



Savage City Connection / January 2024

Savage celebrates 120th Anniversary

Written by Jim Ross, President of the Dan Patch Historical Society

On March 26, 1904 - 120 years ago- the Glendale Post Office was renamed Savage since M. W. Savage, a manufacturing tycoon with a rather large horse farm nearby, received mega amounts of mail and packages. A railway agent suggested it would just be easier if they named the joint Savage. The town council adopted the name in 1919.

In the beginning, Mother Nature developed the junction of the Minnesota River Valley and the Credit River. The Mdewakanton camped, fished, and traversed here. In the mid-1800s, fur traders and explorers established a small post on the river. William Byrne and other Scotch & Irish immigrants from Hamilton, Ontario, built Hamilton Landing.

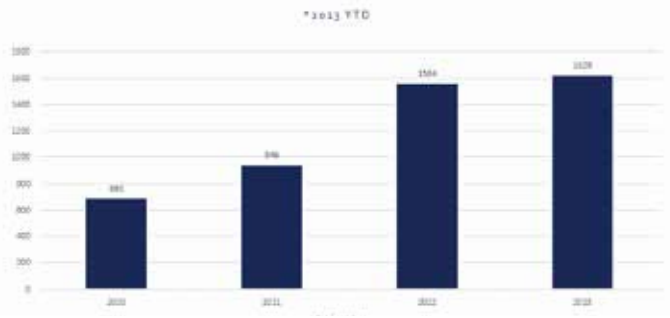
The growing port was incorporated in 1892 as the Village of Hamilton. The railroad arrived in 1865, and a post office in 1894. The office was renamed Glendale Post Station when Glendale Township was formed west of Hamilton (Glendale Township was consolidated with Savage in 1969).

With the arrival of Mr. Savage and his prized pacer, Dan Patch, came notoriety, commerce, and the town's current name. Many reminders of our past names include M.W. Savage Elementary, Glendale Elementary School, and Hamilton Senior Apartments.

Savage Fire Annual Meeting

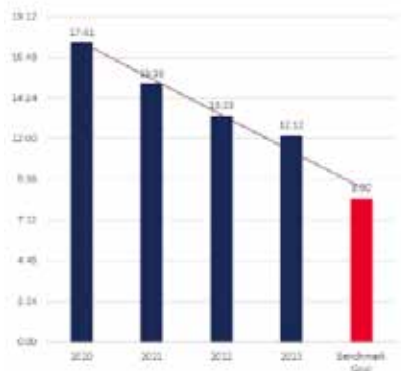
Recently, Savage Fire held its annual meeting to celebrate and reflect on the past year, and focus on the fire department performance. In 2023, Savage Fire responded to over 1,800 incidents. Year to day, this is a 16% increase in calls for service.

TOTAL INCIDENTS



In that same period, the total response time, including dispatch, turnout, and travel time, decreased by over nine minutes. The performance goal is to get to an 8:30 total response time across the City. A remodel of the top level at Fire Station #1 is one project planned to make the station layout more efficient, resulting in faster turnout times for firefighters who live at the station.

TOTAL RESPONSE TIME



Firefighter and Fire Officer of the Year awards were also awarded. "These awards are to recognize those Savage Fire team members who embody the core values of Savage Fire. We seek individuals who pursue excellence, acknowledging that perfection is unattainable, but their constant pursuit of improvement leads to achieving excellence," states Fire Chief Jeremie Bresnahan. "Along their journey, they strive for personal and professional growth and contribute significantly to our organization's pursuit of excellence, and we are happy to celebrate them."



2023 Firefighter of the Year is Brian Huttner.

Brian Huttner is always ready to lend a helping hand, whether it's in training or on emergency calls. Brian's proficiency and willingness to seek clarification when needed make him an invaluable team member. What truly sets Brian apart is his relentless pursuit of self-improvement. He strives for excellence, dedicating considerable time to enhancing his skills and knowledge. Brian approaches each shift with infectious positivity and a commitment to being a role model for our organization.



2023 Fire Officer of the Year is Captain Mike Collyard.

Captain Collyard embodies Savage Fire's highest leadership and dedication standards. With exceptional commitment, Collyard consistently demonstrated devotion to our organization and the safety and well-being of our community. He excels by leading his team effectively, consistently making informed and timely decisions, and demonstrating professionalism. Captain Collyard inspires his colleagues, always ready to provide guidance and support to those they serve alongside.

Happy New Year!

Here are a few highlights from 2023 that showcase our commitment to providing top-notch services:

Investing in our community's public safety.

- 2023 was the first full year of having a full-time firefighter staff. Calls for service continue to increase and are expected to top 1,800 incidents for the year with an average response rate of 12:12. Four full-time firefighters were added to ensure 24/7 staffing at Fire Station #1.
- Savage Fire added a new Fire Marshal position to support community risk reduction through education, engineering, enforcement and economic incentive.
- Savage Police added four police officers and a Coordinated Response Unit to help resolve mental health crises encountered by officers.

We are naturally resourceful.

- A unique irrigation system was installed at Community Park that will reuse stormwater pumped from nearby ponds to irrigate the ballfields. The reuse system was funded with ARPA funding and will save water and improve the river's water quality by reducing runoff.
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) became much more visible in our community. The City marked and treated 81 "good condition" elm trees in city parks and the public right-of-way (ROW) to preserve canopy and green infrastructure throughout the community. The City will continue the removal of infected trees in 2024. Trees will be replanted throughout the community in parks and open spaces as the budget allows.
- A new Credit River Trail was added along the Credit River in south Savage. This walking/biking trail includes interpretive signage on the importance of the Credit River to our community and was partially funded by a MN Department of Natural Resources grant and profits from the Savage Liquor Operations.

Transportation

- The 2023 Streets Improvement projects were in the Dufferin Park neighborhood and along Eagle Creek Parkway, which included restoration to Eagle Creek, the last remaining natural trout stream in Scott County.
- The City received \$800K in state funding to predesign the widening of Quentin Ave. and reconstruct the two City-owned railroad bridges that pass over Quentin Ave. The City is now requesting \$6.6M to complete the project before MNDOT improves the intersection of Highway 13 and Quentin Ave.
- The Highway 13/Dakota Avenue Interchange is substantially complete and open to traffic. The contractor is still working on the south frontage road and hopes to be completed by the end of 2023. The project should be completed in spring 2024, with the final paving and restoration taking place.

Parks and Recreation

- The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was completed. It will serve as the guiding document that identifies long-term infrastructure and recreational improvements so people of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds feel welcome and represented in our park system.
- Public safety in our parks was addressed after two shooting incidents at River Bend Park. The City implemented a Community Engagement plan to listen to the community, leading to several short-term and long-term recommendations for addressing safety.
- Community Park Improvements included repaved trails around the park and adding four new pickleball courts and lights.
- New skate park equipment was installed.
- Received \$600K in state aid toward replacing the Sports Center turf.

Other Accomplishments

- ARPA funding was used to add public meeting space, office and meeting space for the Family Resource Center, and expand technology for Extended Access.
- The first Community Equity Commission was appointed and began meeting in February 2023. It has already made an impact on our community.
- Licensing of THC was passed. So far, six businesses in the City have applied to sell THC products, including both Savage Liquor stores.
- The Communications Division continues to be recognized statewide and nationally for its creative work.

Looking Ahead to 2024

Here are a few of our top priorities for 2024:

- Replace the turf in the Savage Sports Center. Partial funding for this project will come from \$600K state aid.
- Update the City Zoning Ordinance. It has been over 25 years since the City's zoning ordinance was updated. Part of the process will include getting input from the local business community and residents.
- Renovate the living quarters area of Fire Station #1 so the layout is more efficient and reduces turnout time for duty crew firefighters.
- Implement the 2024 Community Survey to allow residents to provide input on their top priorities and values for the City to focus on.
- Include traffic calming and safety improvements as part of the 2024 Street Improvements project for the Joppa Ave. neighborhood. These improvements were recommended in the River Bend Park Engagement Plan to improve safety in the park. A neighborhood meeting will be scheduled to allow residents to see the proposed improvements and ask questions.
- Update the downtown Savage plan.

2024 water and sewer rates

In December, the Savage City Council voted to adjust residential and commercial water and sewer rates. Utility revenues are the primary funding source for maintaining and replacing our water and sewer infrastructure. Customers will see the new rates reflected on the utility bill at the end of January 2024. Changes are as follows:

| SERVICE | 2023 FEES | 2024 FEES |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Water rates | <i>(per 1,000 gallons)</i> | <i>(per 1,000 gallons)</i> |
| Base charge per month | \$9.04 | \$9.18 |
| 0-11,999 gallons/month | \$3.63 | \$3.68 |
| 12,000 - 15,999 gallons/month | \$3.97 | \$4.03 |
| Over 16,000 gallons/month | \$4.36 | \$4.43 |
| Sewer rates | | |
| Base charge per month | \$4.87 | \$4.87 |
| Charge per 1,000 gallons/month | \$1.56 | \$1.56 |

Employees of Excellence Awards

Each year, the City of Savage acknowledges up to three employees who stand out for exemplifying the City's mission, vision, and values.

Deanna Heski, Administrative Assistant

Deanna is a tremendous asset to the City of Savage for her commitment and passion to deliver excellent customer service. Deanna played an integral role in the Community Development Department this past year as they transitioned to electronic permits. She "voluntarily" assumed the "software engineer" role and worked tirelessly to resolve kinks, bugs, and other problems with multiple software programs. She is a forward thinker who always tries to resolve potential issues before they arise.

Pam Meger, Account Clerk II

Pam is one of the reasons why the City of Savage is a great place to work. She works hard and has a great attitude, resulting in several promotions over the four years she has been with the City. She always looks for ways to deliver more reliable, resilient, or cost-effective services. Pam has assisted with making the accounts payable and ELAN processes more efficient in her time with Finance. These improvements touch every department and have helped save staff time. It's hard to measure the things that we prevent from happening. Pam's eye for detail has potentially saved the City hundreds of thousands of dollars. In recent years, a scam has become increasingly common with city organizations where a person poses as a contractor doing business with the City and requests a change in the banking information for where an approved payment will be sent. Several cities in Minnesota have lost large amounts of money to this scam by trying to provide good customer service. The City of Savage is not immune from this scam either and has been a target several times, but luckily, Pam and her eye for detail have stopped them.



Pictured left to right: Mayor Janet Williams, Deanna Heski, Lori Folie, Pam Meger, and City Administrator Brad Larson

Lori Folie, Administrative Assistant

The value Lori brings to the City of Savage is by creating a safe and welcoming community for our employees. Over the last year, Lori has engaged employees across the organization to come together around pickleball. She has organized multiple tournaments and social outings, resulting in new relationships and a sense of community within our organization. Through these events, employees get to know each other and develop positive relationships, increasing productivity and performance in the work environment. She also is a rock star in our front office and someone we can always count on.

Public Safety Update

Measuring the impact of the Coordinated Response Team.

Since the program began in March of 2023, Savage has utilized the new Coordinated Response Team for 322 referrals within our community. Of these 322 referrals, all have had contact with our team, and many have used our services and resources. Here are some examples of ways this program has been helpful:

- A young family of three, a mom, a dad, and a newborn, who were experiencing homelessness, were able to find stable local housing.
- An individual in a mental health crisis was supported with compassion and understanding, which helped avoid an unnecessary hospital visit and bill. This resident has recently returned to work full-time and is "feeling better than ever."
- A resident suffering from long-term alcohol use found support and help to get placed in a detox facility. This resident recently celebrated three months of sobriety. They shared, "For the first time ever, I usually only make it 10-20 days before I go back. Thank you."

In October, the Coordinated Response Team sent six police officers and sergeants to training in Denver, CO, to explore how to expand on the partnership Savage PD and Scott County have built through this program. At this training, they learned from various public

officials, police officers, and social workers who have successfully reduced the number of calls for service dramatically. We hope to utilize these techniques in our work moving forward to better serve our community.

Pictured: Jessica Koehn, Coordinated Response Worker



Naturally Resourceful

Curb the salt.

It's white. It's everywhere. It can accumulate on sidewalks in the winter. No, it's not snow; it's road salt. But unlike snow, salt doesn't disappear; it washes into our creeks, lakes, and rivers and stays there. The City of Savage is taking measurable steps to reduce our salt use. One example is our newer de-icing Xzalt precision applicator which uses less dry material and more liquid. This application method is estimated to reduce salt usage by as much as 30 percent and is more effective at applying the salt where it is intended to be treated. "We are trying to shift the thinking on salt and spread the word that less is more when it comes to applying road salt," says Water Resource Manager Jesse Carlson. Homeowners aren't off the hook. We all play a role in protecting our water. Here are a few tips and tricks you can do to curb your salt use, too.

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 10 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 the excess salt and save it to reuse or throw it in the trash.

Rec Corner

Looking for something to do this winter? Savage Parks and Recreation has plenty of indoor and outdoor activities for the whole family to enjoy!

PeeWee Soccer Camp | January 10, 17, 24, 31

Camp coaches cannot wait to teach you all about soccer! In soccer, participants will learn to dribble, kick, and protect the ball. Every day, we will focus on sportsmanship and fun! Participants should wear tennis shoes and bring a water bottle and a soccer ball to camp. Registration deadline: January 7. Learn more and register online at cityofsavage.com.

Time: 10-10:45 a.m.

Location: Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave.

Cost: \$40 per person

NEW! Glow and Skate Party | January 19 - FREE!

Bring your family, skates, and smiles. Enjoy an evening of ice skating at Canterbury Park and glow in the dark while wearing glow necklaces and bracelets. Keep warm with hot chocolate and a treat. No registration is required. Skates are not included.

Date: January 19

Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Canterbury Park, 13444 Inglewood Ave.

Cost: FREE

CPR/First Aid Class | February 7

Savage Fire will be hosting an American Heart Association (AHA) Heartsaver First Aid-CPR-AED class designed for anyone with little or no medical training who needs a course completion card, regulatory (i.e., OSHA), and other requirements or for anyone who wants to be prepared for an emergency. Registration deadline: February 4.

Date: February 7

Time: 5 - 9 p.m.

Location: Fire Station #1, 14321 O'Connell Road, Savage

Cost: \$75 per person

Ages: 15+

Youth Ice Fishing Contest | February 10

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:

- Longest fish caught
- Shortest fish caught
- 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.

Date: February 10

Time: 10 a.m. - noon

Location: McColl Pond ELC, 13500 Dakota Ave.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 13 and under are eligible for trophies.

CORRECTION!

The Savage Senior Club meets for camaraderie, refreshments, and playing cards every **Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 3 p.m.** at the Savage Library Annex, 13090 Alabama Ave. All are welcome!

KEEP IN TOUCH:



Snowshoeing & Winter Wildlife | February 11

Learn about the history of snowshoes before strapping into a pair of your own! We will look for tracks and other signs of wildlife on this guided snowshoe hike. NOTE: Snowshoes will be provided, but participants must come dressed for the weather, including good snow boots. We must have a 6-inch snow base to use snowshoes. Offered in collaboration with Carpenter Nature Center. Register by February 4.

Date: February 11

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

Location: McColl Pond ELC, 13550 Dakota Ave.

Cost: \$5 per person,

Ages: All ages; 2 and under are FREE.

Family Snowshoe Sampler

Families enjoy snowshoeing in a small group setting. Snowshoes provided. Dress in layers and wear snow or hiking boots. Please bring a bottle of water. Register by Feb. 11

Date: February 18

Time: 10-11:15 a.m.

Location: McColl Pond ELC, 13550 Dakota Ave.

Cost: \$5 per person

Outdoor Skating Rinks and Warming Houses

As weather permits for making and maintaining safe ice skating conditions, outdoor skating rinks will be open at Canterbury Park, Trost Park, Warren Butler Park, O'Connell Park, and Woodbury Park. Warming houses at Canterbury Park, O'Connell Park, and Woodhill Parks will be open on a limited basis. All other rinks will have timers on the lights and be available for skating. For warming house schedules, weather updates, rink conditions, and open/close dates check the website at cityofsavage.com/park-recreation/outdoor-skating-rinks or call the weather line at 952-882-2688. NOTE: After a heavy snowfall, Public Works' priority is to provide safe driving conditions on city streets and city sidewalks. Skating rinks will be plowed as time allows.

SAVE THE DATE!

Flashlight Egg Scramble

March 22 • 7 p.m.

Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave.

Registration opens February 2024 online at cityofsavage.com.



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