



## Thank you, Burnsville Savage Lions Club

Over the last two years, the Burnsville Savage Lions Club has donated over \$100,000 to the Savage Fire Department. These donations were used to purchase tools and equipment that provide our firefighters with the most up-to-date technology advances and safety. The equipment donations also assist the City and taxpayers by reducing operational costs. "It's easy to recognize the monetary value of a donation," states Fire Chief Jeremie Bresnahan.

"I am genuinely grateful for the Lion's Club's continued investment in the Savage Fire Department and our community"

"But measuring the significance of these donations on our staff and community members is unmeasurable." By providing our firefighters with the best tools and equipment possible, they have confidence in their equipment and can deliver the high-quality services our community expects. "I am genuinely grateful for the Lion's Club's continued investment in the Savage Fire Department and our community," thanks Fire Chief Bresnahan. In recognition of their generosity, Savage Fire presented the Lions' Club with a custom fire helmet painted in the Loins' purple and gold to thank them for their donations and ongoing support.

## Did you know?

House numbers aren't just for looks! In an emergency, every minute counts. To ensure emergency vehicles do not spend precious time locating a home, City Code requires every property to have house numbers at least four inches high and of a contrasting color so they can be read easily from the street.

## You talked. We're listening.

Thanks for your valuable input! Over the last month, we asked you to share your opinions on where to store trash and recycling bins and gathered your feedback on how many recreational vehicles should be allowed on your property. You delivered tons of valuable input on Let's Talk Savage and social media! Now you can read the community input report on [letstalksavage.com](http://letstalksavage.com).

The next step is for staff to present the report and draft recommendations on both parts of the City Code to the Planning Commission in April for discussion and review. Then, based on input from the Planning Commission, staff will present a final recommendation to the City Council in May for discussion, review, and approval. Follow the process at [letstalksavage.com](http://letstalksavage.com).

## City begins annual spring maintenance

### Hydrant and water main flushing | April 17 - June 16

Utility crews will be out flushing the community's water system to ensure they're in good working condition and to clear sediment. During the flushing period, it is normal to experience some discolored water. This does not affect the safety of the water, and your water is safe to drink. If you experience discoloration of your water, clear the pipes in your home by running your water faucets for a few minutes.

### Spring street sweeping begins

Every spring and fall, we sweep all 132 miles of residential streets (264 if you count both sides of the road) - to keep our neighborhoods clean and livable and protect our waterways. It takes approximately 4 -6 weeks to get the entire City swept, including parking lots and hard surfaces. Eventually, everything that lands in the streets travels through the storm drainage system to lakes and ponds. Remember that leaves and grass should stay in your yard and not be raked or placed on the streets. They can clog storm drains and pollute our ponds, streams, and wetlands.

### Pothole patching is in progress.

Winter can be tough on all of us, even our roads. Every time water gets into a crack and then freezes, the crack will expand by almost 10%. So, the repeated freeze-thaw nature of winter and spring in Minnesota all but guarantees that potholes will form on roads and streets. This month, our Public Works pothole patching crews will be out fixing things up as weather permits. If you have a pothole to report you can Report a Problem online at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com) or contact Public Works at **952-224-3400**.



# We are Naturally Resourceful



## Storm Pond Problem Solving

Stormwater ponds are essential components of our community's drainage system. The City of Savage has 284 stormwater ponds that help manage stormwater runoff generated by impervious surfaces like rooftops and pavement. These ponds are not designed to be recreational ponds for fishing or boating and are not permitted solely to beautify the landscape. Instead, they are engineered systems constructed to moderate flood surges and reduce stormwater pollution. Common pollutants found in urban systems include:

- Phosphorus - from tree leaves, grass clippings, soil erosion, fertilizer, and pet and wildlife waste.
- Sediment - from exposed soil on construction sites, sparse lawns, and unprotected garden beds set close to a hard surface like streets, sidewalks, and driveways.
- Chlorides - from roads salt applied on public and private properties.
- Trash - from trash dumped onto City rights-of-way.
- Bacteria - from pet and wildlife waste and failing septic systems.

Over time this material accumulates in the pond sediments, and maintenance becomes necessary. Each year, the City evaluates the maintenance needs of stormwater ponds. It performs maintenance activities that include pond depth surveys, water quality samplings, tree removal/vegetation management, erosion repair, and potentially sediment removal. In addition, the City uses a prioritization tool to help guide which ponds need sediment removal. So, what can residents do to help manage common stormwater pond problems?

### 1. Do clean up trash and pet waste

Trash floating in a neighborhood stormwater pond can be unsightly and harmful to the fish, turtles, waterfowl, etc. that may be seen in your local stormwater pond. In addition, plastics can entangle the critters in the pond, or they can digest something that would make them sick and potentially die.

### 2. Do practice healthy lawn care practices

Beautiful, lush green lawns can be achieved without excess watering or fertilizer applications. Learn more at: [extension.umn.edu/lawns-and-landscapes/lawn-care](https://extension.umn.edu/lawns-and-landscapes/lawn-care). In addition, practicing proper lawn care will help minimize phosphorus and bacteria from getting into local ponds and waterways.

### 3. Don't feed waterfowl

Although migratory by nature, ducks, geese, and swans often choose to reside in stormwater ponds year-round because there are few predatory threats, and they can find suitable habitats. If you want to reduce the number of waterfowl in your pond, stop feeding them! The primary reason why waterfowl aggregate in stormwater ponds is that humans are supplementing their diet.

### 4. Don't stock ponds with fish (goldfish, koi, etc.)

Koi and goldfish are invasive species, and dumping them into a stormwater pond can cause significant problems. These species can live up to 25 years, reproduce rapidly, and survive frigid Minnesota winters. And unfortunately, they also have voracious appetites and can quickly demolish all the food sources that other (good) fish depend on. But the really big problem is once these invasive species are in a water body, they are not easy to remove.

### 5. Do install a native vegetative buffer around the pond

Wetland plants along the shoreline help filter pollutants in runoff, absorb nutrients that grow algae, trap sediment and yard debris, deter nuisance wildlife, provide coverage and forage for fish and invertebrates, and dampen wind and wave energy.

To learn more, go to [cityofsavage.com](https://www.cityofsavage.com).

## WE WORK FOR YOU!

*Katie Gieseke*

Graphic Designer/  
Communications  
Specialist



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

I am the City's Graphic Designer/Communications Specialist. I am the go-to creator of making things "look pretty" - recreation program booklets, brochures, flyers, event signage, and more. I manage the City's website and assist website liaisons as needed. I also oversee all of the City's social media channels.

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

10 years!

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

I'm always up for a challenge. As you can imagine, there is always a challenge when it comes to communicating and distributing information to 32,000+ Savage residents. My job allows me to get creative to reach as many people as possible. Whether it's a well-thought-out plan or a spur-of-the-moment idea, seeing the engagement and how the community reacts is always enlightening.

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

The best part of my job is all of the different people I get to work with! My coworkers get roped into my crazy ideas - whether it's photo opportunity or to act ridiculous in a video, they are always good sports about it. Having fun and outgoing coworkers makes my job a lot easier and more enjoyable!

# Upcoming community events

## More FREE Mental Health Classes

When the City of Savage asked for community input on how to use its \$3.53 million in ARPA funding, 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. All sessions are FREE and open to all.

### In Our Own Voice (IOOV)

April 13 • 6 - 7 p.m.

Savage Public Library • 13090 Alabama Ave. (Senior Center Room)

In Our Own Voice is a unique public education program in which trained speakers share compelling personal stories about living with a mental illness and achieving recovery, demonstrating that there is hope for recovery for people with mental illnesses. The presentation includes personal stories, video clips, and an opportunity to ask questions. The IOOV program has touched many lives and is effective in reducing the misperceptions surrounding mental illness. No registration is required.

### Learn how nutrition can impact mental health

May 9 • 6 - 7 p.m. - VIRTUAL

Gain knowledge on how what we eat affects not only our mood but also our brain chemistry. Learn what makes a complete meal and how to eat that meal mindfully. Register to get the Zoom link via email at <https://bit.ly/3ipJU53>.

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



## Citywide Collection Drive and Blood Drive

In honor of Earth Day and Global Youth Service Day, students from the Service Club at Harriet Bishop Elementary will hold a citywide collection and blood drive on the Savage City Hall Campus, 6000 McColl Drive.

### Blood Drive

April 21 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Council Chambers

Sign up to give blood through the American Red Cross. Registration is required at [redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive](http://redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive).

### Collection Drive

Saturday, April 22 • 9 a.m. - noon on Savage City Campus

Swing by and drop off items that will directly benefit our local community and the surrounding area. Items being collected include:

- Gently used children's books to benefit The Book Buggy
- New or gently used shoes (all sizes and types) for Shoe Away Hunger
- Non-perishable food items for the CAP Agency Food Shelf in Shakopee
- Gently used children's snow pants, winter boots, mittens, and hats to be distributed at local elementary schools

Collection bins will also be set up April 17 - 21 at Savage City Hall and the Savage Library. For more information, send an email to [servicedayssaturday@gmail.com](mailto:servicedayssaturday@gmail.com).

## Good News! Free yard waste recycling

FREE yard waste recycling is available for Scott County residents every Sunday in April and May (weather permitting) from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility in Shakopee (must show I.D.). Closed April 9 and May 28. Happy spring cleaning!



## Community Clean-up Day | April 22

Join our community-wide clean up effort to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day, and help keep our community looking beautiful.

To help us plan, we ask that you register your group online at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com) so we know how many volunteers will be participating.

If you would like supplies for your clean-up (garbage bags and safety vests), please include that information when you register. You will receive a confirmation email with a list of locations and more details on when and where you can pick up supplies.

If you have questions about the community clean-up, please contact Tammy at [tcoyne@cityofsavage.com](mailto:tcoyne@cityofsavage.com) or 952-224-3452.

## Celebrate Arbor Day with us! | FREE

April 29 • 10 a.m. - noon

McColl Pond ELC • 13550 Dakota Avenue

Bring the whole family to the annual Arbor Day Celebration at the McColl Pond Environmental Learning and Event Center. Scheduled activities include:

- 10 a.m. : Arbor Day Proclamation by Mayor Janet Williams
- 10 - 11:30 a.m. : Self-guided scavenger hunt on ELC grounds
- 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. : Eagle presentation by The Raptor Center

### Tree Order Pickup

For those who purchased trees through the Arbor Day Tree Sale, your trees will be ready for pick up at Savage Public Works, 13770 Dakota Ave., on Saturday, April 29, between 10 a.m. - noon. Sorry, no trees will be available for purchase on pickup day.

## SAVE THE DATE! Savage Recycling Day | May 6

The annual Savage Recycling Day will be Saturday, May 6, from 8 a.m. - noon at Savage Community Park, 13500 Dakota Ave. This is a drop-off event where Savage and Credit River residents can dispose of appliances, electronics, furniture, yard waste, and other unwanted items for a reasonable fee.

PLEASE NOTE: Bridging Inc. will not collect donations at Savage Recycling Day.

- Bring a valid driver's license or another form of I.D. to prove residency
- No vehicles larger than a pickup truck
- No trailers larger than 8 X 12 feet

A complete list of accepted and unaccepted items and fees will be available at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com), or pick up a flyer at City Hall, Public Works, or Savage Public Library. For more information or questions, contact the City at 952-882-2660.

*Paper shredding is not part of Savage Recycling Day. The annual citywide shredding event is scheduled for August 26, 2023 - more details to come.*

# Rec Corner

## We're looking for FUN EXPERTS!

Are you or someone you know looking for a summer job? Join our Parks and Recreation team as a summer sports camp or playground instructor and get paid to play, laugh and have fun! Several seasonal opportunities are available for applicants ages 16 and up. Apply today at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

### Family Intro to Pickleball | May 15, June 12, August 14

(Ages: 10+)

Sign-up with an immediate family member! Learn the basic fundamental skills and rules of pickleball. Throughout the lesson, participants will cover the basics: How to serve and return the ball, how to hit the ball out of the air, how to keep score, and proper serving and receiving positions. Our instructor is certified as a Professional Instructor through the Professional Pickleball Registry, the official education and certification partner for USA Pickleball. Register online at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

### Adult Intro to Pickleball | May 22, June 19, August 21

(Ages: 14+)

The class is for the novice player just beginning to play pickleball recreationally. Attendees will learn the basic fundamental skills and rules of pickleball, and upon completion of the class, you will have the tools and confidence to play pickleball with your friends and family. Our instructor is certified as a Professional Instructor through the Professional Pickleball Registry, the official education and certification partner for USA Pickleball. Register online at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

### Friday A.M. Friendly Doubles Mixer Pickleball

Fridays, May 12 - June 9

(Ages: 50+)

Are you looking to enhance your pickleball game and meet new players in a friendly competition setting? Players that are beginners, improvers, and/or are rating themselves from 2.0-3.0 players based on USA Pickleball ratings are welcome. Individual players sign-up and are paired up for games with others each week. Registration required. Register online at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

### Bean Bag Toss League | Thursdays, May 4-July 13

(Ages: 18+)

Grab some friends, family, or coworkers and play in this fun summer league. Games will be played at Savage Community Park on Thursday evenings. This is a double-header league in which games are self-officiated. Teams can be made up of any combination of gender. Boards and bags are supplied. Register online at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

### Bocce Ball League

Wednesdays, May 3 - July 12 or Thursdays, May 4 - July 13

(Ages: 18+)

Summer Bocce is right around the corner! Teams of 2 to 4 will play double headers for 8 to 10 weeks with an end-of-the-season tournament. Two leagues will be offered with play on Wednesday or Thursday evenings. Register online at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

# Safe Spot

Do you want to sell items online but don't want to give your address to strangers? We offer a safe exchange zone called Safe Spot. Safe Spot can be used for various legal transactions, such as exchanging items you have purchased/sold online, child custody exchanges, and retrieving property from family members or acquaintances.



The Safe Spot is located at the Savage Police Department, 6000 McColl Drive, near the short-term parking. It is identified with a Safe Spot sign and is under camera surveillance 24 hours a day, seven days a week. People do not need to ask for permission to use the area.

## Be a good pet owner; clean up after your pet.

Picture this - you're out enjoying one of our many parks or trails. The birds are singing, and it's a beautiful spring day. And then..... squish! Someone didn't pick up after their dog. The City of Savage

**"Your dog's poop doesn't magically disappear or fertilize the ground"**

reminds dog-owning residents to please clean up after their pets. Pet waste is more than smelly and unsightly - it can be a serious public health and environmental concern. "Your dog's poop doesn't magically disappear or fertilize the ground," explains Water Resource Manager Jesse Carlson. "When it rains, pet waste left on trails, sidewalks, and grassy areas gets washed down our storm drains and into our creeks, streams, and rivers. This not only contaminates the water, but it can cause harmful algae and aquatic weeds to grow, and affects our overall water quality."



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