

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETING SNUBBED BY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS RITCHIE AND SWANSON AVOID SENATE 'TRIAL'

by ACR Staff

Our headline's inclusion of the word *trial* may seem a bit strong, but that is how a Senate committee meeting felt to the audience present on July 20. On trial, so to speak, were Secretary of State Mark Ritchie and Attorney General Lori Swanson. Neither showed up to the meeting but both sent representatives on behalf of their respective offices.

Mr. Ritchie and Ms. Swanson had been requested to appear before the State Government Innovation and Veterans Committee, chaired by Sen. Mike Parry (R-Waseca). The agenda was to ask questions of the two constitutional officers who rewrote and approved new titles for two constitutional amendments slated for the state general election ballot.



Sen. Mike Parry (L) and committee staff member

The meeting convened twenty minutes late due to Sen. Parry being one of the litigants in the lawsuit filed by Republican legislators protesting these actions. After considering where the committee could and could not venture while keeping the pending litigation in mind, the meeting proceeded. But as it progressed it was obvious that the committee was not going to get the answers it was looking for.

The litigants contend that the titles on the constitutional amendments should stand as approved by the legislature. They cite Article IX, Sec. 1 of the Minnesota Constitution, which says, in part, "Proposed amendments shall be published with the laws passed at the same session and submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at a general election." The Republicans argue that this means a constitutional amendment proposal the legislature has approved shall go directly to the ballot.

Others, mostly on the Democratic side, believe that the Secretary of State is required by Minnesota Statute 204D.15 to provide the title to a constitutional amendment, whether a title has been supplied and approved by the legislature or not.

Most agree that the Constitution trumps state statutes, however all of this is to be sorted out by the Minnesota Supreme Court.

The titles of the two amendment questions that were approved by the Legislature, read as follows:

"Recognition of Marriage Solely Between One Man and One Woman"; and, "Photo Identification Required for Voting."

Secretary of State Ritchie wrote new titles which were approved by Attorney General Swanson:

"Limiting the Status of Marriage to Opposite Sex Couples"; and, "Changes to in-person & absentee voting & voter registration; provisional ballots."

The Senate committee brought up the title change issue from time to time but because of the pending legal case, the discussion was more focused on the Secretary of State's conduct.

Republican legislators and advocates of Voter Photo ID accused Mr. Ritchie of actively campaigning against the Voter Photo ID amendment and possibly doing it with taxpayer resources, such as using a state vehicle for travel and making comments against the amendment during business hours.

First to give testimony was Sen. Scott Newman (R-Hutchinson), one of the authors of the Voter Photo ID bill. He stated he was speaking as a citizen and was concerned about articles he had read from the Mankato and Marshall newspapers that told of Mr. Ritchie visiting the editorial departments of the newspapers to make comments against the amendment. Newman said, "I believe that his legal responsibility is to enforce election laws, not be an opponent or proponent."

Sen. Barb Goodwin (DFL-Columbia Heights) retorted that the Secretary of State ought to be able to give opinions about legislative changes. Chair Sen. Mike Parry then showed a letter from the Secretary to State Supreme Court Chief Justice Gildea which said "I have a ministerial duty to insure that the ballots are properly printed, not to take a side as to whether a ballot question proposed by the legislature accurately or completely represents a Constitutional amendment under consideration."

Goodwin also pointed out that Mr. Ritchie's position is not up for election this year, using the literal meaning of the word "campaigning" as part of her defense of the Secretary of State. The discussion throughout the 90 minute meeting was sharply and predictably split down party lines, with Goodwin carrying the weight of the DFL defense, with Sen. Chuck Wiger (DFL-Maplewood) making comments that the Secretary's ability to speak to the public or the press should not be muted.

Goodwin said "it's the duty of the Secretary of State to tell people how this law will affect voters." Newman thought Mr. Ritchie has been stating his opinions on the amendment and not the truth. Goodwin shot back, "we need to be careful about these false accusations. This is an effort to limit free speech."

Sen. Paul Gazelka (R-Brainerd) then began questioning Mr. Ritchie's actions in terms of the accuracy of his public statements. The committee cited Minnesota Statute 211B.06 which calls for penalties for intentional dissemination of false information to defeat a ballot question "with reckless disregard of



Sen. Scott Newman



Sen. Barb Goodwin

**RITCHIE AND SWANSON NO-SHOWS AT SENATE MEETING** *continued on next page, A-2*

## COON RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL CLOSED-DOOR MEETING SENDS CITY MANAGER PACKING

FULTON RESIGNS NEXT DAY

by ACR staff

After six years as the City Manager for Coon Rapids, Matt Fulton resigned July 18, the day after a closed-door meeting was convened by the city council after their regular meeting.

Fulton's job performance review was on the agenda of the closed-door meeting. State statute 13D.05 allows for the closing of meetings



for per-sonnel issues but the subject of the meeting can request that the meeting be open to the public.

The findings of the performance review have not been made public, and the manner in which Fulton has left city employment is common for managers and administrators. Reviewing severance packages and employment contracts is usually the next step in the process.

Fulton was hired by the Coon Rapids City Council in July 2006. Serving on the council at that time were current mayor Tim Howe, and current city councilors Scott Schulte, Bruce Sanders and Denise Klint. Rounding out the council were Jerry Wright, Joe Sidoti and Ron Manning.



Matt Fulton (file photo)

Gerald Splinter had been the Coon Rapids city manager for ten years until his retirement and Fulton's hiring.

Fulton had previously been the city manager of New Brighton, which has a population of 21,000, for 13 years. Prior to that, he was the city administrator of a suburb near Milwaukee.

## ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE SAYS NO MERIT TO CAMPAIGN COMPLAINT AGAINST SCHULTE

by ACR staff

A campaign complaint against Anoka County Board candidate Scott Schulte was dismissed July 23rd by Administrative Law Judge Barbara L. Neilson.

The complainant, Gail Fitzgerald, 2972 109th Ave. N.W., Coon Rapids, observed District 7 County Board candidate Scott Schulte and his campaign workers handing out bottled water at a parade in Andover July 14th. The bottles were adorned with campaign advertising. The complainant argued that the free giveaway was an inducement to vote for Schulte. Judge Neilson explained in her Memorandum that a bottle of water did not exceed the five-dollar value threshold of the anti-bribery state statute 211B.13. The statute also says that it's a felonious act to induce a voter by various forms of bribery, or refrain someone from voting. Judge Neilson said, "the value of the bottled water is too nominal to create an obligation on the part of the recipient to vote for Mr. Schulte...the bottles of water were simply handed out during a parade and spectators were free to accept or reject them, without any condition."

**JUDGE DISMISSES CAMPAIGN COMPLAINT** *continued on page B-1*

## RITCHIE AND SWANSON NO-SHOWS AT SENATE MEETING *contd. from pg. A-1*

whether it is false.”

Secretary of State Ritchie has been often criticized for saying publicly that the amendment would eliminate same day registration. Supporters of the amendment contend this is untrue. Sen. Gazelka called it “misleading.”

Dan McGrath of Minnesota Majority, an organization that supports the Voter ID amendment, testified that he believes advocating for or against a ballot question would require filing with the state Campaign Finance Board. Expense and revenue reporting are part of that requirement.

McGrath told the committee, “I’m concerned that taxpayer resources may be being used for political purposes — to campaign against and spread misinformation about the Voter ID amendment.”

McGrath continued, “the Secretary of State and his staff have been traveling around the state, making claims about the impact of the Voter ID amendment that are demonstrably false. In ‘Op-Eds’ and media interviews the Secretary of State has repeatedly claimed that some elderly people will be disenfranchised by Voter ID because ‘they can never get an I.D.’ because they may lack certain vital documents required by the Department of Public Safety.”

“This is false,” McGrath charged, stating that the DPS has a variance process that involves filling out a single-page form for people who don’t have a birth certificate, marriage license, etc., whereupon the DPS would do the necessary research to be able to produce an identification card for that person.

McGrath also disputes Mr. Ritchie’s statements that the Voter ID amendment, if passed by the voters, would be in the Constitution forever. “This is obviously false; if the Constitution were impossible to amend we wouldn’t be here today.”

McGrath then spoke about provisional ballots and Mr. Ritchie’s claims that ‘they are a nightmare and create chaos’ in all states that use them. McGrath pointed out that 44 states use provisional ballots and disputed the ‘chaos’.

“The Secretary of State has also said that provisional ballots would delay election results,” which McGrath said was also false. He went on to use Indiana as an example of a state that recently adopted Voter ID: “Indiana’s voting population is similar to Minnesota’s; in the high-turnout election of 2008, Indiana had fewer than 4,000 provisional ballots cast. (If you would) superimpose that onto Minnesota’s 4,000 voting precincts, that would average one provisional ballot per precinct.” McGrath pointed out that if a Minnesota election were that close, the state’s mandatory recount laws would be triggered, and such recount would take longer than verifying provisional ballots. McGrath disputes that provisional ballots will delay affirming election results.

McGrath also described Mr. Ritchie’s claims that Voter ID would eliminate same day registration as “impossible”.

“The Voter ID amendment doesn’t say anything about election day registration,” McGrath contended. He said a change to election day registration would have to be approved by the legislature and the governor.

Regarding Mr. Ritchie’s claims that military personnel would be unable to vote if Voter ID was adopted, McGrath called this “another demonstrable falsehood.” He said that military absentee balloting falls under federal laws that override state law and any state Constitutional amendment.

McGrath lambasted Mr. Ritchie for changing the title of the amendment and omitting the words “Photo identification”, which he contends is what voters will be looking for on the ballot. “This appears to be a cynical, biased and hyperpartisan ploy to suppress affirmative votes for the amendment by creating voter confusion.”

McGrath then focused on the Secretary of State’s training activities. “(Mr. Ritchie) has deployed his staff across the state conducting training sessions for local election officials. According to news reports and eyewitnesses, a significant part of that training has involved the same kinds of information about the Voter ID amendment. Why do election officials working on the 2012 election need training on Voter ID when it would not take effect, after voter ratification, until July 2013?” McGrath asked.

McGrath concluded his remarks by asking for an investigation of the Secretary of State’s office to determine if taxpayer-paid resources have been used to campaign against the Voter ID amendment, and whether such a campaign would be required to file as a political committee with the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board. He also felt that expense reports and calendars for SOS staff should be examined.

The committee then questioned McGrath, whose organization maintains a web site promoting the amendment, ProtectMyVote.com.

Sen. Paul Gazelka (R-Brainerd) asked if there is any past history of Minnesota Secretary of States changing an amendment title after one had been supplied by the legislature. McGrath replied no.

Sen. Barb Goodwin (DFL-Columbia Heights) asked how many states had a Voter ID requirement in their state constitution. Only Mississippi, and the amendment has not taken effect yet. Goodwin noted that it’s more difficult to change the Constitution than simply a state law. Gazelka reminded the committee that the legislature passed a Voter ID law but it was vetoed by the governor, which then sent the legislature to revisit the issue as a constitutional amendment.

The Executive Director of the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board, Gary Goldsmith, was next to testify. Sen. Mike Parry (R-Waseca), chairing the committee, asked Goldsmith if Secretary of State Ritchie needs to file a campaign committee, citing Minnesota Statute 10A.01, subd. 9 which defines a campaign expenditure: “a purchase or payment of money or anything of value . . . made or incurred for the . . . purpose of promoting or defeating a ballot question.” Goldsmith said not enough facts are known to answer Parry’s question, however Goldsmith did offer some broad explanations of the relevant statutes. He stated that the costs and operations of a constitutional office do not fall within the jurisdiction of Chapter 10A, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Act.

Goldsmith cited a few examples where financial disclosure would not be expected. He also mentioned an exemption that allows an elected official to use campaign funds to operate his office without declaring that use as a campaign expenditure. It would be considered a “non-campaign disbursement” but would be subject to reporting.

Goldsmith said that a judicial or legislative body would have to determine and define the official duties of the Secretary of State’s office and such determination is not in the purview of the Campaign Finance Board. He felt that findings and a judgement would have to be made before a complaint could be brought to the MnCFB.

Parry asked if the board had ever had the need to discuss or deliberate on a question of an elected official departing from their official duties and taking on a campaign advocacy position. Goldsmith replied no.

Goldsmith gave hypothetical examples of where there would be disclosure required: the elected official could be paying for trips or other outside expenses with campaign funds—all campaign fund activity is to be reported, Goldsmith emphasized.

“If an official decides to do something on his or her own, and acknowledges this is not an official duty of the office, that would be a campaign activity if it was for the purpose of promoting or defeating a ballot question.” Goldsmith said that if the dollar

threshold in spending was met, a report would have to be filed with the MnCFB. Goldsmith added that disclosure requirements for activity outside of elected office is clear. Not mentioned at this meeting were Governor Dayton’s public statements of some months ago saying he would actively campaign against the two proposed Constitutional amendments this year.

Sen. Paul Gazelka (R-Brainerd) asked about statute 211B.06 which addresses false information disseminated in political campaigns. Goldsmith made the distinction between Chapter 211B is the Campaign Fair Practices Act which governs conduct and Chapter 10A is about spending limits and disclosure, not conduct. Goldsmith was asked which state agency has oversight of Chapter 211. The Executive Director stated that he has appeared many times before legislative committees to discuss this, and he considers Chapter 211 to be “in part, an orphan chapter. There is no state agency or body that issues advisory opinions or answers questions about it. You can file a complaint with the Office of Administrative Hearings and they’ll rule on that complaint, which will be set as a precedent if the situation comes up again.”

“If you have a question about what kind of disclaimer do I need on my campaign material, or can I use my campaign money for a particular purpose, there is nobody who can help you. My board has asked for very limited jurisdiction over this chapter” and has been answering such questions on an unofficial basis as a courtesy for some time, Goldsmith reported.

Bert Black was next called to testify. Black is the legal advisor of the Secretary of State’s office and has been serving in that capacity since 2003. He stated he has been employed by the SOS office in various roles since 1981.

Black made a number of comments about the Ritchie letter to Justice Gildea and the “ministerial duties” it referred to. Black cautioned the committee that the letter was narrowly crafted to address a specific lawsuit only, and “ministerial duties” applies only to the wording of the ballot *question*, not the title. Black said any broader interpretation of “ministerial duties” would be incorrect.

The “not to take a side” language of the letter was then challenged.

Chair Sen. Parry asked, “When is it his (the Secretary of State’s) duty to take sides?”

Black said, “it is the Secretary of State’s duty to provide information when asked. He has been doing that to my understanding, knowledge and belief.”

“And that information should be true and accurate?” Parry asked.

Black affirmed, “that information should be true and accurate, yes.”

Sen. Barb Goodwin (DFL-Columbia Heights) asked Black, “do you believe that Chapter 204D.15 gives the Secretary of State the ability to provide a title for a constitutional question?”

Black firmly responded, “I believe it *requires* the Secretary of State to provide a title, and similar language has *required* that since 1919.”

He also expanded on the question that had been asked earlier in the meeting regarding the past history of the writing of titles for constitutional amendments. “The legislature had not attempted to provide a title until 2008, and 2011 and 2012.” Black said cases regarding the latter two are in litigation.

The 2008 sales tax amendment to the Constitution had its title approved by the legislature and made its way onto the election ballot without alteration or supplanting by the Secretary of State. Mr. Ritchie held that office at the time. Sen. Gen Olson (R-Minnetrista) made a point of this by asking if the Secretary at that time had shirked his duties by not providing a title of his own.

**SENATE QUERY** *continued on page B-1*

**SENATE QUERY** *cont. from A-2*

Olson stated that the question before the courts will be whether the Secretary of State has the authority to override the legislature and that the words *provide* and *proposal* and the interpretations of the meaning of those words will be an important part of the litigation. The point that the 2008 amendment's title was not rewritten by the Secretary of State but the two amendment titles for this year's ballot have been, was not lost on the audience.

Sen. Dave Thompson (R-Lakeville) asked Black if there was a legal reason why Secretary Ritchie changed the title.

Black maintained that the title was not *changed* but rather it was *provided* by the Secretary of State. "I don't think there was a title in force at the time the Secretary set the title."

Thompson argued the legislature approved and provided a title and "the Secretary of State chose to do something different. That would be a change, wouldn't it?" Black opined, "I don't know if you can change something that was improper in the first place." Chair Sen. Parry asked for elaboration. Black cited statute 204D.15, "which provides for the Secretary to set the title."



*Bert Black testifies at Senate committee hearing July 20.*

Thompson: "Would you agree that the governor's symbolic veto of this legislation *had no impact* on the legislation or its title?" Black said he personally does not agree with that statement, nor does the brief that the Attorney General has filed. Thompson restated his question, and in his answer Black affirmed his belief that Governor Dayton's veto was also a veto of the legislature's title.

Sen. Julianne Ortman (R-Chanhassen) asked Black if the Constitution pre-empts state statutes. Black agreed that it does, adding a caveat: "the question is, 'what does the Constitution mean?'"

Sen. Ted Lillie (R-Woodbury) charged that Mr. Ritchie is trying to suppress the vote by writing "a title that obscures what the amendment is trying to achieve." Black professed "the purpose of the title is to provide voters with as broad a description as possible of all the material parts of the amendment that can be fit onto the one line that is required by statute. It is a drafting challenge, but that is the aim of the title that the Secretary provided."

Alan I. Gilbert, State Solicitor General from the Minnesota Attorney General's office was called next but was not able to provide many answers due to the pending litigation.

As committee chair, Sen. Parry wrapped up the meeting: "I am deeply disappointed that Secretary of State Ritchie and Attorney General Swanson did not fulfill what I believe is their obligation to sit before the citizens of this state and answer questions. I've always believed that they are better people than what they showed us today."

On a radio talk show the following day, Sen. Parry said that he had received communiques from election judges who related that long "tirades" were being given by SOS office staff against the Voter ID amendment during training sessions. He also said he was considering having subpoenas served upon Mr. Ritchie and Ms. Swanson to require their appearance before his committee.

**JUDGE DISMISSES CAMPAIGN COMPLAINT** *continued from pg. A-1*

Judge Neilson mentioned in her Memorandum another campaign complaint made in Anoka County's Columbia Heights after the 2004 election. The complaint stated that incumbent city council candidate Bobby Williams had provided chicken dinners and soda pop to approximately 25 to 30 residents of the senior housing facility, Parkview Villa, the day after he appeared at a candidate meet-and-greet with mayoral candidate Gary Peterson. The judges concluded that the food and drinks had "more than a nominal value" and handed down a \$1,500 civil penalty against Williams. That the free dinners were given the night after the candidate event and three days before the election also weighed into their deliberations, the judges said. Both Williams and Peterson had \$100 fines levied against them for not reporting payments of \$25 each to the late Bruce Nedegaard's corporation for the placement of campaign signs on his corporate property.

The complaint and Judge Neilson's Order for Dismissal and Memorandum are printed here in their entirety. Schulte's opponent in the Anoka County Board election is incumbent Dan Erhart.

Complaint form for Violation of the Fair Campaign Practices and Campaign Finance Acts

Information about complaint filer (Complainant)

Name of complaint filer: Gail Fitzgerald  
Address: 2972 109 Ave N.W.  
City: Coon Rapids  
Daytime telephone No. 763-712-1316  
Fax No. 763-574-1724

Identify person/entity you are complaining about (Respondent)

Name of person/ entity being complained about:  
Scott Schulte  
Address: 11673 Tulip Street  
City: Coon Rapids  
Daytime telephone No. 763-712-1316

Give the statutory cite to the part of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 211A or 211B that you believe has been violated: 211B

Date of violation: 07-14-12  
Elected office or ballot question involved: Anoka County Commissioner

If allowed by law, do you wish to request and expedited probable cause hearing (within 3 business days)? X

I Gail Fitzgerald under penalty of perjury, swear or affirm that the statements I have made in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. 7-19-12

On July 14, 2012, a number of individuals witnessed first hand either the candidate Scott Schulte or members of his group, passing out free water bottles with the picture of Scott Schulte that included a label saying vote for Scott Schulte for Anoka County Commissioner. See Exhibit 1. In addition, Mr. Schulte referenced on his Facebook page that they were intending to "hand out water bottles" at the Andover Fun Fest Parade. The water bottles were similar in size and nature of the ones sold retail for approximately one dollar. The observation was that these bottles were handed out at the Andover Fun Fest Parade at the same time Scott Schulte was shaking hands with the crowd and otherwise promoting his candidacy for Anoka County Commissioner.

July 23, 2012

Gail Fitzgerald  
2972 109th Avenue NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Scott Schulte  
11673 Tulip Street  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

In re: Gail Fitzgerald vs. Scott Schulte; OAH  
11-0325-22959-CV

Dear Ms. Fitzgerald and Mr. Schulte:

Enclosed herewith and served upon you by mail or courier service is the Administrative Law Judge's Dismissal Order in the above-entitled matter. Our file in this matter is now being closed.

Sincerely,  
Barbara L. Neilson  
Administrative Law Judge

Telephone: (651) 361-7845  
Office of Administrative Hearings

**Dismissal Order**

On July 19, 2012, Gail Fitzgerald filed a Campaign Complaint with the Office of Administrative Hearings alleging that Scott Schulte violated Minn. Stat. 211B.13 (bribery/treating).

The Chief Administrative Law Judge assigned this matter to the undersigned Administrative Law Judge on July 19, 2012. A copy of the Complaint was sent by U.S. mail to the Respondent on July 20, 2012.

After reviewing the Complaint and attached exhibits, the undersigned Administrative Law Judge has determined that the Complaint does not set forth a prima facie violation of Minn. Stat. 211B.13. This determination is described in more detail in the attached Memorandum.

Based upon the Complaint and the supporting filings and for reasons set out in the attached Memorandum,

IT IS ORDERED:

That the Complaint filed by Gail Fitzgerald is DISMISSED. Dated: July 23, 2012

Barbara L. Neilson  
Administrative Law Judge

**Notice**

Under Minn. Stat. 211B.36, subd. 5, this Order is the final decision in this matter and a party aggrieved by this decision may seek judicial review as provided in Minn. Stat. 14.63 to 14.69.

**Memorandum**

The Respondent, Scott Schulte, is a candidate for the Anoka County Board of Commissioners, District 7. The Complaint alleges that on July 14, 2012, Mr. Schulte and/or members of his campaign passed out free bottles of water at the Andover Fun Fest Parade. Each bottle of water had a label affixed to it with a picture of Mr. Schulte and the words: "Vote for Scott Schulte for Anoka County Commissioner." The Complaint alleges the bottles of water were handed out during the parade while Mr. Schulte was "shaking hands with the crowd and otherwise promoting his candidacy for Anoka County Commissioner." The Complainant estimates that each bottle of water had a retail value of approximately \$1.00. The Complaint notes that on July 11, 2012, Mr. Schulte posted on his Facebook page that he was intending to hand out bottled water at the Andover parade.

The Complainant failed to identify the specific provision of the Fair Campaign Practices Act that she believes was violated by this alleged conduct, but it is assumed she is claiming that Mr. Schulte violated Minn. Stat. 211B.13.

Minnesota Statutes 211B.13 provides as follows:

A person who willfully, directly or indirectly, advances, pays, gives, promises, or lends any money, good, liquor, clothing, entertainment, or other thing of monetary value, or who offers, promises, or endeavors to obtain any money, position, appointment, employment, or other valuable consideration, to or for a person, in order to induce a voter to refrain from voting, or to vote in a particular way, at an election, is guilty of a felony. This section does not prevent a candidate from stating publicly preference for or support of another candidate to be voted for at the same primary or election. Refreshments of food or nonalcoholic beverages having a value up to \$5 consumed on the premises at a private gathering or public meeting are not prohibited under this section.

Minnesota Statutes 211B.13 is an anti-bribery statute. It prohibits giving something of a monetary value in order to induce a voter to vote in a particular way at an election. The issue presented in this case is whether giving free bottles of water to persons attending a parade amounts to a violation of this statute.

An assessment of the monetary worth of an item should be made from the perspective of a voter receiving the item, not the person offering it. Whether the distribution of the items to voters is a violation of this section is a question of fact. In prior decisions, Administrative Law Judges have held that tossing penny candy at a parade, giving notebooks imprinted with the candidate's name and office, and distributing bottles of water at a county fair with "Republican Party" labels did not violate Minn. Stat. 211B.13, but that a candidate's provision of chicken dinners to residents at a senior housing complex after a candidates' forum did violate Minn. Stat. 211B.13.

**CAMPAIGN COMPLAINT DISMISSED**

*continued on next page, B-2*

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## CAMPAIGN COMPLAINT DISMISSED *cont. from page B-1*

The Administrative Law Judge concludes that, like *Campbell v. Grant County Republican Party of Minnesota*, the provision of bottled water in this case does not constitute "a thing of monetary value" or "other valuable consideration" within the meaning of the statute. The Complainant estimates that each bottle of water has a retail value of approximately \$1.00. The Complainant thereby admits that each bottle was worth less than \$5, which is the amount the Legislature established for determining whether a refreshment is a thing of monetary value.

In addition, Ms. Fitzgerald has failed to allege sufficient facts to support her claim that Mr. Schulte provided the bottles of water to induce a voter to refrain from voting or vote in a particular way at an election so as to fall within the prohibition of Minnesota Statutes 211B.13. It appears that Ms. Fitzgerald merely argues that any donation of food or beverage from someone who is also a candidate for public office violates the statute. However, this argument overstates the nature of the prohibition in section 211B.13. If the Legislature had intended to prohibit all donations from candidates for public office, it would have stated this intent directly. Instead, section 211B.13 draws the prohibition more narrowly, banning only those gifts that are rendered with the purpose of inducing voters to either refrain from voting, or to vote in a particular way.

While the Complainant asserts that the labels on the water bottles promoted Mr. Schulte's election, there is no allegation that any condition was attached to the offer of a bottle of water that anyone was "paid" to vote for Mr. Schulte, or that anyone was otherwise "induced" to vote in a particular way in the Anoka County Commissioner election. To the contrary, it appears that the bottles of water were simply handed out during a parade and spectators were free to accept or reject them, without any condition. As was noted in the *Campbell v. Grant County Republican Party* decision, the value of the water accepted by any person was too nominal to create any obligation on the part of the recipient to vote in any particular manner and there is no allegation or evidence showing that any water was accepted under those terms. The "inducement" prohibited by Section 211B.13 requires something more than what was alleged to have occurred during the Andover Fun Fest Parade. In this respect, this case is distinguishable from other cases alleging a violation of Section 211B.13 where the connections between the provision of food items and the candidates' electioneering efforts were clear.

In this case, the value of the bottled water is too nominal to create an inducement or obligation on the part of the recipient to vote for Mr. Schulte and Complainant has put forward no evidence that the bottles of water were accepted under those terms. Because the Complainant has failed to allege a prima facie violation of Minnesota Statutes 211B.13, the Complaint is dismissed.

B.L.N.

## ST. FRANCIS AND ANOKA TO CONTRACT WITH ROSEVILLE FOR I.T. SERVICES

The Roseville City Council in Ramsey County approved a contract with the cities of Anoka and St. Francis for information technology support services at its July 16th meeting.

Roseville Finance Director Chris Miller told the council that both cities were anxious to begin service as soon as possible. Roseville provides on a contract basis, computer network support to 26 cities and government agencies. The city does this with nine full-time employees, which will be raised to ten with the approval of these new contracts.

The St. Francis annual contract will be \$40,117 and Anoka's is \$116,788. Payments are to be made monthly and each city is to be notified of any proposed price increases no later than June 1 of each year. Either party may terminate the contract upon 90 days' notice. — *ACR staff*



Scott Schulte

## SPRING LAKE PARK HIRES NEW ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR *by ACR staff*

It was a rather low-key affair at Spring Lake Park City Hall where City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Barb Nelson presided over a July 24 meeting of the city council to decide which of four finalists would be chosen to eventually be the next city administrator.

In an unusual move, the city council approved in April a phased-in retirement package crafted by Nelson, a 33-year employee of the city. It called for an annual option to renew, for up to five years and to take effect in June 2012. Nelson would work 20 hours a week, and thus still be able to receive her full PERA pension. The contract also called for no change in her monthly car allowance (\$250) or deferred compensation contribution; no change in her life insurance coverage; vacation and sick time on a pro-rated basis, and severance pay as well as any time remaining on the contract if terminated early by the city council.

The Assistant City Administrator position was awarded to Dan Buchholtz, one of the finalists chosen by Nelson and a consensus of department heads. Buchholtz is currently the city administrator of Hanover, a small city of 3,000 that is partly in Hennepin and mostly in Wright County in the western metro.

Nelson's plan is to train the new hire and it's presumed he will take over the reins of the city administrator position in about a year. Since Buchholtz has had about 10 years of experience, including a 3-year stint as the city administrator of Dassel, it would seem he will not need much training. Said often at the meeting were the words "a good fit for Spring Lake Park." Just who would, and who wouldn't be "a good fit" for the city was never elaborated on. The council had charged Nelson with conducting the employee search, and interviews of the candidates took place with department heads before the city council decision.

That decision actually took place over the course of two evenings. The first council meeting was Monday, July 23 when interviews of the four finalists were held, with each candidate interview taking about 40 minutes. Department heads were on hand for this meeting as well. The audience had difficulties hearing the conversations, even though the council chambers is a very tiny room. The council did not sit at the dais or use microphones but instead sat informally at a table in the middle of the dimly lit room in the even more dimly lit building.

In Buchholtz's interview, he characterized himself as someone who "knows the value of hard work and never giving up. If I make a mistake, I admit it. I will fix those mistakes and take responsibility for them, and not blame others." All candidates more or less said they believe department heads and employees should be left to their own devices, but with an occasional "team meeting". Buchholtz pointedly told the council, "I'm not a micro manager." He related a story about Hanover city council members who would often call him individually with questions. He said he started writing a weekly internal newsletter for staff and the council. Then the calls stopped. Buchholtz said he is in the habit of communicating with all council members, not just certain ones and that he has an "open door policy." Buchholtz also told the council about he and his city's efforts to crack down on home-based businesses and get them to move into a mostly vacant industrial and retail building. City loans were given out to help make this happen.

16 scripted questions were given to the council so that candidates' answers would have some uniformity and comparisons between answers could be more easily made. The questions touched upon the candidate's work history and suitability to the Spring Lake Park position; management style; working in a small city with a tiny staff; examples of real life experiences with being proactive, handling conflicts and unpleasant situations, improving on a task or idea; experience with negotiating union contracts, municipal liquor operations, city budgets and development; and being a diplomat when making an unpopular decision. Government buzz words like "opportunities", "move forward", "challenges", "vision and goals" predictably peppered the interviews.

When asked about his experiences in development, Buchholtz said that the city had given tax abatements and had a \$100,000 revolving loan program. He said he thinks business retention programs are important and that he has maintained fruitful communications with Hanover businesses. He was asked about his experience with municipal liquor operations. This gave Buchholtz a chance to boast that Dassel was the first city in 10 years to get into the liquor business. The referendum passed with 55% approval and a developer built a new building in which the city was able to get a lease. He stated that previous liquor referendums failed in Dassel before his time as city administrator. First year sales were \$750,000 and went to \$1 million the second year.

Buchholtz currently lives in Buffalo and said he is familiar with Nelson because he is the president of the Minnesota Clerks and Finance Officers Association and Nelson, being a finance officer has been involved with the organization. Buchholtz is also on the Executive Board of the Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council. He was a finalist for the city administrator job in New Prague in 2008. He began his governmental career in Moorhead, working as an assistant to the city manager there. All candidates said they became aware of the position by seeing a posting on the League of Minnesota Cities website.

Buchholtz was the first choice of four council members; Councilor Barbara Carlson's first choice was Erin Stwora, the assistant city administrator in Dayton. Her strong suit was planning and development in Dayton, and previously in Lakeville and New Hope. She described herself as "detail-oriented but I also see the 'big picture'." When asked about her management style, Stwora replied "I want to know everything that is going on." All candidates wanted the blessing of the department heads even though it is the city council that would be their employer. Stwora said, "I don't want to step on any toes." She whipped out a number of thick treatises on planning, comprehensive plans, budgets and the like, which impressed the council. They said were not used to seeing these kinds of documents, which came as no surprise to the handful of citizens in the audience who have noticed that minutes of city council meetings haven't been written since last December.

Another candidate was Kelly Steele, the city administrator/clerk of Madison Lake, in Blue Earth County and northeast of Mankato. She said she works long hours in this city of 1,000 residents and has been busy of late with property annexation. To illustrate an example of conflict resolution, she said the fire department had been a "good ol' boys network" where they drank beer in the fire hall, and this had to be cleaned up. (Drinking in the fire hall was a problem in Montevideo too, some years ago). She said the most unpopular edict she had to make was when the city council demanded that a time clock be installed for employees to punch. They didn't like this very well.

The eldest and most experienced candidate was Larry Kruse, who is now in "transition" after being fired by the new majority elected to the Albertville City Council last year. He has 27 years of experience in four small cities, the last eight years in Albertville as its city administrator. Kruse said he is a "consensus builder" and likes to hold many staff meetings, as "information is power." He described himself as a positive, optimistic mentor. He and Stwora mentioned they have interests in technology. Kruse also mentioned Albertville's business loans and programs that were similar to that of Hanover's. As an example of conflict resolution, Kruse cited the city clerk was not performing well in the role, but a different job was found for her within city hall, after which there was improvement in performance. When asked if he had experience negotiating union contracts, Kruse said Albertville has no unions but that a previous employer, the city of Baxter, did. An unpopular decision, Kruse related, was when Albertville changed to organized garbage collection, where government allows only one hauler to operate, and by contract with the city.

# Anoka County GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

## Anoka County Board

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

- Mon. Aug. 6**  
Public Works Cmte — 9 am, Rm 772, ACGC
- Tues. Aug. 7**  
Parks & Rec. Cmte. — 9 am, Bunker Beach Water Park
- Wed. Aug. 8**  
Waste Mgmt & Energy Cmte — 8:15 am, Rm 772, ACGC
- Tues. Aug. 14**  
Management Cmte — 8:30 am, Anoka City Hall  
County Board — 9:30 am, Anoka City Hall
- Wed. Aug. 15**  
Solid Waste Abatement Advisory Team — 2 pm, Blaine City Hall
- Thurs. Aug. 16**  
Public Safety Cmte — 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

- Thurs. Aug. 2**  
Parks Comm. — 7 pm — *Cancelled*
- Tues. Aug. 7**  
City Council — 7 pm
- Wed. Aug. 8**  
Open Space Advisory Comm — 7 pm
- Thurs. Aug. 16**  
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

## Anoka

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

- Mon. Aug. 6**  
City Council — Budget 6 pm; mtg 7 pm
- Tues. Aug. 7**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm
- Wed. Aug. 8**  
Waste Reductn. & Recycl. Bd — 5 pm
- Thurs. Aug. 9**  
Economic Develop. Comm. — 7:30 am  
Anoka Development Day, City Council — tour 10am; joint mtg with bds and commissions — 6 pm; all at Greenhaven Golf Course
- Mon. Aug. 13**  
City Council Governmental Budget Review — 5 pm, City Dock  
HRA — 5 pm
- Tues. Aug. 14**  
Heritage Preserv. Comm. — 5 pm
- Wed. Aug. 15**  
Parking Advisory Bd — 7:15 am, Public Safety Ctr, 275 Harrison St.

## 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. Aug. 2 & 16**  
City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm  
City Council reg mtg — 7:30 pm
  - Thurs. Aug. 9**  
City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm
  - Tues. Aug. 14**  
Blaine Arts Council — 5:30 pm  
Blaine Historical Society — 6:30 pm  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm
- (Aug. 14 is Primary Election Day, call city hall to verify if these meetings will be held)

## Centerville

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

- Tues. Aug. 7**  
Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm
- Wed. Aug. 8 & 22**  
City Council — 6:30 pm

## Circle Pines

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

- Tues. Aug. 7**  
Park Board — 6:30 pm
- Wed. Aug. 15**  
City Council — 7 pm
- Mon. Aug. 20**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

## Columbia Heights

Columbia Heights City Hall  
590 40th Ave NE  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421  
Ph: 763-706-3600  
www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us

- Wed. Aug. 1**  
Library Board — 6:30 pm, Library
- Mon. Aug. 6**  
Traffic Comm. — 5:30 pm  
EDA/Special HRA meeting — 6:30 pm  
City Council “work session” — 7 pm  
Library Task Force (tentative)
- Tues. Aug. 8**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm
- Mon. Aug. 13**  
Library Task Force — 6:30 pm, City Hall  
City Council — 7 pm

## Columbus

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

- Wed. Aug. 1 & 15**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm
- Wed. Aug. 8 & 22**  
City Council Budget Mtg — 6 pm  
City Council reg. mtg. — 7 pm
- Thurs. Aug. 16**  
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

- Wed. Aug. 1**  
City Council “work session” — 6:30 pm,  
City Manager selection process
- Thurs. Aug. 2**  
Bd of Adjustment & Appeals — 6:30 pm
- Mon. Aug. 6**  
Parks & Rec. Comm. — 6:30 pm,  
Public Works Bldg.
- Wed. Aug. 8 & 21**  
City Council — 7 pm
- Thurs. Aug. 9**  
Safety Comm. — 7:15 pm
- Thurs. Aug. 16**  
Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm  
Sustainability Comm. — 6:30 pm  
Historical Comm. — 7:30 pm  
*Arts Commission Aug. meeting cancelled*

## East Bethel

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

- Wed. Aug. 8**  
Park Comm. — 7 pm
- Mon. Aug. 13**  
Road Comm. — 6:30 pm
- Wed. Aug. 15**  
City Council — 7:30 pm
- Tues. Aug. 28**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

## Fridley

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

- Mon. Aug. 6** City Council mtg *Cancelled*
- Thurs. Aug. 2**  
HRA — 7 pm
- Mon. Aug. 6**  
Parks & Rec. Comm. — 7 pm
- Mon. Aug. 13**  
City Council Conference Mtg — 6 pm
- Wed. Aug. 15**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm
- Fri. Aug. 17**  
City Council Special Mtg Canvass Election Results — 4 pm
- Mon. Aug. 20**  
City Council pre-agenda — 7 pm; mtg 7:30 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. Aug. 6 & 20**  
City Council — 6 pm
- Mon. Aug. 13 & 27**  
Planning Comm. — 6 pm
- Wed. Aug. 15**  
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. Aug. 2 & 16**  
City Council — 7 pm (“workshop” after 8/16 meeting)
- Mon. Aug. 6**  
Park Board — 6:30 pm
- Wed. Aug. 8**  
Planning 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

- Thurs. Aug. 2**  
EDAC — 8 am
- Mon. Aug. 6**  
City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm
- Wed. Aug. 8**  
Planning & Zoning Bd — 6:30 pm
- Mon. Aug. 13**  
City Council — 6:30 pm

## Linwood Township

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

- Tues. Aug. 7**  
Road & Bridge Cmte. — 7 pm
- Tues. Aug. 14**  
Town Board — 6 pm
- Tues. Aug. 21**  
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

## NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

**WED. AUG. 15 6 PM**  
SPRING LAKE PARK CITY HALL

## 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. Aug. 2**  
EDA — 7:30 am  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm
- Mon. Aug. 6**  
EPB — 6:30 pm
- Thurs. Aug. 9**  
Parks & Rec. Comm. — 6:30 pm,  
North Commons, Zeolite St NW & 147th Lane NW. At city council chambers if weather is inclement.
- Mon. Aug. 13**  
City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm, reg. mtg 7 pm. HRA follows
- Thurs. Aug. 23**  
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

- 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. Aug. 6 & 20**  
City Council — 7 pm
- Mon. Aug. 27**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

## ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

- Mon. Aug. 20** — 5 pm

## CITY OF LEXINGTON

9180 LEXINGTON AVE  
LEXINGTON, MN 55014  
763-784-2792

**NOTICE**  
Anoka County will be holding a public information meeting on Wednesday, August 15th, at the City of Lexington Community Room at City Hall, to discuss different options being considered for access options on Lake Drive between Lexington Avenue and Naples Street.

## SENTENCE OF THE WEEK

Recently, the Anoka County Record received the shortest “Letter to the Editor” in publishing history:  
“To whom it may concern, I wished I would have known before I moved here three years ago that this was Tea party central, I would have chosen a different place for my residence.”

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

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11**

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

**Mon. Aug. 13**  
School Board “work session” — 6 pm

**Centennial ISD #12**

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

**Mon. Aug. 6**  
School Board — Closed Session 5:30 pm  
“work session” follows

**Mon. Aug. 20**  
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  
**Thurs. Aug. 16 & Tues. 28 & Sept. 11**  
School Board — 7 pm

**Tues. Aug. 21**  
School Board “work session” — 5:30 pm

**Elk River Area ISD #728**

815 Hwy 10  
Elk River, MN 55330  
Ph.: (763) 241-3400  
elkriver.k12.mn.us  
School Board meetings held at Elk River City Hall, Council Chambers, 13065 Orono Pkwy unless otherwise noted:  
**Call for information**

**Forest Lake ISD #831**

6100 N 210th St  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
Ph.: (651) 982-8100  
forestlake.k12.mn.us  
**Call for information — dates not published**

**Fridley ISD #14**

6000 W Moore Lake Dr  
Fridley, MN 55432  
Ph.: (763) 502-5000  
fridley.k12.mn.us  
School Board mtgs held at Fridley City Hall, 6431 University Ave NE; Work Session — 5:30 pm, Public Comment — 7 pm; Meeting — 7:30 pm  
**Next meeting: Aug 21**

**St. Francis ISD #15**

4115 Ambassador Blvd  
St. Francis, MN 55070  
Ph.: (763) 753-7040  
stfrancis.k12.mn.us  
**Mon. Aug. 13 & 27 — 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  
**Mon. Aug. 13 — 7 pm**  
**Mon. Aug. 27 “work session” — 5:30 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**  
**Tues. Sept. 4 — 6 pm**

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

**NEXT ISSUES : AUGUST 16 & 30 SEND YOUR LETTERS AND COLUMNS TO THE ANOKA COUNTY RECORD**

**COMPUTER CLASSES OFFERED AT RUM RIVER LIBRARY**

**ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARIES: A RESOURCE FOR JOB SEEKERS**

All classes are given at the Rum River Library, 4201 6th Avenue in Anoka. Classes are free but space is limited; registration is required for all classes. Call 763-576-4695 to register for the following classes presented by the Science Museum of Minnesota:

Essential Computer Skills for Your Job and Career	MON 8/20	5:45pm-7:45pm
Microsoft® PowerPoint Introduction for Your Job and Career	TUES 8/21	1030am-1230 pm
Microsoft® Word Introduction for Your Job and Career	WED 8/22	5:45pm-7:45pm
Microsoft® Excel Basics for Your Job and Career	MON 8/27	5:45pm-7:45pm

A 2-day course on how to use **Linked In** will be given by the Anoka County WorkForce Center (call 763-783-4847 to register)  
**Wed. & Thurs. Sept. 5 & 6, 1 to 4 pm both days**  
Rum River Library, 4201 6th Ave., Anoka  
[www.positivelyminnesota.com/anokaworkshops](http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/anokaworkshops)



Onlookers and Tom Ramsdell (right), son of the slain officer observe the ceremony. Ramsdell spoke to the crowd and said his family appreciated the large turnout.

**SLAIN COLUMBIA HEIGHTS POLICE OFFICER REMEMBERED IN CEREMONY**

The Columbia Heights Community Picnic was held July 25 at Ramsdell Park near Columbia Heights High School. The event was sponsored by the Columbia Heights Police Department and spotlighted the re-dedication of the monument honoring Curtis Ramsdell, a Columbia Heights police officer who was killed in the line of duty in 1977.

