

MINNESOTA DFL PARTY
STATE CONVENTION**From Pariah to Rock Star...
DAYTON STORMS THE DFL
STATE CONVENTION***by Nichole Cook, DFL delegate*

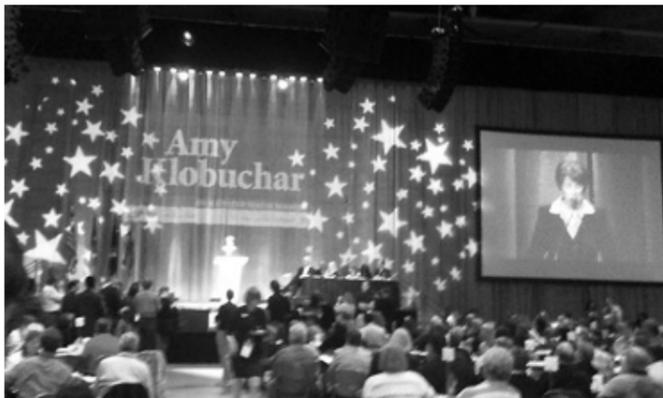
The beautiful weather Minnesotans enjoyed last weekend was complimented by the unbridled enthusiasm of over 1,000 DFLers who gathered at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester for their state convention.

The convention agenda opened as usual with a flag ceremony, recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, and singing of the National Anthem. Those paying close attention to the stage, however, witnessed something unique to this convention: the flags presented in the ceremony included the American flag, the Minnesota flag, the POW/MIA flag, and a rainbow flag – a strong statement of the DFL's platform position in support of gay rights.

So began one of the dominant themes of the convention – DFL unity against the constitutional amendment question on this fall's ballot that defines marriage as being only between one man and one woman.

Following a non-denominational prayer, and the usual order of business that included the election of convention officers, approval of the convention agenda, and reports by the platform, rules and constitutional committees, Governor Mark Dayton revived the crowd of delegates by opening with a memorable one-liner. "Thank you for letting me in this year," Dayton said cheerfully, poking fun at the 2010's DFL leadership's decision not to allow him to speak at the 2010 State Convention because he was running against DFL endorsed candidate Margaret Anderson-Kelliher.

Following his speech, Dayton patiently waded through a crowd of supporters seeking to shake his hand, get his autograph on their convention booklet, or score a photo with the governor. One lucky delegate who had the good fortune of running into the Governor in a corridor just before he entered the convention hall had this story to tell. Seizing a rare opportunity to speak with the Governor, she walked up to Dayton and said "Governor, I am a huge fan!" In response, Dayton thanked her while taking her right hand, which he then kissed with old fashioned gallantry.

*Sen. Amy Klobuchar speaking to the delegation.*

on the ballot this November. In a strong display of party unity, DFL delegates unanimously approved both resolutions, the full text of which appears below. Minnesotans United for All Families is the coalition working to defeat the anti-marriage amendment and Our Vote, Our Future is the campaign working to defeat the amendment that would require government issued ID to vote.

The Party also selected Democratic National Committee members, 16 State Directions, Presidential Electors and Alternates, and Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention, which will be held in North Carolina in September.

Attorney General Lori Swanson made the most of the face-time opportunity with delegates and spent all day stopping by each and every Congressional District table and speaking to anyone who wanted to meet her.

Other convention speakers included 1st Congressional District Representative Tim Walz, State Senator Tom Bakk, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, 4th Congressional District Representative Betty McCollum, 5th Congressional District Representative Keith Ellison, U.S. Senator Al Franken, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, State Senator Scott Dibble (speaking on behalf of MN United for all Families), State Representative Paul Thissen, Jeff Blodgett, State Director for the Obama reelection campaign in Minnesota, and US Representative hopefuls Jim Graves, Brian Barnes and Rick Nolan.

Jim Graves, a luxury hotel owner, beat two other DFLers in the 6th Congressional District to get the party's nod to challenge incumbent GOP Michele Bachmann. Graves won on the first ballot against Brian McGoldrick and attorney Anne Nolan.

Brian Barnes, a marketing executive, won endorsement on the first ballot to challenge incumbent GOP Rep. Erik Paulsen in the 3rd Congressional District. He beat Sharon Sund. Barnes has been endorsed by the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council, IBEW Local 292, Rick Kahn, state legislators Steve Simon and Ryan Winkler, and Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman.

*Gov. Dayton (r) signs an autograph for a fan. (ACR photos)*

Rick Nolan, a former three-term U.S. House Representative (1975-1981) and two-term state legislator (1969-1973) will be facing two opponents Tarryl Clark and Jeff Anderson in the 8th District August primary that promises to be costly and intriguing. Clark, a former state senator, has a large base of national support, following her unsuccessful bid to defeat U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann two years ago. Anderson, a former Duluth city council member, has support of such Iron Range stalwarts as just-retired Rep. Tom Rukavina and former House Majority Leader Tony Sertich. Neither Clark nor Anderson appeared at the convention.

*ACR***Adopted Resolution: Endorsing Minnesotans United for All Families Campaign**

Whereas, the Republicans in the Minnesota legislature have placed before the voters a constitutional amendment to recognize marriage solely between One Man and One Woman; and

Whereas, the question submitted to the voters will be: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?"; and

Whereas, our party believes strongly that we should not discriminate against two committed, loving, same-sex individuals who want to marry each other; and

Whereas, The Minnesota DFL Party already has taken a stance through our platform recognizing full marriage equality for member of the LGBT community;

Therefore be it resolved that: The Minnesota DFL take a formal position on this constitutional amendment and urge the public to cast a "no" vote on this ballot question. We endorse the Minnesotans United for All Families campaign to defeat this divisive and hateful amendment. The DFL Sample Ballot should reflect this formal position and urge the public to vote against the amendment.

Adopted Resolution: Endorsing Our Vote, Our Future Campaign

Whereas, the Republicans in the Minnesota legislature have placed before the voters a constitutional amendment to require voters to show a picture id before they are allowed to vote; and

Whereas, The question submitted to the voters will be: "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?" and

Whereas, this amendment would disenfranchise over 700,000 law-abiding Minnesotans including many seniors, youth, immigrants, and low-income voters; and

Whereas, This amendment would use the constitution to take away one of our most fundamental rights – the right to vote; and

Whereas, The Minnesota DFL Party already has taken a stance through our platform in opposition to any and all attempts to restrict the right to vote;

Therefore be it resolved that: The Minnesota DFL take a formal position on this constitutional amendment and urge the public to cast a "no" vote on this ballot question. We endorse the Our Vote, Our Future campaign to defeat this amendment which would take away the right to vote for hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans.

STATE CONVENTION *continued next page A-2*

STATE CONVENTION

continued from previous page, A-1

The DFL Sample Ballot should reflect this formal position and urge the public to vote against the amendment.

DFL Party chair Ken Martin's remarks to the convention:

Welcome DFLers to Rochester, Minnesota and to the 2012 DFL State Convention. Just five months from now, we have the opportunity to re-elect President Barack Obama, Senator Amy Klobuchar, retake the majorities in the Minnesota House and Senate, and defeat the two hateful and divisive constitutional amendments the Republicans have placed before the voters.

Now President Obama has asked all of us if we are in for 2012. He knows there remains a great deal of work to do to ensure our state and country move forward, and that we must elect Democrats this fall to make any progress. I want President Obama to know that we have heard him and his call to action, when I ask you if you are in I want to hear you say I'M IN as loud as you can so the President hears us all the way back in Washington:

DFLers, Are you in for the President Obama! Are you in to re-elect our great Senator Amy Klobuchar! Are you in to return sanity to St. Paul by retaking the legislative majorities! Are you in for our collective bargaining rights and pensions! Are you in for pay equity and a women's right to choose! Are you in for making sure everyone has the right to vote! And lastly, are you in for love, commitment and equality! We have a lot of work to do this fall and it sounds like you are ready.

What unites us as party – those core values of opportunity and community – will ensure our victories this fall. For our DFL party is a party that believes that regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or socio-economic background that each person should have the same rights and opportunities as the next. We also believe in community – family, friends, neighbors, cities, our state and our country – but also the idea that our community – all of us together are important and that no one should ever be left behind, discriminated against, or forgotten.

While we stand united in our values, the Republicans in Minnesota stand in disarray. A Grand Old Party beset by scandal, riddled with debt, and torn apart at the seams by infighting. An already far-right party being pushed even further right by candidates like Kurt Bills, Chip Cravaack, and Michele Bachmann.

We are so fortunate to have DFL leaders in Washington who are fighting for the people of Minnesota. Senator Amy Klobuchar has been on the front lines working hard in Washington to defend the interests of the middle class and all Minnesotans. She has been working to ensure that our students aren't saddled with more debt. She's been sticking up for our

CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

*We will publish your candidacy statements and editorials
Please e-mail them to us:
editor@anokacountyrecord.com*

veterans, defending those who are willing to give their lives to defend us. She fought to give health care to all Americans regardless of preexisting conditions or how much money they make. When others were more interested in scoring political points Amy reached across the aisle and charted a course which put the interests of Minnesotans ahead of politics. Amy has been a strong advocate for middle-class families on the critical issues facing our nation, from promoting long-term economic growth and job creation to pushing for fiscal responsibility and accountability in Washington, from supporting our Minnesota businesses, workers, and farmers to developing homegrown energy. Amy is a true leader. And we will help her continue to lead by helping her win this November.

In 2010, people were saying that the DFL party was nearly out of business – we lost a veto-proof majority in the house and a 38 year majority in the state Senate. The Republican controlled session of the legislature has just ended. And guess what? Though no one would have predicted it a year ago, the only winners of this session turned out to be the DFL party. While the DFL worked to put the people of Minnesota back to work, the GOP worked to reward their friends and appeal to their extreme base. The DFL can claim a win for the people of Minnesota this session. The only thing the Republicans won during this session was the contempt of the voters of this state, once they demonstrated their inability to lead. Now, there was a lot of work not done in this session and not everything that happened was good. But those things Minnesota can be proud of were achieved to a remarkable degree by the party that was in the minority, our DFL party.

And there is another reason for our party's success in this last session. Our caucus, our party, and every person in this state benefited enormously from the consistent, tireless, and stirring leadership of Governor, Mark Dayton. Since his election, the Governor has earned our gratitude and respect. We are proud to acknowledge his principled leadership of our party, and his leadership of our state. In a harsh political atmosphere filled with politically driven attacks and stubborn Republican legislators who are unwilling to compromise, he became a symbol of stability, purpose, openness, and principle.

Now truthfully, we cannot say that the Republicans, even though they were in the majority, did absolutely nothing. In fact they managed to do two significant things. They gave our state two terrible threats to the finest traditions of Minnesota. They put two divisive politically motivated constitutional amendments on the ballot, which we will defeat!

The first affects Minnesota families. I would hope that all Minnesotans whatever their feelings on gay marriage would agree that no one benefits by writing discrimination into our Constitution. Who are we, as a people, to tell two committed, loving, same-sex individuals that they cannot marry each other. What kind of state do we want to leave to our children? As I have said before, maybe the GOP should stop focusing on gay marriage and concentrate

on their own marriages first!

The other amendment is an attempt to stifle the democratic process. This amendment which would require law-abiding citizens to bring picture identification to the polling places is masquerading as an effort to prevent voter fraud. But even despite our recent recounts, no evidence of voter fraud has been found. This amendment is truly a solution in search of a problem. And the amendment itself poses terrible problems. If it passes, it will make it more difficult for hundreds of thousands of Minnesotan seniors, servicemen and women, students and new Minnesotans to exercise their right to vote. We cannot allow that to happen.

We can, and we must defeat both of these amendments this fall!

And we can do it. Our victories this year, and the defeats that preceded them, showed us the value of unity. Our time in the minority has taught us important lessons about working together, lessons we are applying and will continue to apply. It's how we will regain control of both houses of the legislature. It's how we will re-elect President Obama and Senator Klobuchar. It's how we will continue our legacy of standing up for the middle class, for equal rights, and for opportunities for all Minnesotans.

So let's go out and organize, go out and mobilize, and go out and energize, if we do this we will win this fall, DFLers!

Thank you so much.

The list of national delegates to the Democratic National Convention was released after the state convention concluded. The list is as follows (Congressional District numbers follow the names):

Julia Massman - 1st Congr. District
Roxanne Mindemann - 2
Susan Moravec - 2
Ceri Everett - 2
Pete Vujovich - 2
Terry Friedrichs - 2
Brian Baker - 3
Jana Hoffa - 3
John Hall - 3
Roseann Zimbro - 3
Mary Stanton - 3
Phil Reitan - 3
Zoe Stein - 4
Donna Roost - 4
Kaying Thao - 4
Christal Perkins - 4
Ananth Shankar - 4
Alex Valen - 4
Danzig Norberg - 4
Patricia Williamson - 4
Andrea Whitaker - 5
Jennifer Robins - 5
Alexis Pennie - 5
Nimco Ahmed - 5
Sophie Wallerstedt - 5
Jenny Belsito - 5
Frank Brown - 5
Patrick Jansen - 6
Shannon Schroeder - 6
Aaron Wittenebel - 7
Dan McKenzie - 8
Steve Linnerooth - 8

Alternates:

Roselynn Anderson - 1
Rosa Reyes - 2
Phil Sterner - 2
Tori Richardson-Hill - 3
Christopher Seymore - 3
Paul Slattery - 4
John McGlory - 5
Roann Cramer - 5

Presidential Electors:

Dee Long, Rick Stafford; alternates:
Gabe Aderhold, Katherine Speer

Democratic National Committee members:

Wes Gadsden Javier Morillo
Lori Sellner Nancy Schumacher

DFL At-Large State Directors:

Jamal Abdulahi - 2nd Congr. District
Vicki Wright - 2
Patricia Perez-Jenkins - 4
Sandy'Ci Moua - 4
Sarah Walker - 4
Nimco Ahmed - 5
Julie Harrison - 5
Brian Cihacek - 5
Dan McConnell - 5
Jeremy Powers - 5
Gary Fuller - 7
Joshua Preston - 7
Time Velde - 7
Lil Ortendahl - 7
Thom Petersen - 8
Jeanette Martimo - 8

DFL Party Platform Resolutions Debated on Saturday, June 2:

Passed: #29 – Added “and restore all bankruptcy protections to student loan borrowers.”

Did Not Pass: #57 – Support sulfide mining being permitted only if regulations are strictly enforced on all mining corporations to protect the boundary waters and Lake Superior region from ground and surface water pollution by enacting a “prove it first” law holding mining corporations accountable.

Free Online Filing of Your Business Annual Renewal**When You File Directly with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State**

On Friday, June 1, 2012, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie certified several sections of law passed in prior legislative sessions to be effective July 1, 2012. Among these sections are several new laws that protect Minnesota business names, even if they forget to file their annual renewal. “Filing has never been easier. It's available online and is free for businesses formed in Minnesota,” said Secretary of State Mark Ritchie.

Minnesota businesses should keep in mind that if they are contacted by any business offering to make the filing for them for a fee that there is no charge for filing directly with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State. The only businesses formed in Minnesota that have a fee are Minnesota Limited Liability Partnerships, a business entity used by professionals such as attorneys and accountants.

Businesses can quickly file their annual renewals online at:
www.mblsportal.sos.state.mn.us.

Rep. Linda Runbeck and Sen. Roger Chamberlain to host Senate District 53 Town Hall Meeting

**Thursday, June 14, 7:00 p.m.
at Lino Lakes City Hall,
600 Town Center Pkwy**

The lawmakers will give an end of session summary from the 2012 Legislative Session and listen to questions and concerns from area residents.

For more information, contact Rep. Linda Runbeck's office at (651) 296-2907 or Senator Chamberlain's office at (651) 296-1253.

CITY HALL DOESN'T WANT TO COUNT YOUR VOTE

This year, more than any other in recent memory, voting rights, accuracy in our elections and voter fraud have had a broad amount of public discourse.

Recently the Columbia Heights Charter Commission approved the City Clerk's suggestion that write-ins no longer be counted and itemized in list form. This was later ratified by the City Council. The packet for the council's May 14 meeting said, "A significant amount of election close-out time is spent recording individual write-in candidate names. Unfortunately, some voters think it is important to write-in their own name or favorite cartoon character in multiple races. This amendment would eliminate the requirement to record every name, for every office, individually. It would allow only pre-registered write-in candidates to be recorded individually. This, in no way, deters a voter's privilege to cast a write-in vote." (Our emphasis).

Now it would seem that the only thing that is driving this edict is the "significant amount of time" factor?

Let's look at that:

Columbia Heights has 8 precincts and 8 polling places. The 2010 general election had 5 write-ins for Congress, 8 for State Senate, 9 for State House seats, 10 for Governor, 10 for Secretary of State, 5 for State Auditor and 6 for Attorney General. If you consider there are 8 polling places, this is not a lot of counting for the election judges (I have been one). That's an average of 1 or 2 per precinct, per race. Not a big deal.

For the city council there were 31 write-ins and 33 for mayor. (There were none in the primary.) This is about 4 per precinct, on average, per race. Again, not huge numbers. In some cities, the election judges make the itemized lists; the city clerk double checks and makes the final list.

In the 2008 general election, there were 71 write-in votes for council seats and 50 for mayor. There were also 47 write-ins for president.

The clerk complained that too many people were writing in their own names or fictitious cartoon characters.

I have never done this. My write-ins, and there have been more than a few, have been for real-life people, many of them were candidates that had lost a primary or had run in previous elections. I've also written in "None of the Above" many times, and this should be recorded as a vote just like any other. You may remember that Ralph Nader during his campaigns for the presidency said "None of the Above" should be a binding vote if it ever placed first in an election — new candidates would then be put on the ballot and we try again with another election.

In the changes being made in Columbia Heights, there is a provision that actual write-in candidates will have their votes counted if they request it of the city clerk before the election.

In the last presidential election, 9,938 people voted in Columbia Heights. Small numbers of write-ins is not the hardship that it may be in a city of a million people where there could be a few thousand write-ins. That we should itemize and keep lists of the write-ins may seem trivial, but there is also a historic context to bear in mind.

I have made numerous public data requests for election abstracts that dated back some 30 years. Suffice it to say I found a lot of poor record keeping and election reports that lacked detail. Some of these were of the "written on the back of a napkin" variety. We now have better techniques to archive complete records. Our state laws that make requirements on the retention of election records need further review.

From a historian's perspective, legislators should consider mandating that election and local government records (including school districts) be housed in one location once those records are no longer required to be kept on premise. Digitizing the documents should also be required.

This could solve the problem of trying to find data that may be a few decades old. City governments and school districts have been donating their old records willy-nilly to a crazy quilt mixture of city historical societies, county historical societies and the Minnesota Historical Society, to name only a few. Sometimes cities just trash the stuff once state law no longer requires them to keep it. They can't even get someone to scan the material as an electronic file first and then toss the paper. No thinking like an archivist here.

I'll be writing in "None of the Above" somewhere on my ballot this election. I would be very disappointed if it were not noted. There will also be many write-ins for Ron Paul, but since he isn't Bugs Bunny, his votes will probably be counted.

We have all heard the word "disenfranchised" a lot lately. I would feel *disenfranchised* if my write-ins were not counted, put on a list, and archived properly for decades to come. Many city councils have passed resolutions against the Voter Photo ID concept but they turn around and approve the disenfranchisement of voters just because staff complains about the 'extra work'. Neither the ACLU nor the League of Women Voters have made any comment about this or record retention issues, but they have had plenty to say about voter ID.

Opinion



by
**Bryan
Olson**

Government says, "LET US ENTERTAIN YOU"

Opinion



by
Phil Krinkie
*The Taxpayers'
League*

Throughout my years in the Legislature, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle often would quote a famous statement by the late Vice President Hubert Humphrey when debating the appropriate amount to spend on health and human services: "The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

And along with health and human services, K-12 education and public safety generally are agreed to as being priorities for our state budget.

In short, since the founding of our country, there has been little disagreement that government has a role in the protection of its citizens.

But since when did paying for the entertainment of our citizens become a priority of Minnesota government?

The role of government is shaping up to be a key issue for the 2012 federal elections, but a discussion certainly is needed at the state level regarding how much in taxpayer's dollars should be spent in subsidizing items which generally are considered to be "nice" but not necessities, as well as how the spending gets prioritized to ensure basic needs are funded.

This year was the grand example, of course, with the authorization to build "the people's stadium," a new \$1 billion stadium for the Vikings.

The stadium is to be paid for out of tax revenues generated from what is hoped to be increased demand for the untested electronic pull-tabs. What happens if (and more likely when) the new revenues fall short of the dollars needed?

Well, most likely more subsidizing of entertainment through a supplemental revenue source, more taxing of something else or more cutting of other services to find money for entertainment.

We have become addicted to having someone else — the taxpayers — pay for our entertainment, rather than having the users bear the cost. The Vikings stadium is merely the most recent and well publicized example.

Just think of all the public spending we've done to subsidize our entertainment, some of it run by nonprofits while others are privately owned for-profit businesses.

When you combine the tax dollars used to pay the bonds on the Metrodome, Target Center, Xcel Energy Center, TCF Bank Stadium and Target Field, you find that Minnesota taxpayers funded \$785.5 million for these stadiums — and that does not include the operational costs.

Now add to the list the St. Paul Saints; the team wants tax dollars for its new digs. And we can't forget all the municipal golf courses, softball fields and basketball courts.

Furthermore, in Minnesota, it's not just sports that get public dollars. We subsidize cultural institutions for entertainment purposes as well. In fact, Minnesota spends more tax dollars per capita on the arts than does New York State or the federal government.

These taxpayer-subsidized venues include the Guthrie Theater, Ordway Center, Orchestra Hall and of course multiple museums and zoos. Just last year, legislators allocated \$4 million to the Minnesota Zoo with the understanding that the money would be used to repair the dolphin tank, only to find out the zoo has decided to close the dolphin exhibit altogether.

Will the \$4 million be returned to the taxpayers? No. Will Minnesotans have the chance to vote on keeping the dolphin tank? No.

Of course, these activities are fun and enjoyed by many Minnesota residents. But are they the responsibilities of state government? Next year, Minnesota is likely to face yet another \$1 billion shortfall. Ask legislative candidates this summer if they will pay for only the basic needs of state government rather than the extras and let individuals to make their own entertainment preferences known by where they spend their own money. If they do this, we might be able to avoid one more deficit.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS AND OPINION COLUMNS!

P.O. BOX 21014
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS MN 55421-0014
* Next issue: June 21 *

editor@anokacountyrecord.com

The state Republicans took a step towards restoring faith in their party during its state convention May 19, when Pat Anderson was defeated in her bid to be re-elected as RNC Committeewoman.

Over the course of the past many months, party faithful were exposed to the humiliation of a party leader serving as a paid lobbyist, roaming around the halls of the Capitol twisting arms of Republican legislators in an attempt to get them to support growing government revenues and a horse industry bailout by expanding gambling.

The spectacle of having a senior party leader make money as a paid lobbyist was frankly an embarrassment.

The state central committee did the right thing in helping Anderson narrow her career choices.

After all, this was the woman who once said that the problem with lobbyists is "they exist."

At least now Anderson's hypocrisy won't wash onto the party.

May no lobbyist every again simultaneously represent us and their clients.

And what was up with Senator Claire Robling's whiny tale of woe regarding her departure from the Capitol?

The atmosphere "too polarized?"

Please.

Our sources tell us Robling had Stockholm Syndrome and had become all too comfortable with being in the minority and being little more than an echo of the DFL.

It looks like she squandered her last session in the legislature on the pursuit of more gambling and a bailout of the horse industry while voting for a football stadium.

Wow. Thanks, senator.

Hopefully, the next senator from that district will give us some real conservative leadership.

Big Bucks in Andover. According to state law, Minnesota cities and counties must annually publish the salaries of the three most highly compensated employees.

The public policy behind the law is greater transparency, better informing citizens regarding government spending.

An observant Watchdog informed us this week that the city of Andover published its 2012 salary notice as a pdf file titled "MN state law 156." Such a headline isn't at all helpful since very few taxpayers know what "MN state law 156" means.

In the interest of being helpful, the Watchdog wants to help the city publish these salaries:

City Administrator: \$124,813.32

Director of Public Works and Engineering: \$113,960.14

Fire Chief: \$104,871.82

Not a bad gig if you can land it.

Education Minnesota, the big teachers' union, has released a list of legislative endorsements. The union bristles whenever people point out that the union is really just a front for the DFL. In fact, the press release tells us of the union's bi-partisan political friendships: "We're excited about this first group of endorsed candidates, which includes both old friends and new voices," said Education Minnesota President Tom Dooher. "We're confident we can work with this **bipartisan group** to build the best system of public education in the nation."



So how bi-partisan are these folks?

Out of 85 legislative endorsements, two, TWO, are Republican.

That's 83 DFLers and 2 Republicans.

That's not bi-partisan. That's tokenism.

Editor's Note: the two Republican incumbent legislators endorsed by Education Minnesota were Reps. Greg Davids (R-Preston) and Jim Abeler (R-Anoka).



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

Protecting Taxpayers, Eliminating Waste. By digging into one of the largest areas of Minnesota's budget, Health and Human Services, we were able to identify inefficiencies and develop legislation to save taxpayer dollars.



The Welfare Waste, Fraud & Abuse Detection bill (SF 180) requires the Department of Human Services to seek out solutions to detect Medicaid fraud.

The EBT Card Limit bill (SF 1834) prohibits welfare recipients from withdrawing cash using EBT cards in states outside of Minnesota and its contiguous states.

The Cost Saving and Care Improvement for Deaf and Mentally Ill Children bill (SF 1861) allows out-of-state inpatient mental health treatment for children who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing, a cost saving measure that also benefits young patients.

The Civil Commitment Streamline bill (SF 2147) is a mandate relief effort, reducing the burden on counties by streamlining the civil commitment process.

The Health Care Cost Benefit Analysis bill (SF 880) requires the Commissioner of Commerce to evaluate the cost benefit of any mandated health benefit proposal.

Encouraging Growth, Supporting Job Creators. Since small businesses are the economic engines and job creators in communities across Minnesota, we focused on lowering their cost burden through tax relief and sensible energy policy.

The Family Farm & Small Business Tax Relief bill (SF 445) provided tax relief to family farms and small businesses as they are passed to the next generation.

The Hydro Electricity bill (SF 1906) allows hydro electricity to be counted as a renewable energy source. Hydro power is reliable, reasonably priced, and renewable.

The PUC Streamlining bill (SF 548) allows for a utility to match their business plan to their rate plan, creating greater efficiency in the rate planning process.

The Inverted Block Rate Program Repeal bill (SF 817) stopped controversial inverted block rate that charged you more if your family used more natural gas than average.

Accomplishments of the 2011-12 Legislative Session

- We balanced a \$6 billion deficit without raising taxes, turning it into a \$1.2 billion surplus that refilled our reserves in less than 18 months. During this time, unemployment also decreased

from 7.1 to 5.7 percent.

- We cut red tape to help businesses invest in Minnesota and create jobs for Minnesotans by streamlining the permitting process, removing duplicate services and reforming government so it moves at the speed of 21st Century commerce.

- We worked to provide hundreds of millions in tax relief over the next 3 years for job creators, families, married couples, property owners and renters.

- We made school reforms that will streamline costs and assure the best education possible for Minnesota students, while paying back borrowing against school payments (vetoed).

- We made major fiscal reforms such as repealing the health care provider (sick) tax, decreasing the cost of health care by billions of dollars over the next decade.

- We moved to secure and modernize our elections by allowing Minnesotans to vote on the question of photo ID this fall.



**MINNESOTA
STATE AUDITOR'S
OFFICE**

**POINTS TO
REMEMBER**

Recording of closed meetings. Local government officials should be aware that Minnesota's Open Meeting Law requires most closed meetings to be electronically recorded. The law states "[a]ll closed meetings, except those closed as permitted by the attorney-client privilege, must be electronically recorded at the expense of the public body. Unless otherwise provided by law, the recordings must be preserved for at least three years after the date of the meeting." For more information, see Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 1(d). More information on the Open Meeting Laws and policy information laws can be found on the Information Policy Analysis Division (IPAD) of the Minnesota Department of Administration website at <http://www.ipad.state.mn.us/>.

Vendor Gifts. Sometimes vendors with public contracts offer gifts to local government employees to foster goodwill. Although vendor relationships can be cordial, they should not involve gifts to public employees.

City and county officials are subject to Minn. Stat. §471.895, which generally bans gifts. There are certain exceptions, such as a trinket or memento costing \$5 or less. In addition, under Minn. Stat. §471.87, a public officer authorized to take part in making a contract in any manner generally is not allowed to have a personal financial interest in the purchase. To avoid problems, government employees should not accept personal gifts from vendors or contractors. We recommend that entities create an ethics policy that expressly prohibits officers and employees from accepting personal gifts from vendors or contractors.

**Candidates who have filed for office:
send us your statements for publication**

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NEXT ISSUES: JUNE 21, JULY 5

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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. June 11
County Board "work session" — 8:30 am, Rm 772, ACGC

Mon. June 11
Anoka County Board of Appeal and Equalization — 6 pm, Rm 705, ACGC

Tues. June 12
Management Cmte — 8:30 am, Rm 772, ACGC

County Board — 9:30 am, Rm 705, ACGC
Regional Rail Authority — 10:30 am, Rm 705 ACGC or immediately after County Board

Wed. June 13
Waste Mgmt & Energy Cmte — 8:15 am, Rm 772, ACGC

Thurs. June 14
Anoka County Children & Family Council Business Mtg — 4 pm, Blaine Human Service Center, Rm 300

Mon. June 18
Public Works Cmte — 9 am, Rm 772, ACGC
Library Board — 5:30 pm, Library system offices next to Northtown Library

Tues. June 19
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 Mtg — 3 pm, Rm 772, ACGC

Thurs. June 21
Community Corrections Advisory Bd — Noon, Rm 710, ACGC
Public Safety Cmte — 3 pm, Anoka Co Public Safety Center, Andover

Andover

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

Thurs. June 7 & 21
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

Tues. June 12
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. June 13
Open Space Advisory Comm. — 7 pm

Tues. June 19 & July 3
City Council — 7 pm

Anoka

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

Mon. June 11
HRA — 5 pm

Tues. June 12
Heritage Preserv. Comm. — 5:30 pm

Wed. June 13
Waste Reductn & Recycl. Bd — 5 pm

Thurs. June 14
Economic Devp. Comm. — 7:30 am

Mon. June 18
City Council — 7 pm

Tues. June 19
Planning Comm. "work session" — 6 pm

Wed. June 20
Parking Advisory Bd 7:15 am, Public Safety Ctr, 275 Harrison St

Tues. June 25
City Council "work session" — 5 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

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

Blaine

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

Thurs. June 7 & 21
City Council "workshop" — 6:30 pm; reg. meeting 7:30 pm

Tues. June 12
Blaine Arts Council — 6:30 pm
Blaine Historical Society — 6:30 pm

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. June 14
City Council "workshop" — 6:30 pm

Thurs. June 18
Natural Resource Conserv. Bd. — 6:30 pm

Tues. June 26
Park Board — 7 pm

Centerville

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

Wed. June 13 & 27
City Council — 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. June 12 & 26
City Council — 7 pm

Mon. June 18
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. June 20
Utilities Comm. — 4:30 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

Mon. June 11 & 25
City Council — 7 pm

Mon. June 18
Library Task Force — 6:30 pm, Council Chambers

Wed. June 27
Parks Comm. — 5:30 pm, Murzyn Hall

Columbus

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

Wed. June 13
EDA/EDAB — 6 pm

City Council — 7 pm

Wed. June 20
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. June 21
Park Board — 6:30 pm

Coon Rapids

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

Tues. June 19
City Council — 7 pm

Thurs. June 21
Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm

Thurs. July 5
Bd of Adjustment & Appeals — 6:30 pm (June 7 meeting was cancelled)

East Bethel

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

Wed. June 13
Park Comm. — 7 pm

Tues. June 12
Road Comm. — 6:30 pm

Tues. June 19
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. June 20
City Council — 7:30 pm

Fridley

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

Thurs. June 7
HRA — 7 pm

Mon. June 11
City Council — 7 pm "pre-agenda"; 7:30 pm meeting

Mon. June 18
City Council Budget "work session" — 6 pm

Wed. June 20
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Ham Lake City Hall

Ham Lake

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. June 11 & 25
Planning Comm. — 6 pm

Mon. June 18 & July 2
City Council — 6 pm

Wed. June 20
Park & Tree Comm. — 6 pm

Hilltop

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

Call City Hall for information

Lexington

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

Thurs. June 7 & 21
City Council — 7 pm; ("workshop" after 6/21 meeting)

Wed. June 13
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Mon. June 18
Fire Relief — 6:30 pm, Lex Fire Hall

Lino Lakes

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

Mon. June 11
City Council — 6:30 pm

Wed. June 13
Planning & Zoning Bd — 6:30 pm

Wed. June 20
Environmental Bd — 6:30 pm

Linwood Township

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

Tues. June 19
Planning & Zoning Comm. — 7 pm

Tues. June 12 & 26
Town Board — 6 pm

Mon. June 18
Senior Advisory Bd — 9 am

Mon. June 25
Park & Rec. Comm. — 7 pm

Nowthen

Nowthen City Hall
8188 199th Ave NW
Nowthen, MN 55330
Ph: 763-441-1347
www.nowthenmn.govoffice2.com

Call City Hall for information

ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Mon. June 18 — 5 pm

Oak Grove

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

2nd and last Monday of month
City Council — 7 pm (EDA follows council mtg on last Monday)

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

Tues. June 12
Personnel Cmte — 5 pm, Fire Station #1, 15050 Armstrong Blvd NW;

Special City Council mtg follows (closed session)

Tues. June 12
City Council "work session" — 6:15 pm or following Special City Council mtg, Lake Itasca Room at City Hall; 7 pm regular City Council mtg; followed by HRA

Thurs. June 14
EDA — 7:30 am

Parks & Rec. Comm. — 6:30 pm

Tues. June 19
Public Works Cmte — 6 pm

Thurs. June 21
Mayor's Town Hall Mtg — 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

Spring Lake Park

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

Mon. June 18
City Council — 7 pm

Tues. June 25
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

CITY OF RAMSEY FUTURE CITY COUNCIL "WORK SESSION" TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Format of Weekly Update

Lot Combination Policy

Noise Ordinance

Update Landfill Land Use Plan

Amendments to Facility Use Program

Leash Law

167th & 47 Water Services Extension/Master Planning

Build on outdoor/sportsmen's market (e.g. stock pond/lake)

Develop community center/indoor sports complex

Old Town Hall relocation

Grant funding for transportation projects and service delivery

US 10-County AARd 83 interchange design - pursue funding

Review plan for US Hwy 10 pedestrian overpass and connection with municipal center ramp

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11

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

Mon. June 11
School Board "work session" — 6 pm
Mon. June 25
School Board — 6:30 pm

Centennial ISD #12

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

Mon. June 18
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. June 12 & 26 School Bd — 7 pm
Tues. June 19 "work session" — 5:30 pm

Elk River Area ISD #728

815 Hwy 10
Elk River, MN 55330
Ph.: (763) 241-3400
elkriver.k12.mn.us

School Board meetings held at Elk River City Hall, Council Chambers, 13065 Orono Pkwy unless otherwise noted

Mon. June 18 — 5 pm, Department Update, District Office; followed by "work session"

Mon. June 25 — 5:30 pm Executive Team, District Office

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 meetings: Tues. June 19, July 17

St. Francis ISD #15

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

Mon. June 11, June 25 — 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/

Tue. June 12 — 6:45 pm
Tue. June 26 — "work session" 6:30 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. June 11 & July 9 — 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
nemetromn.k12.mn.us

Thur. June 21 — 4 pm "work session"

NEWS FROM ANOKA COUNTY

LINO LAKES COUPLE DECLARED "RECYCLING CHAMPIONS"

Anoka County residents recycled 32,626 tons of materials in 2011, exceeding their goal by 11.2 percent.

Of the county's 21 municipalities, 13 met or exceeded their 2011 recycling goals: Andover, Bethel, Circle Pines, Columbia Heights, Columbus, Coon Rapids, Ham Lake, Hilltop, Lexington, Lino Lakes, Nowthen, Ramsey, and Spring Lake Park. Their achievements were recognized recently by the Anoka County Solid Waste Abatement Advisory Team, which advises the Anoka County board on issues related to recycling and solid waste management.



Anoka County Board Chair Rhonda Sivarajah, center, presents Ed and Mary Hemauer, Lino Lakes, with a Recycling Champions certificate.

"We all recognize the benefits of recycling for our environment but recycling programs provide a big boost to our economy as well, said Anoka County Commissioner Jim Kordiak, who chairs the county's Waste Management and Energy Committee. "Recycling programs add close to \$8.5 billion to Minnesota's economy each year, with 37,000 jobs and more than \$1.96 billion in wages."

The City of Andover received special recognition for having the most prolific municipal recycling program in Anoka County. Andover has consistently met its recycling goals every year since 1988. In

2011, Andover residents recycled more than 4,081 tons of materials and collected nearly 82 tons of problem materials for proper management. The city's recycling rate of more than 260 pounds per person per year for all materials is the highest of any Anoka County municipality. Andover promotes recycling through the city newsletter and website, cable TV, ads in the local newspaper and movie theatre, and flyers. In 2011, the city began accepting number 1-7 plastics at their municipal recycling drop-off center and added a drop box for The Salvation Army.

The City of St. Francis was honored for having the most improved recycling program, increasing recycling amounts from 138.23 pounds per person in 2010 to 157.9 pounds per person in 2011. The city boosted its annual recycling amount by more than 78 tons over last year's total.

A Lino Lakes couple was named "Recycling Champions" for their outstanding efforts and dedication to recycling. Ed and Mary Hemauer pick up and recycle aluminum cans and other materials on their almost-daily walks in the city of Lino Lakes and Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park. "Not only are Ed and Mary helping the environment, they donate the cans they collect to Gethsemane United Methodist Church in Lino Lakes," said Anoka County Board Chair Rhonda Sivarajah. "They are true recycling champions!"

Is someone you know a recycling champion? Contact Anoka County's Integrated Waste Management Department at 763-323-5730 or email recycle@co.anoka.mn.us to nominate them for the Recycling Champion recognition.

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF RAMSEY

RESIDENTS WILL BE CHARGED FEES FOR PAYING BILLS ONLINE

The ability to pay for city of Ramsey services by credit card proves to be beneficial for residents and contractors. One year ago, the city began accepting Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, and debit card payments for all city services, permits, and licenses.

Since inception, the city has processed nearly \$290,000 in credit card payments and paid approximately \$9,600 in processing fees. Although the City Council initially authorized this as a free service; its overwhelming success prompted a cost review to ensure the best use of taxpayer dollars.

A recent analysis revealed that over 75% of credit card payments are attributable to utility city services, with the bulk of the transactions occurring online through a link called RamsePay, which is available on the city's website. The card type and transaction method determine the fee the city pays per transaction. Payments initiated at the Ramsey Municipal Center incur a 1.99% fee whereas online payments incur a 2.79% fee. In addition, all transactions incur a \$0.35 processing fee.

In an effort to minimize city costs, City Council agreed to implement a processing fee for all online payments. Effective May 1, 2012, all online payments will be charged an additional \$2.00 convenience fee. Payments initiated at the Ramsey Municipal Center will continue to be fee-free for the payer.

For further information, please contact Denelle McAlpine at 763-433-9823 or email at dmcalpine@ci.ramsey.mn.us.

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

ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARIES TO DISTRIBUTE FREE CELL PHONES

Recognizing that access to telephone service is essential for finding a job, connecting with family, or getting help in an emergency, the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) established the Lifeline program 25 years ago. In January 2012, the Commission approved comprehensive reform and modernization of Lifeline, allowing distribution of free cell phones to those who are income eligible.

Lifeline-supported free cell phones will be distributed at the following times and locations to income eligible customers. (While held in library meeting rooms, this is not a Library sponsored program.)

Rum River Library: 4201 6th Avenue NW in Anoka — **Saturday, June 23** from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Columbia Heights Public Library: 820 – 40th Avenue NE in Columbia Heights — **Thursday, June 28** from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To qualify for the program, individuals must show proof of being on one of the following programs:

- Temporary Assistance to needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Senior Citizen Low-Income Discount Plan (offered by the local gas or power company)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Individuals must also bring a government-issued picture ID with them, showing their current address.

The Lifeline-supported wireless service in Minnesota consists of the following:

- A free wireless cell phone
- Activation of service without a fee or contract of any kind
- No monthly charge
- Up to 250 minutes of airtime each and every month at no charge

It is impossible for users to run up a bill or accidentally incur any charges. If the 250 minute monthly limit is reached, phone service is suspended and users have a choice of either waiting until their next billing cycle or buying a prepaid card to add minutes.

There is a limit of one free wireless cell phone per household address, and a limit of one Lifeline service per household. If an individual is already benefiting from discounted landline phone service through the Lifeline program, they are not eligible to receive a free wireless phone.

Find more information about eligibility and the program on this website: www.freephonemn.org.

NEW HOURS AT ANOKA COUNTY LICENSE CENTERS

Columbia Heights 7 am-3:30 pm (M, Tues, Th, Fri), 11 am-7 pm (Wed).

Ramsey 8:30 am-5 pm (M, W, Th, F), 11 am - 7 pm (Tues)

Coon Rapids (same as Ramsey above)

Blaine 8:30 am-5 pm (M, T, W, F), 11 am-7 pm (Thurs)

Ham Lake (same as Blaine above)

Passports are no longer available at Ham Lake.