

# ANOKA COUNTY NEWS

Volume 1-2023



**Serving  
Our  
Seniors**

# Anoka County: Dedicated to Assisting our Seniors

**E**very day in the United States, 10,000 people turn 65, and the number of older adults will more than double over the next several decades to top 88 million people, which will represent more than 20 percent of the population by 2050, according to the AARP.

In Minnesota, 1 in 5 residents will be age 65 or older by 2030. This demographic shift means more resources are and will continue to be dedicated to assisting our senior population. Anoka County and its partners seek to serve area seniors in ways that allow them to maintain their independence as long as possible, connect with opportunities in the community, and live healthy lives. The county can also direct caregivers who are assisting older adults to helpful resources.

“There are many quality programs for seniors in our community,” said Matt Look, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. “Our county officials and staff are dedicated to helping seniors navigate programming options, find volunteer opportunities, learn about transportation services, and more.”

The following pages detail some of the programming available to seniors in Anoka County and provide direction on how to access additional information.



Anoka County  
MINNESOTA

Respectful. Innovative. Fiscally Responsible

Senior  
Resources  
Guide

[tinyurl.com/3rfkm9rb](https://tinyurl.com/3rfkm9rb)

# Program Offers Resources to Caregivers, those who Receive Care

The Anoka County Family Caregiver Connection is a network of services for caregivers, family members, and those for whom they care. There are several resources available through the Family Caregiver Connection, including group respite, caregiver support groups, health and spiritual connections, specialized coaching for caregivers of individuals with memory loss, and more.

There are a few requirements participants must meet to receive Anoka County Family Caregiver Connection services. Care receivers must be age 55 or older and require companion care only. Caregivers must be a family caregiver in need of information and support services. The following are a few of the programs offered through the Family Caregiver Connection.

## The Gathering

The Gathering is a daytime, out-of-home group respite program for caregivers and care receivers. Trained volunteers, supervised by a social worker or nurse, operate the program. Participants can enjoy fellowship, lunch, and activities while caregivers enjoy time away from caregiving. Location: Zion Lutheran Church: 1601 4th Ave. S., Anoka. Meets at 10 a.m. the first four Thursdays of the month.

## Memory Café

Anoka County Family Caregiver Connection partners with area churches and senior communities to host Memory Cafés. This allows participants to have access to services and resources throughout their journey with memory loss. Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 11115 Hanson Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids. Meets at 10 a.m. the first and third Wednesdays of the month.



**9 A.M. TO NOON APRIL 15**

**LORD OF LIFE CHURCH,  
14501 Nowthen Blvd NW, Ramsey**

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Information booths     | Entertainment           |
| Free pancake breakfast | Blood pressure checks   |
| Mini massages          | Eyewear repair/cleaning |

Sponsored by Anoka County Human Services. Questions? Call Nicki at 763-324-1227.

## Caregiver Support Groups

Caregiver support groups meet regularly to build support, comfort, and share information about caregiving issues.

### *In-Person Caregiver Support Group*

Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 4th Ave. S., Anoka.

Meets at 10 a.m. the first and third Thursday of the month.

MaryAnn Young Center, 9150 Central Ave. NE, Blaine.

Meets at 10 a.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

### *Virtual Caregiver Support Group:*

Meets at 10 a.m. the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

For more information about these programs, including how to access the virtual caregiver support group, and volunteer opportunities, email [caregivers@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:caregivers@co.anoka.mn.us) or call the Family Caregiver Connection at 763-324-1608.

“Caring for a loved one as they deal with aging, declining health, or memory loss can be emotionally and physically draining for caregivers,” said District 2 Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad. “Anoka County, recognizing the need to support caregivers and those they care for, has established partnerships to help this part of our population. There are many resources available, and we encourage people to take advantage of them.”



# Scams that Target Seniors: How to Stay Safe



Anyone can be the victim of a scam, but seniors are oftentimes specifically targeted by fraudsters, because these criminals believe many seniors have substantial amounts of money in the bank.

According to a guide on financial exploitation from the Anoka County Attorney's Office, there are several types of common scams:

- Phishing: Internet fraudsters try to trick you into giving out personal information, such as your name, address, social security number, credit card number, and more.
- Sweetheart Scams: Online relationships are formed, and people are asked to send money or "help out" with transactions.
- Grandparent or Emergency Scams: Scammers will pose as relatives or friends, asking for money to be wired for an emergency.
- Lottery scams: Sweepstakes that prompt people to pay a fee or buy something to improve their chances of winning.
- Computer tech support: A pop-up or blank screen appears telling a person their computer is damaged and needs fixing. This scam is usually coupled with a phone number to call or another way to get into contact with the person posing as a tech support specialist.

According to the National Council on Aging, scams targeting older adults are on the rise, and they can have

devastating consequences, as sometimes victims have no way to recoup their losses, and prosecuting scammers can be difficult, because they're often hard to locate. In 2021, there were more than 92,000 older victims of fraud, resulting in \$1.7 billion in losses.

Instead of being mired in the process of trying to get money back after being scammed, the best way to deal with scammers is to know their techniques so you don't become their victim.

Some tips include:

- Never give account numbers, banking information or personal/family details over the phone or online unless you initiated the contact and know exactly who you're dealing with.
- Don't believe the caller ID — scammers can easily spoof locations.
- Hang up on robocalls.
- Be skeptical about "free" offers.
- If you have to pay money to get money, it's a scam.
- Don't click on suspicious links on websites, emails or text messages.
- Trust your instincts.

"Sadly, seniors and others fall victim to both online and over-the-phone scams every day," said District 3 Anoka County Commissioner Jeff Reinert. "To avoid this fate, it's important to be educated so you're aware of the many ways people can steal your money."

## Resources

Report fraud to the Federal Trade Commission:  
[Reportfraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identity-theft)



**Meals on Wheels**  
**Serves Anoka County**  
[www.impactservicesmn.org](http://www.impactservicesmn.org)

**763-236-8718**

Meals served at lunchtime for seniors, pregnant women on bed rest, people on short-term medical rest, and people with disabilities or medical conditions. Serving all of Anoka County.

# Volunteer Opportunities Available for Anoka County Seniors

Anoka County has important volunteer opportunities for area seniors who want to use their skills and personalities to give back to the community.

## Medlink

One such program that needs volunteers is Medlink, which coordinates volunteers who generously give their time and vehicles to provide rides to eligible Anoka County residents, such as veterans, those over age 60, or clients of Anoka County.

Medlink provides rides to and from medical, dental, and social service appointments. Medical and dental trips may be made throughout the metro area while appointments with social services must remain within Anoka County. For more information about Medlink or to sign up to volunteer, call 763-324-3260 or visit [anokacountymn.gov/2221](http://anokacountymn.gov/2221) to fill out an application.

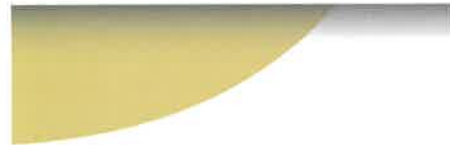
## RSVP

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) matches older adults with opportunities to enrich their communities, utilize their individual skills, interests, and availability to put their passion to work. Examples of RSVP volunteer opportunities include the CarFit program,

where RSVP-trained volunteers help people with car safety by going over a 12-point safety check list with them; wellness classes where RSVP volunteers lead people in workouts to increase strength, flexibility, and balance; volunteering at food shelves; working as a 4-H Club project leader; and more.

“MedLink and RSVP are great resources for our seniors, and we’re always looking for volunteers for these programs,” said District 4 Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte. “If you’ve got time, skills, and care about giving back to your community while building bonds with area seniors, consider getting involved with MedLink or RSVP.”

For more information on RSVP, call Tricia Lehti at 763-324-1661 or visit [anokacountymn.gov/725/Retired-Senior-Volunteer-Program](http://anokacountymn.gov/725/Retired-Senior-Volunteer-Program) to fill out a volunteer application.



**763-324-1410**

For Seniors  
Interested in Anoka  
County Services



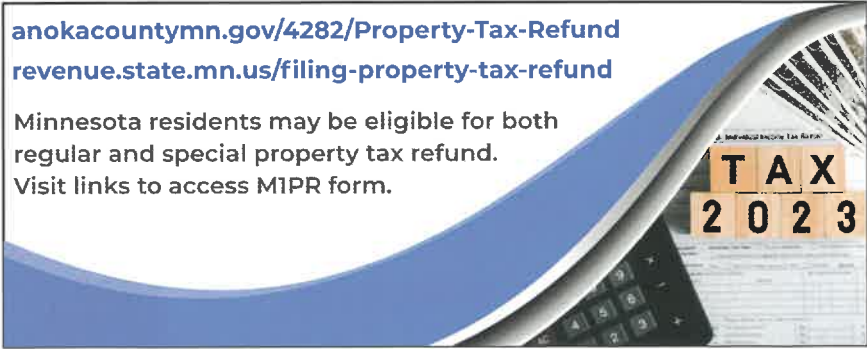
- High-quality programs and services for older adults.
- Support and information for friends and family members who are assisting an older adult.



District 4 Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte thanks MedLink drivers for their service at a volunteer appreciation luncheon Oct. 11, 2022.

[anokacountymn.gov/4282/Property-Tax-Refund](http://anokacountymn.gov/4282/Property-Tax-Refund)  
[revenue.state.mn.us/filing-property-tax-refund](http://revenue.state.mn.us/filing-property-tax-refund)

Minnesota residents may be eligible for both regular and special property tax refund. Visit links to access MIPR form.



TAX  
2023

# Senior Services Available Through ACCAP

The Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP) is an independent nonprofit agency that has been in existence since 1965.

They offer an array of services to seniors and others in the Anoka County area. Some senior services include:

- Chores and More: Seniors can be assisted with housekeeping, minor home repairs and seasonal chores.
- Senior Kinship: Volunteers are paired with seniors to provide companionship, outings, errand running and medical and non-medical transportation.
- Senior Outreach: Outreach workers meet with clients in their homes or at ACCAP offices; they use person-centered approaches to identify needs, assess services already in place and discuss appropriate programs available to the client.
- Senior Information Line: 763-783-4707, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This line is specifically designed to connect older adults or their family members to community services and resources. The Senior Information Line is a unique service that follows up with the caller to ensure they have connected with appropriate and adequate services such as housing, support, transportation, and more. Anyone may call for information.

"ACCAP has been a great resource and partner for nearly six decades in Anoka County," said District 7 Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner. "The work they do to pair volunteers with seniors is essential for serving our senior population."

For more information on senior services available through ACCAP, visit [accap.org/senior-services](http://accap.org/senior-services).



Anoka County Community Action Program



Anoka  
County



**Senior Transportation  
SERVICES**

Visit [tinyurl.com/4fm9wuvh](http://tinyurl.com/4fm9wuvh)  
for a list of area services.



**SENIOR  
HOUSING  
GUIDE**

Visit  
[tinyurl.com/4858rt2f](http://tinyurl.com/4858rt2f)

**MANY OPTIONS AVAILABLE!**

Independent living,  
memory care, skilled  
nursing care, subsidized  
housing, and more.



## Assessment Needed to Determine Best at-Home Assistance

For seniors and others who need assistance at home, a MnCHOICES assessment is required to determine what publicly funded long-term care programs and services are best for them.

A certified assessor can assist in determining what services, accommodations, and resources exist, even for people who are not on public benefits. The assessment is free and usually occurs where a person is living — it will be scheduled within 20 calendar days from the date a person agrees to be assessed.

All Minnesota residents are eligible for a MnCHOICES assessment. However, many of the programs and services available require a disability certification and/or eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA).

MnCHOICES determines eligibility for publicly funded programs and services for all ages and disabilities including: Alternative Care Program; Brain Injury Waiver; Community Alternative Care Waiver; Community Access for Disability Inclusion Waiver; Consumer Support Grant; Developmental Disabilities Waiver; Elderly Waiver; Essential Community Supports for Seniors; Moving Home Minnesota; personal care assistance; case management; semi-independent living services.

To schedule a free assessment, call the Anoka County Long Term Services and Supports Intake line at 763-324-1450 or visit [anokacountymn.gov/3343/How-to-Get-Started](https://anokacountymn.gov/3343/How-to-Get-Started) to fill out and submit a MnCHOICES Referral Form.

## Federal Programs Can Help Defray Cost of Internet, Provide Service to Areas

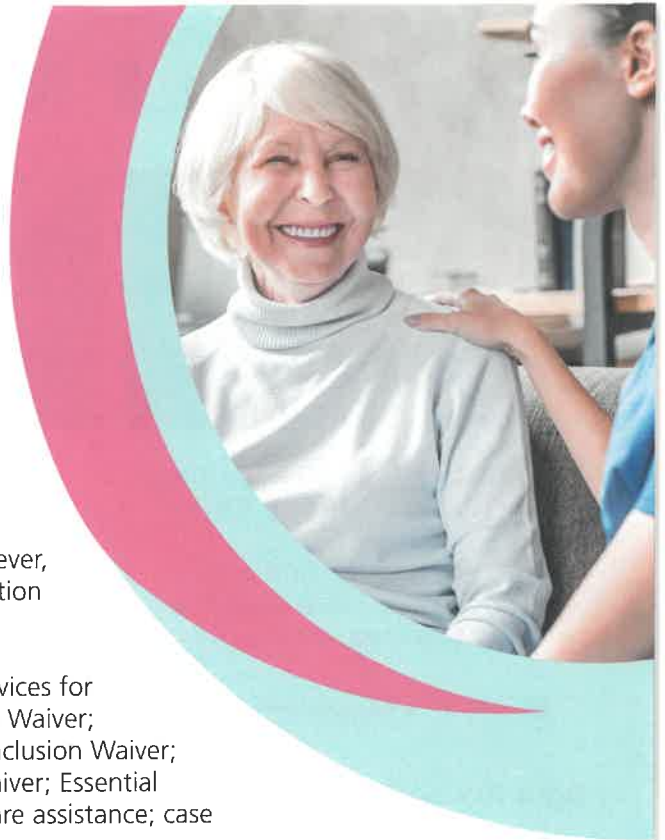
Anoka County residents who are on support programs like SNAP/EBT, Medicaid, Lifeline, or who have children receiving free and reduced school lunches might be eligible for free internet service through the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Additionally, residents who live in areas of the county that do not have access to high-speed internet might be able to get access established to their homes through the Line Extension Pilot Program that passed the Minnesota Legislature in 2022. The purpose of this program is to award grants for the extension of existing broadband infrastructure to unserved locations. An unserved area is a location that does not have a wired broadband service of at least 25Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

To learn more about the Affordable Connectivity Program or to apply, visit [tinyurl.com/5e3c6bxu](https://tinyurl.com/5e3c6bxu). To find out if your residence or business could be eligible for the Line Extension Pilot Program, report your location to the Office of Broadband Development via online application at [tinyurl.com/yc8xvtxp](https://tinyurl.com/yc8xvtxp), or call 651-259-7610.

After the application is submitted, every six months the Office of Broadband Development will send a list of addresses to each broadband provider offering services in Minnesota. Providers will have ten days to notify the office that they can provide service at any of the addresses on the list. The office will contact those people to let them know the name of the broadband provider that can offer them service and any discounted pricing available.

“The Affordable Connectivity and Line Extension Pilot programs are increasing access to high-speed broadband internet, and people who live in or have a business in Anoka County who are under-served or without internet should take advantage of these programs,” said District 5 Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache.



Visit [tinyurl.com/yc8xvtxp](https://tinyurl.com/yc8xvtxp)

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or call 651-259-7610.



# EXPERIENCE THE PARKS



## LUNCH WITH A NATURALIST

**WEDNESDAYS, 11:30 AM - 1 PM**  
WARGO NATURE CENTER

Grab your lunch and join a naturalist to learn about a new topic each month!

**March 15 • Maple Syruping**

**April 19 • Warbler Identification**

**May 17 • Fish of Minnesota**



## EARTH DAY

FREE  
EVENT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22**  
WARGO NATURE CENTER  
1 - 4 PM

Discover Wargo's unique offerings, make your own earth art project to keep and explore the trails in the lovely spring weather!

**Music by Salsa Del Soul**  
**Eco-Fair • Bounce House**  
**Family Fun • Refreshments**



## RESTORATION SERIES

**SATURDAYS, 10 AM - 12 PM**  
WARGO NATURE CENTER

Help restore the natural environment! Tackle different challenges each month, such as removing invasive species like buckthorn or cleaning up woodland wildflower gardens. Pre-registration requested; drop-ins allowed.

**April 22** (Earth Day Service Project)  
**May 6 • June 3**  
**July 8 • August 5**



## BIRD WALK SERIES

**April 26** Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve  
**April 28** Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

**All Ages | 9- 11 AM**  
Enjoy seeing or hearing 20 to 60+ species of birds in one of our beautiful parks with an experienced birder. A checklist of Minnesota birds and a map of each area will be provided. All birding abilities welcome. \$5/person +tax.

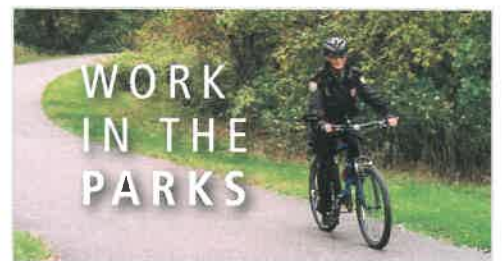


## KIDS FISHING CLINIC

**SATURDAY, MAY 6**  
COON RAPIDS DAM REGIONAL PARK  
9 AM - 12 PM

Bring the family and learn how to fish, be safe near the water, cast, and identify fish. All equipment is provided.

FREE  
EVENT



## WORK IN THE PARKS

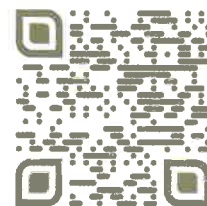
## NOW HIRING

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

APPLY ONLINE AT  
[WWW.ANOKACOUNTYMN.GOV/PARKJOBS](http://WWW.ANOKACOUNTYMN.GOV/PARKJOBS)

## REGISTER TODAY

[ANOKACOUNTYPARKS.COM](http://ANOKACOUNTYPARKS.COM) • 763-324-3350

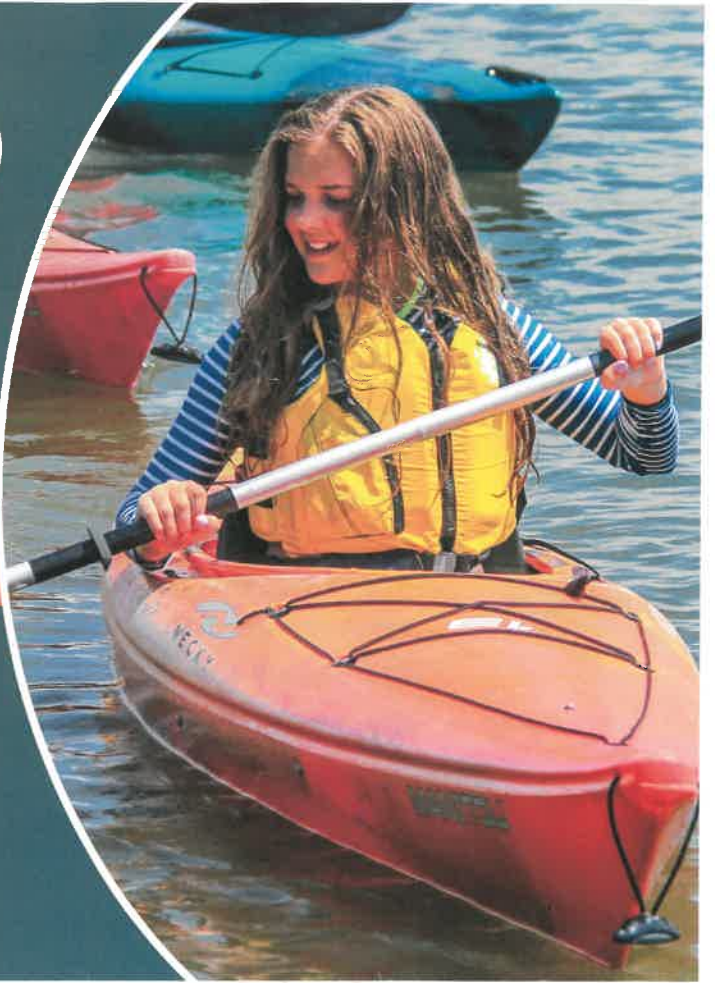




# 2023 SUMMER Day Camps



Camp topics for ages 4-13 include: Survival Adventures, Paddle Sports (new this year), Wilderness Living Skills and more!



NEW CAMP LOCATION  
LAKE GEORGE REGIONAL PARK

Register by May 5, 2023 and save \$5 per participant on Grown-Up & Me and Ages 4-5 Camps and \$10 on Ages 6-13 Camps.

Register online at [anokacountyparks.com](http://anokacountyparks.com)  
OR call Wargo Nature Center at 763-324-3350.



2023 SEASON DATES  
JUNE 10 – AUGUST 27



[BUNKERBEACH.COM](http://BUNKERBEACH.COM) |





## READ LOCAL

### Featured Authors

Each year we select authors to highlight in the community. Check out these titles from the library and meet the authors at events throughout the year.

[tinyurl.com/ReadLocalMN](https://tinyurl.com/ReadLocalMN)

### YOUTH FICTION



**Bethany Atazadeh**  
*The Secret Gift*



**Minda Gomez**  
*The Arctic Quest - Martinez Kid's Adventures*



**Kyle Rawleigh**  
*Rise of Neon - Chronicles of the Unicorn Kingdom series*



**El Holly**  
*A Twist of Fae*



**Jason Walz**  
*Last Pick Trilogy*



**Zinet Kemal**  
*Oh No...Hacked Again!*

### YOUTH NONFICTION



**Sarah Warren**  
*Stacey Abrams: Lift Every Voice*

### ADULT FICTION



**M.E. Bakos**  
*Killer Flip*



**Mubanga Kalimamukwento**  
*The Mourning Bird*



**Brenda Lyne**  
*The Thirteenth Cabin*



**Michael Allan Mallory**  
*The Lost Dragon Murder*



**Kevin Wind**  
*The Local Haunt*

### ADULT NONFICTION



**Stanley Kusunoki**  
*Shelter in Place*



**Heidi Mortenson**  
*The Brave Encourager*



**Joan Treppa**  
*Reclaiming Lives*



**Dr. Artika R. Tyner**  
*The Inclusive Leader*

Author applications are accepted in fall during the month of October. All ages and genres are encouraged to apply online. [tinyurl.com/ACLAuthorsApply](https://tinyurl.com/ACLAuthorsApply).

Visit the online event calendar for information on upcoming events & programs  
**anokacountylibrary.org**

### Adult Book Clubs

Studies show reading can improve memory and sleep, sharpen decision-making skills, reduce stress, and delay the onset of Alzheimer's and dementia. Reap added benefits by connecting with fellow readers at a book club.

#### Novel Nook Book Club for Seniors

11:00 a.m. 4th Friday of every month  
Mary Ann Young Center in Blaine. Register by phone: 763-786-9375.

**Adult Book Club** - Crooked Lake & Centennial

**Book Puzzler** - North Central

**History & Mystery Book Clubs** - Johnsville

**Personality Book Club** - online

#### Book Club in a Bag - Host your own book club.

Kits contain 8 copies of a title and discussion questions, 6-week checkout period.

**Does your group prefer eBooks?** Check out the "Always Available" section of Libby for eBooks and audiobooks that multiple people can check out at the same time with no wait. [melsa.overdrive.com/library/alwaysavailable](https://melsa.overdrive.com/library/alwaysavailable)

#### Engaging Resources for Those with Memory Loss

Create conversation and spark memories for those with dementia or Alzheimer's. Memory Maker Kits include a variety of books, CDs, and hands on activities.

[tinyurl.com/ACLSpecialCollections](https://tinyurl.com/ACLSpecialCollections)



### Assistance and Accommodations

- Books in large print available for adults and youth
- eBooks have adjustable screen contrast and font size through the Libby app
- Physical & digital audiobooks available
- Librarians can assist with technology like setting up email and social media accounts, navigating the web, & accessing eBooks on your device

### Get involved in your community and support the library

- **The Friends of the Library** raises funds and awareness for the library by organizing book sales, helping at library events, and sponsoring programs and collections like Reading Bridge and Park Packs. The group meets on the second Thursday of the month. [tinyurl.com/FriendsofACL](https://tinyurl.com/FriendsofACL)
- **The Reading Bridge program** pairs volunteer mentors with 1st, 2nd, or 3rd graders to improve their reading skills. Mentors meet with their student once a week at the library. Volunteer applications for the next Reading Bridge season will open in April. [anokacountymn.gov/4197/Volunteer-Reading-Mentors](https://anokacountymn.gov/4197/Volunteer-Reading-Mentors)



# Road Construction

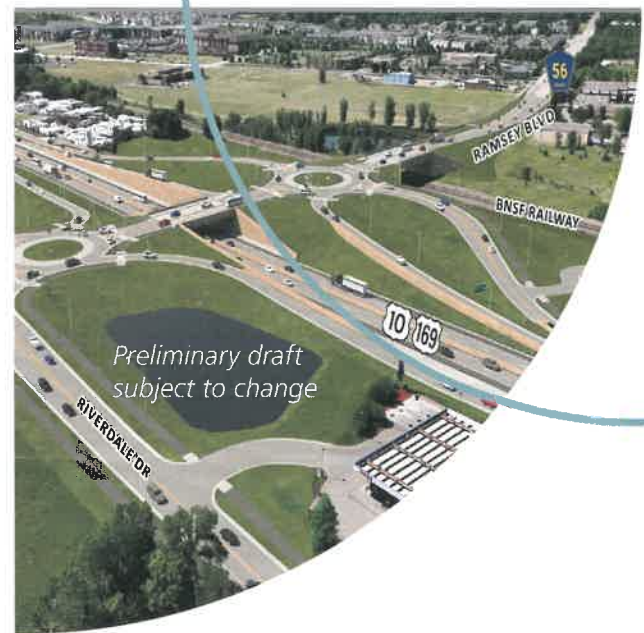
## Ramsey Gateway

The Ramsey Gateway U.S. Hwy. 10/169 project, at Ramsey Blvd. and Sunfish Lake Blvd., will begin construction activities in 2023.

This project continues the vision for design of two grade-separated interchanges at Ramsey Blvd. and Sunfish Lake Blvd. that will replace existing signalized intersections. Grade separation of the BNSF Railway and a new frontage road between Ramsey Blvd. and Sunfish Lake Blvd. are also part of this design project. The safety and mobility needs for this project have been heavy for many years and so was the price tag. For nearly a decade, county and city-led efforts have identified and now funded, largely from outside competitive sources, a solution that supports the mobility needs of a U.S. highway route while also improving local mobility and opportunities for economic development.

In June of 2022, the project team held a public open house to share the recommended project layout and collect feedback on design aesthetics and the draft plans for construction staging. Since then, the project team has been working to finalize the project design and construction staging, detours and schedule. A final public open house is planned for April 2023 to share this information prior to the start of minor construction activities in summer 2023. Projects in 2023 will include construction of a new south frontage road east of Tungsten St. as well as pavement widening on Hwy. 10 to prepare for traffic rerouting in early 2024 when major construction on the new interchanges begins. For more information on the project progress to date and anticipated schedule, or to sign up for project updates, visit the project website: [AnokaCountyRamseyGateway.com](https://AnokaCountyRamseyGateway.com).

*Disclaimer:* The aerial drawing (right) represents a potential design concept only. This document is a draft, subject to change. Contact the Anoka County Highway Department with any questions: 763-324-3100.



## Other Projects of Note

### Armstrong Blvd. NW and Alpine Dr.

Anoka County, in partnership with the City of Ramsey, is constructing a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Armstrong Blvd. NW and Alpine Dr. This project will improve the safety and mobility for all modes of transportation and pedestrians by eliminating the existing two-way stop control. Construction is scheduled to commence this spring.

### Old Central Ave. NE and Gardena Ave. NE

Anoka County, in partnership with the City of Fridley, is constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Old Central Ave. NE at Gardena Ave. NE, to improve safety and mobility for all road users by reducing speeds and conflict points at the intersection. This project will include

ADA-compliant pedestrian ramp accommodations at the intersection; also, a bituminous path will be added to the south side of Gardena Avenue within the project limits. Construction is scheduled to commence this spring.

### Coon Rapids Blvd. at Mississippi Blvd.

Anoka County, in partnership with the City of Coon Rapids, will be updating the existing signal system at Coon Rapids Blvd. and Mississippi Blvd. Anoka County applied for and received Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding to complete the project. The project will include pavement surfacing improvements on Coon Rapids Blvd., as well as both legs of Mississippi Blvd. Construction is scheduled to commence this summer.

# Spring Update

## Anoka Solution

The second and final full year of reconstruction on 2.5 miles of Hwy. 10 through the city of Anoka is underway. As work begins this spring, the highway will again be restricted to a single lane of traffic in each direction throughout the construction season.

Work will be conducted to repair aging roads and bridges between Thurston Ave. and 7th Ave.

During last year's construction seasons, crews completed construction of the westbound Hwy. 10 Rum River bridge along with replacement of the new 4th Ave. bridge over Hwy. 10, which now includes the new trail connection for the Rum River Regional Trail. The trail previously used an abandoned rail bridge that was removed.

On the west end of the project, improvements included:

- Two roundabouts at the intersection of Main St./Greenhaven Rd. and Hwy.10.
- A new westbound Hwy. 10 bridge over Fair oak Ave.
- A new eastbound Hwy. 10 bridge over Thurston Ave./Cutters Grove Ave.
- A new roundabout at the Thurston Ave. and Green Haven Parkway intersection north of Hwy. 10.

## PACT Act Expands Eligibility for Veterans of Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 Conflicts

The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act is a new law that expands Veterans Administration (VA) health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history.

The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions the VA assumes are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps the VA provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for veterans with toxic exposures and veterans of the Vietnam War, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras.

This year's work will include construction of the new eastbound Hwy. 10 Rum River bridge, replacement of the Hwy. 10/47/169 (Ferry St.) interchange with a new single-point urban interchange, minor repairs on Hwy. 10 over 7th Ave. and the Hwy. 10 bridge over the railroad tracks. Further west on Hwy. 10, workers will build the new eastbound Hwy. 10 bridge over Fair oak Ave. and the new westbound Hwy. 10 bridge over Thurston Ave. There also will be work on frontage roads on both sides of Hwy. 10, new auxiliary lanes to enter and exit Hwy. 10 between Ferry St. and 7th Ave., and better sidewalk and trail connections for pedestrians and bicyclists. Noise wall construction that continued through the winter will continue on the remaining walls.

Here's what to expect in the months ahead:

- Early and major traffic impacts around Ferry St.
- Ferry St./Hwy. 47/Hwy. 169 bridge removal in March with a full weekend closure of Hwy. 10. There will be no traffic allowed to cross Ferry St. until the new interchange is complete.

As work continues through fall 2023, there will be numerous closures along the corridor, which will be outlined on the project website. Although construction is anticipated to be complete in spring 2024, this year is the last year of significant traffic impacts on Hwy. 10. When complete, the two-year Hwy. 10 Anoka project will provide a smoother roadway, improve traffic flow, decrease traffic delays and increase safety.

Visit [mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy10-anoka/index.html](https://mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy10-anoka/index.html), email [info@hwy10anoka.com](mailto:info@hwy10anoka.com) or call 763-400-3877 for more information and updates.

- Adds 20-plus presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures.
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation.
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care.
- Helps the VA improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

If you're a veteran or survivor and believe this new law affects you, contact Anoka County Veteran Services at [veterans@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:veterans@co.anoka.mn.us) or 763-324-4500.



Future intersection of Highway 10 and Thurston Ave.



# Anoka County New Faces



## Commissioner Julie Jeppson

Commissioner Julie Jeppson is serving her first term on the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. She represents District 6, which is most of Blaine and Spring Lake Park.

Commissioner Jeppson was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., spent some of her early childhood in Omaha, Neb., and grew up in Littleton, Colo. She attended all 12 years of primary school in the Denver Christian School system. After high school, she went to Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Colorado State University in Fort Collins, and she finished her schooling at Metropolitan State College of Denver, where she obtained a BA in journalism with an emphasis in public relations.

Commissioner Jeppson is an 18-year Blaine resident, and she and her husband Nate have two children.

Commissioner Jeppson is a former Blaine City Council member. She has an extensive career in nonprofits and volunteer management — in Minnesota, she's contracted with Mediation Services; served as a part-time volunteer coordinator for St. Philip's Lutheran Church in Fridley; and she's worked as a volunteer coordinator, development director, and then executive director of Stepping Stone Emergency Housing in Anoka.

"Some of my priorities on the board include working to secure funding for Highway 65 interchanges and expansion; ensuring public safety; supporting economic development; and evaluating county services to ensure residents are receiving appropriate amenities for their tax dollars," Jeppson said.



## County Attorney Brad Johnson

County Attorney Brad Johnson is the 25th elected Anoka County Attorney since the office was established in 1881.

He served the City of Coon Rapids for two terms as a city council member, and he has more than 24 years of experience as an accomplished felony prosecutor, child protection lawyer and trial lawyer. He's also a member of the Anoka County Joint Law Enforcement Council, a past member of the Anoka County Fire Protection Council, and he served as manager on the Coon Creek Watershed District Board of Managers. He is married to Daisy, a staff sergeant in the 133rd Airlift Wing of the Minnesota Air National Guard, and they have two children.



## Sheriff Brad Wise

Sheriff Brad Wise is the 18th Sheriff of Anoka County since the office was established in 1857. Wise was raised on a farm in western Minnesota (Madison) until his family moved to Coon Rapids when he was in 7th grade. He graduated from Coon Rapids High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Augsburg University, and later a Master of Arts in Leadership from the University of St. Thomas.

His professional life started when he began working in the hotel management industry. Along the way, he became personally acquainted with police officers and changed his career goal to law enforcement. Wise's first public safety position was with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, where he worked in communications. He then transitioned to police work, first for the City of Robbinsdale as a patrol officer and eventually for his hometown, Coon Rapids. For the next 27 years, he served the citizens in a variety of roles including patrol officer, detective, patrol sergeant, investigative captain, and in 2011 was appointed Coon Rapids Police Chief, a position he held until he retired in 2022.



# Organics Collections Expands in Anoka County

Organics are the compostable portion of trash including:



- All food scraps such as leftovers, peelings, and spoiled food.

- Soiled, non-recyclable papers such as paper towels, napkins, and pizza delivery boxes.



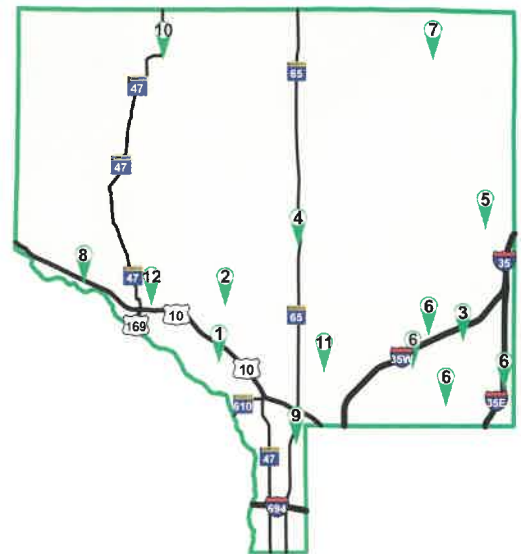
- Certified compostable products such as bags labeled with the Biodegradable Products Institute logo.

## Organics collection site map and descriptions (right)

1. Bunker Hills compost site (free unscreened compost available)
2. Rice Creek Compost site (free unscreened compost available)
3. Columbus City Hall
4. Coon Rapids Recycling Center
5. Ham Lake City Hall
6. Lino Lakes - multiple drop-off locations
7. Linwood Town Hall
8. Ramsey Public Works Facility
9. Spring Lake Park City Hall
10. St. Francis Community Park
11. Blaine City Hall
12. Anoka - NW corner of 7th Ave. & Garfield St.

Did you know organic material makes up 25 to 35 percent of what we throw away? Over the last five years, drop-off and curbside collection programs for organic material (food scraps and compostable/non-recyclable paper products) has expanded throughout the county to make it easier for residents to keep this material out of the trash.

The county provides free small kitchen collection pails to store and easily transport organics to your nearest drop-off collection site. To find the organics drop-off site nearest you or to sign up for a curbside collection service: call Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions at 763-324-3400 or go to [AnokaCountyMN.gov/organics](https://www.anokacountymn.gov/organics).



Circle Pines, Columbia Heights and Fridley also have opt-in programs for curbside collection of organics. Walters Recycling and Refuse customers who reside in Lino Lakes or Coon Rapids can also sign up for the additional organics curbside service, making it super convenient just like curbside recycling.

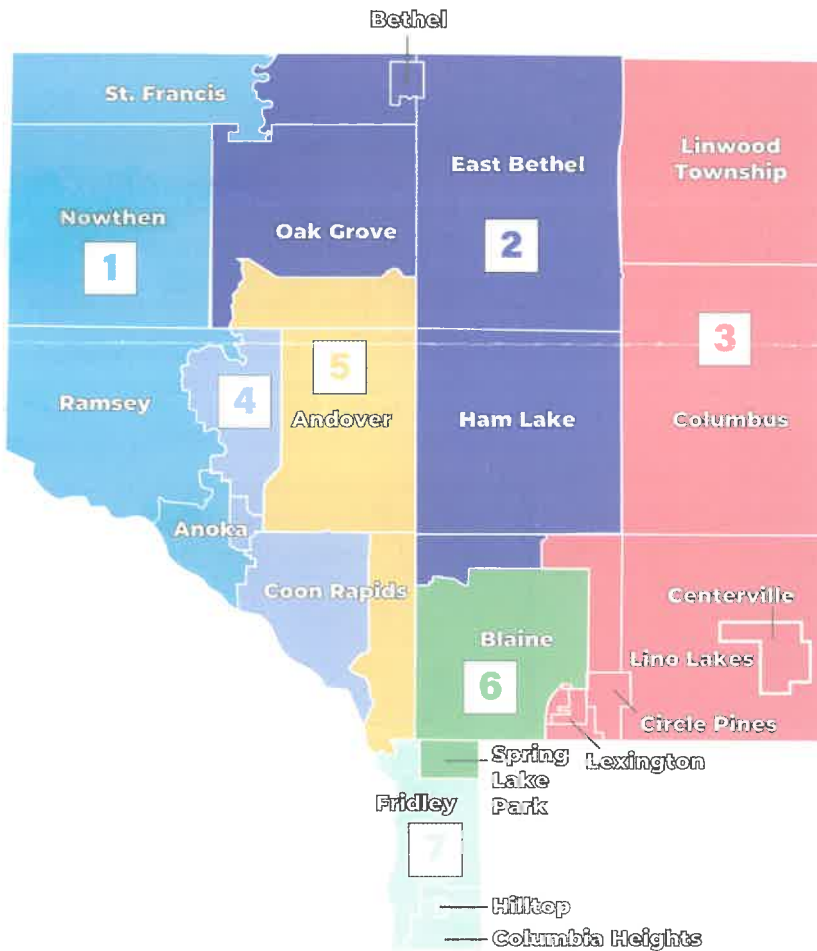
Anoka County  
 2100 3rd Ave.  
 Anoka MN 55303-5024



Visit our website!

## ANOKA COUNTY LEADERSHIP

763-324-4700



**Matt Look**  
 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](http://anokacounty.us). "Anoka County News" is produced by Anoka County Communications, Erik Thorson, Director, 763-324-4612 [publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us) • [anokacounty.us/newsletter](http://anokacounty.us/newsletter)  
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