



## 2024 by the Numbers

Population

**33,159**



Inspections

**5,337**

Code follow-ups

**1,423**



Planning Permits

**66**



Liquor Store Transactions

**75,565**



Let's Talk  
Savage Projects

**53**

Fire Calls for Service

**1,488**



Ash Trees Removed

**238**



Police Calls for Service

**20,504**

Miles of Streets Improved

**2.25**

### Top Highlights

- New turf at the Savage Sports Center installed
- Library expansion with new community meeting room
- Credit River Water Tower painted
- Welcomed Marshall the Fire Dog
- Four more pickleball courts and lights were added
- New Creek Hill Park in south Savage
- NEW Treats 'N Tunes community gatherings
- The Downtown Redevelopment Vision Plan was created and approved.



### Looking Ahead to 2025

Stay informed and provide input on many of these community projects at [letstalksavage.com](http://letstalksavage.com).

- 1. New Mayor/Council member** - Mayor-elect Christine Kelly and Councilmember-elect Megan Bergstrom will be sworn in on January 6, 2025.
- 2. Collector Street Speed Limits** - We know speeding is a common concern of residents. In 2025, the City will review existing collector street speed limits and create a new policy for consistent speed limits that provide safe travel for all modes of mobility.
- 3. Zoning Code Updates** - Updates to the zoning code will modernize it and make it easier to understand and use.
- 4. Creek Hill Park's new playground** - New playground equipment will be installed in Spring 2025, and the grand opening of the new park will be scheduled for June.
- 5. Library Mural** - A community mural, funded with profits from the liquor operation, is planned for the outside wall of the library expansion. The community can provide input into the final mural design, which is expected to be completed by August 2025.

# Employees of Excellence

The City of Savage is proud to recognize three individuals who embody our city's Mission, Vision, and Values and demonstrate exceptional teamwork, accountability, openness, respect, and dedication to serving our community.



**Anthony Miller**  
*Digital Media Coordinator*

This past year, Anthony stepped up to Chair the Employee Engagement Committee (EEC). With his help, the committee has a renewed purpose and focus to make employees feel more connected and engaged by creating several new events that were fun, fostered camaraderie, and boosted employee morale and sense of belonging.



**Travis Palmer**  
*Maintenance Operator*

Travis is always willing to step up and help out when needed. He brings a wealth of knowledge and always seeks to make a difference. When given a task, Travis sees that it is done to the best of his abilities or asks questions to ensure it is done well. He is willing to try new ways of accomplishing projects and considering others' ideas. At the end of the day, he wants to make sure our residents and fellow employees get the best experience he can provide.



**Mitch Johnson**  
*Code Enforcement Coordinator*

Mitch continuously looks for ways to make a difference and deliver quality services to our residents. His goal includes looking for ways to strengthen relationships with the community through outreach, education, and fostering trust. He sees his role as Code Enforcement Coordinator as an opportunity to improve a situation to better the community rather than a negative or punitive enforcement action. Mitch is a trusted member of staff, a great collaborator, and has a calm demeanor, which aligns

exceptionally well with his code enforcement job duties and expectations. Mitch is a positive resource and makes a difference in the community by using common sense and logic when working with property owners in the City. He is a creative problem solver who takes pride in treating others respectfully and finding solutions to achieve compliance.

## 2025 Water and Sewer Rates

The City Council voted to adjust residential and commercial water and sewer rates in December. Utility revenues are the primary funding source for maintaining and replacing our water and sewer infrastructure. Customers will see the new rates reflected on the utility bill at the end of January 2025. For average non-irrigator households, the increase is estimated to be between \$7 - \$8 more each month.

	2024 Fees	2025 Fees
<b>Water Rates</b>	(per 1,000 gallons)	(per 1,000 gallons)
Base charge per month	\$9.18	\$9.64
0-11,999 gallons/month	\$3.68	\$3.86
12,000-15,999 gallons/month	\$4.03	\$4.23
Over 16,000 gallons/month	\$4.43	\$4.65
<b>Sewer Rates</b>		
Base charge per month	\$4.87	\$5.11
Charge per 1,000 gallons/month	\$1.56	\$1.64
MCES cost per 1,000 gallons/month	\$3.21	\$3.95
<b>Streetlights</b>	\$3.10	\$4.00

## Understanding Your Utility Bill

Your utility bill includes drinking water, sewer, streetlights, and stormwater charges. The money collected does not go to the City's general fund; instead, the money collected goes into an "enterprise fund." This means the amount you pay for your utilities covers the entire cost of providing each system's service, maintenance, repair, and any improvements to the system. Your property taxes do not fund anything related to those utilities.

### Decoding Your Bill

- 1. Cons** = The current usage for which you are being billed. Meter usage is in thousands of gallons.
- 2. Water** = Includes the monthly usage charge and the \$9.64 water base charge, which covers fixed operational costs.
- 3. Storm water** = A utility fee for planning and maintaining stormwater holding ponds and various stormwater run-off projects.
- 4. MN Test Fee** = This fee is collected by the state for each connection to a municipal water utility. The state uses these funds to test and monitor drinking water quality.
- 5. Sewer** = This is your sewer usage charge. It includes the base charge of \$5.11.
- 6. MCES** = The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) charge is a direct pass-through fee for treatment costs billed to the City of Savage from the Metropolitan Council.
- 7. Streetlights** = A flat monthly rate is charged to cover the cost of electricity for current streetlights and fund future street and park projects with a streetlight component.
- 8. Total current charges** = The amount due reflects current charges and any past due amount or delinquent utility fees (late fees).  
NOTE: Delinquent utility fees will increase from 1.5% or \$5.00 (whichever is greater) to 5% or \$5.00 (whichever is greater) on 1/1/25.

**Statement**

**ACCOUNT INFORMATION**

ACCOUNT: 038068-000  
 SERVICE ADDRESS: 4098 W 132 St  
 SERVICE PERIOD: 11/1/2024 to 11/30/2024 (30 days)  
 BILLING DATE: 11/30/2024

**DUE DATE:** 12/20/2024

**METER READING**

Serial No	Previous Reading	Current Reading	Cons
84098299	Date: 10/1/2024 Reading: 389391	Date: 11/1/2024 Reading: 395270	5678

**CURRENT CHARGES**

WATER	30.81
STORM WATER	5.75
MN TEST FEE	0.81
SEWER	11.11
MCES	12.84
STREET LIGHTS	3.10
<b>TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES</b>	<b>64.42</b>

**BILL SUMMARY**

Previous Balance	71.31
We appreciate your payments	-71.31
Adjustments	
Additional Bill	

# Savage Fire Annual Awards

Savage Fire recently held its Annual Awards and Recognition dinner, celebrating the past year's accomplishments and award recipients.



## 2024 Savage Firefighter of the Year: Ben Mathys

Ben Mathys has been an outstanding member of the Savage Fire Department since 2015, demonstrating unwavering dedication to the department and its members. His commitment to serving our community and supporting his fellow firefighters has made him an invaluable part of our team, and we are proud to name him 2024 Firefighter of the Year.

"Ben's selflessness shines through in his ability to meet the department's needs, especially during times of crisis, states Fire Chief Jeremie Bresnahan. "Following the loss of past and present members this year, Ben stepped up without hesitation, coordinating critical procession details with professionalism and care. His actions not only honored those we lost but also provided support and guidance to his fellow firefighters." Throughout his time with the department, Ben has consistently prioritized other's needs while maintaining a positive attitude and encouraging those around him. His dedication to serving the community and fellow firefighters reflects the highest standards of selflessness and commitment.



## 2024 Savage Fire Officer of the Year: Mike Collyard

Captain Collyard exemplifies the ongoing leadership and commitment that define our department's core values. As Fire Officer of the Year, Captain Collyard continually demonstrates unwavering dedication to the department and our community's safety. Through consistent leadership, Captain

Collyard leads his team with precision, making well-informed and timely decisions while maintaining professionalism. His ability to inspire those around him and provide ongoing guidance and support to his colleagues sets him apart as a true leader.



## Certificates of Merit: Katie Gieseke and Anthony Miller

The Savage Fire Department Certificate of Merit is an award presented to a non-department member for a distinguished administrative project or program that significantly benefits the Savage Fire Department. This year, the Communications team, Katie Gieseke and Anthony Miller, are awarded for their outstanding work in written and video projects with the Savage Fire Department. Their work supports the City's strategic goal of enhancing community identity and offers residents and guests valuable insights into the fire department team that will respond in times of need or appear at public events. Their efforts have also strengthened recruitment and retention by highlighting current team



members and promoting opportunities for future hires. Additionally, they have expanded the department's social media presence, increasing its impact on community risk reduction and public education while raising awareness of the profession.

# Community Service Officer Program

## Building pathways for diversity and opportunity.

The Savage Police Department's Community Service Officer (CSO) Program is an opportunity for individuals interested in pursuing a career as a police officer to gain practical, real-world experience while allowing the department to evaluate their values and work ethic. It's an integral part of Savage PD with a successful track record! Ten of our current officers started their careers as CSOs. Since 2003, the program has paved the way for at least 19 individuals to enter law enforcement or related fields.

"The CSO program is a win-win for both the community and our department," states Police Chief Brady Juell. The program aims to attract and develop candidates from diverse backgrounds by helping reduce entry barriers into law enforcement, including financial and educational challenges. "The program is rooted in the belief that public safety is most effective when it reflects the community in diversity and values. Our goal is to create a law enforcement workforce that mirrors the community it serves," states Juell.

## Who are Community Service Officers (CSOs)?

CSOs are non-sworn personnel who assist law enforcement by handling non-emergency calls like traffic control, parking enforcement, minor ordinance complaints, and general community support so police officers can focus on more urgent duties. Though they don't carry weapons or make arrests, they bridge the gap between law enforcement and the public, ensuring that community concerns are addressed effectively and empathetically.



Left to right: Fowski Ali, Matt Weierke, and Mike Torres

## Meet our newest CSOs: Fowski Ali, Matt Weierke, and Mike Torres

Fowski is originally from San Diego, CA, but moved to Minnesota in 7th grade. He's a graduate of Burnsville High School and lives in Savage. His passion for law enforcement began when he served on the Police Explorers in high school. He is pursuing his Criminal Justice degree at Normandale Community College and has experience as a CSO for Burnsville Police and as a Correction Deputy at the Dakota County Jail.

Matt is a Shakopee native and a Shakopee High School graduate. He earned his Criminal Justice Degree from North Dakota State University. He gained valuable work experience at the West Central Regional Juvenile Center in Clay County before attending the Minnesota Skills program.

Mike has dreamed about being a police officer since elementary school! He also grew up in Shakopee, graduated from Shakopee High School, and then, at age 17, enlisted in the National Guard, where he spent seven years as a tank crewman. Mike completed the Alexandria Criminal Justice Program in 2021 and looks forward to gaining community experience.

# Rec Corner

## **PeeWee Soccer Camp** | January 8, 15, 22, & 29

Camp coaches cannot wait to teach you all about soccer! In soccer, participants will learn to dribble, kick, and protect the ball. Every day, we will focus on sportsmanship and fun! Participants should wear tennis shoes and bring a water bottle and a soccer ball to camp.

Registration deadline: January 5

Ages: 3-5

Price: \$40

Time: 10 - 10:45 a.m.

Location: Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave., Savage

## **Glow & Skate Party** | January 17

Bring your family, skates, and smiles. Enjoy ice skating at Woodhill Park in the evening and glow in the dark while wearing glow necklaces and bracelets. Keep warm with hot chocolate and a treat—no registration is required (skates are not included).

Ages: All ages

Price: FREE

Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Woodhill Park, 8901 W 138th St., Savage

## **Tot Time** | November 4 - April 29

We know how you feel. Days spent indoors with an energized toddler can be exhausting. November 4 - April 27, your toddler can play on inflatables, throw balls, hit with bats, and more. We'll provide all of the equipment. This is a great way to burn off excess winter tot energy and offers age-appropriate, large motor skill practice. Food and drinks are not allowed on the turf.

Tuesday & Thursday: 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Ages: 6 and under

Price: \$3 per toddler

Location: Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave., Savage

## **Open Play** | November 4 - April 30

Grab your friends and come to open play at the Savage Sports Center! Participants can play soccer, baseball, football, ultimate frisbee, bocce ball, lacrosse, and more (equipment not provided). Schedules are subject to change. View a complete schedule online at [savage.mn.gov](http://savage.mn.gov). An adult must accompany participants under the age of 12. Food and drinks are not allowed on the turf. No private lessons are allowed.

\*Monday - Friday: 3 - 5 p.m.

Ages: 6+ (12 and under must be accompanied by an adult)

Price: \$5 per person

Location: Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave., Savage

\*Schedules are subject to change.

## **Open Walk/Jog** | November 4 - April 30

The Savage Sports Center offers a state-of-the-art artificial grass field ideal for winter exercise. Walk or jog indoors for free with family and friends. Strollers are welcome. No food or drinks are allowed on the turf.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Thursday: Noon - 3 p.m.

Ages: All ages

Price: Free

Location: Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave., Savage

## KEEP IN TOUCH:



## Good News!

### The new snowplow name is...Flurrious George!

Congratulations to Savage resident Ori Lariviere for submitting a crowd-favorite and clever snow-inspired name. Watch for Flurrious George, who will plow streets in our West District this winter!



## Winter Reminders

### Garbage can placement

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. Carts 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!

### Curb the salt.

It's white. It's everywhere. It can accumulate on sidewalks in the winter. No, it's not snow; it's road salt. But unlike snow, salt doesn't disappear; it washes into our creeks, lakes, and rivers and stays there. The City of Savage is taking measurable steps to reduce our salt use. "We are trying to shift the thinking on salt and spread the word that less is more when it comes to applying road salt," says Water Resource Manager Jesse Carlson. Homeowners aren't off the hook. We all play a role in protecting our water. Here are a few tips and tricks you can do to curb your salt use, too.

1. Shovel first, then apply salt only if necessary.
2. Don't apply salt when the temperature is below 15 degrees - it's ineffective.
3. A little salt goes a long way. One coffee mug full of salt is enough for 10 sidewalk squares or a 12 X 20-foot driveway.
4. Give it time to work. The colder it is, the longer it takes salt to work.
5. When the ice has melted, sweep up the excess salt and save it to reuse or throw it in the trash.

### City of Savage

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