

MINNESOTA

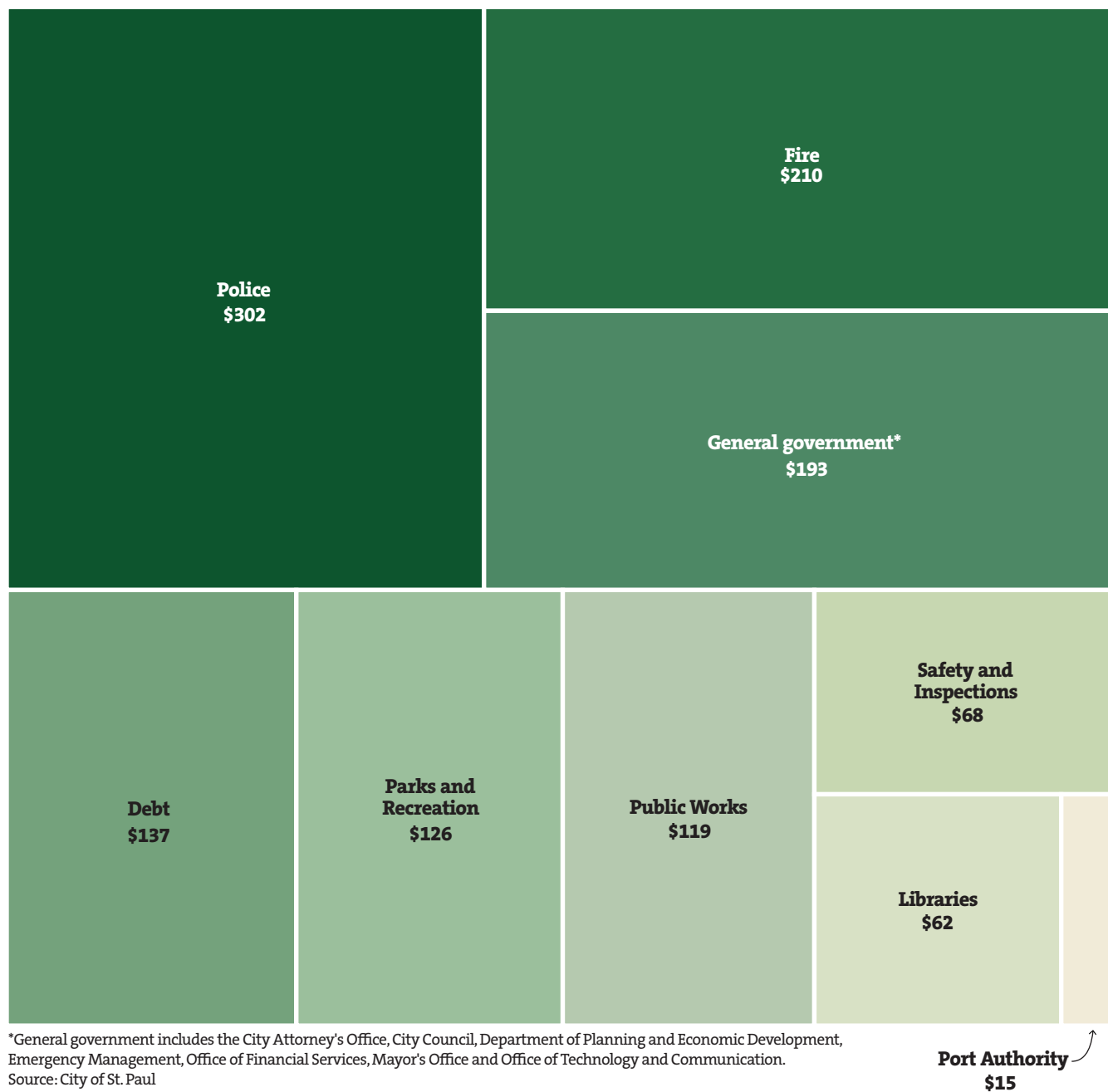
LOCAL • STATE • REGION

WHY DOES MY ST. PAUL TAX BILL COST THAT MUCH?

By KATIE GALIOTO and C.J. SINNER • Star Tribune staff

Many Minnesotans just paid off the second half of their property taxes for the year. But local governments are already deep in discussions that will determine what homeowners owe in 2024. Under St. Paul's proposed plan for next year, the owner of a \$267,400 median-value home would owe \$1,254 in city taxes, plus \$1,051 in fees for city services. That doesn't include taxes for Ramsey County, the school district or other jurisdictions. Wondering why it costs that much? Here are five things to know about your city tax bill.

HOW THE CITY SPENDS A ST. PAUL HOMEOWNER'S PROPERTY TAXES FOR A MEDIAN-VALUE HOME UNDER PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET



Elected leaders set the annual property tax levy

While creating a fiscal plan for the year ahead, officials decide how much the city needs to collect in property taxes to fund services — from pothole patching and snowplowing, to police and fire, to parks and libraries. That total is the property tax levy. St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter's budget proposal for 2024 includes a levy of \$208 million, which would make up about a quarter of the city's overall revenue. The City Council will vote on a final budget in December. Dollars are split between city departments to pay for salaries, equipment and other expenses. St. Paul's proposed levy for 2024 would mark a 3.7%

increase from this year. But an individual homeowner's property taxes will not automatically increase by the same percentage. That's because other factors, such as growth in the tax base and assessment trends, help determine each property owner's slice of the levy pie. Additionally, a variety of other funding streams — such as aid from the state and fees for certain services — cover the costs of running a city. Fluctuations in those sources can influence city leaders' budget decisions. Find more details on how St. Paul pays its bills on **B3**

SCSU's numbers tick up slightly

Budget deficit looms as enrollment had been decreasing since 2010.

By JENNY BERG
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ST. CLOUD - University leaders here say enrollment has ticked up slightly this fall for the first time in eight years — a positive sign amid recent turmoil over cuts to faculty and programs prompted by a looming budget deficit.

The student head count, which includes undergraduate and graduate students, increased by about 70 to 10,130 this year. Other than in 2015, when enrollment increased by about 45 students, the number has been steadily decreasing since St. Cloud State University (SCSU) saw its peak of 18,300 in 2010.

This fall, SCSU saw small increases in the number of new first-year and transfer students, along with an uptick in students living on campus. The number of full-time students is up about 7.5% from a year ago.

"This figure shows that the hard work we are doing to revisit our structures, processes and platforms to attract and retain students is working," said Robbyn Wacker, president of SCSU. "It's no secret that higher education has faced several challenges over the past several years, and our work to strategically address these issues head-on is making a difference."

But the modest increase See **SCSU** on **B2** ▶

Family of slain man angry over plea deal

4-year sentence apt due to "reasonable self-defense claim," prosecutors say.

By KIM HYATT
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The man responsible for killing a St. Louis Park father of two in May received a four-year sentence Monday as part of a plea deal, over objections from the victim's family.

Relatives and friends of Antonio Levar Moore, 37, filled the Hennepin County courtroom hoping to see Judge William H. Koch reject the plea deal for Demetrius Lamar Harris, 28, of New Hope. As part of the deal, Harris pleaded guilty last month to manslaughter, and in exchange, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office agreed to drop a second-degree murder charge that would have carried a higher presumptive sentence.

When Harris was charged in May, Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty issued a statement saying her thoughts were with the Moore family — "especially his sister who he was protecting during this incident." Moriarty added that her office would "aggressively prosecute this case to hold Mr. Harris accountable."

Moriarty's spokesman, Nick Kimball, said in a statement Tuesday that prosecutors agreed to the plea deal See **PLEA** on **B2** ▶

Ex-Mayo doctor accused of killing wife with poison

By PAUL WALSH
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A onetime Mayo Clinic physician with a troubled marriage fatally poisoned his wife and soon afterward told a woman that he was expecting a huge life insurance payout, according to a criminal complaint.

Connor F. Bowman, 30, of Rochester, was arrested Friday and charged Monday in Olmsted County District Court with second-degree intentional murder in connection with the death of 32-year-old

Betty Jo Bowman on Aug. 20. Bowman appeared in court Monday and remains jailed in lieu of \$2 million bail ahead of a second court appearance on Nov. 1. His attorney, Michael Schatz, declined Tuesday to respond to the allegations leveled against his client.

The Southeast Medical Examiner's Office determined that Betty Bowman was poisoned with colchicine, a drug used to treat gout and not one she was prescribed.

Connor Bowman was also working for the University of See **PHYSICIAN** on **B2** ▶



Fly away home

Sandhill cranes, gathered Tuesday near Phantom Lake in the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area in Grantsburg, Wis., are making their way south for the winter.

Photo by RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI • richard.tsong-taatarii@startribune.com