



2025 by the Numbers

Population
33,262

Building
Inspections
5,359

Code follow-ups
1,994

Building
Permits
2,428



Liquor Store Transactions
245,000+

Let's Talk
Savage Projects
36

Fire Calls for Service
2,151



Let's Talk
Savage Visits
12,000

Police Calls for Service
21,682

Sign Permits
48

Miles of Streets Improved
2.9

Top Highlights

- Complete re-write of Zoning and Subdivision code
- Installation of mosaic community mural at Savage Library
- Savage Police join historical Presidential Inauguration Security Team
- Remodel of Fire Station 1 to get it up to building code and update living quarters for full-time firefighters
- Wall-of-Fame highlighting local athletes installed at Savage Sports Center
- Community Equity Commission hosts first Juneteenth celebration



Looking Ahead to 2026

Stay informed and provide input on many of these community projects at letstalksavage.com.

- 1. New rental licensing program/proactive code enforcement.** The City Council directed staff to implement a more robust rental licensing program and to be more proactive in code enforcement to ensure our aging housing meets our standards.
- 2. Update savagemn.gov website to meet WCAG ADA compliance.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires all content and online government services to comply with WCAG 2.1 Level AA by April 2027.
- 3. Create an Economic Development Plan.** With our community near full buildout, this plan will guide our community's goals and priorities for development and redevelopment over the next five years.
- 4. County Road 16 reconstruction from Hwy 13 to Foxberry Rd.** Improvements are planned to enhance safety by constructing an additional eastbound through lane and installing crosswalks at the Hwy 13 intersection.

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.



Lisa Crist
Administration - Administrative Assistant

For decades, Lisa has played a key role in our election operations and during the 2024 cycle, she demonstrated extraordinary dedication by stepping up to ensure everything ran smoothly while the city was still recruiting a Clerk. Her willingness to take on critical responsibilities during a time of transition reflects her exceptional work ethic and commitment to public service. Beyond elections, she coordinates our annual Commission recruitment materials, helps organize the Commissioner Appreciation Dinner, and assists with City Council packets- important efforts that showcase her organization, professionalism, and attention to detail. She also provides invaluable support to the Finance Department doing their cash receipts process, always bringing reliability and positivity. Lisa truly embodies what it means to be a dependable teammate and a cornerstone of our organization.



Sue Meyer
Engineering - Administrative Assistant

Sue truly embodies our "Platinum Rule" core value, treating others the way **they** want to be treated. She is often the first to step in when residents have questions or concerns. Whether it's tracking down information on a project, solving the mystery of a flag in someone's yard, or helping a frustrated resident understand why their internet is still down, Sue goes above and beyond to find answers. She brings patience, compassion, and unwavering dedication to every interaction. But her impact extends beyond our community. Sue supports coworkers across the entire City of Savage team with the same enthusiasm and kindness. She is always willing to lend a hand, brighten a day, or share a laugh—one of the many reasons so many of us feel we truly have the "Best Team Ever."



Matt Jensen
Fleet Maintenance - Mechanic

A few years ago, our police department relied heavily on external vendors for fleet maintenance, which cost time, money, and valuable staff hours. Thanks to Matt's expertise and commitment, most of that work is now done in-house. Our squad vehicles are in the best condition they've ever been, and the savings to the city and our taxpayers are significant. Matt not only keeps our fleet running reliably but also plays a key role in preparing forfeited vehicles for auction, bringing in funds that support community programs and officer safety. Beyond that, he continues to serve our community as a part-time firefighter, responding to emergencies as needed. Matt truly embodies our mission and core values: delivering high-quality, cost-effective service, treating others with respect, and making a real difference across departments and throughout the community.

2026 Water and Sewer Rates

The City Council voted in December to adjust residential and commercial water and sewer rates. 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 2026. For average non-irrigator households, the increase is estimated at \$2-\$3 per month. For households that irrigate, the increase is estimated at \$8-\$9 per month.

	2025 Fees	2026 Fees
	(per 1,000 gallons)	(per 1,000 gallons)
Water Rates		
Base charge per month	\$9.64	\$10.19
0-11,999 gallons/month	\$3.86	\$4.08
12,000-15,999 gallons/month	\$4.23	\$4.47
Over 16,000 gallons/month	\$4.65	\$4.92
Sewer Rates		
Base charge per month	\$5.11	\$5.24
Charge per 1,000 gallons/month	\$1.64	\$1.68
MCES cost per 1,000 gallons/month	\$3.95	\$3.95
Streetlights	\$4.00	\$4.00

Winter Reminders

FREE Holiday light recycling through January 15

Got old holiday lights that are tangled, broken, or just ready for retirement? Drop them off in the lobby at Savage City Hall (6000 McColl Drive) anytime between now and January 15. We'll take them to the Scott County Household Hazardous Waste Facility for recycling.

Quick tip: Scott County's HHW facility accepts holiday lights year-round for free, so if you miss our collection window, you can always take them directly there yourself.

Garbage can placement



This winter, consider where you place your garbage and recycling cans. Our snowplow crews rely on your help to place garbage and recycling cans at the end of the driveway,

behind the curb, on trash pickup days. Cans placed in the street are difficult to plow around and may prevent the road from being fully cleared to the curb. We appreciate your cooperation!

Winter parking restrictions are in effect

Heads up: winter parking restrictions are in effect now through March 31. No parking on the street between 2 and 6 a.m., even if there's no snow on the ground. Our plows usually roll out around 2 a.m., and cars on the street make it really tough to clear things properly. Plus, you might get a ticket or be towed. Need a temporary exception? Call Savage Police at 952-882-2600 to request a variance.

Car thieves don't hibernate in the winter!

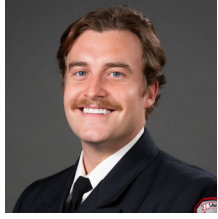
Getting into a cold car may not be appealing on a bitter winter morning... but think twice before warming up your vehicle while you remain warm inside. We mention it often, but we cannot stress enough the importance of removing valuables from your car and locking them. It only takes seconds for someone to grab what's in plain sight and get away with your items. Thieves no longer just want your loose change or cell phone charger. They are also looking to snatch the garage door opener that you keep on your sun visor and use it to access your home. This type of crime is easy to prevent:



- Never leave your car unlocked and running to warm it up. Start the engine and let it idle only long enough for you to put on your seat belt.
- Keep valuables out of sight or in the trunk. Purses, credit cards, and cell phones in plain view only help attract thieves.
- Always roll up the windows and lock your car, even if it is in your driveway, garage, or in front of your home.
- Only park your car in busy, well-lit areas.
- If your vehicle has an alarm or other anti-theft device, USE IT.

Celebrating Excellence: Meet Our 2025 Firefighters of the Year

Every year, we take a moment to recognize the firefighters who go above and beyond in service to our community. This year, we're proud to honor two outstanding members of the Savage Fire Department.



2025 Savage Firefighter of the Year: Sam Dockry

Sam has had a standout year. Whether he's teaching new skills, stepping up as Acting Captain, or mentoring fellow firefighters, he brings the same steady professionalism and positive energy to everything he does.

What makes Sam special isn't just his technical skill. It's how he brings people together, holds everyone to high standards (including himself), and makes those around him better at their jobs. He's the kind of teammate everyone wants on their crew, and the kind of leader people are happy to follow.

Sam represents the best of what it means to be a firefighter: reliable, driven, and fully committed to serving others.



2025 Savage Fire Officer of the Year: Kevin Pass

Captain Pass leads with a rare combination of strength and humility. When things get intense, his calm, clear direction keeps everyone safe and focused. But it's what he does on the quieter days that really sets him apart.

Kevin is constantly investing in his firefighters. He creates a culture where people want to learn, improve, and show up ready to work. He connects the daily tasks to the bigger picture, helps his crew see how their work matters, and makes sure they take pride in what they do.

He's also the kind of leader who listens. He welcomes feedback, values collaboration, and genuinely cares about the well-being of everyone on his team. Under his leadership, firefighters don't just get better at their jobs; they enjoy coming to work.

Please join us in congratulating Sam and Kevin. Their dedication strengthens our department and makes our community safer.

2026 Budget and Tax Levy Q & A with Finance Director Matt Burt

Every year, one of our most important jobs is putting together a budget that matches what the City Council wants to accomplish, funds the services you count on, and respects your tax dollars. Here are answers to some common questions:

Q: How does the budget process actually work?

We start early. Back in April, we asked all city departments to stick to their 2025 budgets. If they needed more money, they had to show us exactly why, and it had to be either for unavoidable costs to keep things running as they are, or for specific things the City Council asked us to do.

In September, the city council set a preliminary tax levy of 8.7%. Think of this as the maximum amount we could collect in property taxes to keep the city running and make sure everyone gets the quality services they expect. Here's the thing: we can lower that number before we finalize the budget in December, but we can't raise it.

So, between September and December, staff went through everything again to tighten up the numbers and cut costs wherever we could without affecting service or what needs to get done. We identified \$678,000 in savings (about 2.5%).

- **Where we started:** \$27.35M
- **Where we ended up:** \$26.6M (we saved \$677,865)

Q: What is the impact on my property taxes?

It depends on what happened to your home's value this year. According to Scott County, the median home in Savage went from \$408,200 to \$417,700 (a 2.3% increase). If your home is right around that median value, we estimate you'll pay about \$77 more in city property taxes for the year. That breaks down to about \$6 a month.

Here's what that looks like:

- **2025:** Median home valued at \$408,200, city tax of \$1,657/year
- **2026:** Median home valued at \$417,700, city tax of \$1,734/year
- **Change:** \$77 more per year (or roughly \$6/month)

Of course, if your home's value went up more or less than the median, your increase will be different. But this gives you a ballpark idea of what most homeowners in Savage can expect.

Q. So why is the budget going up?

We're dealing with the same thing you're probably dealing with at home: stuff just costs more than it used to. Health insurance premiums went up. Equipment costs more. Technology isn't getting cheaper. Here's what's really driving our budget:

1. **People costs.** This is the big one. Three-quarters of our budget goes to paying the people who work for the city and their benefits. For 2026, that includes giving everyone a 3% cost-of-living raise (because groceries and gas cost more for them too), adding three new positions we really need, covering higher insurance premiums, and paying into Minnesota's new Paid Leave program.

2. **The stuff we can't avoid.** Things like software licenses, gas for city vehicles, and electricity bills. These aren't optional, and they keep going up every year.

3. **Setting aside money for equipment.** We're adding \$100,000 to a fund so we don't have to borrow as much money when we need to replace trucks, machinery, and other big equipment. It's like building up savings instead of always putting everything on a credit card.

Q: The 2026 budget includes three new positions. Why are they needed?

Good question. Here's what's happening:

- **Code Enforcement/Rental Licensing Manager and Fire Inspector.** The City Council asked us to implement a more robust rental licensing program and to be more proactive in code enforcement. Savage has a lot of older homes, and we want to make sure they're all being kept up properly. That also applies to all our rental properties. Right now, we're mostly reactive—waiting for complaints to come in. These two positions let us get out ahead of problems, do regular inspections, and make sure every property in Savage meets our standards. It's about protecting the quality of our neighborhoods.
- **Facilities Maintenance Supervisor.** We recently conducted a comprehensive assessment of all our city buildings—the Depot, our offices, the Savage Sports Center, all of it. Turns out, we've got aging facilities that need someone dedicated to managing them strategically, rather than just fixing things when they break. This person would oversee maintenance for everything we own and make sure we're taking care of these buildings properly before small problems become big, expensive ones.

Q. What do I get for my property taxes?

For about \$145 a month, here's what you're getting:

- Police and fire protection around the clock. When you call 911, someone shows up fast. Officers patrol your neighborhood. Firefighters are ready when you need them.
- Roads that work. We fix potholes, repave streets, plow snow, keep traffic lights running, and manage stormwater so your street doesn't flood.
- Clean drinking water from the tap.
- Places to enjoy. Parks, playgrounds, walking trails, ball fields, and yes, pickleball courts.
- The behind-the-scenes stuff that keeps a city running. Elections, planning and zoning, building permits, inspections—all the things that make sure Savage works the way it should.



We hope this clears things up, but if you've got more questions, Matt is happy to talk. Reach him at mburt@savagemn.gov or 952-882-2691. Scan this QR Code and go to item 7A to watch the whole Truth and Taxation budget presentation by Matt at the December 1 City Council meeting.

Rec Corner

See Me Play meetups | January 4 and February 1

These playtimes are specifically for families with neurodiverse children. The goal is to create a safe and inclusive space where families can connect, share experiences, and most importantly, have a blast!

- Sunday, January 4, 2026: 10:00 a.m. - noon
- Sunday, February 1, 2026: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Location: Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave., Savage
All sessions are free and open to families with neurodiverse children. To learn more about See Me Neurodiverse and RSVP for the meetups, visit <https://www.seemeneurodiverse.org/events>.

Glow & Skate Party | January 16

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: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

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

Candlelit Snowshoe Hike | February 6

Tea lights will glow along the trail for an evening of snowshoeing in Savage Community Park. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies inside the McColl Pond ELC. Snowshoes provided, but if you have your own, please bring them. Registration is required.

Ages: 5+

Price: \$5 per person

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: McColl Pond ELC, 13550 Dakota Ave., Savage

Tot Time | November 4 - April 30

We know how you feel. Days spent indoors with an energized toddler can be exhausting. Your toddler can play on inflatables, throw balls, hit with bats, and more from November through April. We'll provide all the equipment. This is a great way to burn off excess winter tot energy and offers age-appropriate large-motor skill practice.

Ages: 6 and under (an adult must accompany all toddlers)

Price: \$3 per toddler

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

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

Open Play | November 3 - April 30

Grab your friends and come hang out at open play! It's the best space to play soccer, baseball, football, ultimate frisbee, bocce ball, lacrosse, and more. Just remember to bring your own equipment (gloves, balls, whatever gear you need).

Ages: 6+ (participants 13 & under must be accompanied by an adult)

Price: \$5 per person

Time: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.*

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

*Schedules are subject to change.

Open Walk/Jog | November 3 - April 30

The Savage Sports Center offers an artificial grass field ideal for winter exercise. Walk or jog indoors for free with family and friends from November 3 - April 30. Strollers are welcome. No food or drinks are allowed on the turf. 1 mile = 4.5 laps around the inside of the facility. For the safety of our walkers and runners, please note that no balls or toys are allowed during this time.

Ages: All ages

Price: FREE

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

Tuesday and Thursday, noon - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, 6:00 - 8:00 a.m.

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

KEEP IN TOUCH:



Want your own cute K9 buddy?

Adorable stuffed animal Gunnars are available for a suggested donation of \$20 to the Savage Crime Prevention Association (SCPA). The money raised supports Holiday Heroes, scholarships, training, and other Police Department needs. Stop by the Police Department, 6000 McColl Drive, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., to get yours. **Cash or check only.**



Winter Pet Reminders

As temperatures drop and snow piles up, here are two friendly reminders to help keep our community safe and welcoming for everyone:

Pick up after your pets, yes, even in winter.

We know it's tempting to skip the scoop when it's freezing outside, and everything's covered in snow. But leaving pet waste behind isn't just unpleasant. It actually pollutes our water and creates health risks for both people and pets. So, bundle up, grab those bags, and scoop the poop. Your neighbors (and our local waterways) will thank you.

Keep dogs (and cats) on leashes in public spaces.

Just like most cities, Savage has a leash law. That means when you're in a city park or on a trail, your dog or cat needs to be on a leash. This helps keep public spaces safe and comfortable for everyone.

Here's the thing: even the friendliest pet can be unpredictable around strangers, and not everyone is a dog or cat person. Keeping your pet leashed shows respect for people who prefer to keep their distance. It's a simple way to make sure everyone can enjoy our parks and trails.

Thanks for being a considerate pet owner and helping keep Savage a great place for all residents, two-legged and four-legged alike.

Code Corner | Winter Sidewalk Clearing

Now that winter's here, it's a good time to talk about sidewalk shoveling. According to the city code, property owners need to clear the public sidewalk adjacent to their property within 24 hours after the snow stops falling. Why does this matter? Clear sidewalks mean fewer falls, easier access for everyone walking through town, and a safer community overall.

Be a good neighbor

Minnesota winters are long, and we're all in this together. If you notice a neighbor who's out of town, elderly, or unable to shovel, consider lending a hand. Those small acts of kindness add up and make our community stronger.

Thanks for doing your part to keep Savage safe and accessible this winter.

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