

# Staying in Touch

A communication from the Washington County Board of Commissioners

## New playgrounds coming to two county parks this summer



Renderings of the new Swim Pond Play Area at Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

Renderings of the new Hilltop Playground at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.

Exciting changes are coming to Lake Elmo Park Reserve and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park. Brand-new playgrounds are expected to be completed this summer, offering fun, inclusive, and accessible play spaces for children of all ages and abilities.

“Play has the power to promote healthy childhood development,” said Commissioner Bethany Cox, District 3. “With these new playgrounds, the county is making sure that every child can benefit from spending time playing outdoors — no matter age or ability.”

### Lake Elmo Park Reserve Swim Pond Play Area

The former Swim Pond Play Area playground, built in 1988, is being replaced with a nature- and animal-themed play space designed for everyone, including those with physical or sensory disabilities. The new equipment was shaped by community feedback from over 160 people and includes custom features. With improved accessibility, seating, shade structures, and better bike parking, this

upgraded area will serve both children and caretakers. It also includes better connections between the Swim Pond and Play Area for easier access.

### St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park Hilltop Playground

Installed in 1999, the former playground at St. Croix Bluffs is also getting a major upgrade. Parks staff worked with Valley Friendship Club to make sure the new design includes sensory-friendly equipment and quiet spaces for children with sensory sensitivities. The new setup balances modern play with mature oak trees providing natural shade.

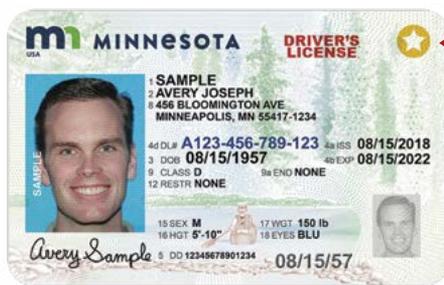
Whether you're a parent, grandparent, or just young at heart, these new playgrounds promise a fresh, fun, and welcoming space for everyone to play.

Vehicle permits (\$7 daily, \$30 annual) are required to visit Lake Elmo Park Reserve and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park. To learn more about the parks, visit [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Parks](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Parks).

# REAL ID ready? What you need to know

**What is REAL ID?** A REAL ID is a federally compliant driver's license or identification card (ID) that meets enhanced security standards set by the federal government.

**Who needs a REAL ID?** Beginning May 7, 2025, Minnesotans aged 18 years or older must present a REAL ID, Enhanced ID, passport, or passport card to board domestic flights or enter certain federal facilities. Standard IDs may still be used for basic things like driving, registering to vote, applying for federal benefits, etc.



An example of a REAL ID.

driver's license or ID before visiting a license center. Start your application and determine which ID is right for you at [OnlineServices.DPS.MN.gov](https://OnlineServices.DPS.MN.gov).

## REAL ID applications require specific documentation including:

- Proof of identity.
- Social Security number (card not required).
- Proof of Minnesota residency.
- Proof of legal name change (if applicable).

## PLAN AHEAD

Due to increased demand, wait times may be longer than usual for REAL ID and passport

services. To help plan your visit, Washington County provides real-time estimated wait times for all license centers at [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/SLC](https://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/SLC). Our team is committed to processing applications efficiently, and your preparation allows us to serve you better.

**Where can I get a REAL ID or passport?** Apply for IDs and passports at Washington County License Centers, located in Cottage Grove (passports only), Forest Lake, Stillwater, and Woodbury. To save time and avoid repeat visits, we encourage you to book a passport appointment online at [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/SLC](https://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/SLC) and pre-apply for a

For more information on REAL ID requirements or to schedule a passport appointment, visit [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/SLC](https://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/SLC) or contact your local service and license center.

## Washington County's summer road construction projects

### County Highway 2 (Broadway Avenue)

A rehabilitation project on County Highway 2 (Broadway Avenue) from the I-35 northbound ramps to Trunk Highway 61 (Lake Street) will be completed in Forest Lake. The goal of this project is to perform pavement spot repairs along the project corridor, which was reconstructed in 2011. Work consists of concrete pavement rehabilitation, lane striping, and trail pavement rehabilitation.

### County Highway 5 (Stonebridge Trail North)



The third of four phases will begin on the County Highway 5 project between Sycamore Street and County Highway 96,

spanning 0.7 miles. The work will consist of:

- Resurfacing the road.
- Resurfacing the existing trail along the east side of Highway 5.
- Replacing the bridge that spans across Brown's Creek.
- Adding turn lanes at the intersection of Johnson Court.
- Adding a new trail on the west side of Highway 5 from Sycamore Street to Johnson Court.

Construction will begin in late April 2025 and is anticipated to be completed this fall. At the bridge, the roadway will be closed for most of the summer and a detour route will be posted.

### County Highway 13 (Inwood Avenue)

An improvement project will be completed on County Highway 13 (Inwood Avenue) from County Highway 10 (10th Street North) to County Highway 6 (Stillwater Boulevard North). Work will include:

- Pavement resurfacing.
- Manage and treat highway drainage/runoff.

- Roadway and driveway culvert replacement and/or repair.
- New center left turn lanes at 21st Street and 26th Street.
- Sign replacement.
- Pavement marking replacement.

### County Highway 14 (47th Street) and County Highway 24 (Osgood Avenue)

The final remaining work on the County Highway 14 (47th Street) and 24 (Osgood Avenue) Safety Improvement Project in Baytown Township will be completed this summer. The work includes reconstruction of the Union Pacific Railroad Crossing and the new traffic light at the intersection of Osgood Avenue and 47th Street.

Road work begins in early May and will require the closure of County Highway 24 (Osgood Avenue) south of the County Highway 14/24 intersection. At the same time, Osgood Avenue (Township Road) will be closed at Highway 14. Traffic will be maintained east, west, and north of the County Highway 14 and 24 intersection. Local resident access will also be maintained.

### County Highway 15 (Manning Avenue) from County Highway 10 to 40th Street



The third phase of a corridor management and safety improvement project on County Highway 15 (Manning Avenue) between County Highway 10 (10th Street North) and 40th Street for this summer.

The third phase will include:

- Addition of center left turn lanes and right turn lanes at key locations.
- Elimination of (northerly) 18th Street North access to Manning Avenue.
- Trail connection from 18th Street North to 18th Street Court.
- Pavement rehabilitation.

### County Highway 15 (Manning Avenue) from Trunk Highway 36 to 80th Street

A pavement improvement project on County Highway 15 (Manning Avenue) from Trunk Highway 36 to 80th Street, spanning 1.7 miles, will be completed this summer. The work will include updating and improving the roadway and trail surfaces, and updating roadway signage and pavement markings.

### Trunk Highway 61 (between Egg Lake Road and Frenchman Road)

An improvement project on Trunk Highway (TH) 61 between County Highway 8 (Egg Lake Road) and County Highway 8 (Frenchman Road) in the City of Hugo will be completed for this summer.

Washington County, in partnership with the City of Hugo and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, is making improvements to TH 61 between Egg Lake Road and Frenchman Road. Washington County obtained a grant through the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Local Partnership Program for the widening of this section of TH 61 to address safety and congestion issues.

The work includes:

- Extending the northbound Highway 61 left turn lane onto Frenchman Road.
- Adding a new southbound Highway 61 left turn lane onto 141st Street.
- Revising traffic signals at the Highway 61 intersections with Frenchman and Egg Lake roads.
- Updating the pedestrian crossings at Egg Lake Road.

### County Highway 15 South (58th Street) Extension Project

The 58th Street Extension/County Highway 15 South Segment Project will connect the new Highway 36/Manning Avenue interchange to Stillwater Boulevard, completing a missing link in the County Highway 15 corridor. This connection will provide route continuity for its users, improved access for pedestrians and bicyclists, and direct access to parcels that may develop or re-develop in the future.

Phase one of this project began this spring with grading, tree clearing and grubbing, and storm sewer work, and is expected to be completed this summer. The roadway construction will occur in phase two and is estimated to be completed in 2026.

### County Highway 25 (Century Avenue)

A pavement improvement project on County Highway 25 (Century Avenue) from Brookview Drive South to Century Avenue, spanning 1.9 miles, will be completed this summer. Work includes updating and improving the roadway surface and updating roadway signage and pavement markings.

For more information on county road construction projects, visit [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/TransportationProjects](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/TransportationProjects) or email staff at [PublicWorks@WashingtonCountyMN.gov](mailto:PublicWorks@WashingtonCountyMN.gov).

# County works to address growing wood waste problem

Washington County is making strategic investments to expand wood waste management services so that a much larger amount of discarded tree debris can be responsibly and efficiently managed.

The wood waste management system in the Twin Cities region is stretched beyond capacity. The amount of wood waste from emerald ash borer is proving to be greater than previously expected and is projected to continue growing until at least 2028. The lack of uses for unprocessed tree debris, combined with having nowhere to put it, is resulting in open burning to reduce the size of material piles which degrades local air quality. And with rising tree debris disposal costs, residents are increasingly self-managing tree trimming and removals which can be hazardous and result in unnecessary injuries.

The county's investments to expand services are supported by a \$250,000 Wood Waste Utilization grant award from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. These services include recovering trunks from disposed trees for lumber production and processing tools to convert unusable tree debris into a useful material called biochar, which has been shown to improve soil and water quality and is a more readily available carbon substitute for mined coal in

industrial manufacturing processes.

“Expanding the county’s services will help us capture more naturally available resources rather than letting them go to waste by sending them to open burning,” said Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1. “These services will also enable the county to responsibly manage tree debris from county parks and other county-owned property.”



A pile of wood and brush at Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

To learn more about the county’s waste and recycling program, visit [WashCoRecycles.com](http://WashCoRecycles.com) or contact staff at [EnvironmentalCenter@WashingtonCountyMN.gov](mailto:EnvironmentalCenter@WashingtonCountyMN.gov) or 651-275-7475.

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# Land and Water Legacy easement purchased for future Afton park



The Herreid property in Afton.

A new Afton city park is in the works thanks in part to Washington County’s Land and Water Legacy Program.

The county, through its Land and Water Legacy Program, closed on a permanent conservation easement in the City of Afton in December 2024. A conservation easement is a legally binding, voluntary agreement to limit the future use of a property and preserve its natural features. The 40-acre conservation easement property is close to both Afton State Park and the St. Croix River’s shoreline and will preserve irreplaceable natural habitat in the St. Croix River Valley.

The conservation easement is co-held by the Minnesota Land Trust and the county, and the property was purchased

by the City of Afton from the private landowner, Susan Herreid. Herreid initiated the conservation effort due to her interest in preserving the land for the long-term benefit of the public. The property is currently not open to the public but will be converted to an Afton city park with facilities such as parking and a trail network. The park is anticipated to open in 2026.

“This is yet another successful Land and Water Legacy Program partnership,” said Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2. “The county has used over \$18 million of the program’s \$20 million in bond funds and has leveraged an additional \$29 million in partnership funds to protect land and water resources for the community.”

The county’s Land and Water Legacy Program is a voter-approved initiative that purchases land or land interests to preserve its natural condition. The program is ongoing and has used collaborative partnerships to invest nearly \$50 million in protection, conserving over 1,300 acres of high-quality natural lands. To learn more, visit [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/LWLP](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/LWLP).

# How opioid settlement grantees are making an impact

In fall 2024, the Washington County Opioid Settlement Council awarded its first round of opioid settlement grants to eight community-based projects that help address the impacts of the opioid crisis. Among the grantees are Elim Lutheran Church and the Invisible Wounds Project.

## Elim Lutheran Church

Pastor Seth Perry is motivated to change the way mental health and substance use are often addressed in faith-based settings, guided by his firsthand experience with both topics. Opioid settlement funds have supported the creation and launch of his six-part audio docuseries, “Our Stigma,” which explores mental health and addiction stigma in spiritual communities.

In the series, Perry speaks with a diverse group of local faith partners and community members to create a comparative multicultural and interfaith look at mental health and addiction recovery. Perry also partnered with addiction professionals to create an accompanying discussion resource meant to empower others in the faith community to support destigmatization efforts.

The podcast premiered at the Mental Health Faith Forum, an event hosted by Perry in early May to celebrate

addiction and mental health recovery. The public can subscribe to “Our Stigma” wherever they listen to podcasts.

## Invisible Wounds Project

Russ Hanes founded the Invisible Wounds Project out of his own challenges with trauma following his career as a first responder. He hopes to help improve the lives and mental health of veterans, first responders, and their families through specialized therapy and social connection activities.

Through opioid settlement funding, the organization has launched two new support groups: a family support group to discuss wellness, mental health, and addiction challenges; and a suicide survivors support group to provide education and resources to families and colleagues dealing with loss.

It also provided woodworking classes for its members, expanded its Coffee & Conversations program to twice per week, and finalized a partnership to offer drop-in therapy and addiction recovery services four days per week. Activities like these help those served to build connections and find new purpose.

For a full list of grantees, visit [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/OpioidSettlementFunding](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/OpioidSettlementFunding).

# Planning begins on Battle Creek–St. Croix River Regional Trail

In 2025, Washington County is leading a process for the Battle Creek–St. Croix River regional trail long range plan, a document that will guide the future development of a paved multiuse trail.



The project area of the proposed Battle Creek–St. Croix River Regional Trail.

The Battle Creek–St. Croix River regional trail will be an east-west paved route that will run through east Maplewood, Woodbury, and Afton. Once fully developed,

it will connect pedestrians, bicyclists, and other trail users to regional destinations including, Central Greenway and St. Croix Valley Regional Trails, Battle Creek Regional Park, and the St. Croix River in Afton.

“This is the first planned East Metro trail connection south of I-94, to connect a Ramsey County Regional Park to trails along the St. Croix River through a multi-modal trail system that will work to include wayfinding, bike fix-it stations, and restrooms. We hope for a trail that drives tourism with interactive and creative attractions, said Commissioner Michelle Clasen, District 5. “Public input is critical to making sure the plan for the Battle Creek–St. Croix River Regional Trail answers the needs and desires of our residents.”

The long range plan will provide the planning and implementation guidance for the future trail route alignment, right-of-way needs, trail amenities, natural resource management, and maintenance objectives.

The county is engaging stakeholders and the public as part of the planning process. Community members are welcomed and encouraged to share feedback in the coming months by attending one of the engagement opportunities and subscribing to project updates. Visit [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/BattleCreekStCroix](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/BattleCreekStCroix) for more information.

# Summer at Your Library kicks off June 1

Washington County Library's summer programs for kids, teens, and adults begin Sunday, June 1. These programs and activities help encourage reading and neutralize summer learning loss for kids and teens. They also encourage library users of all ages to become lifelong readers and learners.

Through the **Summer Adventure program**, kids ages 0-11 can read, learn, listen, and explore with an alien friend, Zorb. This flexible program can be tailored to each child's interests and learning needs.

Teens ages 12-18 can **Level Up!** their summer with a video game-themed program that promotes literacy in reading, crafting, cooking, and gaming.

Adults can get in on the fun too. With the **10,000 Experiences at Your Library** program, participants can check out librarian-recommended reads, explore the community, and take home a prize.

To participate, complete activities on a game card and return it to the library to collect a reward. Each person who completes a game card is also entered in a drawing for the chance to win grand prizes at the end of the summer.

"Summer is an especially fun time at our libraries, where community members can find entertainment and learning for the whole family," said Commissioner Karla Bigham, District 4, who also serves on the Library Board. "Be sure



A young library user looks through books at Oakdale Library.

to visit your local library and enjoy the wide variety of programs being offered across the county."

Popular performers visiting library branches this summer include the Bazillions, Bill the Juggler, the Jolly Pops, TaikoArts Midwest, and more. All programs are free and open to the public, although some require registration.

For additional information, including a complete schedule of summer events, visit a Washington County Library branch, or connect online at [WashCoLib.org](http://WashCoLib.org).

## Stay safe on the water this summer



A Washington County Sheriff's Office air boat at Lake Elmo.

Whether you are fishing, swimming, paddling, or boating on one of Washington County's lakes or rivers, the Sheriff's Office Water, Parks, and Trails Unit wants you to stay safe this summer.

While it's always a good idea for everyone to wear a life jacket when boating, did you know that Minnesota law requires all children under the age of 10 to wear one?

Those using a canoe or kayak are required to have a readily accessible and wearable life jacket while on the water. Users of personal watercrafts, such as Jet Skis, must each wear a life jacket.

One of the most important reasons to wear a life jacket is the cold shock response. This reflex occurs when your body is suddenly exposed to cold water, typically below 70 degrees. It triggers several automatic physiological reactions, including the gasp reflex, hyperventilation, vasoconstriction (which leads to a loss of dexterity), and can overwhelm even the strongest swimmers, increasing the risk of drowning.

While you're enjoying the water, keep an eye out for the Water, Parks, and Trails Unit. They'll be out promoting outdoor safety through their presence and education. Licensed deputies and specially trained reserves patrol our rivers, lakes, and parks using various types of equipment to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable time.

Learn more about the Sheriff's Office Water, Parks, and Trails unit by visiting [WCSO.info](http://WCSO.info).

# Tips to spot scams and avoid falling victim to fraud



The Sheriff's Office has seen scams come and go, but they never really disappear. Instead, they just get more sophisticated and easier to fall for with the use of new technologies. In 2024, the Sheriff's Office recorded 361 reports of actual fraud with a financial loss. By end of March 2025, the count was already up to 107.

Texts are one of the newest ways that scammers are reaching into your bank accounts. The texts are usually urgent, demanding quick payment to pay a supposed fine, outstanding bill or even a toll, and they frequently threaten legal action or closing of an account.

Recipients of texts or other electronic messages can look for several clues to determine if they're legitimate or not:

1. Urgent demand for payment.
2. Grammatical errors.
3. Website URL that redirects when clicked on and/or doesn't lead to an official, secure website.

**These clues apply to most, if not all, scams circulating now, which include:**

- Cryptocurrency scams, directing victims to withdraw cash from a bank and redeposit it in bitcoin kiosks.
- Gift card scams, usually emails asking victims to buy cards for a busy colleague or friend.
- The "grandparents" scam, when someone posing as an attorney or bail bondsman calls to say a relative needs bail money and attorney's fees.
- Law enforcement impersonators who claim victims face arrest and fines for an outstanding warrant or for missing jury duty.
- Tech scams, usually a text, email, or pop-up message on a victim's computer alerting to a compromised bank account or credit card, a declined card or an expired computer virus protection account.

**To stay safe, follow these tips from AARP Fraud Watch Network:**

- Don't respond to texts, emails, or voicemails from unknown sources. Delete without opening if you suspect a scam.
- Verify! Go to the account or business website directly, or call the family member, business, or law enforcement agency instead of using any links provided.
- Never provide personal information, account numbers, photos, or cash.
- Remember that law enforcement will never ask for money over the phone, by text, or by email.

**If you suspect fraud, the Sheriff's Office wants to know! To report a suspected scam, call 911.**

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## County email addresses now @WashingtonCountyMN.gov

All Washington County email addresses now end with @WashingtonCountyMN.gov after the county transitioned to a new domain that complies with Federal Homeland Security recommendations.

We recommend updating your Washington County contacts. However, if you send an email to an old address (@co.washington.mn.us), it automatically forwards to the @WashingtonCountyMN.gov address of the intended recipient.

There are several reasons for moving to .gov email addresses, including creating consistency with other government organizations, building public trust, and taking advantage

of enhanced security features that come with .gov domains.

All .gov email addresses across the United States are official government websites. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a division of Homeland Security, ensures that .gov domains are available solely to U.S.-based government organizations and publicly controlled entities. Since .gov can only be used by government entities, the public can trust the information from WashingtonCountyMN.gov pages and email addresses. CISA also provides additional layers of security that other domains (such as .com, .org, .us) do not.

# SUMMER

# 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

For even more events and programs happening in the county, visit [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Calendar](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Calendar) and [WashCoLib.org/Events](http://WashCoLib.org/Events)



### Yoga in the Park

Thursdays from May 22-Aug. 21, 6-7 p.m., Lake Elmo Park Reserve North Pavilion, \$10 per person, per session or \$120 for season pass.

Flow through yoga poses beneath the open sky in our Yoga in the Park sessions. Sessions are open to all levels, though participants 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring a mat, water, and a blanket (optional). A vehicle permit (\$7 daily, \$30 annual) is required. Register at [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Yoga](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Yoga).



### Learn to Paddle

Beginners ages 10 and up can learn how to paddle a kayak with free instruction from Wild Rivers Conservancy. Equipment and vehicle permit are provided. Registration is required. Limited to one session per person. Events are weather permitting. Learn more at [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Learn-to-Paddle](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Learn-to-Paddle).

#### Square Lake Park

May 24, 10 a.m.-noon  
May 24, 1-3 p.m. (drop in, no registration)  
May 25, 10 a.m.-noon  
May 25, 1-3 p.m. (drop in, no registration)

#### Lake Elmo Park Reserve

June 5, 10 a.m.-noon  
June 5, 1-3 p.m.



### Campfire Programs

Saturdays from May 31-Aug. 30, 7 p.m., Outdoor amphitheaters at Lake Elmo Park Reserve and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.

Gather around and learn about reptiles, amphibians, raptors, wolves and more this summer at one the county's Campfire Programs. A vehicle permit (\$7 daily, \$30 annual) is required. Visit [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/CampfirePrograms](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/CampfirePrograms) for the full schedule.



### Stillwater Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection Event

May 31, 8 a.m.-2 p.m, Lily Lake Ice Arena

Washington County offers one-day collection events for household hazardous waste and electronics. Paper shredding is also offered at these events. No recyclables or business waste. Learn more at [WashCoRecycles.com/CollectionEvents](http://WashCoRecycles.com/CollectionEvents).



### Dazzling Dave, Yo-Yo Master

June 4, 1 p.m., Valley Library

Dave is a professional yo-yo performer and highly acclaimed champion who has circled the globe storming audiences everywhere with his freakish tornado of whirling tricks and tips, all designed to entertain, educate, and illuminate the beauty of the growing sport of professional yo-yo.\*



### The Bazillions

June 7, 1 p.m., Park Grove Library  
June 24, 6:30 p.m., Wildwood Library

July 18, 10:30 a.m., Lake Elmo Library

Be entertained by rocking guitars, clever lyrics, and energetic music played by The Bazillions, a kid-friendly rock-and-roll band. You can expect fantastically catchy tunes, award-winning music, and a performance that the whole family can enjoy.\*



### Treasure Beyond Measure by Touch of Magic

June 6, 10:30 a.m., Lake Elmo Library  
June 11, 6:30 p.m., Ojibway Park  
July 26, 10:30 a.m., Wildwood Library

Enjoy this family-friendly show by Touch of Magic featuring physical comedy, humor, and uproarious audience participation. Come along with Capt'n Curley as he recruits rookie pirates to embark on a treasure hunt adventure filled with silliness and fun.\*



### Bill the Juggler

June 12, 10 a.m., Hardwood Creek Library

Years ago, young Bill decided he wanted to learn to juggle, so he read lots of books about juggling, and he practiced. Today, Bill shows off his impressive skills with a little help from the audience in this zany comedy juggling act.\*



### National Get Outdoors Day

June 14, all day at county parks

Celebrate National Get Outdoors Day by taking advantage of free entry to all county parks during normal hours of operation.



### Oakdale Library Summer Kick Off Party

June 14, 10 a.m.-noon, Oakdale Library

Celebrate summer at the library. Pick up your Summer at Your Library game cards and join us for Big Blue Blocks, Giant Jenga, crafts, and snacks on the back lawn featuring musical guest Miss Nina.\*



### Fix-it Clinics

June 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Park Grove Library      Aug. 2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Oakdale Library

Bring your broken items to a Washington County Fix-It Clinic and volunteers will help you troubleshoot and repair them for free. First come, first served. Three item limit. Last items accepted at 1:30 p.m. [WashCoRecycles.com/FixIt](http://WashCoRecycles.com/FixIt).



### Drop-In Drop Cloth Painting

June 18, 4 p.m., Lake Elmo Library

Cut loose and paint BIG. Color for a few minutes or spend an hour on your masterpiece on a fun, freewheeling collaborative art piece on a canvas drop cloth. Lake Elmo Library will display the finished product. Fun for all ages.\*



### Summer Solstice Forest Bathing

June 21, 9-11 a.m., Lake Elmo Park Reserve, \$45 per person

Connect with the relaxing beauty of our county's green forested spaces during a Japanese-inspired forest bathing experience (Shinrin-Yoku). Space is limited. A vehicle permit is required (\$7/daily or \$30/annual). Register at [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/ForestBathing](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/ForestBathing).



### Flock Together: A Family Birding Event

June 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park

Learn about local bird species and enjoy a day filled with community. Everyone is invited to this free family-friendly bird event. Learn more about the day's activities at [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Parks](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Parks). Vehicle permits are provided thanks to SHIP grant funding.



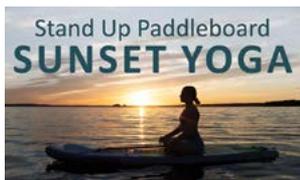


### Stand Up Paddleboard Yoga

June 28, 10:30-11:45 a.m., Square Lake Park  
July 19, 10:30-11:45 a.m., Square Lake Park

Aug. 2, 10:30-11:45 a.m., Square Lake Park

Take your yoga practice to the water and experience a refreshing new perspective — on a paddleboard. No experience is necessary. All equipment and instruction are provided. \$50 per person, per session. A vehicle permit is required (\$7/daily or \$30/annual). Register at [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/SUP](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/SUP).

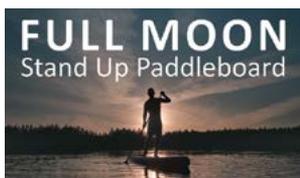


### Stand Up Paddleboard Sunset Yoga

July 8, 7-8:15 p.m., Square Lake Park

July 22, 7-8:15 p.m., Square Lake Park

As the sun begins to set, enjoy gentle movement and mindful stillness on a paddleboard. No experience is necessary. All equipment and instruction are provided. \$50 per person, per session. A vehicle permit is required (\$7/daily or \$30/annual). Register at [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/SUP](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/SUP).



### Full Moon Stand Up Paddleboard

July 8, 8:30-10:15 p.m., Square Lake Park

Aug. 9, 8:15-10 p.m., Square Lake Park

Paddle across the lake and watch the full moon rise during this 2-hour experience. All equipment and lanterns are included. \$80 per person, per session. A vehicle permit is required (\$7/daily or \$30/annual). Register at [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/SUP](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/SUP).



### Rex and Mr. Fox Show

July 12, 10:30 a.m., Park Grove Library

July 12, 1:30 p.m., Hardwood Creek Library

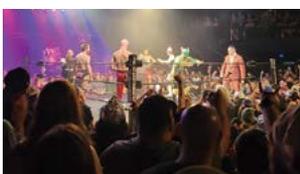
Join Minnesota authors and illustrators David LaRoche and Mike Wohnoutka as they share their latest picture books. Help Mike as he creates amazing pictures right before your eyes and try your best to avoid Mr. Fox's sneaky tricks. \*\*



### Community Ice Cream Social

July 17, 5-8 p.m., Washington County Historic Courthouse

Celebrate the warm weather with a scoop of cold ice cream, friends, and neighbors on the lawn of the Historic Courthouse in Stillwater.



### FIRST Wrestling at the Library

July 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Oakdale Library

Prepare yourself for heroes and villains, for teamwork and acts of heroism, for treachery and double-crossing as F1RST Wrestling comes to the library. Listen to stories about the history of professional wrestling in the state of Minnesota interspersed with entertaining professional wrestling matches.



### Twin Cities PBS at the Library

July 30, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Wildwood Library

Join Twin Cities PBS for a free family-friendly event with educational arts and crafts designed for children ages 2-8. Take home a snack and some PBS goodies.



### School Supply Swap

Aug. 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m., North Environmental Center in Forest Lake and South Environmental Center in Woodbury

Stop by to pick up gently used supplies, such as notebooks, calculators, scissors, pencil cases, and more. Donations of gently-used school supplies will be accepted leading up to the swap event. [WashCoRecycles.com/Reuse](http://WashCoRecycles.com/Reuse).

\*This program is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. \*\*This program is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and MELSA.

# Washington County Board commissioners



## District 1 - Fran Miron

Fran.Miron@WashingtonCountyMN.gov  
651-430-6211



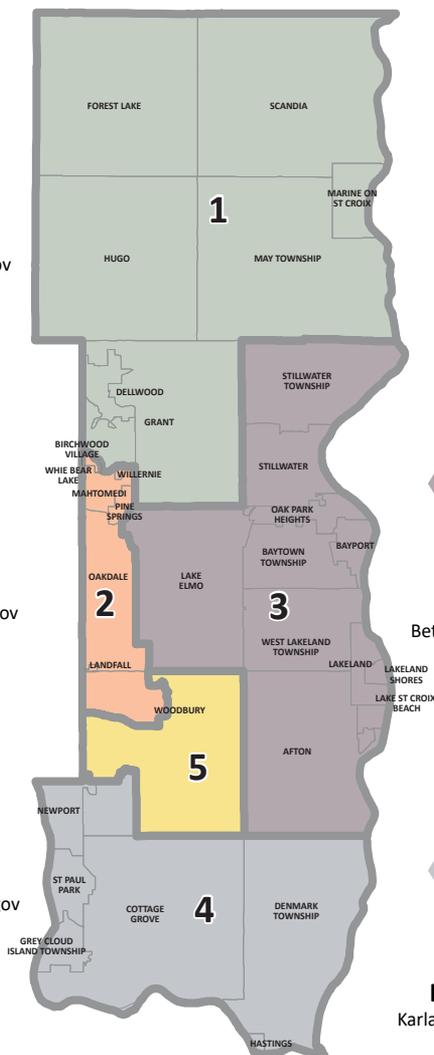
## District 2 - Stan Karwoski

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## District 5 - Michelle Clasen

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## District 3 - Bethany Cox

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## District 4 - Karla Bigham

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651-430-6214



## Washington County Board of Commissioners

Washington County commissioners develop policy and make decisions that govern the county. For information, visit [WashingtonCountyMN.gov](http://WashingtonCountyMN.gov) or call 651-430-6000 (Teletypewriter (TTY): 651-430-6246).

## County Board Meetings

The County Board generally meets most Tuesdays at 9 a.m. in the Government Center, 14949 N. 62nd St., Stillwater. Meeting information is online, or call the Office of Administration at 651-430-6001.

## Livestreaming and cablecasting

Board meetings are livestreamed, at [WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Livestream](http://WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Livestream), where they are also archived. Board meetings may also be cablecast in some areas.

## What is a reverse mortgage?



Have you heard of a “reverse mortgage” but are unsure what it is or how it works?

Put simply, a reverse mortgage is a loan that provides a homeowner with

access to the equity in their home as cash without the need to sell their property. The homeowner may then use those funds to support their living expenses in retirement.

Federally insured reverse mortgages require homeowners to:

- Be age 62 or older.
- Live in the home as a primary residence.
- Have paid off most, or all, of the existing mortgages.
- Not be delinquent on any federal debt.
- Talk with a Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-certified Home Equity Conversion Mortgage counselor.

There are no required monthly loan payments while residing in the home, but the loan must be paid back when the home is sold, when homeowners move out for more than six months, or when the last surviving borrower or their eligible spouse passes away.

The amount that can be borrowed depends on several factors. The HUD-certified homeownership counselors at the Washington County Community Development Agency (CDA) can provide free and confidential guidance to homeowners who may be considering a reverse mortgage. The CDA is one of only four agencies in the state that provide this service and one of only two that provide it free of charge.

To learn more, email [Homeownership@WashingtonCountyCDA.org](mailto:Homeownership@WashingtonCountyCDA.org) or call 651-202-2822.

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*  
Postal Customer



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## County improving accessibility at parks



Action Trackchair.

Washington County Parks has made significant strides to improve access to its park and trail system through innovative design and equipment in recent months. Among the most exciting upgrades are the Trails at Your Pace program and an all-terrain electric wheelchair known as the Action

Trackchair. These improvements are a part of an ongoing effort to ensure parks as a welcoming space for all members of the community, no matter of ability.

The Trails at Your Pace program is a network of existing trails within the parks identified as accessible, short walking opportunities for users of all abilities. In addition to marking trails as part of the Trails at Your Pace program, Parks made physical improvements including installing additional benches along the trails to provide more resting spots. Trails at Your Pace are available at Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, and Hardwood Creek Regional Trail. Detailed route maps are available on the Parks website, [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/ParksTrails](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/ParksTrails).

Coming to parks this summer, the Action Trackchair will give visitors with a disability the chance to explore parkland independently, enhancing their park visit and autonomy. This versatile electric wheelchair can maneuver through mud and snow, over rocky and grassy land, and even through standing water. With optimal conditions, the chair's battery can withstand three hours of use and can be used in all weather conditions. The Action Trackchair was purchased with grant funds from the Metropolitan Council's Equity Grant Program.

The Action Trackchair will be available for rent at rotating park offices at no cost to the user. Detailed information on rental times, locations, and how to rent will be announced on social media (@WashCountyParks) and available at [www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/ParkEquity](http://www.WashingtonCountyMN.gov/ParkEquity). Contact Parks staff at [Parks@WashingtonCountyMN.gov](mailto:Parks@WashingtonCountyMN.gov).



A Trails at Your Pace sign posted at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.