

# City VIEW

## FALL 2024

**ANOKA**  
REAL. CLASSIC.

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## General Election – Nov. 5

### On the Ballot

#### Mayoral Candidates (alphabetical order):

One person to be elected. Residents may vote for up to one.

- Joelle Alvord
- Erik Skogquist

#### City Council Candidates 4-Year Term (alphabetical order):

Two people to be elected. Residents may vote for up to two.

- Brent Campbell
- Heather Rostad
- Jesse Hauf
- Jeff Weaver

#### City Question

Should an Organized Residential Solid Waste, Recycling and Yardwaste Collection System be implemented in the City of Anoka?

A “Yes” vote means that you agree to have an Organized Residential Solid Waste, Recycling and Yardwaste Collection System implemented in the City of Anoka.

A “No” vote means that you do not agree to have an Organized Residential Solid Waste, Recycling and Yardwaste Collection System implemented in the City of Anoka.

The goal of the City is to provide a proposed contract, with pricing, for an organized collection system for residential

garbage and yardwaste collection, available to view on our website [anokaminnesota.com](http://anokaminnesota.com) this fall, prior to Election Day, Nov. 5, 2024.

#### City Precincts

- No. 1, 2, & 3 Green Haven Golf Course & Event Center, 2800 Greenhaven Road
- No. 4 Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Avenue
- No. 5 Anoka Senior Center, 1500 6th Avenue, Anoka
- No. 6 Anoka City Hall, 2015 First Avenue
- No. 7 Anoka Covenant Church, 752 Grant Street
- No. 8 Rum River Library, 4201 6th Avenue

Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Visit [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) or call 1-877-600-VOTE (8683) for the following assistance:

- Find your polling location; or
- Verify if you are already registered to vote; or
- Request an Absentee Ballot be mailed to you; or
- Obtain information on how to register to vote on Election Day at your precinct and what information you will be required to provide; or
- View a sample ballot

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## Anoka City Hall

2015 1st Ave., Anoka, MN 55303  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Phone: 763-576-2700 | Toll Free: 1-866-576-2701

[anokaminnesota.com](http://anokaminnesota.com)

## Elected Officials

### Mayor

Phil Rice ..... 612-702-8442

### City Council

Sam Scott ..... 612-695-5896

Erik Skogquist ..... 763-576-9219

Jeff Weaver ..... 763-427-9574

Brian Wesp ..... 763-576-2718

### City Manager

Greg Lee ..... 763-576-2711

## Important Phone Numbers

Administration ..... 763-576-2740

Animal Containment Center ..... 763-576-2850

Anoka Municipal Utility (AMU) ..... 763-576-2903

Power Outage (during business hours) ..... 763-576-2903

After 3 p.m. .... 763-576-2860

Utility Bill Inquiries ..... 763-576-2750

Anoka Senior Center ..... 763-576-4661

Aquatic Center ..... 763-421-7730

Assessing/Special Assessments ..... 763-576-2730

Better Values Liquor East ..... 763-421-3070

Community Development ..... 763-576-2720

Code Enforcement/Property Maintenance ..... 763-576-2716

Planning, Zoning & Building Permits ..... 763-576-2720

Finance ..... 763-576-2770

Fire Non-Emergency ..... 763-576-2900

Green Haven Golf Course & Event Center ..... 763-576-2970

Housing & Redevelopment ..... 763-576-2724

Parks & Recreation, Cemeteries ..... 763-576-2980

Police Non-Emergency ..... 763-427-1212

Public Services (streets, water, sewer) ..... 763-576-2980

After Hours ..... 763-576-2860

Residential Recycling ..... 763-576-2725

### Editor

Pam Bowman ..... 763-576-2725

*City View is partially funded by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and State Score Funds (SCORE-Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment).*



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## City Boards & Commissions Meetings

Monthly meetings unless noted; dates and times are subject to change.

**City Council:** 1st & 3rd Mondays – 7 p.m.

**Economic Development Commission:** 2nd Thursday – 8 a.m.

**Heritage Preservation Commission:** 2nd Tuesday – 5 p.m.

**Home Rule Charter Commission:** Annually

**Housing and Redevelopment Authority:** 2nd Monday – 5 p.m.

**Human Rights Commission:** Bi-monthly or as needed – 5 p.m.

**Parking Advisory Board:** 3rd Wednesday – 7:15 a.m.

**Park Board:** 3rd Tuesday – 7 p.m.

**Planning Commission:** 1st Tuesday – 7 p.m.

**Utility Advisory Board:** As needed

**Waste Reduction & Recycling Board:** 2nd Wednesday – 5 p.m.

**Lower Rum River Water Management Organization:**

3rd Thursday – 8 a.m.

## QCTV Live Broadcasts & Replays

Quad Cities Community Television (QCTV) broadcasts regular City Council, Housing & Redevelopment Authority, and Planning Commission meetings on Channel 16 with periodic replays. Visit [qctv.org](http://qctv.org) for complete schedule and for video streaming.

## City Offices Closed

Monday, November 11 ..... Veterans Day

Thursday, November 28 ..... Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 29 ..... Day after Thanksgiving

Tuesday, December 24 ..... Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 25 ..... Christmas Day

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## In-Person Absentee Voting

In-person absentee voting is available on weekdays during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **two** Saturdays before the election and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Sunday before the election and until 5 p.m. the day before the election.

City of Anoka residents may cast an in-person absentee ballot at Anoka City Hall, 2015 First Ave, Anoka or at Anoka County Elections, 2100 3rd Ave., Suite 160, Anoka.

Absentee Voting begins on Friday, Sept. 20, 2024 and ends at 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 4, 2024.

For information about serving as an Election Judge or Student Election Judge, visit [anokaminnesota.com/190/Serve-as-an-Election-Judge](http://anokaminnesota.com/190/Serve-as-an-Election-Judge) or call City of Anoka Elections at 763-576-2740.



## Heritage Preservation Commission

### Brick Paver Fundraiser

The Anoka Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) is introducing a fundraising program to support the Commission's programs and projects. You can show your support by donating to the HPC.

As appreciation, donors will receive an Anoka Witch Medallion paver brick. Minimum donations are \$53 for an 8-inch by 8-inch paver brick and \$95 for a 12-inch by 12-inch paver brick. Paver bricks are engraved with the image of the actual Witch Medallion located at Anoka City Hall Plaza. Paver bricks are intended to be placed outside in a garden, a landscaped area, or really anywhere. They also make a great gift!

To donate and receive a paver, contact Clark Palmer at 763-576-2728 or email [cpalmer@ci.anoka.mn.us](mailto:cpalmer@ci.anoka.mn.us).

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224 East Main St., Suite 201, Anoka, MN 55303

## Thank You Sponsors of the 2024 Anoka Fireworks Display

A special thank you goes out to the following businesses, organizations, and individuals for their generous donations to help make Anoka's 26th annual fireworks possible! Anoka chooses to light up the night sky on July 3 each year to kick off the Independence Day celebrations in the community. We hope everyone enjoyed the spectacular display. Please support the following and share your thanks and appreciation when in contact with these generous sponsors.

- Anoka Clothing Company
- Edward B. Cutter Post No. 102, Inc.
- Field Law P.A.
- Mount Olive Lutheran Church
- North Star Towing & Service Center, Inc.
- Poly-Cam, Inc.
- Reshetar Systems, Inc.
- Richard J. Mussell

If you are interested in donating to the 2025 fireworks, please call Pam at 763-576-2725 or email [pbowman@ci.anoka.mn.us](mailto:pbowman@ci.anoka.mn.us). All donations are greatly appreciated.



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# Public Services Seasonal Reminders

The Streets Department is busy sweeping leaves to prevent blocking catch basins and the storm sewer system. It is illegal to sweep, rake, or blow leaves or snow from your property into the street. Please remember that storm drains provide a direct route for pollutants on streets to flow into our rivers, streams, and lakes. *"Only Rain Down The Drain."*

## Clearing of Sidewalks

Please help to keep the sidewalks near your home open for pedestrian traffic. After a 3-inch snowfall, or consecutive snowfalls with an accumulation of three inches of snow, city crews will assist with the removal of snow from the walks as quickly as possible. Property owners are responsible for sidewalk ice control. The City is here to assist property owners and this assistance does not relieve property owners from this responsibility.

If a fire hydrant is located near your home, please clear a small path from the sidewalk or curb to the hydrant after a snowfall for emergencies. The Water Department will widen the area around the hydrant as time allows.

## Snow Plowing

The Streets Department clears the roadways. We use the "2-inch rule" to warrant full plowing operations. In the event of a 2-inch

or greater snowfall, City crews will plow all the streets in town. Any car left in the street will be towed at the owner's expense, plus the owner will receive a ticket for blocking the street.

- Garbage and recycling containers must be placed **BEHIND** the curb, not in the streets. To avoid postal interruption, clear an area in front and on each side of your mailbox.
- It is unlawful to push, shovel, blow, or place snow onto public streets or walks. The Police Department will be contacted if crews observe residents or businesses doing so.
- Think safety first! Please do not build "snow forts" in the snow banks along the streets. They are dangerous, especially when the plow operators are plowing and moving snow.
- After plowing, salt and/or sand is applied to major intersections or as needed to control icing problems. Call 763-576-2922 if severe icing problems develop.
- While every effort is made to avoid damage to adjacent areas, the City will not be liable for damage to obstacles placed within the city right-of-way. The City assumes liability for mailboxes damaged during plowing operations **ONLY** when it is determined that the plowing unit made direct contact with a mailbox. In general, the right-of-way extends to the house side of sidewalks or 8-to-12 feet from the curb where there is no sidewalk. Delineating the curb with wood laths just behind the curb helps guide plow drivers and may reduce damage to the boulevard. Wood laths should be four feet long with the top four-to-six inches painted fluorescent orange. They are available at lumber retailers.



**Don't take the plowed-in driveways personally!** To efficiently plow streets, the plows must maintain a constant speed and blades cannot be lifted for driveways. Thank you.

If you have questions, please call:

763-576-2922 | Snow removal or icing on streets  
763-576-2980 | Sidewalks



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# Anoka Receives Financial Reporting Awards

## Financial Reporting: Comprehensive Report

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Anoka for its annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended Dec. 31, 2022. This was the 43rd consecutive year the City qualified for the award.

The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

## Financial Reporting: Popular Report

The City of Anoka also received GFOA’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended Dec. 31, 2022. This award is evaluated and judged on items such as reader appeal, understandability, and creativity. The City has applied for and received this award for eight consecutive years.

## Financial Reporting: Budget Report

The GFOA also awarded the City of Anoka the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget for fiscal year 2023. The award represents a significant achievement by the City, and reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principals of government budgeting. In order to receive the budget award the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines that assess how well the budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communication device. This was the 17th consecutive year the City has achieved this award.

All awards are valid for a period of one year only. We believe that the current reports for financial reporting of 2023 business, and the 2024 budget, continue to meet the GFOA requirements and those reports have been submitted for consideration.

## Delivering Education and Guidance on Medicare Solutions

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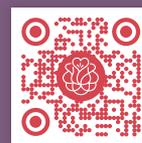
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# Seasonal Recreation and Tournaments

## Pickleball and Bags Tournaments

### Gruesome Twosome Pickleball Tournament

**Who:** Any combination of teams of two  
**What:** Rated Pickleball tournament  
Pools as follows:  
3.0 3.5 4.0

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024 (start time TBD)  
**Where:** George Enloe Park  
**Cost:** \$40/team

Medals awarded for 1,2,3 and for best costume.

### Boos and Bags Tournament

**Who:** Any combination of teams of two  
**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024 (start time TBD)  
**Where:** Anoka City Hall Parking Lot – Anoka Lions’ Tent  
**Cost:** \$40/team

Prizes awarded for 1,2,3 in brackets.

For more information and to register, visit [anokaminnesota.com](http://anokaminnesota.com) or call 763-576-2980.

## Ice Skating & Sledding

City rinks are open mid-December through mid-February (weather permitting). All rink locations have a warming house, lights, a general skating area, and at least one hockey rink. Not all hockey rinks are regulation size.

### Rink Locations

George Enloe Park	631 Lund Boulevard
Lincoln Elementary School	540 South Street
Rick Sorenson Park	2015 State Street
Rudy Johnson Park	605 Polk Street
Wilson Elementary School	1025 Sunny Lane

### Warming House Facilities

Warming houses are heated and equipped with first aid kits, phones, and benches, and are supervised by a rink attendant, who oversees scheduling, safety, and operation.

### Warming House Hours

Monday - Thursday	4 - 8 p.m.
Friday	4 - 8 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday	Noon - 8 p.m.
Christmas Eve & New Year’s Eve	Noon - 5 p.m.
Christmas Day & New Year’s Day	Closed
School Release Days	Noon - 8 p.m.

### Sliding Hill

George Enloe Park (631 Lund Blvd.); lit with supervision during warming house hours.

### Other Winter Activities

Anoka Ice Arena	763-427-8163
Anoka-Hennepin Community Ed	763-506-1260
Anoka Area Hockey Association	763-427-9919
Anoka County Parks Dept.	763-767-2820

## Winter Disc Golf



The Cedars of Green Haven, a winter disc golf course, begins in mid-late October. The disc golf course is a full 18-hole course utilizing the elevated portion of the property on the west side. While the course offers a challenging layout for the advanced level player, it is still enjoyable for the intermediate and novice players. Night disc golf is available through multiple

leagues. Participants can enjoy delicious food and beverages at The Tavern at Green Haven during restaurant hours. The course is free to the public. More information at [anokaminnesota.com](http://anokaminnesota.com).

## Ski Trails

**Green Haven Golf Course** – Anoka maintains a groomed trail for skate skiers and classic skiers on the golf course. The one-way trail includes double tracks for classic skiers and a 9’ wide trail for skate



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skiers. The trails begin near the first tee box and wind through the rolling hills and trees winding back to the club house. Trail grooming will be done based on use and snowfall. Please park in the lot near the lower club house entrance and use the cart path to access the trails. Signage is in place each winter to help navigate the course. The building and restrooms will be available during regular business hours and special events. Concessions and refreshments may be available during special events.

**Anoka Nature Preserve** – This multi-use trail is maintained for hikers, skiers and those who enjoy snowshoeing. No classic tracks will be set - please share the trail. Trail will be groomed as use and snowfall deems necessary. Total trail distance is approximately 3.5 miles. Please access trail from the parking lot and trail entrance on Parkview Lane.

### Snowmobile Corral

Anoka welcomes snowmobilers each winter by setting up a snowmobile corral for those eager to visit the many restaurants and shops in the downtown area. The corral is located just north of Anoka City Hall, adjacent to the Rum River in Riverfront Memorial Park (2201 2nd Ave.). Snowmobilers are encouraged to use caution and make sure conditions are ideal for snowmobiling when riding the trails leading to the corral.



### Hunting Opportunities

Anoka provides several fall hunting opportunities. Hunters are responsible for adhering to Minnesota DNR and federal hunting regulations. Find full details and permit applications at [anokaminnesota.com](http://anokaminnesota.com) or call 763-576-2980.

- **Archery Deer Hunting** – Anoka issues permits to archery hunt for the 2024 Minnesota Archery Deer season on three city-owned properties; Kings Island, Sunny Acres, and the Anoka Nature Preserve.
- **Waterfowl Hunting Zone on Mississippi River/Kings Island** – A Waterfowl Hunting Zone was established along Kings Island on the Mississippi River. The Minnesota Waterfowl Association and Federal Cartridge donated and installed two accessible waterfowl hunting blinds within the zone, on a first-come first-use basis. Please allow hunters with disabilities the first opportunity to use the blinds.
- **Waterfowl for Warriors** – This hunting program is organized by volunteers from local law enforcement agencies. It is sponsored by the City of Anoka and Federal Cartridge as a thank you to local veterans and military members. Veterans provide their own shot gun and purchase all applicable licenses/stamps. Volunteers provide ammunition, blinds and decoys, dogs for retrieving, and a field lunch following each hunt.





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# Anoka Municipal Utility

AMU is “charging” ahead, “driving” customers toward a greener future with the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Time-Of-Use Program and EV Charger Rebate!

## EV Charger Rebate Program

Anoka Municipal Utility is sparking excitement with its EV Charger Rebate Program, offering a check that’ll charge up your wallet along with your car! Residential customers of Anoka Municipal Utility can qualify for a rebate when they purchase and install a new Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger at their primary residence and participate in the Time-Of-Use Program. For further information, visit [anokamunicipalutility.com](http://anokamunicipalutility.com) and under the Rebates tab select “Residential Rebates” and then the “Residential EV Charger Rebate.”

Also, visit the following for possible ways to save when purchasing Electric Vehicles (EV) and EV chargers:

- [irs.gov/credits-deductions/alternative-fuel-vehicle-refueling-property-credit](http://irs.gov/credits-deductions/alternative-fuel-vehicle-refueling-property-credit)
- [mn.gov/commerce/energy/consumer/energy-programs/ev-rebates.jsp](http://mn.gov/commerce/energy/consumer/energy-programs/ev-rebates.jsp)



## EV Charger Time-Of-Use Program

The Time-Of-Use Program (TOU) offers a smart and cost-effective solution for charging your electric vehicle. By scheduling your charger to run during the program’s 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. window, you’ll benefit from a discounted billing rate and optimize your savings. This deters charging during peak hours when electricity demand is high by implementing a penalty rate in addition to the regular billing rate. This program aims to reduce stress on the electric infrastructure system and, while emergency load shed events are not currently anticipated, it helps regulate power usage during peak periods. For further information, visit [anokamunicipalutility.com](http://anokamunicipalutility.com) and under the Customers tab, select “Clean Energy Choices” and then “EV Charger Time-of-Use (TOU) Program.”



## Simulator Loft

The Green Haven Simulator Loft has two state-of-the-art high definition golf simulators that allow you to play many of the best golf courses from around the world in a climate-controlled room. The simulators give an incredibly accurate representation of the results of your swing and high definition photographs paint the picture of the course you select. We have several leagues to join and opportunities to schedule your own league. Call 763-576-2972 or visit [greenhavengolfcourse.com](http://greenhavengolfcourse.com) to book winter simulator tee times.

## Ski Trail

Green Haven has a groomed 5K cross country ski trail. Both classic and skate trails are groomed (weather and snow cover permitting) several times per week to provide great skiing conditions.



## Winter Disc Golf

As soon as the snow flies Green Haven installs disc golf baskets for our 18-hole disc golf course. The Cedars at Green Haven is open once the golf course is closed and will remain open until we start getting ready for summer golf. There is no charge to play and the Tavern at Green Haven is open to provide some food and beverages for your round.



## Tavern at Green Haven

Tavern at Green Haven is open this winter for your dining and banquet needs. The hours will be slightly limited in the winter, but they have some great features and specials all winter long. Call 763-576-2968 for reservations or banquet information.



## 2025 Golf Season

And finally, it’s never too early to think about next golf season. We have a limited number of openings for evening leagues. Monday evening has a couple of spots for leagues up to 60 players. Call

the golf shop at 763-576-2972 for more information. Find us at [greenhavengolfcourse.com](http://greenhavengolfcourse.com) and on social media.



# City-Owned Liquor Store

Better Values Liquor is proudly owned and operated by the City of Anoka. Our mission is to control the sale of alcohol by not selling alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 21 and not selling to obviously intoxicated customers. One hundred percent (100%) of the profits that are generated are directed to the city parks which benefit the community.

## Events & Promotions

### Wine & Beer Tasting Events:

- **Halloween Tasting event** – Held in the Anoka Lions tent (adjacent to City Hall) on Thursday, October 24, from 6-8 p.m. Entry into event at 5:30 p.m. for tickets purchased online by October 22.
- **Fall Wine Sale** – Thursday, October 26-Saturday, November 11. Every regular priced wine item will be on sale for 22% off.

**Senior Discount Day (Tuesdays)** – Seniors 55 and over, save 10% off your entire purchase of regular priced liquor, beer, and wine items.

**Military Discount Day (Wednesdays)** – Current military and veterans, save 10% off your entire purchase of regular priced liquor, beer, and wine items.

**Wednesday Wine Day** – All regular priced wines are 10% off every Wednesday. No other discounts apply.

Pre-made canned cocktails are all the rage right now! We offer a variety of flavors and a huge selection. Just chill them down, open them up, and enjoy – super convenient.

Please follow us on Facebook at Better Value Liquor Stores to get updates on new items, monthly sales, pop up sales, special events, and other store information.

### Regular Store Hours:

Mon. – Sat.: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.      Sun.: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Holiday Hours:

Day before Thanksgiving: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Christmas Day: <b>Closed</b>
Thanksgiving Day: <b>Closed</b>	New Year's Eve: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Christmas Eve: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	New Year's Day: <b>Closed</b>

**Better Values Liquor**      763-421-3070  
847 East River Road      [bettervaluesliquor.com](http://bettervaluesliquor.com)

*Enjoy the products we sell in moderation and please don't drink and drive.*



1500 6th Avenue  
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Enjoy a delicious and nutritious lunch Tuesday-Friday for a suggested donation of \$5.00. Call 763-427-6646 one week in advance to reserve a meal. We offer fun trips, events, cards & games, writing club, exercise classes, presentations & programs, entertainment, driver improvement classes, and foot care. Stop in for coffee and conversation, too!

### Hawaiian Islands Sojourn, Sailing to Paradise!

- Presented by *Jeanie's Journeys*
- **Jan. 13-30, 2025** (\$2,999/pp based on double occupancy)

Escape Minnesota for a relaxing 17-day journey to Hawaii aboard the Grand Princess. Includes round trip airfare from Mpls. to Los Angeles, one checked bag, one night lodging in LA, 15 nights aboard the Grand Princess, all meals and entertainment while on board, port charges and fees, and transportation in LA. Call Jeanie at 612-229-5276 for more details or to register.

### Chicago!

- Presented by *Anoka Senior Center and Diamond Tours*
- **May 19-23, 2025** (\$689/pp based on double occupancy)

This incredible price includes: motorcoach transportation, four nights lodging, eight meals (four breakfasts, four dinners), visit to World Famous 360 Chicago, Navy Pier, Field Museum of Natural History, guided tour of Chicago, cruise on Lake Michigan, and more.

Call Melissa at 763-576-4661 or stop in for information on these trips and more offered by the Anoka Senior Center.

# Feed kids. Feed spirits. Empower communities.

Join the cause.  
Fund and pack  
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[fmsc.org](http://fmsc.org)



# Anoka-Champlin Fire Department

## Fire Prevention Week is October 6-12



This year's theme "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!"™ strives to educate the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home. Please check your smoke alarms

monthly by pushing the test button. Smoke alarms are good for 10 years from stamped on manufacture date located on the back of the alarm. Please replace those older than 10 years. Smoke alarms should be located in every bedroom, on every floor, and in hallways.

We have partnered with the American Red Cross to provide free battery-operated smoke alarms to all Anoka and Champlin residents, if needed. Please contact the Anoka-Champlin Fire Department to inquire about the smoke alarm program.

Carbon monoxide detectors are also on a 10 year replacement plan and should be replaced if older than 10 years of age. CO alarms should be located outside of any sleeping rooms.

### Tips from Anoka-Champlin Fire Department

- Look for places fires could start.
- Listen for the sound of smoke alarms.
- Learn two ways out of every room.
- Be aware of the common causes of fire.

If a fire start in your home, you'll have two to three minutes to get out. A working smoke alarm can buy you the precious seconds you and your family need to escape. Don't forget to change the batteries twice a year too, and establish a meeting place a safe distance away from your home where everyone can gather after escaping a fire.

## Fire Department Open House

Join us for our Open House on Saturday, October 5 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. with the Champlin Police Department at the Public Safety building located at 11955 Champlin Drive in Champlin.



## Now Hiring

The Anoka-Champlin Fire Department is seeking to find paid on-call firefighters. Are you 18 years or older? Do you

want to be a part of a team that gives back to the community in which they live? Applications can be found on our website at [anokachamplinfire.org](http://anokachamplinfire.org).

**FIRSTstudent** is hiring **SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS**  
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## QCTV Wins Awards

QCTV is thrilled to announce they have received six Telly Awards – recognizing television excellence on a national stage! QCTV received three bronze, two silver, and its first gold award! Recognized programs include *The Post*, *Live and Local*, and more!

Additionally, QCTV received an Award of Honor for Overall Excellence from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA).

A full list of awards can be found at [QCTV.org/Awards](http://QCTV.org/Awards). Watch QCTV programming online at [QCTV.org](http://QCTV.org) and [YouTube.com/QCTV](http://YouTube.com/QCTV).



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# Anoka Police Department

## Anoka Community Anti-Crime Commission

The Annual Anoka Community Anti-Crime Commission Fundraiser Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024 at 7:29 a.m. at Green Haven Golf Course and Event Center. If you are interested in attending, please contact Julie Spletstoeser at 763-576-2830.

In the fall of 1991, a group of concerned Anoka area citizens came together to form what would become known as the Anoka Community Anti-Crime Commission. They recognized that crime is a community problem and not just a police problem. Because of the rising crime rate and increased police service demands, the Commission chose to become involved in several crime prevention programs. Their initial objectives were to raise funds for "reward" money and to fund crime prevention programs and equipment not allowed in the police department budget.

The Commission has learned that the most effective programs are the collaborative efforts among business, education, and faith communities working with law enforcement.

In October 2022, the Anoka Community Anti-Crime Commission was awarded the 2022 Crime Prevention Team of the Year award from the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association.

## Overnight Parking

A parking ordinance prohibits parking on any city street from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. every day. Short-term exceptions can be made by calling the Anoka Police Department at 763-576-2800. No exceptions are granted during city snowplowing or within 24-hours of a predicted snowfall.

## Halloween Parades Reminder

Parade attendees, please be aware of the following seat-saving rules:

- Chairs, blankets, ropes, tarps are not allowed to be placed on public property along the parade route prior to 4 a.m. for the Big Parade of Little People and the Grand Day Parade; and prior to 4 p.m. for the Light up the Night Parade. Items set out prior to 4 a.m. will be removed by city crews.
- Spectators must remove their own items from public property within 3 hours following the conclusion of the parades. Unclaimed items will be deemed abandoned and discarded.
- The City is not responsible for damaged property.



## Night to Unite

Officers from the Anoka Police Department and Anoka-Champlin Fire Department visited 28 neighborhood block watch parties in Anoka during Night to Unite on Tuesday,

August 6. Citizens were able to check out the police squad cars and fire trucks. The kids really enjoyed it!



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# City Assessor News

## Important Dates and Reminders

### Property Taxes Due

Property owners are reminded that the second half of the 2024 real estate taxes are due Oct. 15, 2024. Payments or questions should be directed to: Division of Property Records & Taxation, Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3rd Ave., Anoka, MN 55303, or call 763-323-5400.

### Special Assessments

Were you part of the 2024 Street Renewal Project? If so, you have until Nov. 15, 2024, to pay your assessment in full, interest free, at Anoka City Hall. Partial payments of \$100.00 or more may be made prior to Nov. 15, 2024 and would reduce the amount certified to taxes.

In fact, all outstanding special assessment balances may be paid off in full prior to Nov. 15, 2024 without accruing additional interest. All payments received after November 15 will include interest on the outstanding balance through December 31 of the succeeding year. The annual installment plus interest (for the entire year) will be certified to Anoka County for collection with your 2025 property taxes. If you have any questions, please call the City Assessor at 763-576-2730 before November 15.

### Certification of Delinquent Service Billings

Anoka City Ordinances and Minnesota Statutes allow for the annual certification of delinquent service billings, which may

include: costs associated with eliminating weeds, removing diseased trees, and removal of public health hazards from private property. City of Anoka utility accounts that are delinquent as of August 1 will also be collected utilizing special assessments. Delinquent accounts that remained unpaid as of Sept. 1, 2024 will be assessed against the property and collected with the property taxes payable in 2025. An administrative fee plus interest will be charged. Property owners with closed accounts and delinquent billings will be mailed notices during September.

To avoid receipt of a notice of delinquent service billing and avoid additional costs, payments must have been received by the City of Anoka by Sept. 1, 2024. Senior citizens and permanently and totally disabled persons may apply for deferment of assessments by contacting the City Assessor at 763-576-2730.

### Proposed Property Tax for 2025

Anoka County will be mailing the parcel specific notices during mid-November. Property owners will be able to compare the actual payable 2024 tax to the proposed 2025 tax. Property owners are reminded that the proposed tax for 2025 is based on proposed levies provided to the County Auditor on or before Sept. 30, 2024.

### Homestead

New homeowners are reminded that December 31 is the deadline to qualify for the homestead classification for the 2024 assessment for taxes payable in 2025. Owners of property (and qualifying relatives-see below) currently classified as non-homestead are eligible to file if they own and occupy their property as their primary place of residency on or before Dec. 31, 2024. Applicants should apply before December 31 at the Office of Property Records & Taxation in the Anoka County Government Center (763-323-5400). Applications are also available from the City of Anoka Assessor's office. If you have any questions regarding the homestead classification and the application process, call the City Assessor at 763-576-2730.

### Relative Homesteads

Property that is the primary residence of a qualifying relative may qualify as a homestead for property tax purposes. To qualify, the property must be the residence of any of the following relatives: child, stepchild, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, parent, stepparent, parent-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew. If you feel you may be eligible or have questions, please call the City Assessor at 763-576-2730.

### New Construction

Appraisers from the Assessor's office will be inspecting all new construction within the city. New homes, additions and remodels will be physically inspected and valuations determined as of the assessment date of Jan. 2, 2025. Any construction that is not complete will receive a partial value based upon the percent of completion as of January 2. These properties will be re-inspected in the following year(s) until the project is complete so that an accurate estimate of value can be determined.

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Sign up at [www.mn.adopt-a-drain.org](http://www.mn.adopt-a-drain.org), which includes a map of adoptable drains in your neighborhood.

Help the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) achieve clean lakes & rivers. The LRRWMO is a special purpose unit of government made up of three cities: Andover, Anoka and Ramsey. Its purpose is to manage the area's waters, particularly those that flow across city boundaries.



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# Community Happenings

## HopeFest – September 28



*Honoring Survivors, Remembering Victims,  
Creating Awareness about Domestic and  
Sexual Violence*

On Saturday, September 28,  
Alexandra House will host its 6th  
Annual HopeFest at Anoka City Hall  
Plaza from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. HopeFest  
is our lead into Domestic Violence

Awareness Month, observed throughout  
October. Through HopeFest, we raise awareness about domestic  
and sexual violence, remember those we have lost, and honor  
the many survivors. The event features a short program, a 1+ mile  
walk, Kidz Dash, family-friendly activities, food, music, and a  
vendor and exhibitor fair.

Adults 14+: \$35; Youth 3-13: \$15; 2 and under: Free  
Get tickets today: [alexandrahouse.org/hope-fest](http://alexandrahouse.org/hope-fest)

## Anoka Vintage Fest – October 5

The sun will be shining on downtown Anoka for Anoka Vintage  
Fest. Join in on Saturday, October 5 when over 100 vintage and  
antiques vendors will fill the streets and areas near City Hall  
River Plaza with the coolest vintage treasures. The Anoka Classic  
Car Show is joining! Over 125 classic vehicles will line

**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES  
A DIFFERENCE!**



**To learn more about donating online, volunteer  
opportunities, or to schedule an appointment to shop  
for food, visit [acbcfoodshelf.org](http://acbcfoodshelf.org) or call 763-422-0046.**

**ACBC is accepting donations of:**

Nonperishable Food | Diapers  
Hygiene Products | New or Gently Used Clothing

**DONATION HOURS:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday  
**LOCATION:** 2615 9th Ave N, Anoka



Jackson Street and the adjacent parking lots. The fun occurs  
from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. This event occurs within the Anoka Social  
District, so those 21 years and older may sip and stroll with  
their adult beverages throughout the event. Learn more at  
[anokavintagefest.com](http://anokavintagefest.com).



## Anoka Halloween Festivities

Anoka Halloween, Inc. is planning countless Halloween  
festivities throughout October. Here's a glimpse:

- **October 6** – Pumpkin Weigh-Off | Scarecrow Contest |  
Adult Pumpkin Carving Contest
- **October 14** – Bingo Night
- **October 19** – Children's Costume Contest
- **October 19** – Children's Pumpkin Carving Contest
- **October 19** – Light up the Night Parade and Bonfire
- **October 20** – Medallion Hunt
- **October 25-26** – House Decorating Contest -  
Public Viewing
- **October 25** – Big Parade of Little People
- **October 26** – Grand Day Parade

Find the full list of events and details including hours,  
locations, etc. at [anokahalloween.com](http://anokahalloween.com).

Anoka Halloween, Inc. is an all-volunteer nonprofit  
organization that coordinates the Halloween festivities in  
Anoka each year.





## Gray Ghost 5K Run and One Mile Fitness Walk

The Gray Ghost Run has been an Anoka Halloween tradition since 1985. Whether you're a serious runner or just want to have some fun in front of

more than 25,000 Grand Day Parade spectators, the Gray Ghost is serious fun! Join the fun run on Saturday, October 26. Learn more and register at [GrayGhostRun.com](http://GrayGhostRun.com).

## Pumpkin Smash – DIY Activity

This year the Pumpkin Smash will be a DIY activity. Instead of a 4-hour event like previous years, we are providing a 10-day block of time to compost your pumpkins! Drop them off anytime from November 2-10 at Rick Sorenson Park (2015 State Ave.). Please remove all decorations, candles, and please don't add painted pumpkins to the mix. Learn more at [anokaminnesota.com](http://anokaminnesota.com).



## Toys for Joy Collection

Anoka City Hall is a drop-off location for Toys for Joy. Make a child smile this holiday season by donating toys for infants through teens. Drop new, unwrapped toys off Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. from November 12 - December 6. Thank you! Learn more at [toysforjoymn.com](http://toysforjoymn.com).

## Fabfest – It's About You!

It's About You this fall! Join us on Saturday, November 2 for a day full of great sales and opportunities from your favorite downtown Anoka shops. Bring your girlfriends and make a day out of it! More details at [discoveranoka.com](http://discoveranoka.com).



## Artisan Delights Winter Market

Shop Anoka's lovely artisan market hosted at The Mill Site - Events on the River, 111 Harrison St. just north of City Hall, on Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7 (10 a.m. - 6 p.m. both days). Stroll through the beautiful, historic building and find local artisans showcasing their original hand-made

designs, artwork, and baked goods. This is a great gift-buying opportunity! Full details at [anokaminnesota.com](http://anokaminnesota.com).



## Anoka Annual Tree Lighting

Bring your family and friends to the annual Anoka Tree Lighting event at City Hall River Plaza, 2015 First Avenue North, from 3-7 p.m. on Saturday, December 7. Enjoy free horse-drawn trolley rides, holiday music, warm bonfires, merriment, and visit Santa Claus in the Santa Shack! Learn more at [anokaminnesota.com](http://anokaminnesota.com).

## Hometown Holiday Celebration

Join local small businesses of Anoka from November 29 - December 24 for a Hometown Holiday Celebration filled with events, giveaways, and the spirit of the season! Discover what Anoka has to offer, and find special gifts for yourself and those on your lists. Learn more at [discoveranoka.com](http://discoveranoka.com).



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## Fall Recycling Drop-Off Event

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 28 - 8 a.m. - Noon at 501 Pierce Street for our annual Fall Recycling Drop-off Event.

- Free recycling of items such as appliances, batteries, bicycles, cell phones, paper shredding, scrap metal, and more.
- Fees will be charged for items such as electronics, tires, mattresses, etc.
- Donations of gently-used clothing, accessories, and shoes will be accepted.

**NOT Accepted** - Auto hulks, building/construction materials (windows, doors, wood, glass, etc.), carpet, child car seats, furniture, household goods (except linens), garbage, hazardous waste (paint, oil, propane tanks, etc.), smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, yard waste, organics, or compost.

Find full details, including prices, in the fall edition of the RAW newsletter or online at [anokaminnesota.com](http://anokaminnesota.com).

Questions? Call 763-576-2725 or email [pbowman@ci.anoka.mn.us](mailto:pbowman@ci.anoka.mn.us) before Friday, September 27.

Thank you to Anoka Municipal Utility for subsidizing costs for appliance and fluorescent recycling. The Anoka Lions Club and individuals for volunteering and Public Services for labor assistance.

*This event is funded by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and State SCORE (Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) funds.*



## Anoka Social District Closes October 6

Anoka's popular Social District will close for the year at 10 p.m. on Sunday, October 6. Thank you to all the downtown businesses that played a role in this program. We appreciate your partnership. The Anoka City Council and City staff will meet with the licensed business owners later this year to discuss what worked well and if any improvements or enhancements are needed.

The Social District will reopen on May 1, 2025.

Learn more at [anokaminnesota.com](http://anokaminnesota.com).

## Anoka Community Survey Results

Thank you to residents who completed the Anoka National Community Survey (The NCS). The survey was released in late May to a randomly selected 3,000 households. It was then released online on June 7 so all residents, 18 years and older, had an opportunity to complete the survey. The survey closed on June 21.

Polco has analyzed the responses and results will be presented to the City Council later this fall and then shared with the public. Results should relay Anoka's strengths, areas of improvement, and what matters most to residents. The City will also see how its performance compares to similar communities. Stay tuned.

## Be Prepared

### Sanitary Sewer Backup OR Water & Sewer Line Damage

Are you prepared **AND** insured against a sewer backup or necessary repair for water or sewer line damage?

- **ALWAYS call the City of Anoka FIRST** if you are experiencing a sewer backup affecting all of your home's drains, if you do not have water flowing, or if your sewer or water line is damaged. If your property's water line springs a leak or your sewer line becomes clogged or backed up, it is up to you to find a contractor to fix it and to pay the associated costs, which can escalate to thousands of dollars. The city can guide you in the right direction of selecting a contractor. During business hours, call 763-576-2923 or 763-576-2980. After hours, call 763-576-2860.
- **Get Insurance for a Sewer Backup or Repairs** - If you have concerns regarding the damage a sewer backup could do to your property or if your sewer or water line is damaged, **contact your insurance carrier and review your coverage.**
- **DO NOT** dispose of any inappropriate items into the sewer or water system.

Visit [anokaminnesota.com](http://anokaminnesota.com) for more information.