

Anoka County RECORD

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THE OFFICIAL
LEGAL NEWSPAPER FOR

CITY OF HAM LAKE
CITY OF OAK GROVE

Oak Grove Candidates Speak to the Voters

MARK KORIN - Mayor



As I sit down to write this, I started thinking about what I had said throughout all of my writings, newsletters, articles, speeches and conversations with residents and citizens across this state. I wanted to see if I have been consistent with my core beliefs and leadership direction after 20 plus years of dedicated learning, service and actions. At first I got involved because I wanted to learn and be able to understand exactly every nuance of government operations. This started by going to City Council meetings back in the 1990's. The rest of the story is a long journey of being immersed in every aspect of local government operations. I've been part of EVERY volunteer City Commission, and chaired both Parks and Planning. I also help write most of the City ordinances and took an active leadership role in the last three Oak Grove, Minnesota, Comprehensive Plan updates. I was first elected to the City Council in 2008 and after serving two years, I was elected MAYOR in 2010. With the absence of a City Administrator, I volunteered to step in and do the City Administrator duties for almost a year, at NO ADDITIONAL COSTS to the Oak Grove residents, actually saving the residents over \$150,000.00 in salary, benefits and search firm costs. This required a minimum of 30 hours a week at the city offices, but it allowed me to understand city operations and be a hands-on manager for the city staff while being the CEO of my engineering and manufacturing company. This "in-side" opportunity proved that a government operation can and will run like a business if you implement private sector business values into the government structure. As a business owner for the past 18 years and working throughout my career, I have managed departments, projects and people, solving problems, designing and creating new and lifesaving devices and let's not forget, providing jobs throughout a very tough economy. This experience has allowed me to grow in the private sector and share those experiences in the way I bring leadership as your Mayor. I am very proud to say that over the last four years, while working with other city council members, we have achieved an unprecedented 33.5% levy reduction while restructuring operations, staffing and streamlining finances. I've always believed whether it's City, County, State or Federal Government operations must function in the background, minimized and run effectively where the staff carries out duties for the residents at the direction of the leadership. We have a responsibility to the citizens to bring representative leadership and follow a constitutional foundation of what makes this country great and NEVER stop asking why, how come and is there a cost effective alternative?

Now, I know that I can't please everyone and no matter what we do someone won't be happy about the outcome. There are decisions that we make that are either mandated or are based on the current ordinances and policies that past leaders have put in place. I base my decisions on what's fair and equal for

everyone and is in the best interest for the development of our city following the current laws and will work diligently at bringing common sense decisions into your city government leadership.

Being the Oak Grove Mayor has been an honor for me and if you'll allow me to continue on for the next four years, I would ask for your continued support by your vote on November 04, 2014. If you want to find out more about my core values and leadership structure, please go to markkorin.com or E-mail me at markk@markkorin.com, "LIKE", oak grove mayor-mark korin on Facebook!

My name is Mark Korin and I approve this message, will you?

DAN DENNO - City Council

My name is Dan Denno. I have been a member of the Oak Grove community for 35 years. During that time my wife Lorraine and I have raised three children, Nicole, Dan Jr. and Chris. We were married at Our Saviours Lutheran Church and have lived in the same home ever since. We are now members of Horizons Church in Ham Lake.



I presently work for Aid Electric Corporation in Blaine as a Project Manager/Estimator in electrical construction. I have been involved in the electrical construction industry for 40 years. I also work in real estate investments and in the past have been an owner/operator of a Dairy Queen store.

During my children's youth, I spent my spare time involved in activities with them. Like so many parents, I felt the responsibility to help the organizations they were involved in. I was active in the leadership of various organizations:

- Adult leader in Boy Scout Troop 418
- Coach, Board Member and Board President (2 terms) of St. Francis Youth Hockey
- Den Leader, Pack Chairman and Cubmaster for Cub Scout Pack 167
- Brownie Scout Cookie Dad
- Coach and Board Member of Soderville Athletic Association
- Sunday School teacher and children's music leader at Our Saviours Lutheran Church
- Driver of the float for the St. Francis Pageant in 1998 (Drove in a parade almost every weekend that summer. Good way to keep in contact with your 16 year old daughter)

Now that my children are adults, I have the time and energy to focus on the adult side of the community. When I first moved to Oak Grove, I did so because the land was reasonably priced and the government was unobtrusive. Being a small township, the government was run more by logical thought and action than by bureaucratic functions. As our city grows, I have strived to keep the small town common sense approach to government that seems to elude large city councils like Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Those of you that know me from the years that I spent involved with children's activities would, I hope, know that I have a sense of fairness that I feel has been crucial in the way

Candidates *continued on page 2*

Col Hts Library Project Does The End Justify The Means?

First, You Start With A Stacked Deck

A "Library Task Force", consisting of ten people, was hand-picked by then Library Director Rebecca Loader in early 2012. Her list of names was given to Mayor Gary Peterson who made the appointments official, bypassing city council input. The council ratified the list only as a formality.

Peterson said at a televised meeting in February 2012 that if council members strongly objected to any of the appointees, he "would not force anyone down their throats." Was someone going to raise objections?

City Councilor Bruce Nawrocki voiced concerns about the closed-door nature of this maneuver, to no avail.

The public was shut out from applying for the task force seats. Ordinarily, the council would have interviewed applicants and made appointments as a body. Nawrocki also said that ten members was too few. (That number fell to seven by the time the task force's studies were winding down. And, two members were not residents of the city).

Having only hand-picked library supporters on the task force guaranteed the desired outcome shared by city staff and officials. Keeping the membership to ten also made the task force more manageable for library staff.

The task force got off on the wrong foot by violating the state's open meeting laws early in its business meetings, which was corrected. The complete documentation of those meetings however was never made available to the public unless one knew to ask at the library for the three-ring binder in the staff's back room where the documentation was held.

Not exactly forthcoming, but such is the mindset of Columbia Heights city government, which has little regard for informing the public beyond the required one-page agenda and meeting notice posted on the bulletin board.

Library staff arranged for tours to other libraries to give task force members some ideas; there were also tours of locations in the city where a library might be placed. An architectural firm was hired. Ultimately, city officials decided where the location would be (the "Burger King site" immediately south of the Heights Theatre).

An unscientific 2012 survey of library patrons and folks who were at the city's annual parade, produced 305 responses — one-third of which were from people who didn't live in the city. A majority of the 305 said they also use other libraries besides Columbia Heights'. Councilor Nawrocki pointed out that the survey respondents were mostly library users and did not represent a cross-section of city residents. Only 25 out of the 305 said their primary reason for using the library was for computer access. 276 said the library resource they most use are books.

Not Wanting to Work Too Hard

Apart from a "listening session" held at the library June 25, 2012, there has been no effort on a large scale to hold public meetings about the library project. To include the entire community would take too much effort. Not one word about the project has been printed in a city newsletter.

The air of desperation in the city and lack of confidence seems to manifest itself in the actions of city officials who often want to avoid public scrutiny.

They were hoping the library project could be rammed through and few people would notice until the building was open for business.

Borrowing \$7 million to use for the project was approved by the city council a few months ago. Any concerns about the possible effects on the city's financial picture and individual taxpayers was expressed only by Nawrocki — he also said voters should make the decision, not the council.

Judging by attendance at the city council meetings, the groundswell of support for a new library numbers about two to three dozen people, and the other side, about a dozen. This reminds us of the line, "the world belongs to those who show up."

Library Board and Charter Commission member Catherine Vesley, who is making a second attempt for a city council seat in the Nov. 4 election, made speeches at city council meetings against a referendum. She said elected officials should make decisions and not the voters. Similar sentiments were expressed in a June 18th editorial in the

**Observations
from the Field**
Bryan Olson



Candidates *continued from page 1*

that I have acted on your behalf as a council member. I would ask for your vote so that you and I can both work to keep city government logical and off our backs. In this term as a council member I have focused on working with other members of the council and city government leadership so that the city government represents the needs of the residents in the most efficient and cost-effective way. We need to be aware of our spending because that is the only way to control the budget and the taxes. I am proud of the fact that I was a major influence in the 34% reduction in both spending and taxes over the past four years in the city of Oak Grove, all with no reduction in the services given to the residents. When spending decisions are made there needs to be a reasonable need for the expenditure. There are things that are critical to a city the size of Oak Grove and things that are not, and we have to vote wisely.

I am a council member that believes more in controlling the cost of government than in controlling you, keeping the cost of government down and keeping the lowest possible property taxes for your home. I respect property rights and the right to enjoy your property as you see fit, within reason. We have paid attention to our city and its impact on our lives, and have been diligent in our concern over how our money and our freedoms are being handled at the city level. I still have the same vision for Oak Grove; less money out of your pocket and less government in your life.

PAUL TRADEWELL - City Council

Hello, my name is Paul Tradewell and I have been a resident of Oak Grove for 42 years of my life. I was born and raised in Oak Grove from 1968 to 1988. I grew up on a hobby farm with beef cattle, horses, pigs, chickens and even ducks. I was in the fields at the age of eight pulling a two bottom trip plow behind a John Deere B, and is something that I still own today. I also used a John Deere model "R" and "A" to ready the fields for planting with my dad and later used to harvest and prepare again.



I moved to Champlin, Minnesota at the age of 20 and lived there for four years where I married my wife Deanna, who was also an Oak Grove resident and we have been married for 25 years. We moved back to Oak Grove in 1992 and raised our boys, Ryan who is 24, and Bryce who is 21.

We decided to build on acreage behind my in-law's property that required us to have the existing Lee Street extended. My father-in-law and I ran the Kinnan Estates Subdivision project to completion in the spring of 1992. I am told after that project the township of Oak Grove hired a city planner to help residents such as myself with these types of subdivisions and lot splits. We established our household in 1992 where I was the general contractor, and have been living in Oak Grove on the same five acre parcel for the past 22 years. We also co-own a 22 acre parcel directly south of us that's been hayed, had gardens planted, and even a few bucks taken over the years. We love it here and would find it hard to live on anything less than 2-1/2 acres. My two brothers and I have been long time residents of Oak Grove, we all like how large our lots are, the ample open spaces and to see wildlife that literally runs through your back yard.

I have been a hardworking, self-motivated individual from the moment I was young. I currently work for National Marrow Donor Program (Be The Match), in Roseville Minnesota as a Senior Desktop Engineer. It's the first job I've ever had that directly contributes to saving lives and is very full filling. I currently work with products such as Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager to build laptops & desktops and deliver applications. I've been in the industry for over 20 years and also co-own a side business, Praxsys Consulting, Inc., that provides computer services since 2004. I worked as a teenager for six years with Woodland Development clearing tree's for roads, transplanting trees for new developments and mowing lots. I have also previously worked 13 years with ING (13,000 employees) and was outsourced to IBM Global (180,000 employees globally) for another seven years as a Lead Technical Engineer, supporting ING.

I have also been an active participant in multiple community engagements such as coaching & assistant coaching in both Soderville Baseball and Saint Francis Football for grades 3-7.

My wife and I have recently become empty nesters and feel I can now give the attention needed as a city council member. With an extensive technical background in computer technologies I hope to bring a little different perspective to the council that will add value and complement the existing council members and Mayor. I am a very quick learner, have a big heart and I am very passionate about any obligations I take on. I will use what I have learned over the years to look at the big picture before making decisions that involve both the interest and the finances of the community.

I was one of the neighbors that helped bring information forward to the community and city council about the use of the old Stock Lumber facility by Insurance Auto Auctions (IAA). I was nominated by my neighbors to speak on their behalf at the city council meeting prior to the final vote which was voted on in favor of not allowing IAA use of the facility.

I am a very approachable person and have Oak Groves' best interests at heart. I believe diversity on the city council benefits all the citizens of Oak Grove. I hope you'll consider voting for Paul M Tradewell for Oak Grove City Council on November 4th, 2014. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at 612-424-0445 or email me at tradewellforcitycouncil@gmail.com.

MIKE WYLIE - City Council

Friends and neighbors,

It has been my pleasure to serve on the city council for the past eight years. If re-elected I will continue to be a voice of reason for the citizens of Oak Grove. My phone number is 612-845-5103 – as always you can contact me any time, for any reason.

If re-elected, I will continue to:

Al Franken has dished out personal attacks, false claims and dirty politics.

That's more than he has done his entire six years in office.

Al Franken has been busy attacking me the last few months, and it's simply given me more resolve. We can do better for the people of Minnesota and better in Washington. Unlike Senator Franken who has voted 97% of the time with President Obama, I won't be a rubber stamp for anybody. That's why I have written my Contract with Minnesota. Check out exactly what I will do when I am your U.S. Senator from Minnesota.



McFADDEN
for U.S. SENATE

McFadden's Contract with Minnesota

Minnesota deserves a U.S. Senator who will be accessible, who will be accountable and who will take action.

- As your Senator, I will be **accessible**:
 - I will visit each of Minnesota's 87 counties every year,
 - I will hold quarterly town hall meetings, open to the public and the press.
- As your Senator, I will be **accountable**:
 - I will post each vote and my reasoning on my website,
 - I won't seek re-election if I vote with any Party or President 97% of time.
- As your Senator, I will take **action**:
 - In the first 100 days, I will Author or Co-Sponsor:*
 - A Balanced Budget Amendment,
 - No Budget, No Pay Act,
 - Legislation to support the Keystone and other pipeline projects,
 - A repeal of the job killing Medical Device Tax,
 - Legislation to streamline our regulatory process.
 - Throughout my first term, I will:*
 - Work to improve our education system for all children, regardless of zip code, by relocating funds from broken school districts to charter schools,
 - Reform our health care system lowering costs, improving accessibility and protecting people with pre-existing conditions,
 - Enact energy policies to achieve U.S. energy independence,
 - Work with both parties to simplify our tax code.

Mike McFadden  Date 10/8/14

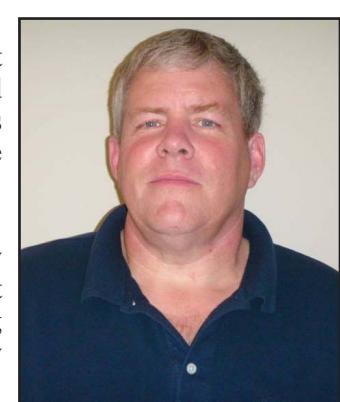


Check out the upcoming debates on Sunday, October 26 at 10 a.m., live on WCCO-TV, and Sunday, November 2 at 7 p.m., live on MPR. View our previous debate at <http://www.mikemcfadden.com>. Then you can make a more informed decision on the best direction for Minnesota.

Mike McFadden for Senate • PO Box 4039 • St. Paul, MN 55104

Paid for by McFadden for Senate

- Advocate and practice sound fiscal management. City taxes have come down 34% over the last several years. Oak Grove is now the lowest taxed city in Anoka County. I will continue to keep taxes in check while providing essential services like police, fire, and road maintenance.
- Support the property rights of our citizens. Eminent domain should not be used to take property from one person only to give it to another. We must preserve the rural "feel" of Oak Grove by keeping lots at 2.5 acres or larger. We have a beautiful city and need to keep it that way.
- Oppose the Metropolitan Council's continuous intrusion into local government decision making. Our citizens know what works best for Oak Grove not the Met Council.
- Be a voice of reason and common sense. I will work hard to make thoughtful decisions by studying the facts, considering long and short term consequences and their impact on our citizens.
- Improve our park and trail system with dedicated funds from the park dedication fund. These funds can only be used for parks and trails.



I have lived in Oak Grove for 29 years. In 1980, I was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, after which I earned a welding certificate at the Anoka Technical College. In 1984 I changed my career and joined the Anoka County Sheriff's Department, where I currently work in the court security unit. I also own a small construction company. I am active in the Lake George Conservation Club, a member of the Oak Grove Lions, Acorn Day committee member, and participate in the Cast Fishing Event on Lake George every August. I would appreciate your vote and support on November 4th.



Anoka County Watchdog

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

METROCENTRIC

The Democrats are spending a lot of time these days doing what they do best — denying facts and essentially lying about their politics and their public policies.

Example #1: MnSure rates. After engaging in some creative math, the Dayton Administration proclaimed that MnSure premium rates would increase “only” an average of 4.5%.

Part of the creative and deceptive math is based on the fact that the Department of Commerce didn’t weight membership numbers in calculating the average increase.

For example, UCare’s average 9.1 percent decrease in premiums for fewer than 600 enrollees got equal weight in the Commerce calculation as the 17.2 percent average increase for 9,900 MNsure enrollees covered by Blue Cross.

This department is sophisticated and well versed in parsing statistics.

Put another way, this is blatant deception on the part of the Dayton Administration.

Never mind the fact that Dayton and the DFL claimed for months that Minnesota-ObamaCare would save the average Minnesota family \$500 per year and give them a reduction of 30% in those same premiums.

Never mind that we were all promised that if we liked our doctor we could keep our doctor.

Never mind that we were all promised that if we liked our health care plan we could keep our health care plan.

This week we also learned that people who have coverage through provider Preferred One will be experiencing some of that Obamacare-will-lower-your-healthcare-costs magic next year.

Insurance brokers are seeing scenarios where premiums will jump 40-60% for many Preferred One customers.

Example #2: The Watchdog is now aware of two examples of House DFL legislators outright lying about their vote in favor of the \$90 million new office building down at the Capitol.

The building has become an embarrassing symbol of DFL profligacy and misplaced priorities.

Our friends over at the Minnesota Jobs Coalition have done a great job exposing these truth-challenged DFL incumbents.

Down in Albert Lea, incumbent Shannon Savick got caught trying to claim that the office building was settled before she got to the legislature and she didn’t vote it.

Yes, she did.

Now, the same thing is happening in Burnsville, where incumbent Will Morgan is running for his political life, also claiming that he didn’t “support” the office building.

Yes, he voted for it.

Now the latest example of truth twisting.

After being accused of favoring and representing the interests of the Metro area, the DFL is claiming that they don’t and they aren’t.

Let’s take a simple look at the facts here.

In reviewing campaign finance records, we can easily determine the address and zip codes of the DFL candidates for statewide office and the Minnesota House, all of them on the ballot next month.

Mark Dayton (Governor): Saint Paul, 55105

Tina Flint Smith (Lieutenant Governor): Minneapolis, 55408

Lori Swanson (Attorney General): Eagan, 55122

Rebecca Otto (Auditor): Marine on Saint Croix, 55047

Steve Simon (Secretary of State): Hopkins, 55343

Paul Thissen (House Speaker): Minneapolis, 55419

Erin Murphy (House Majority Leader): Saint Paul, 55105

John Persell (Majority Whip): Bemidji, 56601

Lynn Carlson (Ways and Means Chair): Crystal, 55427

Ann Lenczewski (Taxes Chair): Bloomington 55431

Frank Hornstein (Transportation Finance Chair): Minneapolis 55410

Michael Paymar (Public Safety Chair): Saint Paul 55155

Phyllis Kahn (Legacy Amendment Appropriation Chair):

Minneapolis 55401

Deb Hilstrom (Judiciary Chair): Brooklyn Center 55429

Tom Huntley (Health and Human Service Chair): Duluth 55803

Paul Marquardt (Education Finance Chair): Dilworth 56547

Joe Atkins (Commerce Chair): Inver Grove Heights 55076

Alice Hausman (Capital Investment Chair): Saint Paul 55108

John Lesch (Civil Law Chair): Saint Paul 55103

Tim Mahoney (Jobs and Economic Development Chair): Saint Paul 55106

There you have it.

Out of 20 major offices and key House committees, only 3 belong to DFL legislators outside the Metro area.

Just 15% of the most powerful positions represent rural Minnesota.

In fact, that’s really just 10% as Rep. Huntley is from Duluth, which is a city of the first class in population and is hardly rural.

In fact, half of these position are represented by someone from the urban core of Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

It’s hard to deny you’re a MetroCentric party when 90% of your key positions represent the Metro and 50% of those positions represent Minneapolis or Saint Paul.

OFFICIAL TIME

Here’s one massive taxpayer rip-off we bet you’ve never heard of — “official time.”

Ever heard of it?

“Official time” is a term used for federal employee to use paid work time to handle union issues.

In 2012, the latest year for which official figures are available, federal employees spent 3.4 million hours of work handling union duties, meaning they were paid not to work for the taxpayers but to dink around with union issues like nuisance grievances.

Taxpayers paid over \$157 million dollars in 2012 for federal employees to essentially work for their unions.

For example, the rightly maligned Veterans’ Administration (VA) shelled out \$47 million for their employees to work on union time, money that could have easily been spent treating patients for their illnesses or at least treating them better than animals, which has been the sad case at many facilities across the country.

Heck, the time was probably spent pushing management to hand out more bonuses.

Homeland Security spent \$8 million, which is time those employees could have spent stealing things out of passenger luggage or strip searching 8 year-old kids or the elderly.

The Transportation Department shelled out over \$17 million in paid “official time.”

Good thing the roads and bridges are all in tip top condition.

Candidates for Congress should be asked whether or not they support this scam.

Al Franken, Rick Nolan, Colin Peterson, and Tim Walz in particular should be asked why they tolerate this particular taxpayer abuse and whether or not they support ending it.

MET COUNCIL: FAST FACTS

The Met Council has been in the news recently, this time in a positive light.

Positive because many elected officials, many of them representing Anoka County, are standing up to the Met Council and attempting to retain the governing authority that rightly belongs to them, primarily because those local

elected officials are just that — elected.

Fact: It’s the fourth largest government in Minnesota

Fact: 4,200 employees

Fact: an annual operating budget of \$890 million

Fact: It has the power to tax

Fact: It’s 16 member governing board is unelected and appointed solely by the governor

Understanding these facts, it’s high time for the GOP to push for more accountability from the Met Council, including having its leaders stand for election.

In short, this is an unelected taxing authority, which is un-American and unconstitutional.

WHAT’S WRONG WITH THE ECONOMY

Even with President Obama and Governor Dayton either ignorantly blathering or outright lying, Minnesotans know that the economy isn’t as hunky dory peachy keen as they claim it to be as they attempt to save DFL backsides on election day.

This publication has laid out the many economic indicators that show our stagnating economy, running the gamut from workforce participation to stagnating wages to underemployed workers.

Famed economist John Steele Gordon recently laid out five reasons our economy has sputtered into an anemic recovery.

Read these five reasons and ask yourself which party and politicians are guilty of supporting these policies and therefore guilty of strangling our economy.

Reason Number One: Counter-productive energy policies that reduce domestic production, and therefore jobs, and cause more oil to be imported.

Reason Number Two: Burdensome regulations and taxation, such as restrictive licensing requirements and the highest corporate tax in the developed world.

Reason Number Three: Crony capitalism that reduces competition in the private sector in exchange for political contributions.

Reason Number Four: Disincentives to work, such as ever-expanding entitlements.

Reason Number Five: Poorly enforced trade agreements that allow China to manipulate its currency and export more goods to the United States, costing U.S. jobs.

Reasons number one through four look like they are straight out of the DFL party platform. Democrats love all those things.

Now, let’s also admit that there are plenty of Republicans in Washington and Saint Paul who love some of these items, particularly the crony capitalism piece, such as particular tax credits and incentives paid for by all but enjoyed only by a select few corporations.

It’s interesting (and pathetic) that unlike many countries, the United States doesn’t confront economic problems caused by natural problems such as a lack of deep water ports or natural resources.

Instead, our primary economic barriers are created by government, particularly Democrats.

The good news is that a problem caused by government can be fixed by government — if we have the courage.

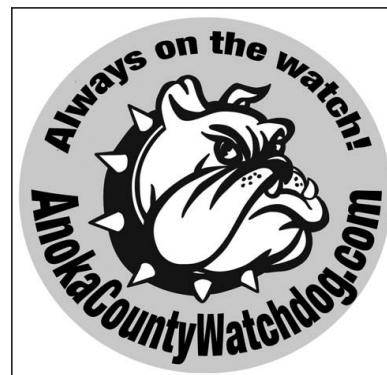
The Anoka County Watchdog is a place where concerned taxpayers can find fact-supported information and other resources about governmental waste and abuse in Anoka County. My intent is to provide you, the taxpayer, with the information you need to hold your local politicians accountable.

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



LIBRARY cont. from page 1

Northeaster newspaper, whose publisher warned that "companies . . . can be hired to defeat referendums . . . professionals whose scare tactics work against truth."

There's no doubt that the lackluster efforts of city insiders to secure public support for the library project could easily be trounced by anyone who knows what they're doing. But then, who's fault is that?

The Dike Develops a Leak

Since the city has the charter form of government, which provides for initiative and referendum, a handful of citizens collected over 1,000 signatures to put the question on the ballot, taking the decision out of the council's hands.

A few days before the city clerk deemed the petition as sufficient, two Task Force members accused the citizens group of misleading people into signing

their petition. Their letter, published in the August 6th edition of the Northeaster, suggested that people should call the city clerk if they wanted their signatures removed from the petition. A handful of people did that, though this newspaper was unable to verify exactly how many signatures were removed when posing the question to the city clerk. We have heard three, and six.

The larger point on this matter has to do with newspaper reportage and the law. The Northeaster published the letter without verifying its content with city staff. The letter writers, using their titles of chair and vice-chair of the Library Task Force, set a deadline for citizens to contact the city clerk. The Anoka County Record verified with the city clerk that no one in city administration had made such a deadline.

Upon further research, we found nothing in the city charter or state statutes that direct how, and if, removal of signatures from a legal petition can be done.

The Math Doesn't Add Up

The ballot question asks if voters want to borrow \$7 million for a new library. Councilor Bruce Nawrocki has said this could be misleading — voters might think the building will cost only that. The city manager said at a televised council meeting there is \$2.5 million in cash available in various city funds to be used to equip the library. Nawrocki said he expects that money will be recaptured by more taxation to fill the gap. We feel that is very likely.

The \$7 million will have interest attached. That is to be around \$2.5 million, over 20 years. The cost to the city taxpayers to purchase the Burger King site on Central Avenue was \$800,000 ten years ago. There may have been some other small costs attached to that property since the purchase. An architectural firm was hired a couple years ago. We haven't seen those bills yet, and there will be more to come with the drafting of construction plans.

This comes to \$12,800,000 plus the other unverified costs just mentioned, as well as construction overruns and other variables. The cost of the project will be at least \$13 million, and that is a conservative figure. The annual library operating budget is around \$800,000 which will likely be raised when a new building is opened.

The promotional flyer of the "Vote Yes" committee gives the "estimated total cost" as being between "\$8,192,000 and \$8,653,000." It also says, paraphrasing here due to poor wording on the flyer, that a city home valued at the median "would pay \$38 a year for 20 years." (The city manager at

a recent council meeting said a sharper pencil was applied to that estimate, and now they have it down to about \$2 a month).

Misleading phrases like "\$38 a year", "it's only pennies a day", "it's no more than what you spend on a cup of coffee" are nonsensical. Very likely Columbia Heights taxpayers would not mind paying \$38 a year for 20 years for a new library, if that flat annual fee was locked in stone. If the phone company can make long-term promises like that, why can't city hall?

Some taxpayers will pay less than that, others will pay much more. Tax formulas and property valuations change every year. No one can predict what their property taxes will be. They fluctuate. For a while you may have lower taxes, but then get socked. Then in some other part of the city, it's their turn to have taxes lowered while another area gets socked. Virtually everyone is socked at one time or another.

A few months ago at a council meeting, former city manager Malcolm Watson asked the city's finance director what is the amount of debt the city is carrying now? The answer was \$36 million.

Voters will have to decide whether they are comfortable with a debt load approaching \$50 million, not whether they'll skip buying a cup of coffee.

Another item seldom brought up but always dodged by city officials, is explaining why they are adamant that the city must run its own library.

The state's Legislative Auditor produced a report in 2010 that clearly showed it costs more to run a city library than a regional system on a per-taxpayer-cost basis.

The report concludes that the Columbia Heights city library costs nearly double to operate than libraries in the Anoka County system per capita, while the city library relies on the county system for nearly every service it provides to patrons. Those services are paid for, a la carte, by the city to the county.

City officials ought to come clean and admit they do this to satisfy their own egos and put it on their resume. "Why should the county get the credit for our library?"

Others in the city, mostly of the fading Old Guard, come to the defense of this notion out of some quirky feeling of tradition and entitlement.

Columbia Heights is heavily subsidized by taxpayers outside of the city.

If only they could hold back their subsidies whenever egos and common sense get in the way of efficiency.

Anoka County RECORD

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

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

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

MP Photography

2. Principal Place of Business:

1881 Quebec St, Centerville MN 55038

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

Marissa A. Pilney, 1881 Quebec St, Centerville MN 55038

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

FILED: September 15, 2014, # 78047380002

/s/ Marissa Pilney

(Published Oct. 9 & Oct. 23, 2014 Anoka County Record)

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**NOTICE OF GENERAL AND CITY ELECTION NOVEMBER 4
TO THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF OAK GROVE
IN THE COUNTY OF ANOKA AND STATE OF MINNESOTA:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a General and City Election will be held in all of the election precincts of the City of Oak Grove at:

- Precinct 1 — Oak Grove City Hall
19900 Nightingale St NW
- Precinct 2 — Abundant Life Church
3840 197th Ave NW
- Precinct 3 — Public Works Garage
815 Viking Boulevard NW
- Precinct 4 — Senior Center
19900 Nightingale St NW

On Tuesday, November 4, 2014, at which time the polls will be open from the hours of 7:00 a.m. to the hour of 8:00 p.m. of the same day, for the purpose of electing the following in the City election:

- One (1) Mayor for four year term: Mark Korin
- Two (2) Council Members for four year terms each: Dan Denno, Paul M Tradewell, Mike Wylie

Sherry F. Fiskewold, City Clerk

(Published Oct. 9 & Oct. 23, 2014 Anoka County Record)

**CITY OF HAM LAKE, MINNESOTA
PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Election will be held in the City of Ham Lake, Minnesota, on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at the polling locations listed below for the purpose of voting for candidates of the offices specified below. The polls for said election will be open at 7:00 AM and will remain open until closing at 8:00 PM.

- CITY OF HAM LAKE OFFICES**
- Mayor
- City Council Member at Large, 2 seats

The voting places are as follows:

Precinct Name	Voting Location
Ham Lake P-1	Glen Cary Lutheran Church, 15531 Central Ave NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304
Ham Lake P-2	Ham Lake Senior Center, 15544 Central Ave NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304
Ham Lake P-3A	Oak Haven Church, 1555 Constance Blvd NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304
Ham Lake P-4A	Horizons Community Church, 1503 157th Ave NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304
Ham Lake P-5	Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church, 2749 Bunker Lake Blvd NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304
Ham Lake P-6A	St. Paul's Catholic Church, 1740 Bunker Lake Blvd NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304

Denise Webster, City Clerk

(Published Oct. 9 & Oct. 23, 2014 Anoka County Record)

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

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to the requirements of Minnesota Law, a public hearing shall be held before the Ham Lake Planning Commission on Monday, November 10, 2014 at 6:01 p.m. at the City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE for the purpose of considering the application of Woodland Development requesting a variance to required setbacks in the shoreline zoning ordinance to allow construction of a single family dwelling and subsurface sewage treatment system on a parcel of certain land situated in the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota and which is described as follows to wit:

Outlot A, WEST COON LAKE SHORES ESTATES, Anoka County, Minnesota.

And

That part of Government Lot 2 lying southeasterly of the following described line;

Beginning at a point on the southerly line of said Government Lot 2, said point being 361.48 feet westerly from the northwesterly corner of the plat of HIAWATHA BEACH, Anoka County, Minnesota; thence northeasterly at an angle of 57 degrees 07 minutes 50 seconds (as measured from east to northeast) 430 feet more or less to the shore of Coon Lake and there terminating;

Except that part of said Government Lot 2 lying southeasterly of the following described line;

Beginning at a point on the southerly line of said Government Lot 2, said point being 231.48 feet westerly from the northwesterly corner of the plat of HIAWATHA BEACH; thence northeasterly at an angle of 56 degrees 33 minutes 30 seconds (as measured from east to northeast) 390 feet more or less to the shore of Coon Lake and there terminating. Subject to easements of record.

And

The Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 3, Township 32, Range 23, Anoka County, Minnesota, excepting and reserving therefrom the two following described tracts, to-wit:

1. Beginning at the southeast corner of said Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 3; thence west 42 4/3 rods; thence north at right angles, 30 rods; thence east at right angles, 42 3/4 rods; thence south at right angles, 30 rods to the place of beginning, containing 8 acres, more or less.

2. Beginning at a concrete monument at the most westerly corner of Lot 5, Block 5, HIAWATHA BEACH, Anoka County, Minnesota, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the register of Deeds, which monument marks the northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 3, Township 32 North, Range 23 West; thence South along the East line of said Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter a distance of 347.8 feet; thence North 63 degrees 30 minutes West a distance of 196 feet (considering the North and South line to be a true meridian); thence Northeasterly to the point of beginning a distance of 313.5 feet more or less. Subject to easements of record.

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

DATED: October 23, 2014

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

(Published Oct. 23, 2014 Anoka County Record)

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

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Ham Lake will meet in the Council Chambers of the City Hall at 6:01 p.m. on November 17, 2014, to consider and possibly activate the proposed deferred assessment for Improvement Projects 1993-1 – 1993-3, for the improvement of University Avenue NE, between 152nd Avenue NE and Constance Boulevard NE and the streets within the plats of The Meadows and Gregor's Estates. (This assessment was previously adopted and deferred for twenty years.)

You may at any time prior to certification of the assessment to the County Auditor, pay the entire assessment on such property, with interest accrued to the date of payment, to the City of Ham Lake. No interest shall be charged if the entire assessment is paid within 30 days from the adoption of this assessment. You may at any time thereafter, pay to the City of Ham Lake the entire amount of the assessment remaining unpaid, with interest accrued to December 31 of the year in which such payment is made. Such payment must be made before November 15 or interest will be charged through December 31 of the succeeding year. If you decide not to prepay the assessment before the date given above, the rate of interest that will apply is 6 percent per year. The right to partially prepay the assessment is not available.

The proposed assessment roll is on file for public inspection at the City Clerk's office. The total amount of the unpaid portion of the assessment roll is \$4848.12. Written or oral objections will be considered at the meeting. No appeal may be taken as to the amount of an assessment unless a signed, written objection is filed with the Clerk prior to the hearing or presented to the presiding office at the hearing. The Council may adopt the proposed assessment at the hearing.

An owner may appeal an assessment to District Court pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal upon the Mayor or Clerk of the City within 30 days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the District Court within ten days after service upon the Mayor or Clerk.

The City Council shall attempt to adhere to the following general policies with

respect to assessing the cost of street improvement projects:

1. In making its assessment, the City shall not be limited to a front-footage or unit method of assessment, but shall use such methods or combination thereof which results in an equitable and fair assessment designed to assess each parcel for not more than the benefit accruing to each parcel.
2. Where the unit method of assessment is used, property which abuts (meaning having road frontage) on an existing project shall receive one active assessment for each parcel of record provided it can accommodate minimum livability requirements, and one deferred assessment for every additional lot which could be developed on the frontage based upon the current requirements for subdivision (200 feet of frontage and a minimum of one acre which meets livability requirements).
3. Any deferred assessment levied under the authority of this resolution shall be due upon the earlier of a date twenty years from the date of adoption of the assessment roll, or the date upon which any subdivision of land within the ownership of the parcel containing the deferred assessment takes place, provided, however, that in the discretion of the City Council, extension of the deferred assessment may take place as negotiated between the property owner and the City, up to a maximum of ten years beyond the initial twenty year deferral.
4. Interest shall be charged on these "future subdivision" assessments based on the interest rate charged on the original assessment.
5. Under Minnesota Statutes Sections 435.193 to 435.195, the Council may, in its discretion, defer the payment of special assessments for any homestead property owned by a person 65 years of age or older for whom it would be a hardship to make the payments. In order to be eligible for a Senior Citizen deferral, household income cannot exceed \$18,000 per year. Also, total assets cannot exceed \$18,000. (NOTE: This figure is to be derived by estimating the value of all property owned, except the homestead, and deducting the amount of all debts owed on the property, except the homestead mortgage.) No interest shall be charged on Senior Citizen deferred assessments.
6. Under Minnesota Statutes Section 435.193 to 435.195, the Council may, in its discretion, defer the payment of special assessments for any homestead property owned by a person who has met the requirements of a retired disabled homeowner for whom it would be a hardship to make the payments. In order to be eligible for this deferral, household income cannot exceed \$18,000 per year, total assets cannot exceed \$18,000 (as determined in item 5), and the disability must be documented as evidenced by an award letter from the Social Security Administration indicating 100 percent disability. No interest will be charged on these assessments.
7. Green Acres deferred assessments shall be payable in full when the property no longer qualifies for this deferral. Interest shall be charged on Green Acres deferred assessments based on the rate charged on the original assessment.

Denise Webster

City Clerk

(Published Oct. 23, 2014 Anoka County Record)

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

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

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

Finding Essence

2. Principal Place of Business:

621 117th Ave NE, Blaine MN 55434

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

Katherine Lynn Kretzschmar, 621 117th Ave NE, Blaine MN 55434

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

FILED: October 6, 2014, # 786944300027

/s/ Katherine L. Kretzschmar

(Published Oct. 9 & Oct. 23, 2014 Anoka County Record)

**OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
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MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333**

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

Willing Enterprises

2. Principal Place of Business:

6560 Green Valley Rd, Ramsey MN 55303

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

Lucas Anthony Willing, 6560 Green Valley Rd, Ramsey MN 55303

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

FILED: October 1, 2014, # 786210400023

/s/ Michelle Lynn Willing

(Published Oct. 9 & Oct. 23, 2014 Anoka County Record)

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

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

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

212 Designs

2. Principal Place of Business:

11875 Petersburg St NE, Blaine MN 55449

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

Amanda Lynn Hoytta, 11875 Petersburg St NE, Blaine MN 55449

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

FILED: October 2, 2014, # 786500900029

/s/ Amanda Hoytta

(Published Oct. 23 & Nov. 6, 2014 Anoka County Record)

**ANOKA COUNTY RECORD — NEXT EDITIONS:
Thursdays NOV. 6 NOV. 20 DEC. 4 DEC. 18**