

## ANOKA COUNTY REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY PULLS OUT OF DULUTH HIGH SPEED RAIL PLAN

The Anoka County Regional Rail Authority (ACRRA) adopted a resolution June 12 which withdraws the Authority from the Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance joint powers agreement which supports the proposed Northern Lights Express (NLX) high speed rail service. The line would travel daily between Minneapolis and Duluth with stops in Coon Rapids, Cambridge, Hinckley, and Superior, Wisconsin.



County Commissioner Matt Look

“NLX is a gamble I’m not willing to take. I won’t put our citizens on the hook for millions of dollars,” said Anoka County Regional Rail Authority Chair Matt Look. “The cost to build this line is now ballooning beyond a billion dollars and Anoka County’s share could be tens of millions of dollars and as much as \$100 million based on the funding formulas involved in the construction and operation of Northstar. When you look at the projected return of 27-35 cents on the dollar, it’s clearly not a good investment for our taxpayers.” NLX would use the same route that Amtrak

traveled for years until shutting down in 1985 due to lack of ridership.

“With people’s affinity for cars and the efficiency and effectiveness of the interstate running parallel to the track, I think it would be difficult for trains to compete,” said Commissioner Andy Westerberg. “In the end, it comes down to the dollars and this is simply too high a price to pay at this time.”

Another state analysis, the 2010 Minnesota Comprehensive Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan, estimates under some scenarios that NLX could require a subsidy as high as \$83 per passenger to meet the line’s \$35-45 million annual operating and maintenance costs.

“Supporters of NLX say that after the start-up phase this line will no longer need operating subsidies. That’s assuming ridership to start is greater than two thousand people a day, growing to nearly a million people a year in the next eight years,” said Look. “That’s just not realistic.”

### True or False: Rail projects all lose money and require operating subsidies.

**False.**

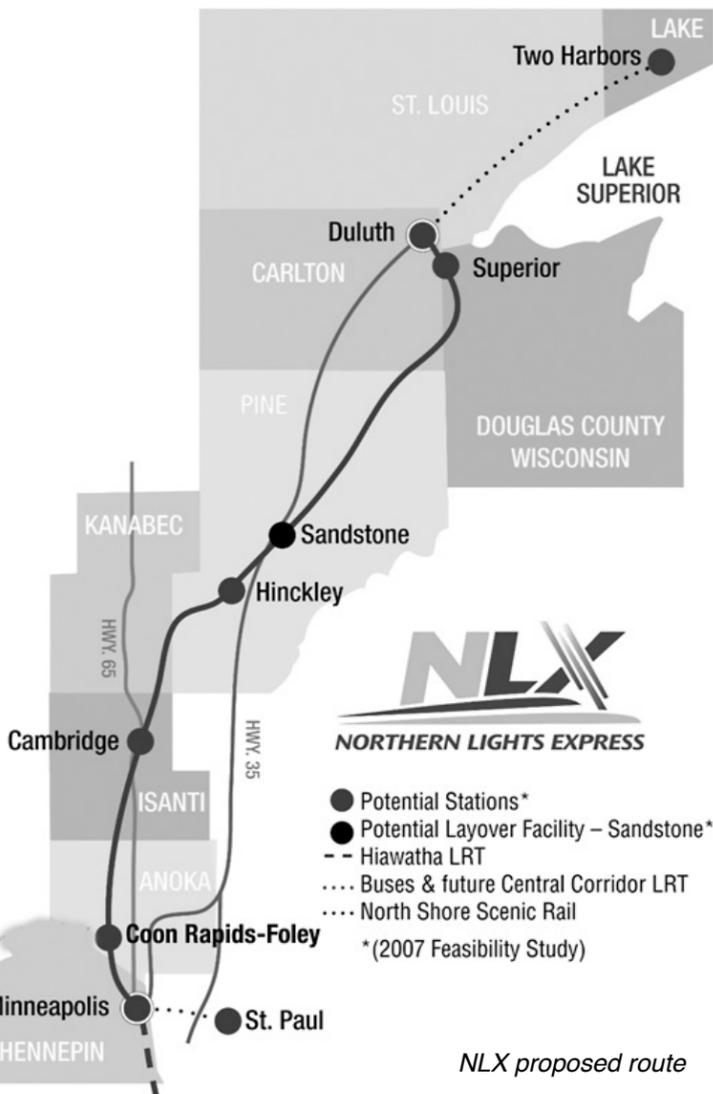
The Federal Railroad Administration guidelines require high speed rail to be self sufficient in operations, following a start up phase. A December 2010 functional analysis showed NLX’s approved route meets criteria for capital costs, ridership and revenue. NLX is not commuter or light rail transit. After a ramp-up period, NLX will not require operating subsidies.

NLX newsletter claims

The Anoka County Regional Railroad Authority signed a Joint Powers Agreement in 2008 to be a member of the Minneapolis-Duluth-Superior Passenger Rail Alliance, partnering with other local governments.

Meetings of the Minneapolis-Duluth-Superior Passenger Rail Alliance are held on the 4th Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Pine County Courthouse in Pine City. Members on the board are county commissioners from Hennepin, St. Louis, Lake, Pine, and Isanti counties, and city council members from Minneapolis. Representatives from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe are also on the board.

Duluth and Superior have not had passenger rail since 1985 when Amtrak terminated the service after 10 years.



## CANDIDATES FILE FOR ELECTIONS

### CITY, COUNTY, STATE, FEDERAL AND SOME SCHOOL BOARD RACES ON THE BALLOT

by ACR staff

Filing for elective offices concluded June 7 after a two-week filing period and two days afterward that allowed for candidates to withdraw. For the higher offices, a primary election will be held August 14, as well as some city and school districts that choose to have primaries.

For seats that are not subject to a primary election, the two-week filing period for candidates begins July 31. The general election for all races will be held November 6.

**Summary of races in Anoka County.** Of Anoka County’s 20 cities, 18 will have elections this fall. Of those 18 cities, 6 will have primaries and candidates for city races have filed. The remaining 12 cities will begin to take candidacy filings on July 31. The county’s one township, Linwood, does not have a primary as well, and 3 seats on the Town Board are up for election, as well as the Clerk.

Of the 9 school districts whose boundaries include Anoka County, 6 have their elections in the odd year, leaving 3 that will have elections this year. They are: Columbia Heights ISD #13, Elk River ISD #728 and Centennial ISD #12. The latter doesn’t have a primary — three seats on the school board will be up for election in November.

For Columbia Heights and Elk River school districts, there will be primary elections and the field of candidates has been determined.

Six of the seven seats on the Anoka County Board will be put up for election this year due to redistricting. Only the District 4 seat, which comprises the Fridley-Hilltop-Columbia Heights area, will not be on the ballot. The County Board candidates field has been determined and the next step is the primary election.

The Anoka Conservation District has three Soil and Water Supervisor seats to elect. There is no contest here however, as only three candidates filed for the three seats.

**Summary of cities where candidate filing opens July 31 and the elections will be held November 6.** These cities, Linwood Township and Centennial ISD #12 have the following seats to elect:

- Andover: Mayor and 2 council seats
- Bethel: Mayor and 2 council seats
- Centerville: Mayor and 2 council seats
- Columbus: Mayor and 2 council seats
- East Bethel: Mayor and 2 council seats
- Ham Lake: 2 council seats
- Hilltop: 2 council seats
- Lexington: Mayor and 2 council seats
- Linwood Township: Town Board Seat B, Seat C, Seat E, and Town Clerk
- Nowthen: Mayor and 2 council seats
- Oak Grove: 2 council seats
- St. Francis: Mayor and 2 council seats
- Spring Lake Park: 2 council seats
- Centennial School District ISD #12: 3 school board seats

Lino Lakes and Circle Pines hold their city elections in the odd years.

**ELECTION 2012 continued next page A-2**

**ELECTION 2012**

*continued from previous page, A-1*

**City races in which candidates have filed:**

**Anoka** — The mayoral race will be a rematch between incumbent Phil Rice and Barbara Deeds Baldwin. Rice defeated Baldwin in 2010 for the 2-year mayoral term, 3702 votes to 1736. Baldwin also ran unsuccessfully for one of two city council seats in 2008. Rice was first elected mayor in 2008 and is now seeking a third term.

Two Anoka City Council seats up for election are held by Steve Schmidt and Mark Freeburg, and both have filed for second terms. Challengers Pat Walker and Frank Bodine have also filed for the seats. Both ran for city council in 2010.

**Mayor**

Phil Rice (incumbent), 1503 2nd Av., (612) 702-8442  
Barbara Deeds Baldwin, 3227 Sprague Av., (763) 323-4404, [baldwinbarbara@hotmail.com](mailto:baldwinbarbara@hotmail.com)

**City Council (2 seats)**

Frank Bodine, 1103 7th Av S., (763) 421-9155, [fwbodine@yahoo.com](mailto:fwbodine@yahoo.com)  
Mark Freeburg, (inc.) 305 Oakwood Dr., (763) 421-9244  
Steve Schmidt (inc.) 830 Belanger Rd., (612) 669-5468, [jshmeeven@aol.com](mailto:jshmeeven@aol.com)  
Pat Walker, 845 Brisbin St., (763) 421-3997

**Blaine** — City Council seats here have often gone uncontested in recent years. This fact again colors the coming election. Tom Ryan filed for a 5th term as mayor and will have no opponent. One did file however, Ross P. Lorinser, 10638 Lincoln St. N.E., but withdrew on June 7. Ryan also had no opponent in 2008. Ryan was first elected mayor in 1996 after a number of years as a council member and Planning Commission member. Incumbent city councilor Russ Herbst, Ward 3, will also have no opponent. Long-time incumbents Dick Swanson and Mike Bourke are being challenged.

**Mayor**

Tom Ryan, (incumbent) 12147 Radisson Rd., (763) 757-3390

**City Council — Ward 1**

Dick Swanson (inc.) 8702 Hastings Circle, (763) 784-9429  
Jason Babler, 2830 Rice Creek Pkwy N.E., (612) 210-7389

**City Council — Ward 2**

Mike Bourke (inc.) 83 103rd Ave N.E. (763) 784-1986  
Dave Morrell, 2457 Tournament Players Circle S., (612) 867-7213

**Columbia Heights** — Three candidates have filed for the 2-year mayor's term, led by incumbent Gary Peterson who was first elected to the council in 1983. He has been mayor since 1998 except for one term (2003-2005). Challengers are Bob Odden, who has been a mayoral and council candidate previously, and Gregory Sloat, who ran for a County Board seat in the last election and is on the city's Charter Commission.

Eight candidates have filed for two council seats, led by incumbents Robert "Bobby" Williams, first elected to the council in 2000, and former mayor Bruce Nawrocki who was first elected to the council in 1961 then won the mayor's seat in 1965 and served in that capacity for 22 years. He was also on the council from 1990 through 1994, and again from 2001 to the present. Among the other six candidates, two have previously run

for city council, Adrian Durand and Stan Hoium. First-time candidates for Columbia Heights city offices are Ramona Anderson, Kaye Meyer, Jimmy Edworthy and Catherine Vesley, who is on the city's Library Board and the board of the Anoka County Historical Society.

**Mayor**

Gary Peterson (incumbent), 3712 Lincoln St. N.E., (763) 788-7517  
Bob Odden, 1201 42 1/2 Av. N. E., (612) 987-2063, [bobodden@hotmail.com](mailto:bobodden@hotmail.com)  
Gregory K. Sloat, 4731 6th St. N.E., (763) 439-9669, [trumpet@minn.net](mailto:trumpet@minn.net)

**City Council (2 seats)**

Bruce Nawrocki, (incumbent), 1255 Polk Place, (763) 571-5278  
Robert "Bobby" Williams, (inc.), 4047 Cleveland St., (612) 414-3981  
Ramona Anderson, 4132 Stinson Blvd., (763) 789-3039  
Adrian Durand, 2127 Forest Dr., (763) 923-5595  
Jimmy Edworthy, 3710 Quincy St., N.E., (763) 202-5119  
Stan Hoium, 1105 42 1/2 Av. N. E., (763) 788-5227  
Kaye Meyer, 1115 42nd Av. N.E., (763) 788-9217  
Catherine Vesley, 5135 Matterhorn Dr., (763) 574-1707

**Coon Rapids** — four city council seats will be on the general election ballot, one of which is the at-large seat being vacated by Scott Schulte, who decided to run for the Anoka County Board. Three of these seats will be on the primary election ballot.

The Ward 1 seat has three candidates including incumbent Denise A. Klint who won the seat with 64% of the vote in 1998. She ran unopposed in the last election, in 2008.

Ward 2 has an open seat after incumbent Melissa Larson filed but later withdrew from the race. Larson served one term. She defeated three-term incumbent Ron Manning in 2008. Manning is one of five candidates in this year's Ward 2 race.

Ward 4's incumbent councilor Jerry Koch has no opponent. Koch was appointed to the seat last November by the city council, to complete the second term of Joe Sidoti after his resignation. One of the applicants for the appointment, Ethan Campbell, has filed for the at-large seat this year.

**City Council (4 seats)****At-Large seat:**

Sean Novack, 10666 Killdeer St. N.W., (763) 767-1205, website: [novack4council.org](http://novack4council.org), e-mail: [snovack@comcast.net](mailto:snovack@comcast.net)  
Steve Wells, 12322 Ivywood St N.W., (763) 323-4984, e-mail: [swells.ret@comcast.net](mailto:swells.ret@comcast.net)  
Ethan Campbell, 2160 111th Lane N.W., (763) 744-6074, e-mail: [ethan.campbell524@gmail.com](mailto:ethan.campbell524@gmail.com)  
Roger Johnson, 13132 Osage St. N.W., (763) 755-4664, website: [rogerjohnson.biz](http://rogerjohnson.biz)

**Ward 1 seat:**

Denise Klint (incumbent), 12162 Kerry St. N.W., (763) 576-8488, e-mail: [DKlint848@comcast.net](mailto:DKlint848@comcast.net)  
Jerry Pierce, 12236 Partridge St. N.W., (763) 755-6654  
Chad Newman, 12305 Jonquil St. N.W., (612) 751-7966

**Ward 2 seat:**

Tracy N. Trull, 1001 120th Av. N.W. (763) 757-9847  
Jeremy Wyttenback, 1587 118th Lane N.W., (763) 772-0130, e-mail:

[wyttenbackj@yahoo.com](mailto:wyttenbackj@yahoo.com)

Ron Manning, 525 127th Lane N.W., (763) 755-9128, e-mail: [RManning114@gmail.com](mailto:RManning114@gmail.com)  
Sonia Evans, 11710 Olive St. N.W., (763) 843-7432, e-mail: [sonia.evans2012@gmail.com](mailto:sonia.evans2012@gmail.com)  
Ken Boelter, 13068 Bluebird St. N.W., (763) 754-7339  
e-mail: [KTBoelter@gmail.com](mailto:KTBoelter@gmail.com)

**Ward 4 seat:**

Jerry Koch (incumbent), 10560 Mississippi Blvd. N.W., (763) 767-1811  
website: [kochforcouncil.com](http://kochforcouncil.com), e-mail: [JerryKoch@comcast.net](mailto:JerryKoch@comcast.net)

**Fridley** — Two positions will be on the ballot: mayor and one at-large city council seat. Mayor Scott Lund is running unopposed for re-election; he first won the seat in 2000. Bob Barnette, a long-time city councilor has two challengers in the primary election. One is Rick Wolfe, who served two terms as a city councilor after winning the Ward 2 seat in the 1998 election. Wolfe ran for Barnette's at-large seat in 2008 so this year's election will be a rematch. A third candidate in the council race is Bruce Rhea (pronounced "Ray").

Barnette was first elected to the city council in 1977 and served two terms. He later won the 1996 election and has been on the city council since then.

**Mayor**

Scott Lund, (incumbent) 580 69th Av. N.E., (612) 860-3235, e-mail: [ScottLund@usfamily.net](mailto:ScottLund@usfamily.net)

**City Council (At-Large seat)**

Bob Barnette (incumbent), 541 Rice Creek Blvd., (763) 574-9585, e-mail: [barnetter@ci.fridley.mn.us](mailto:barnetter@ci.fridley.mn.us)

**Ramsey** — City councilor Sarah Strommen is Mayor Bob Ramsey's opponent in the general election. Strommen was on the city council from 2002 to 2008 and in August 2011 won a special election for the Ward 4 city council seat that was resigned by David Jeffrey. Strommen is employed by the Minnesota Land Trust as its Associate Director. Bob Ramsey was elected mayor in 2008 and is seeking a second term.

Also seeking a second term is the Ward 2 city councilor Colin McGlone, who is being challenged in the primary by Bob Sibilski, formerly on the Environmental Policy Board and a previous council candidate, and Mark Kuzma.

One of the at-large council seats is also slated for the primary election ballot, as incumbent Jeff Wise will face Rick Chubb, Joe Field, John Letourneau and Thomas Towberman, a previous candidate for council.

The Ward 4 council seat is an open seat due to Strommen entering the mayoral race.

**Mayor**

Bob Ramsey (incumbent), 9495 164th Lane N.W., (763) 286-0171, e-mail: [bobramsey64@gmail.com](mailto:bobramsey64@gmail.com); web site: [ramseyforramsey.com](http://ramseyforramsey.com)  
Sarah Strommen, 14546 Krypton St. N.W. (763) 360-4424, website: [electsarahstrommen.com](http://electsarahstrommen.com)

**City Council****At-Large seat:**

Jeff Wise, 7901 165th Av., (763) 567-0919  
Thomas J. Towberman, 14991 Waco St. N.W., (952) 220-2576, e-mail: [TJ@TheJusticeLeague.net](mailto:TJ@TheJusticeLeague.net); website: [thejusticeleague.net](http://thejusticeleague.net)  
John Letourneau, 14607 Bowers Dr. N.W., (612) 812-1770

Joe Field, 8021 152nd Lane N.W., (763) 427-9066

Rick Chubb, 14331 Armstrong Blvd. N.W., (763) 767-3109, e-mail: [randdchubb@aol.com](mailto:randdchubb@aol.com)

**Ward 2 seat:**

Colin McGlone (incumbent), 15890 St. Andrews Lane N.W., (763) 421-1216, web site: [colinmcglone.com](http://colinmcglone.com); e-mail: [colin@colinmcglone.com](mailto:colin@colinmcglone.com)  
Bob Sibilski, 7240 166th Av. N.W., (763) 753-4422, e-mail: [rsibilski@comcast.net](mailto:rsibilski@comcast.net)  
Mark Kuzma, 16120 Royal Rd N.W. (612) 965-3780

**Ward 4 seat:**

Rebecca Brown, 4780 154th Lane N.W., (612) 940-1180; e-mail: [rebecca@rebeccabrown.com](mailto:rebecca@rebeccabrown.com), web site: [rebeccabrown.com](http://rebeccabrown.com)  
Wayne Buchholz, 14621 Neon St. N.W., (763) 323-7155  
Jeremy Chubb, 14787 Xkimo St. N.W., (612) 599-2953  
Chris Riley, 15120 Ute St. N.W., (612) 619-4245; e-mail: [chris.riley@att.net](mailto:chris.riley@att.net)

**School board races in which candidates have filed:**

For school districts within Anoka County, only **Columbia Heights ISD #13** will hold a primary election. Six candidates filed for 3 seats in the Elk River ISD #728 district, so no primary is needed there. Centennial ISD #12 does not hold a primary election and candidates will begin to file July 31 for the general election.

For Columbia Heights School Board, seven candidates filed for three seats:

Ted Landwehr (incumbent), 4034 7th St. N.E., CH (763) 438-6032  
Keith S. Roberts (incumbent), 1137 441 1/2 Av. N.E., CH (612) 619-6929  
Jon M. Foss, 4412 2ND ST. N.E., CH, (612) 345-0224  
John Larkin, 1345 52nd Av. N.E., Fridley (763) 242-5316  
Lori Meyer, 3815 Johnson St. N.E., CH (763) 789-4425  
Grant Nichols, 4504 5th St. N.E., CH (763) 571-5260  
Mike Peterson, 1085 50th Av. N.E., CH (612) 386-6299

Peterson has previously served on the school board and the Columbia Heights Planning Commission. Larkin is employed as the Assistant Fire Chief of Columbia Heights. The third seat for election this year is held currently by a former mayor of Columbia Heights, Joe Sturdevant. He did not file for re-election.

All three incumbents whose seats are up for election this year on the **Elk River School Board** have filed for re-election.

Sue Farber (incumbent), 19404 Norfolk St., Elk River (763) 228-5978  
Holly M. Thompson, 26654 10th St. W., Zimmerman (763) 856-8647  
Janelle Henry (inc.), 6627 Laketowne Dr. E., Albertville (763) 497-2349, e-mail: [jameshenry@sprintmail.com](mailto:jameshenry@sprintmail.com)  
Jane Frazier, 13239 Red Fox Rd., Rogers (763) 428-9197, e-mail: [markjanefrazier@yahoo.com](mailto:markjanefrazier@yahoo.com)  
Dan Hunt, 14110 Shadow Wood Dr., Rogers (763) 428-3053 e-mail: [danhunt@embarqmail.com](mailto:danhunt@embarqmail.com)  
Tom McCauley, 10674 182nd Av., Elk River, (612) 226-1268

**CANDIDATES! Send us your statements for publication**  
[editor@anokacountyrecord.com](mailto:editor@anokacountyrecord.com)

## ERHART'S FOLLY CONTINUES TO FALTER

"Northstar: It just makes sense!"

"It's equivalent to a 1 1/2 lanes of traffic on Highway 10."

"It will bring jobs and economic development to Anoka County."

"If we don't waste this money, someone else will."

"We need something cool and rad up here on this end of town. Northstar will put Anoka County on the map."

These just a sampling of the completely bunk statements we heard during the collective mania that gripped Anoka County when Dan Erhart and company sold their snake oil to a gullible public that wanted to believe that somehow a commuter train would do all those neat things for taxpayers.

None of it turned out to be true. Well, at least there is a kernel of truth regarding the last claim. Northstar has certainly put Anoka County on the map - as a laughingstock for engaging in the folly of commuter rail.

Erhart's Folly is once again in the news. And once again, the news isn't good, which is par for the course for Northstar. It's about time the media start attaching adjectives to Northstar such as "troubled" and "beleaguered."

The latest for this troubled rail scam is the continued failure to meet ridership projections.

Since the first choo-choo ran down those tracks off Highway 10, the expected riders have failed to show up.

The excuses were legion. "Gas prices are low." "The economy is bad." "The economy is good." "People don't know about commuter rail." "The line needs to go to Saint Cloud."

Let's put aside a growing myth and one that is propagated by lazy media types. There is a growing urban legend that the line was cut from Rice (not Saint Cloud) down to Big Lake because there wasn't enough money or because conservative politicians sabotaged the project.

The line was cut simply because it didn't meet the federal government's own weak cost-benefit metrics.

Surprisingly, running commuter rail to a small regional center and then up to a cow hamlet in Jim Oberstar's district lead to a low cost-benefit analysis. Who would have thought?

Yes, Northstar couldn't hurdle the midget's bar and satisfy a government that builds bridges to nowhere that this was a really sweet project if it ran to Rice, population 1,460. Did we mention Rice is in the 8th Congressional District?

The latest trick to "stimulate" Northstar ridership is a fare cut. Never mind that every ride on the line is already subsidized to the hilt.

News reports indicate that the Metropolitan Council will soon consider fare cuts to coax riders to get on Erhart's Folly.

Hell, the riders are already so heavily subsidized, why not go the Full Monty and just make it all free?

That way we can be honest in admitting that Northstar is a failure and that offering free rides is really what the utopians want in mass transit anyway.

Want proof? The proof is that they never cared about the outrageous cost to build and operate the line and the fact that increasing the massive subsidy is just fine by them.

And if free rides are offered, maybe we can stop throwing money down the rat hole to bail out this white elephant.

We can stop doing things like throwing millions into a station stop in Ramsey, which won't do squat to build riders, even though the government stopped running a popular and inexpensive bus service from the city with the intent to force people on to the train.

With stations in Elk River and Anoka, there was no need to build yet another station in between the two.

Unless, of course, one considers the other reason (real?) for constructing a stop in Ramsey. The other reason is to bail out another government mega-project failure, the Town Center project.

So here we have the spectacle of a boondoggle rail station built in hopes of bailing out a boondoggle commuter rail line and a boondoggle planned downtown concept.

Okay, so the county board is crowing about saving \$50 grand by withdrawing from the NLX project.

Yes, the Watchdog agrees that rail has yet to prove itself and that roads and bridges are a priority.

But we thinks some doth celebrate too much when there is a ticker tape parade to celebrate a cancelled membership for a rail line that is years from anything.

Again, the NLX pull out is okay by us, but what about Northstar?

We saved a few thousand on NLX.

What about the millions being spent on a Ramsey station? What about the millions being collected by the county's sales tax increase for transportation? What about the "wheelage tax" still being collected?

The fact is that the county is still taxing and spending millions on a utopian vision for a mass transit "build out" across the Metro.



Opinion

If the board is going to get all big balls about transit and crow about things like NLX, then why not get serious and make some meaningful changes, like eliminate the wheelage tax and eliminate the sales tax increase for transit?

It will be interesting over the course of the summer and fall to see where the county commissioner candidates are on these issues.

## BUSINESS SHOULD STAY OUT OF (CONSERVATIVE) POLITICS

So General Mills announced last week that it was taking a stand in opposition to the marriage amendment on the ballot this fall.

The GLBT crowd went nuts and talked about how great and courageous that stand is and how we should all send a word of thanks to Betty Crocker, especially since she looks pretty uptight and not really the type to be down with the homosexual lifestyle.

As readers well know, the Watchdog doesn't take positions on social issues.

But we will take a position on hypocrisy.

We well remember when this same crowd had a fit when Target Corporation donated money to Minnesota Forward, a PAC that supported the GOP candidate for governor.

When Target did it, it was decried as an improper foray into politics by a large, iconic Minnesota business entity.

There were calls for boycotts, sit ins, and all manner of protestation against Target's sin against the body politic.

But when General Mills does it, it's way, way cool.

So the issue isn't really corporate involvement in politics. It's really about getting involved in politics in a way that pleases the hard left — which is nothing new. When Republicans like Bob Packwood had problems keeping their hands to themselves, the liberals, especially the feminists were there to call for Bob's head.

And when Bill Clinton ruined that blue dress? Nary a word from the left. Then, it was a private matter for Bill and Hillary.

Never mind that Slick William told a lie and that he frequently dropped his pantaloons in the Oval Office, a sacred room that belongs to US, not HIM.

As long as Minnesota corporations allow themselves to be bullied and co-opted by the left, they will continue to be abused.

## THE VIKES — GET TO KNOW EM!

With a new taxpayer-financed Vikings stadium just around the corner, we thought it appropriate to borrow a marketing phrase from the equally inept Twins and encourage taxpayers to get to know the boyz in purple.

Jerome Felton (FB) Felton, a 5th round of Detroit in 2008, was arrested at an Eden Prairie McDonald's drive through and has been charged with DWI and a DWI test refusal.

Caleb King (RB) King displays all the aggression and propensity for violence crazed football fans expect.

King was arrested in late April for assault after he beat the living daylights out of a man at a birthday party (shall we say birthday "bash?") in uptown Oak Grove, Minnesota. The victim suffered a skull fracture, facial fractures and cuts that required more than 50 stitches to close. Oh yeah, the guy may also have permanent brain damage.

The trigger? The guy apparently told King he looks like Eddie Murphy.

The real crime is that King does actually resemble Murphy and plays football about as well, as evidenced by his time on the practice squad.

Dwight Smith (FS) Smith was arrested in 2006 for having sex in a public stairwell in Block E. Smith thought than when Mayor Rybak called for activity on Block E, he was talking about something entirely different than economic activity.

Koren Robinson (WR) The speedy Robinson showed just how fast he can be when he rang up six counts of DWI and fleeing the police when he went all Dukes of Hazard up Highway 169 during training camp in 2006.

Robinson hit triple digits when his BMW hit 100 mph while fleeing the cops through Saint Peter. Robinson hit double digits when he blew .11 into the breathalyzer.

The Love Boat Crew Gopher and Isaac weren't on this cruise. Back in 2005, a number of Vikings brought a group of prostitutes up to Minneapolis for a cruise around Lake Minnetonka and a little debauchery.

Fred Smoot, Daunte Culpepper, Bryant McKinnie and many others showed themselves to be exactly the kind of role models and good citizens we demand when we talk of saving the Vikings.

Randy Moss (WR) Hey, who wouldn't want a foul-mouthed, pot smoking, fan abusing, above-the-law clown out there playing when he wants to play?

Moss was another classic Viking who made sure a portion of his income taxes supported the criminal justice system used to restrain his arrogant, boorish behavior.

With the Vikings in Minnesota for another 30 years, we can all look forward to more of this corporate citizenship.

The Vikings - Get to Know 'Em!

**SEND US YOUR LETTERS AND OPINION COLUMNS!**

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\* Next issue: July 5 \*

## Reports from Your Legislators



### SEN. MICHELLE BENSON

(Dist. 49) 651-296-3219

#### June 15. Senator Benson Defends Voter ID Constitutional Amendment.

On Wednesday, May 30, several groups opposing the Voter ID constitutional amendment filed a lawsuit with the Minnesota Supreme Court to remove the amendment from the November ballot.



ACLU of Minnesota, Common Cause Minnesota, the League of Women Voters and Jewish Community Action have tried to say that the amendment language is unclear. I disagree with their accusations. The amendment gives voters the opportunity to vote "yes" or "no" on the following 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?"*

It seems fairly straightforward, and I believe that Minnesotans have the right to have their say in this matter because the right to vote is valuable and the public deserves to have confidence in the integrity of our election system. Under current laws, voter fraud is extremely difficult to detect. In many cases, today's election system is unable to identify ineligible voters until after their ballots have already been cast and counted. Requiring an ID to vote is a much more effective way to allow only eligible voters to cast a ballot and prevent voter fraud. I believe that requiring photo ID prior to receiving a ballot will go a long way toward preventing errors and fraud that can cause Minnesotans to lose faith in the electoral process. The Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) met yesterday, June 14, to discuss the Resolution to retain the Winthrop and Weinstine law firm as outside counsel relating to this lawsuit. As a member of the LCC, I voted in favor of the resolution to work to ensure that this question stays on the ballot this November.

The Resolution to retain the Winthrop and Weinstine law firm passed. To clarify any misunderstandings regarding the appropriateness of the LCC taking this action, the decision of the LCC is not unusual. There have been situations in the past when the legislature has both initiated lawsuits and provided amicus briefs. In past Court rulings, the Court has said that the legislature has wide latitude in submitting questions to the voters. The standard set by the Court is that the question must not be misleading or evasive.

The charge from Winthrop and Weinstine will be a flat fee of \$18,000, which I believe is worth the cost to protect the integrity in our voting process. The next phases of this process are as follows: the Supreme Court briefing deadline on this lawsuit is June 25th and the hearing will be held on July 17th with the Court's decision not long afterwards. It is worth noting that Secretary of State, Mark Ritchie has stated that he will not fulfill his responsibility to defend legislation passed by the legislature throughout this process.

As we await the results of this lawsuit, be assured I will continue to do my part to defend the Voter ID amendment.

**State Employee Contract Negotiations.** As a member of the Subcommittee on Employee Relations, it is my responsibility to assist the legislature by providing interim approval of negotiated agreements, arbitration awards, and compensation plans for employees in the executive branch. The Subcommittee on Employee Relations also monitors the state civil service system and makes recommendations regarding certain state and local government salaries.

These contracts are measured by fiscal years. For example, the most recent contract started July 1, 2009 and expired June 30, 2011. The first year on that contract would be listed as Fiscal Year (FY) 10. There are two types of raises: across the board increases (also known as Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)), and Step increases (also known as performance-based increases). The last COLA raise received by state union employees was effective July 1, 2008. The value

of steps varies by union contract: they equal about 2.75% for AFSCME and 3.5% for MAPE.

Employees receive step increases on an annual basis on the anniversary of their hire date if they are rated satisfactory or better performance (90% of employees meet this criteria.) Half of state employees are at the top of their salary range and are not eligible for raises. The other half of state employees have been receiving raises in the second half of 2010 and in 2011 as part of the two year contract that expired June 30, 2011. The expired contract did not allow raises in the first year of the contract (FY 10), but did give raises in the second year (FY 11). And due to the language in the most recent contract, employees can continue to receive raises even with an expired contract. Thus, the contract was allowed to remain in place while negotiations continued, and the Dayton administration authorized the 2011 raise. Negotiations on the five employee contracts began in March of 2011 and are only now approaching settlement. This is the longest negotiating period in recent history.

Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) has come to a settlement with the unions of AFSCME and MAPE. According to media accounts and the union's web sites, the proposed contract would provide a 2% pay increase and step increases. The next phase in the process includes:

MMB and the unions finalize all of the specific terms of the contracts and submit them to the union membership for approval (this will likely take several weeks).

MMB submits the final contracts to the Subcommittee on Employee Relations for its review and approval/rejection. Once the contracts are submitted to the Subcommittee, the members will have 30 days to act on the proposed contracts.

The settlement information will be posted on the Subcommittee web site when it becomes available to the legislature: <http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcer/lcer.htm>

Select "labor contracts data" on the left sidebar, where we show data on each of the contracts for the last twenty years.

As a member of the legislature, I have not been at the table for these negotiations. The Dayton administration and union leadership are the only parties at the negotiating table. The legislature has not seen any of the negotiated terms.

### CITY OF RAMSEY EMPLOYMENT POSTING: CITY ENGINEER

The City of Ramsey is seeking a City Engineer to work in its dynamic, growing community of nearly 24,000 residents.

The primary objective of the City Engineer position includes the coordination of activities and resources in constructing, inspecting and maintaining public infra-structure consistent with Council policy and with Federal and State regulations; oversight of work on consultant designed and in-house designed public works projects; the conduct and performance of all personnel in the Engineering Division; the development, implementation and oversight of Engineering plans, policies and procedures; and short and long term planning to ensure that the level of service provided meets the expectations of the City Council, city staff and community.

Minimum qualifications for the City Engineer position include:

- Possession of a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from an accredited college or university.
- Professional registration in the state of Minnesota.
- Minimum of 7 years civil engineering experience after registration. Prefer municipal experience or other public sector experience.
- Significant computer experience, knowledge of CAD/CAM and GIS systems and implementation.
- Possession of a valid class D state driver's license with a good driving record.
- Two years of supervisory experience.

The 2012 hiring range for this position is \$34.39 to 37.83 per hour, DOQ. To apply, please print an application packet from the City's website: [www.ci.ramsey.mn.us](http://www.ci.ramsey.mn.us) or call 763-576-4301. Resumes are welcome; however, resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a City application. The application deadline is Friday, July 13, 2012 at 4:30pm. EEO/AA. Mail all applications to: The City of Ramsey, Human Resources Office, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, MN 55303

Sen. Mike Parry, Chair of the Subcommittee on Employee Relations, requested copies of all recently negotiated labor agreements, including the settlements referenced in the media between the MAPE and AFSCME unions and the State of Minnesota. Once we receive details, the Subcommittee will meet to review the contract and decide to approve or not approve. If the provisions presented in the media are true, I plan to vote no on the agreement. I cannot in good conscience vote for a pay increase for the public sector when the private sector is still forced to lay people off and cut pay.

### TOWN HALL MEETING WITH REP. MELISSA HORTMAN (47B)

**Monday, June 25th  
6:45 to 7:45 pm at the  
Coon Rapids Library  
11440 Crooked Lake Blvd.**

Office phone: 651-296-4280  
E-mail: [rep.melissa.hortman@house.mn](mailto:rep.melissa.hortman@house.mn)

Rm. 377 State Office Building,  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

### CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS EMPLOYMENT POSTING: CITY CLERK

**POSITION SUMMARY:** This is highly responsible and varied clerical and administrative work in serving as City Clerk. Performs all City Clerk related functions including administering elections, administration of official records and the City's records retention program, and preparation of City Council agendas and minutes. Attends all regular and special meetings of the City Council. Serves as responsible authority for compliance with the Minnesota Data Practices Act. Position provides secretarial and clerical assistance to the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager. Work involves considerable public contact. Work requires knowledge of, and familiarity with, general city organization and operation of municipal services. This position is responsible for providing information and answers to the public and for receiving and handling inquiries and complaints from the public. Work also includes responsibility for scheduling and arranging various meetings, composing, compiling, gathering, copying, and distributing materials in accordance with deadlines, and performing research duties as assigned.

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Combination of training and experience equivalent to an Associate's degree in management or related field. Four years related experience performing responsible secretarial and administrative duties involving extensive public contact. Two years training and/or experience in the operation of a computer using Microsoft Office Suite software.

**DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor's degree in public administration, management, or related field. Municipal Clerk certification. Five or more years related experience performing responsible secretarial and administrative duties involving extensive public contact. Two years related experience in a municipal government setting.

**SALARY RANGE:** \$4,140 to \$4,704 per month, plus excellent fringe benefits

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:** City application packets are available from the City Hall Information Window, or can be downloaded from our website at [www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us](http://www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us). To be considered for this position, applicants must submit a completed City application and supplemental questionnaire to the Assistant to the City Manager/Human Resources Director, City of Columbia Heights, 590 40th Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421, no later than 4:45 p.m., July 3, 2012.

**SELECTION PROCEDURE:** Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria: Experience and Training 50%; Oral interview 50%

**CLOSING DATE:** Tuesday, July 3, 2012, 4:45 p.m.

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

**Anoka County RECORD**

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**Back issues can be found on our web site:  
[www.AnokaCountyRecord.com](http://www.AnokaCountyRecord.com)**

**NEXT ISSUES: JULY 5, JULY 19**

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\$2.00 single issue (payable by check or money order)

# Anoka County GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

## Anoka County Board

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

**Thurs. June 21**  
Comm. Corrections Advisory Bd —  
Noon, Rm 710, ACGC

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

**Tues. June 26**  
Management Cmte — 8:30 am, Rm 772,  
ACGC

County Board — 9:30 am, Rm 705, ACGC

**Thurs. June 28**  
Library Kiosk & 3M Tour — 10:30 am  
(Ed.: see separate sidebar on this page for details)

**Mon. July 2**  
Public Works Cmte — 9 am, Rm 772, ACGC

**Tues. July 3**  
Parks & Rec Cmte — 9 am, Visitor Ctr.,  
Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park

## Andover

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

**Thurs. June 21 & July 5**  
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

**Tues. July 3**  
City Council — 7 pm

**Tues. July 10**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

## Anoka

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

**Mon. June 25**  
City Council “work session” — 5 pm

**Mon. July 9**  
HRA — 5 pm

**Mon. July 9**  
City Council — 7 pm

**Tues. July 10**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

## Bethel

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

Call City Hall for information

## Blaine

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

**Thurs. June 21**  
City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm;  
reg. meeting 7:30 pm (no council  
meeting on 7/5/12)

**Tues. June 26**  
Park Board — 7 pm

**Tues. July 10**  
Blaine Arts Council — 6:30 pm  
Blaine Historical Society — 6:30 pm  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**Thurs. June 12**  
City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm;  
meeting 7:30 pm

**Tues. July 17**  
Natural Resource Conserv. Bd.— 7 pm

**Thurs. July 19**  
City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm

**Tues. July 24**  
Park Board — 7 pm

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

**CITY OF CENTERVILLE**  
Open seat on the Parks &  
Recreation Committee  
Contact City Hall for information

## Centerville

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

**Wed. June 27 & July 11**  
City Council — 6:30 pm

**Tues. July 3**  
Planning & Zoning Comm. — 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 26 & July 10**  
City Council — 7 pm

**Tues. July 3**  
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

**Mon. June 25**  
City Council — 7 pm

Library Task Force — 6:30 pm,  
Library, Activity Room

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

**Mon. July 2**  
Traffic Comm. — 5:30 pm  
EDA/City Council “work session” —  
6:30 pm

**Tues. July 3**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm  
Library Board — 6:30 pm, Library

## Columbus

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

**Thurs. June 21**  
Park Board — 6:30 pm

**Wed. June 27**  
City Council — 7 pm

## Coon Rapids

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

**Thurs. June 21**  
Sustainability Comm. — 6:30 pm

Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm  
Historical Comm. — 7:30 pm

**Tues. July 3 & 17**  
City Council — 7 pm

**Thurs. July 5**  
Bd of Adjustment & Appeals — 6:30 pm  
(Ed.: 6/7/12 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 27**  
Econ. Develop. Authority — 6:30 pm

**Thurs. July 5**  
City Council — 7:30 pm

**Tues. July 10**  
Road Comm. — 6:30 pm

**Wed. July 11**  
Park Comm. — 7 pm

## Fridley

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

**Mon. June 25 & July 9**  
City Council — 7 pm “pre-agenda”;  
7:30 pm meeting

**Mon. July 5**  
HRA — 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. June 25 & July 9**  
Planning Comm. — 6 pm

**Mon. July 2**  
City Council — 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 21**  
City Council — 7 pm; (“workshop”  
after meeting)

**Mon. July 2**  
Park Board — 6:30 pm

**Mon. July 5**  
City Council — 7 pm

**Wed. July 11**  
Planning & Zoning Comm. — 7 pm

## 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 25**  
City Council “work session” &  
“special work session” — 5:30 pm

**Mon. July 2**  
City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm

**Thurs. July 5**  
EDAC — 8:30 am

## Linwood Township

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

**Mon. June 25**  
Park & Rec. Comm. — 7 pm

**Tues. June 26 & July 10**  
Town Board — 6 pm

**Tues. July 3**  
Road & Bridge 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

## 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

**Thurs. June 21**  
Mayor’s Town Hall Mtg — 7 pm

**Tues. June 26**  
City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm;  
City Council reg mtg — 7 pm; HRA  
follows

**Mon. July 2**  
EPB — 6:30 pm  
Parks & Rec. Comm. — 6:30 pm

**Tues. July 3**  
Public Works Cmte — 5:30 pm

**Thurs. July 5**  
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

## Spring Lake Park

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

**Tues. June 25 & July 23**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**Mon. July 2 & 16**  
City Council — 7 pm

## ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

**Mon. July 16** — 5 pm

## ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

### FUTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

**JUNE 28, 2012, 10:15 a.m.**

**Library Support Services**  
707 County Road 10 NE, Blaine,  
MN 55434

And Other Locations as Listed

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

Cathy Montain, Future  
Services Committee Chair

#### B. TOURS OF LIBRARY KIOSK SERVICES

1. **11:00 a.m.** Locker Kiosks  
Location: Hugo City Hall  
14669 Fitzgerald Avenue North  
Hugo, MN 55038

2. **11:45 a.m.** Lunch Break  
Ingredients Café  
4725 Hwy 61 North  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

3. **1:00 p.m.** Cloud E-books  
Location: 3M Library Division  
3M Center, Building 209  
St. Paul, MN 55144-1000

4. **2:30 p.m.** E-reader Dispenser  
Location: Tech Logic  
1818 Buerkle Road  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

5. **4:30 p.m.** Return to Library  
Support Services Building

#### C. ADJOURNMENT

## STATE COMMISSIONER RELEASES MAY REVENUE FIGURES

St. Paul — Revenue collected by the state in May 2012 was overall slightly higher than forecasted earlier in the year. Minnesota Management and Budget Commissioner Jim Schwalter summarized the totals in a statement issued June 11.

Individual income taxes collected reached \$544.5 million; sales taxes \$380.3 million; corporate income tax \$42.9 million and other revenues came to \$333.1 million, for a total of \$1.38 billion.

Schwalter stated these figures were preliminary and subject to revision, and a more complete look at the 2nd quarter’s figures will be released in July.

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11**

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

**Mon. June 25 & July 9**  
School Board — 6:30 pm

**Centennial ISD #12**

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

**Mon. July 16**  
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 26** School Bd — 7 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 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.

**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. July 17 & Aug 21**

**St. Francis ISD #15**

4115 Ambassador Blvd  
St. Francis, MN 55070  
Ph.: (763) 753-7040  
stfrancis.k12.mn.us  
**Mon. June 25 & July 9** — 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 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. July 9 & Aug. 13** — 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

**Thur. June 21** — 4 pm “work session”  
Change in Location: 916 Mahtomedi Academy, 2736 Cty Rd D, WBL

**Wed. Aug. 8** — 6 pm  
 (“Work session” originally scheduled for July 31 has been cancelled)

**MEETINGS LISTED ON THIS PAGE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE — CALL AHEAD TO VERIFY**

**CITIES SAY FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED FOR RAMSEY AND NOWTHEN**

The City of Ramsey Fire Department is accepting applications for paid on-call firefighters. These positions will provide emergency services to the City of Ramsey and the City of Nowthen. The Fire Department is looking for men and women who are within 4 miles of station #1 (15050 Armstrong Blvd, Ramsey) and 4 miles of station #3 (19800 Nowthen Blvd, Nowthen).

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, responsible, enthusiastic, and willing to serve their community at anytime. The Fire Department currently has firefighters who respond to a variety of emergency and non-emergency events related to fires, hazardous materials, rescue, confined space rescue and water rescue. Firefighters are also

responsible for preplanning, education and other events within the community.

The 2012 hourly rate is \$12.88 for training, meetings, and fire calls. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a City of Ramsey firefighter, a mandatory firefighter orientation will be held **Monday, July 9, 2012** from 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. at Fire Station #1, 15050 Armstrong Blvd. NW, Ramsey, . To RSVP for the firefighter orientation, please call 763-427-4452 by Friday, July 6.

You are encouraged to bring your spouse or significant other to the orientation so they can ask questions and gain a better understanding of the level of commitment it takes to be a member of the Fire

Department. Due to a limited amount of space, however, we ask that you do not bring children to the orientation.

Application packets will be available at the orientation and on the City's website (www.ci.ramsey.mn.us) beginning July 10, 2012. You may also call 763-576-4301 to request an application packet. Resumes are welcome, but will not be accepted in lieu of a City application.

Mail application packet to: The City of Ramsey, Attn: Human Resources, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, MN 55303. The application deadline is 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 20, 2012. EEO Remember!! No experience is necessary and women are encouraged to apply. EEO/AA

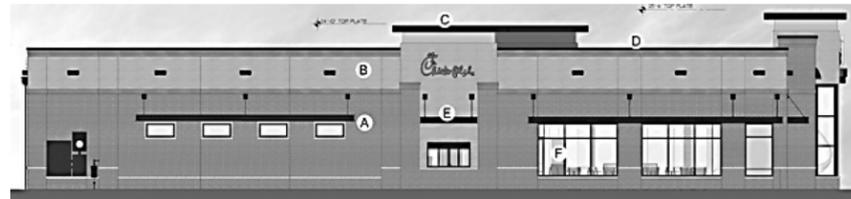
**NEW RESTAURANT ASKING FOR APPROVALS TONIGHT**

**CHICK-FIL-A RESTAURANTS FINALLY COMING TO THE METRO; LONG-TIME STAPLE IN SOUTHERN U.S.**

by Michelle Smith — special to the ACR

If you have ever vacationed in the south or along the east coast Chick-Fil-A may be a name that is familiar to you. Soon you may not have to look so far away. The first stand-alone Chick-Fil-A in Minnesota may be coming to Coon Rapids.

Tonight at a public hearing, the Coon Rapids Planning Commission will be reviewing an application that was submitted on May 14th for Chick-Fil-A to be located at 3590 River Rapids Drive, formerly the site of a Bennigan's restaurant, near the intersection of Main Street and Round Lake Boulevard.



West elevation that shows the drive-through window.

the building, along Round Lake Boulevard.

Chick-Fil-A intends to preserve existing landscaping, curbs and gutters wherever possible. City staff is suggesting approval of the plans as submitted under certain conditions, all having to do with landscaping issues. Staff is asking for an additional 37 shrubs, and all landscaped areas to be irrigated. Trees that are saved but die within one year of the project completion would have to be replaced. Some screening in the form of a hedge or fence is being suggested as well.

The Planning Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. tonight in the council chambers at the Coon Rapids City Center.

Chick-Fil-A was started in Atlanta, Georgia in 1967 as a family run fast food chain. One thing that has always made Chick-Fil-A stand out among other fast food chains is the decision that the founder made when starting the first restaurant which was to have all the restaurants closed on Sundays. The founder, Truett Cathy, has stated that he believes all franchised Chick-Fil-A operators and their employees should have an opportunity to rest, spend time with family and friends and worship if they choose to do so. This chain has continued to be a privately owned and a family run business since its conception.

Other locations that are currently in Minnesota are at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus, Mankato State University campus and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport; all of which have limited hours and/or accessibility.



South elevation.

**CITY OF BLAINE  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 11-16  
93RD LANE INDUSTRIAL PARK AREA  
STREET IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 1**

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received, publicly opened, and read aloud by representatives of the City Council of Blaine, Anoka County, Minnesota, at the City Council Chambers at 10801 Town Square Drive NE in said City at 10:00 a.m. on July 2, 2012, for furnishing of all work and materials for consideration of City Improvement No. 11-16 and consisting of approximately:

- 12,720 SY – RECLAIM BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT
- 3,100 TN – BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT
- 600 LF – REMOVE AND REPLACE CULVERTS
- 1,625 CY – COMMON EXCAVATION
- 960 CY – TOPSOIL BORROW
- 2 AC – HYDRO SEED AND MULCH (INCLUDING ALL RELATED WORK AND APPURTENANCES.)

All in accordance with Plans and specifications prepared by the City and on file at the Office of the City Engineer, 10801

Town Square Drive NE, Blaine, Minnesota. Contact Person: Asst. City Engineer Stefan Higgins, (763) 717-2722.

Plans and Specifications incorporating the work for the project may be examined at the City Hall, Engineering Department, 10801 Town Square Drive NE, Blaine, Minnesota. COPIES may be obtained in person at the City Hall, or requested via the United States Postal Service for \$50 a set, which is not refundable. The plan fee must be received by the City prior to release of plans.

The City of Blaine will only send plans via the United States Postal Service. Requests for plans received after one week prior to the bid date are not guaranteed to be delivered on time. If the requestor would like to use a private courier for plan delivery, the requestor must make the arrangements on their own, and at their own cost.

Bids must be on the basis of cash payment for the work and materials, and no bid will be considered unless sealed and filed with the City Engineer or his designee, and endorsed upon the outside wrapper with a brief statement of summary as to the work for which the bid is made, and accompanied by a cash deposit, certified check, or bidder's bond, payable to the City, for not

less than 5%, as a guarantee that the bidder will, within TEN (10) days after notification of the award of contract, enter into an agreement with the City and furnish a bond for the full amount of the contract as provided by law. This deposit will be subject to forfeiture as provided for by law. Cash deposits, certified checks, and bidder's bonds of the three (3) lowest bidders may be retained until the contract has been awarded and executed, but not longer than 60 days from the date of opening bids. All other deposits will be refunded promptly. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities therein, and to adjourn the meeting to a later date for the purpose of further consideration of the bids and taking action thereon. No bid may be withdrawn within 60 days from date of opening of bids.

The City Council will consider award of contracts at their regular meeting held on July 12, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 10801 Town Square Drive NE, Blaine, Minnesota. It is the City's intent to begin construction by July 30, 2012, and all work to be completed by October 31, 2012.

Jane M. Cross, CMC, City Clerk