

# Anoka County RECORD

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THE OFFICIAL  
LEGAL NEWSPAPER FOR

CITY OF HAM LAKE

CITY OF OAK GROVE

## Minnesota State Fair breaks attendance records MN LEGISLATORS RELEASE STATE FAIR POLL RESULTS

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

Each September the *Anoka County Record* has reported the results of the House and Senate's annual surveys taken of fair goers while visiting the Minnesota State Fair.

The fair set new records for single-day attendance (over 252,000) and overall total attendance (1,824,830, breaking the previous record set in 2009). Despite the high attendance, the House and Senate survey booths had only about 1,500 more visitors this year compared to 2013.

Last year, the House had 7,022 take its poll. This year the number climbed to 7,607. The Senate survey had 4,380 respondents in 2013 and 5,340 in 2014.

The total number of surveys collected in 2013, combining both House and Senate, was 11,402 and that number went up to 12,947 in 2014. The banner year for the polls however was 2011, when 20,873 surveys were completed.

Only the Senate poll shows a demographic breakdown — a nearly even number of men and women filled out the questionnaires.

Seven percent were between the ages of 18 and 24. 12% were between the ages of 25 and 34; 16% were aged 35 to 49, and 37% were between 50 and 64. 26% were over the age of 65. 46% of all Senate survey respondents identified themselves as "suburban" residents and 34% said they lived in St. Paul or Minneapolis. 13% labeled themselves as "rural" residents.

### The Senate survey

The first question on the Senate survey asked about the level of state government services. 40% said they were satisfied with the present levels of government services, 30% said state government provides more services than necessary and 24% said government services should be increased.

57% said state law should be changed to require employers (that have more than 21 employees) provide paid parental leave for the first six weeks. 35% did not agree, and nearly 8% had no opinion.

76% of respondents think the state should require motorists to provide proof of insurance when they buy their license tabs.

Questions about marijuana use were on both surveys. The House asked if marijuana should be legalized for recreational use. 48% said no, 43% said yes. The Senate survey asked whether the *smoking* of marijuana should be an approved method for medicinal use. Currently the drug is allowed to be used only by other methods. 46% said smoking marijuana for medicinal purposes was okay with them, 21% said they agreed with that but only with caveats, and 28% were against approving smoking.

A vague Senate survey question, "do you support recent legislative efforts to create more jobs in the solar, wind and energy efficiency sectors?" met with a 74% positive response.

Both surveys asked whether there should be a higher threshold level required of the legislature to pass a constitutional amendment on to the electorate. The Senate survey's question elaborated more and asked if the threshold should be 60%.

55% of the Senate survey takers said yes, 51% of the House survey respondents agreed. An average of 12% however had no opinion on the matter.

A Senate question regarding teachers lay-offs and how they should be administered, asked if the best way to do this is to lay off teachers by evaluating their job performance rather than by seniority. 57% said yes.

The Senate wanted to know how citizens would like budget surpluses handled. They were given a number of choices but allowed to choose only one as their highest priority.

Ranking at the top (51%), was setting aside money into a reserve fund for possible future shortfalls. 16% thought surpluses should be used to provide more government services, 10% thought surpluses should be refunded to the taxpayers and 17% believe the personal income tax should be reduced by using surpluses. Three and a half percent thought sales taxes should be reduced.

A surprising Senate question asked whether there should be change in the manner of how Metropolitan Council members are selected.

45% of respondents felt the seats should be elected. 22% thought the status

STATE FAIR POLL RESULTS *continued on page 2*

## Newspaper Museum moves to new digs at the Fair

On Thursday, August 21st, fairgoers saw a number of changes on the first day of the Minnesota State Fair. One of these changes included the moving of Minnesota Newspaper Museum from Heritage Square to the 4H building.

The move was necessitated by the redevelopment of the Heritage Square area on the west end of the Fairgrounds. This redevelopment included the demolition of the former museum building which was originally constructed and paid for by the Minnesota Newspaper Foundation in the late 1980's.

This year, the museum moved into the former space that was the 4-H Clover Store in previous years. This space is located just to the right of the front main entrance of the 4-H building which was originally constructed in 1939.



Linda Falkman, president of the Minnesota Newspaper Association, shows young visitors some of the tasks involved in printing the *Maynard News*.

Moving the museum required renovating the former 4-H space in addition to moving and arranging all the heavy antique printing presses and other antique newspaper production equipment. Signs from the old museum had to be moved, and in one case specially cut in order to fit into the new space. Linda Falkman, President of the Minnesota Newspaper Foundation, along with a team of volunteers, spent a considerable amount of time preparing the space before the Fair opened.

New electricity and natural gas also had to be installed for the operation of some equipment. For example, a Linotype machine uses heat generated from natural gas to melt down lead to form an entire line of type characters in a newspaper column. These lines are then combined together to form articles and then pages of a newspaper. Prior to the Linotype, text had to be set one character at a time. Used for almost 100 years in the publishing industry, Linotype machines were replaced by computers in the 1970's.

During the Fair, the museum prints *The Maynard News*. This is the newspaper printed on site with all the antique printing presses and contains a mixture

**NEWSPAPER MUSEUM** *continued on page 2*

## Overheard at the Courthouse

Wednesday, September 10.

*Anoka County Record* provided District Court with proof that the County Board awarded newspaper publication contracts for more money at greater cost to taxpayers. After hearing statements from the parties, Judge James A. Cunningham said he would issue a ruling at a later date.

In the hallway after the hearing, assistant county attorney Robert Goodell smiled and proclaimed that the county had won and just has to wait for the judge to issue the ruling. The sad thing about this is the county attorney's glee is actually a defeat for taxpayers who will continue paying inflated prices for the publication of county legal notices.

At the same time, down in the main lobby entrance, the Minneapolis Bomb Squad was checking out two bags that were wired together with old electrical wire and temporarily left unattended. Turns out that a person with an intellectual deficiency owned the bags and there was no intent to do any harm. One county employee said that there have been a lot of problems with homeless people hanging around since the city started approving all of these homeless shelters nearby. — ACR staff

**STATE FAIR POLL RESULTS** *cont. from page 1*

quo should be retained — the governor appoints and the Senate confirms. 19% said the governor should continue to appoint, however confirmation should come from local government and the legislature on a district basis. 14% had no opinion.

61% of Senate survey's 5,340 respondents felt short-term, high-interest loans, commonly called "payday loans," should be regulated more vigorously.

Food labeling was also a topic. Should the state mandate the labeling of genetically-engineered foods? 59% said yes; 7% agreed but only if other neighboring states did the same; and 27% said leave the decision to federal lawmakers.

The last question asked "what is your primary focus when choosing your state legislator?" (The 67 Senate seats will be up for election in 2016.) 18% said fiscal issues, 21% social issues, 10% party affiliation, were the main factors used in choosing a candidate. 47% said "a combination" of these factors played into their voting decision as a catch-all option of the survey. "Name recognition" and "Personality of the candidate" barely registered at all as two other choices. 40 people said they don't vote.

**The House survey**

66% of the 7,607 House survey respondents think electronic cigarettes should be regulated the same as tobacco cigarettes. 23% said no, and 10% had no opinion.

One of the most direct questions on either survey, asked "should the state refuse to provide any additional public subsidies to the NFL" in anticipation of the 2018 Super Bowl to be played in Minneapolis. 10% had no opinion. 70% were against additional subsidies, and 20% favored.

65% thought veterans should get Veterans' Day off from work and employers should be required to provide it.

Two election-related questions asked about felons' eligibility to vote and same-day voter registration.

State law currently forbids felons from voting during any time they are serving their sentence, which can include time after incarceration, such as probation or supervised release. 43% said it would be acceptable to allow felons to vote after being released from incarceration, despite any time yet to serve. 47% did not agree.

"Should Minnesota do away with same-day voter registration, thereby requiring all voters to be registered before Election Day?"

As written, the question received a solid 70% "no" response. However, the result may have been different if the question had suggested changes to same-day registration rather than throwing it out entirely, such as provisional balloting, requiring proof of identity, revising the vouching provisions or reforming absentee voting procedures.

The Sunday off-sale liquor issue was on the survey again. Last year 59% supported having liquor stores open on Sundays, this year that number rose to 64%.

50% were not in favor of mandating that public schools provide swimming lessons to students in all grades. 38% thought this was a good idea. The question did not address how schools without pools would comply with such a law.

Should some methods of purchasing lottery tickets now be prohibited? Targeted would be online scratch games, lottery ticket purchases made at gas pumps and at ATM-style machines. 50% thought this wasn't necessary. 15% had no opinion, 35% thought these should be prohibited.

The House legislators also wanted to know if you would agree to add chips, popcorn, cookies and "ice cream novelties" as food items subject to sales tax. Respondents split on this issue 47-47 with 6% having no opinion.

Should the state gas tax be increased by a nickel a gallon "to help fund the backlog of highway and bridge needs around the state?" This did not have strong support, registering 54% in favor, but 5.5% had no opinion. The question was also asked a year ago and had the same response.

(For previous coverage of the State Fair poll results, see our editions of Sept. 12, 2013 and Sept. 13, 2012).

**Progress in Columbia Heights to be defined by "branding" campaign?**

Our June 5th edition reported on the "branding" makeover that Columbia Heights city hall was about to undertake. In that column, we questioned the need to develop an advertising campaign for a city government, which is not selling a product by television, radio, newspapers or the internet. Businesses do that.

Governments using advertising concepts similar to those used by Target, Wal-Mart or Dairy Queen is a relatively new idea. In Austin, Minnesota, city officials were forced by popular demand to scrap an ad agency-designed city logo that everyone said they hated. It was a citizen ruckus loud enough to warrant a big story in the *Star-Tribune*.

Jeff Johnson of the Minneapolis advertising firm Replace, the contractor for the "branding" project, gave a presentation to Columbia Heights city officials and staff on Aug. 25 at Murzyn Hall. The firm was recently awarded a \$30,000 contract from the city's Economic Development Authority.

Six design concepts were offered. The firm had done extensive work, so at least EDA commissioner Marlaine Szurek can be assured that the city will at least get something in the end. (She said at a meeting a few months ago that the city once hired a consultant, paid a substantial fee, and never saw the consultant again). The logo designs and custom font packages designed by Replace will be owned by the client.

Johnson began by listing some attributes of neighboring Northeast Minneapolis and those of Columbia Heights. The historic, old and small-town feel of Columbia Heights was a predominant theme throughout Replace's presentation. As to some of the negatives of the city, councilman Bruce Nawrocki asked how the Replace firm compiled its list. Johnson answered that it was mainly culled from street talk. Nawrocki said he disagreed with some of the points and has said on previous occasions that business owners and residents of the city should be interviewed for their direct input.

Johnson's presentation then veered into something that was probably over the heads of everyone in the room, myself included: shorthand descriptions of various cities' personas were made by matching up those personas with that of well-known celebrities.

The Replace firm sees St. Louis Park as having the personality of Gwyneth Paltrow, Edina aligns with the mindset of Kim Kardashian ("craving a spotlight") but Columbia Heights has Stevie Nicks written all over it ("very insightful, artistic, an interest in things historic").

Calling Columbia Heights historic is a bit of a stretch, with only the 1926 Heights Theatre building, often mentioned during the meeting, being one of the few commercial buildings of that vintage still in use.

A number of slogans for the city were bandied about: Raising Home in the Heights, Move On Up, Raising Progress, Just Above the Buzz, Above the Grind, and Above the Noise; You're Home in the Heights, and many others.

The best logo design was a modernized variation of the current city logo, the "CH" circle design. Replace also improved upon it by designing a new custom font.

For a meeting that dealt so much with the use of art design, the absence of many of the city's "arts crowd" was conspicuous. It seemed rather odd that those who played the biggest hand in the creation of the city's arts commission were not present. The only elected officials in the room were Nawrocki and mayor Gary Peterson.

The goal of the final design is to incorporate its use into all city signage and promotional and informational materials, from the city newsletter to brochures and welcome packets (it was suggested that the city send out a packet of information, business coupons, etc. to new residents as they move into the city). City stationery and business cards would also share the same design concept. Everything will match neatly.

**OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FIELD: COLUMBIA HEIGHTS** *continued on page 6***Newspaper Museum** *continued from page 1*

Sylvia Zevenbergen of Albert Lea lends her expertise in making hats out of newspapers.

of Albert Lea spent part of their day demonstrating the art of creating newspaper hats. The key she said, was that *The Maynard News* is printed on a much wider piece of paper than newspapers of today, which makes hat making possible.

The Minnesota Newspaper Museum, publication of *The Maynard News*, and the making of newspaper hats will be a highlight of the 2015 Minnesota State Fair, running from August 27 – September 7, 2015. — ACR staff

**Observations from the Field**  
Bryan Olson





# Anoka County Watchdog

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

## DIFFERENT YEAR, SAME POOR RESULTS

What's the old saw about insanity and doing the same thing over and over while expecting different results?

The same can be said for Minnesota's education system.

They tinker around the edges but retain the same old system of teacher seniority and Soviet-era pay grid so as to not offend the teacher union.

The latest standardized test scores could be the test scores of last year, the year before, or any year you choose, for that matter.

They're pathetic.

Here's the breakdown:

### STATE-WIDE, ALL GRADES:

Science: 53.4% proficient

Math: 60.5% proficient

Reading: 58.8% Proficient

### STATE-WIDE, HIGH SCHOOL

Science: 54%

Math: 49.8%

Reading: 60%

### STATE-WIDE, HIGH SCHOOL, BLACK STUDENTS

Science: 23.6% Proficient

Math: 19.8% Proficient

Reading: 33.6% Proficient

Something is horribly wrong when only about 5 of every 10 or 6 of every 10 students are proficient in math, science, and reading.

Moreover, these test scores are stagnant. Nothing has changed.

What HAS changed, and always does, is the amount of money poured into the system.

Government is pouring ever more money into this system, mostly to increase teacher pay and benefits.

But that system is far from ideal.

There is little to no accountability and little to no competition derived from parental choice.

Thus, there is really no incentive for teachers and schools to get results because there is no penalty for doing otherwise.

Bad teachers still teach and bad schools still provide a bad education.

The utterly shocking test results for black students contain yet another indictment of government.

For better than 50 years, we have seen the utter lack of positive results from liberal social welfare programs.

Today, far too many minority citizens remain mired in neighborhoods marked by poverty, crime, broken homes, and lacking in meaningful opportunities for economic advancement.

And while it is ultimately the duty of every person to take responsibility for their own life choices, it is also the duty of government to provide an atmosphere that allows for the opportunity to achieve success.

It is crystal clear that government programs have utterly failed on that account.

That's because these programs aren't so much designed to achieve the stated goal.

Instead, they often serve as a platform for powerful special interests to get stuff out of the public treasury.

Welfare programs benefit government union administrators and the non-profits who distribute the money, taking a cut off the top.

Education programs first and foremost benefit teachers and empower the teachers' union. Guess

why we don't empower parents with vouchers? Guess why teacher pay scales reward only seniority?

But until the very people who are harmed by these programs rise up and demand change, we will continue to see the very same outcomes.

## THE WORLD BELONGS TO THOSE WHO SHOW UP

This publication shares the angst felt by many who witnessed the vote to unionize home health care workers.

Yet it's hard to feel too much sympathy when only about 21% of eligible voters bothered to show up and vote.

Their economic and work-place freedom was directly at stake and about 8 of 10 didn't care enough to vote.

You get the government you deserve. And the union you deserve.

## WHO'S FOR JOBS?

While we're on the subject of DFL hypocrisy, let's take a moment to examine the issue of pipelines.

The building and maintenance of pipelines not only ensures a steady and affordable supply of critical items like natural gas and petroleum products, it creates jobs.

So why is it that Republicans seem to be the only political party fighting hard for these jobs (and mining jobs, too)?

Yes, they aren't the type of jobs that the liberal 1% would work or would even deem acceptable (as they contribute to "climate disruption"), but why not support the working man, the "Labor" in D-F-L?

The case for supporting the expansion of pipelines in Minnesota is summed up in excellent fashion by Dale Lueck, who is running for a seat in the Minnesota House against a DFL incumbent who isn't so supportive of pipelines.

Below are Lueck's comments to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regarding one pipeline project in his hometown area of Aitkin:

### Lueck Comments on Pipeline Route

On Aug. 21 Dale Lueck submitted written comments to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission supporting construction of the new Sand Piper Pipeline on the route which would include Aitkin County.

Lueck's letter stated:

*"RE: Docket Number CN 13-474, PPL 13-474*

*"I am a former Aitkin County Commissioner, and as such, I understand the positive economic impacts of the proposed Sandpiper pipeline to our County.*

*"We have not been provided independent information as to the precise economic impact of the pipeline on our property taxes. However, I understand that many advocates have been working to exclude Aitkin County from the pipeline route. As I understand it, on Aug. 7, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission chose to delay the project and decided to examine additional routes, all of which exclude Aitkin County.*

*"I recently urged the Aitkin County Board to conduct an independent analysis of the impact on local property taxes the Sandpiper Pipeline would have if constructed on the current planned route through Aitkin County.*

*"On Aug. 12, an Enbridge representative appeared before the Aitkin Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. The representative told the chamber that Enbridge estimates the new annual property tax revenue for the Aitkin County portion of the pipeline to be about \$4 million per year.*

*"I don't accept the Enbridge number at face value, but I do believe the number would be somewhere between \$1 and \$4 million. With a county property tax levy of just over \$11 million, \$1-\$4 million of new revenue would provide a huge impact on the amount we pay in annual Aitkin County property taxes, and that money could be used for significant public improvements or tax relief for our hardworking taxpayers.*

*"We can't afford to let this project pass us by. Please support the preferred route without delay."*

Lueck's position is in direct contrast to Representative Radinovich's April 4th letter to the commission attempting to block the pipeline route from including Aitkin County.

Lueck said, "Since my high schools days working at the Aitkin Iron Works and my many years of maintaining Navy ships, including Navy nuclear submarines, I am confident that we in Minnesota can build and safely operate an oil pipeline through Aitkin County". He added, "We don't need crude oil unit trains constantly rumbling through Aitkin, McGregor or Tamarack like they currently do over in Little Falls."

### MIKE "MEEKLING" MCFADDEN

Okay, the headline is a bit harsh, but this publication was a bit put off last week when McFadden tried hard to distance himself from his firm's 2012 involvement in a tax "inversion" process.

McFadden noted that he had no direct knowledge or involvement in the inversion and further intoned that tax inversions "are bad for America."

It would have been nice to see McFadden stand up and clearly state that what's bad for America is the ridiculously outrageous corporate tax rate that provides massive incentives for corporations to invert.

Of course, the back peddling didn't stop Al Franken's campaign from mouthing off about tax "dodging" and trying to blame him personally for the inversion.

You're not going to beat an incumbent DFL senator with severe anger management issues by playing nice, Mike.

If you're going to whimp out in the face of this angry, chunky, loud mouth, you need to take off the gloves.

*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 free weekly e-mail update at: www.AnokaCountyWatchdog.com or contact me personally at harold@anokacountywatchdog.com.*

Sincerely,

Harold E. Hamilton, owner.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

### Increase in state minimum wage now in effect

Large companies must pay employees \$8 per hour (the state minimum had been \$6.15, although the federal minimum wage has been \$7.25 since 2009.)

Small employers (under \$500,000 in sales) must now pay \$6.50 per hour, increased from \$5.25.

Future increases were also approved by the legislature in its last session:

Large employers:

- \$9 per hour on Aug. 1, 2015
- \$9.50 on Aug. 1, 2016

Small employers:

- \$7.25 on Aug. 1, 2015
- \$7.75 on Aug. 1, 2016

Beginning in January 2018, the rates will be indexed to inflation based on economic conditions.

## 'Cop watcher' beats rap, runs for City Council

By Tom Steward | Watchdog Minnesota Bureau

LITTLE CANADA, Minn. — Andrew Henderson may be a political novice, but name recognition will be the least of his challenges.

Henderson, 30, was charged with two misdemeanors connected to videotaping deputies and an ambulance crew dealing with a man outside his apartment building.

The welder turned cop-watcher gripped this small Twin Cities suburb for 15 months. Now, Henderson is running for a seat on the Little Canada City Council.

Henderson said, "People have been asking me to campaign, to help me door-knock, and I'm sure I'll take them up on their offer this coming fall. Other people have been networking, just on how to keep government accountable."

Henderson's political roots go back to a late night in October 2012, when a Ramsey County deputy confiscated his camera. Authorities charged him with disorderly conduct and obstructing the legal process, returning his camera — video deleted — weeks later.

In February, a jury acquitted Henderson of both misdemeanor charges. The ex-defendant-turned-candidate claims Little Canada wasted about \$8,000 in taxpayer money by prosecuting him, but town officials say the city's monthly legal retainer covered most of that.



Henderson

## Bees nests around the country stirred up by Stillwater restaurant

by Eric Boehm — Watchdog Minnesota Bureau [watchdog.org](http://watchdog.org/category/minnesota)

STILLWATER, Minn. — It's a Monday afternoon and there are only a handful of people hanging around inside the Oasis Café in Stillwater.

There's a waitress and a single cook, along with a guy in a back room washing dishes. Only a few of the retro-styled booths with their pale green cushions are being used, and there's no one sitting in on the matching green stools that line the stainless steel wrap-around countertop taking up most of the space in the main dining room in the 1950s-style diner.

Doris Day is singing "Dream a Little Dream of Me," on the radio overhead, though it is partially drowned out by the sizzling of hamburgers on the grill in the open-air kitchen behind the counter.

This small, nondescript diner with room for only 15 or so cars in the parking lot could be any local establishment in any town in the Midwest. But what makes the Oasis Café different is an extra 35-cent fee tacked onto each patron's check.

Last week, a patron posted a photo of a receipt on Facebook and complained about the 35-cent "minimum wage fee" on the bill. The photo quickly went viral, shooting the Oasis Café straight into the center of the national debate over the minimum wage.

Talking heads like MSNBC's Joe Scarborough talked about it. *The Today Show* did a segment about the cafe's new fee, and thousands have weighed in with comments on social media.

All that because the Oasis Café decided to add a small fee on to each bill, beginning on Aug. 1, in order to cover the added costs imposed by Minnesota's new mandatory minimum wage, which took effect on the same day.

"It's been a crazy week," said a waitress.

The state Legislature voted in May to raise the minimum wage to \$8 per hour, with further increases planned in the next

few years until the hourly minimum hits \$9.50 in 2017.

The move won praise from progressives coast-to-coast, including the Obama White House, which is pushing for a \$10.10 minimum wage at the federal level.

But the higher minimum wage means higher costs for many businesses in Minnesota, hitting small restaurants and other mom and pop shops particularly hard. Many likely will increase their prices a few cents to cover those costs. Some may lay off staff or avoid hiring new workers. In either case, there are consequences of a higher minimum wage, but they remain unseen.

At the Oasis Café, owner Craig Beemer decided to make the costs visible — at the bottom of each customer's check. Beemer told the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* that he intended to draw attention to the added costs, but he doesn't see himself as a political activist even though the higher wage mandate will cost him \$10,000 this year.

"I'm not some (tea party) guy making a big stand," he told the paper last week. "It's been pretty shocking how this thing has blown up."

The extra fee was right there on the bottom of the check I paid on Monday afternoon, after eating a burger and a chocolate milkshake — seriously, this is the kind of place where you just have to have a burger and shake as soon as you walk in the door, and it was delicious.

"He's just trying to teach people a lesson in market forces," said Mike Hickey, state director of the Minnesota chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business, which represents small businesses and opposed the minimum-wage hike.

That lesson, in the form of an extra fraction of a dollar, has created a firestorm of controversy on the Internet, particularly among the very people who supported the higher wage, but apparently do not

"We contract with the (Ramsey County) Sheriff's Department for police services, and our city attorney makes the prosecution decisions," said Joel Hanson, city administrator for Little Canada. "The city's not overly involved in that, and that obviously had its day in court, and he was acquitted of those charges. From our standpoint, that's how things went, but he's more than welcome to run for City Council."

Cell-phone audio of the incident remains posted on Henderson's YouTube page with dozens of videos of police actions, media interviews and even testimony at a legislative hearing. (<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheDrewks>)

"I'm taking your evidence," said an officer identified as Deputy Jacqueline Muellner.

"You're taking my camera," said Henderson. "I'm doing a lawful thing right now. Filming is legal."

"OK, but if I end up on YouTube, I'm going to be upset," the deputy said.

The incident gained celebrity among a growing network of cop watchers nationwide. The Miami-based Photography Is Not A Crime blog interviewed Henderson (<http://photographyisnotacrime.com/2014/02/11/unlawful-arrest-henderson-runs-city-council>) and posted a link for readers interested in donating to his campaign. Encouraging comments complement the donations.

"I wish you all the luck in the world and give you much credit for taking this action instead of just complaining about the problem," wrote Walter Strong, who contributed \$100.

Henderson pledges to report all campaign spending on his Facebook page. His online checklist of sometime seemingly conflicting priorities includes open and

transparent government, limiting regulation in peoples' lives, legislating rent control and supporting small businesses.

The candidate has begun combing through the books for outdated ordinances, already persuading the council to repeal an ordinance against wearing clothes of the opposite sex, among other laws.

"The way our fireworks ordinance is written, he's concerned somebody shooting legal fireworks could be charged, and I have the city attorney reviewing that," said Hanson. "Whether he ran for council or not, if somebody comes to the city and points something out that appears to be valid, we'll take a look at it."

Henderson continues with his cop camerawork, upgrading his gear to make sure he'll never again lose footage.

"I currently use a streaming camera, so everything I record now is gone to the cloud," said Henderson. "I can access it from anywhere, even if my camera is taken, destroyed or the video deleted."

Ten-year incumbent Mayor Bill Blesener will only hint at which council candidates he plans to support.

"I will pick sides to the point of candidates that I feel are a plus to the city, they not coming in there with their own agendas and things like that," said Blesener. "Our council and our staff has been just excellent. We've had a very cohesive group of people."

So will candidate Henderson encourage others to videotape him?

"Of course. I believe in transparency in government. And, if I'm elected, I sure hope that somebody holds me accountable for every action and word that I say." — [www.watchdog.org/category/minnesota](http://www.watchdog.org/category/minnesota)

Few of them are from people in town, though.

"One woman called and I answered and she said she had to call and say something because she'd seen the story on Facebook. But she didn't even know where Stillwater was, and she wasn't even from Minnesota," a waitress said, laughing a little.

Has this kind of online activism poisoned any chance of a rational debate over the costs and benefits of a higher minimum wage? Or is it a good thing to have so many people engaged on an issue that has been thrust front-and-center in the national political scene?

Probably a bit of both, but the angry messages directed at Beemer and his staff are clearly missing the mark.

Those angry about having to pay higher prices because of an increasing minimum wage should be upset at the politicians who forced those higher costs on business owners across Minnesota.

And when those higher costs are hidden inside the price of food, as many Facebook commenters seemed to think should have done, they are easy to ignore. But that doesn't mean they don't exist.

Anyone who thinks differently is either economically illiterate or politically motivated, said Hickey.

"So they'd rather he sneak it into the price of the corn or the green beans? It's just baffling," Hickey said. "It shows that people don't know how a market economy works."

The minimum-wage debate in this country has been hijacked by front groups leading politically charged protests and hashtag wars on social media.

But on this day in Stillwater, there are no actual protests. There are no people holding signs and chanting. There is no one screaming in all caps about the moral superiority of their point of view.

# ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF CRIME REPORT

## ANDOVER

### Burglaries

Aug. 29 — 157xx Martin St NW – hammock and stand stolen from property  
 Aug. 31 — 42xx 155 Ave NW – mailbox damaged  
 Aug. 31 — 8x 173 Ln NW – fishing gear stolen out of a boat  
 Sep. 1 — 154xx Eldorado St NW – yard pieces broken and stolen  
 Sep. 2 — 14xx 154 Ln NW – vandalism to a fence; post broken  
 Sep. 3 — 13xx 139 Ave NW – unsecure vehicle; purse, cash, backpack  
 Sep. 4 — 158xx Yellowpine St NW – unsecure basement window; nothing of value was stolen

### Thefts & Damage to Property

Aug. 22 — 5xx 177 Ave NW – theft of mail  
 Aug. 22 — 34xx 166 Lane NW – a vehicle drove through a yard causing damage  
 Aug. 22 — 137xx Hanson Blvd NW – business; change box on a car vacuum vending machine was drilled and the change was stolen  
 Aug. 22 — 153xx Wren St NW – theft of change from an unlocked vehicle  
 Aug. 23 — 149xx Raven St NW – vandalism to a yard and damage to the garage door; 5 juvenile suspects were identified and the case is being investigated for charging  
 Aug. 23 — 160xx Vintage St NW – a vehicle was stolen by an acquaintance; it was located and the suspect was arrested.  
 Aug. 24 — 133xx Silverrod St NW – vandalism; home damaged due to rocks being thrown at it  
 Aug. 24 — 43xx 157 Ave NW – campaign sign stolen from a yard  
 Aug. 25 — 172xx Roanoke St NW – vehicles and boats being stored at the location were vandalized  
 Aug. 26 — Nightingale St NW – resident defrauded out of \$2000; IRS scam  
 Aug. 26 — 18xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW – license plate was stolen from a vehicle in the Walmart parking lot and then used in a gas theft from the Kwik Trip across the street.  
 Sep. 4 — 137xx Ibis St NW – car door broken; nothing of value was stolen

### Arrests

Aug. 26 — Verdin St NW/181 Ave NW – 5th Degr. Possession of a Controlled Substance; a deputy stopped a driver for having a cracked windshield. Due to the occupants history with drugs the deputy requested the K9 for a sniff. Narcotics were located on both of the males and in the vehicle. The males were arrested.  
 Aug. 29 — 28xx 142 Ln NW – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a boyfriend/girlfriend domestic. The male was arrested.  
 Aug. 31 — 161 Ave NW/Hanson Blvd NW- 5th Degr. Possession of a Controlled Substance, DAC-IPS; a deputy stopped a driver for driving in a closed construction area. The driver did not have a valid driver's license. During the search of the vehicle narcotics were located. The male was arrested.

## BETHEL

### Arrests

Aug. 23 — Dewey St NW/Main St NW – Criminal Vehicular Operations; deputies responded to a person that had been run over by a tractor. The driver of the tractor appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.145)  
 Aug. 26 — Main St NW/University 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 female was arrested. (.127)

## COLUMBUS

### Thefts & Damage to Property

Aug. 23 — 78xx Baylor St NE – forced entry to a motor home; camera, toilet, and misc. items stolen  
 Aug. 31 — 148xx Lake Dr NE – business; attempted theft of a vehicle - damage to the steering column  
 Aug. 31 — 147xx Lake Dr NE – unsecure garage; Honda ct70 stolen

## EAST BETHEL

### Burglaries

Aug. 23 — 1xx Laurel Rd NE – theft of wire from a home construction site; unsecured.  
 Aug. 23 — 4xx 196 Lane NE – tools stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the driveway.  
 Aug. 26 — 185xx Jackson St NE – theft of a license plate from a vehicle placed on the corner for sale.  
 Aug. 26 — 228xx Buchanan St NE – air let out of a vehicle's tires parked in the driveway.

### Thefts & Damage to Property

Aug. 27 — 17xx Viking Blvd NE – three golf carts stolen over the course of the summer.  
 Aug. 31 — 181xx Jenkins St NE – vandalism to a home and car; egged, air let out of the tires.  
 Aug. 31 — 1xx Sims Rd NE – vehicle stolen; the doors were unlocked and keys were in it.  
 Sep. 1 — 10xx 243 Ave NE – unsecure vehicle; rolls of gauge wire.

### Arrests

Aug. 28 — 2100 Block Viking Blvd NE – 2nd Degree DWI;

a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The female was arrested. (.166)

Aug. 30 — 3xx Aspen Rd NE – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a boyfriend/girlfriend domestic. The male was arrested.

Sep. 1 — 48xx Viking Blvd NE – 4th Degree DWI; deputies responded to a single vehicle property damage crash. Driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The female was arrested. (.191)

Sep. 3 — 10xx 221 Ave NE – Warrant Arrest, HRO Violation; deputies responded to the location on a report of a female violating a harassing restraining order. The female was arrested.

## HAM LAKE

### Burglaries

Aug. 22 — 44xx 161 Lane NE – unlocked garage service door; power tools and misc. items  
 Aug. 24 — 165xx Hwy 65 NE – business; windows were shot with a pellet gun causing damage

### Thefts & Damage to Property

Aug. 26 — 170xx Eveleth St NE – theft of items from a boat in the driveway  
 Aug. 28 — Van Buren St NE – resident was a victim of the Grandparent Scam; \$1000 sent via MoneyGram  
 Aug. 31 — 14xx 147 Ave NE – snowmobiles stolen from the property  
 Sep. 2 — 162xx Davenport St NE – battery and gas stolen out of a boat

### Arrests/Incidents

Aug. 21 — 1745 Bunker Lake Blvd NE – Warrant Arrest, Disorderly Conduct; deputies responded to a report of a male selling stuff door-to-door at the location. The male did not have a solicitation permit, had two warrants out of Ramsey and Hennepin County, was disrespectful, drunk and disorderly. The male was arrested.

Aug. 29 — Hwy 65 NE/Crosstown Blvd NE – 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. (.17)

## LINWOOD TOWNSHIP

### Thefts & Damage to Property

Aug. 31 — 225xx Typo Creek Dr – unsecure vehicle; tools

### Arrests/Incidents

Aug. 22 — 214xx Willamette St NE – theft of a purse from an unlocked vehicle  
 Aug. 22 — 227xx Typo Creek Dr NE – theft of a lawn mower and trimmer from an unlocked shed  
 Aug. 23 — 216xx Block Viking Blvd NE – someone threw a rock at a moving vehicle and the rear passenger window was broken  
 Aug. 24 — 66xx 242 Lane NE – solar lights stolen from yard  
 Aug. 26 — 80xx 242 Lane NE – theft of a vehicle that was being stored at the property

## NOWTHEN

### Arrests/Incidents

Aug. 26 — 224xx St Francis Blvd NW – Felony Assault; deputies responded to a female client assaulting a staff member. The female was arrested.

### Thefts & Damage to Property

Sep. 3 — 208xx Cobalt St NW – 2 bobcat doors stolen

## OAK GROVE

### Thefts & Damage to Property

Aug. 22 — 25xx 182 Av NW – theft from an unlocked vehicle  
 Aug. 24 — 216xx Potawatomi St NW – computer and scanner stolen from an unlocked vehicle.

### Arrests

Aug. 25 — Lake George Blvd NW/225 Ave NW – 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, DAS; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver did not have a valid driver's license or insurance. During the search of the vehicle narcotics were located. The female was arrested.

Aug. 29 — Viking Blvd NW/Tamarack St NW – Warrant Arrest, 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver gave the deputy a fake name and appeared nervous. The deputy requested the K9 for a sniff. Narcotics were located. The female was arrested.

Aug. 30 — 197xx Cedar Dr NW – 5th Degree Controlled Substance, Warrant Arrest; deputies were at the location attempting to locate a male with a warrant. The male was located. During the search of the male narcotics were located. The male was arrested.

Aug. 31 — 22500 Block of Lake George Blvd NW – 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, 4th Degree DWI, 3rd Degree Refusal; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The male appeared intoxicated and was very anxious and nervous. During the search of the male narcotics were located. The male refused field sobriety tests. The male was arrested.

### "What were they thinking?"

Deputies received a report of two males shoving a female into a trunk. The reporting party got the license plate, a description of the vehicle, and the direction they were traveling. The deputies located the vehicle and performed a high-risk traffic stop. The two males in the vehicle were taken out, cuffed, and questioned. A female was located in the trunk. It turns out, the driver of the vehicle and the women in the truck are husband and wife and while shopping they ran into a friend who they offered a ride. The husband and wife forgot they drove their smaller vehicle and they could not all fit. The wife decided she did not want to wait for her husband to drop the male off so she voluntarily rode in the trunk.

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Tell Columbia Heights staff and elected officials what you think — a rare opportunity for public input

**Saturday, Sept. 27 / Noon-3 pm**  
 at the vacant lot (former Mady's Bowl location)  
 between 39th and Gould on Central Avenue

## 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](http://www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us)  
 Hours: M-Th 7 AM - 4:30 PM  
 Fri: 7 AM-12 NOON

### Mon. Sept. 15

City Council, 6 pm

### Wed. Sept. 17

Park & Tree Comm., 6 pm

### Mon. Sept. 22

Planning 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](http://www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us)

### 2nd and last Monday

City Council, 7 pm

### 3rd Thursday

Planning Comm., 7 pm

### 3rd Wednesday

Parks Comm., 6:30 pm

### ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1318 McKay Dr NE #300  
 Ham Lake, MN 55304  
 Ph.: (763) 434-2030  
[anokaswcd.org](http://anokaswcd.org)

### Mon. Sept. 15

Board of Supervisors, 5 pm

### North Metro TV Cable Commission

Ham Lake, Blaine, Lexington, Spring Lake Park, Lino Lakes, Centerville, Circle Pines (763) 780-8241

### Wed. Sept. 17

Cable Commission., 6 pm, Spring Lake Park City Hall, 1301 81st Ave NE

### QCTV Cable Commission

763-427-1411  
 Ramsey, Andover, Champlin, Anoka

### Thurs. Sept. 18

Cable Commission, 11 am, Anoka City Hall

## Anoka County RECORD

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