



Columbia Heights city councilors Bobby Williams (left) and Bruce Nawrocki discuss the pros and cons of the city's municipal liquor operations during the council's June 22nd meeting.

Auditor's report causes two Columbia Heights city councilors to question whether city should stay in the liquor business

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

“What it boils down to is the liquor stores aren't a big asset to us anymore like it was years ago,” Columbia Heights city councilor Bruce Nawrocki said at the June 22 televised council meeting. Nawrocki acknowledged, “and that's because of the competition.”

The municipal liquor operation was discussed during the presentation of the city's annual audit report prepared by the Redpath Company, an accounting firm in St. Paul.

Nawrocki made his comments after being presented with figures that showed the net income from liquor store operations in 2014 was \$534,726 but \$208,000 was paid in interest, \$170,000 on principal and depreciation amounted to \$152,000.

Overall revenue was down, attributable specifically to the Top Valu liquor store on 37th Avenue N.E. (often referred to as “store #2”), near Stinson Avenue and the Apache shopping center area. The other two stores that the city operates, on 50th and Central (Store #1), and University Ave., near 53rd St. (Store #3), had increases in revenues and net income in 2014 compared to the previous year.

The 37th Avenue store's 2014 sales however were \$431,777 less than 2013's sales.

Finance Director Joseph Kloiber and City Manager Walter Fehst explained the sales drop could be blamed on the April 2014 closing of the Wal Mart store in the Apache shopping center area. The second blow to the city's liquor operations came at the same time, when the mega-sized private liquor store chain Total Wine opened a “big box” store in Roseville. Kloiber mentioned that the recent EDA-funded study of the city's commercial areas also arrived at these conclusions.

This Anoka County city has money to burn

Coon Rapids City Council offers current employee \$735 per mile to move to the city, on top of more money to drive around city

Last month, the Coon Rapids City Council hired a new city administrator. It wasn't much of a change since all they did was promote the assistant who was hired by the city back in 2012.

Apparently it must have been troubling to some on the city council that their new city administrator lived in a faraway place called Hugo. You know, that city next door to Lino Lakes in... (gasp)... Washington County! It must have been a major concern because the council agreed to pay him \$10,000 if he moves the 13.6 miles to Coon Rapids within two

Publisher's Column



John Kysylyczyn

A third factor was the city's bordering neighbor, St. Anthony, which also runs two municipal liquor stores, lowered its prices to compete against Total Wine, a large chain that specializes in high volume sales at highly discounted prices.

Nawrocki based his remarks on the costs of the debt service on the loans (bonding) the city took on in 2007 to build the new stores, versus the revenue that is coming into the city's general fund.

City councilor Bobby Williams asked city manager Fehst if he had ever looked into exploring the possibility of selling the liquor stores and what kind of price could the city get for them now. Williams put forth the name of Total Wine, “would they be interested?” or any other private liquor store operator.

“No, we've never really researched that,” Fehst replied.

Williams thought “we should probably look at that. Why not?” A private operator could “really

Liquor continued on page 2

About That Study That Names Minnesota “Best State for Business”

By King Banaian, *Center of the American Experiment*

There has been some cheering around Minnesota since CNBC announced that Minnesota was the best state for business for 2015. CNBC has had this ranking for 9 years and this was the first year for Minnesota to win. We were sixth in 2014, while Georgia was first.

State officials are delighted of course, with DEED creating an infographic and Governor Mark Dayton proclaiming, “The credit for our state's economic success belongs to the people of Minnesota. We thank the businessmen and women, who chose Minnesota, and their productive employees, who made those investments successful.”

Admirable words, lacking the usual craven chest-thumping of politicians bragging how they brought home the bacon. Yet if you dig into the data not all is well. The ranking consists of scores on 10 categories. Minnesota ranks second in education (up from 12th in 2014) and 13th in workforce – things like productivity and training programs as well as union membership and right-to-work laws – with Minnesota rising 17 places in the second category. But it is still 35th in the cost of doing business, 32nd in cost of living, and fell 8 places to 23rd in ‘business friendliness’ and 12 places in access to capital.

So how could the state nonetheless have moved from 6th to 1st?

The answer comes in the changing yardstick CNBC uses:

We assign a point weighting to each category based on how frequently it is used as a selling point in state economic development marketing materials. For example, if more states tout their low business costs, the “Cost of Doing Business” category carries greater weight. That way, our study ranks the states based on the criteria they use to sell themselves.

This measure changes from year to year. Over its 9 year existence the rankings have gone from using 40 measures to 60, and have changed the weights such that in 2014 CNBC gave 12% of the weight to its workforce category, but this year it gave 16%, because more state economic development people emphasized that in how they marketed their states to out-of-state business suitors. “Cost of doing business” fell in weight from 18 percent to 14 percent because fewer state departments of economic development emphasized that. Likewise education's weight rose from 6 percent to 8 percent and business friendliness fell.

If you're a state that isn't particularly business friendly, you don't talk about that in your marketing materials. You emphasize other things. You puff your materials with discussion of quality of life and how hardworking your workers are and ignore the areas where your policies might make business a little harder to conduct. And CNBC will go right along and take weight off those things, if the rest of the states are doing the same thing.

So in essence CNBC is creating a new yardstick each year to determine who is number one. And they let the states' PR arm help drive the outcome. This year they found a “best place for business” yardstick that fits Minnesota, a yardstick that lowers the weight on the cost of business and business friendliness. I won't say what the right yardstick is – each policy analyst has her or his own ideas of what the weights should be. And praise should go to CNBC for explaining its method (though I cannot replicate the rankings because I cannot see its 60 measures.) But it's just one measure, and a different one every year.

King Banaian is a Senior Fellow at the Center of the American Experiment (www.americanexperiment.org) and a professor in the Department of Economics at St. Cloud State University.

Liquor *continued from page 1*

make money” and a Total Wine-kind of operation would really bring in the people, Williams said. He said a sale would relieve the city of the debt service on the buildings and the city would collect tax revenue from the new ownership.

Fehst said that other cities had been looking at this “but it would have been better to get out of it (the liquor business) maybe before we had put the money into the buildings...”

Stores #1 and #2 were built in 2007 and were described as investments for the city; previously the city had rented two commercial spaces. Store #3 on University Avenue was built by the city in 1964.

The building projects’ costs included just over \$5 million in lease revenue bonds and \$1.8 million for land acquisition.

Williams said at this June 22 meeting, “we’ve got some nice buildings, they’re worth some money.” Williams said again that he’d like to see staff bring back some numbers for consideration. “I think an independent can do a better job of running them than we do.”

Williams’ proposal to explore the idea did not appear to be dismissed out of hand. “If the council wanted us to,” Fehst said, “we could look at it.” Mayor Gary Peterson said “we should have some facts and figures for (the voters)” if the question of staying in the liquor business ever came forth. He said it could be discussed at an off-camera ‘work session’ meeting.

Fehst also said, “I’d be hesitant to say yes, we should look at it, because voters have voted a couple times to be in the liquor business.”

Columbia Heights voters haven’t had a liquor question on the ballot since 1983, when voters approved allowing on-sale alcohol sales by the drink, on Sundays. A “split liquor” question was on the 1976 general election ballot. Voters approved granting on-sale licenses to private business. (At the time, the city was operating a bar, as well as liquor stores). In a 1961 election, voters approved of the city staying in the liquor business. State law required that the question be put to the

voters after the city had surpassed the 10,000 population threshold.



Nawrocki offered his assessment, “the municipal liquor business is just getting tougher and tougher,” to which Williams agreed. Nawrocki said he expects the profitability of the business will get worse.

Finance Director Joseph Kloiber mentioned that state law (340A.602) requires that a voter referendum be held if any municipal liquor operation loses money in two of any three-year consecutive years. Voters would

be asked if they want the city to stay in the liquor business.

City councilor Donna Schmitt asked Kloiber about the 20-year bonds that are outstanding. He said the bonds had a 10-year call provision, and beginning in 2018, the city could refinance the bonds or begin to pay them off early. Kloiber also said this obligation would not prevent the

city from selling the liquor stores at any time.

St. Anthony’s municipal liquor operation has suffered drops in sales as well: 2013 sales dropped 3.5% compared to the previous year, and 2014 sales dropped 12% compared to 2013. Net profit in 2014 was reduced to half of what was achieved in 2012.

Sales and expense figures for the three Columbia Heights municipal liquor stores during the years 2010 through 2014:

Columbia Heights Liquor	Store #1 50th & Central	Store #2 37th Ave.	Store #3 Univ. Ave.
2010 Revenue	\$3,609,600	\$3,384,866	\$1,163,793
2010 Expenses	\$3,449,260	\$3,105,219	\$1,062,207
2011 Revenue	\$3,764,257	\$3,491,928	\$1,238,777
2011 Expenses	\$3,536,333	\$3,205,868	\$1,131,341
2012 Revenue	\$3,887,612	\$3,650,477	\$1,266,144
2012 Expenses	\$3,612,850	\$3,316,060	\$1,191,430
2013 Revenue	\$3,867,837	\$3,663,586	\$1,215,661
2013 Expenses	\$3,630,409	\$3,297,101	\$1,140,400
2014 Revenue	\$3,923,791	\$3,231,809	\$1,259,771
2014 Expenses	\$3,695,071	\$3,045,620	\$1,139,954



KEEN COMPETITION: Store #2 had nearly a 12% drop in sales last year, compared to the year previous.

Sen. Benson comments on pay increases

Last week, Governor Dayton followed through on his promise to raise the pay of the politically-appointed leaders of various state departments. Commissioners are important, and deserve to be fairly compensated, but with many of these individuals already earning over \$120,000 per year, the governor’s salary increases are unfair to regular, hardworking Minnesotans.



**Sen. Michelle Benson
District 31**
115 State Office Bldg.
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-3219

Minnesotans’ average income increased by only 2.5% last year, while some of these pay raises for commissioners increase their salary by nearly 30%! Taking taxpayer money to increase these salaries so excessively is, frankly, a slap in the face. I have heard from many of you who are upset – and rightfully so. In fact, an opinion poll conducted by KSTP-TV earlier in the year showed that 70% of Minnesotans disagree with the governor’s decision.

The fact that the governor was able to raise the pay so extravagantly without bipartisan legislative approval is especially troubling. The governor was able to do this because the Democrat majority in the legislature granted him that authority two years ago and doubled down on that decision again this year. In February, I supported an amendment that would have stopped the salary increases and restored legislative oversight over commissioner pay, but was unfortunately voted down.

Last week, Senate Republicans asked that the governor implement reasonable pay raises, closer to the 2.5% average raise that most Minnesotans have earned. Unfortunately, the governor chose to ignore the will of the people and implement these raises effective July 1. I am disappointed, but will continue to advocate for the wishes of those I represent.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Despite the Capitol construction, my office is still open.

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Quote of the Week: "The question is, whether you can make words mean so many different things." – **Alice**

Quote of the Week: "Words no longer have meaning if an Exchange that is not established by a State is 'established by the State.'" – **Justice Antonin Scalia**

TRICKY DICK OBAMA, SLICK BARRY

Any American citizen paying any attention whatsoever must admit that our Chief Executive has significant relationship issues with the concepts of integrity and truthfulness.

Frankly, he has problems being truthful.

Some of these incidents are well documented, such as when he declared that running up more national debt was "unpatriotic," or when he declared that if you like your health care, you can keep it."

Would you believe that Barack Obama's views on gay marriage are even more duplicitous and politically expedient?

In the past 15 years, Obama has somersaulted and pirouetted around the issue in a manner that would earn a gold medal in verbal gymnastics, if such an award existed.

You won't believe the timeline on this one!

1996: "I favor legalizing same-sex marriages, and would fight efforts to prohibit such marriages." This response was given to a questionnaire he filled out for a gay rights organization when he was running for the Illinois Senate.

1998: In the same questionnaire, Obama was now "undecided" on the issues of same-sex marriage, repealing the state's ban on gay marriage, or co-sponsoring a repeal of the ban on gay marriage.

2004 (U.S. Senate candidate): "I am a fierce supporter of domestic-partnership and civil-union laws. I am not a supporter of gay marriage as it has been thrown about, primarily just as a strategic issue."

2006: "I believe that American society can choose to carve out a special place for the union of a man and a woman as the unit of child rearing most common to every culture. ..."

2008: "I believe that marriage is the union between a man and a woman. Now, for me as a Christian, it is also a sacred union. God's in the mix."

2008: "I believe marriage is between a man and a woman. I am not in favor of gay marriage."

2010: "I have been to this point unwilling to sign on to same-sex marriage primarily because of my understandings of the traditional definitions of marriage. But I also think you're right that attitudes evolve, including mine."

2012: "At a certain point, I've just concluded that for me personally, it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married."

2015: "This ruling is a victory for Jim Obergefell and the other plaintiffs in the case. It's a victory for gay and lesbian couples who have so long for their basic civil rights. It's a victory for their children, whose families will now be recognized as equal to any other. It's a victory for the allies and friends and supporters who spent years, even decades working and praying for change to come."

So, in the span of 7 years, marriage went from a "sacred" union between one man and one woman to an institution available to same-sex couples.

Talk about a flip-flop, even by Obama standards.

And don't think Hillary Clinton hasn't done her own impersonation of Mary Lou Retton on this subject.

Hillary in 2000: "Marriage has got historic, religious and moral content that goes back to the beginning of time, and I think a marriage is as a marriage has always been, between a man and a woman."

Hillary in 2015: "Every loving couple & family deserves to be recognized & treated equally under the law across our nation. #LoveMustWin #LoveCantWait."

Talk about pandering. But they will continue to do it so long as the voters let them get away with it.

THE LIBERTY MINNESOTA SCORECARD IS HERE!

It's here, Watchdogs. The scorecard that measures exactly where legislators stand when it comes to liberty issues. The scorecard is so valuable because it measures legislators' ACTIONS on these issues, not their RHETORIC.

So, let's do this.

Here are the top 5 Senate scores when it comes to liberty:

1. Branden Petersen (R - Andover): 90%
2. Dave Thompson (R - Lakeville): 79%
3. Roger Chamberlain (R - Lino Lakes): 72%
4. Dan Hall (R - Burnsville): 67%
5. Julianne Ortman (R - Chanhassen): 67%

The Top 5 in the House are:

1. Steve Drazkowski (R - Mazeppa): 58%
2. Jerry Hertaus (R - Greenfield): 54%
3. Jim Newberger (R - Becker): 54%
4. Eric Lucero (R - Dayton): 52%
5. Kurt Daudt (R - Crown): 50%

What's missing here? Where are all those "liberal" Democrats who are concerned for the right of individuals?

We know what happened. They ran into the reality that they can't implement their policies without the force of government.

Having said that, these scores don't say much for the legislature's commitment to liberty. These scores aren't too impressive. In school, Sen. Petersen would be the only "A" while Sen. Thompson would have been the only "B."

Perhaps most important, this scorecard should put Rep. Drazkowski on notice. His score is evidence of the biggest disconnect between liberty rhetoric and liberty actions on the part of a legislator.

If you talk the liberty talk, you need to walk the liberty walk.

Now on to the public shaming of those legislators who demonstrated the least concern for liberty

this past legislative session.

The Senate:

1. Tony Lourey (DFL - Kerrick): 11%
2. Melissa Wiklund (DFL - Eagan): 13%
3. Alice Johnson (DFL -Blaine): 13%
4. Vicki Jensen (DFL - Owatonna): 13%
5. Four legislators were tied for 5th with 14%

The House:

1. Tara Mack (R - Apple Valley) 19%
2. Lyndon Carlson (DFL - Crystal): 22%
3. Ron Erhardt (DFL - Edina): 22%
4. Sandra Masin (DFL - Eagan): 22%
5. Paul Rosenthal (DFL - Bloomington) 23%

Something must be in the water in the south Metro, with six legislators scoring in the bottom five in both bodies.

On the other hand, Thompson and Hall must have taken the antidote. Talk about both ends of the spectrum.

Read the entire scorecard at <http://libertyminnesota.com/2015scorecard.html>

INSPIRATIONAL WORDS

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security...

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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**Publisher's Column:
Money to Burn** *continued from page 1*

years.

On top of that, the city council also gave the new city administrator an annual car allowance of \$4,800 per year. IRS regulations clearly state that only business mileage is deductible. You cannot deduct mileage from your home to your office. At current deduction rates, this adds up to approximately 10,000 miles per year. After taking into account a generous vacation package and holidays, this adds up to an average of 45 miles per day of driving around the city on city business. Coon Rapids is only 23.34 square miles in size, so this equates to taking roughly two laps around the outer edge of the city every work day. Traveling at 30 miles per hour, this adds up to 1½ hours of driving every day out of an 8 hour day at work. He has to pay for music CD's on his own dime.

Because retirement benefits apparently are poor for those who are making over \$100,000 per year, the city council decided to spruce things up by adding \$2,500 per year to a deferred compensation plan.

It was reported that Councilmember Brad Johnson stated that all amounts paid should be listed as one dollar amount. He, along with everyone in the room know that moving and mileage allowances are a scam dreamed up by elected officials to hide the true salary they wish to pay an employee, when they know the taxpayers would not approve. When the public asks how much they are paying their new city administrator, the city council can state \$133,057 instead of the actual amount which is \$150,357.

The true cost to taxpayers is much higher than \$150,357. Typically taxpayer paid benefits add an additional 30%. In total, their new city administrator will cost taxpayers approximately \$200,000 in the first year, provided that he gets the additional \$10,000 for moving 13.6 miles to Coon Rapids.

After the housing allowance is paid, don't expect the salary to go down much in the second year. While many employees are only eligible for a raise on an annual basis, the council is going to entertain a raise after only 6 months on the job. If the council grants the customary 3%, that adds \$4,000.

There are also many other tricks to increase salary even more without taxpayers being made fully aware. Years ago in Roseville, they hired an administrator and advertised his salary as X, implying that it was reasonable. He was hired on December 31st. What the council failed to mention was that the very next day, the employee received a citywide percentage raise after being on the job for one day, adding up to several thousand dollars.

After all the problems the city council had with former administrator Matt Fulton, who was asked to leave or be fired, you would think that the city council would have learned its lesson. They did not. The new city administrator was given the same 6 month golden parachute severance package that Fulton was given. If any future council wants to get rid of this new administrator, they will have to pay him roughly \$75,000 plus any unused vacation or sick time. Expect a \$100,000 payout.

Let's recap: \$10,000 to move 13.6 miles, \$4,800/yr to drive round and round the city, \$2,500/yr for bonus retirement, \$133,057 for working roughly 45 weeks a year, plus \$45,000 in health care and retirement benefits, etc.

Putting this in perspective, taxpayers will be paying roughly \$200,000 per year, \$4445 per week, or \$110 per hour of work for their new city administrator. If he is fired, or negotiates package, he gets a cool \$75,000, and probably several months of health care on top of that.

Coon Rapids taxpayers who will be paying the new city administrator's salary make on average \$29,000 per year. Lose your job, get unemployment. No golden parachute.

No matter how you add up the math, clearly the Coon Rapids City Council has money to burn when this is the salary package they negotiated for a position which 39 people originally applied for and 8 were interviewed.

'Recycling Champions' honored at annual county ceremony

180,821 tons of material collected in '14

In an annual event held this past June 17, Anoka County recognized the efforts of local governments, haulers, organizations and individual citizens in a ceremony that spotlights recycling.

The county's recycling services staff were pleased to announce that 180,821 tons of materials had been recycled in 2014, an increase of more than 10,000 tons compared to the previous year.

People nicknamed "recycling champions" were given certificates of appreciation at a ceremony held in the County Board chambers at the Anoka County courthouse.

Many of those nominated for recognition are submitted for consideration by the recycling coordinators of city governments, however anyone can nominate someone they know who is doing an extra effort in the area of recycling. (There is a nomination form that can be filled out and passed onto the county's recycling staff).

Some choose to join a group that is organizing a special recycling effort, whether it be collecting pop cans, paper or metal. Others are doing their own thing, so to speak.

A few of those included Doris Miller, a senior from Coon Rapids who just likes to volunteer at the city's recycling center. Although there can be a small wage or stipend for working at these facilities, Miller has always waived any remuneration, according to Sue Doll, Solid Waste Specialist for Anoka County.

Kevin Eldstrom of Oak Grove was recognized for reusing items in order to keep them out of the trash. Many of his finds, from any number of sources, are used for artistic and craft projects. Items he can't use are recycled; his weight receipts are given to the city so it gets a notch on its recycling scorecard.

The youngest award winner at the ceremony was Savan Sant of Blaine, who started "a green team" with his classmates at the Woodcrest Spanish Immersion Elementary School in Fridley, according to Doll.

An owner of an apartment building in Columbia Heights, Michelle Ferreira, was recognized for her extra recycling efforts, which includes requiring all tenants to recycle as part of their lease agreements.

— Bryan Olson for ACR



(Left photo) NOWTHEN RECYCLING EFFORTS RECOGNIZED: City Councilor Jim Scheffler (left), Don Warden and Debbie Mahutga of Nowthen city staff are awarded by County Commissioner Scott Schulte (right)



(Left) FRIDLEY AWARDED: County Commissioner Jim Kordiak and city staffer Kay Qualley



(Below) HAM LAKER RECOGNIZED: Al Sannerud and County Commissioner Julie Braastad



STUDENT AWARDED: County Commissioner Jim Kordiak (left) with the Sant family of Blaine

ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF – CRIME REPORT

ANDOVER

Burglaries

June 30 — 140xx Holly St NW; forced entry through a window; unknown what was stolen

Thefts & Damage to Property

June 26 - 135xx Gladiola St NW; mail stolen from the mailbox

June 26 - 24xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW; scam; victim sent \$250-caller claimed to be from the Federal Reserve

June 27 — 133xx Poppy St NW; unsecure vehicle; cash, prescriptions

June 28 — 17500 Block Ward Lake Dr; vehicle tore up a sod field; suspect identified and charged

June 29 - 137xx Zilla St NW – unsecure vehicle; sunglasses

June 29 - 4200 Block 145 Ln NW – vandalism to a property sign

June 29 - 9xx 138 Ave NW – unsecure vehicle; nothing of value was stolen

June 30 — 143xx Crane St NW; unsecure vehicle; nothing of value was stolen

June 30 — 14xx 144 Ave NW; unsecure vehicle; GPS

Arrests

June 26 - 13300 Block of Partridge – Theft; deputies responded to a prescription pill theft. A male was arrested.

COLUMBUS

Thefts & Damage to Property

June 26 — 141xx Lake Dr NE; business; attempted break in caused damage to a door frame

June 30 - 140xx Lake Dr NE – catalytic converters stolen off two vehicles

June 30 — 9444 Lake Dr NE; business; counterfeit bill used at the gas station

July 1 — 80xx Lake Dr NE; check stolen from mailbox; it was "washed" and re-written

Arrests

June 28 — 9444 Lake Dr NE – Stolen Vehicle, 5th Degree Possession of Narcotics; a deputy located a stolen vehicle in the gas station parking lot. A male and female in the car were arrested.

EAST BETHEL

Thefts & Damage to Property

June 27 - 219xx East Bethel Blvd NE – unsecure vehicle; cash

Arrests

June 27 — 3xx 218 Ave NE; 3rd Degree Burglary; deputies responded to a burglary in progress. One of the males fled on foot. The other male was contained and arrested.

June 28 — 185xx Vermillion St NE; OFP Violation; deputies responded to a report of an order for protection

violation. A male was arrested.

June 28 — 243xx Block of Hwy 65; 1st Degree burglary, Damage to Property, Assault; deputies responded to a burglary in progress. One male was arrested. The victim and suspect were acquaintances.

July 2 — 237xx 237 Ave NE; 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance; deputies responded to a suspicious male pacing around the business. During the search of the male, narcotics were located. The male was arrested.

HAM LAKE

Thefts & Damage to Property

June 27 — 21xx 149 Ave NE; vehicle stolen from driveway – contained work tools; recovered

June 29 — 4xx Flamingo Dr NE; unsecure vehicle; wallet

Arrests

June 27 — 15400 Hwy 65 NE; Trespass; deputies responded to a male trespassing at the location. The male had been trespassed and asked to leave earlier in the evening. He was arrested.

June 27 - 17700 Block of Hwy 65 NE – 4th Degree DWI, Open Bottle; deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The female was arrested. (.138)

June 30 — Polk St NE/Crosstown Blvd NE; 4th Degree DWI, DAS; a deputy stopped a driver for not using his turn signal. The male appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.19)

July 1 — 24xx 147 Ln NE; 5th Degree Assault; deputies responded to and assault between two males. One of the males was arrested.

July 2 — 5200 Block of Hemlock Lane NE; 5th degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a boyfriend/girlfriend domestic. The girlfriend was arrested. The Alex House was contacted.

LINWOOD

Thefts & Damage to Property

June 26 — Viking Blvd/217 Ave NE; tailgate stolen off a vehicle that was displayed on corner for sale

NOWTHEN

Thefts & Damage to Property

July 1 — 186xx Jasper St NW; mailbox stolen

OAK GROVE

Burglaries

June 30 — 34xx 194 Ave NW; locks

cut off of two storage lockers; unknown what was stolen

Thefts & Damage to Property

July 1 — 198xx Orchid St NW; unsecure vehicle; electronics, cash

July 1 — 10xx 227 Ave NW; American flag stolen from the property

Editor's note: an investigator reported what appeared to be an attempt to steal credit card information:

"Victim stated she received a postcard in the mail from a company called "notification warehouse center". The card stated there was a package to be delivered to her house. The card stated there was jewelry in the package worth \$325, however before the package was to be delivered it stated victim needed to call the phone number on the card and pay for the \$12.95 Shipping via visa or mastercard. A google search of the company listed on the postcard which showed several scam alerts."

AHMED ADEN MOHAMED

SUMMONS AND PETITION FOR LEGAL SEPARATION

State of Minnesota District Court
County of Anoka 10th Judicial District
Court File No: 02-FA-15-809
Case Type: Legal Separation

In Re the Marriage of:

Yasmin Abdulle Ali, Petitioner

and

Ahmed Aden Mohamed, Respondent

TO: Ahmed Aden Mohamed,
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENT:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon the attorney for Petitioner an answer to the Petition which is herewith served upon you, within thirty (30) days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING PROVISIONS

UNDER MINNESOTA LAW, SERVICE OF THIS SUMMONS MAKE THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO BOTH PARTIES TO THIS ACTION, UNLESS THEY ARE MODIFIED BY THE COURT OR THE PROCEEDING IS DISMISSED:

(1) NEITHER PARTY MAY DISPOSE OF ANY ASSETS EXCEPT (i) FOR THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE OR FOR THE NECESSARY GENERATION OF INCOME OR PRESERVING ASSETS, (ii) BY AN AGREEMENT IN WRITING, OR (iii) FOR RETAINING COUNSEL TO CARRY ON OR TO CONTEST THIS PROCEEDING;

(2) NEITHER PARTY MAY HARASS THE OTHER PARTY; AND

(3) ALL CURRENTLY AVAILABLE INSURANCE COVERAGE MUST BE MAINTAINED AND CONTINUED WITHOUT CHANGE IN COVERAGE OR BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION.

(4) PARTIES TO A MARRIAGE LEGAL SEPARATION PROCEEDING ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEMPT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA LAW. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION INCLUDES MEDIATION, ARBITRATION, AND OTHER PROCESSES AS SET FORTH IN THE DISTRICT COURT RULES. YOU MAY CONTACT THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR ABOUT RESOURCES IN YOUR AREA. IF YOU CANNOT PAY FOR MEDIATION OR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, IN SOME COUNTIES, ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE TO YOU THROUGH A NONPROFIT PROVIDER OR A COURT PROGRAM. IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC ABUSE OR THREATS OF ABUSE AS DEFINED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER, 518B, YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO TRY MEDIATION AND YOU WILL NOT BE PENALIZED BY THE COURT IN LATER PROCEEDINGS.

IF YOU VIOLATE ANY OF THESE PROVISIONS, YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS BY THE COURT.

Dated: 6/23/15

By: /s/ Yasmin Abdulle Ali

Attorney for Petitioner: Eric S. Day, Esq.
Patty Day, Legal Assistant, Law Offices of Eric S. Day, PLLC, 4103 E. Lake St. Mpls, MN 55406

(Published June 26, July 3, 10, 2015
Anoka County Record) #240

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS CALENDAR

CITY OF HAM LAKE, Ham Lake City Hall, 15544 Central Ave. NE (763) 434-9555 (www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us)

Hours Mon-Thurs 7 am-4:30 pm; Fri. 7 am-Noon)

Mon. July 13 — Planning Commission, 6pm

Wed. July 15 — Park & Tree Commission, 6pm

Mon. July 20 — City Council, 6 pm

Mon. July 27 — Planning Commission, 6pm

Mon. Aug. 3 — City Council, 6 pm

Mon. Aug. 10 — Planning Commission, 6pm

Mon. Aug. 17 — City Council, 6 pm

Wed. Aug. 19 — Park & Tree Commission, 6pm

Mon. Aug. 24 — Planning Commission, 6pm

Tue. Sept. 8 — City Council, 6 pm

CITY OF OAK GROVE, Oak Grove City Hall, 19900

Nightingale St. NW (763) 404-7000 (www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us)

Mon. July 13 — City Council, 7 pm

Mon. July 15 — Park Commission, 6:30 pm

Tues. July 16 — Planning Commission, 7 pm

Mon. July 27 — City Council, 7 pm

Mon. Aug. 10 — City Council, 7 pm

Mon. Aug. 19 — Park Commission, 6:30 pm

Mon. Aug. 20 — Planning Commission, 7 pm

Mon. Aug. 31 — City Council, 7 pm

CITY OF EAST BETHEL, 2241 221st Ave. NE, East Bethel (763) 367-7840

Tues. July 14 — Road Commission, 6:30 pm

Wed. July 15 — City Council, 7 pm

Mon. July 20 — EDA, 7 pm

ACORN DAY IN OAK GROVE — SATURDAY, AUG. 8



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ANOKA COUNTY SUMMARY OF BIDS

Bid #2015-26
Description of Bid/RFP:
Bids Invited for Anoka County Project NO. SP 002-618-030, CSAH 18 (Broadway Ave. NE) and CR 62 (Kettle River Blvd.) Intersection Reconstruction Project, Roundabout, City of Columbus, Anoka County MN
Bid Opening: July 21, 2015
For more information regarding the above published bids/RFPs, please visit the Anoka County Web Site at: www.AnokaCounty.us/bids.
(Published June 26, July 3, 10, 2015 Anoka County Record) #248

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:

Willow and Elm Photography
2. Principal Place of Business:

8401 Palm St. NW Coon Rapids, MN 55433

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:

Anne Tillmann LLC
8401 Palm St. NW Coon Rapids, MN 55433
Anne Elizabeth Mousel Tillmann
8401 Palm St. NW Coon Rapids, MN 55433

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: June 2, 2015, #828246600036, /s/ Douglas Larson, Owner
(Published July 3, 10, 2015, Anoka County Record) #253

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Coffee with a Cop



Join your neighbors and officers for free coffee and conversation

Lighthouse of Columbia Heights (3801 Hart Blvd.)

Tuesday July 28 10 am

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ANOKA COUNTY Public Comment Period Bunker Chain of Lakes Regional Trail Master Plan

The County of Anoka will be receiving public comments from July 10, 2015 to August 7, 2015 on the proposed master plan for Bunker Chain of Lakes Regional Trail, which connects the Anoka County regional trail system with the cities of Blaine, Lino Lakes and Centerville. The existing and proposed segments of trail generally run east/west along CSAH 14/Main Street, east/west through The Lakes Development, north/south on CSAH 17/Lexington Avenue, east/west along 109th Avenue, north/south on Sunset Road, east/west through Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve to LaMotte Park and north/south to CSAH 14/Main Street in Centerville. While the majority of the trail has already been constructed, there are no current plans to construct the remaining segments.

Copies of the master plan can be obtained by contacting the project manager or visiting www.anokacountyparks.com. Those who have questions or comments may contact the Project Manager: Karen Blaska, Park Planner, Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department, 550 Bunker Lake Blvd. NW, Andover, MN 55304 or via telephone at 763-767-2865 or e-mail at karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us. Written comments on the master plan are preferred and may be submitted to the project manager listed above.
(Published July 10, 17, 2015 Anoka County Record) #257

CITY OF HAM LAKE PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE HAM LAKE CITY CHARTER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON Monday, August 3, 2015, in the Council Chambers of the Ham Lake City Hall, 15544 Central Avenue NE at 6:01 p.m. to consider the following proposed amendment to the Ham Lake City Charter:

There is hereby amended by repealing the last two sentences of Section 5.06 and replacing with the following:

All such proposed ordinances, if acted upon by the City Council, shall be acted on within a time frame which, if later subjected to referendum, shall result in the referendum occurring at a next succeeding general election in the City, and no special election subjecting the proposal to referendum shall ever be held.

Both proposals for and opponents against such amendment shall be heard.
Dated: July 10, 2015

Denise Webster, City Clerk
(Published July 10, 2015 Anoka County Record) #252

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION MEETING

The Anoka County Board of Appeal and Equalization met on June 15, 2015. No taxpayer assessment appeals were presented. For more information relating to actions taken by the board, refer to the Anoka County Web site: www.anokacounty.us
(Published July 10, 2015 Anoka County Record) #258

CITY OF HAM LAKE Ordinance No. 15-20 Amending Ordinance No. 13-06

An Ordinance relating to the establishment of an Assistance Program for the repair and/or replacement of residential water wells and Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS), adding an Article 11-470 to the Ham Lake City Code.

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

Ordinance No. 13-06 is amended to repeal Article 11-470 and is renumbered as follows: 11-470 SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM (SSTS) AND WELL WATER LOAN PROGRAM

Pursuant to the authority of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 115.57, the City of Ham Lake hereby establishes the following SSTS and Well Loan Program. The program is intended to offer loans to eligible parties to repair or replace existing SSTS or water wells. The program is to be funded from monies made available from the Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) out of a special tax levy that has been and is being imposed on Ham Lake properties for the benefit of Ham Lake housing issues.

11-470.1 Eligibility: Conditions

The conditions that are eligible for consideration for repair and/or replacement under this program include SSTS that have failed or which consist of leaking holding tanks, holding tanks which can be replaced by a conventional or "other" SSTS, privy vaults and straight pipe systems. An SSTS is a "failed" SSTS if it is discharging effluent above ground level. These criteria shall be used in place of any other criteria that may be found in State or County health codes, and regardless of terminology as may be found therein.

The conditions that are eligible for consideration for repair and/or replacement of water wells are:

- a. contamination making the water unfit for human consumption; or
- b. lack of water pressure caused by a lack of well depth, a insufficient groundwater elevation or pipe sedimentation; or
- c. mechanical or electrical failure of or in the pump apparatus; or
- d. a well that needs to be abandoned and capped.

The City's designated officials shall be the sole judge of whether or not the qualifying criteria are met.

11-470.2 Eligibility: Financial

In order to qualify for the program, the property owner must be a natural person or persons, named in the title to the property as joint tenants or tenants in common, and meeting the following financial criteria.

- a. The applicant(s) must meet the qualifying income limits as published by the United States Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) as stated in the most current eligibility tabulations by HUD for qualification for Section 8 housing, according to household size, for the Minneapolis St. Paul Statistical Area.
- b. Aggregate net worth of all of the owners must be less than \$50,000.00 as disclosed on signed Financial Statements. Financial Statements must be in a form acceptable to persons designated by the City Administrator to review same.
- c. A Title search must be prepared or reviewed by the City Attorney, and the property cannot be in foreclosure or encumbered by tax liens or mechanics liens. Real estate taxes must be current.
- d. There must be reasonable positive equity in the property, meaning that the City staff's estimate of fair market value must exceed the apparent amount of debt encumbering the property, and the decision as to whether or not to approve the application may be based on the City's evaluation of the likelihood that the assessments will in fact be paid in full. No credit check of the applicant(s) shall be required. The City may require a fee appraisal, the cost of which can be included in the loan, at the City's option, prior to making a decision on the application.

The applicant(s) shall furnish whatever financial information is requested of the City, including tax returns. Financial data will be considered private data to the extent permitted by law.

11-470.3 Assistance and Assessments

- a. Loan. Assistance to the property owner shall be in the form of a loan to the property owner(s) in an amount necessary to effect the replacement or repairs, not to exceed a total of \$25,000.00. The loan shall become an assessment against the property on which the repair/replacement occurs pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 115.57 (Subd. 6). At the time of issuing the loan, the City shall provide the notices required by said statute. The assessment shall be certified for collection with real estate taxes on November 15 of the year in which the loan is made, and shall be payable over a ten year period, together with interest accruing at a rate established by City Council resolution at the time that the loan is made.
- b. Prerequisites to Loan. Prior to closing the loan, the applicant(s) shall supply information satisfactory to the City documenting the need for the repair/replacement, and provide a quote or quotes from licensed and qualified septic and/or well installers documenting the cost of repair/replacement, and in the case of SSTS, providing a design plan for the new or repaired SSTS that meets City codes. The applicant(s) shall also provide evidence satisfactory to the City that they meet the financial eligibility requirements as contained in item 11-2120 above.

- c. Appeal of Staff Decision. If Staff has summarily rejected an application, the applicant(s) may appeal the decision by requesting an appearance before the City Council.
- d. Variances. The City Council may grant reasonable variances to the eligibility requirements if there are special circumstances which justify such variances. Special circumstances may include, without limitation, the use of shared SSTS systems or wells, unusual sub-surface conditions, or net worth affected by non-liquid assets.

11-470.4 Procedure for Approval

- a. Submissions. Applicant(s) shall complete such forms as the City staff prepares in application for approval, and staff shall complete a report to the City Council for review when all application material is complete. The report shall not include the actual financial data provided by the applicant(s). Staff shall not forward an application to the City Council unless all eligibility and submission requirements are complete, and Staff shall have the authority to summarily reject an application for non-compliance with eligibility or submission requirements, provided that the applicant(s) receive written notice from Staff as to the reasons for rejection.
- b. City Council Approval. The City Council shall review the staff report and shall act on the application by resolution. If disapproved, the resolution shall contain findings of fact supporting the disapproval. If approved, the resolution shall include an interest rate and such other matters as the City Council deems appropriate.

- c. Appeal of Staff Decision. If Staff has summarily rejected an application, the applicant(s) may appeal the decision by requesting an appearance before the City Council.
- d. Variances. The City Council may grant reasonable variances to the eligibility requirements if there are special circumstances which justify such variances. Special circumstances may include, without limitation, the use of shared SSTS systems or wells, unusual sub-surface conditions, or net worth affected by non-liquid assets.

11-470.5 Closing

At the time that the loan is closed, the applicant(s) shall execute any and all documents deemed necessary and appropriate by the City in connection with the loan. Presented to the Ham Lake City Council on June 15, 2015 and adopted by a unanimous vote this 6th day of July, 2015.
Michael G. Van Kirk, Mayor
Denise Webster, City Clerk
(Published July 10, 2015 Anoka County Record) #252

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ANOKA COUNTY HRA NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Notice is hereby given that the Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is offering citizens the opportunity to make comments for 30 days on the proposed amendment to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2015 Program Year Action Plan.

The ACHRA is proposing the allocation of CDBG project funds to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity for a single family rehabilitation scattered site project. Unallocated 2015 CDBG entitlement funding will be awarded in the amount of \$80,000.00 to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. This project will meet a national objective of low/mod housing.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment, please call Kate Thunstrom, Community Development Manager, at the Anoka County Community Development Department (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 p.m. on August 10, 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) 323-5709. TDD/TTY (763) 323-5289
Christine V. Carney
Assistant County Attorney
Karen Skepper
ACHRA Executive Director
(Published July 10, 2015 Anoka County Record) #259

CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CUSTODIAN II/ CARETAKER (Part Time)
ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS: Work involves providing assistance at events which are scheduled at J.P. Murzyn Hall, to ensure smooth, trouble-free operation of the events held at the facility. Duties include security of the building, setting up needed equipment and supplies, ensuring equipment is operational, performing general cleaning and janitorial duties, and enforcing facility policies.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: One year public contact work experience. Ability to lift up to 30 pounds.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Two years public contact work experience. One year experience working as a Caretaker, Building Supervisor, or related position. One year experience performing cleaning and janitorial duties. Basic first aid training and/or CPR certification.

HOURS: Morning, evening, and weekend shifts available. Approx. 10-14 hours per week
WAGE RANGE: \$12.62 to \$15.77/hour

APPLICATION PROCEDURES: Applications are available from the City Hall Information Window, or they can be downloaded from our website at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov or by calling (763)706-3611 TDD: (763) 706-3692 to request one be mailed. A City application MUST be completely filled out and returned to the Human Resources Director/Assistant to the City Manager, City of Columbia Heights, 590 40th Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421. Applications will be accepted until 4:45 pm, Monday, July 27, 2015. In addition, applicants may submit any other data they feel is pertinent to their consideration.

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

Experience & Training 50 percent; Oral Interview 50 percent
CLOSING DATE: Applications accepted until 4:45 pm, Monday, July 27, 2015.
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/V/H THE CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY IN EMPLOYMENT OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/V/H THE CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY IN EMPLOYMENT OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES

FILED: #, /s/ Lawrence T Cody, Manager
(Published July 10 & 17, 2015, Anoka County Record) #256

CITY OF HAM LAKE Ordinance No. 15-21

An ordinance pertaining to hours of operation for licensed liquor, non-intoxicating malt liquor and wine operations:

The City Council of the City of Ham Lake hereby Ordains as follows:

Articles 7-824, 7-836.1 and 7-836.2 of the Ham Lake City Code are hereby repealed.

The following new Article 7-836.2 is hereby added to the Ham Lake City Code:
7-836.2 Hours

Hours of operation may be as permitted by state law, as amended from time to time, specifically including a 2:00 am closing time for on-sale liquor sales if proper permits are first obtained.

Presented to the Ham Lake City Council on June 15, 2015 and adopted by a unanimous vote this 6th day of July, 2015.

Michael G. Van Kirk, Mayor
Denise Webster, City Clerk
(Published July 10, 2015 Anoka County Record) #252

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:

CRP Custom Plates
2. Principal Place of Business:

11829 Dogwood Street NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448

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:

Lawrence T Cody
11829 Dogwood Street NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Teri Wingness
923 87th Lane NW, Coon Rapids MN 55433

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: #, /s/ Lawrence T Cody, Manager
(Published July 10 & 17, 2015, Anoka County Record) #256