

ANOKA COUNTY NEWS

Volume 1-2016



BOOSTING BUSINESS, GROWING JOBS

removing barriers to prosperity

CONTENTS

6

REAL ID enforcement deadline

9

Sign up for summer day camp!

12

Recycle, don't "wish cycle"

15

Share your story at the Library

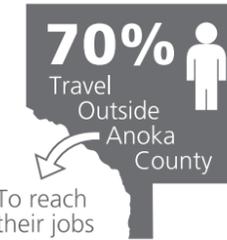


removing barriers to prosperity

BOOSTING BUSINESS, GROWING JOBS



What would you do with an extra hour each day? Play catch with your kids? Read the latest best seller? Finally fix that leaky faucet?



Cutting the time and distance of our residents' commute is a top priority for Anoka County. We're doing that by working hard to support businesses because we know that a strong business climate translates into good jobs for our residents. Being able to work closer to home and reducing long, stressful commutes saves time and money. New businesses broaden our tax base, helping to improve everyone's quality of life.

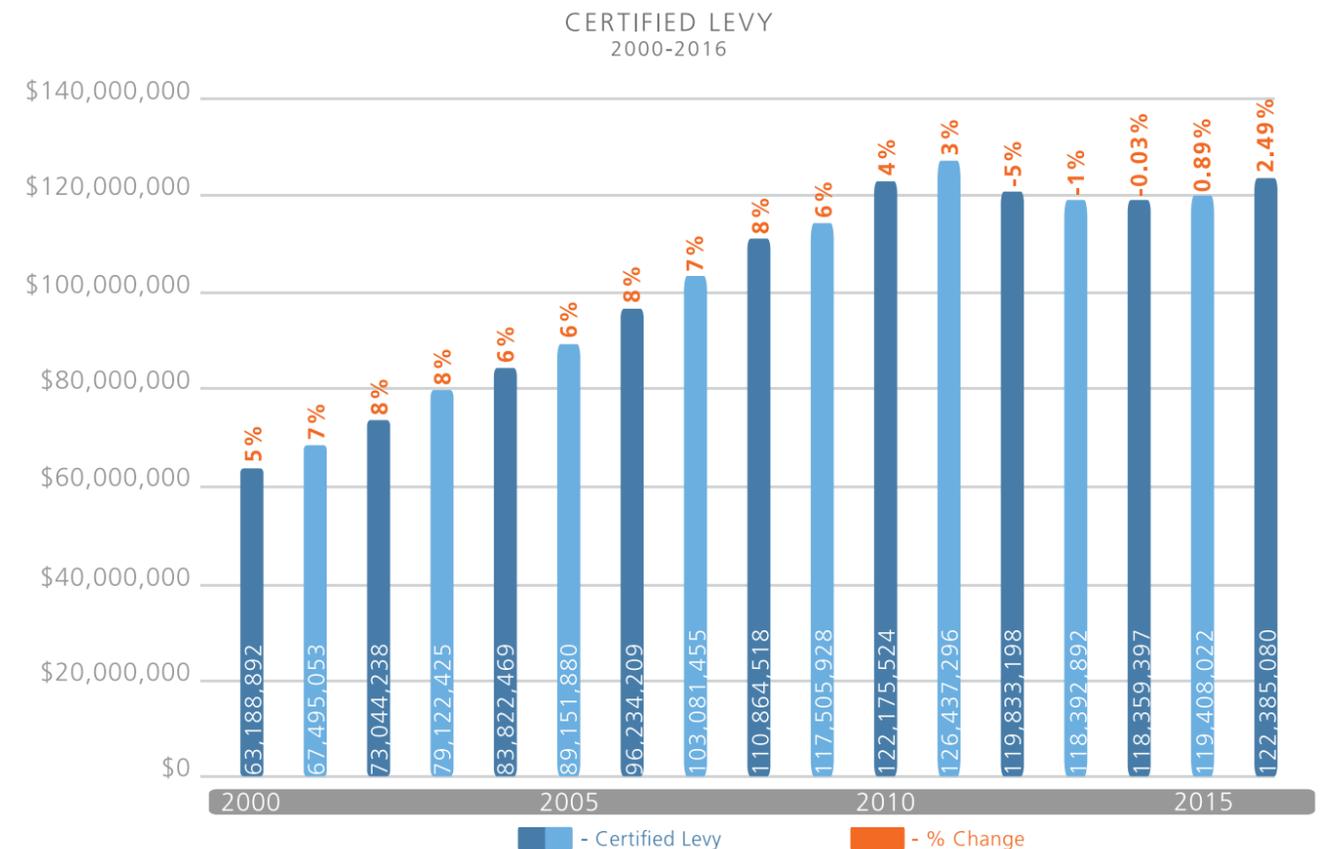


How do we support businesses?

First, and most important, by keeping property taxes among the lowest in the state. Anoka County actually decreased property taxes for three consecutive years beginning in 2012 when the recession was at its worst. This year's levy rose 2.49 percent due to the transfer of costs from the State to the County for mandated services for children, vulnerable adults, and people with mental illness. "Holding the line on property taxes keeps more money in the pocket of business owners, money that can be spent to improve and expand their businesses," said Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West, who chairs the county's Management Committee.



LOW TAXES



INVESTMENTS



ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELING

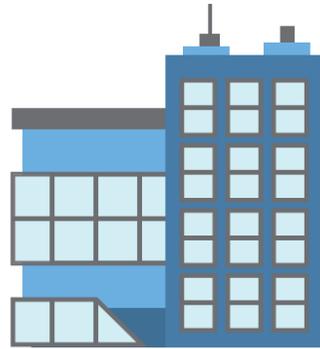
Anoka County supports new and expanding businesses through our participation in Greater MSP, an organization that aims to stimulate economic growth throughout the region; the Open to Business program, which provides free one-on-one counseling with a business advisor for new and expanding businesses; and the Economic Gardening program, which uses a “grow from within” strategy to help existing companies flourish.



GROWTH FROM WITHIN

“Our partnership with Greater MSP has helped bring nearly 1,000 new jobs and necessary business expansion to Anoka County.”

Rhonda Sivarajah, Chair Anoka County Board



PROPERTY RESALE

In addition, Anoka County’s Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) provides funding to help cities buy blighted commercial properties and prepare them for resale. The HRA also supports businesses through its Economic Development Revolving Loan fund.

FastTRAC PROGRAM

In this day and age of worker shortages, finding enough qualified employees to run a business can be a challenge. Anoka County is helping employers address that issue through its participation in several job training programs. For example, our award-winning “FastTRAC Health Care Pathway” program gives low income adults who have few job skills a pathway to a good-paying career in health care.

FastTRAC participants take basic skills classes followed by coursework and training specific to careers as home health aides or nursing assistants. Since its inception in 2011, 79 percent of FastTRAC graduates have found jobs in health care.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Anoka County understands that no business can be successful without infrastructure to support it, especially quality roads and bridges to move products and people. Anoka County recently embarked on an ambitious program to upgrade several key county roadways. In Blaine and Coon Rapids, University Ave. from 109th Ave. to Main St. is being reconstructed from a two-lane to a four-lane divided roadway with new sidewalks, bridges, trails, and traffic signals. The new interchange on U.S. Hwy. 10 at Armstrong Blvd. in Ramsey is now open. It’s the first leg in planned safety and capacity improvements to U.S. Hwy. 10 that will achieve 90 percent of the safety and operational benefits of a freeway at 50 percent of the cost.

ARMSTRONG BLVD.

UNIVERSITY AVE.



In eastern Anoka County, the I-35 interchange at Hwy. 97 in Columbus is in dire need of replacement. Anoka County, in partnership with the City of Columbus, Washington County, City of Forest Lake, and MnDOT, is working to secure funding for a new interchange and four-lane bridge to address significant safety and capacity issues.

Anoka County is also partnering with the City of Coon Rapids to address another significant safety issue, the railroad crossing at Hanson Blvd. “Up to 81 trains pass through Coon Rapids each day, resulting in lengthy traffic back-ups and delaying ambulances and other emergency responders,” said Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte, who chairs the county’s Transportation Committee. City and county officials are working to secure \$25 million to build an overpass to separate road and train traffic and ensure safe and timely passage for motorists and emergency responders.

“Providing quality roads and bridges is crucial to the success of our business community.”

Matt Look, Vice Chair Anoka County Board



HANSON BLVD.

No wheelage tax in Anoka County

As of January 1, 2014, the Anoka County Board ended the collection of the wheelage tax, a \$10 tax on vehicles "kept" – that is, parked or stored during non-business hours – in Anoka County.

About half of Minnesota's 87 counties collect the wheelage tax. While Anoka County does not impose the added tax, all six coun-

ties that border Anoka County do. As a result, some residents who live in a community served by a post office outside Anoka County may inadvertently be charged the \$10 wheelage tax when paying their license tab renewals. For example, the state motor vehicle renewal form for a Columbus resident who has a Forest Lake postal address could include

the \$10 wheelage tax. Residents in that situation should simply let license center staff know their vehicle is "kept" in Anoka County and they won't be charged the wheelage tax.

SHOP LOCAL!
Did you know that by purchasing your license renewal tabs at county license centers, you help offset the property taxes needed to pay for county services?

Deadline set for REAL ID enforcement

The Department of Homeland Security recently announced plans for the final phase of REAL ID enforcement:

- Starting January 22, 2018, passengers with a driver's license issued by a state that is still not compliant with the REAL ID Act and has not been granted an extension – as is the case in Minnesota – will need to show an alternative form of acceptable identification for domestic air travel to board their flight. Passengers with driver's licenses issued by a state that is compliant with REAL ID or a state that has been issued an extension

will still be able to use their driver's licenses or identification cards.

- Starting October 1, 2020, every air traveler will need a REAL ID-compliant license, or another acceptable form of identification, for domestic air travel.

Passport cards meet the new REAL ID security standards. They can be used at land border crossings and/or sea ports-of-entry for travel to and from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. They are also accepted for domestic air travel.

- Apply for one at either of Anoka County's Passport Centers:
- Blaine Passport Center
10995 Club West Pkwy
 - Coon Rapids Passport Center
455 99th Ave

You are strongly encouraged to make an appointment for a passport card application. Schedule it online at anokacounty.us/passport.

Anoka County is Open to Business

Anoka County's Open to Business program offers free, one-on-one, confidential consulting to help entrepreneurs grow or launch their business.

Offered in partnership with the Metropolitan Consortium of

Community Developers, the program offers business owners help with accounting, business plans, networking, marketing, cashflow, planning, loan packaging and more.

Learn more by contacting Kathleen DuChene at 763-438-7315 or kduchene@mccdmn.org or by visiting the Open to Business website at opentobusinessmn.org.

A free event for senior citizens & their families!

2016

ANOKA COUNTY SENIOR EXPO

Saturday, May 7, 2016

9 AM - NOON

Lord of Life Church

14501 Nowthen Blvd, Ramsey

- Pancake Breakfast •
- Information Booths •
- Blood Pressure Checks •
- Mini Massages •
- Entertainment •
- Free Parking •
- Handicapped Accessible •

Sponsored by the Alliance for a Violence Free Anoka County & the Anoka County Human Services Division

Questions? Call Mary at 763-323-6042



Uncovering welfare fraud

In fiscal year 2015, Anoka County's Fraud Prevention Investigation program (FPI) identified more than \$1.3 million in ineligible new applications or overpayments in the county's economic assistance programs.

"That figure sends a clear message that fraud will not be tolerated in Anoka County," said Rhonda Sivara-jah, chair, Anoka County Board. "We work diligently to uncover fraud whenever and wherever it occurs to make sure public assistance money goes to people who legitimately qualify for it."

In 2015, 609 cases were referred for investigation. Of those, discrepancies were identified in 492 cases. The FPI team works in cooperation with the Sheriff's Office, County Attorney's Office, Central Accounting, County Auditor, and the Human Services Division, including the Child Support and Child Care Assistance Departments.

Child care licensing orientation

Interested in starting an in-home child care business? Plan to attend an upcoming free orientation meeting for people interested in becoming a licensed child care provider.

The orientation meeting is the first step in the licensing process. You'll receive all the paperwork you will need to initiate the process as well as licensing rules and requirements. Experts will also be on hand to share information about good child care practices.



Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, May 11: 6:30 pm-8:30 pm
- Wednesday, July 13: 1:30 pm-3:30 pm
- Thursday, September 15: 6:30 pm-8:30 pm
- Thursday, November 10: 1:30 pm-3:30 pm

All meetings are held at the Anoka County Government Center in Anoka.

Registration is required. Go to anokacounty.us/childcarelicensing or call 763-422-6938 and leave your name and city of residence after the recorded message. Questions? Call 763-422-7146.

Did you know?

Anoka County has an online tool to help you understand how we spend and receive money.

Using our **OpenGov Budget Explorer** tool, you can find current and historical information about revenues and expenditures using multiple search filters. There's even a brief tutorial video to get you started. Find it at: anokacounty.us/opengov

FAMILY EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

April 23, 12:30 - 3:00 PM
Wargo Nature Center

Join us at Wargo Nature Center for a FREE fun-filled family Earth Day celebration complete with a climbing wall and light refreshments. Learn about Wargo's unique offerings and activities and make your own earth art project to take home. Visit the Earth Day Fair, where local organizations will provide information and businesses will showcase earth-friendly products.
FREE

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

April 23, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Wargo Nature Center

Come help us in an outdoor service project to benefit and beautify the natural environment surrounding Wargo Nature Center. Dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared to get your hands and shoes dirty. Please call 651-429-8007 for details and to sign up.

KIDS FISHING CLINIC

May 7, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
East Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

Bring the family and learn how to fish, be safe near the water, cast, identify fish and enjoy a free lunch. All participants and chaperones will receive a hot dog and chips lunch. Kids will also receive a goody bag of fishing related gear. All equipment is provided. No pre-registration required.
FREE



SUMMER DAY CAMPS
WARGO NATURE CENTER • LINO LAKES

The Wargo Nature Center Summer Day Camps are all about exploring our world, having fun, and getting dirty outside! This summer we are offering brand new day camps for children pre-K through 7th grade. We even have camps for grandparents! Small groups allow us to provide individual attention to each child. Hands-on activities and great resources let participants explore the natural world around them. Day camps are held in beautiful Anoka County parks that offer ecologically diverse forest, meadow, and wetland habitats. Our naturalists are college graduates and professional educators who are experienced working with kids in the outdoors. They are also certified in First Aid, CPR, and AED. Nature is our guide and we look forward to sharing an amazing world of wonder with your child!

**CONNECT WITH NATURE
ALL AGES WELCOME!**

Camps are specifically designed and organized by grade levels so each participant can fully enjoy their experience.

- Grandparents Camp
- Preschool Camps
- Grades K-2
- Grades 1-3
- Grades 3-6
- Grades 4-6
- Grades 5-7

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
FOR ALL DAY CAMPS.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 651-429-8007 OR REGISTER ONLINE AT ANOKACOUNTYPARKS.COM

REGISTER EARLY & SAVE!

Register by May 6, 2016 and save \$5 per participant on Preschool Camps and Grandparents Camps and \$10 on School-Aged Camps. *Discount does not apply to Adventures With Tom and Huck Camp.*
Offer Expires: May 6, 2016

now hiring

ANOKA COUNTY PARKS HIRES OVER 300 SEASONAL EMPLOYEES DURING THE SUMMER.

With more than 3.8 million visitors annually, the Anoka County Parks Department recruits and trains a highly skilled, customer service-focused workforce each year. Positions are available throughout the county and focus on the months of April through October. Seasonal employees are essential to provide the great service that Anoka County is known for at Bunker Beach Water Park, Chomonix Golf Course, and throughout the entire 12,000 acre park system. If you are interested in working in the park system, apply online at anokacounty.us/summerjobs.



Trained volunteers are available to help senior citizens and people with disabilities apply for their homeowners/renters Minnesota property tax refund/Form M1PR. (See below for dates and locations. Please attend a session in the district where you live.)

You will need to provide:

- Federal Form 1040 (if you filed one) **OR** records showing your

- 2015 total household income
- Homeowners: Copy of your 2016 real estate tax statements
- Renters: Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP)

The State of Minnesota will mail tax credit refund checks to eligible renters in mid-August and to eligible homeowners in late September.

LOCATION	DATE	TIME	COMMISSIONER DISTRICT
Columbia Heights Senior Center Murzyn Hall 530 Mill St, Columbia Heights	April 25 May 2 May 9	9 AM-11 AM 9 AM-11 AM 9 AM-11 AM	District 4: Jim Kordiak
Fridley City Hall 6431 University Ave	April 27	9 AM-11 AM	District 4: Jim Kordiak
Parkview Villa Senior High Rise 965 40th Ave, Columbia Heights	April 28	1 PM-3:30 PM	District 4: Jim Kordiak
Mary Ann Young Senior Center 9150 Central Ave NE, Blaine	May 3	8:30 AM-12 PM	District 3: Robyn West District 6: Rhonda Sivarajah
Andover Senior Center/City Hall 1685 Crosstown Blvd NW	May 5	9 AM-12 PM	District 1: Matt Look District 2: Julie Braastad District 5: Mike Gamache
Ramsey Municipal Center 7550 Sunwood Dr NW	May 10	1:30 PM-3:30 PM	District 1: Matt Look
St. Francis City Hall 23340 Cree St	May 11	1 PM-3 PM	District 1: Matt Look
Spring Lake Park Community Center 1301 81st Ave NE	May 16	1 PM-3 PM	District 3: Robyn West
Anoka County Government Center 2100 3rd Ave, Room 715, Anoka	May 18	1 PM-4:30 PM	District 1: Matt Look District 7: Scott Schulte
Coon Rapids Senior Center 11155 Robinson Dr NW	May 23 June 8	12 PM-4 PM 8 AM-12 PM	District 5: Mike Gamache District 7: Scott Schulte
Circle Pines City Hall 200 Civic Heights Circle	May 25	1 PM-4 PM	District 6: Rhonda Sivarajah
Lino Lakes City Hall 600 Town Center Parkway	May 26	1:30 PM-3:30 PM	District 6: Rhonda Sivarajah
East Bethel City Hall 2241 221st Ave NE	June 1	10 AM-12 PM	District 2: Julie Braastad
Linwood Senior Center 22817 Typo Creek Drive NE, Stacy	June 2	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	District 6: Rhonda Sivarajah
Ham Lake Senior Center 15544 Central Ave NE	June 7	9 AM-12 PM	District 2: Julie Braastad

ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Con artists use technology to find victims

by Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo

With ever-growing advances in technology, the way in which we access information is expanding dramatically. Unfortunately, criminals have also increased their ability to commit crimes using our personal information, often with help we unwittingly provide.

Experts say scam artists first try to get victims "under the ether," that is, getting their thought processes taken over by greed, fear, or other emotions. They ask questions designed to elicit an emotional response. For example, "How is your relationship with your grandchildren?" or "Are you concerned your money will last?" or "How long has your spouse been gone?" The caller starts out very personable and friendly and soon, you're not talking to a stranger, but rather "Julie from Texas."

Scammers always try to get some piece of personal information first to establish a connection and make them appear less like a stranger. They may mention they are friends with your children or grandchildren on Facebook or they'll say, "You know, I'm a veteran too." They may ask questions they have no right to ask such as, "How much is your monthly mortgage payment?" or "Are your loved ones really taking care of you the way you need?" Once they get you thinking their way, your emotions trump logic.

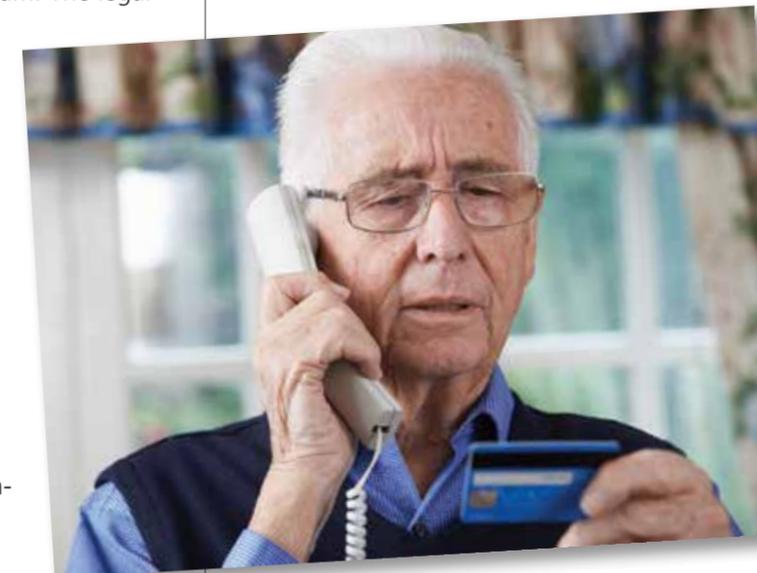
They might say you've won a lottery and all you need to do is pay the taxes on your winnings. (No

lottery will pay you the proceeds without collecting taxes first!) They may threaten violence or a lawsuit, or say they'll have you arrested for overdue debts. They might demand that you pay them immediately to avoid a court summons or having a lien placed on your house. They may tell you to pay up or a computer virus will wipe out your files or the IRS will seize your property. These types of calls are always a scam. The legal process for recovering debts does not involve threats over the phone. If you get a call like this, call the police immediately.

Sometimes the caller will tell you your loved one is in trouble (the grandparents scam) and you need to send cash right away. Always verify with other family members the whereabouts of your loved one before sending money. Don't inadvertently help scammers by "filling in the blanks" during phone conversations. (e.g., Scammer: "Hello Grandpa? "You: Is that you, Jeff?") If you are suspicious, tell them you'll call back to your loved one's phone or ask a question only he or she would know the answer to.

There are simple steps you can take to avoid being scammed:

- Don't place bill payments for pickup in your mailbox or community mail site;
- Always examine credit card statements for improper charges;
- Never give credit card information over the phone unless you initiated the call;
- Report identity theft and stolen credit cards immediately to police and banks;



- Before donating to a new charity, check them out at charitynavigator.org;
- Don't click on links in emails, Facebook or Twitter for a charity; doing so can unleash a virus.

Remember, common sense is always your best defense against getting scammed.

Don't "wish cycle" plastic bags

Have you ever tossed an item into your recycling cart that you weren't sure was recyclable? While many items can be recycled, some of the things you may be tempted to place in your recycling container may get tangled in equipment or contaminate other materials at recycling facilities. Problematic items include plastic shopping bags, loose shredded paper, scrap metal, clothing, electrical cords, or anything that can get tangled in machinery.

RECYCLE WITH CERTAINTY

It's always a good idea to review the list of what's accepted in your home recycling program. All recycling haulers in Anoka County accept beverage and soup cartons, glass bottles and jars, metal food and beverage cans, plastic bottles and jugs, and clean paper, boxes, and cardboard. For a complete curbside recycling guide go to anokacounty.us/recycle.

DO NOT RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS CURBSIDE

Plastic bags should not be placed in your curbside recycling bins. Also, avoid placing recyclables in plastic bags.

RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS AT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Fortunately, plastic bags can easily be recycled at designated drop-off locations at most grocery stores and large retailers, including Cub, Best Buy, Target, and Walmart as long as they are clean and dry. Look for kiosks or recycling bins at the front of the store.

REUSE IS ALWAYS BEST

Limit the number of plastic bags in your home by carrying reusable shopping bags and avoiding products with

excessive plastic packaging. Plastic bags can be reused as garbage bags or to pick up pet waste. Learn more at anokacounty.us/recycle or call 763-323-5730.



Plastic bags can clog machinery at recycling facilities. Photo courtesy of Dem-Con Companies.

Compost sites opening in April

Anoka County has two compost sites located in Coon Rapids and Lino Lakes. Each is open April-November (weather permitting) to accept leaves, grass, and tree waste. There is a fee to drop off yard or tree waste and proof of residency is required.

New this year, organics (food waste and non-recyclable paper) will be collected in a separate container at the compost sites. Residents must sign up for the program in advance to receive additional information and a free starter kit. To sign up, go to anokacounty.us/yardwaste or call 763-323-5730.



Do you know a recycling superstar? An individual, group, or organization exceptionally committed to reducing, reusing, recycling, and/or composting? Nominate them for an Anoka County Recycling Champion award! Call 763-323-5730 or email recycle@co.anoka.mn.us.



Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Take unwanted household chemicals to the Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Blaine. There is no charge to drop off household hazardous waste at the facility. Find details at anokacounty.us/HHW or call 763-323-5730.

ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Saving lives reaches new heights

by Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart

In an effort to continue to provide effective and innovative public safety services to our citizens, the Anoka County Sheriff's Office is "taking to the skies." We have acquired two Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), or "drones" as they are commonly called. While UAS are becoming commonplace for kids (of all ages) in the neighborhood, it is still an emerging technology in the field of public safety.

Because we are committed to developing successful programs, we have certified our UAS "pilots," researched model policies, and become one of the first law enforcement agencies in the Midwest to embrace this technology. This tool is designed to be used in life saving circumstances and is available to assist local public safety agencies as the situation warrants.

The Sheriff's Office UAS units have the ability to:

- Fly in snow, rain, wind and other inclement weather conditions;

- Fly in temperatures between -10 and 115 F;
- Fly as high as 12,000 feet (though we have set a 300-foot cap) and have a flight range of up to 1000 meters;
- Capture video using three fixed electro optical cameras, along with a thermal image infrared camera for night operations.

THE MAIN USE OF THESE AIRCRAFT WILL BE TO PROTECT LIVES.

The UAS aircraft will be deployed similarly to our K-9 teams. They will be maintained in Sheriff's Office squad cars so they are ready for immediate deployment. Once on the scene, an aircraft can be in the air within minutes to provide quick situational awareness for law enforce-

ment and rescuers. We have acquired sufficient batteries and chargers for continuous flight operations if needed, and all flights will be documented.

The main use of these aircraft will be to protect lives. As your sheriff, it is not just my role to protect lives, but also to safeguard your rights. As such, these units will not be used for patrol purposes or surveillance without a search warrant. UAS will most commonly be used to find missing children or vulnerable adults, drowning victims, suspects, or to provide aerial support to law enforcement during dangerous situations. There are numerous times every year where this technology can help us obtain better outcomes for families involved in a personal crisis. Since it is always the goal of the Sheriff's Office to proudly serve all communities in the county, this technology will be available to your local public safety teams upon request.

Jessica Slavik: Minnesota's 2015 Deputy of the Year

Anoka County Deputy Jessica Slavik has been named 2015 Deputy of the Year by the Minnesota Sheriff's Association. During her eight-year tenure at the Sheriff's Office, Slavik has served in the Jail and Patrol Divisions; Court Security Unit, and for the last four years, in the Crime Scene Unit where her duties involve processing major crime scenes for evidentiary purposes. Slavik was recognized in part for her stellar

work on a complex arson/murder case, where she spent hours processing a particularly gruesome crime scene. Slavik received high praise, not only from Sheriff's Office staff, but also the jurors, County Attorney's Office, and presiding judge in the case.

"The Anoka County Sheriff's Office has a history of pursuing excellence and I am very proud of the work our

team does every day," said Sheriff James Stuart. "Deputy Slavik exemplifies what it means to go above and beyond; she embraces her role as an ambassador in our communities. I am very proud of her accomplishments and appreciate the Minnesota Sheriff's Association recognition of her efforts."



Deputy Jessica Slavik and Sheriff James Stuart

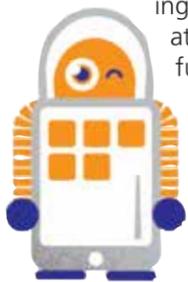
BOOKAWOCKY

MY SUMMER LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

Anoka County Library's summer reading experience is filled with information, ideas, and inspiration! The program kicks off June 1 and runs through August 19.

GET INSPIRED

All Anoka County library locations have free programs for all ages and interests to inspire reading and learning. Many programs are hands-on, creative, and most important, a whole lot of fun. Visit anokacountylibrary.org for a full schedule of events.



EXPLORE IDEAS

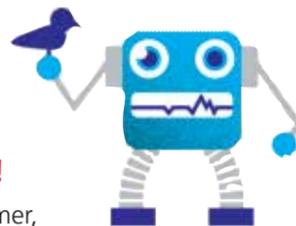
Kids can connect online through bookawocky.org to create a personal booklist and find ideas for more great books to read.

Online participants can earn virtual badges for reading, exploring, and connecting to a local community of readers.



FIND INFORMATION

Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) with cool hands-on activities. Teen STEM volunteers lead information-filled experiences for younger children. Teens can also discover STEM programming designed just for them with great gadgets like 3D pens, Makey Makey invention kits, and Squishy Circuits. Visit anokacountylibrary.org for a full schedule of STEM activities.



READ! WIN! READ AGAIN!

For every book read over the summer, children can enter for a chance to win a book or a family four-pack of passes to Bunker Beach Water Park. Teens can enter the Best Book Ever for their chance to win.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Are you a teenager looking for an exciting and inspiring summer? Then sign up for Anoka County Library's *Volunteer* program! Designed for teens ages 12-17, the Volunteer program allows you to make a positive difference through active community engagement. You can choose from more than 100 volunteer opportunities, from assisting with programs for younger children to working with technology. Whatever you choose, you'll be guaranteed to acquire new skills, learn more about library services, and make some new friends.

To sign up, download an application from anokacountylibrary.org or pick one up in person at any library location. A youth services librarian will contact you to find the right fit for your skills and interests. Spots are limited, so apply early!



WORKING TO END HOMELESSNESS

The *Step into Action* Program is working to help guests at Stepping Stone Emergency Housing end their homelessness.

A partnership of the Anoka County Library, Anoka County Workforce Center (WFC), and the Metro North Adult Basic Education (ABE), *Step into Action* offers training and resources to unemployed or underemployed people.

Librarians from Anoka County Library offer weekly outreach services to Stepping Stone guests to familiarize them with library services and programs and provide training in the use of technology and the Library's online resources. Metro North ABE's trained assessment coordinators visit Stepping Stone to measure guests' reading and math proficiency to help them better plan future training and education. Anoka County WFC staff teach a curriculum of skills, focusing on job searches, resume writing, interviewing, job retention and on-the job success.

"This program gives Stepping Stone guests the tools they need to continue on a path to success and self-sufficiency once they move out," said Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad, who serves as a Workforce Development Board liaison.



SHARE YOUR STORY

Share your heritage with your community! Plan to attend an upcoming "community scanning" event sponsored by the Anoka County Library and the Anoka County Historical

Society. Digitization experts will be on hand to help you scan old family photos, land deeds, or other memorabilia using special equipment provided by Minitex and the Minnesota Digital Library.

Once digitized, all originals will be returned to you and you'll also receive a flash drive loaded with high quality digital images. The images will be added to the historical society's collection to better preserve the history of our community. "This is a great opportunity to tell our community's story by sharing a bit of your own," said Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache, Library Board liaison.

Community Scanning events will take place from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on the same dates and at the same locations as the popular *Bringing Local History to Life* series presented by historians from the historical society. (Scan your items either before or after the presentations.)

• *The Great Depression*: April 9, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Northtown Library, Blaine

• *Life in Suburbia*: April 30, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Crooked Lake Library, Coon Rapids

- *The Great Depression*: April 9, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Northtown Library, Blaine
- *Life in Suburbia*: April 30, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Crooked Lake Library, Coon Rapids

Community Scanning events are brought to you by the Anoka County Library, Anoka County Historical Society, and the Minnesota Digital Library.



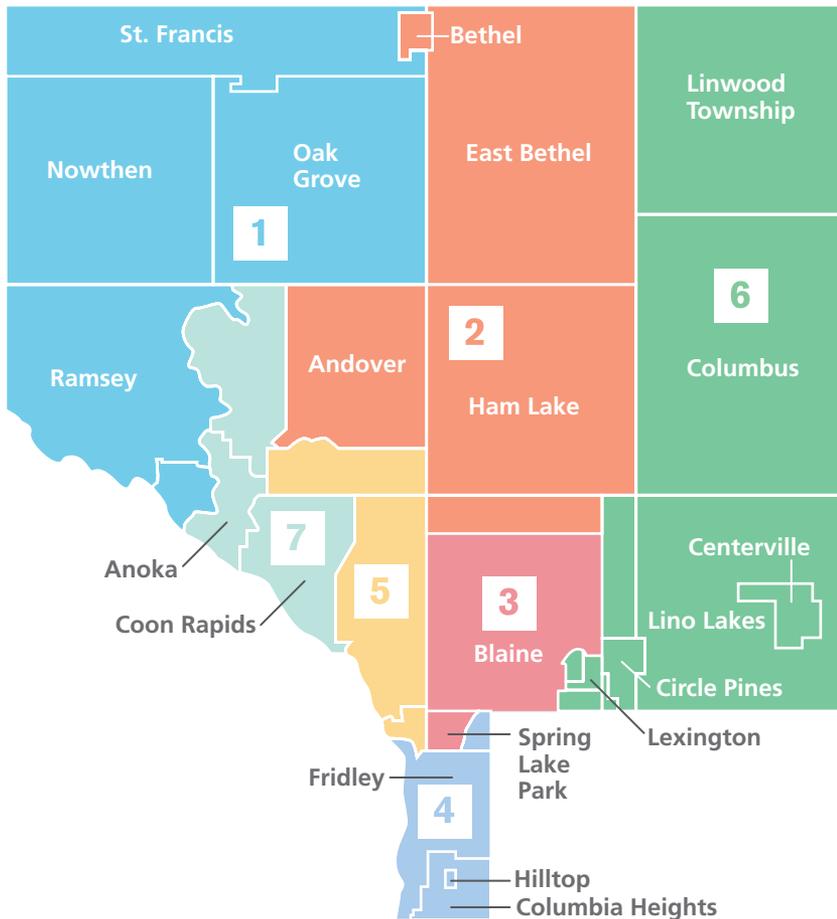
Digitization experts help residents scan photos and other memorabilia during community scanning events.



Visit our website!

ANOKA COUNTY LEADERSHIP

763-323-5700



Matt Look
DISTRICT 1
COMMISSIONER



Julie Braastad
DISTRICT 2
COMMISSIONER



Robyn West
DISTRICT 3
COMMISSIONER



Jim Kordiak
DISTRICT 4
COMMISSIONER



Mike Gamache
DISTRICT 5
COMMISSIONER



Rhonda Sivarajah
DISTRICT 6
COMMISSIONER



Scott Schulte
DISTRICT 7
COMMISSIONER



James Stuart
COUNTY
SHERIFF



Tony Palumbo
COUNTY
ATTORNEY

As elected officials, the County Board, County Attorney, and County Sheriff set policy and direction for their areas of responsibility.

County board meetings are generally held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. in Room 705 of the Anoka County Government Center in Anoka. Watch board meetings live at anokacounty.us.

Anoka County News is produced by Anoka County Public Information, Martha Weaver, Manager, 763-323-5744
publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us • anokacounty.us/newsletter

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