



Savage City Connection / June 2024

Chief Rodney Seurer Retires

After 23 years of serving the Savage community, Police Chief Rodney Seurer is retiring on June 28, 2024. How do you sum up a 40+ year career?

Rodney got his first look at law enforcement as a senior at New Prague High School, where he volunteered with the Police/Ambulance Reserve. From there, he joined the Marine Corp. as a Military Police Officer. He then went on to a 21-year career with Durham Public Safety before returning to Minnesota and joining Savage Police Department in 2001. He became Chief in 2006.

When asked what the best part of his job was, Chief Seurer quickly said 1) being out in the community and 2) working alongside the men and women in his department. Rodney loved being out in the community, meeting residents for coffee, attending various community events, being active in civic organizations, and serving on the MN Chiefs Police Association and the Governor's Mental Health Task Force. Through this outreach, he built relationships and trust with



"I love this community, its history, and its people. I consider it a true honor and privilege to have served this community."

residents, leading to initiatives like the Community Conversations on Race events and better community-police relationships. Chief Seurer was also committed to serving the needs of his staff and empowering them to succeed. Under his leadership, wellness programs were created to ensure officers were both physically and mentally healthy. He ensured there were career pathways for every position and training to help prepare officers for success. And he was instrumental in bringing the Mental Health Coordinated Response program to Savage PD.

"The positive impact of Chief Seurer cannot be overstated," said City Administrator Brad Larson. "Rodney has a stellar reputation and uncompromised personal and professional integrity. We are thankful for his many years of service to our community."

After devoting so many years to the community, Seurer said, "It's going to be hard walking out that door. I love this community, its history, and its people. I consider it a true honor and a privilege to have served this community." His advice for the next Police Chief is to continue to build trust with the community and work together. Thank you, Chief Seurer, for your dedicated service. You have served us well. We wish you all the best!

Thank you for your service!



Captain Bruce Simon retired from the Savage Police Department on May 31, 2024, just three months shy of 30 years of service. In those 30 years, he responded to medical emergencies, domestic assaults, drunk drivers, traffic accidents, fights, property crimes, homicide, sexual assaults, and armed barricades. In addition to being a police officer, Simon also worked as a Drug Task Force Agent, SWAT Team Commander, Firearms instructor, Field Training Officer, and Patrol Sergeant.

And he also served on the MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault Personnel Committee and the Dakota County Drug Task Force Board of Directors. "I have had the opportunity to work with the best people that society offers," stated Simon. "Police Officers are honest, ethical, and selfless. They are willing to risk their lives for everyone, including people who do not support or appreciate them." Simon enjoyed serving this community and will undoubtedly miss the people he worked with. However, he is looking forward to not being tied to his phone or receiving calls regularly in the middle of the night! "For nearly three decades, Captain Simon has served to protect this community in a wide range of positions," states Police Chief Rodney Seurer. "We thank Captain Simon for his outstanding service to our community, and we wish him all the best!"

Welcome Chris Swanson, Assistant City Administrator

Chris steps into this important role with 12 years of relevant government experience in city policy and procedures, environmental sustainability, equity, voting, planning, and strategic planning. Before coming to Savage, Swanson worked for the cities of Richfield, St. Paul, and Maplewood. His top three most vital skills are problem-solving, project management, and team building/collaboration. He will oversee the Human Resources and Information Technology divisions and the Liquor Operations. "I am happy to be here," said Swanson. "I have heard great things about Savage, and I look forward to the great work we will do together." Chris grew up and still lives in St. Paul, and he stays busy as a dad to his one-year-old son. He loves to cook and all types of music. One fun fact about Chris is that he enjoys Curling, which is harder than he thought it would be. "How hard can sweeping be right?" It turns out it requires a high degree of balance, precision, and athleticism.



Upcoming Community Events

Farmers Market | June 2 - October 27
Sundays, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Downtown Savage
One of the simple joys of summer will be returning Sunday, June 2. That's the opening day for the St. Paul Farmers Market in the Savage Depot parking lot, 4800 W. 123rd St. in downtown Savage. Hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday through October 27. Support your local farmer and get fruits, vegetables, and more during their peak season of freshness, nutrition, and taste. All are 100% locally grown.

Law Enforcement Torch Run | June 11
8:30 a.m. at Savage Police Department
Are you ready to join us? The Savage Police Department is having its Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics on Tuesday, June 11, at Savage City Hall, 6000 McColl Drive. Registration is at 8:30 a.m., and the run starts at 9 a.m. There will be a 3-mile route and a .5-mile fun run option. Pre-order your t-shirt and/or hat for \$20 by June 1 at the Savage Police Department. A limited quantity of t-shirts and hats will be available for purchase on-site at the Torch Run with cash or check. Donations of any amount are welcome. All proceeds benefit the Special Olympics of Minnesota. For more information, contact Jennifer Wells at jwells@cityofsavage.com. This event is free and open to the public.



Savage Library Re-Opening Celebration

June 18, 2 - 4 p.m. Open House
2 p.m. Ribbon Cutting, 13090 Alabama Ave.
Join us for a community celebration to re-open the large meeting room and officially dedicate our expanded library! Enjoy live music, light refreshments, and self-guided tours of the Savage Arts Council, Senior Center, Family Resource Center, new meeting room, and expanded Heritage Room. Plus, demonstrations and sign-up for the Extended Access program. This event is free and open to the public.

Treats 'n Tunes | June 25

6 - 8 p.m. at River Bend Park, 14347 Joppa Ave.
Join your neighbors, family, and friends for an evening of fun and entertainment! Enjoy FREE ice cream and yard games from 6-7 p.m. and listen to a performance from the Teddy Bear Band from 7-8 p.m. Treats 'n Tunes is hosted at a different park and feature a new musician throughout the summer. View a summer schedule online at cityofsavage.com.

DAN PATCH DAYS

JUNE 20-23

Join the fun at Dan Patch Days, our annual community celebration. It takes hundreds of volunteers to make this event a success. Individuals and groups interested in volunteering can contact the Dan Patch Days, Inc. at danpatchdaysmn@gmail.com. For complete information, go to danpatchdays.org.

Horseshoe Hunt - First clue is May 24

The annual horseshoe hunt began in 1996 and is sponsored by the Dan Patch Historical Society (DPHS). A horseshoe is hidden somewhere within the city on public property. Clues are released every Friday for four weeks leading up to Dan Patch Days. They are available on the DPHS website at danpatch.com/horseshoe-hunt and posted at the Savage Library. Remember, to win the \$100 prize, you must purchase a Dan Patch Days button. In addition, the winner can ride with the DPHS in the parade. And bragging rights, of course!

2024 DPD Commemorative Buttons - \$5 each

Here it is. The 2024 official commemorative Dan Patch Days button is now available for sale at the Savage Public Library, Savage City Hall, the Dan Patch Days Historical Society (DPHS) booth at Dan Patch Days, or any Dan Patch Historical Society member. Purchase a button for a chance to win:

- 1970 Dan Patch Whiskey Decanter (empty)
- Limited edition Savage blanket
- 3 Dan Patch Collector plates

The drawing will be held on Saturday, June 22, at 7 p.m. on the Main Stage at Dan Patch Days. You do not need to be present to win.

Stop by to say hi!

Dan Patch Days is a great time to learn about your community and meet the people who serve it. Stop by Savage Community Park on Saturday:

Dan Patch Historical Society Booth: 3-7 p.m.

Learn more about how the DPHS preserves the city's history and pick up some great swag, such as coloring books, keychains, and candy. Plus, get Instagram famous by taking your picture with the Dan Patch cutout!

City of Savage Police and Fire Booth: 1-4 p.m.

Never fear. Our dedicated public safety team will be here! Meeting with residents is one of the activities Savage Police and Fire look forward to the most. You'll also have the chance to chat with the Mayor and Council members. Stop by to say hello, and don't forget to grab some cool Savage swag while you're there. We look forward to seeing you!



THURSDAY, JUNE 20



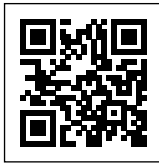
Craft Beer and Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Sponsored by the Savage Rotary
Savage Community Park under the big tent
7 - 9 p.m.

Under the large tent* (*new location)

Tickets: \$30 (21 and older)

Purchase tickets in-person at Marketplace Liquor, Savage Wine and Spirits, or from a Savage Rotary Club member.



Purchase tickets online by scanning the QR Code:



FRIDAY, JUNE 21



Adult Night

Savage Community Park

Gates open at 5 p.m.

Online Pre-Sale Tickets: \$17

Day of Tickets: \$20

Only 4,000 tickets will be sold for this year's event. Plenty of food and drinks will be available for purchase. No outside coolers or food allowed. Purchase tickets online at danpatchdays.org. Tickets are non-refundable; this is a rain-or-shine event.

6 - 7:45 p.m.: Opening Act - GenX Jukebox

8:30 - 11 p.m.: Headliner - Good for Gary

SATURDAY, JUNE 22



Dan Patch Days 30th Annual Grand Parade

Downtown Savage

The Dan Patch Days Parade is a time-honored tradition that brings the community together.

10 a.m.: Parade Lineup

11 a.m.: Parade starts in downtown Savage

Dan Patch Days Family Day

Savage Community Park

FREE ADMISSION

Bring the whole family for a fun day!

Skateboard contest and free clinic at Savage Skate Park

10 a.m.: Free clinic with skaters/instructors from 3rd Lair

Noon: Skate contest. Register day-of event from 11 - 11:45 a.m.

Savage Area Arts Festival

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Dozens of fine artists and craftspeople will sell their work at this one-day event - ceramics, jewelry, paintings, fiber, wood, photography, and so much more. There is something for everyone!

Noon: Gates Open | Food | Drinks

Noon - 2:30 p.m.: Miniature Ponies in the Park (meet and greet only, no riding)

Noon - 2:30 p.m.: WeeFarms will have animals in the park (meet and greet only)

Noon - 5 p.m.: Business Expo

Noon - 9 p.m.: Kids Inflatables (subject to weather)

1 - 3 p.m.: Face Painting

2 - 4 p.m.: Mini Ninja Warrior Dash (Sponsored by Savage Rotary)

2 - 5 p.m.: Live music by the School of Rock

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.: Princess Parade in the Park (Rapunzel)

3 - 6 p.m.: Bingo (presented by Prior Lake-Savage Optimist Club)

3:30 - 4 p.m.: Cookie Eating Contest (Sponsored by Eileen's Colossal Cookies)

7 p.m.: On-stage announcements from Mayor Janet Williams and the Dan Patch Historical Society

7 - 11 p.m.: Live music by The Dweebs

8:30 - 9 p.m.: Sponsor Recognition on Main Stage

Dusk: Fireworks



SUNDAY, JUNE 23



Savage Fire Pancake Breakfast

Fire Station #2 - 13105 Dakota Ave.

7 a.m. - Noon

The tradition continues! Bring your appetite to the Savage Fire Department's pancake breakfast - where the pancakes are plate sized, and the coffee is really good! Donations accepted. While you're there, check out the fire trucks, talk with Savage firefighters, and more.



Good News!

City Utilities staff has been working diligently to address the high radium issue at Water Treatment Plant #3. Recent pilot testing by an independent testing lab and the MN Department of Health has confirmed that radium levels at WTP #3 are BELOW the threshold. "Over 8 million gallons of water were tested for the safety of our residents and community," states Utilities Superintendent Michael Klimers. "We used all our internal resources, experience, and an external consultant to resolve the issue. This included replacing pumps and making operation modifications. Ultimately, we proved we could effectively treat for radium removal." This is excellent news as we move into the summer when water demand spikes. Staff will continue to conduct weekly testing, so when it becomes necessary to start up WTP#3 to handle higher seasonal demand, we can be confident that our drinking water meets or beats all EPA and MDH standards and guidelines.

The 2023 Water Quality Report is also now available. It provides a snapshot of the city's drinking water quality, including information about our water sources, treatment, consumer demand, detected contaminants, and other information of interest. You can review the full report online at cityofsavage.com or pick up a printed copy at City Hall or Public Works.

Proud of our own.

Recently, Sergeant Ashley Uthe received the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer Award from the Prior Lake-Savage Optimist Club for outstanding service to her community. Sgt. Uthe started with Savage Police Department in 2012 and was promoted to Sergeant on June 11, 2023. In addition to supervising Uniform Patrol Team A, she volunteers for several department-specialized assignments, including Crime Scene Technician, and oversees the Savage & Scott County Police Explorer program. Sgt. Uthe also participates in several of the department's community outreach initiatives, like the Torch Run, Tip-A-Cop, and Polar Plunge for Special Olympics. Congrats Sgt. Uthe - it's well-deserved recognition!



City maintains GreenSteps 4 & 5...again!

For the third consecutive year, the City of Savage has maintained GreenSteps 4 and 5 in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's sustainability city challenge and is recognized for its ongoing dedication to sustainability. Step 5 is the top level of recognition. The city must add and improve at least three metrics to maintain this top rating. In 2024, the city accomplished this by:

1. Installing the new Credit River Trail
2. Reducing non-residential water use
3. Adding an additional community garden

City of Savage
6000 McColl Drive, Savage, MN 55378
Phone 952-882-2660
Fax 952-882-2656
Website cityofsavage.com

Mayor
Janet Williams 952-890-1669
Council members
Bob Coughlen 612-965-3999
Stacy Crakes 612-964-7893
Christine Kelly 952-226-2332
Matt Johnson 612-875-0367

City Administrator
Brad Larson 952-882-2660
Editor
Emily Gunderson 952-882-2655
egunderson@cityofsavage.com

KEEP IN TOUCH:



Meet Police Officer Cautia Johnson

Officer Johnson is coming up on her first full year as a police officer and being a part of the Savage Police family.

What made you want to become a police officer?

My dream of becoming a police officer started when I was a little girl. My father was a police officer in Georgia, and growing up, he told me the most epic stories. The stories were filled with adventure, excitement, and adrenaline-packed moments that made you feel like you were there with him. My father also spoke highly of the camaraderie of the work and the lifelong friendship of his partners.

Tell us you are a police officer without telling us you're a police officer! I don't think I give off a cop vibe, but I do notice vehicle registration tabs a lot more than I would like to admit!

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

I am a big animal lover. I have a German Shepherd (Beast) and two cats (Scout and Maverick) that my boyfriend and I have adopted. Once we moved into our house, we learned of a stray cat under our deck. We have fully domesticated her; her name is now "Kiwi." I also enjoy being outside, hiking on trails, and riding motorcycles and four-wheelers.

What is your favorite candy?

This is the hardest question for me to answer. I have such a big sweet tooth. I can't pick just one. When it comes to a chocolate type of day, Snickers, Twix, and Milk Duds are my top runners. When it comes to a non-chocolate kind of feel, I go for Sour Patch Kids, Mike and Ike Mega Mix Sour, Swedish Fish, Crème Savers (Strawberries & Crème flavor), and Sour Punch bites are my go-to.

