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LEGAL NEWSPAPER FOR

ANOKA COUNTY
CITY OF HAM LAKE
CITY OF OAK GROVE

SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT UNCHANGED

ANOKA CO. LIBRARY BOARD OPTS OUT OF PROMOTING CONTROVERSIAL AUTHOR

by TOM STEWARD
Watchdog.org
Minnesota Bureau

ANOKA — Literary critics lavished high praise on Rainbow Rowell's novel "Eleanor & Park," a hot new teenage love story.

A little too hot, maybe, at least in terms of getting public — taxpayer — support.

The story of first love also captivated educators' list for recommended summer reading in Minnesota's biggest school district, Anoka-Hennepin. A-H even arranged for a two-day September student seminar with Rowell.



Author Rainbow Rowell

Anoka County Libraries agreed to collaborate and cover the author's \$4,000 stipend with taxpayer money from the Minnesota Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

National reviews give credence to the idea of "Eleanor & Park" as literature and Rowell as an emerging literary sensation.

"Her writing swings from profane to profound, but it's always real and always raw," says National Public Radio.

"The New York Times Book Review" also fell hard: "Eleanor & Park" reminded me not just what it's like to be young and in love with a girl, but also what it's like to be young and in love with a book."

Kirkus Reviews said this: "Funny, hopeful, foul-mouthed, sexy and tear-jerking, this winning romance will captivate teen and adult readers alike."

Library staff thought so, too.

"It was selected by our media specialists in each high school for what's called the *Summer Rock the Book* program," said Mary Olson, director of communications and public relations for A-H. "With that program, students in the high schools typically read the book that's for *Rock the Book* if they're interested in participating."

PARENTS UPSET BY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S CHOICE FOR STUDENT READING *continued on page 4*

IN OR OUT?

ABELER WON'T COMMIT TO FUTURE CAMPAIGN PLANS

On June 18, 2013, Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) announced that he was running for the US Senate seat in 2014. Weeks later, Ramsey City Council member Jason Tossey announced that he was seeking the Republican Party endorsement for the 35A House seat which is currently held by Rep. Abeler. All appearances led to the belief that for the first time in 16 years, residents of Anoka would have a new representative in the Minnesota House in 2014. Abeler has served in this position since 1998.

Local media articles though were conflicted on this issue. On June 18, one article stated that Abeler had not ruled out a primary campaign for US Senate. Abeler can only participate in the US Senate primary if he does not file for reelection to the State House. On August 12, another article announcing Tossey's run for the House stated that Abeler would not run for reelection. Another article posted online on August 16, from a different media source, headlined that Abeler doesn't rule out a return to State House.

At the MN-GOP 66A Summer Picnic & BBQ in Roseville on August 15, Abeler was in attendance and gave a speech about his run for the US Senate. After the speech, the *Record* asked him about the conflicting articles concerning whether or not he intended to return to his state house seat if he was not successful in receiving the GOP endorsement for the

ABELER'S CAMPAIGN PLANS UNCLEAR *contd.on page 2*

Book controversy reaches Anoka-Hennepin School Board meeting

by Bryan Olson — Special to the *Anoka County Record*

During the public comment portion of the Aug. 26 Anoka-Hennepin School Board meeting, four citizens made comments about the book "Eleanor and Park," authored by Rainbow Rowell, and its promotion by the school district as a summer reading program offering.

Melissa Thompson of Blaine, said her 15 year-old daughter has read the book and the language is no worse than what you hear on the street. "It's real . . . it speaks to teenagers." Thompson praised school district staff for choosing the Rowell book for its summer reading program. She found the book's lead character as one many people could empathize with. "It's a good book and it needs to stay."

Thompson then went on to complain about the Parents Action League, which Thompson has done on several previous occasions when the conservative Christian parent group has voiced opinions about school district policies. The PAL website features an attack on the book and a call to action to concerned parents.

Thompson said "I'm the parent and I will make the decision" as to what her daughter will read or not read. She said the PAL group "demonizes" and "injects their personal beliefs" into school district operations. The Parents Action League was involved in the recent debate regarding the school district's position on homosexuality and it's place in operations and curriculum policy.

Speaking against the decision to deem "Eleanor and Park" as appropriate reading for young people, were Sarah and Troy Cooper of Ramsey.

The Coopers each recited prepared statements to the School Board and the audience of approximately 35 in the room, many of whom were school district staff.

The main thrust of the Coopers' statements was their concern about the lack of action by the school district's management after they brought the matter to its attention in early June. The Coopers had ana-

lyzed the book and found over 220 profanities. They organized their findings and thoroughly critiqued the book in a report that was given to the school district and later posted on the Parents Action League website.

Troy Cooper stated, "it is no small matter that the absurdly inappropriate material in this book was placed in the hands of our children by the very people we have entrusted to educate them . . . if we are not able to reasonably expect that our educators will act morally and with integrity, and provide degree of common sense moral arbitration in our absence while they are in our schools, then they have absolutely no business being entrusted with our children."

At this point, Cooper wanted to read passages from the book, but was stopped by school board chair Tom Heidemann.

A shout came from the peanut gallery as a citizen wanted to know why Cooper couldn't read from a book whose content had been approved for children as young as 12. Heidemann said the board members had copies of the book excerpts and since the meeting was being televised, the language Cooper wanted to quote would be inappropriate.

Cooper provided his prepared statement to the *Anoka County Record* and said it would be made available on the PAL website as well. We quote here some passages from the book that the school board did not want aired on television:

Page 62: "it made her breasts feel like they were going to detach from her body . . ."

Page 75: "do I make you wet?"

Page 174: "I know you're a slut you smell like cum"

Page 284: "That night, before they'd climbed back into the front seat of the Impala, he'd taken off all of Eleanor's layers and even unpinned her bra — then laid her down on the blue upholstery."

Cooper's prepared statement included eight other passages and the original report he made has even more detail.

Another citizen speaker, Stephanie Schroeder said that she believed staff showed "horrific judgment" in its "pathetic choice" of making "Eleanor and Park" an endorsed summer read. She said that the book catered to the "lowest common denominator" and more appropriate reading material would be that which has higher ideals.

Although what defines pornography will continually be argued, that is how the Coopers label the book. In Sarah Cooper's statement to the school board, she described it as "a pornographic narrative of a 16 year-old boy Park, and the 16 year-old object of his sexual curiosity, Eleanor. Throughout the book, Park's curiosity about Eleanor's body is made very clear and culminates with the two of them stripping off each other's clothes in the back seat of a car and engaging in sexual activities."

In an interview with the *Anoka County Record*, the Coopers said that what galls them most about the matter is the attitude of school district management, "they defended that book — right to my face", Troy said. He has not been pleased with their lack of action on the matter, which led him to file a formal complaint that will trigger the creation of a committee charged with deliberating the question. The policy however does not give a time certain as to how long that process will take. (The school policy

SCHOOL DISTRICT GRAPPLES WITH BOOK CONTROVERSY
continued on page 4

Legislators Hackborth and Scott comment on upcoming Special Session

At this year's State Fair there are some interesting new features at the House of Representatives booth, including a replica of the speaker's setting in the House Chamber. The replica scene is complete with a desk, flags, gavel and iconic Abraham Lincoln portrait.

The House's annual survey also will be available, allowing Minnesotans to weigh in on issues such as firearms regulations, legalizing marijuana, the state's minimum wage and more. The House of Representatives exhibit will be located in the Education Building on Cosgrove Street, just north of Dan Patch Avenue.

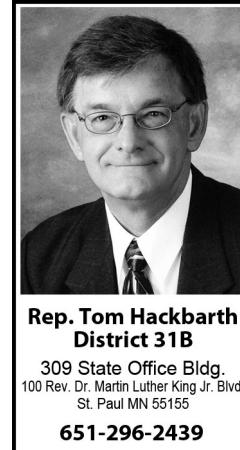
As for legislative news, the agenda for a Sept. 9 special session to provide disaster relief is in place. Aid will be appropriated for 18 Minnesota counties that sustained significant damage during storms last June.

I was hoping Gov. Mark Dayton would walk the walk after he publicly said he was open to repealing some new taxes during the special session. No such luck.

New taxes on farm machinery repair, warehousing and telecommunications are all damaging mistakes made by Dayton and fellow Democrats earlier this year. All three have bipartisan support for repeal. The problem is, Democrats could not decide which wasteful spending increases to reduce to compensate for eliminating these bad taxes.

Instead of doing the right thing, they just left this work off the agenda for the special session. Farmers and other hardworking taxpayers will now pay the price.

It is good we are providing disaster relief, but it would have been nice to provide some quick tax relief while we are at the Capitol.



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Yesterday Governor Dayton announced that he will call a special session of the legislature on September 9 for disaster relief for those affected by the June storms. I'm glad we're coming together to provide disaster relief. We have a rich tradition in Minnesota of supporting our communities and nothing should stand in the way of Minnesotans receiving the support they need.

Initially, the governor said the only item on the agenda for the special session was to provide disaster relief for victims of the June storm. However, when the governor arrived at Farm Fest a couple weeks ago he told farmers in attendance that he supports adding the repeal of the farm equipment repair tax to the agenda for special session as well.

The farm equipment repair tax is just one of a myriad of bad tax increases imposed by Democrat legislators this session. I've heard from numerous small business owners asking that we repeal the three business-to-business taxes put into place by Governor Dayton and the Democrat-controlled legislature. These taxes would affect labor costs for repair and maintenance of equipment, the purchase of telecommunications equipment, and a warehousing and storage tax to take effect in April 2014.

While I applaud Governor Dayton for now recognizing this tax is bad for Minnesota, it's curious to me that he claimed he and his staff were unaware the farm equipment tax was in the tax bill. Anyone who was paying attention during the debate on the House floor knew that provision was in the tax bill. This exchange on the House floor made that quite clear.

It's not just Republicans calling for the repeal of many of these taxes. Former House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher, a prominent Minnesota Democrat, has called for repeal of the sales on telecommunications equipment. Governor Dayton stated himself that he supports repealing the warehousing tax. However, he wants to wait until the next regular legislative session convenes in late February of 2014 to address it. Unfortunately, our small businesses and the hard-working people they employ can't wait that long. Small businesses in our state from Red Wing to Minneapolis to Dayton have said this tax has put their economic activity on hold and openly talk about moving to another state.

Despite the broad bipartisan support to repeal these harmful tax mistakes, Governor Dayton and Democrat leaders refused to compromise to get the job done now. Republican leaders offered three opportunities for Democrats to fix their mistakes from last session and Democrats said no. We advocated for full repeal of the equipment repair tax, telecommunications tax and the warehousing tax. I had a bill drafted ready to put forward for special session but Democrats could not even commit to repeal one. Democrats wouldn't compromise and stood in the way of doing what's right for hardworking taxpayers.

Small businesses are already leaving the state. Before we lose one more job due to policies passed by this legislature, we should act now and stem the bleeding. This session of historic tax increases has already been too costly for our families and small businesses. I believe we must hold a special session dedicated to fix the Democrat-caused disasters that are driving families and businesses out of our state.

I am always interested in your feedback. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at Rep. Peggy.Scott@House.MN or contact my office at 651-296-4231. You can also send me mail to my office address: 201 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155.

Abeler's Campaign Plans Unclear *contd. from page 1*

U.S. Senate race.

In response to the *Record's* questions, Abeler was evasive with his answers. Abeler was asked directly if he was retiring from his State House seat. Abeler answered, "Well, you know how it works." He was asked again, and was informed that one media article stated that he was retiring. Abeler responded, "Well that isn't exactly what the article said." (The article stated, "...Abeler, who has announced his intention to run for the U.S. Senate next year instead of re-election to the Minnesota House.")



Abeler

When the Tossey article was mentioned to Abeler, and he was again asked if he was retiring from the State House, he said, "I know all about the Tossey campaign and I spoke with him and encouraged him to file." When pressed again for an answer, he looked around, said good to talk to you, and moved on. He continued to work the audience shaking hands and distributing campaign literature to attendees.



Tossey

When contacted by the *Record* about Abeler's new statement about retiring from the State House, Tossey said, "At this point, I have no idea what Jim's intentions are. I sat down with him before I announced. I had no intention to run if he was planning to run again." When Tossey was asked about the organization of his campaign, he said that after initially speaking with Abeler, and having the understanding that he was retiring from the Minnesota House, he filed paperwork with the state campaign finance board to officially form a committee to begin the fundraising and campaigning process.

Neither Abeler nor Tossey indicated any animosity towards each other concerning this issue. Tossey said that in his most recent conversation with Abeler, he received an invitation from him to be his guest at the upcoming House special session for flood relief. Tossey said about Abeler, "I like him. He is a really nice guy."

Tossey said that he informed Abeler that his indecision hurts fundraising for both candidates. Tossey said in response to a question concerning the future of his campaign, "I'm concentrated on my campaign and raising enough money to run a successful campaign. I feel that I can get the support of the delegates."

Major political precinct caucus dates are preliminarily set for February 4, 2014. Endorsement for State House and US Senate will be held at local and state conventions, which will be held sometime between March and May, 2014. —John Kysylyczyn

Editor's note: In piecing together the various press releases, news articles, and other documentation, the *Record* has constructed the following timeline. On June 18, Abeler announced his campaign for the US Senate, indicating that he was considering a run in the primary. Sometime thereafter, Abeler led Tossey to believe or informed Tossey directly that he was retiring from the State House. On July 24, Tossey registered his campaign website address.

On August 1, Tossey registered his campaign committee with the state. Tossey created his campaign Facebook page on August 9. On August 15, Abeler dodges the *Record's* questions about his campaign for State House. On August 16, Abeler informs one media outlet that he is not ruling out a return to the State House.

THEY WANT A NEW LIBRARY IN COLUMBIA HEIGHTS . . . so badly they don't want to tell anyone about it.

The citizens have yet to find out what's cooking at city hall. Information is known only to a small number of cultivated and identified "library supporters", some of whom are attempting to "stack the deck" by applying for appointment to the Charter Commission. This nefarious chess game is intended to thwart an attack on the library-city hall project that may come from a citizens' petition drive for a referendum.

Last Monday night, a closed city council meeting that was scheduled after the regular 7 p.m. meeting was not noticed on the city web site. Cable television viewers of the regular 7 p.m. meeting were told however that a private meeting would convene afterwards. The rest of the public didn't know — unless they found the piece of paper that was tacked up on the city hall bulletin board that

noticed the date, time and location of the meeting (this is the bare minimum notification required by state law).

The agenda item was a "discussion on Northeast Business Office Building." The city manager said during the televised meeting that a proposal to purchase the bank building at 40th and Central for the purposes of a new library and city hall would be discussed. The agenda (see right) did not contain any words such as "purchase", "proposal", "negotiations", etc.

Just thought you'd like to be updated.

Observations from the Field

Bryan Olson



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ADMINISTRATION

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CITY COUNCIL
MEETING
CONFERENCE ROOM 1
EXECUTIVE SESSION

AGENDA

1. Discussion on Northeast Business Office Building

**CLOSED
MEETING**

TAXPAYER FUNDS FUNNELED THROUGH PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS FOUND TO SUPPORT NUDE ENTERTAINMENT

The most gawked about performance this year at the Minnesota Fringe Festival in the Twin Cities raised a question that invades the comfort zone of festival organizers: How fringe is too fringe when public funding is involved?

"Our priority at the festival is to provide an uncensored, uncurated stage for performers of all types, perspectives and experience levels," said Robin Gillette, executive director of the Minnesota Fringe Festival in an email statement. "Our shows are selected by random lottery, so we provide a truly low-barrier opportunity for performers of all sorts."



FRINGE BENEFITS? Playwright Natalie Rae Wass' popular show features 11 nude performers, including the author and her parents.

one in particular is garnering most of the attention. "Fashion Risk or the Accidental Nudist" by Natalie Rae Wass has sold out all performances and delighted critics, who acknowledge that 11 naked actors on stage can get in the way of the storyline.

"How much nudity is there in this memoir about a woman who grew up with nudist parents? Tons! Tons and tons," wrote Graydon Royce in the Star Tribune.

"This is a nude show — probably the nudest show in the 20-year history of the Fringe," wrote Dominic P. Papatola in the St. Paul Pioneer Press. "And while it's true that the sight of so many naked bodies inevitably diverts attention from Natalie Rae Wass' story of growing up in a family that was unconventional in a number of ways, it's also true that Wass has insights about life — in or out of clothes."

It's not accidental the show plays to standing-room only crowds with Wass' parents even baring all in a production that wraps up with what reviewer Papatola calls a "great big nude dance party at the end."

Raised in the United Kingdom by nudists, Wass passed on an interview request, but elaborates on her show staged at the Mixed Blood Theater in a YouTube video. "It's not just a play that you'll relate to if you're a nudist," Wass said. "It's a play that you'll relate to if you were a kid that maybe felt awkward sometimes."

The Minnesota State Arts Board provided \$61,242 in funding for the current festival, \$22,741 from the general fund and \$38,501 from Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund sales tax receipts. MSAB funding has more than doubled from \$25,150 in 2010 to the \$67,239 already approved for 2014, bringing the total

taxpayer funding for the festival to \$250,443 over five years.

"The arts board did not provide funding for any specific production in this year's festival. Our support is for the overarching structure that helps make the annual Fringe Festival possible here in Minnesota," said MSAB executive director Sue Gens in an emailed statement.

Besides receiving 8.5 percent of the festival's \$713,554 budget from state taxpayers, festival attendees take advantage of an estimated \$8,000 to \$10,000 in free promotional rides from Metro Transit.

"We were unaware of the precise content of this particular production," said John Siqveland, public relations manager for Metro Transit. "I think it's general knowledge that there's some 'edgy' material at the Fringe Festival and we have partnered with them in years past without incident. We haven't received any complaints about transit service to any of this year's performances or venues. As is the case in any partnership we participate in, we assess how the partnership/promotion performed after the event... We'll do the same with the 2013 Fringe Festival."

Although few content guidelines or strings appear to be attached to the public funding, Gens characterizes the MSAB selection process for arts grants as rigorous.

"The Fringe Festival is extremely popular, drawing tens of thousands of attendees each year," Gens said. "State funding, combined with other private and individual contributions, helps make the Fringe a place where Minnesotans (and out-of-state visitors) can discover new talent, see new work and experience a diversity of creative voices."

The festival posts age appropriate ratings for each production.

"The artists tell us what genres and subjects their shows are, give us age advisories to help families make appropriate selections for themselves and flag any warnings such as strobe lights, adult language, nudity or loud noises," said Gillette in her statement. "You'll see that information on each show's page, right under the show description."

Wass flagged her production for nudity, rating it for age 16 and above. The language appeared more problematic than anything else.

"I don't think there's anything in it that a kid couldn't come to if their mother isn't uncomfortable with their seeing nudity," Wass said in her YouTube video. "But it is true the jokes and the words are not particularly at the kid level. It's

TAXPAYERS HELP PAY FOR FRINGE FEST *continued to page 5*

by TOM STEWARD
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Municipal golf courses' less than ideal season calls for more taxpayer subsidies

Perhaps Minnesota public golf courses should yell "Fore!" at taxpayers.

Several contacted by Watchdog Minnesota said they have large operating losses this year that could tee up increased taxpayer subsidies to prop up money-losing local links.

From Duluth to St. Paul and Moorhead to Owatonna, an unusually cool and soggy spring put some public courses thousands of dollars in the hole almost before foursomes began regularly teeing off six weeks later than last year.

Many municipal golf courses already rely on local tax revenue to subsidize annual losses. The City of Chaska, for example, lost about \$270,000 operating two courses in 2012.

This year, several courses report larger than usual operating deficits. With less revenue and the normal level of expenses, there's concerns that taxpayer subsidies at the end of the season could run higher than before.

"I would say we were \$300,000 down June 5," said Paul Schintz, director of golf for Duluth. "We did catch up a little bit but there's no way to catch that number of 300 grand in revenue from last year."

The number of players on Duluth's two city courses will likely decline 10-15 percent from the 85,000 that checked in with starters last year. "It's been a tough one, yeah," Schintz said.

Total rounds golfed at St. Paul's four city courses showed an even greater swing, down by a third at the end of June from 54,400 in 2012 to 35,700 in 2013. With expenses exceeding \$2 million offset by just under \$1.2 million in green fees and other revenue, city losses would result in a taxpayer subsidy of \$877,000 if the season had ended in June.

"We'll make up a little bit of ground but obviously once you start out the season as far as we did behind,

it's nearly impossible to make that ground up," said Brad Meyer, public services manager for St. Paul Parks and Recreation.

Overall, the number of rounds played through June on both private and public Minnesota links has declined significantly, down by 28 percent through June according to Golf Datatech. The national tracking service noted that regional temperatures dropped 3.3 degrees while precipitation shot up 38 percent.

The slow start exacerbated an already worrisome demographic trend in fewer players and rounds played, leading to consistent losses and taxpayer subsidies for public courses, big and small.

"I think the general consensus is that this place loses money," said Ben Norman, a pro shop attendant for a nine-hole city course outside Barnesville. "We do draw a lot of people out here and the people in town really don't mind, I guess. There hasn't been much of a backlash, even though we do lose money. I think the town enjoys having this golf course."

St. Paul tends to draw about 110,000 players in a typical season, down from a high of 142,000 rounds in 2005, about the number needed to break even, according to managers. City officials have implemented a plan to streamline operations and cut costs, reducing merchandise stocks, minimizing concession operations and relying more on golf professionals to work clubhouses.

Meanwhile, St. Paul is considering contracting out management of the courses. "If we're at least able to break even and maybe make some money by contracting, that's what we're looking at as a potential option in the future, if we can't turn around the performance," Meyer said.

Contact Tom Steward at tom@watchdogminnesota.org.

Editor's Note: The Anoka County Record checked the recent financial history of Anoka's Greenhaven

municipal golf course. A financial statement included in the city council's Budget "Worksession" meeting packet of Aug. 12 (and a similar document from a year earlier) shows losses in each of the last four years: 2009: a loss of \$456,259; 2010: a loss of \$358,252; 2011: a loss of \$289,599 and in 2012, a loss of \$224,897. A footnote says "net loss is associated with depreciation and interest expense." For the 2013 season, there is a projected loss of nearly \$300,000.

The highest number of rounds of golf sold in the past 10 years has been 36,121 in 2002.

Greenhaven's 2013 fees for an 18-hole round is \$28, and \$16.50 for 9 holes. Those fees are increased by \$4 and \$1.50 respectively on weekends and holidays. A season pass, honored at all times, is \$925.

The city was carrying a long-term debt load of \$14 million at the start of 2013, while the city's five-year Capital Improvements Plan anticipates the spending of \$695,500 on repairs and remodeling to the golf course's clubhouse.

As the city council determines the 2014 city budget, staff is recommending that beginning in the coming year, clubhouse revenues and expenses be shifted to the general fund and reclassified as a community center net expense. By doing this, it will be more difficult for the public to discern the true profit/loss of the golf operations.



Anoka's Greenhaven golf course

PARENTS UPSET BY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S CHOICE FOR STUDENT READING *continued from page 1*

Several parents weren't so taken. Rather, they found the language in a teen romance book — a work so enthusiastically promoted by their schools — as raunchy and vulgar.

"In just the first three pages the book contains eight "f words" and three "s words," plus two additional vulgar words," wrote Kirk Burback of Coon Rapids in a letter to the editor to ABC Newspapers. "The entire book contains more than 220 of the most profane words you can imagine."

"And then there is the age inappropriate and highly controversial subject matter throughout. The book's content is such that if it were attempted to be read over the air, the FCC wouldn't allow it."

The parents of an unnamed 15-year-old freshman student who received the book wrote a scathing 13-page review, according to The Parent Action League website.

"This book is littered with extreme profanity and age-inappropriate subject matter that should never be put into the hands and minds of minor children, much less promoted by the educational institutions and staff we entrust to teach and protect our children," states an alert on the league's home page.

Olson acknowledges the profanity, and she doesn't necessarily disagree with the parents. She doesn't necessarily agree, either.

"It does have some language, I can see why parents would object to it," said Olson. "But I would say having read probably a third of it that it's not overwhelming. The last maybe 15 to 20 pages I was looking at, I couldn't find any language that I objected to. So it's sporadic. I wouldn't characterize it as being over the top by any means."

"My motivation was to make people actually feel love, to give them a realistic view of it," said Rowell in an interview with Publishers Weekly. "If they're young and never been in love, for them to know — yes, this how it feels. And if they're older and they have, to feel it as a sense memory."

While a committee of residents and educators will meet to process a formal complaint filed by concerned parents, A-H held firm on the student seminar with the suddenly controversial Rowell.

But county officials were catching on that "Eleanor & Park" was closer to "Fifty Shades of Grey" than to anything from Jane Austen.

"I got a few chapters into the book and I literally could not finish it. It was disgusting," said Julie Braastad, Anoka County commissioner and liaison to the Anoka County Library Board.

While the Anoka County Board does not have a vote on the independent Anoka County Library Board, the commissioners control the library system's annual budget. Braastad circulated an e-mail to library board members urging members to reconsider finalizing Rowell's contract.

"I know that if students were to use this language in addressing their teachers, principals or librarians they would face disciplinary actions," said Braastad's e-mail. "I ask each of you if you would be comfortable reading this book out loud to your school aged children or grandchildren? I am also greatly concerned that the Anoka County Library would even consider spending \$4,000 to bring the author here."

At a meeting Monday, the Anoka County Library Board issued a terse statement saying Rowell's visit was canceled, though her book remains on the recommended reading list for teens.

"After further review, it has been determined that this visit is not considered appropriate. Therefore, the agreement has not been completed and the events will not be held."

Neither Rowell nor her agent responded to Watchdog Minnesota Bureau inquiries for comment. The author, however, removed Minneapolis as the site of one of her forthcoming events.

Contact Tom Steward at tom@watchdogminnesota.org

Editor's Note: We publish below the text from the packet for the Aug. 19 Anoka County Library Board meeting that pertained to the Rainbow Rowell agenda item:

"Anoka County Library is a partner with the Anoka-Hennepin School District in a number of programs. This year, ACL staff and the high school media specialists expanded our partnership to include the summer reading book club for the students in ninth through twelfth grades. The book, *Eleanor & Park* was selected by the school media specialists and an author visit was arranged using Legacy funds to pay for the visit.

"After further review, it has been determined that this visit is not considered appropriate. Therefore, the agreement has not been completed and the events will not be held.

"The book remains in the Anoka County Library collection. It was purchased based upon the very favorable reviews. Those reviews are available should anyone desire to read them."

SCHOOL DISTRICT GRAPPLES WITH BOOK CONTROVERSY

continued from page 1

can be found at the end of this article).

"I'm not a book banner", Troy Cooper told us, and he agrees that this material can be easily acquired just by making a purchase online. However, he cannot believe that a school district would promote and defend this material for use by 12 to 16 year-olds

He emphasizes that schools are public institutions funded by taxpayer dollars. He is also upset that the author, Rainbow Rowell, was set to appear at Anoka High School, a public building, for a fee said to may have been \$4,000. The fee would have been paid with public tax dollars from "the Legacy Fund" state sales tax.

The Coopers said they had only found out about the summer reading program by accident. Troy said their daughter is not an avid reader and a friend had talked her into signing up for the program, near the end of the school year.

He asked her what she was going to read, and she showed him the book. On the first page were a string of profanities, so the Coopers' attention was caught immediately.

The book was distributed free to all students who signed up for the program. A sticker with the school district name and the reading program logo had been affixed to each book.

The Parents Action League group's website says there is an estimate that 175 to 250 books were distributed, not to mention an additional 71 books that are available for any students to check out from school libraries. Sarah Cooper is concerned that one of those books is in a middle school library (the rest are in high school libraries). Troy has asked school officials how the more than 300 books were paid for but says he hasn't received a straight answer.

In her speech to the school board, Melissa Thompson mentioned that the reading of the book was voluntary, it was not required.

Troy Cooper contends that the reading program is an all-or-nothing proposition. If you participate, you have only the "Eleanor and Park" book to read. When asked if he would be happier if the reading program had additional choices of books, he firmly says no, that the Rowell book does not belong in the public schools at all.

Are the Coopers ever told to put their daughter in a private school if they don't like the public school system?

The Coopers' daughter was in a private school, but financial and employment setbacks forced Troy to make "the hardest decision of my life" and she is now in the public system.

The Coopers say they have given the school district every opportunity to address their concerns out of the public eye. Three months without any action prompted them to air their grievance at this school board meeting. Actions of the Anoka County Library Board last week has also brought public attention. The library system decided not to participate in a proposed local appearance by the author, however the Library Board's packet for its Aug. 19 meeting stated that the book would remain on the public libraries' shelves.

Troy Cooper says he is not a member of the Parents Action League but they are interested in this matter and are letting him post his documentation on the PAL website.

The Coopers are asking that the school district discipline the staff members who were responsible for selecting the book for the reading program; notify the parents of children who were given the book through the reading program; and that the book be removed from all school libraries.

Troy Cooper had a copy of the book with him at the school board meeting. It has no illustrations. It didn't appear to be something a teenager would want to read — but the controversy and its racy content is probably contributing to its popularity. Sarah Cooper said it's written for those with a short attention span, in the style of Twitter tweets — short sentences, short paragraphs.

Below is the Anoka-Hennepin School District policy for handling challenges to materials used in the schools:

POLICY RELATING TO CHALLENGED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

6. Introduction:

6.1 In the event a complaint or criticism is initiated, the challenged educational material shall remain in the collection and in use until the review process has been completed.

7. Procedures:

7.1.1. The citizens shall complete a Citizens Request for Reconsideration form (to be provided upon request from the district Media Services Consultant, building Principal or building Media Generalist) for each item which is, in the opinion of the citizen, objectionable. The completed form shall be forwarded to the building Principal.

7.2.2. The request for reconsideration shall be considered by the building Principal, two teachers, the building Media Generalist and five citizen representatives. Within a reasonable time a recommendation regarding the disposition of the request for reconsideration will be forwarded by the building Principal to the citizens filing the request with a copy forwarded to the district Media Services Consultant.

7.3.3. Should the issue not be resolved at the building level, the Citizens Request for Reconsideration form may be forwarded to the Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction or the Media Services Consultant by the citizen filing the request. The Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY *continued on page 5*

TAXPAYERS HELP PAY FOR FRINGE FEST*continued from page 3*

really aimed at teenagers and adults."Other Fringe productions over the years have also been revealing. "A lot of Fringe shows show some skin as a gimmick. Get a nudity warning and you're sure to titillate a potential audience," according to a Twin Cities Daily Planet review.

So is it legitimate to focus on one out of 176 shows that comprise the playbill for this year's festival?

"I don't think I have any ability to cherry-pick one show in one festival that represents a tiny fraction of the State Arts Board funding in this case and try to use that to make a bigger point," said Gillette in a phone interview.

Festival organizers, MSAB and Metro Transit report no complaints over *Fashion Risk* or the *Accidental Nudist* thus far. In fact, most online reviews by audience members gush over the production that's stole the show at this year's festival.

"I honestly think this show would be selling out even if there weren't naked people," wrote one fan. "It is that good."

Contact Tom Steward at tom@watchdogminnesota.org.

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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. Sept. 3
Parks & Rec. Cmte., 9 am, Clubhouse,
Chomonix Golf Course

Thurs. Sept. 5
Workforce Council, 7:30 am, Rm 202,
Blaine Human Services Ctr

Tues. Sept. 10
Management Cmte., 8:30 am
Anoka County Board, 9:30 am

both meetings to be held at Nowthen
City Hall, 19800 Nowthen Blvd NW
Anoka County HRA, 10:30 am

Wed. Sept. 11
Waste Mgmt & Energy Cmte., 8:15 am,
Rm 772, ACGC

Mon. Sept. 16
Public Works Cmte., 9 am, Rm 772, ACGC
Library Board, 5:30 pm, Library
offices next to Northtown Library

FRIDLEY

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

Thurs. Sept. 5

HRA, 7 pm

Mon. Sept. 9 & 23

City Council, 7 pm

Mon. Sept. 9

Charter Comm., 7 pm

Parks Comm., 7 pm

Tues. Sept. 10

Environmental Quality & Energy
Comm., 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. Sept. 3

City Council, 6 pm

Mon. Sept. 9
Planning Comm., 6 pm

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

Tues. Sept. 3
Road & Bridge Cmte., 6 pm

Tues. Sept. 10 & 24

Town Board, 6 pm

Tues. Sept. 17
Planning Comm., 7 pm

Mon. Sept. 23
Park & Rec. Cmte., 6 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., 6 pm

3rd Thursday

Planning Comm., 7 pm

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

Thurs. Sept. 5

Planning Comm., 7 pm

Tues. Sept. 10

City Council "work session" 5:30 pm,
reg mtg 7 pm, followed by HRA

Thurs. Sept. 12

EDA, 7:30 am

Parks & Rec. Comm., 6:30 pm, Draw
Park Patron Picnic, 7403 E Ramsey
Pkwy NW

Tues. Sept. 17

Public Works Cmte., 6 pm, followed
by city council "work session"

SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY*continued from page 4*

shall appoint an ad hoc review committee, the membership of which is subject to the approval of the School Board and in accordance with the following guidelines:

- a. The review committee shall include: one Media Generalist; one certified teacher; one building level administrator; one district level administrator; and four citizen representatives.
- b. The review committee shall:
 - (1) elect a chairperson;
 - (2) adopt appropriate guidelines for hearings;
 - (3) hold public hearings through which evidence and testimony may be presented relating to the material in question;
 - (4) review and analyze appropriate information and submit to the superintendent his recommendation relative to the disposition of the questioned material.

7.4.4. The findings and recommendations of the review committee shall be reported to the Superintendent, to the School Board, and to the citizen filing the request for reconsideration.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**LIQUOR, WINE AND BEER SALES TAX DELINQUENCIES**

Posted 8/26/2013 at 7:00 PM

Newly Posted List: In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 270C.725., the below taxpayers are 10 days or more delinquent in payment of their taxes and therefore no wholesaler, manufacturer or brewer may sell or deliver any product to them beginning the third business day (business days are Monday through Friday) after the date of this list (8/26/2013).

Non-Delivery Date: Aug. 20, 2013

Legal Name: Hoangle LLC

DBA Name: **Bamboo Village**

Address: 737 W Main St, Anoka; posted 8/2013

Legal Name: Double H Entertainment LLC

DBA Name: **Hunters Inn**

Address: 20454 Hwy 65, East Bethel; posted 8/2013

Legal Name: Ham Lake Post #10796

DBA Name: **Don Hansen VFW Post #10796**

Address: 17438 Baltimore St NE, Ham Lake; posted 8/2013

Legal Name: Little Biffys LLC

DBA Name: **Biff's Billiards & Sports Bar**

Address: 7777 Hwy 65, Spring Lk Park; posted 8/2013

Legal Name: Wishell Inc.

DBA Name: **Tasty Pizza**

Address: 3220 Bridge St NW, St. Francis; posted 8/2013

Previously Posted List: No wholesaler, manufacturer or brewer may sell or deliver any product to these taxpayers while their names remain on the list.

Legal Name: Monterrey Mexican Restaurant of MN

DBA Name: **Monterrey Mexican Restaurant**

Address: 9141 S Highway Dr, Circle Pines; posted 7/2013

Legal Name: Laadahl LLC

DBA Name: **Columbia Grill**

Address: 4005 Central Av NE, Columbia

Hts; posted 7/2013

Legal Name: Gutierrez & Velez Inc.

DBA Name: **Puerta Del Sol**

Address: 3800 Central Ave, Col Hts; posted 1/2013

Legal Name: Woodsmens Grill LLC

DBA Name: **Hunters Cafe**

Address: 1918 1st Ave., Anoka; posted 6/2013

Recently Removed — The names on the below section are businesses that were posted and have been removed. Deliveries may resume to these businesses.

Legal Name: CEH Investments

DBA Name: **Courtside Bar & Grill**

Address: 227 Jackson St., Anoka; posted: July 2013; Date removed: 7/23/13

Legal Name: JBA Corp.

DBA Name: **Nicklow's Cafe & Bar**

Address: 8466 Central Ave. N.E., Spring Lake Park; Posted July 2013. Date removed: 7/25/13

Legal Name: First Fork LLC

DBA Name: **Miller's Corner Bar and Grill**

Address: 547 40th Ave. N.E., Col. Heights; Posted July 2013; Date removed: 8/1/13

Legal Name: BAM Inc.

DBA Name: **Shortstop Fridley**

Address: 1298 Moore Lake Dr E, Fridley; Posted 8/2013; Date removed: 8/16/13

Legal Name: EL AZTECA OF ANOKA INC

DBA Name: **El Azteca Mexican Restaurant**

Address: 440 BUNKER LAKE BLVD NW, Anoka posted Aug 2013; Date removed: 8/22/13

Legal Name: Billiard Street Cafe Inc

DBA Name: **Two Stooges Sports Bar & Grill**

Address: 7178 University Av NE, Fridley; Posted Aug 2013; Date removed: 8/22/13

Legal Name: SPM Properties Inc

DBA Name: **PENALTY BOX BAR & GRILL**

Address: 14077 St Francis Blvd NW, Ramsey

Posted Aug 2013; Date removed 8/27/13

**Missed something?
All back issues can be found at
www.AnokaCountyRecord.com**

CANDIDATES WITHDRAW FROM TWO RACES

To follow up on our reporting of candidates who had filed for the various city and school board offices in Anoka County in our Aug. 15 issue, there were two candidates who have withdrawn their candidacy filings:

Suzanne K. Hochban has withdrawn from the Circle Pines city council race, leaving four candidates to compete for two seats that are on the ballot.

Corey Ross withdrew from the St. Francis ISD #15 school board race, for the 2-year seat that will now be a match between Betsy Roed and Scott Schwarz. The seat is being put to a special election due to the removal of Matthew Rustad by a majority of the school board last February. David Roberts was appointed to that seat, but has chosen to run for one of the regular 4-year seats that will also be on the ballot.

Please refer to our editions of Aug. 15, 2013 and June 20, 2013 for more background on the candidates. — ACR staff

Anoka County RECORD

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CITY OF HAM LAKE
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for construction of a 30 ft. x 24 ft. garage will be received by City of Ham Lake, Minnesota, in the City Hall at 15544 Central Avenue NE until 10:00 A.M. on Friday, September 13, 2013, at which time they will be publicly opened by the City Administrator and will be considered by the City Council on September 16, 2013 at 6:00 P.M.

Plans and specifications, bid forms and contract documents may be examined at the office of the City Administrator, City of Ham Lake, 15544 Central Avenue NE, Ham Lake, Minnesota, 55304 (763) 434-9555. Documents are also available on the City's website at www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us.

No bids may be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after the date and time set for the opening of bids. The contractor shall enter into a contract within ten (10) days after acceptance of the proposal.

The outside of the sealed envelope must be properly marked "Bid on Garage".

Payment for the work will be by check.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein and further reserves the right to award the contract to the best interests of the City.

Doris A. Nivala
City Administrator
Dated: August 29, 2013

(Published Aug. 29, 2013 Anoka County Record)

CITY OF HAM LAKE
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 13-09

An Ordinance relating to the operation of certain vehicles on City Streets.

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

A. The Title of Article 6-400 of the Ham Lake City Code is hereby amended to read:

6-400 All-Terrain Vehicles and Golf Carts

B. Article 6-420 of the Ham Lake City Code is hereby repealed, to be replaced by the following Article 6-420:

6-420 Operation of ATVs on City Streets

ATV's may be operated on City Streets under the following conditions:

a) The operator of the ATV must be at least 16 years of age and in possession of a valid Minnesota drivers' license;

b) The ATV must be registered with the State of Minnesota under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 84.922.

c) All ATV operators and passengers under the age of 18 years must wear a safety helmet approved for motorcycle use by the Minnesota Commissioner of Public Safety.

d) The ATV must operate only on the extreme right edge of the travelled portion of the roadway, in the same direction as motor vehicle traffic, except for turning or crossing movements at intersections. Operation of ATV's in ditches, slopes, backslopes or shoulders is prohibited.

e) The ATV shall not exceed a speed of 20 miles per hour;

f) If Minnesota law requires that the owner of an ATV carry liability insurance and maintain proof thereof, the owner shall at all times be in compliance with such laws and regulations.

g) The ATV shall at all times observe all stop signs, yield signs or other traffic control devices, and shall at all times observe all Minnesota statutory traffic laws, including the muffling of engine/exhaust noise.

h) The ATV shall not engage in stunt or exhibition driving.

i) The ATV shall not be operated on any City Street at any time prior to 6:00 am or after 10:00 pm on any given day, provided; that an ATV operated at any time prior to sunrise or after sunset must be equipped with a working headlight and tail lights.

j) If the ATV is not equipped with turn signals, the operator shall use arm signals when executing turning movements.

k) The ATV shall be equipped with all equipment and accessories required by Minnesota Law. Whether or not required by Minnesota laws, all ATV's shall be equipped with at least one functioning headlight, which will be illuminated at all times when the ATV is operated on any public road or street.

Article 6 of the Ham Lake City Code is hereby amended by adding thereto an Article 6-460, to read as follows:

6-460 Golf Carts

A Golf Cart shall be defined as a four-wheeled vehicle designed for passenger use by golfers on golf courses, commercially manufactured and not altered in terms of the attainable speed that existed at the time of manufacture. "Go-Karts", "Dune Buggies" or home-built devices are not Golf Carts. Golf Carts may be operated on City Streets subject to all of the conditions for ATV's as contained in Article 6-420 of the Ham Lake City Code except for subparagraphs b), c) and k). Where the term "ATV" is used in Article 6-420, the term "Golf Cart" shall be substituted for the purposes of this Article 6-460.

Adopted by a unanimous vote of the Ham Lake City Council on the 19th day of August, 2013.

/s/ Michael G. Van Kirk, Mayor Denise Webster, City Clerk

(Published Aug. 29, 2013 Anoka County Record)

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The Anoka County Board met on August 13, 2013. Standing county committee information reports and action items were considered, and action was taken as necessary. The following resolutions were adopted: #2013-93-Voting System Plan; #2013-94-Conversion of Temporary Positions to Regular Positions; #2013-95-Public Services Reorganization; #2013-96-Agreement for Federal Participation in Preliminary Engineering; and #2013-97-Conveyance of Tax Forfeited Property. A full copy of the agenda, minutes, accounts, and claims greater than \$2000 may be found on the Anoka County Web site: www.anokacounty.us

(Published Aug. 29, 2013 Anoka County Record)



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CITY OF OAK GROVE
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Oak Grove Planning Commission's Regular Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall, 19900 Nightingale St NW, to hear the following public hearings in the order that they appear:

PUBLIC HEARING to consider an Interim Use Permit for Ronald Herman for a sand mining/excavation permit at the following legally described property: the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Sec 11, Twp 33, Rge 24; further described by PIN# 11-33-24-24-0001 along with: the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Sec 11, Twp 33, Rge 24; further described by PIN# 11-33-24-21-0002.

All written and oral comments will be heard.

PUBLIC HEARING to consider Ordinance 13-06 an ordinance amending Section 109-98 — GB, General Business District allowing Retail Sales as a permitted use. A copy of the ordinance can be reviewed at city hall.

All written and oral comments will be heard.

The hearings of this request are not limited to those receiving copies of this notice, and if you know of any neighbor or affected property owner who for any reason, has not received a copy, it would be appreciated if you would inform them of this public hearing.

Hearing impaired persons planning to attend who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids should contact City Hall at 404-7006 no later than Wednesday, September 11, 2013.

Sheryl F. Fiskewold Posted August 28-September 19, 2013
City Clerk Published August 29, 2013

(Published Aug. 29, 2013 Anoka County Record)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF HAM LAKE
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA

TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to the requirements of Minnesota Law, a public hearing shall be held before the Ham Lake Planning Commission on Monday, September 9, 2013 at 6:01 p.m. at the City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE for the purpose of adding certain criteria to Article 9 of the Ham Lake City Code as follows:

An ordinance relating to transitional areas in the CD-1 and CD-2 Zoning Districts; permitting certain conditional uses therein.

At such hearing both written and oral comments will be heard.

DATED: August 29, 2013

Dawnette M. Shimek
Zoning Official/Building Clerk
City of Ham Lake

(Published Aug. 29, 2013 Anoka County Record)

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CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:

Grill Works Truck

2. Principal Place of Business:

11505 6th Pl. N.E., Blaine MN 55434

3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address:

Grill Works LLC, 11505 6th Pl. N.E., Blaine MN 55434

4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

FILED: July 17, 2013 #68175570002

/s/ William Cave, Co-Owner

(Published Aug. 15 & 29, 2013 Anoka County Record)

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:

Montu Staffing Solutions

2. Principal Place of Business:

4056 Central Ave. N.E., Columbia Heights MN 55421

3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal