



Savage City Connection / July 2024

This is Savage. Sharing our history.

Rising to New Heights: Dan Patch's sulky is on the move By Nancy Huddleston, Dan Patch Historical Society

An important part of Savage's history is reaching new heights. An early-1900s sulky used by Dan Patch has been installed in the tall vestibule above the Savage Library's interior doors to preserve it and draw attention to the racing legend and his owner and City's namesake, Marion W. Savage.

Ward Holasek of Waconia owned the sulky and always maintained that it was used by Dan Patch at the International Stock Food Farm racetrack in Savage. In 2016, the sulky was bequeathed to the Carver County Historical Society and subsequently donated to the Dan Patch Historical Society.



When the sulky arrived in Savage, Board members Will Williams and Jed Williams used paint brushes with "minute amounts of water as needed to clean the dirt and other accumulated crud." Next, Williams and DPHS Board members Tausha Chamberlain and the late George Augustinack went to work authenticating the

sulky as one used by Dan Patch. The key was measuring the distance between the left wheel and axle mount to make sure it was a 1/2 inch greater than the right side. The significance of the 1/2 inch difference was to accommodate Dan Patch's tendency to kick his left leg into the wheel, and "lo and behold, it was!" said Williams.

"Then we had to use our vast knowledge of geometry to get the dang thing into the front display case!" Williams recalled. The sulky has been displayed in a glass case just inside the library door for years. During the recent renovations to the library, city staff and DPHS board members agreed that the sulky is an important part of the City's history and should continue to be displayed prominently.

City of Savage Building Inspector Phillip Skluzacek, who was overseeing the library renovation project, proposed transferring the approximately 100-pound sulky from the front display case to its new home. Several options were considered, but the idea of placing the sulky in the tall vestibule rose to the top. Literally!

Getting the sulky raised was a bit tricky. First, two 4-inch-by-4-inch metal beams were installed through the brick walls to span parallel with the doors. Once the platform was constructed, a scissor lift was used to lift the artifact. A team of four workers on tall ladders carefully positioned the sulky in place and fastened it down.

As part of the \$1.146 million library expansion project, the Heritage Room in the library will be doubling in size and is a wonderful way to learn about our City's rich history. Stop in to check it out!

Meet the City's newest employee: Pepper

On July 8, Pepper, a 1-1/2 year-old female black lab mix, will join Savage Fire as the newest recruit to provide overall mental health and wellness support for the Savage Fire Department, city staff, and residents of Savage. Pepper is a peer support therapy Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) canine that will be utilized for emotional well-being, assistance with community events, and community risk reduction.

Assistant Chief Fire Marshall John Burrow will be her full-time handler and says her "job" is to provide emotional well-being and help reduce stress levels. "Mental health is crucial to our staff's recruitment, retention, and well-being," said Burrow. "Pepper will help our firefighters deal with the day-to-day stresses of the job and work through the stress of critical incidents they have experienced and the mental challenges that come with that."

On a broader perspective, Pepper will visit with all city staff and regularly make trips to the Police Department, City Hall, and Public Works to promote a positive, more relaxed work environment that enhances productivity and job satisfaction. In addition to the benefits for staff, the Canine Peer Support Program will also be out in the community at events like Night to Unite, Fire Prevention Week, Pancake Breakfast, Storytime at the Library, and the Halloween Bash.

Pepper comes to us from Texas, where she was trained by K9's for Freedom and Independence, a non-profit that takes shelter, rescued, and donated purebred dogs and turns them into Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) K9s for law enforcement and first responder agencies. A generous donation from the Burnsville/Savage Lions provided the funds to cover the cost of transporting Pepper, training for Fire Marshall Burrow, and needed supplies.



"Mental health is crucial to our staff's recruitment, retention, and well-being."

Follow these fireworks safety tips.

The Savage Police and Fire Departments want to remind residents to leave "the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air" to the professionals this Fourth of July holiday. Minnesota law prohibits the possession and consumer use of fireworks that explode or shoot into the air, including bottle rockets, missiles, and Roman candles. Only use Minnesota-legal fireworks like sparklers, fountains, ground spinners, and snappers. Also, please be mindful of your neighbors and the City's noise ordinance. The booms and hisses that start at sundown and go well into the night are nuisances and can impact the quality of life in our community. Be a good neighbor and don't shoot off fireworks that explode or make loud noise after 10 p.m. Excessive fireworks late into the night cause people to lose sleep, babies and kids to wake up, and some pets to be terrified. If you notice excessive fireworks after 10 p.m., call dispatch at 9-1-1, and your call will be routed to the City's police department.

Each year, fireworks are estimated to cause 19,500 fires nationwide, and here in Minnesota, on average, 75 people go to the hospital with injuries from fireworks. To help keep everyone safe, Savage Fire has these firework safety tips:

- Always supervise children during fireworks use and set a good example for safe behavior.
- Only use fireworks on private property; they're illegal on all public property, including parks, roads, and sidewalks.
- Alcohol and fireworks don't mix.
- Extinguish and dispose of spent fireworks in a bucket of water. Do not try to relight a dud.
- Wear shoes at all times while fireworks are present.
- If something goes wrong, even something small, don't hesitate - call 9-1-1 immediately.

Designated Driver Program | July 4 - 7

Win big by becoming the designated driver.

This Fourth of July weekend, the Savage Police Department is teaming up with McHugh's Public House, Neisens, Whisky Inferno, Buffalo Wild Wings (Savage location only), and Crooked Pint (Savage location only) to reward designated drivers. Here's how it works:

1. Stop by any of these establishments between July 4 - 7, and tell your server you are the designated driver.
2. Scan the QR code and submit your information (one entry per designated driver).

All participating designated drivers will be entered into a drawing for great prizes, including 4 tickets to the July 26 St. Paul Saints game and \$100 gift cards to McHugh's Public House, Neisens, Whiskey Inferno, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Crooked Pint.

Thank you to the Prior Lake Lions and Burnsville/Savage Lions for sponsoring this program. Let's make it a safe Fourth of July weekend.

It's not too late for emerald ash borer treatment.

This summer, consider protecting your ash tree(s) from emerald ash borer (EAB). Treatments on healthy ash trees are very effective and can be done until the end of September. Residents can take advantage of City contract pricing through Rainbow Treecare. For more information, visit rainbowtreecare.com/savage or call 952-767-6920.

Phone Scams: Be Alert!

Phone scams targeting our community are increasing, with scammers pretending to be law enforcement officers and pressuring unsuspecting victims for money and personal details. Recent incidents include:

1. A caller claiming to be from the Sheriff's Office demanded fines for a supposed missed jury trial and sent the victim to four different Cub Foods locations to send the caller \$19,200 via Bitcoin ATMs.
2. Another resident received a call from 952-496-8300, falsely alleging a warrant for their arrest and demanding \$4,000 bail, which was recognized as a scam and not paid.
3. A caller from the same number claimed another victim owed \$5,000 for missing jury duty, coercing them to withdraw cash and deposit it into a Bitcoin ATM at Cub Foods, then demanded another \$5,000 before disconnecting.

Watch out for these signs:

- Unexpected calls demanding immediate payment.
- Requests for payment via unconventional methods like Bitcoin or gift cards.
- Aggressive tactics aimed at intimidating victims.
- Refusal to allow verification of their identity by calling back on an official number.
- Caller ID may falsely display the Sheriff's Office number.

If you receive such a call, hang up and do not provide personal information or payment. Verify claims by contacting the Sheriff's Office directly at **952-496-8300**. Please share this information to protect our community and report any scams to the Sheriff's Office promptly.

Meet Police Captain Mike Heski

Mike has been a police officer for 21 years, all with Savage Police. We congratulate him on his recent promotion to Captain.

Why did you want to be a Captain?

I enjoy the challenges of leadership and working with everyone towards a common goal. I've been involved with everyone in this department for the past 21 years in either hiring, training, or supervising them.

They have lifted me up, helped me, inspired me, challenged me, and supported me. I want to give them the commitment, dedication, and support they have given me.

What made you want to become a police officer?

I wanted a job where I could make a positive difference in the community.

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

I consider myself lucky that I get to work with heroes who are doing extraordinary things every day!

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

Family, fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, and enjoying life.

What is your favorite candy?

Love me some Twix.



How is life in Savage?

Later this month, 2,800 randomly selected households will receive a postcard invitation with an online link to complete the 2024 Community Survey. If you receive one, we hope you take a few minutes to log on and give us your feedback. This is your chance to share your opinions on how well the City is meeting your needs and expectations. And please, be honest. Whether it is good news or something we can do better, we'd like to know. The City genuinely cares about doing a good job for our residents and ensuring that Savage is a safe and good place to live, work, and play. You can still share your opinions if you do not get a postcard. An opt-in online survey link will be available in late July for all residents who want to participate. All responses are anonymous and confidential. The City Council and staff will use results to guide decision-making and improve services. Questions regarding the survey can be directed to Communications Manager Emily Gunderson at **952-882-2655** or egunderson@cityofsavage.com.

2024 Election Filing July 30 – August 13

In 2024, the City of Savage will elect a Mayor and two City Council members. Local elections in Savage are non-partisan, community-centric and are typically a way for residents to share their vision and priorities for the City. We encourage you to consider joining this conversation by filing for office.

Eligible residents may file for office from July 30 – August 13, 2024, until 5 p.m. at city hall. To qualify to run for mayor or city council, you must meet the following required qualifications:

- Eligible to vote in Minnesota
- Candidate for no other office in the same election
- A resident of Savage for 30 days before the general election
- Must be at least 21 years old when assuming office

Questions may be directed to the City Clerk at **952-882-2660** or elections@cityofsavage.com.

Hydrant and water main flushing through mid-July

Utility crews are flushing the water system in the downtown, Boone, and Summit water tower areas to ensure they're in good working condition and clear of 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.



Tips for a healthy, water-smart lawn

Summer has arrived, and many of us have already turned on our irrigation systems. Typically, we set our system to run on an odd-even schedule. But did you know that many people with an irrigation system tend to overwater their yards? You might be one of them and not even know it! In fact, here in Savage, we use, on average, three times more water during the summer than in the winter; much of this water is used outdoors. Properly setting and scheduling your irrigation controller can save thousands of gallons of water in your landscape and prevent issues related to overwatering. Here are a few tips to follow:

- Water your lawn no more than 1 inch per week, depending on the type of soil beneath your lawn. On clay soil, 1 inch per week may be too much.
- Watering once or twice a week is better than every other day because it encourages deeper roots.
- Water only in the early morning or evening to avoid evaporation.
- To promote deep roots and lawns that tolerate dry conditions, mow grass no shorter than three inches. Taller grass shades the soil, reducing evaporation.
- Install a rain sensor or soil moisture sensor for automatic sprinkler systems. These techniques shut off the sprinkler system if it has rained recently.
- Inspect and replace irrigation spray nozzles. New nozzles are more efficient than old varieties. Use multiple catch cans to measure and see if the distribution is uniform with the water on. Make sure they are not spraying the streets, sidewalks, or driveways.

For more water-saving strategies for home lawns, go to extension.umn.edu/lawncare/water-saving-strategies-home-lawns.

Our lawn watering policy

To ensure an adequate water supply for the community and to reduce waste, the City of Savage enforces outdoor water restrictions throughout the year:



No watering between noon and 5 p.m.



Even-numbered addresses may water on even-numbered calendar days, and odd-numbered addresses may water on odd-numbered calendar days.



Those with private wells are exempt from the City's outdoor watering restrictions.



Landscaping, including newly seeded or sodded lawns, may be watered as needed (outside the hours of noon - 5 p.m.) for the first 30 days of installation.

Share your vision for downtown Savage

The City of Savage is creating a long-range redevelopment vision for the downtown area. The visioning plan will guide action to better support redevelopment goals, enrich community spaces, boost downtown connectivity, and support a stronger business community. The project team will be at public events throughout the summer. You can visit the website anytime to offer your input on what you envision for the future of Savage's downtown.



Scan the QR code or visit letstalksavage.com/downtown-redevelopment-vision to learn more about the Downtown Redevelopment Vision project and learn how you can participate in the process!

Rec Corner

Destination Mars: Rocketry Course | July 15-18

Launch and watch your own rocket speed 300 feet into the air! Then, it is yours to take home. Students will make and take home multiple rockets of varying difficulty throughout this session. We will use these rockets and airplanes to investigate basic aeronautical concepts, including propulsion, thrust, lift, drag, and more. We will also hypothesize about travel to outer space, how to get a United States astronaut to Mars and life on Mars. Note: Parents will be asked to contribute two 2-liter empty soda bottles for two different experiments.

Grades: 2 - 5 (entering this fall)

Price: \$177 (includes \$25 materials fee)

Time: 9 a.m. - noon

Location: McColl Pond ELC, 13550 Dakota Ave.

Registration Deadline: July 7

3rd Lair Skateboard Camp | August 12 -15

Join 3rd Lair instructors for a fun-filled 4-day camp working on developing your skateboard skills. The 3rd Lair camp program has been part of MN action sports development for over 26 years. 3rd Lair is the original, offering the most experienced, well-trained instructors and a proven reputation for success. Instruction is based on ability level, and instructors cater to individual needs. All ages 6+ and skill levels are welcome.

Ages: 6+

Price: \$200

Time: 9 a.m. - noon

Location: Savage Community Park Skate Park, 13500 Dakota Ave.

Registration deadline: August 4

Latchkey Program | August 14

Are you considering letting your child stay home alone before or after school? This full-day session is hosted by Savage Fire and Police and is designed to prepare kids ages 8 - 12 for this new responsibility.

Educational topics include:

- Getting organized and setting ground rules
- Getting organized for morning alone time
- Getting home safely after school
- How to be safe at home
- What to do when someone calls/comes to the door
- How to call 9-1-1 in case of an emergency
- Basic first aid and choking skills
- Fire safety, escape plans, and severe weather safety
- Having fun alone and keeping busy
- Handling sibling arguments
- Kitchen safety and healthy snacks

Ages: 8 - 12

Price: \$25 per person

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Lunch will be provided

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

Registration deadline: August 7

KEEP IN TOUCH:



Upcoming Community Events

Treats N Tunes | July 23

6-8 p.m. at Hidden Valley Park, 5000 132nd St.

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 Sawyer's Dream (folk/pop/rock) 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.

Night to Unite | August 6

Neighbors knowing neighbors is still one of the most effective ways to prevent crime. The Savage Police Department encourages residents to join this national celebration and schedule block parties, cookouts, or events to get to know one another and promote community safety. Gatherings can be as elaborate or as simple as you like! During Night to Unite, groups from Savage Police, Savage Fire, Public Works, and other local officials will visit as many registered parties as possible between 5:30 - 8 p.m.

To get on the list for a police or fire visit, register your neighborhood party by July 26 at cityofsavage.com (Visits are not guaranteed). One lucky registered party will be drawn to win a sweet and salty snack gift basket donated by the Savage Crime Prevention Association. Donations for school supplies, diapers, and non-perishable food items will be collected during the event or can be dropped off at the Savage Police Department by August 6 for local distribution. For more details, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Jennifer Wells at jwells@cityofsavage.com or 952-882-2604.

MVTA offers express trips to Twin Cities events, airport

Get on board the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for express service to events throughout the Twin Cities and south metro! Whether it's the Minnesota State Fair and the Renaissance Festival, various concerts, or sporting events like Minnesota United FC, Vikings, or Gopher Football, MVTA has your transportation covered. Convenient pickups are available in Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, and Shakopee. Round trip fare will be \$6 via the RideMVTA app (available on the Google Play Store or Apple Store) or \$6 cash when boarding the bus. Children 4 and under ride free. MVTA also offers service to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport seven days a week with free airport overnight parking at Burnsville Transit Station. For more details and to plan your next adventure, visit mvta.com

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