

CITY OF BURNSVILLE

bulletin

Special Insert – Fall Recreation Times

Burnsville
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Navigating the Burnsville Budget Roadmap

We Want to Hear from You!
Placemaking at Fire Station No. 1

County Highway 42 Visioning Study

Ballot Drop Box Offers Convenient
Option for Voting



Fall
★ 2020

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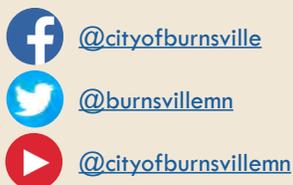
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Burnsville Bulletin:

Questions about the Burnsville Bulletin can be submitted to 952-895-4673 or carissa.larsen@burnsvillemn.gov.



Burnsville City Council:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Elizabeth Kautz | Mayor |
| Dan Gustafson | Council Member |
| Dan Kealey | Council Member |
| Cara Schulz | Council Member |
| Vince Workman | Council Member |

Mayor/City Council Message Center:

952-895-4403

Email:

burnsvillecouncil@burnsvillemn.gov

City Manager:

Melanie Mesko Lee

Cover: City Clerk Macheal Collins stands next to a new ballot drop box at City Hall.

NEW FACES at CITY HALL



Carissa Larsen Promoted to Communications & Community Engagement Director

Even if you haven't met Carissa Larsen in person, you likely already know her. Larsen has been the behind-the-scenes voice of the City, speaking to you through the website, social media, the Burnsville Bulletin, mailings and countless other avenues. She has been an essential part of the City's communication team for nearly eight years, and in June she stepped up to continue to serve the community in a new role as Communications & Community Engagement Director.

"I love Burnsville and am a strong believer in the good work local government does to enhance the community," Larsen said when asked about her favorite part of working for the City. "I want people to know what's available to them, to be able to find resources and share ideas, and to get a behind-the-scenes look at all the hard work City staff does. People should know about the many opportunities the City provides the public to engage in and be part of the process."

Burnsville is committed to finding innovative and convenient ways to connect, interact and celebrate diverse perspectives to best serve all residents. As the Communications & Community Engagement Director, Larsen oversees three key areas to those efforts – communications, multimedia and community engagement.

"Carissa has played a central role in designing and now implementing a plan to modernize our communication practices and prioritize public experience and engagement in the years to come," said Deputy City Manager Gregg Lindberg. "I am excited to work

alongside Carissa as she provides valuable leadership and expertise in our communications and community engagement group and creates great experiences across our community."

Larsen hopes everyone will notice the progress of the City's outreach efforts in the weeks, months and years to come as her team continues to explore new opportunities to best serve you.

"We have a great strategic plan to help us realize Burnsville's vision of a vibrant city, boldly leading and welcoming to all," said Larsen. "The creative minds on our team truly care and that is reflected in everything we do."



Carissa Larsen was promoted to Communications & Community Engagement Director in June.



Homeowner Building Workshop

Whether you're a do-it-yourselfer, or are planning to hire a licensed contractor, this 90-minute workshop will provide tips, tricks and information to help set expectations on home projects. A member of Burnsville's Building and Protective Inspections division will lead the session. The first portion will be a presentation, with time at the end to ask questions about your specific project. Those who attend will be eligible for a \$25 discount on their next building permit.

Topics will include:

- Home remodels, basement finishes, windows and insulation
- Basic plumbing, electrical, HVAC and building code requirements

Who: Burnsville homeowners
When: Wednesday, Oct. 28 • 6:30 – 8 p.m.
Where: Burnsville City Hall, 100 Civic Center Parkway
Cost: FREE



Registration is recommended at www.burnsvillemn.gov/workshop. For more information on Burnsville's building requirements visit www.burnsvillemn.gov/permit or email chris.fast@burnsvillemn.gov.

Native Planting & Pollinator Lawn Virtual Workshop

Interested in exploring landscaping ideas that are low-maintenance and environmentally friendly? In this online workshop, John Stelzner, expert project installer with the Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District, will present on how to transform your yard with native plants. Native plantings lower maintenance costs over time, bring vibrant color to your landscape and support wildlife like pollinators and birds. Pollinator lawns combine grass and low-growing flowers to form a usable, low-maintenance lawn that provides food and habitat for pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Join us to learn about:

- The benefits of native plantings and pollinator lawns
- How to install these projects and cost estimates
- Related City ordinances

Who: Burnsville residents
When: Thursday, Nov. 5 • 6:30 – 8 p.m.
Where: Online • Registrants will receive an email with log-on instructions
Cost: FREE



Resource Conservationist John Stelzner will discuss how easy it is to feature native plantings in your yard.

Register at www.burnsvillemn.gov/nativeplants.

Pumpkin Composting Event

After Halloween has come and gone, don't be haunted by what to do with the old pumpkin. Instead of throwing Mr. Jack-o-Lantern in the trash, residents can drop off their pumpkins during Dakota Valley Recycling's weekend-long compost collection event. The collection will fall on the first weekend after Halloween, so carve out a little time in your schedule and stop on by!

- Who:** Residents of Burnsville, Apple Valley, Eagan and Lakeville
When: Nov. 7 and 8 • Dumpsters will be on-site all day
Where: Burnsville Maintenance Facility, 13713 Frontier Court
Cost: FREE

All candle wax must be removed and painted pumpkins will not be accepted. Pumpkins brought to this drop-off event will be transported to a special organics recycling facility.

*Presented by Dakota Valley Recycling.
Additional collection locations will be available in Apple Valley, Eagan and Lakeville.
Learn more at www.dakotavalleyrecycling.org.*



Winter Lighting Ceremony

Every winter, Burnsville's Heart of the City area shines bright with more than 200,000 mini lights, 230 streetlight snowflakes and a 30-foot-tall tree. This illuminating season always begins with the annual Winter Lighting Ceremony in Nicollet Commons Park.

Ceremony attendees can look forward to a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, listen to musical entertainment from our local schools and witness the "flip of the switch" that lights up Burnsville's downtown through February.

- Who:** All ages
When: Wednesday, Nov. 25 • 6 – 6:45 p.m.
Where: Nicollet Commons Park, 12550 Nicollet Ave.
Free parking is available at the Heart of the City Park and Ride Ramp and Parking Deck
Cost: FREE

The Winter Lighting Ceremony is sponsored and paid for by the Burnsville Community Foundation through generous donations by more than 300 area businesses and residents.

All events are
subject to change.
View the most
up-to-date information at
www.burnsvillemn.gov.





Navigating the Burnsville Budget Road Map

Burnsville’s staff members have hit the ground running and are working their way through the budgeting process. The City’s budget follows the calendar year and is developed throughout the year, beginning in March, for use in the following year. Within the planning process, the budget is broken down into two portions – the Operating Budget and the Capital Budget.



Operating Budget

The Operating Budget supports personnel costs, general operations and annual facility costs such as utility and maintenance expenses. This budget is developed every year and is funded primarily through property taxes along with other sources of income.



Capital Budget

The Capital Budget is part of the Capital Improvements Plan, which covers major city improvements such as roads, buildings and other infrastructure. This budget is funded primarily by state and federal grants.

In short, the Operating Budget pays for day-to-day expenses like employees and facilities, just like you pay for food and gas. And the Capital Budget is used for large scale projects like roads, similar to how you would plan and save up for a vehicle or home purchase.

Managing the Bumps in the Road

We have all experienced some bumps in the road and maybe even some detours in our daily lives due to COVID-19 and the City is no different. Several facilities were closed, events were canceled, and staff were realigned to deal with the effects of the pandemic.

Many of Burnsville's sources of income have been affected. Balancing the budget and being proactive to deal with the current and future effects of COVID-19 are top of mind.

"We are mindful of the impact of COVID-19 has had on our City finances. We have been diligent in looking for ways to qualify for State and Federal funding to offset our expenses so that we can be resilient," says Jennifer Rhode, Burnsville Finance Director. "We want to be proactive so that we can also be a strong supporter of our community in different ways."

Destination Balanced Budget

In June, staff presented the Council with high level preliminary estimates for the 2021 budget. Since then, the finance team along with all department heads have been hard at work refining critical components of the budget.

At the end of August, the staff presented a draft maximum or max tax proposal which is used by the County to send proposed tax statements to property owners in November. The increase in overall market value for 2021 is 5.2%, or \$363,910,000. City Council directed further work on this component in August and September.

Adoption of the max tax levy is required by State Statute and is the maximum amount that may be levied for 2021, and was required to be adopted by the end of September.

After the max tax is adopted, City staff complete the proposed budget to be provided to Council. Following adoption of the max tax, department budget presentations are scheduled for a Council Work Session at the end of October.

The proposed budget is scheduled to be discussed at two November work sessions and adoption of the final levies and budget is scheduled for Dec. 8.



For more information visit www.burnsvillemn.gov/budget

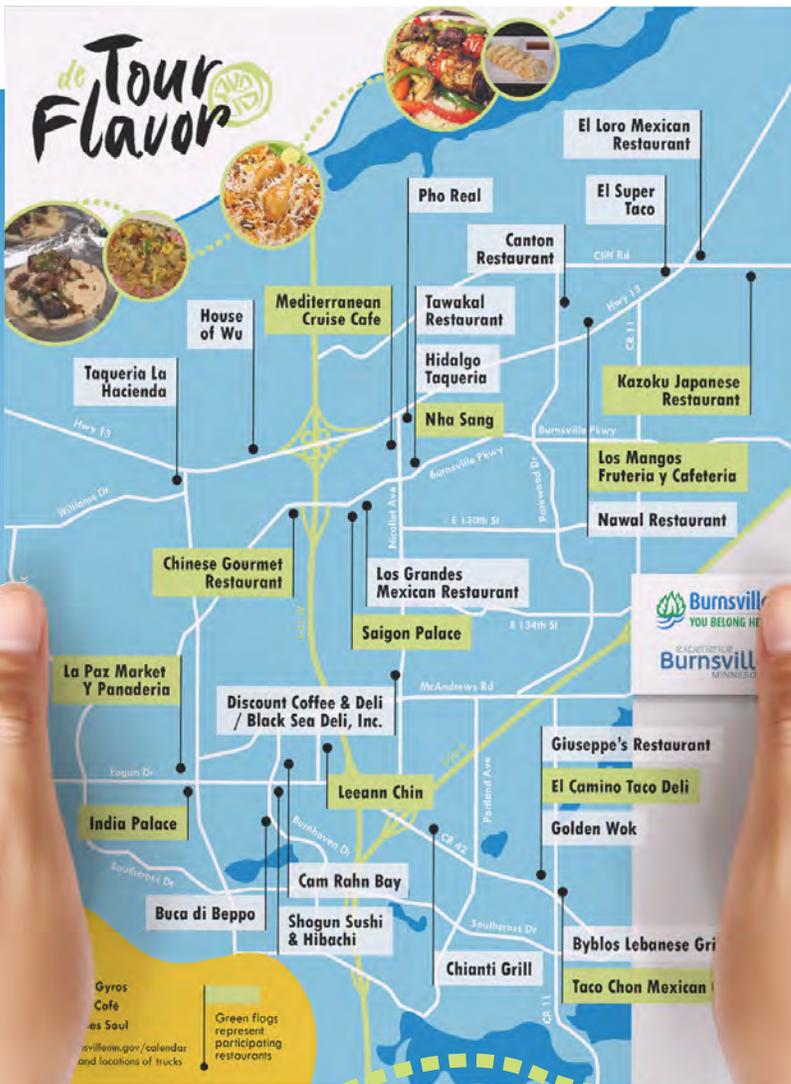
Embracing Local Cuisine with Tour de Flavor

One of the most vibrant aspects of Burnsville is the diversity of our community. The richness of different perspectives and experiences each individual brings helps make our City stronger collectively. This diversity extends to the variety of local cuisine, with ties to places from all over the globe. Due to the cancellation of the International Festival, the City wanted to plan an alternative way to celebrate the cultural diversity in Burnsville as well as highlight all of the local businesses serving up delicious food options within our community.

Tour de Flavor was a fun way for people to support local restaurants, enjoy new (and old) culinary favorites and win prizes all while maintaining social distance guidelines. The event, supported by the City and Experience Burnsville, played on the adventure of traveling and eating around the world without ever leaving Burnsville.

Tour de Flavor travel maps featured interesting tidbits about the cultural food attractions of Burnsville. People were able to use Tour de Flavor passports to make the journey to the different restaurants on the map. People filled out their map and entered it into a drawing for the chance to win prizes. The City randomly choose three people that won gift cards to local eateries, Experience Burnsville prizes, and You Belong Here swag.

Based on the response, the City and Experience Burnsville will be considering something similar next year, but you don't have to wait until next year to support local businesses and "travel" the globe. Check out the amazing restaurants on your next night out or order in.



Burnsville Athletics Take Center Stage on BCTV's South Suburban Spotlight

Whether it's a State-qualifying team, an exceptional individual athlete or a fascinating off-the-field story, scarcely a year goes by when the Burnsville Blaze athletic department isn't in the headlines.

The City of Burnsville believes these accomplishments should be celebrated. That's why Burnsville Community Television (BCTV) produces South Suburban Spotlight. This show offers a deeper look into the lives of Burnsville coaches and athletes.

South Suburban Spotlight is a half-hour interview-style show produced in the BCTV studios at Burnsville High School. Airing quarterly, the program's host Sam Ekstrom sits down with notable figures from the latest season in Blaze athletics to find out what fuels them on the field, and what makes them tick off the field. The show also serves as a useful resource for coaches and athletes to promote their programs.



South Suburban host Sam Ekstrom (right) interviews former BHS athlete Sean Floersch.

Since the show's inception in 2016, Ekstrom has interviewed approximately 50 local sports figures, including Kamal Martin and Sam Carlson. Martin, the former Burnsville quarterback, was drafted by the Green Bay Packers. Carlson, a former Blaze pitcher, was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in 2017.

South Suburban Spotlight has had the privilege of documenting State Tournament appearances by numerous Blaze teams, including football, boys' and girls' hockey, boys' soccer and baseball. A recent interview with Section Champion girls' hockey team members Avery Sawchuk and Zoe Chadwick was conducted virtually over Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reporter Bree Meier joined the show in 2018 to produce feature stories off the beaten path. Meier focused on activities like boys' volleyball, badminton and a community bean bag league.

Occasionally, South Suburban Spotlight has dived into more serious topics. Former basketball coach Matt Eppen joined the show in 2018 to discuss his successful battle against cancer, and football star Marcus Shepley appeared in 2017 to talk about wearing the jersey of a former teammate who had tragically passed away before the season began.

South Suburban Spotlight offers a platform for athletes and coaches to share their voice in a comfortable, long-form setting. The show allows members of the community to get a closer glimpse at the players for whom they're cheering and the coaches that are educating the next generation of athletes.



South Suburban Spotlight is broadcast on BCTV channel 14, high-definition channel 799 and published on the City of Burnsville's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/cityofburnsvillemn.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



MUELLER STUDIO

ISG

Share your thoughts and ideas for the Creative Placemaking gathering space at Fire Station No. 1!



 www.burnsvillemn.gov/firebuild

Scan the code or visit the link to learn about the project, voice your opinion and be entered to win a You Belong Here gift pack!



HERE'S WHAT YOU'VE SHARED SO FAR!

MINDFUL
GREEN SPACES
QUIET
FEEL AT HOME
TRUST
WATERFALL
COMMUNITY
TREES
SAFE
PEACEFUL
TEAMWORK
RUNNING WATER
JOY
LOVE
SAFETY
HARMONY
OPEN
NATURAL
PEACEFULNESS

Creative Placemaking is the process of collaborating with those that care about and use a place to guide its creation in a way that reflects and enhances the cultural life of the community. Engagement is a critical component to any authentic and successful creative placemaking effort.

BURNSVILLE SONG CONTEST

And the Winner is...

Thumbing through the Burnsville Bulletin magazine, Shannon Honken paused on an advertisement for a song contest. Her husband, Ben, writes songs for his family all the time. Maybe he would be interested in this. Although Ben is a software engineer, a corner of their home office is devoted to making music. Shannon made a note of the contest, but then actually forgot about it until the day before the song entries were due.

The song contest Shannon had seen was launched by the City of Burnsville as a way for local musicians and vocal artists to create original songs with a Burnsville theme. The lyrics of each submission required the name “Burnsville” and the phrase “You Belong Here.” The goal of the contest was to highlight local talent as well as foster community pride through creativity. The winners received a \$500 prize courtesy of the City of Burnsville, and an opportunity to make a free professional recording of their song at THE GARAGE in Burnsville. The runner-up entries received \$100 prizes.



The Honken family are the winners of Burnsville’s “You Belong Here” song contest.

The couple, who moved from a small house in Minneapolis to a more spacious place in Burnsville to raise their family, has fallen in love with the community so writing about it was easy. “I love Burnsville. I really love our neighbors and neighborhood. I just wrote what was in my heart and that turned into the chorus,” said Shannon. Her husband joined in and together they wrote and recorded what would become the winning song.

“Our recorder wasn’t working so we had to improvise and use a condensing mic and recording interface to capture our song,” said Ben. “But I think it turned out all right.”

More than all right, the song made it through three rounds of judging and a tie breaking vote to beat out the other contestants. “We are still figuring out how we will use the prize money. We may spend it on home improvements, or it would be nice to put some of it back in Ben’s music equipment,” said Shannon. “Whatever we do, we want to give a portion of it back to the community. There are some organizations that we believe in and would like to help out.”

The couple is working with the City and GARAGE to set up a time to professionally record their winning song. “We are really excited to hear their recording,” said Regina Dean, Assistant Community Development Director. “There were some really great submissions. Ben and Shannon wrote a song that truly captured the essence of our welcoming community. We are excited to share their song over the coming year.”

Watch (or listen!) for the Honken’s song during City celebrations and events. In the meantime, the song audio can be accessed by going to www.burnsvillemn.gov/youbelong.



Reimagining Recreation with ‘Virtual’ Programming

How do you stay connected through physical activity and community programs while also maintaining healthy distances? Burnsville’s Recreation Department has been doing things differently this year when it comes to programs and events due to the challenges brought by COVID-19. Though several of the department’s traditional programs had to be canceled, the Recreation team was determined to find ways to bring their services to the community with a new, socially distanced twist.

Early last spring, the Recreation Department launched Rec Vacation – a series of programming that included a ParkFinder contest, nature bingo, virtual Thursday Rockin’ Lunch Hour concerts and more. The new programs built upon popular in-person programs like nature walks and concerts in the park while also encouraging people to stay active.



In May, staff developed the “AnyWay 5K” to give people the opportunity to get outdoors and explore the parks and trails in Burnsville. The at-your-pace race allowed community members to walk, run, stroll or roll any 5K route.

“When we came up with the idea to hold a virtual 5K, there were not a lot of programming opportunities to explore, due to the pandemic,” said Recreation Programmer Scott Heitkamp. “We were hoping to get 30 people in the community to participate in the 5K event, and we ended up with 85 participants. Plus, those who registered got a sweet shirt for completing the 5K!”

Virtual events proved to be a big success, but staff were excited to find ways to see the community in person so as health guidelines evolved Recreation began planning drive-up events. “Drive Thru for a Difference” offered an opportunity for the public to meet local superheroes from Police, Fire and Public Works. More than 90 vehicles participated in this reverse-style parade that allowed the community to view the vehicles City staff use in their daily work, and take photos with City mascots from the comfort of their car. Recreation partnered with ISD191 and 360 Communities to collect non-perishable food items that were later donated to local families in need.

It just wouldn’t be a Burnsville summer without movies in the park so staff brushed off the tried and true tradition of drive-in movies. On multiple dates throughout the summer, movies were shown on a big screen in the Burnsville Ice Center parking lot – allowing people to experience this warm-weather pastime of watching a movie from the comfort of their car. People in more than 100 vehicles attended each movie.

“Our hope for the summer was to find ways to engage the community by offering safe, fun and family-friendly programs. Events such as the Drive-In Movies and Virtual Rockin’ Lunch Hour created opportunities for individuals and families to connect with the community and each other,” said Recreation Programmer Amber Jacobson.

“It was wonderful to see people having fun and enjoying the summer at these events!”



The parking lot between the Burnsville Ice Center and Burnsville Lions Skate Park provided the perfect place for drive-in movies.

Recreation staff are planning a variety of new virtual and in-person programs and events, and staff look forward to continuing to connect with the community.

Watch for announcements on new events at www.burnsvillemn.gov/recreation or follow the City of Burnsville on Facebook and Twitter.

CITY OF BURNSVILLE

recreation

TIMES

Fall/Winter Programs 2020/2021

Registration is now open for many of Burnsville's fall and winter recreation programs!

Register at www.burnsvillemn.gov/recreation, by phone at 952-895-4500 or at Burnsville City Hall, 100 Civic Center Parkway.

Happy Halloween!

Halloween Fest On The Go!

Ages: All ages – costumes encouraged!

Lac Lavon Park, 15501 Lac Lavon Drive

NEW LOCATION

Boys and ghouls all of ages are invited to this family-friendly event that includes a drive-thru illuminated trick-or-treat trail.

- Date: Friday, Oct. 30
Time: 5:30 – 7 p.m. (session one)
7 – 8:30 p.m. (session two)
Cost: \$10 per vehicle

Pre-registration is required at
www.burnsvillemn.gov/recreation.



Events & Activities



Fall Photo Contest

Ages: All ages

Multiple parks

Head outside to explore the beautiful fall season in Burnsville's parks as part of the Parks Scavenger Hunt – Fall Edition! Get outside and enjoy all that Burnsville parks have to offer during this scenic time of year. Choose two of the parks listed below and take a selfie in front of one of the amenities at each location. Winners receive will gift cards to Burnsville restaurants.

- Alimagnet
- Cedarbridge
- Cliff Fen
- Crystal Beach
- Crystal Lake West
- Lac Lavon
- Neill
- Nicollet Commons Park
- North River Hills
- Paha Sapa
- Red Oak
- Rudy Kraemer
- Sue Fischer
- Sunset Pond
- Terrace Oaks East
- Terrace Oaks West
- Vista View
- Wolk

Date: Oct. 1 – 31

Cost: FREE

Photo Submission Deadline:

Saturday, Oct. 31

View contest details at www.burnsvillemn.gov/fallcolors.

**While participating in this contest, please practice appropriate social distancing and be safe while outside.*

Grandparents and Me Pop-Up Party

Ages: 5 – 10

Neill Park, 13501 Upton Avenue

Drive through Neill Park where Recreation staff will greet you with a bag full of goodies to show your appreciation for your grandparents. Goodie bags will include coloring pages, activities and letters to send your grandparents.

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 17

Time: 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
or while supplies last

Cost: FREE



Winter Nature Bingo

Ages: 6 – 12

Multiple parks

Grab a Winter Nature Bingo sheet, bundle up, head outside and see if you can get BINGO while exploring parks and trails.

Date: Begins Dec. 1

Cost: FREE

Download the Nature Bingo sheet at www.burnsvillemn.gov/recreation.

Explore virtual winter activities,
cross country skiing,
outdoor skating and more at
www.burnsvillemn.gov/recreation.

Athletic Programs

Birnamwood Golf Course Fall Rates

Birnamwood Golf Course, 12424 Parkwood Drive
952-641-1370 • www.birnamwoodgolfcourse.com

Stay in the swing of things with great fall rates through the remainder of the season.

	Fall Rate	Regular Rate
Weekends:	\$12.50	\$15.50
Monday – Thursday:	\$11.75	\$14.75
Youth and Seniors (Monday – Thursday):	\$10.50	\$12.50



Winter Indoor Bean Bag Leagues

Ages: 18+ • www.burnsvillemn.gov/beanbags

Join the fun with this classic yard game...indoors! Teams will compete in a doubleheader league for a chance to take first place. Teams may be split into Competitive and Recreational Divisions depending on number and skill level of registered teams. All teams will be involved in postseason playoffs.

Cost:

\$70 per team (2 players; any gender combination)

Important Dates:

Registration Begins: Nov. 2 – Dec. 2 or until filled
League Play (Wednesdays): Dec. 9 – Feb. 3 (no games Dec. 23 and 30)

Winter Indoor Volleyball

Ages: 18+ • www.burnsvillemn.gov/volleyball

Gather your friends and join this self-monitored, doubleheader league. Co-Rec teams play for good times, good health and end-of-season awards. All teams will be involved in postseason playoffs.

Cost:

\$145 per team (6-8 players)

Important Dates:

Registration: Nov. 30 – Jan. 1 or until filled
League Play (Mondays): Jan. 11 – March 8 (no games Jan. 18)

Adult Broomball Leagues

Ages: 18+ • www.burnsvillemn.gov/broomball

Looking for a fun activity to get outside during those long winter months? Look no further than Burnsville's Adult Broomball Leagues! Burnsville offers both Men's Doubleheader Leagues and Co-Rec Single-Header Leagues.

Cost:

Men's: \$360 per team
Co-Rec: \$260 per team

Important Dates:

Registration: Nov. 9 – Dec. 18 or until filled
Men's League Play (Sunday or Monday): Jan. 3/4 – Feb. 7/8
Co-Rec League Play (Fridays): Jan. 8 – Feb. 12

Burnsville Ice Center Skating & Hockey

Burnsville Ice Center, 251 Civic Center Parkway • 952-895-4651 • www.burnsvilleicecenter.org

****Times below are subject to change, especially during holidays. Please call ahead.****

Indoor Public Skating

Open ice for recreational skaters. Registration is required.

School Year Hours

Sunday & Wednesday: Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Prices

Admission: \$5 per person

Skate Rental: \$5 per pair

Stick & Puck Sessions

Open ice for hockey skaters ages 3+. Work on skills, drills and stick handling. Full equipment required for ages 17 and under. Helmets required for ages 18+ Scrimmages, games and lessons are not allowed. Registration is required.

School Year Hours

Wednesday & Friday: 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Prices

Admission: \$5 for all ages

Developmental Hockey

Hockey skaters ages 3+ can work on skills and drills through private lessons with an instructor (skaters provide their own instructors). On-ice supervision and full equipment is required for skaters ages 17 or younger. Helmets are required for skaters ages 18+. Instructor must call ahead for availability and present a COVID-19 plan.

School Year Hours

Monday – Friday: 6 – 7 a.m. and 7:15 – 8:15 a.m.

Prices

Admission: \$12 per skater (FREE for instructors)

18+ Adult Open Hockey

Sessions are limited to the first 20 players and three goalies. Helmets are required. Registration is also required.

School Year Hours

Tuesday & Friday: 8:30 – 10 a.m.

Sunday: 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Prices

Admission: \$7 per person • Goalies are free



Winter 'Learn to Skate' Lessons

Lessons for skaters of all skill levels ages 3+ – beginner to advanced – in hockey, figure skating and skating basics.

Date: Lessons begin Wednesday, Jan. 13 (session is tentative)

Cost: Prices vary per class (skate rental is included)

Registration Opens: Mid-December

Let's Skate, Burnsville!



Winter in Minnesota brings many opportunities for outdoor recreation, and Burnsville parks have you covered when you want to get outside. Burnsville has 13 park locations that offer outdoor skating rinks, and warming houses are located at 12 sites.

- Civic Center
- Highland Forest Park
- Knob Hill Park
- Neill Park
- North River Hills Park
- Northview Park
- Paha Sapa Park
- Red Oak Park
- South River Hills
- Terrace Oaks Park
- Timberland Knolls Park
- Vista View Park
- West Buck Hill (no warming house)

Weather permitting, Burnsville's outdoor ice rinks and warming houses are open from mid-December through mid-February.

View rink locations, warming house hours and closure notices at www.burnsvillemn.gov/rinks.

Give the Gift of Memories with the Burnsville Community Foundation

Honor a holiday, graduation, birth, wedding, significant accomplishment or the passing of a loved one with a unique gift that gives back to your community. Purchase an engraved sidewalk paver in Nicollet Commons Park or sponsor a bench in any City park. You will receive a gift certificate to present to your honoree that can be redeemed next spring for installation.

Since 1998, the Burnsville Community Foundation has sponsored, commissioned and completed many meaningful public art projects and community amenities in Burnsville.

Get details on purchasing sidewalk pavers and sponsoring park benches at www.burnsvillecommunityfoundation.org/programs.html.



Keep in Step w

Mailboxes

FIX LOOSE OR ROTTED MAILBOX PIECES

A mailbox must be able to withstand plowed snow pushed against the post.



Make Sure Your Mailbox Meets Height Requirements

Mailboxes should be 41 – 45 inches from the top of the curb to allow room for the plow to pass underneath it.

Be in the Know about Snow

KEEP STREETS CLEAR FOR PLOWS

On-street parking is prohibited from 2 – 6 a.m. year-round (without a permit), or after a two-inch snowfall, regardless of time of day.

KEEP GARBAGE AND RECYCLING BEHIND THE CURB

Snowplows can't push snow to the curb when bins are left in the street. Keep the bins in your driveway for better snow removal.

DO NOT PUSH SNOW ACROSS SIDEWALKS AND ROADWAYS

Plowing snow into roads can create drainage issues, slippery patches, ice bumps and more. Also, it's the law. Minnesota State Statute prohibits this practice.

With Winter Prep

Property Prep

TRIM TREES AND SHRUBS

Trees or shrubs hanging over sidewalks should be trimmed to allow at least 12 feet of overhead clearance for snowplow access.

CLEAR NEARBY STORM DRAINS

Leaves can clog storm drains and cause street flooding, as well as negatively impact local waterbodies.

MARK CURBS AND SIDEWALKS

Yard markers help snowplow drivers identify curb boundaries. Markers may be available from the Maintenance Center. Please call 952-895-4550 for availability.

Safety Alert!

TUNNELING IN SNOWBANKS IS DANGEROUS

For their safety, children should be instructed to **NOT** play on these banks or make tunnels in them. Between snowfalls, the City may remove excess snow from the roadsides using large equipment. This would pose a grave danger to any kids who may be burrowed into snowbanks.



DON'T CROWD THE PLOW

Snowplows plow far and wide-sometimes very wide. The front plow extends several feet in front of the truck and may cross the centerline and shoulders during plowing.



Adopt a Hydrant

CHECK FIRE HYDRANTS

Residents are encouraged to "Adopt-A-Hydrant," and shovel a three-foot-wide path around and to the hydrant. This provides firefighters quick access to water if there happens to be a fire.



Surface Water Quality Update 2020

Water Quality Fees: Hard at Work

The water quality fee on water bills supports surface water quality monitoring and improvement projects such as storm pond cleanout and removal of invasive plants in lakes.

Stormwater Study Completed

In 2019, the City of Burnsville and engineering consultant AE2S began a Stormwater System Modeling and Analysis Study to help determine areas within Burnsville's storm sewer and drainage system that may need updating, and to identify potential problem areas.

The first step was to update to a new, more detailed citywide storm sewer model. With the new model in place, the project team has completed a resiliency study to determine areas where flooding is likely to occur, analyze the risks associated if no improvements are made and explore potential future improvements. Additionally, a lake level review was completed for the chain of lakes from Keller Lake north to the Minnesota River.

The study wrapped up this fall with a list of potential improvements that the City can integrate into the Capital Improvement Program. The first project, which is already in preliminary design, is the Twin Lakes Drainage Improvement project which kicked off following completion of the study and will be constructed during the summer and fall of 2021.

For more information, visit www.burnsvillemn.gov/stormwaterstudy.



The drainage of Burnsville lakes – shown here flowing from Keller Lake to the Minnesota River – was reviewed along with lake levels in the recent stormwater study.



Grant Program Helps Residents Fund Water Quality Projects

Residents can receive financial assistance to turn their landscaping dream into a reality. Projects that improve water quality, like installing a natural shoreline or rain garden, are eligible through the Burnsville Neighborhood Water Resources Enhancement Grant program. Applications are due in early May of each year. More information can be found at www.burnsvillemn.gov/WQgrant.

Past recipients have loved the process of designing, creating, and watching their gardens flourish. What is your vision? Consider applying for the 2021 grant cycle!

From Turf to Prairie at Water Treatment Plant



Dan Giles stands in the thriving native planting area at the City's Water Treatment Plant.

In 2015, Dan Giles – one of the City's Water Department staff – noticed that nearly one acre of open space adjacent to the City's Water Treatment Plant was being mowed by City staff, but unlike City parks where turf is mowed so people can gather and play this area was infrequently used. So Giles had an idea: perhaps this piece of land could be repurposed to save on maintenance costs and increase the plot's environmental benefits

Giles was inspired by the beauty of native prairies in the Twin Cities and approached other City staff with the idea to convert the area next to the Water Treatment Plant to a native planting site. The project was installed within a year and is now bustling with blooms, birds and bees.

Native plantings can be incorporated into parks and even residential yards. Turf or other kinds of open space can be converted to a prairie or meadow, and the native plants provide habitat for wildlife including birds, small mammals and pollinating insects. Native plants are great for water quality too – their deep roots soak in water better than turf grass which leads to less runoff into the stormwater system. Turf-to-prairie conversions also provide vibrant colors during the growing season, wildlife viewing opportunities and a reduction in maintenance time and costs.

"Turf conversions provide great value to an area," remarked Giles. "It makes sense to restore a site to its natural state so that it provides environmental value, especially when the change reduces costs. We see more wildlife at the site now too so we know it's providing important resources for pollinators and others in this suburban environment."

Learn how you can incorporate native plantings into your yard at our upcoming workshop (see page 4 for details).



Nature Notes: Coyotes in Burnsville

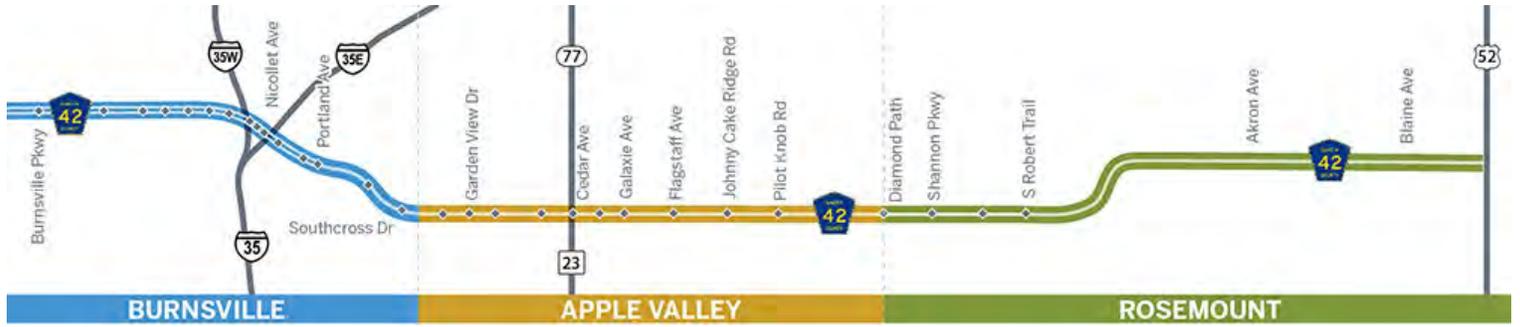
Coyotes have been moving into many metro suburbs and adapting to living in close proximity to people for the last 20 years. Coyotes are present in Burnsville year-round but sightings increase in fall due to increased visibility after leaf drop. These sightings generally occur near natural areas but coyotes may be seen almost anywhere in town. Conflicts are rare, but there are precautions you can take to avoid issues with coyotes:

- Do not feed coyotes. Secure potential outdoor food sources such as compost bins, garbage cans or pet food bowls. Coyotes are opportunistic and will eat a range of food but primarily feed on rabbits, mice, birds and fruit
- If you see a coyote, "haze" it by making a lot of noise and acting intimidating to scare it off. This keeps them from becoming too comfortable with people
- Keep cats indoors, and keep an eye on small dogs in your yard – especially if you live near a natural area
- Keep dogs on a leash when walking in parks



For more information on coyotes in developed areas, visit www.burnsvillemn.gov/coyote.

County Highway 42 Visioning Study



Dakota County is working with the Cities of Burnsville, Apple Valley and Rosemount to develop an updated vision for County Highway 42. How do you use or experience Highway 42, and what types of issues or projects would you like considered?

The Visioning Study will be underway throughout the next year and will identify and address needs for all travel modes – motorists, bus riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Your participation will help set priorities for Highway 42 projects, both short- and long-term. Please connect to learn more!

Learn more and participate in the study. Visit www.co.dakota.mn.us and search for “county highway 42 visioning study” or contact Dakota County’s Project Manager, Doug Abere, at doug.abere@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7101.

See What’s Building in Burnsville

Burnsville Development Projects
Explore development projects proposed, approved, under construction and completed. Click on the map symbols or thumbnail pictures to see project details.

Proposed Approved **Under Construction** Completed

Watching a new building going up can be an exciting mystery – will it be a new restaurant? High-fashion boutique? Or maybe an apartment building to welcome new families to the neighborhood? If you just can’t stand the suspense any longer you can satisfy your curiosity by checking Burnsville’s Development Project Finder.

The interactive map allows you to explore proposed, approved, under construction and completed development and redevelopment projects happening around the city.

View the Development Project Finder at www.burnsvillemn.gov/business.

Welcome to These New Burnsville Businesses

- Boga Balloons
- Buck '54 Bar & Grill
- Gallery on Parkway
- Ineffable Brewing
- Kwik Trip
- North Imports Auto Sales
- T & J Restaurant
- TC Auto Spot
- Transit Team



If you have a new business in Burnsville contact Assistant Community Development Director Regina Dean at 952-895-4453 or regina.dean@burnsvillemn.gov to schedule a welcome visit.

Burnsville CARES Business Grant Program



Burnsville City Council members and staff presented a CARES Business Grant check to JL Beers – a locally owned franchise offering an extensive craft beer and burger menu – on Sept. 24.

Burnsville is a **vibrant** city, **boldly** leading and **welcoming** to all.

Supporting local businesses is key to the community’s vision and success – especially through financial burdens that may have arisen due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. The City received \$4.7 million in federal CARES funding, and an initial \$1 million was set aside for the Burnsville CARES Business Grant Program. This City-driven program allowed for-profit businesses of any type and size with a physical presence in Burnsville to access assistance up to \$20,000 to cover Covid-19 expenses.

The Burnsville CARES Business Grant Program received 161 applications, and 127 of those were deemed eligible for funding. After the successful grant application process came to a close in August, a lottery selected 57 Burnsville businesses to receive Burnsville CARES grant funding. At the time of print, the Burnsville City Council is considering ways to fully fund all 127 eligible requests.

“We want local businesses to thrive and continue to serve the community,” said Community Development Director Jenni Faulkner. “We are hopeful that the successful implementation of these grant programs will help fill financial gaps and provide relief to many of the businesses that call Burnsville home.”

The Burnsville CARES Business Grant Program is an important way for the City of Burnsville to let local businesses know that they are an important part of our community, and that they belong in Burnsville!



Burnsville City Council members and staff presented a CARES Business Grant check to Camp Bow Wow – a locally owned premier doggie daycare and boarding facility – on Sept. 24.

161
Applications received
by Burnsville CARES
Business Grant Program

2020 ELECTIONS

Election Day is Nov. 3

In addition to state and national races, Burnsville residents will elect a Mayor and two City Council members in the upcoming General Election. The candidates elected for Mayor and City Council will serve four-year terms beginning January 2021.

Running for Mayor – one open seat Running for City Council – two open seats

- Elizabeth Kautz (*incumbent*)
- Chris Klavetter
- Dan Gustafson (*incumbent*)
- Cara Schulz (*incumbent*)

Voting In-Person on Election Day

Polls will be open at all Burnsville precincts from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Some polling locations are new this year so voters are encouraged to find their polling place by viewing the map on page 21 or visiting www.mnvotes.org.

Voting by Mail

Any Minnesota voter may apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to them – no reason needs to be given and the voter is not required to be out of their precinct on Election Day. There are only a few steps to voting by mail:

- Request an absentee ballot at www.mnvotes.org
- Once you have your ballot, carefully read the included instructions on how to complete the ballot
- Due to COVID-19, registered voters are not required to have a witness sign their ballot. Non-registered voters will still need a witness to indicate their proof of residence
- Absentee ballots can be returned by mail or dropped off at Burnsville City Hall, and will be opened and counted within two weeks prior to Election Day

Normally, mailed-in absentee ballots must be received by Election Day; however, due to COVID-19, ballots that postmarked by Election Day and received by Tuesday, Nov. 10 will be counted. In-person delivery of ballots must be received at Burnsville City Hall by 3 p.m. on Election Day.

Voting Early In-Person

To vote in-person prior to Election Day, residents can apply in-person at City Hall and vote right away or take their ballot with them. Beginning Tuesday, Oct 27, residents can vote using In-Person Direct Balloting where voters receive a ballot and place it directly into the voting machine to be counted immediately. All other absentee ballots will be opened and counted starting two weeks prior to Election Day.

Voters can learn more – and even view a sample ballot – from the Minnesota Secretary of State at www.mnvotes.org or from the Burnsville City Clerk at www.burnsvillemn.gov/elections.

Important Dates

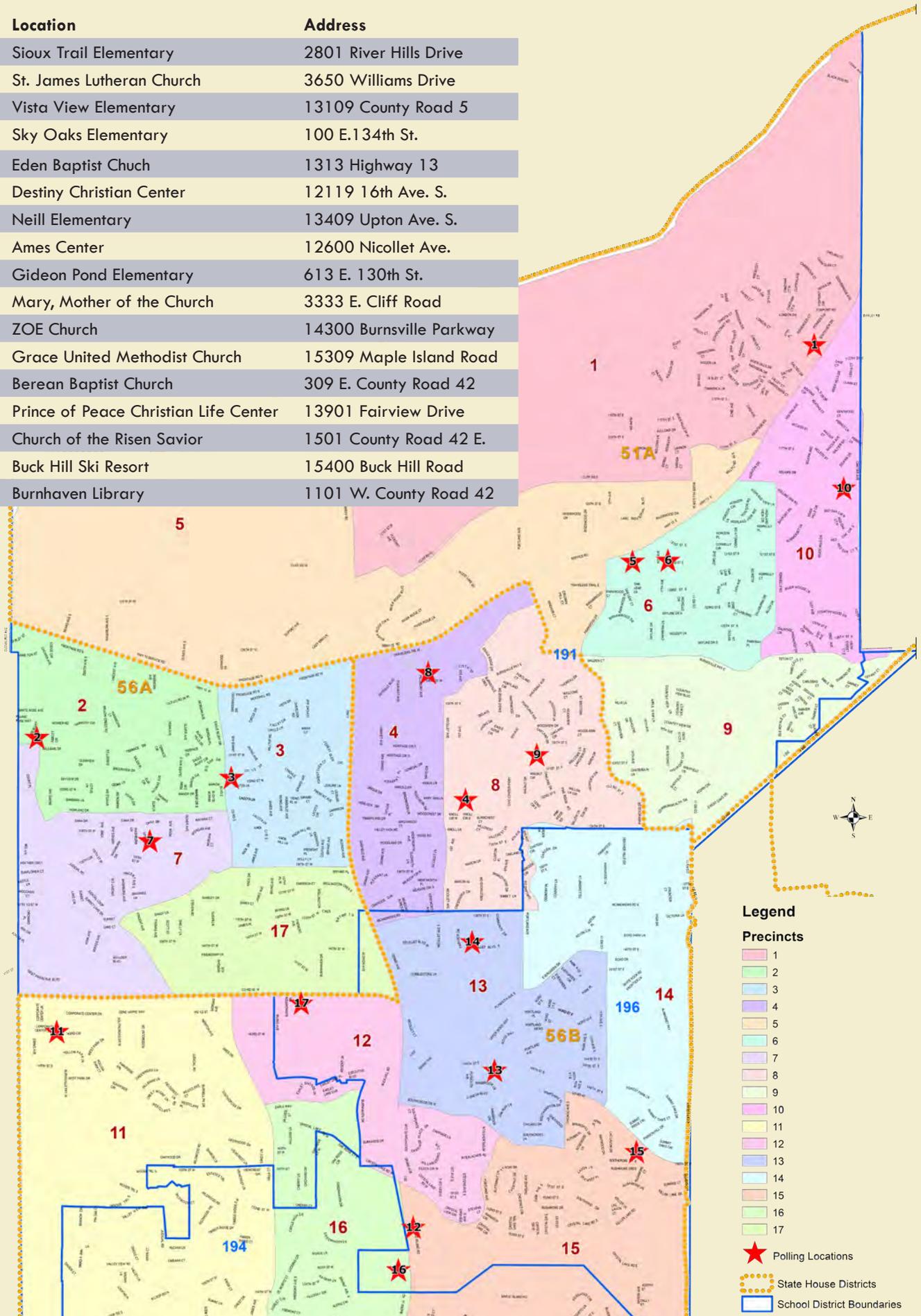
General Election

- Absentee Voting:
Sept. 18 – Nov. 2
- In-Person Direct Balloting:
Oct. 27 – Nov. 2
- General Election Day:
Nov. 3

Additional election
information
on pages
22 – 23

2020 Precinct Map with State House Districts

Precinct	Location	Address
1	Sioux Trail Elementary	2801 River Hills Drive
2	St. James Lutheran Church	3650 Williams Drive
3	Vista View Elementary	13109 County Road 5
4	Sky Oaks Elementary	100 E.134th St.
5	Eden Baptist Church	1313 Highway 13
6	Destiny Christian Center	12119 16th Ave. S.
7	Neill Elementary	13409 Upton Ave. S.
8	Ames Center	12600 Nicollet Ave.
9	Gideon Pond Elementary	613 E. 130th St.
10	Mary, Mother of the Church	3333 E. Cliff Road
11	ZOE Church	14300 Burnsville Parkway
12	Grace United Methodist Church	15309 Maple Island Road
13	Berean Baptist Church	309 E. County Road 42
14	Prince of Peace Christian Life Center	13901 Fairview Drive
15	Church of the Risen Savior	1501 County Road 42 E.
16	Buck Hill Ski Resort	15400 Buck Hill Road
17	Burnhaven Library	1101 W. County Road 42



The Last Word

Ballot Drop Box Offers Convenient Option for Voting



Memories of long voting lines at the last general election have caused concern with many of this year's voters. Earlier this summer, Burnsville City Clerk Macheal Collins took on the task to find a creative solution to reduce traffic at polling sites for the health and safety of the community's voters and election judges.

Through her research, Collins came across a Twin Cities company that builds specially-designed drop boxes that can be used to collect absentee ballots. She knew that the addition of the drop box in Burnsville would provide 24/7 convenience to the growing numbers of residents who vote absentee.

While voters have the option to mail in their absentee ballots, vote early in-person or vote on Election Day, absentee voting has become more popular this year than in years past. In August's primary, 5,355 absentee ballots were submitted in Burnsville – accounting for 60 percent of the ballots cast in Burnsville for the 2020 primary.

City Clerk Macheal Collins purchased the ballot drop box in order to make voting easier for everyone in Burnsville.

"The drop box was well received during its first use in the August primary," said Collins. "We would collect all of the ballots at the end of every day and by the next morning we'd have 20 or more ballots in the box!"



Is my ballot safe in the drop box?

Absolutely! The box itself is bolted into concrete, watched by two security cameras and the drop slot is sized to fit only the ballot, eliminating the potential of tampering. The box requires two separate keys to open. Two City employees empty the drop box at least once per day, Monday through Friday.

"Surprisingly, we are one of the first cities in the area to use a drop box to collect absentee ballots," shared Collins. "The box allows our voters to drop off ballots at their convenience and it will inevitably shorten lines and waiting time on Election Day."



How is my ballot counted after I've deposited it in the box?

Ballots deposited into the drop box will be processed using the same procedure as mail-in ballots. Each is date stamped and its barcode is scanned into the state voter registration system.

They are then sorted by precinct and an absentee ballot board is convened to accept or reject the ballots. Ballots may be rejected if a voter doesn't complete all the necessary information or provides inaccurate information on the return envelope. The ballot status is then recorded into system. At no time is the ballot envelope opened during this beginning process.

If rejected, a new ballot will be mailed to the voter explaining what was wrong and how to fix it. The voter can then fill out the new ballot and resubmit it for their vote to be counted. If a ballot is rejected and voters decide they don't want to (or don't have time to) submit another absentee ballot, they can go to their normal precinct on Election Day and vote in person.



The drop box is designed to accept only ballot-sized envelopes in order to prevent potential tampering of the box.

“As long as we haven’t processed and counted your absentee ballot you can still vote in person,” explained Collins.

Once a ballot is accepted, the board members update your voter record and the master voter roster to reflect that your ballot has been accepted and that you have voted absentee. The ballots are then run through a vote-counting machine and results are reported when polls close on election night.

“We start opening and counting absentee ballots about two weeks before Election Day,” explained Collins. “It takes a large team of volunteer election judges to help us process everything.”



Why should I consider voting absentee and using the drop box?

Convenience and safety are two big reasons. Collins heard concerns from the community about the safety of traditional voting during the pandemic. The drop box provides an extra layer of protection for everyone’s health since voters do not have to step foot into a polling place. The absentee process also allows voters to cast their vote prior to Election Day whenever it’s convenient for them – no matter if you’re concerned with long lines, wait times, social distancing policies, conflicts in your schedule or you just prefer to vote early.

“We are getting a lot of praise from residents,” Collins said. “With all of the uncertainty we are facing right now, absentee voting and the ballot drop box provides individuals another way to choose what works best for them when it comes to personal safety and voting.”

Will the ballot drop box be used in future elections?

Collins and the rest of the elections team will assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the drop box after this election season, but there’s a good chance that those who prefer the convenience of dropping a ballot off any time will be able to continue to do so in the future.

“I think we will find that the drop box was a positive voting experience for voters, and we want the public to continue to have positive, efficient voting experiences in future elections regardless of a pandemic,” said Collins.

The drop box is located in front of Burnsville City Hall, 100 Civic Center Parkway. It can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week until Tuesday, Nov. 3 (Election Day) at 3 p.m.

Absentee voting is available to every Minnesota voter – absence from your precinct on Election Day is not required. Request an absentee ballot at www.mnvotes.org.



Ballots are collected by City staff each day so that ballots can be safely stored before being counted.

Did You Know?

You can check the status of your absentee ballot using the “Where’s my Ballot” feature on the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at www.mnvotes.org.



City of Burnsville
Burnsville Bulletin

100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, MN 55337-3817

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Volunteer with the City of Burnsville!

Find Your Fit

The City of Burnsville provides a wide variety of volunteer opportunities and experiences for people of all ages and expertise. Whether you want to meet new people, gain new skills or help your community, there are volunteer opportunities for you.

*Volunteering not
only helps your
community...
it can benefit you!*



Opportunities Include...

- Administration
- Burnsville Community Television
- Inspections
- Natural Resources
- Mobile Volunteer Network
- Parks, Recreation & Facilities
- Public Safety
- And more!

Get Started at burnsvillemn.gov/volunteer