

FRIDLEY CITY COUNCIL 3-2 VOTE TAKES GOV'T BOOT OFF GARBAGE HAULERS' BACKS

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

The Fridley City Council at its Dec. 22 meeting decided the new changes to the garbage hauling contract that had been presented at the previous Dec. 8 council meeting were not enough to merit going ahead with a plan to put the five residential garbage haulers in Fridley under a government contract.

The previous edition of the *Anoka County Record* (Dec. 18, 2014) reported on that meeting.

After a two-and-a-half hour discussion Dec. 22, and after each of the council members had their five or ten minutes to give a speech summarizing their opinion on the garbage issue, councilor Ann Bolkom called for a vote. She, along with Mayor Scott Lund voted for the garbage contract, and both vigorously defended their positions before and after the vote was taken.

Councilors Bob Barnette, Dolores Varichak and Jim Saefke voted against approving the contract.

The only change to the contract as presented Dec. 8 was a reduction of the length of the contract from seven to five years.

The contract terms were reached after nearly a year's worth of negotiations between city staff and the five haulers that pick up the residential trash of the city. The contract would have limited the travel of the garbage trucks, restricted each of the five to its own zone of the city, and established an across-the-board uniform set of rates and services for residential customers. City Hall staff made claims that the condition of Fridley's streets would be greatly improved and residents would enjoy more money in their pockets with the savings on their bills.

Some residents had been to meetings to show their garbage bills — the rates they were paying were far less than those being proposed by the city staff on a contract basis. They complained that the government contract with the haulers would not be advantageous to them.

Ken and Carol Hughes of Fridley asked to have their written letter read at the Dec. 22 meeting. Mayor Lund got that assignment. He read, "we'd like to go on record opposing the garbage plan the city is proposing. At (an earlier) meeting that (the city) had, we spoke to four different people and got four different answers to our questions, which tells us you are not all 'on the same page' which makes us think nobody knows what's going on, or you're trying to put something over on us." At this point, Lund chuckled and said, "well, we all have differences of opinion..."

The letter from the Hugheses, 50-year residents of the city, continued: "Your main reason to do this was to save on replacing roads due to damage to them from the garbage trucks. The city replaced our street in 2008, part of it at our expense. Not because it was in poor condition, but because they (staff) wanted the same concrete curbing uniformly throughout the city."

Advocates of organized garbage collection claim that reducing garbage truck trips would be beneficial to walkers and kids going to school. To this, the Hugheses letter responded, "I've never heard of anyone being run over or hit by a garbage truck. Ever. (This proposal will) raise our garbage bill by 85% and takes away our right to choose and negotiate

Rochester-area legislators would like to find a way to change the way MNsure divides the state for the health insurance exchange.

By Joe Kimball, MinnPost

MNsure's exchange offers different plans and pricing in nine regions; Region 1, which includes the Rochester area and the Mayo Clinic, has the highest prices. For 2015, the second year of the exchange, there are some lower cost plans offered in that region, but it remains high, due to the premium care at Mayo, officials said.

Legislators from that area, from both political parties, would like to reduce the number of regions, or create one pool for the entire state, in order to reduce prices for their constituents, says the Rochester Post Bulletin.

Sen. Carla Nelson, a Republican from Rochester, said increasing the risk pool was one of the promises of the Affordable Care Act.

"We definitely need to look at how we adjust those risk pool lines because they are certainly to our disadvantage and not even true to what MNsure was based upon," Nelson said.

Rochester DFL Rep. Tina Liebling, tried unsuccessfully to pass a bill last session to bring down the area's high rates. She told a legislative preview in Rochester that she'd ideally like to see single-payer health care insurance, but that's not going to happen any time soon.

DFL Rep. Kim Norton, though, says the Legislature might not look kindly on changes that benefit only Rochester-area residents.

"Imagine what the folks in the rest of the state, how they will respond if we say, 'Gee, we're paying more in southern Minnesota and so we're going to ask everyone else in the state to raise their rates for us,'" Norton said.

Disorderly Conduct at City Halls

Q&A with Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart

Answers are paraphrased from an interview conducted with Sheriff Stuart on January 6, 2015.

Answers should not be cited as quotations.

Q. Have you been informed of some of the disorderly conduct issues that have recently arisen at Nowthen council meetings and previously at East Bethel council meetings?

A. Yes, I have been kept up to date about these issues including the recent meeting held in Nowthen on December 29th which one of our deputies attended.

Q. Does the Sheriff's office automatically send a deputy to these council meetings?

A. We do have deputies attend the beginning of some council meetings to provide local community updates in those cities we serve under contract. If the question is whether we automatically plan to attend an entire meeting, the answer is no.

Beyond the community update report, generally the Sheriff's office would not automatically send a deputy to attend an entire council meeting. We would send a deputy at the request of a city administrator or at the request of the council. If a council member contacted us, we would also contact the city administrator to discuss the issue and make a determination at that point whether to have a deputy attend a meeting.

Q. Is there a problem or downside with sending a deputy to a council meeting?

A. It is our job to enforce the law and be responsive to the community. This may include sending a deputy to a council meeting. But we also have to remember that resources are limited and when a deputy is needed in one area, they are not available in other areas of the city.

Q. Have there been any special discussions or training in response to incidents in these two cities?

A. No, nothing beyond the standard ongoing training that all deputies receive.

Q. Who decides if a citizen has become disorderly at a council meeting? What is the role of the city council in making this determination?

A. The city council only has a role in requesting that a deputy attend a meeting. That is the limit of their role. Once a deputy is at the meeting, the deputy, and only the deputy determines if the behavior of a citizen or elected official is disorderly. The deputy enforces the law without concern as to whether someone represents one viewpoint or another on a city issue.

Q. Will a deputy arrest someone who is disorderly?

A. We wish to be reasonable when enforcing disorderly conduct issues. If someone is disorderly, we would first ask them to leave. If they refused to leave, that would create a situation where an arrest may have to be made.

FRIDLEY NIXES GARBAGE PLAN *continued from page 1*

with our hauler.”

Impact on Streets

Public Works Director James Kosluchar was asked about other heavy vehicles and how much do they contribute to road wear compared to garbage trucks. Kosluchar said a study took a half-empty garbage truck and compared it to school buses. The buses' weight and impact is 60% of a garbage truck, he said. Delivery trucks such as Fed Ex represent only about 1% of the impact of a garbage truck and a Schwan's food delivery truck rates at 25%. He also said that the largest snow plow trucks do compare 1 to 1 with garbage trucks.

Councilor Bob Barnette asked Kosluchar if the freeze/thaw process of Mother Nature is the largest contributing factor to road wear. Kosluchar said “that is a consideration,” but went on to say that Fridley has better soils with the exception of the southeast portion of the city.

The majority of residents who spoke at the meeting were against the contract.

Pam Reynolds asked Mayor Scott Lund, who is a landlord, whether he would like being restricted as to how much he can charge for his rents.

A resident of Ely Street said she has so much other traffic around her house that the garbage trucks do not cause any additional hardship. Compared to the other traffic and activity in the area, the garbage trucks are barely noticeable.

A resident of Mississippi Street said the increase in violent crime in his area makes him appreciate extra commercial truck traffic as “an extra pair of eyes” in the neighborhood, many of which have radios in their trucks and could be helpful in an emergency.

Through the course of the two December meetings, city councilors Barnette and Varichak said they had more constituent feedback against than in favor. Bolkcom and Lund reported the opposite — they heard from more people who wanted Organized Garbage Collection. Not said is that most people only want to talk to city councilors they are familiar with, or know where they stand on issues. Some simply have no confidence in, nor want to talk to certain elected officials or city staff.

Barnette was leery of the city staff spending time on collections. The contract would guarantee payment to haulers if a residence does not pay. The city will make the hauler whole and put the bills that are in arrears on the property's taxes.

City attorney Darcy Erickson explained the three options before the council: 1) Approve the contract, 2) Reject the contract, 3) create an Organized Garbage Collection committee for further study of the issue.

The “reluctant” vote against

The speeches from the council began with Jim Saefke's comments that “the anti-government complaining I have heard did not influence me at all.”

“In the beginning, I was for this.” He said his ‘no’ vote was coming reluctantly, but he was mostly swayed by the financial arguments (the higher garbage rates against the cost of street repairs seemed to be a wash to him) and comparison of what most people seemed to be paying for hauling versus the higher price being proposed by city staff. He said he spoke to acquaintances who live in Blaine and Columbia Heights who enjoyed not having to choose a hauler. They didn't mind having that decision made for them. Saefke was not asked if the persons he talked to lived in those Organized Garbage cities at the time their plans were implemented decades ago.

Lund's speech was predictably in favor of the Organized Garbage proposal, which has been heavily promoted by the League of Minnesota Cities as an initiative of the lobbying organization.

Lund said he would like to allow only one hauler to operate in the city but that wasn't pursued because it was thought to be unpopular with residents. He believes the residents of the city would get a better deal with a single hauler in the city — “economies of scale,” as he put it. Oddly, he got agitated whenever residents used the word “monopoly” in their communications. He often stressed there would still be five haulers, but it wasn't pointed out that each hauler would be allowed to operate in only one zone of the city. If only one entity is allowed to do business in a specified area, isn't that a monopoly?

Lund predicted the garbage issue would be back on the table soon. He also proposed that maybe the city should raise the licensing fees dramatically for garbage haulers and use those extra funds on street repairs.

Lund griped, “I never hear anyone complain about recycling being done by one hauler.” For an elected official who often has said he listens to his constituents, he must have missed what longtime Fridley activist Pam Reynolds said earlier in the meeting: the people had no choice for a recycling hauler. State statutes only cover garbage hauling, not recycling pickup. Those statutes also contain provisions that are for the public

interest.

“It's not a political issue — it's garbage!” has been another often-used line of Lund's and he said it again at this meeting. “I don't see losing freedom of choice as a big deal when it comes to garbage.” He also scolded Fridley lawbreakers “who we know are out there — they don't have weekly garbage service.”

Lund and Bolkcom both sniffed at “those sweetheart deals” that some residents have been getting from haulers, low-impact invoices that effectively scotched their plans to overhaul Fridley's garbage pickup.

Bolkcom complained about the “noise pollution” and the “air pollution” that she was not aware of until “this fall I had the opportunity to be home more” and discovered how upsetting the sight of garbage trucks are to her. “All that stopping and starting . . . and there are 17 homes around me in my block and a half.” She said the trucks picking up was “very loud” and thought that residents were being short-sighted when they saw this issue as only a dollars-and-cents issue.

Lund reiterated the staff line, “our streets are valued at \$67 million and we need to protect that asset,” while Bolkcom added, “let's make sure our streets last as long as they can.”

Not taking “no” for an answer

At the next council meeting January 8, city councilor Jim Saefke threw a “reconsideration” of the garbage vote back on the agenda as a verbal addendum brought to the meeting. The council spent about a half hour getting nowhere trying to figure out how they could re-vote on the matter. Saefke, Bolkcom and Lund gave cryptic hints about having some new findings or wanted more discussion (“some things have come to light over the last few weeks” councilor Ann Bolkcom alluded).

Lund complained he was accused by a constituent of promoting a personal agenda while Bolkcom suggested she would make an effort to get people who are in favor of the Organized Garbage plan to future meetings.

The council found they had painted themselves into a corner when they switched from using Robert's Rules to Rosenberg's Rules last year. The parliamentary rules state that a 4/5ths vote is required to suspend the rules in order to bring a re-vote to the table.

There was some talk about whether a question about garbage could be put on the ballot for voters. None of the council or the city attorney seemed very clear on how that would be done so the discussion had no result.

Saefke said he felt bad for the staff because of the trouble he has caused. “Our staff did a stellar job in providing accurate information.”

The council did not have the fourth vote needed to put the garbage matter back on the table, as councilors Dolores Varichak and Bob Barnette voted against suspending Rosenberg's Rules.

Mayor Scott Lund said he was not interested in forming a committee to explore the issue further, saying at this time and at other times before, that that work has already been done by the city's Environmental Quality commission.

City attorney Darcy Erickson said for the garbage issue to be brought up again, the council and staff would have to be prepared to wipe the slate clean and start all over again from scratch, including having numerous meetings with haulers at the bargaining table.

Dayton gets feisty, calls Republican transportation plan ‘pure fantasy’

By Joe Kimball, MinnPost

Gov. Mark Dayton showed his testy side Friday when he criticized Republican lawmakers for their transportation proposal.

At a press conference, he said the GOP plan to fix roads and bridges by using \$200 million from the projected state surplus was “pure fantasy.”

The governor's own proposal to pay for road and bridge repair is to raise nearly \$6 billion over ten years by increasing the gas tax and license fees.

Dayton scolded the Republican leaders for their plan, saying: “That's not a solution. That's not a short-term solution, that's not a long-term solution, and it demonstrates that they don't understand the problem, and they certainly don't have any serious interest in finding a real solution.”

While he was at it, Dayton also attacked the Minneapolis Park Board, which has slowed the Southwest light rail transit project with a legal challenge.

He said their action may jeopardize federal funding for project. “If I'm in the position of a federal allocator and I've got a dozen other communities that are vying for this same money that are cohesive on their goals and are ready to go, it's pretty obvious to me that these shenanigans are going to place Minnesota's proposal back at the end,” he said.



ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG

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

LIFE IN RED STATES VS. BLUE STATES

The New York Times recently published an interesting opinion piece regarding economic life in “red” states versus “blue” states. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/04/opinion/sunday/is-life-better-in-americas-red-states.html>)

While it was in some respects oversimplified, it provided some excellent food for thought.

Essentially, the author describes a “red” economy as one based on energy extraction, agriculture, and suburban sprawl. Another feature is higher poverty rates and lower levels of education.

He cites Texas, Arizona, and Utah as examples.

A “blue” economy is one based on finance, trade and knowledge (this last factor betraying the author’s bias as he apparently believes “knowledge” is a feature of liberal states only).

California, Illinois, and Massachusetts are cited as examples (Never mind the fact that agriculture is a major feature of both the California and Illinois economies. We suppose the author thinks Chicago IS Illinois and San Francisco IS California. Again, you were warned that things were oversimplified, perhaps grossly.)

Two items from the essay struck the Watchdog staff as most interesting, one an opinion of the author, another a fact.

Regarding the opinion, the author claims that red state economies are ultimately “unsustainable.”

That’s an interesting observation.

Blue state economies feature oodles of burdensome regulations, huge governmental expenditures, high taxes, and unions that run amok, especially in the public sector.

So who has the unsustainable model?

Is Detroit a “red” or “blue” economic model?

How about Stockton, California?

Or New York City and their infamous bailouts of the 1970s?

How are those union contracts working out in Chicago, Detroit, and across California, where taxpayers see higher taxation and lower service levels as pension obligations eat ever larger portions of government budgets.

Did someone say “unsustainable?”

Poking fun of the public schools in Texas? Anyone checked out public schools in California lately?

The system is so broken that a judge declared that aspects of it unconstitutional.

Go Blue!

The interesting fact in the piece focused on the concept of inequality, using the Gini coefficient, a widely accepted measure of inequality.

The states featuring the highest levels of inequality in 1979 were compared to those at the top of the list in 2012, the most recent year statistics were available.

In 1979, three “blue” states were listed among the top 20. Those being New York (7th), New Mexico (10th) and California (13th).

In 2012, the number of “blue” states in the top 20

tripled to 9. New York (1st), Connecticut (2nd), California (6th), Massachusetts (7th), New Jersey (12th), Illinois (13th), New Mexico (14th), Rhode Island (19th), and Pennsylvania.

This is an astounding factoid that goes to the very heart of liberalism.

Recall that the core promise of liberalism and collectivism is equality. The promise is equality of outcome and not equality of opportunity.

The concept of equality has been the rallying cry of politicians from Lenin to Robespierre to Pelosi.

How very interesting that while the size and scope of government has grown, inequality has grown.

How very interesting that the states that most vigorously practice the politics and policies of “equality” are experiencing just the opposite.

Conversely, the coefficient also shows that nearly every state in the top 20 in 1979 has fallen down the scale.

While California, Connecticut and Massachusetts have skyrocketed UP the scale, states like Alabama, Kentucky, and Arkansas have tumbled Down the scale.

It doesn’t at all surprise this publication that the capitalism practiced in Arkansas has resulted in more equality (and an increased standard of living for the middle class) than the socialism practiced in New York.

Then again, let’s recall that “equality” isn’t truly a liberal goal. It’s merely propaganda to entice the unwashed masses to buy into the concept of governance by the elites.

We have wind towers in rural North Dakota but none on Martha’s Vineyard.

We have light rail in Frogtown but none in Kenwood.

Nearly every wealthy kid in Washington, DC attends private school, nearly every poor black kid attends public school.

ObamaCare is for the masses, but not the Harvard Faculty that wrote the legislation.

“Four legs good, two legs bad!” quickly becomes “Four legs good, two legs better!”

The simple answer to the question of prosperity, equality, and wealth is unfettered capitalism, not collectivism.

EMMER!!!

This headline is intentionally vague to capture the many feelings regarding Minnesota’s newest Congressman, who is apparently both revered and despised by various factions of the GOP family in the Sixth District.

Some say “Emmer!!!” in celebration of his convincing victory in November while others are exclaiming his name this week in the same way that Superintendent Chalmers called out Principal Skinner.

Our friends over at the Minnesota Tea Party Alliance are freaking out over Tom Emmer’s vote this week in favor of John Boehner as House Speaker.

Of course, that angst has manifested itself with the requisite lack of perspective, strategic thought, and class we’ve all come to expect from the leadership of this organization.

Their press release showed one of those grainy, black and white negative ad photos we’ve all seen a million times, with a red “BETRAYED” label

running across Emmer’s face.

The press release tells us that Emmer sinned by failing his first “test” as a member of Congress.

Moreover, Emmer committed a mortal sin by apparently not returning some phone calls quickly enough.

Hey, when the head honcho at the Tea Party Alliance calls, Congress better answer! Pronto!

Yawn...

Look, Emmer voting for Boehner isn’t a big deal. It doesn’t signal that he’s in the pocket of the Establishment or that Emmer is a failure. You may want to wait more than one day or for more than one vote before jumping to that conclusion.

The Watchdog will watch Emmer’s votes over the next two years to determine his fidelity to free markets and limited government.

Moreover, this Boehner vote is a throwaway.

It’s not as if there was a meaningful alternative.

You mean Emmer should have become the 13th vote for Rep. Daniel Webster for Speaker?

Emmer should have become the almighty 26th vote against Boehner?

Get serious. We’re wearing tri-corner hats here, not tinfoil hats.

Yes, we don’t like Boehner’s status quo leadership more than anyone else serious about liberty and constitutional government.

Yes, we love our libertarian and Tea Party readers and share their passion for a re-Founding of America.

But some in the movement need to chill out and take a rational approach to things like this.

The world isn’t going to end because Tom Emmer voted for Boehner.

Emmer isn’t Karl Marx because of the vote.

We will closely watch where Rep. Emmer comes down on votes regarding the repeal of ObamaCare, raising the debt ceiling, and government spending before we throw him under the bus and declare him a traitor to the Cause.

We will see what his Club for Growth scorecard looks like.

Welcome to your first week on the job, Rep. Emmer.

Editor’s Disclosure: Harold Hamilton supported Rhonda Sivarajh for Congress and was a financial contributor to her campaign.

VICTORY IN FRIDLEY!

Speaking of freedom and liberty, the interests of those noble goals were served a couple weeks ago when the forces of Big Government lost in the City of Fridley.

As loyal readers know, the city was attempting to hijack trash hauling services in the name of lower prices, better roads and greater safety.

Everyone who thinks that government can negotiate a better price for trash hauling, or any service for that matter, raise your hand.

Everyone who believes that government trash hauling will deliver more efficient and more responsive service than the free market, raise your hand.

Everyone who believes government can decide better for you than you can decide for yourself, raise your hand.

ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG *continued on page 4*

ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG *continued from page 3*

Let's see, one man with his hand raised.

That would be Fridley Mayor Scott Lund, the man who pushed for the government takeover but was rejected by his own council.

This past Tuesday, the proposed hijacking was presented to the city council for adoption.

Obviously, the mayor and his city manager believed they had the votes to ratify the takeover or they would have never gone through with the vote.

Lo and behold, three smart members of the city council heard their constituents and scotched the plan on a 2-3 vote, effectively killing the hijack plan and leaving in place the free market hauling system that offers consumers their choice of hauler and the benefits borne of fierce marketplace competition that results in the best service at the best price.

Alas, it appears that that mayor's plan to introduce Soviet-style waste hauling are dashed for the time being.

Come now, Watchdogs, celebrate this victory with your brethren in Fridley and do just a little dance as freedom won the day. A victory, unfortunately, that is all too rare these days and in this political environment.

Now on to Anoka, where the mayor and a couple of other council members need to get their heads screwed on right and move off their flirtation with Communist waste hauling.

No, we don't need government picking our trash hauler.

No, we don't need any promises regarding all the good things government trash hauling will do for us (which won't come happen, anyway).

And, no, we don't need any more government in our lives!

POLITICAL ARSON

Readers of this publication are familiar with the phrase "political arson."

For the uninitiated, "political arson" is a situation whereby a politician creates a problem by passing or failing to pass legislation and then swoops in and tries to solve the problem they themselves created in the first place.

This is similar to the MO of many arsonists, who set fires and then attempt to play the hero by being the first to call 911 or to put out the fire themselves.

One of the most prolific offenders in this regard is Governor Dayton, whose incompetence creates numerous problems he then attempts "solve," mostly by wrongly blaming others for starting the fire.

Such was the case recently, when the Governor showed up in Coon Rapids for a roundtable discussion on rail congestion in the city and the attendant problems it is causing.

The city is home to two mainline tracks which carry a large volume of freight to the West Coast.

These tracks have become congested, mostly because of oil trains, which is causing not only an inconvenience, but is creating safety issues as trains block intersections and the oil trains remain a risk for derailment.

Geez, guv, we could have spared you the trouble of getting out of bed back home at the mansion and coming on out to visit the Unwashed Masses here in

Anoka County.

The answer is to start building the pipelines you have been blocking with your disingenuous guise of needing more environmental studies.

If you get the oil off the trains and into the pipelines, safety is greatly enhanced and track congestion is reduced.

So don't come up here to Anoka County and give us the song and dance about your concern for all of us, combined with your finger pointing at the railroads, which provide jobs in the county and are only doing their jobs.

Where are the pipelines, Mr. Dayton?

THE HOLE GETS DEEPER

For all those legislators who are still interested in promoting trains this coming session, especially as part of a large transportation package, we at the Watchdog will continue to point you North, as in "Northstar."

The troubled commuter train continues to act more like an airplane than a train. Like an airplane without an engine. Or wings. Or landing gear.

Talk about crash and burn.

As ridership continues to plummet, the brain trust down at the Met Council. elected appointed to do what's best for you, has decided to turn to publicity stunts and gimmicks as they all sit in their bunker waiting for the inevitable implosion.

The stunt in question involves a "money back guarantee" if the train is more than 11 minutes late to either terminus.

Big deal. This is all style and no substance.

First, the train is so heavily subsidized that the ridiculously low fares aren't worth the hassle.

So your train is an hour late on January 3rd. You get to wait for over a month to get a check for \$3. It's not even worth the hassle to get down to the bank to cash it. Heck, most refunds from Menard's are for more than the cost to ride Northstar.

Oh, yeah. You also have buy a "Go-To" card or other pass to be eligible. If you used that green paper with dead presidents on it, you're out of luck.

There's nothing like taking a money losing program and losing more money by first cutting, and now refunding, fares.

Only in government would that be labeled as a turn-around plan.

No word on whether Governor Dayton has awarded performance bonuses to the Northstar bureaucrats like the MnSure guys got for their brilliant performance.

It's also amusing to consider that the money-back guarantee program is only running for the month of January.

Apparently, the brain trust thinks the trains will all be running on time by February 1.

Perhaps most laughable and tragic of all is that the train's abysmal on-time performance has been blamed on the weather.

Say what?!

This publication was there when Northstar was touted as a transit option impervious to weather.

We saw all the artist's renditions of warm, content Northstar passengers mocking and flipping off stranded drivers on Highway 10 as blizzard conditions annihilated the drivers of global warming-contributing gas guzzlers.

We saw the sketches of frazzled drivers fighting to get to work while train riders whizzed past them while sipping hot chocolate and enjoying foot rubs from super courteous and professional Met Council staff.

Funny, the cold weather hasn't slowed down traffic on Highway 10.

The time has come for the legislature to seriously consider mothballing Northstar.

While there would no doubt be shut down costs and penalties, that number has to weighed against the losses of continuing to operate a train that is seeing not losses, but mounting losses.

CRONY CAPITALISM

The problem with feeding at the public trough is that you can't limit the number of pigs who will come running to the sound of free slop sloshing out of the taxpayer-funded pail and slapping loudly as it hits the bottom of the trough.

This is especially true when blue-ribbon corn-fed hogs like Zygi Wilf and the Pohlard litter are face down in the largess.

There emerges a feeling among every under-capitalized business with a shaky business plan that they are entitled to receive from the taxpayers what no somewhat competent bank or venture capital firm would offer: money.

Two piglets recently came running to the trough looking for some scraps.

The first is a company on the Iron Range called Magnetation. This company converts waste and low grade iron ore into commercial grade iron ore pellets.

Apparently the company has suffered cost overruns in building out a facility on the Range and is looking for a bridge loan from the taxpayers.

Hey, guys. There's a place to apply for a bridge loan to get you through a cash flow pinch.

It's called a bank.

Competitors of the company are grouching that government is subsidizing a private market actor.

Great point. So long as those complaining aren't also asking for handouts from the taxpayer.

There are fewer and fewer of those kinds of businesses around these days.

Oh, yeah. The second company.

It's major league soccer.

Does that really merit any discussion?

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

**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:

Shawn's Car Rescue

2. Principal Place of Business:

**326 Heritage Trail,
Circle Pines, MN 55014**

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:

**Shawn Weems,
326 Heritage Trail,
Circle Pines, MN 55014**

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: Dec 31, 2014, #803086100038,
/s/ Shawn Weems, Owner

ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF CRIME REPORT

ANDOVER

Thefts and Damage to Property

12.14 160xx Quay St NW – Christmas lights broken
 12.15 145xx Guarani St NW – license plate stolen
 12.16 21xx 151 Ave NW – damage to mailbox
 12.16 21xx Andover Blvd NW – Andover High school; cash and candy stolen from a locker
 12.16 38xx North Enchanted Dr NW – license plate stolen
 12.17 9xx 158 Ave NW – damage to mailbox
 12.19 142xx Tamarack St NW – foreclosed home; two TV's
 12.21 140xx Quinn St NW – tools stolen out of the bed of a truck
 12.30 41xx 145 Ave NW – license plates stolen off a vehicle
 12.30 41xx 145 Ave NW – license plates stolen off a vehicle

Burglaries

12.15 166xx Jonquil St NW – unsecure shed; powder

Arrests

12.12 19xx 134 Ln NW – 4th Degree Assault; deputies responded to father/son domestic. The son was arrested.
 12.15 13400 Block Hanson Blvd NW – DANCO Violation; a deputy stopped a driver for having a brake light out. The deputy then learned the driver had an active domestic abuse no contact order against the passenger. The male was arrested.
 12.23 15xx 144 Ave NW – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. The male was arrested.
 12.24 39xx 146 Ln NW – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a x-girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. The male was arrested.
 12.26 139xx Ivywood St NW – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. The male was arrested.
 12.28 Bunker Lake Blvd NW/Rose St NW – 2nd 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. .23
 12.28 25xx 154 Ave NW – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a wife/husband domestic. The female was arrested.
 12.28 138xx Quay St NW – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. The male was arrested.

01.01 600 Block Bunker Lake Blvd NW – 3rd Degree DWI; a deputy responded to a single vehicle property damage crash. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. .20

COLUMBUS

Thefts and Damage to Property

12.13 148xx Lake Dr NE – business; vehicles in the parking lot vandalized

Arrests

12.14 6700 blk Broadway Ave NE - 4th Degr. DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for speeding; driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. .132
 12.29 143xx Lake Dr NE – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. Both the male and female were arrested.

EAST BETHEL

Thefts and Damage to Property

12.16 206xx Hwy 65 NE – smashed window; backpacks, tablet
 12.19 18xx 209 Ave Ave NE – mail stolen from the mailbox
 12.20 206xx Central Ave NE – smashed vehicle window; purse
 12.26 183xx Hwy 65 NE – license plate stolen off a vehicle

Arrests/Incidents

12.14 5xx Lincoln Dr NE – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a x-girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. The male was arrested.
 12.14 Viking Blvd NE/East Bethel Blvd NE – 4th Degree DWI, DAR; a deputy responded to a vehicle in the ditch at the location. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. .132
 12.20 3xx 215 Ln NE – House Fire; deputies responded to a house fire. The fire was extinguished

by East Bethel, Bethel and Oak Grove Fire Departments. No one was injured.

01.01 224xx Tippecanoe St NE – Domestic Assault; 4th Degree DWI; deputies responded to a medical situation from a domestic girlfriend/boyfriend assault. The male had left prior to deputies arrival. The male was located in a vehicle. The male appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested.

HAM LAKE

Thefts & Damage to Property

12.13 175xx Lever St NE – damage to mailbox
 12.13 145xx Shenandoah Dr NE – damage to mailbox
 12.14 14xx Lombardy Dr NE – generator stolen out of the bed of a truck
 12.14 16xx 149 Ave NE – damage to mailbox
 12.15 138xx Shenandoah St NE – damage to mailbox
 12.16 171xx East Lake Netta Dr NE – damage to mailbox
 12.23 138xx Aberdeen St NE – catalytic converter cut off a vehicle
 12.23 13xx 157 Ave NE – catalytic converter cut off a vehicle
 12.29 13xx 153 Ln NE – tires stolen off two vehicles

Burglaries

12.14 27xx Constance Blvd NE – new home construction; tools
 12.19 80xx Pinewood Dr NE – forced entry into a shed; tools
 12.19 171xx Hwy 65 NE – RV broken into; tablets, toys
 12.22 178xx National St NE – new building construction; copper tubing, tools

Arrests

12.16 Hwy 65 NE/139 Ave NE – DAC-IPS; a deputy stopped a driver for not having a rear license plate light. The driver did not have a valid driver's. The male was arrested.
 12.24 6xx 176 Ln NE – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a wife/husband domestic. The male was arrested.
 12.25 12xx 133 Ln NE – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. The male was arrested.

LINWOOD TOWNSHIP

Thefts & Damage to Property

12.14 219xx Martin Lake Rd NE – vandalism to a vehicle; shattered window
 12.26 84xx 241 Ave NE – holiday décor stolen from the property
 12.26 237xx Mackenzie St NE – Christmas lights stolen from the property

Arrests

12.23 21700 Block Viking Blvd NE – DAC-IPS, Impounded Plate; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver did not have a valid driver's license and had failed to surrender his license plates. The male was arrested.

Burglaries

12.28 216xx Humber St NE – forced entry into a shed; nothing was stolen, suspects were detained

NOWTHEN

Arrests

12.13 224xx St Francis Blvd NW – 5th Degree Assault, 4th Degree Damage to Property; deputies responded to a client/employee assault. The male client was arrested.

Burglaries

12.20 191xx Jasper St NW – forced entry through front door; safe

OAK GROVE

Thefts & Damage to Property

12.15 216xx Cottonwood St NW – damage to mailbox
 12.21 210xx Old Lake George Blvd NW – laptop stolen from a vehicle
 12.21 219xx Old Lake George Blvd NW – unsecure vehicle; keys
 12.29 191xx Lake George Blvd NW – unsecure home; xbox

Arrests

12.21 11xx Sims Rd NW – Felony Assault, Warrant Arrest; deputies responded to a fight in progress.

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The male suspect fled on foot, the K-9 and his partner arrived and set up a track. The suspect was apprehended and arrested.

Anoka County
RECORD

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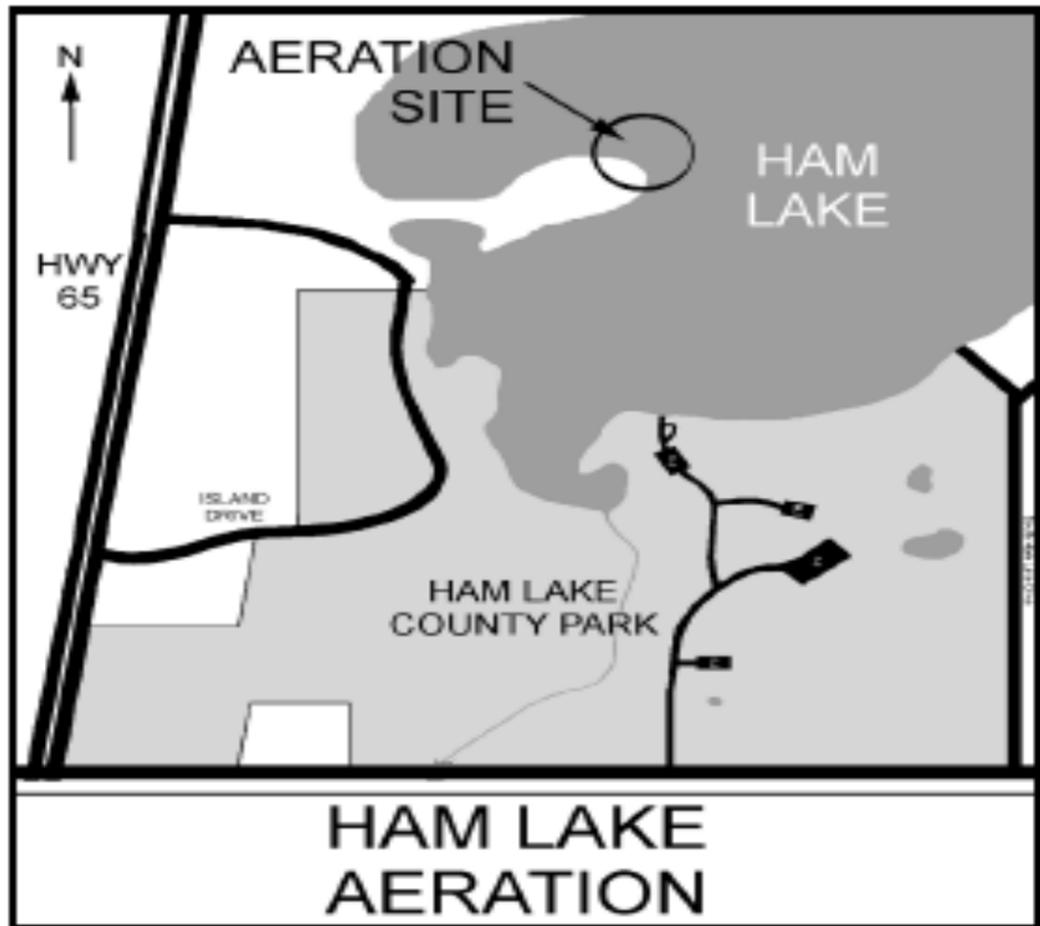
(763) 220-0411

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF HAM LAKE**

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

Dated: January 9, 2015 and January 16, 2015

**WARNING!
STAY CLEAR OF DESIGNATED AREAS!**



**HAM LAKE
AERATION**

**CITY OF HAM LAKE
ORDINANCE NUMBER 15-01**

An Ordinance relating to Home Occupations; amending Article 9-350 of the Ham Lake City Code.

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota, as follows:

There is hereby added to the Ham Lake City Code an Article 9-350.3, to read as follows:

9-350.3 Special Home Occupation Permits

A party desiring to conduct a Home Occupation in a Garage or Accessory Building under conditions meeting the remaining requirements of Article 9-350 may apply for a Special Home Occupation Permit under the following procedure:

- The applicant shall submit a site plan drawn to scale showing the locations and dimensions of all buildings and driveways on the premises, and identifying the location where the Home Occupation activity will take place.
- The applicant shall submit a narrative in sufficient detail to describe all aspects of the activity to be conducted and the locations of all such activity.
- The Planning Commission shall conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed application, with mailed notice to all resident whose property lines come within 750 feet of the property lines of the applicant's lot, and published notice at least ten days prior to the hearing.
- Following the Public Hearing, the Planning Commission shall make recommendations to the City Council, including such conditions as are deemed appropriate.

Notwithstanding any provision in Article 9-350.1 (a) to the contrary, a Special Home Occupation shall be mainly confined to the Garage or Accessory Building. A Special Home Occupation Permit shall be subject to the same provisions for revocation as Home Occupation Permits. In addition, notwithstanding any provision in Article 9-350.1 to the contrary, a Special Home Occupation may include uses that are normally not found in residential dwellings, as long as there are no obvious outward indicia of the activities being carried on under the Special Home Occupation Permit, no noise generated which is audible to nearby properties, no odor or vibration generated that is detectable to nearby properties, no outside storage which is visible from nearby properties or public ways and no customer traffic.

Special Home Occupations may involve up to one commercial delivery/pickup by outside delivery service van (such as UPS or Federal Express) or postal vehicle per day. Deliveries of goods produced at the site may be limited in scope and frequency by the approval process, including specifying the type of delivery vehicles that can be used, and including prohibition on commercial logos being displayed on delivery vehicles.

Presented to the Ham Lake City Council on December 15, 2014 and adopted by a unanimous vote this 5th day of January, 2015.

/s/ Michael G. Van Kirk, Mayor

/s/ Denise Webster, City Clerk

**CITY OF HAM LAKE
ORDINANCE NUMBER 15-02**

An Ordinance relating to Used Vehicle Sales Lots in areas zoned CD-1, amending Article 9-220.2 (c).

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota, as follows:

The text including and under the heading "Used Vehicle Sales limited as follows" in the list of Conditional Uses found in Article 9-220.2 (c) of the Ham Lake City code is hereby repealed, to be replaced by the following text:

- Used Vehicle Sales limited as follows
- Collector Cars
 - Motor Homes and Recreational Vehicle Trailer Sales*

*("Trailer", for the purposes of this code, shall mean a conveyance which is primarily designed to be towed behind a motor vehicle on public highways for usage in camping at bona fide campgrounds or RV parks. The conveyance commonly known in the industry as a "Park Model" is not to be considered a Trailer.)

Facilities that meet the following criteria:

The lot on which the use is proposed is presently and lawfully used by a business whose primary business is in the automotive industry such as automobile specialty shop, auto repair or recreational vehicle sales lot; and

The sales are limited to passenger cars and pickup trucks; and

The primary business activity in the automotive industry that qualified the lot to be used for Used Vehicle Sales must continue to be the primary business activity on the lot; Used Vehicle Sales shall be an incidental use only, and shall not replace the primary business activity; or

The used vehicle inventory is part of the overall inventory of a New Vehicle Sales operation, limited to vehicles that have been taken in trade by the owner.

Presented to the Ham Lake City Council on December 15, 2014 and adopted by a unanimous vote this 5th day of January, 2015.

/s/ Michael G. Van Kirk, Mayor

/s/ Denise Webster, City Clerk

**CITY OF HAM LAKE
ORDINANCE NUMBER 15-03**

An Ordinance relating to Automobile Repair Shops in areas zoned CD-1 amending types of vehicles.

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota as follows:

The definition of allowed vehicle types under the heading "Automobile Repair Shops" in the list of Conditional Uses found in Article 9-220.2 c) of the Ham Lake City code is hereby amended, to include the following:

- Automobile Repair Shops (Passenger Vehicles, Pickup Trucks, ATVs, Snowmobiles, Motorcycles, Jet-skis, Boats and other Marine Equipment)

Presented to the Ham Lake City Council on December 15, 2014 and adopted by a unanimous vote this 5th day of January, 2015.

/s/ Michael G. Van Kirk, Mayor

/s/ Denise Webster, City Clerk

**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:

Cottage Pottery
2. Principal Place of Business:
19931 Sparre Road NW, Nowthen, MN 55330

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:

Chelsea Marie Doriott Junge, 19931 Sparre Road NW, Nowthen MN 55330

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

FILED: Jan. 3, 2015,
803682500024,
/s/ Chelsea Doriott Junge

**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:

Boet Burnings
2. Principal Place of Business:
3962 88th Ave NE, Circle Pines, MN 55014

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:

Stephanie Boet, 3962 88th Ave NE, Circle Pines, MN 55014

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 22, 2014,
78960820002,
/s/ Stephanie Boet, Owner

**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:

Crown Leatherworks
2. Principal Place of Business:
5936 177th Ln NW, 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:

Julia Jordan-Rose Murphy, 5936 177th Ln NW, 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: Nov. 16, 2014,
#794135400027,
/s/ Julia Murphy



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The Anoka County Record is a bi-weekly free publication of government news from Anoka County, Minnesota. It covers the county board, twenty cities, nine school districts, one township, one conservation district, and surrounding areas. It also covers actions of the Minnesota Legislature that may affect the Anoka County area. Also included in each issue is a listing of government and quasi-government meetings being held in the county. The Anoka County Record is available by paid subscription via first-class U.S. Mail, and complete editions are posted on the website, www.AnokaCountyRecord.com.

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Rotated	-	-	-
Bulk Distribution	114	-	114
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TOTAL QUALIFIED CIRCULATION	426	-	426
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TOTAL PRINTED	-	-	430

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