



Savage City Connection / December 2024

2024 Election Recap Meet the new Mayor and Councilmembers



Christine Kelly is the new Mayor of Savage. Christine and her family have lived in Savage for 29 years, and she has served on the City Council for 17 years. She's a wife, mother of two adult children, and a grandmother of one. Her professional experience includes accounting and practicing law, but her current career is writing fictional romance stories! Christine shared, "I love serving the City of Savage because I love this city and the people who live here. Everywhere I go, I hear people tell me they love living in a small town. I believe that one of the reasons Savage feels like a small town is the people of Savage take time to connect with each other and stay connected."



Matt Johnson was successfully reelected to his third term on the City Council. He was first elected back in 2015 after serving on several City Commissions. Matt grew up in Burnsville but made Savage his home in 1991. Matt is a practicing architect, a husband, and a father of four. Serving on the Council is one way that Matt likes to give back to the community.



Megan Bergstrom is our newly elected City Councilmember. She and her family have lived in Savage since 2017. Megan is a substitute teacher and is completing a licensure degree program in elementary education. She loves spending time with family, playing volleyball with her daughter, and volunteering in the community. Megan shared, "I firmly believe that by working together, we can continue to be a strong community of individuals with diverse stories and backgrounds. I will listen, I will learn, and I will use my voice to continue making a difference."

We invite the community to attend the swearing-in of the newly elected and returning councilmembers at the January 6, 2025, City Council meeting at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay/Poetry Contest

To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the City of Savage Community Equity Commission is holding an MLK Jr. Essay/Poetry Contest for students in 5th-12th grades who live or go to school in Savage. Students are asked to select an MLK Jr. quote and write an essay or poem around its meaning or impact. The work may include reflection on the importance of the words and how to carry their legacy forward in our community.

MLK Jr. Essay Contest Criteria:

- Open to 5th-12th grade students who live or attend school in Savage.
- The essay or poem must not be more than 800 words.
- Only one submission per individual.
- Submissions are due by January 7, 2025.
- Submissions should be sent as a PDF or Microsoft Word document to Assistant City Administrator Chris Swanson at cswanson@savagemn.gov. Submissions will be accepted in any language. Submissions must be original and may not include the use of AI. If individuals are unable to submit the work electronically or request reasonable accommodations, please contact Chris Swanson at **952-882-2668**.

Members of the CEC will review and vote on winners from each age category at their January 16, 2025 CEC meeting. The winners will be presented with an award at a public celebration during the January 21, 2025 City Council meeting.

Good News! Playground Concept F is the winner.

Based on public input and detailed scoring of each playground design, Playground Concept F was selected for the new Creek Hill Park playground. Thank you to everyone who submitted feedback. The equipment is on order and is expected to be installed in Spring 2025. Stay tuned for more information on the grand opening!





Upcoming Community Events

Holiday Tree Lighting & Santa Cop Night

December 5

Tree Lighting: 5:30 - 6 p.m.

Santa Cop Night: 6-7:30 p.m.

City Campus, 6000 McColl Drive

Help kick off the holiday season! Join Mayor Williams for hot cocoa and the countdown of the holiday tree lighting, then head to the Savage Police Department to drop off your unwrapped gifts for the annual Toys for Tots campaign and visit Santa and Police Chief Juell. Don't forget your camera!



JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION TO HONOR LONG-TIME
CITY OF SAVAGE

MAYOR
Janet Williams

DECEMBER 12, 2024 • 3-5 P.M.

SAVAGE LIBRARY

13090 ALABAMA AVE, SAVAGE, MN 55378



CITY OF
SAVAGE
MINNESOTA

Reminders

FREE! Holiday light recycling | December 1 - January 15

Drop off your old, tangled, and broken lights in the lobby at Savage City Hall, 6000 McColl Drive, between December 1 - January 15. The City will bring them to the Scott County Household Hazardous Waste Facility to be recycled. NOTE: Scott County HHW accepts all holiday lights year-round free of charge.

Enjoy the snowmobiling season; just know the rules.

Trails will be open December 1 through March 31 but may be closed due to limited snowfall.

The City of Savage allows for the peaceful and safe operation of snowmobiles within the city limits, but riders must obey all traffic rules, regulations, and traffic control devices. Here are a few tips to help riders have an enjoyable season:

- **Ride only on designated trails.** The Savage Sno-Pacers is a volunteer group that helps maintain more than 24 miles of trails in Savage. These trails provide local riders access to regional and state trails. Riders must follow the marked trails within the City except for access from their residence to the nearest marked trails.
- **Be respectful**, and don't ride after 11 p.m. or before 7 a.m.
- **Access trails by taking the most direct route** possible from your home base. Violators could be cited and/or have their snowmobile impounded.
- **Obey posted speed limits** and don't operate at high speeds (over 15 mph) when near houses.
- **Be alert**, don't drink and drive, and dress weather-appropriate.

Check out the Savage Sno-Pacers, a local group of snowmobile enthusiasts who share camaraderie with others who love the sport and promote snowmobile safety, plan trips and local rides, and off-season get-togethers. Follow them @SavageSnoPacers on Facebook or email snopacers@gmail.com or 612-567-6691 for more information.

Snowmobile trail maps are available at Savage City Hall, 6000 McColl Drive For reports on trail conditions, call the Scott County Sno-Trails Hotline at 952-440-1003. For complete information on the Savage City Snowmobiling Ordinance, go to savagemn.gov.

Public Safety

Do you have a surveillance camera at your residence or business?

If so, Savage Police would like to partner with you to keep your neighborhood and business safe. Security cameras can be a great tool when solving crimes. However, police are not always aware of who has surveillance cameras and potentially vital information to help solve a crime. With SafeCam, Savage Police are asking residents and businesses to voluntarily register their private video surveillance systems with the department and allow officers to contact them should a crime occur in or near where the camera is installed.



Register by scanning the QR code or by visiting savagemn.gov.

Lead Service Line Notification

The City of Savage has completed and submitted our service line materials inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health. The service line inventory is publicly available, and you can check the materials for your service line by visiting the Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (LITT) at <https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/> or contacting us at savageleadservice@savagemn.gov or 952-224-3440. Properties that may be affected have been notified.

To give a thorough accounting of the material used in our water service distribution system, City staff reviewed service installation reports, record plans, city and plumbing codes, and local municipal ordinances to determine with certainty the materials used in the construction of water service lines to residential, commercial and industrial structures. This also included site visits by staff and consultants to properties with incomplete or inaccurate records to help determine the material used for the water supply. Our inventory was completed and submitted on July 15, 2024, and was approved by the MDH on October 8, 2024. It was determined from that inventory that two (2) galvanized services exist, and 1,065 are unknown material requiring further investigation. Our inventory contained zero (0) known lead and 9,058 non-lead service lines.

Are you ready for winter? We've got some tips!

Tip 1: Winter parking restrictions are now in effect.

Winter parking restrictions are in effect from November 1 - March 31. During this time, on-street parking is prohibited from 2 - 6 a.m., regardless of whether there is snow. Many times, city plows hit the streets around 2 a.m. You can help the City plow more quickly and efficiently by moving parked cars off the street. Cars parked on the street make it difficult for plow operators to see and prevent clearing the road from curb to curb. Violators may be ticketed or towed. Temporary variances may be requested through the Savage Police Department at 952-882-2600.

Tip 2: Keep garbage cans in your driveway

This winter, think about where you put your garbage and recycling bins. Our snowplow crews rely on your help to place garbage and recycling cans at the end of the driveway behind the curb on trash pick-up days. Bins placed in the street are tough to plow around and may result in the road not being completely plowed to the curb. We appreciate your cooperation!

Tip 3: Mobile basketball hoops

Mobile basketball hoops should be removed from the street and kept out of the right of way.

Tip 4: Shovel your sidewalk

Property owners are responsible for clearing snow/ice on public sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours after the snow or other precipitation has stopped. During extreme snow events, city staff may not meet the timeline set in City Code 97.02A along collector streets and county roads.

Tip 5: Do not put snow on roadways or sidewalks

Savage Ordinance 95.03T prohibits plowing, shoveling, blowing, or placing snow onto public streets, alleys, or sidewalks.

Tip 6: Adopt a hydrant

In an emergency, every second counts. The Savage Fire Department relies on residents to keep neighborhood fire hydrants clear of snow. Please help them by clearing a 3-foot wide path around fire hydrants so firefighters can get to work immediately if a fire occurs on your street.

Ready to get involved?

Apply to be on a Commission

Each year, the City Council appoints commissioners to serve in important volunteer roles for the City. Our goal is to have our commissions reflect the wide range of backgrounds and diverse perspectives that make up our community.

Who are commissioners, and what do they do?

Commissioners are volunteers who care about the quality of life in Savage and the programs and services that the City provides. They review and discuss important policies, procedures, and initiatives and make recommendations to the City Council.

What types of Commissions are in the City of Savage?

The City has four commissions:

Economic Development Commission (EDC) - meets third Wednesday at 7:15 a.m.

The EDC advises the City Council in all matters relating to the community's economic development, including efforts to recruit new businesses and industries, retention and expansion of existing businesses and industries, and diversification of the community's economy.

Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission (PRNRC) - meets fourth Monday at 7 p.m.

The PRNRC works with staff to provide input and make recommendations regarding recreational programming and the acquisition and development of parks.

Planning Commission (PC)- Meets Thursdays after Council meetings at 7 p.m.

The Planning Commission focuses on land use and zoning issues within the City limits.

Community Equity Commission (CEC) - Meets second or third Thursday at 6 p.m.

The CEC advises the City Council on diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies that strengthen relationships among historically under-represented populations in local government and uses an equity lens to review city practices, policies, and procedures to provide recommendations to the City Council.

Who can serve as a commissioner?

Anyone who is a resident of Savage and interested in serving the City can serve as a commissioner. The City also encourages junior and senior high school students interested in learning more about local government to apply. EDC Commissioners must either live in Savage or own a business in Savage.

For more information on the role of each commission and to apply, contact Administrative Assistant Lisa Crist at lcrist@savagemn.gov or 952-882-2660. The deadline to apply is January 6, 2025. Interviews with council members will be scheduled for January 2025.

Introducing savagemn.gov

On December 2, 2024, the City of Savage website and email domain will change from cityofsavage.com to savagemn.gov. "Switching to a .gov domain provides enhanced security and makes it harder for malicious people to impersonate us," says Communications Manager Emily Gunderson. The change will not directly impact public users. The current .com website and emails will auto-direct to the new .gov sites.



2024

COMMUNITY SURVEY OVERVIEW

The most recent community survey results are in, and you told us again that Savage is a great place to live! The City conducts a community survey every other year to see what our residents think. It's one of the ways we listen and respond to the community's needs.

LIFE IN SAVAGE IS *great!*

[Excellent/Good]



95% Place to live



91% Neighborhood



88% Place to raise kids



88% Feel safe

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

62%

Overall confidence in Savage government [excellent/good]

92%

rate overall quality of life in Savage

[excellent/good]

7 in 10

[EXCELLENT/GOOD]

★ higher than national benchmark



- Treating residents with respect ★
- Treating residents fairly ★
- Being honest ★

6 in 10

[EXCELLENT/GOOD]



- Informing residents about issues facing the community ★
- Being open and transparent
- Overall direction that Savage is taking

ONE THING CITY CAN IMPROVE ON



#1 Business and Economic Development



#2 Mobility



#3 Communication and Civic Engagement

Quality OF CITY SERVICES

