

Anoka County RECORD

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TAKING THE OATH

County Commissioners Continue Service Majority Shifts in Nowthen & St. Francis

In January, the oath of office will be administered to newly elected and re-elected officials from across the county. In most cases they will be retaking the oath, having been successful in their re-election efforts.

In November, County Board Commissioners Julie Braastad, Matt Look, Rhonda Sivarajah, and Robyn West were re-elected by wide margins, with Ms. Braastad taking almost 80% of the vote in her commissioner district.

In the City of Columbia Heights, Donna Schmitt is moving from a council seat to the mayor's seat, having defeated a longtime incumbent.

In the City of Nowthen and the City of Saint Francis, the election not only brought new faces to the council, but shifted council majorities. In Nowthen, a new council majority takes office with Dan Breyen's defeat of councilmember Jim Scheffler. In Saint Francis, a new majority takes office with the election of Steve Feldman as Mayor and Robert Bauer and Joe Muehlbauer as councilmembers.

City of Nowthen Holds Special Ceremony

On Tuesday, January 3rd, the City of Nowthen held a special event for administering the oath of office to Mayor Jeff Pilon and councilmember Mary Rainville, both re-elected, along with newly elected councilmember Dan Breyen. The event was open to the public and was held at the Nowthen Alliance Church. Several distinguished guests were in attendance, including Minneapolis City Council President Barb Johnson, sister to Nowthen councilmember Mary Rainville.

County Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah stated that as board chair, it was a privilege and honor to speak to those in attendance. She said that the board as a whole was excited to work with the great elected officials here in Nowthen. Speaking of the challenges of serving as an elected official, she said, "It is not an easy job and definitely they will need your encouragement and support every day."

State Senator Michelle Benson spoke of the capitol finally being open to the public again, and the work ahead for legislators. She assured everyone that legislators will



Commissioner Julie Braastad taking the oath of office at the Courthouse



City of Nowthen Mayor Jeff Pilon taking the oath of office at the Nowthen Alliance Church



City of Nowthen Councilmember Mary Rainville taking the oath of office at the Nowthen Alliance Church



Newly elected City of Nowthen Councilmember Dan Breyen taking the oath of office at the Nowthen Alliance Church

Cigarette Smuggling Soars in Minnesota After Big Tax Hike

By Tom Steward
Center of the American Experiment

Cigarette smuggling has soared since Minnesota imposed a \$1.60 per pack excise tax increase in 2013, propelling the state to fifth highest for the crime in a new Tax Foundation and Mackinac Center for Public Policy report.

<http://www.mackinac.org/archives/2016/s2016-09.pdf>

The study shows smuggled smokes accounted for more than a third of cigarettes -- 36 percent -- consumed in Minnesota in 2014, leading to an estimated \$313 million loss in revenue due to tax evasion and avoidance by so-called border shopping.

"Minnesota's big leap in the ranks of smuggling states is no surprise," said Michael LaFaive,

Mackinac Center Fiscal Policy Director and co-author of the report. "As tax differentials increase between states, so too does the opportunity make or save a buck."

The results come as the Dayton Administration seeks to ramp up efforts to combat cigarette smuggling in the tax bill introduced this week.

"The department cannot verify the findings of this study," said Ryan Brown, Department of Revenue spokesman. "We will continue to focus enforcement activities on those who attempt to evade the cigarette tax and will use the resources available and our partnerships with local, state, and federal entities to uniformly enforce the state's cigarette tax laws."

The peer-reviewed study compares the number of smokers in a state to legal sales of cigarettes, often revealing much lower sales than would be expected for the state's smoking population. Anti-smoking groups say the gap shows higher cigarette taxes work by cutting consumption.

But the study's authors maintain widespread cigarette smuggling accounts for most of the variance, an unintended consequence of state taxes that now total \$3.59 a pack in Minnesota. The results include legally purchased cigarettes from bordering states like North Dakota, which draws many Minnesotans with a 44 cents a pack excise tax.

Elected Officials Take Office *cont. on page 4*

Smokes *cont. on page 2*

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Legislators Start New Session

Rep. Kurt Daudt 31A

On Tuesday, the 90th Minnesota Legislature officially began as Representatives took the oath of office inside the newly-restored State Capitol. The Capitol restoration project has been years in the making, and is something I hope every Minnesotan gets a chance to see for themselves.



**Rep. Kurt Daudt
District 31A**
463 State Office Bldg.
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-5364

In addition to being sworn-in, I was humbled to once again be elected to serve as Speaker of the House. It's a duty I take seriously, and I am excited to get to work with the new Senate Republican Majority to continue building a Minnesota that works. Rather than unchecked power for Governor Dayton, Minnesotans opted for balance and a new direction on key issues like health care, tax relief, and state spending.

Tax Conformity

We wasted no time by passing the first bill and the first tax cut of the 2017 session off the floor on Thursday. House File 2, which passed 130-0, will mean \$21.7 million in tax relief for more than 220,000 filers as Minnesotans begin to fill out their taxes. Once the bill is passed by the Senate and signed into law, Minnesotans will have peace of mind that they're receiving all of the federal tax breaks they're entitled to. This will help homeowners, teachers, families saving for college, Main Street businesses, and many others keep more of their hard earned dollars this tax season.

Health Care Relief Blocked

The House was also prepared to take immediate action to address the Obamacare premium crisis. On Tuesday, Republicans moved to declare an urgency to suspend the rules and pass House File 1, the 2017 Health Care Emergency Aid and Access bill that would provide relief to Minnesotans suffering from skyrocketing premium costs, ensure continued care for Minnesotans receiving life-saving treatments, and take critical first-steps to reform our individual insurance market. Unfortunately, Democrats blocked the move, insisting that we provide relief without reform or addressing problems families will have accessing their doctors and treatment plans.

Rep. Connie Bernardy (41A)

Tuesday, January 3 marked the first day of the legislative session. It is an honor to represent our district. I'm pleased to report I have been appointed as the DFL Lead on the Transportation and Regional Governance Policy Committee. In this position, I look forward to working on improving our multimodal transportation system to create a prosperous Minnesota for our businesses and people of all ages and abilities. I will continue to push for needed resources, transparency and accountability. Additionally, I will serve on the Higher Education and Career Readiness Policy and Finance and the Transportation Finance Committees.

Our Capitol building restoration project has been



**Rep. Connie Bernardy
District 41A**
253 State Office Bldg.
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-5510

completed. Public spaces are more numerous and accessible, and the attention to detail is outstanding. I invite you to schedule a time to see for yourself and stop by to visit me. The building reopened to the public on Tuesday.

Rep. Mary Kunesh-Podein (41B)

On Tuesday, 133 new and returning legislators gathered at the Capitol for the first day of the 2017 legislative session. I am honored to be a member of the 90th session of the House of Representatives and to represent my neighbors in St. Paul. With the support of our communities I am ready to listen, learn, and get to work to ensure that our families, communities and all of Minnesota thrive.

Committees have been assigned and there is so much to learn! I am thrilled to have been assigned to these three committees: Education Innovation Policy; Agriculture Policy; and State Government Finance.

The cold weather is upon us! Many of you may find that the cost of heating your homes will rise alarmingly. Fortunately, there is help for those of us who find this an additional financial burden.

Do you know that:

In Minnesota, utilities cannot turn off a resident's primary source of heat from October 15 through April 15 unless the utility sends the resident the following:

- a proposed disconnection notice; an explanation of the customer's rights and responsibilities;
 - a list of energy assistance providers;
 - a form for the customer to declare an inability to pay;
 - and details on available payment plans and other ways to secure heat service.
- Some people can qualify for additional shut off protections if:
- the household income is less than 50% of the state's median income;
 - the household enters into and follows a payment plan;
 - and the customer receives information on weatherizing their home,
 - or a conversation sharing other programs that can help reduce a resident's energy bill.

If you or someone you know may benefit from these protections, please call the energy provider for more details or visit: <http://mn.gov/puc/consumers/shut-off-protection/index.html>.

Rep. Peggy Scott 35B

This week, I had the privilege of being sworn in for a fifth term as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. I'm honored to continue my service to our area, and hope you'll contact me throughout the session to share your ideas and suggestions.

Early Legislation

Yesterday, the House passed a \$22 million tax relief bill that will benefit 200,000 Minnesotans. Coming into the session, House Republicans vowed to deliver middle class tax relief, and we

passed this bill on the first day possible. There will be more bills in the future to ease the tax burden, and I look forward to discussing those as they're presented.

We also tried to bring a bill forward to help fix the Obamacare mess in Minnesota. House Democrats agreed to discuss the bill, but when push came to shove, they went back on their word and blocked debate. The legislation included \$300 million of health insurance premium relief to go with common-sense reforms. It was simply a political stunt by Democrats to delay this relief. It's disappointing, to say the least.

Ignition Interlock Hearing

You may have seen this story on the news about Minnesota's ignition interlock program. This is a great program that helps reduce recidivism of DUIs in our state. The problem is, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) started installing devices that were capable of tracking the car's movement. As a privacy advocate, this is a shocking and invasive maneuver by the Dayton administration. Not only that, some lawyers believe it is unconstitutional.

We held a hearing on this issue, and will be working to block DPS from tracking Minnesotans. I will keep you updated as this important issue moves forward.

Rep. Nolan West 37B

It is a privilege to serve the people of Blaine in the Minnesota House, and I look forward to representing your interests at the State Capitol.

The top priority for Minnesota lawmakers this session will be crafting the state budget for the next two years. In addition there will also be many policy issues for the legislature to address before lawmakers adjourn in mid-May.

Tens of thousands of Minnesotans would benefit from a tax relief bill approved by the Minnesota House on Thursday. The legislation conforms state tax rates to that of the federal government and will allow many taxpayers to keep more of what they earn. Key provisions include:

- Providing deductions for higher education expenses
- Providing deductions for teacher classroom expenses up to \$250
- Excluding compensation from taxable income for those who were wrongfully incarcerated
- Eliminating the need for two sets of depreciation schedules for those who purchase work equipment
- Providing an itemized deduction for mortgage insurance premiums
- Excluding from gross income loan forgiveness on home foreclosures
- Allowing the tax paid on high-cost employer health care coverage to be claimed as an itemized deduction

This \$21.7 million tax relief proposal is a great first step. Expect a larger tax relief plan that will benefit millions of hardworking Minnesotans to be unveiled in the coming weeks.

Legislative Updates *continued on page 4*



ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG

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

January 6th, 2017

Quote of the Week: "No man's life, liberty or property are safe while the legislature is in session."

-Judge Gideon J. Tucker

IT BEGINS

Buckle your seat belts, Watchdogs. The 90th legislature of the State of Minnesota gaveled in this week. Here's what you need to know about this crew and what they may (or may not accomplish in 2017.

The House and Senate gaveled in January 3rd at 12 noon.

Pursuant to the Constitution, they must complete their work by May 22nd (barring a special session).

You can track bills, watch live streaming video, find contact information and just about any other information you need by clicking here.

The Minnesota House is comprised of 76 Republicans and 57 Democrats.

85 members are men, 48 are women.

Among the men, 56 are GOP and 29 DFL.

Among the women, 20 are GOP and 28 DFL.

There is currently one vacant seat which will be filled in a special election February 14th.

23 members are newly elected, 12 GOP and 11 DFL.

93% of incumbents were re-elected.

1 Republican incumbent lost while 4 incumbent DFLers lost.

Your Speaker of the House is Kurt Daudt.

Your House DFL leader is Melissa Hortman.

Over in the Senate, the GOP holds a narrow 34-33 majority.

The gender balance runs 51-16 in favor of men.

Among men, the GOP leads 27-24.

Among women, the DFL leads 9-7.

55% of senators are either serving their first or second term in the Senate.

4% are serving their 9th or 10th term.

The most widely reported educational level among senators was "bachelor's degree" at 27%.

The least reported educational level was "high school diploma" at 1%.

The most widely reported occupation was "business," at 25% (thank goodness! People who know what it means to make payroll or can read a balance sheet are desperately needed).

The least reported occupation was "firefighter," at 1%.

The Senate Majority Leader is Paul Gazelka.

The Senate Minority Leader is Tom Bakk.

THE ISSUES

As this is an odd-numbered year, the legislature's primary job is to set the state budget for the next two years.

The governor will go first, sending the legislature his budget this month.

Next month, the office of Management and Budget will unveil the latest budget forecast for the state, which will give legislative leaders the information they need to set budget targets for each body.

The state currently boasts a \$1.4 billion surplus of over-collected taxes.

That extra money should grease the skids to offer Republicans the tax cuts they desire and the DFL the money they want to temporarily placate their insatiable desire to spend money.

Most importantly, the GOP must work to restrain spending.

Since fiscal year 2012-2013, state general fund spending has increased over 20%.

Also look for the legislature to pass a bonding bill. And while bonding bills are debt-financed, there is a role for this kind of spending if done for the right reasons and done with a measure of restraint.

In short, funding capital improvements with debt makes sense when done correctly. Businesses and families do this all the time.

But the key is 1) the right reason. That reason is capital improvements that support core functions like roads and bridges, for example.

And 2) done with restraint. With a budget surplus, many of these projects can and should be financed with cash, eliminating the need to incur debt.

Already, the governor has submitted a ridiculous \$1.5 billion bonding proposal, which is beyond the pale.

Look for a bill more in the range of \$500 million from the legislature, perhaps ending up at \$700 or so.

A sustainable, long-term transportation funding bill is also on the table.

In the past, funding transit has been the sticking point, with Republicans resisting paying for ultra-expensive trains and the DFL fighting hard for them because the more inefficient a government program, the more they seem to like them.

It appears there may be a compromise on the horizon with Metro counties taking over the funding of transit via local sales taxes that state law allows for every county.

With the state out of the transit funding business, a framework for funding roads and bridges is in place.

Of course, the other major obstacle is new revenue for transportation.

The DFL has insisted on a gas tax increase of late (even though they didn't pass one when they had total control) and the GOP just as strongly resisting.

A compromise may exist with respect to adjusting license tab fees.

In addition, there appears to be an appetite to redirect transportation-related sales tax revenue from the general fund into dedicated transportation funds.

The sticking point there will be the big DFL constituencies of government employees, who think that those monies belong to them and the agencies for whom they work. Think the teachers' union and others government union workers like those in AFSCME.

Finally, there must be a fix for the failed Obamacare Leviathan known as MnSure.

As readers know, Dayton and the DFL have only offered an expensive \$300 million band aid to offer temporary subsidies to help buy down the painful premium increases many Minnesotans have faced.

Republicans must insist on systemic reforms or an outright repeal/replacement of MnSure.

In the end, it's important to understand the math

and they dynamics of the situation.

In the House, Speaker Daudt has a robust majority that can prosecute his agenda.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Gazelka has a much tougher task that will require bi-partisan support to pass bills.

With the narrowest of majorities, there will surely need to be bi-partisan cooperation on most bills.

Most importantly, Governor Dayton still wields a veto pen.

In short, bi-partisan compromise will be needed to effectively govern.

In our conversations with legislators from both parties, there appears to be a genuine willingness to seek compromise and find solutions.

Legislators got the message in November that voters are sick of the "politics as usual" obstructionism and finger pointing.

The real wild card in Saint Paul is Mark Dayton.

Six years into his administration, he has displayed a shocking lack of leadership and management skills.

Regardless of who has controlled the legislature, he has been unable to accomplish his biggest goals.

He has demonstrated time and again a failure to appreciate that politics is a relationship business by systematically alienating legislators of both parties.

Our prediction is that this session will once again devolve into a food fight that requires last minute closed door deal making to get anything done.

The blame for this will fall squarely on Mark Dayton.

Think about it. The legislature has changed during Dayton's six years.

He's the common thread running through special session and government shut downs.

Minnesota citizens have witnessed six years of name calling, temper tantrums, walk outs, pessimism, and erratic governance from Mark Dayton.

He has proven he lacks even basic leadership and management skills.

If the state manages to get its work done in a timely and reasonable manner, it will be because of Speaker Daudt and Majority Leader Gazelka, and hopefully the reasonable cooperation of the DFL minority leaders

Mark Dayton is one his way to a failed tenure.

It's probably too much to hope for to think he may at some point soon start thinking rationally about a legacy.

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

Elected officials take office *continued from page 1*

be addressing the health care issues confronting many citizens in the community.

Nowthen's representative on the county board, Commissioner Matt Look, said that the people made an outstanding choice. He said that it was a tough campaign and both sides worked hard. Looking forward to the future, he said, "The city and county are moving in a positive direction that everyone can be proud of."

After being sworn into office, Mayor Jeff Pilon spoke of the great heritage of the city. He said that the community has been very fortunate that good citizens have stepped forward to serve the city. He spoke of the city's first mayor, William (Bill) Schulz along with former councilmember Harlan Meyer, who was in attendance at the event. Mayor Pilon said, "What makes a wonderful city is the volunteers. It makes us a good community.



Minneapolis City Council President Barb Johnson speaks with Nowthen Planning Commission Chair Dale Ames. Johnson is the sister of Nowthen City Councilmember Mary Rainville.

"We are grateful for the volunteers that make this work."

Speaking of his commitment to good government, Mayor Pilon stated, "You shouldn't have to be a

lawyer or accountant to understand what your city is going. I want to make sure that what we do is self evident and open to the public, and that we communicate well online, in print, and in person, and that there is a consistency in what we do."

Mary Rainville spoke about the all volunteer run Farmers Market and how that has given her the opportunity to meet some of the best people the community has to offer. She said that as a councilmember, "I have tried to be careful with your money. My mother taught me to be frugal and that the residents come first and that you need to do what is best for the residents, not what's best for you. I will continue to try to do that."

Dan Breyen spoke of being born and raised in Nowthen, and that he was looking forward to working with everybody and doing what is best for the community. - *ACR Staff*

Smokes *continued from page 1*

"The naive hope of Minnesota legislators to greatly improve health consequences is undermined by the act of smuggling they helped create," LaFaive said. "Most people aren't quitting, they are just acquiring their tobacco elsewhere."

Previously Minnesota ranked 16th with an estimated cigarette smuggling rate of about 18 percent.

State officials have acknowledged Minnesota's worsening black market, estimating in a 2009 that the crime deprives the state of up to eight percent of cigarette excise tax collections.

In the past year and a half, Minnesota Department of Revenue investigators have publicized several

cases brought against individuals involving alleged possession of unstamped or untaxed tobacco products obtained from out-of-state wholesalers and unlicensed distributors.

Overall cigarette tax collections increased from \$369 million in 2013 to \$575 million in 2014, but dropped back to \$567 million in 2015.

But the new study concludes cutting cigarette excise taxes would be a more effective way to combat illicit cigarette sales and border shopping. Minnesota's excise tax has increased another 17 cents per pack since 2014, due to a provision that ties the rate to inflation. The legislature passed a bill to eliminate the automatic increase last year, but the measure died on Gov. Mark Dayton's

desk.

"Consumers are not sheep lining up to be sheered and seek less expensive alternatives to products for which they have a strong preference elsewhere," according to LaFaive. "Lower taxing jurisdictions may include North Dakota, Indian reservations or the Internet. Well-meaning consumers may actually pay full freight, not realizing they're buying cigarettes trucked in from distant tobacco states like Virginia."

The top five states with the highest inbound smuggling rates include New York (55 percent), Arizona (50 percent), New Mexico (46 percent), Washington (45 percent) and Minnesota (36 percent).

Legislative Updates *continued from page 2*

Rep. Abigail Whelan 35A

The 2017 legislative session began on Tuesday, and even though we are just getting back into session, it's been a busy week. Please see below for some key highlights.



**Rep. Abigail Whelan
District 35A**
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100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-1729

Tax Conformity

On Thursday, the House moved quickly to declare an urgency on House File 2, which conforms our state tax code to that of the federal government.

Tax conformity usually has broad strong bipartisan support, and this year was no different. In essence, tax conformity helps alleviate potential headaches by bringing Minnesota's tax code into agreement with changes made in the federal tax code (so one does not need to make multiple changes on one's state vs. federal tax returns).

The Department of Revenue requested the bill be signed into law by January 11th to avoid complications and give them a chance to update filing programs like TurboTax. In all, the bill provides \$21.7 million in immediate tax relief to hardworking taxpayers. Provisions include deductions for higher education expenses,

teacher classroom expenses, homeowners and families saving for college.

I am glad we were able to move on HF 2 quickly so it can be signed into law by next week. I am also hopeful that this will be the first of additional tax relief legislation which should make its way through the legislative process later this session.

The 2017 Health Care Emergency Aid and Access Bill

In response to the thousands of Minnesotans facing staggering increases to their health insurance, on Thursday House Republicans introduced House File 1: The 2017 Health Care Emergency Aid and Access bill.

This would be a first step in providing premium relief to thousands of Minnesotans. It also would implement some meaningful reforms to address problems within our individual market.

First, HF 1 allocates a one-time \$300 million payment from the budget reserves to help fund premium relief, as well as continuity of care for people with serious conditions who are losing access to their doctors. For Minnesotans who qualify, it would mean a 25 percent reduction in premiums from January-March 2017, followed by additional tiered relief based on income throughout the remainder of the year.

In addition to offering immediate financial relief, the bill also implements a number of key reforms

to improve access to care and transparency within our health care market. Among the changes would be allowing for-profit HMOs to operate in Minnesota to increase competition, requiring rates to become public after 10 days to improve transparency, and prohibiting surprise billing to protect consumers.

House Republicans are currently working hard to move this bill through the legislative process, and Senators are doing the same. Once both sides have a bill that has been vetted through their committees, it will go to conference committee, where any differences will be hammered out before the bill makes its way to Governor Dayton's desk for signature.

Fixing our state's health care crisis and providing financial relief to Minnesotans struggling under the burden of unaffordable premiums remains a top priority, and I am committed to working with my colleagues to pass both short and long-term solutions to this serious problem.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANOKA COUNTY SUMMARY OF BIDS

Bid #2017-01

Description of Bid/RFP: Advertisement for Bids Coon Lake Park Onsite Wastewater System

Bid Opening: February 15, 2017

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

(Published 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 2017 ACR) #573

ANOKA COUNTY SUMMARY OF BIDS

Bid #2017-02

Description of Bid/RFP: Advertisement for Bids Coon Lake Park Beach Facility

Bid Opening: February 15, 2017

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

(Published 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 2017 ACR) #577

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The Anoka County Board met on December 13, 2016. Standing county committee information reports and action items were considered, and action was taken as necessary. The following resolutions were adopted: #2016-143 Highway/Parks Maintenance Unit Agreement, #2016-144 Detention Deputies, Licensed Sergeants, Licensed Supervisors, and Investigators Agreement, #2016-145 Sheriff's Office Detention Supervisors Agreement, #2016-

146 911 Dispatchers Agreement, #2016-147 Anoka Airport Northwest Building Area Sublease, #2016-148 Rights-of-Way Acquisition, #2016-149 Accepting Gifts, #2016-150 Key Government Finance Equipment Lease Financing, #2016-151 Economic Assistance Payments, #2016-152 Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan, #2016-153 Accepting Donation, #2016-154 Application for Federal Funding for Road and Trail Construction at Mississippi West Regional Park, #2016-155 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid Support, and #2016-156 Accepting Donation. 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 (Published 1/10, 2017 ACR) #578

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: **VERNELL PATTON JR**
2. Principal Place of Business: **1201 West Buckingham Dr. Oak Creek, WI 53154**
3. Nameholder(s): **Patton Vernell Jr 1201 West Buckingham Dr. Oak Creek, WI 53154**

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: 1/3/2017 # 926000500020 /s/ Patton Vernell Jr (Published 1/10, 1/17, 2017 ACR) #579

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: **The Virtual Nook**
2. Principal Place of Business: **2917 142nd Ave NW Andover, MN 55304**
3. Nameholder(s): **Panya Vue 2917 142nd Ave NW Andover, MN 55304**

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: 12/27/2016 # 923835400029 /s/ Panya Vue (Published 1/3, 1/10, 2017 ACR) #571

PUBLIC NOTICES UNPAID

CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

Mechanic Wanted
Essential Job Functions: Performs mechanical, electrical, and preventative maintenance on equipment in City fleet, including small engines, mowing and snow removal equipment, automobiles, light and

heavy trucks, and heavy equipment. Troubleshoots and repairs automotive emission and computer systems. Fabricates and welds frames, plows, and other equipment. Operates welding equipment including gas/acetylene, arc and wire feed welders. Performs engine overhauls, suspension and steering, brake, electrical, heating and air conditioning, carburetion and fuel injection, transmission/driveline, and ignition systems repair and tire repair. Replaces or rebuilds tie rods, steering sectors, springs and shock absorbers. Replaces generators, alternators, regulators, starters, wiring, gauges and other components. Repairs and adjusts hydraulic systems, replaces hydraulic motors, hoses and fittings. Performs routine lubrication work. Performs data entry, utilizing various programs including the Fleet Maintenance Program and Fuel Management Program. Performs preventative maintenance on facility standby generators. Performs related work as required.

Required Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Class A or B driver's license; attainment of commercial driver's license with air brakes, tanker, hazardous materials, passenger and other such endorsements required by the City within six months of employment. Four years work experience in mechanical repair, adjustment and maintenance of heavy and/or light equipment; or two years technical training and three years additional work experience in

mechanical repair, adjustment and maintenance of heavy and/or light equipment. One year training or experience in welding and fabrication. One year experience in general operation of a computer.

Desired Qualifications: Two years experience in small engine repair. One year related municipal experience. Experience in the operation of computer software including Excel, Fleet Maintenance and Fuel Management programs. Certification by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence in Automobile or Heavy Duty Truck. Wage Range: \$23.59 - \$28.08 per hour, plus fringe benefits. (2016 Wage Scale)

Application Procedure: Applications are available by calling or emailing Nancy Becker at (763)706-3606 or nbecker@columbiaheightsmn.gov and must be completely filled out and returned to the Human Resources Director / Assistant to the City Manager, City of Columbia Heights, 590 40th Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421 or kbourgeois@columbiaheightsmn.gov. Applications will be accepted until 4:30 PM, Monday, January 23, 2017. Resumes may be submitted in addition to, but not in lieu of, the City application.

Selection Procedure: Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:
50% Experience and Training Rating
50% Oral Interview

Closing Date: Applications accepted until 4:30 PM, Monday, January 23, 2017.

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: 16-30
ITEM: Site Plan
PETITIONER: RJ Ryan
LOCATION: Evergreen Boulevard and 93rd Lane
The Petitioner requests Site Plan approval for a 59,300 square foot semi tractor sales and service facility.
Legal Description: Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Evergreen 610

Said hearing will take place on Thursday, January 19, 2017, at

the City Center, 1155 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 January 10, 2017. Such a request may be made by telephone 763-767-6430, TDD 763-757-

PUBLIC NOTICES
continued on page 6

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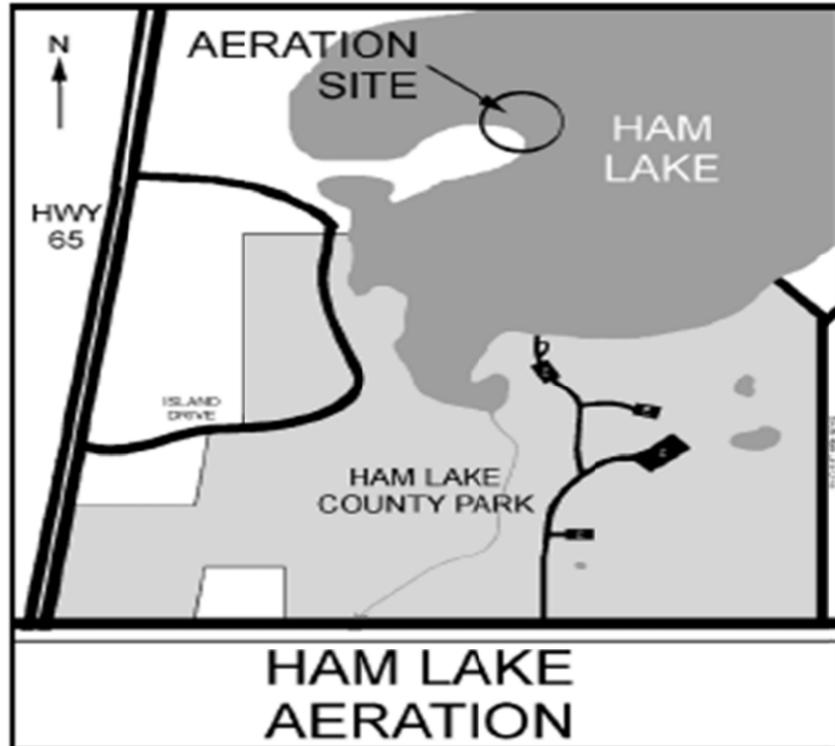
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Public Notice

The City of Ham Lake hereby gives public notice of its intent to aerate Ham Lake to prevent winterkill of game fish. The City intends to use mobile systems which may be used at any time. The aeration systems will cause areas of thin ice and open water that fluctuate greatly. If there are any questions concerning the aeration system, please contact Ham Lake City Hall at 763-434-9555.

Dated: January 10, 2017 and January 17, 2017

Warning! Stay Clear of Designated Areas!



(Published 1/10, 1/17, 2017 ACR) #574

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Anoka at the Anoka City Hall located at 2015 South First Avenue, until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the council chambers, for furnishing of all labor and materials for the following project:

City of Anoka Greenhaven Restroom Upgrade Project

Owner	Architect
City of Anoka 2015 South 1 st Avenue Anoka, MN 55303 Phone: (763) 576-2700	Oertel Architects, Ltd 1795 St. Clair Avenue St. Paul, MN 55105 Phone: (651) 696-5186

Documents for the project may be obtained from the office of Oertel Architects starting December 16th, 2016 in digital form for a non-refundable cost of \$20.00, which includes mailing, or the contractor may pick up the disk at the office of the architect for a cost of \$10.00. Contractors should allow 3 business days for delivery. No money will be refunded to any person who obtains plans and specifications. Hard copy sets are also available from Gill Reprographics, contact Mike Wiseman at (763) 544-1818 for pricing information.

Sets of documents are available for review at:

1. The office of the Architect.
2. Minnesota Builders Exchange (MBEX)
3. Dodge Data Analytics
4. CMD Construction Market Data
5. MEDA plan room
6. Blue Book

NOTE: Any addenda for this project will be issued on our website: www.oertelarchitects.com and then click on Contractor Info

Bids shall be submitted on copies of forms bound within the bid documents. One certified copy of the bid form shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, labeled with the project name as listed above, and addressed to the City of Anoka. The bid shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond in the amount of five percent of the total bid price, made payable to the City of Anoka, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into the proposed contract within the time specified and at the price bid proposed.

The Anoka City Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to determine whether a bid is responsive or non-responsive. The City further reserves the right to award the contract to the best interests of the City.

Greg Lee, City Manager

(Sets will be available starting on December 16, 2016.)

(Published 12/27/2016, 1/3/2017, 1/10/2017 ACR) #567

PUBLIC NOTICES

continued from page 5

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
Coon Rapids Planning Commission

CITY OF COON RAPIDS

ORDINANCE NO. 2184
AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE CERTAIN LICENSE FEES, SERVICE FEES AND RELATED CHARGES AND ESTABLISHING

AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREFOR
The City of Coon Rapids does ordain:
Section 1. The following fees are hereby established for the licenses and permits in Title 5 of Revised City Code - 1982:
Liquor License Fees; Massage Therapist/Massage Enterprise; Tobacco; Pawnshop/Secondhand Dealers; Title 6 Licensing of Non-Domestic Animals; Dogs/Cats; Chickens; Waste and Recycling Hauler; All other

Miscellaneous Licensing related to Title 5; and Various Zoning Fees related to Title 11 and Title 12. All fees effective January 1, 2017.
This publication is a summary of Ordinance No. 2184. A complete copy is available for review in the City Clerk's office, Coon Rapids City Center, 11155 Robinson Drive NW, Coon Rapids, MN or is available by standard or electronic mail.
Introduced - October 18, 2016
Adopted - November 15, 2016
Jerry Koch, Mayor

Joan Lenzmeier, Clerk
CITY OF COON RAPIDS
ORDINANCE NO. 2185
AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISHING PERMIT AND INSPECTION FEES FOR THE BUILDING INSPECTIONS DIVISION AS AUTHORIZED BY MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 16B.62, SUBD.1

The City of Coon Rapids does ordain:
Section 1. The City Council for the City of Coon Rapids establishes the following permit and inspection fees for the Building Inspection Division: Building Permit Fees; Plan Review Fees; Plumbing Permit Fees; Sewer and Water Permit Fees; Grading Permit; Mechanical Permit Fees; Electrical Permit Fees;

CONSULTANT: The Adkins Association, Inc., 901 Jefferson Ave, St. Paul, MN 55102, (651) 224-1358.
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project consists of multiple work scopes for all of the work necessary for the construction of a 18,400 SF Classroom Addition and a 12,795 SF Gymnasium Addition as well as renovations to select areas in the existing building and all associated site work such as parking lot additions, underground utilities and grading. The Gymnasium Addition is precast construction, and the classroom addition is structural steel with metal studs.
BID DATE AND LOCATION: Sealed bids will be received at Forest Lake District Office, 6100 North 210th Street, Forest Lake, MN 55025, then publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be received and stamped-in prior to 2 PM local time on February 9th, 2017.
EXAMINATION OF DOCUMENTS: Bidders may view drawings and specifications for the project at the office of the Construction Manager.

RONALD MUKIIBI TALIBITA
STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF WINONA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
In the Matter of: Court File No. 85-FA-16-2390
Eureka DeShone Talibita
Petitioner
vs.
Ronald Mukibi Talibita
Respondent
Notice of Issuance of Emergency (Ex Parte) Order for Protection by Publication (Minn. Stat. 518B.01, subd.8)
To Respondent named above:
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an Ex Parte Order for Protection has been issued in the above matter. You may request a hearing if you contact the court administrator's office within 12 days of the date of publication of this notice. You may obtain a copy of the Ex Parte Order for Protection and the form to request a hearing from the court administrator's office at the following address: Winona County Courthouse, 171 West Third Street, Winona, MN 55987.
Failure to request a hearing or obtain a copy of the Ex Parte Order will not be a defense to prosecution for violation of the Court's order.
Dated: 12/29/2016; /s/ Debra A. Stark, Deputy Court Administrator
(Published 1/10, 2017 ACR) #576

RONALD ANDREW MURRAY
STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF ANOKA TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
In Re: Estate of Ronald Andrew Murray, Court File No. 02-PR-16-651
Decedent. **NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**
Notice is given that an Application for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar. The Registrar accepted the application and appointed Colleen A. Sutton, whose address is 124 Oak Avenue, Mount Holly, North Carolina 28120, to serve as the personal representative of the decedent's estate.
Any heir or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection.
Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the personal representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of letters of general administration, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the decedent.
Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.
Dated: December 27, 2016 /s/ Peggy Zdon, Registrar
/s/ Lori Meyer, Court Administrator
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Theodore C. Landwehr (MN# 0239458); Landwehr Law Offices; 4034 7th Street NE; Columbia Heights, MN 55421; Telephone: (763) 781-7898; Facsimile: (763) 781-7898
(Published 1/3, 1/10, 2017 ACR) #572

FOREST LAKE SCHOOLS
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Forest Lake Area Schools
7th & 8th Grade Building Additions and Remodeling.
LOCATION OF WORK: Forest Lake 7th & 8th Grade Building (Currently Century Junior High), 21395 Goodview Avenue North, Forest Lake, MN 55025.
OWNER: Forest Lake Area School District - ISD 831, 6100 North 210th Street, Forest Lake, MN 55025, (651) 982-8100.
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER: ICS Consulting, Inc., 3890 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE, Suite 180, Blaine, MN 55449, (763) 354-2670. Contact: Andy Faulkner (andyf@ics-consult.com). ARCHITECT & STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: DLR Group, 520 Nicollet Mall, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55402, (612) 977-3500. CIVIL ENGINEER: Larson Engineering, Inc., 3524 Labore Road, White Bear Lake, MN 55110, (651) 481-9120. MECHANICAL ENGINEER: Martin Pevzner Engineering, 8030 Old Cedar Ave S, Suite 200, Bloomington, MN 55425, (952) 854-1876. ELECTRICAL ENGINEER: Wunderlich-Malec, 6101 Blue Circle Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55343, (952) 933-3222. ROOFING
Bids must be accompanied by bid security in form of certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond in amount of 5% of base bid submitted, made payable to owner, as guarantee that bidder will, if awarded, enter into contract in accordance with contract documents and submitted bid.
Submit bid in duplicate on the prescribed form, which is furnished with the specification, with full name and address of the bidder.
Completely fill in all blank spaces on the Bid Form, in ink or typewriter, in both words and figures.
Sign in longhand, executed by a principal duly authorized to enter into an agreement. If a bidder is a co-partnership, then signatures on the bid shall be by an authorized member of the firm, with names and addresses of each member of partnership.
Base bid and all alternate bids shall be stated both in writing and in figures. In all cases, written and numerical figures must agree; otherwise at Owner's option, it shall be cause for rejection of bid. Complete form without alteration.
Submit alternate prices (bid) for either increasing or decreasing the cost as called for on bid form and Description of Alternates. Submit a bid for all alternates.
Owner may make such investigations as he deems necessary to determine the ability and responsibility of the bidder to perform the work, and any bidder shall furnish to Owner all such information and data for this purpose, as the Owner may request. Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that such bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to complete the Work contemplated therein. The competence and responsibility of bidder will be considered in making an award, including, but not limited to: (1) proof of financial responsibility, (2) quality of similar work, (3) amount of experience with similar projects, (4) facilities, personnel and equipment, (5) reputation for performance, and (6) ability to complete the work within specified time. Owner reserves the right to reject any Bid where there is reasonable doubt as to the qualifications of the bidder.
Owner reserves the right to (1) accept bidder's Base Bid only, (2) accept any one or more of bidder's Alternate Bids, in any order regardless of the order in which they were listed, (3) reject all Bids, (4) award contract based on his investigation of bidders, as well as acceptance of alternates, all of which Owner deems to be in his best interest, (5) waive informalities or minor irregularities in bids and waive minor irregularities or discrepancies in bidding procedure.
Upon award of Contract, Contractor shall provide AIA A312 Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of 100% of Contract

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Sum in accordance with failure or omissions of any General Conditions and bidder to examine any form, Amendments to General instrument or document shall in no way relieve any bidder from any obligation in respect to his bid.
BIDDING DOCUMENTS & SITE REVIEW: Each bidder (including subcontract bidder where appropriate) is required to visit the site and to fully inform himself and record his own investigations as to the extent of the Work, the extent of the work performed by other contractors under other construction packages, conditions under which the Work is to be performed, existing buildings and streets, conditions of the area, existing utilities and other features, type of soil, available facilities and difficulties that may be encountered in connection therewith, and other relevant items which will affect his bid or the Work.
Prior to submitting a bid, each bidder is required to examine all of the bidding requirements, all Contract Documents, all drawings and specifications for the Project (including those primarily for other Subcontracts), become thoroughly familiar with the scope of the Project and all factors and items of work which will affect his bid or the Work, whether shown or specified in documents primarily for Work of others or Work of this Contract.
No extras will be allowed the Contractor as a result of misunderstanding of the extent of scope of the Work as a result of his failure to study and record his own findings. Submission of a bid shall be proof that such examinations have been made and that bidder has recorded his own investigation and has become thoroughly familiar with all contract documents (including all addenda). The

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