

ERIN BROCKOVICH GUEST SPEAKER
**FRIDLEY CANCER CLUSTER
SUBJECT OF TOWN HALL
MEETING** *by ACR staff*

Environmental activist Erin Brockovich was the featured speaker at a town hall-style gathering at Fridley High School June 27. She had been invited by citizens who are concerned about the abnormal rates of cancer found in recent decades in Fridley. Earlier this year, the Minnesota Department of Health reported the number of cancer cases in Fridley to be 10 percent higher than the state average. Later, the state agency revised this figure to 7.6% and said it may be attributable to the city's higher than average smoking rates.

Awareness of the issue began to heat up about six months ago when a Facebook web page, Fridley Cancer Cluster was started by Jason McCarty and now has 2,700 members.

Bob Bowcock, Environmental Investigator for Erin Brockovich, opened the meeting by telling the attendees, "If you're waiting for a government entity to come out and save you, it will be a long wait. Don't trust government, don't trust the polluters, and don't trust me until I've earned it. From this day forward it's what you do."

He continued by giving information regarding the six Superfund sites located in Fridley, noting that Superfund sites are those that the Federal government is responsible for and he identified the FMC/Naval site as the #1 worst site in the nation.

Bowcock spoke specifically about the contaminant TCE (trichloroethylene). The chemical, used for degreasing parts and dry cleaning, has a 300+ year breakdown cycle and is present at all six Fridley sites. He said one of the chemicals formed during the breakdown is vinyl chloride which causes brain tumors. He also informed the audience that the Kurt Manufacturing site, which had been under the state's control, had been reclaimed by the federal government last December.



Erin Brockovich speaking to reporters at Fridley High School.

Bowcock also said that when the Fridley Cancer Cluster Facebook page debuted, state agencies started cleaning up their records real fast.

Bowcock went on to say no one is sure of what has transpired with these sites in the last 30 years but they do know TCE is still leaking into the Mississippi at what the government deems to be acceptable levels. In his opinion there is no acceptable level. He said the issue of what is a safe level is philosophical and political; stressing that the government will declare the contaminant levels never exceeded federal standards.

Outlining the process involved in the clean up of Superfund sites, Bowcock said, "We are not talking about mom and pop dry cleaning businesses here. We are talking about Fortune 100 companies who have been allowed to manage their own clean-ups. The EPA requires a time card type system to show how much time has been spent on each site. This system is what cost recovery is based on. To date Fridley has received no cost recovery."

He did not blame the City of Fridley but said they own the wells and the system and should be seeking cost recovery. The City should have demanded activated carbon filters in 1982. He spoke in reference to the water facility at Commons Park saying Fridley currently uses a water blending system whereby clean water is blended with contaminated water so as to meet Federal guidelines.

FRIDLEY CANCER CLUSTER *continued on next page, A-2*

**COUNTY CANDIDATES FILE FOR
ELECTIONS** *by ACR staff*

Continuing our coverage in this second part of our rundown of candidates who have filed for office, we will this time focus on the county races. The filing period for all concluded June 7. Some of these races will appear on the primary election ballot Aug. 14, and the general election for all races will be Nov. 6.

In our last issue, dated June 21, we covered the city races within Anoka County where candidate filing had concluded and primary election contests were set.

For seats that are not subject to a primary election, the two-week filing period for candidates begins July 31. Elections in Linwood Township and 12 cities in Anoka County fall into this category, and those races will go on the November 6th ballot. Also in this category will be the school board election for Centennial ISD #12, which will not be on the primary ballot. Candidate filing for those seats will also begin July 31. Please see our June 21 edition for more detail on the city and school board races.

Six of the seven Anoka County Board seats are up for election this year. Due to boundaries being changed after the 2010 census was taken, all County Board seats will be on the ballot this year with the exception of the District 4 seat held by Jim Kordiak since 1987. The district includes Columbia Heights, Hilltop and all but one precinct of Fridley. Added to the district was Precinct 1-A in Spring Lake Park, but the minor change did not cause the seat to be put to election this year, and it will be on its normal election cycle in 2014. A five percent or more increase or decrease in population was the threshold for placing seats in this year's election. Another consideration that weighed into drawing new boundary lines was to retain the population sizes of the seven districts within 10% of an average so no district would be more lopsided in population than another.

Two seats, Districts 5 and 7, will be elected for two-year terms. These, and the District 4 seat, will be on the 2014 ballot. The other four seats will next be on the 2016 ballot.

Anoka County Board, District 1. The incumbent commissioner, Matt Look won the seat in the 2010 election. He previously had been a city councilor in Ramsey. Challenging Look are three opponents: Tom Gamec, who was mayor of Ramsey from 1979 to 1984 and again for eleven years after winning the 1996 election. Dan Denno is currently serving his first term on the Oak Grove City Council, and Allison Lister, formerly the Veterans Services Director for the county, will be on the primary election ballot Aug. 14. The top two vote-getters will advance to the general election Nov. 6.

Matt Look (incumbent), 5635 142nd Av. N.W., Ramsey, 612-558-9111. E-mail: looksigns@gmail.com, website: mattlook2012.com

Tom Gamec, 16021 Neon St. N.W., Ramsey, 763-421-7615. E-mail: ThomasGamec@yahoo.com

Dan Denno, 20531 Sleepy Hollow Dr. N.W., Oak Grove, 763-443-4729. E-mail: Dan@DanDenno.com, website: DanDenno.com

Allison Lister, 20530 Ivywood St., Oak Grove, 218-330-9924. E-mail: Solfield22@aol.com, website: allisonlister.com

District 1 includes the cities of **St. Francis, Oak Grove, Nowthen** and **Ramsey**, as well as two precincts in the city of **Anoka**, P-2 and P-3.

Anoka County Board, District 2. The incumbent commissioner, Andy Westerberg, won the seat in the 2010 election and will face three opponents in the Aug. 14 primary. He, along with two of his opponents are former state legislators.

Westerberg was elected to the State House representing the Blaine area (51A) in 1998 and served four terms. He has also been on the Metropolitan Airports Commission and the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission.

This year's District 2 contest is also a rematch, as Westerberg will face his 2010 opponent, Debbie Johnson, who was a state senator from Ham Lake for 10 years. Mike Jungbauer, a state senator for 9 years is another contender. Jungbauer retired from the senate after this year's session — redistricting put him in an endorsement contest against Sen. Michelle Benson of Ham Lake. Benson went on to win that endorsement on the fifth ballot. Before his election to the legislature in 2002, Jungbauer had been the mayor of East Bethel. The fourth candidate in the District 2 race is Julie Braastad, who is serving her second term on the Ham Lake City Council. Prior to that, she was on the city's Planning Commission and has been active in the Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Andy Westerberg (incumbent), 13070 Goodhue St., Blaine; 763-757-5097. E-mail: andy.westerberg@co.anoka.mn.us

Debbie Johnson, 3501 149th Ln. N.E., Ham Lake; 763-360-5339. E-mail: debbiejohnson49@gmail.com

Mike Jungbauer, 21212 East Bethel Blvd., East Bethel. 612-490-3142, E-mail: jungbauer2012@gmail.com, website: mikejungbauer.com

Julie Braastad, 15203 Radisson Rd., Ham Lake. 763-434-8985, E-mail: juliebraastad@gmail.com, website: juliebraastad.com



FRIDLEY CANCER CLUSTER

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Bowcock talked about air stripping, a process that pulls the contaminants from underground and dissipates them into the air. This system is in place at the FMC and Kurt sites. He noted this system is illegal in other states and that off-gas collectors should be in place to prevent air contamination. He told the story of an FMC employee who blew the whistle on the company in 1980 for burying the chemicals in the "north 40" to avoid disposal costs. The FMC site has air stripped 19,000 pounds of TCE and other contaminants creating massive amounts of airborne particles. He urged the crowd to demand answers and compliance.

Bowcock described Fridley's water supply as being 30 feet down with TCE floating on top of ground water and migrating through the soil, noting that if your home has a basement you are 10 feet closer to the problem.

Erin Brockovich then addressed the group giving Facebook credit for bringing people together, across the country, in the fight for environmental justice. She said the EPA has no responsibility to track the health effects on the communities where Superfund sites exist. Agencies cite cancer statistics but they don't give the full picture — they don't include tracking of those who have died or moved away from the community. Not having this data makes it difficult to determine if clusters exist. Brockovich says this is why she created the web site, People's Reporting Registry: "All over the country people have decided to get back to being in charge of their health, their towns and their neighborhoods. We need to stop finger pointing, stop the politics and clean up the mess."

She then asked the audience how many were aware there were six Superfund sites in Fridley. When no hands were raised her response was, "That's pathetic. The powers that be won't notify you."

"How many of you have known someone with cancer?" she asked. Almost every hand went up. Brockovich informed the crowd that even though this was the largest Superfund site in the nation no one has defined the plume. Her firm direction to the audience was to "stay together, you're in this for the long haul."

Bob Bowcock added that the FMC/Naval site was the largest in ranking, not in size. He feels the EPA allowed it to get away from them.

Deanna White, a representative of MN Clean Water Action said the Clean Water Act was enacted 40 years ago because people were dying and we are in the same situation today as then. She emphasized the importance of banding together to overpower corporations and lobbyists. She told the group it was important who they voted for if they wanted resolve and urged them to vote for those who would increase EPA funding. She offered their web site for more information as CleanWaterAction.org. In closing she reiterated, "It matters if you show up."

Bob Bowcock, as a matter of courtesy, asked if there were elected officials or staff in the audience who would like to be recognized. Dale Helm, candidate for MN House District 41A, said he would be honored to work on the issue. He said, "This is about people, not politics."

Connie Bernardy, also a candidate for MN House District 41A, said this issue was very personal to her because her father worked at Kurt Manufacturing.

Jim Koppel, MN Department of Health, said he was there to listen and learn. Aggie Leitheisen, MN Pollution Control Agency, said he too was there to listen.

Gina Bauman, New Brighton City Councilwoman, said she was interested because New Brighton had gone through the same thing. Larry Lanoux, City of Grant Planning Commissioner, was there to share information regarding the building of a school on top of a dump site. He

wanted folks to know that they do have a voice and should talk to their elected officials, "if you fight long enough they will listen." (Fridley city councilor Bob Barnette and Mayor Scott Lund also attended but did not rise to be recognized.)

Bob Bowcock then opened the floor for questions.

A long time resident of Fridley asked for an explanation of plumes and if the contaminants were in the water, the air or the soil. There are contaminants in all three, Bowcock said, adding that ground water moves slowly and the contaminants migrate with it. Well columns, the pipes used to pump water, have holes in them and allow for cross contamination. Some wells at Commons Park supply drinking water while others, not fit for drinking, are used to irrigate the High School football field, the park and other surrounding school buildings. These wells draw plume and contamination. The polluters, EPA, and others are still asking for the definition of the plume. He concluded by saying weather, specifically barometric pressure, affects the air quality in Superfund sites and surrounding areas.

A gentleman from Fridley asked for the definition of Superfund and if there are other sites, in Fridley, that are not Superfund sites. He also requested more information on the Superfund site in Fridley ranked as #1 in the nation. Bowcock explained that Superfund is a federal program. It was designed to be self-funding through a cost recovery system to be used for clean ups. The problem is polluters can "hide" in a Superfund for 40 years. Bowcock said the FMC/Naval site was ranked #1 for two reasons. FMC would say it was because of public outcry and the Navy said it was because it was in close proximity to Minneapolis, which used the nearby water for drinking. Bowcock said there are other sites and offered the EPA's website as a place to see all the sites in Fridley, both state and federal.

Jennifer Torres asked what does TCE do. She knows it is a carcinogen, causing cancer, but can it also cause auto immune issues and neurological problems? Bowcock said TCE would never leave the factories. A research study revealed the #1 issue for those working in and around TCE was Parkinson's disease. Auto immune problems —yes. Neurological issues—yes.

Debbie Ashe-Anderson read a letter from her brother detailing his discovery of contaminants in Rice Creek. As a kid they used to inner tube in the creek. One day he noticed a clear substance floating on the water that looked and smelled like mineral spirits. They assumed it came from the oil plant and discontinued the activity. She stated that at least 12 of her Rice Creek neighbors have died. Bowcock said the oil site is a managed site in the state system. Erin Brockovich asked her to please make sure and enter this information on the web site. All information is important. It doesn't have to just be cancer.

Cindy Richmond, who lost her husband to leukemia in 2001, stated she works at an elementary school in the area and what can she do to prevent this water from being served to the children. Bowcock replied not another drop of water with TCE should be pumped. Someone needs to get on the phone to the City. Someone at the City needs to get on the phone to the EPA and the state and tell them someone else's pollution is contaminating our water and you need to do something about it now. He said, "The government will tell you the contaminant is one part per million. I would tell them one bullet in your goddamn head will kill you."

A woman from Fridley rose to note the MN Department of Health said the increased cancer rates were caused by an increased smoking rate in Fridley. Bowcock thought "maybe"; Deanna White said when they don't know the answer they manufacture doubt. Healthcare professionals rarely cite a specific cause.

A two-time cancer survivor told the audience that it is very important to share this information with your oncologist. Where you live and what you are

exposed to can have an effect on your treatment. If you tell them what you have been exposed to they can trace the cause.

Bowcock replied, "Smoking is bad, beer not so good, Twinkies will kill you and in New York it's illegal to drink a large Diet Coke. Clean air, clean earth, clean air these are your three basic human rights."

Another long term Fridley resident offered that the contamination at Commons Park may be the results of using it as a dumping ground after the 1965 tornado.

One audience member asked for a time frame for answers and for a web site to find information about these sites.

Bowcock feels the answers will come as fast as government listens or tells us to "go pound sand". The web site recommended was the EPA's National Priority List. He noted that everyone here has been quick in providing information.

The homeowners' association president from the Park Coop Mobile Home Community asked if they could test their water. They were applying for grants to replace infrastructure that was not up to code and needed to complete paperwork by October. She feels their water supply may have been compromised by the auto parts yard next to them. She noted that she too is a cancer survivor. Bowcock arranged to meet with her after the meeting.

A gentleman from Fridley informed the group that while the City is sending out cards praising their water quality and the Mayor is telling everyone the water is just fine and not to worry, the Mayor has had a private water filtration system installed in his home. Bowcock noted that home water systems that have activated carbon filters are effective in removing most contaminants.

A long term Fridley resident said the City made promises in 1982 when they started telling people to cap their private wells. He feels nothing has changed. Bowcock said capped wells are still part of the aquifer, they still flow to water. He offered to test any uncapped private wells and not tell the City.

A speaker from Oakdale said she had come to the meeting to encourage people to contact legislators and tell them to stop falling over corporations responsible for polluting. She told of Oakdale's fight with 3M over TCE contamination and offered that contacting the geologist hired by Oakdale might be of benefit to their investigation.

Bowcock concluded the meeting by urging folks to contact City Hall, which should make the EPA install activated carbon filters on the four deep and four shallow wells being used in Fridley. The City should be trying to recover costs through the cost pass through system. If they can't they should be suing the responsible parties. He reemphasized the importance of sharing information via the Facebook page or e-mail.

Brockovich gave media interviews and chatted with citizens during the evening. She rose to national attention when she exposed the contamination of ground water in Hinkley, California in the early 1990s and was later the subject of a motion picture about this part of her life. Among her many environmental clean-up cases were in locales such as Midland, Texas and Cameron, Missouri. *ACR*

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WATCHDOG: THE LOCAL TROUGH

Marking another recession year that went by, the State Auditor released a report on how much local government spent on lobbying in 2011.

In these tough economic times, how did our local elected officials deal with their lobbyists, a rather unnecessary luxury in these times — or any time for that matter.

In total, local units of government spent over \$8.3 million in 2011 lobbying other units of government to spend more money on them. And the four biggest pigs?

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. City of Minneapolis \$467,139 | 4. Anoka County \$170,320 |
| 2. Hennepin County \$246,214 | 5. City of Saint Paul \$161,098 |
| 3. Metropolitan Airports Commission \$172,105 | |

Funny, aren't Minneapolis and Saint Paul constantly whining about budget cuts and state aid cuts?

You could hire a few cops for a half-million bucks.

What cruel joke on the taxpayers.

Perhaps Hizzoners Rybak and Coleman could take a cue from Anoka County, which is working hard to dig out of years and years of Big Government programs instituted under the Good Ol' Boys regime.

The county has been working slowly but surely to put the program on the correct path.

For example, when uber-bureaucrat Steve Novak departs later this year, the lobbying budget will drop dramatically.

Congratulations to the current board up in Anoka County for pruning back the lobbying budget, just like they pruned back the property tax levy.

MOTHBALL

The Met Council has voted to cut fares for the failed (no longer "troubled") Northstar commuter rail line.

A meager fare cut won't save Northstar. It was doomed from the start because commuter rail is not only a failure, it's a mega failure when you plunk it down in a sparsely populated area like Big Lake, Minnesota.

Saving a buck won't encourage people to abandon their cars for the train anymore than building more stations will save the failed train.

For some time, even conservative elected officials have resisted mothballing Northstar, instead adopting the it's-already-here-we-have-to-make-it-work line of reasoning.

Given the stillbirth of Erhart's folly, it's time for serious policymakers to consider shelving Northstar as a means of saving money.

Consider that Northstar requires an annual operating subsidy in the neighborhood of \$14 million. News reports indicate that Minnesota would be required to repay the federal government approximately \$150 million to ice the train.

If that \$14 million were devoted to repayment, we would be square with Washington in just over a decade.

Consider next that these multi-million dollar operating subsidies will stretch as far as the eye can see, decade after decade.

Again, let's not pretend Northstar will ever be free of massive operating subsidies.

It appears that the prudent course of action would be to cut the losses and move on.

There isn't a taxpaying business around that would continue to lose its shorts on a product or service line year after year and justify the continued loss by noting how expensive the one-time shut down charge would be.

It's time to acknowledge the failure and stop throwing money down this rat hole.

It's time for Watchdogs to start asking candidates what they propose to do about Northstar. "It's here and we have to suck it up" is not a preferred answer.

Moreover, it's high time to start holding people accountable for this disaster — this white elephant.

Where is the media? Where is the camera in Dan Erhart's face asking why he pushed this bunk?

How about former State Representative Kathy Tingelstad? She sat there at the capitol with a microphone jammed in her yap espousing the propaganda that led to this situation.

It's amazing that no one responsible for this mess is asked the hard questions.

And then there are those guilty of aiding and abetting the rip off, starting with former Governor Pawlenty, who got religion on the train in the same way he got religion on global warming and the Twins stadium that was needed to "field a competitive team." (currently in last place).

That list also includes current GOP office holders, who caught Northstar fever.

Mothball it. It just makes sense, to borrow a phrase.



Opinion

THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

Few historical heists captivate our imagination like the stories of the legendary train robbers of the American West.

From Jesse James to the Wild Bunch and the likes of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, many thieves claim to have performed "The Great Train Robbery." But according to the history books, the largest train robbery in U.S. history occurred in 1924, when a gang of bandits known as The Newton Gang robbed a mail train in Roundout, Illinois.

The amount stolen was an estimated \$3 million in cash, bonds and jewelry. To this day, not all of the money has been recovered, leading to the legend that it may be buried somewhere along the rail line.

Of course, the Newton Gang's \$3 million haul pales in comparison to "The Great Train Robbery of Minnesota," which began in 2009 and continues to drain taxpayers' wallets to this day.

No, this is not your classic gunslinger desperado story. Instead, it's a story of deception and miscalculation by our elected officials.

Thanks in part to the officials' flashy charts and outlandish performance claims, the taxpayers of Minnesota have been conned into paying for a train that cost four times its original estimates to build, costs twice as much to operate and has only 60 percent of the predicted ridership.

You guessed it: This train robbery is the Northstar Commuter Line.

This ill-conceived and poorly planned waste of taxpayer dollars runs from downtown Minneapolis 40 miles north to the metropolis of Big Lake, Minn., pop. 10,060.

The transit line was conceptualized and sold as a "cure all" means to relieve traffic congestion on U.S. Highway 10 in Anoka County.

The challenge now is what to do with a commuter train that few people want to ride and is projected to have an operating cost of \$20 million within five years.

Like any bad investment, one solution that is always offered up is to double down and spend more money. This strategy has added another station at the cost of \$13 million. The idea was to increase ridership; but of course, that's the same argument that was made for adding a station in Coon Rapids, while the rail line was being built. Clearly, it didn't do much good.

Another recent proposal to stop the lopsided operating losses is to reduce passenger fares. In other words, make it cheaper so more will ride.

The problem is that the train already loses \$14 million a year. Yes, the commuter rail line that cost more than \$300 million to build requires a \$14 million taxpayer subsidy to operate. That works out to a subsidy of more than \$20 per ride, just so some people don't have to pay to park in downtown Minneapolis.

But wait — there's another idea to increase ridership on the train that robs taxpayers on every run: Extend the line another 40 miles north to St. Cloud.

This was the original plan until the Federal Transit Commission nixed the idea back in 2004. Why build a whole train when half will do?

Now, proponents of the boondoggle complain that this has been the cause of failure all along. So the answer to the lack of riders is to spend hundreds of millions more to expand the line to St. Cloud.

If half a dumb idea proves to be failure, let's build the other half to prove it was really a dumb idea.

The best idea would be to shut down the Northstar rail line and sell the locomotives and passenger cars. The problem is that if the line is shut down, the taxpayers will have to return half of the construction costs to the federal government.

This leaves the Met Council (the operating agency) few options in order to stop the waste of taxpayer funds.

The sad reality is the Northstar Commuter Line was a hoax from the start, and The Great Minnesota Train Robbery will continue to loot taxpayers year after year.

Opinion



by
Phil Krinkie
The Taxpayers' League

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

P.O. BOX 21014
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS MN 55421-0014
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editor@anokacountyrecord.com



Reports from Your Legislators



REP. JIM ABELER (Dist. 48B) 651-296-1729



The legislative session has recently ended. Many good things were achieved over the biennium. On many occasions, often neglected by the media, legislators from both sides of the aisle came together with the governor and passed bipartisan bills for the benefit of all Minnesotans.

It was a difficult time to be the Chairman of the Health and Human Services Finance Committee. We held 57 meetings over the two year cycle, and accomplished quite a bit. For all the talk of rancor at the Capitol, our sector was a shining example of collaboration and focus on the task at hand that Minnesotans have come to expect of their leaders.

Ironically, as I wrote an editorial highlighting our successes and good work, neither the Star Tribune nor the Pioneer Press would run it because they felt it wasn't exciting enough to publish.

I am personally proud of our good work in the health and human services arenas, and how we went about accomplishing our work. I believe that our style is just what people are hoping for in government these days. The article is reproduced at the end of this update. You be the judge.

Below is a summary of our accomplishments from this legislative session:

Government — Following the 2010 election, leadership changed hands. The GOP governor and DFL legislature was replaced by a DFL governor and a GOP legislature. At the outset of the 2011 legislative session, the new Republican majority was handed a \$5.1 billion deficit. That became a small surplus by supporting the private sector economy, and restraining the exponential growth in government spending. Ultimately, we supported government that has a limited role and lives within a balanced, responsible, and sustainable budget. We also:

- Reduced projected spending by \$2.5 billion while protecting classroom funding.
- Eliminated red tape for Minnesota businesses, leading to **40,000 private sector jobs** since last year.
- Created a Sunset Commission to end duplicative, outdated, and unnecessary state government programs.

Education — The education Minnesota children receive today affects the future trajectory of our state. That's why we prioritized quality education reforms that will prepare our students to enter and compete in a 21st century global economy. We:

- Provided a \$50 increase in per pupil funding for the biennium and an additional increase in funding for small schools.
- Provided for alternative teacher licensure to place quality, experienced teachers in the classroom. (SF40)
- Teacher candidates required to pass the Basic Skills Test before receiving licensure. This reform ensures we are hiring and placing effective teachers in our children's classrooms. (HF1770)
- Expanded digital learning in our schools. (HF2127)
- Reformed the management of School Trust Lands in order to maximize the revenue generated for our school districts. (HF2244)
- Created a new teacher evaluation system based on achievement. (HF945)
- Encouraged early childhood screening to detect potential eye problems. (HF300)
- High school student transition plan for higher education and employment. (HF1272)
- Expanded Post Secondary Enrollment options for 10th graders. (HF2025)
- Allow Career and Technical Education (CTE) credit to count toward high school science requirements. (HF682)

Jobs and the Economy — Over the course of the biennium, we eliminated burdensome red tape, lowered taxes, and invested in private sector innovation. Since January 2011, over 40,000 jobs have been created in the private market and our unemployment rate is much lower than the national average. We also:

- Expedited the business permitting and environmental review process. Prior to this legislation, in some

cases, Minnesota businesses and farmers had to wait up to two years to develop and expand. (HF1; SF1567)

- Rulemaking reform that helps to alleviate the yoke of bureaucracy by requiring agencies to receive legislative approval before implementing new rules. (HF2169)
- Created a "one-stop-shop" jobs advocate to help businesses navigate the complex permit process. (HF1721)

Health and Human Services — At the outset of the 2011 legislative session, HHS spending was aimed to grow at an unsustainable 22%. Through concerted efforts at cutting costs and maintaining quality care and services for the most vulnerable Minnesotans, we were able to **reduce HHS spending by more than \$1 billion** while delivering the right services to the right person at the right time, and in the most effective manner. We:

- Reformed how we deliver health care to the poor and disabled.
- Instituted competitive bidding for HMOs who serve our public program enrollees.
- Reformed how and where we provide services to the physically and mentally disabled.
- Created a new Healthy Minnesota Contribution Program for low-income adults without children to purchase private health care coverage. (HF25)
- Reduced EBT fraud by ensuring that cash benefits are used by Minnesotans and in surrounding states not throughout the country. (HF2249)
- Created independent, third party audits for our state's HMOs, creating greater transparency and accountability of our health care spending. (HF2294)
- Supported rural health care by implementing and sustaining the Community Paramedics program. (HF2294)
- Developed several, much-needed nursing home reforms in preparation of the increased costs and growing need of care for our state's senior citizens. (HF2294)
- Emphasized homelessness funding and coordination for programs that help Minnesotans out of poverty. (HF2294)
- Ended the regressive "sick tax" Minnesotans have paid on medical care for the past 20 years. (HF25)

Public Safety — Even during last year's budget deficit we were able to maintain core public safety services and programs. As lawmakers, it is our constitutional responsibility to ensure the safety of Minnesotans. We:

- Required community notification of sex offenders released from civil commitment in light of the first release of a high risk, likely to re-offend sex offender from the state treatment program. (HF2394)
- Passed synthetic drug legislation that adds synthetic drugs to that list of illegal substances and makes selling them a felony crime. (HF57 and HF2508)
- Changed our Safe Harbor laws to begin treating juveniles sold into prostitution and sex trafficking as victims, not criminals. (SF1)
- Helped protect vulnerable adults by increasing the penalty for neglect of a vulnerable adult to a felony. (SF1586)

Agriculture — Minnesota's economy would not function without a healthy agricultural industry. Over the last two years, we prioritized funding to maintain the integrity and safety of the food supply in Minnesota, and minimized reductions to programs and services that benefit farmers. We also:

- Reformed the Green Acres program to restore the program to its original intent of protecting farms from burdensome property tax increases. (SF1016)
- Prevented the overreach of Minnesota Pollution Control Authority in areas such as farm pesticide application and animal disposal. (SF1016)

Environment — Over the past two years we prioritized the maintenance of our state's environment, and we preserved funding for our state parks to remain open and accessible. We also:

- Eliminated a duplicative step in permit process by requiring businesses to submit information once for both environmental review and permit applications. (HF1 and SF1567)
- Provided \$43 million to fight against aquatic invasive species, including \$7.5 million for fish barriers to stop the growth of Asian Carp in Minnesota waters. (HF2164)
- Created a framework for DNR to manage the hunting and trapping season for wolves. (HF2164)

(*Ed. note: Reps. Abeler and Gottwalt's letter for publication follows*):

Representatives Jim Abeler and Steve Gottwalt
Op-Ed Submission — Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Getting a Great Deal Done for Minnesota

Everyone was amazed! The Health and Human Services (HHS) omnibus bills this session received overwhelming bi-partisan support, passing with nearly unanimous votes, and enthusiastically signed into law by Governor Dayton.

This week, the Governor held a special signing ceremony to celebrate the remarkable success. The room was crowded with advocates, program recipients, key stakeholders, state administrators and lawmakers from both parties. That has not happened for major HHS bills in recent memory, and it underscores outstanding progress and reform this session.

HHS is an area of state government not many appreciate, even though it is the second largest chunk of Minnesota's budget. Almost one out of every five Minnesotans benefits from one or more of the state's HHS programs. That is why the HHS bills are often so contentious and difficult. So, when bills like these receive this kind of broad, bi-partisan support, people take notice.

This year's HHS bills not only strengthened Minnesota's safety net programs, but advanced important reforms to provide more flexible, higher quality, lower cost care to those in need. How did we do it? We worked honestly and openly with Minnesota HHS Commissioner Lucinda Jesson, Governor Dayton, lawmakers from both parties and other key stakeholders. We developed respectful and successful working relationships during one of the rockiest stages in Minnesota's history.

Last year, we entered the biennium with a historic \$6 billion deficit and explosive government spending growth, particularly in HHS spending which was set to grow 35 percent. For years, we had been making promises we could not keep with money we did not have. We had to make many difficult decisions to rein-in spending and still protect services for Minnesotans most in need.

This year, as Minnesota's economy has shown signs of recovery, we have had the opportunity to not only build back important services, but carefully consider how we can further improve Minnesota's HHS system.

Here are important highlights from the HHS bills this session:

Autism: Our legislation facilitates efforts to better understand the rampant rate of autism in our Somali population, in which one in 27 children is diagnosed at birth. The bill also facilitates different community placement options for children with severe autism, including residential campus plans, and the Department of Human Services will conduct a statewide study of needs to meet long-term care service demand.

Accountability: The HHS omnibus bill contains a landmark provision requiring third party, biennial audits of Minnesota's HMOs, creating greater transparency and accountability of our health care spending. We need to respond accordingly to recent federal investigations, and this transparency provision will help lawmakers ensure our tax dollars in managed care public programs are being spent appropriately and cost-effectively.

Caring for Senior Citizens: The realities of demographics and the wave of retiring baby boomers mean greater demand on nursing homes and senior care facilities. The omnibus HHS bill provides "Pay for Performance" grants for nursing homes in rural Minnesota, setting standards for better care and better results. These grants promote quality and reward improved outcomes. The bill also provides funding to revamp nursing facilities many more than 40-years old enabling nursing homes to modernize and fund projects such as sprinkler systems and infrastructure. On top of the improvement for facilities and their patients, it is estimated that these projects will produce \$200 million in economic activity with an estimated 1,200 new jobs statewide.

Department Collaboration and Fraud Prevention: Our legislation promotes inter-agency cooperation and data sharing in order to prevent welfare fraud. The Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Public Safety's Driver Vehicle Services Division (DVS) will be able to cross-check applications to prevent individuals from using multiple identities to acquire fraudulent public assistance benefits. This provision also sets a foundation for future collaboration and efficiencies across state departments, recognizing that services are not delivered in silos, and government can no longer be structured in such a way.

Surrounding the specific provisions, our goals were three-fold: improving quality and accountability, reducing cost, and maximizing the use of limited resources. We did this by building on the strengths of Minnesota's nation-leading health care community and leveraging models of success among our providers and existing policy.

Minnesota is a generous, care-giving state and that is a mission we should be proud of, regardless of political party. The task at hand this year and for the future is to maintain that mission while preserving fiscal sustainability.

We believe the provisions described above advance that undertaking, and we thank the Governor, Commissioner Jesson, fellow legislators, citizens, and health care stakeholders for joining this work.

— *Jim Abeler*, State Representative District 48B, Anoka Chair, House Health and Human Services Finance Committee

— *Steve Gottwalt*, State Representative District 15A, St. Cloud Chair, House Health and Human Services Reform Committee

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

Tues. July 10

Anoka County Board mtgs will be held at
ISD #15 Board Room, 4115 Ambassador
Blvd., St. Francis:

Management Cmte — 8:30 am,
County Board — 9:30 am

Wed. July 11

Waste Mgmt & Energy Cmte — 8:15 am,
Rm 772, ACGC

Mon. July 16

Public Works Cmte — 9 am, Rm 772,
ACGC

Benefits & Compensation Cmte — 11 am,
Rm 772, ACGC

Library Board — 5:30 pm, Library
offices next to Northtown library

Thurs. July 19

Human Services Cmte — 8:30 am,
Rm 710, ACGC

Information Technology Cmte —
10:30 am, Rm 772, ACGC

Community Corrections Advisory Bd —
Noon, Rm 710, ACGC

Veterans Services Subcommittee —
12:30 pm, Rm 238, ACGC

Finance & Capital Improvements Cmte
— 1 pm, Rm 772, ACGC

Intergovernmental-Community Relations
— 3 pm, Rm 772, ACGC

Fri. July 20

Public Safety Cmte — 3 pm, Rm 1140,
Anoka Co Public Safety Ctr, Andover

Andover

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

Tues. July 10

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. June 11

Open Space Advisory Comm — 7 pm

Tues. July 17 & Aug. 7

City Council — 7 pm

Thurs. July 19

Parks Comm. — 7 pm (Parks Comm.
meeting scheduled for July 5 was cancelled)

Anoka

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

Mon. July 9 & 23

City Council — 7 pm

Tues. July 10

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. July 12

Economic Develop. Comm. — 7:30 am

Tues. July 17

Parks & Rec. Bd. — 7 pm

Wed. July 18

Parking Advisory Bd. — 7:15 am,
Public Safety Ctr, 275 Harrison St.

Mon. July 30

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

Blaine

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

Tues. July 10

Blaine Arts Council — 5:30 pm
Blaine Historical Society — 6:30 pm
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. July 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

Centerville

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

Wed. July 11

City Council — 6:30 pm

Parks & Rec. Cmte. — 6:30 pm

Circle Pines

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

Tues. July 10 & 24

City Council — 7 pm

Mon. July 16

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. July 18

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. July 9

Library Task Force — 6:30 pm, City
Hall Conf. Rm 1

City Council — 7 pm

Tues. July 10

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. July 19

Charter Comm. — 7 pm

Columbus

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

Wed. July 11

EDAB — 5 pm; Economic Developmt.
Auth. — 6 pm; City Council — 7 pm

Wed. July 18

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. July 19

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. July 17

City Council — 7 pm

Thurs. Aug. 2

Bd of Adjustment & Appeals — 6:30 pm
(Ed.: 6/7/12 & 7/5/12 meetings were
cancelled)

Call for information on other mtgs.

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

HRA — 6:45 pm

City Council — 7:30 pm

Tues. July 10

Road Comm. — 6:30 pm

Wed. July 11

Park Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. July 18

City Council — 7:30 pm

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

Fridley

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

Mon. July 9 & 23

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

HRA, Environmental Quality Comm.
and Planning Comm meetings for 7/5,
7/10, 7/18 have been cancelled

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. July 9 & 23

Planning Comm. — 6 pm

Mon. July 16

City Council — 6 pm

Wed. July 18

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. July 5 & 19

City Council — 7 pm (workshop
follows after 7/19 meeting)

Wed. July 11

Planning & Zoning Comm. — 7 pm

Mon. July 16

Fire Relief Mtg. — 6:30 pm, 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

Thurs. July 5

EDAC — 8:30 am

Mon. July 9

City Council — 6:30 pm

Park Board — cancelled

Wed. July 11

Planning & Zoning Bd — 6:30 pm

Linwood Township

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

Tues. July 10 & 24

Town Board — 6 pm

Tues. July 17

Planning & Zoning 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

MINNESOTA STAMP EXPO
Stamp Collectors Show July 20-22
4800 Douglas Dr. N. in Crystal
Crystal Community Center

Ramsey

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

Tues. July 10

City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm,
reg mtg 7 pm, HRA follows

Thurs. July 12

EDA — 7:30 am

Parks Comm. — 6:30 pm, Peltzer Park,
or if inclement weather: Lake Itasca
Rm at city hall

Planning Comm. — 7 pm, council chambers

Mon. July 17

Public Works Cmte — 6 pm; city
council “work session” and HRA follow

Thurs. July 19

Mayor’s Town Hall Meeting — 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

**Anoka County Board will have its
8:30 and 9:30 am meetings at the
location above, on Tues. July 10.**

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. July 9

City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm

Mon. July 16

City Council — 7 pm

Mon. July 23

Planning Comm. — 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

NOWTHEN CITY COUNCILOR LAURIE OLMON ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Councilwoman Laurie Olmon will not
be seeking re-election this November
to the Nowthen City Council. Olmon
said she hopes her public service “has
helped steer Nowthen in a positive
direction.” A lifelong health issue was
cited by Olmon as the reason behind
her decision.

Olmon issued a press release June 15
making this announcement. The press
release was peppered with advice for
the next person who will have the
council seat. She said, “My successor
must remember they are a public
official, elected to serve the people of
Nowthen, not their personal interests,
party or a few individuals...”

HAM LAKE PARK VANDALIZED

Ham Lake city staff has recently
reported that the back nine holes of the
disc golf course at Ham Lake Park
were vandalized and has been closed.
Broken limbs off the golf course’s oak
trees were found amid garbage and
spent containers of alcohol. Staff said
that oak trees are susceptible to oak
wilt at this time of year after such
damage. Citizens are asked to report
any such incidents to the Anoka
County Sheriff’s office or city hall.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11

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

Mon. 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
Call for information

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: **the meetings below will be at the school district office**

Mon. July 9 — 6 pm closed mtg; special meeting follows

Mon. July 16 — 6 pm “Work session”

Forest Lake ISD #831

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

Call for information

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. 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. Aug. 14 — 7 pm

White Bear Lake ISD #624

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

School Board mtgs:

Mon. 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
nemetromn.k12.mn.us

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

JULY 24-29



ELECTION 2012 *continued from page A-1*

District 2 includes the cities of **Ham Lake, Bethel, East Bethel** and the following precincts: **Andover P-5 through P-8; Blaine Ward 3** precincts 4, 5 and 6.

Anoka County Board, District 3. The incumbent commissioner, Robyn West, won the open seat in 2006 with 52% of the vote over her opponent Dick Swanson, a Blaine city councilor. The retirement of Margaret Langfeld from the board created the open seat. In her re-election bid in 2010, West defeated another Blaine city councilor, Mike Bourke, with 59% of the vote. West’s opponent this November is Dan Sanders, owner of Best Steel Erectors, a construction company. Sanders’ website says his company’s employees are all union members, and that he is also a realtor. Sanders ran for the 51A State House seat in 2008 which was won by Tim Sanders. Dan Sanders captured 8.77% of the vote in a 3-way race.

Robyn West (incumbent), 2660 Deer Ridge N.E., Blaine. (612) 804-8207; e-mail: robyn.west@yahoo.com, web site: robynwest.net

Dan Sanders, 8685 Hastings St. N.E., Blaine. (763) 786-6155; e-mail: dan@danielsanders.org; website: danielsanders.org

District 3 includes most of Blaine and two precincts of Spring Lake Park (P-2 and 3). A handful of Blaine precincts are in Districts 2 and 6 (see those listed in this article); while the remainder of the city is in District 3.

Anoka County Board, District 5. The incumbent commissioner, Carol LeDoux, won the seat in the 2010 election, a few months after her late husband, Scott LeDoux had resigned the seat due to illness. LeDoux took 56% of the vote against opponent Becky Fink. LeDoux’s challenger in November is Scott Bromley, owner of Bromley Printing and is on the board of the Coon Creek Watershed District.

Carol LeDoux (incumbent), 1528 129th Av. N.W., Coon Rapids. (763) 227-4950; website: electcarolledoux.com e-mail: carol@electcarolledoux.com

Scott Bromley, 441 127th Ln., Coon Rapids. (612) 816-7002. Website: scottbromley.com; e-mail: sbromley@aol.com

District 5 is comprised of **Coon Rapids** Ward 2 precincts 1-5, Ward 3 precincts 3-4, Ward 5 precincts 1-5; **Fridley** Ward 3, P-1; and **Andover** precincts 3, 4, 9 and 10.

Anoka County Board, District 6. Incumbent commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah first won the District 6 seat in 2002 against Blaine city councilor Dick Swanson, capturing over 53% of the vote. She faces her 2008 opponent, Kevin Ryan in this fall’s general election. Ryan had a number of news articles written about him in 2008 that catalogued his many arrests and brushes with the law. After the election, the Star Tribune followed up on the Ryan story with an article that simply asked how could 6,752 people have voted for someone who did not campaign, did not spend any money and had such an extensive collection of police reports on him (86 in Anoka County alone). In his filing for the 2012 election, Ryan lists his occupation as being a self-employed arborist. The residence address given as Stacy on his filing is in Linwood Township; it’s common for some residents there to use Stacy as their town of residence.

Rhonda Sivarajah (incumbent), 6404 Deerwood Ln., Lino Lakes. (763) 274-4213; website: ElectRhonda.com E-mail: rhonda.sivarajah@gmail.com

Kevin Ryan, 23110 W. Martin Lk. Dr., Stacy, MN. (651) 462-5580.

District 6 is comprised of **Centerville, Circle Pines, Columbus, Lexington, Lino Lakes, Linwood Township** and **Blaine** Ward 1 precincts 7 & 8, and Ward 3’s precinct 8.

Anoka County Board, District 7. Incumbent commissioner Dan Erhart has had this seat for 30 years. His opponent in the Nov. 6 election will be Scott Schulte, who has been the at-large city councilor in Coon Rapids for the past 12 years. Schulte owns and operates the Hi-Ten Service Center in Coon Rapids, while Erhart’s filing papers indicate he is self-employed with real estate investments.

Dan Erhart, (incumbent), 4120 115th Av. N.W., Coon Rapids. (763) 421-1884.

Scott Schulte, 11673 Tulip St. N.W., Coon Rapids. (763) 300-6244. Web site: schulteforcountyboard.com; e-mail: scott@hitenservice.com

District 7 is comprised of **Coon Rapids** Ward 1 precincts 1-4; Ward 3 precinct 1, Ward 4 precincts 1-4; **Andover** precincts 1 & 2; and **Anoka** precincts 1, and 4 through 8.

Anoka Conservation District; Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors.

Three seats, Districts 1, 2 and 5 will be on the ballot in the general election. Apart from one of the races in 2008, the body commonly referred to as “the Soil and Water Board” has not had contested elections in many years. This is the case again this year, as only three candidates filed for the three seats. All are incumbents. *Dist. 1:* Karla M. Komec, 19521 Cleary Rd. N.W., Nowthen. (763) 688-3955. First elected 2008. E-mail: Karla.Komec@gmail.com. *Dist. 2:* Jim Lindahl, 17275 Tulip St. N.W., Andover (763) 753-3449. First elected 2008. *Dist. 5:* Vici L. Nass, 23340 Isetta St. N.E., Bethel. (651) 462-3923. First elected 1992. Voters throughout the county will be voting for all three seats.

MN ATTORNEY GENERAL REMINDS CANDIDATES OF THE “ROBOT CALL” LAW

Ed. Note: The Minnesota Attorney General’s office recently repeated distribution of a memorandum that explains the state’s ADAD law (Automatic Dialing-Announcing Device). The statute 325E.26-.31 describes the legal use of “robot calls”, recorded advertising messages that may be commercial or political in nature. The law requires that a live operator has to speak to the person being called and ask permission to play the recorded message. What follows is the text of the Attorney General’s memorandum:

To: Candidates, Political Campaigns, Political Parties, Political Committees and Other Interested Persons
FROM: Minnesota Attorney General’s Office
RE: Minnesota’s Automatic Dialing-Announcing Device Law

This Memorandum is to provide guidance to candidates, political campaigns, political parties, political committees, and others concerning Minnesota’s automatic dialing announcing device law.

Minnesota’s ADAD Law
Minnesota’s automatic dialing announcing device law, which is contained at Minn. Stat. §§ 325E.26-.31, provides as follows: A caller shall not use or connect to a telephone line an automatic dialing-announcing device unless: (1) the subscriber has knowledge or voluntarily requested, consented to, permitted, or authorized receipt of the message; or (2) the message is immediately preceded by a live operator who obtains the subscriber’s consent before the message is delivered.

Minn. Stat. § 325E.27. “An automatic dialing announcing device,” or “ADAD,” is defined as “a device that selects and dials

telephone numbers and that, working alone or in conjunction with other equipment, disseminates a prerecorded or synthesized voice message to the telephone number called.” Minn. Stat. § 325E.26, subd. 2. “Caller” includes “a person, corporation, firm, partnership, association, or legal or commercial entity who attempts to contact, or who contacts, a subscriber in this state by using a telephone or telephone line.” Id. at subd. 3. “Subscriber” is defined as “a person who has subscribed to telephone service from a telephone company or the other persons living or residing with the subscribing person.” Id. at subd. 5. Minn. Stat. § 325E.27 does not apply to “messages to subscribers with whom the caller has a current business or personal relationship.”

The attached law also contains other provisions relating to the use of ADADs in Minnesota. For instance, all ADADs (to the extent their use is not prohibited), must be designed and operated to disconnect within ten (10) seconds after termination of the telephone call by the subscriber. Minn. Stat. § 325E.28. ADADs may not be used before 9:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m. Minn. Stat. § 325E.30. In addition, where an ADAD message is immediately preceded by a live operator, the operator must make certain disclosures to the subscriber. See Minn. Stat. § 325E.29.

The constitutionality of the ADAD statute has been upheld by the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. See *State v. Casino Mktg. Group, Inc.*, 491 N.W.2d 882 (Minn. 1992); *Van Bergen v. State of Minnesota*, 59 F.3d 1541 (8th Cir. 1995) (upholding constitutionality of ADAD statute in challenge by political candidate.)

Enforcement of ADAD Law

The Minnesota Attorney General’s Office (“AGO”) is authorized to enforce the ADAD law and seek a court order to enjoin violations of it. See, e.g., Minn. Stat. §§ 8.31, 325E.31. This Office generally intends to follow this policy:

Upon receiving a verified and substantiated complaint that the above law has been violated, this Office will promptly contact the campaign that had allegedly violated the law and advise it of the ADAD violations. Upon receiving verified and substantiated complaints from three or more individuals involving an identified committee, this Office will promptly ask the committee to sign an Assurance of Discontinuance. If the committee does not do so promptly, the Office will file a lawsuit and seek a temporary restraining order (“TRO”) to enjoin further violations of the law. In order for a complaint to be verified and substantiated, the complainant must sign an affidavit that documents the following:

1. The date and time the subscriber received the ADAD message;
2. Where available (i.e., when left on an answering machine), a recording of the text of the message;
3. Substantiation of the identity of the caller;
4. A statement that the subscriber (which includes persons living or residing with the subscriber), did not knowingly or voluntarily request, consent to, permit, or authorize receipt of the message;
5. A statement that the message was not immediately preceded by a live operator who obtained the subscriber’s consent (or the consent of a person living or residing with the subscriber) before the message was delivered; and
6. A statement that the subscriber (which includes other persons living or residing with the subscriber) does not have a current business or personal relationship with the caller.

The purpose of requiring three signed affidavits is to reduce the potential for mischief by political opponents. We have received complaints in past elections, which were heavily publicized by the “outraged” complainant in the media, where the complainant had, in fact, contributed to, attended a meeting of, or otherwise presented himself as a person who has a relationship to the “candidate.” Such a relationship, while contrived by the complainant, still meets the exception which permits an ADAD call to a person who has a “relationship” to the particular campaign. The purpose of three complaints is to make sure there is a valid complaint and not just a contrived publicity stunt.

**NEXT ISSUE : JULY 19
SEND YOUR LETTERS AND COLUMNS
TO THE ANOKA COUNTY RECORD**