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Van Denburgh Fined \$600 for Violating State Campaign Laws

Deal Family Connected to Fundraiser & Illegal Contribution Church Provided Free Use of Space for Political Fundraiser

by ACR Staff

On November 16th, eight days after losing the county commissioner race to incumbent Matt Look, Marsha Van Denburgh was fined a total of \$600 for three violations of Minnesota campaign finance laws.



Marsha Van Denburgh

In September, Ramsey resident Joe Field filed a complaint with the Office of Administrative Hearings alleging that Ms. Van Denburgh violated several sections of Minnesota's Fair Campaign Practices Act. A probable cause hearing was held by telephone conference call and it was determined that four separate items should proceed to an evidentiary hearing.

The four potential violations of Minnesota law were as follows:

1. Accepting larger contributions than allowed
2. Failure to report a campaign contribution
3. Failure to report an in-kind campaign contribution
4. Failure to report a facility rental campaign contribution

An evidentiary hearing was held on October 31st in front of three Administrative Law Judges. At the hearing, Eric Lipman (Presiding Judge), James Mortenson, and Jessica Palmer-Denig took written and verbal testimony from several parties.

Of the four potential violations of Minnesota law that were reviewed by the Court, they found Ms. Van Denburgh guilty of violating counts 1, 2, and 3. And as a result, Ms. Van Denburgh was fined \$200 per count for a total of \$600 to be paid to the Treasurer of the State of Minnesota by December 31, 2016.

Accepting Larger Contributions Than Allowed

Concerning the first count, accepting larger contributions than allowed, the Van Denburgh campaign illegally accepted a second \$600 contribution check signed by Pamela Deal for a total of \$1200 for 2016. Contributions

are limited to \$600 per person per year. Nothing on either check indicated that Ms. Deal's husband, Ramsey property developer Jim Deal, was a co-contributor. As a result, the Van Denburgh campaign was fined \$200.

Failure to Report a Campaign Contribution

The second count, failure to report a campaign contribution, involved the campaign's failure to report Ms. Van Denburgh's personal payment of \$331.68 for campaign shirt printing. All contributions, even if made by the candidate in the form of a loan, must be reported. The Van Denburgh campaign was fined an additional \$200 for this violation of the law.

Failure to Report an In-kind Campaign Contribution

The third count, failure to report an in-kind campaign contribution, involved a Ramsey restaurant named The Lunch Box Coffee & Deli (Lunch Box). In addition to their restaurant across the street from Ramsey City Hall, they also do catering and event

Van Denburgh *cont. on page 2*

City Election Results Ranged From Upsets to Write-ins

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

The results of city elections within Anoka County on Nov. 8 ranged from surprises to two city council seats whose winners had to be determined by write-in votes.

The upset of the evening was the mayor's race in **Columbia Heights**, where mayor Gary Peterson was defeated by city councilor Donna Schmitt by 104 votes. Schmitt is in the middle of her second council term — her council seat will now be open for appointment. Peterson was first elected to the city council in 1983 and won the mayor's seat in 1998. He has been re-elected every two years since then, except for one election cycle. Schmitt was on the city's Planning Commission before winning a city council seat in 2010.



Donna Schmitt

Schmitt collected 4,213 votes to Peterson's 4,109. Schmitt carried precincts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8. Precinct 4 had a narrow margin of 5 votes between the candidates. There were 98 write-ins for mayor; the highest number of write-ins in any given precinct was 17, in both P-1 and P-7. 1,532 voters did not care about city hall operations as they left the mayor's race blank on their ballots, representing 18% of all persons who voted.

Two city council seats were taken by top vote-getter Connie Buesgens (3,515 votes) and incumbent Robert A. "Bobby" Williams (3,407 votes), who will begin his fifth term in January. Nick Novitsky placed third with 3,280 votes and Sean Broom fourth with 2,966. Novitsky carried precincts 2, 7 and 8. Buesgens carried precincts 1, 3, 4, and 5. All but Williams, who carried P-6, were first-time candidates in Columbia Heights. Buesgens and Novitsky currently serve on city commissions. There were 136 write-ins for the council seats.



Connie Buesgens

Columbia Heights' turnout was 78.3%, with 9,952 voters casting ballots. 1,294 registered to vote on election day and another 178 registered during the absentee balloting period. A total of 2,081 absentee ballots were accepted, roughly one-fifth of the total number of ballots cast.

The antithesis of an upset was seen in **Lexington**, the city where no candidates filed. The winners of two city council seats had to be determined by write-in votes. (Refer to *Anoka County Record*, Sept. 20, 2016). They were Mike Murphy and Diane Harris, who had been appointed to one of the seats in August when it was resigned by councilor Jack Plasch. Murphy had 96 write-ins and Harris 103. Others were Brandon Winge (28), Bradley Gavin (23), former city councilor Betty Bailey (7), Ray Abbot (2), Chuck Ogden (2), Brad Miska (2), Greg McAllister (2), Jay Case (2), Sean O'Conner (2), Diane Higgins (1), Mike Hoska (1) and Arthur Beard (1). 348 total write-in votes were cast, with nearly two-thirds of the 952 voters who participated in the election not being able to think of a name to write in. Only 274 write-ins showed up on the hand-made tally sheet however, which was requested of city staff by the *Record*. Staff explained that the difference between 348 and 274 was due to those write-ins being fictitious cartoon characters and nonsense that was not tallied. Abbot also received two write-in votes for mayor out of a total of 28. Mayor Mark Kurth won a second 2-year term unopposed. City turnout was 77.8%.

There was turnover in the **St. Francis, Nowthen, Oak Grove** and **East Bethel** city councils, while **Ham Lake** incumbents were returned to office.

St. Francis will have a new mayor, Steve Feldman and two new city

Elections *cont. on page 4*

Local Postal Customer

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Van Denburgh

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hosting at the Fountains of Ramsey Event Center (Event Center). The Event Center can be rented for meetings, expos, and weddings.

On June 9th, the Van Denburgh campaign held a fundraiser at the Event Center, which was catered by the Lunch Box. After the fundraiser was held, manager Matt Kuker wrote Ms. Van Denburgh informing her that she would not be billed for use of the facility and restaurant expenses. Mr. Kuker valued the contribution at \$200 and stated that he was paying this fee as a contribution to her campaign. The failure to properly report this in-kind contribution at the proper time was deemed by the Court to be a violation of the law. The campaign was fined an additional \$200.

Whether the stated fair market value of \$200 was truthful, was also a question before the Court. The law requires that the fair market value of goods and services received at no cost be reported as an in-kind contribution to the campaign. Due to a lack of evidence, the Court was unable to determine if \$200 represented the fair market value of goods and services received by the Van Denburgh campaign from the Lunch Box and Event Center. The complainant, Mr. Fields, provided information to the Court from another caterer who also uses the Event Center, bringing the \$200 amount into question. The Court ruled that the price charged by another caterer is not evidence of the prices charged or any discount rendered by the Lunch Box or the Event Center to the Van Denburgh campaign.

Illegal Business Contribution to Campaign

Had Mr. Fields proven that Mr. Kuker's \$200 valuation was low, any additional sum beyond this may have been considered a contribution directly from the Lunch Box and Event Center to the Van Denburgh campaign. The Lunch Box website lists food selections in the \$5 to \$10 range. The Event Center website lists a minimum \$150 rental fee with a food and beverage minimum of \$3,000 with a cash bar.

A direct contribution from the Lunch Box and Event Center to the Van Denburgh campaign could have been problematic as both appear to be organized as corporations. Under Minnesota law, corporations are prohibited from contributing any money, property, free service of its officers, employees, or members, or thing of monetary value to a campaign committee or candidate running for public office. They may only be involved in expenditures independent from a candidate or candidate committee.

Lunch Box manager Mr. Kuker, Ramsey developer Jim Deal, and the Lunch Box and Event Center businesses are all connected. The Court identified Mr. Kuker as the manager of the Lunch Box. The City of Ramsey identifies Mr. Kuker as one of the owners of the Lunch Box. The business networking website LinkedIn identifies Mr. Kuker as the Chief Operating Officer at PSD, LLC. The Minnesota Secretary of State identifies Jim Deal, as the manager of PSD Holding, LLC. Both LLC's, the Lunch Box, and the Event Center, are located at the same address in Ramsey, MN. LLC's are considered to be "corporations" under Minnesota law.

If at some point in the future, the \$200 sum stated by Mr. Kuker is proven to be false. Any additional amount would be considered an illegal corporate contribution to the Van Denburgh campaign.

Church Provided Free Use of Space for Political Event

The Court determined that the Van Denburgh campaign did not have to claim an in-kind contribution for use of space at New Life Church for a political fundraising event. No evidence was brought forward which placed a value on this use. The Court noted that there was no evidence that the Church offered space to other members of the public at a particular price or that the price was higher than what was charged to Ms. Van Denburgh. Further supporting this was a letter and \$100 donation sent by Ms. Van Denburgh to the Church six days after the event thanking them for the use. In the eyes of the Court that was only reviewing compliance with campaign finance laws, no violation occurred.

Generally all churches have 501(c)(3) tax exempt status which prohibits participation in certain political activity. What will remain to be seen is if a complaint is filed with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) against New Life Church. The Court record proves that the Church provided free use of their property for a political fundraiser. (Editor's note: It was also brought to our attention that the Church promoted this event on their website.)

On July 13, 2015, the *Evansville Courier & Press* ran an article on a mayoral candidate forum and fundraiser scheduled to be held at a local church. After a press inquiry, the fundraiser portion was quickly canceled.

In the *Courier & Press* article, Notre Dame law professor Lloyd Hitoshi Mayer, an expert on nonprofit and election law and prohibited political activity stated, "Renting for a fundraiser violates federal tax law if you only make it available to one candidate or you give it to them for free," he said. "The key thing is bias, favoritism. That's what the tax law is concerned about. If you say, 'We'll rent it to any candidate that wants it, at fair market value,' that's not a problem under federal tax law. So if the opponent shows up the next week and says, 'I want to rent the church facility out to host something and do a fundraiser,' the church has to say, 'Sure.' Same price, same deal. They have to say yes."

According to IRS publications on election year activities, all 501(c)(3) organizations, "are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. The prohibition applies to all campaigns including campaigns at the federal, state and local level. Violation of this prohibition may result in denial or revocation of tax-exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes." Furthermore, "Allowing a candidate to use an organization's assets or facilities will also violate the prohibition if other candidates are not given an equivalent opportunity."

Conclusion

The Court bluntly stated that, "Ms. Van Denburgh failed to suitably acquaint herself with the requirements of state campaign finance laws and supervise a campaign treasurer who was new to this field." They further stated that the campaign was, "not able to accurately report to the public the essential details: the campaign's 'cash on hand'; the specifics of each disbursement by the campaign; and the identity of higher-dollar campaign contributors."

With the results of the election known by the time the ruling was issued, the Van Denburgh campaign having lost the race by a large margin, the Court stated that the \$600 fine was partially based upon the fact that, "these violations had a minimal impact upon voters."

Chamberlain and Whelan Update Taxpayers

Budget Forecast

This morning the office of Management of Budget released their annual November forecast, which provides information on the state's economic outlook and begins to set the stage for next session's budget discussions.

MMB predicted a \$1.4 billion surplus for the upcoming 2018-2019 budget, which is down slightly from previous projections. Nationally, the report notes that the US economic outlook has weakened. Despite this uncertainty, state spending and tax revenues are both projected to increase by about 7% over the previous budget, with health care spending alone growing by \$2.4 billion.

The bottom line is: proceed with caution. Despite the positive news of a surplus, we still need to exercise restraint and avoid adding large, ongoing spending commitments to the budget. I spoke to thousands of people as I traveled around the district this summer, and many of you are frustrated with the status quo tax-and-spend policies of our state government. So starting in January, we'll begin to build a responsible budget from the ground up. Our budget will put you and your family first by reducing health care costs, passing meaningful tax relief, and reducing wasteful spending.

If you are interested in reading the forecast documents they are available at this link: <http://www.mn.gov/mmb/forecast/forecast/>

Audit of the MSFA

Some of you may have seen in the news this week that the non-partisan Office of the Legislative Auditor has opened a priority investigation into the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (MSFA) and their use of two luxury suites at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Government-appointed heads of the MSFA have been treating high-profile Democrats including commissioners, elected officials and their staff to tickets, food and even free parking in the suites. They have thus far also refused to give a full list of names of those who have attended.

Transparency and accountability in state government is so important, and the legal and ethical questions raised by the use of these exclusive suites is an important one. I look forward to seeing the results of this audit and will share more when the results and recommendations of the Legislative Auditor's report are released.



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ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG

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

December 2nd, 2016

Quote of the Week: "Whenever there's a question which has been given some high public visibility about the potential misuse, alleged misuse of public resources, I think the public deserves a quick and objective answer."

- **Legislative Auditor Jim Nobles**

Quote of the Week: "The governor has yelled at me before, he probably will again."

- **State Rep. Matt Dean (R - Dellwood)**

Quote of the Week: "By greater than a 3-1 margin survey respondents support environmentally-responsible mining in the region. Additionally, by more than 2-1, respondents support the building of new copper-nickel mines and believe copper-nickel mining can be done in an environmentally-responsible way. More than 60 percent support the Twin Metals underground copper-nickel project."

- **Twin Metals Minnesota**

A PETULANT CHILD

Well, that didn't take long. Just days into the new post-election reality, the man-child in the governor's office threw a temper tantrum befitting any well-adjusted, normal 3 year-old child.

Perhaps the governor grew overheated because he needed a nap.

Perhaps he threw the category 5 tantrum because the subject matter was one he knows well - art.

In this case, they weren't talking the kind of art that one sells out of the family trust fund to pay for political campaigns.

Instead, the subject matter was the kind of art that will hang in the governor's office now that needed and extensive remodeling is nearly complete.

As any visitor to the Capitol knows, art depicting Minnesota's role in the Civil War is prominent throughout the building.

This is because Minnesota played a vital role in that major historical period and because the Capitol itself was built at a time when Civil War veterans played a large role in the state's politics.

This week, a commission charged with overseeing these issues met to discuss whether various Civil War paintings would be re-installed in the governor's office.

When legislators who sit on the panel expressed their preference for keeping the paintings where they were, contrary to Dayton's wishes, he blew his top.

(Editor's Note: Now word on what paintings Dayton would install. Maybe one of him signing the stadium bill he didn't understand? Maybe signing the MnSure bill that wasted millions and condemned thousands to

crappy, overpriced policies?).

As usual, Dayton screamed at his critics while labeling their concerns as "politics."

But in a new twist on his old antics, Dayton stormed out of the meeting.

It's about time Dayton be held accountable for his petulant, disrespectful and childish behavior.

Whether you agree or disagree with Dayton on various issues, every Minnesotan should condemn his behavior.

With his incompetence and behavior control issues, Dayton would be fired from any private company, if he would have even been hired in the first place.

SUITNESS IS THEIR WEAKNESS

Yes, we've all heard by now of the scam by which Dayton political appointees have been using two luxury suites at U.S. Bank stadium as their own patronage fiefdom to reward political cronies and give themselves and their families a taste of the good life.

With all that has been written, this one needs some clarity and analysis that only the Watchdog can provide.

Excuse #1: We can't provide the guest list.

Wrong. These suites are taxpayer assets, built and operated with tax dollars. The taxpayers have every right to know who is using these taxpayer assets and why. This isn't some CIA covert operation that demands secrecy and discretion.

The legislature should make crystal clear next month that the guest list is public data and that a guest list must be kept.

Excuse #2: The Suites are for marketing purposes.

If so, then why were people using the suites who clearly don't have an interest in renting the stadium?

So, former DFL legislator and DFL lobbyist Andy Kozak are now concert Promoters? Are they executives with the X Games? Please.

The common tie here is that they're political cronies of Mark Dayton and part of the DFL power structure. They were there to get some political payback. Period.

Excuse #3: The suites are needed to market the stadium.

Uh, no they're not, actually. A potential renter doesn't need to spend 3 hours in a luxury suite during a Vikings game filling his face with taxpayer-financed food and a VIP parking space to understand how the stadium may or may not be suitable for a particular event.

Potential renters can get a tour, sample food, see a presentation, ask questions, and get all the information they need without sucking up a hi-ho time on the taxpayer dime.

Perhaps the legislature should simply pass a bill that bans use of these suites.

This publication has yet to hear of a valid reason why they are needed.

Excuse #4: We can give tickets to our friends and family because we work long hours.

How arrogant. How totally out of touch.

Ted Mondale and Michele Kelm-Helgen, the folks responsible for this mess, are nothing more than political appointees who know nothing about building or running a stadium. They have done nothing in their adult lives other than live off political favors, just like their boss, Mark Dayton.

Having been in politics for a lifetime, they know better than to say dumb things like that. They're collective arrogance is so overpowering, they can't even act like politicians, offering strategic lies and doubletalk to protect their hides.

Long hours? Prove it. We bet they can't.

And even if they did, so what? These two political appointees are on salary. Salary means getting the job done, no matter what it takes.

In fact, these two make nearly \$300,000 between them and God only knows what kind of sweet benefits. Odds are pretty good these two don't have to use MnSure to get health insurance.

Only Mark Dayton would think it acceptable to hire these two jokers to run a stadium.

To top it off, the two jokers have stated they will hold off on dispensing tickets to friends, family, and their book club until things are "clarified."

What's to clarify? Giving tickets to friends isn't okay. Got it?

Excuse #5: Governor Dayton will wait for the legislative auditor to tell him what to do.

The icing on the cake. Mark Dayton, yet again, displaying an utter lack of understanding regarding the reality of the situation.

Just yesterday, Dayton said he "expressed concern" to Mondale and Kelm-Helgen.

Really? Way to take a decisive and bold stand, governor.

What does that even mean?

Dayton is apparently content to stand by and watch Legislative Auditor Jim Nobles investigate and then explain to chowder head Democrats why abusing taxpayers for their pleasure is a no-no.

No action from our intrepid governor. Not even a condemnation of the behavior.

Only some vague talk of "expressing concern."

You can't make it up.

That's the problem. It's a big one.

Here's the solution, if the suites aren't simply eliminated.

One, a guest list must be kept that states exactly who attended and why that person attended. Guests must have a legitimate interest in renting all or part of the facility.

The list shall be public data.

ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG *cont. on page 5*

Elections *continued from page 1*

councilors, Robert Bauer (1,647 votes) and Joseph Muehlbauer (1,411) defeated incumbents Tim Brown (1,134) and Richard Orpen (832). There were 42 write-ins for city council. Former mayor Jerry Tveit challenged new mayoral candidate Feldman but narrowly lost by 65 votes. Tveit had 1,607 votes and Feldman received 1,672, plus 18 write-ins. City turnout was 81%. 3,765 ballots were cast, 559 were new registrations, and 468 voters (12%) had no interest in the mayoral race and left their ballots blank.

City councilor Jim Scheffler lost his bid for re-election in **Nowthen**, with Dan Breyen taking the seat in January. City councilor Mary Rainville and mayor Jeff Pilon were re-elected to second terms. Vote totals for the two council seats were: Rainville, 1,324; Breyen, 993; Scheffler, 811; Geraldine Sharp, 474, and Neil Halbach, 378. Write-ins: Penny LaPlante, Paul Reighard and Gustavo Diazdeleon each received two votes. Receiving one write-in vote each, were: David Mui, Ginger Minj, John Doe, Debbie Mahutga, John Johnson, Jason Rutz, Tammy Hallstrom, Perry Alan Lindberg, Dana Henjum, Mike Sweet, Mark Herrala, Gary Scott, Jason Dryden, Lyle Paulson, Edith Jansen and Jill Gustafson.

Mayor Jeff Pilon garnered 1,456 votes and former city employee Debbie Mahutga had 1,094. Pilon had a margin of 282 votes in P-1 and 80 votes in P-2. There were write-ins for John Doe, Richard Vagle and Joseph Ryan Talbot. Voter turnout was 85.6%. 224 registered on election day, and another 34 registered prior to election day. The total number of voters was 2,720, of which 542, or 20% of all balloting, were absentee. 170 voters did not cast a vote for mayor. 13 did not vote for U.S. President, 140 did not vote for U.S. Congress, 179 did not vote for a state senator and 189 left the state representative race blank. 299 did not vote in the County Board race.

The **Oak Grove** City Council will have a new member: Paul M. Tradewell will take Sean Sullivan's seat. Tradewell was the top vote-getter among three candidates (for two seats), with 2,197 votes and incumbent Scott Lawrence won re-election with 2,160 votes. Weston Rolf placed third with 1,917 and there were 49 write-ins. Sullivan chose not to file for re-election and instead ran successfully for a seat on the ISD 15 St. Francis school board. Oak Grove voter turnout was 83.6%. There were a total of 521 new registrations (441 of which were on election day) and 1,001 absentee ballots. The total number of persons voting was 5,069. As we did with Nowthen, we examined the number of voters who leave certain races blank on their ballots. In Oak Grove, 20 did not vote for President, 202 did not vote for any Congressional candidate, 254 did not vote for state senator and 303 did not vote for state representative. A whopping 736 voters left the County Board race blank.

Two incumbent city councilors in **Ham Lake** will return to office. Gary Kirkeide and Tom Johnson had 4,863 and 4,731 votes respectively, and a third candidate who challenged them, Adam Darling came in with 19% of the vote and 2,286. There were 120 write-ins. 824 new registrations were taken on election day, plus another 125 were made during the absentee ballot period. Ham Lake's city turnout was 84.7%, with 9,420 persons voting. Absentee ballots numbered 1,869. Again there were many blank spaces on ballots. 58 did not vote for President. 371 left the Congressional race blank. The state senate and representative races had 442 and 579 blanks, and

there were 1,272 voters (13%) who didn't fill in the oval for the County Board race.

Steve Voss was re-elected mayor of **East Bethel** with 62% of the vote in a race against former mayor and councilor Robert H. DeRoche, Jr. Voss had 3,266 votes and DeRoche 1,939, with 36 write-ins. Tom Ronning was re-elected to the city council and was the top vote-getter with 2,034. Randy Plaisance took the second seat, that of outgoing councilor Ron Koller, by receiving 1,736 votes. Three other candidates were in the race: Jim Smith (1,531 votes), Timothy Meyenburg (1,525) and Oskar A. Granquist (1,192). There were 72 write-ins. Voter turnout was 82.2%. The total for all new registrations was 880. Out of the 6,375 voters who participated in the election, 1,134 did not cast a vote in the mayor's race.

The ballot question in Blaine was defeated. 53.6% voted against spending over \$29 million for a community center. 16,991 votes were against, and 14,689 in favor. Ward 3 city councilor Jason K. King attained slightly over 43% of the vote in the contest against now six-term mayor Tom Ryan, who captured 16,450 votes to King's 12,850. There were 174 write-ins. King carried three precincts: W-1 P-8, W-2 P-6 and W-3 P-8. In the city council races, another long-time incumbent Dick Swanson kept his seat in Ward 1, in a 4,757 to 3,042 decision over John R. Wilcox, with 55 write-ins. Julie Jeppson defeated incumbent Mike Bourke in Ward 2 by nearly 500 votes. The totals were 4,719 for Jeppson and 4,252 for Bourke with 45 write-ins. Two newcomers ran for an open seat in Ward 3, with Andy Garvais besting Maisa Olson 5,349 votes to 4,129. There were 85 write-ins. 34,214 voters cast ballots in the city for a turnout of 82.2%. Total new registrations came to 4,008. Over 2500 voters did not have an opinion on the ballot question and 4,740 voters had no interest in the mayor's race.

Andover mayor Julie Trude easily won a second 2-year term against Ben Riechers, capturing 57.5% of the vote. Trude received 9,443 votes, Riechers 6,900 and 67 write-ins. City council incumbents Sheri Bukkila (9,183) and Mike Knight (9,548) were returned to office. A third candidate, Timothy A. Davis, Sr., had 4,702 votes. There were 228 write-ins for city council. 84% of the electorate came out to vote — exactly 18,527 persons. New registrations totaled 1,870.

Incumbents cruised to easy victories in **Fridley**. Mayor Scott Lund was re-elected with 8,146 votes (72%) against Drew Schuette's total of 3,014. There were 113 write-ins. Councilmember at Large Bob Barnette was re-elected with 5,522 votes to David Ostwald's 5,062. There were 90 write-ins and a total of 1,673 new registrations.

Four city council seats were on the ballot in **Coon Rapids**. At-large councilor Steve Wells was unopposed; Brad Greskowiak won the Ward 1 seat over Julia Stevens, 3,269 votes to 2,541. Bill Kiecker defeated Greg Leone for the Ward 2 seat with 58% of the vote (3,112 votes to Leone's 2,182). Jenny Geisler retained the Ward 4 seat she had been appointed to, as she fended off Chuck Philipsek 2,777 to 2,382. City turnout was 33,065 voters (80.2%) and there were 4,126 new registrations.

Spring Lake Park to appoint new city council member. Due to the death of Spring Lake Park city councilor Jeanne Mason in October, her council seat will soon be appointed. The city council was scheduled to interview applicants at its Dec. 5 meeting. The applicants are Jack Angerhofer, 724 Holland Ln NE; Steve Coyle,

601 Manor Dr NE; Bradley J. Delfs, 8172 Polk St NE; Maryann Graba, 8049 Madison St NE; Hans W. Hansen, 8331 Able St NE; and Dan Lambert, 8130 Polk St NE. Mason's unexpired term runs to January 2019. Two council seats were on the ballot in the general election: Bob Nelson was re-elected with 1,632 votes and newcomer Barbara J. Goodboe-Bisschoff came in second with 1,007 votes. Three others were in the race: Penny Lundsten (857 votes), Bradley J. Delfs (723) and Robert Mosing (523).

Anoka City Council also preparing to make an appointment. Mayor Phil Rice and city councilors Mark Freeburg and Steve Schmidt were unopposed in the general election, however Schmidt announced his resignation Nov. 17. A short window of time for applicants to submit letters of interest resulted in a field of three candidates presented in the Anoka City Council's Dec. 5 meeting packet. They are: Tracy Kelly, Erik Skogquist and Brian Wesp. Wesp comes recommended to the council in a letter by Schmidt. More on this development in a future edition of the *Record*.

In **Columbus**, Mayor Dave Povolny and councilors Jeff Duraine and Denny Peterson had no opposition and the same can be said for **Ramsey**, where mayor Sarah Strommen and city councilors John LeTourneau, Mark Kuzma and Chris Riley had no opponents. City turnouts were 76.8% for Anoka, 82% in Ramsey and 86% in Columbus.

Incumbent city councilor John Matheson was defeated in a three-way race for two council seats in **Hilltop**. Betty L. Risdahl and Casey A. Gunter won the seats with 116 and 102 votes respectively. Matheson had 57. David Cartwright ran unopposed for the mayor's seat which was a special election for the unexpired term of the late mayor Jerry Murphy, who died early this year. Cartwright's council seat was on the regular general election ballot. 238 voters turned out (64.8%).

The town clerk position in **Linwood Township** will no longer be an elected position. A ballot question that had narrowly failed in the 2014 election was this time approved by voters 1,396 to 1,181. The Town Board will appoint the clerk, however the position had to be on the ballot again in its usual rotation this election. Julie Dahnke won the seat and had no opponent. Two town supervisors were re-elected, however Philip Osterhus lost Seat B to Tim Peterson, 1,306 votes to 1,138 for Osterhus. Ed Kramer was re-elected with no opposition to Seat E and Carol Searing was re-elected to Seat C, netting 1,336 votes to opponent Michael Parker's 1,119 votes. Voter turnout was 85%.

In **Centerville**, Mayor Tom Wilharber did not seek re-election for another two-year term and not having any opposition, city councilor Jeff Paar won the seat in the general election. Two council seats were won by Matthew Montain (785 votes) and Russ Koski (772). Three other candidates were Tom Wood (711), Charles A. Reinhardt (543) and Zachariah Nase (270). City turnout was 84%.

Anoka County Record saved this customer \$125, a savings of 63%.

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Yes, everyone can save big \$\$\$ by publishing notices in the *Record*.

Anoka County Watchdog

continued from page 3

Two, all guests must pay fair market value for their ticket, parking, and food/beverage and other benefits.

Three, a nepotism rule shall be in effect that bans stadium board members and staff from providing benefits to family relations.

Four, stadium board members shall be appointed by the governor and subject to Senate confirmation. Board nominees shall have a demonstrated record of success and experience in the field of finance, construction, or related private-sector market segment.

It's time to use the new majority to check a governor who is clearly having trouble governing effectively.

The Anoka County Watchdog is a place where

concerned taxpayers can find fact-supported information and other resources about governmental waste and abuse in Anoka County.

My intent is to provide you, the taxpayer, with the information you need to hold your local politicians accountable.

Visit my website and sign up for free weekly e-mail updates at:

www.AnokaCountyWatchdog.com

or contact me personally at:

harold@anokacountywatchdog.com

Sincerely,

Harold E. Hamilton, owner.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Free Dollars into Sense Class

The University of Minnesota Extension, Anoka County will present a free Dollars into Sense class on Thursdays:

December 8 at 10-11:30 am

January 12 at 6-7:30 pm

February 9, 10-11:30 am

At the Anoka County Human Services Center (1201 89th Ave, Blaine). Class will cover tracking expenses, putting together a spending plan, goal setting, credit, and where to get additional help/resources. To register, call University of Minnesota Extension, Anoka County at 763-755-1280 at least three days prior to the class.

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The Anoka County Board met on November 22, 2016. Standing county committee information reports and action items were considered, and action was taken as necessary. The following resolutions were adopted: #2016-133 Arbitration Award, #2016-134 Compensation (below), #2016-135 Anoka Airport Sublease, #2016-136 Property Sale, # 2016-137 ACCAP Conveyance, #2016-138 Economic Assistance Payments, and #2016-139 User Fees. Public hearings were held related to Anoka County User Fees and the 2017-2021 Capital Improvements Program. A full copy of the agenda, minutes, accounts, and claims greater than \$2000 may be found on the Anoka County Web site: www.anokacounty.us

ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION AND EXPENSE AMOUNTS FOR ANOKA COUNTY EMPLOYEES, UNCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES, APPOINTED DIVISION MANAGERS, DEPARTMENT HEADS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR 2017

WHEREAS, adjustments to compensation levels of governmental units are considered on an annual basis; and, WHEREAS, the total compensation package must be affordable for Anoka County; and, WHEREAS, the compensation levels of non-bargaining unit employees, unclassified employees, division managers, department heads, and elected officials for 2017 need to be established before the end of this year; and,

WHEREAS, the Personnel Rules and Regulations of Anoka County, Minnesota, adopted by the county board, provide that the director of Employee Relations shall annually review the salary levels and make recommended changes; and,

WHEREAS, the director of Employee Relations has completed said review for program year 2017 and has recommended to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners that the potential salary rate of all county employees be increased as described below, except for specific exclusions as are on file in Employee Relations:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the general adjustment for 2017 is 0 percent. On January 7, 2017, individual established salaries of non-bargaining unit county employees, unclassified employees, the county administrator, division managers, and department heads may increase by a performance-based range movement of up to 3 percent January 7, 2017, and distributed on the basis of job performance, as are on file in Employee Relations, subject to the availability of funds. The approval authority for these job performance increases is hereby delegated to the Management Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that regular county employees who are in collective bargaining agreements with the county or temporary employees are specifically excluded from the pay increase portion of this resolution and all other matters covering terms and conditions of employment except as provided in this paragraph. Pay increases for union employees are governed by their collective bargaining agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to the Laws of Minnesota 2005, Chapter 28, an expense allowance, in lieu of the seven-county metropolitan area mileage and other unreimbursed business-related county expenses, for county commissioners and the chair of the county board shall be in the amount maximum as was authorized in Resolution #2004-163. These expense allowances shall be in addition to the 2017 annual salary figure stated below and shall be treated as compensation except to the extent for which the funds are expended and accounted for.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anoka County commissioners' annualized salary for 2017 will be \$65,522, pursuant to the provisions of M.S. § 375.055.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for 2017 the county attorney's annual salary shall be \$155,000 and the sheriff's salary shall be \$147,191 for 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the elected officials of Anoka County shall be entitled to the same benefits as provided other Anoka County employees, except for flexible time off and extended medical benefit.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution is posted on the official county bulletin board and copies be forwarded immediately to each department of the county and the Association of Minnesota Counties.

(Published 12/6, 2016 Anoka County Record) #561

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OCTOBER 1, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

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

AVERAGE FREQUENCY: WEEKLY **CIRCULATION: OCTOBER 1, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

CIRCULATION	Non-Paid	Paid	Total
Individual Subscription	517	-	517
Association/Group/Directory Lists	-	-	-
Rotated	-	-	-
Bulk Distribution	73	-	73
Single Copy Sales	-	-	-
TOTAL CIRCULATION			590

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS
RJJ Company LLC
 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that RJJ Company LLC has dissolved and is in the process of winding up its affairs. The limited liability company has filed with the Secretary of State a notice of dissolution. The notice was filed November 7, 2016. Claims against the company must be presented in writing to: RJJ Company LLC, 13055 Riverdale Drive NW, #500-270, Coon Rapids, MN, 55448. Claims must be received by February 15, 2017.

(Published 11/15, 11/22, 11/29, 12/6, 2016 Anoka County Record) #553

CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT TO 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: **Crystal Barbers, I**
2. Principal Place of Business:

11133 - 7th Street NE Blaine, MN 55434
 Nameholder(s):
M. Keith Roehmchildt 11133 - 7th St. NE Blaine, MN 55434 Myron O. Roggemann 12731 Bayview Rd. South Haven, MN 55382

5. This certificate is an amendment of Certificate of Assumed Name File Number: 11718. Originally filed on 5/27/80 under the name Crystal Barbers.

6. 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: 11/30/2016, # 917833700026 /s/ M. Keith Roehmchildt, Partner /s/ Myron O. Roggemann, Partner (Published 12/6, 12/13, 2016 Anoka County Record) #560

PUBLIC NOTICES

UNPAID CITY OF BLAINE BLAINE SEEKS TO FILL BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

Blaine City Councilmembers are seeking applicants for several advisory boards and commissions. Board and Commission members are vital to the community and provide input and guidance on both opportunities and challenges that a growing community like Blaine faces today. Requirements for these volunteer positions include being a resident of Blaine, attending monthly meetings, and having a community interest.

For more information or to apply go to www.ci.blaine.mn.us or contact the City Clerk's office. Interested citizens should return their application no later than December 9, 2016.

City Clerk's Office
 City of Blaine
 10801 Town Square Drive, Blaine MN 55449
 sdellich@ci.blaine.mn.us

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: 16-0047
 APPLICANT: Boulder Contracting
 LOCATION: 10720 Sunset Avenue NE

PETITION: The applicant is requesting the approval of a lot split that will split an existing lot into two parcels. Both proposed parcels would have access on 107th Avenue. The applicant is proposing to remove the existing house on the parcel upon approval of a lot split. Both lots meet the 10,000 square foot minimum lot size in the R-1(Single Family) zoning district.

Subject parcel is more particularly described as:

Lot 4 Auditor's Subdivision No. 133, Anoka County, Minnesota

HEARING DATE AND TIME: Said hearing will

take place on Tuesday, December 13, 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 December 6, 2016.

Catherine Sorensen, City Clerk

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: 16-0049
 APPLICANT: Daniel Orning
 LOCATION: 8615 Lincoln Street NE

PETITION: The applicant is requesting a conditional use permit to allow for a detached garage in the rear yard totaling 1,200 square feet. The detached garage will replace a structure that was destroyed in a fire.

Subject parcel is more particularly described as:

NORTH 1/2 OF LOT 105 SPRING LAKE PARK SHORES ADDITION

HEARING DATE AND TIME: Said hearing will take place on Tuesday, December 13, 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 December 6, 2016.
 Catherine Sorensen, City Clerk

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: 16-0050
 APPLICANT: Twin Cities Orthopedics
 LOCATION: 11225 Ulysses Street NE

PETITION: The applicant is requesting the following:

- a) Rezoning from B-2 (Community Commercial) to B-3 (Regional Commercial)
- b) Preliminary Plat approval to subdivide 4.02 acres into one (1) lot to be known as TCO Blaine Addition
- c) A one (1) foot variance to twenty (20) foot parking stall length to allow a nineteen (19) foot stall length and eleven (11) additional parking stalls on site.

Subject parcel is more particularly described as:

That part of Lot Fourteen (14), Central Avenue Acres, lying East of the Easterly right-of-way line of City of Blaine Highway Right-of-Way Plat No. 3, Registrar of Titles Document No. 481940.001

HEARING DATE AND TIME: Said hearing will take place on Tuesday, December 13, 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 December 6, 2016.

Catherine Sorensen, City Clerk

CITY OF BLAINE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAX LEVY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Blaine, Minnesota will meet on December 8, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the City Hall, 10801 Town Square Drive, Blaine, Minnesota, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the proposed 2017 budget and property tax levy. All persons interested may appear and be heard at the time and place set forth above.

Individuals unable to attend the public hearing can make written comment by writing to Joe Huss, Finance Director, City Hall, 10801 Town Square Drive, Blaine, Minnesota 55449-8101. Written comments must be received prior to the public hearing.

BY ORDER OF THE BLAINE CITY COUNCIL

Cathy Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk

CITY OF COON RAPIDS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE COON RAPIDS PLANNING COMMISSION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Coon Rapids Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and make a decision on the following matter:

CASE: 16-28
 ITEM: Site Plan

PETITIONER: Welsh/Genesis Architecture
 LOCATION: 8960 Evergreen Boulevard

The Petitioner requests a Site Plan approval for a 20,500 square foot addition to an existing industrial building.

Legal description: Lot 1, Block 4, Evergreen Industrial Park South
 Said hearing will take place on Thursday, December 15, 2016, at the City Center, 11155 Robinson Drive in the City Council Chambers beginning at 6:30 p.m. The City Center is ADA accessible. Requests for hearing assistance devices or a sign language interpreter must be received before December 6, 2016.

Such a request may be made by telephone 763-767-6430, TDD 763-757-8885 or fax 763-767-6573. All interested persons are invited to

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attend and to be heard. You may call 763-767-6430 if you have any questions.
 Wayne Schwartz, Chairman

CITY OF COON RAPIDS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE COON RAPIDS PLANNING COMMISSION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Coon Rapids Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and make recommendation on the following matter:

CASE: 16-29
 ITEM: Station Area Plan for Riverdale Station Transit District

PETITIONER: Sherman Associates.
 LOCATION: Northdale Boulevard, north of the Riverdale Northstar Train Station

The Petitioner requests that the Coon Rapids Planning Commission consider and make a recommendation to the Coon Rapids City Council for approval

of a station area plan consisting of four apartment buildings and a commercial site.

Legal description available at City Hall. Said hearing will take place on Thursday, December 15, 2016, at the City Center, 11155 Robinson Drive in the City Council Chambers beginning at 6:30 p.m. The City Center is ADA accessible. Requests for hearing assistance devices or a sign language interpreter must be received before December 6, 2016. Such a request may be made by telephone 763-767-6430, TDD 763-757-8885 or fax 763-767-6573. All interested persons are invited to attend and to be heard. You may call 763-767-6430 if you have any questions.

Wayne Schwartz, Chairman

will conduct a public hearing to offer citizens the opportunity to make comments regarding the proposed use of the 2017 Community Development Block Grant funds. The proposed project is available for review in the Community Development Department at the City of Coon Rapids, 11155 Robinson Drive, Coon Rapids, Minnesota. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, 7:00 p.m. For information contact the Community Development Department at 763-767-6430.

CITY OF COON RAPIDS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 Notice is hereby given that the City of Coon

ASHLEE P. DREON
JAMES FRANCIS HAROLD HOPPE
 STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT
 COUNTY OF ANOKA TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 FAMILY COURT DIVISION
 Case # 02-FA-16-1582

In Re the Custody of:
 T.J.L.H., DOB 2/3/2011
 Judy Mae Dreon and Steven Douglas Dreon,
 Petitioners,

SUMMONS

v
 Ashlee P. Dreon,
 Respondent,
 and
 James Francis Harold Hoppe,
 Respondent.

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon Petitioner's attorney an Answer to the Petition for Custody and Parenting Time which is on file with the court, within twenty (20) 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.

Dated: 11/18/2016 /s/ Daniel Kauppi
 Daniel Kauppi (MN# 0390577)
 5101 Thimsen Ave. #200
 Minnetonka, Minnesota 55345

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER
 (Published 11/22, 11/29, 12/6, 2016 Anoka County Record) #555

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