



# City of Burnsville

## Bulletin

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# City Council Adopts 2015 Budget

On Dec. 2, the Burnsville City Council voted 4 to 1 to approve the City's 2015 budget. In total, nearly \$102 million dollars is being budgeted to cover the City's day-to-day operations, capital projects (including roads, buildings, vehicles, equipment, etc.) and annual debt repayment in 2015.

Of that \$102 million, the City receives approximately:

- 30% from property tax payments
- 27% from fees for services (sewer, water, etc.)
- 38% from other revenue such as licenses, permits, franchise agreements, other intergovernmental agencies and transfers
- 5% from existing fund balance



Sources of revenue

These dollars are used to provide important City services such as police and fire protection, streets and utilities, water treatment and City parks.

### City Tax Levy Increased 4 Percent

For 2015, the portion of the City's budget paid by property taxes (\$30.2 million) increased by four percent from 2014. This increase allows the City to maintain its existing levels of service and to replenish funds (such as its debt, park projects, emerald ash borer and vehicle equipment funds) that were deferred in earlier years.

2015 Tax Levy Increase of 4% to Bring in Additional \$1.16 million

Total Tax Levy Increase	\$1.16 million	4%
New Construction	\$255,000	0.9%
Existing Taxpayers	\$906,000	3.1%

The tax levy increase, coupled

with the fact that home values are on the rise for the first time in many years, will likely result in an increased property tax bill for residents. The increase of the City's portion is estimated at just over \$49 for the year for an average home valued at \$209,000.

### Highlights of the 2015 budget include:

- \$14 million dollars dedicated to City street and utility improvements
- \$4.5 million dedicated to replacing aging City water meters
- \$155,000 increase in funds dedicated to City parks
- \$675,000 increase in operating costs to maintain City services at current levels

### Where do my property tax dollars go?

The City of Burnsville is one of several governing bodies that rely on property tax dollars to provide service to residents. In addition to the City (43%), residential tax dollars also go to Dakota County (28%); your

local school district (23%) and other taxing jurisdictions (6%), such as the Watershed District, Metropolitan Council, the Dakota County Community Development Association and others.

In 2015, the City of Burnsville (including the Burnsville Economic Development Authority) will collect approximately \$30.2 million in property taxes. Here's how that money is spent:



The City of Burnsville places the highest priorities on the most important services to residents, businesses and visitors. Police and Fire account for more than half of the City's general fund budget.



As always, the City will continue to look for cost effective and efficient solutions to deliver services, deal with challenges and keep Burnsville running smoothly.

For more detailed information visit [www.burnsville.org/budget](http://www.burnsville.org/budget).

# 2015 Residential Utility Rates

Did you know that while a 20-ounce bottle of water can cost up to \$2 in the store, an entire gallon of water out of the tap costs less than a penny?

Even including the additional fees on a utility bill – such as the delivery of fresh water; removal of waste water; sewer treatment; and non-water services such as street lighting, sidewalk plowing and storm drainage fees – an average residential user can get a gallon of water for 9/10ths of a cent!

To meet continued, increasing demands on the City's utility infrastructure, residents will notice a slight increase in their utility bills this year. These few added dollars per household will go a long way in maintaining Burnsville's water and sewer system at a high level.

For more information on utility rates and water conservation visit [www.burnsville.org/utilities](http://www.burnsville.org/utilities).

Services	2014	2015
<b>Water</b>	\$2.54 per 1,000 gallons <i>(\$12.70)</i>	\$2.65 per 1,000 gallons <i>(\$13.25)</i>
<b>City Sewer</b>	\$1.09 per 1,000 gallons <i>(\$5.45)</i>	\$1.20 per 1,000 gallons <i>(\$6)</i>
<b>Met Sewer (Regional Waste Water Treatment)</b>	\$2.09 per 1,000 gallons <i>(\$10.45)</i>	\$2.12 per 1,000 gallons <i>(\$10.60)</i>
<b>Meter Replacement Charge</b>	New fee in 2015	\$1.20 per meter
<b>Basic Charge</b>	\$6 (\$2 for each service – water, city sewer, met sewer)	NO CHANGE – \$6
<b>Storm Water (Drainage and Surface Water Quality)</b>	\$6.78 per property	NO CHANGE – \$6.78
<b>Street Light</b>	\$2.86 per benefiting property	NO CHANGE – \$2.86
<b>Major Roadway Light</b>	\$0.34 per property	NO CHANGE – \$0.34
<b>Sidewalk Snowplow</b>	\$0.95 per benefiting property	\$1.11 per property
<b>State Surcharge</b>	\$0.53 per water connection	NO CHANGE – \$0.53
<b>Penalty</b>	1.25% of the amount due for late payment	NO CHANGE – 1.25% of the amount due for late payment
<b>Total Utility Bill</b>	<i>(\$46.06)</i>	<i>(\$48.67)</i>

\*Figures in red indicate average household cost per month based on 5,000 gallons

# 2015 Street, Road and Trail Projects

## City of Burnsville

The City has dedicated nearly \$14 million for seven transportation projects in 2015.

### Street Rehabilitation

Three rehabilitation projects are on the docket, each on roads that carry traffic loads from 9,000 to 15,000 vehicles per day. Work will start in mid-May and will be staged to provide minimum impact on drivers. The projects are scheduled to be complete by Labor Day.

- Nicollet Avenue from McAndrews Road (County Road 38) to Highway 13
- Aldrich Avenue from County Road 42 to McAndrews Road (County Road 38)
- Burnsville Parkway from Aldrich Avenue to Sunset Pond Park entrance

Rehabilitation projects typically involve removing the top two inches of existing road and replacing it with asphalt. This new surface has an approximate lifespan of 20 to 25 years with regular maintenance.

### Street Reconstruction

Three reconstruction projects are planned for 2015, each within an existing neighborhood. Work will start in mid-May with a completion goal of Sept. 30.

- Court Place west of Judicial Road and south of Williams Drive
- Leisure Estates area east of Burnsville Parkway and west of Interstate 35W
- Parkwood Drive area south of 134th Street and north of McAndrews Road (County Road 38)



Reconstruction projects typically include replacing aging and failing road infrastructure. The road itself is removed, ground up and combined with gravel to create a strong base for the new road.

### Trail Project

The City is planning one trail project in 2015.

- Cliff Road Trail from Cliff Fen Park to 12th Avenue

This project will connect existing trails at Cliff Fen Park and 12th Avenue.

For more information and to sign up for periodic updates on City road projects visit [www.burnsville/streetrecon](http://www.burnsville/streetrecon) or call 952-895-4457.



## Dakota County

### Traffic Signal Upgrades - County Road 42

Dakota County is planning to build a signal management system along County Road 42 from Scott County to Rosemount with the assistance of federal funding. This new system will allow the County to actively manage and coordinate traffic signal timing along County Road 42.

### Sidewalk/Trails

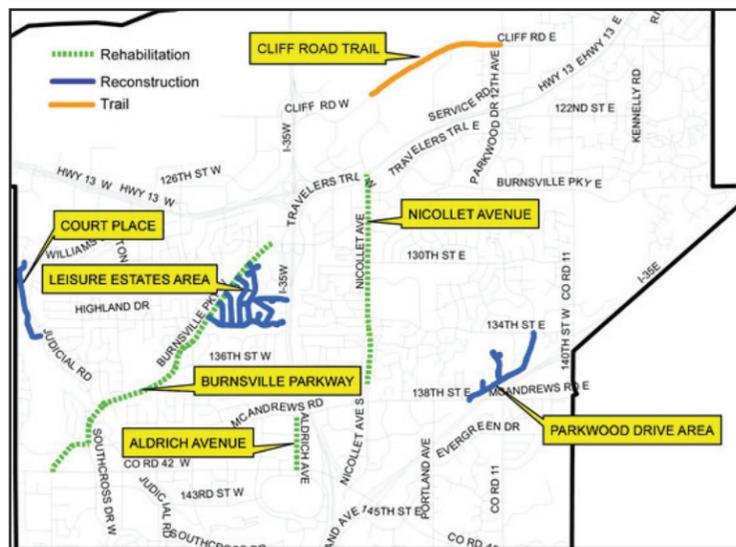
The County will also be filling an existing gap in the sidewalk/trail system on the north side of County Road 42 from Nicollet Avenue to Elm Drive (Redwood Park, Apple Valley).

For more information on County transportation projects visit [www.co.dakota.mn.us/Transportation/PlannedConstruction](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Transportation/PlannedConstruction).

## MnDot

### Bridge Painting

MnDot will be painting the Cedar Avenue Bridge over the Minnesota River and will need to close the bridge in one direction for approximately two weeks at a time. Work will start in mid-May and is scheduled to be complete by June 26.



Burnsville's 2015 Proposed City Transportation Improvements

## Resident Notification Process

Residents in areas affected by City street construction will receive the following notifications:

1. Notification by mail at the end of December 2014
2. Neighborhood meeting in January 2015
3. Notifications of public hearings by mail in February or March 2015
4. Neighborhood meeting in April 2015
5. Assessment Hearing in September 2015

# New Look and Features for Utility Billing

When residents open future utility bills (both on paper and online), they'll likely notice a new look – and new features. Early in 2015, Burnsville will begin working with a new vendor to provide more bill pay options for customers. In addition, the new system provides many benefits to the City.

“This new service is more affordable than our previous system,” said Steve Olstad, Burnsville Financial Operations Director. “Since we could get a better price as well as additional improvements for our residents, we decided this was a ‘win-win’ for everyone.”

### More Online and Bill Pay Options

Some of the new options that will be open to utility customers include:

- Automatic, recurring payments through checking or credit card
- One-time payments online using an account number rather than an “Easy Match Code”
- Pay by phone (coming soon)
- Ability to view past statements and payments regardless of payment method (coming soon)

Some of these options may not be available right away, but will be available within the next few months.

### New Look for Bills/Bill Pay Website

While the change should be fairly seamless for most customers, Olstad recommends that anyone using online bill pay update their computer’s “bookmarks” or “favorites” to reflect the new web address, <http://burnsvillemn.billtrust.com>, once the new bills are issued.

“I think customers will find that the new website will look more professional and is a little easier to use,” said Olstad.

Paper bills will also get a slightly refreshed look, which should make them easier for customers to read and find important information quickly.

### Making the Switch

Many customers won’t need to make any changes to the way they pay their utility bill. However, a list of the current options – and any needed changes is listed below.

- **If you pay your bill by mail:** There’s nothing to change. Continue to remit payment to the same PO Box mailing address using the envelope enclosed in your bill.
- **If you pay your bill using your bank’s online bill pay function:** There’s nothing to change. The City will still receive payment. Please verify you are using the correct 11-digit (with dash) account number.
- **If you are enrolled in the City’s “Automatic Payment Plan”:** There’s nothing to change at this time. Payments will continue to be withdrawn.
- **If you pay your bill online each month using a credit card:** You will receive an email explaining how to log on to the new bill pay system to continue making your monthly payments.
- **If you receive your bill via email through e-Statements:** You will receive instructions with your new bill on logging on to the new system.

Additional information will be delivered with future utility bills.

Learn more about utility billing at [www.burnsville.org/utilities](http://www.burnsville.org/utilities).



This brochure with information on the new bill pay system will arrive in future bills.

## City Council Recognizes Outstanding 'Community Builders'

Seven individuals and one community organization were recognized in October 2014 for their contributions toward building community and leaving a lasting impact on the quality of life in Burnsville.

Members of the Burnsville City Council presented their 16th-Annual "Community Builder" awards to:

### Chris and Paul Knirk, Volunteers with Kids 'n Kinship

For more than three years, Chris and Paul Knirk have dedicated their time and energy to support youth through mentoring at Kids 'n Kinship. Each week they get together with their mentee to play board games, attend sporting events, ride bikes, canoe and make meals together.

### Ebenezer Ridges Campus

Ebenezer Ridges Campus has been a trusted name in the Burnsville Community since 1976. The Campus has grown as part of Fairview Health Services to meet the needs of seniors and their families in the areas of Assisted Living, Independent Living, Transitional Living, End-of-Life Care, Adult Day Care, Memory Care and Child Care preschool.

### Eugene Grazzini, Economic Development Champion

Gene Grazzini has given more than a dozen years of service to economic development activities – serving as the vice-chair and chair of Burnsville's Economic Growth Committee and the Economic Development Commission.

### Jim Schmitt, Burnsville Rotary

Jim Schmitt, a long-time community volunteer, has displayed a commitment to helping others through a variety of activities including volunteering for Meals on Wheels, serving in numerous roles at Mary Mother of the Church and as Chair of the Burnsville Rotary's Fundraising Committee.

### Margo Swanson, International Festival of Burnsville

Margo Swanson has been involved with the International Festival of Burnsville since it began in 2007, serving as the event's chair for the last five years. She works tirelessly to coordinate and promote the festivities, secure grant funding and find new committee members to help plan the event each year.

### Tom Taylor, Community Volunteer

Tom Taylor has been a tireless volunteer for a number of years – dedicating much of his time to building the community even while owning and running his own business. Tom has been a crucial cog in the wheel for the Burnsville Fire Muster.

### Vicki Roy, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191

After leaving the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 Board of Education in 2011 with 20 years of service to her credit, Vicki Roy has stayed involved with youth. She works alongside 191 Community Education staff to secure donations to support "Ready! For Kindergarten;" organizes the Rockin' Readers program and serves on the Board of Directors of Foundation 191, a non-profit organization created to enhance and expand educational opportunities.

For more information on this year's award winners visit [www.burnsville.org/communitybuilder](http://www.burnsville.org/communitybuilder). Nominations are accepted from the community and reviewed by the City Council.



Pictured above (from L to R): Council Member Dan Kealey, Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, Vicki Roy, Peggy Ludwigson (Ebenezer), Paul Knirk, JJ, Chris Knirk, Margo Swanson, Eugene Grazzini, Council Member Suzanne Nguyen, Council Member Mary Sherry and Council Member Bill Coughlin. (Not pictured Jim Schmitt, Tom Taylor.)

## Burnsville Community Television Calling 'All Aboard the Orientation Express'

Free Weekly Orientation Classes Provided to Public, Community Groups



BCTV staff show off the studio control room during a recent public "Open House."

Burnsville Community Television (BCTV) is issuing a resounding "All Aboard" for residents and community groups to hop on the public access train and learn more about BCTV during FREE weekly orientation classes.

These classes provide Burnsville residents, community groups and school district members

an opportunity to tour the BCTV studio and learn how they can use community television to create videos for their website, YouTube and local cable channels. Since the class is free, there is no risk in stopping by to learn more.

"We are excited to now offer weekly orientation classes," said Tina Wilson, Community Television Operations Specialist. "The class is informative and there is no commitment."

The Orientation Class includes:

- A tour of the studio
- An overview of classes offered
- A look at and description of the variety of equipment available
- An explanation of how to get programming on BCTV's public access channel

"The class is a fabulous introduction to what BCTV has to offer. It is truly amazing to have such a professional studio to work in right here in Burnsville, all for free," exclaimed Chris Nechanicky, a current public access user.

To pre-register for a class call 952-641-1354 or email [tina.wilson@ci.burnsville.mn.us](mailto:tina.wilson@ci.burnsville.mn.us). For more information visit [www.burnsville.tv/classes](http://www.burnsville.tv/classes).

**When:** Most Thursdays from 6 – 7 p.m.  
First Saturday each month during the school year from 10 – 11 a.m.  
**Where:** BCTV Studio, Burnsville High School  
600 Highway 13 E., Room C214  
**Cost:** FREE  
**Pre-registration is requested, but not required; dates are subject to change**

## Winter Activities for Seniors 62+

Register online at [www.burnsville.org/recreation](http://www.burnsville.org/recreation) and click "Online Registration," by phone at 952-895-4500 or at the Recreation Office.



### Chocolate & Hearts: How Sweet It Is A Magical Event

*Filled with Music, Chocolate and Fun!*

This Valentine's Day, your heart may melt, but the chocolate buffet will not! Enjoy appetizers, entertainment, games and more. Chocolate courtesy of Ecumen Seasons at Apple Valley and entertainment sponsored by the Rivers of Burnsville.

**Who:** Singles, couples, friends and anyone age 62+  
**When:** Friday, Feb. 13  
3 – 5 p.m.  
**Where:** Ames Center  
12600 Nicollet Ave.  
**Cost:** \$12 per person  
**Registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 6**



# AMES CENTER

For ticket information visit [www.ames-center.com](http://www.ames-center.com) or call 952-895-4680

## 1964: The Tribute

Main Stage • Saturday, Jan. 24 at 8 p.m. • Ticket Information: \$30, \$40 & \$50

Since the early 80s, *1964: The Tribute* has been thrilling audiences all over the globe with what *Rolling Stone Magazine* has called “the best Beatles tribute on earth.” *1964: The Tribute* takes audiences on a musical journey to an era in rock history that will live in people’s hearts forever. It is hailed by critics and fans alike as the most authentic and endearing Beatles tribute in the world. Choosing songs from the pre-Sgt. Pepper era, *1964* recreates an early 1960s live Beatles concert, with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles and banter.



## DUKES of Dixieland

Main Stage • Friday, Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. • Ticket Information: \$33 & \$43

Back in 1974, producer John Shoup re-formed the *DUKES of Dixieland* and opened their jazz club atop the Monteleone Hotel in the French Quarter of New Orleans, Louisiana, calling it “DUKES’ PLACE.” The *DUKES* play only 30 tour dates a year in the U.S. and overseas. Never straying long, they head back to their home base on Steamboat Natchez, performing 45 weeks a year, seven nights a week. The group plays New Orleans music from Dr. John and Fats Domino, to Huey Smith and Louis Prima, not to mention many of their own original tunes.



## Cirque Ziva

Main Stage • Friday, Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. • Ticket Information: \$20, \$30 & \$40

The Golden Dragon Acrobats present *Cirque Ziva*, a new world-class cirque spectacular that has been thrilling audiences across the U.S. since its creation in 2011. This fast-paced, technically-innovative performance showcases traditional Chinese acrobats, dance and costumes, ancient and contemporary music and modern theatrical techniques. The renowned acrobats dazzle with amazing feats of athleticism, daring heart-stopping stunts and the grace of their centuries-old art form. *Cirque Ziva* is sure to delight and keep audiences of all ages in suspense.



## Recreation Highlight:

# Broomball Brings Cold-Weather Fun for Everyone



Burnsville’s broomball leagues offer an exciting opportunity for winter recreation. Photo courtesy of Bob DiTolla.

Most people know that Minnesota is the “State of Hockey,” but many are unaware that it is also the unofficial “broomball capital of the U.S.” – bearing the largest concentration of broomball teams in the country. The City of Burnsville has been continuing the broomball tradition for more than 20 years.

“It’s a specialty sport, but those who play really love it,” said Recreation Supervisor Garrett Beck.

Bob DiTolla is one of those players. DiTolla began playing broomball

in college in 1988 and joined a Burnsville men’s league in 2000. Although he has been playing for 26 years, DiTolla has maintained his passion for the sport.

“There’s definitely a competitive thing that brings me back every winter,” said DiTolla. “Not just competing with the other guys on the rink, but also competing [with myself] in the sense of still being able to run up and down the ice.”

**What’s With That Weird Stick?**  
Broomball rules are similar to hockey, but players must have some equipment unique to the sport.

The game was historically played with an actual broom that had its bristles cut and covered in tape. Today’s sticks have a small, triangular rubber paddle on the end that differs significantly from a hockey stick’s blade.

Rather than skates, players wear special shoes to help gain traction

on the ice. Teams must also bring a broomball – which resembles a small soccer ball – to each game.

**Let’s Play!**  
Burnsville’s broomball leagues offer something for everyone – whether new to one of Minnesota’s favorite winter sports or a veteran.

“It’s always fun to play against a great team or player to learn a thing or two,” said DiTolla. “And vice versa, to play a team that is new to the game so you can teach them some tricks of the trade.”

DiTolla’s team – Lovegreen – is long-standing in Burnsville’s league. However, there is always space for new players to join.

“We have space for new teams every year,” said Beck. “We also keep a list of individuals who want to play but don’t have a team. Then we can match them up with teams that need players.”

And what if you’ve never played broomball before? DiTolla encourages people to get out on the ice and give it a try.

“As long as you are interested in giving it your all and going out there with the mentality to improve, it’s a great time,” DiTolla said.

Burnsville offers a men’s league and a mixed/co-rec league. Both leagues play January-February.

Team registration occurs each November. Those interested in playing or officiating can learn more at [www.burnsville.org/broomball](http://www.burnsville.org/broomball).



Teammates (from L to R) Bob DiTolla and Steve Henry. Photo courtesy of Bob DiTolla.

## Recycling 101

Recycling is important for the environment and economy, but the list of things that can get put in a recycling bin can get complicated! Get the scoop on what’s recyclable and what’s not. “Talk trash” about the biggest problem items that should avoid the recycling center, and count down the top five things people don’t know they can recycle. Light refreshments will be provided.

**Who:** Adults age 62+  
**When:** Thursday, March 5  
10 – 11 a.m.  
**Where:** Burnsville City Hall  
100 Civic Center Parkway  
**Cost:** FREE  
**Registration deadline is Monday, March 2**

## Grand Ol’ Carnival

Hurry, hurry, step right up! Grandparents and parents – looking for something fun to do with the kids during spring break? Come on down to the “Grand Ol’ Carnival.” Carnival games, prizes, open gym, arts and crafts, cookie decorating and more! Sponsored by the City of Burnsville and Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 Community Education.



**Who:** Grandparents, parents and kids of all ages  
**When:** Thursday, March 26  
1 – 4 p.m.  
**Where:** Nicollet Junior High,  
400 E. 134th St.  
**Cost:** \$5 per child;  
grandparents and  
parents are free  
**Registration deadline is Monday, March 23**

## BURNSVILLE BUSINESS CORNER



### Burnsville Community Home Show Set for March 21

After a year off, the Burnsville Community Home Show returns this spring! Don't miss this opportunity to get ready for those home improvement projects.

Learn from the pros in seminars on topics such as home maintenance tips; improving the value of your home; how to buy siding, windows and roofing; and how to build a deck or retaining wall. Participants can also walk the floor to see new products and talk to numerous vendors about home improvement options.

The Community Home Show is hosted by the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 and the City of Burnsville. For more information visit [www.burnsvillechamber.com](http://www.burnsvillechamber.com).

**When:** Saturday, March 21  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
**Where:** Burnsville High School  
600 Highway 13 E.  
**Cost:** FREE

### Welcome to These New Burnsville Businesses

- Cheese Melt Cafe
- Cricket Wireless
- Device Pitstop
- Floral Merchandising
- H & M
- Pawn Works
- Smashburger
- Welcyon, Fitness After 50

If you have a new business in Burnsville contact Economic Development Coordinator Skip Nienhaus at [skip.nienhaus@ci.burnsville.mn.us](mailto:skip.nienhaus@ci.burnsville.mn.us) or 952-895-4454 to schedule a welcome visit.

### City Council to Review Liquor Ordinance

As a result of several market changes – including the now booming craft beer revolution, the “gastronomy craze” (gourmet cuisines paired with off-sale alcohol) and the most recent change in state law to allow brew pubs and taprooms – the City of Burnsville has received several inquiries from businesses regarding its liquor ordinance.

Currently, the City ordinance allows only 12 off-sale licenses in Burnsville. Since all 12 are issued, the current ordinance would not allow additional uses by new businesses.

In 2015, the Council will use its Governance Process to review the off-sale liquor ordinance. The process will involve staff study, expert testimony, input from existing license holders and public input.

Topics to be addressed include the number of licenses available in the City, new concepts such as brew pubs and taprooms, clustering, distance and the freestanding building requirement outside of the Burnsville Center retail corridor.

2015 Governance Meetings regarding the City's liquor ordinance will take place at Burnsville City Hall, and will be cablecast and webstreamed live on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m.: Staff white paper presented and expert testimony
- Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 4:30 p.m.: Public input and Council dialogue
- ~~Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m.: Council dialogue and policy decision~~

Please Note: The March 24 Governance Meeting has been canceled. A third meeting may be scheduled at a later date if necessary.

Anyone wishing to provide input but unable to attend the Feb. 24 meeting may send comments to [skip.nienhaus@ci.burnsville.mn.us](mailto:skip.nienhaus@ci.burnsville.mn.us).



Burnsville's City Council will review the City's liquor ordinance through a series of Governance Meetings in 2015.

## Standard & Poor's, Moody's Provide Burnsville with Top Financial Rating

Citing factors such as growing property tax values, a strong economy, budgetary flexibility, strong cash reserves, average debt and prudent financial management, both Standard & Poor's Rating Service (S&P) and Moody's Investors Service gave Burnsville their highest financial rating in 2014.

The “AAA” rating from S&P and the “Aaa” rating from Moody's are the top ratings an organization can receive from the respective companies.

The City receives a new bond rating any time it plans to issue new general obligation bonds. The rating is then used by investment professionals to determine the likelihood that the debt will be repaid. Bonds are used by the City as a low-interest solution to finance major capital projects.

According to Burnsville Finance Director Kelly Strey, “These ratings allow the City to finance street and utility projects at a low interest rate, saving taxpayer dollars.”



## Dakota County, City Celebrate County Road 5 Bridge Opening in November

After two years of major construction, the County Road 5/Highway 13 interchange in Burnsville is open to traffic.

The project, which began in 2012, included relocating utilities; upgrading signal systems; improving frontage roads; and constructing a bridge, ramps and retaining walls. The new County Road 5 bridge is at the same grade as the former interchange, meaning engineers had to plan for excavations down 25 feet as part of the project to allow Highway 13 traffic to pass underneath.

The new intersection will increase safety, provide better access and improve traffic flow at County Road 5 and Highway 13, as well as provide Burnsville new economic growth opportunities.



A ribbon cutting was held on Nov. 3 for the new intersection. Pictured on the bridge (from L to R): Senator Dan Hall; Council Member Mary Sherry; Mayor Elizabeth Kautz; Council Member Bill Coughlin; Dakota County Commissioner Liz Workman; Council Member Dan Kealey; Representative Pam Myhra; Senator Jim Carlson; Metro District Engineer Scott McBride

## 19 Acres of Oak Savanna to be Restored at Terrace Oaks Park

Until approximately 60 years ago, Terrace Oaks Park in Burnsville was predominantly an oak savanna – characterized by widely spaced oaks with a diverse, prairie-like understory of grasses and wildflowers.

Land within the park was once grazed by wild animals, and later cattle, which helped keep the area open and reduced overcrowding of trees. Natural and man-made fires also maintained the area.

However, as the use of the park changed – and fires and grazing could no longer occur – the savanna was rapidly invaded by box elder, buckthorn and other aggressive trees and shrubs. These invaders created dense shade, limiting the growth of understory plants and leading to erosion and reduced habitat for wildlife. The invaders also competed with mature oaks, and shaded out young oaks needing sunlight to grow.

In 2014, the City of Burnsville, along with nonprofit Great River Greening, began work to restore 19 acres of natural habitat and oak savanna at Terrace Oaks Park. The park is one of the largest natural areas in Burnsville. The multi-year project will occur in the park’s northwest corner and will include buckthorn removal, tree thinning and controlled burns.

“The aim is to return this portion of Terrace Oaks to the oak savanna it once was, which is so beneficial to wildlife, water quality and views,” said Steve Thomforde, restoration ecologist for Great River Greening.

### What Will Be Done at Terrace Oaks?

Great River Greening is a local nonprofit working to secure the legacy of Minnesota land and water through community-based restoration, stewardship and partnerships. Their partnership with the City will help bring in \$76,000 in grant funding from the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund for the project.

The first step will be to remove specific types of trees and shrubs, such as buckthorn and box elder, while leaving bur oaks and other typical savanna trees. The tree removal will help return the area to an open-canopied oak savanna.



Oak trees in the savanna at Terrace Oaks Park show their brilliant colors each fall.

Next, a controlled burn – which stimulates plant growth while controlling weedy trees and shrubs – will take place, followed by a seeding to increase native plant diversity. The hope is that the end product will be a beautiful oak savanna, benefitting both park visitors with its beauty, and wildlife with a more productive habitat.

“Restoring the savanna will require long-term land management,” said Burnsville Natural Resources Technician Caleb Ashling. “The factors that led to the current conditions at the park occurred over many years, and it will take several more to restore the area.”

Work on the project began in winter of 2014 and will continue until 2017, or until all grant funds have been used. For more information contact Caleb Ashling, Natural Resources Technician, at [caleb.ashling@ci.burnsville.mn.us](mailto:caleb.ashling@ci.burnsville.mn.us) or 952-895-4543.

## Get Help Planning A Native Plant Rain Garden

### Free ‘Blue Thumb’ Workshops Available in Burnsville



Rain gardens provide a beautiful landscape and help protect water quality in ponds and lakes.

Since 2008, more than 450 Burnsville residents have attended workshops to learn about water quality-friendly landscaping. Come see why “going blue” is catching on in the neighborhood.

Attend an introductory Blue Thumb Workshop to see how others in Burnsville have created native gardens, rain gardens and native shoreline stabilization projects that benefit local water quality.

The introductory workshop will include samples of dozens of affordable designs that transform bland urban landscapes into beautiful retreats. They will also touch on grant programs and other financial incentives available for these projects. (See box below.)

After the introductory workshop, residents can sign up for an advanced workshop to receive help designing a plan specific to their property.

Registration is required. Visit [www.dakotacountyswcd.org/bluethumb.html](http://www.dakotacountyswcd.org/bluethumb.html) or call 651-480-7777 to register.

**Who:** Burnsville/Dakota County Residents  
**When:** Wednesday, Feb. 25 or Thursday, April 9, 6:15 p.m.  
**Where:** Burnsville City Hall, 100 Civic Center Parkway  
**Additional Dates and Locations:** Residents can also attend the introductory workshop in:  
 • Apple Valley on Feb. 19 or April 7  
 • Lakeville on March 3  
 • Spring Lake Park on April 20  
 • Eagan on March 2  
 • West Saint Paul on March 30  
 • Farmington on April 1  
**Cost:** FREE



### Grant Money Available for Native Planting Projects

The City of Burnsville offers grants up to \$1,000 for residents willing to add a rain garden or perform shoreline restoration on their property. Individuals, neighborhood groups and community organizations can apply.

Application deadline is Monday, April 27. To download a grant application or for more information visit [www.burnsville.org/WQGRANT](http://www.burnsville.org/WQGRANT) or contact Daryl Jacobson at [daryl.jacobson@ci.burnsville.mn.us](mailto:daryl.jacobson@ci.burnsville.mn.us) or 952-895-4574.

## Save the Date for New Native Plant Market

### New Format Native Plant Sale Scheduled for May 30



In addition to beautifying the community, native plants provide food for pollinators such as monarch butterflies.

Residents looking to add some color and variety to their landscapes should mark their calendars for Burnsville’s new Native Plant Market in May.

The event will offer colorful, hardy native plants from multiple dealers for sale to Burnsville residents. In addition to beautifying the community, native plants provide food for pollinators, help improve water quality and require less care than traditional garden plants. Look for more details in the Spring Burnsville Bulletin.

**\*\*Please note that the Burnsville Tree Sale will be a separate event held on Saturday, April 25, 2015.**



**When:** Saturday, May 30  
**Where:** Parking lot near former Maintenance Facility  
 75 Civic Center Parkway

# City Concludes Celebration 50 Years in the Making



The candles are blown out, the wishes have been made and it's time to clean up the streamers and confetti. In 2014, Burnsville celebrated its "50th birthday" as an incorporated City. Throughout the year, the City paid homage to its beginnings – and celebrated its growth from farmland to thriving suburb.

### Life in 1964

1964 was a memorable year – not just for Burnsville, but for the entire country. Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) won his first world heavyweight championship, Peggy Fleming won the U.S. Female Figure Skating Championship and Minnesota Viking Jim Marshall made history when his "Wrong Way Run" became the NFL's No. 1 blooper. (In his defense, the play resulted in a safety and two points for the Vikings, who won the game.)

Music from the Beatles filled the airwaves; television audiences were introduced to "The Addams Family," and movie audiences were captivated with Walt Disney's release of "Mary Poppins." The Vietnam War was raging; the U.S. was mourning the loss of President John F. Kennedy and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed by a wide margin.

If that wasn't enough, at home in Burnsville, residents were waging their own fight in the courtrooms – the "Battle for Black Dog" – to block an annexation attempt from the City of Bloomington. As a result, on June 18, 1964, Burnsville officially became an incorporated City. While the community's history goes back much further, the year proved to be the starting point for what Burnsville is today.

### A Look Back

To commemorate its 50th Anniversary, the City of Burnsville worked on a number of 50th-themed events. Relive the events – and maybe see something you missed – in the photos below.

For more information, photos and videos on the events and Burnsville's history visit [www.burnsville.org/50](http://www.burnsville.org/50).

**The Burnsville Police Department celebrated 50 years with a special event at the Ames Center where officers reaffirmed their oath and dedication to the police force**

**PROTEST GRABBING UT BLACK DOG**  
**VOTE HERE BURNVILLE TOWN HALL**  
 We want to be a city

*The City released "How Burnsville Became a City," a video that tells the story of Burnsville's beginnings*

**City of Burnsville, Minnesota - Municipal Government**  
 May 21, 2014  
 1962: Burnsville's K-9 Unit is established. Officer Jerry Hutchinson and Sheriff (pictured) were the first humans/canine pair to patrol the streets. Since 1962, 13 K-9 partners have served the unit. Today's K-9 partners are Officer Ben Anshambout with canine partner Echo and Officer Steve Hasselmann with new canine partner Rex. Officer Hasselmann's previous partner, Hazer, medically retired in January. He and Rex just graduated from canine training on May 22, 2014. #C9K9  
 To learn more about Burnsville's K-9 Unit, visit [www.burnsville.org/k9](http://www.burnsville.org/k9)

*The City coordinated a "50 Years in 50 Days" social media campaign that included daily posts highlighting interesting facts about Burnsville. Each day represented a year in Burnsville's history*

**Celebrating 50 Years 1964-2014**  
**Burnsville: Then and Now**

*Six commemorative postcards featuring merged pictures of Burnsville "then and now" were released and distributed at community events*

**A "Birthday Bash" was held (cake and all) during the Fire Muster celebration**

*The history of City government was celebrated as Burnsville's past and present Mayors, City Council Members and City Managers came together during the Burnsville Fire Muster*

## Kealey, Coughlin Reelected to Burnsville City Council

Incumbents Dan Kealey and Bill Coughlin were both reelected to the Burnsville City Council during the Nov. 4 General Election.

In the four-person race for two City Council seats, incumbent Kealey was the top vote getter. Kealey, who was first elected in 2006, earned his third term on the Council. Coughlin was reelected to a second term after first being elected during a Special Election in 2011. Both will serve four-year terms that expire Dec. 31, 2018.

A total of 24,885 Burnsville residents voted (including absentee votes) in the General Election – approximately 65 percent of the City's eligible voters.

For more detailed election results or more information visit [www.burnsville.org/elections](http://www.burnsville.org/elections).



Burnsville City Council Member Dan Kealey

Burnsville City Council Member Bill Coughlin

## State of the City Address Set for Feb. 11

Burnsville residents, business leaders and others interested in learning more about the direction of the City are invited to the annual State of the City Address.

The annual Address is put on by the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce. The keynote speech will be given by Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, with a Chamber luncheon to follow.

For more information or to register for the luncheon visit [www.burnsvillechamber.com](http://www.burnsvillechamber.com). Sponsored by Xcel Energy, Bolton & Menk, Inc. and Pepsi Beverages Company.



**When:** Wednesday, Feb. 11, 11:30 a.m.  
**Where:** Ames Center, 12600 Nicollet Ave.  
**Cost:** Address is FREE; Luncheon following is \$25