

## GOV. DAYTON PROPOSES ANOTHER \$1 BILLION IN SPENDING

### AWAITS LEGISLATORS' APPROVAL

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

On the 27-page list of projects Gov. Mark Dayton wants to fund with his 2014 bonding proposal, very few dollars will be going into projects in Anoka County.

Anoka Technical College is on the list to receive \$1.5 million in general obligation bonding "for renovations to the Automotive Technology and Manufacturing Technology Hub. Classrooms and equipment will be updated to accommodate the increased demand in the program and meet industry training needs." MnSCU would pay one-third of the debt service of the \$1.5 million.

Gov. Dayton presented his recommendations for a \$986 billion bonding bill (using General Obligation bonds) at a press conference held Jan. 15. After including user-financed bonds, local government matches, private gifts, federal funds, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency bonds (\$40 million), the bonding bill would tally \$1.4 billion in total investments. There had been about \$3 billion dollars' worth of requests.

#### Anoka County projects not included on the governor's list

Requests for help from state taxpayers for projects within Anoka County that didn't make the cut, included:

\$5 million for improvements to the Rum River Dam to keep out asian carp;

\$17 million for US 10-County 83 (Armstrong Blvd.) interchange construction in Ramsey;

\$4.4 million for the National Sports Center in Blaine, to add multiple new athletic fields and make repairs to infrastructure that is now 25 years old, and

\$5.5 million for the Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley.

#### Projects that were approved by the governor and included in his bonding proposal

Museums, arenas, convention centers and movie theatres, playing roles in what has been described as "downtown revitalization projects", receive large representation in the governor's bonding proposals.

The largest single outlay is \$126 million toward completion of the State Capitol restoration.

Various projects among the MnSCU universities and the University of Minnesota total \$233 million on the governor's wish list.

\$7 million for new terminals at two rural airports, Chisholm (total cost of the project to be \$10.1 million) and International Falls (total project cost, over \$11 million);

\$8.5 million for Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Project in Koochiching County (total project cost \$18 million);

\$5 million for a new 34,000 sq.ft. Event Hall at Giant's Ridge in Biwabik;

\$14.5 million for arena and convention expansion at Minnesota State (Mankato State) University (total project cost, \$32 million);

\$20 million to revitalize the 45-year old Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis (this request has been in previous

bonding proposals with no success, total project cost is \$53 million);

\$7 million to the Minneapolis Parks Board to spend on the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden (total project cost, \$10 million);

\$29 million for road construction around the TCAAP land in Arden Hills, now owned by Ramsey County (total project cost, including soil remediation, a conservative \$80 million);

\$37 million for expansion of the Mayo Civic Center arena and convention hall in Rochester (total project cost, \$81 million);

\$3.4 million to the Spirit Mountain Recreational Area in Duluth, for a pipeline project that would take water from the St. Louis River and pump it directly to the ski area for snowmaking. The change would discontinue the use of city-treated tap water for snowmaking (total project cost, \$4.5 million);

\$11.5 million for expansion of the convention center in St. Cloud (total project cost, \$39 million while \$26 million has been spent so far);

\$14 million for expansion and renovation of the Minnesota Children's Museum in St. Paul (project cost, \$28 million);

\$8.9 million for parking and transit improvements to St. Paul's Como Park;

\$450,000 to construct a Hmong Veterans Memorial in the Capitol area, with the stipulation that another \$150,000 be raised privately;

\$4.3 million towards a \$16 million sports center in Marshall;

a \$32 million addition to the St. Cloud prison;

\$5.4 million for a security fence at the Shakopee women's prison, which has never had a fence and became a subject of recent news media coverage;

\$13.5 million for construction of two schools in the Red Lake School District;

\$2.5 million to the Minnesota Historical Society for preservation and restoration of historic structures;

\$500,000 for design costs for a new visitors center at Fort Snelling;

\$50 million in bonding for affordable housing subsidies, maintenance, and acquisition of or replacement of foreclosed properties, new construction and renovations. \$40 million of this figure would be spent by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) and up to \$3.2 million per year, for 20 years, will be taken from the general fund to pay the debt service on the \$40 million.

\$56 million for additions and improvements to the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter, and over \$7 million for new construction and renovations at the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center for use by the state's sex offender program.

\$20.2 million for a regional water system project in Luverne (total cost expected to be over \$70 million);

\$720,000 for renovations to a women's shelter in Maplewood (total project cost: over \$8 million);

## OAK GROVE CITY COUNCIL DECLARES WAR ON GOPHERS

At the first meeting of 2014, the Oak Grove City Council again declared war on gophers within the city limits. The council on a unanimous vote continued the practice of placing a \$1.50 bounty on the destruction of pocket gophers.



The bounty of \$1.50 is per gopher, and the person requesting

the bounty must be an Oak Grove resident. The front pair of pocket gopher feet must be brought to city hall for personal inspection by city staff in order to collect the bounty.

In 2012, the war on gophers cost taxpayers \$769. In 2013, the cost was \$417.

The city council's war on gophers is authorized by Minn. Stat. 412.221, Subd. 32 which allows the city to provide for the protection of public and private property, the benefit of residence, the promotion of health, safety, order and convenience and the general welfare of its residents.

In past years, Anoka County placed a bounty at \$0.75 per gopher. The Star Tribune previously reported that state laws allowing counties to offer bounties for gophers were enacted in 1909.

Gophers are encouraged to migrate to the City of St. Francis as they repealed their bounty in 2011.

\$26 million to the Metropolitan Council, for use in establishing a rapid transit bus line on Snelling Avenue in St. Paul, purchasing rights-of-way to create a bus station on Lake Street and 35-W in Minneapolis, and for expansion and improvements to the Metropolitan Regional Park System;

\$7.6 million for additions and maintenance to Minnesota National Guard armories around the state, and for specific projects at the armories in Owatonna and Brooklyn Park;

Nearly \$13 million to the State Academy for the Deaf and the State Academy for the Blind for building repairs and new dormitory construction;

Nearly \$55 million allocated to the Department of Natural Resources for various uses;

\$2.8 million to the Perpich Center for the Arts for building improvements;

\$5.7 million in grants through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, passed onto local governments to implement the capital portion of solid waste management systems such as recycling, composting and waste-to-energy facilities;

\$1.8 million for renovations to two veterans homes, in Silver Bay and Luverne;

\$12 million for renovations and repairs to the Minnesota Zoo;

\$748,000 toward the creation of a business industrial park in Clara City (project cost, \$1.4 million);

Two hulking movie theatres are on the governor's list, the Norshor Theatre in Duluth (\$7 million) and the Orpheum (Palace) Theatre in St. Paul (\$6 million). The Norshor has seen little use for the last

**ANOTHER \$1 BILLION ON STATE TAXPAYERS' CREDIT CARDS**  
*cont. on page 4*

Letters to the Editor

**Bus owner says there's no huge demand by gamblers for a train to Hinckley**

Regarding the proposed NLX passenger rail service between Duluth and the Twin Cities:

The casino in Hinckley, we were told, is going to fuel ridership. The Northern Lights Express' Ken Buehler was quoted, saying Grand Casino Hinckley has as many comings and goings as a city of 4.5 million people. Think about that statement for a minute. That would be a city larger than Los Angeles. Does that sound like a reasonable comparison for Hinckley?

As the owner of Skyline Shuttle, I am in a unique position to comment on the traffic the Grand Casino Hinckley can generate. We provide shuttle service to the casino from both Duluth and the Twin Cities 10 times each day. Our fares are similar to the proposed train fares. If there was a huge demand for public transportation to the casino, we would be aware of it. A recent check of our figures shows casino riders make up around 2 percent of our total ridership. If the casino dropped off the map, we would barely notice.

The NLX viability study has a lot riding on the casino to deliver passengers; but based on our firsthand observations, the riders are just not there. In all probability the NLX will need to be heavily subsidized for many years. It is not possible to "hold rail proponents accountable for claims" after the fact, so now is the time to examine the claims and investigate where there are discrepancies.

Dave Clark  
Duluth

**Taking away the "U.S. Beef" label**

Right now, country of origin labeling (COOL) is in jeopardy in the farm bill conference. We know that some conferees intend to introduce an

amendment shortly that will gut or repeal U.S. COOL. If this amendment passes, U.S. ranchers will not be able to differentiate their product with a U.S. label and consumer's will not have the information they need at the point of purchase. The anti-COOL groups and their supporters want U.S. beef to become a generic product of North America. In reality, there's nothing more important to a competitive, free market than the ability to differentiate one's product and that's what COOL does. There's nothing more fundamental to giving consumers information about the origin of their beef than COOL. Why would anyone oppose COOL? We know the truth: we know that opposing COOL has nothing to do with costs because that scare tactic has been dispelled; we know that opposing COOL doesn't have anything to do with a lack of consumer interest because survey after survey has proven consumers want and deserve country of origin information; we know that opposing COOL has nothing to do with retaliatory tariffs because that worn out scare tactic has also been dispelled.

Giving consumer's choices empowers them and allowing US producers to differentiate their product empowers them. Isn't that what competitive free markets should do, empower both the seller and buyer — that's the American way.

Now is the time to take a stand for COOL and there's no time to waste. Call the Capitol Hill Switchboard at 202/224-3121 and ask for one of our elected official's office. Congressman Peterson has been a leader for us on this issue. Ask them to pick up the torch and represent Minnesota cattle producers by rejecting any amendment to the farm bill that would alter or repeal COOL and urging their fellow Congressional delegates to speak up also in favor of COOL. Make no mistake about it, the fate of COOL will be decided by those elected officials taking a leadership role.

Danny Wiese  
Flying W Angus Ranch  
Pequot Lakes

**Spending your money and you don't know about it**

Citizens deserve to know the truth when it comes to how the state is spending their tax dollars. The problem is Democrats in St. Paul have rewritten the rules, shut down due process and skirted transparency in order to raise taxes and waste more of our money.

People are shocked when I explain the facts of behind-the-scenes deals Democrats are making to spend our tax dollars without proper transparency. They always ask, "Why hasn't this information been told to the public?"

Nowhere is this truer than with two seriously flawed major projects that are in the process of getting started: A nearly \$1 billion Vikings stadium and a nearly \$100 million Senate office building/parking ramp across the street from the Capitol.

Taxpayer commitments to both projects were slipped into a tax bill late in the 2013 session, without a single public hearing in the House and after we had our full floor discussion on the bill. Instead of undergoing months of vetting, Democrats skipped the usual process and placed these tax-and-spend provisions near the finish line in the final hours last session. Much of the scheming was done behind closed doors, limiting the ability for legislators and the public to offer comments, opinions and alternatives.

The right thing to do would have been for the House Capital Investment Committee to consider funding for the new Senate office building during public hearings. The problem for Democrats was it unlikely would have passed in a bonding bill, which requires a super-majority. So they pulled shenanigans, using the tax bill as a path for spending commitments, requiring a simple majority vote that Democrats could provide on their own.

These late-session maneuvers meant the public never heard the details of how or why their tax dollars will be spent on a new castle for the Senate. Most people also did not know plans for the elaborate building have included wasteful amenities such as a reflecting pool and a fitness center. What does it say when even some Democrats have expressed fear of "overbuilding" with this project?

It also took until long after this project passed in the tax bill for many to learn the new building will only house a portion of the Senate; 44 offices will be in the new building, meaning 23 Senators will remain housed in the Capitol. That is senseless.

Also, this poorly planned Senate building project also is going to cost taxpayers more in the long run because of the short-sighted leasing plan Democrats passed.

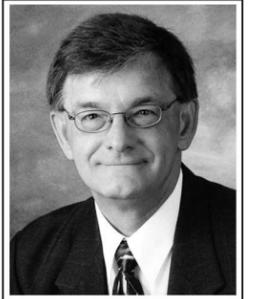
As for the Vikings stadium, its financing has been on thin ice since electronic pull-tabs started coming embarrassingly short of living up to the revenue projections we were pitched in 2011. I said the estimates were unrealistic from Day 1, especially since there were no other states with a proven track record to provide us with solid success figures.

I was among legislators who spent much of the last session harping on Democrats to bring forward a solution to this problem so we could put it in front of committees and conduct a thorough discussion.

They ultimately took the easy way out, adding a one-time tax on tobacco inventory and raising corporate taxes to their bill that added taxes and fees on hardworking Minnesotans by around \$2.5 billion. Again, they inserted these provisions into their enormous tax bill at the end of last session — after the bill's full debate in the House. They kept their plans out of sight until it was too late to put up for public scrutiny.

Now, a lawsuit has been filed that challenges the constitutionality of the stadium funding. The sale of \$468 million of stadium bonds suddenly was halted and now there is the potential for a delay in construction and/or a ripple effect that could impact the entire project.

Wasteful government spending is bad enough, but the Democrats' lack of transparency just adds insult. Minnesotans deserve better.



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**Sen. Chamberlain calls it "Another clear example of government waste"**

You have likely heard of the Minnesota State Senate Rules Committee's recent vote to approve plans for the new \$90 million office building. This is just another bad idea. The new office building is a ridiculous and unnecessary extravagance that clearly demonstrates the governor and DFL legislators' misplaced priorities.

There is presently a lawsuit in front of the courts challenging the constitutionality of the project, and to move forward before a decision has been made is simply irresponsible.

My Republican colleagues and I have protested this process the entire way. Last session, we voted to strip the building out of the tax bill and instead use the money to fund a veterans' home; the DFL rejected this amendment. In spite of the Rules Committee vote, I remain fully committed to stopping this wasteful project. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact my office at 651-296-1253. — *Senator Roger Chamberlain, District 38*

**"Are you better off with your healthcare coverage than you were one year ago?" asks Rep. Scott**

MNsure, the state agency charged with implementing Obamacare in Minnesota, has been failing Minnesotans. Even Governor Dayton recently stated that MNsure fell "far short of the mark" and that the people of Minnesota have been "terribly inconvenienced" by the problems of MNsure. I agree with those sentiments. Unfortunately for the taxpayers of Minnesota, it's only just the beginning.

The pace of individual market enrollment is far behind MNsure's 2014 open enrollment goals. Through Jan. 4, paid enrollment (20,288) was less than one third (29%) of MNsure's goal for enrollment in coverage effective on or before April 1 (69,904). Actual enrollment is even worse compared to the low enrollment scenario provided in the fiscal note for the exchange legislation (HF 5). The low enrollment scenario projected 164,000 individual market plans



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purchased in 2014.

On January 8, MNsure provided updated demographic information for individual market enrollment. The federal government set a goal of about 33% of enrollees to be between the ages of 18-35. Through January 4, just 20.4% of MNsure individual market enrollees were in that age group. If enrollment patterns continue like this, you'll likely see even higher insurance premiums next year.

You'll hear Democrat legislators claim that because of Obamacare and MNsure, Minnesota has the lowest health insurance premiums in the nation. What they don't mention is that you can't buy insurance in other states, and MNsure's own economists predicted that Minnesotans' insurance premiums

will go up 30% this year. Also, they decline to mention that because MNsure is supposed to fund itself through a tax on health insurance plans, its failure to attract private market enrollees will likely cause MNsure to run deficits in future years. In other words, don't be surprised to see higher taxes on your health insurance plans and even more requests for your tax dollars from the legislature because of this ill-conceived government-organized healthcare bureaucracy.

Your healthcare plan isn't simply just an insurance plan. It's how you secure you and your family when health issues arise. Making sure people have access to quality healthcare is critical. Unfortunately, the implementation of Obamacare in Minnesota is imposing layers of bureaucracy between you and your doctor. The last thing Minnesotans need is more hassles, higher costs, and confusion about their healthcare brought on Democrats in St. Paul.



# Anoka County Watchdog

Always on the lookout for governmental waste, fraud, and abuse in Anoka County

## DFL LOVES UNEARNED WEALTH

As we continue to watch the DFL and their leaders implode under the weight of their own morally and intellectually bankrupt programs, the entertainment only gets better as the explosions get bigger.

Like a battleship taking a direct torpedo hit, the DFL's own policies caused an initial explosion which created bigger ones as the ammunition and fuel bunkers catch fire. Come November Admiral Obama and Vice Admiral Dayton will realize that the USS Liberal has taken a catastrophic hit that will doom many of her legislative crew members who couldn't reach the life boats of legislative repeals regarding Obamacare, MnSure, the Vikings stadium, the \$2 billion tax increase, Benghazi, etc.

The latest shot fired from the DFL's special version of the Polish Cannon concerns Party Chair Ken Martin's ham handed attack on Stewart Mills, a Republican well on his way to unseating Democrat Congressman Rick Nolan up in the Eighth District.

Being part of the DFL DNA, Martin gave into his wealth-aversion genes and tried to crack a tired, shop worn funny regarding Mills' wealth as a part of the family that founded and continues to run Mills Fleet Farm.

Looking the part of a middle school nerd at the talent show, Martin stood before the microphone and stated that Mills "was born on third base but thinks he hit a triple." Crickets. Dead air. Give him the hook.

Of course, Martin thinks we don't realize that his guy at the top of the ticket is a rich guy in his own right. Born with a silver spoon. Trust fund kid with a trust fund housed in South Dakota. Never worked a day in his life. Enough leisure time to indulge in politics, occasionally winning but always failing to actually govern. Selling part of the family art collection to help pay for the campaign (everyone does that, right?). Just like any rich person's play thing, politics for Dayton is all about the journey to election and never about doing something productive once you get there.

So what's the difference? Is it that Dayton's wealth is unearned while Mills has worked his way up the ladder at Fleet Farm, helping run the company and earning his stripes?

The liberals have fallen off their game. A weak, unfunny, stale joke about wealth? Is that the best the leader of the DFL party can do?

It's almost as weak as the DFL attacks on Stewart Mills' beer drinking, ATV riding, huntin' and fishin' lifestyle.

Yeah, a guy who hates wearing suits and loves to drink beer and hunt is really going to offend all those voters up on the Iron Range who, well, drink beer and hunt and fish.

By the way, the fact that the Mills family runs a store that proudly sells guns, ammo, and Carhartt jackets is a good deal as well. Where do you think all those good old boys buy their guns and fishing gear?

Both Mark Dayton and Rick Nolan wouldn't know which end of the gun to point at a pheasant.

Rick Nolan is a leftover of the 1970s, when he first served in Congress.

He's about as popular (and relevant) as a land line phone, a reel-to-reel tape player, and a pet rock. Groovy, man.

If Stewart Mills was born on third base and thinks he hit a triple, what does that make Mark Dayton?

Dayton was born at home plate and thinks he's on Mars.

## WE DON'T NEED NO STINKIN' BONDING BILL

Last week, Governor Dayton released his bonding recommendations, all \$1 billion worth.

For readers new to politics and the Minnesota legislature, a bonding bill is a bill that finances state local government projects using debt (bonds), which is paid back with interest and added to the state's ledger of indebtedness.

As usual, the bonding bill is filled with outright pork:

Palace Theater in Saint Paul (\$6 million);

Giant's Ridge chalet in Biwabik (\$5 million);

NorShor Arts Center in Duluth (\$7 million);

Nicollet Mall "renovation" in Minneapolis (\$20 million);

Minneapolis Sculpture Garden (\$7 million);

Snowmaking at Spirit Mountain in Duluth (\$3.4 million).

When Republicans understandably criticized Dayton's spending orgy, he was quick to engage in his typical snark, deriding legislators concerned with \$1 billion in debt as "extremists" who "oppose everything."

Well, Governor Dayton, since you seem to lack any real creativity and innovative solutions to perennial problems, here's a win-win-win regarding the funding of these projects.

If the state insists on funding all these projects, why not pay cash?

After all, the state has a projected \$1 billion surplus.

After previous obligations are paid, some \$825 million would be left to blow on these projects.

Cash could be paid, thereby avoiding debt service payments and additional state debt.

Moreover, the spending would be on one-time projects, avoiding higher spending that's rolled into baseline spending for future budgets.

Finally, the DFL could avoid having to deal with those pesky GOP "extremists" by passing its own spending bill without GOP help.

You see, bonding bills incur debt, which requires a 3/5th supermajority, meaning that the DFL has to find some GOP votes to pass such a bill.

With a cash-only bill, a only a simple majority is needed, meaning the DFL can pass the bill all on their own.

Of course, this advice is offered in recognition of the political reality of total DFL control.

Under ideal circumstances, the entire surplus would be used to cut the taxes of those who created the surplus in the first place, thereby mitigating the massive \$2 billion DFL tax increase.

So come on, DFL. Take up the Watchdog and use cash. And since you're all politicians, feel free to take the credit.

## LIKE RATS FLEEING THE TITANIC

Are we talking about Democrats running from Obama or Obamacare? No, but we could be.

What we're talking about here is Minnesota Democrats running from the tax increases they foisted on the taxpayers just a few months ago.

While the legislative session doesn't begin until February 25th (thankfully), legislators were able to "pre-file" bills during January.

Overall, nearly 300 bills were filed.

What's funny is that a number of the bills were tax repeals filed by — wait for it — Democrats.

Isaacson introduced:

*H. F. 1877*, A bill for an act relating to sales and use tax; repealing the tax on storage and warehousing services; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 297A.61, subdivision 3, as amended.

Isaacson introduced:

*H. F. 1888*, A bill for an act relating to taxation; sales and use; repealing the tax on repairing and maintaining commercial and industrial machinery and equipment; amending Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 297A.61, subdivision 3.

Isaacson introduced:

*H. F. 1889*, A bill for an act relating to taxation; sales and use; reinstating the exemption for telecommunications equipment; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 297A.68, by adding a subdivision.

McNamar introduced:

*H. F. 1893*, A bill for an act relating to taxation; sales and use; repealing the tax on repairing and maintaining commercial and industrial machinery and equipment; amending Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 297A.61, subdivision 3.

Halverson, Rosenthal, Atkins, Selcer, Dorholt, Sawatzky and Savick introduced:

*H. F. 1896*, A bill for an act relating to taxation; sales and use; repealing the sales tax on storage and warehousing services; amending Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 297A.61, subdivision 3.

Johnson, S.; Atkins; Persell and McNamar introduced:

*H. F. 1900*, A bill for an act relating to taxation; sales and use; reinstating the exemption for telecommunications equipment; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 297A.68, by adding a subdivision.

McNamar; Persell; Sawatzky; Falk; Faust; Radinovich; Ward, J.E.; Johnson, C.; Savick and Lien introduced:

*H. F. 1950*, A bill for an act relating to sales and use tax; repealing the tax on labor for farm equipment repair services; amending Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 297A.61, subdivision 3.

This must be some sort of land speed record for running away from a tax increase.

Heck, the warehouse tax isn't even effective yet, and Dems are running for the life boats.

The Watchdog gets the feeling that "C.Y.A." will be the theme of many DFL campaigns this year.

*The Anoka County Watchdog is a place where concerned taxpayers can find fact-supported information and other resources about governmental waste and abuse in Anoka County. My intent is to provide you, the taxpayer, with the information you need to hold your local politicians accountable.*

*Visit my website and sign up for our free weekly e-mail update at [www.AnokaCountyWatchdog.com](http://www.AnokaCountyWatchdog.com) or contact me personally at [harold@anokacountywatchdog.com](mailto:harold@anokacountywatchdog.com).*

Sincerely,

Harold E. Hamilton, owner.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## Classes Offered to High School Students Interested in Medical Careers

### OEC (Opportunities in Emergency Care) classes offered at Spring Lake Park High School

OEC (Opportunities in Emergency Care) is an award-winning medical "magnet school" education program. We offer extensive opportunities to students interested in serving others in the healthcare field. EMS (Emergency Medical Services) programs are available to regional high school students and as continuing education for adults.

Students can learn basic First Aid, or become fully prepared for pursuing careers in clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, in-home healthcare, ambulance services, fire departments, etc. through our First Aid & CPR, EMR (Emergency Medical Responder), EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), NA-R (Nursing Assistant - Registered), Self Defense and Medical Internship programs.

Students can earn college credits and/or their NREMT (National Registry Emergency Medical Technician) certification, which enables them to pursue careers in various EMS and healthcare professions.

Available Articulated College Credit: EMT - 9 credits; EMR - 4 credits; NA - 4 credits

Based in Spring Lake Park High School, we educate in-district, as well as out-of-district students from many other regional high schools such as: Blaine, Centennial, Fridley, Homeschoolers, Irondale, Mounds View, Totino-Grace to name a few.

HURRY: 2014/2015 class registration is scheduled for February 18 - 21, 2014.

For more information: 763/600-5147, [bneiss@district16.org](mailto:bneiss@district16.org), [www.slpOEC.org](http://www.slpOEC.org)

ANOTHER \$1 BILLION ON STATE TAXPAYERS' CREDIT CARDS *cont. from page 1*

25 years while the Orpheum has been vacant for 30 years. The estimated total cost of the Norshor project is \$23 million. The Orpheum project cost is given as \$12 million on the governor's list, however most renovations of theatres of this type in recent years have been between twenty to thirty million dollars.

The governor's bonding proposal includes a number of construction, maintenance and renovation projects at MNSCU schools:

- Metropolitan State University (St. Paul) — \$36 million
- Bemidji State University — \$13.8 million
- Lake Superior College (Duluth) — \$5.3 million
- Minneapolis Community and Technical College — \$3.6 million
- St. Paul College — \$1.5 million
- MN State College, Southeast Technical (Red Wing-Winona) — \$1.7 million
- Central Lakes College (Staples) — \$4.6 million
- MN State Community and Technical College (Moorhead) — \$6.5 million
- MN West Community and Technical College (Canby-Jackson) — \$3.5 million
- Dakota County Community and Technical College (Rosemount) — \$7.5 million
- Century College (White Bear Lake) — \$2 million
- Northland Community and Technical College (Thief River Falls) — \$5.9 million
- Northeast Higher Education District (Ely-Hibbing-Grand Rapids-International Falls) — \$3.3 million
- Winona State University — \$5.9 million
- Anoka Technical College — \$1.5 million
- South Central College (North Mankato) — \$7.5 million
- MN State Community and Technical College (Fergus Falls-Wadena) — \$1.4 million

Gov. Dayton also earmarked \$30 million for repairs to approximately 60 bridges in the state, and \$2 million for the "Safe Routes to Schools" federal program, which funds sidewalks, bike paths and traffic calming features near schools. Also on the governor's list is \$1.1 million to make repairs to the bus barns in St. Cloud.

Projects that were rejected, not included in the governor's bonding proposal

- \$241,000 to remediate groundwater contamination in Bayport — three city wells contain trichloroethylene (TCE);
- \$4 million for improvements to the Northeast Regional Corrections Center in Saginaw, St. Louis County;
- \$2.5 million for a road project in Baxter; a \$6 million road project in Sauk Rapids, Benton County;
- \$4 million for streets and sewer reconstruction in Biwabik (and a similar \$1.15 million request from Coleraine was rejected);
- a \$7 million request for sewer construction around the Brainerd airport; \$16.5 million for road and bridge construction around the Minnesota River and Hwy 101, Carver and Scott counties; \$13.5 million towards a road reconstruction project in Carver County (Hwy 101, from Pioneer Trail to Flying Cloud Drive), which would include a pedestrian-bike trail; \$3.2 million requested by the City of Champlin to rebuild the Elm Creek Dam;
- \$800,000 to the City of Bemidji for its renovation and relocation of the former Carnegie library which the city has rented out as office space since 1961;
- \$570,000, representing half the cost of the project, for an addition and renovations to the city-run library in Jackson; \$257,000, half the cost of the project, for mold remediation to the city-run library in Perham;
- \$1.4 million worth of improvements to the community center and ball fields in Perham (total project cost, \$2.8 million);
- \$2.1 million, half the project's total cost, for improvements to the Ice Center in Plymouth;
- \$5 million towards a 24,000-square foot arena in Proctor, which can be used for sports, conventions

and conferences. Another \$5 million was planned to come from city taxpayers;

\$4 million, half the project's cost, to build a new arena for the city of Windom and the school district, mainly for hockey and skating purposes. A city-county arena was built in 1974, however the city's application states the cost to operate the 40-year old facility requires a \$185,000 annual subsidy from city taxpayers;

A \$2.8 million request from the city of Chisholm to build a new fire hall was rejected, as was a \$620,000 request for a new city hall/community center/library in Cosmos. Smaller requests were also rejected for renovating the Houston County Courthouse (built in 1885) and the city hall in Ironton (built in 1917);

A \$20 million Public Safety Training facility, with \$15 million of state tax dollars and \$5 million of city dollars was not included in the governor's list. The project is a joint effort of Cottage Grove, Woodbury and Inver Hills Community College.

Spending for state or federal trails was nixed in the Albert Lea-Austin area (\$500,000 requested), Rosemount-Dakota County (\$2.5 million), Detroit Lakes-Frazee (\$3.1 million) and Brainerd (\$1.7 million).

After repeated attempts to land \$7 to \$8 million in state dollars, the Chatfield Center of the Arts was overlooked again. Its request was approved by the legislature in 2010 but was vetoed by then-governor Tim Pawlenty. A bill sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) and Rep. Jeremy Miller (R-Winona) during the 2012 legislative session failed to be included in Gov. Dayton's bonding proposal. The project is estimated to cost \$16 million, mainly for renovating the Potter Auditorium, built in 1936 as a WPA project. Various groups and non-profits use the space, most of which have a musical interest. The building houses a large collection of rare sheet music from the early 20th century. Another nearby building has been added to the package — an elementary school recently abandoned when a new school was built. Documents submitted to the state said about \$9 million in private commitments has been raised for the project, and "the space will be available for the variety of area theater groups that surround Chatfield. The major theater events and concerts that are planned, will draw thousands of people, injecting hundreds of thousands of dollars into the economy each year."

FRIDLEY'S BONDING REQUEST  
A LOOK AT THE SPRINGBROOK "S.P.R.I.N.G." PROJECT

The acronym stands for "Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation", and comes with a price tag headed toward \$8 million.

Fridley city staff has been planning a large renovation and expansion of the Springbrook Nature Center on land that was acquired by the city in 1971.

After debating over whether the land should be used for a municipal golf course or a Nature Center, it was the Nature Center that won out when it was put to a ballot question in the Nov. 5, 1974 election. That election saw councilman Bill Nee besting incumbent Frank Liebl for the mayor's seat, and Wendell Anderson winning a second term as governor. 8,856 people voted, with the Nature Center option getting 66% of the vote.



Because of Local Government Aid (LGA) cuts made by the state that befell the city in 2003, the city council did a lot of hand-wringing as to whether to close the Nature Center and lay off its employees. A referendum that would establish a permanent annual levy for the 127-acre Nature Center was put on the ballot in the Nov. 2, 2004 election. With a turnout of 80%, 54% of voters voted in the affirmative, and 4% did not vote on the question at all, leaving it blank — no opinion. The initial levy was set at \$275,000.

Federal and state tax dollars paid for an \$800,000 paved trail in the park, in 2009.

The tax levy subsidy for Springbrook was \$331,700 in 2013 and is projected to be \$338,334 in 2014. The levy has increased approximately \$6,000 each year since the 2004 referendum.

The 2013 budget for Springbrook was \$408,217; the projected budget for 2014 is \$10,500 more. Payroll and benefits costs are projected to be \$345,000 for 2014.

Financial data given to the state agency Minnesota Management and Budget, reports that the Nature Center is expected to turn a \$16,000 profit for 2013.

The new project calls for a renovation of the existing 5,800 square-foot building, plus add another 8,000 square feet including indoor and outdoor amphitheatres, and 3,000 square feet of shelters, rest rooms and a picnic pavilion. Improvements promise to "enhance the visitor experience" and be constructed with 'green' (environmentally-friendly) materials and design in mind.

The project has been on the table for at least 7 years — the Fridley City Council passed a resolution supporting the plan in June 2007.

A few of the bullet-points on the project's wish list include, "(to) provide ADA accessibility; provide sufficient space to accommodate two or three bus loads of students during inclement weather", and, "provide space for life celebrations for groups of up to 250 people."



Also snubbed was Wade Stadium in Duluth, which came as a surprise considering the governor's bonding proposal contains a number of sports fields and arenas.

STATE BONDING *continued on page 5*

**STATE BONDING** *continued from page 4*

The stadium was built in 1941 as a WPA project and has been used for minor league, amateur, college and high school baseball. In March 2013, a large section of a wall collapsed. Numerous attempts to obtain state taxpayer funding for this and the other repairs needed have not been successful. In 2012, the city's mayor Don Ness, floated the idea of reinstating a half-a-percent city food and beverage tax that had recently expired, to help pay for stadium repair costs. The project is estimated to cost \$8.9 million. The latest request for state funding was for \$4.4 million.

The Grand Marais Public Utilities Commission is planning a biomass heating system that would "heat buildings using local wood resources rather than fuel oil and propane. Hot water will be produced using a modern, highly efficient, low-emissions boiler for distribution . . . the initial system (would serve) 21 customers, including a hospital, clinic, schools, county buildings, apartment buildings and hotels. The construction cost for the initial system is projected to be about \$9 million. The Grand Marais Public Utilities Commission would own and operate the system," said documentation submitted to the state's Management and Budget department. About half of the project's cost comprised the state funding request, but it didn't make the cut, despite a strong endorsement from the Minnesota DNR.

A \$3.9 million request from ISD #318, the Grand Rapids School District, was turned down. The state funding would have paid half the cost of renovations and an addition to a 30-year old performing arts center.

Hennepin County also had requests that were turned down, including an \$11 million reconditioning of the Franklin Avenue bridge in Minneapolis, and \$18 million for an environmental analysis and pre-design work for a light rail line to run from downtown Minneapolis to Brooklyn Park. The \$18 million is only a request for 2014; another \$82 million will be requested in 2016. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1 billion.

The City of Moose Lake has a \$1.4 million addition to its community center on the drawing boards, but state funding was rejected by the governor, and the Moose Lake School District, ISD #97, also made a pitch for \$20 million of state funding for a \$33

million pre-K-12 school. The upgrades needed to the 1935 building were found to be greater in cost than building new. The request from the school district said, "the city has 75% of its land as tax exempt. This creates a huge inequity for our citizens because of the large tax burden they have to pay when trying to pass a school bond. In the last 10 years we have made four attempts to secure bonding for a new building. Each failed, the last one being a \$33 million bond in the spring of 2013." Voters were against the bonding by a two to one margin at a May 21, 2013 election. "The message we are getting is that the tax impact is too great." The request was not included in the governor's bonding proposal.

State financial assistance with the Landmark Center restoration project in St. Paul will not be forthcoming soon, as a \$300,000 request was not included in Gov. Dayton's list. The application came months after the deadline for bonding requests, which was last May. Phase One of the project has been underway, with Ramsey County funding \$3.5 million, and other sources such as the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Legacy Fund, a statewide sales tax, have contributed.

Red Wing asked for a 50% state taxpayer contribution to make a number of street and walking access improvements to benefit tourists coming into the city, as well as improvements to the Sheldon Auditorium, built in 1904. The six-part plan was lumped together with one price tag, a total cost of \$11.5 million. This request also did not make the governor's list of picks. Another 50-50 offer was put on the table for the construction of an additional fire hall in Red Wing, projected to cost \$5.6 million. This also was rejected.

An addition to the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in downtown St. Paul is expected to cost \$40 million. A ground-breaking ceremony took place last June. The state contributed \$16 million in 2010 and another \$5 million is being requested now, however the governor did not put it into his bonding proposal.

Another rejected St. Paul request was for a major renovation of the TPT (Twin Cities Public Television) studios, estimated to cost over \$18 million. The state funding request was for \$9 million. The City of St. Paul is listed on the application as being the owner of the facility. The application argues that the change to digital television necessitates the remodeling of a building constructed 25 years ago for standard definition television. An increase in office space is

needed because in just the last five years, TPT staff has increased 21% to a total of 210 employees. Utilizing the skyway areas and creating public spaces in the building are among the planned changes.

**GOVERNMENT MEETINGS CALENDAR**

- 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. Feb. 3 & Tues. Feb. 18**  
City Council, 6 pm  
**Mon. Feb. 10**  
Planning Comm., 6 pm  
**Wed. Feb. 19**  
Park & Tree Comm., 6 pm
- Mon. March 3**  
City Council, 6 pm  
**Mon. March 10**  
Planning Comm., 6 pm  
**Mon. March 17**  
City Council, 6 pm  
**Mon. March 24**  
Planning Comm., 6 pm
- Mon. April 7**  
City Council, 6 pm  
**Mon. April 14**  
Planning Comm., 6 pm  
**Mon. April 21**  
City Council, 6 pm  
**Mon. April 28**  
Planning Comm., 6 pm
- Mon. May 5**  
City Council, 6 pm  
**Mon. May 19**  
City Council, 6 pm
- Mon. June 2**  
City Council, 6 pm
- Mon. June 16**  
City Council, 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  
**Mon. Feb. 10 & 24**  
City Council, 7 pm  
**3rd Wednesday, Feb. 19**  
Parks Comm., 6:30 pm  
**3rd Thursday, Feb. 20**  
Planning Comm., 7 pm
- ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
1318 McKay Dr NE #300  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
Ph.: (763) 434-2030  
anokaswcd.org  
**Tues. Feb. 18**  
Board of Supervisors, 5 pm
- North Metro TV Cable Commission**  
Ham Lake, Blaine, Spring Lake Park, Lino Lakes, Lexington, Centerville, Circle Pines  
**Wed. Feb. 5**  
Executive Cmte, 6 pm,  
NMTV studios, 12520 Polk St NE, Blaine  
**Wed. Feb. 19**  
Cable Commission, 6 pm,  
Spring Lake Park City Hall



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**ANOKA COUNTY RECORD PUBLICATION SCHEDULE**

**MARCH 2014**

<b>FEBRUARY 2014</b>														1
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
23	24	25	26	27	28			30	31					

2014 CITY OF OAK GROVE SUMMARY BUDGET DATA

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2014 budget information concerning the City of Oak Grove to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 471.6965. This budget data is a summary document only. The complete budget may be examined at City Hall.

GENERAL FUND

	2013 Budget	2014 Budget
<b>Revenues</b>		
Taxes	\$2,120,775	\$1,975,412
Special Assessments	15,000	15,000
Licenses and Permits	82,000	139,000
Intergovernmental Revenues	185,413	267,046
Charges for Service	18,050	18,450
Fines and Forfeits	33,000	35,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	21,705	25,705
Interest Earnings	50,000	30,000
Other Financing Sources	0	20,194
Transfer from Other Funds	0	0
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,525,943</b>	<b>\$2,525,807</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
General Government	\$780,616	\$755,139
Public Safety	820,226	872,004
Public Works	478,077	477,175
Culture and Recreation	70,926	53,530
Conservation and Development	3,775	3,700
Economic Development	6,469	13,519
Streets and Highways	100,000	110,000
Capital Outlay	72,000	35,740
Transfers to Other Funds	200,000	200,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	6,792	5,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,538,881</b>	<b>\$2,525,807</b>

Published Jan. 30, 2014 Anoka County Record

CITY OF HAM LAKE PUBLIC NOTICE

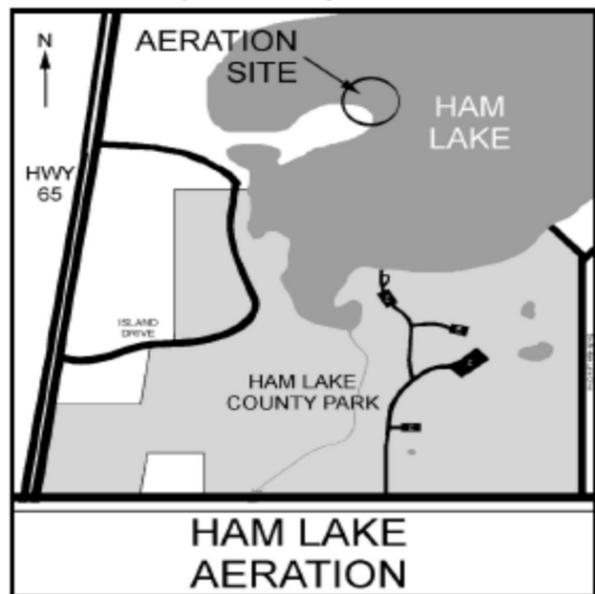
The City of Ham Lake hereby gives public notice of its intent to aerate Ham Lake to prevent winterkill of game fish. The City intends to use mobile systems which may be used at any time. The aeration systems will cause areas of thin ice and open water that fluctuate greatly. If there are any questions concerning the aeration system, please contact Ham Lake City Hall at 763-434-9555.

Dated: January 16, 2014

(Published Jan. 16, 2014 and Jan. 30, 2014 Anoka County Record)

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Support for this exhibit is provided by **StarTribune MPRnews**, **humanities**, and **MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition was created by the National Constitution Center at Philadelphia and made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Copying the banner and/or logo is prohibited.

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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:

**Applied Vacuum Tech**  
2. Principal Place of Business:  
**6850 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey MN 55303**

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:

**Applied Vacuum Technology, 6850 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey MN 55303**

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: Jan. 10, 2014, # 726247700021

/s/ J. Christopher Cuneo

(Published Jan. 16, 2014 & Jan. 30, 2014 Anoka County Record)

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**Rehbein Tax Prep**  
2. Principal Place of Business:  
**20286 Erskine St NE, East Bethel MN 55092**

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:

**Tina Rehbein, 6278 259th St, Wyoming MN 55092**

**Tiffany Buske, 20286 Erskine St NE, East Bethel MN 55092**

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FILED: Nov. 20, 2013, # 71323960002

/s/Tiffany Buske, Sole Proprietor

(Published Jan. 16, 2014 & Jan. 30, 2014 Anoka County Record)

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**Custom Fireplace and Chimney Care**

2. Principal Place of Business:  
**400 South 4th Street, Suite 401, Minneapolis MN 55415**

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:

**Custom Fireplace and Chimney Care LLC, 400 South 4th Street, Suite 401, Minneapolis MN 55415**

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: Jan. 9, 2014, # 725906800025

/s/Joseph Levitt

(Published Jan. 30, 2014 & Feb. 13, 2014 Anoka County Record)

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Republican State Party's Year End Finance Reports Confirm Progress

(St. Paul) – The Republican Party of Minnesota has closed its books for 2013 and is pleased to report continued progress. Treasurer Bron Scherer announced the 2013 results, which will be officially reported on January 31st to the State of Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and The Federal Election Commission.

“The State Party’s cash position and net liabilities both improved for the year,” said Scherer. “The result is a better financial position than we have been in for many years.”

Total contributions for 2013 were \$2.5 million.

As of December 31, 2013, total cash on hand was \$90,000. This is an increase of \$88,000 for the year as compared to \$2,000 cash on hand at the end of 2012.

Year-end net liabilities were \$1.17 million, a reduction of \$520,000 for the year as compared to \$1.69 million net liabilities at the end of 2012.

“Thank you to all our donors and supporters,” said Keith Downey, Republican Party of Minnesota Chairman. “We made good progress on many fronts this year, including financially. We still have plenty to do, but we are much better positioned for the future. We could not have done it without the tremendous support we received.”

In addition to the fundraising, the Party’s positive results also stemmed from redesigned operations, reduced costs, and restructured debt.

Community Development Director City of Columbia Heights

POSITION SUMMARY:

Highly responsible administrative and supervisory work directing the planning, zoning, economic development, housing, building inspections, licensing and permit activities of the City. Work is performed with considerable independence under the general supervision of the City Manager.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Bachelor’s degree in Regional or Urban Planning, Public Administration, or related field. Five years progressively responsible experience in community development or administration of an economic development or housing related board.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Master’s Degree in Regional or Urban Planning, Public Administration, or related field. More than five years progressively responsible experience in community development or administration of an economic development or housing related board.

SALARY:

\$7,355 to \$8,861 per month, plus fringe benefits

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

City applications are available from the City Hall Information Window. City applications and position description can also be downloaded from our website at [www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us](http://www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us) or by calling our Personnel Hot Line at (763) 706-3616 TDD (763) 706-3692. To be considered for this position, applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, and completed City application to: Assistant to the City Manager/HR Director, City of Columbia Heights, 590 40th Avenue N.E., Columbia Heights, MN 55421, no later than 4:45 P.M., Tuesday, February 4, 2014.

SELECTION PROCEDURE:

Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Experience & Training Rating 50%
- Oral Interview 50%

CLOSING DATE:

Applications accepted until 4:45 P.M., Tuesday, February 4, 2014.