

## JUDGE STRIKES DOWN GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER TO UNIONIZE DAY-CARE PROVIDERS

by ACR staff

Ramsey County Judge Dale Lindman last week put an end to Governor Dayton's efforts to unionize private day-care providers by executive order. That order, made last November, prompted a lawsuit by day-care businesses and a temporary derailment of the Governor's plans. Named in the suit as defendants were the Governor and a state agency, the Bureau of Mediation Services. The unions AFSCME and SEIU were defendant-intervenors in the suit.

Judge Lindman's review of the case and ruling was released April 6, in which he said that the Governor's order is "null and void because it is an unconstitutional usurpation of the Legislature's constitutional right to create and or amend laws and as such is a violation of the Separation of Powers doctrine."

Lindman's order ruled that the union elections called for in the Governor's executive order are permanently enjoined.

"To comply with Minnesota law, and more specifically the separation of powers clause of the Minnesota Constitution, the proper method to proceed is for the matter to be brought to the Legislature," the judge's order reads. Lindman argued that Gov. Dayton's order was an attempt to "circumvent the legislative process and unionize child care providers by executive order, rather than by adhering to a valid legislative process."

Gov. Dayton's executive order attempted to by-pass the legislature and declare day-care businesses that receive state aid, directly or indirectly, are in effect public-sector workplaces.

In the Governor's opinion, the workers in those businesses, many of whom are self-employed owner-operators, are on the same standing as public employees and should be unionized.

Lindman's order states that he could not find an employer-employee relationship existing between the state government and child care providers, and "because employer-employee relations are not involved in this dispute, this is not a labor dispute, and the Bureau of Mediation Services does not have authority under Chapter 179 to intervene." Gov. Dayton's Executive Order 11-31 had called for the BMS to conduct elections of licensed, registered, subsidized child care providers, but such an election "is not sanctioned by the law making body because no labor dispute exists", wrote Judge Lindman.



A lawn sign at an independent day-care business in Ramsey County expresses the feelings of its owners

State statute 179A.03 defines a public employee, which is quoted here in part:

Subd. 14. "Public employee" or "employee" means any person appointed or employed by a public employer except:

- (a) elected public officials;
- (b) election officers;
- (c) commissioned or enlisted personnel of the Minnesota National Guard;
- (d) emergency employees who are employed for emergency work caused by natural disaster;
- (e) part-time employees whose service does not exceed the lesser of 14 hours per week or 35 percent of the normal work week in the employee's appropriate unit;

- (f) employees whose positions are basically temporary or seasonal in character and: (1) are not for more than 67 working days in any calendar year; or (2) are not for more than 100 working days in any calendar year and the employees are under the age of 22, are full-time students enrolled in a nonprofit or public educational institution prior to being hired by the employer, and have indicated, either in an application for employment or by being enrolled at an educational institution for the next academic year or term, an intention to continue as students during or after their temporary employment; . . ."

Reaction to the ruling included these comments from Senator David Hann (R-Dist. 42, Eden Prairie): "I am pleased with Judge Lindman's ruling today on the side of Minnesota small businesses. Last year, we filed an amicus brief in support of child care providers, expressing deep concern over the Governor's desire to create law through executive order, a process we believe is unconstitutional. We want to thank the providers for taking the time and effort to stand up for their rights as independent, privately-owned and managed day care providers."

Sen. Mike Parry (R-Dist. 26, Waseca) said in a statement, "This is great news for child care providers in Minnesota! We strongly believe that the Governor does not have the authority to hold a union election for child care providers and Judge Lindman's decision confirmed our belief. We will continue to push back against the Governor's troubling pattern of ignoring the law, overreaching into the private sector and are optimistic that we will continue to prevail ..."

The childcare providers who were among the plaintiffs of the suit were thrilled with the outcome.

Plaintiff Hollee Saville said, "I can't think of a better way to celebrate Easter than knowing that Judge Lindman upheld our rights and freedoms as independent licensed family child care providers... the time and efforts that childcare providers have dedicated to this very important cause over the past several years have paid off. We're so grateful for the support of the majority of Minnesotans. Thank you!"

The judge's order also awarded attorneys fees and reasonable costs to the plaintiffs. ACR

### MEDIA RELEASE

## SENATOR JUNGBAUER ARRANGES MEETING WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS

State Senator Mike Jungbauer (R-East Bethel) met April 2 with members of the Chinese investment firm Heilongjiang Yurun Industrial Group, which is weighing investing significant money in Recombinetics, a U.S. research company, in a DNA laboratory in partnership with the University of Minnesota.

Senator Jungbauer arranged the meeting with Governor Dayton, Recombinetics and the Chinese firm in an effort to land a deal which

**FOREIGN INVESTORS** continued next page, A-2

## FOREIGN INVESTORS

*continued from previous page*

would build two research facilities, one in the biotech corridor of Minnesota, in Pine Island outside of Rochester and the other on the campus of the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities.

"I was excited to bring all of the people together who needed to meet at a high level to begin this process. Recombinetics is a serious player in the field of agricultural biogenetics and the Yurun Group has the venture capital to make funding their research a reality. I can think of no better place to locate facilities interested in biotech research than right here in Minnesota where we already are a leader in the field," said Senator Jungbauer.

"The potential number of jobs generated from this will be significant," continued Jungbauer, "from the jobs during the construction phase through the permanent high paying jobs generated by the research itself."

The project is still in the talking phase but the meeting was an important step forward to realization of the goal. In the past Jungbauer has facilitated similar meetings with the Tapei Economic and Cultural Office and various U.S. interests, including the Republican National Committee. He most recently brokered a meeting during the 2008 Republican National Convention to highlight potential partnerships between Taiwan and American business interests.

*Editor's note: Sen. Jungbauer's office telephone number is 651-296-3733.*

## Gardening seminars to be held April 21

With our short growing season in Minnesota, there are many ways to give your plants a head start. This year, try seeding indoors. Instead of buying plants from a nursery, learn how to start your own flowering plants and vegetables. A class at the Northtown Library will teach you the secrets of starting your own plants from seed.

At the Rum River Library (4201 6th Avenue in Anoka), a seminar based on *The Best Plants for 30 Tough Sites* will point out the best plants to use in the toughest soil and site conditions. Find out the best plants to use for dry soil, clay soil, crevice planting, rain gardens and steep slopes, as well as which plants are the most deer resistant.

Both seminars will start at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 21.

Learn how to select plants for difficult sites and be sure to check out the wide variety of gardening books and information the library has to offer, too.

Anoka County Commissioner Carol LeDoux suggested, "as with any area of expertise, there are tips and tricks of the trade. Learn from these master gardeners and really watch your garden get growing this summer."

This program is free and open to the public and is offered in partnership with the University of Minnesota Extension and presented by University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners.

For more information about this library program, call 763-576-4695 or see the Anoka County Libraries web site, [www.anoka.lib.mn.us](http://www.anoka.lib.mn.us).

## Don Shelby comes to Rum River Library

*Club Book*, a program of the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA) and coordinated by the Library Foundation of Hennepin County, is bringing best-selling and award-winning national and regional authors to library communities across the seven-county metropolitan region.

Visit with Don Shelby, an Emmy Award-winning television news anchor, as he presents his book *The Season Never Ends: Wins, Losses, and Wisdom of the Court* on Saturday, April 14, at 2:00 pm at the Rum River Library. Rum River Library is located at 4201 6th Avenue in Anoka.

This program is free and open to the public but seating is limited. Seating is first come, first seated. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Shelby is widely considered one of the best, and most decorated local news anchors and reporters in the country. He has won three National Emmys, two George Foster Peabody Awards, the National Distinguished Service Award by the Society of Professional Journalists, the International Radio and Television News Directors Association's First Place honors for International Investigative Reporting, among others. He retired from daily reporting and anchoring in November 2010, after forty-five years in the industry. Don Shelby's book, *The Season Never Ends: Wins, Losses, and Wisdom of the Court*, is a compilation of 20 years' worth of stories about pivotal and inspiring basketball games, told with the grace and humor of a long-time basketball, and storytelling veteran.

This *Club Book* event is hosted by Anoka County Library and is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage fund. More information about Club Book events can be found by visiting [www.clubbook.org](http://www.clubbook.org). For more information about this or other library programs, call 763-576-4695.

## FROM THE STATE AUDITOR Avoiding Pitfalls: Donations to Fire Departments

Organizations may offer to donate equipment to a city or town's fire department. Once a piece of equipment is donated it becomes municipal property. The municipality must maintain the equipment and may need to insure the equipment and add it to the municipality's asset list. As a result, the entity making the donation should work with the municipality to determine whether the donation is one that the municipality wants to accept.

Some organizations may want to donate funds to a municipality's fire department. Sometimes these donations are solicited by the local fire relief association. The donating entity should be clearly told whether the donation is to the fire relief association or to the municipality. Under Minnesota law, a city or town fire department cannot have its own checking account. The check for the donation should be made payable to either the fire relief association or the municipality. The check should not be made out to the fire department, or confusion may arise over whether the donated funds belong to the fire relief association or the municipality.

If funds are donated to the municipality, the donor may want to provide that the funds may only be used for the fire department. Under Minnesota law, all donations to a municipality must be

accepted by the city council or town board with a resolution approved by a two-thirds majority vote. Any conditions placed on the donation by the donor must be documented in the resolution.

## FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE New Business Filings Up Over Previous Year's March Filing Numbers

Secretary of State Mark Ritchie reports that new business filings for 2012 are up for the third straight month over 2011 filings.

New business filing continues to show significant gains over last year. Overall new business filings for the month of March show a 6% increase when compared to the previous year.

Limited Liability Company (LLC) filings for March increased by almost 16% over the same period a year ago.

The first quarter total for LLC filings in 2011 was 6,927. In the first quarter of 2012, there were 9,228 LLC filings — an increase of 33%. The total for new business filings in the first quarter of 2011 was 14,728. In 2012, the total number of new business filings in the first quarter was 18,221 — an increase of 24%.

## RARE ORIGINAL PRINTED CONSTITUTION FROM 1787 TO BE EXHIBITED BY MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*The Constitution, one of only eight still in existence, will be displayed alongside a 1789 draft of the U. S. Bill of Rights and original copies of the two Minnesota state constitutions.*

A new exhibit, "We the People: The First Official Printing of the U.S. Constitution Presented by Thomson Reuters," will go on display at the Minnesota History Center, April 3 – July 4, 2012. This exhibit will feature a rare, early published version of the U.S. Constitution and an even more rare draft of the Bill of Rights, along with the original editions of the two State of Minnesota Constitutions.



Stephen Elliott, Minnesota Historical Society director and CEO, says that "bringing the Constitution and Bill of Rights – which

set the foundation of our government – to Minnesota is an honor. These documents, along with the Minnesota Constitutions, provide learners of all ages with a rare first-hand look at how our government came to be."

Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, a member of the Society's Executive Council, helped with the initial arrangements for the display of the U.S. Constitution and draft Bill of Rights at the Minnesota History Center. He says "seeing what is arguably the most celebrated document in our American history in a year when Minnesotans will go to the polls, is in itself a historic opportunity."

These documents will be on exhibit:

### September 1787 Printing of the U.S. Constitution

From May to September the Constitutional Convention met in closed sessions in Philadelphia, Pa. to develop a new constitution for the fledgling republic. On Sept. 17, 1787, the convention members signed the final draft of the Constitution and sent it to the printing house of Dunlap & Claypoole. Working through the night, the printers created the first official printing of the six-page document, which included a letter from George Washington, president of the Constitutional Convention, urging the states to ratify the new Constitution. Although the vote was close in some states, the Constitution was eventually ratified and the new federal government came into existence in 1789. The Constitution established the U.S. government as it exists today. A Dunlap & Claypoole printed Constitution dated Sept. 17, 1787 will be on display at the Minnesota History Center.

### Draft Bill of Rights, House "Slip Bill"

One of the first tasks of the new Federal Congress was to propose a Bill of Rights or specific guarantees of liberties for American citizens. James Madison, then a U.S. Representative from Virginia, introduced the first set of amendments in the House. After heavy debate members of the House approved a final version, known as a "slip bill" or a working document, with 17 amendments on Aug. 24, 1789. Further debate in Congress reduced the amendments to 12. Ten of those amendments – the Bill of Rights – were ratified by the states and adopted, effective Dec. 15, 1791. Printed in limited numbers by Thomas Greenleaf in an unbound pamphlet and for the exclusive use of Congress, the House "slip bill" dated Aug. 24, 1789, is extremely rare. It is this draft Bill of Rights that will be on display at the Minnesota History Center.

### Minnesota's Two State Constitutions

In order to become a state, Minnesota needed to draft a constitution. In 1857, territorial residents elected delegates to a constitutional convention. But intense rivalry between Democratic and Republican factions forced the convention to create a conference committee (a super committee by today's standards) to propose language that would be acceptable to both parties. While the delegates approved the committee's proposed language, they refused to sign a single document that contained the signatures of the other faction's members. On Aug. 29, 1857, 53 Republican members signed one document and 51 Democratic members signed another

**HISTORY EXHIBIT** *continued on page C-2*

## WHY DO LEGISLATORS FROM ANOKA COUNTY WANT TO TAX PEOPLE IN RAMSEY COUNTY?

Opinion



by  
Bryan  
Olson

Last week, *another* Vikings stadium bill was brought forth to muddy the waters even more, turning things into a thick muck.

Introduced were House File 2995 and its Senate companion, SF 2599. Since the Vikings owners have blessed only the efforts of the Lanning-Rosen team, it seems that once again we have an alternative bill that is destined to languish on the lazy susan. The details of the bill are many, and the effort that went into it gives me a reason for pause.

Legislators' attention ought to be focused toward more important items. I have a list of at least 15 items that I would like to see put into law. Not a one of them has anything to do with sports, stadiums, hunting, fishing, milk production, the arts, pre-pay gasoline, bullying or garbage.

They all relate to the operations of our local levels of government.

What is most disturbing about HF2995/SF2599 is that *legislators* are now proposing a sales tax. Once upon a time it was the Ramsey County Board doing this.

A DFL legislator from St. Paul, Rep. Tim Mahoney is the author of the House version of the bill, which proposes a 2% food and beverage tax levied in Ramsey County *but with the exception of St. Paul*. His bill also requires a voter referendum. Ramsey County residents outside of St. Paul would be the only ones voting on it. The bill mandates the referendum be held during this year's general election. They better hurry because the deadline for inclusion on the ballot is not far away.

They say the revenue raised from a suburban Ramsey County tax would help pay for the new roads required by the Arden Hills TCAAP location. (By the way, the bill specifies this as the intended location, no others). The bill also calls for a 3% tax on everything sold at the stadium (including tickets) and the surrounding development.

Everyone knows that voters would turn down public funding of a stadium. Moreover, why bother writing new bills? The Chamberlain bill more than sufficed as an alternative to the Lanning-Rosen plan, but not surprisingly, the Vikings didn't like it.

The authors of these new bills are Representatives Mahoney, Beard of Shakopee, Anzels of Balsam Township (near Bovey), Hamilton (Mountain Lake-Windom area) and Senators Metzen (South St. Paul), Tomassoni (Chisholm) and two legislators from Anoka County: Sen. Mike Jungbauer and Rep. Tom Tillberry.

Only one has constituents in Ramsey County.

All the meddling of the stadium pushers gave me a chuckle when I read this statement made by Rep. Andrew Falk of Swift County on another matter not related to the stadium: "It is a common courtesy at the Legislature that you don't author local legislation for districts other than your own."

Give it up already! Zygi Wilf: write a check.

It is not the public's responsibility to provide a new stadium to a private entertainment business. Nor is it the legislature's problem. This "issue" should not be at the capitol.

The message has been sent loud and clear many times: the majority of the public does not support this.

We don't want to be taxed for it.

Many of us don't want an expansion of gambling. Some think state government should never have been involved in, or enabled gambling in any way.

We believe the economists and financial experts: not a one of them says there is any economic benefit to the public after handing over such a subsidy.

Despite what the stadium pushers may think, we do read. We see reports on what is happening in other parts of the country regarding stadiums; state and local governments in a financial pickle after spending too much, too fast. There's also the problem of empty buildings. Often a stadium is considered an ugly duckling at age 20. Time for a new one.

The Houston Astrodome became a temporary hotel for refugees of the hurricane disaster in New Orleans. It was one of the few times the building had been used since 1999, when the baseball team left. Today, the building has no occupancy permit and was condemned by the fire marshal.

Remember that saying, "you ought to get your head examined"? We think of it every time the football fans act like they are *going to die* if they don't get their football fix. Is their behavior any different than a dope addict's?

Please show me any document or statute that says "government shall provide for a professional football team." Did Jefferson, Franklin and Washington forget to put that in and we are correcting their mental lapse?

Coach Tony Bennett of the Ramsey County Board has been relegated to the sidelines lately, but wanted the press to know last week, "We haven't died. Sometimes the possum has to stay hidden for a while."



### REP. DENISE DITTRICH (Dist. 47A) 651-296-5513

Mar. 26. Dear neighbors,

As some of you have probably heard, after eight years of service in the Minnesota House of Representatives, I will not be seeking re-election in 2012.

Over the last eight years, I have been grateful for the opportunity to serve my community in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Representing the people of Champlin and Coon Rapids has been one of the great privileges of my life. I will always be thankful for the trust my friends and neighbors placed in me to be their voice at the state Capitol.

But with everything there is a season, and I believe my time at the legislature is complete. As my youngest child graduates from high school, my family and I are beginning a new chapter in our lives. With that transition, our community will have the opportunity to entrust a new representative with the challenging and important work ahead.

With the help of so many, I am proud of what our community has been able to accomplish over these last eight years.

Together, we have raised awareness of School Trust Lands. Enhancing oversight of how these lands are managed delivered more funding for our schools at a time when they needed it most. As a constant advocate for students, I am proud of the work we have done to fight for fair funding for the Anoka-Hennepin School District. That work must continue.

I am proud of the work we did together to improve Highway 610, address serious safety concerns on Highway 169 at Devil's Triangle, and make the North Star Commuter Rail Line a reality. And I am proud of the work I have done to advocate for greater accountability in our property tax system.

I have tried to serve my constituents to the best of my ability with non-partisan leadership focused on positive results for the people of Champlin and Coon Rapids. In every decision, my constituents came first. That was the promise I ran on years ago, and a promise I have kept during my time in office. The time is right for me to move on, but I look forward to continue serving the community I love in any way I can in the future.

Please contact me with your input, questions and concerns. Thank you again for the honor of serving you in the legislature.

### REP. CAROLYN LAINE (Dist. 50A) 651-296-4331

Apr. 5. The negotiations last year between Human Services Commissioner Lucinda Jesson and representatives from HealthPartners, Medica, UCare and BlueCross BlueShield that led to a voluntary 1% cap on profits has created \$73 million in health care cost savings, Gov. Dayton announced Tuesday.

One way these savings could be put a good use is to restore the devastating 20 percent wage cut made last year to Personal Care Assistants (PCA) who provide care to a relative.

These caregivers are our neighbors and friends. We should do everything we can in our power to make their lives just a little better.

House DFLers last week attempted to amend the omnibus Health and Human Services bill to use these excess HMO reserves just for that purpose but Republicans voted it down. The cut would force nearly 7,000 Minnesotans into the choice of leaving their job or earning less than \$10 an hour. At that wage, many PCAs would fall below the poverty line. In many cases, this cut could actually cost the state money. Many care-



SEND US YOUR LETTERS AND OPINION COLUMNS!

P.O. BOX 21014  
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS MN 55421-0014

editor@anokacountyrecord.com

REP. LAINE continued on next page, B-2

## Reports from Your Legislators



**REP. LAINE** *contd. from previous page, B-1* givers could be forced to find additional employment and the state would have to pay for a non-relative to provide care. With this cut, some family caregivers would qualify for food stamps or heating assistance.

Two amendments were offered to the HHS bill. The first amendment would have closed corporate tax loopholes to reverse the wage cut, the second would have used funding generated by capping HMO profits at one percent to restore pay to PCAs. Both amendments failed.

Barbara Christenson, whose husband, Charles, is a PCA for their son Steven, who is suffering from multiple sclerosis, tells of the burden this cut has put on her family.

"We feel we have saved the State of Minnesota money by caring for Steven at home instead of in a nursing home," said Christenson. "We only asked for help the last eight years. With our income being so much less due to retirement and the extent of care Steven needed increasing, it was necessary to ask for help. When we met with Anoka County it was the hardest thing to ask. We've paid our way, never asking for handouts.

"Steven has been a wonderful son. How could we put him in a nursing home? But for the grace of God this could be any one of your family members. Could you put as son or daughter in a nursing home at age 33? Every night when lights go out we hear, 'Thank you, Dad. Thank you, Mom.' Please don't make life harder for relatives who care for a loved one. Coping with the illness is hard enough."

This windfall should lead us to restore these devastating cuts. These Minnesotans have some of the hardest, most emotionally taxing jobs a person can imagine. Families like the Christensons certainly deserve better from their legislators.

**A bad tax cut for Minnesotans.** The House has passed a tax bill that will phase out the state-levied property tax on businesses over the next 14 years.

Proponents of the bill say it creates incentives for businesses to hire new workers. But I feel the price that the middle class will pay for these tax breaks are too high. Ninety-nine percent of the property tax relief in the bill is directed to big business while homeowners get a meager 1%. Farmers got left out completely. The cuts will be paid for by making cuts to the Renters' Credit program – a property tax refund program that helps hundreds of thousands of middle class renters. It will cut the Renters' Credit by 40% over the next two years, permanently. Ninety-seven percent of seniors and disabled renters would see their benefits cut, and 100 percent of non-senior/non-disabled renters would face a cut.

This comes on the heels of last year's elimination of the Homestead Credit, which hit Minnesota homeowners, small businesses, renters and farmers particularly hard.

We should be reducing taxes for middle class Minnesotans. And while we're at it, we should also restore the homestead credit for homeowners, farmers and small businesses.

**Action on foreclosures.** DFL lawmakers also tried to amend a GOP bill on banking laws with a plan that would provide some assistance to Minnesota homeowners facing foreclosure. We took this step because it had become obvious that our proposal to help Minnesotans hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis was not going to receive committee hearings. I supported these two amendments. One would have required banks to be more expedient in their approvals of short

sales. Some homeowners looking to short sale wait months, sometimes a year, to hear from their bank regarding the approval of a short sale. The other amendment would have prohibited lenders from charging for services they did not provide.

It was a small fraction of the House DFL plan to address the foreclosure crisis that we introduced more than a month ago. Since the start of the foreclosure crisis, DFLers have diligently introduced legislation that would have helped Minnesotans stay in their homes.

The amendments failed largely on party line votes.

While our economy is showing signs of improvement, many homeowners and neighborhoods are still feeling the impact of the home foreclosure crisis. In fact, Minnesota has the 17<sup>th</sup> highest foreclosure rate in the nation, with more than 21,000 foreclosures in 2011. The impact continues to stall a full housing market recovery and a robust and lasting economic recovery.

I, along with my DFL colleagues, will continue to work on issues that will aid Minnesota's middle class and create jobs for the unemployed. I continue to work for an independent, third-party audit of our HMOs. The session has been a difficult one, but I will continue to focus on the needs and values important to my community.

### REP. BOB DETTMER (Dist. 52A) 651-296-4124

Apr. 5. Today we learned that Governor Dayton had vetoed the Legislature's plan to pay back the K-12 school shift. Having been a public school teacher for 30 years, this news is very disappointing — I believe that it is very important to pay back the money owed to our schools, our children deserve it. Our plan paid back the entire shift borrowed as part of the 2011 budget agreement with Governor Dayton last summer, as well as made the first payment on the remaining K-12 shift from the 2010 legislative session's budget agreement. This plan was economically responsible and properly prioritized. After learning of the state's \$1.2 billion budget surplus for the current biennium, many Legislators wanted to use that money to pay back the school shift. In reality, if a family pays all of their bills and they still have money left, shouldn't they use some of that money to pay down any other debts? When there is extra money, the first thing you do is pay off debt. That is fiscal responsibility. Paying off our debt saves money in interest costs, leaves more money for hiring teachers, and upgrading classroom equipment.

This week the House and the Senate passed the photo ID bill, and it will be on the ballot in November. Photo ID is a positive, common sense piece of legislation that will protect the integrity of our elections in Minnesota.

The City of Forest Lake has asked to extend their existing TIF (Tax Increment Financing is a means of public financing used to fund redevelopment, infrastructure, and other projects). Because the House Committee deadline has passed, it is too late for me to request a hearing in the House, but Senator Vandever has requested a hearing in the Senate. I would also recommend that the City of Forest Lake hold a public City Council hearing on this matter.

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

Apr. 5. **Voter Photo ID on the November Ballot.** The Senate passed the final Voter ID bill April 4 by a vote of 35-29. Requiring photo ID to vote is an effort to modernize the election system, pre-vent voter fraud and inspire confidence in the integrity of our process. Voters will now have the opportunity to weigh in on the



November ballot by answering the question: "shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require all voters to present valid photo identification to vote and to require the state to provide free identification to eligible voters, effective July 1, 2013?"

**Senator Benson's Bill Signed Into Law.** On Monday, April 2, Senate File 1861 was signed into law. I chief-authored this legislation that provides high quality mental health services for children who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing and use American Sign Language. These children need specialized services with staff who can communicate with them directly. This new law gives them the care they need at a much lower cost to the state than previous statute allowed.

**Environmental Permitting Bill Signed Into Law.** Senate File 1567 was signed into law April 3. This law cuts red tape and helps businesses invest in Minnesota. It builds off the work legislators did last year to find efficiencies in environmental permitting. Specifically, this bill continues to streamline the permitting process, removes duplicate services, and reforms government so it moves at the speed of 21st century commerce. This is great news for Minnesota job creators and job seekers. By getting government out of the way and streamlining the permitting process where we can, businesses can grow and more Minnesotans can get back to work.

**Jobs & Tax Relief Bill in Conference Committee.** On Friday, March 30, the Senate took up the Jobs and Tax Relief bill on the floor and it passed by a vote of 34-26. A conference committee has been appointed to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. Members are working on compromise language with a goal of providing tax relief for families and job creators. Should this legislation pass, the total tax relief over the next 3 years will be \$393 million. The provisions in this bill send a signal to entrepreneurs, investors and job creators that Minnesota is open for business.

### SEN. ROGER CHAMBERLAIN (Dist. 53) 651-296-1253

Apr. 5. Neighbors, The big news for the week was the passage of the voter ID constitutional amendment on Wednesday. Disappointingly, but not surprisingly, it passed on nearly a party-line vote — the only crossover was Sen. Jeremy Miller (R-Winona), who has made it clear that he does not support doing any more constitutional amendments.

I have said all along that this important reform was one of my top priorities for this session. It has the support of 80 percent of Minnesotans, including 64 percent of Democrats, according to a Star Tribune poll last year. The similar Indiana law has been upheld on a 6-3 vote of the Supreme Court, and I anticipate that forthcoming legal challenges will fail as well.

The governor signed SF 1567, our permitting reform bill, into law this week. This law cuts red tape and helps businesses invest in Minnesota. It builds off the work legislators did last year to find efficiencies in environmental permitting. Specifically, this bill continues to streamline the permitting process, removes duplicate services, and reforms government so it moves at the speed of 21st century commerce.

A bill to give the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs the flexibility in allocating funds to local units of a congressionally chartered veterans organization, like the Honor Guard, was signed into law Monday.

**SEN. CHAMBERLAIN** *continued on page C-2*

#### CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

We will publish your  
candidacy statements

Send them to  
editor@anokacountyrecord.com



# 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. 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

**Thurs. Apr. 19**  
Community Corrections Advisory Bd — 12 pm, Rm 710, ACGC

Public Safety Cmte — 3 pm, Anoka Co Public Safety Ctr, Andover

**Mon. Apr. 23**  
County Board “work session” — 1:30 pm, Rm 772, ACGC

**Tues. Apr. 24**  
Management Cmte — 8:30 am, Rm 772, ACGC

County Board — 9:30 am, Rm 705, ACGC

**Tues. May 1**  
County Board — Redistricting, 9:30 am, Rm 705, ACGC

## Andover

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

**Tues. Apr. 17 & May 1**

City Council — 7 pm

**Thurs. Apr. 19 & May 3**

Parks Comm. — 7 pm

## Anoka

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

**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

**Mon. Apr. 23**

City Council “work session” — 5 pm

Board of Equalization — 5:30 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. 16**

City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm

**Tues. Apr. 17**

Natural Resource Conserv. Bd. — 7pm

**Thurs. Apr. 19**

City Council — 7:30 pm

**Tues. Apr. 24**

Park Board — 7 pm

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

## Centerville

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

**Wed. Apr. 25**

City Council — 6:30pm

**Tues. May 1**

Planning & Zoning Comm. — 6:30 pm

**Wed. May 2**

Parks & Rec Cmte — 6:30 pm

## 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. 24 & May 8**

City Council — 7 pm

**Tues. May 1**

Park Board — 6:30 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

**Thurs. Apr. 19**

Charter Comm. — 7 pm

**Mon. Apr. 23**

City Council — 7 pm

**Tues. Apr. 24**

HRA — 7 pm

**Wed. Apr. 25**

Parks & Rec Comm. — 7 pm, Murzyn Hall

## Columbus

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

**Wed. Apr. 18 & May 2**

Planning Comm. — 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. 17 & May 1**

City Council — 7 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

**Thurs. May 3**

Bd of Adjustment & Appeals — 6:30 pm

## East Bethel

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

**Wed. Apr. 18**

City Council — 7:30 pm; Bd of Review and Equalization on 4/18 at 6:30 pm

**Tues. Apr. 24**

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**Wed. Apr. 25**

Econ. Develop. Auth. — 6:30 pm

**Town Hall Meeting — Thurs. Apr. 26, 6 pm; Q & A 7 pm**

## Fridley

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

**Mon. Apr. 16**

City Council Conference Mtg — 6 pm

**Wed. Apr. 18**

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**Mon. Apr. 23**

City Council — 7 pm pre-agenda; 7:30 pm meeting

**Wed. May 2**

Appeals Comm. — 7 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. 16**

City Council — 6 pm

**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. 16**

Fire Relief Mtg — 6:30 pm, Fire Hall

**Thurs. Apr. 19 & May 3**

City Council — 7 pm (“workshop” after the 4/19 meeting)

## Lino Lakes

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

**Thurs. Apr. 12**

Charter Comm. — 6:30 pm

**Mon. Apr. 16**

Special Joint Mtg Workshop — 6 pm

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. 16**

Senior Advisory Bd — 9 am

Cemetery Cmte. — 7 pm

**Tues. Apr. 17**

Planning & Zoning Comm. — 7 pm

**Mon. Apr. 23**

Parks & Rec. Comm. — 7 pm

**Tues. Apr. 24**

Town Board — 6 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  
www.ci.ramsey.mn.us

**Thurs. Apr. 12**

EDA — 7:30 am

Parks & Rec. Comm. — 6:30 pm

**Tues. Apr. 17**

Public Works Cmte. — 6 pm (followed by city council “work session” and HRA “work session”)

**Tues. Apr. 24**

City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm

City Council — 7 pm

HRA — follows city council meeting

**Tues. May 1**

City Council “work session” — 6 pm; followed by HRA “work session”

**Thurs. May 3**

Planning Comm. — 7 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

**Mon. Apr. 16** — Board of Appeals & Equalization — 5 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. Apr. 12**

City Council “work session” — 7 pm

**Mon. Apr. 16**

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

**Mon. Apr. 16 & May 21** — 5 pm

## CITY OF LINO LAKES NOTICE OF JOINT MEETING CITY COUNCIL, PLANNING & ZONING BOARD, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APRIL 16, 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the members of the Lino Lakes City Council, Planning & Zoning Board and Economic Development Advisory Committee have scheduled a special joint meeting on Monday, April 16, 2012 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to participate in a workshop sponsored by the Urban Land Institute regarding “Navigating the New Normal”. The meeting will be held in the council chambers at Lino Lakes City Hall, 600 Town Center Parkway.

## Anoka County RECORD

Vol. 1 No. 15 April 12, 2012

A bi-weekly free publication published by Anoka County Record LLC

Available by subscription; sent 1st Class U.S. Mail \$50.00/year (payable by check or money order)

**P.O. Box 21014  
Columbia Heights MN  
55421-0014  
(763) 220-0411**

editor@anokacountyrecord.com

The Anoka County Record is also available on our website:

**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. 30 & May 21**  
School Board — 6:30 pm  
**Mon. May 7**  
School Board “work session” — 6 pm

**Centennial ISD #12**

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

**Mon. Apr. 16 & May 14**  
School Board — 6:30 pm  
**Mon. May 7 & June 4**  
School Board “work session” — 5:30 pm

**Columbia Heights ISD #13**

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

**Tues. Apr. 24** School Bd — 7 pm

**Elk River Area ISD #728**

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

School Board meetings  
**Mon. Apr. 16, 30, May 7** — “work sessions” — 6 pm  
**Mon. Apr. 23 & May 14** — 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  
stfrancis.k12.mn.us

**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. 24** — 6:30 pm “work session”  
**Tues. May 8** — 7 pm

**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. 23** — 5:30 pm “work session”  
**Mon. May 14** — 7 pm

**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. May 1** — 6 pm

**SEN. CHAMBERLAIN**

*continued from page B-2*

The Honor Guard program was established to reimburse veterans organizations throughout the state to assist in payment for military funeral honors, and every veteran has a congressionally-authorized benefit to have an Honor Guard at their funeral if the family requests it. Last year, it was reported that this program, in the absence of a specific appropriation, was to be discontinued. This bill is one measure legislators have taken to address the issue and ensure the program continues.

Disappointingly, the governor vetoed the school shift repayment bill. House File 2083 which would have sped up the scheduled school aid payments that were delayed as part of the agreement reached between the Governor and the legislature last year.

This is disappointing as school districts and charter schools strongly support reducing the shift. If Governor Dayton had signed this bill, more timely payments would have allowed schools a better chance of avoiding short-term borrowing and related interest costs.

The governor has also signaled his intention to veto the bill to end seniority-based teacher layoffs. Sen. Wolf's bill to end the “last in, first out” policy for teacher layoffs remains in conference committee. This bill would mandate that in the event of layoffs, schools consider both performance *and* seniority, rather than just seniority.

**HISTORY EXHIBIT**

*continued from page A-2*

document. Although the two documents were intended to be identical, a detailed comparison shows more than 300 punctuation, grammatical and wording differences. No substantive differences in meaning or interpretation are present. Both versions can be found as PDF files on the Minnesota Historical Society's website.

**Public & Educational Programs**

A number of public and educational programs are being offered at the Minnesota History Center that will help people of all ages connect with the founding of our nation in new and exciting ways. These programs include a lecture by nationally-recognized visiting historian, Saul Cornell; a family day hosted by James Madison, portrayed by John Douglas Hall, the official historic re-enactor of Montpelier, Madison's Virginia home; and the History Center's annual RetroRama cocktail party with the signature fashion show taking on sex, politics and power as this year's theme. For more information and to purchase tickets to events call 651-259-3015 or visit [www.minnesotahistorycenter.org/constitution](http://www.minnesotahistorycenter.org/constitution).

In addition, throughout the spring and summer the History Center will welcome thousands of school age

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

children through field trips which offer admission at a discounted rate. To schedule a field trip call 651-259-3400 or visit [www.minnesotahistorycenter.org/fieldtrips](http://www.minnesotahistorycenter.org/fieldtrips).

**About the loan of the U.S. Constitution and Draft Bill of Rights**

The U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights are on loan from the Dorothy Tapper Goldman Foundation. Longtime collectors of American autographs, documents and manuscripts, Dorothy Goldman and her late husband S. Howard Goldman own what is believed to be one of only eight existing original printed copies of the United States Constitution, and the only copy known to be in private hands.

The exhibit "We the People: The First Official Printing of the U.S. Constitution Presented by Thomson Reuters" is made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Legacy Amendment through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008.

**Admission**

The exhibit is included with regular History Center admission of \$11 for adults, \$9 for seniors and college students, \$6 for children ages 6 to 17; free for children age 5 and under and Minnesota Historical Society members. Free for all ages Tuesday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. Call for special group tour rates, 651-259-3003.

**Hours**

The exhibit is open during regular History Center hours, Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (admission is free from 5 to 8 p.m.); Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. For History Center information call 651-259-3000 or visit [www.mnhs.org/historycenter](http://www.mnhs.org/historycenter).

The Minnesota Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1849. Its essence is to illuminate the past as a way to shed light on the future. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Minnesota's past through museum exhibits, libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and book publishing.

**ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT ELECTIONS THIS FALL; CANDIDATE FILING BEGINS MAY 22**

Minnesota's natural resources play an important role in the state's economy and its citizen's quality of life. Therefore, protecting and managing those natural resources is an important responsibility. Citizens interested in leading those efforts are encouraged to run for supervisor of their local soil and water conservation district. Three of Anoka Conservation District (ACD) Supervisor positions will be on the November 2012 ballot. This position is a four-year term and usually requires one to three meetings monthly for which a stipend is provided.

Being a supervisor is an opportunity for people concerned with resource

**ANNUAL SPRING GARAGE SALE**

**SPONSORED BY EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION**

Our annual INDOOR GARAGE SALE has a new look! Join us rain-or-shine as we sponsor the garage sale tables in the gym, in addition to “Trunk Treasures” in our back parking lot.

**Saturday May 5 9am-1pm**

**Fridley Community Center**

Table rental in the gym — \$20 (we provide a table)

Parking lot space — \$10 (you bring what you need for set up)

Rent your table (first come, first served basis) or parking lot space (limited amount of spaces) by April 20 or until full. Call Mary at 763-502-5123 for a contract or for more information.

management in Anoka County to become involved in policy making at the local, regional and state levels.

Although the supervisors are elected at-large-meaning that every eligible voter in the county may vote for all open supervisor positions — they are nominated from one of five districts within the County. An individual must live in a nominating district with an open supervisor position in order to run. Supervisors do not participate in primary elections. For the 2012 election, the following districts will be on the ballot:

**District 1** – Bethel, Nowthen, Oak Grove, St. Francis

**District 2** – Anoka, Andover and Ramsey

**District 5** – East Bethel, Linwood and Columbus

The filing period is open from **May 22nd through June 5**. Interested parties can call Anoka County Elections office a 763-323-5275 for filing information. There is a \$20.00 filing fee and each applicant will receive a filing packet with election regulations. Additional information about the Supervisors role can be obtained by visiting the ACD website at [www.anokanaturalresources.com/acd/board/sup\\_role.htm](http://www.anokanaturalresources.com/acd/board/sup_role.htm) or calling the office at 763-434-2030.

**ANOKA COUNTY ELECTION CALENDAR**

Candidates for state, county and city offices (cities that have primary elections) file between May 22-June 5

Candidates for cities and school districts that have no primary, file between July 31-August 14

**APRIL 16-20 — Severe Weather Awareness Week**

Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 16-20. Practice your “take shelter” drill in conjunction with statewide tornado drills on Thursday, April 19. Most cities and counties will sound their sirens at 1:45 p.m. Seventy-six counties will participate in a drill at 6:55 p.m. Visit the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's website for a map of participating counties and for information about designated severe weather themes for each day of the week.