



CITY OF  
**SAVAGE**  
MINNESOTA

**CITY CONNECTION**  
JANUARY 2023

## Here is a look back at 2022:



### Highway 13 and Dakota Overpass

Work on the Highway 13 corridor in Savage and Burnsville got underway. The work currently taking place includes reconfiguring the intersection of Highway 13 and Dakota Ave. to improve safety, reduce congestion, and improve traffic flow. Construction is expected to continue through Fall 2023.

### REDI Task Force completes their REDI Report

The REDI Task Force met monthly to develop recommendations on policies, practices, and strategies to identify, address, and eliminate racial disparities. Their recommendations are categorized into five themes:

1. Community Experience
2. Sense of Safety
3. Diverse Representation at all levels of the City
4. Connection to Community
5. Support to BIPOC Businesses

Residents are encouraged to read the full report at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).



### Savage Community Garden added at Warren Butler Park

A community garden is a garden for everyone. The 40 garden plots at the Savage Community Garden provided space for residents to grow fruits and vegetables and cultivate a sense of community and connection. This program was sponsored by Scott County Public Health and the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP).

### Pickleball, Y'all!

All eight pickleball courts at Savage Community Park were well-used all the way through November! Savage Parks and Recreation offered several intro and free "flash" classes to help new pickle ballers learn the fundamental skills and rules of pickleball. They also hosted two tournaments that attracted 133 doubles teams from beginner to advanced brackets and over 200 spectators from around the metro area.

### Re-opening of new Savage Community Park Playground

One of the most highly anticipated events of the year was the re-opening of the new nature-inspired playground at Community Park. Over 500 people helped celebrate the official opening of the playground where kids of all abilities can play and have fun.

### Other highlights from 2022:

- According to the 2022 Community Survey, 94% agree Savage is a great place to live.
- The Fire Department's response time decreased by 7 minutes.
- Savage Police partnered with Scott County Sheriff's Office to offer a Police Explorer program for youth.
- Savage Liquor Operations installed a new point of sale and inventory software.
- The Communications Division was recognized on both state and national levels for its outstanding work.
- ARPA dollars assisted small businesses and provided free mental health classes.

## Looking ahead to 2023:

### New skate park

In 2022, the existing skate park was moved to its new location near the entrance of Savage Community Park. In 2023, new equipment will be installed based on your input on what features and amenities you want to see. A new shade and seating area is also planned for the skate park, which the profits from our municipal liquor operation will fund.

### Hwy 13 completion

MnDOT plans to wrap up construction on Highway 13 by Fall 2023. When completed, there will be:

- A new Highway 13 bridge over Dakota Ave. to allow for safer and improved traffic flow
- New access ramp to/from Hwy 13 and Dakota Ave. to reduce traffic back-ups
- Realigned south frontage road for better access to/from Hwy 13
- New north side frontage road to connect Dakota Ave. and Yosemite Ave.

### Parks Master Plan

We're planning the future of Savage parks, trails, recreational programming, and open space systems. The Savage Parks Master Plan is a long-range plan to help make decisions on where to allocate resources and how to prioritize projects that meet the future needs of our community. The plan is expected to be completed in December 2023.

# Employees of Excellence



Pictured, left to right: Utility Services Superintendent Mike Klimers, Senior Account Clerk Julie Muklebust, Mayor Janet Williams, Senior Planner Terri Dill, and City Administrator Brad Larson

## Terri Dill Senior Planner

Terri has dedicated over 20 years of her professional career as a Planner to our residents, businesses, and property owners. While it is not a glamorous role nor a position that often receives accolades, it is a role that can have a significant impact on the community it serves. Terri enhances the high quality of life in Savage by continuously putting forth 110% in everything she does. She has built and maintained relationships by diligently providing consistent, high-quality customer service to internal and external customers on projects of all sizes. Customers and co-workers know that she is dependable and pays attention to details. Her knowledge of the codes, plans, and policies is incomparable and vitally important when faced with a question, issue, or concern. She always has the City's best interest at heart, and her forward-thinking encourages all to reflect on how our actions now will impact the project/process in the future. Whether serving as the liaison to the Planning Commission, participating in the Park Master Plan process, or volunteering at events/activities, Terri represents our organization and the Savage community with professionalism and grace.

## Mike Klimers Utility Services Superintendent

Day in and day out, Mike works tirelessly to ensure the City's infrastructure system is functioning as intended. When the City is not in the news for major infrastructure failures, it is a testament to the dedicated service and hard work that Mike puts in. Mike quickly addresses the issue when something does occur, be it a water main break or service request. Mike is a dedicated employee who

puts in extensive hours to ensure that all facets of our Utility operation run smoothly. He should be commended for his passion for the service he provides our City and the pride he takes in his work.

## Julie Muklebust Senior Account Clerk

Julie looks for more efficient ways to improve city processes with everything she comes across. Examples include shortening the manual process for Accounts Receivable recurring entries (rents, COBRA's, contracts for deed), saving a tremendous amount of time. She was also instrumental in converting the liquor stores' POS system - helping to set it up so it would function as intended and also, so it imported correctly to the City's financial system for Accounts Payable processing. Again, the amount of manual labor she saved both the liquor and finance departments is vast. She was also vital in helping to identify and build the blended OT rate calculations so that the City complies with Federal and State employment laws and keeps Savage in good standing in our employment practices. And she was instrumental in the grant compliance for the ARPA federal funds - creating forms and criteria checklists for the potential sub-recipients and ensuring grant guidelines were followed by the sub-recipients and the City.

In short, Julie is fair and helpful at every turn in all her dealings with employees. She is the one that employees turn to when they need help solving problems. Julie is a problem-solver extraordinaire, and the City of Savage is incredibly fortunate to have her on our team!

## Upcoming community events

### FREE Mental Health Series *You talked. We listened.*

When the City of Savage asked for community input on how to use its \$3.53 million in ARPA spending, you told us there was a need for free, local mental health resources. So, the City of Savage has provided a grant to NAMI to host a series of mental health workshops. More workshops to come in 2023. All are welcome!

### Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) - In-person

January 19 • 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Savage Fire Station #1, 14321 O'Connell Road

Learn the three steps anyone can take to help prevent suicide. Like CPR, QPR is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can save lives. This 1.5-hour class is for community members over the age of 16 who want to learn best practices in suicide prevention. No registration required.

*Classes are hosted by NAMI and funded through the City of Savage Coronavirus Relief Fund.*

### Tip -A-Cop

January 12 • 5 - 8 p.m.

Head to McHugh's Public House, 5715 Egan Drive to enjoy a great meal, support Special Olympics Minnesota, and be "served" by members of the Savage Police Department. Your tips and donations will allow athletes with intellectual disabilities to participate in Special Olympics MN programs and events.



### Polar Plunge

February 18

Are you ready to take the plunge? Join local law enforcement to raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota. The Plunge begins at 11 a.m. at Sandy Point Beach, 14349 Crest Ave. NE, Prior Lake. For more information and to register, go to [plungemn.org/events/prior-lake/](http://plungemn.org/events/prior-lake/).



## Shake the habit!

Salt helps keep our roads, driveways, and sidewalks safer in slippery weather, but our salt habit is bad for the health of our streams, rivers, and lakes. More salt does not equal more melting. Here are a few tips and tricks you can do to shake the salt habit:

1. Shovel first, then apply salt only if necessary.
2. Don't apply salt when the temperature is below 15 degrees - it's ineffective.
3. A little salt goes a long way. One coffee mug full of salt is enough for ten sidewalk squares or a 12 X 20-foot driveway.
4. Give it time to work. The colder it is, the longer it takes salt to work.
5. When the ice has melted, sweep up any excess salt and save it to reuse or throw it in the trash.

## Winter reminders:

### What is your responsibility when it snows?

#### Garbage can placement

This winter, think about where you put your garbage and recycling bins. Our snow plow crews rely on your help to place garbage and recycling cans at the end of the driveway behind the curb on trash pick-up days. Bins placed in the street are tough to plow around and may result in the road not being completely plowed to the curb. We appreciate your cooperation!



#### Move parked cars off the street

Many times, city plows hit the streets around 2 a.m. You can help the city plow more quickly and efficiently by moving parked cars off the street. Cars parked on the street make it difficult for plow operators to see and prevent clearing the road from curb to curb. Winter parking restrictions are in effect now through March 31. During this time, on-street parking is prohibited between 2 - 6 a.m., even if there is no snow on the ground. Violators may be ticketed or towed. Temporary variances may be requested through the Savage Police Department at **952-882-2600**.

#### Shovel your sidewalks

Property owners are responsible for clearing snow/ice on public sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours after the snow or other precipitation has ceased to fall. During extreme snow events, city staff may not meet the timelines set in City Code 97.02.A along collector streets and county roads.

**Do not put snow on roadways or sidewalks.** Savage ordinance 95.03.T prohibits plowing, shoveling, blowing, or placing snow onto public streets, alleys, or sidewalks.

#### Adopt a hydrant

In an emergency, every second counts. The Savage Fire Department relies on residents to keep neighborhood fire hydrants clear of snow. Please help them by clearing a 3-foot wide path around fire hydrants so firefighters can get to work immediately if a fire occurs on your street.

## Good news!

### Savage Police Department awarded a grant for a DWI/Traffic Safety Officer



The Savage Police Department was awarded a grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, for a DWI/Traffic Safety Officer.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) provides the grant program funding, allowing enforcement agencies to hire an officer to work the peak nights and times when data indicates impaired driving is most likely to occur. While primarily seeking to detect and prevent impaired drivers, the DWI/TS Officer will also focus on the dangerous driving behaviors of speeding, distracted driving, and occupant protection.

Savage Officer Adam Crain has taken on the role, which started on October 1, 2022. The grant will cover his salary, benefits, and overtime relating to duties performed within the scope of this position for an initial period of one year. We expect that with success, annual grant funding will allow the position to continue.

Officer Crain will focus on traffic safety, speeding, distracted driving, seatbelt use, and impaired driving, although the grant also allows time for education - both with the public and spending time at local schools. These efforts will help to prevent injuries and deaths, prevent crashes, and increase driver awareness.

Our thanks go to Officer Crain and also to Officer Dallas Stadick, who took the time to do the research and submit the grant application. We would also like to thank our officers, sergeants, finance staff, city council members, and the City Administrator, who have recognized this program's value and helped make it possible!

## Prevent water lines from freezing this winter

Avoid frozen water lines this winter by taking these precautions:

- Don't set your heat below 55 degrees Fahrenheit
- Leave cabinet doors open under your kitchen and bathroom sinks. This will allow heat from the rest of the house to circulate around the pipes.
- Wrap foam insulation around pipes that are more likely to freeze.
- Consider running cold water on the lowest level of your home. Run a steady quarter-inch stream of water all day to help prevent lines from freezing. Note: the City will not provide any credits or discounts to run water to prevent frozen water lines.
- Shut off and drain pipes that led to outside faucets.
- If you are gone, have someone check your home regularly.

**Note:** If your water lines freeze once and must be thawed, they are more likely to freeze again if you do not run water continuously. Call Public Works at **952-223-3400** if you have questions.

# Rec Corner

## Warming Houses/Skating Rinks

As weather permits for making and maintaining safe ice skating conditions, outdoor skating rinks will open at Woodhill Park, Canterbury Park, Trost Park, O'Connell Park, and Warren Butler Park. Warming houses at Canterbury Park, O'Connell Park, and Woodhill Park will be open on a limited basis. All other rink sites will have timers on the lights and be available for skating.

## Owls | January 15

Have a hoot as we explore the amazing world of owls through artifacts, owl pellet investigation, and our live avian ambassador. This program is offered in collaboration with Carpenter Nature Center. Registration deadline: January 8.

**Ages:** All ages, two and under are free; all participants must register

**Price:** \$5 per person

**Time:** 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** McColl Pond ELC, 13550 Dakota Ave.

## Skates and S'mores | January 22

Bring your family, skates, and appetite for s'mores. Enjoy ice skating at Trost Park (skates not included), a campfire, s'mores, and hot chocolate. No registration is required.

**Ages:** All ages

**Price:** FREE

**Time:** 1-3 p.m.

**Location:** Trost Park, 5455 137th St., Savage

## Youth Ice Fishing Contest | February 11

Youth are invited to fish through one of the many holes cut through the ice. Everybody can keep warm with a cup of hot cocoa. Trophies will be awarded for the longest fish caught, shortest fish caught, and most creative bait used to catch a fish. It's a great event for the whole family! Participants need to bring their own fishing equipment and bait. Register on the day of the event.

**Ages:** 13 and younger are eligible for trophies

**Price:** FREE

**Time:** 10 a.m. - noon

**Location:** McColl Pond ELC, 13550 Dakota Ave., Savage

# Enjoy the snowmobiling season; just know the rules.

Snowmobiling is permitted within the city limits, but riders must obey all traffic rules, regulations, and traffic control devices. Here are a few tips to help riders have an enjoyable season:

- Ride only on designated trails. The Savage Sno-Pacers is a volunteer group that helps maintain more than 24 miles of trails in Savage.
- Be respectful, and don't ride after 11 p.m. or before 7 a.m.
- Access trails by taking the most direct route possible from your home base. Violators could be cited and/or have their snowmobile impounded.
- Obey posted speed limits and don't operate at high speeds (over 15 mph) when near houses.

# WE WORK FOR YOU!

## JESSE CARLSON

### Water Resources Manager

#### Tell us what you do for the City.

I am the Water Resources Manager for the City of Savage. I spend my days working with our engineering, planning, and public works staff to review new development projects, design stormwater improvements, and assist our public work staff in completing maintenance projects. Another component of my work is meeting with residents to discuss flooding, drainage, or water quality concerns. Recently I have also taken on a bigger role in helping to manage the natural resources in Savage. This includes managing ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer and other natural areas in our community.

#### How long have you worked in the city?

I have worked at the City of Savage for six years.

#### What do you like about working for the City of Savage?

I enjoy the staff I work with and the types of projects we work on. I am impressed with the ability of our Engineering Department to both design and provide construction oversight. It is fun to take a project from its initial inception through design to final construction. Our project team had the opportunity to show this with our Glendale Street improvements, where we improved safety, drainage, and aesthetics. Another aspect of my job that I enjoy is the opportunity to work with our public works department to complete maintenance projects. Stormwater maintenance projects are often unique and not part of their routine work activities, but they really embrace doing these atypical projects.

#### What's the best part of your job?

I like knowing that my projects can positively impact the community. This may include resolving flooding or drainage concerns in a resident's rear yard and potentially improving water quality to a downstream receiving water such as Eagle Creek, Credit River, or the Savage Fen.



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