

No voter support? No problem! Minnesota school boards can raise taxes

By Tom Steward | Watchdog Minnesota Bureau | Watchdog.org

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Minnesotans faced 39 school operating levy referendums on the ballot this fall, fewer than in any election since 1996, nixing one of every four proposals at the polls.

Chalk one up for taxpayers? Not exactly. Many school boards had already unilaterally raised school levies on their own long before Election Day, without seeking voter approval.

The 2013 Minnesota Legislature gave school boards the authority to effectively go behind the backs of local taxpayers that decline to raise their school taxes.

“The argument is the school board is locally elected and if the citizens don’t like what the school board does, they can vote them out of office and reverse the referendum decision that they made,” said Tom Melcher, director of school finance at the Minnesota Department of Education. “But I haven’t heard a lot of pushback.”

Educators still call it a “referendum,” but school board members now cast the only votes in deciding whether to impose an up to \$300-per-pupil operating levy for five years without public approval.

“Given that the word is referendum, you’d think that yes, the levy authority is there because the voters approved it. But they didn’t, so we kind of have an oxymoron going here,” said Bob Porter, Minnesota Department of Education school finance specialist.

As school boards lined up to capitalize on their newfound power, the number of operating levy-free districts quickly plunged from 39 to nine. Only a handful of small, rural district boards resisted the temptation to up the ante on taxpayers with increased state aid as part of the equation: Cass Lake, Floodwood, Kelliher, Lanesboro, Littlefork-Big Falls, Prinsburg, South Koochiching, Underwood and Verndale.



OPERATING REFERENDUMS							
District	Date of Election	Increase	Term	Per Pupil Amount Detail	YES	NO	Pass/Fail
1 ACGC	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$804 per pupil	1,264	991	PASS
2 Ashby	Nov. 4	\$0	5	\$903 per pupil	485	246	PASS
3 Barnesville	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$552 per pupil	907	519	PASS
4 Bemidji	Nov. 4	\$180	10	\$180 per pupil	6,814	6,630	PASS
5 Big Lake	Nov. 4	\$600	10	\$600 per pupil	2,631	3,080	Fail
	Question 2	\$100	10	\$100 per pupil	2,463	2,979	Fail
6 Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart	Nov. 4	\$180	10	\$180 per pupil	785	613	PASS
7 Centennial	Nov. 4	\$305	10	\$770 per pupil	5,586	6,086	Fail
8 Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$674 per pupil	728	269	PASS
9 Columbia Heights	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$608 per pupil	5,193	2,669	PASS
10 Eden Prairie	Nov. 4	\$700	10	\$1289 per pupil	15,534	8,912	PASS
	Question 2	\$150	10	\$150 per pupil	13,594	10,810	PASS
11 Elk River Area	Nov. 4	\$409	10	\$409 per pupil	14,212	10,104	PASS
12 Fillmore Central	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$292 per pupil	1,249	491	PASS
13 Herman-Norcross	Nov. 4	\$0	7	\$654 per pupil	333	98	PASS
14 Kittson Central	Nov. 4	\$1,126	10	\$3,846 per pupil	488	413	PASS
15 Lac qui Parle Valley	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$866 per pupil	1,751	859	PASS
16 Lake City	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$987 per pupil	2,240	1,312	PASS
	Question 2	\$153	10	\$153 per pupil	1,702	1,822	Fail
17 Lake Crystal	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$80 per pupil	1,427	892	PASS
18 Lancaster	Nov. 4	\$800	10	\$800 per pupil	257	130	PASS
19 Lewiston-Altura	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$304 per pupil	964	433	PASS
20 Lynd	Nov. 4	\$960	10	\$1,615 per pupil	130	240	Fail
21 Mahtomedi	Nov. 4	\$593	10	\$743 per pupil	3,755	3,466	PASS
22 Marshall County Central	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$529 per pupil	478	215	PASS
23 Norman County East	Nov. 4	0	10	\$1,863 per pupil	377	308	PASS
24 Norman County West	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$951 per pupil	357	123	PASS
25 Pipestone Area	Nov. 4	Increase	10	\$1,845 per pupil	837	1,870	Fail
26 Red Lake County Central	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$1084 per pupil	538	145	PASS
27 Robbinsdale Area	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$1,418 per pupil	25,052	11,165	PASS
28 Round Lake-Brewster	Nov. 4	\$424	10	\$1,524 per pupil	244	334	Fail
29 Southland	Nov. 4	\$890	10	\$1,628 per pupil	455	793	Fail
30 Spring Grove	Nov. 4	-\$200	10	\$1,461 per pupil	642	270	PASS
31 St. Anthony-New Brighton	Nov. 4	\$80	10	\$1068 per pupil	2,648	2,053	PASS
32 Swanville	Nov. 4	\$361	10	\$361 per pupil	349	384	Fail
33 Truman	Nov. 4	\$454	10	\$454 per pupil	447	451	Fail
34 Wabasha-Kellogg	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$1137 per pupil	1,385	778	PASS
35 Warren-Alvarado-Oslo	Nov. 4	\$316	10	\$2,200 per pupil	825	618	PASS
36 West Central Area	Nov. 4	Increase	5	\$1,851 per pupil	1,256	1,165	PASS
37 Westonka	Nov. 4	\$0	10	\$674 per pupil	4,830	2,878	PASS
38 Worthington	Nov. 4	\$134	10	\$500 per pupil	2,375	1,608	PASS
39 Yellow Medicine East	Nov. 4	\$695	10	\$695 per pupil	1,097	1,566	Fail

“What the governor and the Legislature have done is taken away decision-making authority that used to be in the hands of voters, instead giving it to school boards, allowing them to raise taxes or impose taxes unilaterally,” said Jonathan Blake, a Freedom Foundation of Minnesota analyst.

Altogether, 123 school boards have taken advantage of the \$300 provision to initiate, increase or convert their levy levels, Minnesota Department of Education figures show. Schools defend the process as a way to equalize educational opportunities for districts with a smaller property tax base, mainly outside the Twin Cities metro area.

“It was basically done to solve an equity problem because there are districts with nothing or very small amount of a levy next to a district with a \$2,000 per pupil levy,” said Greg Abbott, communications director for the Minnesota School Boards Association. “So it was an effort to try and make things more equitable from district to district.”

Rush City schools tiptoed around taxpayers’ concerns before voting to max out at a summer board meeting.

SCHOOL FUNDING *continued on page 2*

Rep. Scott named House Civil Law and Data Practices Committee Chair

ST. PAUL – House Speaker-designate Kurt Daudt (R-Crown) announced last week that Rep. Peggy Scott (R-Andover) has been appointed to be the chair of the House Civil Law & Data Practices Committee for the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions.

“I’m honored to be given the responsibility to oversee a committee in charge of protecting the rights, liberties, and personal information of Minnesotans,” said Scott. “Given the recent privacy breaches by MNsure, I plan to have robust oversight of how the personal information of Minnesotans is kept by state agencies.”



Rep. Scott

Scott will officially become chair of the House Civil Law & Data Practices Committee when she is sworn in for her fourth term on January 6, 2015.

STATE HOUSE LEADERSHIP *continued on page 2*

Don’t let Craigslist Losers Ruin the Holiday Season

A recent study showed that 97% of Anoka County residents have access to high speed internet. Access is defined broadly to include home, work, cell phone, or a nearby location like a neighborhood coffee shop. As a result, most of us have easy access to online shopping like eBay, Sears, Target, etc.

All of these options have things in common such as money back or satisfaction guarantees, ease of use, and quick shipping to your front door. Your transaction from start to finish typically does not require you to speak with another human being. In the case of UPS, they typically drop off the package at the door, ring the bell, and walk away before you even have a chance to answer.

Another online option is Craigslist. But is it a good option for holiday buying and selling? Is it better to find products online, but then complete the transaction in person and exchange payment at that time? Is Craigslist a good place to sell items you no longer need in order to generate some additional spending money for the holidays? Here is some food for thought.

For those unfamiliar with the history of Craigslist.org, it was originally started by Craig Newmark in 1995 as a way to freely share information in San Francisco. From there it has grown to a website that is now used in 70 countries, including hundreds of cities across the world. According to Craigslist, every month 60 million people in the US use it to post over 80 million classified ads. Most ads can be posted for free.

I have used Craigslist for over 10 years. These

CRAIGSLIST *continued on page 2*

Publisher’s Column

John Kysylyczyn

SCHOOL FUNDING *continued from page 1*

“Board members discussed the need to be sensitive to citizen tax obligations, while providing for district needs related to adequately staffing buildings, maintaining district facilities, and staying current with curriculum and technology...this additional \$300 per student levy will cost about \$59 per year for \$100,000 property value,” according to published school board minutes of a July 17 meeting.

Many property owners in districts statewide will also be assessed for a \$424-per-pupil “local optional revenue” operating levy approved by legislators, rather than voters. Technically, school boards can opt out of the levy, but in practice seldom do.

“The only way a district is going to generate less than the \$724 is if the school board decides not to use all the levy authority that the Legislature has provided it,” said Porter, the state education finance expert. “Why would they not do that? The two basic reasons would be they think they can operate effectively without that revenue or they figure they’ll never be re-elected, if they approve of it.”

Where does that leave residents of North Branch, an east central community where voters turned down eight straight school levy proposals? Taxpayers will be assessed based on an operating levy referendum of \$724 per pupil next school year, once finalized by the school board next month. To offset part of the cost, legislators upped the percentage of state aid, which depends on a district’s property values.

With part of the board-approved increase already in place, North Branch has added 20 staff and resumed a Monday through Friday school week, after several years on a cost-cutting four-day schedule.

“Some people don’t like the fix, but it is what it is. And we have been asking for a change in funding for a long time,” said Deb Henton, superintendent of North Branch schools. “This is what the Legislature gave the opportunity for school boards to do, and our members have voted in favor of it and felt they had advocated long enough.”

The trade-off between less taxpayer control and more school board authority concerns at least one North Branch school board member.

“The majority of the people that voted me in there would not pass a levy because we’ve got a city that’s \$62 million in debt,” said board member Randy Westby. “The real estate market is declining even now, when things are starting to pick up overall, because we’re too reliant upon property taxes.”

STATE HOUSE LEADERSHIP *continued from page 1*

Another House legislator from Anoka County, Rep. Tim Sanders of Blaine (37B), has been appointed Assistant Majority Leader of the Minnesota House.

Speaker-designate Kurt Daudt said, “Rep. Sanders is widely respected in our caucus and he brings a wealth of knowledge to the table. His ideas for making government more efficient and encouraging job growth in our communities will be integral as we move forward.” Sanders will also serve as Chair of the Government Operations & Elections Policy Committee during the 2015-2016 legislative sessions.—*from House press releases*

2015-2016 House Committee Structure and Chair Appointments	
2015-16 House Committee Name	Chair
Aging & Long-Term Care Policy	Rep. Joe Schomacker
Agriculture Finance	Rep. Rod Hamilton
Agriculture Policy	Rep. Paul Anderson.
Capital Investment	Rep. Paul Torkelson
Civil Law & Data Practices	Rep. Peggy Scott
Commerce & Regulatory Reform	Rep. Joe Hoppe
Education Finance	Rep. Jenifer Loon
Education Innovation Policy	Rep. Sondra Erickson
Environment & Natural Resources Policy & Finance	Rep. Denny McNamara
Government Operations & Elections Policy	Rep. Tim Sanders
Greater MN Economic & Workforce Development Policy	Rep. Bob Gunther
HHS Finance	Rep. Matt Dean
HHS Reform	Rep. Tara Mack
Higher Education Policy & Finance	Rep. Bud Nornes
Job Growth & Energy Affordability Policy & Finance	Rep. Pat Garofalo
Legacy Funding Finance	Rep. Dean Urdahl
Mining & Outdoor Recreation Policy	Rep. Tom Hackbarth
Property Tax & Local Govt. Finance Division (Taxes)	Rep. Steve Drazkowski
Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy & Finance	Rep. Tony Cornish
Rules & Legislative Administration	Rep. Joyce Peppin
State Government Finance	Rep. Sarah Anderson
Taxes	Rep. Greg Davids
Transportation Policy & Finance	Rep. Tim Kelly
Veterans Affairs Division (SGF)	Rep. Bob Dettmer
Ways & Means	Rep. Jim Knoblach
Ethics	Rep. Sonda Erickson

CRAIGSLIST *continued from page 1*

last few years, what has attracted me to Craigslist was the desire to sell low value toys, books, and other items the kids had outgrown. I figured why not make a few dollars, sell locally, and avoid fees that online auction sites charge. It seemed like a simple concept. You post an ad, people reply, you arrange a meeting time and place, and make a transaction. I want money and they want the product. Items get reused and stay out of the waste stream.

Within about two or three transactions, I encountered my first problem buyer. When I looked online to see if this was a common occurrence with other sellers, I discovered that there was a term attached to these people. Problem buyers or sellers were referred to as “Craigslist Losers”. There are various websites dedicated to stories about these people. If you get a chance to read some of the entries, you should. They are hilarious and give some real world insight into the state of society these days.

One of my many encounters with Craigslist Losers was a person who wanted to buy a used Little Tikes kitchen. I posted five photos, clearly stated it was used outdoors, and priced it to move at \$15. It originally sold for over \$100. After changing my schedule to fit one potential buyer, she shows up 90 minutes late, no apology, complains about it having been used outside, and then leaves. Another Craigslist Loser was 30 minutes late for the time she set, so I called her. She replied, “I changed my mind, that’s why I didn’t show.” The list of crazy, rude, and obnoxious buyers goes on and on.

You would probably expect that if I was giving something away for free, nothing could go wrong, right? Think again. I had a Craigslist Loser complain about free firewood that I placed on my boulevard. The complaint you ask? Well apparently it wasn’t the type of wood he was looking to burn. Apparently in addition to a close up photo of the wood, I was supposed to identify the quantity and species of every piece. Sorry, but I don’t have a Forestry degree.

Even though I had mixed experiences dealing with buyers on Craigslist, I thought that sellers may be different. After all, they have a product they want to sell, and they want to get paid cash. Generally cash is a good motivator for the person who is on the receiving end of the greenbacks, right? Think again.

My kids have been interested in LEGOs for a number of years. I was a big LEGO user when I was a kid too. As time went on, their interest has increased. They always wanted to go over to the grandparents’ house because they still had my LEGO sets from the 1980’s. So we decided to do something bold. We decided to get rid of practically every toy in the house and focus 100% on LEGOs. After seeing a number of videos from LEGO conventions around the world, they also decided that they wanted to start building large projects.

A year ago, I started posting ads on Craigslist advertising that I paid cash for LEGOs. Specifically I offered to pay for blocks by the pound. Gather up your boxes of blocks, and I will stop by your place, weigh them up and pay you on the spot. It seemed like a pretty easy proposition.

For over a year, I have met dozens of people around the Twin Cities to purchase their used LEGOs. Some were parents who wanted to clean out the house. Others were college students who needed some spending money. When people want to get paid, most are timely and act professional, with the key word being “most”. Even when paying cash, I still encountered a number of Craigslist Losers.

One Craigslist Loser from Woodbury, Tony, set a time to meet near his house by the Home Depot. I rearranged my schedule to fit his. Shortly before Tony and I were supposed to meet, he contacts me to cancel. I respect that sometimes emergencies come up, so we rescheduled for the next day.

The next day, being a little concerned about Tony’s reliability, I contact him to confirm our meeting. No response. This was highly unusual because I could gather that Tony was in his late 20’s and was the type of person who has his cell phone glued to his body day and night. So I email him again, and again, and again. Finally several hours after our meeting time had passed, he sends me a nasty message telling me to stop inquiring about the meeting we were supposed to have had earlier in the day. Keep in mind that this was a meeting where if I would have shown up at the time and place he proposed, he would have never shown.

Tony and I had a few email exchanges after this and it became clear that he simply didn’t respect anyone

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Anoka County Watchdog

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

OBAMA'S POLITICAL DEATH KNELL

Of course, much has been written in the aftermath of the recent election regarding Barack Obama and the remaining two years of his failed presidency.

Is he irrelevant? Can he regain momentum and prosecute an agenda? How can he unite his party, Democrats in Congress, and the coalition that propelled him to the highest office in the land?

The short answer is that Obama is done, politically speaking. The final years of his presidency will be marked by a slow march of the status quo until he leaves office.

This knell was not sounded by Republicans, even though they understand their mandate to stop Obama's lawlessness.

This knell wasn't even announced by the decisive rout the GOP visited on Democrats election night.

Instead, it was sounded this week when one man in a subtle and skillful manner cut the president off at the knees, in much the same way a skilled boxer delivers a knockout blow in the blink of an eye.

That man is New York Senator Charles E. Schumer, one of the most powerful Democrats in Congress.

In a widely-followed speech this week, Schumer called the pursuit of ObamaCare, the president's signature policy initiative, a mistake and the wrong priority (see quote above).

That single quote in a lengthy speech was a declaration by Senate Democrats that they will no longer fall in line behind the White House.

They've moved on from the Obama years 24 months early.

Senate Democrats will chart their own course, even if that agenda conflicts with the president's agenda.

Yes, they are soon to be in the minority, but the votes and public statements of these senators will send strong signals to the Democrat base and the rest of America regarding the president's ability to lead.

The president is officially a lame duck.

You see, the Congress plays the long game. A president, at best, is in power for 8 years. Senators often serve for decades beyond that number.

Schumer, who is thinking of rebuilding his party and enhancing his own influence, is looking ahead to 2016 and beyond.

He well understands that his agenda must include distancing the party from the disastrous policies, operational blunders, and outright lies of the president.

Look for Senate Democrats to join Republicans in passing popular legislation like the Keystone pipeline, repealing the medical device tax, and generally asserting the prerogative of the legislative branch.

To be clear, it's not that Senate Democrats have suddenly become concerned about good public policy and responsible government. They haven't.

Instead, they are doing what they believe will save their political hides and put them back in control of Big Government.

Senate Democrats are over Obama. Too bad they spent the previous six years enabling his lawless and utterly destructive ways.

SERIOUS QUESTIONS FOR SEN. ORTMAN

We understand that many of our readers long ago nixed the Star Tribune - and for good reason.

But this week, that publication via contributing columnist Michael Brodkorb, uncovered shocking and very serious allegations against state Senator Julianne Ortman and her campaign manager that, if true, comprise a serious breach of legal and ethical

boundaries.

The first allegation concerns Ortman's campaign manager, Andy Parrish. Two GOP candidates who were competing against Ortman for the GOP endorsement for U.S. Senate say that Parrish approached them at the state convention, offering to retire campaign debt in exchange for an endorsement of Ortman's candidacy.

In fact, one candidate, Monti Moreno, alleges that Parrish indeed wrote him a check in a partial (parsimonious?) pay off of that quid pro quo.

Expect multiple investigations to resolve this issue to determine exactly what happened and what Sen. Ortman knew and when she knew it.

This is just the latest in a string of legal and other controversies that seem to follow Mr. Parrish like stink on manure. Like this issue and this issue. And this issue.

Moreover, what does that say about Ortman's judgment that she would hire a guy with obvious judgment and self-control issues.

The second issue reported by Brodkorb is the serious problem the Ortman campaign is experiencing in properly filing campaign finance reports.

As reported, the Ortman campaign has had long-running problems in filing both timely and accurate reports.

In fact, a recent submission to the federal elections authorities contained amendments to every previously filed campaign report.

Even more troubling, the latest amendments all correct previous understatements of campaign spending that understated spending by tens of thousands of dollars in some cases.

The effect of the underreporting was to show a healthier state of finances than was the actual case.

This situation begs a very important and fundamental question: Was Ortman's campaign that incompetent or did the candidate intentionally overstate the financial health of her campaign in order to mislead delegates and the public into believing it was stronger than it really was?

After all, financial strength is an important indicator of candidate viability, especially in an endorsement contest, where other indicators like polling are often lacking.

Only the candidate herself knows the answer.

The state GOP better get after this issue and demand a firm resolution. There has been way too much controversy and drama in the family of late.

Whether it's an endorsed candidate's legal antics over a DUI or a party leader calling for an entire class of people to be "fragged," we've had enough of this garbage distracting from a party that is doing good work to rebuild the brand and dig out of a serious financial hole.

The last thing our new House majority needs is a legislator sitting under a legal and ethical cloud that distracts from the upcoming mission of governing the Minnesota House against the DFL Senate and a DFL governor.

MEANWHILE IN THE SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Unless you were living under a rock this week, you saw Saint Paul School Superintendent Valeria Silva issue an ignorant and thoughtless Tweet regarding the Ferguson situation:

"No indictment for officer Wilson! Very sad day in America. How do I explain this to my black students?"

The ignorance and foolishness of the Tweet stands on its own and is unworthy of comment.

In the meantime, here's what happening in the Saint Paul government-run schools regarding the achievement of black students:

In reading, 25% are proficient;

In math, 26% are proficient;

In science, 13% are proficient.

Perhaps Ms. Silva should spend more time on academic achievement and less time pontificating on issues in faraway Missouri. After all, which is more important to the black students she references in her ill-conceived Tweet?

LOWER TAXES, YEAH RIGHT

Had enough of the DFL parade of untruthfulness? Don't worry, there's always more.

In this case, we're talking about the whopper that the DFL "cut" and/or "held down" property taxes.

The meme throughout this election cycle was that the DFL "held down property taxes for the middle class."

After jacking up taxes by over \$2 billion, Governor Dayton and his DFL co-conspirators shared the loot with local units of

government, thereby "buying down" property taxes this year.

Of course, nothing was reduced or brought down by this pay off.

It was merely a sleight of hand that pushed the payment for all the local government spending on to a different ledger, all paid for by the taxpayer.

This is similar to another DFL stunt, "freezing" college tuition at state institutions by jacking up state aid, which again does nothing to reduce spending and only provides illusory relief so long as the increased state monies flow and/or until colleges and universities once again jack up spending to ever higher levels.

For local units of government, including cities and counties, they have already eaten through the state booty and are now back to jacking up property taxes to cover the long-running trend of spending more and more and more to cover unsustainable programs, including gold-plated retirement benefits and health care benefits that ironically will soon be killed by ObamaCare.

Right now, local units of government are setting "preliminary" property tax levies, which will be formally and finally adopted in December for taxes payable in 2015.

In the aggregate, property taxes are set to rise 4%, double last year.

Here they go again.

This is what happens when liberal government engages in not one but two scams against the taxpayer.

The first is when taxing accountability is decoupled from spending authority.

When the state collects tax revenue and then turns around and hands it out to another level of government to spend, the already low level of accountability and restraint is lost. There is no incentive to actually reduce spending or be a good steward of taxpayer funds.

Second, these "buy downs" are illusory and only temporarily mask government spending.

To the low-information citizen, it looks like a "freeze" or "reduction," but it isn't.

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ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG *continued from page 3*

Clearly, the only way to truly freeze or reduce government expenditures is to do just that — freeze or reduce them in real terms.

BEWARE THE TRAIN

This week provided yet another embarrassing news story regarding Northstar rail and its abject failure to deliver upon the promise of high ridership, traffic congestion relief, and economic development.

This isn't because gas is cheap. Or because oil trains are eating track capacity. Or because the weather is bad. Or because the train doesn't run to Saint Cloud (which, by the way was a decision of the federal government, not Tim Pawlenty).

It's because Northstar commuter rail was sold on a foundation of misrepresentations, half-truths, and bogus promises.

The epic fail that is Northstar is a cautionary tale for both the new House GOP majority in Saint Paul as well as communities that would "benefit" from light or commuter rail (we're looking at you, Eden Prairie).

Recall the history here in Anoka County.

When all the promises were made, right thinking taxpayers asked why a commuter train was deemed a better option than an expansion of Highway 10.

The response was a wave of the hand and a paternalistic and dismissive retort that "all the studies show it."

When these advocates were pressed to provide those studies, they prevaricated and dissembled and delayed.

With a Cheshire smile, concerned citizens were told that "of course we'll provide the studies."

They were never provided.

Worse, once they were pressed time and again to produce data, the advocates got personal.

Confronted with the reality that they would lose on the facts if they were objectively presented, the advocates began a whisper campaign against the people asking the hard questions, with ad hominem attacks offered in response to legitimate questions regarding the viability of the project.

As is human nature, many were cowed and intimidated into supporting the project or supported it because they wanted to be on the side that was popular at the time.

The result was disaster.

The project is a failure and always will be.

Now, those left to defend the project (Met Council bureaucrats) do what they do best - deflect real accountability.

Taxpayers are told that the true value of Northstar is off in the future and the benefits are unquantifiable until that unspecified future time.

Funny, no one was talking that way when the project was being pushed through in a manner that would have made a Soviet information officer blush.

Four legs good, two legs better.

In fact, it's impossible to find the elected officials and opinion leaders who

supported the project to own up to their support today.

No wonder this train is a spectacular fail.

House Republicans must demand that any transportation funding bill contain no funding for trains.

The reason? We can give you 317 million of them.

INTELLECTUALLY BANKRUPT

The Democrats are seriously out of ideas and out of things to say - at least as far as the newly minted minority in the Minnesota House is concerned.

After losing big in rural Minnesota, the DFL responded to the GOP's commitment to rural Minnesota by calling it a "divide and conquer" strategy.

Really. Is that the best they can do?

The GOP delivered on its promise to properly represent rural Minnesota and truly represent their values.

When put in charge, the GOP delivered by creating committees focused on rural issues, made the agriculture committee once again a stand-alone committee, and appointed a large number of committee chairmen from rural districts.

Imagine that.

Of course, if the GOP had failed to do this, the DFL would have jumped them for broken promises.

Get used to it, Democrats. You've elevated the concerns of your urban limousine liberals over those of rural voters.

Opposition to mining cost you.

Support for gay marriage cost you.

Radical gun control cost you.

Obamacare cost you, with a lack of plan choice in rural Minnesota as well as a huge tax on union health care plans.

And so did a leadership team, including the governor, who all hail from the urban core.

Liberal elites, led by Barack Obama, are supremely arrogant and consider the masses to be stupid, especially in rural America.

They aren't. And that thinking is catching up with Democrats, who continue to lose support in rural areas faster than politicians deny knowing Jonathan Gruber.

Enjoy the Obama-Dayton millstone around your necks for the next two years, Democrats.

You deserve it.

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 updates at www.AnokaCountyWatchdog.com or contact me personally at harold@anokacountywatchdog.com.

Sincerely,

Harold E. Hamilton, owner.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

CL *continued from page 2*

else's time but his own. He lacked complete sense as to what it means to conduct a respectful business transaction. Generally the Craigslist Losers I have encountered all have these traits in common.

Another Craigslist Loser from the St. Cloud area set up a meeting at Arbor Lakes in Maple Grove. I never actually got their name because we simply had a cell phone text conversation that went quite well. All I have to identify them was their cell number of (320) 979-9708. Yes, they were a no show. I texted and called, leaving a voicemail message stating that it was no problem if there was an emergency or they were simply late. I had three hours' worth of shopping to do in the area. After I finished my shopping, I called back and it was evident that they now had turned their phone off. I never heard from them again.

Over the summer, I met another Craigslist Loser from Coon Rapids. She believed that I was not only buying LEGOs, but also the crappy beat up bins that they were stored in. I respectfully informed her that I can't justify paying \$3 a pound for bins, or roughly \$10 each, which is why I bring my own bins. When you buy bulk items at the grocery store, you only pay for the fruit or vegetable. The weight of the bag, which is generally negligible, is always deducted.

After informing her of this, she then tells me that other people are interested in buying them. I asked her if they knew they would be forced to buy the bins also. She had no answer. I made her an offer minus the price of the bins. She turned me down. As I started walking out, she then accepted.

The most recent situation involved a seller in Washington state. We struck a deal for LEGO railroad tracks and other railroad items that the kids wanted for Christmas. The price we agreed to was very reasonable. When the package arrived, it concerned me that the items were not in a cardboard box with packaging material. Instead, they were jammed into a hard plastic box and wrapped with craft paper. Not surprisingly, an important tab had broken off one of the items. Upon further inspection, it became evident that it did not break off during shipping. If it had, the broken tab would have been in the box. Plus further examination showed stress marks where two pieces were disassembled prior to shipping.

I contacted the seller to let him know the package arrived, but that the switch track was broke. I wasn't sure what reply I would get in light of the situation. He replied that he has received broken items in the mail before and that is just the way it goes, and that the item sort of works even if it is broken. Because of situations like this, I generally do not deal with out of state sellers unless the price is very reasonable. So this essentially downgraded a great deal to just a good deal.

As you can imagine, these are just a few of the stories that come to mind when people ask me about my experience with Craigslist. So taking all of this into consideration, is Craigslist a good option for holiday buying or selling? In my opinion I would say no. I believe most people want holiday buying and selling to be as low stress as possible because the holiday season is generally stressful enough already.

If you do decide to use Craigslist this holiday season, I offer the following advice. First, be prepared to have very low expectations of the people you will meet, and anticipate that approximately one out of six people will be Craigslist Losers. When buying, have two or three options available and when you encounter a Craigslist Loser, immediately go to the next option. When selling, do not rearrange your schedule no matter how tempting it might be to make a sale. Don't put yourself in a position where you are waiting for a buyer who will never show up.

Finally, one way to weed out many Craigslist Losers is to insist upon getting a phone number and actually making voice contact with the buyer or seller. Don't be surprised that when you ask for a telephone number and insist on a phone conversation, some will simply stop communicating with you. Also only use Craigslist when you have plenty of time to burn. What could take a few clicks on a department store website could take up to a week on Craigslist.

If you have LEGOs to sell at \$3 a pound, my kids would be more than happy to have more building materials. Feel free to contact me at: editor@anokacountyrecord.com.

Happy Holidays from Anoka County Record!

ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF CRIME REPORT

ANDOVER

Burglaries

Nov. 8 — 1xx Andover Blvd NW – forced entry through side door; tools

Nov. 17 — 164xx Crosstown Blvd NW; unlocked pole barn and garage; rifles

Thefts & Damage to Property

Nov. 3 — 16x 170 Ave NW; license plates stolen from a vehicle

Nov. 7 — 28xx 135 Ln NW; unsecure vehicles; change, phone chargers

Nov. 8 — 4xx 139 Ln NW; damage to mailbox

Nov. 8 — 155xx Linnett St NW; bike rack stolen off a vehicle

Nov. 14 — 8xx 141 Ave NW; victim reports someone screwed his mailbox closed

Nov. 14 — 18xx Crosstown Blvd NW; scrap metal was stolen from the recycling center; three persons arrested

Nov. 14 — 29xx S Coon Creek Dr NW – damage to mailbox

Nov. 16 — 158xx Martine St NW; money stolen by "friends" out of a purse during a party

Nov. 16 — 12xx 155 Lane NW; vandalism to a Direct TV dish in the yard

Nov. 17 — 18xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW – theft

Nov. 18 — 2115 Andover Blvd NW – a cell phone was stolen out of an unlocked locker at the high school

Nov. 18 — 15400 Hanson Blvd NW; cell phone stolen at the middle school

Nov. 18 — 18xx Crosstown Blvd NW; items being stolen from the recycling center

Nov. 19 — 137xx Quay St NW – vehicle window broken overnight; purse stolen

Nov. 21 — 10xx 152 Ln NW – Christmas decorations stolen from the front yard

Nov. 24 — 33xx 159 Ave NW – basement window broken; no entry suspected

Arrests

Oct. 31 — 1851 Bunker Lake Blvd NW – Theft, Warrant Arrest, False Info, CAN-IPS; deputies responded to a shoplifting at Walmart. The deputies were able to stop the vehicle and arrested three suspects.

Oct. 31 — 17500 Block Hanson Blvd NW – DAC-IPS; a deputy stopped a driver for not having a license plate light. The driver did not have a valid driver's license. The male was arrested.

Nov. 1 — 143xx Vintage St NW; Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a girlfriend/boyfriend domestic at the location. The male was arrested.

Nov. 1 — Nightingale St NW/221 Ave NW – 3rd Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for speeding. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.184)

Nov. 1 — 500 Block 157 Ave NW; 3rd Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.228)

Nov. 2 — 3400 Block of S. Coon Creek Dr NW; 4th Degree DWI; deputies responded to a male

slumped over behind the wheel of a running car. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested.

Nov. 4 — 33xx 159 Ave NW – Attempted 1st Degree Burglary; deputies responded to a report of a male attempting to break into a home. The suspect and his girlfriend were located in the woods. They were both arrested.

Nov. 6 — 147xx Sycamore St NW – 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, Warrant Arrest; deputies went to the location to perform a search warrant for Wright County Sheriff's Office. The narcotics were located during the search along with stolen property. The male was arrested.

Nov. 6 — 135 Ave NW/ Crosstown Blvd NW; 4th Degree DWI; deputies responded to a property damage crash. One of the drivers appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.156)

Nov. 8 — 154 Ave NW/Wren St NW; 3rd Degree DWI, Driving After Revocation; a deputy stopped a driver for driving without a valid driver's license. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The female was arrested. (.151)

Nov. 8 — 34xx 135 Ln NW – 2nd Degree Assault; deputies responded to an assault between ex-room mates. Due to the nature of the assault ACSO detectives were called to the scene to continue the investigation.

Nov. 9 — 134xx Ibis St NW – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a mother/son domestic. The son was arrested.

Nov. 9 — 1800 blk Station Pkwy NW; Driving After CANCELS-IPS; a deputy stopped a vehicle for failure to signal. The driver did not have a valid driver's license. The male was arrested.

Nov. 10 — 23xx 141 Ln NW – Domestic Assault, Damage to Property; deputies responded to an assault between two males. One of the males was arrested.

Nov. 14 — 7x 157 Ave NW; Domestic Assault; deputies responded to an assault between brothers. One was arrested.

Nov. 15 — 23xx 141 Ln NW – 3rd Degree DWI; deputies responded to an unwanted male at the location. It was determined that the male had driven to the location and was intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.27)

Nov. 22 — 25xx 134 Ave NW; Domestic Abuse No Contact Order Violation; deputies responded to a report of a DANCO violation. It was determined that the order was violated. The male had left before deputies arrived. A pick up and hold was put out for the male.

Nov. 24 — 156xx Larch St NW; 5th Degree Domestic Assault; a deputy responded to a delayed ex-girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. The male was arrested.

Nov. 27 — 18xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW; Theft; deputies responded to a theft where three individuals were fleeing.

The suspects were located and arrested.

COLUMBUS

Thefts & Damage to Property

Nov. 12 — Carlos Avery; deer stand stolen

Burglaries

Nov. 10 — 143xx Lake Dr NE; attempted break in; pry marks on service door

Nov. 14 — 152xx Zurich St NE; catalytic converter cut off vehicle in the park and ride lot

Nov. 16 — 71xx Broadway Ave NE; forced entry to an unattached garage; compressor, generator, tools

Arrests

Nov. 8 — 152xx Zurich St NE; 5th Degree Assault, Disorderly Conduct; deputies responded to an assault between two males. One of the males was arrested.

Nov. 16 — 7000 block Broadway Ave NE; 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance; a deputy stopped a driver for having a head light out. The driver admitted to having drugs in the vehicle. During the search of the vehicle narcotics were located. The female was arrested.

EAST BETHEL

Thefts & Damage to Property

Nov. 5 — 26xx Westlund Dr NE; aluminum irrigation pipes stolen from the property

Nov. 15 — 184xx Hwy 65 NE; phone, debit card and coat stolen while unattended at a bar

Nov. 24 — 225xx Sandy Dr NE; unlocked vehicle; phone charger, cigarettes

Nov. 24 — 2x Sims Rd NE; theft of trailer, boat, and motor parked on property unsecured

Arrests

Nov. 2 — 48xx Viking Blvd NE; Order for Protection Violation; deputies responded to a report of an order for protection violation. It was determined that the male had violated the order. The male had left prior to the deputy's arrival.

Nov. 15 — 243xx Hwy 65 NE; 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. The male was arrested.

Nov. 20 — 47xx Fawn Lake Dr NE; house fire; East Bethel Fire, Linwood Fire, and Isanti Fire Departments distinguished the fire. The house was a total loss. No one was injured.

HAM LAKE

Thefts & Damage to Property

Nov. 3 — 15xx Constance Blvd NE; vandalism to a vehicle; super glued

11.07 164xx Taconite St NE – gas siphoned from a vehicle

11.09 167xx Mankato St NE – drive shaft stolen off a pick-up truck

11.10 30xx 164 Ave NE; snow blower stolen out of an open garage

Nov. 14 — 14xx 147 Ave NE; a catalytic converter was cut off a vehicle in the parking lot

Nov. 22 — 40xx Quemoy St NE; trailer, ATV and hunting equipment stolen; unsecured in the driveway

Arrests/Incidents

Oct. 30 — Hwy 65 NE/153 Ave NE; 4th Degree DWI, DAR; a deputy stopped a driver for not having a valid driver's license.

The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.08)

Nov. 5 — 60xx Edgewood Dr NE; 5th Degree Domestic Assault-Fear; deputies responded to a girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. The male had fled prior to the deputy's arrival. An attempt to locate was put out.

Nov. 6 — 3 St NE/170 Ln NE; 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, DAS; a deputy stopped a driver for not having working headlights. Driver did not have a valid driver's license or insurance on the vehicle. During the search of the vehicle narcotics were located. The male was arrested.

Nov. 15 — Xylite St NE/Constance Blvd NE; 2nd Degree DWI Test Refusal; deputies responded to a report of car in the ditch at the location. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.288)

Nov. 16 — 14xx Constance Blvd NE; Armed Robbery; deputies responded to a report of a male and female that had just robbed a gas station. The suspects fled. The ACSO Criminal Investigation Division and Crime Scene Unit were called out to the location. The incident is still under investigation.

11.25 Crosstown Blvd NE/Bataan St 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.

11.26 172xx Kenyon St NE – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. The female was arrested.

Burglaries

Nov. 10 — 135xx Hwy 65 NE – forced entry through an air vent; tools

11.23 166xx Mankato St NE; vacant home; service door kicked in

LINWOOD TOWNSHIP

Arrests

Nov. 8 — 219xx Martin Lake Rd NE; 4th Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for being in a park after park hours. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.111)

Nov. 8 — 84xx 238 Ave NE; Juvenile Party, Underage Consumption of Alcohol; deputies responded to a report of a juvenile drinking party. The individuals at the party that passed the PBT and were over 18 were sent home. The individuals that failed the PBT were cited for Underage Consumption and parents were contacted.

11.23 8600 Block Viking Blvd NE – 3rd Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.28)

Message from the sheriff's office: We want to remind residents that they cannot plow or push snow across the roadway into a neighbor's yard without the consent of the neighbor – and you cannot leave snow in the roadway. Deputies have been dealing with complaints – one is a safety issue and the other

can causes long-term problems between neighbors. Stop it.

Thefts & Damage to Property

Nov. 7 — 218xx Viking Blvd NE; wolf carving stolen from the property

Nov. 9 — 235xx Mackenzie St NE; vandalism to a pole barn; window broken

NOWTHEN

Arrests/Incidents

Nov. 10 — 224xx St Francis Blvd NW – 4th Degree Assault; deputies responded to an assault between a staff member and a client. The male client was arrested.

Thefts & Damage to Property

Oct. 7 — 48xx 200 Ave NW – identity theft; victim's identity was used to open a PayPal account

Burglaries

Oct. 27 — 215 Waco & 50xx 215 Ave NW; bikes stolen from unsecured garages

OAK GROVE

Thefts & Damage to Property

Nov. 3 — 191xx Blackfoot St NW; attempted break in; damage to screen door, alarm system and locks

Nov. 4 — 15xx 229 Ave NW; scrap car batteries stolen from the property

Nov. 13 — 15xx 229 Ave NW; 13 electric motors stolen from the property

Arrests

Nov. 23 — 21xx 198 Ave NW – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a father/son domestic. The son was arrested.

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 2014

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

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

TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to the requirements of Minnesota Law, a public hearing shall be held before the Ham Lake Planning Commission on Monday, December 22, 2014 at 6:01 p.m. at the City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE for the purpose of considering the following amendments and additions to Article 9 of the Ham Lake City Code:

An Ordinance relating to Self-Storage Facilities; clarifying legislative intent in current language pertaining to "grandfathered" uses.

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

DATED: December 4, 2014

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

(Published Dec. 4, 2014 Anoka County Record)

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

TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to the requirements of Minnesota Law, a Public Hearing shall be held before the Ham Lake Planning Commission on Monday, December 22, 2014 at 6:01 p.m. at the City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE for the purpose of considering the application of Ian "Fargo" Mortenson requesting a Conditional Use Permit to operate Flat Rate Repair (repair of ATV's and Snowmobiles) at 17159 Highway 65 NE, a parcel of land situated in the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota and which is described as follows to wit:

PIN #08-32-23-13-0005

UNPLATTED HAM LAKE TWP TH PT OF THE SW1/4 OF THE NE1/4 SEC 8-32-23 ANOKA CNTY, MN THAT IS DESC AS FOL-COM AT A PT ON THE FOL DESC LINE WHICH IS 1168 FT NLY OF THE S LINE OF SD SW1/4 OF NE1/4 AS MEASALONG SD LINE BEG AT A PT ON THE S LINE OF SD SEC 8 DIST 225.2 FT E OF THE S 1/4 COR THEREOF-TH RUN NLY AT AN ANGLE OF 92 DEG 9 MIN WITH SD S SEC LINE(MEAS FROM W TO N) FOR 4100 FT AND THERE TERMINATING PROCEEDING -TH E AND PRLL WITH THE S LINE OF SD SEC 8 FOR A DISTOF 275 FT PROCEEDING-TH N AND PRLL WITH THE E LINE OF SD SW1/4 OF NE1/4 TO THE N LINE OF SD SW1/4 OF NE1/4 PROCEEDING-TH W ALONG SD N LINE OF SD SW1/4 OF NE1/4 AND TO THE LINE FIRST DESC HEREIN AS SAME IS EXTENDED N TO INTERSECT THE SD N LINE OF SAID SW1/4 OF THE NE1/4 PROCEEDING-TH S ALONG SD LINE FIRST DESC HEREIN AND THE EXTENSION THEREOF N TO THE SD N LINE OF SD SW1/4 OF NE1/4 TO THE PT OF COM (SUBJ TO AND RESERVING AN EASE FOR RDWAY PURPOSES OVER THE N 3 3 FT THEREOF)(SUBJ TO ANY EXISTING EASERESTRICTIONS OR RESERVATIONS)

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

DATED: December 4, 2014

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

(Published Dec. 4, 2014 Anoka County Record)

Greater Minnesota legislative wish-list includes broadband and job training

The new Republican majority in the Minnesota House of Representatives is interested in greater Minnesota issues, so many hope to see more emphasis at the state Capitol on such things as broadband and job creation.

Republicans gained 11 seats in the House to take control; 10 of those were from outside the metro area.

The question is: will that translate into more state funding for high-speed broadband, job training programs, workforce housing and transportation upgrades?

Gary Evans, president of the Greater Minnesota Partnership, told the *Rochester Post Bulletin*: "Greater Minnesota is where the [political] shift occurred, and I also think that that shift is somewhat directly proportional to a dissatisfaction in Greater Minnesota relative to the amount of money spent outside the metro area as opposed to inside it."

Evans' group, made up of state-wide businesses, chambers of commerce, cities and nonprofits wants the Legislature to expand high-speed broadband access, to the tune of \$200 million.

Employer-driven job training is also on the list, as is workforce housing and more money for roads and bridges around the state.

Among the transportation pushes will be more funding for upgrades to Hwy. 14 in southern Minnesota, Amanda Duerr, spokeswoman for the U.S. 14 Highway Partnership, told the paper. Voters expect such improvements from legislators, she said.

"I think there is going to be a lot of pressure and expectance from their constituents that they are going to deliver and that there is going to be an investment in transportation," she said. — *Joe Kimball, MinnPost*

MinnPost.com is a nonprofit, member-supported news site that provides high-quality journalism for people who care about Minnesota.

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS CALENDAR

HAM LAKE

Ham Lake City Hall
15544 Central Ave NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304
Ph: 763-434-9555
www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Hours: M-Th
7 AM - 4:30 PM

Fri: 7 AM-12 NOON

Mon. Dec. 8
Planning Comm, 6 pm

Mon. Dec. 15
City Council, 6 pm

Wed. Dec. 17
Park & Tree Comm., 6 pm

Mon. Dec. 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

Mon. Dec. 8
City Council, 7 pm

Wed. Dec. 17
Park Comm., 6:30 pm

Thur. Dec 18
Planning Comm., 7 pm

Mon. Dec. 29
(tentative)

City Council, 7 pm

ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Mon. Dec. 15

Mon. Jan. 20

Bd 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. Dec. 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. Dec. 18
Cable Comm., 11 am,

Anoka City Hall

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:

BHHS Sundial Realty
2. Principal Place of Business:

961 Hillwind Road, Fridley, MN 55432

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:

Sundial Realty, 961 Hillwind Road, Fridley, MN 55432

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 29, 2014, # 79070830002 /s/ Thomas Blomberg, Owner/President (Published Nov. 20 & Dec. 4, 2014 Anoka County Record)

CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS RECREATION CLERK

(Part-time 16-18 hours/week)

POSITION SUMMARY: Performs a variety of clerical, receptionist, and data entry duties for the Recreation Department. Receives and processes registrations for programs and services offered through the department. Performs purchasing duties for the department. Performs related duties as assigned.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: High school graduate or equivalent. One year experience performing responsible clerical duties involving extensive public contact. One year training and/or experience in the operation of a computer using Microsoft Office Suite software. Ability to type a minimum of forty words per minute.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Two or more years experience performing responsible clerical duties involving extensive public contact. One year related work experience in a Recreation Department.

WAGE RANGE: \$15.93 - \$19.91 per hour

HOURS: Monday-Friday; 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: City applications are available from the City Hall Information Window. City applications can also be downloaded from our web site @ www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us. City applications MUST be completely filled out and returned to the Human Resources Director/Assistant to the City Manager, City of Columbia Heights, 590 40th Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421, no later than 4:45 PM, Monday, December 15, 2014. (763) 706-3616; TDD (763) 706-3692. In addition, applicants may submit any other data they feel is pertinent to their consideration. Resumes may be submitted in addition to, but not in lieu of, the City application.

SELECTION PROCEDURE: Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Experience and Training 50%
 - Oral Interview 50%
 - Clerical Test Pass/Fail
- CLOSING:** Applications accepted until 4:45 PM, Monday, December 15, 2014.

Vacancies on Blaine city commissions — applications being taken

Applications are being taken through Dec. 21 for three Blaine city commissions. Three appointments will be made in February for each of the following commissions: Planning Commission (meetings are monthly on 2nd Tuesdays); Park Advisory Board (4th Tuesdays) and Natural Resources Conservation Board (3rd Tuesdays). Terms have a length of two years.

Application forms can be found on the city's web site (<http://www.ci.blaine.mn.us/index.cfm?id=900621>) or contact the city clerk, Cathy Sorensen by telephone (763-785-6124) or e-mail: (csorensen@ci.blaine.mn.us). Applications can be mailed to Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk, City of Blaine, 10801 Town Square Dr., Blaine MN 55449, or be sent by e-mail.

Publish your assumed name legal ad here \$40 flat fee (lowest price in Anoka County) editor@anokacountyrecord.com

NEXT EDITION: Thursday DEC. 18



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Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



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PROFITABLE MINNESOTA BUSINESSES for sale by owners. Many types, sizes, locations, terms. \$25K to \$15M. Other states available. www.BizSale.com Call 800/617-4204

HELP WANTED - DRIVERS

START THE NEW YEAR with a new job...as a truck driver...earn \$43k first Year & up to 65k third year! Company sponsored CDL training. Call 888/559-8707

LINSMEIER TRUCKING

A MN based company is now hiring Company Drivers & Owner/Operators to pull hopper bottom in the upper Midwest. Home weekends. Call 320/382-6644

SERVICES

FRESH LEFSE
Fresh Lefse and unique Scandinavian foods and gifts. UFF DA what great gift ideas. Free catalog, call Norsland Lefse 800-584-6777 www.norslandlefse.com

VACATION RENTALS

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
Texas, 2 bath, 2 bedroom condo, furnished, pool, 150 yards to beach. \$1,500.00 per month. Call 956/357-1564 www.spcondo.com

MISCELLANEOUS

ARE YOU IN
big trouble with the IRS? Stop wage & bank levies, liens & audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, & resolve tax debt fast. Seen on CNN. A BBB. Call 800/402-0732

MISCELLANEOUS

DONATE YOUR CAR
truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3 day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 800/439-1735

CANADA DRUG CENTER

is your choice for safe and affordable medications. Our licensed Canadian mail order pharmacy will provide you with savings of up to 75% on all your medication needs. Call today 800/259-1096 for \$10.00 off your first prescription and free shipping.

REDUCE YOUR CABLE BILL!

Get a whole-home Satellite system installed at no cost and programming starting at \$19.99/mo. Free HD/DVR Upgrades, so call now 877/342-0356

ADVERTISE HERE STATEWIDE IN 260+ NEWSPAPERS FOR ONLY \$279 PER WEEK! CALL 800-279-2979

Are You Still Paying Too Much For Your Medications?

You can save up to 93% when you fill your prescriptions at our Canadian and International prescription service.



Get An Extra \$10 Off & Free Shipping On Your 1st Order!

Call the number below and save an additional \$10 plus get free shipping on your first prescription order with Canada Drug Center. Expires December 31, 2014. Offer is valid for prescription orders only and can not be used in conjunction with any other offers. Valid for new customers only. One time use per household.

Order Now! Call Toll-Free: 1-800-259-1096
Use code 10FREE to receive this special offer.

Please note that we do not carry controlled substances and a valid prescription is required for all prescription medication orders. Prescription price comparison above is valid as of May 1, 2014. All trade-mark (TM) rights associated with the brand name products in this ad belong to their respective owners.

Call Toll-free: 1-800-259-1096