al Kordiak, held the seat for 32 years.

“I’m excited to represent the most diverse district in Anoka County,” Commissioner Meisner said. “I look forward to meeting more residents, hearing their concerns, and helping them in any way I can.”

Meisner has been investing in her community for years. She serves on the Mercy Hospital Foundation Board; serves on the leadership development committee for Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley; is a trained volunteer for the women’s shelter at Alexandra House, a domestic violence shelter and resource center in Blaine; volunteered for the Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Well-being in Fridley; and she’s participated in programs and fundraising events for the Banfill Locke Center for the Arts in Fridley.



OPEN HOUSE



An open house will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 17 at the Human Service Center, 1201 89th Ave. NE, Blaine, to celebrate the branding change of Minnesota WorkForce Centers to CareerForce. Come to the open house to learn about all of the career-enhancing resources offered. This event is open to the public, and a hiring event will be held 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



KEEPING AN EYE ON THE GUEST EXPERIENCE

It is always fun to highlight innovative facilities or have a new community-wide event. Outside of these grand events, it is the Parks Department philosophy to continue to implement consistent, innovative opportunities for improving the guest experience within the park system wherever possible.

Online purchasing is one convenience that has enhanced staff and guests' experiences. Early this year, annual vehicle permits were added to the online purchasing system. Now guests can order an annual permit, reserve a campsite, register for a program or purchase Bunker Beach memberships 24 hours a day.

Other innovations focus on creating unique

partnerships to enhance program offerings. Wargo Nature Center has worked with Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, Connexus Energy, University of Minnesota and cities within Anoka County to offer unique camps and programs for all ages and abilities. Leveraging partnerships utilizes a variety of expertise throughout the county resulting in reduced cost.

Some innovations are less visible but equally impactful. The Park Maintenance staff have taken on fabricating equipment and park amenities. From building sign frames, grills for pavilions or even grooming equipment for ski trails, the park keepers' innovative ideas have resulted in improved quality and reduced costs for the county.

BE PART OF OUR TEAM! FOR JOB INFORMATION OR TO APPLY VISIT ANOKACOUNTY.US/PARKJOBS
Bunker Beach Water Park • Chomonix Golf Course • Park Services • Wargo Nature Center
Park Maintenance • Natural Resources

IT'S YOUR

SUMMER

2019 SUMMER CAMPS

PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8
14 DIFFERENT CAMP EXPERIENCES

REGISTER ONLINE
ANOKACOUNTY.US/SUMMERCAMPS
763-324-3350

REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE

Register by May 6, 2019 and save \$5 per participant on preschool and grandparent camps and \$10 on school-aged camps.

Register online at anokacounty.us/summercamps
or call 763-324-3350

*Discount does not apply to Adventures with Tom and Huck Camp.



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

April 20 • 12:30 - 3p.m. • Free
Wargo Nature Center

HELP WITH EARTH DAY CLEANUP IN THE MORNING
10 a.m - noon at Wargo Nature Center
For details and to sign up call 763-324-3350



BUNKER BEACH WATER PARK

OPEN EARLY JUNE THROUGH LABOR DAY

- MINNESOTA'S LARGEST WAVE POOL
- 900-FOOT LAZY RIVER
- SIX TOWERING WATER SLIDES
- ZERO-DEPTH ENTRY POOL WITH PLAY STRUCTURES
- LEISURE POOL WITH CLIMBING WALLS
- PRIVATE CABANAS FOR RENT

PLAN YOUR VISIT

BUNKERBEACH.COM • 763-324-3310



Bunker Hills Regional Park 701 County Parkway A Coon Rapids



- 18-HOLE, PAR 72 COURSE
- TOURNAMENTS
- LEAGUES
- LESSONS
- DRIVING RANGE
- BANQUET ROOM

CHOMONIX.COM 763-324-3434

700 AQUA LANE, LINO LAKES



Enhancing Access to Justice for All

Over 30 years ago, the Anoka County Law Library (ACLL) was founded with the primary mission of ensuring lawyers and judges had access to current legal materials for their work. As the legal system evolved to provide better access for non-lawyers, the Law Library's mission has also evolved — and broadened in scope — to provide “access to justice for all.”

The ACLL, located in the east wing of the Anoka County Courthouse, still contains up-to-date law books and several computers for online legal research for both attorneys and non-attorneys. John Murphy, the Law Library director, and his knowledgeable staff provide in-person legal reference assistance to all walk-in patrons 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every weekday. This includes help with locating legal resources, both online and in print. The Law Library partners with the State Court's Self-Help Center to ensure self-represented litigants have access to the proper legal forms for their case type.

Murphy understands not everyone can take time to travel to Anoka during normal business hours. Therefore, patrons may also obtain help by calling 763-324-5560 or by using the online “Ask a Law Librarian” feature through their website. In addition, Murphy provides in-person legal

reference assistance to the public at different branches of the Anoka County Public Library system 5 to 7 p.m. most Wednesdays.

The ACLL also hosts free legal clinics offering in-person legal advice. The family law clinics, occurring two Thursdays each month, are available by appointment only. This clinic provides a consultation with an attorney concerning family law issues such as divorce, child custody, or child support. Participating attorney Lilo Schluender from Central Minnesota Legal Services describes the clinic as “an opportunity to confer with an attorney in a substantive way.” She says library staff are “respectful and responsive to all those who participate – making the clinic a place of true caring.” The University of Minnesota Law School staffs a family law clinic on select Friday afternoons, which are available on a walk-in basis. One Monday each month, the ACLL hosts a criminal expungement clinic. After hearing a presentation from an attorney on the law concerning expungement (sealing) of criminal records, there is an opportunity to speak with an attorney privately.

Visit <https://www.anokacounty.us/346/Law-Library> for a full schedule of clinics and public library office hours.

Osborne Road (CSAH 8) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

4:30-6:30 P.M. APRIL 4
Emmanuel Christian Center
7777 University Ave. NE
Spring Lake Park, MN



An open house will be held to collect public input on planned improvements to the 1-mile segment of Osborne Road, from University Avenue to Highway 65. The improvements, scheduled for 2020, include converting the roadway to a 3-lane section (one travel lane in each direction, plus a continuous center turn lane), construction of a shoulder for improved safety, reconstruction of the existing multi-use trail, and improved pedestrian accommodations.

Questions? Contact Jack Forslund, Anoka County Transportation Planner: Jack.Forslund@co.anoka.mn.us, 763-324-3179.

April 27 Saturday

The 20th Annual Anoka County Senior Expo

A FREE event for seniors and their families!

- Free pancake breakfast
- Entertainment
- Mini massages
- Blood pressure checks
- Information booths
- Ample parking, handicapped accessible

9 a.m. to noon at Lord of Life Church
14501 Nowthen Blvd., Ramsey, MN

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

New Businesses, Employees Making Anoka County Home

Anoka County has seen a rise in business development recently. With a renewed focus on economic development and an array of attributes that make the area attractive to business owners — such as low property taxes, ample land for development and support programs — Anoka County is making positive strides to broaden the amount and types of business here and attract new residents.

Blaine

Crown Iron Works is constructing a 70,000-square-foot office and research development facility in the city. This new location will be the business's global headquarters. The new facility is an approximate \$14 million investment in Blaine. More than 100 jobs will come to the city, with 70 percent of them paying over \$110,000 a year. Construction on the facility is anticipated to be finished in the summer.

Centerville

Ruffridge-Johnson, a road construction and aggregate equipment company, opened a 19,000-square-foot facility in Centerville in December 2018. The company selected the area because of its proximity to 35E, the ease of access to and from the business, and the small-town feel of the community.

Fridley

After 4 years of industrial development at Fridley's Northern Stack Business Park and the River Road Park of Commerce, 2000-plus jobs have been created in the city according to Community Development Director Scott Hickok. One of the largest employers in the area, BAE Systems, will be adding an additional 300 jobs to their existing 400 jobs in the Northern Stacks Business Park.

Lino Lakes

Lennar Homes recently received final approval to begin the 193-lot first

phase of their Watermark Project. This is an 864-unit project located along the I-35 corridor with a variety of housing opportunities. Model home construction will be underway in late winter.

“We're pleased to see all the development in the county,” said Anoka County District 7 Commissioner Scott Schulte. “It's apparent more businesses are finding out what our county has to offer.”



Career Fair Planned April 10



Anoka County CAREER FAIR

Wednesday, April 10, 2019
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Anoka Technical College



Over 200 employers will be offering information on exciting career opportunities at the Anoka County Career Fair 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 10 at Anoka Technical College, 1355 West Highway 10, Anoka.

When employers register for the event, they can indicate if they are interested in hiring military veterans and if they have jobs youth can apply for. Youth will certainly be represented at this career fair. In the past, students from the Anoka-Hennepin, Elk River, Spring Lake Park, Fridley, Centennial and Columbia Heights school districts have attended.

Anoka County CareerForce staff will offer events prior to the Career Fair to prepare career seekers. Special attention will be given in classes on job searching, and networking groups will focus on how to best navigate a career fair.

Anoka Technical College also has a large presence during the fair. The admissions staff host a table, and faculty from the college are dispersed throughout the event to answer questions about school programs and available trainings that would better prepare job seekers for the jobs being offered.

“This career fair is a great place to learn about the multitude of employers in our area and hopefully make a connection that leads to employment,” said Anoka County District 2 Commissioner Julie Braastad.

Overflow parking for this event will be at Eagle Brook Church, 1100 Highway 10, Anoka. Morning coffee and muffins will be available 8 to 11 a.m., lunch is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (two meal tickets will be provided to exhibitors), and beverages (diet and regular soda, bottled water) will also be offered.

Visit www.Anokatech.edu/careerfair or email careerfair@anokatech.edu for more information on the career fair.

Recycling

New Sharps Disposal Program at Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility

The Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program is expanding and innovating to now offer sharps disposal at the HHW facility. Sharps include syringes, lancets, used epi-pens, hypodermic needles, pen needles, and IV needles.

Sharps are accepted from households at the Anoka County HHW Facility if these instructions are followed:

- Sharps must be placed in a rigid, puncture-resistant plastic container.
- Label the container: "Do Not Recycle: Household Sharps."
- Seal the container to prevent spills.
- Facility staff will not handle needles or sharps. You will be responsible for placing your container in the drop-off bin.

- No glass containers, plastic bags, cardboard boxes or loose sharps will be accepted.
- No unused sharps still containing medication (such as unused epi-pens) will be accepted.

The facility is located at 3230 101st Ave. NE, Blaine, MN 55449.

Anoka County Household Facility Hours

November to March

Wednesday: 2 to 8 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

April to October

Wednesday: 2 to 8 p.m.

Monday, Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Closed Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Christmas Eve Day, Christmas and New Year's Day.*

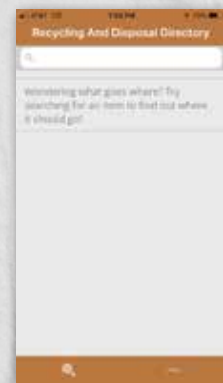
Looking for Recycling Champions

Do you know an individual, group or organization that goes to exceptional lengths to create opportunities for others to reduce, reuse, recycle or compost more? Nominate a friend, neighbor or coworker today to be recognized as a recycling champion at the Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions Annual Recognition Ceremony.

Recycling Champion nominations are now being accepted. For a nomination form and details go to: AnokaCounty.us/recycle. Deadline for applications is April 26, 2019.

Recycle Right!

New and innovative recycling app – how to donate, recycle or dispose over 300 common household items. Go to AnokaCounty.us/RecyclingDirectory or find the app on iTunes or Google Play.



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 2018 total household income.
- Homeowners: Copy of your 2019 real estate tax statements.

- Renters: 2018 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.

"This is a great opportunity for some residents to receive help with their property tax refund forms, if they need it," said Anoka County District 3 Commissioner Robyn West. "We have multiple dates available, so people can choose the time that works for them."

Date/Time	Location	District/Commissioner
Thursday, April 25 9 to 11 a.m.	Fridley City Hall: 7071 University Ave. NE, Fridley	District 4: Commissioner Mandy Meisner
Mondays, April 29 and May 6 9 a.m. to noon	Columbia Heights Senior Center Murzyn Hall: 530 Mill Street, Columbia Heights	District 4: Commissioner Mandy Meisner
Wednesday, May 1 1 to 3:30 p.m.	Parkview Villa Senior High Rise: 965 40th Ave., Columbia Heights	District 4: Commissioner Mandy Meisner
Thursday, May 2 1 to 4:30 p.m.	AC Government Center: 2100 3rd Ave., Room 715, Anoka	District 1: Commissioner Matt Look District 7: Commissioner Scott Schulte
Wednesday, May 8 1 to 3 p.m.	St. Francis City Hall: 23340 Cree St., St. Francis	District 1: Commissioner Matt Look
Thursday, May 9 9 to 11 a.m.	Andover Senior Center – City Hall: 1685 Crosstown Blvd. NW, Andover	District 1: Commissioner Matt Look District 2: Commissioner Julie Braastad District 5: Commissioner Mike Gamache
Monday, May 13 1 to 3 p.m.	Spring Lake Park Community Center: 1301 81st Ave. NE, Spring Lake Park	District 3: Commissioner Robyn West
Thursday, May 16 8:30 a.m. to noon	Mary Ann Young Senior Center: 9150 Central Ave. NE, Blaine	District 6: Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah District 3: Commissioner Robyn West
Monday, May 20 8 a.m. to noon	Coon Rapids Senior Center: 11155 Robinson Dr. NW, Coon Rapids	District 7: Commissioner Scott Schulte District 5: Commissioner Mike Gamache
Wednesday, May 22 9 a.m. to noon	Circle Pines City Hall: 200 Civic Heights Circle, Circle Pines	District 6: Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah
Thursday, May 23 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.	Lino Lakes City Hall: 600 Town Center Parkway, Lino Lakes	District 6: Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah
Tuesday, June 4 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.	Linwood Senior Center: 22817 Typo Creek Drive NE, Stacy	District 6: Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah
Wednesday, June 5 10 a.m. to noon	East Bethel City Hall: 2241 221st Ave. NE, East Bethel	District 2: Commissioner Julie Braastad
Monday, June 10 Monday, July 22 8 a.m. to noon	Coon Rapids Senior Center: 11155 Robinson Drive NW, Coon Rapids	District 7: Commissioner Scott Schulte District 5: Commissioner Mike Gamache
Thursday, July 25 9 a.m. to noon	Ham Lake Senior Center: 15544 Central Ave. NE, Ham Lake	District 2: Commissioner Julie Braastad

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

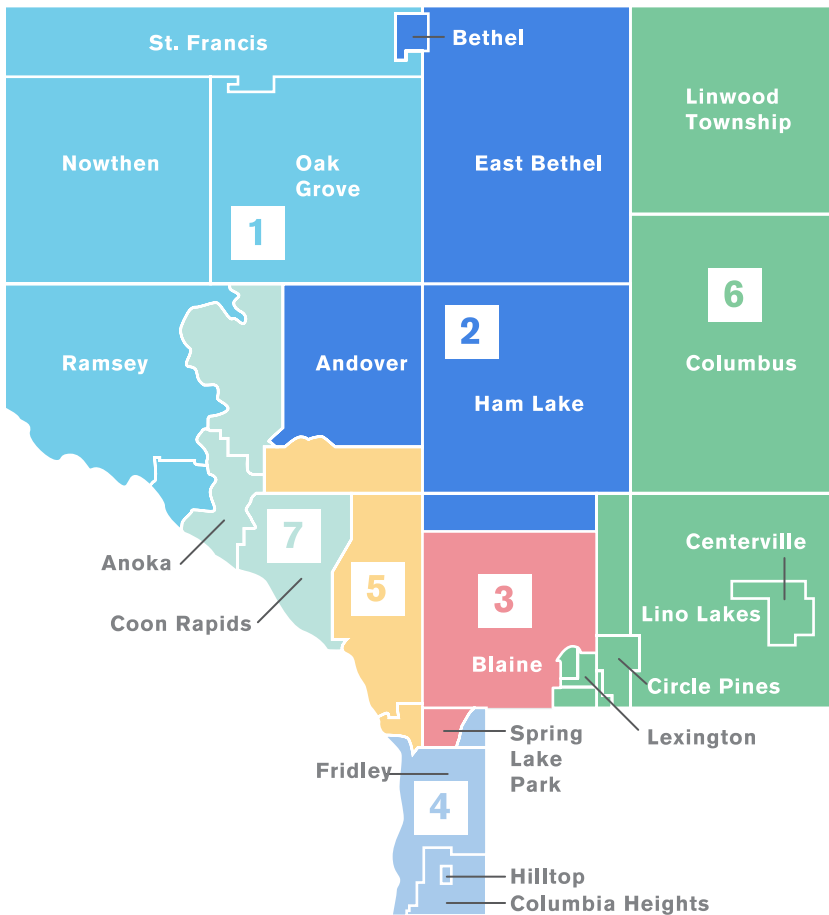
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DISTRICT 1
COMMISSIONER



Julie Braastad
DISTRICT 2
COMMISSIONER



Robyn West
DISTRICT 3
COMMISSIONER



Mandy Meisner
DISTRICT 4
COMMISSIONER



Mike Gamache
DISTRICT 5
COMMISSIONER



Rhonda Sivarajah
DISTRICT 6
COMMISSIONER



Scott Schulte
DISTRICT 7
COMMISSIONER



James Stuart
COUNTY
SHERIFF



Tony Palumbo
COUNTY
ATTORNEY

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.

