



# 120 YEARS

- SAVAGE, MINNESOTA -



Savage City Connection / October 2024

## 2024 Election Information

You may have heard that we have kind of a big deal election coming up on November 5. In fact, absentee voting (AB) has already started! Here's a rundown of what you need to know.

### Make sure you are registered to vote.

If you're not registered, save time at the polls and register online at [mnvotes.org](https://mnvotes.org). You can register on the day of the election at your precinct; make sure to bring your ID with your current address or an ID and a utility bill with the current address.

### What's on the ballot?

View a sample ballot, search for candidate filings, and learn more at [mnvotes.org](https://mnvotes.org). The sample ballot shows a list of the candidates and ballot questions you'll be voting on. Information is posted about 45 days before an election.

### How and where to vote.

#### Vote early by mail

To vote by mail, apply for an absentee ballot to be mailed to you at [mnvotes.org](https://mnvotes.org). Ballots are mailed out through October 22, and you should allow a week for delivery.

- Ballots should be mailed back or delivered to the Scott County Government Center/Elections Division. They must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day.
- Beginning September 24, you can drop off your ballot at a drop box at Savage City Hall, 6000 McColl Driver, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Note: No ballots will be accepted during the 11 a.m. - 12 noon lunch break.

#### Vote early in person

Beginning September 20, you can vote early in person at Savage City Hall Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Voters will be asked to complete an absentee ballot application, mark their ballot, and seal it in an AB secrecy envelope.

- Beginning October 18, in-person voters will complete their AB application, mark their ballot, and feed it directly into the ballot tabulator.

- Extended absentee voting hours will be offered:
  - Saturday, October 26 and November 2: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  - Tuesday, October 29: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
  - Sunday, November 3: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  - Monday, November 4: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Track the status of your ballot or confirm that it was received and accepted at [mnvotes.org](https://mnvotes.org).

### Election Day Voting

The City of Savage has nine polling locations open on Election Day, November 5, from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. You must vote in the precinct where you legally reside.

- Identify your precinct and polling location at [mnvotes.org](https://mnvotes.org).

If you have questions or are a voter with special circumstances, contact the City Clerk at **952-882-2642**.

### Candidate Forums

With the permanent closure of the Savage Pacer, many community members are asking where they can find reliable information on local candidates and school board elections. Here is a list of several planned candidate forums:

#### Savage Chamber of Commerce

City of Savage Mayor Forum  
City of Savage City Council Forum  
ISD 719 School Board Forum

#### Prior Lake Chamber

ISD 719 School Board

#### Burnsville Chamber of Commerce

ISD 191 School Board Meet the Candidates

#### Burnsville & Savage Chamber

MN House District 55A Meet the Candidates

#### Dakota County League of Women Voters

ISD 191 School Board

#### Shakopee Chamber of Commerce

ISD 720 School Board Meet the Candidates

Forums will be broadcast on SAVAGE TV and links will be shared on [cityofsavage.com](https://cityofsavage.com) as well as City of Savage social media channels as they become available.

*Disclaimer: The City of Savage does not endorse any candidate, and the views of the candidate are their own.*

### Campaign signs

As we enter election season, please remember to follow city and state laws regarding campaign signs:

- Only place signs on private property with the permission of the property owner.
- Keep signs out of the City's right-of-way, the "sight triangle," and at least 100 feet from a polling location.
- Remove all campaign signs by November 15.
- The City has the right to remove any sign that violates city or state laws.



## A huge thank you to Burnsville-Savage Lions!

Savage has become one of Minnesota's best public pickleball court scenes, with players coming from all over the Twin Cities because of the great courts and pickleball culture. On many nights, there are over 150 players on the courts. Now, thanks to a recent and generous \$60,000 donation from the Burnsville-Savage Lions, lights, seating, and shade structures will be added to the four new courts. We plan to have the lights up later this month so pickleballers can pickleball into the Fall.

# October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

During October, the Savage Police Department will collect donations for Southern Valley Alliance (SVA), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing victims of domestic violence and their families with support, referrals, protection, and advocacy in Carver and Scott Counties. Accepted donations include, but are not limited to:

**Household Cleaning Supplies:** laundry soap, dish soap, trash bags, toilet bowl cleaner, all-purpose cleaner, paper towels, toilet paper, etc.

**Personal Care Products:** hair brushes, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, etc.

**Transitional Housing:** NEW bathroom towel sets, NEW kitchen towel sets, NEW pillows, NEW queen or twin sheets, small first-aid kits, etc.

**Other:** journals, colored pencils, crayons, and travel-size activities for kids, gift cards (Target, HyVee, Cub Foods, gas stations, fast food restaurants, etc.)

Drop off items throughout the month in the Savage Police Department lobby at 6000 McColl Dr., during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Don't forget to buy a Purple Patch.**



**PURPLE PATCH PROGRAM**

Buy a patch to support Southern Valley Alliance!

Scott and Carver county law enforcement agencies have partnered with SVA to sell Domestic Violence Awareness Month patches with proceeds supporting domestic abuse services in our community.

**\$15 Each | Set of all 10 for \$135**

Domestic shipping is included  
Purchase at [SVAMN.ORG](http://SVAMN.ORG)  
or use the QR code:



SHAKOPEE POLICE END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
SCOTT COUNTY SHERIFF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS  
END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICE  
NEW PRAGUE POLICE END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
POLICE END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
POLICE JORDAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
PRIOR LAKE POLICE END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
CHASKA POLICE END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
EAGLE NEW MARKET POLICE END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
CARVER COUNTY SHERIFF END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## Meet Sergeant Jake Swartout



### How long have you been with Savage Police?

I have been a licensed police officer since 2009 and started with Savage PD in 2015. At the beginning of this year, I was promoted to Sergeant of the Uniform Patrol Division.

### Before coming to Savage PD, where did you work?

In 2002, I started my law enforcement career as a Correctional Deputy with the Dakota County Sheriff's Office. This was my first job out of college. Then, in 2009, I worked as a Deputy with the Anoka County Sheriff's Office before getting hired by Savage PD.

### Why did you want to be a police officer?

I grew up in a law enforcement family but didn't always want to be a police officer. Initially, I went to college to be a teacher and coach. Then, I switched my major to Justice Administration after gaining further interest in law enforcement. Since my dad was a cop, wanting to be a cop was always in the back of my mind.

### What's the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is the people I work with. Savage PD has an amazing staff who truly care about one another. I look forward to coming to work and seeing my partners. I also enjoy that every workday is different, and you never know what you will be doing.

### If you had a superpower, what would it be?

I would want the ability to heal like Wolverine. This is more of a selfish wish for a superpower. I have had a few injuries from my athletic career that still bug me. It would be nice not to feel those reminders every day.

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

I have played baseball all my life and still play "old man" baseball. Most people think I am talking about softball, but I still play actual competitive baseball. I enjoy spending time with my wife and son, which also means spending a lot of time watching baseball games. I enjoy movies and have probably watched too many. My "me" time activity is gaming.

### What is your favorite candy?

Baby Ruth

## Fall Yard Waste Update

The SMSC Organics Recycling Facility (ORF) is MOVING! The new location will be near the intersection of Highways 169 and 41. Unfortunately, they cannot host free Sunday drop-offs this Fall. You can still recycle your organics at the current location for a small fee until the new site is operational. Hours at the current location are Monday - Thursday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Learn more about the future facility here at [smscorf.com/future-facility/](http://smscorf.com/future-facility/).



## Upcoming Community Events

### Coffee with a Cop

October 2 • 9-10:30 a.m.  
Target, 14333 State Hwy 13

Grab a cup of coffee with some of our Savage Police officers at Coffee with a Cop! It's a great opportunity to get to know our officers and learn more about what's happening in our City.

### Friends of the Savage Public Library - Book Sale

October 12, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Savage Library, 13090 Alabama Ave.

Attention bargain hunters and book lovers! Friends of the Savage Public Library will hold a used book sale at the Savage Public Library, 13090 Alabama Ave., on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. A wide array of gently-used adult and children's books will be available for a free-will donation. All proceeds support programming and projects at the Savage Public Library. Have books to donate? Adult and children's books in good condition, as well as CDs and DVDs, will be accepted during library open hours. Please note we cannot accept textbooks, encyclopedias, or magazines.

### FREE! Savage Fire Open House

October 12, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Fire Station 1, 14321 O'Connell Rd.

Savage Fire invites the community to meet Savage firefighters and CIRT K9 Marshall. Things you can do at the open house:

- Tour the fire station
- Sit inside fire trucks
- See auto extraction demos at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m.
- Spray a water hose
- Paint a plow truck
- Learn about Community Connect
- Fun for all ages!



### Savage Area Arts Festival

October 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Savage Community Park Parking lot, 13500 Dakota Ave.

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!

### Halloween Bash

October 19, 5-8 p.m.  
Savage Sports Center, 13500 Dakota Ave.

Don't miss the spooktacular Halloween Bash on Saturday, October 19, from 5 - 8 p.m. This annual community event features horse-drawn wagon rides, inflatables, a DJ and dancing, a campfire, games, and more. Food trucks will provide food for purchase. This event is rain or shine at the Savage Sports Center and surrounding park grounds. Don't forget to wear your costume! Register now at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

#### Activity #:

All ages welcome (Ages 1 and under are free)

Pre-registration deadline: October 11

\$8 per person

After pre-registration deadline/walk-ins: \$10 per person

### Trick or Treat at City Hall and Savage Police

October 31 • 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
City Hall, 6000 McColl Drive

Don't forget to bring the kiddos to Savage City Hall and Savage Police Department, 6000 McColl Drive, on Halloween between 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. for a treat!

## We are Naturally Resourceful



### There's a new trash truck in town.

Savage Public Works has a new compacting garbage truck that makes emptying garbage containers in our parks more efficient. In the past, seasonal workers could only collect garbage from a few parks at a time before the truck was full. Now, the new garbage truck compacts the trash as it's picked up, which cuts down on trips back to Public Works to dump it. With 24 parks and 100+ trash cans to empty every 3-5 days, that's a huge time-saver!

### Keep leaves out of our streets.

We have all probably observed someone who decided to clear their lawn by blowing leaves or grass clippings into the street rather than bagging and throwing them away. While blowing leaves into the street gets them out of your yard, they eventually end up somewhere, like in storm sewer drains, where they get carried away to nearby ponds and streams. Leaves, grass clippings, and other yard waste contain phosphorus and other nutrients that feed algae. Leaves and grass clippings can also lead to blocked storm drains that cause flooding.

## Collector street speed limit evaluation

### Learn more and share your input.

Effective August 1, 2019, Minnesota cities have the authority to set speed limits on streets they control if a speed limit policy is in place. We know speeding is a common concern of residents, so the City is taking this opportunity to review existing speed limits on collector streets to provide safe travel for all modes of mobility. The current speed limit on local residential streets is set at 30 mph, however, the speed limit on collector streets is inconsistent.

### Public Open House

Engaging residents and getting community input is an important part of the process. The City invites all residents to attend a public open house where you can learn more about the project and provide your input.

Thursday, October 3 • 5-6 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers, 6000 McColl Drive, Savage

### Share your input

You can also share your input at [letstalksavage.com](http://letstalksavage.com). Use the interactive comment map to view the collector roadways the City is reviewing, and leave your feedback. Your input on areas of concern and ideas for improvement are valuable!

## Growing healthy food and a sense of community.

In 2022, the City identified the demand for community garden space far exceeded the current availability, so our Parks and Recreation Department was excited to create a new community garden. They identified space at Warren Butler Park in downtown Savage and created 44 new garden plots for the upcoming growing season. The City partnered with Scott County Public Health to apply for a Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grant to cover the garden's cost. The City saw this community garden as more than a place to grow vegetables and flowers; it was also an opportunity to create a community gathering space connecting people and cultivating a sense of community. Plots were available on a first-come basis and were quickly sold out.

Last year, a few city staff thought it would be nice to create a small garden in an unused planting bed behind City Hall. They purchased all the materials and plants and then shared all the produce as it ripened in the staff breakroom. "It always seemed to go home with someone," shared Natural Resource Technician Jonah Reyes.

This year, additional SHIP grant money has helped expand the community garden program to a second garden at River Bend Park. As part of the City's response to addressing safety in our parks, the City added 30 new garden plots at River Bend Park to intentionally bring more adults and programming to the park. Also, thanks to SHIP, city staff planted not just one but two gardens to grow a variety of produce to share. The garden in the back of City Hall was significantly improved, and two additional raised bed gardens were added at Fire Station #1. The grant covered 100% of the cost of fencing, trellis materials, vegetables, and a hose for watering. The reception from staff has been incredible - from volunteering to plant and weed, installing compost, scheduling watering, and, of course, enjoying the fruits of their labor. "The staff gardens have allowed people to experience gardening and enjoy the benefits of fresh vegetables they can eat during lunch or at home, stated Reyes. "The gardens have really created a camaraderie amongst the staff at both locations." Community gardening is a way to engage in physical activity, grow healthy fruits and vegetables, learn a new hobby, beautify our parks, and strengthen social connections for both our residents and staff.



## KEEP IN TOUCH:



### GOOD NEWS!

## Creek Hill Park is coming soon!

We are excited to announce our newest neighborhood park in south Savage will be named Creek Hill Park. Creek Hill Park will be a 2.17-acre park at the southeast corner of 156th and Hampshire Ave., featuring playground equipment, a picnic shelter, a walking path, and open green space. Some existing trees need to be removed due to disease or poor condition, but most of the site's unique apple trees will be preserved and maintained as a special park feature.



### Did you know?

The City's policy is to name parks at the time of development. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Help Name Our Park project on Let's Talk Savage. We had 40 contributors and 28 names submitted. In July, all the name submissions that fit the naming policy criteria were presented to the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Commission (PRNRC). The PRNRC discussed each submission and agreed that Creek Hill Park was the name of choice to recommend to the Council. On August 19, staff brought the recommendation to the Council for final approval.

### More input

The new park site plan has been approved, and construction will begin soon. The playground equipment selection process will include input from the community. See all the name submissions and follow this project for updates and opportunities to share your ideas at [letstalksavage.com](http://letstalksavage.com).

If you have questions about this project, please contact Public Works Director Greg Boatman at [gboatman@cityofsavage.com](mailto:gboatman@cityofsavage.com) or 952-224-3423.

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