

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS NEW LIBRARY AT APRIL 8 MEETING LIBRARY TASK FORCE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

by Bryan Olson — special to the ACR

The members of the Columbia Heights Library Task Force, after a year's time and two dozen meetings are ready to present recommendations to the city council on April 8th.

The task force, chaired by David Larson, has been gathering information that may culminate in the construction of a new library in the city. The current building dates to 1960 and lacks the amenities that typify a modern library. Of paramount importance to the task force members is to have a new building where ample space would be available for a children's reading area, as that area of the present building is in a lower level with no windows and is prone to flooding.

The task force has taken tours of other libraries in the area, particularly liking the renovated branch library on Central Avenue in Minneapolis, as well as the Waconia library, which is combined with city hall. The task force has also surveyed the public and has had presentations made to the body by architects and construction managers.

Late in 2012, discussions floated around city hall that perhaps the office building property on the southeast corner of 40th Avenue N.E. and Central could be acquired.

While the building's most visible lessee is Northeast Bank, its upper floors are said to be 70% vacant.

Those discussions led to a joint public meeting of the city council, library task force and library foundation members on Jan. 24. While held in the council chambers, a room that is equipped for the regular televising of city council meetings, the joint meeting was not televised nor have minutes of the meeting surfaced on the city's web site.

Unveiled at the meeting were some preliminary sketches made by Dunbar Development of Golden Valley that sent many in the audience gasping with delight. The concept was a mixture of government and private housing uses. Drawings depicted a sleek, contemporary look on the street level and an expansion of the building to the Gould Avenue corner, removing the present parking area along the Central Avenue side of the building. Frank Dunbar explained that the expansion would be where the library would be situated. Also on the same floor would be the new offices of city hall. Councilman Bruce Nawrocki responded to what he saw by saying, "the last thing we need is another city hall."



Scott Clark, Community Development Director for Columbia Heights, briefs the audience of the Jan. 24 joint meeting

Nawrocki asked how much square footage was presently being used at city hall: 3,500 square feet. He then asked how much footage was being allocated to city offices in the new design: 9,175 square feet. The reasons behind the need for the increase were not defined.

The city's Community Development Director Scott Clark said at the outset of the meeting that there would be no discussion or speculating on costs and financing arrangements as everything to be presented was only preliminary.

Nawrocki asked if the building owner was present, or if a purchase price had been discussed with the owner, Dave Jasper of Stadium Village Properties LLC. No to both. Clark told Nawrocki that county records show the property valuation is \$4.55 million.

The concept, similar to a completed Dunbar project in Waconia, was comprised of 18,000 square feet devoted to the library on the ground level, as well as over 9,000 square feet for city hall but also featured 60 units and five floors of housing above, which would be rented to seniors aged 55 and over at market rates. The housing component's amenities were described to the audience of around 40, less than a handful of which were citizens not representing a stakeholder in the project.



Chair of the Library Task Force, David Larson (foreground) chats with councilman Bruce Nawrocki (not pictured) while all are awaiting the start of the joint meeting. From left are city councilors Donna Schmitt, Tami Diehm, Mayor Gary Peterson and City Manager Walter Fehst.

The Library Task Force estimates that 20,000 to 25,000 square feet would be needed for a new library. The most attractive part of the bank building package would be its adjacent 369-stall parking ramp, a large step up from the present library's 18 spaces.

Nawrocki at this and other meetings expressed misgivings about the city getting

NEW LIBRARY IN COLUMBIA HEIGHTS? Continued on page 3

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD REMOVES PREVAILING WAGE RULE, FOLLOWS NATIONAL TREND

By Tom Steward | Watchdog.org Minnesota Bureau

Anoka County may be 300 miles from Madison, Wis., and the politicians may not have fled the state to avoid a decisive union vote, but this blue-collar Twin Cities suburb now faces its own "Scott Walker moment."

In a surprise, some would say stealth, vote added to the agenda the previous day, the county board recently repealed by a 4-2 margin one of organized labor's cornerstones—the prevailing wage standard for county construction projects.

"I don't think there were any laws broken or rules of county protocol broken, but it was simply kind of drone-like and without prior consideration," Commissioner Jim Kordiak, who authored the original prevailing wage rule 24 years ago, said of the Feb. 12 vote. "All the prevailing wage suggested is that we ensure our projects paid our contractors within that wage range. It worked very well for many years."

The prevailing wage rule covered county-funded construction projects in excess of \$10,000. Union supporters say the policy ensured quality construction work for public projects and fair wages for workers, while critics claim the policy significantly increased labor costs borne by taxpayers.

"In the private marketplace nobody's asking for prevailing wage. So why should the public marketplace with public tax dollars at a minimum, why would we want to add another 30 percent on a project in terms of labor?" said Commissioner Matt Look, who led the successful effort to eliminate the rule.

Look and other opponents say the cost of the paperwork to ensure contractors' compliance with prevailing wage provisions, combined with higher labor costs, made it difficult for smaller contractors to offer competitive bids on county projects—until now.

"If you go by national averages, union representation is maybe 11 to 13 percent," Look said, "and I represent 100 percent of my constituents."

Labor leaders responded, urging members to call the cell phone numbers of the four commissioners who supported repeal on the Facebook page of Teamsters Joint Council 32, even though the county has no trucking contracts with companies using Teamsters.

"Thank you to all of you that have called this anti-Union, anti-worker Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look. The number we've provided is his cellular number, so feel free to also text him if you so choose. Just remember to be direct but professional and please don't stoop to his level and use threats," reads a Teamsters Facebook message.

Look dueled back on Facebook, insisting accusations he called union workers "lazy" are "totally bogus." On his Facebook page, Look provided Teamsters official Ed Reynoso's phone number and more. "Give him a call. Be sure to voice your opinion on prevailing wage and his California style thuggery bully style tactics that are now welcome in MN." (Editor's Note: Reynoso also serves on the Metropolitan Council.)

While the Minnesota Labor Department does not track the number of counties with a prevailing wage rule, insiders put the number at between seven and 12 of the state's 87 counties. Anoka County's decision to drop prevailing wage rules pertains only to county-funded construction projects, not those involving state and federal funding.

Just the same, the commissioner who put prevailing wage rules on Anoka County's books more than two decades ago detects a broader trend at work.

"There is a push back in terms of prevailing wage and union service in this country. Look at Wisconsin and many more examples. It's part of a national conservative direction this country has been tipping toward," Kordiak said.

"I won't tell you it's wrong or fatal, but it's certainly difficult to watch unfold."



The Anoka County Board prepares for a photo shoot at its Jan. 8 meeting. Commissioner Jim Kordiak is seated on left, with Commissioner Matt Look standing behind him. (File photo)

RUNNING ACRES NEARLY SHUT DOWN BY RACING COMMISSION

Running Aces Harness Park survived a vote last Thursday which threatened to shut down its operation amid a legal battle with competing entities.

This is great news for Columbus and Anoka County. Running Aces employs up to 600 people and to lose those jobs, especially as we work to recover from the recession, would have been devastating to the local economy.

By a 5-4 margin, the Minnesota Racing Commission voted to dismiss a petition submitted by thoroughbred race horse owners at Canterbury Park to revoke Running Aces' gambling license.

State statute requires Running Aces to make \$400,000 in annual purse contributions to the Canterbury horsemen. Running Aces indicated it would cease making those payments after Canterbury and Mystic Lake last year entered into an \$80 million purse deal. The case will proceed in court but, in the meantime, the Canterbury horsemen filed the unsuccessful license-revocation motion.

I am confident an appropriate resolution will be reached through the courts. Shutting the doors on Running Aces would have brought serious consequences to families throughout District 31B and I am pleased the board agreed to let the courts handle things in due process.



Rep. Tom Hackbarth
District 31B
309 State Office Bldg.
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-2439

REP. ABELER INVITES ANOKA AND RAMSEY CONSTITUENTS TO A TOWN HALL MEETING THIS SATURDAY

Please join me at a Legislative Town Hall this Saturday, March 30, at Noon in the Community Room of the Anoka City Hall, 2015 First Avenue North in downtown Anoka.

Town halls provide a unique opportunity to speak one-on-one about the important issues for Anoka and Ramsey. I welcome and encourage everyone to attend. Feel free to bring a friend or young person to help them get a feel for our state government and the legislative process.

2013 LEGISLATIVE SURVEY: As your State Representative, I want to make sure your voice is heard. I encourage you to fill out my 2013 Legislative Survey by going to www.esurveycreator.com/s/5988c63.

Your input will help me to best represent the interests and priorities of our district. I look forward to hearing from you!



Rep. Jim Abeler
District 35A
203 State Office Bldg.
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-1729

Contact me anytime with your questions or thoughts on legislative issues – your input helps me do a better job for you.

We welcome your columns and letters / editor@anokacountyrecord.com

ROCHESTER:

I OWE MY SOUL TO THE COMPANY STORE

Back in the early 1950s Tennessee Ernie Ford recorded a classic country song entitled "Sixteen Tons." The song was about a laborer who worked all day long loading sixteen tons of coal only to get another day older and deeper in debt. The lyric then says: "Saint Peter don't you call me cause I can't go, I owe my soul to the company store." The song refers to a man working in a mining town where the company owned most everything in town including the general store; it was a "company town." These towns were usually single employer towns in remote or rural areas. Most of the time they were mining or manufacturing businesses. Because they were the only employer in the town, virtually everyone who lived in the town worked for the same company.

People in town followed the company protocol – you did what the employer wanted or you didn't work at the company. My experience with company towns dates back many years ago when my parents bought a house in a small former mining community in Northern Wisconsin. All 200 homes in the town, as well as the general store were owned by the mining company. When the mine closed, the company put all the homes in the town up for sale. Only retirees or individuals who thought they could find other work or commute to other work bought homes in the town.

Today, there are few company towns left and the few that remain are quite different. In Minnesota there is a major employer with a new concept for the "company town." The em-

ployer is the Mayo Clinic and the new "company town" is Rochester.

The Mayo Clinic approach to ruling over the city is different than the small mining community in Northern Wisconsin that I remember as a boy. In the case of the Mayo Clinic they want to make the entire City of Rochester into a development zone for the benefit of their enterprise.

It's a unique plan where all state revenue generated within the City of Rochester including income taxes, corporate taxes, sales taxes, and business property taxes would be placed in a fund for the sole purpose of funding what the Mayo Clinic wants to build.

An appointed nine member "Rochester Area Medical Center Development Authority" will decide how hundreds of millions of state taxpayer funds will be expended. The stated purpose of these funds is to make Rochester a global medical destination, i.e. promote, develop and help build whatever the Mayo Clinic wants. The funds can be used for either private or public projects including sports, recreation, transportation, retail, housing, dining or entertainment; in other words, almost anything and everything that the Mayo Clinic wants.

The Medical Center Development Authority is to have two elected officials from Rochester, two state legislators (which would most likely be

from Rochester), one county commissioner from Rochester and four appointed members who also will likely be from Rochester. It is obvious that the Mayo Clinic will control and direct everything the Medical Center Development Authority does.

While all Development Authority plans must have a public hearing, the nine member board can change its plans at any time. The Development Authority is given broad powers, even the authority to acquire property by eminent domain. It is permitted to sell bonds with up to 30 year terms and the legislation says that the Development Authority is pledged up to \$75 million per year in state general fund revenues to pay the debt on as much as \$585 million in bonds.

The simple reality of this proposal is to make Rochester a "company town" and in this case the "company" is the Mayo Clinic. All tax revenue will flow to the "Medical Development Authority" and the Authority will spend the money the way the Mayo Clinic wants.

If you live in Rochester, you won't have any choice but to work, shop, eat and partake in community activities, while all your income and sales tax dollars support the Medical Development Authority. Just like in the old days, there is no escaping having to support the company town. Based on the members of the Legislature who are the key authors on the bill, it looks like they already owe their souls to the company store.

Phil Krinkie is a former eight-term Republican state representative from Lino Lakes who chaired the House Tax Committee and is now president of the Taxpayers League of Minnesota. You can contact him at: philk@taxpayer-sleague.org

OPINION



Phil Krinkie
The Taxpayers' League

Verifying eligibility for taxpayer-funded social service programs

This week the Office of the Legislative Auditor released its findings related to *Information Verification in Eligibility Determinations*. The report is a follow up to a previous audit that found significant problems with verification of eligibility for a number of our public programs through our Department of Human Services. While the problem has been a known issue for nearly a decade, the department has not taken the necessary actions to protect Federal and State taxpayer dollars.

Minnesotans will disagree about the size of our government, but we all agree that our government welfare dollars should only go to those who meet our (generous) standards. Every elected official, commissioner, and government employee has a responsibility to create a culture where honesty is expected and taxpayer dollars are protected.

Last session I carried legislation to require the department to purchase software to verify eligibility for our welfare programs. Some progress is being made, but IT will not solve the problem alone. We must also train our employees to help welfare applicants efficiently, while being stewards of your hard earned tax dollar. The Commissioner has pledged to increase verifications. I will work with state and county officials to ensure that we have effective and efficient government.

Dayton gets an earful in St. Cloud, Duluth

By Joe Kimball — *MinnPost*

About 200 people showed up in St. Cloud Tuesday night to hear Gov. Mark Dayton defend his planned budget that still includes new taxes on high earners but no longer expands the sales tax base with clothing and services.

Some praised the governor's efforts to increase education funding and raise some taxes, but others criticized his tax plan and support of gun registration, said the St. Cloud Times.

Dayton was lectured on the Second Amendment and said while he believes that a bill calling for universal background checks on gun buyers is not a perfect solution, he believes something must be done to cut down on gun violence.

The paper said Dayton heard from business leaders: Mike Helgeson, CEO of St. Cloud-based poultry firm Gold'n Plump, thanked Dayton at the event for withdrawing his proposal to expand the state sales tax to certain transactions not currently taxed, including services purchased by businesses.

But Helgeson asked Dayton to rethink his plan to increase the income-tax rate on the wealthiest 2 percent of Minnesota taxpayers. Helgeson said the plan could harm small businesses that pay taxes through the owner's individual tax return.

Dayton cited a state Department of Revenue study that shows middle-class Minnesotans pay a greater percentage of their income in state and local taxes than the wealthiest 1 percent of Minnesotans, the paper said.

"You think that's OK," Dayton told Bohnen, to applause. "I don't. I don't think that's fair."

The previous week, about 130 people crowded into a room at the Duluth police headquarters to tell the governor what they think about his proposed budget. The Duluth News Tribune says the 100-minute session was peppered with comments from "area political activists, business owners and health and education workers."

Tea Party activist Paul King told the governor he doesn't like the plan to raise more than \$1 billion with an extra tax on the rich; he disagreed with Dayton's assertion that the rich don't pay their fair share. King said: "Maybe we paid our fair share. The wealthy are doing all the work."

In response, according to the paper: Dayton smiled and calmed a groaning audience and issued the first of many admonitions to respect the views of others even if you think they're wrong. "If you ever had a real job, you'd understand," King said to Dayton.

Another speaker wanted to know about a proposed "snowbird tax." Dayton said it won't survive the session. On education spending, he said Minnesota was once fifth in the country but has slipped to 32nd. On gun control, the paper said he supports background checks on purchases at gun shows, but that Dayton said: "Nobody's going to confiscate your gun. Lawful people can lawfully own a gun. It's such a bogus issue." Dayton told a convenience store owner, who is worried that an increase in the cigarette tax will lead to black market cigarettes, that he sees that tax as a deterrent to young smokers, rather than as a revenue raiser. *MinnPost.com is a nonprofit, member-supported news site that provides high-quality journalism for people who care about Minnesota.*

NEW LIBRARY IN COLUMBIA HEIGHTS? *Continued from front page*

into the rental housing business again after its experience with Parkview Villa and remarked that the city is carrying a large debt load from the construction of the new municipal liquor stores. He also said the \$12 million to build the Public Safety Building was borrowed, and the interest owed on that loan is almost equal to the construction cost.

Although those present were suitably "wowed" by the drawings, city officials made comments that put a gleam on the proposal. City Manager Walter Fehst emphasized that such a modernistic building on the crown jewel corner of downtown Columbia Heights would "make a statement" and draw interest from developers in the neighboring Mady's bowling alley property further south on Central. Mayor Gary Peterson gave an uncharacteristic animated speech along the same lines.

Nawrocki said the city's tax rates are in the upper third of those levied by cities in Anoka County.

City Councilor Tami Diehm predictably shot back with an example of her own, stating that she knew of people who were moving from Northeast Minneapolis to Columbia Heights to escape the high taxes of Hennepin County's largest city.

Nawrocki pointed out the lower taxation found in Fridley, inferring that anyone from Minneapolis could bypass Columbia Heights and find less taxation as they moved northward. Nawrocki also said there was a residency requirement for city employees many years ago, and that an employee told him he wanted a waiver to be able to move out of the city due to high taxes.

Library Board member Steve Smith commented, "the value of a community is pride, which goes beyond property taxes."

Another Library Board member Catherine Vesley said that the building design would help put an end to the image of Columbia Heights being only a place to buy auto parts.

Library Task Force chair David Larson said, "I'm all for this," and was pleased to see that 2010 census statistics showed Columbia Heights residents' median age is now in the mid-30s and more young children have been added to the population.

On March 4th, the city council held a "work session" meeting to discuss the possibility of funding a market study of the property, however no consensus was reached to proceed.

The Library Task Force is still slated to make a presentation to the city council on April 8th, where a summary of the body's activities and recommendations it has for other building sites will be given to the council.

LEGACY FUND PROGRAMMING AT ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARIES

Bringing Local History to Life: The History of Oak Grove

Oak Grove is one of the original townships in Anoka County, established in 1857. Stories and artifacts from Oak Grove history will be shared Saturday, April 13 at Rum River North Park, 23100 Rum River Blvd in St. Francis, in the North Shelter Building.

A slide show of photographs from Oak Grove's past will take you on a visual tour through this township turned city in 1993. This is backyard history at its best!

This program is free and open to the public, but seating may be limited — its sponsored by the Anoka County Library, presented by the Anoka County Historical Society, and funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, which was created to distribute monies collected from a sales tax that was approved by voters statewide in 2008.



The city of Columbia Heights operates its own library, one of only a handful in the metro area that do. It is however affiliated with the Anoka County Library system, which operates eight bricks-and-mortar library buildings in the county.

A March 2010 report by the State Legislative Auditor stated, "we found that cities which choose to operate libraries pay more than twice as much per resident as counties." Annual reports that are required to be filed with the State Department of Education show that the Anoka County Library system's costs per resident in 2011 was \$24.47 while Columbia Heights' library costs were \$40.44 per resident, 65% higher.

According to its February 2, 2013 accounting report, the Columbia Heights Public Library incurred \$725,132 in costs during calendar year 2012. This included over \$400,000 in employee wages and salary compensation and approximately \$75,000 for materials.

NO PAINT, NO SHOULDERS: HIGHER TAXES AND TOLLS DO NOT RESULT IN BETTER ROADS

Road crisis! Raise taxes to avert disaster!

This past legislative session, we have heard story after story about Minnesota roads crumbling, congestion, and gridlock. We hear about how we are falling behind the rest of the country. If we don't raise every transportation tax imaginable right now, it will be Armageddon. If we don't raise gas taxes, transportation sales taxes, wheelage taxes, etc., our road system will disappear into a dark abyss.

As someone who takes a fair amount of road trips across the country, let me tell you that these claims are bunk. Any legislator telling you that our road system is falling behind the rest of the country probably gathers their knowledge by looking down 30,000 feet as they travel the country by plane. I highly doubt that they have done much if any travel outside Minnesota by automobile.

I just finished taking my kids on a road trip to Niagara, then to Philadelphia, and back home. We traveled over 2700 miles in 8 days through eight states and one Canadian province. While I am not a professional authority on road issues, I do have a substantial amount of miles to my credit. That includes drives to DC, Seattle, San Diego, Key West, Houston, and Ottawa in the past few years.

I would like to focus on my travels through Pennsylvania, the Keystone State. There I traveled on freeways, highways, county, and local roads. When entering from New York on I-81, I discovered that there must be a paint shortage in this part of the state. No painted lines on the freeway, exit ramps, or practically anywhere. That was just one of several places throughout the state that seemed to be experiencing a paint shortage.

They also must have a serious shortage of pavement materials. On many of the highest speed roads, 55mph+, inside shoulders were not even wide enough to ride a bicycle on them, and outside shoulders were only a half car width wide. Pity the driver who breaks down on the freeway or maybe pity those who will get stuck in the traffic jam as a result of it.

You would think that the toll roads would be built and maintained to better standards, since after all they are collecting money from everyone driving on the road in addition to gas tax paid at the pump. In Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, the toll roads were well built and reasonably maintained. They had adequate shoulders and visible lines on the road. In Indiana, west of South Bend, they even had some of the cheapest gasoline available at the rest stops. But Pennsylvania was a different story. In Pennsylvania, the toll roads were just as bad as the public roads. No inside shoulders and minimal if any outside shoulders. Sometimes there was a concrete wall against the inside lane and a rocky outcropping running along the edge of the outside lane. With few exit ramps, one vehicle breakdown could be catastrophic.

The lack of reasonable lane capacity was clearly evident when driving into Philadelphia. From the northeast, only one 6-lane freeway (3 lanes each way) enters a metropolitan area of 6.2 million that has 1.5 million living within the city limits. Yes, this was another one of these minimal shoulder roads where I did encounter one broken down vehicle that was sitting in one of the three traffic lanes. The rest of the city is only serviced by one other freeway that goes from the southwest to the northeast, along with a series of toll bridges from New Jersey.

From the Pennsylvanians I talked to, they all agreed that they had poorly constructed roads that were terribly maintained, and suffered from a serious lack of capacity. I believe that their average roads probably rate below our worst roads here in Minnesota. Upon first glance, some might think this is due to a lack of sufficient revenue, or maybe that they lack alternative funding streams like toll roads. Correct assumption? Wrong.

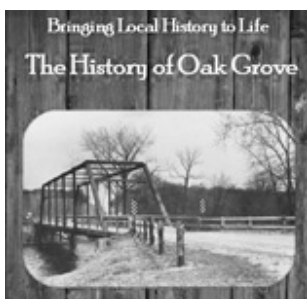
Pennsylvania has had toll roads dating back to the 1930's. In fact, they currently overcharge users of their toll roads in order to shift \$450 million a year to PennDOT for non-toll roads. According to the American Petroleum Institute, Pennsylvania's gasoline tax is above the US average and diesel tax is way above the US average. Their state gasoline tax is 32.3 cents per gallon and diesel tax is 39.2 cents per gallon. Recently, the Scranton Times Tribune reported that the Governor is looking to raise their state gasoline tax even higher to 56.8 cents per gallon, which would be the highest in the nation.

To compare Pennsylvania to Minnesota, the first obvious thing is that we have no toll roads (excluding those carpool lanes that single occupants can pay to drive in). We collect no tolls to fund some of our roads and therefore cannot gouge drivers on those roads in order to fund other roads like Pennsylvania does. But in addition to this, our gasoline tax is 28.6 cents per gallon or 11.5% less. Our diesel tax is also 28.6 cents per gallon or 17% less. Minneapolis, with a population of 387,000, has twice the freeway access and no tolls. The same goes for St. Paul. In summary, for our lower taxes, we have better constructed and maintained roads and more lane capacity in the metro area vs. Pennsylvania.

Publisher's Column



John Kysylyczyn



ANCIENT GREECE
AND THE GREEK ISLANDS
OCTOBER 2-12, 2013 • \$3,689
www.cetatours.com/adultTours.php
CETA Tours • Menomonie, WI • (800) 501 0397

INJURED AT WORK?
Statewide Minnesota Representation
Lost Wages? Unpaid Bills?
Can I Get Fired?
FREE advice - confidential
Toll Free 1-888-212-6820
www.FieldsWorkInjury.com

Steve Fields
Attorney

FIELDS LAW FIRM

HIGHER TAXES AND TOLLS *Continued on page 4*

HIGHER TAXES AND TOLLS *Continued from page 3*

I can only theorize as to why we have better roads in Minnesota, yet pay millions of dollars less for them versus Pennsylvania. That will have to be the subject of a future commentary. Based upon my personal experience, we are doing pretty well here in Minnesota. We are not falling behind the rest of the country. We are nowhere near Armageddon. We don't need to raise every transportation tax under the sun to avoid some dark abyss. Clearly up till more recent times, we have been doing a good job directing transportation resources towards project that have resulted in the greatest benefit. As taxpayers, we need to make sure that we continue on this successful path so that we do not become another Pennsylvania. We need to call elected officials on the carpet and hold them accountable for the claims that they are making. Call them out when they clearly have no perspective on the issue and resort to scare tactics to support transportation tax increases. Ask them to share their extensive experience driving the roads of America. Question the quick fix schemes that defy common sense, like how a billion dollar train to Duluth, with multi-million dollar annual subsidies, will solve any transportation problem in Northeast Minnesota. As Pennsylvania shows us, taxing and spending has nothing to do with having a quality transportation system. More important is how we spend the money that we already have.

As a side note, for those legislators who are pushing toll roads, take note of what has happened in Pennsylvania with Act 44. Signed into law in 2007, this has directly resulted in increased tolls and according to the turnpike authority, will force them to cut spending on its own long-term projects. Under the Act, the turnpike authority is required to pay PennDOT \$450 million a year through 2057 or in total provide funding for nearly \$24 billion in funding for non-turnpike projects. The lesson is that once you create toll roads, then there is nothing stopping the next group of legislators from raiding the toll fund to spend on other projects short of a constitutional amendment.

BLAINE CHARTER COMMISSION SEEKING APPOINTEES

The City of Blaine is seeking interested residents to fill vacancies on the Blaine Charter Commission. The vacancies exist due to resignations. Appointments are made by the Chief Judge of the Tenth Judicial District. State statute requires a minimum of seven and a maximum of fifteen commissioners serving at any given time. Currently there are seven commissioners serving on the Blaine Charter Commission.

The Charter Commission reviews the City Charter and recommends charter amendments in keeping with the state law. Commissioners are citizen volunteers recommended for appointment by the City Council to the Chief Judge of the District Court. The Commission meets on an as needed basis with one meeting required by statute per calendar year.

Applicants may contact the City Clerk's office at (763) 785-6122 for an application or download an application from the City's website at www.ci.blaine.mn.us. Questions may be directed to the City Clerk at (763) 785-6124.

Applicants may include with their application a resume or brief autobiographical sketch. Applications can be e-mailed to jcross@ci.blaine.mn.us, faxed to (763) 785-6156, dropped off in person at city hall or sent through the U.S. mail.

All applications must be received in the City Clerk's office no later than May 10, 2013:

**Minimizing Cooling Costs.
Maximizing Comfort.**



The answer is
right under your feet.

Bosch geothermal heating and cooling systems can save you up to 70% on your home energy bills. With an additional 30% federal tax credit, these systems are now more affordable than ever!

Visit our site to find out how much you can save.
BoschGeo.com



BOSCH
Invented for life

Lillehaug appointed to Minnesota Supreme Court *by Eric Black — MinnPost*

David Lillehaug, a Minneapolis attorney and former U.S. attorney for Minnesota, has been appointed by Gov. Mark Dayton to fill the upcoming vacancy on the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Lillehaug will replace Justice Paul Anderson, who will reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 in May. Lillehaug is 58, so he could theoretically serve for 12 years.

Lillehaug is currently a partner with the downtown Minneapolis law firm of Fredrikson and Byron, specializing in real estate law and what the lawyers call "complex litigation." He has been very active in DFL politics including, notably, legal work on the high-profile recounts surrounding the election of both Sen. Al Franken in 2008 (which included final arguments before the state Supreme Court on which he will now serve) and Gov. Dayton in 2010. He recently worked on the redistricting that established the boundaries of congressional and legislative districts for the decade ahead.

In addition to representing Franken and Dayton, Lillehaug served as an advisor to the Senate campaigns of Paul Wellstone, Amy Klobuchar and the brief comeback campaign of Walter Mondale in 2002 when Mondale stepped in after the Wellstone plane crash. In fact, as a young man, Lillehaug got his start in high-level politics traveling with Mondale during the presidential campaign of 1983-84.

He twice sought the DFL endorsement for high public offices, namely Minnesota attorney general and U.S. Senate. (In fact, Lillehaug was a Senate candidate in 2000, the year the Dayton was ultimately elected.) He was appointed U.S. attorney for Minnesota by Pres. Bill Clinton in 1994.

Lillehaug was also a finalist for the Supreme Court vacancy that Dayton filled last year with the appointment of Wilhelmina Wright, who had been a member of the Minnesota Court of Appeals. This time he was in a final field of three that included two other members of the appellate court, Judges Edward Cleary and Natalie Hudson.

No other justices will reach mandatory retirement age during the balance of Dayton's current term, so this appointment is his last sure opportunity to shape the high court. The oldest remaining justice (after Paul Anderson's retirement becomes official) will be Alan Page, who will turn 70 in 2015, just after the next gubernatorial election. Page, who is among the most liberal of current justices, could elect to retire earlier so that Dayton could appoint his successor.

Unlike U.S. Supreme Court justices, State Supreme Court appointments by the governor are not subject to confirmation, although they do come up for reelection. Minnesota has not experienced the kind of high-profile, high-dollar campaigns for such offices as are

starting to occur in other states.

Lillehaug, a South Dakota native, is a graduate of Augustana College and Harvard Law School.

In a statement, Governor Dayton said,

"Mr. Lillehaug served our state admirably as the United States Attorney, after being confirmed unanimously by



Gov. Mark Dayton (R) announces the appointment of David Lillehaug (on the Governor's right) to the Minnesota Supreme Court Tuesday. (Photo credit: Governor's Office)

the US Senate. In the following years, he has served as lead counsel for cases involving some of the most complex legal and constitutional questions of our time. They include: establishing the rights of Minnesota's religious institutions under the "conceal-carry" firearms law; challenging Governor Pawlenty's unallotment of appropriated funds in 2009-2010; and representing my office on constitutional issues regarding the 2011 state government shutdown.

"In 2008 and 2009, Mr. Lillehaug served as Senator Al Franken's chief Minnesota counsel in the recount following his US Senate contest with Senator Norm Coleman. When faced with my own recount after the 2010 gubernatorial election, I also turned to Mr. Lillehaug for his expertise. In both the 2010 recount and 2011 shutdown cases, Mr. Lillehaug's representation was superb. He has one of the most brilliant minds I have ever encountered; yet he can also put very complex legal issues into very understandable writings. His diligence, preparation, and professionalism were always impeccable.

"Mr. Lillehaug will bring a perspective to the court, which I believe will carry forward the high standards established by Justice Paul Anderson, who has served our state with the greatest distinction. I have the utmost confidence that Mr. Lillehaug will also be an outstanding Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court."

MinnPost.com is a nonprofit, member-supported news site that provides high-quality journalism for people who care about Minnesota.

Governor to appoint Minnesota health exchange board members

The controversial health care exchange plan, MNsure, recently signed into law, is required to have six members on its board to be appointed by the governor. Applications and information is available on the Secretary of State's website (sos.state.mn.us) or from the SOS office at the State Office Building, Room 180 in St. Paul. Applicants are assured full consideration if their applications are received by April 11.

The salary for the board members is not to exceed \$30,075 through Dec. 31, 2015, after which compensation will be made in accordance with section 15.075. After Jan. 1, 2016 members will receive a per diem of \$55, plus expenses which may include child care expenses if authorized by the board.

The makeup of the board will consist of one representative of consumers eligible for individual coverage, one representative of consumers eligible for public health coverage, one small employer representative, one public health program representative and the 6th member is to be a representative of health policy issues related to small group and individual markets. The initial terms have been variously set at two, three, and four years.

Other requirements include, as quoted in the Secretary of State's posting:

"Within one year prior to appointment to the board, members cannot have been employed by, be a member of the board of directors, or be a representative of a health carrier, institutional health care provider, or other entity

providing health care, navigator, insurance producer, or other entity in the business of selling items or services of significant value to or through the Minnesota Insurance Marketplace. For purposes of this paragraph, "health care provider or entity" does not include an academic institution.

"Members may not currently serve as a lobbyist as defined under section 10A.01, subdivision 21.

"No board member shall have a spouse who is an executive of a health carrier."

One of the members must have experience in representing the needs of vulnerable populations and the disabled, and one of the members must reside outside of the seven-county metropolitan area. Meetings will be held at least quarterly, however the meetings' location has not yet been determined.

The posting described the mission of the board: "The Board is responsible for operating the Minnesota Insurance Marketplace. This includes establishing the budget for the marketplace; establishing bylaws, policies, and procedures, governing the operations of the Minnesota Insurance Marketplace; creating certification requirements that must be met by insurance providers; establishing policies and procedures to gather public comment; establishing the policies and procedures for the operation of a navigator program, in-person assister program, call center, and customer service provision for the Minnesota Insurance marketplace." — *ACR staff*

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

Mon. Apr. 1 & Apr. 15
Public Works Cmte., 9 am,
Rm 772, ACGC

Tues. Apr. 2
Parks & Rec Cmte., 9 am,
Riedel Farm Estate, Riverfront
Regional Park

Tues. April 9
Management Cmte., 8:30 am,
Rm 772, ACGC
County Board, 9:30 am,
Rm 705, ACGC
Anoka County HRA, 10:30 am
or after County Board mtg

Wed. Apr. 10
Waste Mgmt & Energy Cmte.,
8:15 am, Rm 772, ACGC

Sat. April 13
Anoka County Reserve Unit
Awards Banquet, 5 pm,
Majestic Oaks Golf Course,
701 Bunker Lake Blvd, Ham
Lake

Tues. April 16
Human Services Cmte.,
8:30 am, Rm 710, ACGC
Information Technology Cmte.,
10:30 am, Rm 772, ACGC
Finance & Capital Improvmts
Cmte., 1 pm, Rm 772, ACGC
Intergovernmental Relations
Cmte., 3 pm, Rm 772, ACGC

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

Fri. Mar. 29
City Council, 4:30 pm, discuss
city manager job finalists

Mon. April 1
Charter Comm., 7 pm

Mon. April 8
City Council, 7 pm

Tues. April 9
Hwy 65 construction project,
Public Meeting, 4:30-6:30 pm,
Fridley Community Center

Mon. Apr. 15
City Council "conference
meeting", 7 pm

Wed. Apr. 17
Public meeting on AUAR docu-
ment for the redevelopment of
122 acres of former FMC mun-
itions facility, 6:30 pm, City Hall

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. April 1 & 15
City Council, 6 pm

Mon. April 8
Planning Comm., 6 pm

Wed. April 17
Park & Tree Comm., 6 pm

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

Mon. April 1
School Forest Cmte., 5 pm

Tues. April 2
Road & Bridge Cmte., 7 pm

Wed. April 3
Fire Dept. mtg, 7 pm

Tues. April 9 & 23
Town Board, 6 pm

Mon. April 15
Senior Advisory Bd, 9 am
Cemetery Cmte., 7 pm

Tues. April 16
Planning & Zoning Comm., 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

Mon. April 1
EPB, 6:30 pm

Tues. April 2
City Council "Strategic Planning
work session", 5:30 pm

Thurs. April 4
Planning Comm., 7 pm

Tues. April 9
City Council "work session",
5:30 pm; 7 pm mtg, followed
by HRA

Thurs. April 11
EDA, 7:30 am
Park & Rec. Comm., 6:30 pm

Tues. April 16
Public Works Cmte, 6 pm

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

Mon. April 15
Board of Supervisors, 5 pm

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

Mon. April 8
School Board "work session",
5:30 pm

Mon. April 15
School Board "regular" mtg,
6:30 pm

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

Tues. Apr. 16
School Bd "work session,"
5:30 pm, Public Comment
7 pm, Business Mtg 7:30 pm,
Fridley City Hall

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

Tues. April 9
School Bd, 7 pm

QCTV Cable Commission
Ramsey, Andover, Champlin, Anoka
City Hall

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

Tues. April 2, Operations Cmte.,
10:30 am, NMTV, 12520 Polk
St NE, Blaine

Wed. Apr. 17, 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

ANOKA SWCD SAYS, PLANT SOME TREES!

Warm weather is just around the corner and it is a great time to start planning your Spring planting projects. Several rows of strategically placed trees and shrubs can make an excellent snow fence — planted on the west and north sides of your house, they can reduce your heating bill by up to 20%. A windbreak planted along your property boundary provides privacy and wind protection unlike any manufactured fence. Optimum spacing is 6' between shrubs, 15-20' between trees and 15-20' between rows. There should be 3-7 rows with deciduous shrubs to north and west, then deciduous trees and finally evergreen trees to south and east.

An inexpensive way to purchase your trees and shrubs is through the Anoka Conservation District (ACD). The ACD offers over 25 varieties of low-priced seedlings and transplants sold in bundles of 10 and 25 for just a little over \$1 per tree and are now taking pre-orders until April 12th, or until sold out with any remaining stock sold at the tree and shrub pick up on April 27th at the Anoka County Fairgrounds between 8am-10am. You do not need to be an Anoka County Resident to order!

The *AnokaSWCD.org* website features each species with detailed descriptions and images of each of the varieties being offered. You can also find information about the kinds of trees and shrubs to plant in your particular situation along with planting directions. If you would prefer one-on-one assistance in making your selections call the Anoka Conservation District staff at 763-434-2030 as they would be happy to provide guidance. Happy Planting!

Website **ANOKACOUNTYRECORD.COM**
E-Mail **EDITOR@ANOKACOUNTYRECORD.COM**
Got something to say? Send it to us.
Our next issue will be published Thursday, April 11.
Go to our website and sign up for our E-Mail
Notification List — we'll let you know when the
new edition is available online!

Anoka County RECORD A bi-weekly free publication published by Anoka County Record LLC

Subscriptions sent 1st Class U.S. Mail \$50/yr
Single Issue \$2 (check or money order)

John Kyslyczyn,
Owner and Publisher
E-Mail: **editor@anokacountyrecord.com**

PO BOX 21014
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS MN 55421-0014
(763) 220-0411

Join our e-mail list to be notified when the next edition is online!
Go to **www.AnokaCountyRecord.com**
ALL EDITIONS ARE ON OUR WEB SITE

www.facebook.com/AnokaCountyRecord www.twitter.com/AnokaCoRecord VERIFIED Minnesota Approved Publisher

OAK GROVE SENIORS: HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE MUTUAL ASSISTANCE CLUB?

Oak Grove seniors 55 and older meet every month at Oak Grove City Hall for a potluck at noon on the second Wednesday of the month, and/or the fourth Wednesday. A short meeting and bingo follow the meal. For more information contact the club's president Marion Schulz, 763-444-5652.

Craft makers meet the first and third Fridays of the month, and for more information call Betty Coop, 763-753-1999.

Send your letters and announcements to **editor@anokacountyrecord.com**

Low Michaels The Photo Guy
I Cover All the Angles

Office **651-489-8006**
lou@louthephotoguy.com
www.louthephotoguy.com
Contact us to discuss or arrange photography for your event

NEW HOURS AT HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

The spring and summer seasons are upon us and Anoka County's Household Hazardous Waste Facility will modify its hours for the warm weather beginning Monday.

From April 1 through Oct. 31 the facility, at 3230 101st Avenue N.E. in Blaine, off Radisson Road, will be open Wednesdays (2 pm-8 pm), Fridays (9 am-3pm) and Saturdays (9 am-3 pm).

Household hazardous wastes that *will be accepted* include acids, aerosol cans with product remaining, drain cleaner, driveway sealer, fluorescent bulbs, liquid paint, liquid mercury, mercury thermometers, motor oil, oven cleaner, paint stripper, paint thinner, pesticides, pool chemicals, stains, varnishes, and wood preservatives.

Items that *are not accepted* include ammunition, appliances, batteries, dried paint, electronics, empty containers, medical wastes, radioactive wastes, railroad ties, and tires.

Drop-offs will only be accepted from residents of the following counties: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washintgon. Residents of these counties will be required to prove residency. Businesses, organizations, church or school groups may not drop off materials here. More information and directions to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility site can be obtained by calling Anoka County Integrated Waste Management at 763-323-5730 or the web page, www.AnokaCounty.us/recycle. — *ACR staff*

MCAN Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

HELP WANTED
TOWN AND COUNTRY COOP
of Finley, ND is seeking a qualified General Manager. This is an energy operation with sales of \$11 Million. A strong background in finance, communication, and personnel management is desired. Business degree and or business management experience preferred. Send, email, or fax (888/653-5527) resume to: Larry Fuller, 5213 Shoal Drive, Bismarck ND 58503, larry.fuller@chsinc.com

HELP WANTED - DRIVERS
OTR DRIVERS
Sign on bonus \$1,000-\$1,200. Up to 45 CPM. Full-time positions with benefits. Pet policy. O/O's welcome! deBoerTransportation 800/825-8511 www.deboertrans.com

DRIVER
Qualify for any portion of \$.03/mile quarterly bonus: \$.01 safety, \$.01 production, \$.01 MPG. Two raises in first year. 3 months recent experience. 800/414-9569 www.driveknigh.com

ADVERTISE HERE STATEWIDE IN 270 NEWSPAPERS ONLY \$249 PER WEEK! LESS THAN \$1 PER NEWSPAPER! CALL 800-279-2979 OR THIS NEWSPAPER

AUTOS WANTED
CASH FOR CARS:
All cars/trucks wanted. Running or not! Top dollar paid. We come to you! Any make/model. Call for instant offer: 800/871-9145

MEDICAL
IF YOU USED THE MIRENA IUD
between 2001-present and suffered perforation or embedment in the uterus requiring surgical removal, or had a child born with birth defects you may be entitled to compensation. Call Johnson Law and speak with female staff members 800/535-5727

MISCELLANEOUS
SAWMILLS
from only \$3,997.00 - Make & save money with your own bandmill - cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. Free info/DVD: 800/578-1363 Ext. 300N www.NorwoodSawmills.com

FREE WORDPRESS INSTALLATION
w/hosting purchase; \$450 package includes custom WordPress template; \$750 package adds domain, hosting, training, Drupal/Joomla. English-Spanish. This wk. \$100 off. 612/567-0066 www.MobileWebDesign1.com

DISH NETWORK
Starting at \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) & high-speed internet starting at \$14.95/month (where available). Save! Ask about same day installation! Call now! 866/785-5167

MISCELLANEOUS
CANADA DRUG CENTER
is your choice for safe and affordable medications. Our licensed Canadian mail order pharmacy will provide you with savings of up to 75% on all your medication needs. Call today 800/259-1096 for \$10.00 off your first prescription and free shipping.

DONATE YOUR CAR
Truck or Boat to heritage for the blind. Free 3 day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 888/485-0398

EVER CONSIDER A REVERSE MORTGAGE?
At least 62 years old? Stay in your home & increase cash flow! Safe & effective! Call now for your free DVD! Call now 888/610-4971

100 PERCENT GUARANTEED OMAHA STEAKS
Save 69 percent on the grilling collection. Now only \$49.99 Plus 2 free gifts & right-to-the-door delivery in a reusable cooler, order today. 888/740-1912 Use Code:45102FVY or www.OmahaSteaks.com/offergc61

YOUR AD HERE!
One phone call & only \$249 to reach a statewide audience of 3 million readers!!!
1-800-279-2979

