

Why is This Year

DIFFERENT?

hen it comes to explaining why a property's taxes go up or down in a given year, one has to understand that there are multiple factors at play that figure into the overall dollar amount.

If you take a look at your property tax notification or statement, you'll see that it lists a whole host of taxing authorities, which include your city, school district, state, and several others, depending on where you live and what type of property you own.

Every year, each of those taxing authorities sets a budget for the upcoming year, and they determine how much property tax levy will be necessary to support that budget. A change in any of those city, county or school district budgets and levies could impact your property taxes. This year, changes have happened across the board, and most property owners will see an increase on their property tax statements, which will be in mailboxes by the end of March.

"Anoka County was able to keep its property tax levy flat for the last several years, to lessen the impact felt by residents and businesses during the pandemic," said Mike Gamache, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. "In 2024, there will be an increase, as the county deals with the impact of inflation — that's the cost of fuel, electricity and more — funding a market-based wage adjustment for employees. and hiring more prosecutors to deal with the increase in violent crimes."

Breakdown of Every Dollar Collected in Property Taxes



*Does not include referendum levies | Misc = Metropolitan Council, watershed district, HRA/EDA

Even with the 2024 levy figured in, Anoka County's annual levy increase has been one of the lowest in the metro area. The 5-year average is less than 4 percent. This figure is lower than the pace of inflation, which was at 4.64 percent over the last 5 years.

The following pages will offer more information about taxes/valuations, and how the county uses tax dollars to provide services.







Anoka County

Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible

Who

Will Feel the Most Impact IN 2024?

Commercial, industrial, and apartment property owners are likely to see larger tax increases compared to that of residential. The main drivers of those differences are:

 Increasing levies at the local level including city, school district, and county.

 Value increases in 2023 for commercial, industrial, and apartment properties largely exceeded that of residential properties, meaning they will bear more of the tax burden in calendar year 2024.



"While there were several legislative changes in 2023, most of those are effective for taxes payable in 2025, including the change to the homestead market value exclusion," said District 6 Anoka County Commissioner Jeff Reinert. "We expect a continued shift of the tax burden to commercial, industrial, and apartment parcels in future years, barring any new legislation in 2024."

How

are Valuations

DETERMINED?

Estimated market value (EMV) is one of the factors used to determine your property taxes. It represents the normal sale price in a competitive open market (where a buyer and seller are not related and both are educated about the property).



"EMV has an impact on your taxes, but not as much as one might assume," said District 4 Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte. "How your tax amount changes from year to year is influenced more by the revenues needed to fund local government, including cities and school districts. "If Anoka County increased all values by 50 percent, the resulting tax amounts would not increase by 50 percent; the tax rates would be adjusted to generate the same amount of tax revenue."

Your Assessor's Office is responsible for determining the value of your property each year. This process can also be referred to as mass appraisal. The mass appraisal process relies heavily on the physical data assessors collect once every 5 years. That data is then used to derive an estimate of market value that is adjusted annually based on sales of comparable properties over a set time-period.

For more information on the county budget and your property taxes, visit anokacountymn.gov/budget or anokacountymn.opengov.com

What

Does the County Provide for the

COMMUNITY?

Revenue generated from taxes provides an array of services, including:



Sheriff's Office — The Sheriff's Office protects and serves the community in a manner that preserves public trust. It is composed of the sheriff and a team of approximately 300 staff and volunteers who

serve 21 urban and rural cities in the county with a growing population of more than 360,000.



Library — The Anoka County Library system consists of 8 branches serving the needs of its residents throughout the northwestern suburbs of the Twin Cities. The library provides access to over 1.3 million items in a variety of formats.



Parks — The county maintains 11,500 acres of open space, which includes 17 parks, two of which allow seasonal camping. The county also has more than 85 miles of trails within the Parks system.



Highway — The county's Highway Department manages and maintains 413 miles of roadway, including 8 roundabouts, 55 bridges and 224 traffic signals.



Emergency Communications — 911 staff answered about 400,000 calls in 2023 for help, with 95 percent of those calls being answered within 10 seconds. The department answers 911 and non-emergency calls for

the 367,018 citizens of the county and provides dispatch services for all 11 law enforcement agencies and 17 fire departments in the county.



Veteran Services — Anoka County Veteran Services provides professional, caring and quality assistance to veterans and their dependents in obtaining benefits through county, state and federal programs.



Elections and Voter Registration — The Anoka County Office of Elections and Voter Registration provides voter registration and election administration for federal, state and county elections. Key duties include processing voter registration applications;

programming/printing ballots and testing voting equipment; issuing and counting all absentee ballots; training and certifying city, township and school district local election officials; compiling election results; and conducting post-election audits.



Job Training Center — The county's Job Training Center administers services to meet the needs of people in our community such as youth, laid off workers, seniors, unemployed and underemployed adults. The center also provides comprehensive services

to job seekers and employers, and is staffed to provide employment-related services.



Public Health & Environmental Services —

This department works to improve the health of community members through education, prevention, service, regulation, and advocacy in Anoka County.



Attorney's Office — The office of the County Attorney handles many cases, including felony criminal prosecutions, child support enforcement, juvenile delinquency and child protection matters, as well as providing civil legal counsel for county administration. The Anoka County Attorney's

Office also has an in-house Investigations Unit and Victim/ Witness Services division.



Economic Assistance — This department offers residents help with a variety of programs, including cash programs, housing assistance, food shelves, medical programs, and more.

How

is the Average-Priced Home

AFFECTED?

Net County Cost of Services



Debt Service Road and Bridge	4% 4%	\$31 \$37
Conservation/Culture/Rec	9%	\$70
General Government	21%	\$175
Human Services	30%	\$242
Public Safety	32%	\$261

Priorities FOR 2024

- Provide safe roads and eliminate congestion.
- Work with people to improve lives.
- Protect and serve the community.
- Attract and retain a skilled workforce.
- Provide clear and accurate information to residents about county initiatives.

5

In Motion: 2024 HIGHWAY PROJECTS

- 1.Blaine: University Ave. at 86th Lane Replace and update the existing signal system. Construction: summer-fall.
- 2. **Fridley: Mississippi St. at Old Central Ave.** New roundabout. Construction: summer-fall.
- 3. Andover: Round Lake Blvd. from 149th Lane NW to 157th Ave. NW 2-lane to 4-lane conversion, pedestrian accommodations, and drainage system improvements. Construction: spring-summer.
- 4. Blaine, Lino Lakes: Main St. at Sunset Ave. NE—New roundabout. Construction: spring-fall.

5. **Blaine: Lexington Ave. at 122nd Ave.** — New traffic signal system and ADA compliant pedestrian/bicyclist crossings. Construction: summer-fall.

6. **Oak Grove: Viking Boulevard Bridge Replacement** — Replace existing bridge; also includes widened shoulders, multiuse trail and drainage system improvements. Construction: now-fall.

7. **Oak Grove: Viking Boulevard at Rum River Boulevard** — New roundabout. Construction: spring-fall.

- 8. **Nowthen: Viking Boulevard from Highway 47 to Rum River Boulevard** Reconstruct roadway surface with concrete pavement. Construction: spring-summer.
- 9. **Saint Francis: Ambassador Boulevard NW at Seelye Brook** Replace existing timber bridge with concrete box culverts. Construction: summer-fall.
- 10. **Lino Lakes: Hodgson Road and County Road J/Ash Street** Replace traffic signal system with new roundabout, multiuse trail improvements and drainage. Construction: spring-fall.
- 11. Coon Rapids/Fridley: 85th Ave. at Evergreen Blvd. New roundabout. Construction: spring-fall.
- 12. **Fridley: 44th Ave. Pedestrian Improvements on BNSF Railyard Bridge** Reconstruct existing bridge deck, widened pedestrian accommodations, and bridge approach improvements. Construction: December 2024-spring 2025.
- 13. **Ramsey: Highway 10 Ramsey Gateway Project** See next page for more info. Construction: spring 2024-fall 2025.



No SNOW? No Problem!

Snow is rarely in short supply in Minnesota, but this year has proved different. With the limited amount of snowfall, Anoka County road maintenance crews have had time to catch up on other projects: tree trimming and cleaning, filling potholes, addressing drainage issues, and cleaning up various items that have been set aside due to other priorities.

 The Ramsey Gateway Project on Highway 10, a multi-agency partnership project, is underway. The project includes two grade-separated interchanges at Ramsey Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard that will replace existing signalized intersections. These improvements are also coupled with the grade separations of the adjacent BNSF Railway at-grade crossings and a new frontage road between Ramsey Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard.

The temporary paving and preparatory work on Highway 10 that was completed last fall will allow it to remain open to two lanes in each direction for most of the project. Major construction will kick off in early to mid-March, weather dependent.

Sunfish Lake Boulevard will close once work begins this spring. Roadway users will be detoured to Ramsey Boulevard while the Sunfish Lake Boulevard grade separation is constructed.

"We are thrilled to partner with the City of Ramsey, as well as numerous others, to complete this final section of Highway 10 construction," said District 6 Anoka County Commissioner Julie Jeppson. "The safety of all who travel this corridor is at the heart of the project, as well as future projects such as Highway 65. I'd like to thank all the businesses, partners, and residents for their continued patience."

For more information on project progress and the anticipated schedule, or to sign up for project updates, visit the project website: AnokaCountyRamseyGateway.com.

COUNTY FACILITIES HAVE EXPANDED SUMMER HOURS BEGINNING APRIL 1

Household Hazardous Waste Facility Wed 1pm - 7 pm 3230 101st Avenue NE, Thurs, Fri, Sat 1 pm - 7 pm Blaine

Rice Creek Compost Site

Mon - Fri 10 am - 7 pm

7701 Main Street,
Sat 9 am - 5 pm

Lino Lakes

Sun 12 pm - 5 pm

Bunker Hills Compost SiteTues, Thurs10 am - 7 pm13285 Hanson Boulevard NW,Sat9 am - 5 pmCoon RapidsSun12 pm - 5 pm



For items accepted at the HHW Facility
scan the QR code or go to:
AnokaCountyMN.gov/HHW



For items accepted at the Compost Sites scan the QR code or go to:

AnokaCountyMN.gov/yardwaste





BE AN AMBASSADOR

Looking to connect with other fun people? Do you want to boost your resume for college or need volunteer hours? Sign up to be a Recycling Ambassador today! The free program is held through a virtual classroom on Tuesday nights for six-weeks. Registration is now open for Summer 2024! The Recycling Ambassador program is a free six-week course led by industry experts covering waste reduction, recycling, and composting. Once you have completed the course you can educate and inspire others to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Participants agree to attend all classes. After completing the course, graduates agree to volunteer 30 hours of public outreach. Volunteer hours are what makes the Recycling Ambassadors program special. Participants put their skills to work by helping others learn to reduce their waste and create a better environment.

For more information scan the QR code, or visit: https://www.anokacountymn.gov/2104/Recycling-Ambassadors



UPCOMING CLASS JUNE 11 - JULY 23

Held virtually Tuesdays 6pm - 7:30pm

Anoka County RECYCLING & RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

ANOKA COUNTY PARKS

SOMETHING FOR EVERY EXPLORER!

Parks offer something for everyone and extend a warm welcome to all. Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast seeking recreation, an eager learner looking for environmental education programs or passionate about making a positive impact, parks provide a

space for every interest. From hiking trails and recreational activities to immersive educational experiences and fulfilling opportunities to work within their scenic landscapes, parks ensure that everyone can find their place to connect, grow and contribute.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION (APRIL 20 • FREE)

KIDS FISHING CLINIC (MAY 4 • FREE)

SUMMER CAMPS

CAMPFIRE TALKS (FREE)

RESTORATION PROJECTS AT WARGO

FOREST KIDS CLUB

NATURE PLAY

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

FAT TIRE BIKING

BIRDING PROGRAMS

TRACKING PROGRAMS

AND MORE!

REGISTER ONLINE AT

ANOKACOUNTYPARKS.COM

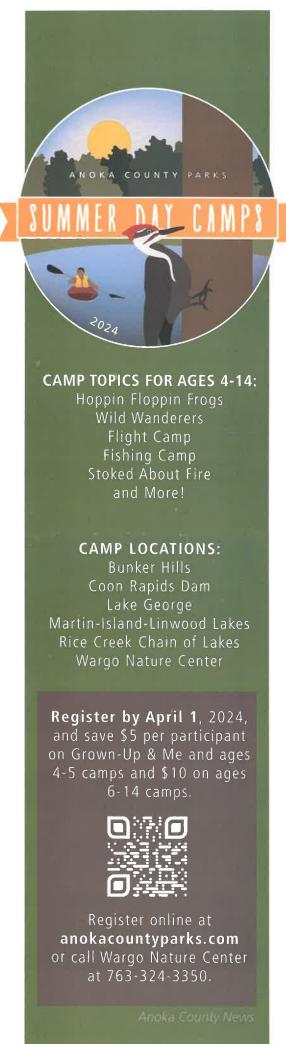
OR CALL 763-324-3350



NOW HIRING

PARK MAINTENANCE
NATURAL RESOURCES
PARK SERVICES
CHOMONIX GOLF COURSE
BUNKER BEACH WATER PARK
WARGO NATURE CENTER

APPLY ONLINE AT ANOKACOUNTYMN.GOV/PARKJOBS







Imagine walking park trails and watching nature come alive on your smartphone through holograms and 3D animated images.

Download "Tracks - Anoka County Parks" from your favorite app store. Start at the Bunker Hills Activities Center, explore the trails and watch the parks come alive!



LIBRARY

Visit the online event calendar anokcountymn.gov/library

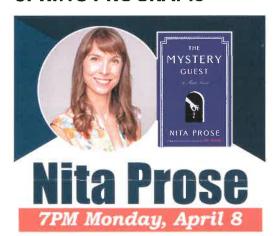
READ LOCAL MN

2024 Featured Authors Announced



Each year local authors are selected to be highlighted in the community throughout the year. Checkout these local authors tinyurl.com/ReadLocalMN

SPRING PROGRAMS



facebook.com/ClubBook Club Book presents Nita Prose

MON 7 PM, April 8 Featured title "The Mystery Guest"

Social Singing for Adults

SAT 11 AM, April 20 - Northtown Library

Minnesota's Logging Life Family Program THU 5 PM, April 25 - Mississippi Library

Creative Movement for Seniors with Karla Nweje

THU 5 PM, May 2 - Mississippi Library

Rock Concert for Kids with Will Hale

SAT 10:30 AM, May 18 - Northtown Library

For more programs, visit the event calendar at tinyurl.com/ACLeventcalendar



Johnsville Library - Summer Closure

The Johnsville library will close this summer for remodeling. Watch for updates on our social media pages or visit anokacountylibrary.org.

New Strategic Plan

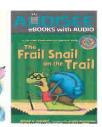
Thank you for your input! Over 14,000 residents gave us feedback on how the library can best serve you. The resulting plan will guide our work for connecting the community to ideas, information, and inspiration over the next few years.

Read the full report online tinyurl.com/ACLStrategicPlan

Exciting progress is already happening:

- NEW! Add your library card number to your digital wallet tinyurl.com/ACLDigitalWallet
- Year-round adaptive and sensoryfriendly programs for youth tinyurl.com/ACLAdaptiveEvents
- Visit tinyurl.com/ACL-Decodable for our expanding decodable book collections.
 Decodable books build confidence and are phonics-based, encouraging children who are learning to read to sound out words.
 Two decodable series have also been added to the "Always Available" section of Libby that never has a waitlist.





Voting Voting



Electronic Pollbooks

These devices have been in use in Anoka County polling places since 2018.

The decision to use pollbooks has benefited Anoka County residents and provided greater efficiencies for election judges and administrators. It is important to note that at no point in time are the pollbooks ever connected to the voting machines, and the information pollbooks access is securely encrypted.

Reduced Wait Times – Gone are the days of standing in long check-in lines, divided alphabetically by last name, and seeing some lines empty while others take more time because voters in those lines have common last names. Voters can now use any line to check in and, instead of flipping through volumes of paper to find your name, an election judge can now simply do a quick search on the pollbook. Because of these efficiencies, the time you spend in the polling place has been drastically reduced.

Election Integrity – Paper rosters required a manual "Voted" stamp next to the name of every resident who voted absentee. This meant many hours of stamping by election officials, with the potential for mistakes. With pollbooks, this process is done instantaneously, without the possibility of human error. This process is repeated on Election Day as well for any absentee ballots that are received on that day. The ability to update a voter's status in real time allows an election judge to instantly see if the person trying to check in already has a voted ballot.

Voter Privacy – Each page of the paper roster listed the names of multiple residents, which allowed for the possibility of others seeing if you had checked in. The pollbooks only display the information of the person who is currently checking in, thus increasing privacy for every voter.

For more information on elections in Anoka County, visit: anokacountymn.gov/3966/Election-Integrity

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Storm sewer systems carry water directly into our lakes, rivers, and wetlands. If anything other than stormwater enters the system, it is an illicit discharge. Substances can include oil, chemicals, sediment, and more.



Tips for residents

- Take used oil to a recycle center or a fast oil-change business.
- Revegetate bare or eroding areas of your lawn.
- Return old paint to the store where you purchased it.
- Secure your trash when placed on the street.
- Take all old chemicals, including paints and automobile fluids, to your local household hazardous waste drop-off-http://tinyurl.com/2wycrmns.
- Do not pour fats, oils, or grease into your sink or sewer.
- Do not over fertilize your lawn.
- Pump your septic tank every 3 years.
- Report any hazardous spills immediately: (612) 670-3059

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Anoka County Forms Committee to Manage Opioid Settlement Funding

The Opioid Solutions Initiative has been established to respond to the misuse of opioids in Anoka County.

The mission of this initiative is to "improve health, save lives, and reduce the impact caused by opioids and other substances in Anoka County, by managing Opioid Settlement funding and supporting strategic partnerships."



State and local governments received funding last year as the result of the settlement with more than a dozen companies that manufactured, sold, or distributed prescription painkillers and were sued for their role in fueling the opioid crisis.

Community engagement with this effort is critical and will be prioritized. Next steps include assembling an advisory council that will include people with lived experience and professionals from organizations throughout the community. Information on the advisory council will be shared through county communication channels in March.

"Our vision is that all Anoka County residents and partners are supported, engaged, and prepared to overcome the opioid crisis and meet the challenges related to substance use in the community," said District 7 Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner.





Finance and Central Services

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners commended the County's Finance and Central Services Division employees Dec. 19, 2023, for their hard work that led to Anoka County being the only Minnesota county to win the cashVest 90+ award this year. The award signifies excellence in the implementation and management of all liquidity in the public and higher education marketplace. It is not based on what the marketplace is paying for cash, but rather how a public entity or higher education institution operates within distinct qualifying areas.

Anoka County Parks

The Anoka County Parks Department recently received a County Achievement Award from the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) for its parks augmented reality (AR) trail app, "Tracks," which can be used at Bunker Hills Regional Park. The program redefines outdoor experience through AR technology and aims to address the disconnect between youth generations and nature.



Award WINNERS

Association of Minnesota Counties



PRT's Pam LeBlanc

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) recently recognized Anoka County's Pam LeBlanc with an Outstanding Service Award for her 42 years of service to the county. LeBlanc currently serves as chief officer of Property Records and Taxation for the county and has held several other positions during her tenure. Over the course of her career, LeBlanc has worked collaboratively with other departments, community partners, counties, and professional organizations. She has fostered a cohesive team atmosphere in her department and continually finds ways to develop leaders in her division.



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Construction Update

Anoka County's new Emergency Communications Center, which will combine 911 operations and the county's radio shop, is nearly a year into construction.

Ground was broken on the 42,000-square foot facility in April of 2023, and construction on the building has been steady.

911's current facility, in the basement of the Anoka County Government Center, was built more than 30 years ago and is only 5,000 square feet. Since its construction, the county has increased in population by more than 200,000 people, and the county's population continues to grow. The new facility will give Emergency Communications the ability to expand to meet the needs of emergency services in the county.

"Anoka County's 911 dispatchers have worked for years in a cramped basement, with no access to windows or daylight — this is anything but an optimal location for one of our county's most important emergency services," said District 2 Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad. "The new facility is an asset for our staff, who need to

be mentally focused to help our public. It's a state-of-theart building that has a setup conducive to learning and distraction reduction, a wellness-fitness room to reduce stress, a quiet room for staff to step away and collect themselves privately, and more."

Anoka County's 911 staff usually field more than 400,000 emergency and non-emergency calls a year, with 95 percent of those calls answered in less than 10 seconds.

More than half of the capital for this nearly \$40 million project came from American Rescue Plan Act funds. Wold Architects and Engineers and ICS Consulting have handled the design and construction of the project.



Property Tax Assistance for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Trained volunteers are available to help senior citizens and people with disabilities apply for their homeowners/renters Minnesota property tax refund (M1PR) form. This program is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Any changes to this schedule will be announced on the property tax line, 763-324-1480.

June 11 - 9 a.m. to noon	Mary Ann Young Senior Center	9150 Central Ave. NE, Blaine
June 12 - 8 a.m. to noon	Coon Rapids Senior Center	11155 Robinson Dr., Coon Rapids
June 20 - 2 to 4 p.m.	Murzyn Hall Columbia Heights Senior Center	530 Mill St., Columbia Heights
June 27 - 10 a.m. to noon	Ham Lake Senior Center	15544 Central Ave. NE, Ham Lake
July 8 - 8 a.m. to noon	Coon Rapids Senior Center	11155 Robinson Dr., Coon Rapids
July 16 - 9 a.m. to noon	Fridley Community Center	6085 7th St. NE, Fridley
July 17 - 9 a.m. to noon	Mary Ann Young Senior Center	9150 Central Ave. NE, Blaine

Anoka County News

SCAN ME FOR

MORE



at the Johnsville Library

Due to open in March, Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions has added a NEW 24/7 organics drop-off location in the parking lot of Johnsville Library in Blaine. For information on the organics recycling program, exact opening date,



or visit: www.AnokaCountyMN.gov/Organics





Empowers Program

GETYOUR UTURE START

OUR SERVICES



Career Planning



Education & Training Opportunities



Paid Work Experience & Internships



Individual Support & Resources



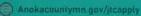


APPLYTODAY



Ages 16-24

No Computer Access? Call 763-324-2284



783-324-2300

1201 89th Ave. NE Ste. 2300 Blaine MN 55434



Dislocated Worker PROGRAM



Have you been laid off and need training or help returning to work?



anokacountymn.gov/dw



763-324-2284



Apply for unemployment uimn.org



Anoka County





Abandoned Well

Sealing Cost Share

PROGRAM

For more information and to apply, visit http://tinyurl.com/2bs2kf8x

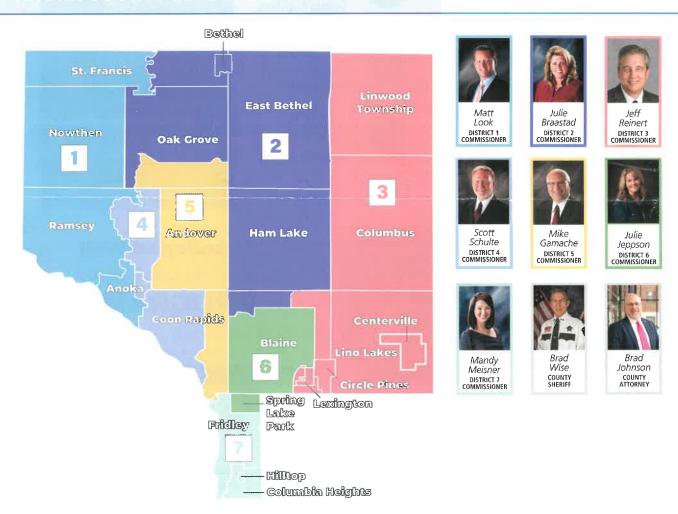
Unused wells can serve as direct conduits for surface contaminants to reach our aquifers. The Anoka Conservation District has been awarded grants through the Clean Water Fund to help eligible landowners seal unused wells located within Anoka County, targeting vulnerable groundwater areas such as Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs).

To qualify for reimbursement, applicants must meet the requirements described in the application and receive a cost-share program approval letter from the Anoka Conservation District before they seal their well. Funding may not be applied retroactively to wells that have already been sealed.



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 anokacountymn.gov. "Anoka County News" is produced by Anoka County Communications, Erik Thorson, Chief Officer, 763-324-4612 publicinfo@anokacountymn.gov • anokacountymn.gov/newsietter

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