

City VIEW

SPRING 2024

ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

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2024 Election Information

Candidate Filing

Candidate filing to run for a City office begins on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 and ends at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4, 2024. Our office will be closed for Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2024. You may file for office at Anoka City Hall, 2015 First Avenue, Anoka.

All Candidates:

- Must be eligible to vote in Minnesota
- Must have not filed for another office at the upcoming primary or general election
- Must be 21 years of age or more upon assuming office
- Must have maintained residence in the city of Anoka for at least 30 days before the election

Offices on the 2024 election ballot:

- Mayor: two-year term
- City Councilmember: Two seats, each a four-year term

Primary Election, August 13, 2024

Last day to preregister to vote in the primary election is Tuesday, July 23, 2024.

General Election, November 5, 2024

Last day to preregister to vote in the general election is Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024.

Are You Registered to Vote?

It is highly recommended that you preregister to vote. Your registration remains current until you change your residence, change your name, or if you have not voted in multiple elections. You may verify if you are registered to vote or obtain a Minnesota voter registration application at mnvotes.sos.mn.gov/voterstatuscheck/index.

Absentee Voting by Mail

If you know that you will not be able to vote early or vote at your polling location on Election Day, you may absentee vote by mail. All absentee voters must first complete an absentee ballot application. You may fill out the application at mnvotes.sos.mn.gov/abrequest/index or download and print the application and complete by hand, or call the Anoka County Elections office at 763-324-1300 to have an application sent to you by mail. Return your application as early as possible by any of the following methods:

- **Mail:** Anoka County Elections, 2100 3rd Avenue, Suite 160 Anoka, MN 55303
- **Fax:** 763-324-1160
- **Email:** Send a scanned image of your application to elections@anokacountymn.gov

An absentee ballot will be mailed to you by Anoka County Elections. The absentee ballot will contain voting instructions and a return envelope. Be sure to follow the absentee instructions very carefully and return the ballot as soon as

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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

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 for complete schedule and for video streaming.

City Offices Closed

Monday, May 27 Memorial Day
Wednesday, June 19 Juneteenth



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Anoka Employees Club Gives Back

We thank the members of the Anoka Employees Club who choose to give back to the community in which they work. Since its inception, the Anoka Employees Club has donated close to \$149,000 to local programs including Chores & More, Anoka High School's Caring and Sharing Fund, Toys for Joy, Salvation Army Heat Share, ACBC Food Shelf, and Alexandra House, as well as donations of back to school items for local schools.

In addition, Anoka High School students Liv Rostad and Katie McKay were the most recent scholarship recipients, each awarded \$500.

Employee members make a one-time donation or specify a donated amount to be taken out of each paycheck during their membership. Many also volunteer their time in various ways. Thank you, members!

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possible to Anoka County Elections at 2100 3rd Avenue, Suite 160, Anoka MN 55303.

Where Do You Vote?

Find your polling location at the Secretary of State's website: pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

More Information

Find more election information at:

- sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting
- anokacountymn.gov/220/Elections-Voter-Registration
- sos.state.mn.us/election-administration-campaigns/become-a-candidate
- anokaminnesota.com/185/elections

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HOME CARE

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



Anoka County Commute Solutions

Anoka County Commute Solutions is here to support commuters, businesses, and organizations, promote biking, walking, riding the train and bus, and carpooling or vanpooling. We have great programming this springtime.

- Get a FREE bike rack for your business or organization. We will work with you to determine bike parking needs and will purchase the bike rack for you. Organizations will be responsible for installing the rack(s). Email commutesolutions@anokacountymn.gov to get started.
- Bike to Work Week is May 12-17! Sign up to host an event at your workplace and we will reward you with a Commute Solutions swag bag. Visit anokacountymn.gov/4402/Bike-to-Work-Week-2024.
- We can create custom marketing materials to promote your business and its proximity to transit, bike trails, and other transportation amenities. Email commutesolutions@anokacountymn.gov to get started.
- Get free Anoka County Bike Maps. Email commutesolutions@anokacountymn.gov to place your order.



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 Kathleen Poehls Agency LLC
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*Customers who bundle auto and home insurance policies may save up to 23% on both policies together (as of July 2022). Discounts may vary by state, property, policy form and company underwriting the auto and/or home policy. Discounts may not apply to all coverages on an auto or home policy.
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Public Safety

Anoka Police Department

April is Severe Weather Awareness Month

Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 8-12, 2024. Each day of the week focuses on a different weather safety topic. The Statewide Tornado Drill Day is on Thursday, April 11. The outdoor early warning sirens will be test-activated twice that day at 1:45 p.m. and at 6:45 p.m. This is a good time to review your personal or business severe weather plan.

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota experiences an average of 40 tornadoes per year. In 2021, Minnesota had 64 tornadoes. This includes 22 tornadoes on December 15 alone! Tornadoes may strike quickly with little warning. They can occur any time of day or night, but often occur in the late afternoon or evening. For more information on Minnesota Tornado History and Statistics, visit dnr.state.mn.us.

2023-2024 Annual Review

The 2023-2024 edition of the Anoka Police Annual Review will be available at the Police Department in May. For 38 years, the Anoka Police Federation has created this informative magazine that includes crime statistics, crime trends, and department news. Funds raised by ads sold in the magazine stay in the community and are focused on youth projects, which include scholarships, youth sports teams, fine arts, and youth civic clubs. The Police Federation's motto is "Cops Who Care about Kids." The Police Federation has been committed to area youth for over 40 years. If you would like a copy of a past magazine, please contact Julie Spletstoeser at 763-576-2830.



Night to Unite – August 6

"Night to Unite" is on Tuesday, August 6, 2024. This nationwide initiative helps heighten crime prevention awareness and strengthen police and neighborhood

relationships. Neighborhood Crime Watch groups are encouraged to participate in block parties. If you are interested in hosting a Night to Unite party, please contact Nicole Neis at 763-576-2807.

Community Outreach

Throughout the year, the Anoka Police Department holds community events. These include Citizens Academy, Coffee with a Cop, safety and educational events, and bike helmet and car seat clinics. Stay tuned to see where we will be next!

Wondering what kind of crime occurs in Anoka? Check out information at communitycrimemap.com.

Click the State of Minnesota on the map:

- Select "Anoka City" on the pop-up.
- While viewing the map, customize your views by changing the parameters on the left-hand side of the page.
- Search by address, date, events (crimes), and other tools.
- Sign up for email alerts in the upper right corner.



Anoka-Champlin Fire Department

Wildland Fire Season May be Worst in Recorded History

The state of Minnesota has witnessed one of the warmest winters in the past 50 years. With little snow pack and mild temperatures, the local fire departments have been informed by the MN DNR that this wildland fire season could be one of the worst in recorded history. Currently the Twin Cities and surrounding counties have been placed in a High Fire Danger, meaning that fires start easily and spread at a fast rate. The Anoka-Champlin Fire Department asks all residents to be mindful of any controlled burns during the early spring. The ACFD has taken delivery of two new grass rigs that will be outfitted with wildland fire tools and suppression capabilities. Along with our two UTVs, your fire department will be well prepared for any type of wildland fire.

Replace Smoke Alarm and CO Alarm Batteries

Daylight saving time started Sunday, March 10. Please make sure to replace all smoke alarm and CO alarm batteries and test devices. Smoke and CO alarms have a 10-year life span and each have a born-on date printed on the back of the device. Replace devices older than 10 years of age. We will be conducting our very first Sound the Alarm event in conjunction with the American Red Cross. The date is expected to be in early June and will be confirmed soon. Watch for updates on the ACFD Facebook page.

The ACFD has free Radon test kits for residents. Call 763-576-2900 for a kit.

Outdoor Recreational Fires

Recreational fires are allowed in Anoka. Here is an overview of the ordinance:

- Burning shall be allowed between 9 a.m. and midnight.
- The fire shall not exceed three feet in diameter and a flame height of approximately two feet.
- Only clean wood or charcoal may be burned. No burning of trash, leaves, or brush is allowed.
- Only approved starter fluids may be used to ignite the fire.
- A person knowledgeable in the use of fire extinguishing equipment must constantly attend the fire, and an attendant must supervise the fire until the fire has been totally extinguished.
- Fire extinguishing equipment such as buckets, shovels, or garden hoses must be readily available.
- The fire must not be conducted within 15 feet of any structure or property line, or combustible material.
- Outdoor burning must be contained in a fireplace/fire ring.

Visit anokachamplinfire.org and follow us on Facebook at AnokaChamplinFire.

Firewood Harvest in the Anoka Nature Preserve

Saturday, April 20, 2024 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The City of Anoka will be issuing a limited number of permits to city residents to cut firewood from dead and downed trees in the Anoka Nature Preserve. This harvest is restricted to trees of 12" or less in diameter (measured at widest end/base). Wood must be dead and laying on the ground. Absolutely no felling of standing trees will be allowed (even if they are dead). Slash/brush shall be scattered and not left in a pile.

The wood must be for personal use only and cannot be resold or traded. No off-road use of vehicles is permitted to gather wood. City crews will be on hand to help move trees closer to the road for harvest. You must provide your own chainsaw and have the ability to load wood into your own vehicle.

Remember to protect Minnesota's forests from pests and follow the State's firewood law: It is illegal to transport hardwood firewood out of Minnesota quarantined counties unless it is MDA certified firewood. Find more firewood information at mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/firewood-information and dnr.state.mn.us/firewood/index.html.

To purchase a permit, please visit anokaminnesota.com/parks for a link to register and to pay the permit fee, or to purchase in person, please visit the Public Services office in the lower level of Anoka City Hall. A limited number of permits will be sold. Permits are \$50 for a pickup load. \$85 for a pickup and trailer load. One pickup load is approximately 1/2 cord of wood when split/stacked.

Proof of residency required at time of purchase and on day of harvest, upon admittance into the Anoka Nature Preserve. Permit purchaser must be present. Harvest is rain or shine. No refunds. No reschedule. Call Public Services with questions at 763-576-2980.



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Photo by Twin Cities Gateway

CITY OF ANOKA AQUATIC CENTER

1551 7th Avenue, Anoka | 763-421-7730 (seasonal)

Cool off this summer at the Anoka Aquatic Center

Register for swim lessons, purchase season passes, and find more details and updates online at anokaminnesota.com or call Public Services at 763-576-2980.

Season Passes

Season pass holders receive priority admission for open swim.

Individual Pass (ages 1-61)	\$55 + tax
Senior Pass (62+)	\$30 + tax

City residents who purchase a season pass receive the following for the 2024 season: One (one-time use) guest pass per Season Pass purchased.

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Open Swim Hours*

Preseason: May 25 - June 6

Weekends: 12-7 p.m. | Weekdays: 3-7 p.m.

Regular Season: June 7 - August 18

Mondays - Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Fridays: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturdays: 12-8 p.m.

Sundays: 12-7 p.m.

Postseason: August 19 - August 25

Daily: 12-7 p.m.

Daily Admission Rates

Adult & youth over 42" tall	\$8
Youth under 42" tall & seniors (62+)	\$6
Under 1 year	Free

Special Swim Times

Little Splashers

Every other Saturday morning from 9-11:30 a.m.

Enjoy the zero-depth area of the pool without the big kids around! Little Splashers is a special swim time for children ages infant to five years old. All Little Splashers receive one free adult entry with them; additional adult fee of \$2.

Little Splashers Admission Fees:

- \$3/child
- \$2/child with non-resident season pass or additional adults
- Free for children who are residents of Anoka with a season pass

American Red Cross Swim Lessons

The Anoka Aquatic Center is an authorized provider of the American Red Cross aquatic instructional programs for people of all ages. Group, private, and semi-private lessons are available for youth and adults.

To enhance the learning environment, open swim will not be available during designated swim lesson sessions. Red Cross Lifeguarding and Water Safety Instructor classes are also offered at the beginning of the season.

Morning & Evening Lessons

4 days/week for 2 weeks (M-Th 8:30-10:45 a.m. and 6-8:30 p.m.)

Learn to Swim Levels 2-6	\$70	Parent/Child Aquatics	\$50
Preschool, Level 1	\$60	Private Lessons	\$120

Visit the Anoka Aquatic Center section of anokaminnesota.com for the full schedule.

Junior Lifeguarding – \$100

For youth 11-14 years of age who have completed level 4 or higher or can swim front crawl, breaststroke, and elementary backstroke for 25 yards each and can swim comfortably under water. This course helps build the foundation of knowledge, attitude, and skills required for future lifeguards.

***Open swim is not available during designated swim lesson sessions.**

AACES: Anoka Aquatic Center Exceptional Swimmers – \$250 (\$200 ages 10-13)

Program for swimmers who have the knowledge of the four competitive strokes, want to be or are currently on a high school swim team, and want to continue training over the summer. The program will involve training and technique work from certified swim coaches.

Monday-Thursday: June 10-August 8; 7-9 a.m. for swimmers ages 14-18 and 7:30-9 a.m. for swimmers ages 10-13.

Jump Back In Refresher Course

The Jump Back In swim lesson refresher course (June 10-13) provides review and maintenance to prepare swimmers of all abilities for summer lessons, as well as helps parents decide on which level is most appropriate for swimmers to begin lessons.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and visit anokaminnesota.com for information, updates, and special events.

ACBC Food Shelf

Continuing to Expand Senior Food Program

With senior hunger on the rise in Anoka County, ACBC Food Shelf continues to focus on expanding the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which focuses on improving the health and education of low-income individuals aged 60 or older.

We encourage low-income seniors to contact us for more information. Learn more at acbcfoodshelf.org, email support@acbcfoodshelf.org or call 763-422-0046.

Anoka Community Survey

The city of Anoka is contracting with Polco, a consultant that administers the National Community Survey™ through the National Research Center. A random selection of Anoka city residents will receive a postcard in the mail later this spring requesting participation in completing the survey via a paper copy or online. Directions will be provided. Survey responses will be anonymous.

The primary goal of the survey is to gather feedback regarding city services, aspects of quality of life, recreation, transportation, and much more.

After the random selection of residents is surveyed, the survey will then be open online to all city residents at least 18 years of age. Details for participating in the online survey will be announced through various city communications tools and at the city's website: anokaminnesota.com.

Once the survey is closed, Polco will analyze the responses and report results to the City Council. Results will then be shared with the public. Stay tuned.



Boat Slips for Lease

Anoka provides boat slips for lease at four locations along the Rum River:

- Akin Riverside Park North – access to the lower Rum River and Mississippi River
- Riverfront Memorial Park – access to the Rum River above the dam.
- Rum River North – access to the Rum River above the dam.
- Akin Riverside Park – access to the lower Rum River and the Mississippi River

Currently, there is a waiting list at Akin Riverside Park; however, there are multiple boat slips available at the other locations. Each slip location has a public dock access with a locked gate separating the rental slips. Residents receive priority when registering for available boat slips; a waitlist will be established if necessary. For rental terms and conditions, lease forms, and fees, visit anokaminnesota.com or call the Public Services Department at 763-576-2980.



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Green Haven Welcomes You

We have some of the best ladies' and men's leagues in the state of Minnesota. The leagues are always seeking new members who want to have fun and be active throughout the golf season. Club championships, holiday tournaments, and weekly playing opportunities are just some of the opportunities the leagues offer. Check the leagues at greenhavengolfcourse.com to find the one that fits your schedule or call 763-576-2972.

The Green Haven loft simulators have been a tremendous success and just because you can play outside doesn't mean they are shut down for the season. Our simulators are open year-round for club fitting and play. If it is raining outside, just make your tee time in the simulator and play in sunny and 70 degree weather all year and be closer to the beverage cart!

We now offer the opportunity to book tee times up to three weeks in advance. Plan ahead and book online for a small fee at greenhavengolfcourse.com.



Stop into the Tavern at Green Haven for a delicious meal indoors or outside on the beautiful patio. Catering services are also available for business meetings, weddings, and more. Learn more at Greenhavengolfcourse.com or call 763-576-2968.



Better Values Liquor Store

Support your City-owned Liquor Operation

It does not get more "local" than a city-owned liquor operation. Our mission is to control the sale of alcohol while generating profits from the sale of alcoholic beverages. One hundred percent (100%) of the profits stay in the community to support city parks and capital projects. We carry a wide variety of wine, spirits, beer, THC beverages and gummies, and offer competitive pricing. We strive to offer a welcoming, safe, and convenient shopping experience while providing an excellent customer experience.

Please visit our Facebook page @bettervaluesliquor for in-store specials, monthly specials, in-store tastings, new item updates, store hours, etc.

On-going Promotions:

- **Every Tuesday is Senior Day.** All customers 55 years of age and older can enjoy 10% off all non-sale items.
- **Every Wednesday is Military Discount Day.** All current and former military personnel receive 10% off all non-sale items.
- **Every Wednesday is Wine Day.** Enjoy 10% off your purchase of all non-sale wine.
- Monthly advertised specials can be found on our Facebook page and on our website.
- Many unadvertised specials each month.
- Gift cards are available in any amount and can be used to purchase THC products.

Better Values Liquor store is proudly city-owned and operated. **100% of our profits stay in the community.**

Better Values Liquor East
847 East River Road
763-421-3070
bettervaluesliquor.com

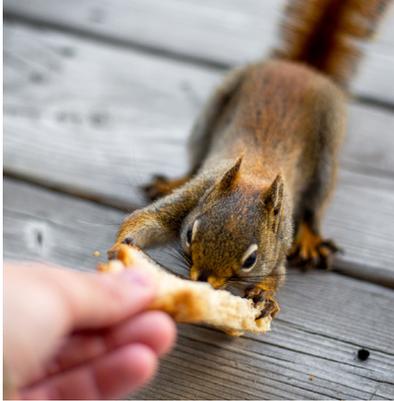


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First Student locations throughout Minnesota are hiring School Bus Drivers. No experience? No problem! First Student provides exceptional training, a **\$24-\$30/Hour** starting wage and you may even qualify for a **\$3,000 Sign On Bonus***. Join a company that offers all the support you need to succeed.

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Please Don't Feed Wildlife

City staff has received concerns recently from residents due to neighbors continuously feeding wildlife.

Squirrels are primarily the issue and those that are being fed by humans have caused damaged to patio furniture by gnawing at it, have dug up flower and vegetable gardens, lawns, are increasing their population in neighborhoods, and have become an expensive nuisance.

While it is tempting for people, it is best not to feed wildlife. Feeding wildlife such as ducks, geese, raccoons, deer, squirrels, etc. can lead to a number of serious problems, including malnourishment, death, public health concerns, pollution, and aggressive behavior:

How can you help?

- Do not leave any type of food for them.
- Don't allow bird food to accumulate on the ground under feeders.
- Keep pet food and water containers indoors, especially at night.

Please respect wildlife; let them be wild.

Source: US Department of Agriculture



Anoka County Head Start Program

The Anoka/Washington County Head Start-Early Head Start program is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 program year. Programs are free for eligible families with children from birth to age five and pregnant women. Our Head Start center-based preschool option offers students a 6.5-hour day, four days per week.

Learn more or apply at accap.org/head-start/enrollment-4 or call 763-783-4314.

Medicare Help?

Contact your local Independent Agent
Dan Pfeifer at 763.310.7627
pfeiferinsurancesolutions@gmail.com

Pfeifer
Insurance Solutions



Dan Pfeifer
Licensed Agent

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options.

Home Improvement Programs



Spring is Around the Corner

Get Your Home Ready!

As winter is ending and spring is starting to bloom, now is the perfect time to think about what home improvement projects you want to tackle in 2024. The City of Anoka offers a variety of financing options with no or low monthly payments and flexible terms to help residents make their home improvement dreams a reality. Visit mncee.org/anoka to see what loans fit your needs.

The list of improvements you can make with Anoka's financing options is extensive; a few options include:

- Remodeling your kitchen
- Redoing your driveway
- Replacing your roof
- And more!
- Installing new windows

Loans are available while funds last, so don't wait to get started. To apply visit, mncee.org/anoka or call 612-335-5884.

Want to make improvements, but not sure where to start? Anoka can also help with that through a FREE Remodeling Advisor Visit. This is a free service for Anoka homeowners through which you can receive objective remodeling advice, help prioritizing your projects, and assistance reviewing contractor bids. Call 612-244-2470 to schedule a visit today.



Maria's Voice

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Together, We Can Prevent Domestic Violence!



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MariasVoice.org
Hello@MariasVoice.org
501c3 | EIN 85-1121338



Anoka Social District Returns



What is a Social District?

A social district is a specific area that allows people to purchase alcoholic beverages from a licensed business, “sip and stroll” through a defined area, and allows for participation in a social district event or activity.

As part of the 2022 Omnibus Liquor Bill, Anoka is allowed to issue social district licenses to qualified licensed business premises that are contiguous to or within the social district boundaries. Those licensed businesses may sell alcoholic beverages to customers and the customers may then consume those beverages outdoors within the social district boundaries.

2024 Social District

Dates: Wednesday, May 1 - Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024

Hours: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. (daily)

The City redefined the boundaries in the pictured map to now include the south side of Main Street from 1st Avenue to 3rd Avenue.



Boundaries subject to change.

Social District Cup

Customers purchasing alcoholic beverages from licensed businesses will be served in a specific recyclable social district cup. That cup may travel with the customer outdoors within the district boundaries. Social district cups may not be used more than once. Customers will receive a new cup with each alcoholic beverage purchased and may not bring the cup into a different establishment than where it was purchased.



Please use the recycling receptacles throughout the social district to properly dispose of each recyclable cup.



Window Clings

Businesses within the social district will display one of three window clings indicating their participation type.

Signage

Signage will be displayed within the social district defining the boundaries. Some signs will have a QR code to scan to learn about the social district, planned activities, rules and regulations, etc.

All State of Minnesota and City of Anoka laws regarding public intoxication, impaired driving, and open containers apply to areas both inside and outside of the social district boundaries.

Visit anokaminnesota.com for more information.

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1500 6th Avenue
763-576-4661

The Anoka Senior Center offers fun trips, events, cards and games, writing club, exercise classes, presentations and programs, entertainment, driver improvement classes, and foot care. Stop in for coffee and conversation, too, and see information below about our senior dining offered through Volunteers of America.



Senior Dining

In cities and towns across the United States, there often are “hidden gems” to be found. What are “hidden gems?” Places, programs, and events that go unnoticed but when found bring a wealth of pleasure to the finders.

Senior Dining at the Anoka Senior Center is one of these “hidden gems.” Dining is offered Tuesday-Friday at the Anoka Senior Center under the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program, sponsored by Volunteers of America MN. The only eligibility requirement for this program is that you are 60 years of age or over. Registration is required once per year. The meal is a full course meal, and the suggested donation is \$5.00. The wonderful thing about this program is that the basic goal is to provide meals to seniors at a cost they can afford. If a senior can’t afford the full donation, they will never be turned away. More important than a donation is that seniors in need can access the meals.

Current menus are available at the Anoka Senior Center or at VOAMN.ORG under services: meals. Call Sandy to make a reservation a week before you plan to go at 763-427-6646.

Branson Show Extravaganza

Brought to you by Diamond Tours and the Anoka Senior Center:

- May 13-18, 2024
- \$775/per person based on double occupancy; add \$179 for single occupancy
- Includes round trip transportation in a deluxe motor coach, five nights lodging including three consecutive in the Branson area, eight meals, three morning shows, three evening shows including The Sight and Sound Theater, and gratuity to your motor coach driver.

Call Melissa at 763-576-4661 or stop in for information and flyers for this trip and many other trips and activities the Anoka Senior Center offers.



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Do ordinary things with
extraordinary love.



Come Visit Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake

At Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake, our residents are valued members of a vibrant, close-knit senior living community. Rooted in Benedictine values, we offer a full continuum of care to meet the ever-changing needs of our residents. In addition, we offer a variety of activities, amenities, spiritual, and social opportunities for all preferences and lifestyles.

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Skilled Nursing | Transitional Care

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Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

📞 763.493.7048

🌐 sainttherese.org/communities/brooklyn-park



City Assessor News

Board of Equalization Meeting

Minnesota law requires the City of Anoka to annually hold a Board of Equalization meeting to review assessments established by the assessor. Each year the assessor is responsible for estimating the market value of all taxable and exempt properties located within the city. The 2024 estimated market value located on your valuation notice approximates what the real estate would sell for, if placed on the market. Changes to residential properties in Anoka will vary from property to property; however, the overall residential market in Anoka saw a minor decrease of about 2.00%.

The Board of Equalization will meet at Anoka City Hall on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 6 p.m. If property owners have questions or concerns about their 2024 estimated market value, they are encouraged to call the Assessor's Office at 763-576-2730. Those concerns that cannot be resolved and involve their 2024 estimated market value should be brought before the Board. It should be noted that the Board cannot adjust the payable 2024 taxes as those taxes are based on the previous year's value that was established on January 2, 2023. The formal appeal process can be found on the back of your "Valuation and Classification Notice." Those forms will be mailed with your tax statement during mid-March. You can also visit anokaminnesota.com for additional information.

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Feed spirits.
Empower
communities.**

**Join the cause.
Fund and pack
lifechanging
meals today.**



fmsc.org



Reminder - First Half Property Taxes Due May 15

Property owners are reminded that the first half of the 2024 real estate taxes are due May 15, 2024. Your property tax payments should be made to: Division of Property Records & Taxation, Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3rd Ave., Anoka, MN 55303, or call 763-323-5400.

2023 Homestead Credit Refund for Homeowners and Renters Property Tax Refund

During mid-March, residents should have received their payable 2024 property tax statements. A reminder, the State of Minnesota has a program that provides a refund to property owners and renters who meet certain guidelines. The **regular property tax refund** is available to homeowners whose household incomes are less than \$135,410 and renters whose household incomes are less than \$73,270. Homeowners may receive a refund of up to \$3,310; renters are eligible for a refund up to \$2,570.

The **special property tax refund** offers relief to property owners, **regardless of income**, whose taxes increase more than 12 percent and at least \$100 from 2023 to 2024. There is no income limit and the maximum refund is \$1,000.

For more information on property tax refunds, rebates, and credits, review the 2023 Homestead Credit Refund for Homeowners and Renters Property Tax Refund Instructions at revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund.

Property tax refund applications should be received by the Department of Revenue by August 15, 2024.

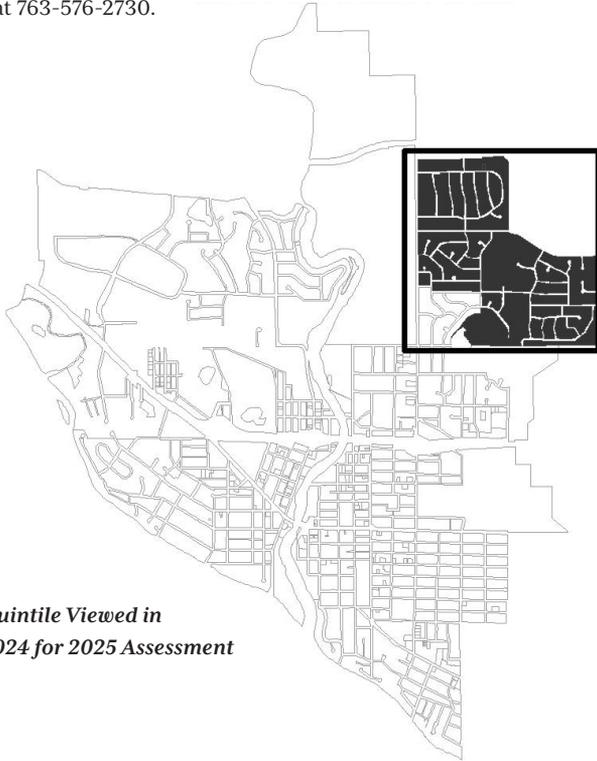
Assessing Staff to View Properties in "Quintile" Area

The Assessor values all property in the city for property taxation purposes. State law requires the Assessor to physically inspect all properties every five years. To accomplish this, the Assessor's office views approximately one-fifth of the existing parcels each year. The area designated for review is commonly referred to as the "quintile." The location of the "quintile" this year is identified on the map on page 13.

Appraisers from the Assessor's office are working in this area and will continue through early fall. These reviews will help determine the January 2, 2025 estimated/taxable market values for property taxes payable in 2026.

When appraisers visit a home, they verify the accuracy of information used to determine market values for properties. This includes a home's size, age, style, condition, amenities, etc. By inspecting both the interior and exterior of a home, appraisers can do their best job of making a thorough and equitable appraisal of each property. City appraisers carry picture identification cards and drive vehicles with City of Anoka

identification. If you have any questions, please call the Assessor's office at 763-576-2730.



Quintile Viewed in
2024 for 2025 Assessment



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- Check your water's hardness** with a water test kit (paper strips that change color), which can be purchased online for <\$10. You may recoup that cost by using less salt.
- Adjust your softener's settings to match your hardness number.** This ensures that your softener doesn't use excess salt. See your owner's manual for specific directions.



- The age of your softener and iron in the water also impact your water softener settings.

**Help keep our water
resources clean
(and save some \$)!**



**Help Us Grow
a Stronger
Community**

CEAP is our community safety net that provides basic needs support to propel every neighbor forward. Together, we are growing a stronger, healthier, and connected community. Visit our website to learn more about our programs like Meals on Wheels and our free Food Market and to extend a hand of support to your neighbors by volunteering and donating!

www.CEAP.org | 763-566-9600
7051 Brooklyn Boulevard, Brooklyn Center
Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm



Community Happenings

Discover Anoka

Downtown merchants have some fun events planned. Save the dates:

- May 4 – Derby Day
- May 11 – Mother’s Day Stroll

Learn more at DiscoverAnoka.com or call the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce at 763-421-7130.

Citywide Garage Sale – May 17 & 18

Anoka’s Waste Reduction & Recycling Board is hosting its 2nd annual citywide garage sale. If you plan to have a garage sale this spring, why not join us! Maps will be available to the public. Register your sale for free between April 1 and May 1 at anokaminnesota.com. Call Pam at 763-576-2725 or email pbowman@ci.anoka.mn.us with questions.



Memorial Day Service – May 27

The Anoka American Legion will honor Memorial Day with its annual tribute on Monday, May 27 at 10 a.m. The public is invited

to gather at Riverfront Memorial Park, north of Anoka City Hall at 2201 2nd Avenue. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. In the event of inclement weather, the service will move to the Anoka American Legion Post 102, 400 West Main Street. Please call the Anoka Legion with questions at 763-421-0883.



Rockin’ on the Rum Concerts

Join Anoka for its Rockin’ on the Rum concerts, Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. at Riverfront Memorial Park, 2201 2nd Avenue. Bring a lawn chair, sit back, or get up and dance! Food trucks will be on site selling scrumptious eats.

REMINDER – This park is within the Anoka Social District; therefore, only alcoholic beverages sold by licensed social district establishments may be brought into the park in the social district cups (do not bring your own alcoholic beverages). The Anoka Lions will be on site selling beer and seltzers.

- June 12:** Church of Cash (Johnny Cash)
- June 19:** Mystery Mountain Boys Band (Country Rock)
- June 26:** Bad Behavior (Rock)
- July 3:** Shirts and Skins (Variety) – at Castle Field before Annual Fireworks (see page 15)
- July 10:** Absolutely Elvis
- July 17:** Pirates Guitars and Beachfront Bars (Yacht Rock)
- July 24:** Heavy for the Hawk (Variety)
- July 31:** Best of 7 (Variety)
- August 7:** Women’s Drum Center (West African Drums)
- August 14:** Salsa Del Soul (Salsa)
- August 21:** Roadhouse Blue (Classic Rock)
- August 28:** Southern Express Band (Southern Rock)
- Sept. 4:** Just Dave and the Rockin’ All Stars (Classic Rock)
- Sept. 11:** Shane Martin (Classic Rock)
- Sept. 18:** The Castaways (Country)
- Sept. 25:** Hazel Moon (Blues, R&B)

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 or call **763-422-0046**.

ACBC is accepting donations of:

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



Thank you Rockin’ on the Rum Sponsors:

- 10K Brewing
- Anoka Area Ice Arena
- Anoka Lions Club
- Ginny Bites
- Herban Wolf Deli
- House of Oilworx
- Killebrew Root Beer
- Poly-Cam, Inc.
- Professional Plating, Inc.
- Order of the Eastern Star
- Select Eye Care
- Reshetar Systems, Inc.
- Rise, Inc.
- The Estates at Twin Rivers
- The Mill Site – Events on the River
- The Weaver Brothers Company



Lyric Arts Main Street Stage Presents

- **9 to 5: The Musical** – April 12 - May 12
- **Lyric Arts’ 25th Cabaret** – May 18
- **The Servant of Two Masters** – May 12 - June 23

For more information, visit lyricarts.org or call the box office at 763-422-1838.



Anoka Farmers Market on the Rum

It's Back! It's Fresh! It's Growing!
The City of Anoka is planning a fresh season of the farmers

market with a plentiful amount of produce and a great selection of cottage foods, farmstead products, flowers, etc. Selection will grow as the season grows. Thank you for supporting local farmers and vendors.

Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m. | June 19 - September 25, 2024
Riverfront Memorial Park | 2201 2nd Avenue

Add music to your visit. Anoka's Rockin' on the Rum concert series will kick off each Wednesday during the market at 6 p.m. during the summer months at Riverfront Memorial Park. Pick up your fresh produce, baked goods, and more, and stay for an evening of great music and community fun!

Interested Vendors – The vendor application is available online at anokaminnesota.com or via mail by calling Public Services at 763-576-2980 or email marketontherum@ci.anoka.mn.us.

Anoka Classic Car Show – June thru September

The Anoka Classic Car Show is cruising into another fun-filled season in downtown Anoka from 4-8 p.m. at 4th Avenue and VanBuren Street, on several Saturdays beginning in June through September. Visit anokaclassiccarshow.org to learn more and for confirmed event dates.

Annual Fireworks Celebration – July 3

Get ready for some fun at Anoka's 26th annual fireworks display in celebration of Independence Day. In partnership with the Castle Field Association, we invite you to join us on Wednesday, July 3 beginning at 5 p.m. at Castle Field (celebrating 10 years), 600 Castle Field Boulevard.

Activities start at 5 p.m.:

- Little Blues Traveling Zoo (until 7 p.m.)
- Bags tournament (until winners named)
- Pumpkin bounce house (until 7 p.m.)
- Food trucks (until 11 p.m.)

5:30 p.m. Baseball game

7:05 p.m. Kickball All-Stars game

7-10 p.m. Concert: Shirts and Skins (Anoka Ice Arena parking lot)

10 p.m. Fireworks display

Sponsors are needed. Would you or your business or organization like to help sponsor this year's fireworks display? All sponsors will be acknowledged through Anoka's communications: website, social media, print, signage at the event, etc. Please call Pam at 763-576-2725 or email pbowman@ci.anoka.mn.us to learn more. Thank you.

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HOPE 4 YOUTH

Our mission is to provide pathways to end youth homelessness.

If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless and are 16 - 24 years old, we are here for you! Our HOPE 4 Youth Center provides services such as basic needs items like food and hygiene, clothing, laundry facilities, one-on-one support, hot meals, and so much more.

Youth homelessness is unacceptable.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Volunteer | Donate Items | Give Monthly

For more information on the services we provide or to get involved, scan the QR code or visit hope4youthmn.org.

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Lead and Copper Rule Revision

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently altered its drinking water standards related to lead and copper. This is called the Lead and Copper Rule Revision. The rule was enhanced to protect property owners by reducing their exposure to lead and copper. Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body.

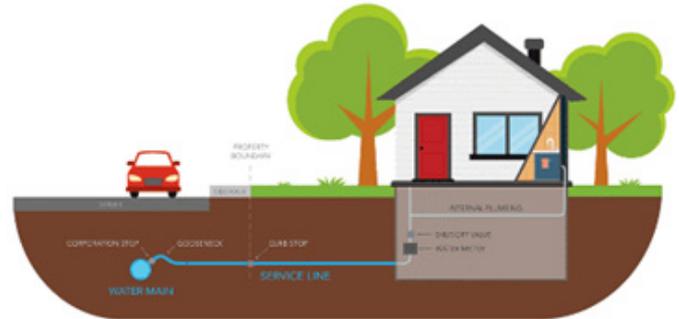
The drinking water provided to residents from the City of Anoka does not contain lead. However, lead can enter the drinking water from lead service lines and plumbing fixtures made with lead components through the corrosion process. These materials were commonly used before 1986.

Inventory of Water Service Lines

As part of the new requirements, the City of Anoka is required to inventory the water service lines and the type of materials used (lead, galvanized pipe, non-lead, or unknown). The water service line is the pipe that connects the residence to the City's watermain in the street.

What We Are Asking of Residents

The City of Anoka will be using different methods to inventory these pipes. Historical records, service line replacements, physical inspections, and the help from residents via an online survey application.



What do you need to do?

1. Locate your water service line in the lower level of your home. An example of the line is shown in the graphic above.
2. Fill out a quick online survey at anokaminnesota.com/784/ **Lead-and-Copper-Rule-Revision** or scan the QR code.

If you cannot locate your service line or need assistance identifying the pipe material, please do not hesitate to contact us at 763-576-2923. City personnel will come to your residence at no charge and assist in identifying your service line material. Thank you.



Emerald Ash Borer



Emerald Ash Borer beetle

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive and destructive pest that attacks and kills ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.). EAB was confirmed in the city of Anoka in 2021 by the Department of Agriculture.

Three Years Later

Anoka city staff has been actively managing EAB on public property and working with homeowners to manage ash trees on private property. Additionally, the city is required to replace every ash tree removed with a new tree, and residents are encouraged to do the same.

The city strongly encourages residents to reach out to the city tree inspector or other independent tree care professionals to evaluate private ash trees for the potential of treatment or advice on management (as well as other tree or plant pests/diseases).

Community Tree Planting Event

The city has hosted a community tree planting event for the past two years in celebration of Arbor Day and its continued efforts to remain recognized as a Tree City USA for 43 years. These planting events are a great opportunity to learn more about how the city manages urban forest, learn how to correctly plant a tree, and be a part of environmental stewardship alongside other members of the community.

The 2024 Community Tree Planting event will be held on **Wednesday, May 1 from 12 p.m.-4 p.m.** The location is TBD; please follow the city Facebook/Instagram page or anokaminnesota.com for updates. Volunteers are needed. Call Public Services at 763-576-2980 to sign up.

