

## MINNESOTA LOBBYING TOPS 59 MILLION IN 2011

by Evan Paskach *Minnesota State News*

Organizations spent more than \$59 million in lobbying expenses last year according to information released by the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board last week.

Topping the list was Xcel Energy at \$2.36 million, followed by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce at just over \$2 million. The two were the only groups that broke the \$2 million mark.

Rounding out the rest of the top five was the Minnesota Business Partnership (\$980,000), the Minneapolis Radiation Oncology Physicians (\$820,000) and the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (\$820,000).

Several tribal and gambling related groups were among groups that spent more than \$300,000. Canterbury Park also spent \$460,000 on lobbying efforts.

Education Minnesota, the state's public school teachers union, fell out of the top five in 2011, spending \$500,000 in 2011 compared to \$900,000 in 2010.

Several other unions were among the top spenders in 2011, including MN AFL-CIO (\$820,000) and MAPE, the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (\$300,000).

The Alliance for a Better Minnesota, a liberal advocacy group with direct ties to the Dayton Administration and Dayton family, increased spending in 2011 to \$670,000, a huge jump from the \$16,664 it spent in 2010 on lobbying efforts. In 2009, the first year in which ABM reported lobbying activities, the group spent \$45,888. ABM's expansion of lobbying presence is especially noteworthy given recent scrutiny of their extraordinary access to the governor's office.

The deadline for groups to report expenditures was Thursday, March 15.

## MINNESOTA EMPLOYERS ADD 6,200 JOBS IN FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 5.7%

by Evan Paskach *Minnesota State News*

Minnesotans received welcome news Thursday about the state's current job climate. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) announced that employers added 6,200 jobs in February, keeping the state's unemployment rate below 6 percent at a seasonally adjusted 5.7 percent.

"The labor market recovery appears to be gaining steam, with three consecutive months of strong job growth," said DEED Commissioner Mark Phillips. "The state has now recovered 81,400 jobs since the recession."

5,100 of the new jobs came from the education and health services sector in February. Jobs in the government sector increased by 2,500 last month.

On the other side, professional and business services lost 4,000 jobs in February, while trade, transportation and utilities decreased by 900.

The leisure and hospitality sector has lost the most jobs in the past year, currently down 10,200.

The US unemployment rate remained at 8.3%.

DEED is the state's principal economic development agency, promoting business recruitment, expansion and retention, workforce development, international trade and community development.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO TIGHTEN VOTING PROCESS VOTER ID TO GO ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

The long debate over voter photo ID came to an end Friday night March 24 as the Minnesota Senate voted 36-30 to approve the bill for passage to the state's electorate.

The House version of the bill was approved the previous Tuesday by a vote of 72-62, along party lines. The Senate vote was also along party lines with the exception of Sen. Jeremy Miller (R-Winona), Dist. 31, voting against.



## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

**Redistricting Information.** Redistricting information is now available on the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State website at [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us).

- State redistricting maps
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Redistricting timeline
- 2011 Redistricting Guide

It is important to note that neither federal nor state candidates are required to live in the district in which they will run at this point in the election cycle. Residency requirements for candidates differ depending on the office they seek. **State legislative candidates must reside in the district that they wish to represent by May 5, 2012** (six months before the election) and must be residents of the state for one year before the election (by November 5, 2011).

Candidates for Congress do not have to ever inhabit the district they seek to represent. They must be inhabitants of the state on Election Day (by November 5, 2012), but do not have to be inhabitants of the state before this date.

Informational guides for candidates that include residency requirements and filing deadlines for major and minor parties are available at: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=138>.

**Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (EAID) Grants Announced.** Local governments have been contacted by this office and notified if they have been awarded a 2012 Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (EAID) grants for polling place accessibility improvements.

The EAID grants are provided through the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002. Funds must be used to improve polling place accessibility for voters with disabilities and cannot be used for general improvements to structures. More than \$315,161 will be distributed among 64 counties, cities and townships. Funding decisions were made by a committee that included representatives from the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota Association of Townships and the Minnesota Council on Disability. View a spreadsheet of 2012 EAID grant recipients at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=11141>.

**Serve as an Election Judge.** Minnesota's election judges are the hardworking poll workers that ensure that elections run fairly and smoothly.

Minnesota law requires that at least two election judges from different major political parties conduct certain tasks in the polling place to ensure the integrity of our elections.

An election judge is a paid official who works at a polling place to protect the rights of voters and determine the balloting results after the polls close on Election Day. Election judges must be at least 18 years old and typically serve in polling places near their homes. There is also an election judge program that allows students age 16 and 17 to serve as election judge trainees and this is an exciting way for students to experience democracy firsthand.

To learn more about becoming an election judge visit [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org).

**MNVOTES Voter Education Workshops.** In order to increase voter participation, encourage enthusiasm and create comfort around the electoral process, the Secretary of State's office has created an interactive workshop that takes community members and first-time voters through the entire voting process. This exciting presentation will simulate a day at the polls, from filling out voter registration applications to placing ballots in the ballot counter. After the presentation participants will feel prepared for — and excited about — voting in Minnesota elections.

The workshop is designed for students and first-time voters and can be presented in a variety of settings. If you would like to schedule a workshop for your school or community group, please visit <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=500#workshopsto> fill out a workshop request form.

## BUSINESS, NONPROFITS, & UCC

**February 2012 New Business Filings Up.** New business filings are up for the second straight month over the same period a year ago. Filing statistics show significant gains over last year. Overall new business filings in February 2012 increased over 50% when compared to February of 2011. Limited Liability Company (LLC) filings increased by over 60% since last year.

The same trend was seen in January when filing statistics were up significantly.

**Now Available – Online Filing for a Limited Liability Company (Domestic).** As a part of the modernization of the business services computer system, the office now offers those starting a Limited Liability Company (Domestic) the option of filing online. File a Limited Liability Company (Domestic) online at: <http://mblsportal.sos.state.mn.us/>

It is important to note that attachments cannot currently be included when you file a document online. This feature will be coming soon.

## CIVIC EDUCATION

**Minnesota History Center to Exhibit Rare Copy of U.S. Constitution.** As a part of this office's commitment to Civics education, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie for the past two years has been working closely with the foundation that owns one of just eight remaining copies of the first official printing of the U.S. Constitution (1787) and a rare 1789 draft of the Bill of Rights to bring these documents to Minnesota. He is pleased to announce that **these rare historical documents will be on exhibit at the Minnesota History Center from April 3 until July 4, 2012.** The exhibit will also include original editions of the two Minnesota state constitutions—one signed by Democrats, one signed by Republicans. Additional details about this exhibit are available at [www.mnhs.org/constitutionmedia](http://www.mnhs.org/constitutionmedia).

**Civil War Commemoration Task Force Announces Logo Contest Winner**

Civil War Commemoration Task Force co-chairs Secretary of State Mark Ritchie and Rep. Dean Urdahl (R-Grove City) have announced that Michael Campbell of Chanhassen was the winner of the Civil War Commemoration Task Force Logo Contest.



Michael Campbell of Chanhassen won the contest with this logo design

The task force received an enthusiastic response from Minnesota's artists — over 50 logo contest entries were

submitted. Campbell's eye-catching red, white and blue design was chosen because of his unique use of Civil War images that clearly captured the connection between the war and Minnesota.

The logo will be prominently featured in all of the Civil War Commemoration Task Force's citizen outreach, education and marketing initiatives.

The Civil War Commemoration Task Force will meet on Thursday, April 12, 2012, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Retirement Systems of Minnesota Building, Empire Board Room 117, 60 Empire Drive, St. Paul, MN. The meeting is open to the public.

**U.S. Postal Service Statement on Election Mail Process**

The U.S. Postal Service announced today that its plan to consolidate its mail processing network includes a suspension of the consolidation efforts during the election mailing season in order to avoid any adverse impact on the November election. The Postal Service will also utilize an Election Mail Task Force to work with all 50 states to develop strategies that address the questions and concerns of state and local election boards. Together, these measures will ensure the timely delivery of election-related mail.

"Mail is an increasingly important part of the U.S. election process and we are confident in the dependable and timely delivery of election-related mail," stated U.S. Postmaster General and CEO Patrick R. Donahoe.

In December, the U.S. Postal Service formed an agreement with Congress that no consolidation or closing of any postal facility will occur prior to May 15, 2012. Therefore, most closures or consolidations would have to take place starting after May 15, 2012, and be completed by August 31, 2012. Further consolidation of facilities would then continue in early 2013. The pursuit by the Postal Service of the significant consolidation of its national network of mail processing facilities is contingent upon its adoption of a final rule changing its delivery service standards.

For primary elections after May 15, the U.S. Postal Service is instituting a state-by-state outreach program to address the questions and concerns of election boards, political candidates and mailers.

In addition, for states that are promoting vote by mail, the proposed plan to study 3,600 Post Offices around the U.S. for possible closure will not adversely affect the voting process as customers have many ways in which to deposit mail, including with their carrier, with a retail partner, at a collection box location, or at a neighboring office within reasonable distance to their current location. The Postal Service is exploring options to provide customers with alternate access to postal services and products where they live, work and shop.

**Ramsey City Council topics for future discussion**

The topics scheduled for discussion by the Ramsey City Council at its April 10 "work session" meeting include:

- Four-wheeler riding within the city
- Special events permit if received by applicant

Other topics listed for future discussion include:

- Lot combination policy
- Develop community center/indoor sports complex
- Update landfill land use plan
- Update animal ordinance
- Residential uses permitted by state statute
- City booth at Game Fair 2012
- Amendments to facility use program
- Leash law
- Build on outdoors/sportsmen's market (e.g. stock pond/lake)
- Review pilot programs (e.g. volunteer programs; low maintenance options)
- 167th & 47 Water services extension/master planning
- Old Town Hall relocation
- Strategic Action Plan update
- See grant funding for transportation projects and service delivery
- Complete US 10/County Rd 83 interchange design — pursue funding
- Establish position on TH 47 south of Bunker to Hwy 10

Future topics for the HRA:

- Housing Assistance Policy

Future topics for Public Works:

- Review plan for US 10 pedestrian overpass and connection with municipal center ramp
- Four-wheeler and golf cart use
- Review Project Management Issues (e.g. 151st and 167th projects)

**Special Board of Review meeting in Blaine April 16**

The Special Board of Review (Board of Appeal and Equalization) for the City of Blaine shall meet on Monday, April 16, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., at Blaine City Hall 10801 Town Square Drive. If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office first at 763-323-5400 to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before

the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to the county board of appeal and equalization.

**We welcome your opinion columns and letters!**  
Send them to [editor@anokacountyrecord.com](mailto:editor@anokacountyrecord.com)

*Anoka County* **RECORD**

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Thursday Publication       Deadline for next issue

**TOWN MEETING**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 31**

**Location:** Champlin City Hall  
11955 Champlin Drive  
**Time:** 1:00 - 2:30 pm

**Topic: Property Tax Reform**

**PUBLIC WELCOME:**  
Bring your property tax statement.  
Share your ideas and let your voice be heard.

For more information, contact:

# Opinion

by Phil Krinkie

## THE FIRE IS OUT, MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS SHOULD GO HOME



There's an old axiom among fire fighters that should be exercised by legislators in St. Paul this spring – "when the fire is out, the firefighters go home."

Last year's protracted budget debate extended two and a half months beyond the constitutional deadline and led to a 20 day government shutdown. It should be obvious to anyone who follows the three-ring circus at the Capitol that the budget fire is out and legislators should put down their gavels and return to their families.

Two weeks ago the state budget forecast showed a \$323 million surplus. That's in addition to the \$876 million surplus from the November budget projections. This brings the total estimated cash balance to \$1.2 billion since last year's \$5 billion budget deficit; a huge reversal in the state's financial picture.

Under current law this additional revenue gets split three ways; \$255 million to the cash flow account, \$626 million to the budget reserve and lastly \$318 million to reduce the delay in payments to schools. The budget is balanced, the cash flow and budget reserve accounts have been restored and that pesky delay in school payments has been partially restored. What's left to do? The real answer is nothing!

But as hard working public servants; lawmakers want the public to believe that there is a mountain of urgent public policy work left to be pushed through the legislative meat grinder.

The first excuse offered as to why legislators can't go home is Gov. Dayton's "People's Stadium." The stadium that the people pay for but can't afford to go to! The claim is that a Vikings stadium bill must pass or Zygi will move the team to Los Angeles. But recently, the NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said no team will be moving to L.A. next year. Billionaire owner Zygi Wilf has spent a lot of money creating smoke to convince lawmakers that the stadium issue is a fire that can only be extinguished with Minnesota tax dollars. But the bottom line is, there is no fire and the Vikings will wait.

The next supposed burning issue is the bonding bill. This is the legislation that creates more state debt so government can go on a construction spending spree. Last year the legislature passed an increase of half a billion dollars in state debt for building projects; most of which have yet to break ground. If they haven't used all the construction money they bonded for last session; it's clear that Minnesotans can wait 12 months to go further in debt to build more government buildings. For those who are demanding a bonding bill; the question is: where's the fire?

Moving past the spending bills, next consider the current political divide at the Capitol. During the first eight weeks of this year's session the legislature has passed 14 of the 2,062 bills introduced, Gov. Dayton has signed eight into law and vetoed six. Of the eight bills Gov. Dayton has signed, none are significant legislation.

As the smoke cleared from last year's budget crisis; it was clear that the ideological divide between the Republican controlled legislature and Gov. Dayton will not likely dissipate over the next few months. Therefore; the chance that the Republican legislature will be able to convince Gov. Dayton to sign any major reform legislation is somewhere between slim and none. With no budget to balance and a governor that has made it

clear he is willing to veto popular; non-controversial bills ... what is it that lawmakers believe they can accomplish?

In light of the stalemate with the governor; what legislators are bringing to the forefront is a long list of trivial bills. The top of this list is legislation that names the official state dirt. Next we have legislation that would formalize a committee of 36 teenagers to have input into the legislative process and work on youth-related legislation. One Republican legislator has taken it upon himself to address the dire need to stop the impersonation of barbers in Minnesota by introducing legislation that would make it illegal for anyone without a license to place a barber pole in a location that would create or tend to create the impression to the public that the business is a barber shop.

Since the start of the session; lawmakers have introduced seventeen bills concerning license plates including the bill to issue special license plates that state "Start Seeing Motorcycles." The question about this legislation is; if you can't see the motorcycle; how are you going to see the license plate? The list of meaningless legislation goes on and on and left to their own devices legislators will go on and on as well. Legislative leaders shouldn't wait until late April to end this do nothing session; they should pull the plug now!

The budget fire that was blazing out of control last year has been extinguished and it's time for the fire fighters to go home!

*Phil Krinkie is a former eight-term Republican state legislator and is now president of the Taxpayers League of Minnesota.*

### CITY OF SPRING LAKE PARK ANNUAL BOARD OF REVIEW

The City Council will hold its annual Board of Review on **Monday, April 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers A at the Community Center.**

During the month of March, you received a tax statement in the mail that tells you the assessed valuation the City Assessor has placed on your home or business. This is important information for you to be aware of, as the assessed valuation is one of the elements contained in the formula for calculating your taxes.

Additions or improvements made to your home or business during the year will be reflected in inflationary increases from last year.

The Board of Review is an opportunity for you to contest your assessed valuation. The City Council, acting as the Board of Review, has the authority to make adjustments they deem appropriate based upon the information it receives from the property owner and the assessor. If no adjustment is made and you still feel your assessed valuation is unjust, you may appeal to the County Board of Equalization. However, you must first appeal in person or by writing to the local Board of Review.

When considering an appeal however, please remember if you've made any major improvements to your home or business, which have a direct impact on its value. A rule of thumb for homes is that the assessed valuation should be approximately 95% of what you could sell your home for. If you've made no improvements during the year, and the assessed valuation exceeds what you believe the house or business could sell for, you may have a valid appeal. In case of businesses, there may be extenuating circumstances, which could be considered when reviewing an appeal.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT LOBBYISTS AND MORALS

by John Kysylyczyn



Over the years, I have testified before the Minnesota Legislature on many issues. During that time I have met many local government lobbyists. Some with morals and some desperately lacking.

Local government lobbyists represent administrators in these local governments, not the citizens that live there. They are paid with tax dollars taken from citizens that they often work against. In my opinion, it is only by coincidence that a local government lobbyist advocates for a position that your average citizen would support.

Some local government lobbyists also engage in misinformation campaigns when testifying before committees because they believe that the ends justify the means.

For example, this past month I testified in support of a bill which would require all counties and cities over 2,500 population to annually publish a one page budget summary on the internet. This would include Anoka County and most cities in Anoka County. Not surprisingly, the local government lobbyists were opposed.

In response to this bill, a government lobbyist representing a county association that Anoka County is a member of stated that it would be a financial hardship and may simply be impossible for some counties to publish this on the internet. He also claimed that some counties would therefore be forced to publish this summary in a local newspaper at great cost.

The committee was essentially led to believe that in this day and age, there are some county courthouses in Minnesota that do not have websites, or dial-up internet access, or telephones, or any ability whatsoever to post a document online anywhere on the internet. And in addition, have no one who could figure out how to do any of this or who to call to get the job done.

Amazingly this was not the only committee that this government lobbyist made this financial hardship claim to. I cannot say for sure what this lobbyist was thinking, but if even one member of the committee had experience in website development or had children over the age of 10, they would know that his claims were nonsense.

As a citizen lobbyist in attendance at the hearing, I did my civic duty and informed the committee that as a website developer for the past decade, I know you can post 1000 years of these reports on the internet for less than \$5 a month. I also informed the committee that I could post this information for one county for as low as \$1 a month. What I didn't bother mentioning to the committee, figuring why add insult to injury, is that by the time my daughter turns 10, she probably will have the skills necessary to do this and I can turn the project over to her.

While I have not surveyed anyone on the committee, I find it hard to believe that this lobbyist had any credibility left after we both provided our testimony.

What is unfortunate though is that on many occasions, these local government lobbyists get away with this kind of deception. While I can monitor legislation and testimony at committee hearings, I have no idea what kind of misinformation these local government lobbyists are spreading in private office meetings with legislators where much of the work at the capitol gets done.

The public can play an important role in this process. Contact your county commission or city council member and ask them if the associations they send dues to, i.e. taxpayer funds, are using lobbyists who are representing the government bureaucracy or the taxpayers who are paying their salaries.

*John Kysylyczyn is the publisher of this newspaper and a former mayor of Roseville.*

## Reports from Your Legislators



### SEN. BENJAMIN KRUSE (Dist. 47) 651-296-4154



Mar. 23. On Tuesday the Senate Education Committee approved a bill to pay back 2011 borrowing from school aid payments — the remaining approximately \$415 million that was part of the shift in the timing of payments to school districts in last year's budget compromise. The legislation would return the shift to the amount when Republicans took legislative majority, and will leave well over one-half billion dollars in the state's budget reserve and cash-flow accounts. The state has not had that much cash on hand since 2008. To end last year's politically charged and unnecessary state shutdown, the Legislature agreed with Gov. Dayton to borrow \$700 million against the state school budget, adding to an existing \$2 billion school aid shift.

Since then, Minnesota's budget has grown out of a \$5 billion budget deficit to positive balance of \$323 million, on top of an \$876 million positive forecast last November which was moved automatically into budget and cash flow accounts. If Gov. Dayton agrees to make school budgets a priority, undoing last year's shift will help districts manage their cash flow and replenish their reserves. The school shift will then return to 70-30, the same as when Republicans took majority in the House and Senate in 2011.

**Jobs & Tax Relief Bill.** This week Senate Republicans rolled out an omnibus jobs/tax relief package in Taxes Committee. Senate File 1972 provides tax relief of over \$102 million in Fiscal Year 2013 for families and job creators. Two-thirds of the \$102 million relief is for individual income taxpayers and the total tax relief over the next three years is \$393 million. Tax relief for businesses and job creators makes more capital available for investment, equipment, expansion and additional employees. This is the type of legislation, a true jobs bill, which will help to grow the private sector economy. It makes long term, sustainable changes to improve the jobs climate, not just short term fixes. The provisions in Senate File 1972 send a signal to entrepreneurs, investors and job creators that Minnesota is open for business. The jobs package passed out of Taxes Committee Thursday and its next stop is the Senate floor for a vote.

The Senate Capital Investment committee is working to assemble a bonding bill for possible introduction in the near future. The legislature approved a nearly \$500 million bonding bill in 2011 that made substantial investments in the state's core infrastructure. Any bonding bill produced this year should contain projects of statewide and regional significance so taxpayers get the value they deserve from their investment.

### REP. TOM HACKBARTH (Dist. 48A) 651-296-2439



Mar. 22. Dear Neighbor, A bill allowing Minnesotans to decide whether photo ID should be required at the polls passed the House this week.

Pending Senate approval, Minnesota voters will be asked this question in November: "Should the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require all voters to present valid photo identification on Election Day and that the state provide free identification to eligible voters?"

There is huge public support for this initiative as a way to support the integrity of our elections. A KSTP poll posted just this week shows close to 75

percent favor photo ID for voters. Other surveys consistently provide similar results.

It will be simple for the vast majority of Minnesotans to provide a photo ID at the polls. As the constitutional question states, those who do not have a photo ID may request one from the state. If, for whatever reason, you do not have a photo ID when you go to the poll, you still can cast a provisional ballot and provide verification later.

**State Economy Surging.** The changes Republicans have brought the state the last two sessions definitely are taking root and making a real difference in getting our economy back on track. A StarTribune article issued today says Minnesota has gained 32,300 jobs the last three months alone and we now have recovered more than half of the jobs lost during the recession.

Private-sector jobs are growing in Minnesota. This is what happens when we provide businesses with certainty. The Republican majority's work in St. Paul is inspiring our entrepreneurs to invest and expand their workforce instead of holding tight, afraid of what government is going to do to them next.

Here is an interesting tidbit: Our state's unemployment rate rose from 5.6 percent to 5.7 percent last month, but there is a silver lining to that development. A number of people who gave up looking for jobs during the recession were not accounted for in recent unemployment figures. Many of those people are coming off the bench to look for jobs now that businesses are hiring again.

That is a good thing and it is the reason our unemployment rate trickled upward. Let's all hope decisions we are making at the Capitol continue leading our state back to prosperity.

### SEN. ROGER CHAMBERLAIN

(Dist. 53) 651-296-1253



Mar. 23. Neighbors, The Taxes committee rolled out the omnibus jobs bill this week, including \$102 million in tax relief for small businesses and families next year. More than two-thirds of this relief will go to individual income tax payers. This bill makes long-term, sustainable changes that will help improve our economy over the long run, making our state friendlier to businesses and consumers alike.

On Tuesday, the Senate Education Committee approved a bill to pay back 2011 borrowing from school aid payments — the remaining approximately \$415 million that was part of the shift in the timing of payments to school districts in last year's budget compromise. The legislation would return the shift to the amount when Republicans took legislative majority, and will leave well over one-half billion dollars in the state's budget reserve and cash-flow accounts. The state has not had that much cash on hand since 2008.

Several of my bills passed through senate committees this week. Among them was **Senate File 1094**, which would authorize the creation of **Education Boards**. This bill is landmark reform that has been worked on for years by the same people that were the brains behind charter schools. Unfortunately, Democrats tried to play politics with it in the Local Government committee, despite the fact that it passed out of the Education Committee without any opposition only days before. Thankfully, the Chairman of the committee, Sen. Ray Vandever, was able to stop their game-playing and pass this innovative bill. It now heads to the Senate Floor for a vote of the full body.

**A little trivia: what are the three things Zygi Wilf and the governor have in common?**

1. They are wealthy
2. They are powerful
3. They want your money to build a stadium

Though there is talk that the bill is dead, the stadium battle is not over. The most powerful people in the state continue to push the terrible proposal offered a couple of weeks ago by Sen.

Rosen, Rep. Lanning, and others — and they will continue to attack any alternative plan as long as public money is on the table. We must change the conversation by telling them the state is getting out of the stadium business; we will not continue to let the Vikings hold us hostage. There are other options to getting this done, but we must begin real negotiations first.

And that is what is most troubling. They have used the word "negotiate" to describe how this process has taken shape. But this could not be further from the truth. A negotiation implies at least two people differ on a particular issue and then begin discussions and make concessions. What happened in this case was Mr. Wilf told Sen. Rosen and Rep. Lanning what he wanted, and they wrote the bill for him. A select group of people worked on this behind closed doors without consulting anybody else, and then tried to rapidly push it through the process before we really knew what we were dealing with. Sound familiar?

Legislative leaders as well as individual legislators across the state will be under tremendous pressure to give Mr. Wilf what he wants. Some things transcend politics; some things are either right or wrong. Building a stadium for Mr. Wilf and the governor is wrong.

If you want to stop this we will need your help. Support those legislators who are opposed to this corrupt process. Get together with like-minded citizens and organizations to coordinate your efforts. Remember, 75% of Minnesotans do not want to pay for another stadium for a wealthy owner.

### CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

We will publish your  
candidacy statements

Send them to  
editor@anokacountyrecord.com

Anoka County RECORD

### SEN. MICHELLE BENSON (Dist. 49) 651-296-3219



Mar. 23. **Employee Freedom Press Conference.** On March 20th, I stood with Senator Dave Thompson and many other Senators at a Press Conference to urge Senate leadership to take action on the Employee Freedom Constitutional Amendment currently sitting in the Rules Committee. Senator Thompson is the chief author of this amendment, and while I don't sit on the Rules committee, I support Senator Dave Thompson's bill and signed onto similar legislation authored by Senator David Hann. Senator Hann said, "We believe people want and deserve to have a hearing and a vote on this bill." I am hopeful that that this bill will come to the Senate floor. But that decision rests with Senate leadership.

**Safe haven for newborns bill.** On March 22nd, the Senate sent SF1675 to Conference Committee. Current law states that a newborn can be left at a hospital within three days of birth if the mother feels she is not able to keep the baby. With numerous accounts of babies being found dead in rivers and trash cans, I felt that the law does not give a mother sufficient time to deal with her overwhelming emotions if she finds herself in a vulnerable situation after the birth of her child. As a mother, I understand what a woman goes through post-delivery, especially when she feels she has no options or hope. This legislation would change the law from three days to seven days and broaden drop off locations. It also allows mothers the additional option of requesting an ambulance to come get the baby.

I chief-authored this legislation because I believe it is a necessary measure to provide options to mothers in crisis. It has been a long journey working with the Department of Human Services, the Sheriff's Offices, and the Ambulance Association. I am hopeful this legislation will give innocent babies a chance at life.

# 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

**Mon. Apr. 2**  
Public Works Cmte. — 9 am, Rm 772  
**Tues. Apr. 3**  
Parks & Rec. Cmte.— 9 am, Bunker Hills Mosquito Control Dist.  
**Tues. Apr. 10**  
Management Cmte. — 8:30 am. Ham Lake City Hall  
County Board — 9:30 am, Ham Lake City Hall  
**Wed. Apr. 11**  
Waste Mgmt.Cmte. — 8:15 am, Rm 772 ACGC  
**Mon. Apr. 16**  
Public Works Cmte — 9 am, Rm 772, ACGC  
Library Board — 5:30 pm, Library offices next to Northtown Library  
**Tues. Apr. 17**  
Human Services Cmte — 8:30 am, Rm 710, ACGC  
Information Technology Cmte — 10:30 am, Rm 772, ACGC  
Finance & Capital Improvements Cmte — 1 pm, Rm 772, ACGC  
Intergovernmental/Community Relations — 3 pm, Rm 772, ACGC

## Andover

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

**Tues. Apr. 3 & 17**  
City Council — 7 pm  
**Thurs. Apr. 5 & 19**  
Parks Comm. — 7 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 10**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 11**  
Open Space Advisory Comm. — 7 pm

## Anoka

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

**Mon. Apr. 2**  
City Council closed session (sewer & water labor contract) — 6:45 pm  
City Council — 7 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 3**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 9**  
Housing & Redevp. Authority— 5 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 10**  
Heritage Preserv. Comm. — 5 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 11**  
Annual Fire Board Mtg — 9 am, City Council Chambers  
**Thurs. Apr. 12**  
Economic Devp. Comm. — 7:30 am  
South Ferry Planning — 6 pm, Greenhaven  
**Mon. Apr. 16**  
Great River Energy Mtg — 5:30 pm  
City Council — 7 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 17**  
Parks & Rec. Advisory Bd — 7 pm

## Bethel

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

Call City Hall for information

## Blaine

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

**Mon. Apr. 2 & 9**  
City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm  
**Thurs. Apr. 5**  
City Council — 7:30 pm

**Tues. Apr. 10**  
Blaine Historical Soc. — 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

**Tues. Apr. 3 & May 1**  
Planning & Zoning Comm. — 6:30 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 4 & May 2**  
Parks & Rec Cmte — 6:30 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 11 & 25**  
City Council — 6:30pm

## 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. Apr. 3 & May 1**  
Park Board — 6:30 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 10 & 24**  
City Council — 7 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 16**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 18**  
Utilities Comm. — 7 pm

## 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. Apr. 2**  
Traffic Comm. — 5:30 pm  
Economic Devlp. Authority — 6:30 pm  
City Council “work session” — 7 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 3**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 4**  
Library Board — 6:30 pm, Library  
**Mon. Apr. 9**  
Board of Appeal & Equalization — 6 pm  
City Council — 7 pm  
**Thurs. Apr. 19**  
Charter Comm. — 7 pm

## Columbus

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

**Wed. Apr. 4 & 18**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 11**  
Economic Devlpmnt Authority & EDAB combined mtg — 6 pm  
City Council — 7 pm  
**Thurs. Apr. 19**  
Park Board — 6:30 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 25**  
City Council — 7 pm

## Coon Rapids

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

**Tues. Apr. 3 & 17**  
City Council — 7 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 2**  
Park & Rec. Comm. — 6:30 pm  
**Thurs. Apr. 5**  
Bd of Adjustment & Appeals — 6:30 pm  
**Thurs. Apr. 12**  
Safety Comm. — 7:15 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 17**  
Arts Commission — 5:45 pm  
**Thurs. Apr. 19**  
Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm  
Historical Comm. — 7:30 pm

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

## East Bethel

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

**Wed. Apr. 4 & 18**  
City Council — 7:30 pm; Bd of Review and Equalization on 4/18 at 6:30 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 10**  
Road Commission — 6:30 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 11**  
Park Commission — 7 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 24**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 25**  
Econ. Develop. Auth. — 6:30 pm  
**Spring Town Hall Meeting — Thurs. Apr. 26, 6 pm Open House; Q & A starts at 7 pm**

## Fridley

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

**Mon. Apr. 2**  
Charter Comm. — 7 pm  
Parks & Rec. Comm. — 7 pm  
**Thurs. Apr. 5**  
HRA — 7 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 9 & 23**  
City Council — 7 pm pre-agenda; 7:30 pm meeting  
**Mon. Apr. 16**  
City Council Conference Mtg. — 6 pm

## 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. Apr. 2 & 16**  
City Council — 6 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 11 & Tues. Apr. 17**  
Community Mtg Wastewater Treatment Studies — 6 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 18**  
Park & Tree Comm. — 6 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 23**  
Planning 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

**Mon. Apr. 2**  
Park Board — 6:30 pm  
**Thurs. Apr. 5 & 19**  
City Council — 7 pm (workshop after the 4/19 meeting)  
**Wed. Apr. 11**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 16**  
Fire Relief Mtg — 6:30 pm, Fire Hall

## Lino Lakes

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

**Mon. Apr. 2**  
City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm  
**Thurs. Apr. 5 & May 3**  
EDAC — 8 am  
**Mon. Apr. 9**  
Board of Appeals — 6 pm  
City Council — 6:30 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 11**  
Planning & Zoning Bd — 6:30 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 23**  
City Council “work session” & mtg — 5:30 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 25**  
Environmental Bd — 6:30 pm

## Linwood Township

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

**Mon. Apr. 2**  
School Forest Cmte. — 5 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 3**  
Road & Bridge Cmte. — 7 pm  
**Wed. Apr. 4**  
Fire Department — 7 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 10 & 24**  
Town Board — 6 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 16**  
Senior Advisory Bd — 9 am  
Cemetery Cmte. — 7 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 17**  
Planning & Zoning Comm. — 7 pm

## Nowthen

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

Call City Hall for information

## 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 Wednesday**  
Parks Comm. — 7 pm  
**3rd Thursday**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

## Ramsey

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

**Mon. Apr. 2**  
EPB — 6:30 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 3**  
City Council “work session” — 6 pm; followed by HRA mtg  
**Thurs. Apr. 5**  
Farewell to Deputy City Administrator Heidi Nelson, Acapulco Restaurant in Ramsey — 4:30 pm  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 9**  
Mayor’s Town Hall Mtg — 7 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 10**  
City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm; City Council mtg — 7 pm; HRA following CC meeting  
**Thurs. Apr. 12**  
EDA — 7:30 am

### CITY OF FRIDLEY SALARY NOTICE

Minnesota State Law, Chapter 156 of the Session Laws of 2005, requires that "a city or county with a population of more than 15,000 must annually notify its residents of the positions and base salaries of its three highest-paid employees." For the City of Fridley, titles and salaries as of January 1, 2012, are: **City Manager - \$125,611; Public Safety Director and Community Development Director (tie) - \$116,605.** Date of publication: February 6, 2012.

### Anoka County RECORD

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editor@anokacountyrecord.com  
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anokacountyrecord.com

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11**

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

**Mon. Apr. 9 & May 7**  
School Board "work session" — 6 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 30 & May 21**  
School Board — 6:30 pm

**Centennial ISD #12**

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

**Mon. Apr. 2 & May 7**  
School Board "work session" — 5:30 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 16 & May 14**  
School Board — 6:30 pm

**Columbia Heights ISD #13**

1440 49th Ave NE  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421  
Ph.: (763) 528-4436  
columbia.mn.schoolwebpages.com  
**Tues. Apr. 10** School Bd — 7 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 17** School Bd work session — 5:30 pm

**Elk River Area ISD #728**

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

School Board meetings  
**Mon. Apr. 2, 16, 30** — "work session" 6 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 9 & 23** — 7 pm

**Forest Lake ISD #831**

6100 N 210th St  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
Ph.: (651) 982-8100  
forestlake.k12.mn.us

School Board meetings: held, with a few exceptions, at 7 p.m. on the first Thurs. 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.  
*\*Editor's note:* There are often work session meetings on the 3rd Thurs.; check website or call to verify

**Fridley ISD #14**

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

School Board mtgs held at Fridley City Hall, 6431 University Ave NE; Work Session — 5:30 pm, Public Comment — 7 pm; Meeting — 7:30 pm  
**Next meeting: Tues. Apr. 17**

**St. Francis ISD #15**

4115 Ambassador Blvd  
St. Francis, MN 55070  
Ph.: (763) 753-7040  
stfrancismn.org

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

**Spring Lake Park ISD #16**

1415 81st Ave NE  
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432  
Ph.: (763) 786-5570  
splkpark.k12.mn.us/

**Tues. Apr. 10** — 7 pm  
**Tues. Apr. 24** — 6:30 pm "work session"

**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. Apr. 9** — 7 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 23** — 5:30 pm "work session"

**916 Intermediate School District**

2540 Cty Rd F, White Bear Lake  
Board meetings at Bellaire School, District Office Board Room  
Ph.: (651) 415-5562  
nemetrol.k12.mn.us

**Tues. Apr. 3 & May 1** — 6 pm

*St. Francis*

St. Francis City Hall  
23340 Cree St. NW  
St. Francis, MN 55070  
Ph: 763-753-2630  
stfrancismn.org

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

*Spring Lake Park*

Spring Lake Park City Hall  
1301 81st Ave NE  
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432  
Ph: 763-784-6491  
slpmn.org

**Thurs. Mar. 29 & Apr. 12**  
City Council "work session" — 7 pm

**Mon. Apr. 2**  
City Council — 7 pm

**Mon. Apr. 23**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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

**Tues. Apr. 16** — 5 pm

Meetings listed on this page are subject to change — call ahead to verify

**PET CLINIC**

**Saturday, April 21, 2012**  
City of Oak Grove  
Fire Station  
19900 Nightingale St NW  
9:00 a.m. – NOON

- Rabies..... \$ 15.00
  - Dog or cat distemper complex \$15.00- \$20.00
  - Feline leukemia..... \$ 20.00
  - Lyme disease shot for dogs....\$ 25.00
  - Heart worm test..... \$ 20.00
  - Lyme/heart worm test combo \$48.00
  - Heartworm preventative and flea/tick medicines will also be sold.
- Pets must be leashed or caged!**

Blaine • Circle Pines • Ham Lake  
Lexington • Spring Lake Park  
Lino Lakes • Centerville

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ CABLE COMMISSION MEETINGS**

**Executive Committee**  
**Apr. 4, May 2, 6 pm**  
North Metro TV  
12520 Polk St NE, Blaine

**Operations Committee**  
**Apr. 3, May 1, 10:30 am**  
North Metro TV  
12520 Polk St NE, Blaine

**Cable Commission**  
**April 18, May 16, 6 pm**  
Spring Lake Park City Hall

**CITY OF RAMSEY Open Burn Permit**

(fires larger than 3 feet in diameter)  
As of March 14 2012, Ramsey Fire Department will not be issuing Open Burn Permits.

- Restrictions are determined based on the warm dry weather conditions.
- Once restrictions are established in an area, they remain in place until green up occurs and fire danger is drastically reduced.
- Recreational campfires are still permissible under restricted conditions.

If you have any questions about this burning restriction contact the Ramsey Fire Department 763-427-4452.

**Coon Rapids 2012 Arbor Day Tree Sale**

In conjunction with Arbor Day, the City will sell a limited quantity of trees on a first-call, first-serve basis with a limit of two trees per Coon Rapids household. This year's trees must be pre-ordered with the City Forester.

The trees will be sold in bare root form ranging from six to eight feet tall and will cost \$15.00-\$45.00 each, depending on the species. Trees purchased on this day will need to be planted the same day; therefore, have underground utilities located before you dig. Contact Gopher State One call at 651-454-0002 at least two working days in advance.



The City does not assume responsibility for the successful transplanting of these trees. Weather conditions, methods of handling and aftercare govern the results. Trees are sold with the understanding that if they arrive in good condition and are accepted, the City's responsibility ceases. Therefore there are no refunds/replacements on trees that fail.

The trees will be available for pick up on Friday, April 27, from 9am to 1pm, at the Public Works Garage, 1831-111th Ave NW. If you cannot pick up your trees on this date and time please do not place an order. No exceptions. However, you may have a neighbor or friend pick up your order. Contact the City Forester at 763-767-6455 for more information or to place an order.

**STATUTORY FACTS**



**121A.11 UNITED STATES FLAG. Subdivision 1. Displayed by schools.**

Every public school in Minnesota must display an appropriate United States flag when in session. The flag shall be displayed upon the school grounds or outside the school building, on a proper staff, on every legal holiday occurring during the school term and at such other times as the board of the district may direct. The flag must be displayed within the principal rooms of the school building at all other times while school is in session.

**Subd. 2. School boards to provide flags and staffs.**

The board must provide the flag for each of the school buildings in their districts, together with a suitable staff to display the flag outside of the school building and proper arrangement to display the flag in the building, and a suitable receptacle for the safekeeping of the flag when not in use.

**THE HISTORY OF ST. FRANCIS**

**Bringing Local History to Life**

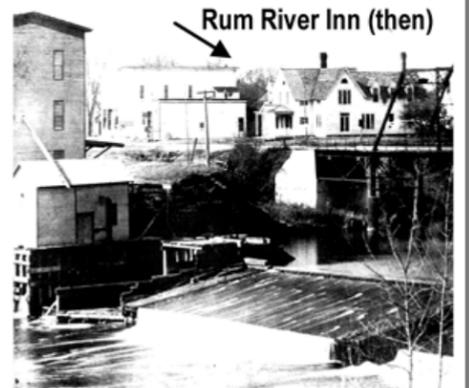
**Saturday, April 14, 2012**  
**2—3:00 pm**

**Rum River North Shelter Building**  
**23100 Rum River Blvd., St. Francis, MN**



Relive local history by listening to stories of St. Francis' past and seeing artifacts that were used in everyday life. A slide show of photographs from St. Francis' past takes guests on a visual tour through the history of this small town turned suburb on the northern edge of Anoka County.

This free program is offered in partnership with Anoka County Historical Society and is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Visit [www.anoka.lib.mn.us](http://www.anoka.lib.mn.us) or call 763-712-2322 for more information.



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