



Andrew Slama appointed Savage Fire Chief

On October 21, 2019, Andrew Slama was officially appointed as the new Savage Fire Chief. It's familiar territory to him after serving as interim Fire Chief both after Chief Joel McColl retired in March, 2019 and then again after the resignation of Andrain Roach in August. Slama has been an integral part of Savage Fire for over 11 years, starting as a paid-on-call firefighter in 2008 and then being appointed Deputy Chief in 2018. Now, Slama is ready to bring a different mindset and his own leadership model to the department.



Slama started his firefighting career with the Mankato Fire Department, and then continued on as a Firefighter/Paramedic with both Mdewakanton Emergency Services and the Edina Fire Department. He is committed to the long standing fire traditions but sees the need to adapt to the new generation. "I want our firefighters to be proud of the department and inspired to do their best. One of

the challenges we face is the increasing demand of training and fire calls," he stated. "I get it - I'm a dad to two young children, my wife Hillary owns and operates a successful business which means our schedule is anything but normal. I understand how busy life is and how difficult it can be to commit so much time away from your family. My vision is to build a sustainable department that meets the community's needs in a way that provides options and balance. We want Savage Fire to be an important part of our firefighter's lives, but not take over their life."

Community outreach and visibility is another area Slama intends to focus on. He grew up in a small rural town in southern Minnesota where he learned to appreciate small town values and a strong sense of community. "I am very community oriented, and I hope that I can be a role model for the firefighters and encourage them to get to know the residents, and have the residents, get to know them. I think this will help us recruit new firefighters and enhance our visibility in the community," said Slama. So say hi and introduce yourself when you see him around in the community.

I want to know!

What's new with the City's website?

We are very excited to announce the re-launch of **cityofsavage.com** with a fresh new look and user-friendly navigation to make it easier for Savage residents to access services and find information they want and need. Several new features and improvements include:

Homepage - Large buttons were added to the home page with quick links to some of the most popular services and pages like job opportunities, utility bill payment, permits and applications, and facility reservations. Plus, we've improved the search function and added easy to access contact information.

Interactive Calendar - Under the Event tab, site visitors can filter the calendar to find information on upcoming city events, meetings, programs and more.

Report a Problem - Users can quickly and easily submit concerns about common issues and problems like potholes, streetlight outages, and mailbox damage online.

Mobile Responsive - The website will dynamically resize for all screen sizes, so users will be able to view our site no matter what device they are using.

ADA Compliant - To help make our website a positive place for everyone, we used the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) to make our website more accessible for those with disabilities.

Language access - Google translate can be accessed to translate the site into different languages.

It has been over five years since the last significant update to the City of Savage website. "So much happens at the City that needs to be shared," stated Communications Manager Emily Gunderson. "Today people want information on the go, and our new and improved website will make it easier to complete their task or find what they want in a straight-forward manner."

We hope you like the changes. And if you have any feedback, let us know. Email us at egunderson@ci.savage.mn.us.

If you have a question about something, email it to us at egunderson@ci.savage.mn.us. We will feature a different question each month in the City Connection.

By the numbers | 2020 Proposed City Budget

\$54,668

In the last 12 years, this is how much an average home in Savage has increased in value

\$41

Over those 12 years, this is how much City taxes have increased on that average home

\$18

Estimated increase in City property taxes in 2020 for the average home in Savage

Just like many of us, the Savage City Council prepares a budget each year to pay for important services such as police and fire protection; parks and activities; roads, buildings, vehicles and equipment; and much more. For 2020, the proposed City budget is \$16,193,701 which is an increase of 3.93% or \$611,705.

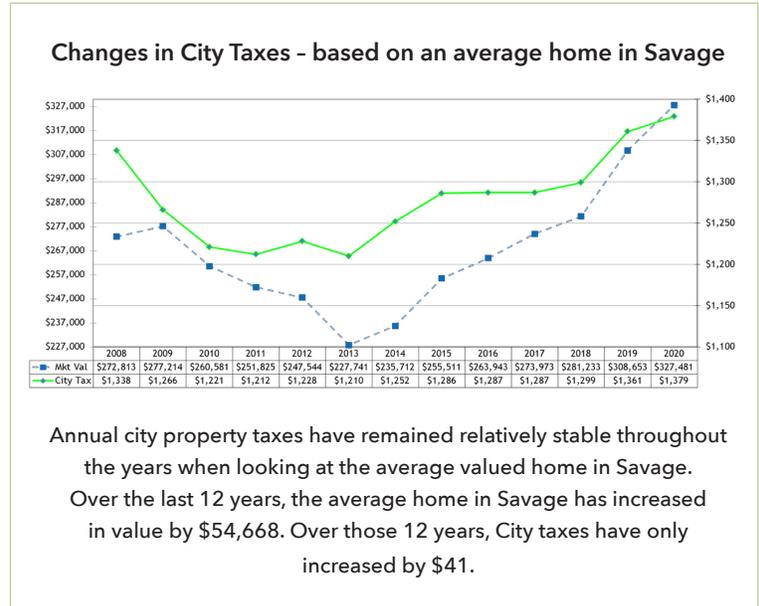
This additional funding will be used to:

- Provide COLA/ insurance/ benefits for the 180+ full and part time City employees
- Implement a wellness initiative and purchase personal protection equipment for Police
- Repair and maintain several City facilities
- Increase IT infrastructure to keep current on data security standards

Property Taxes

As part of the budget process the City Council adopts a preliminary tax levy which is the portion of the City's budget paid by property taxes. For 2020, the preliminary tax levy is set at \$13,980,307 which is a 4.3% increase from 2019.

The impact homeowners will see will vary depending on how their property's value changes from 2019. Scott County is estimating that property values will increase on average by 6% in 2020. For a median single-family home in Savage (valued at \$327,481) City property taxes would increase by \$18 per year. This increase is a result of home values continuing to rise.



How are my tax dollars spent?

So where does your \$1,379/year or \$114.92/month go? Here's a breakdown of what you're paying monthly for various services, based on the average valued home of \$327,481:

Police protection for a safe community	\$44.67
Maintaining and improving roads and parks	\$20.33
Attracting and retaining high-quality workforce	\$19.27
Enhancing park amenities, recreation opportunities and natural resources:	\$14.12
Fire protection and emergency medical response	\$8.81
Strong neighborhoods and property values	\$7.72

Questions about the City's budget and tax levy can be directed to the Savage Finance Director Julie Stahl at jstahl@ci.savage.mn.us or **952-882-2691**.

Reminder

Winter parking restrictions begin November 1 through March 31. On-street parking is prohibited between 2 - 6 a.m. regardless of whether there is snow or not. Violators could be ticketed or towed.

November is NaNoWriMo

(National Novel Writing Month)

The Savage Library is hosting Hogwart's Prep - Fan Fiction Writing Class. Write HERE is a weekly program that gives you time and space to write... with snacks! Also, local author and carver, Neil Gillis, will discuss his process during An Evening with Neil Gillis. Check out these activities, and more, at scottlib.org/events!



MEET A SAVAGE FIREFIGHTER

RILEY BRUNNER

These men and women are your neighbors, your co-workers, and your friends. They are people of all ages, races and backgrounds who are committed to giving back to their community. If you are interested in becoming a Savage firefighter, go to cityofsavage.com/fire-interest.

Riley recently joined Savage Fire and is completing his training and certification.



What is your day job?

I work in sales and customer service at Life Time in Savage.

What made you want to become a firefighter?

I was interested in becoming a fire fighter because I wanted to serve a community that I love and I was excited to join a lasting brotherhood.

What do you like to do when you are not working or volunteering?

I have a great appreciation for the outdoors so you'll find me spending most of my time doing activities in nature such as hiking, camping and canoeing.

What do you like most about firefighting?

My favorite thing about firefighting so far is meeting all of my fellow firefighters. I really enjoy getting to know new people and the interactions I have with the rest of the team. Everyone is very willing to help and there are a lot of different personalities.

What would you say to someone considering becoming a firefighter?

If you are looking to volunteer your time, I think it is one of the best ways to do so and a very rewarding position to be in.

2020 Elections

Presidential Primary, March 3

In 2020, all Minnesota voting precincts will hold a Presidential Nomination Primary on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. The purpose of the Presidential Nomination Primary is for voters who identify with a major political party, to indicate which candidate they want their party to nominate for the November General Election. Only major party presidential candidates participate and each party will have a separate ballot. A voter must request the ballot of the party of their choice. If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the Presidential Nomination Primary. Registered voters will be able to vote at their regular polling place on Election Day or at City Hall by absentee ballot starting January 17, 2020.

All other State offices that require a primary election will be on the August 11 primary ballot. Precinct caucuses will still take place on Tuesday, February 25 to conduct other party business. For more information on either the Presidential Nomination Primary or precinct caucuses, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State website at sos.state.mn.us.

Election Judges Needed

Would you like to learn more about the election process? If so consider becoming an election judge. For information on serving as an election judge and to access an application, visit the City's website at cityofsavage.com.

Upcoming community events

Movies in the Outfield

Come to the Savage Sports Center for a free movie night! Bring your lawn chair and blankets, grab some popcorn from the concession stand or a treat from an on-site food truck.

November 16: Aladdin (PG) (2019)

December 14: The Lion King (PG) (2019)

Price: Free

Age: All ages

Time: Seating starts at 6:30 p.m., movie starts at 7 p.m.

Location: Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave.



Save the Date | December 10

Come gather on the City Hall Campus for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony and Santa Cop Night with the Savage Police Department. Join Mayor Williams and other city officials for a bonfire, hot cocoa, s'mores, live holiday music, and ornament making activities before heading to the Savage Police Department garage to drop off your unwrapped gifts for the annual Toys for Tots campaign and visit with Santa and Police Chief Seurer. Don't forget your camera!

December 10

Price: Free

Age: All ages

Time: Tree Lighting Ceremony: 5:30 - 6 p.m.

Santa Cop Night: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: City Campus, 6000 McColl Drive

Rec Corner

Savage Sports Center opens November 2

The Savage Sports Center is inflated from November through April and provides an indoor climate-controlled, state-of-the-art space that is ideal for winter sports and exercise. The facility may be rented for athletic practices or private parties. To learn more, or to request time, visit cityofsavage.com. Join us at one or more of the following open times - there is something for everyone!

- **Open Walk/Jog**

Walk or jog indoors during the winter months for free! Open walk times are Monday-Wednesday-Friday 6:30 - 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday-Thursday 12 - 3 p.m. Strollers are welcome.

- **Tot Turf Time**

The Savage Sports Center is open to kiddos age 5 and under every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9 - 11:30 a.m. For \$3 per toddler, tots can play on inflatables, throw balls, hit with bats, and socialize with other little people. Purchase a Tot Time Play Pass for \$25 and save \$0.50 per participant. All toddlers must be accompanied by an adult.

- **Open Play**

Grab your friends and equipment and come play during the winter months. For \$5 per person, age 6 and up, participants can play soccer, baseball, football, lacrosse, bocce, ultimate Frisbee, and more. An Open Play schedule can be found at cityofsavage.com. Purchase an Open Play Pass for \$45 and get one free admission! Kids under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Secret Holiday Shop | December 7

Mark your calendars! The annual Secret Holiday Shop is an opportunity for kids of all ages to do holiday shopping for their family and friends without their parents. Volunteers assist children in selecting from a variety of gifts for purchase and then wrap and label them at the end of the shopping experience. Plus, Santa will be making a stop for a photo opportunity! Gift prices range from \$0.50 to \$11.00. Parents can purchase tickets and create a shopping list with their child upon arrival.

Age: All ages

Time: 9 - 11 a.m.

Location: City Hall, 6000 McColl Drive

Youth Snowmobile Safety Training

Youth ages 11 - 15 can complete snowmobile safety training through an interactive online course. This online course takes approximately 2 to 4 hours. Students who have completed the online course will need to complete a safety class and driving test scheduled for 8 a.m. November 30 at the Scott County Training Facility located at 17706 Valley View Road, Jordan, MN. For more information, follow the Savage Sno-Pacers online at facebook.com/SavageSnoPacers or contact Tom Wills at snopacers@gmail.com or 612-567-6691.

Pick up your 2020 Parks and Recreation Calendar

Stop by City Hall, Public Works, Savage Sports Center or the Savage Public Library for a FREE copy of the 2020 Parks and Recreation calendar. It features 12 beautiful photographs submitted by residents that highlight our community parks and natural areas. It also includes good-to-know information on all the fun recreational programs throughout the year.

City Tree Trimming

Each fall, Public Works inspects various streets and walkways to identify which trees may be obstructing sight lines, light poles, or could be damaged by snow removal or street sweeping equipment. Some of these trees are in the right-of-way and some may be on private property. The City will notify property owners by mail if tree clearance issues have been identified on their private property. At that time, property owners will have 30 days to trim the trees themselves. If residents would prefer City crews to trim the trees, residents will need to sign and return a Right of Entry form to allow City crews onto their property. To view a map of the area crews will be working on, go to cityofsavage.com. Property owners who have concerns regarding tree trimming or would like to meet with a Public Works staff member can contact Public Works Superintendent Andy Weldon at 952-224-3422 or aweldon@ci.savage.mn.us.



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