



## Arbor Day Online Tree Sale

March 16 - April 12

Celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree and contributing to a greener future! The City of Savage online tree sale offers residents an opportunity to purchase high-quality trees from a local source at affordable prices. Take advantage of this chance to enhance your yard while helping to reduce the impact of recent pest and environmental challenges. This sale is open to all Savage, Prior Lake, Credit River and Spring Lake Township residents.

### 2026 Available Species:

- Blue Beech
- Coffeetree-Espresso
- Crabapple-Purple Prince
- Crabapple-Spring Snow
- Ginkgo-Autumn Gold
- Honey Locust-Skyline
- Ironwood
- Lilac-Ivory Silk
- Linden-Boulevard
- Northern Pin Oak
- Plane Tree-London Exclamation
- Redbud
- River Birch-Heritage
- Serviceberry-Autumn Brilliance
- Spruce-Black Hills
- Sugar Maple-Green Mountain
- Swamp White Oak
- Tamarack
- White Pine

*Limited quantities available. A maximum of 5 trees per household.*

- Trees are bare root, about 1-1.5" in diameter, and may reach 6' -10' or taller.
- Black Hills and White Pine are in #5 containers and up to 2' tall.
- Tamarack is in a #7 container and up to 3' tall.

**Note:** There is no warranty on these trees. Please do not plant in the right-of-way.

**Price:** \$41-\$88 each

**How to Order:** Scan the QR Code or visit [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov). Trees are available for purchase from March 16 to April 12.



**Note: Trees are only available for purchase online. No trees will be sold on pick-up day.**

**Pick-Up Day:** Saturday, April 25, from 9 - 11 a.m.

**Pick-Up Location:** Savage Public Works, 13770 Dakota Ave., Savage



## Upcoming Community Events

### Candlelit Snowshoe Hike | DATE CHANGE: March 6

Tea lights will glow along the trail at Savage Community Park. Enjoy snowshoeing or hiking outside and hot chocolate and cookies inside the McColl Pond ELC. Snowshoes are provided, but if you have your own, bring them! No snow, no worries! A hike will take its place. Register at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov) by March 4.

**Ages:** 5+

**Price:** \$5 per person

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

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



### Mark Your Calendars:

#### Flashlight Egg

#### Scramble is Back!

March 27

Scramble across the field at the Savage Sports Center with the lights off! Bring your flashlight and a basket to scoop up as many eggs

as you can. Several golden eggs will be on the field for a chance to win a special basket. Eggs will not be filled and will be recycled at the end of the scramble where every pre-registered participant will receive a goodie bag full of prizes. **No walk-ins accepted; pre-registration is required at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov).**

**Ages:** 3-9

- 3 - 6 Scramble: 8 p.m. (with one adult)
- 6 - 9 Scramble: 8:30 p.m. (no adults)

**Price:** \$7 per child

**Time:** Doors open for activities at 7 p.m.

**Registration Deadline:** March 18

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

Volunteer and sponsorship opportunities available at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov).

## Save the date!

# ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

### April 25

McColl Pond ELC, 13550 Dakota Ave.

Join Savage Parks & Recreation and our Natural Resource team at the McColl Pond ELC for a FREE Arbor Day Celebration. All are welcome. More event details to come!

**Ages:** ALL AGES

**Price:** FREE

**Time:** 10 - 11:30 a.m.

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

## Public Safety

### Two New Officers. One Oath. Welcome to the team.

Savage PD officially welcomed Officers Alex Vogel and Connor Houston to the team in January.

Officer Alex Vogel joined us in August. If she looks familiar, that's because her twin sister, Sergeant Ashley Uthe, has been with SPD for years. Alex brings 10 years of experience from the Owatonna PD and is also a Savage resident. Her positivity and professionalism have already made an impact here.

Officer Connor Houston started in September. His former Chief at South Lake Minnetonka PD recruited him into their Police Explorer Program when he was just a teenager, and has been singing his praises ever since. Fortunately, we hired him first.

Congratulations to both of you!



## A New Savage, Not Average, Badge

In 2024, Chief Brady Juell commissioned his team to create a new badge design. This set in motion a nearly 2-year process from original sketches to the pinning of the new badge. While the previous design had served our agency for over 40 years, it was a standard design you'd find around the country. It was time to give our badge some TLC and create something that would represent our city and our history.

### The Team

The employees that stepped up to the challenge included Chief Juell, Sergeant Jech, Sergeant Dahmes, Detective Flaten, and Officer Olson, along with another detective who has since moved on to another agency. Savage's previous Communications Specialist Katie Gieseke also assisted with creating design elements and found historical imagery used in the design.

### The Process

Over the course of a year the team met to determine the badge's design. They reviewed nearly 30 different options. Their decision was guided by asking, "Is this something that represents the city, the city's history, and the Police Department's history?" Each meeting focused on a different aspect of the process, whether it was the center design, the finish, or the orientation of the badge's elements.



### The Design

The main feature on the badge is the horse and buggy. This piece was taken from an actual image of Dan Patch and Marion Savage. The font of the badge letters matches the city's branding, from our website to our email signatures and our business cards, giving the city's departments a cohesive look. Towards the top of the badge is a banner reading EST. 1958, representing the year the Savage Police Department was established. Some of the more unique pieces of the badge are the

"1:55" hidden on the right side of the badge, symbolic of Dan Patch's record time. On the borders at the top and bottom of the badge are 4 gold horseshoes. Typically these locations have X's, but our team decided to replace them with horseshoes to be a better fit for Savage. You may even notice that the horseshoes are pointed upwards to keep any good fortune from falling out.

Congratulations to our team for a job well done! Keep an eye out for these Savage, not average, badges as they make their debut this spring.

## Good News! When Every Second Counts

You never know when an ordinary day will turn into the day you save someone's life.

On October 27, Rachael Anderson was at Lifetime Fitness when a man collapsed from cardiac arrest. Rachael, who's been part of our Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program for years, didn't hesitate. She started CPR right away and got someone to grab the AED. After one shock, his heart started beating again. He's alive because she knew what to do and did it.

Nicholas Colleran was there too, and he jumped right in. Together, they stayed calm and kept the man alive until paramedics arrived.

At the January 20 City Council meeting, Rachael and Nicholas received Life Saving Awards. It's a small way to recognize something huge: two people who were willing to act when someone needed help. That's what community looks like.



## The Penny's Farewell: What It Means For Your Change

The penny is officially retiring. Last November, the U.S. Mint stopped making them. These little copper coins have been around since 1857 (when they replaced the half-cent), but their days of cluttering up your car's cup holder are coming to an end.

### What's changing at Savage Liquor

Starting in February 2026, when you pay in cash at our liquor stores, your total will be rounded to the nearest nickel. Here's how it works:

- **Your total ends in 1¢, 2¢, 6¢, or 7¢?** Round down!  
Example: \$3.02 becomes \$3.00
- **Your total ends in 3¢, 4¢, 8¢, or 9¢?** Round up!  
Example: \$4.03 becomes \$4.05
- **Your total ends in 0¢ or 5¢?** No change needed!

### The important part: This only affects cash

Paying with a debit card or a credit card? Nothing changes. Those transactions will still charge you the exact amount down to the penny. This rounding only happens when you hand over actual bills and coins.

### Why we're doing this

As a retail operation, our liquor stores go through a lot of pennies. With the Mint no longer producing them, we may not be able to get enough from the bank to keep making change. Rather than run out mid-transaction, we're getting ahead of it with a simple rounding system built into our point-of-sale.

It's a small change (pun intended), but it keeps things running smoothly while we say goodbye to a coin that's been losing its usefulness for years.

# Resident Advisory Commissions

Nearly every Monday night, the Savage City Council makes decisions about various issues. One of the things that council members use to help inform these decisions is recommendations from Savage residents who serve on our resident advisory commissions. The City of Savage has four commissions made up of residents who volunteer their time and expertise. Positions regularly open on these commissions, and the City invites all interested residents to apply. Congratulations to the following residents, who have been appointed to share their perspectives, opinions, and recommendations on important issues with our City Council members. We appreciate your service to our community!

## Community Equity Commission (CEC)

Amenah Agunwamba - Reappointed  
Anthony Blas - NEW  
Ryan Johngrass  
Gail Lewis-Miller  
Juan Macias  
Michael Nelson  
Victoria Schultz

## Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Sheriff Ahmed - NEW  
Fred Corrigan  
Alan Erickson  
Chris Futrell - 2nd Alt. - NEW  
Angie Huss  
Katherine McIntosh - Reappointed  
Jill Sims  
Faisal Suleiman - 1st. Alt  
Mark Zastrow - Reappointed

Learn more about the role of each commission at [savagemn.gov/government/commissions](http://savagemn.gov/government/commissions).

## Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Commission (PRNRC)

Kevin Chau - 2nd Alt.  
Tim Heinemann  
Joshua Mason - 1st Alt.  
Scott Lund- Reappointed  
Kathy Peterson- Reappointed  
Brenda Shearer  
Andrea Sjogren  
Jackie Sorenson  
Brian Strayer- Reappointed

## Planning Commission (PC)

Robert Brown  
Drew Christensen  
Corey Eidem - Reappointed  
Zachary Jewison - 1st Alt. - NEW  
Dana Nelson  
Jaden Tennant - 2nd Alt. - NEW  
Steve Thompson - Reappointed  
Andrew Wolf - Reappointed  
Kathryn Zessman



## Pothole Season Is Here

If you've been swerving around holes in the road lately, you're not imagining things. Spring is pothole season, and here's why.

### Why do we get so many potholes?

Water gets into cracks in the road. When it freezes, it expands. When it thaws, it shrinks. This happens over and over all winter. Eventually, chunks of the road break apart, and you've got a pothole.

### Why do some patches not last?

Our Public Works crews repair potholes year-round. In winter, they use a temporary patch material that works in freezing temperatures. But when it warms up in spring, those patches get soft and fall apart. That's why you see so many potholes pop up in spring. Once it's warm enough, crews switch to the permanent stuff—the same material used to build new roads. These patches last much longer, usually a year or more.

### See a pothole? Let us know.

Different agencies take care of different roads in Savage:

- City streets: Call 952-224-3400 or report online at [savagemn.gov/i-want-to/report-a-problem](http://savagemn.gov/i-want-to/report-a-problem)
- County roads (County Road 42, McColl Drive, Dakota Avenue): Call Scott County at 952-496-8063 or visit [scottcountymn.gov/612/Road-Maintenance](http://scottcountymn.gov/612/Road-Maintenance)
- Highway 13: Report to MnDOT at [dot.state.mn.us/information/potholes](http://dot.state.mn.us/information/potholes)

When you call, provide the street name and the nearest cross street, or a nearby house number.

Not sure who to call? Start with Public Works at 952-224-3400, and we'll help you out.

# STATE OF THE CITY

About 75 residents and local businesses gathered at The Savage Tap on February 19 for the State of the City event with Mayor Kelly and city staff. Mayor Kelly walked through 2025 highlights and what's ahead in 2026, including a breakdown of this year's budget. The event was co-hosted with the Savage Chamber and marked the first time the city opened the State of the City directly to residents. The turnout was great, with plenty of good questions, community connections, and even a round of local trivia.



## Rec Corner

### Spring/Summer registration opens on March 3.

Start planning for summer! Savage Parks and Recreation has been busy planning all the programs kids love, like Playground Pals, Tiny Tots, Fabulous Fridays, and action-packed Adventure and Sports Camps. We've also added fun new youth and family programs and plenty of leagues for adults as well. **Learn more and register at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov).**

### CPR/First Aid Class | March 14

Savage Fire is hosting an American Heart Association (AHA) Heartsaver First Aid-CPR-AED class. This class is for you if:

- You need a certification card for work requirements (like OSHA)
- You have little or no medical training
- You want to be prepared to help in an emergency

**Ages:** 15+

**Price:** \$75 per person

**Time:** 8 a.m. - noon

**Registration Deadline:** March 10

**Location:** Fire Station 1, 14321 O'Connell Road, Savage

**Register at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov).** Questions? Contact Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal John Burrow at 952-224-3469 or [jborrow@savagemn.gov](mailto:jborrow@savagemn.gov).

### See Me Play meetups | March 29 and April 25

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, March 29, 2026: 10 a.m. - noon
- Saturday, April 25, 2026: 1 - 3 p.m.

**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>.

### Looking for a summer job? Come work with us!



The City of Savage is hiring for summer 2026, with positions in Parks and Recreation and Public Works. Whether you're in high school, college, or just looking for seasonal work, these jobs give you real experience and a solid paycheck.

Our seasonal staff are a huge part of what makes summer in Savage run smoothly. You'll work alongside full-time city employees, learn new skills, and honestly, it's a pretty great way

to spend your summer. Plus, you get to see the behind-the-scenes of how your city works. Ready to apply? **Learn more and apply online at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov).**

## Friends of the Savage Library Book Sale

April 18 • 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Savage Library, 13090 Alabama Ave., Savage



Attention bargain hunters and book lovers! Friends of the Savage Public Library will hold a used book sale at the Savage Public Library on Saturday, April 18. 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? New or lightly used adult or children's books can be dropped off at the library during staffed hours until April 10, 2026.

## KEEP IN TOUCH:



## Clean, Green Landscaping

April 14 • 6 - 7:30 p.m.

McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center, 13550 Dakota Ave. S., Savage

Join UMN turfgrass specialists for a free, eco-friendly lawn care workshop focused on practical, research-based lawn care for Minnesota homeowners. Learn how everyday lawn decisions affect local water quality and how simple changes can make your lawn more resilient, sustainable, and easier to maintain.

### Who should attend:

- Homeowners interested in low-maintenance lawns
- Anyone wanting to reduce lawn inputs like water and fertilizer
- New homeowners looking for guidance
- People interested in improving local water quality through simple yard practices

### What you'll learn:

- Best watering practices - How to have a healthier lawn using less water
- Rain sensors - What are they and how do they work
- Lawn repair - How to use grass seed to repair bare areas
- Fertilizing lawns - Which fertilizers are best and how much is needed
- Weed control - Best strategies for removing and preventing weeds
- Lawn mowing - Tips to mow less often to have a healthier lawn
- Bee lawns - What are they and how to get one



The workshop is free, but registration is requested. Register via the QR code or by contacting Shelby Roberts at the Scott SWCD office at 952-492-5448 or at [sroberts@scottswcd.org](mailto:sroberts@scottswcd.org).

## Sign up for a Community Garden Plot!

Do you love fresh vegetables, flowers, and being outdoors? Are you looking for a way to connect with neighbors and enjoy a rewarding hobby? Now is the time to sign up for garden plots at both community gardens.

### Warren Butler Park – 12800 Ottawa Ave., Savage

- 44 garden plots, one plot per household
- Garden plots are 10' X 15'
- \$45 per plot (residents), \$55 per plot (non-residents)
- New renter registration begins March 3 (residents); March 5 (non-residents)

### River Bend Park – 14347 Joppa Ave. South, Savage

- 20 garden plots, one plot per household
- Garden plots are 10' X 15'
- \$25 per plot (residents and non-residents)
- New renter registration begins March 3 (residents); March 5 (non-residents)

Register online at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov) or in person at Savage Parks and Recreation, 13770 Dakota Ave., M - F 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



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