



Savage City Connection / April 2024



## Upcoming Community Events

### Arbor Day Celebration | April 27 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the McColl Pond ELC

Let's celebrate trees! Join us at the annual Arbor Day Celebration at the McColl Pond Environmental Learning and Event Center for lots of family-friendly and fun activities, including:

- 10 a.m.** Arbor Day Proclamation by Mayor Janet Williams
- 10:05 - 10:20 a.m.** Why are trees important? with Natural Resource Technician Jonah Reyes
- 10 -11:15 a.m.** Ask a Master Gardener with Carver/Scott County Master Gardeners
- 10:20-11 a.m.** Wheel of Trees Family Scavenger Tree ID Hunt
- 11-11:30 a.m.** Spin the Wheel to win the "Plant a Tree Basket".

**FREE white pine and balsam fir seedlings to the first 200 attendees! FCFS, while supplies last.**

### Tree Order Pickup | April 27 10 a.m. - noon at Savage Public Works

For those who purchased trees through the Arbor Day Tree Sale, your trees will be ready for pickup at Savage Public Works, 13770 Dakota Ave., on Saturday, April 27, between 10 a.m. and noon. Sorry, no trees will be available for purchase on pickup day.

### Community Clean-up Day | April 27

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 participate.

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 952-224-3425.

### SAVE THE DATE! Savage Recycle Day | May 4 8 a.m. - noon at Savage Community Park

The annual Savage Recycling Day will be Saturday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 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 is 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.

## WE WORK FOR YOU!

### Chad Palm, IT Manager

Join us in welcoming Chad Palm as our new IT Manager. Before joining the City of Savage, Chad worked at the City of Crookston, not just once but twice, as well as the City of Chaska.



Chad doesn't consider himself your "typical" MIS/IT person. He is a U of M grad with a degree in Information Network Management, and yes, he has a wealth of knowledge and experience in all aspects of technology, but he started his career teaching IT to high schoolers in the morning and 1st and 2nd graders in the afternoon. "I loved teaching," said Chad, "but eventually, I left it to become Crookston's first IT Director and then served as IT Manager for the City of Chaska for 15 years. I returned to Crookston in my previous role to help my hometown rebuild its entire IT infrastructure. Now, I'm excited to be back in the metro area, and I'm looking forward to leading the IT Division for Savage and further developing IT processes and best practices to meet the growing technology needs of the City." When Chad isn't working, his perfect day off is a quiet day fishing at the family lake cabin, followed by a night of salsa dancing.

## Good News!

### First Annual Savage Area Arts Festival

June 22, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Mark your calendars! The Savage Area Arts Community is thrilled to announce the first annual Savage Area Arts Festival on June 22 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The art festival will be a new addition to the Dan Patch Days weekend. Artist applications are now being accepted at [zapplication.org/event-info](http://zapplication.org/event-info). Spread the word with artist friends. Questions about the festival or participation can be directed to [info@savageareaarts.org](mailto:info@savageareaarts.org). We look forward to an amazing festival!

# Public Safety

## Meet Police Sergeant Mike Schiltz

Mike has been a police officer for 29+ years and a Savage Police Officer for 23 years. One fun fact about Mike is that he drives a manual transmission 1993 Ford Ranger with no air conditioning and a broken radio. He laughs that his truck is older than 11 of the officers he works with!



### What made you want to become a police officer?

During the late 1980's, a little show called "COPS" caught my attention. I thought the job looked challenging and interesting.

### Tell us you are a police officer without telling us you're a police officer!

Mike says he might actually be the only officer who doesn't always back in every time they park somewhere!

### What do you like to do when you are not working?

I like hanging out in my garage and taking care of this monster.



### What is your favorite candy?

Kit Kat bars

## Freezin' for a Reason!

On Saturday, February 17, 2024, Savage Police and Fire took the plunge along with 1,000+ other plungers and raised a whopping \$299,990 to support Special Olympics of Minnesota.



## NEW! Savage Community Connect

*For residents and businesses*

Seconds matter to first responders. Providing critical information about your property, your people, your needs, and even your pets before an emergency happens can help Savage Fire assist you more effectively if there is an emergency. It's free, easy and secure.



### 1. Create an account.

All it takes is your email, phone number, and address. Your information is never used for any other purpose. If you're comfortable logging in to your online bank, you'll be comfortable logging into Community Connect.

### 2. Enter the info that matters most.

Enter valuable information on your home or business that can help first responders assist more effectively during an emergency.

### 3. Help Savage Fire first responders when seconds count.

That's it! Just keep us updated when things change over time so we can always be prepared.

Scan the QR Code to create your free profile today or visit [communityconnect.io/info/mn-savage](https://communityconnect.io/info/mn-savage).

## Coordinated Response: The first-year update

In March 2023, Coordinated Response, a brand-new program and partnership between Scott County Health and Human Services and our local law enforcement, was launched.

This program embeds a social worker/mental health professional into the Scott County Sheriff's Office, the Scott County Jail, the Shakopee Police Department, and the Savage Police Department to help resolve mental health crises with adults, children, and families. The mental health professionals:

- Primarily follow up with individuals in a crisis the following day but can also respond in live time with law enforcement on in-progress calls.
- Physically office at the Savage Police Station, or Scott County Jail.
- Help individuals navigate the healthcare system to find services and resources.
- Provides short-term outreach and support for adults, children, and families to manage crises.
- Serves as a resource to law enforcement, schools, hospitals, and community agencies.
- Partner with other county social service programs for ongoing support.

The overall goal of Coordinated Response is to build rapport with the community members who are suffering from mental illness and proactively connect them with available services to reduce future law enforcement involvement. Since its launch, Coordinated Response has received 739 referrals from our law enforcement jurisdictions. Of that 739, the Savage Police Department sent 386 referrals to their Coordinated Responder, Jessica Koehn. The community's engagement rate was 68%, meaning we successfully engaged and connected approximately 502 individuals to resources to address their mental or chemical health and improve their overall well-being. The Scott County Jail Coordinated Responder additionally engaged with 416 inmates, bringing the total number of referrals received to 1,155.

As the mental health crisis continues to affect our community and state, we look forward to another year of Coordinated Response being able to provide advocacy, education, and better outcomes for individuals in crisis in Scott County.

## Fire Recruitment Open House | May 1

5-8 p.m. at Fire Station #2, 13105 Dakota Ave.

Future firefighters who share a common desire to serve their community can:

- Tour the fire station and try on gear
- Ask questions about the part-time position, what the training is like, how long the initial training takes, and what's required of you if you're hired
- Learn what's required after the initial training is completed
- Learn about the pension and how the pension system works
- Meet current firefighters
- Learn how to join the Savage Fire family.



Learn more online at [cityofsavage.com](https://cityofsavage.com). The City of Savage is genuinely committed to diversity and inclusion and encourages all to apply.

# Naturally Resourceful

Our Natural Resource staff is hosting two community educational series this spring for residents to learn about caring for their trees and lawns.

## Let's Talk Trees

Natural Resource Technician Jonah Reyes, aka our "tree guy," has studied trees for a long time and will share his knowledge on identifying trees, their growth characteristics, and tips for planting and maintaining them.

### April 9: Buds, Bark & Branches • 6 - 8 p.m. at McColl Pond ELC

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

### May 7: Seasonal Tree Care Tips • 6 - 8 p.m. at McColl Pond ELC

When it comes to the health and longevity of the trees in your yard, seasonal maintenance is key. Proper tree care begins at planting and can significantly enhance their resilience against pests, diseases, and adverse weather conditions. We'll also discuss the current state of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and other pest challenges and ways to identify and treat these problems.

Register at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com). Cost is \$10/person for the two-part series.

## Don't lose your ash tree; protect it from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

An estimated 20-25% of all trees in our community are ash trees, and EAB is rapidly spreading in our community. To help preserve the health of public and private ash trees in our community, the City of Savage has contracted with Rainbow Treecare to provide EAB treatment at a discounted cost. To take advantage of this EAB Treatment Discount Program or to schedule a FREE, no-obligation appointment with their ISA Certified Arborist for a comprehensive ash tree health evaluation:

- Call Rainbow Treecare at **952-767-6920**
- Email at [info@rainbowtreecare.com](mailto:info@rainbowtreecare.com)
- Visit [rainbowtreecare.com/cities/savage](http://rainbowtreecare.com/cities/savage)

Homeowners are responsible for scheduling appointments and the cost of any private treatments. For more information on EAB, go to [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com) or [mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://mda.state.mn.us/eab).



## Water Tower Refresh

This summer, the water tower at the intersection of County Road 42 and County Road 27/Dakota Ave. is getting a new paint job. Water towers typically get painted every 20 years to keep them in good condition. It's a big job! During this work, the water tower will be out of service. We do not anticipate any noticeable difference in water pressure or water supply while this water tower is out of service and being painted. In preparation for meeting the higher summer water demand, the City will modify its current operation and distribute water from the ground reservoirs, other towers, and the interconnect to meet the needs. However, we ask residents to be mindful of their water usage and conserve whenever possible to minimize the demand on our system.

## Learn about Lawns

Want to spend less time and money mowing, irrigating, and fertilizing? Drought conditions making your lawn difficult to maintain? Join Water Resource Manager Jesse Carlson and guest speakers Jon Trappe, U of MN Turfgrass Educator and Gary Deters, U of MN Water Efficiency Coordinator for tips and tools on how to have healthier lawns and more efficient irrigation systems.

### April 24: Low-Input Lawns • 6 - 8 p.m. at McColl Pond ELC

Learn how to grow a healthy lawn with less water, fertilizer, pesticides, and mowing. We'll talk about the different types of turf grasses and their water resistance, shade tolerance, and winter hardiness. We will also discuss the new Minnesota Law that allows for natural landscapes.

### May 15: Water Wisely • 6 - 8 p.m. at McColl Pond ELC

Do you know what it takes to really keep your lawn healthy, especially during drought conditions? Join us to discuss lawn irrigation audits and new technology that may allow you to reduce your irrigation water consumption.

Register at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com). Cost is \$10/person for the two-part series. All attendees will be entered into a drawing for a smart irrigation controller or a pollinator seed mix.

## Reminders

### Water Efficiency Rebates

Savage residents can receive a credit on their water bill for replacing existing devices with specified water-efficient appliances, including toilets, washing machines, dishwashers, and irrigation controllers. To apply or learn more, go to [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

### 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 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."

### 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.).

### Tornado Drill Day

During Severe Weather Awareness week, April 7-13, outdoor warning sirens will sound in a simulated tornado warning on April 11. The first drill (1:45 p.m.) is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill (6:45 p.m.) is intended for second shift workers and families. Please take this opportunity to know what to do and where to go in case of a tornado!

# Rec Corner

## Sign up for Summer Fun.

Registration for a new season of Parks and Recreation programs is now open! We have lots of NEW and exciting activities, camps, and programs planned for all ages this summer, including skateboard camp, Treats 'n Tunes, playground programs, Fabulous Fridays, adult leagues, and Pickleball, to name just a few! If you haven't registered yet, don't wait! Programs fill fast. Go to [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com) for more program information and to register.

## Spring Break Open Play

Play soccer, baseball, football, ultimate frisbee, bocce ball, lacrosse, ladder golf, and hit golf balls at Open Play for only \$5 per person at the Savage Sports Center. Ages 5 and under are free.



**April 1:** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**April 2:** 3 - 5 p.m.

**April 3:** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**April 4:** 3 - 5 p.m.

**April 5:** CLOSED

**April 8:** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**April 9:** 3 - 5 p.m.

**April 10:** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**April 11:** 3 - 5 p.m.

**April 12:** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

View a complete Open Play schedule online at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

## We're Hiring!

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

# KEEP IN TOUCH:



# Business and Development

## Business Resources

Did you know that Scott County provides grant funding to businesses to start or improve recycling efforts? Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to purchase new recycling bins, recycling labels, recycling carts, and other items to help increase recycling and reduce waste. For more information, contact Nick Reishus at Scott County Environmental Services at [nreishus@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:nreishus@co.scott.mn.us).

## Welcome to the community.

### Pure Barre | 8160 Co Rd 42 Suite 500

Group fitness classes that focus on strength, agility, and flexibility for every body.

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](mailto:rdean@cityofsavage.com).

## Be aware of right-of-way work.

You will start seeing the large rolls of orange tubing along the side of the road again this spring. Several companies are installing fiber optic cable in Savage to bring high-speed internet to homes and businesses (also called broadband service). These companies will dig up areas of the City right-of-way as part of the installation process. The City of Savage is not conducting this work. Each company must apply for a permit and is responsible for installation. Any damage caused during installation will be repaired by the companies after work is completed.

# Find old-fashioned fun at the NEW Hidden Valley Nature Play Area

It's amazing what happens when kids realize that going to the "playground" doesn't have to involve a plastic slide and swings. The new nature play area along the Credit River in Hidden Valley Park is filled with nature-made structures like rocks, logs, and stumps for leaping, climbing, building, and exploring. All the features are made with reclaimed natural materials like downed trees from storm damage and ash trees that had to be removed because they were infested with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The idea behind the nature play space was to incorporate the surrounding landscape and vegetation to connect kids with nature and the outdoors. Park staff came together to dream up how children would eventually use the play area, and then they took the plans and turned them into a reality. Using forestry mulching equipment, they created a smooth play area where parents with strollers can easily walk and even created beautiful benches for adults to sit while kiddos play. This new play area is open and waiting for you to come explore ways to play in nature!

### Hop across stumps.



### Play tic tac toe with tree cookies.



### Build a fort.



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