

## Nowthen council majority approves 10% pay scale increase

**“Steps” aren’t used to pay city employees but changes are made anyway**

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

The long-standing squabble about what to pay Nowthen city employees saw some action again at the city council’s Feb. 9th meeting.

City councilors Paul Reighard, Randy Bettinger and Jim Scheffler voted to raise the pay rates in the “steps” table. The new rates were devised by city clerk Corrie LaDoucer and presented to the council in a meeting packet memo: “this scale provides an overall 10% increase in all steps.”

Scheffler said at the meeting that the increase was not a pay raise; in fact the steps tables are not even used to determine the current wages of city employees, yet the council majority thought increasing the dollar amounts in the steps tables was a necessary action to take.

Pay rate tables that have various multiple steps, based on time and longevity on the job, are used by many employers and especially government. The step increases in pay to the employee are often made automatically regardless of merit or job performance.

Staff research included a survey of the COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) increases of a handful of cities, as well as a list of recent increases in Social Security pay scales. The city clerk’s memo to the council said, “(the ten percent) figure... appeared to be the most logical increase based on the data received.”

It should be noted here that the federal government uses the Employment Cost Index, a quarterly calculation made by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics, to determine changes needed to federal government employee pay scales. The ECI compiles the employment costs of businesses — inflation of wages, benefits paid to the employee, etc. These figures don’t always align with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures inflation in consumer prices. The ECI also plays a role in the Federal Reserve’s setting of the prime interest rate.

*Steps 2 through 6 omitted for brevity. Step 1 represents the lowest tier and Step 7 is the highest.*

CITY OF NOWTHEN COMPENSATION SCALES	Step 1		Step 7	
	2008	2016	2008	2016
Administrative Assistant	\$14.94	\$16.43	\$18.44	\$20.28
Maintenance Worker	\$17.68	\$19.45	\$21.80	\$23.98
Maintenance Supervisor	\$25.22	\$27.74	\$31.12	\$34.23
Building Official	\$25.79	\$28.37	\$31.82	\$35.00
Office Mgr./Clerk/Treasurer	\$31.15	\$34.27	\$38.43	\$42.27

The data given to the Nowthen City Council included the compensation tables of the city of Columbus from 2007 and 2016. The Columbus step pay rate tables listed eight employee positions but many of them are not comparable to any Nowthen city jobs. Nowthen doesn’t have a city administrator, nor a “Public Information Officer” to name just two.

Nowthen’s clerk asked Monticello what its increases have been: 2% in January 2016 and another 1% increase will be made this July. Annandale’s treasurer reported a “2% COLA increase for all staff”; Arden Hills gave a 2.75% increase; Fairmont has paid a 2% COLA increase every year since 2011 and that will continue through at least 2017; Kenyon — a 2% COLA increase; Ham Lake employees received 2% COLA increases in each of the years 2013 through 2015, and a 2.5% increase for 2016; and there have been two to three percent increases each year in St. Joseph since 2011.

The council was also given a list of Social Security cost of living adjustments made since 1975. In 2010, 2011 and 2016 there were no increases. In 2012, there was a 3.6% increase, 1.7% increases in 2013 and 2015, and a 1.5% increase in 2014. Since 2008, the increase overall has been over 14%.

A few months ago the city received bid solicitations to do a new compensation study

### NOWTHEN CITY COUNCIL INCREASES COMPENSATION TABLES

*continued on page 2*

## Preview of the state’s legislative session

**Sen. Chamberlain and Rep. Runbeck outline session which begins next week**

The 2016 legislative session starts March 8 and, while it is not a budget year by definition, some of the top legislative issues will necessarily pertain to taxes and spending. This is especially true because the state must deal with its “revenue surplus.” In the November revenue forecast, we learned that \$1.2 billion is available on the bottom line after one-third of the surplus is placed in reserve accounts per state statutes. An updated revenue forecast in late February will confirm or update those figures.

*Editor’s Note: Minnesota Management and Budget commissioner Myron Frans announced Feb. 26 that the budget surplus is \$900 million. It was thought that the figure would be \$1.2 billion, but slower than expected revenues, a weakening of the U.S. economy and the iron ore industry being affected by a slowing Chinese economy, were attributed to the now lower projection.*

**Taxes.** The House passed a tax bill which would have provided \$2 billion in tax relief, only to have that package stall in late-session negotiations. The insistence of some to raise the gas tax was a factor in this. Surplus funds could breathe new life into some of these provisions in 2016. A good place to

**Preview of Legislative Session** *continued on page 2*

## ‘Upscale’ gun ranges come to Twin Cities suburbs

By Tom Steward / Watchdog.org

MINNEAPOLIS — Guns are a contentious issue in a lot of places, but the number of Twin Cities suburban shooting ranges have doubled in the last two years. Six of 10 indoor gun ranges in the metro area have been approved since 2013, two in the past three months. The city of Ramsey even OK’d an 18,000 square foot range next to a day care center.

“There’s been a surge in demand for shooting — a lot of new shooters, a lot of new women shooters,” said Andrew Rothman, a firearms instructor and Minnesota Gun Owners Civil Rights Alliance president. “The trend has been toward more ranges, and the indoor ranges are getting nicer. They’re getting more upscale..” The often massive facilities offer more than target practice. They also feature sales of firearms and ammo, gun safety training, permit-to-carry classes and private shooting lanes. Once they get past noise and safety questions, cities typically treat the necessary permits and approvals as a straightforward business.

“Just like a bowling alley or a golf dome...” said Oak Park Heights city administrator Eric Johnson about Range 082 Indoor Shooting’s recent application. “As long as it’s operated in accordance with the law, I can’t imagine there’s any issues, as long as they’re building to the code and ordinance.”

The latest thumbs up came in Chanhassen, where the city council recently unanimously approved Stock and Barrel gun range. “We’re going to build a world-class facility here,” said Andrew Carter, Stock and Barrel co-owner. “...we want to reach people who just wouldn’t be comfortable in a ‘typical’ gun range.”

“It will be a very welcomed addition to the community,” said Chanhassen mayor Denny Laufenburger in an October city council meeting. “But in no way does it relieve the citizens of Chanhassen of the responsibility to behave safely with and around firearms at all times.”

**“Upscale” Gun Ranges** *continued on page 2*

## Nowthen City Council increases compensation tables *continued from page 1*

(the city is still working off a 2008 study) but those bids were rejected at the council's Jan. 12 meeting.

Mayor Jeff Pilon has stated over the course of several meetings his concerns about maintaining accurate comparisons and the ability to justify any changes made in employee compensation. He also was skeptical of paying for a compensation study that would not include comparisons to similar jobs in the private sector.

Pilon said the compensation step tables of Columbus may not compare very well to Nowthen. "We don't have a race track," he said.

On numerous occasions Pilon and city councilor Mary Rainville have said that comparisons should be made with cities that have a like number of employees and have the same duties, similar populations, geography and size, number of road miles that need to be maintained, and so on. An "apples-to-apples" comparison can be thrown out of kilter if Nowthen is compared to cities that have city administrators and other staff positions Nowthen does not have, city governments that operate utilities, have sewer systems or have their own police force. In essence, Nowthen can probably be compared only to rural townships.

Rainville made a motion to direct staff to prepare a detailed report using these kinds of parameters for comparisons.

The motion was shot down 3-2, with Mayor Pilon in support.

Councilor Paul Reighard said none of this was necessary and the council majority was confident in adjusting the city's pay scale rates upward. The majority said they were proposing only a cost of living increase to the pay steps established in 2008.

## "Upscale" gun ranges *continued from page 1*

The trend follows an explosion in concealed carry permits. More than 200,000 Minnesotans now hold permits that allow them to carry handguns, twice as many as originally projected by the state. Personal safety and Second Amendment concerns drive the demand for more outlets.

"Politicians are openly taking aggressive stances hostile to our constitutionally guaranteed rights," Carter said. "So many members of the public feel that they need to buy a firearm now before legislatures (state or federal) make them illegal. The result is that these two forces have increased the demand for firearms, ammunition, training, and places to practice."

Statistics show soccer moms are becoming shooter moms, with almost 20 percent of permits held by women. Osseo Gun Club and Pro Shop offers ladies-only classes and Friday date night \$22.95 specials with free pistol rental for couples.

"Our Ladies Night provides you the opportunity to try out many different type pistols all under the guidance of our friendly, knowledgeable staff," according to a blurb on the Osseo range's website. "Afterwards relax in our upscale lounge area and enjoy refreshments and conversation."

"Safe, responsible shooting is a part of our Minnesota heritage," said Rep. Cindy Pugh, R-Chanhassen, a conceal-carry permit holder, at the city council meeting. "But without a place to go and shoot together as a family, how can our moms and dads pass down that heritage... and responsibility?"

Developers of the \$6 million Range 082 facility under construction in Oak Park Heights also see a big upside in competitive leagues, like those at bowling alleys.

"Back in the 1940s, '50s and '60s, there was always Thursday and Friday night bowling leagues," said Steve Erban, a designer with Out of the Box Architecture. "I think a facility like this one with the 39 ranges is going to be very acceptable to competition and team competition, and I see that growing all over Minnesota."

So far, there's only one notable exception to that growth. City officials in Stillwater shot down the Minnesota Shooting Academy in September. They plan to revisit zoning regulations and variances for shooting ranges. "Yes, it's a sport, but also we're talking about the training that will come about with the law enforcement," said Stillwater city councilor Doug Menikheim at a September meeting. "That introduces the idea of self-defense and the application of lethal force. That's a long stretch for me beyond recreation and amusement."

## Preview of Legislative Session *continued from page 1*

start would be ending Minnesota's practice of taxing our seniors' Social Security retirement benefits. We also should work to lower property taxes for families and small businesses.

**Transportation.** Despite reports the governor declared his unpopular plan to raise the state's gas tax dead, he recently said it should still be on the table in the 2016 session. Reaching agreement on a comprehensive transportation bill is high on everyone's priority list. The Roads and Bridges Act from the House in 2015, a \$7 billion, 10-year transportation plan that did not raise taxes, could be revisited. One popular provision from that package that deserves another look would direct tax dollars we already pay when purchasing auto parts and repair services toward fixing roads and replacing aging bridges.

**Bonding.** Even-numbered years are when the Legislature typically assembles the most significant capital investment requests to pay for construction projects throughout the state. Whatever bonding bill the Legislature shapes in 2016 will be on top of a \$373 million package approved in 2015. As was the case with the 2015 bonding bill, the focus in 2016 should be on nuts-and-bolts infrastructure projects.

**Education.** Education is a top priority for citizens and legislators alike. In an effort to do more for our children, the recent trend has been to bring more structure to learning at ever-younger ages. Gov. Mark Dayton is even pushing for all-day pre-K schooling for 4-year olds, to "transform the trajectory of Minnesota's youngest learners." A different approach favors "scholarships" to boost school readiness for those 4-year-olds who have lack the opportunity. This is a complex topic and trends such as these need to be examined as we consider what is best for our children and Minnesotans in general.

**REAL ID.** The federal Department of Homeland Security recently announced enforcement of increased standards to board an airplane will take effect Jan. 22, 2018 at the earliest. State law currently bans Minnesota's compliance with REAL ID, a statute that went into place several years ago amid privacy concerns. We are committed to fixing REAL ID in 2016 while also protecting citizens' privacy. Minnesota is expected to receive a federal extension, which will relieve the identification burdens at military installations until we can come into compliance. Removing this temporary inconvenience for military visitors during the 2016 session is a goal.

**MNsure.** MNsure is our state's version of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). It is clear that MNsure is failing in a number of areas. Unsustainability, ineligible enrollees, data breaches, lagging enrollment, skyrocketing premiums and woeful customer service all have made headlines. The non-partisan Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor recently issued a report indicating that improper payments to ineligible MNsure public program enrollees have resulted in between \$115-\$271 million in wasted taxpayer dollars. We are one of 13 states that elected to operate our own insurance exchange; the other 37 states are using the federal exchange or a hybrid approach. The question we need to resolve is whether we join the other 37 states that are working with the federal exchange or continue to go it alone and try to fix MNsure.

**Capitol restoration.** The legislative session starts a bit later than usual this year, largely because the Capitol is in the process of a massive restoration. The Capitol was built in 1905 and its crumbling exterior, safety concerns, antiquated mechanical systems had reached the point where failure to act now could have pushed this historic icon beyond repair. A three-year, \$300 million renovation project is restoring this state icon and is on track to conclude in 2017.

One interesting development during the restoration project pertains to the future of historic art featured in the building. The Capitol is home to nearly 150 works of art and some depictions have become the source of controversy.

**Aging citizens.** The Caring for the Aging, Retiring, and Elderly (CARE) Act is recently unveiled package of proposals aimed at improving the quality of life for Minnesota's aging adults. The CARE Act builds on historic, bipartisan reforms made during the 2015 legislative session that boosted funding for nursing homes. The new proposal helps aging citizens by:

- Phasing out the income tax on social security;
- providing individual-empowering approaches to saving for the future like providing flexibility with life insurance policies;
- establishing partnerships with high schools and adult basic education programs to produce more Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification classes to grow the workforce;
- and conducting a study of the role technology plays in improving seniors' quality of life, safety and independence.



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# ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG

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

**Quote of the Week:** "Senator, you are forming a mob of angry, misinformed people and then turning it on the likely Democratic nominee. That, Senator, is a dangerous and destructive game."

- Larry Womack

## FAREWELL, REP. SANDERS

The Watchdog staff was disappointed to learn yesterday that Rep. Tim Sanders of Blaine announced that he will not seek re-election to the Minnesota House of Representatives this November.

Sanders represented his district, Anoka County, and the GOP with skill and honor. He possessed that all-too-rare combination of conservative credentials, universal respect, and the ability to find solutions to tough problems.

People might also forget that Blaine was and remains something of a swing area, with a DFL senator currently serving.

Sanders took care of business in the district, making sure that the GOP didn't have to expend resources to assist him in securing re-election.

He was a leader in his caucus, a committee chairman, and an all-around good guy.

And like any talented young professional, the strains of giving up 20 to 80 hours per week for a "part time" political gig can get to be too much.

Good luck, Tim Sanders. We salute your service to the people of Minnesota.

Regarding the future, look for Nolan West, a staffer to Sanders, to declare for the seat and be the odds on favorite to garner the GOP endorsement.

## POLL RESULTS

Alright, Watchdogs. It's time to reveal the results of the 2016 Watchdog straw poll, our highly unscientific yet insightful look at who our readership would choose for the GOP nomination among the remaining candidates.

Drumroll, please.

The overwhelming winner is Ted Cruz.

Cruz: 43%

Trump: 24%

Rubio: 24%

Kasich: 6%

Undecided: 3%

Carson: 0%

The comments that accompanied the voting were fairly typical of what pollsters and pundits have been reporting throughout the election cycle.

Cruz supporters maintain that he is not only the most conservative candidate, he's the only one who can be trusted to follow through on campaign pledges to govern as a conservative.

Critics claim that Cruz is simply un-electable in a presidential general election.

Trump supporters like him because he isn't a politician. Supporters told us they don't trust politicians of any stripe so they like the Donald.

Critics are wary because they think he hasn't

proven his conservative credentials and can't be trusted to govern that way should he be elected.

Will the Watchdog straw poll predict the GOP nominee? Stay tuned.

## BETTER CALL SAUL

Saul Alinski, that is. It is with no small amount of smug satisfaction that we at the Watchdog have watched socialist Bernie Sanders use Alinski's "Rule for Radicals" against Hillary Clinton.

For years, liberals have effectively used the Rules against Republicans to smear them, trash them, and destroy them.

Now, for the first time in a major campaign, the Rules have been turned inward for a heapin' helpin' of Democrat on Democrat violence.

After she and her sleazy husband used the Rules against political opponents and Bill's victims, Hillary is now crying foul because she's on the receiving end.

Emblematic of this indignation is the "quote of the week" above. The quote comes from a piece written by a self-described liberal "lay about" named Larry Womack, who obviously has lots of time to write missives about how unfair and mean Bernie is being to Hillary.

Kick back, relax, and get a good laugh out of the whining this guy does on behalf of Hillary:

"The problem is that you're talking to people who sense that something is wrong, are angry about it and want to know where to place the blame. You are giving them a cabal of boogeyman bankers, corporations and allegedly bought politicians to bear the brunt of that resentment. You're doing this through a fair degree of dishonesty, and the response of your supporters and campaign to any kind of reality check has thus far been to impugn the motives of impartial observers.

Bernie -- do you mind if I call you Bernie? That's bullshit, Bernie.

Senator, you are forming a mob of angry, misinformed people and then turning it on the likely Democratic nominee. That, Senator, is a dangerous and destructive game."

###

Aw, poor Hillary.

## NO BAILOUT!

The infamous Teamsters union is making a ruckus these days about a massive taxpayer bailout of their bankrupt pension system.

No way.

Those pension promises are a private contract between the Teamster's employer "partners" and the union.

If there is an alleged breach of that contract, the remedy for the Teamsters is to sue in a court of law, not seek money from the equally bankrupt federal government to put taxpayers on the hook for billions in bailout money for a problem that the government did not cause and had no hand in fashioning in the first place.

When a contract goes bad for regular people, the government doesn't step in and make up the difference.

When a person's 401(k) dips, the government

doesn't offer a bailout.

And let's knock off the talk about "Wall Street got a bailout, so should we."

Uh, no. Wall Street shouldn't have gotten one either. Let's stop treating the government like a really bad bank that hands out money to every Whimpy who promises to pay us all Tuesday for a hamburger (or filet mignon) today.

Union fat cats got together with weak management to assemble irresponsible collective bargaining agreements with unrealistic, fairy tale pensions underpinned by pie-in-the-sky assumptions.

That's indeed a problem, but it's not a taxpayer problem.

And by the way, we didn't even get into the questions about how those pension funds were managed in the first place.

Have they been audited? How well did the fund's investments fare? Were best practices followed?

Again, those questions are really irrelevant because this is a private matter between two sophisticated parties who negotiated an arms-length contract free of force or fraud.

Take it to court, not Washington.

## LET'S ALL ENJOY SOME MORE GOVERNMENT

Another Mark Dayton production implodes. This time, it's MnSure, the state's arm of Obamacare.

While most readers are familiar with the story, it's important to understand the breadth and scope of this failure, as reported in a recently released audit from Legislative Auditor James Nobles.

Failure #1: The Department of Human Services did not ensure that all of the people enrolled in Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare met the federal and state eligibility requirements for the program in which they were enrolled. As a result, the department paid benefits for ineligible people enrolled in public health care programs.

The Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) reviewed the MnSure applications of 157 enrollees.

59 of those enrollees were ineligible for the program in which they were enrolled, an error rate of 38%.

What's worse, that's an error rate double the previous year's error rate of 19%.

What's even worse than that, of the 59 enrollees in the wrong program, 44 of those 59 weren't eligible for ANY public health care program. In other words, they were collecting public benefits for which they weren't eligible.

These errors projected across the spectrum of enrollees cost taxpayers upwards of \$271 million.

Failure #2: The Department of Human Services did not ensure that data accurately and securely transferred from MNsure to the state's medical payment system.

Of course, the chief executive is full of excuses as to why the government can't make their computers engage in basic eligibility verification functions.

A solution to this problem was offered in the last legislative session by Rep. Steve Drazkowski (R - Mazeppa). We'll let his Facebook post describe it. "So, the MN House passed my bill last session, which would have required outsourcing eligibility verification to an analytics firm to eliminate this waste and fraud, similar to what had been done

**ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG** *continued on page 4*

# Blaine Resident Serves Country



PACIFIC OCEAN (Feb. 3, 2016) - Seaman Ashley Olson, from Blaine, Minn., and Seaman Robin Maughs, from Crescent City, Calif., perform maintenance on a fuel station on one of USS John C. Stennis' (CVN 74) sponsons. Providing a combat-ready force to protect collective maritime interests, Stennis is operating as part of the Great Green Fleet on a regularly scheduled Western Pacific deployment. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kenneth Rodriguez Santiago / Released)

# 2016 HOME LANDSCAPING AND GARDEN FAIR

The University of Minnesota Extension, Anoka County Master Gardener Program is sponsoring the 2016 Home Landscaping and Garden Fair on Saturday, April 9, from 8:00 am-3:30 pm at the Bunker Hills Activities Center, 550 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN.

The public is invited to attend this engaging and informative horticulture event with many featured speakers. Renowned gardening author and public speaker, Susan Davis Price, author of "Minnesota Gardens, an Illustrated History" will open the session with "A History of Gardening in Minnesota." Other featured speakers include: Francis Bettelyoun, Lakota Master Gardener and coordinator of the Native American Medicine Gardens on the UMN St. Paul campus, will present "A Healthier Coexistence with Your Environment, from an Indigenous Perspective;" Eric North, Research Fellow and Instructor at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Forest Resources will present information about tree growth that explain past climates and diagnostic health.

Extension Master Gardeners and other guest speakers will present the remaining concurrent sessions with many informative classes that include topics on Straw Bale Gardening, Hydroponics (in easy small containers), Growing Irises, Starting seeds, and many other interesting topics.

Registration for this event is required. Early Registration: \$25 per person if postmarked by April 1. Late Registration/Walk-ins: \$30 per person. Parking is always free. Bag lunches will be available an additional fee. A material fee will be added to the optional workshops. For more information, please go to <http://anokamastergardeners.org/> or for questions, call 763-755-1280.



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## 4-H Clover Dash Fundraiser

Anoka County 4-H is hosting our 6th Annual 4-H Clover Dash on Saturday, April 30 starting at 9 am. There will be a 5K Fun Run/Walk & 2 Mile Walk. This event will take place in the beautiful Bunker Hills Regional Park in Andover. Race route will wind through the scenic park on paved trails. This event is for everyone – runners, walkers, youth, and adults. There will be medals and/or prizes for top finishers along with a fabulous random prize drawing for everyone. More information is available on our website at : <http://www.anokacounty.us/2432/4-H-Clover-Dash>.

[anokacounty.us/2432/4-H-Clover-Dash](http://www.anokacounty.us/2432/4-H-Clover-Dash).

Gather your family, friends, and co-workers for a fun-filled morning to help support Anoka County 4-H youth. All proceeds from this fundraiser will support Anoka County 4-H Youth Development programs and scholarships. This event will not only raise funds for our program, but will feature and celebrate the 4-H health project and making healthy lifestyle choices.

If you have any questions or if your company would like to be a sponsor for this event, contact Kim Ferguson at 763-767-2874 or [fergu029@umn.edu](mailto:fergu029@umn.edu).

## ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG

*continued from page 3*

successfully in Illinois (they saved \$300 million by doing so) and one other state. The Democrats in the Senate and Governor Dayton would not accept it, so it did not make it into law. That bill projected a \$300 million savings to the state over 2 years."

Of course, Democrats have a knee jerk reaction against any solution that might impact the jobs of the public sector unions upon which they depend for political support.

Failure #3: As detailed in Appendix A, the Department of Human Services did not resolve 9 of 11 prior findings included in our Oversight of MNsure Eligibility Determinations for Public Health Care Programs report we issued in November 2014.

Read that date once again. November of 2014, over a year ago. In January of 2016, 9 of 11 major deficiencies were still unresolved. In the private sector, people would have been fired or otherwise held accountable. Don't hold your breath in this case.

These are some of the major programmatic failures that were identified in November 2014 that remain unresolved today:

The Department of Human Services did not resolve discrepancies with social security numbers, citizenship or immigration status, or household income that MNsure identified for further verification. This is a repeat finding.

The Department of Human Services paid Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare benefits for enrollees whose incomes exceeded federal and state

program limits. This is a repeat finding.

The Department of Human Services paid health care costs for some ineligible people and paid incorrect costs for others based on the applicants' reported household size and family relationships. This is a repeat finding.

The Department of Human Services did not detect some people enrolled in MinnesotaCare who were eligible for Medical Assistance. This is a repeat finding.

The Department of Human Services inappropriately used federal funds to pay for health care costs for MinnesotaCare enrollees age 65 and older and enrolled one person in MinnesotaCare when she was eligible for Medicare. This is a repeat finding.

The Department of Human Services did not charge premiums for people enrolled in MinnesotaCare. This is a repeat finding.

Let's all enjoy some more government. Indeed.

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ANOKA COUNTY SUMMARY OF BIDS

Bid #2016-06
Description of Bid/RFP: Advertisement for Bids Rice Creek North Regional Trail Improvements

Bid Opening: March 24, 2016
For more information regarding the above published bids/RFPs, please visit the Anoka County Web Site at: www.AnokaCounty.us/bids.

ANOKA COUNTY SUMMARY OF BIDS

Bid #2016-07
Description of Bid/RFP: Advertisement for Bids for Vehicle Body Repair Services

Bid Opening: April 8, 2016
For more information regarding the above published bids/RFPs, please visit the Anoka County Web Site at: www.AnokaCounty.us/bids.

ANOKA COUNTY SUMMARY OF BIDS

Bid #2016-08
Description of Bid/RFP: Advertisement for Bids for Sale of Unimproved Real Property

Bid Opening: March 31, 2016
For more information regarding the above published bids/RFPs, please visit the Anoka County Web Site at: www.AnokaCounty.us/bids.

CITY OF OAK GROVE COUNTY OF ANOKA STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Oak Grove Planning Commission's Regular Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall, 19900 Nightingale St NW, to hear the following public hearings in the order that they appear:

PUBLIC HEARING to consider a variance for Luis Medina, 21330 Ibis St NW, to construct an accessory building closer to the front lot line than the principal structure at the following legally described property: Lot 1, Block 1, The Pines Third Addition; further described by PID #10-33-24-44--0001. All written and oral

comments will be heard. PUBLIC HEARING to consider a variance for Ralph Pearson, 20731 Lake George Blvd, creating a lot in a minor subdivision without the required road frontage within the following legally described property: Lot 4, Block 1, Nicholas' South Bay Estates further described by PID #16-33-24-32-0007. All written and oral comments will be heard.

PUBLIC HEARING to consider the vacation of the platted streets within Arcadian Acres 2nd Addition that are wholly within Anoka County's Rum River Regional Park. All written and oral comments will be heard. The hearings of this request are not limited to those receiving copies of this notice, and if you know of any neighbor or affected property owner who for any reason, has not received a copy, it would be appreciated if you would inform them of this public hearing.

Hearing impaired persons planning to attend who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids should contact City Hall at 404-7006 no later than Wednesday, March 9, 2016. Sheryl F. Fiskewold City Clerk (Published 3/1, 2016 Anoka County Record) #344

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MN MN STATUTES CHAPTER 333 The undersigned, who is or will be conducting business in the State of Minnesota under an assumed name, hereby certifies:

- 1. Assumed Name: MTN
2. Principal Place of Business: 8260 Hickory St NE Fridley, MN 55432
3. Nameholder(s): Metropolitan Transportation Network, Inc 8260 Hickory St NE Fridley, MN 55432
4. I certify that I am authorized to sign this certificate and I further certify that I understand that by signing this certificate, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.
FILED: 1/14/2016, # 867218500028 /s/ Deborah Gernscheid (Published 2/23 & 3/1, 2016 Anoka County Record) #371

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MN MN STATUTES CHAPTER 333

The undersigned, who is or will be conducting business in the State of Minnesota under an assumed name, hereby certifies:

- 1. Assumed Name: MICHAEL JOSEPH STOLSKY
2. Principal Place of Business: 12527 Central Avenue #173 Blaine, MN 55434
3. Nameholder(s): stolsky, michael joseph 12527 Central Avenue NE #173 Blaine, MN 55434

4. I certify that I am authorized to sign this certificate and I further certify that I understand that by signing this certificate, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.

FILED: 1/30/2016, # 870060200020 /s/ stolsky, michael joseph CEO / authorized signature (Published 3/1, 3/8, 2016 Anoka County Record) #375

PUBLIC NOTICES UNPAID

ANOKA COUNTY GREEN PARTY LOCAL NOW FORMING

If you live in Anoka County and are interested in being a part of a local working on screening and supporting candidates, local issues and education, please contact me at: anokagreens@gmail.com or 651-621-3515 (ask for Sharon)

CITY OF BLAINE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BLAINE PLANNING COMMISSION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission of the City of Blaine, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on the following application:
CASE: 16-0008
APPLICANT: High Tides Properties, LLC
LOCATION: 1525 99th Lane & 10040 Davenport Street NE
PETITION: The applicant is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to allow for a shared driveway between the two subject properties. Subject parcel is more particularly described as:

UNIT 100 CIC NO 306 TWIN TIDES TOG/W COMMON ELEMENT, SUBJ TO EASE OF REC

UNIT 200 CIC NO 306 TWIN TIDES TOG/W COMMON ELEMENT, SUBJ TO EASE OF REC

LOT 2 BLOCK 1 TWIN TIDES ADDITION, EX RD SUBJ TO EASE OF REC

OUTLOT A TWIN TIDES ADDITION, EX RD SUBJ TO EASE OF REC

LOT 2 BLOCK 2 BLAINE INDUSTRIAL SQUARE HEARING DATE AND TIME: Said hearing will take place on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at the Blaine City Hall Council Chambers, located at 10801 Town Square Drive, Blaine, Minnesota, 55449 at 7:00 p.m.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. If you cannot attend, please mail your comments in. Persons who have questions may call the Planning Department, City of Blaine, at (763) 785-6180.

Hearing impaired persons planning to attend who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids should contact Lisa Derr at (763) 785-6180 no later than March 1, 2016. Catherine Sorensen, City Clerk Dated: February 24, 2016

CITY OF BLAINE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BLAINE PLANNING COMMISSION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission of the City of Blaine, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on the following application:
CASE: 16-0007

APPLICANT: CSRS, Inc. and Raising Cane's Restaurant, LLC
LOCATION: 1560 109th Avenue NE
PETITION: The applicant is requesting the following:
a) Waiver of Platting to adjust the property line between two (2) lots in Victory Village.
b) Conditional Use Permit to allow for the construction of a 4,352 square foot Raising Cane's Restaurant and a shared access & parking. Subject parcel is more particularly described as: Lot 1, Block 1, Victory Village 5th Addition

HEARING DATE AND TIME: Said hearing will take place on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at the Blaine City Hall Council Chambers, located at 10801 Town Square Drive, Blaine, Minnesota, 55449 at 7:00 p.m. All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. If you cannot attend, please mail your comments in. Persons who have questions may call the Planning Department, City of Blaine, at (763) 785-6180. Hearing impaired persons planning to attend who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities

CITY OF ANOKA

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CITY HALL NORTH PARKING LOT
CITY PROJECT 2016-130

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the City of Anoka at the office of the City Engineer, Anoka City Hall, 2015 First Avenue North, Anoka, Minnesota until 11:00 AM CST, March 15, 2016, and will be publicly opened at said time and place by two or more designated officers or agents of the City of Anoka, said proposals to be for the furnishing of all labor and materials for the construction complete and in place in accordance with the plans and specifications for the following approximate quantities:

- 140 LF REMOVE CURB & GUTTER
2000 CY COMMON EXCAVATION (P)
1800 TON AGGREGATE BASE CLASS 5
700 TON TYPE SP 12.5 WEARING COURSE MIX (4,E)
7 EA QUAZITE PC STYLE STACKABLE ASSEMBLY
1 LS IRRIGATION SYSTEM
300 LF 1" WATER SERVICE
2 EACH CONSTRUCT DRAINAGE STRUCTURE DESIGN SPECIAL
40 LF 8" PVC PIPE DRAIN
2 EACH ADJUST FRAME & RING CASTING
2000 SF CONCRETE WALK (4" AND 6")
150 SY 8" CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PAVEMENT
1500 SF INSTALL CONCRETE PAVERS
25 LF CONCRETE MASONRY WALL
855 LF CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER
40 CY STRUCTURAL SOIL BORROW
350 CY BOULEVARD TOPSOIL BORROW
415 CY COMMON TOPSOIL BORROW
1 LS TRAFFIC CONTROL
50 EACH INSTALL SIGN TYPE C
0.6 AC TEMPORARY EROSION CONTROL
0.75 AC SEEDING
1 LS ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION AND LIGHTING SYSTEM
860 EACH TREES, SHRUBS, AND PERENNIALS

The bids must be submitted on the bid forms provided in accordance with Contract Documents, as prepared by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., 2550 University Avenue West, Suite 238N, St. Paul, Minnesota 55114, which are on file with the City Engineer of Anoka and may be seen at the office of the Consulting Engineer.

Federal Labor Standards and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements shall apply on the project. Digital copies of the Bidding Documents are available at http://www.qwestcdn.com for a fee of \$20. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the BIDDING DOCUMENTS link and by entering bid document No. 4296472 on the SEARCH PROJECTS page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com. Plans and specifications, so purchased, become the property of the purchaser, and no refund will be issued for any portion of the purchase price.

Bids must be on the basis of cash payment for the work and materials, and no bid will be considered unless sealed and filed with the City Engineer and accompanied by a cash deposit, certified check, or bidder's bond, payable to the City of Anoka, for not less than 5% of the bid, as a guarantee that the bidder will, within fifteen (15) days after notification of the award of contract, enter into an agreement with the City and furnish a bond for the full amount of the contract as provided by law. This deposit will be subject to forfeiture as provided by law.

Cash deposits, certified checks, and bidder's bonds of the three (3) lowest bidders may be retained until the contract has been awarded and executed, but no longer than 60 days from the date of opening bids. All other deposits will be refunded promptly.

All Bidders for contract amounts of \$50,000 or more shall require contractors, subcontractors and vendors which have 20 or more full-time employees to submit a copy of their Affirmative Action Certificate for the current period with their bid.

The City of Anoka reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities therein. No bid may be withdrawn within 60 days from the date of opening of bids. It is anticipated that the bids will be considered by the City of Anoka at their council meeting on March 21, 2016.

Dated: February 16, 2016 By Order of the City Council /s/ Greg Lee, City Manager

take place on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at the Blaine City Hall Council Chambers, located at 10801 Town Square Drive, Blaine, Minnesota, 55449 at 7:00 p.m. All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. If you cannot attend, please mail your comments in. Persons who have questions may call the Planning Department, City of Blaine, at (763) 785-6180. Hearing impaired persons planning to attend who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities

LOCATION: Proposed extension of Frazier Street & 124th Lane no later than March 1, 2016.
PETITION: The applicant is requesting the following:
a) Preliminary Plat approval to subdivide 33.35 acres into 45 lots and five (5) outlots to be known as Parkside North NW Townhomes.
b) Conditional Use Permit to allow for construction of 45 single family detached townhomes in a DF (Development Flex) zoning district.

HEARING DATE AND TIME: Said hearing will take place on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at the Blaine City Hall Council Chambers, located at 10801 Town Square Drive, Blaine, Minnesota, 55449 at 7:00 p.m.

APPLICANT: Parkside North, LLC

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission of the City of Blaine, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on the following application:
CASE: 16-0006
APPLICANT: Parkside North, LLC

LOCATION: 1749 118th Avenue NE
PETITION: The applicant is requesting the following:
a) Rezoning from FR (Farm Residential) to R-1A (Single Family).
b) Preliminary Plat to subdivide 4.6 acres into eight (8) single family lots to be known as Hideaway of Blaine. Subject parcel is more particularly described as: THE W 343 FT OF E 543 FT OF TRACT E REG LAND SURVEY NO 16, EX S 686 FT THEREOF, EX RD, SUBJ TO EASE OF REC

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. If you cannot attend, please mail your comments in. Persons who have questions may call the Planning Department, City of Blaine, at (763) 785-6180. Hearing impaired persons planning to attend who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary

Table with 8 columns: WATER, SEWER, REFUSE, STORM WATER, LIQUOR, 2016 ADOPTED, 2015 ADOPTED. Rows include Revenues (Sales, Cost of Goods, Gross Profits, Operating Revenues, Charge for Services), Expenses (Operating Expenses, Depreciation), Operating Income (Loss), Transfers (Transfer In, Transfer Out, Change in Net Assets).

**PUBLIC NOTICES** *continued from page 5*

HEARING DATE AND TIME: Said hearing will take place on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at the Blaine City Hall Council Chambers, located at 10801 Town Square Drive, Blaine, Minnesota, 55449 at 7:00 p.m.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. If you cannot attend, please mail your comments in. Persons who have questions may call the

Planning Department, City of Blaine, at (763) 785-6180.

Hearing impaired persons planning to attend who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids should contact Dawn Bugge at (763) 785-6180 no later than March 1, 2016.

Catherine Sorensen, City Clerk

Dated: February 24, 2016

**CITY OF CIRCLE PINES RESOLUTION NO. 2016-03**

Council Member Percy introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolution Determining the Necessity to Issue Not to Exceed

\$2,065,000 General Obligation Capital Notes, Series 2016A

A. WHEREAS, the City of Circle Pines, Minnesota (the "City") is a member of the North Metro Telecommunications Commission, an organization formed with the Cities of Circle Pines, Blaine, Centerville, Ham Lake, Lexington, Lino Lakes and Spring Lake Park, Minnesota (together with the City, the "Joint Cities") by the execution of a Joint and Cooperative Agreement for the Administration of a Cable Communication System (the "Agreement") for which the general purpose is to monitor the operation and activities of cable communications (the "Project") as more particularly described in the Agreement; and

B. WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 412.301 authorizes the City Council to issue capital notes within existing debt limits for the purpose of purchasing capital equipment; and

C. WHEREAS, said statute also provides that if the amount of the capital notes to be issued to finance such equipment exceeds 0.25% of the estimated market value of taxable property in the City, they shall not be issued for at least ten days after publication in the official newspaper of a council resolution determining to issue them; and if

before the end of that time, a petition asking for an election on the proposition signed by voters equal to ten percent of the number of voters at the last regular municipal election is filed with the administrator, the capital notes shall not be issued until the proposition of their issuance has been approved by a majority of the votes cast on the question at a regular or special election; and

D. WHEREAS, the City proposes to issue its General Obligation Capital Notes, Series 2016A (the "Notes") to finance the Joint Cities share of the costs to finance the acquisition of capital equipment for the Project (the "Equipment") in an amount which exceeds 0.25% of the estimated market value of taxable property in the City; and

E. WHEREAS, each member of the Joint Cities will issue its General Obligation Capital Note, Series 2016A to the City in order to pay each member's share of the debt service on the Notes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Circle Pines, Minnesota, as follows:

1. Purpose. That it is necessary and expedient for the City Council to issue the Notes pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 412.301, in an amount not to exceed \$2,065,000 for the purpose of financing the acquisition of the Equipment.

2. Amount. The amount of the Notes is hereby determined and declared to be in excess of 0.25% of the estimated market value of taxable property in the City.

3. Publication. The Administrator is authorized and directed to publish this resolution in the official newspaper of the City.

4. Time. At least ten days shall elapse after publication in the official newspaper of the City of this resolution before the Certificates may be issued.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by City Council Member O'Brien and, after full discussion thereof and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following City Council Members voted in favor thereof:

Schweigert, Percy, O'Brien and Bartholomay and the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Dated this 23rd day of

February, 2016.  
Dave Bartholomay, Mayor

James W. Keinath, City Administrator

**CITY OF COLUMBUS PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Ordinance No. 16-04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF COLUMBUS

CHAPTER 4 – LICENSING

The City Council of the City of Columbus ordains the following:

Section 1. Amendment of Chapter 4, Section 4-805. Section 4-805 of the City Code is hereby amended as follows:

**SECTION 4-805. LOCAL GAMBLING TAX.**

There is hereby imposed a tax on all lawful gambling conducted in the City of Columbus by organizations licensed by the Minnesota Gambling Control Board at the rate specified in this section.

A. An organization's receipts from lawful gambling that is exempt from licensing under Minnesota Statutes, Section 349.214 are not subject to the tax imposed by this section.

B. On all lawful gambling the tax is two (2) one (1) percent of the gross receipts of a licensed organization from lawful gambling less prizes actually paid out, payable by the organization.

C. The tax imposed by this section shall be paid on a monthly basis and shall be reported on a duplicate copy of the gambling tax return filed with the Minnesota Department of Revenue each month, without deletions or additions, and must contain the signatures of organization officials as required on the report form.

D. The tax return and payment of the tax due must be postmarked, or, if hand-delivered, received in the office of the city Administrator, or before the last business day of the month following the month for which the report is made. An incomplete tax return will not be considered timely filed unless corrected and returned by the due date for filing.

E. There shall be an interest charge of eight (8) percent per annum on the unpaid balance of all overdue taxes owed by an organization under this section.

Section 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance was adopted by the Columbus City Council on this 10th day of February, 2016 and shall become effective after its publication.

By order of the City Council.

**CITY OF RAMSEY CITY COMMISSION APPLICATIONS**

City of Columbia Heights (Official Publication)		
SUMMARY 2016 BUDGET STATEMENT CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS		
THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT IS TO PROVIDE SUMMARY 2016 BUDGET INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS TO INTERESTED CITIZENS. THE BUDGET IS PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 471.6965. THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE BUDGET; THE COMPLETE CITY BUDGET MAY BE EXAMINED AT COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CITY HALL, 590 40TH AVENUE N.E., COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN 55421. THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED THIS BUDGET ON DECEMBER 14, 2015.		
GENERAL FUND AND BUDGETED GOVERNMENTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		
	2016 Adopted	2015 Adopted
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Property Taxes	10,455,756	10,233,706
Tax Increments	-	75,000
Other Taxes	202,364	176,578
Special Assessments	105,300	105,300
Licenses and Permits	459,001	404,900
Intergovernmental -		
Federal	169,412	-
State General Purpose Aid (e.g. LGA, etc.)	889,415	1,491,541
State Categorical Aid (e.g. state aid for streets, etc.)	325,800	569,811
Other Local Units	104,500	104,000
Charge for Services	566,397	610,732
Fines and Forfeits	140,000	140,750
Interest on Investments	102,750	85,200
Miscellaneous	266,098	201,337
Transfers In	879,648	854,106
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>14,666,441</b>	<b>15,052,961</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
General Government	2,017,085	1,964,826
Public Safety	5,811,063	5,528,179
Streets and Highways	1,519,422	1,682,909
Sanitation	156,677	148,509
Culture and Recreation	2,536,185	2,474,157
Economic Development	251,601	217,019
Planning & Inspections	278,369	258,987
Cable Television	104,939	38,841
Capital Outlay	4,600	20,000
Transfers	149,941	925,507
Debt Service	835,670	791,716
Interest and Fiscal Charges	919,499	751,449
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>14,585,051</b>	<b>14,802,099</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>81,390</b>	<b>250,862</b>
<b>PROPERTY TAX LEVY REQUIREMENT</b>		
Operating Budgets	9,533,474	9,561,389
Annual Debt Service	922,282	672,317
<b>TOTAL LEVY</b>	<b>10,455,756</b>	<b>10,233,706</b>

City advisory and Recreation are welcome; however, resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a City application. Application packets should be mailed to City of Ramsey, Human Resources, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, MN 55303. Application forms can be found at <http://www.cityoframsey.com/employment>

**CITY OF RAMSEY CHARTER COMMISSION VACANCY**

and Commission; however applications are accepted for all Environmental Policy Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Planning Commission. New terms will begin on Friday, April 1, 2016 and are typically four year terms, with the exception of the Economic Development Authority which has six year terms. Application packets must be received by the closing date; Resumes

The City of Ramsey is clicking on "Boards and Commissions", or who are interested by contacting Jo Thieling, City Clerk at 763-433-9840 or [jthieling@ci.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:jthieling@ci.ramsey.mn.us). Applications may be sent directly to the Honorable John C. Hoffman, Washington Co. Government Center, 14949 - 62nd St. No., P.O. Box 3802, Stillwater, MN 55082-3802 and/or City Clerk, Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, MN 55303. [www.cityoframsey.com](http://www.cityoframsey.com) and



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