

ANOKA COUNTY NEWS

Volume 2-2024

ELECTION

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Anoka
County

What to Expect on and After ELECTION DAY



Election Day is fast approaching on Nov. 5 — there are only a few more weeks before people around the nation head to polling places to cast votes for candidates in a myriad of races.

While this year's presidential contest is garnering the most attention, there are plenty of other races to be decided at the state, county, municipal, and school district level.

Those who want to know which candidates and questions are on their respective ballots can visit the Minnesota Secretary of State website:

sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot

Here, voters can view their sample ballot by entering their zip code and street address.

On Election Day

Prior to heading out the door to vote, it's a good idea to look up the location of your polling place, especially if you're new to an area and haven't voted in that precinct yet. The state's online polling place finder can be accessed at www.pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us — again, the only information needed is a person's zip code and street address.

All polling locations are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day, and Minnesota law stipulates that all employers need to give employees time off to vote, without penalty or deduction in salary or wages. This law also applies to absentee or early voting, which started Sept. 20.

When voters arrive at their Anoka County polling locations, they'll be greeted by election workers and asked to sign in at any available line on an electronic pollbook, which is a secure voter verification system that is never

connected to the voting machines.

After being verified on the pollbook, voters are presented with their ballots and head to voting booths. All voters in Anoka County use paper ballots, creating an auditable paper trail that allows for independent verification of election results using hand-count methods.

Once ballots are filled out, voters feed them into ES&S Digital Scan 200 voting machines to count and tabulate ballots. Digital Scan 450 & 850 machines are used for central counting of absentee ballots. ES&S is one of three vendors with ballot counters that have been tested and certified by test labs accredited by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and tested and certified by the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State for use in Minnesota elections.

Post-Election Activities

After the polls have closed and vote totals are tallied, there's a meeting of the Anoka County Canvassing Board, at which election results are reviewed and certified. The canvassing board also randomly selects a minimum of four precincts to participate in the Post Election Review (PER). The PER is a hand-count audit following state general elections to ensure the ballot counter results are accurate. At the PER, teams of election judges hand-count the absentee and polling place ballots for each precinct. The hand count must differ by no more than one-half of one percent of the machine count, otherwise additional review(s) are triggered. The PER is held at the Anoka County Government Center and is open to the public.



Anoka County
MINNESOTA

Respectful. Innovative. Fiscally Responsible

View Your Sample Ballot

sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot

Find Your Polling Place

pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us

At a Glance: 2025 HIGHWAY PROJECTS

1. 44th Ave. NE from East River Rd. to Main St. NE, Fridley

Reconstruct existing bridge deck, widen pedestrian accommodations, and bridge approach improvements. Project includes signal replacement at East River Road. Construction: winter-fall.

2. Mississippi St. at Old Central Ave., Fridley

New roundabout. Construction: summer-fall.

3. Mississippi St. at 7th Ave., Fridley

New roundabout. Construction: summer-fall.

4. Viking Blvd. from Rum River Bridge to Lake George Blvd., Oak Grove

Reconstruct roadway surface with concrete pavement. Construction: spring-summer.

5. Rum River Blvd. at Seelye Brook, Oak Grove

Replace existing timber bridge. Construction: fall.

6. Bunker Lake Blvd. from Round Lake Blvd. to Hanson Blvd., Andover

Pavement surface mill and overlay, existing traffic control signal system improvements, and pedestrian/bicyclist facility ADA improvements. Construction: summer-fall.

7. Crosstown Blvd. NW at Nightingale St. NW, Andover

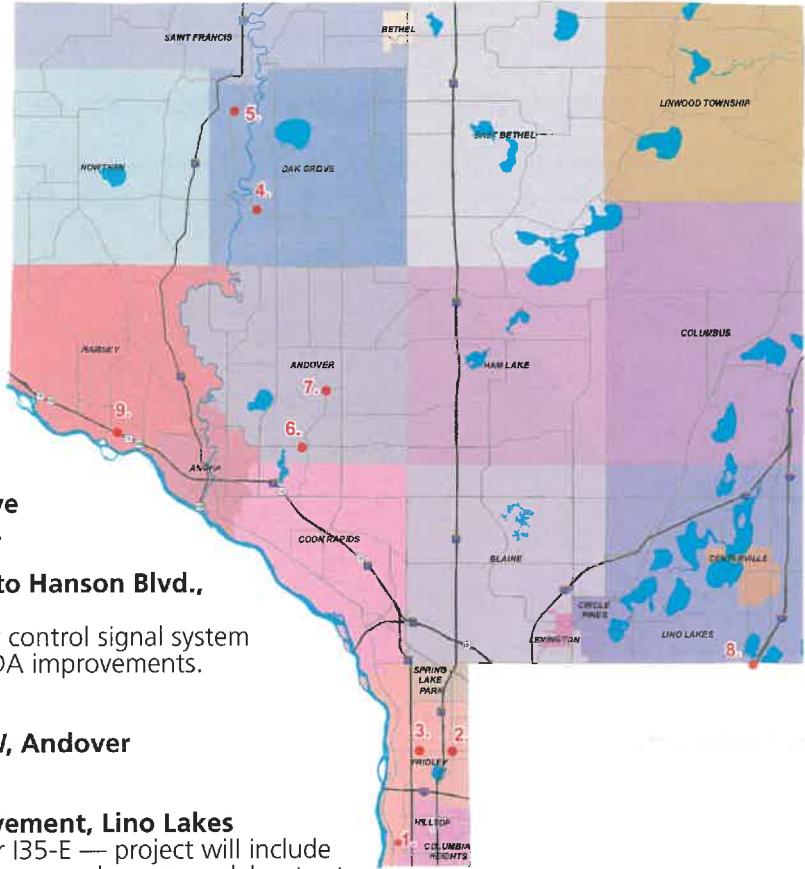
New roundabout. Construction: spring-fall.

8. County Road J at I-35E interchange improvement, Lino Lakes

Construction of new, full-access interchange over I35-E — project will include new bridge over I35-E, southbound on and off ramps and new roundabouts at Centerville Road, 20th Avenue South, and Otter Lake Road. Construction: summer 2025-fall 2026.

9. Highway 10 Ramsey Gateway, Ramsey

Construction of new grade-separated interchanges at Ramsey Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard that will replace existing signalized intersections. At-grade BNSF railway crossings on Ramsey Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard will also be grade-separated. Construction: spring 2024-fall 2025.



**USE
SALT
SAFELY**

Salt is applied during the winter to melt ice on surfaces. Because of this, chloride levels in our environment have increased.

TIPS FOR SALT USAGE

- Follow instructions
- Mix sand with salt
- Store salt indoors
- Apply sparingly in high-traffic areas only
- Keep walkway shoveled

**SIGNS
NEAR
ROADS**



State law prohibits the placement of signs in the public right-of-way. Remember these tips:

- Do not attach signs to any traffic control devices, such as signal poles, signal boxes, or signposts.
- Power poles and fences are usually located on or near the right-of-way lines and are a good reference for the width of the highway right-of-way; however, visit the Anoka County GIS website, gis.anokacountymn.gov/propertysearch/, to determine the right-of-way width prior to installing signs. Call 763-324-3100 for right-of-way questions.

COUNTY MOVING FORWARD on Plans for New Jail

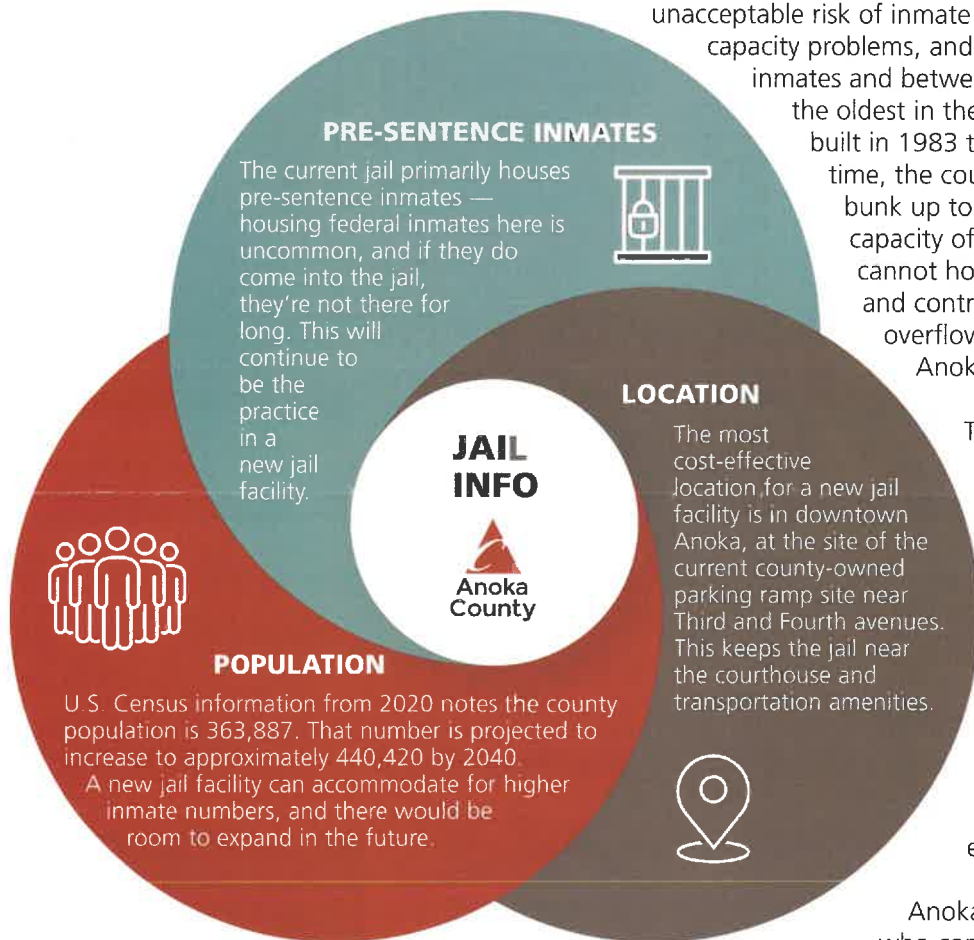


The Anoka County Board of Commissioners, at its July 9 meeting, adopted a resolution authorizing the county to move forward with permit/plan submissions to the City of Anoka for approval of a new jail facility between Third and Fourth avenues in the city, where the county's parking ramp is currently located.

Several location options have been researched, and the Third/Fourth avenues option was deemed to be the lowest cost.

County and city staff have had discussions regarding the new jail and parking ramp for several years. In 2020, a Comprehensive Jail and Workhouse Study was conducted, which noted serious problems with the jail that are either very difficult to fix or can't be fixed. Some of those issues include

unacceptable risk of inmate escape, obscured visibility, capacity problems, and increased risk of violence among inmates and between inmates and staff. The jail is the oldest in the metro area and was originally built in 1983 to house 140 inmates. Since that time, the county has been allowed to double bunk up to 238 inmates, but the functional capacity of the jail is 180. The county cannot house all the inmates it needs to and contracts with other counties to house overflow inmates, at the expense of Anoka County taxpayers.



The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) has inspected the jail and noted deficiencies and has expressed the need for urgent action. In 2022, the DOC provided the county with a report that stated the life expectancy was 25 to 30 years, and it's been operating for more than 40, which brings into question integral infrastructure items, such as cast-iron plumbing and electrical work.

Anoka County's seeks to house people who commit crimes in the county to ensure the public safety of Anoka County residents, staff and those who work and travel

through the area — the county strives to accomplish this goal in the most humane and fiscally responsible manner possible. The county will continue to work with all invested stakeholders on a jail facility that best serves the needs of the criminal justice system and county residents.

To read the resolution, visit tinyurl.com/ajzerc7k



Headway Being Made on Veterans Death Certificate Issue

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution at its July 9 meeting that is meant to address a problem families of veterans are experiencing when it comes to the signing of death certificates by the Veterans Administration (VA).

The resolution calls upon the VA to create a uniform policy that requires VA physicians to sign death certificates within 72 hours. Under the VA's current policy, if an individual in their care has not seen their primary doctor at the VA within 120 days, the VA will not sign a death certificate. This moves the responsibility onto medical/coroner's offices, which must locate all medical records and redetermine the cause of death. Shifting this responsibility leads to death certificate signing delays of six to

eight weeks. During that timeframe, grieving families could experience undue stress, unnecessary financial implications, inability to make burial and funeral preparations, and more.

"The Anoka County Board has raised the profile of this issue, and it has gained attention at the national level," said District 3 Anoka County Commissioner Jeff Reinert. "There's currently an appropriations bill going through Congress to fix this problem, and the hope is that it will be signed by the President by the end of the year. The men and women who have served our country deserve our utmost respect in life and in death, and this VA policy change that we're pushing for will ensure that respect and aid the families of the deceased."

ANOKA COUNTY'S New Hire: 'Deano'

Employees and visitors to the Anoka County Government Center may occasionally hear the padding of paws in the building as "Deano," Anoka County's facility dog, makes his way down the halls.

Deano has been with the county for just over a year and a half — he has been specially trained to provide comfort and support to the victims and witnesses going through the court process in Anoka County. He can attend court, meet with victims and witnesses before and after they testify, and he also helps with vicarious trauma for Anoka County staff. Deano has been trained in accordance with Assistance Dogs International (ADI) and has had extensive temperament training.

Facility dogs are professionally trained by an accredited assistance dog organization. Deano trained for two years at Can Do Canines, and then was donated to the ACAO where he fits right in among his co-workers. Therapy animals that partner with their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need.

"Therapy animal teams play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through a human-animal bond," said District 7 Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner, who serves as chair of the Human Services Committee.

Deano's moniker comes from a war veteran named Dean. After Dean retired from the military, he continued to serve by assisting other veterans in his community, and now Deano is doing the same.

"Deano has been a necessary addition to our office and the work that we do," said Andrea Kohner, Victim Witness Specialist and one of Deano's handlers. "The individuals Deano meets with are usually experiencing some form of trauma and the option to have Deano present with these individuals can make the process not as scary. As soon as Deano enters a meeting, you can see the person's entire demeanor change. Having his support helps lessen the victim and witness's anxiety and stress while having to go through the criminal justice system."



New County Administrator Starts



The Anoka County Board of Commissioners appointed Jim Dickinson as the county's new administrator at the board's July 23 meeting.

Dickinson was one of three finalists the board ultimately considered for the position after a months-long search process conducted following the retirement of former administrator Rhonda Sivarajah.

Dickinson comes to Anoka County with decades of experience in government administration and accounting. For nearly the past 20 years, he served as the city administrator of Andover, and he previously served as that city's finance director and interim administrator for 5 years. Prior to those positions, Dickinson worked as an accounting manager for Anoka County, a city accountant for Cottage Grove, and an accountant/senior accountant with Anoka County. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from St. Cloud State University. He has received several professional awards and acknowledgments for his work in the government financial sector.

"I think the search process for a new administrator went well," said Mike Gamache, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. "Jim stood out among the applicants because he has more than 30 years of experience in the public sector — as a city administrator, finance director, and he worked in accounting for Anoka County. He's a great addition to our leadership."

After a transition period, Dickinson officially started with Anoka County in mid-September.

"Being the new administrator in Anoka County is kind of a homecoming for me," Dickinson said. "Many of the faces have changed since I worked here last, but there are a few people who are still here. I'm excited to reconnect with them, and work with new staff and commissioners. I'm thankful for the opportunity, and I welcome the challenge."



ANOKA COUNTY DEPUTY Named 'Officer of the Year'

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) awarded Anoka County Sheriff's Office Dep. Tanner Shipman its 2024 "Officer of the Year" award for heroic actions he performed in Sturgis, South Dakota, in August of last year.

Dep. Shipman was on vacation in Sturgis when he noticed a male suspect engaged in an incident with a South Dakota State trooper. Nearby, the suspect was pointing and shooting a firearm at the trooper, which caused Dep. Shipman to promptly retrieve a firearm belonging to a family member with his group and assist the trooper who was on the ground. After identifying himself as law enforcement to the trooper, Dep. Shipman and the trooper saw the suspect attempt to get into the trooper's squad vehicle, and a shootout ensued. The suspect was ultimately taken into custody, and Dep. Shipman assisted with medical care until additional responders arrived. The suspect survived his injuries and later pled guilty to shooting at the trooper.

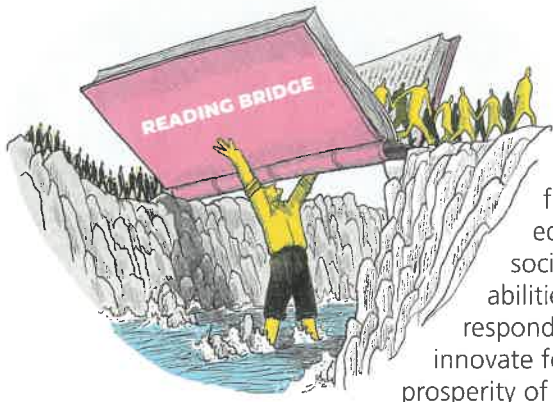
"Dep. Shipman's actions were heroic, selfless, and he faced danger head on without wavering," said District 2 Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad, who serves as the chair of the county's Public Safety Committee. "We're proud to have Dep. Shipman serving and representing the Anoka County Sheriff's Office — even when off duty, Dep. Shipman follows his calling to protect the public and his fellow law enforcement officers."

Anoka County Sheriff Brad Wise praised Dep. Shipman for his actions and bravery.

"Dep. Shipman's 18-year career with the Anoka County Sheriff's Office has countless stories of selfless actions and commitments to justice. It is not surprising that Dep. Shipman would instantly assist someone, even when it comes with great bodily risk, or even death. This well-deserved award from the MPPOA is the highest honor a member of law enforcement can receive, as it comes from law enforcement peers throughout Minnesota. Deputy Shipman is an inspiration to law enforcement, as well as all in our community."

LIBRARY PROGRAM

Connects Children, Mentors



Strong literacy skills are the foundation for equipping our society with the abilities needed to respond, adapt, and innovate for the future prosperity of our country.

Volunteering as a reading mentor through Anoka County's Reading Bridge program provides the opportunity to create a safe and fun environment for students to get extra reading practice. Readers in first, second, or third grade are paired with a volunteer mentor to meet once a week for 8-12 weeks (depending on season). Each 45-minute session includes time for reading, games, and activities designed to build literacy skills and goal setting for the week to come.

Alternatively, if you feel your child could benefit from the Reading Bridge program, students must:

- Be in grades 1, 2, or 3.
- Reading below grade level.
- Live in or attend school in Anoka County.
- Be able to meet with their volunteer mentor at the library every week on the same day and time.



During Reading Bridge sessions, volunteer mentors and students will:

- Take turns reading aloud to each other.
- Discuss, draw, and write about what they are reading.
- Play literacy games to practice sight words, sounds, and spelling.

Reading Bridge is not:

- Help with homework assignments.
- Formal evaluation, diagnosis, or intervention for reading issues or disabilities.
- A replacement for school or other additional supports students are receiving.

How to Become a Reading mentor

To apply and for more information, visit anokacountymn.gov/4233/Reading-Bridge or scan the QR code.

Consistency and the relationship built between mentor and reader are critical to the success of Reading Bridge. Mentors must be able to commit to meeting with their student at the library each week at the same day and time during after-school hours for the Reading Bridge season.

Reading Bridge sessions

Fall: October-December
 Winter/Spring: February-April
 Summer: June-August

SPOTLIGHT ON OPIOIDS & OVERDOSE

SATURDAY NOV. 2

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Columbia Academy

900 49th Ave NE, Columbia Heights
Gymnasium

Come and see how Anoka County is responding to the opioid epidemic. This **FREE** event aims to raise awareness about overdose prevention and provide support for individuals and families affected by substance abuse. A day filled with insightful education, discussions, informative sessions and networking opportunities.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Presentations by experts on opioids and addiction
- Naloxone training
- Panel of people who have lived through opioid addiction
- Over 30 vendors
- Free coffee* & pizza

Join us and be a part of this important conversation as we work towards creating a safer and healthier Anoka County.

*Coffee from Serenity Bean Coffee



For a full list of speakers/vendors and more information on Anoka County Opioid Solutions Initiative scan QR code or visit:

AnokaCountyMN.gov/ACOSI

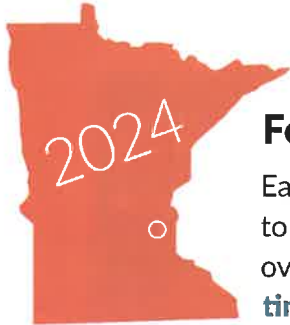


ANOKA COUNTY
OPIOID SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE



Anoka County
MINNESOTA
Respectful. Inclusive. Peacefully Prepared.

ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARY



READ LOCAL

Featured Authors

Each fall we select local authors to be highlighted in our community over the coming year.

tinyurl.com/ReadlocalACL

Find MN authors, illustrators, and music in the library catalog: tinyurl.com/ACLMNcreators

Find Featured Author programs on the event calendar: tinyurl.com/ACLFAevent

YOUTH FICTION



John Gaspard
The Curious Mysteries of Eli Marks



Nicole Kronzer
The Roof Over Our Heads



Elisa Sobolik
Always Be Kind



Mark Therrien
The Megavan



Mila Velimirovich
Orianna's Legacy

YOUTH NONFICTION



Phuoc Thi Minh Tran
All About Vietnam: Projects & Activities for Kids-Learn About Vietnamese Culture

ADULT FICTION



June Gossler Anderson
The Other Side of Anoka: A Novel of Historical Fiction



Andrea Christenson
How Sweet It Is



Denise Devine
The Bootlegger's Wife



Kathryn Tokar Haidet
Crashing Through the Windshield



Loren Niemi
Circus Rex



John C. Stroebel
Leaf Runner

ADULT NONFICTION



Joe Field
Finding Joe Adams



Savita Harjani
Postcards from Within: Random Ramblings of an Ordinary Human



Lynne Kolze
Please Write: Finding Joy and Meaning in the Soulful Art of Handwritten Letters



Rachel Jorgensen
Supporting Your Child with Special Needs: 50 Fundamental Tools for Families

Visit your local library in-person or online at anokcountymn.gov/library



Get access to books, tutoring, research tools, and more to help your child succeed. Sign up for a FREE library card today tinyurl.com/GetACLcard



- **HelpNow and JobNow - powered by Brainfuse**
Online help with homework, college applications, resumes, and job interviews. Career coaches and live tutors daily 1 to 11 p.m., available in English and Spanish tinyurl.com/ACLhelpnow
- **Hotspots available for checkout**
Place a hold tinyurl.com/ACLmobilehotspots
Free WiFi available in library parking lots 24/7
- **Free public computers and internet access**
- **Librarian recommends** - Submit a request for personalized book recommendations for school projects or books to read for fun tinyurl.com/ACLrecommend



Support the library on Give to the Max Day
Donate to the Friends of Anoka County Library
Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024
givemn.org/organization/Acl

PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS

Getting started with HelpNow and other school support resources sessions
11/16, 12/17 - Northtown Library

Maud Hart Lovelace book club
11/6, 12/4 - Northtown Library
Students in grades K-8: Join the Maud Hart Lovelace reading challenge in Beanstack anokacounty.beanstack.com

Teen writing group
11/21, 12/19 - Northtown Library

BOOK CLUBS

Find monthly book clubs including True Crime, Romance, Bring Your Own Book, History, and more tinyurl.com/ACLadultbookclubs

START YOUR OWN BOOK CLUB



Book club in a bag kits
Over 100 Book Club in a Bag kits available for a checkout period of 6 weeks. Each kit contains eight books and related discussion questions. tinyurl.com/ACLbookclubbags

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, March 1, 2025



8th Annual Local Author Fair
Northtown Library 10:15 a.m.
Keynote address by best-selling author, William Kent Krueger

Spirit Crossing, Krueger's newest book, is out now!

Don't miss Anoka County's literary event of the year, the highlight of Winter Reads. Seating is limited. Author Fair follows the keynote event. Meet writers from our community and purchase signed copies of their books.



GATHER IN THE PARKS

Anoka County Parks offers event spaces for graduation parties, holiday gatherings, and family events.

RIEDEL FARMHOUSE AT RIVERFRONT

ACTIVITIES CENTER AT BUNKER HILLS

BLUE HERON ROOM AT CHOMONIX

MEETING ROOM AT RUM RIVER NORTH

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!
anokacountyparks.com/indoor-facilities
763-324-3300

WORK IN THE PARKS

The Parks Department encourages those looking for a rewarding work or volunteer experience to consider applying and joining a dedicated team connecting people to the outdoors.

 PARK MAINTENANCE

 NATURAL RESOURCES

 PROGRAM & GUEST SERVICES

 BUNKER BEACH WATER PARK

 CHOMONIX GOLF COURSE



**EMPLOYEE
EXPERIENCES**



**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES**

Anoka County News

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

IN THE PARKS

WARGO NATURE CENTER • 7701 Main Street, Lino Lakes, MN

WINTER WILDLIFE EXPLORATIONS

Monday, December 23

Wargo Nature Center, 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Ages 8-10 It may be cold out, but wildlife are out and about all winter. Learn about the world of winter animals through outdoor exploration, games, and more! **\$75/child +tax**

WINTER RECREATION ADVENTURE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

Wargo Nature Center, 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Ages 10-13 Let's explore and play in the wintry world of Wargo! Experience a fun-filled day of outdoor activities such as snowshoeing, kiksledding, and more. **\$75/child +tax**

WINTER WILDLIFE TRACKING

SATURDAYS December 14 • January 11

February 8 • February 15 • March 1

Wargo Nature Center, 10 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Ages 14+ Explore the winter landscape of Minnesota with one of Wargo's three certified wildlife trackers to learn how to distinguish the numerous tracks and signs of local wildlife.

\$10/person +tax per single session

\$45/person +tax for all sessions

FOREST BATHING

Saturday, November 16: 4 - 6 P.M.

Saturday, December 14: 4 - 6 P.M.

Friday, January 3: 5 - 7 P.M.

Wargo Nature Center

Ages 12+ Awaken your senses and experience an immersive, meditative session of forest bathing with certified ANFT guide Kirsten Welge.

\$35/person +tax

REGISTER TODAY 763-324-3350
ANOKACOUNTYPARKS.COM



WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Wargo Nature Center, 3 - 7 P.M.

All Ages Celebrate the shortest day and longest night of the year. Come explore on your own, try a self-guided activity, sit at the campfire, or join a naturalist for a silent night hike. **FREE!**

WINTER RECREATION SAMPLER

Sunday, December 22, 1-3 P.M.

Wargo Nature Center

Ages 5+ Experience a variety of recreational activities including kick-sledding, snowshoeing, and discover tips on how to dress for cold weather. Pre-registration required. **\$10/adult, \$5/child +tax**

SNOW DAY

Saturday, January 25, 1-4 P.M.

Wargo Nature Center

All Ages Snow Day is an annual free event that allows participants of all ages to experience a variety of winter recreational activities. Along with outdoor activities like snowshoeing, kick-sledding and an ice fishing demo. There are indoor activities such as crafts, refreshments, a live animal presentation and interactive displays. **FREE!**

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 22, 12-2 P.M.

Wargo Nature Center

All Ages Celebrate spring! Learn how to make maple syrup, maple crafts, and go on a scavenger hunt. Pre-registration required. **\$5/person +tax**



PLAY
IN THE PARKS



SNOWSHOE & KICK-SLED RENTAL AT WARGO
\$5 for up to 2 hours - on site only

Discussions Progressing on County Budget, Levy

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners is currently in deep discussions about how much to levy in property taxes to fund next year's budget.

Just how much a home or business owner will pay depends on various factors, and property taxes don't always go up or down at the same percentage as local levies. Growth or decline in tax base, assessment trends, and the fact that there are a whole host of taxing authorities — state, county, school district, and several others — means your share of the "property tax pie" can and does fluctuate from year to year. (Read page 14 for information on how changes at the legislative level could affect your property taxes next year).

The Anoka County Board works to be as fiscally responsible as possible during budget time each year, while still adopting levies and budgets that allow the county to offer services to its residents, such as snow removal, policing, libraries, job training center services, park access and maintenance, assistance for county veterans, and more.

For 2025, county staff and the board have identified several strategic priorities:

- **Transportation:** Enhancing and protecting life by providing safe roads and eliminating congestion.
- **Human Services:** Working with people to improve lives.
- **Public Safety:** Protecting and serving the community in a manner that preserves public trust.
- **Workforce:** Attracting and retaining an engaged, skilled county workforce.
- **Communication:** Providing clear, accurate and effective information to residents and staff about county initiatives.

Notably, the board kept the county's levy at zero percent from 2021 to 2023, and 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.

For more information on how Anoka County spends and receives money, check out the OpenGov Budget Explorer at anokacountymn.gov/2328/OpenGov-Budget-Explorer

CareerForce Job Seeker Services



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Apply Today! We're here to serve young adults, dislocated workers and those transitioning to a new career. Eligible applicants may receive training assistance. Reach out today! <https://tinyurl.com/bdhfbt9v>



CAREER SERVICES

Get ready! Get set! Get hired! www.careerforcemn.com Log in for the latest in career tips, area employer connections, resume tricks and interview preparation. Also, check out Minnesota's largest listing of available job openings across the state www.minnesotaworks.net



WORKSHOPS

Sharpen Your Skills! CareerForce now has in-person workshops on job searching, resume writing and interview skills along with links to several online resources. <https://tinyurl.com/4ye2mr7m>



RESUME REVIEW

Get resume tips from our expert team! CareerForce professionals will review your resume or cover letter and provide feedback. Email your resume to: careerforce.blaine@state.mn.us



JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE

One-on-one job search assistance! Schedule a job search appointment to meet in person, over the phone or online to get help with your job search and learn about other available resources. Schedule an appointment at www.careerforcemn.com/blaine us at or call 763-324-2300.

Cyclomedia Technology Allowing County to Remotely Inspect Properties

A national leader in providing street-level imagery, Cyclomedia, is now available for use to staff at Anoka County.

Cyclomedia captures data from the real world and transforms it into valuable information that will benefit county, municipal, and law enforcement partners. It will be used by staff throughout the county from the assessor's office, highway department, emergency services, and more.

Once the Cyclomedia vehicle completes a drive, staff in their respective departments have access to the imagery via Street Smart, a web application that allows users to remove, navigate, and inspect property without physical inspection. It will also provide emergency services an advanced look at property they may be visiting, which could increase safety for both staff and members of the public.



"Anoka County is always searching for ways to do more with less while being fiscally responsible," Anoka County Assessor Alex Guggenberger said. "Cyclomedia will give our assessors the ability to remotely view and inspect certain types of property without the need for physical inspection, while still meeting state statute requirements. This maximizes efficiency for staff while minimizing the interruption physical inspections often have on property owners' busy schedules."

Cyclomedia can provide assessment staff with multiple viewing angles and the ability to measure properties to find the length, width, and area within centimeters of accuracy.

"This service will greatly enhance the land records Anoka County maintains on an annual basis, while maximizing efficiency for the Highway Department and our Geographic Information Systems Department, said District 4 Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte.

Anoka County is very aware of and conscious of residents and their privacy. Artificial Intelligence software (AI) and an internal review team at Cyclomedia will blur facial features, license plates, as well as any open exterior garage door or children playing outdoors so that the contents are not visible.

Career Pathways TRAINING

Receive the training you need to get the job you want!



Anoka County
JOB TRAINING CENTER

No-cost training for eligible applicants

No computer access? Call 763-324-2284

TIME TO VACCINATE

Against measles and other diseases



Measles cases are rising and impacting many communities. The state has seen the most cases since 2017, with a significant number in the metro. Measles is a serious illness that can lead to hospitalization or even death.

PUBLIC IMMUNIZATION CLINIC SCHEDULE

Scan the QR code, enter the web address, or call 763-324-4240

Low-cost vaccinations available for uninsured/underinsured children and adults

<https://tinyurl.com/4u7xfprb>

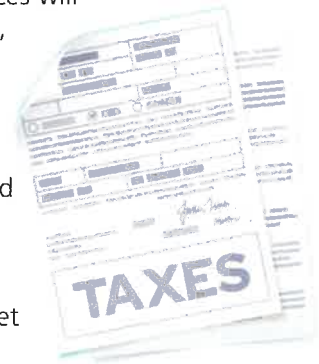
Property Tax Shifts – What Causes Them?

Legislative changes and changes to local budgets and levies at the county, city, school district, and special taxing district level, along with the assessed value of your residence or business, all impact how much you pay in property tax on an annual basis. Changes in one or more of those areas can result in a shift of the tax burden, making levy increases or decreases more impactful for certain types of property.

Property taxes payable in 2025 will be impacted by legislative changes made in 2023 where we saw the Homestead Market Value Exclusion threshold increase. Because more residential value is being excluded from taxation, the tax burden will shift, which will result in increases for commercial, industrial, and apartment-type property.

What should taxpayers be looking for?

Proposed property tax notices are mailed mid-to-late November. These notices will reflect proposed levies, as well as the impact legislative changes have on final tax amounts. Property owners are encouraged to review their proposed property tax notice in November and attend local budget hearings or call with questions they might have.



MENTAL HEALTH CORNER

Nearly 1 in 5 American adults will have a diagnosable mental health condition in any given year. The tips below can help when you're struggling.

Accepting Reality
Sometimes in life we end up in situations we can't change. Radical acceptance is about fully accepting your reality in situations that are beyond your control.

Adapting After Trauma and Stress
We all face trauma, adversity, and other stresses throughout our lives. Trauma of any kind can be hard on your mental health but working on becoming more resilient can help you feel more at ease.

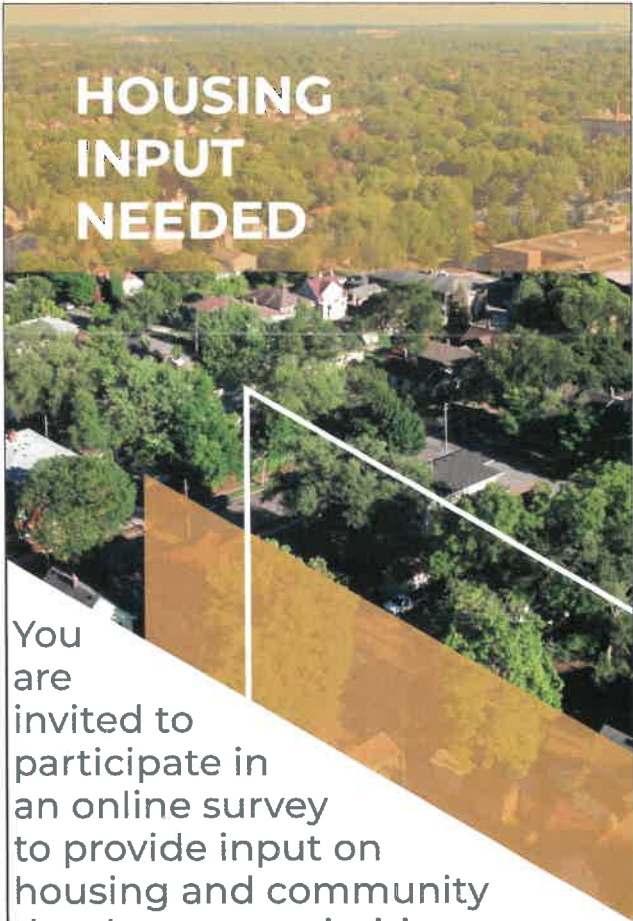
Prioritizing Self-Care
When we have a lot on our plates or we are facing mental health challenges, it can feel easy to push our own needs to the side. However, making time

for ourselves is essential to our overall well-being.

Processing Big Changes
Change is a guaranteed part of life. It's something everyone experiences at one point or another – good or bad. Sometimes that change happens in big ways when we aren't expecting it or aren't prepared for it.

"Anyone dealing with an immediate mental health crisis can call the Anoka County Crisis Response line at 988," said District 6 Anoka County County Commissioner Julie Jeppson. "The line is open all day, every day, it's free, and it's available to adults and children. It's a great resource, and it's always staffed by skilled, trained counselors."

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



HOUSING INPUT NEEDED

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

anokcountymn.gov/CommunitySurvey

NOW OPEN

BUNKER HILLS COMPOST BARN



SUNDAY, NOV. 3 PUMPKIN COLLECTION

Halloween is right around the corner, and you won't be needing those pumpkins for much longer. Drop by a county compost site on November 3rd with your jack-o-lanterns so that we can turn them into compost for you! Pick up a treat on that day as we celebrate the opening of the new Bunker Hills compost barn.

BUNKER HILLS

APR - NOV. | WEATHER PERMITTING

MON. - FRI. | 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

SAT. | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SUN. | Noon - 5 p.m.

DEC. - MAR. | WEATHER PERMITTING

SAT. | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. ONLY

RICE CREEK

APR. - NOV. | WEATHER PERMITTING

TUES. | 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

THURS. | 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

SAT. | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SUN. | Noon - 5 p.m.

DEC. - MAR. | WEATHER PERMITTING

SAT. | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. ONLY



Innovative new food scrap processing at the Bunker Hills and Rice Creek Compost Sites

The county has developed small-scale organics processing at the Bunker Hills and Rice Creek compost sites. Inside the new barn at both sites, we're turning your food scraps into compost, a valuable soil amendment. Compost benefits all soil types and improves moisture retention in sandy soil.

This innovative approach at a county compost site processes food scraps safely and effectively without having to transport the material off-site. Once the unscreened finished compost has cured and is ready, any Anoka County resident can pick it up free of charge (bring your own shovel).

Food scraps make up 25-35 percent of what we throw away, but they can be turned into compost at certain types of compost facilities, like at the new barns at the county compost sites. Compostable organic materials as noted below can be brought to the barn at either compost site anytime they are open to the public.

Organics are the compostable portion of trash including:

ALL FOOD SCRAPS

- Leftovers
- Peelings
- Spoiled food

FOOD SOILED, UNCOATED, NON-RECYCLABLE PAPERS

- Paper towels
- Napkins
- Coffee grounds/ filters
- Paper egg cartons

BPI-CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

- Food ware
- Silverware
- Bags



Join your neighbors and start recycling your food scraps today. For information on how to start recycling your food scraps through a curbside collection program or organics drop-off program call **Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions at 763-324-3400** or go to **AnokaCountyMN.gov/organics**.



Anoka County
RECYCLING & RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

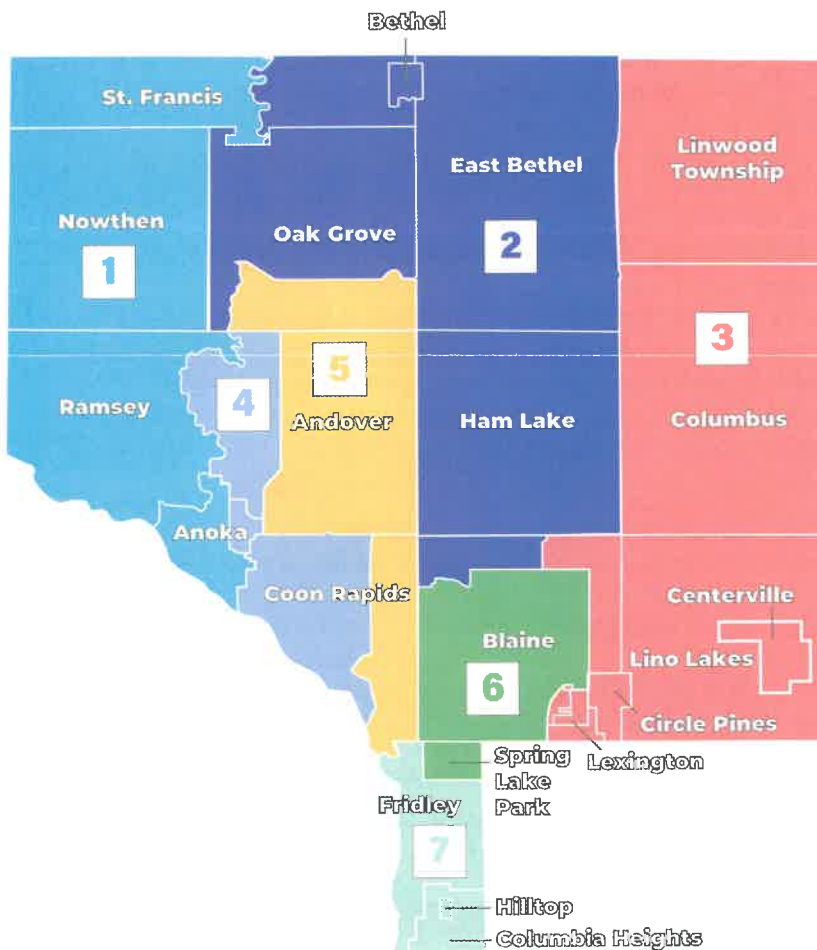
Anoka County
 2100 3rd Ave.
 Anoka MN 55303-5024



Visit our website!

ANOKA COUNTY LEADERSHIP

763-324-4700



 Vacant DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER	 Julie Braastad DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER	 Jeff Reinert DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER
 Scott Schulte DISTRICT 4 COMMISSIONER	 Mike Gamache DISTRICT 5 COMMISSIONER	 Julie Jeppson DISTRICT 6 COMMISSIONER
 Mandy Meisner DISTRICT 7 COMMISSIONER	 Brad Wise COUNTY SHERIFF	 Brad Johnson 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, Chief Communications Officer 763-324-4612 publicinfo@anokacountymn.gov • anokacounty.us/newsletter
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