

NOWTHEN CITY COUNCIL TO DECIDE POLICING ISSUE AT DEC. 13 MEETING

WRITTEN BY EVAN PASKACH

Minnesota State News

Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart recently offered residents of the new Anoka County community of Nowthen a stern ultimatum: Pay at least 25 percent more in property taxes or lose police protection as you know it.

The rural city of 4,400 is the only one in Anoka County without a contract with the county sheriff's office for law enforcement. Sheriff Stuart has threatened a cutback in patrols without a contract, leaving residents with the bare minimum of public safety service required by state law. A contract with the county would cost Nowthen taxpayers \$250,000, nearly a quarter of the city's current budget. Either way, any contract (whether through Anoka County or a less expensive proposal from a neighbor) will be a tough sell for residents.

Nearly 150 people turned out to a community forum at Nowthen Alliance Church Nov. 3 to learn more about the issue. Said Nowthen resident Marlene Ortman: "It feels like you're trying to scare us into thinking we're in the new crime capitol of the north. You know, people move to the country, they don't expect everything to be like it is in the city."

The city budgeted \$1,005,766 in total expenditures for 2011, a 0.8 percent decrease from 2010. Without the police patrols, Nowthen's 2012 budget is near the same level of previous years. If the city moves forward with the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, the 2012 budget will be \$1,367,745, a 27.14 percent increase.

The extra costs for policing come as a response to Nowthen's incorporation as a city in 2008. Previously, as a township, the area was patrolled with officers and resources that were being paid for by neighboring cities. Some of the 1,303 police calls in Nowthen in 2010 (and 1,470 in 2009) were also responded to by the municipal police departments of St. Francis and Ramsey. Property taxes paid to the county support incarceration and administrative costs. State law requires cities to have its own police department or contract out for law enforcement services, but state law also requires the sheriff's office to provide a minimal amount of emergency response. Nowthen does not receive Local Government Aid (LGA) from the state.

The Nowthen City Council will grapple with the policing issue and hold its Truth In Taxation hearing Dec. 13 at Nowthen City Hall, 19800 Nowthen Blvd., at 6:00 p.m.

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD APPROVES SET OF 2012 LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTS

At its Nov. 8 meeting, the Anoka County Board approved the following contracts for law enforcement services from the county sheriff's office to six cities and Linwood Township:

City of Andover. The city agrees to pay the county the sum of \$2,693,896.00. (Contract #2011-0322). Contract services include but are not limited to:

- (1) 80 hours per day of patrol service;
- (2) 6 hours of service per day by a Community Service Officer;
- (3) An additional 20 hours per week of service by a Community Service Officer for park security from April through September;
- (4) Two full-time deputy sheriffs to be assigned as school liaison officers in the middle and high schools;
- (5) 40 hours per week for a Patrol Investigator, along with 40 hours for an additional Investigator with emphasis on community needs and crime prevention;
- (6) 50% of costs associated with the County's Crime Watch Program's coordinator position.

City of Bethel. The city agrees to pay the county the sum of \$38,372.00. (Contract #2011-0349). Contract services include but are not limited to:

- (1) 612 hours of annual patrol services.

City of Columbus. The city agrees to pay the county the sum of \$228,303.00. (Contract #2011-0348). Contract services include but are not limited to:

- (1) 8-hours per day, seven days per week of patrol service;
- (2) Assign a community service officer for the period to provide coverage at a rate of five hours per week.

City of East Bethel. The city agrees to pay the county the sum of \$999,152.00. (Contract #2011-0347). Contract services include but are not limited to:

- (1) 36 hours per day of daily patrol services;
- (2) 20 hours per week of service by a Community Service Officer;
- (3) Contract renewed for a successive period of two years.

CONTRACTS Continued on next page, A-2

Opinion *Guest Column*

PROPERTY TAX CHANGES EXPLAINED

By Scott Schulte

Coon Rapids Councilman at Large

There has been countless attempts to vilify the Minnesota Legislature over changes to the property tax system. But many good facts have been clouded with opinion, which has led to misinformed government officials and citizens. There are a number of common misconceptions, a few of which I would like to address here.

First, and most importantly, the legislature did provide more property tax relief to Minnesota homeowners by bolstering the Property Tax Refund (PTR) program. By increasing both eligibility and maximum refunds, they were able to give additional relief to an increased number of taxpayers. The PTR program, by giving direct relief to property taxpayers whose taxes are high compared to their income, is the most efficient way of delivering property tax relief.

Second, they cured a problem of false representation to cities, counties and homeowners. The old Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) program, for the past decade, was a sham. Homeowners received a credit on paper, and were told that the state was reimbursing that amount to the local city and county to lower property taxes. But Minnesota failed to reimburse cities and counties as it promised, and thus, the program was a fraud. The cities and counties were left looking like the bad guy and explaining to the residents why local taxes were being raised to cover state shortfalls. The legislature decided to do the right thing and remove a program that was a sham to taxpayers as well as cities and counties.

Third, they chose to protect the homeowner in the event local governments would try to levy back the lost aid. Rather than providing a credit, property tax relief is provided by excluding a portion of the home's value from tax liability. This exclusion provides a similar amount of relief as the credit and will provide permanent, ongoing tax relief to homeowners.

Many local governments deserve credit for responding with new, efficient ways of delivering services.

Lastly, local government organizations supported the change. The League of Minnesota Cities, the Association of Minnesota Counties and the Inter-County Association all supported this change. They were pleased that LGA (Local Government Aid) was maintained as a need-based program for cities.

Property tax reform was long overdue and more needs to be accomplished, but the first step has been taken. To cast blame and politicize this action is non-productive. It was truly a bi-partisan move that benefits all Minnesotans in the end. Before you raise your "torches and pitchforks," get involved with your local government, take the time to call your council members and mayors, get to know the issues, challenges and solutions — you'll be glad you did.

CONTRACTS *Continued from A-1*
City of Ham Lake. The city agrees to pay the county the sum of \$941,323.00. (Contract #2011-0346). Contract services include but are not limited to:

- (1) 36 hours per day of patrol service.

City of Oak Grove. The city agrees to pay the county the sum of \$516,444.00. (Contract #2011-0351). Contract services include but are not limited to:

- (1) 20 hours per day of daily patrol services;
- (2) Contract renewed for a successive period of two years.

Township of Linwood. The township agrees to pay the sum of \$212,791.00. (Contract #2011-0350). Contract services include but are not limited to:

- (1) 8 hours per day of daily patrol services.

Commissioner Westerberg seconded the motion to approve. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. (Contracts are on file in the Sheriff's Office.)

In other Board actions, Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah made a motion to appoint Steve Wagamon to the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers for the remainder of the term vacated by Rick Mastell, expiring January 17, 2013. Commissioner Westerberg seconded the motion. Commissioners Sivarajah, West, LeDoux, Look and, Westerberg voted "yes." Commissioners Erhart and Kordiak voted "no."

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL BULLYING BEING FORMED

APPLICATIONS BEING TAKEN BY SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE

The Secretary of State's office announced the state's open appointments for December last week.

Among the list of many state-level boards and advisory committees that have vacant seats, it was also announced that a new task force, the Governor's Task Force on the Prevention of School Bullying is being readied.

Its function is to examine the state of bullying in Minnesota and to advise the Governor's Office and Legislature on policies to ensure the safety of all students in Minnesota. The Task Force shall consist of no more than 15 members, appointed as follows:

1. The Commissioner of the MN Department of Education, the MN Department of Public Safety, and the MN Department of Human Rights;
2. Four members from the legislature, one appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, one appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, one appointed by the Speaker of the House, and one appointed by the House Minority Leader.
3. The Governor will appoint up to eight additional members, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, and may include individuals with backgrounds and expertise in health professions, pediatrics, psychology or psychiatry; with expertise or special knowledge of legal policy; with experience as advocates for students who have been subjected to bullying; and with teaching or school administration careers;
4. At the Task Force's first meeting, its members will elect one of them to serve as their chair. The meeting schedule is still to be determined.

Task Force members will not receive compensation. The Task Force was created by the Governor's Executive Order #11-33.

More information and application forms are available on the Secretary of State's website (www.sos.state.mn.us) or by calling 651-297-5845. Applications may be e-mailed, faxed or mailed to the Secretary of State's office at the State Office Building in St. Paul.

EAID GRANTS APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO DEC. 12

The deadline for cities, townships and counties to apply for the federal Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (EAID) grants has been extended until Monday, December 12, 2011 at 4 p.m.

Approximately \$400,000 in EAID grants will be provided through the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. Funds must be used for accessible equipment and to improve polling place accessibility for voters with disabilities and cannot be used for general improvements to structures. Local election officials are asked to submit grant proposals for accessibility improvements and equipment that will provide privacy and independence for the voter, such as automatic door openers, disability parking spaces, renovations to make bathrooms accessible, ramps, accessible voting booths, and magnifiers. In past years grants have ranged from approximately \$100 up to \$6,000.

Grant recipients will be notified early in 2012. Online information about the grant application process is available at: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=763>.

For more information on the EAID grant application process contact Adam Aanerud by email: Adam.Aanerud@state.mn.us or phone: 651-556-0644.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DIPPED TO 6.4% IN STATE DURING OCTOBER

The state's unemployment rate fell 0.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted 6.4 percent in October, according to figures released by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The U.S. unemployment rate was 9 percent in October.

The state lost 6,100 jobs during the month, although some of the declines were offset by a revision in the September figures from 7,400 jobs lost to 1,900 jobs lost.

"Minnesota's unemployment rate is at its lowest level since the U.S. financial crisis in November 2008," said DEED Commissioner Mark Phillips. "We're pleased to see continued improvement in some of the sectors that were hit the hardest by the recession, particularly construction."

Jobs in the construction sector in October were up year-over-year for the first time since April 2006.

Professional and business services led all sectors in October with 2,200 new jobs, followed by construction (up 1,700) and information (up 500). Mining and logging held steady.

Job losses occurred in education and health services (down 3,000), leisure and hospitality (down 2,000), financial activities (down 1,600), trade, transportation and utilities (down 1,500), other services (down 1,000), government (down 800) and manufacturing (down 600).

Over the past year, the following sectors have gained jobs: professional and business ser-

vices (up 6,500), education and health services (up 6,300), manufacturing (up 3,800), leisure and hospitality (up 3,600), trade, transportation and utilities (up 2,400), financial activities (up 1,100), construction (up 900), and logging and mining (up 100).

Year-over-year job losses have occurred in government (down 3,100), other services (down 1,500) and information (down 800).

In the state Metropolitan Statistical Areas, job gains occurred in the past year in the Mankato MSA (up 2.8%), Rochester MSA (up 1.7%) and Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA (up 1.2%). Job losses occurred in the St. Cloud MSA (down 1.3%) and the Duluth-Superior MSA (down 0.5%).

In Anoka County, the October unemployment rate stood at 5.6%, with over 10,700 persons unemployed. In October 2010, the unemployment rate was 6.9%; in October 2009 — 8.2%, October 2008 — 5.3% and October 2007 — 4.2%. The highest rate of unemployment in the county during 2011 has been 7.6% in January. The highest in 2010 was February's 9.1%. Monthly unemployment rates reached 9.4% twice in 2009. The highest rates reached in 2007 and 2008 were 5.1% and 5.4% respectively.

CITY OF LINO LAKES, MN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON 2011/2012 TAX LEVY AND 2012 OPERATING BUDGET

The Lino Lakes City Council will hold a public hearing on its budget and on the amount of property taxes it is proposing to collect to pay for the costs of services the city will provide in 2012.

All Lino Lakes City residents are invited to attend the public hearing to express their opinions on the budget and on the proposed amount of 2012 property taxes.

The hearing will be held on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Lino Lakes City Hall, 600 Town Center Parkway, Lino Lakes, MN, 55014. The 2012 Operating Budget and 2011/2012 Tax Levy will be considered for approval by the City Council following the hearing.

If you have any questions, please call 651-982-2400.

Julie Bartell
 City Clerk

East Bethel Recycling Center Now Accepting Oil, Used Filters and Antifreeze

The East Bethel Recycling Center is now accepting used oil, filters and antifreeze! East Side Oil has partnered with the City of East Bethel to offer this service again to the residents of East Bethel and effective November 22, 2011 the tanks were opened and ready for use.

It is very important that residents follow the directions on the tank and drums to make sure this public service will be around for years to come. Only used motor oil can be poured into the tank. Filters and antifreeze can be placed in the 55 gallon drums that are provided and clearly labeled.

For further information, you can call City Hall at 763-367-7840.



**"When you find yourself in a hole,
stop digging."** — *Will Rogers*

Opinion

Market Value Exclusion vs. Market Value Credit

By now most people across our state have received their property tax statements from their local units of government which access those.

The Legislature, with encouragement from the League of Minnesota Cities, the Association of Minnesota Counties, the Minnesota Inter-County Association and the Association of Metro Municipalities, changed the way local municipalities budget in the collection of their local property taxes and the way in which homeowners are credited for their homestead status in paying their property taxes.

First of all making this change in and of itself did not cause property tax rates to either go up or down. Local cities and counties are responsible for setting the property tax rates to correspond with the local budgets which they set.

What it did do for cities and counties is remove any unrealistic expectation of payments from the state to cities and counties to then be allocated for property tax relief to homeowners. This system wasn't working, and in its ten years of existence had only been fully funded once by the state to the counties. This was creating uncertainty for some counties which budgeted for that money to be there when the state was unable to pay it.

You may have been lead to believe that the state cut local government aid (LGA), or county program aid (CPA) because of this change and that is why you might have an increase in property taxes. This is not true. The truth is, the Legislature maintained LGA and CPA levels at 2010 levels through 2013.

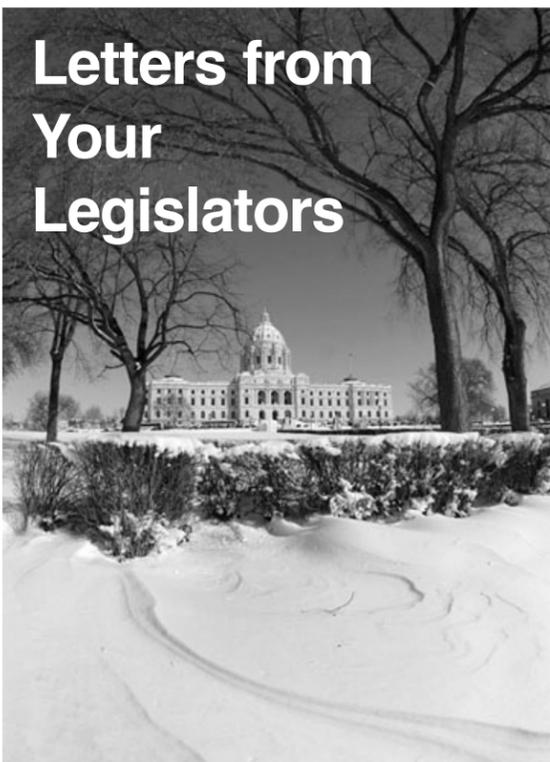
Another misconception is that property tax refunds, or rebates were discontinued. In fact, the Legislature was able to fund a \$30 million expansion of the state's property tax refund program (PTR), which provides direct relief to homeowners whose property taxes are high relative to income. The expansion of the PTR program will provide an average \$75 more in property tax relief. The difference is that that property tax refund will now come directly from the state, eliminating the middle man, i.e., the local county, which was formerly tasked with sending out the property tax refund.

Sen. Michael Jungbauer
District 48



Room 235, State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155
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Letters from Your Legislators



A homeowner's property taxes are a combination of local city taxes, county taxes, and local school district levies approved by voters. Property taxes can vary greatly even within counties depending on city taxes and school district levies collected through property taxes.

Reform will cause some shifting of taxes in some areas, but the Legislature built in tools to help minimize this impact.

Ultimately, only local leaders can decide how much to spend and how much to tax local property owners.

Mike Jungbauer
Minnesota State Senator
State Senate District 48

New Budget Forecast shows \$876 million surplus

Dear Neighbors,

Minnesotans received outstanding news this week as the new state budget forecast shows an \$876 million surplus for fiscal years 2012-13. This proves restraining government spending and promoting policies that encourage private-sector economic growth are putting our fiscal house in order. Our new majority took over in January and inherited a \$5 billion shortfall. The budget we assembled focused on limiting government growth, providing long-term spending restraint and creating opportunity for private sector job growth. We had confidence the tough decisions we made would pay dividends if we stayed the course, but the surplus of nearly \$900 million surpasses even the most optimistic expectations. Our budget has only been in place since the end of July, so it will be interesting to see what is revealed in the next forecast set to be issued in February.

This surplus is not attributable to new taxes, but to a thriving economy that allows hard-working families and employers to succeed. It reaffirms the fact Minnesota had a spending problem under the former majority, not a revenue problem as they would have you believe. I think we all can hear the death knell sounding for Gov. Mark Dayton's tax increases!

We cannot afford to be distracted by this good budget news. In fact, the Legislature is busy putting together another round of reform-minded measures for the 2012 session so we can continue to build a sustainable future, preventing government from spending more than taxpayers can afford. We must tread with caution because we still are subject to outside forces in today's unsteady global economy.

Our focus must remain on bringing a fiscally responsible approach to state spending and making long-term structural reforms. We firmly believed this was the right direction for the state and that job-killing tax increases would only hinder steady economic growth. Investment and private-sector jobs must remain a top priority instead of chasing away businesses through excessive taxes, regulations and threats of unionization. If government wants more money to spend, the only responsible, sustainable way to achieve this is to create a business- and entrepreneur-friendly climate by decreasing regulation, lowering taxes, and reforming government bureaucracy.

More information on the budget forecast is available at www.mmb.state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Peggy

Rep. Peggy Scott
District 49A



477 State Office Bldg.
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155
Office: (651) 296-4231
E-mail:
rep.peggy.scott@house.mn

Opinion

"Even if you're on the right track,
you'll get run over if you just sit there."

— Will Rogers



SENATE HOLDS FIRST HEARING ON STADIUM MORE PURPLE NINCOMPOOPERY

Opinion from the Anoka County Watchdog

No, we're not talking about the stadium hearing this week that featured the rudderless Viking Longboat that may go to Arden Hills or any one of three different locations in Minneapolis, despite Lester Bagley's obvious disappointment that legislators on the panel are forcing him to speak with R. T. Rybak about the Minneapolis sites. It looked like Bagley was back in 5th grade and just got word from his teacher that he had to partner up on that science project with the kid who never took a bath and always picked his nose. What we are referring to is the following quote from one Corey Merrifield, the president of a front group called "Save the Vikes."

Merrifield demonstrated to the world this week that he has the requisite lack of judgment and immaturity so common throughout the ranks of Vikings leadership.

Of the stadium hearing held this past week, Merrifield wrote:

As with any public hearing we do expect to hear from opposition on a Vikings stadium and given the time slot, the advantage goes to opponents. We typically see those who are unemployed or on a fixed income advocating against a new stadium because the government isn't giving them enough. All while the majority of the Vikings 2.5 million fans are working.

Now that's rich. A man who brays on and on for taxpayer subsidies for a billionaire criticizes others for wanting more out of government.



Now it may be true that many unemployed and fixed income folks oppose stadium subsidies. But it's also true that many folks who are gainfully employed and contributing much to the economy are opposed as well.

People like, oh say, Harold Hamilton. Let the Watchdog go out on a limb and guess that Hamilton has created a few more jobs than Merrifield.

Harold Hamilton is neither unemployed nor on a fixed income yet opposes taxpayer subsidies for a stadium.

Merrifield's ignorant statement shows the mentality of these spoiled brats who demand a subsidy from the rest of us for their leisure activity of watching football.

And speaking of who had time to attend a Vikings hearing, what does Merrifield say of fellow fans like Larry Spooner, who had ample time to show up, yet again, and whine that he needs a stadium in Arden Hills because he can't tailgate in style in Minneapolis. Oh the humanity! What a crisis. Maybe there's some FEMA money available to aid Mr. Spooner.

We can only wonder if Merrifield ripped his purple Zubas shoving his foot in his yap.

HAIL, OAK GROVE

Accolades go to the city council in Oak Grove. It looks like Ham Lake has competition when it comes to common sense in government.

The council has approved a budget that will cut some \$600,000 from the budget and reduce the city's portion of property taxes by whopping 18%.

Among other things, the city eliminated the city manager position, renegotiated the law enforcement contract with the county, and made changes to city employee health insurance.

The Watchdog salutes these courageous city leaders for doing what many politicians only say they will do: cut government. Not slow growth, not "put the brakes on." These folks CUT government and thereby expanded the liberty of the good citizens they represent.

We have too many politicians, especially some Republicans, who talk a good game about limited government and then turn around in a panic looking for "revenue streams" and other ways to avoid the admittedly tough job of slashing the Leviathan.

With the state looking at another budget shortfall, Republicans in Saint Paul would do well to look at Oak Grove's example. The answer doesn't lie in some new scheme to get money into Saint Paul to dump more money into public schools, prop up failing market sectors, or subsidize a profitable \$9 billion industry called the NFL. The answer is to cut spending and pay fidelity to the principle that government is too large and needs to be pared back.

These two Watchdogs have led the way and deserve the thanks and praise of Oak Grove taxpayers. These two have a bright future. Their leadership and conviction would be welcome at any level of government.

AND WE WONDER WHY THE GOVERNMENT IS BROKE

Opinion from the Anoka County Watchdog

As many legislators look around for more revenue streams for government, here's a place to find some money: the payout of unused sick and vacation time.

Unlike the private sector, state employees who retire are paid for unused vacation and sick time, sometimes resulting in obscene and absurd payouts.

The Pioneer Press recently revealed that some high-ranking college administrators in the state colleges and universities system received monster payouts.

For example, the former chancellor of the State Colleges and Universities System (MnSCU), raked in nearly \$93,000 for unused sick time and nearly \$47,000 for unused vacation time.

Another MnSCU bigwig, Jon Quistgaard, walked off with a \$126,000 check when he retired from Bemidji State University.

Two other administrators from MnSCU got six-figure payouts as well.

This practice is defended as one that prevents the "abuse" of sick leave and vacation time.

Funny, we thought the prevention of abuse came from state employment policies that prevent - guess what? - the abuse of sick leave and vacation leave.

Moreover, the problem first stems from the fact that public employees get obscene amounts of sick and vacation leave in the first place.

Let's take a look at a janitor at a local public community college. The janitor, the kind of downtrodden Workin' Man lionized by the Left, is represented by the AFSCME public employee union.

Here's what the contract says about holidays, vacation, and sick leave for a janitor with seniority:

Holidays: Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day after Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day.

Vacation: 234 hours (29.25 days) of vacation each year.

Sick leave: 104 hours (13 days) of sick leave each year.

That's 418 hours (52.25 days) of paid time off each year. **That's about 20% of a normal work year!**

The Watchdog is unaware of any private sector company that offers this kind of paid time off.

The Watchdog is also unaware of any private sector company that offers unused sick and vacation payouts.

No wonder these big payouts are happening. It's next to impossible to take 20% of the work year off.

Since many legislators read the Watchdog, here's the solution: legislation that caps the amount of vacation and sick leave an employee gets. Second, ban the practice of payouts for unused sick and vacation leave.

Take these issues away from the bargaining table and fix them by legislation.

After all, Governor Dayton is now negotiating a new deal with the very unions that backed his candidacy. Who is representing the taxpayer?

Anoka County GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Anoka County Board

Anoka County Government Center
2100 3rd Ave
Anoka, MN 55303-5024
Ph.: 763-323-5700
www.co.anoka.mn.us

Thurs. Dec. 8
Human Services Cmte, Rm 710, ACGC — 8:30 am
Info. Technology Cmte, Rm 772, ACGC — 10:30 am
Finance & Capital Improvements Cmte., Rm 772, ACGC — 1 pm
Intergovernmental-Community Relations Cmte., Rm 772, ACGC — 3 pm
Mon. Dec. 12
Library Board — 5:30 pm
Library Offices Bldg. behind Northtown Lib

Tues. Dec. 13
Anoka County Board (Management Cmte — 8:30 am, Board mtg 9:30 am), Rm 705 ACGC

Thurs. Dec. 15
Community Corrections Advisory Bd, Rm 710 ACGC — 12 Noon

Tues. Dec. 20
Facilities Mgmt & Construction Subcmte, Rm 797, ACGC — 9:30 am

Andover

Andover City Hall
1685 Crosstown Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304
Ph: 763-755-5100
www.ci.andover.mn.us

Tues. Dec. 13
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. Dec. 14
Open Space Advisory Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. Dec. 15
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

Tues. Dec. 20
City Council — 7 pm

Anoka

Anoka City Hall
2015 1st Ave. N.
Anoka, MN 55303-2270
Ph: 763-576-2700
www.ci.anoka.mn.us

Thurs. Dec. 8
Economic Development Comm. — 7:30 am

Tues. Dec. 13
HRA — 5 pm
Heritage Preserv. Comm. — 5 pm

Mon. Dec. 19
City Council — 7 pm

Tues. Dec. 20
Anti-Crime Commsn, Anoka Public Safety Ctr Training Rm, 275 Harrison St — 7:30am
Park Board — 7 pm

Wed. Dec. 21
Parking Advisory Bd, Anoka Public Safety Ctr Training Rm, 275 Harrison St — 7:15 am
ANOKA CITY HALL CLOSED DEC 23 & 26

Bethel

Bethel City Hall
23820 Dewey St. / PO Box 64
Bethel, MN 55005
Ph: 763-434-4366
www.bethelmn.govoffice2.com

Thurs. Dec. 15
City Council — 7 pm

Blaine

Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Dr NE
Blaine, MN 55449
Ph: 763-784-6700
www.ci.blaine.mn.us

Thurs. Dec. 8 & 15
City Council — 6:30 pm (Workshop);
7:30 pm (meeting) **Truth in Taxation hearing Dec. 8, 8 pm**

BLAINE CITY HALL CLOSED DEC. 26

Tues. Dec. 13
Blaine Historical Society — 6:30 pm
Blaine Arts Council — 6:30 pm
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Centerville

Centerville City Hall
1880 Main St
Centerville, MN 55038
Ph: 651-429-3232
centervillemn.com

Wed. Dec. 14
City Council (w/work session to follow) — 6:30 pm

Wed. Dec. 28
City Council — 6:30pm

CENTERVILLE CITY HALL CLOSED DEC. 26
Opening on Parks & Rec. Committee — call city hall for application information. Meetings are first Wed. of the month

Circle Pines

Circle Pines City Hall
200 Civic Heights Circle
Circle Pines, MN 55014
Ph: 763-784-5898
www.ci.circle-pines.mn.us

Tues. Dec. 13 & 27
City Council — 7 pm

Mon. Dec. 19
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. Dec. 21
Utility Comm. — 4:30 pm

CIRCLE PINES CITY HALL CLOSED DEC. 26

Columbia Heights

Columbia Heights City Hall
590 40th Ave NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
Ph: 763-706-3600
www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us

Mon. Dec. 12 — 7 pm; Dec. 26 meeting cancelled

Wed. Dec. 28 — 5:30 pm. Murzyn Hall
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CITY HALL CLOSED DEC. 23 & 26

Columbus

Columbus City Hall
16319 Kettle River Blvd.
Columbus, MN 55025
Ph: 651-464-3120
www.ci.columbus.mn.us

Wed. Dec. 14
EDA — 6 pm; City Council and Truth In Taxation Hearing — 7 pm

Thurs. Dec. 15
Park Board — 6:30 pm

Wed. Dec. 21
Planning Comm. — 7 pm
COLUMBUS CITY HALL CLOSED DEC. 23 & 26

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The City of Columbus is seeking a person to attend Planning Commission meetings on the 1st & 3rd Wed. eves. of mo. to take minutes and transcribe the following day. This is a 20-30 hour/month position requiring eve. hrs. For more information contact Elizabeth Mursko, City Administrator at 651-464-3120 ext 11.

Coon Rapids

Coon Rapids City Hall
11155 Robinson Dr.
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
Ph: 763-755-2880
www.coonrapidsmn.gov

Tues. Dec. 6 & 20
City Council — 7 pm

Thurs. Dec. 15
Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm
COON RAPIDS CITY HALL CLOSED DEC. 23 & 26

What a "great" idea and paper – very informative! Thank you for providing this wonderful service! – Dot Heifort, City Administrator, City of Lexington

East Bethel

East Bethel City Hall
2241 - 221st Avenue NE
East Bethel, MN 55011
Ph: 763-367-7840
eastbethel.govoffice.com

Tues. Dec. 13
Road Commission — 6:30 pm

Wed. Dec. 14
Economic Developm. Auth. Work Mtg — 6 pm
Park Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. Dec. 21
City Council — 7:30 pm

Wed. Dec. 27
Planning Comm. — 7 pm
EAST BETHEL CITY HALL CLOSED DEC. 26

Fridley

Fridley City Hall
6431 University Ave NE
Fridley, MN 55432
Ph: 763-571-3450
www.ci.fridley.mn.us

Mon. Dec. 12
City Council — 7 pm (pre-meeting), 7:30 pm

Dec. 21 Planning Comm. meeting cancelled
FRIDLEY CITY HALL CLOSED DEC. 26

Ham Lake

Ham Lake City Hall
15544 Central Ave NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304
Ph: 763-434-9555
www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Hours: M-Th 7 AM - 4:30 PM Fri: 7 AM-12 NOON

Mon. Dec. 12 & 27
Planning Comm. — 6 pm

Mon. Dec. 19
City Council — 6 pm

Wed. Dec. 21
Park & Tree Comm. — 6 pm

Hilltop

Hilltop City Hall
4555 Jackson St. NE
Hilltop, MN 55421
Ph: 763-571-2023

City Council — 1st & 3rd Mon., 7 pm

Lexington

Lexington City Hall
9180 Lexington Av
Lexington, MN 55014
Ph: 763-784-2792
www.ci.lexington.mn.us

Thurs. Dec. 8
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. Dec. 15
City Council — 7 pm (followed by workshop)

Mon. Dec. 19
Fire Dept. & Relief — 6:30 pm

EARLY CLOSING DEC. 23; CLOSED DEC. 26

Lino Lakes

Lino Lakes City Hall
600 Town Center Pkwy
Lino Lakes, MN 55014
Ph: 651-982-2400
www.ci.lino-lakes.mn.us

Mon. Dec. 12
City Council — 6:30 pm

Wed. Dec. 14
Environmental Board — 6:30 pm
Planning & Zoning Bd. — 6:30 pm

Tues. Dec. 27
City Council Work Session & Mtg — 5:30 pm

LINO LAKES CITY HALL CLOSED DEC. 23 & 26

Linwood Township

Linwood Town Hall
22817 Typo Creek Dr. NE
Linwood, MN 55079
Ph: 651-462-2812
linwoodtownship.org

Tues. Dec. 13 & 27
Town Board — 6 pm

Mon. Dec. 19
Senior Advisory Bd. — 9 am

Tues. Dec. 20
Planning & Zoning Comm. — 7 pm

OFFICE CLOSED DEC. 26

NOTE: All meetings listed on this page are subject to change of time or date — call ahead to verify

Nowthen

Nowthen City Hall
19800 Nowthen Blvd.
Elk River, MN 55330
Ph: 763-441-1347
www.nowthenmn.govoffice2.com

Mayor's Saturday hours at city hall
2nd Saturdays — 9 am
Tues. Dec. 13
City Council Truth in Taxation hearing (2012 budget) — 6 pm

Oak Grove

Oak Grove City Hall
19900 Nightingale St. NW
Oak Grove, MN 55011
Ph: 763-404-7000
oakgrove.govoffice.com

2nd and last Monday of month
City Council — 7 pm (EDA 8 pm on last Mon)
3rd Thursday
Planning Comm. — 7 pm
3rd Wednesday
Parks Comm — 7 pm
OAK GROVE CITY HALL CLOSED DEC. 23 & 26

Ramsey

Ramsey Municipal Center
7550 Sunwood Dr. NW
Ramsey, MN 55303
Ph: 763-427-1410
Fax: 763-427-5543
www.ci.ramsey.mn.us

Thurs. Dec. 8
EDA — 7:30 am
Parks & Rec. Comm. — **CANCELLED**
Mon. Dec. 12
Mayor's Town Hall mtg — 7 pm
Tues. Dec. 13
City Council Work Session — 5:30 pm; Meeting — 7 pm; HRA follows meeting
Tues. Dec. 20
Public Works Cmte., CC work session — 5:30 pm
All Dec. 27 meetings have been cancelled
RAMSEY CITY HALL CLOSED DEC. 23 & 26

St. Francis

St. Francis City Hall
23340 Cree St. NW
St. Francis, MN 55070
Ph: 763-753-2630
stfrancis.govoffice.com
Hours: M-Th 7AM-5:30 PM (Closed Fri)
Meetings held at ISD #15 offices
4115 Ambassador Blvd NW

City Council
1st & 3rd Mondays — 6 pm
Planning Comm.
3rd Wednesday — 7 pm
ST. FRANCIS CITY HALL CLOSED DEC. 23 & 26

Spring Lake Park

Spring Lake Park City Hall
1301 81st Ave NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
Ph: 763-784-6491
www.ci.spring-lake-park.mn.us

City Council
1st & 3rd Mondays — 7 pm

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11

11299 Hanson Blvd NW
Coon Rapids MN 55433
Ph.: (763) 506-1000
http://www.anoka.k12.mn.us

Mon. Dec. 12 Truth in Taxation hearing — 6 pm followed by school board meeting

Centennial ISD #12

4707 North Rd
Circle Pines, MN 55014
Ph.: (763) 792-6000
isd12.org

School Board Meetings
Mon. Dec. 19 — 5:30 pm (Work session)

NOTE: Meetings listed on this page are subject to change of time or date — call ahead to verify

Columbia Heights ISD #13

1440 49th Ave NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
Ph.: (763) 528-4436
columbia.mn.schoolwebpages.com

School Board Meetings
Tues. Dec. 13 — 7 pm
Tues. Dec. 20 — 5:30 pm (Work Session)

Elk River Area ISD #728

815 Hwy 10
Elk River, MN 55330
Ph.: (763) 241-3400

School Board mtgs 2nd and 4th Monday, "generally at" Elk River City Hall, council chambers, 13065 Orono Pkwy. — 7 pm
"Listening Sessions" with public, 2nd Mondays — 6:30 pm

Forest Lake ISD #831

6100 N 210th St
Forest Lake, MN 55025
Ph.: (651) 982-8100

School Board meetings: held, with a few exceptions, at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month in the District Office Boardroom, 6100 N. 210th St., Forest Lake.
Listening Sessions: Residents are invited to speak informally with representatives of the board, prior to regular meetings, at 6 p.m.

Fridley School Dist. #14

6000 W Moore Lake Dr
Fridley, MN 55432
Ph.: (763) 502-5000
fridley.k12.mn.us

School Board Meetings held at Fridley City Hall, 6431 University Ave NE
Work Sessions — 5:30 pm, Public Comment — 7 pm; Meeting — 7:30 pm
Tues. Dec. 20
Truth in Taxation hearing — 7 pm

St. Francis ISD #15

4115 Ambassador Blvd
St. Francis, MN 55070
Ph.: (763) 753-7040
stfrancis.k12.mn.us

School Board mtgs 2nd & 4th Mondays 6:30 pm
Public comment; Meeting 7 pm

Spring Lake Park ISD #16

1415 81st Ave NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
Ph.: (763) 786-5570

School Board mtgs 2nd Tuesday 7 pm
4th Tuesday scheduled as needed

White Bear Lake ISD #624

4855 Bloom Ave
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-5418
Ph.: (651) 407-7501
whitebear.k12.mn.us

School Board mtgs
Mon. Dec. 12 — 7 pm

ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1318 McKay Dr NE #300
Ham Lake, MN 55304
Ph.: (763) 434-2030
anokaswcd.org

Mon. Dec. 19 — 5:00 pm

METRO NORTH ABE ADULT EDUCATION CENTER
4111 CENTRAL AVE NE in COLUMBIA HEIGHTS SOUTH BLDG., ROOM 100
FREE CLASSES IN:
ADULT DIPLOMA ENGLISH (ESL)
GED PREPARATION
Reading, Writing, Math
Citizenship Classes
Conversation
763-783-4870

ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARIES HOURS

MON, WED Noon-8pm
TUES, THUR 10am-6pm
FRI Noon-6pm SAT 10am-5pm
(St Francis Saturdays 10-2; closed during lunch hour Thurs 12-1pm)
NORTHTOWN ONLY open Sundays 1pm-5pm

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS LIBRARY
Mon, Tue, Wed 9am-8pm
Thurs 10am-6pm
Fri 9am-5pm Sat 10am-4pm

ALL LIBRARIES CLOSED THESE DATES:
DEC 24, 25, 26, 31
JAN 1, 2

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editor@anokacountyrecord.com

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anokacountyrecord.com

NEXT ISSUES:
DEC. 22
(Deadline Dec. 19)
JAN. 5
(Deadline Jan. 2)

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