

CITY OF BURNSVILLE

bulletin



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Start a Neighborhood Organization**



Summer 2025

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Burnsville Bulletin

Questions about the Burnsville Bulletin can be submitted to 952-895-4400 or info@burnsvillemn.gov.

Cover: We broke ground on the Police City Hall Project during a community celebration on May 22, 2025.

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

Gregg Lindberg



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@burnsvillemn



@cityofburnsvillemn

Free **SUMMER** Events



PARTY ON THE PLAZA

*Nicollet Commons Park
July 10 and Aug. 14
5 - 9 p.m.*

Join us at our ultimate summer celebration! We'll have live entertainment, food trucks, community booths, craft vendors, games and more.



ROCKIN' LUNCH HOUR

*Nicollet Commons Park
Thursdays
Noon - 1 p.m.*

Kids will have a rockin' good time with live bands catering to younger audiences. For the full schedule, visit burnsvillemn.gov/events



FLICKS ON THE BRICKS

*Nicollet Commons Park
Seating at 7 p.m.
Movies begin at dusk*

Join us for a summer of classic movies in the park:

June 20 - Moana 2
July 25 - Inside Out 2
August 8 - Sonic 3



THE LITTLE MERMAID JR.

*Nicollet Commons Park
Thursday, August 7
Noon - 1 p.m.*

Dive under the sea for a magical afternoon as local high school performers bring The Little Mermaid Jr. to life.



POP-UP PARTY IN THE PARK

*Various Burnsville Parks
Fridays
10 a.m. - noon*

Kids ages 4-12 and their families will have a blast at these pop-up parties! For the full schedule, visit burnsvillemn.gov/events



DRIVE-IN MOVIE: THE WILD ROBOT

*North River Hills Park
Friday, Sept. 26
Movie begins at dusk*

Enjoy a night under the stars with the family-friendly adventure The Wild Robot. Free, registration is required at burnsvillemn.gov/rec

events

Thursday Rockin' Lunch Hour

Nicollet Commons Park, 12550 Nicollet Ave.

We're having a high-energy, outdoor dance party in the park every Thursday! Designed for toddlers to elementary kids and their families, Rockin' Lunch Hour is filled with upbeat music, interactive fun and plenty of space to move.



Thursdays
Noon - 1 p.m.
All ages
Free

Date	Entertainment
June 19	Tricia and the Toonies
June 26	KidPower with Rachael
July 3	Sticks and Tones
July 17	The Bazillions
July 24	KidsDance
July 31	Riffin' Griffin
Aug. 7	The Little Mermaid Jr. performed by local high school theater performers



August 5 is Night to Unite: Let's Connect!

Night to Unite gives neighbors the opportunity to get together, get to know one another, heighten awareness of crime, drug and violence prevention and strengthen community partnerships.

Register your neighborhood party to request a visit from Burnsville Police, Fire, City staff or elected officials, get party planning resources and unite for this community tradition!

Tuesday, Aug. 5

5:30 - 9 p.m.

Registering your party is FREE

Register by July 25 for a City visit

For more information, party planning resources and to register your neighborhood party, visit burnsvillemn.gov/NTU.



Party on the Plaza

July 10 • August 14

Nicollet Commons Park
Thursdays | 5 - 9 p.m.



Burnsville's ultimate summer celebration series! Food trucks, live music, entertainment, games, community booths, arts and crafts vendors and more.



Yappy Hour at Alimagnet Park



Saturday, Sept. 20

Noon - 2 p.m.

Alimagnet Park

1200 Alimagnet Park Dr.

FREE

No bones about it – you and your pup will be howling with joy at this dog-friendly Yappy Hour. This event will be full of dog-themed vendors, food trucks, giveaways and more. Food, beverages and drinks will be available for purchase.

All dogs must remain leashed. No registration is required!



Saturday, July 19

3 - 9 p.m.

Nicollet Commons Park

intlfestburnsville.org

FREE!



MUSIC + FOOD + ART
KIDS' VILLAGE + CULTURAL EXHIBITS

**INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL
OF BURNSVILLE**

Platinum Plus Sponsors



Burnsville



metro
regional
arts
council

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



FESTIVAL FOR ALL!



SCAN QR CODE
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
FULL FESTIVAL DETAILS



BURNSVILLEFESTIVAL.ORG



SEPTEMBER 5TH & 6TH

FREE BUS RIDES FROM THE BURNSVILLE
TRANSIT CENTER FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DON'T PARK
AND WALK A MILE.
RIDE THE BUS FOR
FREE!

MAIN STAGE HEADLINERS

Friday, Sept 5th (7:30pm)
Johnny Holm Band



5:30PM - Old School 191

Saturday, Sept 6th (8:00pm)
Fleetwood Mask Band



THE FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE

LIVE MUSIC LINEUP

Thursday, Sept 4th
(5:30 - 8:30pm)

Free & Easy Band

Nicollet Commons Park

Thursday, Sept 4th
(5:00 - 8:00pm)

Russell Schmitt

Craft Beer Tasting: Heart of
the City Parking Deck

Saturday, Sept 6th
(4:00 - 8:00pm)

Band TBD

Zombie Garage Zone Stage

Multicultural Stage

Saturday, Sept 6th (1:00 - 6:00pm)

We're excited to be joined by La Raza Radio
1400AM / 95.7FM at our Multicultural Stage at
2pm Saturday!

1:00pm... Taiko Arts Midwest

2:30pm... Ecuador Manta

4:30pm... **Salsa Del Sol**



FACE PAINTING CARNIVAL FIRE TRUCKS SKATEBOARD CONTEST FIREWORKS
KIDZ KORNER KICK-OFF BLOCK PARTY PICKLE BALL TOURNAMENT FREE ENTRY
MARKET GARDEN PARADE K-9 SHOW BINGO/BEER MULTICULTURAL MUSIC
MEDALLION HUNT FOOD TRUCKS SENSORY FRIENDLY YOUTH MUSIC STAGE
MUSIC INFLATABLES SOCCER TOURNAMENT FREE BUS
DJ KIDS DANCE FIRE SAFETY MERCHANTS MULTI-FAITH AREA

police city hall project



Construction Underway

Exciting updates are in progress at Burnsville's civic campus as construction began on the expansion and remodel of Police City Hall. This transformational project is designed to meet the needs of our community and our public service staff today and over the next 30 years.

Why Now?

Much like a growing business, the City has outgrown its current space. The Police and City Hall buildings, originally constructed in 1988, no longer fully support today's city services, public safety or community engagement needs. An independent 18-month pre-design study determined the City needs an additional 110,000 square feet to adequately serve and support our growing community.

As our community and our services have grown over the years, police and City administrative spaces have been stretched and repurposed beyond their original design. This project will address these challenges to better serve both our community and operations.

The Police City Hall project will remodel the existing facility spaces and add square footage to create a modern, efficient and community-centered facility.

The redesigned space will:

- **Support public safety and mental health response**
- **Centralize police training and operations on one campus**
- **Enhance City Hall services and community space**
- **Offer cost-effective long-term facility improvements while preserving our existing space**

By keeping police and city hall operations on the current site, the City avoids land acquisition costs and benefits from maintaining valuable, existing infrastructure – saving 30–40% compared to new construction.



Rendering of the new City Hall entrance

Construction Timeline

Phase 1: City Hall Expansion (May 2025 – July 2026)

This first phase of construction focuses on expanding and updating City Hall to serve and support our community. This phase involves constructing the new portions of the building which will provide new community spaces and support operational space needs during phases 2 and 3 of the project. When construction is complete, the new facility wing will include council chambers, three community rooms, training and meeting spaces, a fitness area, storage, a breakroom, boardwalk, patio and parking lot.



We broke ground on the Police City Hall Project at a community celebration on May 22, 2025.

Phase 2: Police Department Additions (July 2026 – September 2027)

This construction phase centers on supporting our public safety staff. Police Department construction and remodeling will include expanding and remodeling administrative offices and meeting space, enhanced training areas, a new indoor rifle range and indoor squad car parking.

Phase 3: Interior Remodel (September 2027 – March 2028)

The final phase of construction focuses on administrative department staff space. Crews will remodel the existing City Hall and complete work along Civic Center Parkway.

Project Funding

To fund the project, the City Council issued general obligation capital improvement bonds funded by utility franchise fees. This results in a \$4 per month increase for both residential gas and electric utility bills, with varying franchise rates for commercial properties. This approach ensures the city can responsibly meet the needs of our police department and allows us to reimagine city hall spaces to create great experiences for the community and open city hall for more community gatherings.

Visiting During Construction

Construction began in May, and all services at City Hall and the Police Department will continue to be fully available throughout the three-year project. We kindly ask for your patience during this exciting time – please pardon our mess and follow posted construction signage for parking when visiting our campus.

Stay Connected!

Project updates will be shared regularly via the City of Burnsville website, social media, council meetings and future issues of the *Burnsville Bulletin*.

Together, we are remodeling and building not just a facility – but a strong future for Burnsville.

Congratulations to Chief Tanya Schwartz on Two Distinguished Honors

Please join us in congratulating our Chief of Police, Tanya Schwartz, on receiving two prestigious awards in recognition of her exceptional leadership and service.

In April, Chief Schwartz was honored with the Minnesota Chiefs of Police President's Award for her unwavering leadership and resilience following the unimaginable tragedy that affected our community on February 18, 2024. This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate extraordinary dedication in the most challenging of circumstances.

Additionally, Chief Schwartz was named the 2024 Officer of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Women Police (MAWP). This honor is awarded to a female law enforcement officer who exemplifies the highest standards of professional excellence, including leadership, community service, mentoring and outstanding performance. Chief Schwartz was unanimously selected for this award in recognition of her extraordinary guidance and support to her department, the community and others during a time of profound loss.



Police Chief Tanya Schwartz

We are incredibly grateful for Chief Schwartz's continued service and steadfast commitment to our community. Please join us in celebrating these well-deserved honors.

New Playground Update

Eight local parks will see new playgrounds either late summer or in early 2026: Colonial, Crosstown West, Hollows, Lac Lavon, Northview, Paha Sapa, Terrace Oaks East and Wood Parks.

Thanks to everyone who attended our open houses and voted or shared feedback through our online surveys. Your input was vital in choosing the best option for each park.



An artist's rendering of the selected design for Crosstown West Park

We'd also like to extend a big thank you to local

Girl Scout Troop 17660 for their assistance in our community engagement process, including welcoming attendees at the open house and presenting survey results to the Parks and Natural Resources Commission.

To see renderings of the selected playground designs, visit burnsvillemn.gov/PlaygroundProjects. See you on the playground!

Residents viewed and voted on proposed playground designs at the open house

Students Honored at Council Meeting

Burnsville Beyond the Yellow Ribbon (BTYR) honored eight students from Burnsville High School and one Burnsville home-schooled student for their commitment to serve as members of the U.S. military at the May 20 City Council meeting.



Students honored include:

U.S. Marine Corps

Logan Blobaum of Savage,
and Faith Nyamoita and
Yaqub Ismail of Burnsville

U.S. Navy

Dane Heinen of Burnsville

Minnesota National Guard

Finlay Wendt, Ashley
Gutierrez Dejesus, Jose
Bonilla Hernandez, Yolanda
Presteguin Guadarma
and Allison Sloneker, all of
Burnsville.



Students were honored by Burnsville Beyond the Yellow Ribbon at the May 20 Burnsville City Council meeting

Students were honored with gifts of Target gift cards, a bag of sundry items, a U.S. Flag donated by the Burnsville VFW, red-white-and-blue honor cords to wear with their graduation caps and gowns and Challenge Coins donated by the state of Minnesota Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. The Two Eagles Marine Detachment also honored the Marines with a certificate and t-shirt.

Since 2016, BTYR has recognized nearly 120 Burnsville High School students for committing to serve in the military.

BTYR Volunteer Coordinator Col. (R) Mike Huddleston thanked the students for serving their country. "Service above self is more than just a motto; it's a way of life. Military service has an intrinsic value. It instills responsibility, dependability and loyalty. You will cultivate your leadership skills, get to know yourself better, acquire strength and resiliency you never knew you had – and above all – you will build a strong character," he said.

Mayor Elizabeth Kautz read a City of Burnsville proclamation that honored the students and recognized Military Appreciation Week in the City of Burnsville.

After the City Council meeting, students and their families attended a reception in their honor, made possible by donations from the Burnsville Savage Lions Club, which provided the main meal, and Rambush Estates in Burnsville, which provided refreshments and cookies.

BTYR is a state-wide network of a diverse group of citizens and community leaders who unite key areas within local communities to recognize and support veterans, service members and military families.

2026 budget

We are a **vibrant** city, **boldly** leading and **welcoming** to all. As part of this commitment, the City Council defines strategic priorities, setting a foundation for all City services, including our budget planning.

Public meetings and discussions, along with community outreach, are essential parts of budget planning. We invite you to be part of our budget planning process. Key discussions and decisions are held during public council meetings.



Upcoming City Council Budget Discussions

July 15		Department budget presentations
July 22		Discuss 2026 – 2030 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)
Aug. 19		Discuss proposed 2026 budget and property tax levy; department budget presentations
Sept. 9		Discuss proposed 2026 Fees and Utility Rate Study; department budget presentations
Sept. 16		Adopt proposed City and EDA property tax levy and budget
Nov. 25		Discuss proposed 2026 budget
Dec. 2		Truth-in-Taxation (TNT) hearing, adopt City and EDA property tax levy, budget and CIP

City Council Meetings



City Council meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. at Burnsville City Hall, are cablecast live and replayed on Burnsville Civic Television Channel 16/HD859 (for cable subscribers) and streamed online at burnsvillemn.gov/meetings.

Key Date



On Sept. 16, the City Council will adopt a proposed City and EDA Property Tax Levy, the maximum amount that can be levied on the City's portion of property taxes.

Learn more and share comments or suggestions with City staff at burnsvillemn.gov/budget.

STAY IN-THE-KNOW

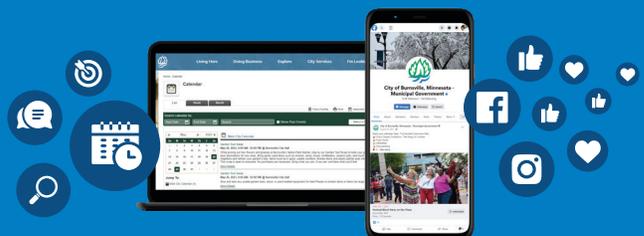
Visit burnsvillemn.gov/subscribe for email or text alerts on upcoming events or get social with us!



@cityofburnsville



@burnsvillemn





Navigate Road Construction with Waze

We've teamed up with Waze, a navigation app, to provide real-time traffic alerts to our drivers, helping you navigate around summer construction and get where you're headed more quickly.

We let Waze know when there's a road closure, and the app will reroute you to get you to your destination in the most efficient way – it saves you time, creates for safer way-finding and allows crews more space to work.

If you're interested in checking out the platform, search for "Waze" in your app store.



Know a Community Hero? Share Their Story!

Do you know someone making a difference in the community? Nominate them for the Community Builder Award! Each year, we celebrate the individuals, community groups and businesses who – through their volunteer or work life – build a brighter future for Burnsville. This is open to all ages, individuals, community groups and businesses. We are currently accepting 2025 nominations until Friday, August 31, with awards presented during the Oct. 21 Burnsville City Council meeting.

Submit a Nomination

- Visit burnsvillemn.gov/communitybuilder or
- Send a typed or printed letter, including the name of the nominee, your contact information and reason for the nomination to:

Community Builder Award
 City of Burnsville
 100 Civic Center Parkway
 Burnsville, MN 55337

Submission deadline is Friday, August 31 by 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 952-895-4490 or CityClerk@burnsvillemn.gov.



Burnsville City Council and 2024 Community Builders award recipients

building Burnsville

How Community Development Supports Our City

A thriving community is built on vibrant neighborhoods, safe housing, local businesses, parks and trails that connect us. Behind all of that is our Community Development department – a group guiding how Burnsville grows and supports those who live and work here.

Made up of four teams – Building Safety, Economic Development, Neighborhood Services and Planning – this department touches every part of our built environment. From new restaurants and housing developments, to home improvements and neighborhood cleanups, this team helps shape Burnsville today – and plan for tomorrow.

Economic Development: Creating a Stronger Burnsville Together

Our Economic Development team helps create a dynamic, resilient community by supporting the people and places that power our local economy.

This team is the friendly face of City Hall for business owners and developers. They attract new businesses, support long-time favorites and connect people with resources like Open to Business, the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce and funding opportunities.

Their impact goes beyond business. They strengthen the foundation of a strong economy – jobs, housing and investment – through programs like HomeWork, which helps lower-income homeowners make repairs and upgrades that keep neighborhoods thriving.



Planning: Shaping Burnsville's Future

The Planning team guides how Burnsville grows – ensuring every project supports the health, safety and well-being of the community.

They maintain and support the City's zoning code, which determines where and how homes, businesses and public spaces can be built. Zoning creates consistency in development, protects property values and prevents negative impacts on nearby properties.

Planning also supports our long-term vision – protecting green space, promoting environmental goals and preparing for future housing and business needs.

From big-picture ideas to the fine print of city code, this team ensures we grow in a thoughtful way.

Building Inspections: Behind Every Safe, Sound Structure

Every building in Burnsville – from homes and hospitals to coffee shops and sheds – relies on the work of our Building Safety team.

These professionals review plans and inspect residential, commercial and industrial structures to ensure everything is built safely and up to code. That includes plumbing, electrical, mechanical and structural elements.

Their work is about protecting people – making sure buildings meet standards for fire safety, accessibility and energy efficiency. They also collaborate with experts like engineers and architects to get each detail right.

This team informs and educates – helping builders and residents understand what’s required and why it matters to ensure our built environment will stand the test of time.

Neighborhood Services: Keeping Burnsville Clean, Safe and Livable

Neighborhood Services helps make sure Burnsville stays a place we’re proud to call home. They focus on two key areas: rental licensing and property maintenance.

Through rental licensing, they ensure all licensed rentals meet basic safety and livability standards – like heat, water and smoke detectors.

Property maintenance helps protect the look and feel of our neighborhoods. This team works with property owners on common issues like tall grass, peeling paint or unsafe structures.

Their work supports community standards, preserves home values and promotes a high quality of life. Whether you rent or own, Neighborhood Services is here to keep our city safe, clean and welcoming.

Have a question, concern or would like to connect with us on a project you’ve been dreaming up? Visit burnsvillemn.gov or call 952-895-4400.



Burnsville's Community Development team

2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BY THE NUMBERS



2,500
active businesses
in Burnsville



2.8%
unemployment
rate



\$244M
in construction
projects reviewed
and permitted

11,334

construction inspections
performed



11,435
rental units
licensed



223
new units
of housing
constructed

BUSINESSES BELONG HERE

Opportunity Belongs Here Newsletter

If you're looking for a way to stay in-the-know about new development and redevelopment in Burnsville, be sure to sign up for the Opportunity Belongs Here email newsletter. Articles feature new businesses, developments under construction, events, business resources, available land and more!

Signing up is easy! Visit www.burnsvillemn.gov/business.



Welcome, New Burnsville Businesses!

- The Cricket Gully/CrossBat, 3150 County Road 42 W.
- Forest Floor Wellness, 14573 Grand Ave.
- Los Campeones – coming soon!, 14301 Burnsville Parkway W.
- Lucky's 13 Pub – new location!, 2034 County Road 42 W.
- Peak Performance Chiropractic, 12750 Nicollet Ave., Suite 303
- One Way Motors, 2205 Highway 13 W.
- Rose Massage, 2554 Horizon Drive S.
- UHAUL, 12001 Interstate 35 W.



Recent Ribbon Cuttings at Forest Floor Wellness (above) and Peak Performance Chiropractic (below)

If you have a new business in Burnsville, contact Economic Development Coordinator Beth Weber at beth.weber@burnsvillemn.gov or 952-895-4454 to schedule a welcome visit.

Burnsville Farmers' Markets

Did you know? There are two farmers market locations in Burnsville that run all summer and into late October!

191 Diamondhead Education Center, 200 Burnsville Parkway West
Saturdays, through Oct. 26 | 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Mary, Mother of the Church, 3333 Cliff Road East
Thursdays, through Oct. 31 | 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Saint Paul Farmers' Markets are in full swing! Visit our two Burnsville locations to shop a variety of local products, such as bread, honey, meats, eggs, fruits and vegetables. Supporting local farmers' markets is a great way to foster sustainable practices and help support small businesses in the local economy.

Both Burnsville market locations accept EBT as a way to be accessible to all. For more information regarding the farmers' markets, visit the Saint Paul Farmers' Markets website, stpaulfarmersmarket.com.

To help engage residents in living sustainably and to help aid those experiencing food insecurity, Burnsville has the additional resource of a community garden.

More information on neighboring community gardens, Burnsville's Food Forest, Market Garden and other Grow Burnsville initiatives can be found at burnsvillemn.gov/grow.



See a pothole or a broken bench?

Let us know with the MyBurnsville app

Click "Report a Concern," take a photo and send it our way!

The platform will forward your request to the appropriate department and they'll be in touch.

Everything Burnsville at your fingertips. Download the MyBurnsville app by searching "Burnsville" in your app store.

Don't have the app? Report a concern online at burnsvillemn.gov/request.



natural resources

Neighborhood Buckthorn Pickup Program

Buckthorn is an invasive plant species that has many negative impacts on the environment. Removing buckthorn is a challenge, but if you want to help local wildlife, prevent erosion and make your woods more usable, it's worth the battle.

Residents are invited to team up and organize a buckthorn removal project on private property in their neighborhood. If your group is selected for the program, the City will then pick up the cut buckthorn free-of-charge.

Neighborhoods must apply and be approved to qualify for a free pickup.

A minimum of three participating homeowners is required. Pickup options may also be available for individual property owners with large lots.

For more information or to apply, visit burnsvillemn.gov/buckthorn. Applications are due by July 31 with selections announced mid-August. Buckthorn removal occurs on a designated pickup date in September or October.

Volunteers are also needed to remove buckthorn on parkland – more information on volunteering is available at burnsvillemn.gov/volunteer.



Neighbors with buckthorn piles before City pickup

Buckthorn Disposal: Select Weekends

Burnsville's compost site will be open for Burnsville resident buckthorn disposal the last weekend of every month July through September, and every weekend in October.

When: June 28 - 29, July 26 - 27, Aug. 30 - 31, Sept. 27 - 28 and every weekend in October

Time: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where: City compost site behind businesses at 121st Street and Pleasant Avenue

Cost: FREE

For a map to the compost site, images of buckthorn and more visit burnsvillemn.gov/buckthorn.



Buckthorn leaf with mature purple berries (berries are green before they mature).

Conservation in Action: Buckthorn Removal and Backyard Restoration

When Amanda Krause moved to Burnsville in 2016 from a farm in South Dakota, she was excited to have a home that backed up to woods. At first glance, the dense green brush behind her house looked like a natural part of the landscape. But she soon realized something wasn't quite right.

"It was just a wall of the same plant, and nothing else seemed to be growing," Amanda recalled.

That plant was common buckthorn, one of Minnesota's most aggressive invasive species. Buckthorn out-competes native plants, disrupts soil health and creates dense thickets that crowd out wildlife habitat.

Amanda didn't know much about buckthorn at the time, but once she started learning about its negative impacts – and saw photos of what her backyard could look like – she decided to take action.

Armed with a saw and determination, Amanda began by cutting down the mature buckthorn and treating the stumps to prevent regrowth. For the smaller plants, she used a weed wrench to pull them out by the roots. "It was hard work," she said, "but it was also incredibly satisfying to start seeing the space open up."

After removing most of the buckthorn, Amanda began planting native wildflowers and grasses. The transition didn't happen overnight, but with patience, native species began to fill in. "Now I've got a



Amanda Krause and her weed wrench

variety of flowers and green cover, and new ones pop up each year," she said. "It's beautiful – and buzzing with life."

While Amanda began the project because of its environmental benefits, it soon became something more. "It's turned into a relaxing hobby," she said. "I love spending time out there, working on it and watching it evolve. But I also tell people – it doesn't have to take over your life. Just an hour a week or part of a day each month can make a big difference over time."

One of the most rewarding parts of the project has been sharing her progress. Through social media, Amanda has connected with others interested in habitat restoration. "People have visited and been amazed at how it looks compared to the surrounding buckthorn-covered areas. Some have gone home inspired to start their own buckthorn removal projects."

Amanda's story shows that with a little time and effort, private property owners can play a powerful role in protecting and restoring Burnsville's natural spaces – one yard at a time.

Amanda's tips for getting started:

- **Do your research.** Learn how to properly identify and remove buckthorn so your efforts are effective and long-lasting.
- **Start small.** You don't need to clear everything at once – chipping away gradually works.
- **Get involved.** Volunteering for buckthorn removal or habitat restoration events is a great way to learn from others and give back to the community. (See page 18.)

Pollinator Workshop and Nature Walk: Attracting Pollinators with Native Plants



Curious what all the buzz on native plants is about? Join award-winning author Heather Holm for a fascinating discussion about the relationship between pollinators and native plants, and what you can do to provide better pollinator habitat in your own yard.

Prior to the workshop, join Heather for an hour-long pollinator-focused walk. Registration is required for the

walk, and group size will be limited. Those wishing to attend the walk will meet in front of City Hall at 5 p.m. The group will walk to a nearby prairie where Heather will catch and identify some common bee species for the group.

The walk will end at 6 p.m., and there will be a 15-minute break until the workshop starts at 6:15 p.m. The walk portion of the event may be cancelled if the weather is poor.



Heather Holm is a biologist, pollinator conservationist and award-winning author of four books: *Pollinators of Native Plants* (2014), *Bees* (2017), *Wasps* (2021) and *Common Native Bees of the Eastern United States* (2022).

Heather's expertise includes the interactions between native pollinators and native plants, and the natural history and biology of native bees and predatory wasps occurring in the Upper Midwest and Northeast.

POLLINATOR WORKSHOP AND NATURE WALK

Who: Burnsville residents

When: Wednesday, July 23

Details:

Pollinator Walk: 5 - 6 p.m.

Pollinator Workshop: 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.

Where: Burnsville City Hall
100 Civic Center Parkway

Cost: Free

Register:

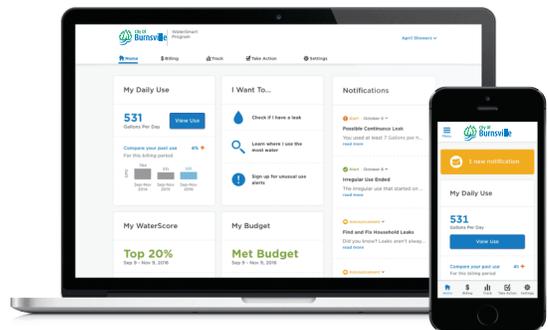
burnsvillemn.gov/nativeplants

Are You WaterSmart?

This free, online customer portal allows you to view your up-to-date water use, get leak alerts, compare your use to others and more.

This service is part of our ongoing commitment to provide the best tools to manage your water use.

Get started at burnsvillemn.watersmart.com.



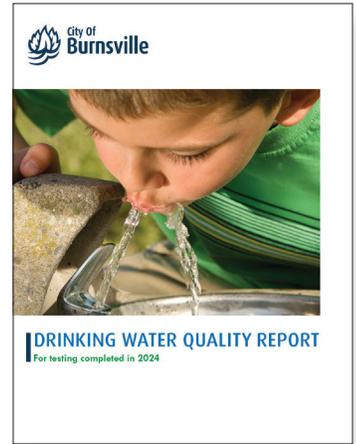
WaterSmart
a verizon brand

Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Burnsville's annual Drinking Water Quality Report is now available online. Residents may request a paper copy by calling 952-895-4550.

The results from testing once again show that **Burnsville is providing clean and safe drinking water** from each of its water sources.

View the report at burnsvillemn.gov/WaterReport.



Reduce Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG) from Entering Sewers

Fats, oils and grease (FOG) are a slippery gang that make their way into the wastewater system and wreak havoc in sewer pipes. Grease as a warm liquid may not appear harmful, but as the liquid cools in pipes, it solidifies and sticks to the inside, like a clogged artery. The buildup continues to grow and can fully clog the pipe, leading to expensive sewer backups. These backups can come straight into your home and cause some costly damage.

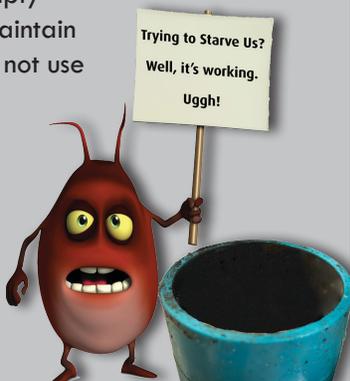
Blockages from FOG can cause backups and sanitary sewer overflows. They're stinky, a health risk and expensive.

Use of garbage disposals leads to more clogs!

Garbage disposals put additional grease into the pipes and food particles that can become trapped in existing grease deposits.

The easiest way to comply with regulations and maintain a clog-free sewer is to not use a garbage disposal at all.

Instead, place all remaining food particles and scraps into a trash or compost bin.



Tips to reduce FOG entering the sewer system

- S**crape or wipe grease into a sealable container. Seal and place in the trash.
- C**ollect liquid oils in an oil rendering tank
- R**otate cleaning schedule among fryers and food preparation devices
- A**dd anti-FOG practices to your clean-up tasks
- P**repare foods with minimal amounts of fats, oils and grease
- E**ducate family on the importance of reducing and preventing FOG

For more suggestions on fighting FOG visit burnsvillemn.gov/FOG.

"Most Wanted" graphic courtesy of the City of Palm Bay, Florida.

want to meet your neighbors?

Start a Neighborhood Organization!

Looking to meet your neighbors, throw a block party or start a neighborhood watch? Burnsville's Neighborhood Organizations program is here to help!

This new initiative is all about bringing neighbors together, building stronger connections and boosting the quality of life in our city. We're here to provide resources, guidance and grants of up to \$10,000 to help your neighborhood thrive.

"Neighborhood Organizations kicked off as a pilot program in January," says Ismail Said, our Community Engagement Specialist and the program's Neighborhood Liaison. "I've been getting

a couple of questions about it every week since then. People are excited to get started."

So far, North River Hills and Parkwood South have jumped in, and more neighborhoods are working on joining the fun.

How to Start?

Begin by teaming up with a few excited neighbors – maybe folks who already plan Night to Unite or love chatting on daily walks.

Mark Gebhard, Parkwood South's leader, says in his neighborhood "there were neighbors who were already holding events over the years. I connected with them and went from there."

Next, reach out to our Neighborhood Liaison for help outlining your neighborhood boundaries (aim for about 500 residents/200 households).

Then pick a date and location for your first meeting, and get the word out. We are here to help with flyers and postcards – or just knock on doors and say hi!

At North River Hills' first meeting, about 75 residents gathered at North River Hills Park. "There was so much energy," says Amber Jacobson, Assistant Communications Director. "People are really excited to connect and make a difference."

John Doll, the neighborhood's leader, encouraged everyone to get involved: "We're hoping to build momentum and



Residents of the new North River Hills Neighborhood Organization at their first meeting

come up with solid ideas to present to the City. We need everyone's voices to do it!"

Parkwood South launched their neighborhood group at City Hall and started brainstorming ideas to apply for grant funding for new projects.

What's Next?

It's up to your neighborhood! You'll decide how often to meet, what events to plan and what projects to tackle. We recommend meeting monthly at first, while you get your group up and running, discover your interests and discuss potential grant ideas.

What Could the Grant Help With?

Neighborhood grants can be used for all kinds of great ideas – like creating a community garden, adding a neighborhood bench, organizing a block party or even building a "Little Free Library." We want to boost neighborhood connections and make your area an even better place to live!

"The goal is for neighbors to gather, share ideas and strengthen their community," says Ismail. "The grant program is there to support you, but it starts with neighbors coming together."

Ready to get your neighborhood moving?

Join us at a pop-up (see side panel) or visit burnsvillemn.gov/Neighborhoods for a toolkit, our program contact information and everything you need to start building a more connected, fun and vibrant neighborhood.



Residents propose ideas on sticky notes at the North River Hills Neighborhood Organization meeting



Learn More at a Park Near You

Neighborhood Organizations Pop-Ups

Our Neighborhood Organization team is popping up at a local parks to answer questions and discuss how the program can benefit your neighborhood. Come on out!

Wednesday, July 2

Sunset Pond Park
3350 W. Burnsville Parkway
5 - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 24

Interlachen Park
14670 Portland Ave. S.
5 - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 21

Red Oak Park
12100 River Hills Drive
5 - 6:30 p.m.



John Doll chats with neighbors at the North River Hills meeting



City of Burnsville
 Burnsville Bulletin
 100 Civic Center Parkway
 Burnsville, MN 55337-3817

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VenuWorks

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Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox

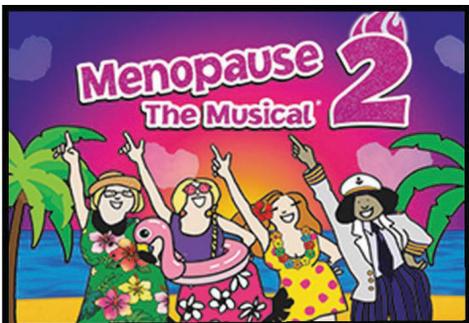
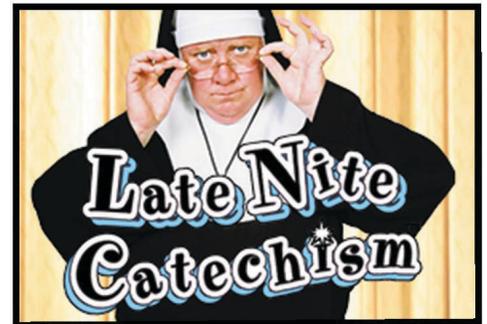
July 14, 8 p.m.

Even in our futuristic age of AI chatbots and virtual realities, there is still nothing in the world that compares with the thrill of hearing classic genres of music, performed live by a group of exceptional singers and musicians that have truly mastered the ability to move an audience. Equal parts time-traveling musical variety show & career-launching talent platform. Everything New is Old Again - leave the AI at home and take a road trip to experience Life In The Past Lane!

Late Nite Catechism

July 27, 3 p.m.

The irrepressible Sister teaches an adult catechism class to a roomful of "students" (the audience). Over the course of the show, Sister goes from benevolent instructor, rewarding the "students" for correct answers to authoritative drill sergeant. These abrupt mood swings are bound to strike a resonant chord with everyone who survived the ups and downs of going to school, with an omniscient authoritarian at the helm.



Menopause The Musical 2: Cruising Through "The Change"

September 25, 7:30 p.m.

All aboard, sisters! The hysterical sequel to the smash-hit Menopause The Musical® is finally here! Five years after their chance encounter in a department store, we set sail with our beloved ladies for more high jinks on the high seas. It is a hilarious and heartfelt look at the joys of menopause and friendship — plus hot flashes, mood swings, and memory lapses! Join us on a trip of self-discovery, backed by a new soundtrack of toe-tapping parodied hits from the 70s, through 90s. For these four ladies, menopause was not the end, but the beginning of a beautiful friendship where love conquers all, and friendships never fail.



Scan For Full Event Listings & To Purchase Tickets
 12600 Nicollet Ave. Burnsville, MN