



Cuts coming to taxpayer-funded golf courses

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

Thirty-six municipalities in Minnesota are operating golf courses at a loss to taxpayers, according to the latest statewide figures are available from the Minnesota state auditor.

The 36 cities golf courses operating as enterprise funds — a fee-based city service — ran up deficits totaling more than \$4.5 million. A third of those cities recorded losses of more than \$100,000.

After Wild Marsh in Buffalo City, Minnesota, lost more than \$500,000 in back-to-back seasons, the City Council eliminated the general manager and top golf professional position during the winter. The cuts followed a decline to 20,500 rounds played, less than half the rate necessary to be profitable at current green fees. As a result, the grounds keeper's job description now includes pro shop manager and other duties.

"Foremost was reducing our operating expenses. That's why we did the personnel changes we did," said Buffalo City Administrator Merton Auger. "Second, we had to understand that marketing is done differently nowadays with more social media. Different things that were done in the past, clearly weren't working, and to continue to do those things would be absurd."

The downturn continues a pullback from a glut of public courses built in the late 20th century. Taxpayers in some cities will subsidize maintenance and improvements to attract more players, while the fix will lead some public links to raise membership, green and cart fees in order to cut losses.

Nationwide, golf seems to be losing some of its luster. Rounds are down 1.7 percent across the country, according to National Golf Foundation statistics.

To attract duffers back to the course, and encourage those whose skills might be less than PGA Junior League level, the challenging par 70 Wild Marsh course took the off-season to make significant changes.

"That's why we softened the course a bit for people that are high handicappers. They don't want to spend six hours on a golf course. We have to shorten up the times. So we've been making efforts to do that," Auger said.

The city of Chaska, Minnesota, devotes seven pages in its 2015 city budget document to the Town Course, a high-end links with high-end losses in recent years — \$420,000 in 2013.

"The Town Course has continued to meet the annual operational needs of the course, but has struggled to generate significant reserves to go towards future

CUTS COMING TO TAXPAYER-FUNDED GOLF COURSES *cont. on page 5*

Just the Numbers: Dayton's 2015 Borrowing Proposal

On Tuesday, Governor Mark Dayton introduced an \$842 million statewide borrowing proposal. In the next two years, principal and interest payments on \$842 million would be \$78 million. Payments would continue for several decades. If passed by the legislature as proposed, the following Anoka County projects would receive state funding.

| Projects in Anoka County | Borrowing |
|--|--------------|
| National Sports Center Tournament Fields | \$4,200,000 |
| Corrections AP - Lino Lakes | \$808,000 |
| Corrections - Lino Lakes Building E Renovation | \$4,000,000 |
| Human Services AP - Anoka | \$925,000 |
| MetCouncil Parks Anoka County | \$680,000 |
| PCA Closed Landfill | \$12,000,000 |
| Anoka Technical College Initiatives | \$1,409,000 |
| MnSCU HEAPR Anoka-Ramsey CC | \$2,559,000 |
| Rail Grade Separation Coon Rapids | \$11,585,000 |

Legislators use their positions in attempt to quash Record

As county leaders point out, taxpayers will be the ones who are punished

I have seen some pretty brazen actions taken by legislators during my time working at and observing activity at the Minnesota Legislature. But I have to say that this new newspaper publication bill rises to a level that even took a political veteran like me by surprise.

On March 18, 2015, Anoka County Senators Barb Goodwin (DFL-41), Alice Johnson (DFL-37), and John Hoffman (DFL-36) introduced Senate File 1856. On the same day, Anoka County Representatives Carolyn Laine (DFL-41B), and Jerry Newton (DFL-37A) introduced House File 2008.

Both bills contain identical language. What these two bills would do is change how local elected officials (cities, school districts, counties, etc.) select their official newspaper to publish public notices.

The current selection process differs depending upon the unit of government. In most cases, cities and school districts have the ability to select any newspaper in their area (generally the county) to publish public notices. The *Record* has previously reported that while these two groups complain the loudest about the cost of publishing notices, they typically select the more expensive option when given a choice. The only two exceptions to this in Anoka County are the cities of Ham Lake and Oak Grove which compared prices and selected the vendor with the lowest price.

Counties on the other hand are bound by two laws which require them to conduct a bid process and to select the newspaper with the lowest cost.

Typically when the Legislature applies restrictions to contracting authority, it is to encourage the use of competitive bidding in order to obtain the best value for taxpayers. What is unique about SF1856/HF2008 is that it does exactly the opposite. It requires that every local government select the newspaper that prints the greatest number of paper copies regardless of cost to taxpayers. The bill takes away the local government officials' ability to weigh other considerations such as price to publish, subscription price, or website access when selecting a newspaper for publishing public notices. This mandate would apply even if the price were to increase 10 times or more which will be the case in many areas.

The end result is that this new proposal will significantly drive up the cost of publishing public notices at all levels of government. It will also reward newspapers who chose to take the anti-environmental stance of printing more paper copies regardless of readership. It will discourage newspapers from making investments in website technology. It will take money away from local governments and taxpayers. It will discourage local governments from investing in things such as televising government meetings or improving the availability of government documents on websites.

However, the most frightening thing about this proposal is how only the largest newspaper corporations will benefit. Under this new proposal, the newspaper which prints the greatest number of paper copies will own the particular market. This will allow them to virtually set whatever price they desire for publishing notices, because local governments will be mandated to advertise with a specific paper,

SF 1856 / HF 2008 *cont. on page 4*

Anoka County Law Day

On May 1, 2015, from 11am to 1:30pm, Anoka County District Court will hold their annual Law Day event in the atrium of the Anoka County Government Center.

The event will consist of approximately 14 justice partners and agencies that work in collaboration with the court system. Resource tables and information will be available to the public, along with the opportunity to visit with justice partners. A K9 demonstration, courtroom tour and a question/answer session with a District Court Judge chambered in Anoka County is scheduled.

The 2015 National Law Day theme is, "Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law". The Magna Carter was signed 800 years ago in England. The idea of a national Law Day was conceived in 1957 by American Bar Association President Charles Rhynes. In 1958 President Dwight D.Eisenhower, established the first Law Day, and in 1961 the U.S. Congress issued a joint resolution making May 1 the official Law Day.

What: Anoka County 2015 Law Day Event

When: May 1, 2015, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Where: Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3rd Avenue, Anoka MN

Publisher's Column



John Kysylyczyn

A Busy April and May Ahead

The legislative session has hit the half-way mark and there are a couple interesting recent developments.

The finished products of a legislative session are policy and finance bills that get signed into law by the Governor. If the finished products of the legislative session were fine ceramics, we would be at the lumps of clay phase. The lumps of clay are still mounds taking shape. We are a couple weeks away from sending them to the kiln the first time, glazing them, and re-firing them.

Legislative policy and budget proposals are in rough draft form right now. The rough drafts will be discussed in committees, we will revise them with amendments, and vote those bills out of committee. Then we will revise them more on the House floor before they are voted on again.

In late February we received the budget forecast, and in mid- to late March we received the budget proposals the House will be acting on during April and May. The Governor and the House Republicans put forward their major budget outlines, which I have summarized here.

Governor Dayton Budget Focused on Children and Families

On March 16th, Governor Dayton released his supplemental budget. Gov. Dayton proposes to invest 80% of the budget surplus in children, students and families. His proposal builds on the education policy successes of the last two years. Because all-day, every-day kindergarten has been such a success, and so many families have benefitted from the tuition freeze at state colleges and universities, Gov. Dayton proposes continued progress in education. He proposes to fund universal preschool and to provide enough funding to continue the tuition freeze at state colleges and universities for another two years.

Highlights of Governor Dayton's Supplemental Budget:

- Provide all day pre-school for every 4-year-old for all families who choose it.
- Increase K-12 funding by increasing the amount provided to school districts for each student and by increasing funding for special education.
- Address the achievement gap by eliminating the waiting list for Head Start.
- Provide breakfast for children in preschool through 3rd grade, fund in-school programs to improve student behavior, and support parents of at-risk children.
- Continue the tuition freeze at all Minnesota state colleges and universities.
- Reduce taxes for working families by increasing the child and dependent care tax credit and K-12 education tax credits.
- Fund the recommendations established by the Task Force on the Protection of Children.
- Help low-income parents access high-quality child care.
- Provide better care for nursing home residents by investing additional funds for worker retention and salaries.
- Improve public safety in the courts and corrections systems.

Governor Dayton and House DFLers are committed to continuing the success Minnesota saw over the last two years.

House Republicans introduce their proposed budget

On March 24th, House Republicans released their budget targets. Their proposal prioritizes tax cuts over investing in education.

The Republican plan would cut taxes by \$2 billion. They have not specified who would get the tax breaks, but HF1, their top priority – was largely a corporate and business tax cut bill.

Despite a \$1.9 billion surplus, the Republican budget calls for less than a 1% increase in K-12 education funding. The Republican budget would not provide the funding necessary to continue the college tuition freeze at all state colleges and universities. In the Republican budget, for every \$1 that goes to education they cut taxes by \$15.

Despite Minnesota's budget surplus, the Republican budget would cut more than \$1 billion from health care services for seniors and people with disabilities. In addition, the proposed Republican budget would cut millions from job expansion efforts, the environment, and capital improvement projects across the state.

While Minnesota's economy is thriving and unemployment is very low, we should be working to create more opportunity for all Minnesotans, not catering to corporate special interests.

As more details emerge on the Republican budget plan I will let you know. We will be seeing the detailed budget bills in our committees soon. I will be pushing for a more balanced approach that puts children, students, low and middle income families, seniors, and people with disabilities ahead of corporate special interests.

A busy April and May ahead

I will be in committee hearings for longer hours as we go through the remainder of April. Then in May we will be on the House floor most of the time. Please remember that all committee hearings are open to the public, as are all floor sessions. Please continue to share your thoughts with me. I appreciate your input as I consider policy proposals. Thank you and happy spring!



Rep. Melissa Hortman
District 36B
 237 State Office Bldg.
 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-4280

The State Found Your Lost Wallet, But We Aren't Going to Tell You

State Holds Record \$650 Million in Lost Funds with No Requirement to Tell Owners

When I got the list of my constituents with unclaimed property being held by the State of Minnesota two months ago, I was astonished at the amount — a staggering \$7 million in lost funds belonged to families from my House district of 39,500 people. I naturally assumed the people on the unclaimed property list would be hard to find, since some insurance company, bank or past employer had been unable to locate the person with unclaimed property. Boy, was I wrong. It was a walk in the park to find the owners of unclaimed property. Over the course of three weeks, allotting a mere 10 minutes per day, I located and notified local residents with over \$303,000 in unclaimed funds. That's in excess of \$100,000 per hour.

Statewide, the total amount of unclaimed or lost property being held by Minnesota's Department of Commerce is mind-blowing - a record \$650 million - almost three times as much as it was a mere decade ago. This represents a whopping \$125 in unclaimed funds for every one of Minnesota's 5.2 million citizens.

However, what I learned next is what really surprised me.

Minnesota law does not require the Department of Commerce to take any affirmative steps to find owners. So the money just sits there. And sits there. And grows in the State's coffers.

To me, what the State is doing is like finding a lost wallet full of cash, with an ID in it, but not calling the owner to let him know you found his wallet.

In my 180-minute experiment to find local folks with lost or unclaimed property, I found three things most owners had in common. First, the owners were amazingly easy to find, often as a result of a quick Google or address search. Second, most owners were completely unaware they had lost funds being held by the State. Many owners were children of deceased parents who had bank accounts or insurance proceeds. Some had changed jobs and been entitled to additional pay or benefits. Finally, almost none of the owners were aware of the State's current one-prong effort to reunite them with their funds via a website called www.MissingMoney.com.

The State's current effort using www.MissingMoney.com is the online equivalent of occasionally stapling a sign to a utility pole saying we found a lost wallet. Even though we know the name of the owner and his or her last known address, the State waits for the owner to find us using the website.

To its credit, the Minnesota Department of Commerce does take the website on the road. For example, it sets up computer stations for 10 days in the Education Building at the State Fair where Minnesotans can type in their names to find out if they have lost funds.

I believe we have a responsibility to do more, especially since we know the name and address of the owner.

To help reunite people with the property that's owed to them, I have introduced HF 1693, which will bring an entirely different approach to the effort. This bill would address this problem by doing three things:

First, my legislation would expand on an old-fashioned idea that worked well, running ads in local newspapers listing the names of local folks with unclaimed funds. In South Dakota, which still does it this way, they get hundreds of calls per day for weeks after ads run in local papers.

Second, the legislation would call on the Department of Commerce to reach out to owners of lost property, most of whom are easy to find and are unaware they have unclaimed funds. This could be done by current staff, by interns, or by volunteers, whatever works. But it needs to be done. To the extent there are modest costs associated with doing so, there is no need to look to taxpayers to pay for this effort. The Department testified it could use unclaimed funds currently coming in from insurance companies that cannot be tied to any particular owner and which presently go into the Unclaimed Property Fund.

Finally, my legislation requires the Department of Commerce to provide each legislator with a list of local residents with unclaimed property, so other legislators can alert constituents just like I am doing.

Plain and simple, it is not right for the State to be holding more than half a billion dollars of Minnesotans' money and not be actively engaged in reuniting people with it. This bill offers a common sense solution to the problem at no additional cost to the taxpayer. It is about time the State do a better job getting wallets back to their rightful owners.

Sincerely,

Rep. Joe Atkins
 DFL-Inver Grove Heights



ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG

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

Quote of the Week: "Maintaining an appointed Met Council would continue the Council's accountability problems ... Because Council members are appointed by the governor, however, they are not directly accountable to the public for (their) decisions."

- James Nobles, Minnesota Legislative Auditor

TAMING THE MET COUNCIL

The chorus against the unelected (and therefore unaccountable) Metropolitan Council continues to grow.

It was publically revealed this week that four suburban counties have hired a federal lobbyist to help the federal government enforce their own law that says elected, not appointed, public officials must be the approving authority for the disbursement of federal funds controlled by the Council.

Of course, the Star Tribune called the law "a somewhat obscure rule" in trying to denigrate it and protect Big Government, something that newspaper loves and worships.

The law is the law and it's sad indeed that these counties need to hire a lobbyist (and perhaps a lawyer?) to simply have the federal government follow the laws it makes.

Then again, what would one expect from a government and a president that regularly ignore the law?

Of course, Governor Dayton reacted to the news with all the poise, maturity, and equanimity we have come to expect from The Eternal Adolescent.

With eyes wider, whiter, and wilder than normal, The governor slurred his way through a diatribe that included phrases like "outrageous" and "irresponsible." There was also the obligatory reference to "sneaking" something by the governor, which has become his code for being asleep at the switch. Sneaking anything by this governor is akin to sneaking the Invisible Man past Rip Van Winkle.

Just like the Vikings snuck the personal seat license into the stadium bill. Or the farm equipment repair tax was snuck into the tax bill he signed. Or the way miserly charitable contributions were snuck into his tax return. It's debatable who learns more about government by reading it in the newspapers - Barack Obama or Mark Dayton. If Mark's Star Tribune subscription was cancelled, state government would grind to a halt.

It's laughable that the governor would plead ignorance regarding the position of the four counties in question. More likely, he wasn't listening.

Scott County Administrator Gary Shelton gets it right.

"Despite the governor saying our actions are shameful for airing our dirty laundry to the federal government, we've been working for a change at the state level for six years," he said in a recent interview.

The simple fact is that opinion makers across government are coming to the conclusion that the Met Council's governing structure is contrary to basic and fundamental notions of representative government.

Considering the size, scope, and mission of the Council, it's rather appalling to consider that those who govern it are unaccountable to taxpayers.

By the numbers, the Met Council is massive. It's

fourth largest governmental unit in the state, by operating budget (\$890 million).

It has some 4,200 employees.

Most importantly, the Council makes decisions limiting important citizens rights. This is especially true with respect to land use and development.

Increasingly, the Met Council has taken a more direct role in dictating where and how people live their lives in the Metropolitan area.

And yet every member of the Council's governing body is unelected.

This state of affairs should trouble every citizen regardless of political ideology.

In fact, unelected, unaccountable metropolitan governing body is a rare thing.

According to the federal government, 94% of metropolitan governing bodies are elected in some fashion.

The Met Council stands alone.

This is perhaps why legislators across the political spectrum as well as non-partisan official like the Legislative Auditor are decrying the status quo and calling for change in the way the Council is governed.

In conversations with some legislators and local officials, the Watchdog has learned that in addition to a growing presence in citizens' lives, many are also troubled by what they see as the hyper-political nature of the Met Council under Mark Dayton.

While it is true that the Met Council has been ruled by political appointees since day one, there is a feeling among many observers that Governor Dayton has taken the partisanship to a new and unprecedented level.

In the aggregate, there is an observation that Dayton has greatly de-emphasized merit and overly emphasized political biographies in his selection of Met Council appointees.

One former mayor of Metropolitan city remarked, "When I look at the biographies of these folks, I see a whole lot of people with a background in partisan politics and very little experience in working with or in city/county government."

In fact, the Watchdog posted a story just a couple of week ago in which we highlighted the highly partisan background of many Met Council appointees.

This circumstance has not gone unnoticed in Saint Paul. The Watchdog has spoken to sources at the Capitol who say that information is being compiled regarding who has applied to the Met Council, who was granted an interview, and who was ultimately chosen.

One source told the Watchdog, "The caliber of some applicants who didn't even get an interview will blow you away. These are highly respected voices in the arena of public policy."

The turning of the Met Council into a quasi-DFL Party operation continues apace.

The Watchdog has learned that Jennifer O'Rourke is now the Director of Community Relations at the Met Council.

Don't know who she is? More importantly, don't know who she's married to?

How about the Chairman of the Minnesota DFL.

Apparently, Mark Dayton considers state employment to be a variation of the Newlywed Game.

Community Action of Minneapolis. The Iron Range. Giants Ridge. Double digit pay raises. Met Council patronage.

Gangster government.

PUT IT ON THE CREDIT CARD - OR NOT

It's no surprise that Governor Dayton has expressed his enthusiasm for putting over \$800 million on the state's credit card in the form of "bonding" for state projects.

Loyal readers know that the economic stimulus effect of these bills is dubious.

They also know that there are always scores of pork barrel projects that utterly lack merit in these bills.

This proposal is no exception to that rule, including a pool for Hallock, some bike trails, a greenhouse for the U of M, and some stuff for the Como Zoo (is that still around?).

The Mark Dayton spin machine was out in full force with all sorts of maps, charts, and graphs for the media and public to consume for this, the latest "jobs" bill. No word on whether this was also "for the children."

But there were two sheets of paper the governor left out of the picture.

The first one is a list kept by the Department of Management and Budget (MMB) regarding how much bonding has been authorized in previous bills but remains unspent.

After the glow of passing a bonding bill passes and all the politicians are done back slapping and shopping press releases, the nitty gritty work of actually underwriting, selling, and processing bonds into money for projects go unnoticed.

Would you believe that there is some \$2.4 BILLION in authorized but unspent bonding that is sitting idle in the pipeline from previous bonding bills?

Going back 25 years, there is some \$2.45 BILLION in unspent but authorized bonding.

Before the legislature goes along with Dayton charging up the credit card to satisfy the various political constituencies, they had best carefully scrutinize these projects in the pipeline and ask some hard questions about the status.

This publication is willing to bet the legislature could go a long ways towards funding critical and bond-worthy projects like roads and bridges simply by cancelling some of these stalled projects and redirecting the money to more worthwhile projects.

The other document that didn't make the governor's media packet was the debt service spreadsheet.

This is the document that tallies all the interest payments taxpayers shell out whenever the state goes to market to sell debt instruments and rent money from bond holders.

As things stand today, without additional bonding, the state will shell out over \$2 BILLION in interest payments in the next 20 years, between general obligation and trunk highway bonds.

2\$ BILLION right out the door in interest payments simply for the debt we've already incurred.

Strangely, these documents didn't make the press packet for the governor.

Fortunately, they made our press packet.

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.

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ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF CRIME REPORT

ANDOVER

Thefts & Damage to Property

03.27 20xx 138 Ave NW – vandalism to a vehicle; windows broken out
 03.27 151xx Eldorado St NW – vandalism to a vehicle; mirror smashed
 03.27 14xx Raven St NW – vandalism to a vehicle; windows broken out
 03.27 145xx Jonquil St NW – vandalism to a vehicle; windows broken out
 03.27 176xx Tulip St NW – female reporting her SS# was used to fraudulently file a tax return
 03.27 34xx 138 Ln NW – mail stolen from the mailbox
 03.27 15400 Hanson Blvd NW – Ipod stolen from Oakview Middle School

03.31 550 Bunker Lake Blvd NW – at the park; 3 longboards and backpacks stolen

04.01 165xx Hanson Blvd NW – vandalism to a vehicle; maple syrup poured on it

Burglaries

03.31 172xx Partridge St NW – unsecure shed; chain saw

Arrests

03.28 11xx 143 Ave NW – Burglary, Damage to Property; deputies responded to a burglary in progress. Upon arriving they located a male sitting on a couch. Nothing was stolen. The male appeared to be confused and under the influence of narcotics and alcohol. The male was arrested.

03.29 Andover Blvd NW/Xeon St 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. (.10)
 03.31 Yukon St NW/Bunker Lake Blvd NW – 2nd Degree DWI, Child Endangerment x 4; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conducted. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. There were four small children also in the vehicle. The female was arrested. (.256)

03.31 13633 Martin St NW – 5th Degree Assault, Disorderly Conduct, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; deputies responded to Andover Lanes on a report of two males fighting. One of the males was contained. During the search of the male drug paraphernalia was located. The male was arrested.

COLUMBUS

Thefts & Damage to Property

03.27 163xx Kettle River Blvd NE – license plate stolen from a vehicle

Arrests

03.28 179xx Kettle River Blvd NE – 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance; deputies responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle blocking a driveway. The occupant of the vehicle did not have a valid driver's license. During the search of the vehicle narcotics were located. The male was arrested.

03.29 153xx Zodiac St NE – 2nd Degree Assault, Violation of a DANCO Violation; deputies responded to an assault between two males. One of the males was arrested. While out at the scene the deputies learned that a Domestic Assault No Contact Order had been violated. The female was arrested.

EAST BETHEL

Burglaries

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

Thefts & Damage to Property

03.31 205xx Jackson St NE – illegal dump; old freezer dumped on the property

Arrests

03.28 4832 Viking Blvd NW – 5th Degree Assault, Disorderly Conduct; deputies responded to an assault that occurred in the parking lot of the bar. A female was transported to Fairview Wyoming Hospital. A male was arrested.

04.03 Klondike Dr NE/Hwy 65 NE – 3rd Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for speeding. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. .136

HAM LAKE

Burglaries

03.28 146xx Dunkirk St NE – forced entry through service door; tools

Thefts & Damage to Property

03.27 21xx 146 Ave NE – vandalism to a home; mailbox shot with paint balls

03.29 23xx 133 Ln NE – vandalism to a home; yard lights broken

03.30 179xx Hwy 65 NE – unsecure vehicle; batteries, tools

04.01 20xx 134 Ln NE – vandalism to a home; shot with paint balls, yard lights broken

LINWOOD

Thefts & Damage to Property

03.29 74xx 237 Ave NE – mailbox stolen

04.02 55XX 226 Ave NE – male reporting his SS# was used to fraudulently file a tax return

04.02 68xx 226 Ln NE – male reporting his SS# was used to fraudulently file a tax return

NOWTHEN

Thefts & Damage to Property

03.28 224xx St Francis Blvd NW – vandalism to a vehicle; rocks thrown at the windshield

Arrests

03.29 224xx St Francis Blvd NW – 5th Degree Assault; deputies responded to a client/employee assault. The client was arrested.

03.31 50xx 183 Ln NW – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. The male was arrested.

OAK GROVE

Burglaries

03.31 8xx 225 Ln NW – forced entry though sliding door; tools, electronics, jewelry

Thefts & Damage to Property

04.01 202xx Rum River Blvd NW – damage to front door during attempted break in

04.01 43xx 203 Ln NW – vandalism to a home; toilet papered

Arrests

03.28 Viking Blvd NW/Rum River Blvd NW – 2nd Degree DWI; deputies responded to a 2 car property damage crash. One of the driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.23)

03.29 21800 Block Nightingale St NW – 4th Degree DWI, 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance; a deputy stopped out with a car in the ditch at the location. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. During the search of the vehicle narcotics were located. The female was arrested.

SF 1856 / HF 2008 *continued from page 1*

based on circulation and not competitive pricing.

If this proposal was enacted today, it would be a financial burden for Anoka County, but would also be devastating to Hennepin County and Ramsey County. Similar monumental increases would be felt by other local governments throughout the state including the City of St. Paul, City of Minneapolis, Saint Paul Public Schools, and the Minneapolis Public Schools. All local governments would be impacted by price increases of some sort as a result of the elimination of price competition between newspapers.

The Blaine- Spring Lake Park newspaper would have a lock on publishing Anoka County's public notices. The current \$20,000 publication budget would increase four fold to over \$80,000 per year. Currently Anoka County publishes in the *Anoka County Record*.

Commissioner Matt Look responded to the proposed legislation: "We are at the edge of government "going bad". Technology allows us to advertise for free on our greatest used asset...our website...our highest traffic county infrastructure to date. Rather than state law accommodating current technology they are threatening to perpetuate waste. It is my hope that common sense prevails regarding this issue".

The *Pioneer Press* would have a lock on publishing Ramsey County's public notices. The current \$40,000 publication budget would increase by a factor of 25 to over \$1,000,000 per year. Currently Ramsey County publishes in the *New Brighton Bulletin*.

Commissioner Blake Huffman responded to the proposed legislation stating, "I don't think this legislation is necessary, since we do currently publish in a county newspaper and also have all the information on our website."

The *Star Tribune* would have a lock on publishing Hennepin County's public notices. Like Ramsey County, Hennepin's publication costs would soar to well over \$1,000,000 per year. Currently Hennepin County publishes in *Finance & Commerce*.

Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson told the *Record*, "The elimination of competitive bidding for our public notices makes no sense at all. It would likely cost the taxpayers of Hennepin County considerably more money each year. We've actually been advocating for several years in Hennepin (on a bi-partisan basis) to eliminate the state requirement for notices in a written publication and allow for electronic posting and notification, which would not only save money for taxpayers but would provide notices in the manner that almost everyone uses today. This bill is moving us in exactly the wrong direction."

I made several attempts to contact legislators to inquire as to why they were advocating for this change in the law. I also wanted to inquire as to whether they fully understood the ramifications of their proposal. I was hoping to find some common sense response that could shed some light on this issue.

I made multiple attempts to contact Senators Alice Johnson (DFL-37), and John Hoffman (DFL-36), and also Representatives Carolyn Laine (DFL-41B), and Jerry Newton (DFL-37A). None of them would even

acknowledge my attempts to contact them. Only Senator Barb Goodwin (DFL-41) was willing to reply.

Senator Goodwin stated, "The bill will be amended to change current law that requires only 400 copies to requiring more copies per capita and prevent heavily biased political newsletters from being the "news" source for legal notices that are only received by a few hundred people in a very large county."

Senator Goodwin's response confirmed several things which I suspected of all the legislators who signed on to this legislation. First, they do not understand current law which sets the requirements a newspaper must meet to publish public notices. Second, they are proposing this change because they do not like what a particular newspaper chooses to publish. Third, they have little insight of how the majority of residents of metropolitan areas access public notices. Fourth, they have no understanding of the financial impact this will have on local governments and the monopolies this will create for large newspaper corporations.

There are several issues that are touched upon in Senator Goodwin's response and I will go through them point by point.

First, Minnesota law sets the standards a newspaper must meet in order to publish public notices. Over the decades, Legislators themselves have intentionally reduced these standards specifically to encourage new startup newspapers. For example, about 10 years ago the Legislature relaxed the weekly publication standard to twice monthly. They made this change to encourage increased competition amongst newspapers. It was recognized that competition would drive down the cost of publishing public notices.

The printing standards set in Minnesota law are what allow smaller newspapers to co-exist with large newspaper corporations. They also recognize a changing media market where newspapers are increasing their online presence and printing fewer paper copies. Mandating local governments to select a newspaper strictly on the number of paper copies printed will eventually eliminate those newspapers that are not part of large corporate conglomerates which have the financial ability to own massive printing press operations.

Second, Senator Goodwin's statement admitting that she has introduced a bill targeting a newspaper because she believes it is "heavily biased" is troublesome from a constitutional perspective. We all know the United States Constitution First Amendment protection of free speech and freedom of the press. What is less well known is the greater protection which is provided in our own Minnesota Constitution. In Article I, Section 3 of the Minnesota Constitution, it states, "The liberty of the press shall forever remain inviolate, and all persons may freely speak, write and publish their sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such right." This provision was adopted by the people of Minnesota on October 13, 1857.

Beyond targeting a particular newspaper due to content, attempting to connect a newspaper's content to the publishing of public notices is highly misplaced. Senator Goodwin implies that there is some connection between the two that neither the newspaper nor the government advertiser

PUBLIC NOTICES *cont. on page 5*

PUBLIC NOTICES *continued from page 4*

would desire. For example, the *Record's* publishing of a city's financial statement does not imply that the *Record* agrees with the spending decision of that city. On the other side, the fact that the city has chosen to publish that financial statement in our newspaper does not imply that they support the other content or advertisers that appear in our newspaper. A newspaper is simply a tool that local government is required to use to notify citizens of issues through the publication of public notices.

Third, Senator Goodwin's statement implies that more printed newspapers equates to more citizens reading public notices. This cannot be further from the truth. In major metropolitan areas where access to high speed internet is near 100%, the overwhelming majority of residents first look to a newspaper website for this type of information long before they would seek out a paper copy. In addition, the number of printed copies of any newspaper in a major metropolitan area has no relationship to the number of actual readers in our online society that exists today.

Mandating the selection of the newspaper that prints the most copies would not result in what appears to be her desire to have a printed copy of all county public notices in the hands of every resident. Due to the geographic distribution of newspapers in Anoka County, her proposal would shift public notices to a newspaper which is only distributed in two of 20 cities in the county. Only 5% of her legislative district would be in that distribution area.

Finally, as several county commissioners have clearly stated, the ends certainly do not justify the means when looking at this issue from a financial perspective. While it is a laudable goal to place

public notices in the hands of every resident, the cost of doing so under this proposal is astronomical. The increase in cost to local governments and taxpayers to publish these public notices would amount to millions of dollars per year on an annual basis under this proposal. Giving newspapers a guaranteed monopoly in publishing notices in a certain area will allow them to set whatever price they desire, since the Legislature abolished pricing caps over two decades ago.

Under this proposal, the taxpayers will be stuck with the bill and elected officials will be powerless to do anything about it. This is why I say that taxpayers will be the losers under this proposal. The *Record* on the other hand will have numerous options if this proposal becomes law.

The *Record* could easily print 20,000 copies per edition and pay drivers to toss them in front yards throughout the county, where many uninterested homeowners will let them stack up as neighborhood eyesores. That would immediately make us the largest print newspaper based in the county. This proposed law would then give us a guaranteed contract with multiple cities, school districts, and the county. This in turn would allow us to charge government and taxpayers whatever price we wished to support our operation.

From a financial perspective, this legislative proposal could make me a millionaire. But in addition to my personal ethical values, the *Record* was established as a newspaper which stands up for the rights of the taxpayer. This is why I am bringing this issue to light and encouraging the opposition of SF1856/HF2008 in the 2015-2016 Legislative Session.

Cuts coming to taxpayer-funded golf courses *continued from page 1*

capital replacement needs," according to the budget overview.

The suburb of Edina, Minnesota, shut down the nine-hole Fred Richards Executive Course, saving \$734,000 over five years, as part of a golf-operation consolidation.

Other savings recommended in a 2014 city report included outsourcing food service — \$522,000 — and cutting staff — \$363,000.

Despite opposition, officials decided keeping the quaint, but little-used course open, jeopardized improvements to the city's remaining 36 holes.

"Financing would have to come from not funding other city projects, new debt, or a combination of both. Debt financing comes with additional costs that make the project much less profitable. Also, without the savings from closing Fred Richards, the Golf Fund would not have enough cash flow to pay the debt service in the future," the Edina Parks and Recreation report states.

Red Wing and other city-owned courses have turned over the keys to local supporters to operate the course as a nonprofit.

In March, the Two Harbors City Council approved an arrangement to pay \$200,000 a year, plus \$20,000 a month during the season, to a nonprofit group of golf enthusiasts to take over all operations. The deal follows several unsuccessful attempts to sell the town's Lakeview National Golf Course.

Going forward, compensation would be linked to revenue at the Lake Superior links, which lost about \$90,000 for taxpayers last year.

"We're hoping for a 10-percent increase in play, we feel that's a very reasonable amount," said Two Harbors City Councilor Cathy Erickson, who recused herself from voting on the transfer because she's part of the nonprofit Two Harbors Golf Association. "We have hired a clubhouse manager who has experience in the regional golf industry here in northeastern Minnesota."

Nearby Duluth, Minnesota, turned to a well-known name in golf to turn around its two municipal courses — perennial losers with a taxpayer subsidy of

\$290,000 last year.

Billy Casper Golf, a Virginia-based group named for the late PGA Tour pro with 69 professional wins to his credit, won a bid to run Duluth's links for five years. The company manages 150 city and privately owned courses in 29 states.

"Much of Billy Casper Golf's potential compensation for these services is contingent upon moving us from the red to the black," said Jim Filby Williams, Duluth Public Administrator, during a news conference announcing the contract.

After losing \$400,000 operating two of St. Paul's four public courses, the city turned to a local management group that agreed to pay at least \$65,000 annually to operate the facilities. So far, so good.

"The contract has done what we thought it would do and our golfers are happy. So we're looking forward to 2015," said Mike Hahm, St. Paul Parks and Recreation Director.

No outside fix is on the horizon, however, for two Minneapolis public courses that flooded in 2014. An estimated \$3.5 million in damage will keep both Hiawatha and Meadowbrook courses out of play until at least 2017. Even then, both courses face millions more in maintenance and renovation costs, as part of \$34 million in upgrades previously identified for the Minneapolis Park Board's seven public links.

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CITY OF HAM LAKE STATE OF MINNESOTA ORDINANCE 15-13

An Ordinance relating to On-Sale and Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor and Non-intoxicating liquor (Beer having less than 3.2% alcohol content) or wine; clarifying the duties of liability insurers and licensees relative to liability insurance; Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota, as follows:

Article 7 of the Ham Lake City Code is hereby amended as follows:

I. The reference in Article 7-710 to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 340 is changed to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 340A.

II. Article 7-730 (B) of the Ham Lake City Code is repealed, to be replaced by the following language: 7-730

B. Liability Insurance

1) At the time of application, renewal or transfer of any Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor license, the applicant shall furnish to the City the proof of financial responsibility required by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 340A.409, in the manner therein provided, in limits of not less than \$300,000.00 per occurrence.

2) The issuing liability insurance agent shall certify on the Certificate of Insurance words to the effect as follows:

In the event of a policy cancellation, the insurer will send notice to the City of Ham Lake in the manner provided by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 340A.409, Subd. 1(e).

3) If a liability insurance policy is cancelled, for any reason, the license affected thereby shall be deemed automatically suspended, and the licensee shall suspend all sales of intoxicating liquor until a replacement policy has been issued, proof thereof provided to the City, and a written notice of reinstatement of the license has been issued by the City Administrator or Clerk.

4) A licensee who has their liability insurance cancelled shall notify the City Administrator or Clerk, in writing, immediately upon notice of cancellation. Failure to so notify the City, or the continuation of sales of intoxicating liquors during any period of cancellation, shall be grounds for additional sanctions by the City, including, without limitation, the revocation of the license.

5) The City may reject any Certificate of Liability Insurance issued by any agent or insurer who has in the past failed to notify the City of any cancellation of a liability insurer in the manner provided above. This provision shall apply only to events occurring after the effective date of this code amendment. The duty to notify the City of any cancellation shall be absolute as to the agent or insurer, and shall not be excused if the cancellation is originated by a party providing financing for premiums.

III. Article 7-810.3 of the Ham Lake City Code is repealed, to be replaced by the following language:

7-810.3 Liability Insurance

1) At the time of application, renewal or transfer of any On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor license, or any Beer License or Wine Li-

cense not exempt by reason of qualification under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 340A.409, subd. 4, the applicant shall furnish to the City the proof of financial responsibility required by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 340A.409, in the manner therein provided, in limits of not less than \$300,000.00 per occurrence.

2) The issuing liability insurance agent shall certify on the Certificate of Insurance words to the effect as follows:

In the event of a policy cancellation, the insurer will send notice to the City of Ham Lake in the manner provided by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 340A.409, Subd. 1(e).

3) If a liability insurance policy is cancelled, for any reason, the license affected thereby shall be deemed automatically suspended, and the licensee shall suspend all sales of intoxicating liquor, beer or wine until a replacement policy has been issued, proof thereof provided to the City, and a written notice of reinstatement of the license has been issued by the City Administrator or Clerk.

4) A licensee who has their liability insurance cancelled shall notify the City Administrator or Clerk, in writing, immediately upon notice of cancellation. Failure to so notify the City, or the continuation of sales of intoxicating liquors, beer or wine during any period of cancellation, shall be grounds for additional sanctions by the City, including, without limitation, the revocation of the license.

5) The City may reject any Certificate of Liability Insurance issued by any agent or insurer who has in the past failed to notify the City of any cancellation of a liability insurer in the manner provided above. This provision shall apply only to events occurring after the effective date of this code amendment. The duty to notify the City of any cancellation shall be absolute as to the agent or insurer, and shall not be excused if the cancellation is originated by a party providing financing for premiums.

Presented to the Ham Lake City Council on March 16, 2015 and adopted by a unanimous vote this 6th day of April, 2015.

/s/ Michael G. Van Kirk, Mayor

/s/ Denise Webster, City Clerk

(Published Apr. 10, 2015, Anoka County Record) #182

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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 #2015-11

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, 10, 2015, Anoka County Record) #185

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

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 of 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

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS CALENDAR

CITY OF HAM LAKE Mon. Apr. 13 — Planning Comm., 6 pm

Wed. Apr. 15 — Park & Tree Comm., 6 pm

Mon. Apr. 20 — City Council, 6 pm

CITY OF OAK GROVE Mon. Apr. 13 — City Council, 7 pm

Wed. Apr. 15 — Park Comm., 6:30 pm

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:

GMI

2. Principal Place of Business:

6511 Bunker Lake Blvd, 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:

MIC Group, Inc. 1100 Sunrise Court, Medina, MN 55340

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 27, 2015, #819584000024,

/s/ Anthony Barthel (Published Apr. 3, 10, 2015, Anoka County Record) #183

CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS LIBRARY SUPERVISOR (PART TIME)

DUTIES: Professional library work involving reference, use of automated circulation system, and supervision of part-time workers.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Master of Library Science degree or equivalent. One year supervisory experience.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: One year professional reference experience. One year experience and/or training in the operation of a computer.

HOURS: Up to fourteen hours per week. Week-day evenings from 5 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and daytime Saturday hours.

PAY RANGE: \$18.78-\$20.87 per hour

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: A City application form must be completely filled out and returned to the Library Director, 820 40th Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421 (763) 706-3616. TDD (763) 706-3692 or download application from our website at www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us. Applications will be accepted until 4:45 p.m., Thursday, April 30, 2015. In addition, applicants may submit any other data they feel is pertinent to their consideration. Resumes will be accepted in addition to, but not in lieu of, a city application.

CLOSING DATE: Applications accepted until 4:45 p.m., Thursday, April 30, 2015.

CITY OF NOWTHEN NOTICE OF CONTINUATION AND ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to the requirements of Minnesota Law, a public hearing shall be held before the Nowthen Planning and Zoning Commission on Tuesday, April 28th, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. at Nowthen City Hall located at 19800 Nowthen Boulevard NW, Nowthen, Minnesota regarding the following matters:

Continuation Public Hearing #1

A REQUEST by Dave Perkins for property owned at 19745 Nowthen Boulevard NW, for:

A variance from Section 11-3-8.E to allow the square footage sum of accessory buildings to exceed 30 percent of the principal building size;

An Interim Use Permit to allow an outdoor storage area under the terms of Section 11-3-8D.4;

The property (PID 21-33-25-33-0021) encompasses 4.22 acres and contains a principal building of 6400 square feet, two accessory buildings totaling 4400 square feet, and the existing residence which is 1250 square feet. The proposed new accessory building measures 9600 square feet.

Continuation Public Hearing #2

A REQUEST by Murey, Beverly and Adam Ulferts for property owned at 19960 Saint Francis Boulevard NW, for an Interim Use Permit to allow outdoor storage on a parcel zoned C-1, Commercial, according to Section 11-3-8 of the Nowthen Zoning Ordinance.

The property (PID 24-33-25-31-0008) encompasses 4.55 acres and contains a residence within which Adam Ulferts resides and a commercial building originally approved for Superior Masonry in 2007. Adam Ulferts currently operates a construction/excavating business called Unlimited Inc. from the site. The commercial building encompasses 11,107 square feet and the existing residence is 2,957 square feet. An amended site plan and grading plan will be presented showing the outdoor storage area, revised parking lot and revised fence location. Additionally, the applicants will be required to complete improvements required in 2007 or as otherwise amended by the City Council.

Continuation Public Hearing #3

A REQUEST by Dave Perkins for property owned at 19745 Nowthen Boulevard NW, for the following two (2) matters:

1. An Interim Use Permit to allow re-establishment of the residential use (in the existing structure) according to Section 11-3-8 of the City Zoning Ordinance;

2. A Conditional Use Permit for multiple principal uses on a single property

The property (PID 21-33-25-33-0021) encompasses 4.22 acres and contains a principal building of 6400 square feet, two accessory buildings totaling 4,400 square feet, and the existing residence which is 1,250 square feet. The proposed new accessory building measures 9600 square feet. An amended site plan and grading plan will be presented.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PUBLIC HEARINGS

MAY NOT TAKE PLACE IN THE ORDER LISTED ABOVE.

At such hearings both written and oral comments will be heard. The City Council will act on this request at its April 14th, 2015 regular meeting. Contact the City of Nowthen at 763-441-1347 with any questions or concerns.

CITY OF NOWTHEN CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to the requirements of Minnesota Law, a public hearing shall be held before the Nowthen City Council on Tuesday, April 14th, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. at Nowthen City Hall located at 19800 Nowthen Boulevard NW, Nowthen, Minnesota regarding the following matter:

The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request by Andrew B. Parizek, The Long Horn Group LLC #2, d/b/a/ The Bourbon Room, for an On-Sale, Sunday Sales, and 2:00 a.m. Intoxicating Liquor License at the property generally known as 19735 Iguana St. NW, Suite 102, Nowthen, Minnesota. This is not a new building – it was most recently known as the Backroads Restaurant (banquet building).

All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and comment on the request for an On-Sale Intoxicating liquor license.

Written comments are welcome and shall be addressed to the Nowthen City Council, attention Corrie LaDoucer, 8188 199th Ave NW, Nowthen, Minnesota 55330. Written comments shall be received at the above address prior to 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

CITY OF FRIDLEY SALARY NOTICE

Minnesota State Law, Chapter 156 of the Session Laws of 2005, requires that "a city or county with a population of more than 15,000 must annually notify its residents of the positions and base salaries of its three highest-paid employees." For the City of Fridley, titles and salaries as of January 1, 2015, are: City Manager - \$133,494; Public Safety Director and Community Development Director (tie) - \$122,533. Date of publication: January 22, 2015.

CITY OF COON RAPIDS SALARY NOTICE

Per Minnesota Statute 471.107, a city or county with a population of more than 15,000 must annually notify its residents of the positions and base salaries of its three highest-paid employees. For the City of Coon Rapids, these positions and salaries as of January 23, 2015 are: City Manager - \$164,985, Finance Director - \$135,387, and Police Chief - \$132,293.

CITY OF ANDOVER SALARY NOTICE

Minnesota state law – Chapter 156 of the Sessions Laws of 2005 – requires that "a city or county with a population of more than 15,000, must annually notify its residents of the positions and base salaries of its three highest-paid employees." For the City of Andover, titles and salaries as of January 1, 2015 are: City Administrator \$ \$ 139,039.83 ; Director of Public Works and Engineering \$ \$ 120,305.30; and Community Development Director \$109,925.74. Date of publication: January 8, 2015.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS ST. FRANCIS, MN ANOKA COUNTY PLANNING

COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the St. Francis Planning Commission will be conducting a public hearing on April 15, 2015 at 7:00 PM or shortly thereafter. The Public Hearing will be conducted at the Independent School District #15 Offices located at 4115 Ambassador Blvd, St. Francis, MN 55070.

The purpose of the public hearing is consider an interim use permit application from Jordan Turf Farms for sand extraction at property located north and east of 1353 231st Ln NW. A copy of the application is available for review at the St. Francis City Hall.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend the public hearing. Verbal and written testimony regarding the request will be accepted during the hearing. Additional information regarding the request can be obtained by contacting the City of St. Francis, 23340 Cree St NW, St. Francis, MN 55070 or by calling (763) 753-2630.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS ST. FRANCIS, MN ANOKA COUNTY PLANNING

COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the St. Francis Planning Commission will be conducting a public hearing on April 15, 2015 at 7:00 PM or shortly thereafter. The Public Hearing will be conducted at the Independent School District #15 Offices located at 4115 Ambassador Blvd, St. Francis, MN 55070.

The purpose of the public hearing is consider amendments to the City's temporary sign ordinance to increase the allowed size of permitted temporary signs from 32 to 48 square feet, increase the duration of display allowed for permitted temporary signs from 120 days per year to 180 per business, and other related changes. A copy of the amendment is available for review at City Hall.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend the public hearing. Verbal and written testimony regarding the request will be accepted during the hearing. Additional information regarding the request can be obtained by contacting the City of St. Francis, 23340 Cree St NW, St. Francis, MN 55070 or by calling (763) 753-2630.

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