

# City *Savage* News

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Naturally Resourceful

## Teen's volunteer project promotes community's past

A 15-year-old's plight to earn his Eagle badge revolves around Savage's past.

Matthew Lorang recently led his troop in building an informational kiosk that now stands in front of the renovated Depot. The kiosk serves as a historical resource to those visiting the Depot, its coffee shop and downtown Savage.

"It's going to be one of the centerpieces of Savage," said the Burnsville High School sophomore. "I want everyone to see it."

Matthew, who is the son of Carla and Jim Lorang, has been a Boy Scout for about 4 years and has lived in Savage his whole life. When he was pondering the project that would elevate him to Eagle Scout status, he decided to pursue something that would benefit the city. He lined up a meeting with the top official on staff, City Administrator Barry Stock, and together they devised the idea for the kiosk.

"This is a great example of how residents of any age can make our community an even better place to live or visit," Stock said.

Eagle badge requirements focus on leading a team to reach a common goal. For Matthew, that meant working with a number of different organizations to plan, design and construct the kiosk. He's met with the City Council and the Dan Patch Historical Society, obtained funding support from the Savage Rotary and mobilized a crew of seven troop mates to build the kiosk. His uncle, an architect, drew up the plans; his mom and dad went with him to get the lumber; and his sister, Krista, took pictures throughout the process.

"There are a lot of hours from different people that have gone into this," Matthew said.

The kiosk is located at the end of the tracks in front of the Depot north of 123rd Street. One side features a map with historical points of interest in Savage; the other displays historical pictures and highlights of the community's past.

"I hope it can get people more aware of the history of Savage," Matthew said. "We live here; we may as well know the history of it."



*Members of Boy Scout Troop 336 assist Matthew Lorang (far right) in lifting the informational kiosk they built for Matthew's Eagle Scout project.*