



AN OFFICIAL LEGAL NEWSPAPER FOR ANOKA COUNTY, CITY OF HAM LAKE AND CITY OF OAK GROVE

## HAM LAKE CITY COUNCIL FIRST TO DESIGNATE *RECORD* AS LEGAL NEWSPAPER

by Bryan Olson

The Ham Lake City Council designated the *Anoka County Record* as its legal newspaper at its January 7th meeting. The annual designation is a requirement of Minnesota statutes.

School districts, cities and counties are required to publish legal notices in qualified newspapers. Such newspapers have to follow a series of rules and thresholds set forth in statutory law. The *Anoka County Record* filed its qualified status with the Secretary of State's office in December. One of the requirements is to have published for one year; the *Record* began publication in September 2011.

The Ham Lake council meeting was chaired by Mayor Mike Van Kirk with councilors Gary Kirkeide and Jim Doyle present, but Tom Johnson was absent. Kirkeide took his oath of office at the meeting. He and incumbent Tom Johnson were re-elected with no opposition in November's general election.

The fifth council seat is now open due to the recent election of Julie Braastad to the Anoka County Board.

Braastad was invited to the Ham Lake meeting to receive an award of recognition for her service on the city council. She was scheduled to attend her first county board meeting the next morning. City Administrator Doris Nivala reported that three applications for the open council seat had been received at city hall.



City Councilor Gary Kirkeide is given the oath of office by City Administrator Doris Nivala

The deadline for applying for the city council appointment is Jan. 22 at 4:30 p.m.

*Anoka County Record* owner-publisher John Kysylyczyn made a presentation to the council and it was agreed that saving money on legal advertising was an important consideration. The *Anoka County Union*, owned by ECM Publishing, offered a rate of \$10.75 per column inch or \$10.25 if copy was submitted by fax or e-mail. The *Record* submitted the price of \$5.94 per column inch. The city spent \$5,073 in legal advertising costs in 2012.

Mayor Van Kirk stated that he appreciated the 50% reduction in price that *Anoka County Record* will save the city. He also noted the various online options that were available for residents to receive the entire paper free of charge. Mr. Kysylyczyn also stated that print copies would be available free of charge at City Hall. Ham Lake City Attorney Wilbur Dorn also provided the city council

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Julie Braastad (left) received an award of recognition from Mayor Mike Van Kirk the night before she joined the Anoka County Board as the commissioner for District 2, which includes Ham Lake. The vacant seat will be appointed by the city council.

## ANOKA COUNTY BOARD: CHAIR DISTRIBUTES 13 PAGE MEMO, 200 APPOINTMENTS, 3 RESOLUTIONS, COMMISSIONERS GIVEN SECONDS TO REVIEW PRIOR TO VOTE, SCHULTE & BRAASTAD OBJECT

The Anoka County Board held its statutory and organizational meeting on January 8. The agenda included several resolutions including the establishment of board rules, establishing the Board of Appeal and Equalization, appointment of hearing officers, selection of legal newspapers, and various board appointments.

The meeting packet provided to the public several days before the meeting included the complete materials for many, but not all of the items on the agenda.

As Chair Rhonda Sivarajah announced Resolution #2013-7, "Resolution awarding bid for the publication of the Anoka County Financial Statement and the Official Proceedings of the Anoka County Board", staff hurriedly passed out a 13-page packet titled "Chair's Handout for 2013 Statutory & Organizational County Board Meeting" to commissioners and members of the public.

In the Chair's handout, was a resolution awarding contracts for legal notice printing which the *Record* believes was valued between \$50,000 to \$100,000. This information was not provided to fellow commissioners or the public in advance of this handout.

As the packet was being distributed to the public, Chair Sivarajah and Commissioner Robyn West had a two minute discussion with County Attorney Tony Palumbo about conflict of interest issues. The floor was then opened for questions and 15 seconds later Chair Sivarajah called for the vote.

When Commissioner Scott Schulte's name was called, he said, "Could I have the chair restate the motion we are offering here... I am not lost... I just don't completely understand the motion." Chair Sivarajah responded to Commissioner Schulte stating, "What was just handed out on the first page... is the entire resolution".

Commissioner Schulte responded, "And for my edification, this is the first time that we are seeing this... this particular resolution?" Chair Sivarajah responded, "Yes".

Commissioner Schulte then said, "If I could have one minute to read this before I vote."

After reviewing the resolution, Commissioner Schulte said, "The concern that I have, and perhaps this should have occurred under discussion prior to voting... the concern I have is that I understand that this was a bid process... and that the lowest bidder is listed here as the tertiary legal newspaper... and that I guess I am

### ANOKA COUNTY BOARD

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## OAK GROVE HOLDS FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR

The Oak Grove City Council held its first meeting of the year on Monday, January 14th. The council welcomed new member Sean Sullivan to the five-member city council. The council unanimously voted to appoint council member Dan Denno as Acting Mayor for 2013.

Commander Brian Podany of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office provided an annual report, sharing statistics showing a reduction in the number of assaults and felony arrests in 2012, but a strong increase in the number of traffic

### OAK GROVE HOLDS FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR

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## CITY COUNCIL SEAT TO BE APPOINTED IN SPRING LAKE PARK

Applications are being taken until 4:00 p.m. January 28 at Spring Lake Park City Hall for the city council seat vacated by Dale Dahl.

Dahl officially resigned his seat at the council's January 7th meeting.

The city council plans to interview applicants on February 11 beginning at 6:30 p.m., and may make the appointment at its regular meeting February 19.

The appointee would take the oath of office during the council meeting of March 4.

Applications can be obtained in person at city hall, or by calling (763) 784-6491. The form is also on the city's web site, [www.slpmn.org](http://www.slpmn.org).

## NEW RAMSEY CITY COUNCIL HOLDS FIRST REGULAR MEETING

Three new members joined the seven-member Ramsey City Council on Jan. 8 as they met for their first meetings of the year — a back-to-back work session and regular meeting.

Taking the oath of office were Mark Kuzma (Ward 2), John LeTourneau (At-Large) and Chris Riley (Ward 4). Sarah Strommen, who had been the Ward 4 city councilor, succeeded in her mayoral bid last fall and was the fourth to be sworn in. The event, held moments before the 7 p.m. regular meeting, was in effect ceremonial as the new elected officials had been sworn in Jan. 2.

For most local governments, the first meeting of the year is often when certain annual organizational tasks are decided.

The council designated the *Anoka County Union* as its legal newspaper. It had provided a quote of \$10.75 per column inch with a 50-cent discount if legal ads were submitted by electronic means. The *Anoka County Record's* quote was \$5.94 per column inch.



Ramsey City Council member  
Jason Tossey

Ward 3 city councilor Jason Tossey said, "I hope the public realizes that state law requires us to publish our legal notices in a newspaper. For twenty years we've had e-mail and websites, but we're still not allowed to publish our legal notices in that manner. I counted over \$30,000 spent in the last three years on legal notices for

the *Anoka County Union*, which we could have sent out electronically. This is forcing us to spend taxpayer money to subsidize these newspapers, and I hope you contact your state legislator . . . we have asked Representative Abeler to bring this up at the legislative session."

The council approved a list of committee appointments, which included Randy

Backous named as Acting Mayor; Backous, Kuzma, Tossey and Strommen will serve on the Personnel Committee; Councilors David Elvig, John LeTourneau and Chris Riley will serve on the Finance Committee, with Mayor Strommen as an alternate. All seven council members will make up the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), along with City Administrator Kurt Ulrich and Tim Gladhill of the city's Planning Division. Elvig and Riley were appointed to the Northstar Rail Corridor Development Authority. No changes were made in the legal services area, with the city continuing to retain Randall, Goodrich & Haag, based in Anoka, as the city attorney; Kennedy & Graven and Briggs & Morgan for bond counsels and TIF. TimeSaver Off Site Recording Secretary Service (TOSS) was retained for writing minutes of meetings.

On a 6-1 vote with Tossey dissenting, the city council approved a \$37,500 contract with Anita Duckor to provide consulting services. Duckor, once an elected official herself on the Minneapolis Library Board, will develop what has been described as a Three-Year Strategic Action Plan, Governance Plan and Organizational Assessment.

Prior to the televised regular meeting, the discussion of this item was more in-depth at the work session meeting held in another room at City Hall.

There the council majority agreed that it was important to maintain a high investment in staff and that Duckor's plans would help rebuild the City Hall team.

Councilor David Elvig described the staff's morale as one of "mistrust" and that "the organization has broken down." Duckor said that one of the first components that her plan will use is an online survey to be taken by all staff, city councilors and commission members that will help identify problem areas. Mayor Strommen said she has worked with Duckor on projects elsewhere and has full confidence in her abilities. Tossey said during the vote to approve at the televised meeting, that he felt city staff and the council could work together without making such an expenditure.

The first strategic planning workshop, "A New Day...A New Beginning" was scheduled for Jan. 15. *ACR*

## ANOKA COUNTY BOARD *continued from page 1*

not completely understanding if we are required to take the lowest responsible bidder or if that is the option of the board to accept the lowest or higher bidder. I guess I would address that to the County Attorney whether we are obligated to accept the lowest responsible bidder that meets legal obligation."

Kathryn M. Timm from the County Attorney's Office was recognized to respond to Commissioner Schulte's question. She stated the statute that controls the process states that the lowest bidder must be selected but that the statute also states that the board may reject the lowest bidder if it is in the public's best interest. She further stated that the statute does not provide guidance as to how to determine who the lowest bidder is, implying that price is not the sole consideration.

Ms. Timm indicated that the County Attorney's Office conducted the analysis. Based upon the statements made by commissioners, it was clear that none of them were provided a copy of this analysis prior to or during the discussion. Staff simply provided the commissioners a resolution and told them who to vote for without any explanation.

Ms. Timm informed commissioners that they ranked bidders based upon a formula that multiplied the price per column inch with the number of printed paper copies in order to obtain a price per subscriber.

Chair Sivarajah then asked Ms. Timm if it mattered if it was a paid subscription versus a free subscription. Ms. Timm responded that in her analysis, this did not matter. She stated that the number of subscribers were provided by the bidders. Information provided by bidders was not verified. She stated that she had no idea if subscriptions were paid or not and that this was not an issue in her opinion.

Chair Sivarajah then asked, "... just in hearing the dollar figures that were thrown around here... it seems like the real estate taxes and delinquent notifications, those seem to be quite extensive, and I am wondering why it would be with the most expensive bid..."

Commissioner Julie Braastad then stated, "If possible I would like to withdraw my vote. I misread between the Anoka Union and the Anoka Record and I think Commissioner Schulte, some of his concerns, I am a little concerned with not going with the lowest bid, when they all statutorily seem meet requirements, and we are in this day and age when so many people are getting their news online and not necessarily a physical hard copy of the paper so I am not sure that comparing 419 to whatever the other number is... that's not necessarily the people that are looking at it. I think the people that want to look at the real estate sections probably go online. I know investors that I am friends with and are looking, are looking at example foreclosed properties, would go directly to the county website or the newspaper website and not wait for a physical hard copy."

Commissioner Kordiak, who seconded the motion supporting the resolution as stated, commented that the situation was highly irregular. He did not approve of discussion being held in the middle of a vote. The County Attorney responded that it is within the prerogative of the chair to provide clarification to the resolutions. He stated that the vote was not completed and it was up to the chair to determine the next course of action.

The Chair then informed the members that if they wished to change the resolution

they could proceed with the vote and then come back and amend it. That later turned out to be bad advice.

Commissioners Schulte and Braastad followed the chair's advice and proceeded. They voted for the resolution, anticipating that they would have an opportunity to come back with a new motion to make changes. The resolution was then adopted on a 6-0 vote, with the Chair abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Braastad then made a motion to change the resolution and select the lowest cost bidder for publishing the list of delinquent real estate taxes. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Matt Look. When the vote was called to change the resolution, it was a 3-3 tie with Braastad, Look, and Schulte voting yes to change the resolution. The motion failed. Without 4 votes, the previous vote stood, which in turn awarded one of the largest portions of the publication contract to the highest bidder, which is anticipated to cost taxpayers several thousand dollars more in 2013.

### Publisher's Note:

Being one of the four bidders on these contracts, and the fact that we are part of the newspaper industry, we kept a sharper eye on this process than normally would have been the case.

Basically, we found this legal newspaper selection process to be a public embarrassment for the county. It was more akin to how Hazzard County operated in the famous television series "Dukes of Hazzard", not how a metropolitan county should operate in 2013.

The meaning of the open meeting law was stretched to its limits when the public was intentionally kept in the dark, being provided the seven page information packet only seconds before a vote was planned to be called. Had it not been for questions from Commissioners West and Schulte, the public would have had less than 30 seconds to review the documents before the board made their decision.

It was nothing short of an affront to democracy to see commissioners handed this packet at the same time as the public, and then being asked to vote without having any time for review or any ability to consult their constituents prior to voting.

Parliamentary procedure is for the purpose of assuring that majority rules, while allowing the minority to have a voice. It is not intended to fool half the members to vote for something with the false belief that they would be able to come back and make changes.

After the conclusion of the vote, the *Record* interviewed Assistant County Attorney Kathryn M. Timm and found her to have little understanding of newspapers or the internet. She could not differentiate between the meaning of a newspaper "subscription" vs. "hits" on a website. She informed the board that one bidder had "42,200 electronic subscriptions" in their service area, but could not provide us with an email address of even one subscriber. She stated that she considered herself to be a subscriber to her local paper because she was a Facebook "friend". When pressed for a response about a question of law, her response was to ask me if I was an attorney. When I answered no, she promptly said that she had to leave. I should also note that in December 2012, Ms. Timm provided the *Record* with false bidding information in response to a public information request.

As a matter of principle, more will be written on this issue in coming weeks. Note that we are not disgruntled, *Anoka County Record* was awarded one of the bids.

John M. Kysylczyn, Owner & Publisher, *Anoka County Record*

## New taxes and more revenue: Please go slowly, Senator Bakk

*Editor's Note: Former state legislator and now Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson sent this open letter to Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk:*

Jeff Johnson  
4620 Minnesota Lane  
Plymouth, MN 55446  
January 11, 2013

Tom,

As you might have guessed, I was disappointed when Republicans lost control of the state Senate last year. I saw something of a silver lining, however, when you were elected Senate majority leader. From my time in the state House, I remember you as a Democrat who could work with Republicans — someone who was willing to push back on the government-centered vision many in the DFL hold.

I saw you display that leadership up close in 2006 when you and I co-sponsored eminent domain reform in the Legislature.

The bill that we carried together in '06 addressed the fundamental injustice of the U.S. Supreme Court's Kelo decision. Kelo granted government broad eminent domain power to take a person's property and transfer it to another private person or business for economic development.

You and I both recognized that government does not have the moral authority to take a person's property simply because government bureaucrats believe the property might generate more tax revenue if used differently by another private person or entity. After months of hearings and negotiations, we passed legislation significantly restricting the ability of government to take a person's property for economic development.

The interest groups lining up against our bill — private and public — were numerous and powerful. We both took political risks in carrying that bill, but I recognize the risks you took were greater than mine.

I also recognize that you had the more difficult task getting eminent domain reform through the DFL-controlled Senate, where many of your colleagues were concerned about limiting government's eminent domain powers.

Nonetheless, you got the job done because you understood the Kelo decision was inherently unfair and a terrible example of government expanding a necessary authority beyond its legitimate scope.

This is why I was surprised last week when I read in the Pioneer Press that your concept of tax reform is "not going to be a revenue-neutral proposal ... It's going to have to raise some revenue." (*Pioneer Press*, "Even a majority isn't always easy to manage", 12-30-12).

Our current tax system, which taxes productivity, is in dire need of change. It was written in a very different time and is both unfair and inefficient. Any time you have a narrow tax base and high rates, you curtail production and job growth. That's why Gov. Dayton's obsession with taxing the rich is such bad policy. The governor's policy further narrows the tax base and creates higher tax rates, which stifles productivity and leads to higher consumer prices, lower wages and fewer jobs. It's a policy that hurts everyone, but it hurts middle- and lower-income people the most.

On the other hand, I've thought you've been on the right track when talking about broadening the tax base and lowering tax rates. Economists and Republicans have been pushing that concept for some time, and while there is much debate about how to lower the rates and broaden the base, it's the right framework for a tax reform discussion. We will not solve our structural budget woes in this state unless we grow the economy — and raising taxes certainly will not do that. Championing the government's revenue needs over the individual's right to keep what he or she has earned is precisely what you fought against when you championed the individual over government in eminent domain reform.

The power to tax is much like the power of eminent domain. Both are necessary — but limited — government powers. It is necessary for government to tax to carry out its constitutional functions; it is not necessary for government to tax by grabbing individual earnings — property or income — simply because a government-centered bureaucracy wants more revenue.

We both know Governor Dayton is fixated on increasing taxes in 2013. Raising taxes, even if you call it "reform," will solve nothing, and it will waste a tremendous opportunity to create a more fair and efficient, broad-based and low rate tax structure that promotes our common objective — productivity, innovation and jobs.

I recognize that resisting the governor on this will entail real political risk for you, but you've taken great risk before to stand up for the people of Minnesota over the power of government.

I'm hopeful you'll do it again, Tom — stand up for Minnesota taxpayers and let them keep more of what they earn, just like you fought with me to let them keep their homes and businesses from government takings in 2006.

I'll be rooting for you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Johnson

### Opinion



Jeff Johnson

## OAK GROVE HOLDS FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR *continued from page 1*

incidents during the same period. Assaults fell from 33 in 2011, down to 14 in 2012. Felony arrests fell from 33 in 2011 to 14 in 2012. Traffic incidents rose from 764 in 2011 to 1042 in 2012.

Commander Podany also informed the council of the successful apprehension of burglars in Ham Lake who were also connected to a series of burglaries in Blaine. They involved knocks at the door, and when no one answered, they would kick in the door to gain entry. Due to alert residents, they were caught in the process of burglarizing a home in Ham Lake.

Commander Podany also reminded the public that while there have been a number of cold days in the last few weeks which should make ice on lakes safe to walk on, residents should continue to use caution and be alert.

The council also took up the issue of selecting an official newspaper and on a 3-2 vote selected *Anoka County Record* over the *Anoka County Union*.

Council had a detailed discussion on the issue and *Anoka County Record* owner-publisher John Kysylyczyn made a short presentation and answered questions from the council members. Council member Mike Wylie expressed concern about the number of print issues that would be available in the community. Council member Scott Lawrence stated in reply that he was not concerned about this because everything is moving online. Mr. Kysylyczyn stated that neither paper had significant circulation in the community and that this was simply a long term trend of society moving away from print paper publications and moving towards online communication. He informed the council that the online communication options with the *Record* was one key issue that set his newspaper apart from the competition.

During the discussion, Mr. Lawrence specified that as a business owner, he found the last two pages of a three page letter sent to the council by Tom Murray of the *Anoka County Union* to be offensive. In Mr. Murray's letter, he made disparaging comments about the *Anoka County Record*. His letter was believed to have been sent to every council member and administrator in their coverage area. Mr. Lawrence further stated that no owner of the *Anoka County Union* has ever visited an Oak Grove city council meeting that he knows of.

The council also approved a resolution on a 5-0 vote summarizing the conclusions of the Council's performance review of the City Administrator, Rick Juba. Mayor Mark Korin stated that, "Rick is doing a wonderful job." Council member Denno stated, "It is an understatement to say that he is doing satisfactory. He has done an outstanding job." Mr. Juba thanked the council.

The council also announced that the Comcast franchise agreement was coming due in February. When the agreement goes into affect, the 5% franchise fee will disappear from customer's cable TV bill. A separate agreement with Comcast will provide free or reduced rates for internet service at city hall, the public works building, and fire station #2.

Mr. Juba updated the council on the new audio/video system installed in the council chambers. He stated that the council meeting was being recorded and would be played back on cable channel 16, and that in the future they would be able to do live broadcasts. The new equipment in the council chambers includes a large screen TV for the council and audience to be able to view overhead documents and power point presentations. He stated that one of the benefits of the vendor they selected is that they will receive one year service support.

Mr. Juba also updated the council on the West Lake George water treatment system. He said that the half-million dollar system is up and running well, and that preliminary numbers showed that arsenic levels have been reduced from 11 ppb (parts per billion) to under 1 ppb. Residents will be receiving a full report when verified numbers become available later this month.

Mayor Korin announced that the next council meeting, January 28th, would also be his birthday. He made no mention of what number birthday it would be.

## HAM LAKE CITY COUNCIL FIRST TO DESIGNATE *RECORD* AS LEGAL NEWSPAPER

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a three page review, which addressed the accusations made against *Anoka County Record* by Tom Murray of the *Anoka County Union*, the city's previous provider of legal publication services.

In Mr. Dorn's review, he stated that "a court ruling today would likely conclude that the *Anoka County Record* is a newspaper of 'general circulation' in the community." He further stated that, "The publication has certified to the Minnesota Secretary of State that it has complied with all the requirements of statute, and I have no evidence to dispute this representation." In conclusion, Mr. Dorn stated that the allegations by a competitor do not constitute such actual notice that a newspaper is not qualified to publish legal notices.

In a similar cost-savings measure, the city council approved a new contract with Leader Printing to print the city newsletter, of which about 6,200 are mailed to residents. The new

arrangement is to take effect in March. The company had the lowest quote of \$743.30. Since the city had been paying \$1,573 per issue it was decided to use the savings by increasing the frequency of the newsletter to monthly. It will be 4-pages, black color only, on #50 11"x 16" paper. The city council approved the receipt of a donation of \$9,000 from the Ham Lake Area Chamber of Commerce to be used for city newsletter costs.

The next Ham Lake City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 22, due to the Martin Luther King holiday on Monday. *ACR*

## First Five Bills of Session

Dear Neighbors,

The state legislative session began January 8th. This year's session will run until May 20th.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. This year's main task is balancing the state's budget. The new majorities in the House and Senate are committed to balancing the budget in a responsible and sustainable way – without shifts or gimmicks. It's important that the benefits and burdens of state government fall fairly on all Minnesotans. We all benefit from a vibrant and competitive state.

The first five bills introduced reflect the new majority's priorities. Our goals include expanding economic opportunities for families and businesses, implementing a healthcare exchange, and renewing our commitment to education in Minnesota.

This legislation is only a starting place. Moving forward I am eager to hear your input and concerns. Feel free to contact me by email at [rep.melissa.hortman@house.mn](mailto:rep.melissa.hortman@house.mn).

I will continue to send you periodic updates from the Capitol, and I'll include information about local issues and upcoming meetings and events. In addition, each update will profile one of Minnesota's beautiful state parks. I encourage you to get out to our parks – whether cross country skiing in the winter or fishing in the summer, or lots of other

activities – you will find they are jewels and great places to spend time.

Keep in touch!

Sincerely,

*Melissa Hortman*  
State Representative

### FIRST FIVE BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE MINNESOTA HOUSE

#### *Paying Back our Schools* (HF 1)

The bill would pay back what was borrowed from our schools in the previous budget. We must fairly and responsibly balance our budget. If we do that, it will keep education dollars where they belong – in the classroom.

#### *Property Tax Relief for Middle Class Minnesotans*

HF 2 would create a Homestead Credit Refund to provide direct property tax relief to middle class Minnesota homeowners and renters. It would also provide property tax relief to renters by increasing the Renter's Credit.

#### *Creating Jobs throughout Minnesota*

HF 3 would increase funding for the Minnesota Investment Fund, one of the state's primary tools to encourage businesses to set up shop in Minnesota. HF 4 would expand funding for the Minnesota Trade Office in an effort to increase the state's exports.

#### *Health Insurance Exchange* (HF 5)

This bipartisan bill would create a new online marketplace where individuals, families and small businesses will be able to get quality, affordable health coverage that fits their budget. Minnesota families are projected to save over \$1 billion by using the exchange to purchase insurance.

In other council business, a mold remediation contract for \$34,500 was approved for the municipal liquor store. Mold on the store's ceiling and two walls will be removed in the wee hours of the night after retail hours. The work will be done by Legacy Services Corporation of Ramsey. Other bidders were Mavo Systems of White Bear Lake (\$52,510) and Energy REO Solutions, Maple Grove (\$61,788).

Mark Hoard and Ann Radichel were re-appointed to the Parks & Recreation Commission; and five persons applied for three seats on the Planning

## Republican budget turnaround means school districts to see aid immediately

Minnesota classrooms will see dollars sooner than expected because of responsible budgeting by Republican legislative majorities. Through prioritized spending and without increasing the tax burden on hardworking Minnesotans, Republicans turned a \$6.2 billion projected budget deficit into a \$2.5 billion budget surplus for 2012-13.

### Letter to the Editor



Rep. Peggy Scott

A portion of those surplus funds immediately went toward replenishing the state's budget reserves and cash flow account. The remaining \$1.6 billion in surplus funds paid off the school shift that was part of the 2011 budget compromise between Gov. Dayton and the legislature, and is beginning to pay back the debt to schools borrowed by the DFL in 2010. School districts received a scheduled payment on December 15th and received another payment on Friday, December 28th. (Anoka-Hennepin Schools received a payment of \$56,889,686.)

This is great news for our schools. By making government work smarter and finding efficiencies, Republicans passed a balanced budget without asking Minnesotans to contribute more in taxes. Reform measures focused on growing jobs in our state and getting people back to work. Those efforts resulted in higher than forecasted revenues and our schools are benefiting from the improved budget situation.

The shift payback amounts will be included in the regularly scheduled payments from the state beginning with the December 15, 2012 payment through June 2013.

While our state is on the right path, we still have a lot of work to do. Republicans know what it takes to balance the budget and deliver these results for the people of Minnesota. We are hopeful that Governor Dayton and Democrat lawmakers will work with us to continue on that path of economic recovery. Paying back the remainder of the school shift, left by DFL majorities, must be a priority this session.

We are leaving our state in a much better place than when we took majorities two years ago.

- A \$6.2 billion budget deficit turned into a \$2.5 billion surplus — an \$8.7 billion turnaround in two years.
- State budget reserves, replenished (Balance was \$0 when we took over, now has \$653 million)
- State Cash flow account, replenished, (\$95 million balance is now \$350 million)
- 2011 K-12 Shift to schools, paid off
- 2010 DFL K-12 Shift to schools-beginning to pay off this inherited debt
- The unemployment rate when we took over in 2011 was 7.1%; now it is 5.7%

We encourage citizens to pay attention to these numbers over the next two years. We have proven that state government can provide more than adequate service without additional taxes imposed on Minnesota families and businesses. The result is a stronger economy

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

*Rep. Peggy Scott (35B)*

Commission. The council ranked the five by a points system and re-appointed Lisa Dirks (22 points), Rebecca Becker (19 points) and Larry Raymond (17 points). Not appointed were Jason Letourneau (9 points) and Dan Lambert (8 points). Reducing the number of seats (currently nine) on the Planning Commission may be discussed by the city council at a future date. An open position in Public Works maintenance will be filled by John Goodman, who was among 10 applicants interviewed from a pool of 146 applications received. *ACR*

## SPRING LAKE PARK CITY COUNCILOR RESIGNS

Six-year council member Dale Dahl gave his resignation letter to the Spring Lake Park City Council at their January 7th meeting. The council immediately declared a vacancy and an appointment will eventually be made. Dahl mentioned at the meeting that he was now residing in Blaine.

# GOVERNMENT MEETINGS CALENDAR

**ANOKA COUNTY**  
Anoka County Govt. Center  
2100 3rd Ave.  
Anoka MN 55303-5024  
Ph.: 763-323-5700  
www.co.anoka.mn.us

**Tues. Jan. 22**  
Management Cmte., 8:30 am,  
Circle Pines City Hall  
County Board, 9:30 am,  
Circle Pines City Hall  
Anoka County Extension Cmte.  
Meeting, 3 pm, Bunker Hills  
Activity Center

**Wed. Jan. 23**  
Anoka Co Joint Law Enforcement  
Council, 2 pm, Community Rm,  
Sheriff's office, 13301 Hanson  
Blvd NW, Andover

**Wed. Jan. 30**  
Local Government Officials  
Meeting, 6 pm, Murzyn Hall,  
540 Mill St., Columbia Heights

**Thurs. Jan. 31**  
Main Street (CSAH 14) Pedestrian  
Bridge Over 35-W Open House,  
4:30-6:30 pm, Discussion and  
presentation on pedestrian bridge  
project; Lino Lakes City Hall.  
Contact: Curt Kobilarcsik,  
763-862-4223

**FRIDLEY**  
Fridley City Hall  
6431 University Ave NE  
Fridley, MN 55432  
Ph: 763-571-3450

www.ci.fridley.mn.us  
**Mon. Jan. 28**  
City Council, 7 pm

**HAM LAKE**  
Ham Lake City Hall  
15544 Central Ave NE  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
Ph: 763-434-9555  
www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us  
Hours: M-Th 7 AM - 4:30 PM  
Fri: 7 AM-12 NOON

**Tues. Jan. 22**  
City Council, 6 pm

**Mon. Jan. 28**  
Planning Comm., 6 pm

**Mon. Feb. 4**  
City Council, 6 pm

**Mon. Feb. 11**  
Planning Comm., 6 pm

**Tues. Feb. 19**  
City Council, 6 pm

**Wed. Feb. 20**  
Park & Tree Comm., 6 pm

**Mon. Feb. 25**  
Planning Comm., 6 pm

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

**Tues. Jan. 22**  
Planning Comm., 7 pm

**Mon. Jan. 28**  
Park & Rec. Comm., 7 pm

**Tues. Jan. 29 & Tues. Feb. 12**  
Town Board, 6 pm  
**Tues. Feb. 5**  
Road & Bridge Cmte., 7 pm

**OAK GROVE**  
Oak Grove City Hall  
19900 Nightingale St. NW  
Oak Grove, MN 55011  
Ph: 763-404-7000  
www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us

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

**3rd Wednesday**  
Parks Comm., 7 pm

**3rd Thursday**  
Planning Comm., 7 pm

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

**Tues. Jan. 22**  
City Council "work session,"  
5:30 pm; meeting 7 pm,  
HRA follows

**Thurs. Jan. 24**  
City Council "strategic planning  
session," 5 pm

**Tues. Jan. 29**  
City Council Special Mtg, 6 pm

**Thurs. Jan. 31**  
Planning Comm. Special Mtg.,  
7 pm

**Mon. Feb. 4**  
EPB, 6:30 pm  
**Tues. Feb. 5**  
City Council/HRA "work  
session," 6 pm  
**Thurs. Feb. 7**  
Planning Comm., 7 pm

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

**Tues. Jan. 22**  
Board of Supervisors, 5 pm

**CENTENNIAL ISD #12**  
4707 North Rd  
Circle Pines, MN 55014  
Ph.: (763) 792-6000  
isd12.org

**Mon. Feb. 4**  
School Board "work session,"  
5:30 pm

**Mon. Feb. 11**  
School Board, 6:30 pm

**FRIDLEY ISD #14**  
6000 W Moore Lake Dr  
Fridley, MN 55432  
Ph.: (763) 502-5000  
fridley.k12.mn.us

**Tues. Jan. 22**  
School Bd "work session,"  
5:30 pm, Public Comment  
7 pm, Business Mtg 7:30 pm,

Fridley Comm. Ctr. Rm 109

**SPRING LAKE PARK ISD #16**  
1415 81st Ave NE  
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432  
Ph.: (763) 786-5570  
springlakeparkschools.org

**Tues. Jan. 22**  
School Board "work session,"  
6 pm

**QCTV Cable Commission**  
Ramsey, Andover, Champlin, Anoka  
**Thurs. Jan. 17, 5 pm,** Anoka  
City Hall

**North Metro TV Cable Commission**  
Ham Lake, Blaine, Spring Lake Park, Lino  
Lakes, Lexington, Centerville, Circle Pines

**Tues. Feb. 5, 10:30 am,**  
Operations Cmte., NMCTV,  
12520 Polk St. NE, Blaine

**Wed. Feb. 6, 6 pm,** Executive  
Cmte., NMCTV, 12520 Polk  
St. NE, Blaine

**Wed. Feb. 20, 6 pm,** Cable  
Commission meeting, Spring  
Lake Park City Hall, 1301 81st  
Ave NE, SLP

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

## 350 ACRES IN NORTH METRO AREA PROTECTED FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION

Nearly 350 acres of land have been permanently protected for conservation purposes in the eastern part of Anoka County. Two tracts of natural habitat at the headwaters of Rice Creek will connect several existing public conservation lands in a growing part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Trust for Public Land finalized the acquisition and conveyance of the land to Anoka County on January 3, 2013.

"This new conservation area will be a legacy for generations to come, providing access to pristine and diverse wildlife lands that are best suited to hunting and conservation," said Anoka County Board Chair Rhonda Sivarajah.

The protection of this headwaters creek corridor just south of the state-owned Lamprey Pass Wildlife Management Area (WMA) provides multiple water quality benefits, protecting nearly all of the shoreline of Columbus Lake and half a mile of Rice Creek. It also helps complete public ownership of a 20+ -mile conservation corridor extending from the WMA and along Rice Creek to the Mississippi River. Currently there is no connection between the WMA and these other large tracts of publicly owned habitat.

The land has a rich mixture of wetland habitat, including some of the last remaining high quality natural communities in the Twin Cities, which provide critical habitat for many species in conservation need. It also provides excellent hunting opportunities for waterfowl, pheasant, turkey, and deer within 20 minutes of downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. The project had broad support from many sportsmen's groups including the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, and Pheasants Forever.

Anoka County will manage 258 acres of the land as a new public hunting area called Columbus Lake Conservation Area. This portion of the land protection project was funded with money from the state's Outdoor Heritage Fund, which is recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Additional funding was provided by the state Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). The conservation area will be open to the public following the development of parking and access areas.

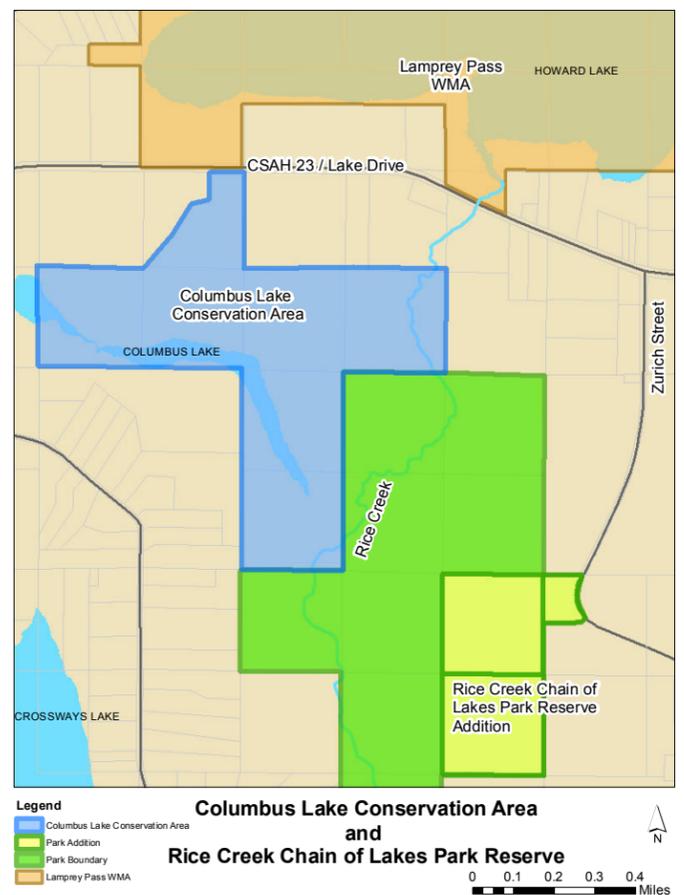
The remaining 85 acres will be added to Anoka County's Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve to connect existing parcels and provide improved public access for nature observation and hiking. Funding for this portion of the acquisition was provided by the Metropolitan Council's Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant Program.

"The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources have led efforts to ensure that we protect important natural lands for wildlife, public hunting and fishing, and parks and trail corridors in the metropolitan area," said Bob McGillivray, Trust for Public Land senior project manager. "Conserving Columbus Lake is another terrific close-to-home example."

The purchase of the new conservation and park areas was a model of cooperation, according to John VonDeLinde, Anoka County Director of Parks and Recreation. "The State of Minnesota, The Trust for Public Land, Metropolitan Council, City of Columbus, the landowner, and Anoka County were all significant partners in this conservation land purchase."

Anoka County is part of the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area and has a population of more than 330,000 people. The county owns and operates a park and open space system of more than 10,000 acres with an estimated 3.8 million visitors per year.

The Trust for Public Land, established in 1972, specializes in conservation real estate, applying its expertise in negotiations, public and private funding, and law to protect strategic land for people to enjoy as parks, greenways, hunting and fishing areas, community gardens, urban playgrounds, and wilderness. Since 1986, The Trust for Public Land has helped to protect more than 90,000 acres of some of Minnesota's most special land and water resources.



# Anoka County RECORD

# LEGAL NOTICES

## CITY OF HAM LAKE CITY SUMMARY BUDGET STATEMENT

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2013 budget information concerning the City of Ham Lake to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. Sec. 471.6965. This budget is not complete; the complete budget may be examined at the Administrator's office, City Hall, 15544 Central Ave NE, Ham Lake, MN. The City Council approved this budget on December 17, 2012.

### Governmental Funds 2013 Adopted Budget

| Budgeted Governmental Funds                        | 2012<br>Original     | 2013<br>Adopted      |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>REVENUES</b>                                    |                      |                      |
| Property taxes                                     | \$4,323,438          | \$4,186,023          |
| Other taxes  | 53,700               | 54,700               |
| Special assessments                                | 27,662               | 19,651               |
| Licenses and permits                               | 205,220              | 309,820              |
| Intergovernmental revenues                         |                      |                      |
| Federal  | 0                    | 20,000               |
| State  | 3,003,449            | 1,161,786            |
| County & other local governments                   | 135,000              | 195,890              |
| Charges for services                               | 154,693              | 169,347              |
| Fines and forfeits                                 | 50,000               | 52,000               |
| Interest on investments                            | 44,800               | 44,025               |
| Miscellaneous revenues                             | 45,900               | 65,480               |
| <b>Total revenues</b>                              | <b>8,043,862</b>     | <b>6,278,722</b>     |
| Other financing sources                            |                      |                      |
| Proceeds from sale of fixed assets                 | 13,000               | 43,000               |
| Transfers from other funds                         | 1,003,029            | 977,850              |
| <b>Total revenues and other financing sources</b>  | <b>\$9,059,891</b>   | <b>\$7,299,572</b>   |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                                |                      |                      |
| Current expenditures                               |                      |                      |
| General government                                 | \$995,183            | \$1,028,304          |
| Public safety                                      | 1,619,033            | 1,662,659            |
| Streets and highways (excluding construction)      | 853,450              | 979,483              |
| Sanitation (recycling)                             | 35,000               | 36,000               |
| Parks and recreation                               | 436,412              | 351,640              |
| Economic development                               | 50,000               | 78,680               |
| Miscellaneous                                      | 15,200               | 40,500               |
| <b>Total current expenditures</b>                  | <b>4,004,278</b>     | <b>4,177,266</b>     |
| Debt service-principal                             | 100,000              | 115,000              |
| Interest and fiscal charges                        | 65,994               | 63,843               |
| Capital outlay                                     | 5,229,500            | 4,121,239            |
| <b>Total expenditures</b>                          | <b>9,399,772</b>     | <b>8,477,348</b>     |
| Other financing uses                               |                      |                      |
| Transfers to other funds                           | 1,003,029            | 977,850              |
| <b>Total expenditures and other financing uses</b> | <b>\$10,402,801</b>  | <b>\$9,455,198</b>   |
| <b>Increase (decrease) in fund balances</b>        | <b>\$(1,342,910)</b> | <b>\$(2,155,626)</b> |
| <b>Property tax levy - all funds</b>               | <b>\$4,227,438</b>   | <b>\$4,087,023</b>   |
| <b>Net unrealized gain on investments for 2012</b> | <b>\$29,380</b>      |                      |

(Published Jan. 17, 2013 Anoka County Record)

## SOS OFFICE RELEASES NEW LEGAL NEWSPAPER LIST

This week, the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office released the new list of legal newspapers in Minnesota.

The number of overall legal newspapers in the state increased from 344 in 2012 to 347 in 2013. One of the new newspapers on this list is the *Anoka County Record*.

The additional two newspapers that were added to the list include the *Eden Valley-Watkins Voice* in Stearns County, and the *Camden Community News* in Hennepin County. The latter however is published as a monthly, which precludes it from being a legal newspaper even though it may have filed as such with the Secretary of State's office. State statute requires that a newspaper publish at least bi-weekly.

Additional changes include the *Forest Lake Press* being renamed *The Lowdown - Forest Lake*, and the *St. Croix Valley Press* being renamed *The Lowdown - St. Croix Valley*. Also the *Pine River Journal* moved their known office of publication from Pine River, Cass County, Minnesota to Brainerd, Crow Wing County, Minnesota.

Legal newspapers are officially designated publications in which citizens and governmental units advertise notices required by law. The law requires that notices must be placed in legal newspapers for many public hearings, opening of bids for public contracts, public land sales, corporate dissolutions, and numerous other private and government activities.

### CITY OF HAM LAKE ORDINANCE NO. 13-01

An Ordinance relating to Used Vehicle Lots, allowing such land uses in a limited manner in areas zoned CD-1.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota, as follows:

The following language is hereby added to the list of Conditional Uses found in Article 9-220.2 (c) of the Ham Lake City Code:

Used Vehicle Lots that meet the following criteria:

a) The lot on which the use is proposed must be presently and lawfully used by a business whose primary business is in the automotive industry, such as an automobile specialty shop, automobile repair facility, recreational vehicle sales lot or new car sales lot.

b) The City may limit the number of used car sales that can be maintained in inventory, and may require screening or other strategic placement of used car inventory on the parcel.

c) The "used vehicles" are passenger cars, pickup trucks, boats and boat trailers, campers or recreational vehicles, snowmobiles and snowmobile trailers, all-terrain vehicles or motorcycles. Semi-trailers, busses, construction equipment, semi-trucks, commercial trucks larger than pickup trucks and trailers (except those listed above) that are suited for commercial usage are not to be included as "used vehicles".

Presented to the Ham Lake City Council on December 17, 2012 and adopted on the 7th day of January, 2013.

/s/Michael G. Van Kirk, Mayor  
Doris Nivala, Administrator

(Published Jan. 17, 2013, Anoka County Record)

### RAMSEY CITY ENGINEER

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

The successful candidate will possess strong leadership skills with a proven track record of building and maintaining a successful engineering team.

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

Minimum qualifications for the City Engineer position include:

Possession of a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from an accredited college or university.

Professional registration in the state of Minnesota.

Minimum of 7 years civil engineering experience after registration. Prefer municipal experience or other public sector experience.

Significant computer experience, knowledge of CAD/CAM and GIS systems and implementation.

Possession of a valid class D state drivers license with a good driving record.

Two years of supervisory experience.

The salary range for this position is \$78,208 to \$97,760 annually, DOQ. To apply, please print an application packet from the City's website: [www.ci.ramsey.mn.us](http://www.ci.ramsey.mn.us) or call 763-576-4301. Resumes are welcome; however, resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a City application. The first review of applications will occur on Friday, January 25, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.; however the position is open until filled. EEO/AA

Mail all applications to:  
The City of Ramsey  
Human Resources Office  
7550 Sunwood Drive NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303

CLOSING DATE:  
Thursday, February 14, 2013; 4:45 p.m.

### COLUMBIA HEIGHTS LIBRARY DIRECTOR

#### POSITION SUMMARY:

This is highly responsible administrative and supervisory work in the direction of all employees, functions, and operations of the Library. Performs professional, administrative, and technical functions in the provision of library services to the public. Works cooperatively with an appointed Library Board, which serves in an advisory capacity. Work is performed with wide latitude for independent judgment and action under the general supervision of the City Manager.

#### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Master's degree in Library Science from an accredited college or university. Five years of responsible professional library experience of which at least two years is in a public library setting. Five years supervisory experience. Three years experience with on-line circulation systems.

#### DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Three or more years of responsible professional library experience in a public library setting. One year experience complying with State of Minnesota reporting requirements for public libraries.

#### SALARY RANGE:

\$6,707 - \$8,081 per month, plus fringe benefits (2012 salary schedule)

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

City application and position description can be downloaded from our website at [www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us](http://www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us). To be considered for this position, applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, and completed City application to: Assistant to the City Manager/HR Director, City of Columbia Heights, 590 40th Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421.

CLOSING DATE:  
Thursday, February 14, 2013; 4:45 p.m.



### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE JANUARY 2013

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |

### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2013

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
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| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |    |    |

### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE MARCH 2013

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

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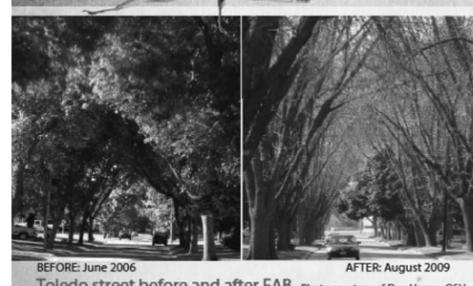
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### EMERALD ASH BORER SYMPOSIUM

TUESDAY, FEB. 12, 2013  
HOPKINS CENTER for the ARTS  
11th and Main St., Hopkins  
Registration opens 7:30 am  
Seminar starts at 9 am

For more information call Kim Fischer 952-252-0532



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