



# Circle Pines City News

[circlepinesmn.gov](http://circlepinesmn.gov)

January 2026

## 2026 General Fund Budget

On December 9, 2025, the City Council approved the final property tax levy and City budget for 2026. The tax levy for next year is \$3,534,030. Of the 2026 levy increase, the majority represents increasing the debt levy to invest in our park infrastructure. The second largest impact to the budget is the police contract rising in cost due to cost of living, new state-mandated paid leave, and inflationary vehicle replacement costs. Since the levy is increasing by more than the combined property values, the city's tax rate is rising. Change to your property tax is dependent on two things—the city tax rate and the value of your property. For the owner of a \$300,000 home with no change in value next year, City taxes will total \$118.67 per month, an increase of \$5.15 each month. However, the median change in values for Circle Pines was a 5.6% increase. That same \$300,000 home with a 5.6% rise in value would pay \$126.16 each month, which is \$12.65 higher than last year.

The proposed budget increase supports two major community investments. First, it provides dedicated funding for the Park Improvement Program, which will guide a comprehensive overhaul of Carl Eck Park and Baldwin Park over the next three years. These improvements are intended to address aging building infrastructure and the addition of pickleball courts. The budget reflects a merger with the SBM Fire Department, a strategic move that is expected to lower the long-term cost of fire services while improving response times through shared resources and staffing. Together, these initiatives represent a fiscally responsible approach to reinvesting in community assets while delivering more efficient and reliable public safety services.

If you would like additional information, the 2026 General Fund Budget is located on the city's website at [circlepinesmn.gov](http://circlepinesmn.gov).



## 2025/2026 Budget Comparison

Revenues	2025	2026
Taxes	2,933,671	3,047,391
Licenses & Permits	68,882	73,082
Local Government Aid	439,261	388,711
Other State Aid	5,548	5,548
Police Aid	60,000	60,000
Fines	11,000	11,000
Charges for Services	40,711	35,856
Other	103,735	101,609
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,662,808</b>	<b>3,723,197</b>

### Expenditures

Mayor & Council	77,146	67,382
City Administration	244,384	232,855
Elections	17,182	23,931
Cable TV	1,000	1,500
Finance	191,887	186,075
City Attorney	30,000	30,000
Planning & Zoning	1,450	1,450
Engineering	5,000	5,000
Other Gen Govt	58,673	66,091
Police	1,330,948	1,403,877
Fire	423,429	380,000
Bldg Inspection	35,000	50,000
Streets	221,642	228,347
Parks	481,872	500,057
Golden Lake	67,749	68,410
Shade Tree	74,200	76,683
Insurance	38,711	34,539
Capital	362,535	367,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,662,808</b>	<b>\$3,723,197</b>

City Hall  
will be closed on  
Monday, January 19  
for Martin Luther  
King Jr. Day



# CITY COUNCIL

**Mayor Matt Percy**  
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763-784-2062

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651-604-7678

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*email all council members at  
citycouncil@circlepinesmn.gov*

**City Administrator**  
Patrick Antonen  
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763-784-5898

**City Hall**  
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Circle Pines, MN 55014  
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circlepinesmn.gov  
cityhall@circlepinesmn.gov

**City Hall Hours**  
M-F: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**January Public Meetings**  
City Council  
01/13 & 01/27 7 p.m.

**Park Board**  
01/06 6 p.m.

**Utilities Commission**  
01/27 5 p.m.

**Planning Commission**  
01/26 7 p.m.

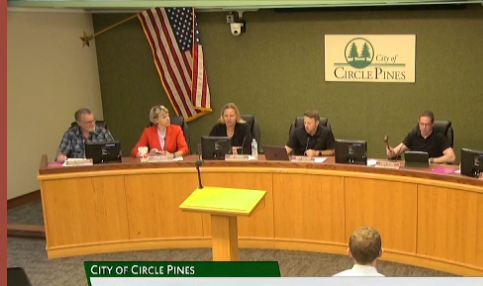
You can also view the latest Council meeting at any time on the internet on the City Website at [circlepinesmn.gov](http://circlepinesmn.gov). Click on Government and then City Council meeting video on demand.

**Missed Garbage Pickup**  
Call Republic Services at  
763-259-5535

## Board & Commission Openings

The City of Circle Pines City Council is looking for applicants for commission and advisory board positions. The following positions are due for appointment in January: Three positions on the Utilities Commission, two on the Planning Commission and one for the Park Board.

Additional information on each board or commission can also be found at the city website as well. Applications must be received at Circle Pines city offices by 4 p.m. Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Applications are available at city hall or can be found on the city's website at [circlepinesmn.gov](http://circlepinesmn.gov)



**Christmas Tree Curbside Pickup Saturday, January 3 & Friday, January 9**

**Have your Christmas tree at the curb by 6 a.m. for pick-up. Be sure the tree is visible at the curb with the trunk end of the tree facing the street. Please remove all tinsel, decorations, stand and bags from the tree. Wreaths will not be picked up.**

## Grants for Native Plants and More!

The Rice Creek Watershed District has grant funding available in 2026 to residents looking to plant native plants, construct a raingarden, or install a rain barrel on their property. Native plants are a great alternative to traditional landscaping due to their inherent properties of providing habitat and food for pollinators and stormwater infiltration through extensive root systems. Rain barrels are a great way to reduce stormwater runoff from downspouts and reuse the water for your landscaping or other yard care needs. Funding will be available starting January 1, 2026, and will be awarded on a rolling application basis until funds run out for the year.

Residents can explore RCWD's Water Quality Grant Program and Mini Grant Program for project funding options and apply for a grant at [ricecreek.org/grants/](http://ricecreek.org/grants/). If you are unsure which grant program is the best fit for your project, please contact Grants and Outreach Technician, Molly Nelson, at [mnelson@ricecreek.org](mailto:mnelson@ricecreek.org) for answers to general questions or to set up a site visit for further assistance.

# 2026

## Library News Centennial Branch

Happy New Year from your friends at the Centennial Library. A new year means a new chance to explore, create and start fresh. We are looking forward to supporting you in whatever new or old endeavors happen your way.

## Storytimes

We have a break for Storytimes during the month of January.

*Baby Storytimes* begins January 1 at 10 a.m. For babies ages 0–24 months with a caregiver. Registration for baby story time is for the entire season. Please submit one registration per baby. Caregivers do not need to register themselves.

## Adults

*Getting Started With Libby for eBooks and audiobooks*  
Wednesday, January 7 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Have you been wanting to try reading eBooks or audiobooks on your smartphone, tablet, or kindle, but aren't sure how to get started? Join us for an introduction to Libby, the library app for reading eBooks and listening to audiobooks! Bring your smartphone or other device if you'd like help downloading the app. No registration is required.

*Recommended:* arrive early and stop by the service desk to check that your library card is up to date, and that your PIN is current. You will need your barcode and PIN to start using Libby

*Centennial Bookclub for Adults:* Interested in trying out a new book group? Join us for the Centennial Book Club! Drop in for a favorite book discussion or become a regular member. The title for January is *Here One Moment* by Liane Moriarty.

Centennial's hours of operation are:  
Monday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Tuesday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Thursday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Friday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sunday: Closed



Library Holiday Hours:  
Closed

New Years Day : Thursday, January 1  
Martin Luther King Day: January 19

It's no myth.  
**Recycling exists.**  
Recycled items become new products.

**LEARN HOW**

The advertisement features a dark green background with stylized leaves. At the top, there is a recycling symbol (a triangle of arrows) with a pink unicorn head to its right. Below the text, there is a white unicorn head with a purple mane. At the bottom, a green button contains the text 'LEARN HOW'.

## Winter Parking Regulations

November 1 to April 1

There is no parking on city streets everyday from 2 a.m. – 6 a.m. or anytime it snows more than 2 inches.

Vehicles will be ticketed if they are left on the streets.

This is important, as snowplows need to clear the entire street to ensure safe driving and safe streets for everyone.





### **Mayor Dave Honored**

Mayor Dave was recognized on December 11 for more than twenty years of dedicated service on the Circle Pines City Council. Throughout his tenure, he played a key role in advancing numerous initiatives that strengthened both the City of Circle Pines and the broader Centennial community. Mayor Dave has also been a strong advocate for the Centennial School District, consistently supporting programs and efforts that benefit local students and families.

**Congratulations Dave!!**