

ANOKA COUNTY

NEWS

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FAQ

2020 Preliminary Property Tax Levy Approved

Truth in Taxation Meeting Dec. 5

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners approved a preliminary property tax increase of 4.97 percent during the board's regular meeting Sept. 24.

Budget priorities for 2020 include public safety, cyber security and preserving and maintaining the current level of county services. The levy pays for about a third of the county's operational costs. The rest of the county's budget comes from other sources, such as fees and state and federal grants.

"This preliminary levy falls right in line with last year's levy," said Scott Schulte, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. "This is very much a status-quo budget, but it allows us to address some of our high priority areas."

One of those areas is increasing public safety by hiring eight more 911 operators. This recommended action is in response to the volume of calls that come into Anoka County Central Communications. Anoka County's dispatchers field more than 300,000 calls per year, and as of May 2019, the county was 10,000 calls ahead of 2018's numbers. Having an adequately staffed Central Communications center is important to ensure calls are answered in a prompt fashion and emergency services are rapidly dispatched, when they are needed.

Cyber security is of vital importance for every household and business, and Anoka County is no different. Protecting sensitive county data is vital, especially given the amount of intrusions, ransomware and other threats Anoka County faces daily. Every day, the county's firewall blocks an average of 3.68 million access attempts from "untrusted" sources outside of the U.S. and Canada. Keeping current with the most recent security software and employing staff who can recognize and eliminate security issues is essential.

"Keeping county systems safe from cyber attacks is integral to the operation of all our departments," said District 5 County Commissioner Mike Gamache. "We keep up to date with new online security measures and technology to ensure data is protected."

The county's Truth in Taxation meeting is at 6 p.m. Dec. 5 in room No. 705 of the Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3rd Ave., Anoka. The Board of Commissioners will approve the final levy and budget during their 9:30 a.m. Dec. 6 regular meeting. The levy can be decreased before this meeting, but it cannot increase.

Note: Anoka County only has authority over the county portion of the property tax bill; cities and school districts have their own taxing authority.

Budget Timeline

Developing, reviewing and modifying the county's budget is a several-month process that requires input and creativity from both county staff and commissioners.



June-August: Anoka County leaders estimate the need — and cost — for programs and services.



August-September: County Commissioners use the estimates to create a preliminary budget and set the proposed property tax levy.



November: Anoka County residents receive notice of the property tax changes and are invited to attend a public meeting in December.



December: The Board of Commissioners approves the final budget, levy and Capital Improvement Plan.



Finance FAQ

Anoka County residents who want to learn more about how their tax dollars are used may come the Dec. 5 Truth in Taxation meeting and be introduced to terms and concepts that take time to understand. Some of the frequently asked budget questions surrounding Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding are addressed below.

WHAT IS A CIP?

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a planning tool used to ensure that funding is both used and sourced appropriately for large county projects. These projects are in the following categories:

- Road and Bridge
- Parks
- Facilities
- Information Technology
- Library
- Other

WHAT QUALIFIES AS A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN?

Projects that are over \$100,000 are given the CIP designation. Once this designation is applied, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners will vote to approve or deny projects that advance Anoka County's Strategic Plan.

WHERE DOES CIP FUNDING COME FROM?

Funding for Anoka County CIP projects comes from the state, the county, cities within the county, and the federal government. For 2020, the total CIP budget is \$38.7 million.

- State: 47 percent.
- County: 39 percent.
- Federal: 8 percent.
- Cities: 6 percent.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF CIP PROJECTS?

Road and Bridge projects take up the majority of CIP funding, but there are other select projects that also receive this funding. For example, under Parks, included in the 2020 CIP is construction on the Bunker Beach wave pool to keep it operational and add more amenities. Funding for this project will come from the Metropolitan Council's Legacy Grant and the Anoka County Capital Investment Project. Construction is anticipated to begin after the 2020 pool season and be finished by opening day 2021.



Anoka County
MINNESOTA

Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible

REAL ID applications accepted until October 2020



Minnesotans can now apply for REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and ID cards at county license centers. Residents have until Oct. 1, 2020 to complete the process.

What makes obtaining a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card different than procuring a regular driver's license or ID card is the amount of documentation needed at the time of the application. Documents that prove identity, date of birth and legal presence in the United States are required. Also needed are a document proving the applicant's Social Security number and two documents proving current residency in Minnesota. The full list of documents that work for a Real ID application can be found on the Minnesota Department of Vehicle Services website: dps.mn.gov — search "Real ID" and then click on the "Required Documents" link on the left of the screen.

When REAL ID is not needed

People who already have a passport or a passport card can

still use those forms of identification to fly domestically and internationally, and they can be used to enter federal facilities that require identification.

Renewing your license

Those who wish to obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or enhanced driver's license — which allows U.S. citizens to travel by land or water to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean — can renew their license before it expires, but by doing so they'll be charged an early renewal fee. Four years would then be added to the expiration date. Licenses can be renewed at any of Anoka County's license centers in Blaine, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Ham Lake or Ramsey. Residents applying for REAL ID-compliant licenses or identification cards are advised to come at non-peak times to avoid long waits. Peak times include the beginning and end of months, Mondays and Fridays.

SYSTEM IN PLACE TO REVIEW ROADWAY SAFETY FOLLOWING SERIOUS CRASHES

One of the most dangerous things people do each day is drive. Motorists put a significant amount of trust in other roadway users to abide by traffic laws and rules.

The Anoka County Transportation Division takes all roadway-related safety concerns very seriously. When designing new roadway improvement projects, the county's highway engineers follow strict, well-established design criteria to maximize roadway user safety and minimize the potential for crashes.

Unfortunately, crashes happen every day. Most crashes result in minor injuries or property damage. In some cases, however, crashes are very serious in nature and may result in a loss of life or serious incapacitating injuries.

With all the sophisticated technology now available to first responders, law enforcement, and highway engineers, there is a plethora of tools to analyze crash data and implement necessary improvements to get drivers home safely.

Immediately following a crash that results in a loss of life, law enforcement will gather as much data as possible to recreate the event to determine the cause of the crash. In many instances, the scene of the crash will be closed to traffic so law enforcement staff can collect evidence, talk to witnesses, survey the scene, collect weather and roadway condition information and other vital information. From this point, the incident report is created and uploaded to a Department of Public Safety's database. This database provides law enforcement,

emergency responders, highway engineers, and other transportation safety professionals access to crucial data that can be used to evaluate trends and help determine potential roadway improvements that can be implemented to reduce the likelihood of similar serious crashes.

In addition to reviewing data collected from crash reports and crash trends, the Anoka County Highway Department will also perform field surveys to collect additional roadway design-related information.

Once this data is compiled, the information is evaluated by the county's highway design team, traffic operations and design staff, and maintenance personnel. In some instances, the team will recommend that physical roadway improvements and/or additional signage is necessary. Depending on the complexity of the recommended improvement, department staff will take the necessary steps to implement the improvement as quickly as possible. If the recommendation involves significant design work, right-of-way acquisition, and funding for implementation, the county will add the project to its Highway Improvement Program (HIP) and begin securing funding sources. If necessary, the county will put an upcoming highway improvement project on hold to address an immediate safety concern.

Safety on our roadways is a team effort in which everyone plays a part. Please help keep roadways safe by obeying traffic laws, staying attentive and putting your phone away.

New Highway 65 Intersection



Having Positive Impact on Traffic Flow

The J-turn, the R-cut, the Reduced Conflict Intersection (RCI) — whatever you want to call it, this new traffic control measure being implemented at several intersections along Highway 65 is having an impact on congestion in the area.

In 2010, MnDOT installed the first unsignalized RCI in the City of Willmar. Since that time, more have been constructed.

At the intersection of Highway 65 and Viking Boulevard, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has constructed the first signalized RCI in the state of Minnesota. There are several unsignalized RCIs throughout the state, however, due to the volume of traffic and other traffic-related constraints experienced at Viking Boulevard, the signal system was incorporated to manage traffic operations.

Prior to starting the design of the signalized RCI, MnDOT spent a significant amount of time researching the effectiveness of this type of traffic control measure in other states across the nation. This included site visits across the country to observe, firsthand, how they function. Knowing the frustration experienced by Highway 65 and Viking Boulevard users and emergency personnel who use both corridors to respond to emergencies, the project development team and local agencies agreed that safety through the corridor is a priority.

Other important aspects considered during the development of the signalized RCI at Viking Boulevard included length of time to construct the improvement and project cost. The signalized RCI was constructed within a few months versus a standard interchange, which can take one or more years to complete. In addition, the signalized RCI cost approximately \$1 million versus \$30 million for an interchange.

"The signalized RCI has only been operational for about five months, but we're already seeing the benefits — anyone who drives through that intersection has likely noticed the reduced traffic backups, and I'm hopeful as time goes on we'll have solid data that shows the safety advantages of that RCI," said District 2 Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad.

MnDOT is considering input from Anoka County and the City of East Bethel on how to enhance the j-turn intersection at Viking Boulevard and Highway 65, so future changes could be implemented to improve the area even further.

Tips for navigating the intersection

To learn more about RCIs and how to navigate them, visit the following sites: anokacounty.us/307/Highway-Department and <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy65rci/>.

County Employee Wins Outstanding Program Achievement Award

Brad Thiel, Anoka County director of economic assistance, was recently presented with an Outstanding Program Achievement Award from the Minnesota Family Support and Recovery Council.

Thiel was recognized for his work with child support fees. His efforts led to the Legislature implementing corrective language, which resulted in counties across the state being able to secure \$500,000 to help pay for staffing costs.



Anoka County Library

... Ideas, Information, Inspiration

Visit anokacountylibrary.org for more information on upcoming events & programs

FEATURED EVENTS

Enduring Entrepreneurs Eight Essential Strategies for Business Longevity

Monday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.
Northtown Library



Small business owners and entrepreneurs — do you know what it takes to sustain long term success? Jill Johnson, MBA, president and founder of Johnson Consulting Services,

will share with you what you need to implement immediately to boost your potential for business success. Learn how to look ahead to identify tools, resources, ideas, and technology.

Noon Year's Eve

Saturday, Dec. 28, 11:30 a.m.
Rum River Library

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m.
Johnsville, Mississippi, Northtown, North Central, St. Francis libraries

Ring in the New Year early at the libraries with stories, crafts, games, and fun for the whole family.

Making Sense of Your Money and How You're Spending it

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 6:15 p.m.
Northtown Library

Create a responsible spending-savvy budget and learn how to improve your credit. Make a new year's resolution with "The Budget Cycle," by setting goals, tracking expenses, preparing a spending plan, following the plan.



BUSINESS CLASSES FOR ARTISTS

Work of Art Series

Presented by Springboard for the Arts.

Business Plan Essentials for Artists

Monday, Nov. 25, 6 p.m.
Northtown Library

Learn how to prepare a simple business plan, in arts-friendly language, to help you organize all the various aspects of your artistic practice.

Portfolio Kit for Artists

Monday, Dec. 2, 6 p.m.
Northtown Library

Learn essential elements: sharpening your artist statement, tailoring your artistic résumés, and selecting and formatting your work samples.

Social Media Basics for Artists

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2:30 p.m.
Crooked Lake Library

Using Facebook and Twitter examples, learn core functionality, best practices.

DIGITAL LITERACY

The following classes presented by Twin Cities Media Alliance and funded by MELSA.

Staying Safe Online

Saturday, Nov. 23, 2 p.m.
Centennial Library

Learn to better protect your digital life. We will cover malvertising, safe searching, using ad blockers, setting up a secure home wireless network, using standard versus administrative accounts, encryption and VPNs.

There's an App for That

Monday, Jan. 13, 6 p.m.
Mississippi Library

So many apps, so little time. Discover which apps should be loaded on your smart phone or tablet to improve productivity, plus how to use and organize them. Bring your smart phone or tablet.

Don't Fall for it: Assessing the Truth Online

Saturday, Jan. 18, 1 p.m.
Johnsville Library

Can you recognize suspicious or outright false information in social media and websites? Increase your knowledge and make better decisions, and learn how to identify manipulation and misinformation.

Google Tools

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2 p.m.
Centennial Library

Learn about products and services (often free) Google has developed to aid in collaboration, accessibility, and business marketing. Now there's Gmail, Gchat, Google Drive, Google Calendar, Google Maps, and much more.

Google Tools Part II

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 6 p.m.
Rum River Library

Become a Google power user in Gmail, YouTube, Google News and more. Bring your device. Create your Google account before class.

Best Social Media Platforms for Your Business or Organization

Wednesday, March 11, 5:45 p.m.
Rum River Library

Learn which social media platforms would work best for your business or organization, where to start, and how to leverage them for the greatest benefit. Bring your own device.

FEATURED COLLECTION

GAMES & GAMING

Gaming Club

Wednesdays, 4 p.m.
Mississippi Library

Get in some game time — Roblox, Fortnite, or Minecraft. Teens — come play your favorite online games, make new friends.

Short Games 101

Saturday, Dec. 14, 1 p.m.
Johnsville Library

Learn how to play two games with other game players, Machi Koro and Splendor — two semi-complicated board games.

Game Day

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.
Crooked Lake Library

Hungry for fun? Feed your mind. Teens and adults are welcome to come play games with library Game Masters and others in the game community.



Discover Kits

Checkout a new hobby at your library. Discover Kits are hobbies to go — available for holds and checkouts. Geared for adults and teens, each kit comes in a tote bin or a bag and includes everything you need to get started including step-by-step instructions. The kits are on display at Rum River Library. Kits include:

Birdwatching
Weaving
Knitting
Telescope
Ukulele
Piano



BOOKS & READING

Book Club for Adults

Monday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m.
Crooked Lake Library

Monday, Nov. 26, 6:30 p.m.
Centennial Library

Book Clubs meet monthly. Check the calendar for more dates. Call the library for the current titles.

Novel Nook

Friday, Nov. 22, 11 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 27, 11 a.m.

Mary Ann Young Senior Center

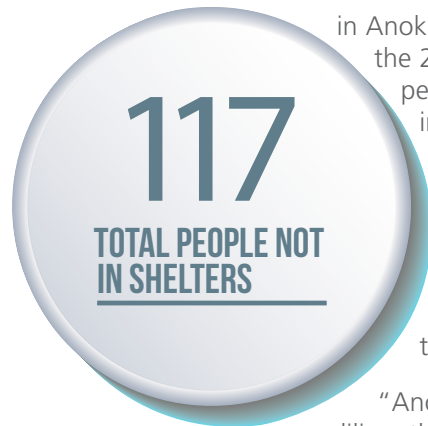
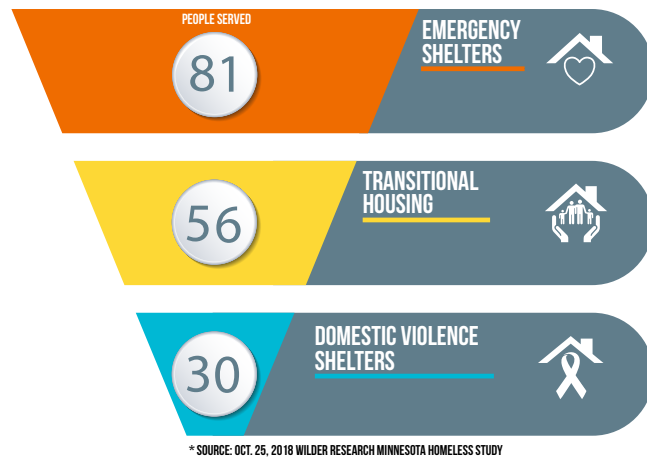
Mystery Book Chat

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 6 p.m.
Northtown Library

Book Puzzler

Thursday, Dec. 5, 1 p.m.
North Central Library

Anoka County, Community Partners Working to End Homelessness



in Anoka County. During the 2017 to 2019 grant period, 82 households in the county were prevented from ever experiencing an episode of homelessness, and 97.3 percent of those people were stably housed when they left the program.

“Anoka County works diligently with its community partners to combat homelessness in our area,” said District 4 Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner. “We’re grateful for these partnerships, and together we provide resources to people in need.”

SHELTER LOCATIONS

There are four shelters in Anoka County for people experiencing homelessness:

Family Promise in Anoka County

Family shelter

14515 Nowthen Blvd. NW, Ramsey, MN 55303

Phone: 763-568-7365

Stepping Stones Emergency Housing

Single adult shelter

3300 4th Ave. N, Cronin Building No. 14, Anoka, MN 55303

Phone: 763-323-7006

Alexandra House

Domestic violence/sexual violence shelter

10065 3rd St. NE, Blaine, MN 55434

Phone: 763-780-2330

The Dwelling Place

Domestic abuse/transitional housing shelter

Business address: 940 44th Ave. NE, Unit No. 21307, Columbia Heights, MN

Phone: 651-776-4805

The homeless response system in Anoka County has evolved over the years from a simple shelter system to a continuum of care with multiple community partners that strives to provide a person-centered approach.

There are a variety of resources available in Anoka County for those who may be at risk of homelessness, or who are currently homeless. These services are available as a result of Anoka County securing grant funding through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency’s Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program. For the 2019-2021 biennium, FHPAP fully funded Anoka County’s homelessness prevention efforts in the amount of \$906,514.

The homelessness prevention services include:

- Landlord mediation.
- Help with payment of back rent or utilities.
- Short-term rental subsidies as a bridge to increase income.

More resources can be accessed online at anokacounty.us/2689/Basic-Needs. The Anoka County Housing Resource Line can be reached at 763-324-1215.

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

Anoka County’s grant-funded homeless prevention assistance program provides support services and rental assistance to singles, families, and youth (ages 18-24) who may be homeless, on the verge of homelessness or precariously housed.

The county and its many community partners — which includes The Salvation Army, YMCA and Mediation Services — have worked diligently to reduce homelessness

Land, Resources Available in Minnesota Technology Corridor

Anoka County, along with Washington County, Connexus Energy and other regional partners, has launched the Minnesota Technology Corridor, which is an initiative to attract companies to the north metro that can utilize the high energy capacity, high bandwidth, available land and talented workforce available in the area.

At the center of this effort is a new website: mntechcorridor.com. This site has detailed information about this area that notes why the region is primed for new business development, especially in the technology industry. There are over 1,000 acres of land available in the corridor, greater than 200-megawatt power capacity with 100 percent renewable battery storage options, significant water/sewer capacity is in place, and there are many access points to fiber-optic lines from multiple providers. The website also has a site selector component, which serves to direct visitors to various-sized sites within the corridor, including five “premier sites” that range in size from 10 to 250-plus acres.

The other partners in this initiative are Great River Energy, Xcel Energy, Comcast, CenturyLink, Zayo, Arvig, MIDCO, Parallel Technologies, and the cities of Columbus, Centerville, Lino Lakes, Hugo and Forest Lake.

“This private/public partnership will be a great economic driver for our region,” said District 1 Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look. “I think businesses that come to our area will find sites that fit their needs and easy-to-work-with government officials and staff who are



readily available to answer questions and help businesses succeed.”

The website for the MN Technology Corridor Partnership was officially launched in July of 2019. Since the website launch, the MN Technology Corridor partnership has continued to arm local and state stakeholders with information on this corridor. Those stakeholders include: the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Greater MSP, site selectors and commercial real estate brokers. The corridor partners are also working diligently to complete an analysis of the premier sites through a rigorous project-ready checklist to prepare for project requests.

Law Library Director Receives ‘Unsung Legal Hero’ Award



Anoka County Law Library Director John Murphy (left in photo) has been recognized by Minnesota Lawyer, an independent publication dedicated to providing legal news, court opinions and more, for the work he’s done to enhance the library’s services.

Murphy took over as director at the library in 2016 after the retirement of the previous director, who had served in that capacity for 30 years. He had big shoes to fill, but Murphy was up to the challenge. One of his early tasks was to form a sub-committee to revise the library’s mission statement to more accurately set forth its stated mission of “enhancing

access to justice for all.” Murphy has lived and breathed this mission since his first day at work.

He has improved the library’s offerings for lawyers, judges and their law clerks through increased West-law access and additional computers, and he is working on a process for getting law books to county attorneys through their public library systems. He has also collaborated with Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance to create family law clinics twice per month at public libraries and has been instrumental in leading Anoka County Law Day, a massive undertaking in late April that features legal service clinics for area residents.

For those who are outside the courthouse, Murphy has created the “Ask a law librarian” web form on the Anoka County website for patrons to ask for legal reference service.

He has instituted a collaboration with the Anoka County Library System so that he staffs a legal reference desk at a different county library every Wednesday evening. He advertises the Law Library’s services through the county’s website, a Facebook account, as well as a Twitter account.



ENJOY WINTER WITH ANOKA COUNTY PARKS

No matter what the temperature is outside, there are many winter activities to enjoy in Anoka County Parks. A few of these favorite activities include winter walking trails, cross-country skiing, and ice fishing. So, bundle up and learn how to enjoy the many splendors of the winter landscape.

In the parks, winter is something to enjoy and not something to just endure. Bring a hot chocolate or coffee while exploring the 24 miles of winter walking trails that are plowed during the season. Winter walking is a great way to beat that cabin fever feeling and witness inspiring landscapes after a fresh snowfall.

Looking for a fun outdoor activity during the colder weather? Cross-country skiing is an easy way to get a full-body workout while experiencing the quiet trails. Approximately 30 miles of cross-country ski trails are available at four locations throughout the parks system; Bunker Hills Regional Park, Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Rum River Central Regional Park and Chomonix

Golf Course. Equipment rental is available at all locations except Rum River Central.

In the land of 11,842 lakes, ice fishing is a popular winter activity. There are lakes throughout the county that provide some of the region's most alluring winter ice fishing opportunities. Cenaiko Lake (located within Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park) is stocked with an abundance of rainbow trout. Lake George is noted for healthy populations of crappie, blue gill, sunfish, northern, bass, and walleye. Martin Lake (Located in Martin-Island-Linwood Lakes Regional Park) has been regularly stocked with walleye over the past decade and is also known for northern pike, yellow perch, black and white crappies, and bluegills. Anoka County's largest lake, Coon Lake, along with Centerville and Peltier also provide excellent ice fishing opportunities. Please inspect and ensure that the ice is safe before venturing onto the frozen lakes.

Bundle up and get outside this winter.



SNOW DAY

ANOKA COUNTY PARKS • CITY OF BLAINE • CITY OF LINO LAKES

JANUARY 25, 1 - 4 PM, FREE EVENT
WARGO NATURE CENTER

Come play in the snow! Participants of all ages will have a chance to partake in a variety of activities, including snowshoeing, fat tire biking, ice fishing, kicksledding, cross-country skiing, winter crafts, live animals and more.

SIGN UP TODAY • ANOKACOUNTYPARKS.COM • 763-324-3350

LUNCH WITH A NATURALIST

Nov. 6 (Lichen); 11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.
WARGO NATURE CENTER

Dec. 4 (Winter Ecology); 11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.
WARGO NATURE CENTER

Ages 50+ Bring your lunch and join a naturalist for our Lunch with a Naturalist series. These monthly presentations will include local natural or cultural history information and possibly a relaxing stroll.

WINTER SOLSTICE CAMPFIRE

Dec. 21; 6:30 to 8 P.M.
WARGO NATURE CENTER

All Ages We'll start our evening by learning about the history and traditions of the winter solstice, and then celebrate together with a silent night hike, campfire, mulled hot cider (non-alcoholic), and songs! Pre-registration is required. **\$5/person +tax**

FAT TIRE BIKING

Nov. 20; 4 - 6 P.M.

BUNKER HILLS REGIONAL PARK

Dec. 22; 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

RICE CREEK CHAIN OF LAKES PARK RESERVE

Ages 16+ Fat tire bikes are stable and easy to ride on a wide variety of surfaces including snow, sand, and trails. Pre-registration is required. **\$15/person +tax**

WINTER RECREATION SAMPLER

DEC. 22; 1 - 3 P.M.

WARGO NATURE CENTER

You will sample a variety of recreational activities, including kick sledding, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. This event is open to families and individuals of all ages. Pre-registration is required. **\$7/adult, \$5/child +tax**

CHOMONIX GOLF SEASON STARTS IN THE WINTER



Reserve the Blue Heron Room
Buy your Annual Membership
Schedule a Tournament



AVAILABLE JANUARY 2, AT CHOMONIX.COM OR CALL 763-324-3434.

GIVE THE GIFT OF ADVENTURE

Gift cards can be used throughout the Anoka County Park System including Chomonix Golf Course, Bunker Beach Water Park, and Wargo Nature Center. Gift cards can be purchased in any amount over \$10. Order today: 763-324-3300.



Chemical Health Launches Redesigned Website

The Anoka County Chemical Health Collaborative has launched a redesigned website that has in-depth information on getting help with drugs and alcohol, locations of prescription drug take-back sites, and it has a feature that allows community members to submit chemical-health-focused events and trainings.

The site can be accessed at Anokacounty.us/GetHelp — to submit events and trainings, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the “submit an event to calendar” link on the left side of the screen. The link accesses a form that allows for the input of the name, date and time of the event, contact information for the organizer, and a short description of the event. If a flyer or handout exists for the event, it can be uploaded with the form.

The aim of this newly redesigned website is to build and further foster relationships between Anoka County Chemical Health Collaborative and community partners so the most up-to-date information about drugs and alcohol is being shared with the community.

For more information on Anoka County Chemical Health Collaborative, contact Kassy Podvin, Prevention Outreach Coordinator, Anoka County Public Health: Katherine.Podvin@co.anoka.mn.us or 763-324-4200.



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. 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 and HOME Investment Partnership Program funds.

The purpose of these programs is 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 feedback from a diverse group of county residents to identify local housing and community development needs. Your participation will assist Anoka County in identifying high priorities. 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 AnokaCounty.us/cd or call 763-324-4650 to request a printed copy of the survey. The deadline to complete the survey is Nov. 27.

“We’re reaching out to residents in a variety of ways to solicit feedback on community needs,” said District 3 Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West. “The more residents who respond, the better idea we’ll have about what to focus on.”

Make Sure You Have the Right Homeowners, Renters Insurance



Sometimes residents find out what kind of insurance coverage they have on their homes when major issues arise — a huge storm hits and a basement is flooded, a fire partially destroys the structure and belongings, or burglars steal multiple belongings.

Homeowners and renters can be surprised in these situations to find they don’t have the right amount of insurance on their homes, which can result in hefty out-of-pocket costs. The key is to review your coverages and find out what works best for you.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Most homeowners insurance does not cover flooding, so supplemental insurance is needed to cover flood damage. Just one inch of water in a home can cost more than \$25,000. FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program, which

can be found at floodsmart.gov, has plenty of information on how to purchase or renew flood insurance, how to understand your flood risk, how to reduce your insurance cost, and more.

RENTERS INSURANCE

For, on average, \$15 to \$30 a month, renters can protect their belongings. Many people go without this coverage, because they wrongly assume the property owner or landlord has the insurance that will cover them against any loss. The reality is that the property owner/landlord’s insurance only covers the structure of the building, not the possessions of the residents. Go to the Minnesota Department of Commerce’s website, mn.gov/commerce, and search “renters’ insurance” for more information on renters insurance.

Ceremony Held to Celebrate **CareerForce** in Blaine

Anoka County Commissioners, county staff and members of the public were present Sept. 18 at CareerForce in Blaine to celebrate the center’s rebranding.

Blaine was just one of the locations across the state to take part in the rebranding from workforce centers to CareerForce. Bringing all of Minnesota’s workforce system partners under one brand will enhance the services provided to career seekers, employers and communities.

“The rebranding to CareerForce was the result of extensive outreach to workforce system participants, workforce staff and others to determine how service can be enhanced and outcomes improved,” said Commissioner Scott Schulte, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. “It was a partnership between counties across the state, the Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards, the Governor’s Workforce Development Board and the Department of Employment and Economic Development.”



RECYCLE

Household Hazardous Waste Facility Changed to Winter Hours Nov. 1



The Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 3230 101st Ave. NE, Blaine, changed to winter hours of operation Nov. 1. These hours will run through March 31, 2020. The Household Hazardous Waste Facility will be open 2 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. Household hazardous

wastes that are accepted include acids, aerosol cans with product remaining, drain cleaner, driveway sealer, fluorescent bulbs, liquid paint, liquid mercury, mercury thermometers, motor oil, oven cleaner, paint stripper, paint thinner, pesticides, pool chemicals, propane tanks, stains, varnishes, wood preservatives and medical sharps.

The HHW Facility does not accept appliances, batteries, dried paint, electronics, empty containers, radioactive wastes, railroad ties, and tires. For more information or disposal options for unacceptable wastes, call Recycling & Resource Solutions at 763-324-3400 or visit AnokaCounty.us/hhw.

Compost Sites Begin Winter Hours Dec. 1

No yard waste cart or curbside organics service? No problem! Anoka County has two convenient yard waste sites for you to bring your leaves, tree and shrub prunings, and organics for composting. For additional information about accepted yard waste, current hours and any applicable fees go to AnokaCounty.us/yardwaste. For information on how to sign up for the county's or your city's organics drop-off program go to: AnokaCounty.us/organics.

HOURS AND LOCATIONS

December to March
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bunker Hills Compost Site

13285 Hanson Blvd., Coon Rapids

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Compost Site

7701 Main St., Lino Lakes

Please do not dispose of tree and yard waste in your trash; tree and yard waste has been banned from trash since 1990.

Please Help Reduce Contamination in Your Recycling Cart

Just because you think something is recyclable in your curbside bin does not necessarily mean it is. Common items such as plastic bags, batteries (especially lithium batteries in most cell phones), medical sharps and shredded paper must be handled differently. Go to Anoka.County.us/recycle for information on what is recyclable curbside and where to take other items not listed.

Always remember: When in doubt, throw it out!

Keep Your Recycling Clean and Loose

Do not bag your recyclables. Recyclable items should be clean and empty, with no food remnants. Always rinse your bottles, cans and cartons before recycling. Only put clean, dry paper and corrugated cardboard in your cart.

Stick to the Basics

- Empty food and beverage bottles, cans and cartons
- Newspaper, office paper and unwanted mail (with plastic cards or promotional items removed)
- Flattened, clean, dry corrugated cardboard (remove excess tape/labels)



RESIDENTS

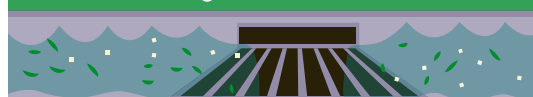
Encouraged
to Fill out Census

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution in support of a partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau and the State of Minnesota for the 2020 Census. The U.S. Constitution mandates everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. Residents can start responding to the census online, by mail or by phone, starting in April. Watch your mail in March for an invitation to respond. For those without home internet access who would like to respond online, your local Anoka County Library will have computers available to take the census. All information provided is confidential. Data provided affects Minnesota and Anoka County in a variety of ways. It will accurately determine how many representatives Minnesota will have in Congress. It's necessary for the accurate and fair redistricting of state legislative seats, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners, city councils and voting districts. The census is used as the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds. That money is spent on roads, human services and other vital programs. For more information on the 2020 census, go to census.gov.



Report Illicit Discharges

Unusual odor?
Discoloration?
Doesn't belong in our rivers and lakes?



Notify the Highway Department: 763-324-3100
Have you ever noticed an unusual odor, discoloration, or something that doesn't seem to belong in our storm drains, lakes, or rivers? It may be an illegal discharge, which can be considered anything that is not rainwater entering our storm sewer system and may be harmful to our community and environment. If you see an illicit discharge, immediately notify the Highway Department.

Resources Available

to Help Lower Insulin and other RX Costs

If you're struggling to pay for insulin or other medications, you may be eligible for programs that can help offset the cost of these prescriptions.

Visit anokacounty.us/3772/Prescription-Drug-Resources to learn more.



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

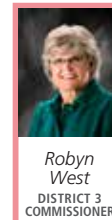
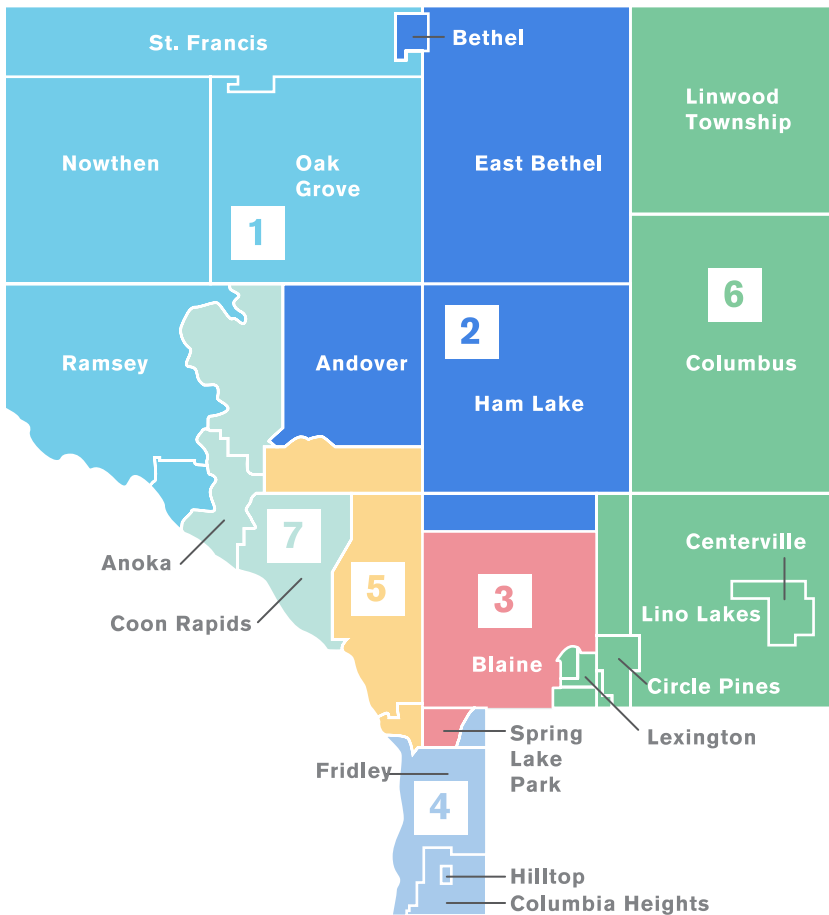
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ANOKA COUNTY LEADERSHIP

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
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