

# 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

The City Council is the legislative branch of the city and is responsible for the establishment of policies and adoption of local laws and ordinances. The Council also serves as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

## 2024 Meetings

- 23 Regular City Council Meetings
- 27 City Council Work Sessions
- 6 Community Engagement Events
- 3 Joint Meetings Council / Planning Commission
- 1 Joint Meeting Council / School Board
- 1 Joint Meeting Council / Parks & Environmental Commission, Planning Commission

## 2024 Actions

- 97 Resolutions Passed
- 7 Ordinances Adopted
- 4 Housing & Redevelopment Resolutions Passed

## City Council 2024

- Mayor Wendy Webster
  - Term expires 1/2/2028
- Councilmember Thomas Randle
  - Term expires 1/3/2028
- Councilmember Jan Jenson
  - Term expires 1/5/2026
- Councilmember Lona Doolan
  - Term expires 1/3/2028
- Councilmember Andrea Stephens
  - Term expired August 2024
- Councilmember Nadia Elnagdy
  - Term expires 1/5/2026

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 savmn.com/citycouncil

# ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY



The City is proud of steps taken in 2024 for creating a sustainable environment and conservation of our natural resources.

## Sustainability Recognition

In 2024 we maintained our certification as a Minnesota GreenStep 5 City. Step 5 is the highest level that can be achieved through the GreenStep Cities program. We were once again certified as a Tree City through the Arbor Day Foundation.

## Climate Plan & Sustainability Programs

2024 marked the first year of implementation of the City's Climate Plan and action items. The City hired Minette Saulog as our Sustainability Coordinator in May to increase staff capacity for sustainability and environmental initiatives, and to manage the plan's action steps and increase staff capacity for sustainability and environmental initiatives.

**1) Partners in Energy:** The City began work on an Energy Action Plan as part of the Xcel Energy Partners in Energy program including creating our Energy Action Team consisting of staff, the school district, Parks & Environmental Commission members, the Chamber of Commerce, faith leaders, youth representatives, and community groups. Anticipated completion of the Energy Action Plan is early 2025 and will complement the Climate Plan's Energy initiatives.

**2) Solar Projects:** The City was awarded two grants under the MN Department of Commerce Solar on Public Buildings program. These awards will fund 60% of the costs of rooftop solar installations at the Public Works Building and Water Treatment Plant, to be completed in 2025. 30% of the cost will be covered by direct/elective pay from the federal government and 10% will be covered by the City's Capital Improvement Plan. These projects will result in cost savings and increased energy efficiency at the two facilities, helping advance City goals.



2024 Energy Action Team



Council Meet & Greet with Chamber of Commerce

# THRIVING VILLAGE



Our goal is to ensure our community is a community for all residents where the City is responsive to concerns, enables successful things to happen, and provides residents with the opportunity to thrive.

## Affordable Housing

In 2024, our City Council held a worksession on Metropolitan Livable Communities and one focused on Long-Term Rental Housing Policy. A key goal for the year was to address preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing with a focus on advocating for residents facing rent pressure.

## Engage Businesses

Our City Council prioritized building relationships with community businesses and partnering with our Area Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, the City worked to expand businesses allowed in light industrial zoning districts and reviewed numerous Conditional Use Permits. Council members also attended several business opening events and Small Business Saturday.

## Senior Services

City Council members engaged with community partners to support services for our Seniors.

## Pedestrian & Bike-Friendly Routes

In 2024 the City Council with City staff applied for a grant to develop an Active Transportation Plan as well as began engagement with the Grand Rounds Missing Link Project.

[savmn.com/annualreports](http://savmn.com/annualreports)

# INFORMED & ENGAGED COMMUNITY



Our focus is to reach all residents with clear and informative messaging, to share all the good things happening in Saint Anthony Village, and to elevate local interest and community pride while promoting our city to potential business owners and residents.

## Community Engagement

We value the input and participation of our residents. This year City Council held six Public Input events and Town Halls to receive input and educate residents about the Police Services Contract with the City of Falcon Heights. In addition, the City conducted a survey to gather important feedback from the community.

## City Website Social Media

Our website (savmn.com) is the primary source of City information for residents.

## VillageNotes Newsletter

Our quarterly newsletter reaches every residence and business in Saint Anthony Village. In 2024 the newsletter received a fresh layout with improved visuals and updated content. Our newsletter highlights city services, news, and events.

## Social Media

The City uses a variety of social media platforms to share city events, highlight stories and educate the community on a daily and weekly basis.

## Direct Mail

This past year all residents received several mailings with information on the Water Service Line Inventory to help residents complete the online reporting requirement.

## Stay Connected



 Facebook @CityofSAV

 Instagram @stanthonyvillagemn

 YouTube @cityofstanthonyminnesota 1529

 "X" @CityofStAnthony

# SAFE & SECURE COMMUNITY



We are committed to the safety and security of everyone who lives, works and visits the City of Saint Anthony Village.

## Fire Department: Medical Response

Through the Advanced Life Support program, our fire department has expanded paramedic care during crucial minutes prior to the arrival of an ambulance. This has involved strong collaboration and training with Hennepin County Medical Center. In addition, the department continues to seek grants and funding to purchase equipment and a broader range of medication to provide this expanded services.

## Significant Changes for Police Department

2024 brought significant personnel changes with the hiring of new Chief, Jeff Spiess, and promotions of a Captain, Lieutenant, two Sergeants, and a Detective. The department also hired four officers.

## City of Falcon Heights Police Partnership

In 2024, the City embarked on a thorough and rigorous process to explore the feasibility of renewing a contractual relationship to provide policing services for the City of Falcon Heights. This exploration included opportunities for feedback from all members of the police department, community members, staff and council. The overall consensus was this partnership would be a positive and sustainable direction for our City.

*City Council engaged in 137 hours of listening and learning from community members regarding the police partnership with Falcon Heights.*



## FISCAL & ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH



Saint Anthony Village is fiscally strong with resilient and supportive organizational culture. We continue to embrace our values as we plan for the future.

### Finalize Exit Plan for Existing TIF Districts

Our city staff worked with Ehlers, our financial consultant, to finalize a TIF exit plan.

### City Facilities

The Council and City staff discussed future facility needs including expansion of our public safety facilities to meet current staff and operational needs.

### Staffing

We are proud to have dedicated, talented individuals who care deeply about our community. The City continues to foster a culture that appreciates our staff and supports professional growth. The year brought new challenges and changes for our employment outlook due to retirements and job attrition. We continue our strong record of hiring skilled staff as openings arise.

The Police Department has implemented a bold recruitment strategy using incentives and state grants to build capacity. The Fire Department held its annual recruiting event in July to grow its paid on-call staffing, as well as promoting from within. Public Works operates at capacity as it serves our community with excellence.

# COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

Saint Anthony City Councilmembers believe the best decisions are made by the best informed decision makers and that public decisions are served when the public has every opportunity to present their views. Open discussion by all interested parties should be an essential part of the decision making process.

*In 2024, City Councilmembers engaged in 457 hours of listening and learning from community members.*

### Ways to Connect with Mayor & City Council Members

The Mayor and Councilmembers are available by phone, email or in person meetings.

### CONNECT WITH YOUR COUNCIL

Councilmembers are scheduled to meet with groups of community members in the Council Chambers or at multi-family communities across Saint Anthony Village throughout the year.

In 2024, Councilmembers also engaged in door knocking to share updates on the City, listen to feedback and answer questions.

### Community Forum

At every City Council meeting, during the Community Forum, individuals may address the City Council about any City business item not included on the regular agenda. The purpose is to listen to community members regarding any City business item and for council members to hear and understand multiple perspectives.



Visit [savmn.com/mayor-city-council](http://savmn.com/mayor-city-council) for links to comment form, meeting schedules, agendas and more.



## 2024 CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

On an annual basis, City Council attends Strategic Goal Setting in January. During these meetings, Council members hear from department heads, consultant staff, city commissioners, representatives from the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) and Metro Cities, as well as guest administrators/managers from other cities.

The Council brings forward concerns and ideas they have heard from residents and businesses over the past year, and the Council and staff work together to discuss priorities and develop the city's pyramid of goals for the year.



*View the Strategic Plan and Pyramid: [savmn.com/strategicplan](http://savmn.com/strategicplan).*



