

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR WRAP-UP

House Poll at Fair shows 65% favor minimum wage increase, Fair sets new daily attendance records

Hot, humid weather with temperatures sometimes reaching the upper 90's caused the 2013 Minnesota State Fair to have some dips in daily attendance but overall the fair, held Aug. 22 through Sept. 2, was not far behind the attendance figures of the last few years.

Cooler weather the last two days of the fair, Sunday, Sept. 1 and Monday, Sept. 2 (Labor Day) helped set new daily attendance records for those days, and Sunday's 236,197 attendance is now the new record for daily attendance on any given day of the fair. The 2013 attendance was 1,731,162 while the all-time record is 2009's total of 1,790,497. 2012's fair missed setting a new all-time record by just 2,000 people.

Temperatures dropped to the mid-70's on Sunday, and Labor Day was even cooler, in the upper 60's. When it was time for the final hurrah of fireworks to close off the 2013 fair, the temperature had dipped to the low 50's and everyone needed a jacket.

The political activity at the State Fair was ever present but being an odd year, it was not as revved up as it will be next year. With only school board and a few city council races (including the higher-profile races in Minneapolis and St. Paul) on the ballot this fall, it's a sleepy time for most people but for the exceptionally-aware voters.

Among the individual candidates who had their own booths at the fair were St. Paul mayoral challenger Tim Holden, and Republican candidate for governor, Jeff Johnson. The Tea Party and the Constitution Party also had booths. There were more, but these are the ones I walked by.

The annual State House and Senate polls are the most interesting piece of the fair to a political junkie. Few know about the annual surveys that are taken by both sides of the legislature. The House has been doing theirs at least as far back as 1998. They typically get 7,000 to 8,000 respondents which isn't much when you consider the fair draws 1.7 million. You have to be a dedicated political junkie to persevere long enough to find the area where you can fill out the surveys — it's in the Education Building, not far from the Snelling Avenue entrance of the fairgrounds. The back of the building abuts Snelling.

In the back of that building, you'll find the House and Senate displays and you can fill out your "ballot" just like you do in the polling place — in fact, they have the same kind of ballot counting machine in use.

What was perplexing this time around is that the Senate had so fewer respondents (4,380) to the House's 7,022. Why would anyone not fill out both? In a hurry? The Senate's questions were far better than the House's. People must have picked up the House survey first, filled it out and took off. Too bad.

While this is going on, two legislators are usually on hand to talk with you, and they do this in shifts that are rotated throughout the day with a different set of legislators every few hours. Handouts and information are also at the shared booth.

Both the House and Senate surveys had questions about the minimum wage. The House's question was, "the state's minimum wage is currently \$6.15 per hour. Should it be raised to \$8.50 per hour for small employers (annual gross sales of less than \$500,000) and \$9.50 for large employers?" The response was 65% yes, and 28% no. The remainder was undecided or had no opinion.

The Senate's question, to fewer respondents, was put this way: "Minnesota's minimum wage is \$6.15/hour. What is your opinion regarding the state's minimum wage rate?" To which, four choices were given:

The state minimum wage should not be changed (18% chose this answer); the state minimum wage should be raised to match the federal rate of \$7.25/hour (23%); the state minimum wage should be raised above the federal rate, up to \$8.25/hour (17%); or, the state minimum wage should be raised between \$8.25 and \$9.25/hour (there was 38% support for this).

The Senate's poll wanted to know who the respondents were and where they came from. There were only a handful more males than females, so gender was split fairly evenly. 38% were residents of Minneapolis or St. Paul, 44% identified themselves as living in suburban areas, and 13% rural. 173 people were from the larger cities such as Rochester, Duluth, etc. 40 respondents were from out of state.

On this point, I thought it rather odd to be handing out surveys about Minnesota law to people who do not live here, but as I witnessed this myself, I thought, this was behavior we have seen many times before from the DFL majority — the majority that wants to see everyone vote, without question or qualification.

Anoka County legislator Rep. Tom Hackbarth, sent a message to his constituents after the fair, explaining "I want to emphasize this is a highly unscientific poll and not a good cross section of where statewide voters stand on some of the key issues. A large percentage of fair-goers are citizens from St. Paul and Minneapolis, tilting the results to the left."

62% of the Senate's poll respondents were age 50 and over. Half of this pie piece was over age 65. The 18 to 24 age group, college students and new voters, was 8% of the entire respondents pool. The House poll asked no questions as to age, gender or residence of respondents.

To a Senate question about the outcome of the 2013 session completed in May, the answers were not overwhelming in either direction. 40% said they had a favorable opinion of the session while 36% said they did not. 18% were "neutral" and 5% had "no opinion." Seems to me "neutral" and "no opinion" is pretty much the same thing.

There were also questions about topics that had been the focus of some bills not passed in the 2013 session. House File 234, co-authored by Coon Rapids legislator Jerry Newton, would allow school boards to

Observations from the Field Bryan Olson



SHAKEDOWN AT LEXINGTON CITY HALL Employees' union chief says "You Have the Ability to Pay"

by Bryan Olson — Special to the *Anoka County Record*
Taxpayers' wallets were spared, at least for the time being, by action of the Lexington City Council at its Sept. 5 meeting.

With councilor Betty Bailey absent, the council voted unanimously to table a proposal for a city employee pay raise that was presented by AFSCME Local 2454's business representative Tim Henderson.

All five employees at city hall, with the exception of the City Administrator, are represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union.

Henderson, with some assistance from city employees in the audience, stated their complaint in the hour-long presentation. They charged that the city was woefully behind in pay rates compared to four other similarly-sized and similarly-staffed cities. The city's Accounting Coordinator and union steward Tina Northcutt said it took she and fellow city employees four months to research the pay rates of Circle Pines, Centerville, Lauderdale and Osseo. Their findings were included in the council meeting packet.

The current city contract with AFSCME was signed in July 2012 and effective for three years beginning May 1, 2012. The pay rates were set up in the often-used "step" increases. Lexington's scale goes up to a 6th step, however the new request is to create two more steps, #7 and 8.

Pay scales by steps rewards longevity of service. After 6 months of employment, the "Step 1" pay rate goes into effect, followed by incremental steps/pay raises to where the Step 6 pay rate is given to the employee who has reached 5 years of service.

Henderson said that up to the early 2012 contract negotiations, AFSCME had repeatedly asked for updated job descriptions for the city. He now contends that the employees were at a disadvantage when that bargaining agreement was made because the union was working with outdated information. The city updated the information a few months after the contract was signed, and in May 2013 the city council decided to eliminate the Assistant City Administrator position.

A memo from AFSCME to the city council, dated July 15, 2013 and included in the Sept. 5 meeting packet stated, "the five full-time union positions have many duties and wear many hats in a city of our size. Unfortunately, the size of our city does not negate the time-consuming reporting and compliance requirements that all cities in Minnesota must adhere to."

Describing the contents of its salary compilations, the AFSCME memo went on to say, "as you can see, the current salaries for the positions of Accounting Coordinator and Administrative Coordinator are severely lower than the aggregated average between Lauderdale and Osseo. While the current salary for the position of Public Works/Maintenance is above the aggregated average only through Step 4 and starts to decline with Step 5 and beyond."

The memo concluded, "we are dedicated employees who are hired, employed and fired by other people. Without our willingness to work hard, the job would not be done; without our steadfast dedication, productivity would be non-existent. We ask that our efforts be recognized and fairly compensated."

Rep. Scott comments on MNSure



**Rep. Peggy Scott
District 35B**
201 State Office Bldg.
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-4231

You may have noticed new television ads and billboards popping up along highways featuring Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox promoting Democrats' Insurance Exchange called MNSure. While the ads may be lighthearted, there is nothing funny about what MNSure – the Minnesota arm of Obamacare – has been doing with \$9 million of taxpayer money. MNSure needs to get young, healthy adults to enroll but I'm skeptical that Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox are best equipped to reach that target audience. Meanwhile, \$9 million is a lot of money to avoid telling people they're signing up for Obamacare with higher costs, fewer options, and inadequate safeguards for health care data privacy.

If that weren't enough, MNSure announced last Friday at 5:30 p.m. which groups would be receiving taxpayer-funded grants to promote enrollment in MNSure. Among the numerous grantees is Planned Parenthood. You can read the full list of grantees at <http://www.mn.gov/hix/news-room/news/newsdetail.jsp?id=387-76678>

It's also troubling me to that, according to one account, the MNSure offices have conference rooms named after the House and Senate Democrat authors of the insurance exchange legislation as well as a conference room named after Democrat Governor Dayton. An agency that claims simply to be trying to enroll people in health insurance shouldn't be so blatantly political.

Along with the bad politics of Obamacare and MNSure comes bad policy. I spoke to an employer of 1500 people yesterday. The employer is in a partnership that owns and operates over 50 fast food franchises. He said they have to make all but their store managers part-time employees (less than 30 hours per week) because Obamacare would otherwise cause them to close their business at which time none of those 1500 people would have a job!

It seems fitting that MNSure will officially open for business in October – the same month as Halloween. Unfortunately, the tricks of MNSure won't bring any treats for Minnesotans

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.

**Candidate's Statement:
William Fields announces candidacy for Anoka-Hennepin School District seat**

I am seeking the District 4 seat on the Anoka-Hennepin (District 11) School Board. I am a married father of four and earned my Bachelor's degree from the United States Air Force Academy. After serving 10 years in the Active Duty Air Force, I decided to move to the Twin Cities to be near family.

While in the Air Force I held various positions, but my time spent as an instructor and training manager was where I developed an appreciation and interest in the academic environment and enjoyed finding greater efficiencies to improve learning performance. After serving on active duty, I continued my service through the Air National Guard. In addition to military service, I have also been involved with local soccer teams as an assistant coach.



Fields

My purpose in running for a position on the School Board is to bring new ideas to the table and to seek as many ways possible to enhance cost effectiveness. As I have enjoyed a career of public service, a position on the school board would provide a way to further serve our community and pursue a continued interest in bettering educational opportunities for our future leaders. I believe that venues such as online learning are a way to promote col-

laboration and bring our students into a more technical-oriented future. Important Issues: Fiscal responsibility is paramount to having successful schools, and it is something that I take seriously. anything related to government expenses, ensuring that operations are efficient is critical to gaining public trust. funding for schools is important, the solution is not to merely raise taxes on residents but to find smarter ways of doing things. I believe that raising taxes will only force people out of the district due to unnecessary financial burdens and subsequently reduce the number of students, which can compound the problem.

Additionally, we as a community need to continually promote competitiveness in our students. I would like to see our schools offer high quality technical courses, such as programming and engineering. If our students do not fill the present and widening knowledge gap in the U.S. then it will be filled by students from outside of our country. We need to provide them with the technical know-how that will not only enable them to find good jobs, but also to promote stability within the region.

If you have questions, I can be reached via email at fields4schoolboard@gmail.com.

Editor's Note: Fields is a candidate for the District 4 seat of the Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11 school board, presently held by Michael Sullivan, who did not file for re-election. District 4 comprises Ham Lake, part of Andover, Oak Grove, Nowthen and part of Ramsey. All candidates on the Nov. 5, 2013 election ballot are invited to send us their statements which will be published here as we receive them. Our contact information can be found on page 5.

State Fair Poll Results *continued from page 1*

renew an expiring levy with a simple majority vote, taking it out of the hands of the electorate. A Senate poll question was, "should the Legislature give school boards the authority to increase property taxes to operate schools without first going to the voters for their approval?" 70% said no.

The Sunday liquor question just won't go away. A DFL legislator from Duluth started pushing this again a couple years ago, simply because he wants to see his city collect more sales taxes. He won't say that however, and wants you to think that he has suddenly become a libertarian on this one issue. It's all about freedom and the 'right' to buy booze whenever you want. The public doesn't understand the liquor business and doesn't realize many independents believe it would be a hardship to be open on Sundays with no financial gain to be made. 59% of respondents however want liquor stores to be open on Sundays too. 8% were undecided or had no opinion.

Should state money be given to local governments to subsidize affordable housing? The key phrase of the question seems to have been, "so that affordable housing is available to more *working people* (italics supplied) throughout Minnesota." 59% said they favor this, 11% had no opinion.

The Senate asked questions on election reform. The respondent was asked to choose one item out of six as their highest priority. 30% chose requiring voters to show a photo I.D. at the polling place; another 30% rated having a 15-day period of early voting a priority; extending election day from one day to four days (an election would run from Saturday through Tuesday) was supported by 10% as a top priority; and the use of electronic poll books drew a lackluster 7% interest. Ranked-choice voting (once often referred to as "Instant Runoff Voting") also did not score very high as a priority — only 13%. 2.5% thought moving the state primary election to June was a priority. In the House poll, 62% favored early voting for at least two weeks prior to election day.

The Senate also wanted to gauge your awareness of MNSure, the health insurance exchange. "Yes, but I know little about it," received a 50% response. "Yes, and I am also aware of the specifics" described 25% of respondents. 19% flat out said "No", they were not familiar with it, nor what it does. Only 4% said they were familiar with MNSure and plan to use it. The poll however lacked w

Another Senate question asked if a state law against bullying in Minnesota schools is needed. 53% said yes, 39% said leave it up to the school districts.

How do you like one-party rule of both sides of the legislature and the governor's office? 17% said they like this; 27% said they like majority rule only if its by their political party, and 38% said they like divided government.

The House poll asked if you support a 5-cent increase in the gas tax "to help fund the backlog of highway and bridge needs around the state." 53% said yes. The Senate posed their question on the subject a little differently by giving the respondent different options as to the amount. 33% supported a 5-cent hike, 29% supported a 7-cent hike. A strong 31% said "no gas tax increases are necessary."

The vote was deadlocked as to whether to continue to allow wolf hunting.

In the news lately has been the "Legacy Amendment" — the sales tax that was put into the state's Constitution by voters in 2008. The appropriation and use of those funds was debated in the last legislative session. The distribution of the arts portion of those funds has also been called into question by several investigative journalism reports. Consequently, the Senate's poll asked, "do you believe that the Legislature has appropriated these funds according to the original intent of the constitutional amendment?" The vote was a three-way deadlock between "Yes", "No" and "Undecided/No Opinion."

21% did not support an increase in the 55 mph speed limit; 20% favored raising it to 60 mph and another 21% favored an increase to 65 mph. 32% would favor speed limit increases generally but only on a case-by-case recommendation of MnDOT.

The House poll also had a few other highlights not covered here yet: 75% favored medical use of marijuana; 82% want buyers at gun shows to be subject to background checks; 60% favor "an independent, citizens-only council be created to set salaries for state legislators." 22% firmly said no to this, and 18% were undecided or had no opinion.

52% were against the use of cameras at intersections which would enable city governments to write more traffic tickets. 41% were in favor.

The House legislators also wanted to know if the state needs laws regarding dog and cat breeding and inspections. 64% said yes.

Should a concert promoter be made to declare how many tickets will actually be available to the public? 61% said yes, 20% no, and 19% no opinion.

Should the fishing opener be moved up one week because it always falls on Mother's Day? 47% said yes, 27% no, and 26% no opinion. The fishing opener has been a perennial issue at the capitol for years. *ACR*

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UNION DEMANDS IN LEXINGTON *continued from page 1*

The memo then listed the union employees' demands: the addition of two more steps, and a new salary schedule for the Accounting Coordinator, Administrative Coordinator and the Public Works/Maintenance positions and that the changes be made retroactive to June 1, 2013.

Henderson said more than a few times to the council, "we implore you" to adopt the new suggested pay rates, while adding each time, "but you don't have to do it." He reminded the council that employee wages were frozen in 2010 and 2011.

Henderson then took another card from the deck and played it: "the LGA was cut to Lexington and several cities . . . and it was this union, me specifically and many members that lobbied *hard* to get LGA restored. All that we're asking for is a little piece of that restored LGA."

Henderson told the council, "unfortunately, the state representative in this district wanted to abolish LGA, so we fought that off as a union of 43,000 members." (Henderson ran unsuccessfully in 2011 for a seat on the Lino Lakes City Council and for the State Senate in 2012).

Local Government Aid is a redistribution of dollars collected from taxpayers statewide to subsidize the operations of mostly smaller cities, even though Duluth, Minneapolis and St. Paul also receive substantial LGA funding, which is allocated by means of complicated formulas. A 2011 Minnesota Department of Revenue study of another redistribution program, Fiscal Disparities, showed that Lexington's taxes would have to go up nearly 16% if its subsidy was removed. The fiscal disparities program takes tax dollars from wealthier cities and redistributes that wealth to those that aren't as fortunate.

City councilor Jack Plasch commented on Henderson's pitch, saying that it sounded like he was at the bargaining table again. Henderson repeated "we implore you to do this" and added, "in my opinion, it's the right thing to do."

Plasch thought the new city administrator, expected to replace the retiring Dot Heifort in late October, should handle the matter — the contract runs until May 2015, and the new city administrator would be preparing for the negotiations relatively soon after taking the job anyway. Plasch said it wouldn't be fair to the new city administrator to have no say in a personnel contract change now, to which Henderson said "you could look at it that way, but you could also clean this up now and bring in someone new with a clean slate."

Plasch thought a new administrator "might have new ideas" and the AFSCME business representative responded, "that's what we fear — and that's why we are imploring you to make a decision tonight."

Paul Floyd, the city's attorney for labor negotiations, told Henderson he thought that the four cities chosen were "cherry-picked" and is not convinced the city is underpaying on every job position. He also said he wasn't certain that Lexington's jobs match up with Lauderdale's for instance. Some jobs may, others may not. Floyd said that the city would need to do a market analysis of its own, which takes a lot of time and incurs cost and that such an analysis could be done by the new city administrator. He said that he never expected to hear another discussion about wages only a year into a three-year contract, "I'm surprised it's coming this quick — I thought it would have been part of the 2015 contract. The timing now is a little bit askew."

Expanding on Plasch's comments, Mayor Michael Pitchford said the new administrator may want to change many things, change some job positions, assignment of duties and so on.

"I hope your new hire doesn't come in and just change everything up, because that could have a negative effect," said Henderson to the council. Plasch said

again that the timing of this demand was poor.

Henderson pulled out another card from the deck but did no better: "If I didn't think the city had the ability to pay, with the LGA that was restored to you, I wouldn't be here. But I do believe you have the ability to pay."

Both Mayor Pitchford and city administrator Dot Heifort told Henderson that the forthcoming \$385,000 in expected LGA funds has already been spoken for, as it will be going toward the city's costs for police service. (Of LGA funds, the city received \$369,000 in 2008, \$386,000 in 2009, and \$295,000 in both 2010 and 2011).

A public works employee in the audience was agitated enough to blurt out from his seat, "how is a new city administrator going to know how well we work? I'm not asking for that much. Two guys run this city. Dot, will you put in a good word for us?"

Labor attorney Floyd asked questions of Tina Northcutt, who works for the city as the Accounting Coordinator. He asked her what her current salary is: \$45,718. And the amount of increase needed to correct the "market inequality": \$9,525, which would bring her salary to \$55,243. Floyd then pointed out that the current AFSCME contract requires a 2% increase in each of its three years, which would be added to the new base salary of \$55,243. "I have a hard time understanding how this is 'market' [rate]," he said.

Not said at the meeting was that Lauderdale has no Accounting Coordinator or Finance Director. Also not stated was whether the Finance Officer position in Osseo is a union job or not. These were some of the inconsistencies in the presentation that were generally addressed by Floyd when he said he was concerned that the employees' research might not match up the job positions from city to city as closely as the city council would like to see, and that a thorough market analysis would need to be done by the city.

All in all, Henderson said "I'm a big supporter of LGA." Then the council voted to table the matter and send it to the Personnel Committee for further review, a date for a meeting of that committee had not been set as of press time. The two-person committee is made up of Pitchford and Plasch.

LEXINGTON CITY JOB POSITIONS AT STEP 6 (TOP PAY RATE)

	Current Salary	Proposed New Salary
Administrative Coordinator	\$42,473*	\$49,865
Public Works-Maintenance	\$53,997**	\$57,256
Accounting Coordinator	\$45,718***	\$55,243

Note: The Anoka County Record made a salary information request to Lexington City Hall in Feb. 2013. The salaries given then were different than shown in the Sept. 5, 2013 meeting packet. One thing to bear in mind is that 2% pay increases were received by employees on 5/1/12 and 5/1/13, however the figures we received in Feb 2013 don't seem to square with what was presented at the Sept. 5, 2013 council meeting.

* \$46,467 ** \$53,456 *** \$43,555

SAMPLING OF OTHER CITIES' JOBS THAT WERE COMPARED:

Lauderdale Maintenance Worker (Step 5, top pay) \$53,188
 Lauderdale Public Works Coordinator (Step 5, top pay) \$60,211
 Lauderdale Deputy Clerk (Step 5, top pay, 32-hr/week position) \$40,211
 Lauderdale Assistant to the City Administrator (Step 5, top pay) \$58,322
 Osseo Public Works Foreman (Top pay rate) \$53,784
 Osseo Finance Director (Top pay rate) \$58,488
 Centerville Finance Director (Top pay rate) \$75,359

Sen. Benson: Disaster Relief, but No Tax Relief

This week the legislature met for a special legislative session to address disaster relief for eighteen counties that were hit by severe storms, high winds and flooding between June 20 and 26.

I'm glad we came together to provide disaster relief. We have a rich tradition of supporting Minnesota communities.

During the course of discussions on what would also be included in the special session, Republican leaders suggested repealing three newly-created taxes including the equipment repair tax, telecommunications equipment tax and warehousing tax. In spite of bipartisan support for these suggestions, Democrat leaders and Governor Dayton refused to consider repealing any of these three taxes during the special session.

I signed on to author four bills during the special session; one bill to repeal each of the taxes listed above, as well as a bill to repeal the forced unionization of child care providers.

These new burdens stand in the way of a healthier Minnesota economy by raising prices on necessities purchased by hardworking Minnesotans. Governor Dayton's own fiscal analysts stated that 90 percent of these taxes will be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices for everyday items.

Although I am disappointed we were not able to undo some of the damage done last year, I will continue to stand up for hardworking taxpayers in the upcoming regular session. Government should be more efficient and effective, not more expensive and wasteful.



Sen. Michelle Benson
 District 31
 115 State Office Bldg.
 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 St. Paul MN 55155
 651-296-3219

Sen. Chamberlain: Aid Package Details Online

The Legislature convened a Special Session on Sept. 9 for the purposes of appropriating \$4.5 million in financial aid to several Minnesota counties affected by recent flood and storm damage.

While I am often critical of state spending, this was an important aid package. We have a rich history of helping our neighbors through these difficult times. However, I am disappointed the DFL leadership and the governor were unwilling to compromise to repeal some of the harmful tax increases they passed last session. There is bipartisan agreement that we need to act before we cause further harm to hardworking Minnesota families, but DFL leaders rejected each Republican offer to address these taxes, and shut down our attempts to repeal these taxes on the Senate floor.

If you are interested in the details of the aid package, you can view the spreadsheet here: http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/departments/fiscalpol/tracking/2013/Overall_1SS_Disaster_Agreement.pdf

I am glad we were able to provide assistance to our fellow Minnesotans in their

time of need, and I'm hopeful that we will be able to undo the mistakes made by the governor and the DFL-led legislature immediately when the new session begins in February. meantime, I would encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



Senator Roger Chamberlain
 District 38
 129 State Office Bldg.
 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 St. Paul MN 55155
 651-296-1253

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COUNTY BOARD ACTIONS IN LINWOOD SAMPSON APPOINTED TO LIBRARY BOARD

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

The Aug. 13 Anoka County Board meeting was held at Linwood's town hall, giving the commissioners a chance to meet and greet township residents and officials.

Town Board chair Phil Osterhus summarized some recent activities in the township, including stepped-up recycling efforts supervised by town board member Ed Kramer, who was in the audience along with town board member Carol Searing. Osterhus thanked County Commissioner Jim Kordiak for his help on this effort and Kordiak said he was very pleased to see how much recycling has increased in the township.

A number of personnel changes were approved by the County Board, which included adding three new staff positions for processing passports. The U.S. State Department informed county officials that the issuance of passports could not occur in the same facilities which take applications for birth records or identification documents. Federal requirements now mandate that passport centers be operated by separate staff and a separate physical space. County officials are proposing to open a passport center adjacent to the Blaine License Center and remove passport issuance from the Ramsey location this fall.

The federal Affordable Care Act is also causing personnel changes. New hires are being made for the expected extra work involved to carry out the program but the board also approved a change to some temporary positions which had a longer work week than 30 hours.

The county's Human Resources Department recommended that 13 of these temporary positions be converted to regular positions. The positions were deemed to be valuable enough to each department to warrant the extra expense to make them full, or nearly full-time regular positions rather than cutting them back to under 30 hours to escape the Affordable Care Act requirements.

The board approved this by a 3-2 vote with commissioners Carol LeDoux and Matt Look dissenting. Look said, "this is a bad idea. By complying with this, (the federal mandate) is getting momentum. I see this as a continued problem." Look also said that compliance is enabling the mandate and he isn't very pleased that local governments have been caving in. He was of the opinion that more and more businesses would not hire full-time employees in order to avoid the health care expenditures that the federal law requires.

Board chair Rhonda Sivarajah remarked to the audience that with the approval of the conversion of these employee positions, the county's taxpayers are incurring approximately \$250,000 in additional expense to comply with the Affordable Care Act, which calls for health insurance to be provided to employees working a 30-hour week or more.

Due to the impending retirement of Jon Olson, the Division Manager of Public Services, the position will be eliminated and its duties will be divided between county engineer Doug Fischer and parks director John VanDeLinde. They will head two new divisions, Transportation and Parks and Community Services, respectively, and will be given Division Manager titles.

There were also a series of approvals of various construction projects which included:

Allowing MnDOT to accept on the county's behalf approximately \$1.8 million of federal funds available for engineering plans for the Hwy 10/Armstrong Boulevard project in Ramsey. Additionally, the county is expecting to contribute approximately \$450,000 toward the engineering costs.

Award the bid of \$1,171,558 to Minnowa Contracting Inc., for the construction of a pedestrian bridge at I-35W and Main Street (CSAH 14) in Lino Lakes. Also award the bid for engineering consulting on this project to WSB & Associates of Minneapolis in the amount of \$122,453.

Award the bid of \$443,749 to Forest Lake Contracting Inc. for a traffic signal rebuild at Coon Rapids and Round Lake Boulevards.

A joint powers agreement with the City of East Bethel on the reconstruction of CSAH 22 (Viking Boulevard). The city is requesting the addition of a right turn lane that would facilitate future development on the northwest corner of Viking Boulevard and Hwy 65. The extra costs, estimated to be around \$33,000, are to be reimbursed to the county by East Bethel. County Engineer Doug Fischer explained this would be a cost savings to the city to do this work now, while the county's project was being done.

Another segment of the Mississippi River Trail is expected to commence construction this fall and be ready for use next summer. The new construction will connect Mississippi Community Park to the west end of Mississippi West Regional Park. The effort is being done jointly by the county and the cities of Ramsey and Anoka. A federal transportation grant of \$380,204 has already been secured by the two cities; \$1,374,100 is the estimated cost of the project.

The county will reimburse the two cities for part of their actual costs from monies the county receives from the Metropolitan Council's Regional Park and Trail grant program. The county has capped its participation at \$340,000 but it may be less due to a formula worked out between the governments that takes into account actual costs and grants that were obtained. The City of Anoka, as the project manager, can apply for other Metropolitan Council funding that could total around \$440,000. Additional funding will be made up by the two cities, splitting the costs 55-45 with Ramsey paying the lower share.

County Parks Director John VanDeLinde said that the City of Ramsey is pursuing the completion of the rest of the project over the next few years. Eventually the trail could run the 24 miles from Elk River to Minneapolis.

Commissioner Kordiak mentioned that Anoka County was the first county in the state to create its own parks system and this month marks its 50th anniversary.

Anoka County Elections Manager Cindy Reichert was on hand to summarize an agenda item that the County Board approved unanimously — the implementation of new voting equipment to be used for the Nov. 5 general elections. The board approval was a necessary formality to

COUNTY BOARD MEETING *continued on page 5*

Hoffman On Cost of Special Session

Senator John Hoffman representing Champlin, Coon Rapids and Brooklyn Park, announced that \$4.5 million in disaster relief has been re-appropriated to help provide assistance to more than a dozen central and southern Minnesota counties, including Hennepin County.



Sen. John Hoffman
District 36
G-24 State Capitol Bldg.
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-4154

"I'm happy the DFL and Republicans could come together to help provide some relief to hard-hit counties throughout the state. This action will also cause \$13.5 million in federal aid to be released to these counties," Senator Hoffman said. Hennepin County sustained close to \$4.6 million in damages from storms that rolled through the region in June of 2013.

As part of the State Senate's 'paying as we go' motto — the money appropriated on Monday in a special legislative session is being re-allocated from last session's disaster relief bill.

Monday's special session is the sixth session of its kind since 1997 and will cost taxpayers an estimated \$33,000. In order to avoid future special sessions where members are only voting on allocating disaster relief funds, Senator Hoffman is co-authoring a bill to take up the Office of the Legislative Auditor's recommendations to establish a dedicated account and criteria for its use, to fund initial recovery costs.

The recommendations include creating a permanent fund that state officials can draw from whenever the state needs to match federal disaster relief funds. If implemented, these changes could reduce the need for costly disaster-related special sessions in the future, therefore helping save taxpayer dollars.

Laine on Special Session and MnSure

Special Session

A Special Session was held Monday, September 9, to release funds for damage sustained during the severe storms and subsequent flooding that occurred in June 2013. Eighteen counties were included in the declared federal disaster areas. The FEMA funds released are matched by about 25% more in state funds. The Legislature met in Special Session to pass this \$4.5 million in assistance and aid to impacted local governments, businesses, and individuals.



Rep. Carolyn Laine
District 41B
485 State Office Bldg.
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-4331

These severe storms in June caused much damage and resulted in the largest power outage in state history. In my legislative district, the Hennepin County part of St. Anthony is included in this disaster declaration area. I will be checking into how disaster areas are defined, since New Brighton and Columbia Heights suffered damage also, but their counties did not meet federal designation thresholds. However, at times like these, we come together as Minnesotans and, in a bipartisan fashion, work to enable impacted communities to continue disaster recovery efforts.

MnSure

I also want to call your attention to Minnesota's health insurance exchange, our new on-line marketplace for purchasing health insurance, called "MnSure." Starting October 1, individuals without employer-supported health insurance can go to this site to purchase a health insurance policy. Many of you will be eligible for a federal tax credit -- which will be immediately applied to reduce your insurance premium. I think many people will be pleased with both the net cost to them, after subsidies, and with the benefit set in the policies offered.

You can go on-line right now for a cost estimate: (We are in Area 8.)

<http://mnsure.org/hix/calculators/f-and-i-cost.jsp>

After October 1, you will be able to purchase a policy which will go into effect on January 1, 2014. Check out this webpage for more information: <http://www.mn.gov/hix/>

COUNTY BOARD MEETING *continued from page 4*

comply with state statute 206.82 subd. 2, which requires the county to submit a plan to the Secretary of State's office that outlines details as to how the county will carry out the election in terms of sufficient staffing, polling places and technical/equipment planning. The introduction of new voting equipment this year prompted the need to submit an updated plan to the Secretary of State's office for approval.

Reichert said the last time new voting equipment was purchased was 13 years ago. She also said that county staff had received training from the new equipment's vendor, Election Systems and Software. The new equipment scans the ballots digitally, rather than the former optical scan method. Reichert said voters will not notice any differences in the polling places, and there will be no changes in the use of paper ballots.

She did say however that election judges should have a much easier time with the new ballot readers, as they are simpler to use. The task of transmitting the data after the polls close ought to be easier, Reichert said.

The elections this fall however are few in number in the county because of it being the odd year. Six school districts and two cities will be having elections, along with a Parks bonding question for voters in the city of Coon Rapids.

Reichert visited many city council meetings late last year to win support for the expenditure and get Joint Powers agreements signed with the county. A formula was developed whereby the county would pay 55% of the costs, cities 30%

and school districts 15%. Most of the city councils had no objections to the plan but there was some grumbling by the East Bethel City Council at its Dec. 19, 2012 meeting.

The County Board approved the expenditure of \$1.5 million at its June 11, 2013 meeting, in the form of a contract with Election Systems and Software to run until the end of 2019. The contract includes training services and equipment maintenance.

One agenda item had a direct impact on Linwood Township. The County Board approved a joint powers agreement that allows the township to do its own shoreland area management. State law requires that the counties be responsible for permitting and inspection of building and sewer construction in the shoreland areas, but this can be handed off to the township, which has planning and zoning authority. Linwood would enforce the County Shoreland Management Ordinance, eliminating the duplication of efforts of having both the county and township involved. It was said at the meeting that this ought to be a cost savings to residents with fewer fees and red tape.

Commissioner Jim Kordiak offered the name of Kim Sampson to be appointed to the Library Board, to fill a vacant post due to Norma Jean Falink's resignation. Falink had been a Fridley resident but recently moved out of the county. Sampson is also a Fridley resident and has been on the Fridley School Board since first being elected in 1999. *ACR*

TRI-COUNTY FORENSIC LAB OPEN HOUSE SEPT. 18

Sheriff James Stuart invites you to attend an open house at the Anoka County Sheriff's Office and Tri-County Regional Forensic Laboratory on Wednesday, September 18, from 4-7 pm.

Author Vickie Wendel of the Anoka County Historical Society will debut her new book, *Keepers of the County: Crime and the Anoka County Sheriff's Office* at this year's event. The book chronicles the changes, development, and leadership of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office throughout its colorful 153-year history. The book sells for \$30.95 plus tax, and Wendel will be on hand to sign copies.

In addition, the open house will feature:

- Displays of Sheriff's Office vehicles
- Displays of Sheriff's Office specialty units: SWAT Team, Dive Team, Crime Scene Unit, and Training Unit
- Tours of the Sheriff's Office and Tri-County Forensic Lab
- Reserve Unit
- Explorer Unit
- Free fingerprinting of children

A number of Sheriff's Office public safety partners will also have displays and representatives at the open house including:

Anoka County Attorney's Office; Alexandra House; Midwest Medical Examiner's Office; Andover Fire Department; Anoka County 911; Mediation Services for Anoka County; Anoka County Emergency Management; Jacob Wetterling Resource Center; Anoka County Emergency Preparedness; Backing the Blue Line; Safe Kids Anoka County; Family Promise Anoka; Minnesota State Patrol; Allina Ambulance Service; North Memorial Ambulance Service (Helicopter arriving at 5:00 p.m.); Project LifeSaver & LOK8U (Locate You); (partnership to prevent wandering); B.U.L.L.Y. Foundation (dedicated to ending bullying/empowering bystanders).

The Anoka County Sheriff's Office is located at 13301 Hanson Blvd. NW in Andover.

Reminder: Use this opportunity to drop off your unused prescription drugs. Food and cash donations will also be accepted for the ACBC food shelves.

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

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

Tues. Sept. 17
Human Services Cmte., 8:30 am, Rm 710, ACGC

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

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

Intergovernmental & Community Rel. Cmte., 3 pm, Rm 772, ACGC

Wed. Sept. 18
Internal Audit Cmte., 8:30 am, Rm 772, ACGC

Thurs. Sept. 19
Public Safety Cmte. — *cancelled*

Tues. Sept. 24
Management Cmte., 8:30 am, Rm 772, ACGC

County Board, 9:30 am, Rm 705, ACGC

Anoka Co Extension Cmte., 3 pm, Bunker Hills Activity Ctr.

Mon. Sept. 30
Public Works Cmte., 9 am, Rm 772, ACGC

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

Wed. Sept. 18
Planning Comm., 7 pm

Mon. Sept. 23
City Council, 6:30 pm "workshop", 7 pm televised meeting

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. Sept. 16
City Council, 6 pm

Wed. Sept. 18
Park & Tree Comm., 6 pm

Mon. Sept. 23
Planning Comm., 6 pm

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

Mon. Sept. 16
Cemetery Cmte., 6 pm

Tues. Sept. 17
Planning Comm., 7 pm

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

Tues. Sept. 24
Town Board, 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

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

Thurs. Sept. 12
Hwy 10 Planning Study, 6 pm

Mon. Sept. 16
Mississippi River Corridor Mtg, 6 pm

Tues. Sept. 17
Special HRA mtg, Ehlers TIF presentation, 6 pm, followed by Personnel and Public Works committees

Thurs. Sept. 19
Charter Comm., 6:30 pm

Tues. Sept. 24
City Council "work session" 5:30 pm, meeting 7 pm, followed by HRA

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

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

Mon. Sept. 16
Board of Supervisors, 5 pm

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

Mon. Sept. 16
School Bd regular mtg, Centennial Elementary Media Center, 6:30 pm

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

Tues. Sept. 17
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. Sept. 24
School Bd "work session", 6 pm

QCTV Cable Commission
Ramsey, Andover, Champlin, Anoka
Thurs. Sept. 19, Anoka City Hall — *cancelled*

North Metro TV Cable Commission
Ham Lake, Blaine, Spring Lake Park, Lino Lakes, Lexington, Centerville, Circle Pines
Wed. Sept. 18
Cable Commission, 6 pm, Spring Lake Park City Hall

COUNTY FIREWOOD SALE

The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department is holding public firewood sales on three Saturdays this fall:

September 14, 21, and October 26.

The sales takes place from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Parks Department Maintenance Building, 1350 Bunker Lake Blvd. NW in Andover.

Firewood will be sold for \$75 per fireplace cord (4'x8'x16"). Most of the firewood is split, seasoned oak.

Pre-registration and prepayment is required. Call 763-757-3920 or stop by the Bunker Hills Activities Center, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

PRIDE in OAK GROVE RECYCLING DAY SAT. SEPT. 21 9AM-2 PM

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John Kysylcyn
Owner and Publisher
editor@AnokaCountyRecord.com

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VERIFIED
AUDIT CIRCULATION

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

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

**CITY OF HAM LAKE
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 13-10**

An Ordinance relating to Variances from the Subdivision Code. Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota, as follows:
Article 10-600 of the Ham Lake City Code is hereby repealed, to be replaced by the following new Article 10-600.

10-600 Variances

The City Council shall have the power to authorize variances from the requirements of Article 10, and to attach such conditions to the variance as it deems necessary to assure compliance with the purpose of this Code. A variance may be permitted if the following requirements are met:

- a) There is an unusual physical hardship to the land that would prevent the reasonable use of the land without a variance, and all the conditions of sub-paragraph b), c) and d) below are met.
- b) The variance is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Code and is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
- c) The plight of the landowner is due to circumstances unique to the property not created by the landowner; and
- d) The variance, if granted, will not alter the essential character of the locality.

Adopted by a unanimous vote of the Ham Lake City Council on the 3rd day of September, 2013.

/s/ Michael G. Van Kirk, Mayor /s/Denise Webster, City Clerk
(Published Sept. 12, 2013 Anoka County Record)

**CITY OF HAM LAKE
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 13-11**

An Ordinance relating to Parkland Dedication Fees in residential subdivisions.

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

Article 10-420 (B) of the Ham Lake City Code is hereby repealed, to be replaced by the following new Article 10-420 (B)

B. Parkland Dedication

(i) Statement of Policy.

It is the policy of the City of Ham Lake that one acre of public park or trail space should be created for every ten acres of residential land developed, in order to create a sufficient supply of public recreational space to accommodate the reasonable needs of the public. Given the large amount of marginal and wetlands in the City, this acreage goal is to be based on the amount of upland in a given plat. Upland shall be the land area within the plat that lies outside of delineated wetlands as prepared in connection with the particular plat (excluding upland in outlots designated for subsequent platting).

ii) Acreage Data

At the time that a wetland delineation is made for a given plat, the surveyor preparing the plat work shall notify the City of the acreage of upland in the plat.

iii) Land or Fee

Each residential plat shall either dedicate up to 10% of the upland therein as a public park or trail, or shall pay a parkland dedication fee, or a combination of both. The determination of how the parkland dedication requirement will be met will be made by motion of the City Council, after recommendation from the Park and Tree Commission, as early in the platting procedure as is practical. If the determination is to dedicate some upland but less than 10% of the upland, then the difference between 10% and the amount dedicated shall be paid via a pro rata fee.

iv) Fee

If a fee is required for all or part of the parkland obligation, the fee will be based on the average fair market value of the upland as determined by the City Valuation described in Article 10-420 (B) (iv) (a) below, or by appraisal at the time the plat is submitted for Preliminary Plat approval pursuant to Article 10-420(B) (iv) (b) below. The park dedication fee shall be equal to ten per cent of such value, or a pro rata amount thereof if some but less than 10% of upland is dedicated as park land. If the plat contains land that was previously platted and for which a park dedication fee was charged, the area of such land shall be subtracted from the computation of the amount of upland. All such fees will be dedicated to the purposes required by law. Fair market value shall be determined using one of the following methods,

- a) **Annual Establishment** (the "City Valuation"). The City Council shall establish a per-acre value in January of each year by the ordinance which deals with other municipal fees and charges. The City Council may take into account such data and information as they deem appropriate, and may establish different values for different categories of land, such as wooded land, waterfront land or land abutting wetlands or other physical features. The City may also commission an annual appraisal by a licensed fee appraiser to assist in the City Valuation, and may devise a method by which the City is reimbursed for the cost of the City Valuation from parkland dedication fees collected prior to the next annual valuation. The City Council may alter the City Valuation at any time during the year by ordinance. All City Valuations shall remain in effect until altered by ordinance. Until the next City Valuation, the per acre value of undeveloped residential land shall be \$20,000.00.

- b) **Developer Appraisal.** At the time of submission of the Preliminary Plat, the developer may submit an appraisal performed by a licensed fee appraiser that documents a valuation different than the City Valuation, subject to the following conditions:

- i) The developer shall have obtained the written approval of the appraiser by the City Administrator prior to ordering the appraisal; and
- ii) The City reserves the right to commission a separate fee appraisal if it deems the developer appraisal inaccurate. If the City's subsequent fee appraisal is higher than the developer's appraisal, the City appraisal shall be binding, and the cost of the City appraisal shall be added to the cost of City platting expenses that must be reimbursed by the developer as a part of the platting process.

(v) Manner of Payment

Parkland fees shall be payable at the time of recording the plat, or, at the option of the developer, may be collected pro rata per lot with the next ensuing transfer of title of each lot in the plat. In the event that fees are collected with such subsequent lot sales, at the time of recording of the plat the City shall also record a short form development agreement that establishes a lien against the lot for the park fees. The City's lien shall be superior to any other encumbrance, and any pre-existing mortgages must be subordinated to the City's lien. No building permits shall be issued for any lot until the City has received evidence satisfactory to its attorney that the short form agreement has been duly recorded and enjoys first priority as a lien. In the event that title to a given lot having a City lien is transferred without satisfying the lien, no building permits or certificates of occupancy shall be issued as to such lot until the lien is paid. All such liens shall bear interest from the date of filing the short form agreement through the date of payment, at a floating rate of interest equal to the highest published prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal, commonly known as "WSJ Prime". If WSJ Prime ceases to be published, the City may substitute another reasonable index. The rate of interest shall change as the index changes.

Adopted by a unanimous vote of the Ham Lake City Council on the 3rd day of September, 2013.

/s/ Michael G. Van Kirk, Mayor /s/Denise Webster, City Clerk
(Published Sept. 12, 2013 Anoka County Record)

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The Anoka County Board met on August 27, 2013. Standing county committee information reports and action items were considered, and action was taken as necessary. The following resolutions were adopted: #2013-98 & 99 Conveyance of Property to ACCAP; #2013-100 Request for State Bonding; #2013-101 Temporary Right of Entry; #2013-102 Economic Assistance Payments; #2013-103 Conveyance of Park Property; #2013-104 Declaring Emergency & Authorizing Repair without Advertisement for park trail erosion; #2013-105 Accepting Donation; #2013-106 Solid Waste Management Tax. A public hearing was held regarding conveyance of Lions Coon Creek Park to the City of Coon Rapids. 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 Sept. 12, 2013 Anoka County Record)

**CITY OF OAK GROVE
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 13-07
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR
THE CITY OF OAK GROVE**

Pursuant to Minnesota Law, and upon a review of a study conducted by City staff, the City Council of the City of Oak Grove does hereby ordain that Appendix "A" (attached) containing the amended fee schedule for Calendar year 2013 is hereby adopted, and made part of the Municipal Code.

This Ordinance is effective upon passage and publication. Published 9/12/2013.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Oak Grove this 9th day of September, 2013.

By: Mark R. Korin, Mayor

ATTEST: Sheryl F. Fiskewold, City Clerk

Appendix A

2013 Amended Section of Fee Schedule 9/9/2013

Lake George/West Lake George

Water Access Charge (WAC)	\$3,500.00
Sewer Access Charge (SAC)	\$3,500.00
Water Base Rate per Month	\$25.20
Water Usage Fee per 1,000 Gallons	\$4.80
Water Meter	\$225.00
Sewer Usage Fee per Month	\$62.00
Water Shut Off	\$25.00
Water Reconnect Fee	\$25.00
Sewer and Water Connection Permit*	\$50.00

*Inspection performed by the Public Works Department

(Published Sept. 12, 2013 Anoka County Record)

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**VEHICLES
STOLEN IN
OAK GROVE**

In September, two vehicles were stolen in addition to multiple thefts from vehicles in the area of the 22000 block of County 7 in Oak Grove — both on the east and west sides.

The vehicles that were stolen had the keys in them. One of the vehicles was recovered in St. Paul.

The thefts from vehicles were usually forced entry. The thieves were taking anything they could see — even bags that contained nothing of value.

Any suspicious activity should be reported by calling 911 immediately.



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HEALTH

ARE YOU A 50-79
year old woman who developed diabetes while on Lipitor? If you used Lipitor between December 1996 and the Present and were diagnosed with diabetes while taking Lipitor, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Charles H. Johnson Law toll-free 800/535-5727

MISCELLANEOUS

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