



Savage City Connection / February 2024

Savage Fire Station Vacation video goes viral



The 2023 holiday video created by the City of Savage Communications Division for the Savage Fire Department has gone viral! The video has received 1.5M views on TikTok alone since it was posted on December 20.

It has become an annual tradition for the Communications team of Digital Media Coordinator Anthony Miller and Graphic Designer/Communication Specialist Katie Gieseke to create a holiday video with the Savage Fire Department. For the past two years, the videos have spoofed well-known holiday movies, including Home Alone and Elf. This year's video features firefighters replaying National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation scene of Clark Griswold attempting to light up his home with Christmas lights in front of his family.

Besides being entertaining and spreading holiday cheer, the videos have a real purpose. "Public outreach is a big part of what we do," says Fire Chief Jeremie Bresnahan. "So videos like this help to put a face to our crews so when we are responding to calls, whether it's a fire or a medical call, our residents feel more comfortable." The videos also help build our audience across all social media platforms, so we reach a much larger audience when we send out important information, from job openings to public safety alerts. And based on the comments, this video has also created some hometown pride - from the Minnesota accents to putting our small city of Savage in the positive spotlight!

You can watch the video on the City's YouTube page @cityofsavagemn. Make sure you watch to the end to catch the bloopers!

2024 City Calendar

It's not too late to get your 2024 City Calendar filled with good-to-know information and photos of Savage firefighters and adorable puppies! Calendars are \$10, and the proceeds will go to the Carver Scott Humane Society. While supplies last, calendars are available online at cityofsavage.com or stop into Savage City Hall (6000 McColl Drive) or Fire Station #1 (14321 O'Connell Road) - cash and checks only.



2024 Election News

Presidential Nomination Primary | March 5, 2024

The purpose of the Presidential Nomination Primary, also known as "Super Tuesday," is for voters who identify with a major political party to indicate which candidate they want their party to nominate for the November General Election. Registered voters can vote at their regular polling place on March 5, 2024, or at City Hall by absentee starting January 19. Here is what Savage residents need to know:

1. Voters must declare their party.

In a Presidential Nomination Primary, each major party has its own ballot. Voters have to declare their party preferences to get the appropriate ballot. If a voter refuses to select a party, they cannot vote in the Presidential Nomination Primary.

2. Absentee voting is available from January 19 through March 4.

Savage residents can vote absentee in person at Savage City Hall during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You can also apply for absentee ballots online at mnvotes.org and submit your ballot through the mail.

3. You must be registered to vote.

If you need to register, you can pre-register online through February 13 at mnvotes.org or at the polling place when you vote.

Election judges are needed.

Would you like to learn about the election process? If so, consider becoming an election judge. For more information on serving or applying to become an election judge, go to cityofsavage.com or reach out to our Elections Coordinator Chris Collins, at **952-882-2660** or ccollins@cityofsavage.com.

New to Savage? Welcome home!

Are you a new resident curious about what Savage has to offer? Visit the City's website at cityofsavage.com to learn more about our parks, trails, events, services, and more! You can also stop by City Hall at 6000 McColl Drive to pick up important information on Scott County and the surrounding area. We are so glad you are here!

The City of Savage website, cityofsavage.com, is available in multiple languages. Click "Translate" in the upper right corner to show a list of available languages.

Thank you for your service

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent retirements. We extend our deepest gratitude to each of them for their dedicated service to our community. You have served us well!

Pat Mans, Police Sergeant, 26 years of service

During Pat's career, he served as a Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Administrative Sergeant, Crime Prevention Officer, firearms instructor and armorer, and a SWAT team member. He also trained and worked with the department K9 and was active with Special Olympics for many years. Pat was awarded Officer of the Year in 2008. In addition to being a police officer, Pat also was a firefighter for 23 years.

Richard Shiprett, Utilities Service Worker I, 6 years of service

Throughout Richard's career with the City, he obtained MDH and MPCA class C and SC certifications, tremendously contributing to maintaining our lift stations and pumps. Richard was a team player who was willing to go above and beyond when needed, doing so with a positive attitude.

Amy Tucci, Administrative Assistant, 3 years of service

Amy worked in the Community Development Department and was known for providing excellent customer service to residents and contractors. Amy's humor and welcoming smile will be missed around City Hall.

Todd Weinzierl, Police Officer, 15 years of service

Todd worked nights on patrol and was a firearms instructor. He was the recipient of many Life Saving Awards and several Hero Awards for his heroic actions to save others. Todd received a Meritorious Service Award in 2011 and was Officer of the Year in 2013. He was a great team player and mentor for new officers.

Steven Goebel - Firefighter, 10.5 years of service

Over his career, Steve has been a SCBA Coordinator, Interim Captain, and Lieutenant, and was named Firefighter of the Year in 2011 and 2021 for his dedication and passion. His contribution as a firefighter, officer, and relief board member has been invaluable, leaving a lasting impact on the team.

Supporting Local Business

Do you have a new business to share, need business resources, or are interested in new development or redevelopment? We'd love to connect with you. Contact Community Development Director Regina Dean at **952-882-2652** or rdean@cityofsavage.com.

Welcome to the community.

MASH, 6510 W. 130th St.

MASH officially opened its doors on December 31, 2023. It's a multi-purpose field house with 40,000 square feet of turf space paired with a 50-foot ceiling for a variety of athletic development.

Discover Strength, 5781 Egan Drive

Discover Strength offers personalized strength training, low back therapy, and body composition testing.

Business Spotlight: KTI Fencing 12457 Xenwood Ave.

Community Development Director Regina Dean had the chance to visit with Tim Gillitzer of KTI Fencing on a new business visit. KTI Fencing specializes in temporary fencing and protective ground mats for construction projects and is excited to expand to a new location in Savage. Gillitzer had driven past a pink diamond in the rough building near Highway 13 hundreds of times, and one day, he noticed a For Sale By Owner sign that caught his eye. The location was a perfect fit, and after thoughtful consideration decided to purchase the site. Since Gillitzer purchased the property, the interior of the building has been remodeled, the exterior received a fresh coat of paint, and many improvements were made to the grounds. The site truly shines!



Know the Code: Parking and storage of recreational vehicles.

For over a year, the City of Savage has been evaluating the zoning code regarding the parking and storage of recreational vehicles to ensure it meets the community's current preferences. The current code has been in place for nearly 20 years! Everyone benefits from a well-kept community, but we also know that many residents own recreational vehicles and park them at their residence when not in use. Occasionally, the city receives complaints regarding the number of recreational vehicles on a property or the location of where they are parked.

Over the last year, the City has conducted observations, collected surveys and comments from residents, analyzed the data, and engaged with the community to evaluate the number of recreational vehicles allowed and the permitted parking and storage locations in residential neighborhoods. Based on this research, only a few minor language clarifications were made to the zoning code. Here is a summary of the changes:

Definition of recreational vehicle

The definition of a recreational vehicle was expanded to include vehicles designed for, used for, or capable of use for sport, amusement, or recreation, whether or not eligible to be licensed for use on streets and highways. This includes but is not limited to campers, pick-up campers, tent trailers, motor homes, boats, trailers, snowmobiles, motorbikes, motorcycles, go-karts, all-terrain vehicles, fish houses, and personal watercraft.

In addition, language related to seasonal recreational vehicle use was removed since many recreational vehicles are used year-round. No changes were made regarding the number of recreational vehicles allowed at a property or where they can be parked.

Parking requirements

Here is a summary of the current code:

- Residents can have a maximum of three (3) recreational vehicles on their property; however only two (2) recreational vehicles may be parked on the driveway and cannot obstruct the public sidewalk or protrude into the public right of way.
- Recreational vehicles must be immediately operable, currently licensed, and/or registered to the occupant of the premises.
- If parked in the side or rear yard, recreational vehicles cannot be within five (5) feet of the property line unless screened by a 90% opaque fence, and the parking space must be kept free of weeds and mowed regularly.
- Extended outdoor storage of recreational vehicles over 34 feet in length is permitted only by conditional use permit and must be in limited view of the neighbors.

Read the full City Code Title XV, Chapter 152 at cityofsavage.com/our-city/city-code-and-ordinances.

Upcoming Community Events

Polar Plunge | February 17

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/.

Arbor Day Online Tree Sale | March 18 - April 14

Trees can help reduce energy bills, protect water quality, and add beauty to your yard. To encourage tree planting, the City of Savage is holding an online tree sale in conjunction with our Arbor Day celebration. This is a great opportunity to purchase quality trees from a local source. Choose from a variety of shade, ornamental, and evergreen trees. This sale is open to all Savage, Prior Lake, and Credit River residents.

NEW! Tree protectors and slow-release watering bags will also be available for sale to protect trees from deer rub and effectively water newly planted trees.

Species Available: Blue Beech, River Birch, Buckeye Autumn Splendor (new), Espresso Coffeetree, Prairifire Crabapple, Purple Prince Crabapple, Spring Snow Crabapple (new), Valley Forge Elm, Ginkgo Autumn Gold (new), Lilac Ivory Silk Tree, Linden Boulevard, Green Mountain Sugar Maple, Sienna Glen Maple (new), Heritage Oak, Swamp White Oak, Plane Tree (new), White Pine, and Black Hills Spruce. *Limited quantities; maximum of 5 per household.*

Price: \$36 - \$67 each

How to Order: Trees, tree protectors, and watering bags can be ordered online at cityofsavage.com from March 18 to April 14.

Please Note: Trees are only available to purchase online. No trees will be available for purchase on pick-up day.

Pick-up Day: April 27, 10 a.m. - noon

Pick-up Location: Savage Public Works • 13770 Dakota Ave., Savage

Public Safety

Car thieves don't hibernate in the winter.

Getting into a cold car may not be appealing on a bitter winter morning. Still, Savage Police urges residents to think twice before warming their vehicles outside while they remain warm inside. "In general, never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you are away, even for just a minute," urges Police Chief Rodney Seurer. And we know we mention it often, but we cannot stress enough the importance of taking valuables out of your car and locking it. It only takes seconds for someone to grab what's in plain sight and get away with your items. Thieves no longer just want your loose change or cell phone charger. They are also looking to snatch the garage door opener that you keep on your sun visor and use it to access your home. The good news is this type of crime is easy to prevent:

- Never leave your car unlocked and running to warm it up. Start the engine and let it idle only for the amount of time it takes for you to put on your seat belt.
- Keep valuables out of sight or in the trunk. Purses, credit cards, and cell phones in plain view only help attract thieves.
- Always roll up the windows and lock your car, even if it is in your driveway, garage, or in front of your home.
- Only park your car in busy, well-lit areas.
- If your vehicle has an alarm or other anti-theft device, USE IT.

Natural Resources

Let's Talk Trees | Educational Series

Join our "Tree Guy" Natural Resources Technician Jonah Reyes as he shares his knowledge of trees through this two-part series.

April 9: Buds, Bark & Branching

6 - 8 p.m. at the McColl Pond ELC

Do you know what types of trees are in your yard? Join us for a fun, hands-on experience to learn how to identify common tree species using their unique characteristics, such as buds and bark. We'll also discuss what tree species are prevalent in Savage and native to MN, as well as tips on what to look for when purchasing a quality tree.

May 7: Seasonal Tree Care Tips

6 - 8 p.m. at the McColl Pond ELC

Distraught about the drought? Enraged about Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)? Puzzled about pruning? Learn about seasonal tree care and maintenance relevant to the urban forest's current environment. We'll also discuss the current status of EAB and other pest challenges and ways to identify and treat these problems.

Register online at cityofsavage.com. The cost is \$10 per person for both classes.

Update on EAB

The Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan has been underway since early September. Removing trees infested with EAB is very important to slow the spread of the invasive species, help protect other ash trees, and mitigate potential public safety hazards within the urban forest. Thanks in part to our mild winter, city crews and ICWC work crew have continued efforts to remove infested trees in the public right of way and park areas. In 2023, 120 infested ash trees were removed, and 16 more are tagged for removal by a contractor due to the size and complexity of the removal. This will complete Phase 2 of the EAB tree removal.

To help preserve the health of public and private ash trees in our community, the City of Savage has partnered with Rainbow Treecare and has treated 81 trees to date. This partnership also offers Savage homeowners a treatment discount, resulting in the treatment of 339 ash trees on private property. To take advantage of this EAB Treatment Discount Program, contact Rainbow Treecare at **952-767-6920** or rainbowtreecare.com/cities/savage to schedule a free, no-obligation appointment with their ISA Certified Arborist for a comprehensive ash tree health evaluation. Homeowners are responsible for scheduling appointments and the cost of any private treatments.



Rec Corner

Spring/Summer Registration opens March 5

Get ready for summer! Savage Parks and Recreation has been busy planning all the programs kids love, like Playground Pals, Tiny Tots, Fabulous Fridays, and action-packed Adventure and Sports Camps. But we've also added fun new youth and family programs and plenty of leagues for adults as well. Learn more and register at cityofsavage.com.

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.

Ages: All ages; 2 and under are FREE.

Price: \$5 per person

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

Location: McColl Pond ELC, 13550 Dakota Ave.

Save the Date! Flashlight Egg Scramble | March 22

Scramble across the field at the Savage Sports Center with the lights off! Bring your flashlight and basket to scoop up as many eggs as possible. Several golden eggs will be on the field for a chance to win a special basket. Eggs will not be filled and will be recycled at the end of the scramble, where every pre-registered participant will receive a good bag full of prizes. Pre-registration is required. No walk-ins are accepted. Registration deadline is March 10.

Ages: 3 - 9

Price: \$6 per child

Time: Doors open for activity at 7 p.m.

Ages 3 - 6 Scramble: 8 p.m. (with one adult)

Ages 6 - 9 Scramble: 8:30 p.m. (no adult)

Location: Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave.

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 to no medical training who needs a course completion card, regulatory (e.i. OSHA) and other requirements, or for anyone who wants to be prepared for an emergency in any setting.

The American Heart Association's (AHA) Heartsaver First Aid-CPR-AED course trains participants to provide first aid, CPR, and use an automated external defibrillator (AED) in a safe, timely, and effective manner. Reflects science and education from the American Heart Association Guidelines Update for CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC).

Registration deadline: February 4

Activity #: 135221-01

Ages: 15+

Price: \$75 per person

Time: 5-9 p.m.

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

If you have questions about the CPR/First Aid Class, please contact Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal John Burrow at **952-224-3469** or jburrow@cityofsavage.com.

KEEP IN TOUCH:



Good News!

A new community garden is coming to River Bend Park.

In 2024, there will be two community gardens where you can grow your own vegetables and flowers while cultivating a sense of community. Adding a second community garden at River Bend Park was part of the recommendations for addressing safety in our parks.

Warren Butler Park

12800 Ottawa Ave.

44 - 10' X 15' plots

NEW! River Bend Park

14347 Joppa Ae. S.

30 - 10' X 15' plots

- Cost is \$45 for residents; \$55 for non-residents.
- One plot per household.
- Plots are available for planting May - October.
- The city will provide water access.
- New renter registration begins:
 - March 5 (residents)
 - March 10 (non-residents)

Plots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserve your garden plot online at cityofsavage.com or in person with Savage Parks and Recreation, 13770 Dakota Ave., Savage.

Sponsored by Scott County Public Health and the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP).

Winter Reminders

Pick up after your pets, even when it's cold.

When it's cold and the ground is covered with snow, leaving your pet's waste behind can be tempting, but this bad habit leads to an unsightly environmental hazard come spring. Contrary to popular belief, pet waste is not a natural fertilizer and can seriously threaten the environment and water supplies. When the snow melts, bacteria from pet waste left on the ground can end up in the City's storm sewers and then local ponds, creeks, lakes, and wetlands, causing problems with water quality as it decomposes. One of the simplest things you can do to keep local waterways healthy is to pick up after your pet. It also shows courtesy to your community, and it's the law! **#scoopthepoop**

Just because it says it's flushable doesn't mean you should.

Just because you CAN flush wipes, band-aids, Q-tips, dental floss, makeup wipes, tissues, and cotton balls down the toilet doesn't mean you SHOULD flush them. The term "flushable" doesn't mean it's biodegradable. None of these items break down in the water and can tangle with other items, resulting in a clogged sewer line. Defend your drain. Toss these products in the trash.

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