

## Katy, bar the door: Here come the candidates

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

A week from Tuesday, we'll begin to see the 2014 candidate field for the State House of Representatives, county, city and school district offices.

Filing for many offices begins May 20 and runs for two weeks, ending June 3. Candidates will have up to the close of business June 5 to withdraw their candidacy. Some cities and school districts however choose not to have a primary election for their offices, leaving only the general election in November to administer.

The second round of candidate filing will be for those offices that are not required to be on the primary election ballot (the primary election will be on August 12).

That filing period runs for two weeks, from July 29 through August 12. Candidates filing during this period will have until the close of business August 14 to withdraw before their names go on the ballot.

In the course of our quest to retrieve candidate filing period information, we found many city and school district websites had little or no information at all. Ramsey was one of the few cities in Anoka County that had the specific information we were seeking. Also helpful were various publications of the Secretary of State, the Anoka County Public Officials Guide, etc., as well as phone calls and e-mails to those in charge of handling elections. We also waded through past election results. There is no single place to get this information; it has to be cobbled together in pieces.

We found that the city of Bethel's web site hasn't been touched in a couple years (the same can be said for Hilltop). Barb Held, St. Francis's city clerk, provided updated information as to a change that had been made to the city charter in January — the city will now have primary elections for city offices.

We list below the city and school district offices that will be up for election in 2014. The left column lists the offices where the candidate filing period begins May 20; the right column is a list of offices where the candidate filing period starts July 29, and these seats will not be on the primary election ballot. Also listed are the last names of the elected officials now occupying the seats to be elected. The left column's offices will be on the primary election ballot Aug. 12 if the number of candidates filed forces the need for a primary election.

### City offices (candidate filing period begins May 20)

**Anoka** — Mayor (Rice), 2 council seats (Anderson, Weaver)

**Blaine** — City Council Ward 1 (Hovland), Ward 2 (Clark), Ward 3 (Kolb)

**Columbia Heights** — Mayor (Peterson), 2 council seats (Schmitt, Diehm)

**Coon Rapids** — Mayor (Howe), 2 council seats, Ward 3 (Johnson), Ward 5 (Sanders)

**Fridley** — 3 city council seats, Ward 1 (Saefke), Ward 2 (Varichak), Ward 3 (Bolkcom)

**Ramsey** — 3 council seats, At-Large (Backous), Ward 1 (Johns), Ward 3 (Tossey)

**St. Francis** — Mayor (Tveit), 3 council seats (Kane, Lazere, McClish)

### School Board offices (candidate filing period begins May 20)

**Columbia Heights ISD 13** — 3 seats (Bardell, Lee, Palmer)

**Elk River ISD 728** — 4 seats (Steinbrecher, Bunting, Walter, Jorgensen)

The filing period for county and state offices begins May 20. In Anoka County, the sheriff and county attorney offices will be elected, as well as three seats on the County Board: District 4 (Kordiak), 5 (LeDoux) and 7 (Schulte). The Anoka Conservation District has two seats for election, Districts 3 (Tingelstad) and 4 (Truchon). The North Suburban Hospital District Board has three of its six seats for election this year. All state representative seats in Minnesota will be on the ballot, including 11 seats that are in Anoka County. Only Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka, 35A) has announced he will not file for reelection. All state constitutional offices will also be elected.

### City offices (candidate filing period begins July 29)

**Andover** — Mayor (Gamache), 2 council seats (Trude, Howard)

**Bethel** — Mayor (Miller), 2 council seats (Kirkham, Wiitala)

**Centerville** — Mayor (Wilharber), 2 council seats (King, Love)

**Columbus** — Mayor (Povolny), 2 council seats (Messina, Krebs)

**East Bethel** — Mayor (DeRoche), 2 council seats (Harrington, Moegerle)

**Ham Lake** — Mayor (Van Kirk), 2 council seats (Parranto, Doyle)

**Hilltop** — Mayor (Murphy), 2 council seats (Johnson, Shear)

**Lexington** — Mayor (Pitchford), 2 council seats (Bailey, Hughes)

**Linwood Township** — Seats A & D (Millerbernd, Halliday), Treasurer (Erickson). Note: the Town Board decided at its April 8 meeting to put a question on the general election ballot as to whether the Clerk position should remain elected or change it to appointed. (The next regularly scheduled election for the Clerk position is in 2016).

**Nowthen** — Mayor (Schulz), 2 council seats (Meyer, Pilon)

**Oak Grove** — Mayor (Korin), 2 council seats (Wylie, Denno)

**Spring Lake Park** — Mayor (Hansen), 2 council seats (Raymond, Mason)

### School Board offices (candidate filing period begins July 29)

**Centennial ISD 12** — 3 seats (Guthmueller, Regnier, Burns)

**Forest Lake ISD 831** — 3 seats (Turner, Bystrom, Morehead)

### CITY COUNCIL APPOINTS COMMITTEE

## Lexington city staff forges ahead with garbage control plans

The Lexington City Council has appointed seven people to a committee that will study the pros and cons of changing the city's garbage pickup system.

The council action took place at a televised meeting April 17, however the council took pains not to mention the names of those being appointed.

The *Anoka County Record* made a public information request for the list of seven. The meeting packet did provide five names, however city administrator Bill Petracek said at the meeting that two more people had expressed interest in serving on the committee.

Committee applicants named in the April 17 meeting packet as being for placing the city's residential waste hauling under a government contract, were Barbara Mahr, a former Lexington city councilor who brought up the issue some months ago at a city council meeting, and Russ Baker, who ran for a city council seat in the last election.

Three identified as being against Organized Garbage collection were Mark Kurth, who ran for the mayor's seat in the last election, Chris Johnson and Jean LaClare.

By electronic mail, city administrator Petracek provided the names of the other appointees: Mike Breer and Sandy Klagen, who according to Petracek, has "dropped out of the process." He also said Johnson did not attend the first meeting and his interest in continuing with the committee is unsure.

Petracek also informed the *Record* that a quorum of elected officials will not be present at the committee meetings. (Three of five council members present would require that the meeting be open to the public and notice posted). He stated the meetings would be closed to residents and the public unless the committee decided otherwise. He did not provide the dates and times of the meetings. To date, the meetings remain closed to the public. It appears that the city committee will continue to operate in secret until they deliver a report to the city council at a future undetermined date.

Petracek told the *Record* that he and councilor Betty Bailey would be on the committee to "provide political and administrative guidance."

Bailey said frequently during the April 17 council meeting that she was "on the fence" regarding the trash issue, however her statements during previous meetings indicated support for garbage collection by government contract.

Organized Garbage Collection is a method of controlling a city's waste hauling efforts by government means. Limiting the number of haulers allowed to operate in the city, sometimes as few as one, and a host of other controls and restrictions are available to government if the hauler(s) are under contract to city hall.

The proposals have been introduced in many cities over the past few decades, and when not successful due to public outcry, they are put in mothballs and brought out again later.

Such is the case with Lexington, as councilman Jack Plasch said at a recent meeting, "we talked about this years ago . . . the people didn't want it, and that was the end of it." — *Bryan Olson for ACR*

### Anoka County RECORD

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### SCOTT SCHULTE

- County Commissioner
- Small Business Owner
- Auto Mechanic
- Mushroom Expert?

See page 4!



## Report from Senator Benson

### A Misuse of State Resources

April 25 — The state has recently passed a law that changes Minnesota tax code and aligns it more closely with the federal government. These changes will result in some tax breaks for Minnesotans and received nearly unanimous bipartisan support. However, if you have received a notice from the Department of Revenue informing you that you might be eligible for a refund, it likely included this paragraph crediting Governor Dayton for the changes:

“Governor Mark Dayton recently signed legislation that aligns Minnesota’s tax code with most of the changes Congress made to the federal tax code in 2013. These changes could reduce your state income tax. The Minnesota Department of Revenue is reviewing your return to see if you’re due a refund or owe less tax. But we would need information from you to adjust your return.”

As Governor Dayton didn’t attempt to take responsibility for last year’s tax increases, we feel that taking credit for this year’s tax refunds is political. Using the Department of Revenue to promote Governor Dayton is inappropriate and possibly unethical.

Past governors have made similar efforts to benefit personally from public resources. The legislative auditor responded with a warning that such actions violate the code of ethics for public officials and are against Minnesota Statutes 43A. The Senate Republican Caucus has called on the Department of Revenue to change this letter.



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### Infant DNA Samples

The Senate voted on SF 2047, a bill that changes the way the state deals with biological samples collected for newborn screening.

Currently, the program is set up so parents have to opt-in to allow their child’s DNA to be stored. The state doesn’t store DNA for longer than 24 months. This bill changes the law so parents have to take action to opt-out of the program: unless they do so, the samples can be stored indefinitely. Additionally, the bill gives the Department of Health the ability to use these samples in research not related to the individual it belongs to.

I have serious concerns about this bill. Are parents going to receive an adequate explanation about their rights and the usage of these samples? Ultimately, the question is, “Who owns your child’s DNA?”

I believe parents should remain in control of this information until the child is able to make his/her own decisions. If they choose to opt-in to the DNA storage program, they have that right, but comprehensive collection and indefinite storage should not be the default position of the state.

*Editor’s Note: the House passed the bill 69-58 on May 1, and the Senate passed it 36-20 the next day. Of the Anoka County Senate delegation, Senators Goodwin and Hoffman (DFL) voted for the bill and Senators Benson, Chamberlain and Petersen (R) voted against. The House vote among the Anoka County delegation also went down party lines.*

## Who should get the credit?

May 2 — Oh, how times change. Gov. Mark Dayton not only is finally coming around to supporting the budget Republicans drafted in 2011, now it seems he wants to take credit for improvements it has brought us.

This is the same governor who said back in July of 2011 that Republicans will have to take responsibility for future budget problems. He also made it clear he did not agree with our approach.

Now, here we are almost three years later and the governor used his State of the State Address this Wednesday to, in part, take credit for our state’s economic turnaround that started with the 2011 budget Republicans shaped. We inherited a \$6 billion shortfall that year, but wiped that away and got our economy turned around to the point we have a \$1 billion projected surplus.

Another interesting part of the governor’s speech is where he touted tax cuts. The problem is this year’s tax cuts account for only a small percentage of the \$2.4 billion in tax increases and fees they enacted last year. It is good we were able to convince Dayton and fellow Democrats to repeal their new taxes on warehousing, telecommunications and commercial equipment repairs, but most of their other increases remain in effect.

Dayton also used his speech to brag about MNsure, even though the program has failed from the start in a number of regards. We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to start this program, some 280,000 Minnesotans were forced off health plans they chose with doctors they liked, data breaches have occurred

and the program has a projected shortfall. The younger, healthier demographics necessary to pay for this program have been slow to enroll in MNsure, jeopardizing its sustainability for the long haul. Just this week, MNsure announced that once again would be delaying its enrollment deadline for some Minnesotans who qualify, another example of how this program is faltering.

The governor also brought up the “Unsession” theme he started a couple of years ago. Again, I fully support cutting out wasteful government, but the results just aren’t there with Democrats shaping the agenda. We haven’t cut unnecessary boards and very minimal tax dollars will be saved. In fact, more than 1,500 bills have been introduced this year to create even more laws and add government.

This year’s State of the State Address came a couple months later than normal, putting a different twist on his message. The session is scheduled to adjourn May 19, meaning there is not enough time for the majority to take things he promoted in the Address, put them in bill form and conduct due legislative process.

Maybe that is the silver lining in this speech.



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## Sen. Chamberlain not in favor of changing Presidential elections to a popular vote

You may have heard recently about an on-going debate at the legislature over an issue called National Popular Vote (NPV). The premise behind NPV is to replace the Electoral College with a system that awards the presidency based on the candidate that wins the most votes nationwide.

Each state that adopts the NPV compact would agree to award their Electoral College votes to the winner of the national popular vote. The Compact would take effect once enough states adopted it that they had 270 Electoral College votes, an absolute majority.

After researching the issue and listening to both supporters and opponents, I have concluded the NPV would be bad for Minnesota. I will not support the legislation if it comes to the senate floor for a vote

My primary concern is the issue of state’s rights. The Framers of the Constitution designed the Electoral College system as an additional check and balance to protect the influence of smaller, low-population states against high-population states and urban areas. If we move to a national popular vote system, the focus of presidential elections would be running up the score in major urban areas and high-population states.

This doesn’t do us in Minnesota any more good than the current system.

Further, there exists a legitimate possibility that the will of Minnesotan voters would be ignored.

In 2004, for example, Minnesota voted for John Kerry. Had the NPV been in place, our votes would have gone to President Bush. Regardless of political affiliation, I am not comfortable with diminishing the voice of Minnesotans in favor of the preference of the rest of the country.

Finally, we must ask ourselves what problem we are trying to solve. We have had 56 presidential elections since 1788. The Electoral College winner has differed from the popular vote winner only four times. That is not a sign of a problem; it is evidence that the system works.

The Electoral College was designed to protect states rights, to strengthen the position of the citizens in low-population states. It has done just that, and has done so successfully. To change the system would do great harm to our election system. It would be a disservice to our state.



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**Sen. John Hoffman** (DFL-Dist. 36) and former Vice President **Walter Mondale** chat before Gov. Dayton delivered his State of the State address last week. Hoffman and **Rep. Mark Uglem** (R-Dist. 36A) have announced they will hold a joint **Town Hall Meeting** for their constituents on **Saturday, June 7** at Champlin City Hall from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Both legislators will summarize the legislative session and take questions from the public. *Photo courtesy of DFL Senate Caucus*

## Results of Rep. Sanders’ constituent survey

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete my 2014 legislative survey. As the legislative session enters the final stretch, I appreciate hearing your feedback.

Tax relief is widely supported by our friends and neighbors who filled out the survey. Two-thirds believe the state’s \$1 billion surplus should be returned to taxpayers, while nearly a third say we should save it for a rainy day. Only a handful of respondents believe the money should go toward government spending.

One item of spending that folks in Blaine overwhelmingly disapprove is the \$90 million Senate office building scheduled for construction. Over half of the respondents also disapprove of MNsure (Minnesota’s extension of Obamacare), saying it’s “socialized health care and



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REP. SANDERS’ SURVEY *continued on page 4*



# Anoka County Watchdog

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

## THE GOVERNMENT IS OFFICIALLY BROKEN

While there is no shortage of news stories that demonstrate that the federal government is corrupt, unresponsive, unaccountable, abusive, fraudulent and wasteful, one news story this week has confirmed beyond a shadow of a doubt that all of this is true, and perhaps irrevocably so.

A government audit released last week revealed that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) handed out bonuses to more than 2,800 employees who had been recently disciplined.

The bonuses, totaling more than \$2.8 million, were given to employees who have engaged in misconduct ranging from a failure to pay taxes to abuse of travel cards to outright fraudulent behavior.

The audit, conducted by the Department of the Treasury Inspector General, found that the bonuses were awarded to employees who received written reprimands, suspensions, and even removal.

Really? IRS employees who owe back taxes getting a bonus? Employees fired for fraud getting a bonus?

Only in government and only under the provisions of a government employee contract.

Isn't a "bonus" for work above and beyond the call of duty?

It sure is, at least in the real world.

You see, there are no rules against bad actor employees getting a bonus. The collective bargaining agreement between the IRS and the government workers' union makes it clear that the award of a bonus isn't connected to conduct on the job.

No, that's not a misprint. At the IRS, bonuses aren't connected to conduct.

In fact, the bonuses are little more than extra pay.

About 2/3rds of IRS employees took a bonus in fiscal year 2012.

In typical unaccountable fashion, the IRS response to this flagrant taxpayer abuse was that the audit didn't find any violations of federal regulations.

That's precisely why this abuse is so egregious.

And in typical arrogant government fashion, the IRS published some flowery language that took no responsibility, fixed no accountability, and offered no apology.

"We strive to protect the integrity of the tax system, and we recognize the need for proper personnel policies."

Bulls\*\*t, pure and unadulterated.

This is what happens when Democrats and their union buddies rig the system while Republicans don't show enough spine to take a stand against it.

## BONDING MADNESS

The congenital tendency of Democrats to spend - and deficit spend - was on full display last week as the Mayor of Planet Dayton has once again become unhinged.

This time, the unhinging is related to GOP insistence that a bonding bill "only" spend \$850 million, which was exactly the amount that the Mayor of Planet Dayton and the DFL leadership agreed to with the GOP just a few short months ago.

The Mayor of Planet Dayton justifies renegeing on the agreement by noting that the state now has a projected budget surplus, a circumstance that causes all Democrats to immediately wonder how government can spend that extra cash.

Apparently, a deal isn't a deal when there's extra

cash to throw around.

Also recall that the \$850 million deal was part of a budget package last year that also spent \$125 million in bonding.

That's in addition to the spending the DFL has in an additional "cash only" capital investment bill floating around the capitol.

In the typical less-than-statesman fashion that we've come to expect from Planet Dayton, the governor blamed the GOP for refusing to trash the deal and spend more, saying, "they've been wrong since I got here."

That will win over GOP votes for sure.

Moreover, there is some hostage taking going on with Dayton as well, as critical and worthwhile projects in GOP districts are threatened with omission unless the GOP agrees to the DFL ransom.

The GOP has no choice here but to stick to their guns.

Capitulating to this type of tawdry, unbecoming behavior will only embolden the DFL, what is left of them in Saint Paul after voters render their verdict on one party rule in November.

Second, any party to a deal should demand that the other party hold up their end of the bargain.

That's life.

The DFL agreed to this deal and should abide by it, especially when a good argument can be made by the GOP base that an \$850 million bonding bill, especially in the form offered by the DFL House, is filled with projects utterly lacking merit.

Finally, the DFL can go it alone if they wish. There is a large projected budget surplus that would allow the DFL to pass a cash funded capital investment bill that only needs a simple majority to pass, which would require no GOP votes.

The *Watchdog* has every belief that Senate Minority Leader Hann and House Minority Leader Daudt won't fold.

The real question is whether the DFL will pick off enough individual GOP votes to gain the 3/5th majority needed to pass a bill by putting pet projects for GOP districts in the bill.

The bonding bill is the session clinching bill. Stay tuned.

## THE MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY

Political campaigns across the state are starting to mature, and like a person, some age well and some don't.

One campaign that has aged like an octogenarian who's been smoking four packs a day since age 6 is the U.S. Senate campaign of state Rep. Jim Abeler, who has been desperately searching for some kind of traction in his bid to convince Republican delegates that he's the right guy to take on Al Franken.

Just this week, his wheezing and gasping campaign announced that Jim is "all in" against Al Franken, a development that will not permit him to seek re-election to his House seat.

The news was met with enthusiasm only by GOP delegates in his district and other Anoka County taxpayers who have endured 16 years of less-than-conservative votes on a variety of issues.

If Abeler is pushing Franken "all in," it's a bet that Franken can more than cover.

Franken has thus far raised over \$15 million, with

nearly \$6 million cash on hand.

Abeler has raised thus far \$109,000 with a paltry \$13,000 cash on hand.

The reality is that no candidate can be called legitimate in this race who has yet to raise at least \$1 million.

The lack of enthusiasm for the Abeler campaign, as demonstrated by lackluster fundraising numbers, is really no surprise.

Conservative donors aren't impressed by Abeler's voting record and many of the special interest groups that bolstered Abeler in the past (e.g. when he faced a GOP primary) won't help and thereby cross Al Franken, a man with his hand on the federal money printing machine.

After all, Franken can deliver goodies in a manner far more audacious than Abeler ever could.

In a political sense, Jim Abeler finds himself to be a man without a country.

Conservatives have options and so do the progressives.

The result is a moribund campaign that won't be around for long, no matter what the candidate may say in announcing his intention to run in a primary.

## STATE OF CONFUSION

Finally, the Mayor of Planet Dayton got around to delivering the annual speech we've all come to expect like a visit to the dentist.

The State of State serves as a gauge of just how out of touch governors are with reality as they regale the assembled legislators and other guests with a full on blast of propaganda worthy of any Politburo confab.

And with the Mayor of Planet Dayton, Population 1, you can bet that the nexus between reality and his perception of it is about as tight as the connection between a fish and a unicycle.

The Mayor of Planet Dayton essentially focused on three areas in his remarks: Jobs, Education, and Transportation.

## JOBS

Dayton took credit for creating 150,000 jobs since he took office and claiming, like President Obama, that the economy is just hunky dory and jobs are aplenty.

No word on how many of those jobs are part-time that used to be full time.

No word on how many of those jobs are low paying service jobs that used to be manufacturing jobs before Obama's war on coal, industry, and profits.

No word on the job participation rate, which shows that fewer Americans and Minnesotans are working as percentage of the adult population than at any time in the past 40 years.

No word on how many of those jobs are working as ObamaCare "navigators."

No word on how many of those jobs are those working to rectify the disastrous "MnSure" web site that still can't deliver basic functions.

And no word on how many of those jobs are government jobs, which don't create wealth and are funded at the expense of private sector jobs that could be funded if government wasn't confiscating so much private capital to fund make work jobs in the bureaucracy.

Here's what do know.

- Government is still the biggest employer in Minnesota.

- The state employs more citizens than any other

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## Senate passes bill protecting data privacy

In a bipartisan effort, the Minnesota Senate passed a bill, SF 2466, that I authored which would require government agencies to obtain a search warrant before collecting electronic device location information. It was approved by an overwhelming majority, with only one dissenting vote. This bill was also supported by Minnesota's ACLU and data privacy advocates.



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As legislators, we have the responsibility to protect an innocent citizen's rights against unreasonable and warrantless searches. Other states are beginning to regulate the use of this technology, and Minnesota is no exception in the desire to ensure that this technology be used properly.

In recent months, the use of cell phone location technology devices has increasingly become public across the country. It is known that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Hennepin County Sheriff's Office have these devices and use them regularly.

Technology can be a good thing in fighting crime, however law enforcement must be held accountable in the search techniques. In an age where people carry their cell phone on them at all times, this location tracking is frighteningly intrusive and must be regulated.

*Editor's Note: The House voted 120-0 for the bill, however with amendments that caused Sen. Petersen to request that a conference committee be made up of House and Senate members to work further on the bill.*

## Rep. Sanders' survey

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should be repealed."

73% of survey takers oppose any form of new and increased transit and transportation taxes. Some would be willing to pay a little more at the pump for road and bridge repairs, but no one said they wanted to pay strictly for metro transit taxes that go toward projects like light rail.

Next fall, voters will be asked: Should a new, independent, citizens-only council set salaries for legislators? Over 70% of the respondents said 'yes'.

And finally, nearly half of the respondents support a total repeal of the state's Sunday liquor sales ban. The remaining half is split as to whether to give local cities the authority to decide if liquor is sold on Sundays, or if the law should remain in place.

*Editor's Note: The omnibus liquor bill (SF 2346) was brought to a senate vote May 6. Sen. Branden Petersen made a motion to amend the bill to repeal the ban on Sunday off-sale liquor sales but the amendment was defeated 42-22. Those voting for the amendment included Sens. Benson, Chamberlain, Petersen and Nienow. Those voting against included Sens. Goodwin, Hoffman and Johnson.*

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### OAK GROVE LIONS TO MEET FOR ACORN DAY PLANNING

Tim Newell, Secretary-Treasurer of the Oak Grove Lions, invites those interested in helping plan this year's Acorn Day event to come to their next meeting, Thursday, May 29 at 7:00 p.m., at Oak Grove City Hall (on the south side). The Lions are seeking volunteer help and suggestions for the event which will be held Saturday August 9. Newell chairs the committee handling the event planning and can be contacted by phone at 763-753-4492 and by e-mail at [mnewell5258@msn.com](mailto:mnewell5258@msn.com). Vendors who want space at the event should also contact Newell.

(See our coverage of last year's Acorn Day in the Aug. 15, 2013 edition of the Anoka County Record)

## ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG *continued from page 3*

employer in the state.

After that? Well, that's the federal government.

What Democrats don't get is that not all jobs are created equal.

Private sector jobs create wealth and grow the economy.

Government jobs don't.

According to Democrats the man who is paid by government to dig holes and the man who is hired to walk behind him and fill them have "jobs" that are equal to the engineer who designs the medical device that saves lives and the man who runs the company he founded and creates hundreds of jobs.

### EDUCATION

As one would expect, remarks in this area focused on the liberal definition of a "quality education," which really means spend more money, eliminate accountability, and expand the role of schools into quasi-family care institutions.

Of course, the mantra is all about the "adequate" funding of our government schools, even though "adequate" is never defined.

In this case, the bragging was about an extra \$223 million spent on education, although it was never explained exactly what return-on-investment taxpayers realized in the form of higher test scores or other metrics used to measure progress.

Mark Dayton also assured teachers and students that he was working hard to eliminate standardized tests, one of the few objective measurements of student progress and teacher effectiveness.

Of course, the Teachers' Union works hard to eliminate all accountability of their rank file, instead seeking to base pay on little more than how much seniority a teacher has as well as how many online classes at National American University they managed to take in order move over a few "lanes" on the Soviet-era pay grid.

Moreover, the governor fretted aloud over the testing anxiety students feel.

We bet your prep school education at Blake School included more than a few tests, Mr. Dayton.

But then again, Blake doesn't recognize a teachers' union.

Finally, the governor called for schools to provide more meals, after hours services and other functions that the family used to provide.

The governor lamented that he has seen school playgrounds closed during the summer break, worried about what the kids were doing in the absence of any access to the school playground.

Oh, maybe they were with their parents enjoying family time.

Or at church.

Or in their own backyards under the careful supervision of loved ones.

Only a liberal would see a closed government facility and worry about it.

Here's what we know about education in Minnesota and America.

Only 36% of black males graduate from Minneapolis high schools, which spend more per capita on education than any district in the state.

According to the highly regarded Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), America ranked 30th in math.

The U.S. was outscored by Latvia.

Fully 25% of American students tested into the lowest level of math proficiency.

The testing report noted dryly that deficiencies in curriculum could be to blame.

Really.

In science, the U.S. was 23rd, coming in behind powerhouses like Vietnam and Poland.

Yet our government keeps talking about how well we're doing in math and science.

No wonder our kids score poorly on math yet demonstrate high levels of confidence in their math skills.

Their elected leaders are showing the way.

### TRANSPORTATION

The governor acknowledged that he doesn't a darn thing for transportation, especially roads and bridges, since he walked in the door.

He's been too busy working to increase taxes to "adequately" fund education and pursuing light rail for Eden Prairie.

This despite the fact that the state has over 1,500 bridges that are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Over half the roads are in poor condition.

Over 35% of bridges are more than 50 years old.

We have pot holes all over the place.

The public knows the state of our state and of the country is poor under Democrat leadership.

That's why polling numbers for Mark Dayton, Barack Obama and other liberal politicians are so weak.

A wave election is coming this November and no amount of spin, happy talk, and outright BS will change that reality.

*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.*

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[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

## LEGACY PROGRAMS AT ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARIES

The Dewey Lecture series continues at Crooked Lake Library on **Tuesday, May 13th** at 1:00 p.m. for **Morel Mania 2014!**

"If you've never tasted a morel, they are truly a delicacy," said Anoka County Board Vice Chair **Scott Schulte**. "The experience of hunting them is just as memorable as eating them!"

Morel mushrooms are one of the most prized finds for mushroom hunters. They are also the Minnesota state mushroom. May is the perfect time to start your morel hunt. Our presenter from the Minnesota Mycological Society will discuss ways to prepare for morel season and give tips on foraging. He will also share information about identifying other edible mushrooms.

Crooked Lake Library is located at 1140 Crooked Lake Boulevard in Coon Rapids. This program is free and open to the public, but seating may be limited. For more information about this and other library programs, call 763-712-2322 or visit your local Anoka County Library or [anokacountylibrary.org](http://anokacountylibrary.org).

**Morel Mania 2014!** is being funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, created to distribute monies collected from a statewide sales tax which was approved by voters in 2008.

# ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF CRIME REPORT

## ANDOVER

### Thefts & Damage to Property

April 18 — 1851 Bunker Lake Blvd NW – Walmart; locks cut off the outdoor storage gates; batteries  
 April 20 — 35xx 142 Ln NW – motor stolen off a boat stored on the side of the house  
 April 21 — 144xx Kerry St NW – unsecure vehicle; CD deck  
 April 21 — 153xx Yukon St NW – unsecure vehicle; GPS  
 April 22 — 44xx 149 Ave NW – vehicle stolen from the driveway; keys were in the home accounted for  
 April 27 — 141xx Palm St NW – vandalism to garage door; denting

### Arrests

April 18 — 156xx Fox St NW – Violation of a Harassment Restraining Order; deputies responded to a report of a violation of a restraining order. It was determined that the order had been violated. The male was arrested.  
 April 21 — 157 Ave NW/Round Lake Blvd NW; a deputy stopped a driver for failing to signal. The male appeared very nervous; deputy requested the ACSO K-9 to perform a sniff. A large amount of cash and narcotics were located; DTF notified and the male was arrested.  
 April 28 — Verdin St NW/174 Ave NW – 4th Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested and submitted a urine test.  
 April 29 — Crosstown Dr NW/138 Ave NW – 2nd Degree Assault; deputies responded to the location on a report of two males fighting. One of the males was arrested.

## BETHEL

### Arrests

April 18 — 237 Ave NW/University Ave NW – 5th Degree Domestic Assault, 4th Degree DWI; deputies responded to a husband/wife domestic in a vehicle. The male driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.14)

## COLUMBUS

### Thefts & Damage to Property

April 7 — 167xx West Iverson St NE – a male reporting his identity was used to open a credit card  
 April 17 — 77xx Broadway Ave NE – vehicle registration tabs stolen of a license plate

### Burglaries

April 16 — 188xx Jennings St NE – unlocked basement window; jewelry, electronics  
 April 28 — 142xx Lake Dr NE – lock broken off a trailer; power jacking units

### Arrests

April 7 — 149xx Hornsby St NE – 2nd Degree DWI; a deputy responded to a report of a vehicle stuck in the front yard at the location. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The female was arrested. (.34)  
 April 19 — 94xx Lake Dr NE – Possession of Stolen Property, Warrant Arrest; deputies located a stolen vehicle in the parking lot at the location. The male occupant was taken into custody and arrested for a confirmed Washington County warrant and possession of the stolen vehicle.  
 May 1 — 94xx Lake Dr NW – 4th Degree DWI; deputies responded to the location on a property damage crash. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.113)

## EAST BETHEL

### Arrests

April 19 — 11xx 231 Ln NE – 4th Degree DWI, 3rd Degree Refusal; a deputy stopped a driver for having a cracked windshield. The male appeared intoxicated and refused field sobriety tests. The male was arrested.  
 April 21 — Viking Blvd NE/197 Ave NE – 5th Degree Possession; a deputy stopped a driver for not having a valid driver's license or proof of insurance. During the search of the vehicle narcotics were located. The DTF was notified and the male was arrested.  
 April 25 — 21500 Block Hwy 65 NE – 4th Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for failing to turn on his lights. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.128)

## HAM LAKE

### Thefts & Damage to Property

April 20 — 155xx Central Ave NE – smashed vehicle window; purse, cell phone, I-pod

### Burglaries

April 21 — 19xx 162 Ln NE – unsecure garage; TV, cell phones, purse

### Arrests/Incidents

April 20 — 175xx London St NE – Felony Reckless Discharge of a Firearm; deputies responded to a dispute between neighbors. At some point during the argument a male fired one round upward into the air from about 50 yards away. The male was arrested.  
 April 22 — 134xx Hwy 65 NE – Possession of Stolen Property, Warrant Arrest; deputies located a stolen vehicle in the parking lot at the location. The female occupant was taken into custody and arrested for a confirmed warrant and possession of the stolen vehicle.  
 April 29 — 169xx Leyete St NE – Order for Protection Violation; deputies responded to a report of a violation of an OFP. It was determined that the order had been violated. The male was arrested.

## LINWOOD TOWNSHIP

### Arrests

04.18 226xx Feather St NE – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a mother/son domestic. The son was arrested.  
 April 19 — Viking Blvd NE/Zodiac St NE – 4th Degr DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The male appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.176)  
 April 20 — 69xx 232 Ave NE – Warrant Arrest; deputies went to the location to locate a male with a warrant. The male was located and arrested.

## NOWTHEN

### Thefts & Damage to Property

April 26 — 62xx 187 NW – trailer hitch, boat steering wheel and wiring stolen

### Arrests

April 26 — 224xx St Francis Blvd NW – 5th Degree Assault; deputies responded to an assault between two males at the location. One of the males was arrested.  
 April 27 — 185xx Yakima St NW – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a male/female domestic. The female was arrested.

## OAK GROVE

### Arrests

April 13 — Viking Blvd NW/CO 7 NW - 3rd Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.095)  
 April 30 — Hwy 65 NE/181 Ave NE – Criminal Vehicular Operation; deputies responded to a personal injury crash at the location. The driver appeared intoxicated. The male refused field sobriety tests. A warrant was signed for legal blood. The male was arrested.  
 May 1 — Viking Blvd NW/Flamingo St NW – 3rd Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for failure to dim his high beams. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. .207



## Common Sense Fraud Prevention

Tuesday, May 20

8:30 am—11:00 am

Anoka County Sheriff's Office

13301 Hanson Blvd NW, Andover



Join Investigator Scott Knealing as he reviews current fraud trends that are occurring in Anoka County. Topics will cover the internet, email scams, financial crimes, and much more. Investigator Knealing will provide some great information and prevention tips for you.

*This event is free and a continental breakfast will be provided.*

You **MUST** register and the first 50 registrants will receive a **FREE** Carbon Monoxide Detector (*one per household*) compliments of the Andover Fire Department.

### REGISTRATION

Call 763.323.5099 or email roxanne.klink@co.anoka.mn.us

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**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE**

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

**ORDINANCE SUMMARY: ORDINANCE NO. 14-08  
AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO  
ZONING, REDEFINING PERMITTED AND CONDITIONAL USES  
IN THE CD-1, CD-2, CD-3, AND CD-4 ZONING DISTRICTS  
AMENDING HAM LAKE CITY CODE ARTICLE 9**

The following summary of the foregoing ordinance is published pursuant to the authority of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 412.191, Subd. 4 and Ham Lake City Charter Chapter Three, Section 3.08

The ordinance repeals Articles 9-220.2, 9-220.3, 9-220.4, 9-220.5 and 9-220.1(k)(2)(dd) of the Ham Lake City Code relating to permitted and conditional uses in commercial zoning districts and replaces it with redefined permitted and conditional uses in the CD-1, CD-2, CD-3, and CD-4 Zoning Districts.

A complete copy of the ordinance is posted on the main bulletin board at Ham Lake City Hall, 15544 Central Avenue NE, Ham Lake, Minnesota and may be observed by any person during regular office hours (Monday-Thursday 7:00 am to 4:30 pm, and Friday 7:00 am to Noon). The ordinance is also available at the North Central Branch of the Anoka County Library, 17565 Central Ave. NE, Ham Lake, Minnesota, and on the City's website at www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us. These postings will continue for thirty days following the final publication date of this summary.

Denise Webster, City Clerk

(Published May 8, 2014 Anoka County Record)

**CITY OF HAM LAKE  
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**

Sealed bids will be received and publicly opened by the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota at the office of the City Administrator, on the 29th day of May 2014 at 11:00 A.M. for the furnishing of work and material for reconstruction of 147th Avenue from Aberdeen Street to Baltimore Street, Baltimore Street from 147th Avenue to 148th Lane and 148th Lane from Baltimore Street to Hastings Street, S.A.P. 197-104-008, located in Ham Lake, Minnesota.

The project consists of the following approximate quantities of major items:

- 2,300 C.Y. Common Excavation
- 2,222 C.Y. Subgrade Excavation
- 8,864 S.Y. Bituminous Pavement Reclamation
- 2,885 ton Aggregate Base Class 5 or Class 5Q
- 989 S.Y. Type SPWEA240C Wearing Course Mixture
- 1,267 ton Type SPWEA240C Wearing Course Mixture
- 1,547 ton Type SPWEB240C Wearing Course Mixture
- 691 L.F. Storm Culvert
- 336 L.F. Concrete Curb and Gutter

Along with related appurtenances, items and turf establishment. All in accordance with Plans and Specifications prepared for the City of Ham Lake, Minnesota, by RFC Engineering, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 13635 Johnson Street, Ham Lake, Minnesota, 55304, telephone 763-862-8000.

Plans and Specifications may be examined at the office of the City Administrator and copies may be obtained from the Engineers and depositing with the Engineers sixty dollars (\$60.00) per set. A shipping and handling of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for any mailed Plans and Specifications is required. The deposit is non-refundable.

Each bid must be accompanied by cash, a cashier's check or a certified check, or by a bid bond duly executed by the Bidder as principal and having as surety thereon a company qualified to act as surety in the State of Minnesota, for not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid, payable without condition to the City of Ham Lake, Minnesota.

The City of Ham Lake will not accept a performance bond or payment bond that requires that funds for payment to the Contractor be placed with an escrow company for disbursement. The City of Ham Lake will disburse all Contractor draws directly.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in any bids received without explanation.

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after the actual date of the bid opening.

By order of the City Council of the City of Ham Lake, Minnesota.

Dated this 5th day of May, 2014

Doris Nivala, Administrator  
City of Ham Lake

(Published May 8, 2014 Anoka County Record)

**CITY OF ANOKA SALARY NOTICE**

Chapter 156 of the Session Laws of 2005 – requires that “a city or county with a population of more than 15,000 must annually notify its residents of the positions and base salaries of its three highest-paid employees.” For the City of Anoka, titles and salaries as of July 2013 are: City Manager - \$126,547.20, Public Services Director - \$110,406.40, Electric Utility Director, Finance Director & Police Chief - \$106,017.60. Date of Publication: August 2013.

**CITY OF ANDOVER SALARY NOTICE**

Minnesota state law – Chapter 156 of the Sessions Laws of 2005 – requires that “a city or county with a population of more than 15,000, must annually notify its residents of the positions and base salaries of its three highest-paid employees.” For the City of Andover, titles and salaries as of January 1, 2014 are: City Administrator \$136,313.64; Director of Public Works and Engineering \$117,948.60.14; and Fire Chief \$108,542.52. Date of publication: April 4, 2014.

**City's Communications and  
Marketing Director announces  
FIRST EVER COON RAPIDS  
HOME REMODELING TOUR**

The first ever Coon Rapids Home Remodeling Tour is coming up on Sunday, May 18 from 12 to 4 p.m. It's a chance to get a behind-the-scenes look at six homes that were remodeled through the City of Coon Rapids Home for Generations II Program, a program that provides resources and financial incentives to homeowners that complete major home remodels worth \$35,000 or more.

This is your opportunity to see the beautiful, value-added improvements that Coon Rapids homeowners have been making! Talk to the homeowners, contractors and other representatives about the program and how it works. Projects range from \$35,000 to \$200,000 worth of investments; everything from major kitchen and bathroom remodels to additions and exterior improvements. Get ideas for your own home and learn more about how you can access the City's financial incentives. The Coon Rapids Mortgage Assistance Foundation also offers low interest loans to help homeowners finance their remodeling projects.

The six homes featured on the tour are:

Ellaura Ukofia – 11510 Foley Blvd. (Kitchen and bathroom remodeled and exterior work)

Dan and Mary Sullivan – 991 121st Lane (Kitchen and bathroom remodeled)

John and Joan Wester – 12545 Hummingbird St. (Living room addition and kitchen remodeled)

John and Jillian Haussner – 13104 Xavis Street (Finished lower level, exterior work and energy improvements)

Joe and Beth Knudson – 13256 Gladiola Street (Several room additions which doubled the size of their home)

Kevin and Annette Barker – 10648 Xavis Street (Kitchen and bathroom remodeled and a bathroom added)

To see a tour brochure, visit the City of Coon Rapids website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

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**NEXT EDITION: THURSDAY MAY 22**  
**Publication Deadline May 21, 5 pm**

**TWIN CITIES SPINAL CORD SOCIETY TO HOLD ANNUAL GOLF FUNDRAISER MAY 29**

The Twin Cities Chapter of the Spinal Cord Society (SCS-TC) headquartered in Inver Grove Heights, has announced plans for the first of several 2014 fundraising events.

A spring golf tournament, now in its 25th year, will be held on Thursday, May 29 at the Oak Glen Golf Club in Stillwater. SCS-TC, whose goal is to fund and find a cure for chronic spinal cord injury, raised \$21,000 at last year's event. Jeff Toby, tournament coordinator, said, "We're looking for additional event sponsors. There can never be too many and we need more auction prizes (like resort stays, fishing or golf getaways, spa gift certificates, tickets to sporting events, airline tickets, art prints, homemade gift baskets, etc.) as well."

Toby also said, "the public is welcome to join us, to sign up for the golf/dinner scramble is \$120 which includes a cart. Spectating is free, and for only \$30, participate in the dinner event following the golf. This year will include an exciting 'first' for us, dinner will be highlighted by a speech from Dr. Ann Parr of University of Minnesota, one of our "collaborative" partners. We welcome everyone's participation."

SCS, an organization entirely supported by donations and the work of volunteers, funds its own research looking for a cure for chronic spinal cord injuries. Spinal cord injuries currently impact over a million Americans, with over 12,000 newly injured each year.

The Spinal Cord Society, founded in 1978, pursues the goal of finding a cure for spinal cord injuries. National SCS is headquartered in Fergus Falls, MN. More information can be found on the website, sestwincities.org.

**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. May 12 & Tues. May 27**  
Planning Comm., 6 pm  
**Mon. May 19**  
City Council, 6 pm  
**Mon. May 21**  
Park & Tree Comm., 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. May 19**  
City Council, 7 pm  
**3rd Wednesday, May 21**  
Parks Comm., 6:30 pm  
**3rd Thursday, May 15**  
Planning Comm., 7 pm
- ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
1318 McKay Dr NE #300  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
Ph.: (763) 434-2030  
anokaswcd.org  
**Mon. May 19**  
Board of Supervisors, 5 pm
- North Metro TV Cable Commission**  
Ham Lake, Blaine, Spring Lake Park, Lino Lakes, Lexington, Centerville, Circle Pines  
**Wed. May 21**  
Cable Commission., 6 pm,  
Spring Lake Park City Hall,  
1301 81st Ave NE
- QCTV Cable Commission**  
Ramsey, Andover, Champlin, Anoka  
**Thurs. May 15**  
Cable Commission, 11 am,  
Anoka City Hall

**FOREST LAKE SCHOOLS ISD 831 SPECIAL ELECTION TUESDAY, MAY 20 LEVY QUESTION**

**RAMSEY CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR MAY-JUNE 2014**  
(subject to change)

- May 2014**  
CCWS/Discuss Licensing Massage Parlors  
CCWS/Review Facility Rental Policy - more specifically as it pertains to political candidates – fund raisers, etc.  
CCReg/Consent/Approve Addendum to JPA for Anoka County Municipal Wellhead Protection Group
- May 27, 2014**  
CCWS/Review 2015 Capital Outlay and Financing Alternatives  
CCWS/Review Police Squad and Security Camera Replacement  
CCReg/Review Old Municipal Study Group Findings Report  
CCReg/Public Hearing – TIF 14  
CCReg/Presentation – Update on Finance Department  
CCReg/Presentation – Finance Award – Excellence in Reporting
- June 10, 2014**  
Presentation: Certificate of Financial Reporting  
Presentation: Audit Presentation  
Finance Department Update
- June 24, 2014**  
Police Department Update
- June/July 2014**  
CCWS/Discussion HRA vs EDA  
**No date assigned**  
CCWS/Code Enforcement  
CCWS/Happy Days Update  
CCWS/Meeting with Met Council Representative Ed Reynoso  
CCWS/Proposal from North Fork Inc. to Convey Certain Parcels Adjacent to Lake Itasca to the City for Park Purposes  
CCWS/Commercial Signage Standards  
CCWS/Review of Home Occupation Ordinance  
HRAReg/Review Draft of Housing Assistance Policy  
HRAReg/Consider Policy on Community Sign Tenant Panels  
CCWS/Review Rental Licensing  
CCWS/Review City Code related to Tobacco Licensing  
CCWS/Review of Crime Trends, Recent Incidents, and what the Police Department is working on in the future  
Trail Policy  
CCWS/Consider Funding for Mediation Services – Contingency  
CCWS/CC(Consent) Review Meeting Schedule – for sure August 12 – (Primary Election) November 11 (Veterans' Day)  
CCWS/Update from CBRE  
CCWS/2015 Budget  
CCWS/Discuss Stipends for Boards/Commissions

CC Reg: City Council Regular Meeting  
CCWS: City Council "work session"  
HRA: Housing and Redevelopment Authority



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