

Anoka County RECORD

Official
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**ANOKA COUNTY
CITY OF HAM LAKE
CITY OF OAK GROVE**



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Sales taxes enable libraries to have something for everyone

By Tom Steward | Watchdog Minnesota Bureau (Watchdog.Org)

Patrons used to go to the library to check out books. Today, people go for any number of reasons. But while there's something for everyone at the 365 branch libraries statewide, some events leave discerning taxpayers wondering whether it's something everyone should pay for.

People go for the secret life of puppets (\$13,200), farmer comedian Roger Radley (\$9,154), stage combat demonstrations with sword fights and mock brawls (\$608), duct tape wearables classes (\$300) and a series on darkness (\$3,816).

All are taxpayer-funded programs, now commonplace in Minnesota libraries.

"We're always evolving. Libraries have been around forever and books have been our brand, but it's more than knowledge has been our brand. And that comes in all kinds of packages," said Melinda Ludwiczak, who oversees arts and cultural programming for the Metropolitan Library Service Agency, the largest of 12 state regional library systems.

Six years after voters approved a .0375 percent Legacy Amendment sales tax increase for the arts and environment, a total of \$20.5 million has been allocated for arts, culture, literary and Minnesota history programming through the state's 12 regional library systems.

State libraries receive \$3 million a year in appropriations from the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Now, they want a 35 percent raise from lawmakers this session.

"We do have a request for funding for libraries again this year. We require reports regarding how the money is spent. After the ill-advised appropriation of \$45,000 for one author in 2010, I believe that the libraries have been more careful in how and to whom money is granted," Rep. Dean Urdahl, R-Grove City, who chairs the House Legacy Funding Finance Committee, said in an email. The \$45,000 fee went to best-selling author Neil Gaiman, who appeared in Stillwater.

Under the funding formula, the largest regional library, MELSA, receives \$1.14 million from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The 11 smaller library systems spend \$75,000 to \$261,000 annually on legacy-funded activities.

But attendance for Legacy funded library events remains flat, totaling 160,000 in 2014 compared to 165,000 in 2012, Minnesota Library Association figures show. Spread across 1,400 programs held last year, libraries spent an average of \$18.75 per attendee at Legacy-funded activities.

"We're looking at things that reflect our communities and that we're being good stewards of a limited financial resource. We aren't guaranteed this money. Every biennium we have to go in and request it at the Legislature," said Ludwiczak.

In an age of increasingly decentralized information with e-books and streaming video, library officials rave about the opportunity to reinvent the institution and drive more traffic through Legacy-funded events.

"There has been a tremendous opportunity for the residents of Anoka County where they have been able to be exposed to culture, history, other things that give them a better understanding for the arts, culture and history of Anoka and the state as a whole," said Marlene Moulton Janssen, Anoka County Library director, citing a standing-room only crowd at a recent event with the local historical society.

A quick review reveals a wide range of legacy-funded activities: "Peter and the Wolf," a hip hop dancing scientist, the Irish trio Northern Gael, reusable bag workshops, a high school poetry competition held with the Loft Literary Center, henna tattooing, author Christina Kline of the bestseller "Orphan Train" and the Grammy Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers, for example.

"Public libraries, like many older American institutions, seem to have lost their original purpose and direction in our rapid-fire information lives," said Annette Meeks, CEO of the Freedom Foundation of Minnesota. "Most of their fundamental missions (information gathering, providing research and study areas) are long gone and replaced by massive computer centers that allow those without Internet access a place to maintain contacts and job search."

Other taxpayer-funded offerings include:

The "history of Minnesota's beer scene" was explored in six programs that drew 24 attendees to Lake Agassiz Regional Library branches (\$4,982).

Awesome adventures in accordion books taught 67 participants over seven

LIBRARIES ENTERTAIN WITH SALES TAX DOLLARS cont. on page 5

Oak Grove Discusses CR 22 and RR X-ings

Look Responds to Newspaper Publication Issue

By ACR Staff - On March 30, 2015 at the Oak Grove City Council meeting, the main topic of discussion was the impending reconstruction of County Road 22 (CR 22 - Viking Boulevard) on the east end of the city and the ability to upgrade RR crossings to whistle free standards.

Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look provided information on the CR 22 reconstruction project and answered council questions on the RR whistle free crossing issue. He also sought the council's consent for a change order on the CR 22 project in order to accommodate a future whistle free RR crossing upgrade at a future date.

Mr. Look informed the council that Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) currently uses the north-south track that runs through the eastern edge of the city. He stated that the five mile horns the trains use work well in a rural setting, but raise issues in more urban environments. The railroad is required to use their horn unless an intersection is upgraded to whistle free standards. (gate arms, center median, etc.)

In order to do the upgrade, Mr. Look stated that the county would be required to build the road over the tracks in such a manner as to allow for the future installation of a median to prevent vehicles from driving between the gate arms. He stated that with the CR 22 overlay project, they would have the opportunity to accommodate this change for a much lower cost. Look stated, "We feel it is a worthwhile investment to make this \$35,000 change order". He stated that waiting to do the upgrade at a later date could increase the cost to \$200,000.

The council was informed that the additional \$35,000 was only part of the cost of upgrading the intersection to whistle free standards. Mr. Look stated that he confirmed that the gate arms would not need to be replaced for the upgrade, resulting in a \$200,000 savings. He stated that the city's responsibility would be an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000 to complete the upgrade once the county has completed their portion of the project.

Council opinions on the upgrades at CR 22 were generally supportive, but concerns were raised when the discussion opened up to modifying all RR crossings in the city. It was noted that there are eight crossings along this line that are within or bordering the City of Oak Grove. The crossings are located at 181st, a gravel crossing one block south of CR 22 at approximately 191st, CR 22, CR 13, 206th, Sims, 221st, and 229th. The city engineer estimated that it would cost from \$50,000 to \$200,000 per intersection to upgrade them to whistle free standards.

Mayor Mark Korin stated that he believed putting an end to the train whistles would make Oak Grove a better community. He said that if the whistles are to be stopped, they must be stopped throughout the community.

Councilmember Dan Denno said that what the county was proposing was well

OAK GROVE CR 22 & RR DISCUSSION cont. on page 2

LWV Embarrasses Themselves Before County Board On Newspaper Publication Issue

Wants selection based on "history" or "reputation", opening up process to political favoritism and cronyism.

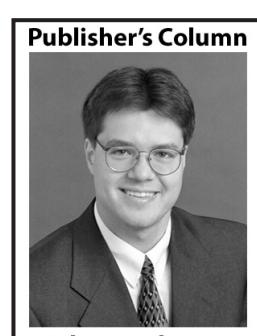
The craziness surrounding the publication of the county's public notices has been the gift that keeps on giving. It is amazing to see the nonsense some people will spew in order to mask an issue that is solely about corporate greed and party politics.

DFL party units, and now the League of Women Voters (LWV) are trying to bamboozle taxpayers into believing that their favorite *UnionHerald* newspaper cannot publish county public notices in 2015. The *UnionHerald* itself is even spewing this nonsense.

Actually, the UnionHerald voluntarily chose to stop publishing county public notices. Yes, they voluntarily chose to stop doing this. Why? It's because the taxpayers were not going to pay them big dollars to do so in 2015. County Commissioners instead chose to hire the *Record* for half the price.

The *Record* prints a number of public notices free of charge because we believe it is a public service to do so. If the issue is important and it is brought to our

LWV, POLITICAL FAVORITISM, & CRONYISM cont. on page 4



John Kysylyczyn

Restrain state spending

The House majority issued two proposals this week that will help get the ball rolling on a couple of this session's top issues: a long-term transportation funding plan and a new two-year state budget.

While we are still waiting to see what the Senate proposes in those areas, the House plans have key differences from what Gov. Mark Dayton wants to do.

I continue to say our focus should be on restraining state spending, focusing on transportation infrastructure (roads and bridges) and reducing taxes. The House proposals would help in each of those areas.

The House's transportation plan would put \$7 billion into roads and bridges over the next 10 years – without raising taxes. Estimates show this would pay for 15,500 lane miles and 330 bridges.

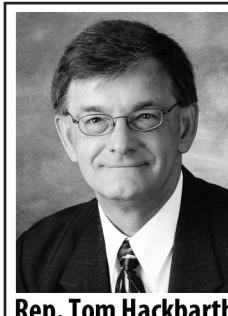
Gov. Dayton also proposes putting more money into transportation – including mass transit – but is looking to pay for it in part by raising taxes on gasoline by 6.5 percent at the wholesale level. That is an increase of roughly 16 cents per gallon at current prices.

The state has enough revenue without those tax increases and a \$2 billion surplus is projected. We can provide a substantial funding increase for roads and bridges if we just show some discipline and stick to our priorities. For example, the House's 10-year transportation plan places general sales tax revenue already being paid on auto parts into a new Transportation Stability Fund. It also uses \$1.3 billion in Trunk Highway bonds, \$1.2 billion from reforming Minnesota Department of Transportation resources, \$1.05 billion in General Obligation bonds, and \$228 million in General Funds.

Minnesotans say they want better roads and bridges and also overwhelmingly oppose gas-tax increases. This plan makes good on both accounts.

As for the budget, the House proposal is for total General Fund spending of \$39.95 billion. It includes \$2 billion in tax relief and puts an additional \$100 million being put in the budget reserve. The overall dollar amount is less than Gov. Mark Dayton's \$43 billion plan which does not build our reserves. The House version also does not include the governor's tax increases.

It will be interesting to see what the Senate puts out as a budget plan and how things unfold between now and when the session is set to adjourn in late May. Stay in touch and I will pass along more of my thoughts as details emerge.



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Report from Sen. Petersen

Government regulators stifling business innovation

An emerging market has been developing in our state and around the world involving ride-sharing businesses such as Uber and Lyft. These companies use app based technologies which allow individual drivers to provide transportation services in an efficient and innovative fashion. However, this free market concept is being threatened by over regulation at the state level.

The bill, which is being pushed by insurance groups, would mandate corporate insurance coverage above and beyond what is necessary or reasonable. Uber and others already have insurance policies in place that provide coverage for the driver and passengers from pick up to drop off under a \$1 million commercial insurance policy. Additionally, ride-sharing companies have reached consensus via ordinance with Minneapolis and St. Paul to operate their business and they have been thriving.

This bill is unnecessary and will push a growing business with a large employee base out of our state. I intend on doing everything in my power to stop this piece of legislation and send a message that Minnesota is welcoming to private enterprise.

New transportation plan invests \$7 billion in roads – without a gas tax!

Minnesotans count on safe roads to get to and from school and work each day, but spending in recent years has been too focused on light rail in Minneapolis and Saint Paul instead of roads and bridges throughout the entire state. In our community, highway 10 has been a major concern as it relates to congestion and safety. During a recent town hall meeting, many shared their frustrations and agreed that transportation dollars need to be targeted on these types of priority projects.

A new Republican plan will put the focus back on our basic transportation infrastructure to fill potholes, repair bridges, and alleviate congestion – all without raising taxes. Ultimately, our plan will invest \$7 billion over ten years to repair or replace 15,500 miles of roads and 330 bridges statewide.

In contrast, all of the plans introduced by Democrats thus far depend on new taxes, including an additional gas tax of \$0.16 cents per gallon, higher license tab fees, and higher sales taxes. Not only are these unpopular ideas, but the gas tax is an antiquated tax that will bring in less revenue each year as vehicles become more fuel efficient. Before long, we'll be back to square one talking about another tax increase.

Right to Try Act sent to the floor

This session I have been working with Representative Nick Zerwas on a bill labeled the Right to Try Act. This bill gives those who have been diagnosed with a terminal condition an opportunity to seek out treatments that have not made it through the very lengthy FDA approval process. It gives these individuals another shot at hope to spend more time with their loved ones.

The Right to Try Act has made it through the committee process in both the House and the Senate. It now awaits a favorable vote on the floor in each chamber where it will then head Governor Dayton's desk. Representative Zerwas and I sat down recently to discuss this proposal on camera. You can view and share our comments by clicking the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENj8fU-X2pM>



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Oak Grove CR 22 & RR Discussion *continued from page 1*

worth it. He said that if they could do all the intersections in the range of the CR 22 project, it would be a worthwhile investment.

Councilmember Scott Lawrence stated to Mayor Korin that he felt it would be tough to make the argument that the expenditure benefits the city as a whole. He noted that most residents in the city were not affected by the RR whistle issue.

Councilmember Mike Wylie stated that he was in favor of moving forward on CR 22, but that moving forward on other intersections would depend upon cost. He said that he can hear the whistle on the other side of Lake George, though it is not bothersome. He said that he could see where Mr. Lawrence was coming from, but believed that many city projects do not benefit the entire city, yet they do affect a lot of people.

After further discussion, the council agreed to move forward on the CR 22 change order and give the municipal consent Mr. Look was requesting. The council also provided direction to city staff to begin researching the cost that would be involved to upgrade the other RR crossings in the city. Mr. Look also informed the council that there is the option of the city installing localized horns at crossings which would be less costly and would provide for some sound relief.

Mr. Look stated that the county's CR 22 project was just short of \$3,000,000. He said that they have emphasized the need for infrastructure improvements county-wide. He stated that the county has generally scored high on these projects for funding, but due to a formula change this year, they did not score well on any projects and the commissioners were not pleased with this.

Regardless of project scoring, Mr. Look stated that the council will continue to move forward on making safety improvements. He informed the council that after this current segment of CR 22 is reconstructed this year, the next segment would be between Round Lake Boulevard and Rum River Boulevard. He also said that looking a number of years into the future, the State of Minnesota has expressed interest in taking over CR 22 and turning it into a state road that most likely would connect MN 65 with US 169 in Elk River.

Look Discusses County Newspaper Publication Issue

Mr. Look spoke briefly on the county's selection of the *Record* as their official newspaper. He stated that he has received a couple of calls in opposition to the *Record*.

In a sealed bid process, Mr. Look stated that the *Record* was the lowest responsible bidder. He said that the county is required to select the lowest price. He also responded to those who have claimed that the *UnionHerald* has far greater circulation by first noting that Anoka County has 120,000 households. He said that the *UnionHerald* has 4,000 copies and the *Record* has 400 copies. Mr. Look indicated that the circulation of both newspapers was abysmal.

Mr. Look said that residents should focus on the things the county board does to provide meaningful transparency. He noted that county board meetings are live-streamed even though this is not required by law. He said that while there is a cost to this, watching actual meetings will give residents a feel for how the county board works.

Then Mr. Look read off a few of the notices that the county is required by law to publish in the newspaper. He questioned how these notices actually inform anyone about anything. He stated that publishing notices is a very serious cost for counties, and that they have to follow the law. He concluded by stating that the county board has to be responsible for the costs that fall upon the county.

Editor's note: Mr. Look stated prior to the start of the council meeting that the Record has been satisfying the requirements of the publication contract without issue. The Record's publication costs are approximately one-half to one-fourth of the UnionHerald.

Sen. Benson - Rep. Daudt Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, April 7th, 7:00 PM

Zimmerman City Hall
12980 Fremont Avenue
Zimmerman, MN 55308

MDA confirms emerald ash borer find in Anoka County

Anoka County to become the seventh county in Minnesota under quarantine for EAB

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) today confirmed an emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation in Anoka County. EAB was found in an ash tree on private property in the city of Ham Lake.

The infested tree was detected through a call to the MDA's Arrest the Pest Hotline. The hotline allows concerned residents to report suspicious invasive plants and insects, like the emerald ash borer. Based on the call, MDA staff was able to visit the site and determine an ash tree in question was infested with EAB.

"We encourage residents to go out this time of year and look at their ash trees for signs of emerald ash borer," said MDA Entomologist Mark Abrahamson. "Looking for EAB, reporting possible infestations, and following quarantines will allow for us to slow the spread of EAB and limit the impacts of this pest in Minnesota."

There are several things residents should look for when checking for emerald ash borer.

1. Be sure you've identified an ash tree. This is an important first step since EAB only feeds on ash trees. Ashes have opposite branching – meaning branches come off the trunk directly across from each other. On older trees, the bark is in a tight, diamond-shaped pattern. Younger trees have a relatively smooth bark.
2. Look for woodpecker damage. Woodpeckers like EAB larvae and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of EAB.
3. Check for bark cracks. EAB larvae tunneling under the bark can cause the bark to split open, revealing the larval (S-shaped) tunnels underneath.
4. Contact a professional. If you feel your ash tree may be infested with EAB, contact a tree care professional, your city forester, or the MDA at arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us or 888-545-6684.

Because of this find, Anoka County will be put under an emergency quarantine and eventually join Dakota, Hennepin, Houston, Olmsted, Ramsey, and Winona counties in a state and federal quarantine. The quarantine is in place to help prevent EAB from spreading outside a known infested area. It is designed to limit the movement of any items that may be infested with EAB, including ash trees and ash tree limbs, as well as all hardwood firewood.

Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling into the wood and feeding on the tree's nutrients. Since its accidental introduction into North America, EAB has killed tens of millions of ash trees in 24 states. The invasive insect was first discovered in Minnesota in 2009. The last county to be quarantined for EAB was Dakota in December 2014.

Minnesota is highly susceptible to the destruction caused by EAB. The state has approximately one billion ash trees, the most of any state in the nation.

The biggest risk of spreading EAB comes from people unknowingly moving firewood or other ash products harboring larvae. There are three easy steps Minnesotans can take to keep EAB from spreading:

- Don't transport firewood. Buy firewood locally from approved vendors, and burn it where you buy it;
- Be aware of the quarantine restrictions. If you live in a quarantined county, be aware of the restrictions on movement of products such as ash trees, wood chips, and firewood; and,
- Watch your ash trees for infestation. If you think your ash tree is infested, go to www.mda.state.mn.us/eab and use the "Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?"

CONTACT: Allen Sommerfeld, MDA Communications
651-201-6185 / allen.sommerfeld@state.mn.us

Rep. Laine Updates Residents

On Friday we reached the half-way point of the legislative session. It's a good time to take a break from the fast pace and catch up with friends and neighbors. We'll re-convene on Tuesday, April 7th and spend the next few weeks assembling budgets for the various state agencies.

Public Safety Surplus Equipment Donations Bill moving forward

I'm pleased to say that H.F.1003, a bill that allows police and fire departments to donate their surplus equipment to a non-profit, has passed unanimously through all its committees. Columbia Heights Fire Chief Gary Gorman brought this issue to my attention, and he testified at all the bill's committee stops in both the House and the Senate. I appreciate his commitment and tenacity! The fire chief from Brooklyn Park has found equipment that is out-of-code here can still be of service in setting up a fire service in, for example, West Africa. He reported the firemen there having to fight fires in their street clothes. Later in the month I will present the bill on the House floor (and Sen. Goodwin will do so in the Senate). I expect it to sail through and be signed by the Governor.

House Republican Transportation package released

House Republicans unveiled their updated Transportation Funding package last week, and it leaves a lot to be desired for our area. While they've finally acknowledged the scale of our roads crisis and increased their ten-year package from a woefully inadequate \$2 billion to \$7 billion, they take the money from inappropriate areas.

First, they start with another shift, taking from general fund dollars that pay for education, public safety, nursing homes, etc. They have said they will dismantle MinnesotaCare, under-invest in all levels of education from early learning through K-12 and higher education, cut jobs funding, and, to top it off, give tax breaks to corporate special interests.

Second, they will borrow through bonding, putting \$1.3 billion on the credit card, and \$1.05 Billion on Government Obligation Bonds which is like taking out a mortgage to fund your driveway. Road maintenance is an ongoing cost; we do not bond for that.

And third, they create some funny money: they just say \$1.2 billion can come by MnDOT "reallocating resources" but do not say what that might be. Funny money.

They also want to cut all transit funding in the metro area, including any additional funding for bus service. We need a comprehensive statewide transportation solution that meets all our needs in a permanent way.

Our Minnesota constitution mandates "a highway user tax distribution fund to be used solely for highway purposes." The state legislature enacts a user fee for vehicles using the roads and an excise tax on gas. These go into the highway user tax distribution fund and pay for construction and maintenance costs as we go. This is the responsible way to fund our road needs. Those who use it, pay for it. Use it more, pay more. It only takes an additional \$1.25/week (\$60/year) to fund it by a 10 cent fuel or gas tax increase and save your car repair costs from all the crumbling roads!

House Republican Budget Priorities

Last week the House, Senate, and the Governor each unveiled their budget proposals based on the best numbers. House Republicans showed us what their priorities really are. They want to spend \$15 on tax giveaways for corporate special interests for every \$1 they spend on education. They slash health care spending by \$1 billion – all at a time when we have a nearly \$2 billion surplus.

Here are the proposals for spending increases and decreases from the forecast:

| | Governor | State Senate | State House |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| E-12 Education | + \$694 million | + \$350 million | + \$157 million |
| Higher Education | + \$288 million | + \$205 million | + \$53 million |
| Tax reductions | \$138 million | \$460 million | \$ 2.26 billion |
| Health Care, Nursing Homes, Disability Services | + \$341 million | + \$341 million | - \$1.15 billion |
| Environment/Agriculture/Jobs Programs | + \$82 million | + \$45 million | - \$35 million |
| Transportation | + \$26 million | + \$25 million | + \$148 million |
| Public Safety | + \$147 million | + \$117 million | + \$82 million |
| State Government/Veterans | + \$63 million | + \$52 million | - \$67 million |
| Budget Reserve | + \$0 | + \$250 million | + 100 million |
| Total Net Spending | \$42.98 billion | \$42.73 billion | \$42.58 billion |

I can't see how we would take health care away from Minnesotans trying to work their way into the middle class just to make things a little easier for corporations and special interests.

Share your thoughts with me by email rep.carolyn.laine@house.mn or phone 651-296-4331.

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ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF CRIME REPORT

ANDOVER

Thefts & Damage to Property

03.27 145xx Jonquil St NW – vandalism to a vehicle; windows broken out
 03.25 22xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW – unattended purse; cash
 03.24 140xx Norway St NW – unsecure vehicle; pills
 03.21 3xx 139 Ln NW – vandalism to a vehicle; spray painted
 03.21 150xx Uplander St NW – unsecure garage; longboard

Arrests

03.26 161 Ave NW/Nightengale St NW - 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance; a deputy stopped a driver for not having a valid driver's license. During the search of the vehicle narcotics were located. The male was arrested.
 03.23 13900 Block Round Lake Blvd NW – DAC-IPS; a deputy stopped a driver for driving without a valid driver's license. The female was arrested.
 03.22 Round Lake Blvd NW/South Coon Creek Dr NW – 4th Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for speeding. The male appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. .173
 03.20 137xx Round Lake Blvd NW – 5th Degree Controlled Substance; deputies responded to a report of a suspicious male in a vehicle at the location. Upon deputies speaking with the male driver the driver appeared under the influence of narcotics. A k9 officer from Anoka Police Department responded to perform a sniff. The k9 alerted on the vehicle and narcotics were located. The male was arrested.

COLUMBUS

Thefts & Damage to Property

03.22 148xx Lake Dr NE – vehicle window broken; electronics

Arrests

03.17 153xx Zodiac St NE – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a boyfriend/girlfriend domestic. The female was arrested.

EAST BETHEL

Burglaries

03.26 45xx Viking Blvd NW – unsecure garage; car keys, garage door opener
 03.21 187xx Breezy Point Dr NE – trailer stolen from the property

Thefts & Damage to Property

03.21 19xx Klondike Dr NE – unsecure vehicle; wallet, electronics, backpack

Arrests

03.25 Hwy 65 NE/205 Ave NE – 4th Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed.

03.21 South Lake Shore Dr NE/Dogwood Dr NE – 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, DAS; deputies stopped a driver for having expired registration. The driver did not have a valid driver's license. During the search of the vehicle narcotics were located. The male driver and female passenger were arrested.

03.21 Hwy 65 NE/Viking Blvd NE – 2nd Degree DWI; deputies responded to a 2 car property damage crash. One of the driver's appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. .277

HAM LAKE

Arrests/Incidents

03.21 13400 Block Jefferson St NE – 4th Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for having expired registration. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. .119

03.20 10xx Meadow Ln NE – House Fire; deputies responded to trailer fully engulfed in flames. Ham Lake Fire Department extinguished the fire. No one was injured.

LINWOOD

Thefts & Damage to Property

03.23 234xx Fontana St NE – damage to mailbox

Arrests

03.25 220xx Volga St NE – unsecure home; knives stolen

NOWTHEN

Burglaries

03.25 82xx 199 Ave NW – forced entry into detached garage; nothing of value was stolen

OAK GROVE

Thefts & Damage to Property

03.22 199xx Flintwood St NW – damage to multiple mailboxes in the area

Arrests

03.22 211xx Butternut St NW – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a father/son domestic. The son was arrested.

LWV, Political Favoritism & Cronyism

continued from page 1

attention, we print it. It isn't about getting a big check. It is about informing the community. Will the *UnionHerald* make this same commitment to public service? Evidence suggests that the newspaper will do little for the county or its taxpayers without being well-paid first.

In order to steer attention away from the apparent corporate greed of the *UnionHerald*, a new political campaign has sprung to life: the *UnionHerald*, DFL party units, and the LWV vs. County Commissioners. Yes, I am politically connected enough to know that the LWV is essentially a branch of the DFL. I was also once a member of another local chapter of the LWV, so I speak with having that personal experience.

LWV Presentation

On March 10th, the LWV made a presentation before county commissioners on this newspaper publication issue. It was a colossal embarrassment for themselves and their organization. They certainly didn't take the commissioners to task as some have falsely suggested.

The LWV's comments were demeaning and clearly insulted commissioner's intelligence. The LWV apparently has no understanding that every commissioner on the board today has years of experience in government and none of them got elected by accident. In fact, several of them have an educational background where they could easily make a lot more money working in the private sector versus serving as a county commissioner.

The list of things the LWV attempted to deceive commissioners about is astonishing:

First, the LWV falsely claimed that the newspaper bidding process was not public. To the contrary, the commissioners were well aware that they conducted a sealed competitive bid process which was advertised in the *UnionHerald* and on the county's website, with results publicized at two different board meetings.

Second, the LWV falsely implied that the *UnionHerald* was some sort of countywide newspaper. The commissioners are well aware that there are 340,000 residents in the county living in over 120,000 households. They know that the *UnionHerald*'s print circulation of around 4,000 barely touches two of the seven commissioner districts. They know the *UnionHerald* is not a countywide publication.

Third, the LWV then resorted to raising petty and outlandish complaints like their claim that the *Record*'s www.AnokaCountyRecord.com website was hard to find. They even complained that we have a post office box. They also whined that the sign on our office door was not large enough. Commissioners have no problem typing our website name, and they are well aware that many businesses use post office boxes and do not spend big money on lavish signs.

Fourth, the LWV also testified that laws which require commissioners to select the low bidder are "subjective" and do not have to be followed. The two laws they claimed were subjective, state: "The publication shall be let annually by contract to the lowest bidder..." and "...shall thereupon award the publication of the notice and list to the publisher or proprietor of the newspaper whose offer is found to be the lowest."

They further testified that they wanted commissioners to be "subjective" and select a newspaper based upon "history" or "reputation". In other words, let's start awarding contracts like they do in corruption-plagued cities like Chicago or Detroit. Do we really want Anoka County to be awarding contracts to friends of commissioners who charge taxpayers more for the same work to be done? It's dumbfounding to hear this coming from an organization that claims to stand for good government.

Apparently the LWV is unaware that sealed competitive bid processes became popular close to 100 years ago as a way to eliminate the political favoritism and cronyism that ran rampant under the previous system of awarding contracts based upon "history" or "reputation". In the early 1900's, it was commonplace to see politicians and business owners collude to essentially rob the public treasury. In a sealed bid process, every bidder submits their price in a sealed envelope. The envelopes are all opened publicly at the same time and the prices are read aloud. This determines the low bidder that gets the contract. Minnesota's competitive bid laws have saved taxpayers millions of dollars and should not be rolled back. In fact, they should be expanded at every opportunity.

Even though commissioners conducted a corruption-free process, the LWV still chose to make the preposterous accusation that the *Record* was awarded a contract based upon political relationships. It is simply idiotic to even imply this, yet this is exactly what the LWV stated in a recent *UnionHerald* article. They could not bring themselves to tell the truth that it wasn't politics that caused the *UnionHerald* to lose the contract, it was their price gouging of county taxpayers that did. Not surprisingly, the same scenario also played out in the City of Oak Grove and Ham Lake.

Record Stands Up For Taxpayers In Court

To clarify statements made by the LWV and commissioners, the *Record* has never "quickly" sued the county on bidding issues. The facts are that in 2013, when commissioners failed to award contracts to the low bidder in violation of the law, I chose to do nothing with the understanding that the 2014 process would be lawful. In hindsight, I regret that decision, but it is a decision that I felt was appropriate at the time. In 2014, when commissioners again failed to award contracts to the low bidder, we took legal action to defend the law and stand up for taxpayers. The case is now before the Minnesota Court of Appeals; we do not expect a ruling until late 2015 or 2016.

The *Record* strongly supports the sealed competitive bid process with contracts awarded to the lowest bidder as the law requires. This benefits all taxpayers, and eliminates the political favoritism and cronyism process advocated by the LWV.

Publishers' Note: Next week I will write about a recent bill introduced by DFL legislators in Anoka County directed specifically at removing the Record as Anoka County's official newspaper. The bill will cost state taxpayers millions of dollars and one legislator who replied to our inquiry had little concern about the cost to taxpayers.

Anoka County RECORD

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**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, April 13, 2015 at 6:01 p.m. at the City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE for the purpose of considering the application of John Hallberg requesting a Conditional Use Permit to operate The Cage/CJ's (sports training facility) at 4425 Crosstown Boulevard NE, a parcel of land situated in the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota and which is described as follows to wit:

PIN #12-32-23-21-0004

UNPLATTED HAM LAKE TWP E1/2 OF THE W1/4 OF THE NE1/4 OF THE NW1/4 OF SEC 12-32-23 (EX PT PLATTED AS ANOKA CO HWY RT-OF-WAY PLAT NO 6)

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

DATED: April 3, 2015

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

(Published Apr. 3, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #182

**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, April 13, 2015 at 6:01 p.m. at the City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE for the purpose of considering the application of Megan and Jeremy Bautch to rezone certain parcels of land (2238 169th Avenue NE) from R-1 (Single Family Residential) to R-A (Rural Residential) such land situated in the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota and which is described as follows to wit:

PIN #09-32-23-42-0002

THE W 462 FT OF THE NW 1/4 OF THE SE1/4 EX THE W 208.75 FT OF THE N 208.75 FT THEREOF & EX THE E 187.25 FT OF THE N 466 FT THEREOF & EX RDS SUBJ TO EASE OF REC

PIN #09-32-23-42-0004

UNPLATTED HAM LAKE TWP COM AT NW COR OF SE 1/4 OF SEC 9 32 23 TH E ALONG N LINE A DIST OF 28 RODS TO POINT OF BEG TH S PRLL WITH W LINE A DIST OF 466 FT, TH W PRLL WITH N LINE A DIST OF 187.25 FT, THN PRLL WITH W LINE A DIST OF 466 FT TO N PROP LINE, TH E A DIST OF 187.25 FT ALONG N LINE TO POINT OF BEG 9 32 23

PIN #09-32-23-42-0006

THE E 88 FT OF THE W 550 FT OF THE NW1/4 OF THE SE1/4 SEC 09-32-23; EX RDS; SUBJ TO EASE OF REC

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

DATED: April 3, 2015

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

(Published Apr. 3, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #182

ANOKA COUNTY HRA NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Notice is hereby given that the Anoka County Housing

and Redevelopment Authority (ACHRA) is offering citizens the opportunity to make comments for 30 days on the proposed amendment to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program 2014 Fiscal Year Action Plan.

The ACHRA is proposing the reallocation of CDBG funds in the amount of \$110,000 to the Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP) to increase the existing activity identified as the 2014 Manufactured Home Removal/Replacement program. Funds will be reallocated from unallocated 2014 Program Income Funding. This project will meet the National Objective of low to moderate income housing.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment,

please call Kate Thunstrom, Community Development Manager, at Anoka County (763) 323-5714. Comments must be submitted in writing to the Anoka County Community Development Department, Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3rd Avenue, Anoka, MN. 55303-2265. Comments will be accepted until 4:30 on May 2, 2015.

If you need an accommodation, such as an interpreter or printed material in an alternate format (i.e., Braille or large print) because of a disability, please contact the Anoka County Administration office (763) 323-5700. TDD/TTY (763) 323-5289

/s/ Christine V. Carney
Assistant County Attorney

/s/ Karen Skepper
ACHRA Executive Director

(Published Apr. 3, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #184

ANOKA COUNTY SUMMARY OF BIDS

Bid #2015-11

Description of Bid/RFP:

Advertisement For Proposal for Time and Attendance System

Bid Opening: June 5, 2015.

For more information regarding the above published bids/RFPs, please visit the Anoka County Web Site at: www.AnokaCounty.us/bids.

(Published Apr. 3, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #185

ANOKA COUNTY SUMMARY OF BIDS

Bid #2015-12

Description of Bid/RFP:

Advertisement for Bids for the Rehabilitation of 10021 Larch Street NW, Coon Rapids, MN

Bid Opening: April 21, 2015.

For more information regarding the above published bids/RFPs, please visit the Anoka County Web Site at: www.AnokaCounty.us/bids.

(Published Mar. 20, 27, Apr. 3, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #173

ANOKA COUNTY SUMMARY OF BIDS

Bid #2015-14

Description of Bid/RFP:

Advertisement for Proposals for the Redevelopment and Lease of Rum River Human Service Center Property

Bid Opening: May 15, 2015.

For more information regarding the above published bids/RFPs, please visit the Anoka County Web Site at: www.AnokaCounty.us/bids.

(Published Apr. 3, 10, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #186

ANOKA COUNTY SUMMARY OF BIDS

Bid #2015-15

Description of Bid/RFP:

Bids Invited for County Project C.P. 15-01-00

Pavement Rehabilitation and Bituminous Overlays Bid Opening: April 28, 2015.

For more information regarding the above published bids/RFPs, please visit the Anoka County Web Site at: www.AnokaCounty.us/bids.

(Published Apr. 3, 10, 17, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #187

CITY OF OAK GROVE COUNTY OF ANOKA STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that a public hearing will be held before the Oak Grove Planning Commission on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at or around 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 19900 Nightingale St NW to hear written and oral comments and questions concerning the proposed vacation of the following described property:

To vacate a portion of the right of way for 205th Avenue Northwest as dedicated on the plat of Hampton Meadows which lies west of the westerly line of Gladiola Street Northwest as dedicated on said Hampton Meadows.

Hearing impaired persons planning to attend who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids should contact City Hall at 404-7006 no later than Wednesday, April 8, 2015.

Sheryl F. Fiskewold
City Clerk
(Published Apr. 3, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #133

NOTICE OF HEARING TO ESTABLISH CHANGE OF NAME

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ANOKA
IN DISTRICT COURT
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

File No: 02-CV-15-622

In the Matter of the Application of Change of Name for:

Lukas Baugher Filipek
A minor by Chelsea Nicole Johnson, his mother and natural guardian.

All Concerned are hereby notified that an Application has been filed by Chelsea Nicole Johnson with the Anoka County District Court for the name change of Lukas Baugher Filipek.

A hearing on the matter will be held on April 30, 2015 at 9 o' clock a.m. in room W411 in the Anoka County Courthouse, 325 Maine St. E, Anoka, MN 55303.

Should you wish to object to this application, you must let your objection be known no later than the time of the aforementioned hearing.

Dated: March 27, 2015
BY Trygve A. Egge #25987
4061 Lexington Ave. N.
#201, Arden Hills, MN 55126
(Published Apr. 3, 10, 17, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #188

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:

Classics & More
2. Principal Place of Business:
14954 Aberdeen St NE #2, Ham Lake, MN

55304

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:

**SS LLC, 14954
Aberdeen St NE #2,
Ham Lake, MN 55304
Susan Syl Stang,
18544 Everglade Dr
NE, East Bethel MN
55092**

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: Mar. 18, 2015, #817928500027, /s/ Susan Syl Stang
(Published Mar. 27, Apr. 3, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #180

DANIEL K. NEUFVILLE

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL DIVISION-LAW: QUITA S. NEUFVILLE, PLAINTIFF v. DANIEL K. NEUFVILLE, DEFENDANT; No. 2014-FC-822; IN CHILD CUSTODY. ORDER OF COURT: You, Daniel K. Neufville, have been sued in court to obtain custody, partial custody or visitation of your minor children, Precious Neufville, March 15, 2001; Sandra Neufville, born January 15, 2005; and Tia Neufville, born December 3, 2007. You are ordered to appear in person at Room 325, Lehigh County Courthouse, 455 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, on April 24, 2015, at 1:00PM., for a conciliation conference. If you fail to appear as provided by this Order, an order for custody may be entered against you or the Court may issue a warrant for your arrest. You must file with the Court a verification regarding any criminal record or abuse history regarding you and anyone living in your household on or before the initial in-person contact with the Court (including, but not limited to, a conference with a conference officer or judge or conciliation) but not later than 30 days after service of the Complaint or Petition. No party may make a change in the residence of any child which significantly impairs the ability of the other party to exercise custodial rights without first complying with all of the applicable provisions of 23Pa.C.S. §5337 and Pa.R.C.P.No. 1915.17 regarding relocation. YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE. LEHIGH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, Lawyer Referral Service, P.O.Box1324, Allentown,PA, 18105,Telephone:610 433 7094. **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990:** The Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County is required by law to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For information about accessible facilities and reasonable accommodations available to disabled individuals having business before the Court, please contact the Court Administrator's Office at 610 782-3014. All arrangements must be made at least 72 hours prior to any hearing or business before the Court. You must attend the scheduled conference or hearing./s/ Michele A. Varricchio, J., Date:3/16/15.

(Published Apr. 3, 2015, Anoka County Record) #189

DANIEL K. NEUFVILLE

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL DIVISION-LAW: QUITA S. NEUFVILLE, PLAINTIFF v. DANIEL K. NEUFVILLE, DEFENDANT; No.2014-FC-1103; IN DIVORCE. NOTICE TO DEFEND AND CLAIM RIGHTS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED IN COURT. IF YOU WISH TO DEFEND AGAINST THE CLAIMS SET FORTH IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES, YOU MUST TAKE PROMPT ACTION. YOU ARE WARNED THAT IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO, THE CASE MAY PROCEED WITHOUT YOU AND A DECREE OF DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU BY THE COURT. A JUDGMENT MAY ALSO BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR ANY OTHER CLAIM OR RELIEF REQUESTED IN THESE PAPERS BY THE PLAINTIFF. YOU MAY LOSE MONEY OR PROPERTY OR OTHER RIGHTS IMPORTANT TO YOU, INCLUDING CUSTODY OR VISITATION OF YOUR CHILDREN. WHEN THE GROUND FOR THE DIVORCE IS INDIGNITIES OR IRRETRIEVABLE BREAKDOWN OF THE MARRIAGE, YOU MAY REQUEST MARRIAGE COUNSELING. A LIST OF MARRIAGE COUNSELORS IS AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE OF: Clerk of Judicial Records-Civil Division, Lehigh County Courthouse, First Floor, Room 122, 455 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101. If you do not file a claim for alimony, division of property, lawyer's fees or expenses before a divorce or annulment is granted, you may lose the right to claim any of them. YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE. LEHIGH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, Lawyer Referral Service, P.O.Box1324, Allentown,PA, 18105,Telephone:610 433 7094. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990: The Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County is required by law to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For information about accessible facilities and reasonable accommodations available to disabled individuals having business before the Court, please contact the Court Administrator's Office at 610 782-3014. All arrangements must be made at least 72 hours prior to any hearing or business before the Court. You must attend the scheduled conference or hearing./s/ CHRISTOPHER R. MCFARLAND, Esq., Atty.for Plaintiff, Quita S. Neufville, PA Atty.ID #38794. Writ Reissued, 3/16/15,/s/ M.Kline, Clerk. **NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:** If you wish to deny any of the statements set forth in this affidavit, you must file a counter-affidavit within twenty (20) days after this affidavit has been served on you or the statements will be admitted. **PLAINTIFF'S AFFIDAVIT UNDER §3301d OF THE DIVORCE CODE:**

1. The parties to this action separated on July 14, 2007, and have continued to live separate and apart for a period of at least two (2) years. 2. The marriage is irretrievably broken. 3. I understand that I may lose rights concerning alimony, division of property, lawyer's fees or expenses if I do not claim them before a divorce is granted. I verify that the statements made in this affidavit are true and correct. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities. /s/ QUITA S.NEUFVILLE, Plaintiff, 8/21/14.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REQUEST ENTRY OF §3301d DIVORCE: TO: **DANIEL K. NEUFVILLE**, Defendant: You have been sued in an action for divorce. You have failed to answer the complaint or file a counter-affidavit to the §3301d affidavit. Therefore, on or after **May 1, 2015** the other party can request the court to enter a final decree in divorce. If you do not file with the Prothonotary of the court an answer with your signature notarized or verified or a counter-affidavit by the above date, the court can enter a final decree in divorce. A counter-affidavit which you may file with the prothonotary of the court is attached to this notice. Unless you have already filed with the court a written claim for economic relief, you must do so by the above date or the court may grant the divorce and you will lose forever the right to ask for economic relief. The filing of the form counter-affidavit alone does not protect your economic claims.

COUNTER-AFFIDAVIT UNDER §3301d OF THE DIVORCE CODE: 1. Check either a or b: _a I do not oppose the entry of a divorce decree;