

Anoka
County

RECORD

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Legal Newspaper of
ANOKA COUNTY
CITY OF HAM LAKE
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TUESDAY • JANUARY 31, 2017

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State Ag Buffer Law Leaves Open Questions for County Board

Commissioners Look and Schulte Offer Different Approaches

The state's new agriculture buffer law was a topic of discussion at the Anoka County Board meeting held the afternoon of Tuesday, January 24th. Although only some commissioner districts have agriculture, the entire county may be affected by the policy and financial implications.

In 2015 the Minnesota Legislature adopted a law which mandated a buffer area between agriculture use land and public waters and drainages. It was passed with significant controversy which resulted in an amended version being passed in 2016.

The law requires that a fifty foot average buffer, with a 30 foot minimum, be set aside by the property owner if their land is used for row crop agriculture or other agriculture uses such as feed lots. Currently sod fields and grass are not affected by the law.

The law is intended to improve water quality. A buffer will prevent phosphorus, nitrogen, and other pollution from directly flowing into waterways. It will also reduce erosion and soil runoff into lakes and waterways.

Starting November 1st, the enforcement agency is authorized to fine landowners who are not in compliance with the buffer requirements for public waters. One year later on November 1, 2018, that authority extends to buffers with public drainages. Enforcement can only occur after a landowner has been provided with an official notice at least eleven months prior.

A Web of Government Responsibility

The law places this process into the hands of several different layers of local and state governments. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) is responsible for drawing the maps that identify the public waters and drainages. The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has the responsibility to identify those parcels of land that are not in compliance with the law. They are also responsible for sending out the notice that begins the eleven month time line for enforcement. They are responsible for notifying the enforcement authority of compliance issues. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), a state agency, is responsible for enforcement. Certain local governments have the power to preempt BWSR's enforcement authority.

Local Enforcement Option

The law was written in a way to give other local governments the ability to step in and take enforcement authority away from BWSR. Watershed districts, counties, and some cities, have been given the ability to preempt BWSR's enforcement authority and assume those responsibilities.

These local governments, which includes Anoka County, must decide by March 31st if they wish to preempt BWSR and become the enforcement authority for this law. Doing so would require the enactment of an ordinance

Buffer Law *cont. on page 4*

Oath of Office Ceremony Goes High-Tech in ISD 13

Member Takes Oath via Video Conferencing Board Turns Down Free Publishing Offer

Three members of the Columbia Heights ISD 13 school board took the oath of office at their meeting January 3. Newcomer Lorien Mueller (left) and incumbent John Larkin were elected in November's general election.

Incumbent Naty Severson however did not attend meeting in person but was able to be sworn in via video conferencing. The meeting agenda stated that "one school board member" would be teleconferenced from the Dominican Republic.

During this annual organizational meeting, the board agreed to no changes in their salaries and kept the status quo for most other items. Chair John Larkin and Vice Chair Laura Palmer were chosen again by the board to continue in those roles for another year.

The *Sun-Focus* was re-designated the school district's legal newspaper, which will charge the district \$11.75 per column inch for publishing legal notices and meeting minutes. This represented a 25-cent increase compared to a year ago. The cities and school districts of Columbia Heights and Fridley are all paying the *Focus's* \$11.75 rate, the highest of any government entities in Anoka County. *Anoka County Record* offered to publish all school district notices in 2017 at no cost to taxpayers.

Palmer administered the oath of office to her colleagues. Her seat, and those of Molly Lewis and Hala Asamarai will be on the November 2018 ballot. Lewis was appointed to be the clerk and parliamentarian for the school board.



Naty Severson was administered the oath of office via video conferencing from the Dominican Republic.

2016 Election Stats

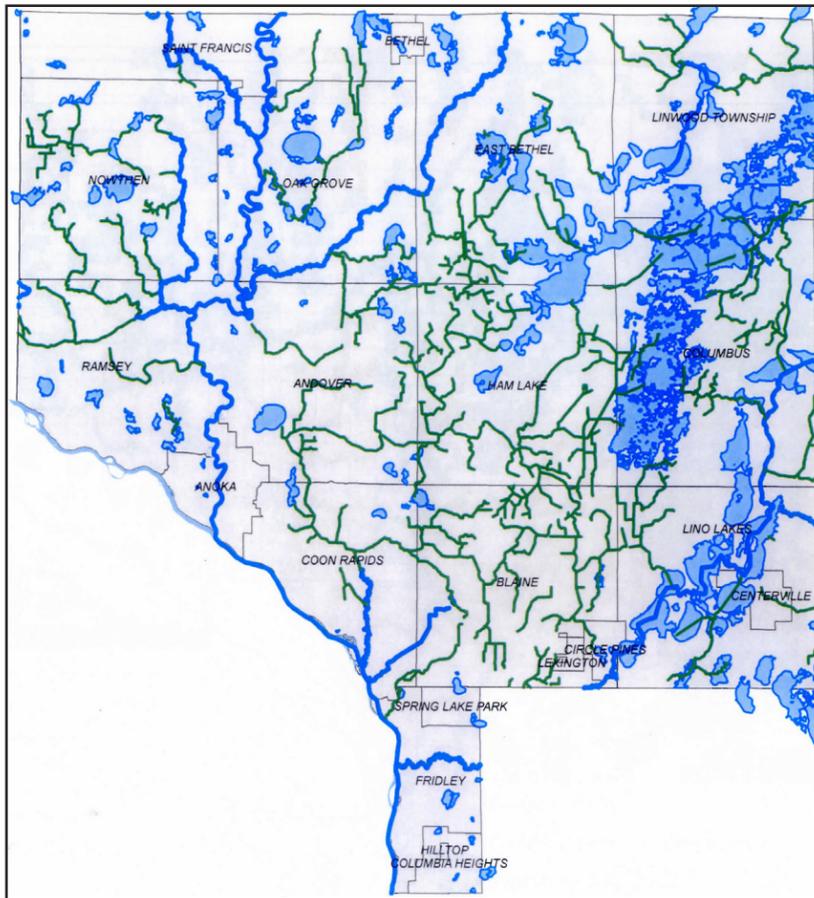
MNGOP National committeewoman Beihoffer Updates Party Delegates

At the December meeting of the State Central Committee of the Republican Party of Minnesota, Janet Beihoffer provided delegates with statistical information from recent national elections. She reported on updated 2016 statistics, and provided a historical analysis of electoral trends.

Ms. Beihoffer is one of the three Minnesota representatives that serve on the Republican National Committee. She is an adjunct professor at Metropolitan State University where she teaches Management Information Services and is a retired marketing manager at IBM. She also has a B.S. degree in Education, an MBA in Accounting, and is a former CPA.

Ms. Beihoffer detailed the gradual erosion Democratic Party power under a Democratic president from 2009 to 2017. In the US House, Democrats went from 257 seats in 2009 to 194 seats in 2017 for a loss of 63 seats.

National Election Stats *cont. on page 4*



Dark areas represent ditches, creeks, rivers, and basins in Anoka County affected by the new law

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Legislator Updates

Sen. Roger Chamberlain

All children deserve a great education

I presented my Opportunity Scholarship bill (Senate File 256) to the Education Policy Committee. This legislation incentivizes people to contribute funds which will provide education scholarships to low-and-middle-income families. This program would not be funded with state general funds. This means public school funding would not be affected. This bill would provide Opportunity Scholarships to low-and-middle income families and allow them the option to enroll their children in the school of their choice.



Sen. Roger Chamberlain
District 38
3225 Minn. Senate Bldg.
95 University Ave. W.
St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-1253

Too many students are being left behind in our current public education system. Continuing the status quo is simply unacceptable. A child's future should not be determined by the zip code they live in or by a parent's economic situation. It is time to do something different for these kids who are stuck in failing schools. They have not improved at all, and they never will unless we give them new opportunities.

A 2015 survey found 78% support from African Americans and 90% support from Latinos for a scholarship program. Senate File 256 has a similar broad base of support.

Between charter schools, open enrollment, and PSEO, Minnesota has always been a leader in education. Senate Republicans are committed to educating the workforce of tomorrow by continuing to strengthen our public school system, as well as providing alternative education options. Opportunity scholarships will offer more children the opportunity to reach their potential.

Emergency Health Insurance Relief and Reform Act signed by Governor Dayton

The Health Care Emergency Aid and Access act took its final steps toward becoming law this week. The relief bill was sent to a joint conference committee this week to finalize the language before final passage by the Legislature. The House and Senate agreed to accept Governor Dayton's proposal to give the relief aid directly to the insurance companies for distribution.

The bill retains several original provisions, including funding that allows the sickest patients the option to keep their current doctors. The Senate passed it and the governor signed it.

This is just the first step in bringing relief for many Minnesotans.....there will be more to come.

In the Tax Committee

As chair of the Senate Tax Committee, my focus this session is on ways we can provide meaningful relief to Minnesota families. The committee heard SF 83, a bill that could have a significant impact – a repeal of the estate tax.

Three years ago there was bipartisan agreement in the legislature to increase the estate tax exemption. That was a good start, but we need to do more. There are 31 states without inheritance or estate taxes, including our neighbors like Wisconsin, South Dakota, and North Dakota. Minnesota is in the minority.

Farmers and small businesses are among those who are hurt by the estate tax laws. By repealing it, we spare those families some extra pain, while still recovering most of the tax revenue through economic activity and growth.

The bill will be considered for inclusion in our Tax bill later this year.

Rep. Abigail Whelan

Premium Relief, Reforms Signed Into Law

The House and Senate repassed Senate File 1 which provides more than \$300 million in premium relief for thousands of eligible Minnesotans, and also includes a number of reforms to increase competition, consumer protections and accessibility. Governor Dayton has signed the bill into law.



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

The final agreement for premium relief is a 25 percent premium reduction for Minnesotans on the individual market who do not qualify for MNsure tax credits. The money will be administered through insurance companies, and people are expected to see refunds for their 2017 premiums starting in the next 8-12 weeks. You do not have to have purchased insurance through MNsure to qualify for these premium reductions.

Additionally, Republicans led the way on getting meaningful reforms included in the bill because premium relief alone is only a Band-Aid to our state's health insurance woes. Reforms in the legislation include allowing for-profit HMOs to operate in Minnesota to increase competition and options for consumers; requiring earlier disclosure of proposed rates to increase transparency; ending surprise billing to protect consumers from undisclosed costs; and implementing policy changes to help more employers contribute to or offer affordable health care for their employees.

While this is only the first step in more reforms we will look to pass this session, Senate File 1 is an excellent start that provides both needed premium relief to Minnesotans struggling under the weight of Obamacare and commonsense reforms.

Governor's Budget

This week, Governor Mark Dayton delivered his State of the State Address and unveiled his budget proposal for the next two years. I know many of you have heard about the governor's ill health in the news this week, and I hope you will join me in sending prayers for a full and speedy recovery.

As far as his budget proposal goes, I was disappointed to see that he is once again proposing significant spending increases (an approximately 10 percent increase) and higher taxes which will hurt Minnesota families and taxpayers. Governor Dayton has proposed \$1.6 billion in new taxes and fees over the next two years including increasing the gas tax and metro area sales tax, with only \$125 million in tax relief. With a \$1.4 billion surplus, we can and must provide more relief for Minnesotans.

The House will craft our budget proposal later this year after the February forecast is released. I expect our plan to fund our state's shared priorities like education and transportation; limit state government growth; implement reforms to make government more efficient and effective; and include significant tax relief for families, small businesses and taxpayers.

HF 291

This week in the Civil Law Committee, we heard House File 291 which will clarify public data under MN Chapter 13 related to the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority. Changing this language will ensure that the MSFA will have to disclose to the public who they give free or discounted tickets to.

After the controversy surrounding their use of suites at the new Vikings' stadium at taxpayer expense, this ensures that they are open and transparent to the public going forward. HF 291 will next be heard in the State Government Finance Committee.

MnDOT Hwy 47 Event

On Thursday, February 2nd from 5-7 pm, MnDOT is hosting a public meeting to discuss mobility needs along Hwy 47 and Ferry Street. They will also be sharing the outcome of the feasibility study to improve safety for motorists, bicyclists and trains. If you'd like to go and listen or share your input, the meeting will be at Green Haven Golf Course (2800 Grennhaven Road, Anoka).

Sen. Carolyn Laine

Dayton delivers State of the State Address

On Monday, January 23 Gov. Dayton gave his State of the State address to the joint convention of the House and Senate. His address began with a reminder to Minnesotans of the promises he'd made six years ago during his inaugural speech which emphasized a balanced budget and job growth as his top priorities. Thanks to responsible stewardship of the state budget, we've turned a \$6 billion deficit in 2011 into a projected surplus of \$1.4 billion today. In addition, we've built a healthy \$2 billion rainy day fund to protect the state against future economic downturns.



Sen. Carolyn Laine
District 41
2327 Minn. Senate Bldg.
95 University Ave. W.
St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-4334

About 40 minutes into the governor's speech, his address was cut short due to a brief fainting spell. He was able to stand on his own after several minutes and was able to walk from the House Chamber. The Governor was checked out by medical professionals and is okay. He was able to release his budget recommendations on Tuesday, Jan. 24 as planned. During a press conference where he outlined his budget plans, Dayton revealed that he has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and will receive treatment at the Mayo Clinic. He noted that he plans to serve the remainder of his term. All of us at the Senate wish Gov. Dayton a swift recovery, and will keep him and his family in our thoughts during the days and months ahead.

Gov. Dayton presented the remainder of his address Tuesday morning in the form of a prepared statement. He unveiled a vision for a public health-insurance option plan that would allow any Minnesota resident to opt in to MinnesotaCare, a state-run healthcare program that provides medical services for Minnesota residents who don't have affordable health insurance. The governor's public option plan indicated that health insurance coverage would be available to Minnesotans who earn between 201% and 400% of the federal poverty level. For a family of four, qualifying household income would be between \$49,200 and \$97,200 annually. I'm proud to support this initiative that would offer all Minnesota families another option for affordable healthcare coverage.

In his address, Dayton said that the state of the state is strong and vowed he will work to continue "our state's economic prudence." With this in mind, the governor outlined some of his priorities for the next two years.

- Education: The governor wants to continue his strong commitment to education with increases in per pupil spending, support in funding for child care, pre-kindergarten, and higher education.
- Transportation: Gov. Dayton labeled Minnesota's transportation deficiencies as "urgent." Gov. Dayton said we need to invest in state highway projects and road and bridge improvements. He emphasized his willingness to work with legislators to find a real solution, and reiterated that doing these projects will be costly, but it would be far costlier to ignore them.
- Clean Water: Clean water will continue to be a priority for this administration. He called out a proposed tax provision to help local governments and farmers with the new buffer law and hinted at including water-treatment projects in rural Minnesota as a priority.



ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG

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

January 27th, 2017

Editor's Note: Eleanor and I were saddened to learn of Governor Dayton's cancer diagnosis. Like so many Minnesotans, we are keeping him and his family in our thoughts and prayers, wishing him a full and speedy recovery.

- Harold Hamilton

BILL OF THE WEEK

Kudos to State Rep. Nick Zerwas (R - Elk River), who has authored a bill to clamp down on the hooligans who are closing down our public transitways to lodge their grievance du jour.

Readers are surely familiar with the many freeway shutdowns we have experienced lately, resulting in lost commerce, excruciating inconvenience, and the delay of necessary public safety functions like ambulance service.

Zerwas's bill, House File 390, enhances the penalty for obstructing access to highways and airports.

This bill is about as common sense as it gets, but that doesn't mean it hasn't been controversial.

At a committee hearing on the bill this week, the same ilk of protestors who shut down the freeways shut down the committee hearing by disrupting proceedings after the bill advanced 6-3.

Heck, even the Star Tribune and Governor Dayton have weighed against using freeways as a protest forum, lending a strong bi-partisan flavor to the bill.

Freeways aren't a public forum and citizens have no right to express their speech rights in that location.

There are ample public spaces from which to make a point, starting with state Capitol, where permits are readily available.

Having said that, it's important to make sure the bill is narrowly tailored to accomplish only the purpose of keeping transportation arteries clear and safe.

The right to protest governmental actions is central to our First Amendment rights and is central to a healthy society.

The subject matter of any protest is immaterial. The First Amendment is designed in large part to protect unpopular speech from the tyranny of majority control.

No right is absolute, but any curtailing of the First Amendment must be accomplished by the narrowest means possible.

This bill does that.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

As required by state law, Governor Dayton has submitted his proposed fiscal year 2018 - 2019 biennial budget to the legislature (the state's 2018 fiscal year will start July 1, 2017).

Overall, the governor proposes general fund spending of \$45.8 billion, which is an increase of \$1.25 billion over the previous forecast amount.

He also proposes to draw down the state's budget reserve by \$312 million.

Recall that the state has a projected budget surplus of \$1.4 billion.

Dayton proposes to spend all of it, except for a meager \$79 million.

The proposal is heavy on increased spending and very light on tax cuts.

This is the biggest concern with the proposed budget.

Tax cuts are absolutely in order this year. The economy has been bumping along under an anemic recovery and the state has a massive budget surplus, thanks to huge tax increases in recent years.

By the way, let us gently chide the DFL for bragging about the state's balanced budget and claims of awesome fiscal management.

Instead of innovative and sound fiscal management, the DFL simply raised taxes high enough to cover increased spending and then some.

It wasn't really all that impressive.

In essence, tax increases represent capital that is diverted from the private economy into the public economy.

Every dollar government takes in represents a dollar unavailable to the private sector for investment, capital spending, increased employee pay/benefits, and other productive uses.

Hopefully, the GOP budget will reflect a different philosophical tact by cutting taxes (especially business taxes) and offering more spending restraint.

The governor's budget simply represents too much government spending and too little in the way of tax cuts.

Second, the proposed budget features a budget reserve of over \$2 billion.

Long-time readers know this publication holds a minority viewpoint that government budget reserves are poor public policy.

Yes, the optics of a strong budget look great. How can a robust "rainy day" fund be bad?

It's bad when it's government doing the hoarding of capital.

Every dollar in that reserve fund is essentially impounded by government, sitting unproductive.

If \$2 billion was returned to the private economy, it could be put to productive uses.

In addition, budget reserves only protect government from making necessary but painful decisions when inevitable economic downturns hit.

In short, big budget reserves insulate government from dealing with the reality of less money when the economy dips.

Dayton's budget is also heavy on behavior distorting tax breaks that incentivize certain behavior and punish other behaviors.

To be fair, the practice of using the tax code as a behavior modification tool isn't a partisan practice. Both parties engage in the practice.

Today, the tax code is chock full of credits and deductions for all manner of constituencies ranging from large corporations down to the least among us.

These breaks often have wonderful optics attached to them that are intuitively appealing.

Who wouldn't want to help keep high tech jobs in Minnesota via a "research and development" credit?

Who doesn't want to incentivize charitable giving with a tax break?

Some have just become ingrained in our DNA. How about that home mortgage interest deduction?

Ah, the dream of home ownership. Brought to you by the National Association of Realtors®.

The problem is that these breaks greatly complicate the tax code, are often based on who has political clout instead of public policy, and violate a fundamental principle of tax policy - fairness.

Suppose two couples are equal in every respect except that one couples chooses to rent a home and the other chooses to buy.

Why should the renter couple pay a higher tax because of their choice?

How about a childless couple versus a couple with multiple children?

The childless couple will be far behind with respect to tax treatment simply because they chose not to bear children. Heck, they may be childless because of health and not even by choice.

These tax breaks are worth many billions of dollars, and that's under Minnesota's tax code.

We get into numbers exponentially higher at the federal level.

All of this leads to one final observation.

Where are the Big Ideas?

Dayton's budget, especially his tax ideas, lack any innovation and imagination.

It's a cookie cutter budget that simply boosts spending on more of the same.

Sure, there are some new ideas, but none challenge the status quo.

Let's hope that the GOP releases a budget in each house that represents some bold thinking, especially in the area of taxation.

There are so many program areas that are ready for some innovative reform ideas.

As usual, there will be entrenched interests who stand ready to defend their sacred and obsolete cows.

Will the GOP have the courage to challenge the status quo?

We think so.

The Anoka County Watchdog is a place where concerned taxpayers can find fact-supported information and other resources about governmental waste and abuse in Anoka County.

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

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

www.AnokaCountyWatchdog.com

or contact me personally at:

harold@anokacountywatchdog.com

Sincerely,

Harold E. Hamilton, owner.

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Buffer Law *continued from page 1*

in compliance with state standards prior to this date. After March 31st, the law allows for these local governments to opt in or out of this enforcement responsibility at anytime with a 60 day notice.

County Officials Speak

Several concerns were raised by County Administrator Jerry Soma about the county becoming the enforcement authority. He highlighted passages from the law which stated, "If a county elects jurisdiction... it must include all public waters within its boundary AND all public drainage ditches for which it is the drainage authority." Mr. Soma was concerned about the use of the word "all" and what the implications could be for the county. As he read the law, the county could become burdened with the responsibility of enforcing the law throughout the entire county. He stated that he believed the watershed districts would be best positioned to manage this responsibility.

Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah raised concerns about this being another unfunded mandate from the state. Mr. Soma stated that the work would fall to the highway department, and that county taxpayers would have to pay for it. He did not have an estimate of what the overall cost would be.

Commissioner Scott Schulte's position was that the county should take no action at present time. He cited the 60 day provision which would allow the county to step in if it needed to. He also believed that the current Legislature would change the law again. He also stated that the Legislature needs to determine if this is a priority, and if so then fund it.

Speaking of rural counties, Mr. Schulte stated that Anoka County was fortunate in that they are not in a position where the commissioners themselves are farmers, who are now are being asked to enforce these laws on their fellow neighbors and farmers.

Commissioner Matt Look stated that a significant number of people were "caught in the crossfire" due to the passage of this law. He said, "Without question this is a land grab" and "unconstitutional." He saw the law as allowing government to take land without compensation from property owners. He also raised concerns that none of the

other parties who could assume enforcement authority under the law were elected officials. Watershed districts are appointed officials who do not answer directly to the public. The BWSR primarily consists of appointed members and state government employees who are answerable to no one in Anoka County.

Mr. Look stated that he would be comfortable having the county assume enforcement responsibility. In response to Ms. Sivarajah's concern that this would impact the tax levy, Mr. Look stated that he would not consider this to be a hired position." In response to Mr. Schulte's question about the county's responsibility, Mr. Soma again stated that the county would need to assume responsibility for all public waters.

Commissioner Jim Kordiak stated that he believed that the county would provide a kinder hand at enforcement, and that the state would be the heavy hand. Both Mr. Kordiak and Commissioner Mike Gamache indicated that they would defer to the opinions of their fellow commissioners on this issue. Both noted that they did not have agriculture land in their commissioner districts that is being targeted by this law.

Parcels Affected

At present time, it is believed that Anoka County, Rice Creek Watershed District, and Coon Creek Watershed District have between 9 and 26 landowners who own between 17 and 45 parcels of land that are on public waters requiring compliance with the law in 2017. In 2018, the public ditch enforcement portion of the law will affect 3 to 10 landowners who own between 5 and 13 parcels of land.

According to maps provided by Jared Wagner (Jared.Wagner@AnokaSWCD.org) of the Anoka Conservation District, the majority of lands which are out of compliance with the law are located in Ham Lake, Lino Lakes, Nowthen, and Oak Grove.

Future Action

It is unknown what action if any the county board will take on this issue. If no action is taken by the county or watershed districts, BWSR will become the enforcement authority on April 1st by default. Property owners will be subject to fines or other enforcement actions starting sometime after November 1st.

National Election Stats

continued from page 1

US House	D	R
2009	257	178
2011	193	242
2013	186	246
2015	188	247
2017	194	241

In the US Senate, Democrats lost 11 seats from 2009 to 2017.

US Senate	D	R	
2009	57	41	(2) I
2011	51	47	(2) I
2013	53	45	(2) I
2015	44	54	(2) I
2017	46	51	(2) I

Ms. Beihoffer then switched to the presidential race and the campaign strategy of focusing on areas formerly held by Democrats in the Industrial Northwest. In this area, 1/3rd of 233 counties previously won by Democrats in 2008 and 2012 voted Republican in 2016.

In counties that were won by Democrats in only one of the two previous elections, 94% were won by the Republicans in 2016. In addition, Republicans won counties in upstate New York, Maine, and on the Iron Range of Minnesota.

Of the 2,200 counties that Republicans had previously won in the 2012, Democrats were only able to win 6 counties.

Ms. Beihoffer detailed the loss of Democratic votes dating back to 2008. She stated that trends show that Democrats are either staying home or voting 3rd party in greater numbers. From 2008 to 2016, Democrats have lost 5 million voters to a Republican gain of 2 million voters.

Year	Democrat	Republican
2008	69	60
2012	65	61
2016	64	62

In response to criticism that the Republicans did not win the popular vote, Ms. Beihoffer pointed to California. The Republicans did little campaigning in this state. They lost the state by 4,016,025 votes. The national margin was only 2,864,974 votes. Absent California, the Republicans would have won the popular vote and the Electoral College vote.

California Results

Democrat	8,292,775
Republican	4,276,750
Difference	4,016,025

In conclusion, Ms. Beihoffer noted that Republicans now hold 33 governorships, up 4 from 2009. Republicans also control all of state government in 25 states with 69 of 99 legislative chambers having a Republican majorities. In 2016, Republicans added 5 state house and 2 state senate chambers to the list. Over the past 8 years, over 900 Democrat state legislators lost their seats to Republicans nationwide.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The Anoka County Board met on January 3, 2017. Resolutions #2017-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 related to county organization for 2017 were adopted and committee appointments were approved. A full copy of the agenda and minutes may be found on the Anoka County Web site: www.anokacounty.us (Published 1/31, 2017 ACR) #589

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The Anoka County Board met on January 3, 2017. Standing committee

information reports and action items were considered, and action was taken as necessary. The following resolutions/ordinances were adopted: #2017-10 Tax-Forfeiture Property Sale and #2017-11 Narcotics and Violent Crime Control Program Participation. 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 1/31, 2017 ACR) #590

ANOKA COUNTY HRA

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
Date: Monday, January 23, 2017

Anoka County Community Development Department
325 East Main Street, Suite W250
Anoka, MN 55303
763-323-5764

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:
These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the County of Anoka.

Request for Request of Funds

On or about March 6, 2017, the Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of HOME funds for the following project:

2016 HOME Funds—funds will be distributed

to the City of Columbia Heights to use for construction of a recreational facility at the City of Peace Park, Columbia Heights, MN. The County of Anoka, Community Development Department will be administering this funding in the amount of \$418,500.00 and all federal guidelines will be met. Location is as follows:

• PIN #: 36-30-24-31-0026; 36-30-24-24-0026; 36-30-24-24-0025

• Address: 1311 Circle Terrace Blvd NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421; fka: 1271, 1303, 1309 Circle Terrace Blvd NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Finding Of No Significant Impact

The County of Anoka has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the

human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file in the County Community Development Department, 325 East Main Street, Suite W250, Anoka, MN 55303 and may be examined weekdays 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.

Public Comments

Any individual, group, or agency wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the County of Anoka. All comments received by 4:30 pm on March 3, 2017, will be considered

PUBLIC NOTICES
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SCHOOL OF NURSING
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Are you caring for a person with memory loss? Would you like more help?

The University of Minnesota is examining the effects of remote health monitoring for people with memory loss and their family members. Learn more about participating in this free study by contacting Professor Joe Gaugler at **612.626.2485** or gaug0015@umn.edu.

Visit <http://eneighborstudy.org> to learn more

PUBLIC NOTICES *continued from page 4*

by the County of Anoka last day of the objection period. Prior to submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which notice and project they are addressing.

Release of Funds

The County of Anoka certifies to HUD that Anoka County and Karen Skepper, in her capacity as Executive Director of the Anoka County HRA, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and allows the County of Anoka to use program funds.

Objections to the Release of Funds

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the County of Anoka's certification for a period of 15 days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the certifying officer or other officer of the County of Anoka; (b) the County of Anoka has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24C.F.R. Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred costs not authorized by 24 C.F.R. Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another federal agency acting pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 C.F.R. Part 58) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 920 Second Avenue South, Suite 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55402. HUD will not consider objections to the release of funds on the bases other than those stated above. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual

last day of the objection period.
/s/ Jerry Soma
Anoka County Administrator
Anoka County Government Center
2100 Third Avenue, Suite 700
Anoka, MN 55303-5024
(Published 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2017 ACR) #591

CITY OF OAK GROVE

COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Oak Grove Planning Commission's Regular Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall, 19900 Nightingale St NW, to hear the following public hearings in the order that they appear:

PUBLIC HEARING to consider the preliminary plat to be named Woods of Lake George subdividing the following legally described property into six (6) lots: that part of the S 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 and N 1/2 of NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 15, Twp 33, Rge 24; further described by PIN#15-33-24-32-0006.

All written and oral comments will be heard. The hearings of this request are not limited to those receiving copies of this notice, and if you know of any neighbor or affected property owner who for any reason, has not received a copy, it would be appreciated if you would inform them of this public hearing.

Hearing impaired persons planning to attend who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids should contact City Hall at 404-7006 no later than Wednesday, February 8, 2017.

Sheryl F. Fiskewold
City Clerk
(Published 1/31, 2017 ACR) #575

PUBLIC NOTICES UNPAID

CITY OF COON RAPIDS

NOTICE OF HEARING ON IMPROVEMENT AND ASSESSMENT

The following is a summary of the Operating Budget and Debt Service for the 2017 fiscal year for Anoka County, as compared to the Budget for 2016. This summary is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. Chapter 375.169. The budget figures include all governmental funds and one (1) enterprise fund. The 2017 Annual Operating Budget can be viewed in detail using our online budget explorer at anokacountymn.opengov.com. For assistance in using this tool, please watch the tutorial video at anokacounty.us/2328/OpenGov-Budget-Explorer. Questions regarding the 2017 budget can be e-mailed to RS-FCS-Finance@co.anoka.mn.us.

ANOKA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

ANOKA COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET GOVERNMENTAL AND ENTERPRISE FUNDS

	2016	2017
REVENUES		
County Share of Tax Levy	\$ 122,385,080	\$ 125,444,707
State Paid Credits	16,577,582	16,535,710
Total Tax Levy	138,962,662	141,980,417
Other Taxes	450,250	454,250
Licenses & Permits	1,188,023	1,203,684
Charges for Service	35,263,991	36,689,352
Fines & Forfeits	164,000	164,000
Intergovernmental:		
Federal	38,306,843	29,172,000
State	59,734,208	75,386,068
Other	17,753,910	12,434,949
Interest on Investments	1,622,000	1,619,166
Miscellaneous	5,036,415	4,732,599
Total Revenues	298,482,302	303,836,485
OTHER SOURCES		
Budgeted Use of Fund Balance	715,332	1,152
Non-Revenue (Transfers In)	1,417,029	2,079,755
Total Other Sources	2,132,361	2,080,907
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 300,614,663	\$ 305,917,392
EXPENDITURES		
General Government	\$ 40,880,383	\$ 42,739,469
Public Safety	63,930,984	66,366,861
Road & Bridge	59,205,712	60,736,656
Human Services	73,069,377	74,391,453
Health	14,695,881	15,491,866
Culture & Recreation	19,593,340	17,094,865
Environment & Sanitation	5,444,813	5,464,483
Conservation of Natural Resources	505,429	531,164
Economic Development	5,755,288	5,048,020
Debt Service/Capital Improvement Budget	16,903,179	17,694,761
Total Expenditures	299,984,386	305,559,598
OTHER USES		
Budgeted Increase in Fund Balance	630,277	357,794
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 300,614,663	\$ 305,917,392

Jerry Soma
County Administrator

(Published 1/31, 2017 ACR) #588

Notice is hereby given that the Coon Rapids City Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. on the 21st day of February, 2017 at the City Center Council Chambers to consider the proposed improvement and assessments for Project 17-1; The Project consists of reclamation of the existing bituminous surface and aggregate base, removal and replacement of damaged curb and gutter, sidewalk and pedestrian curb ramp improvement in accordance with ADA requirements, watermain valve and hydrant replacements, and repairs or replacements to the existing storm sewer and sanitary sewer as needed.

The area affected and proposed to be assessed is as follows: Parcels: 24-31-24-13-0025, 24-31-24-13-0036-0041, 24-31-24-13-0070, 24-31-24-13-0118, 24-31-24-14-0004, 24-31-24-14-0007-0008, 24-31-24-14-0010, 24-31-24-14-0013, 24-31-24-14-0015, 24-31-24-14-0017-0018, 24-31-24-14-0021, 24-31-24-14-0039-0041, 24-31-24-14-0052, 24-31-24-14-0058-0059, 24-31-24-14-0080, 24-31-24-14-0088, 24-31-24-41-0001-0109, 24-31-24-41-0111-0114, 24-31-24-42-0016, 24-31-24-42-0050, 24-31-24-42-0069, 24-31-24-43-0006, 24-31-24-43-0009, 24-31-24-43-0010, 24-31-24-43-0013, 24-31-24-43-0015-0016, 24-31-24-43-0018, 24-31-24-43-0020, 24-31-24-43-0023, 24-31-24-43-0025, 24-31-24-43-0027, 24-31-24-44-0001-0102.

The estimated cost of the improvement is \$3,152,640. The total cost of the improvement to be assessed is \$554,808. Such people who desire to be heard regarding the proposed improvement and assessment shall be heard at this meeting.

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Joan Lenzmeier, Clerk
CITY OF COON RAPIDS
NOTICE OF HEARING ON IMPROVEMENT AND ASSESSMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Coon Rapids City Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. on the 21st day of February, 2017 at the City Center Council Chambers to consider the proposed improvement and assessments for Project 17-3; The Project consists of reclamation of the existing bituminous surface and aggregate base, removal and replacement of damaged curb and gutter, sidewalk and pedestrian curb ramp improvements in accordance with ADA requirements, watermain valve and hydrant replacements, and repairs or replacements to the existing storm sewer and sanitary sewer as needed.

PUBLIC NOTICES
continued on page 6

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PUBLIC NOTICES

continued from page 5

er as needed. The area affected and proposed to be assessed is as follows:
 Parcels: 12-31-24-12-0042-0043, 12-31-24-12-0045-0048, 12-31-24-13-0034-0047, 12-31-24-13-0068-0075, 12-31-24-13-0080-0084, 12-31-24-13-0089-0090, 12-31-24-13-0092-0096, 12-31-24-14-0004-0035, 12-31-24-14-0040-0041, 12-31-24-14-0047-0082, 12-31-24-14-0092-0093, 12-31-24-14-0095-0100, 12-31-24-14-0102-0103, 12-31-24-14-0111-0115, 12-31-24-21-0009, 12-31-24-21-0013-0015, 12-31-24-21-0018-0026, 12-31-24-21-0048-0051, 12-31-24-21-0066, 12-31-24-21-0074, 12-31-24-21-0077, 12-31-24-21-0092-0093, 12-31-24-21-0122, 12-31-24-22-0006, 12-31-24-22-0029-0032, 12-31-24-22-0050, 12-31-24-22-0056, 12-31-24-22-0088-0089, 12-31-24-22-0104, 12-31-24-23-0033-0045, 12-31-24-23-0056, 12-31-24-23-0061, 12-31-24-23-0071-0073, 12-31-24-23-0084, 12-31-24-23-0091, 12-31-24-23-0098-0099, 12-31-24-23-0101-0102, 12-31-24-23-0104, 12-31-24-24-0009-0034, 12-31-24-24-0040-0046, 12-31-24-24-0048-0119, 12-31-24-31-0001-0039, 12-31-24-32-0013-0029, 12-31-24-42-0051.
 The estimated cost of the improvement is \$2,098,439.
 The total cost of the improvement to be assessed is \$582,445.
 Such people who desire to be heard regarding the proposed improvement and assessment shall be heard at this meeting.
 Joan Lenzmeier, Clerk

CITY OF COON RAPIDS
 NOTICE OF HEARING ON IMPROVEMENT AND ASSESSMENT
 Notice is hereby given that the Coon Rapids City Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. on the 21st day of February, 2017 at the City Center Council Chambers to consider the proposed improvement and assessments for Project 17-4; The Project consists of reclamation of the existing bituminous surface and aggregate base, removal and replacement of damaged curb and gutter, sidewalk and pedestrian curb ramp improvements in accordance with ADA requirements, watermain valve and hydrant replacements, and repairs or replacements to the existing storm sewer and sanitary sewer as needed.
 The area affected and proposed to be assessed is as follows:
 Parcels: 05-31-24-21-0110-0203 & 1-31-24-31-0003-0007, 1-31-24-31-0010-0012, 1-31-24-31-0015-0024, 1-31-24-31-0026-0028, 1-31-24-31-0030-0033, 1-31-24-31-0036, 1-31-24-31-0042, 1-31-24-31-0044, 1-31-24-31-0046-0049, 1-31-24-31-0051-0056, 1-31-24-34-0001-0003, 1-31-24-34-0008-0012, 1-31-24-34-0017-0024, 1-31-24-34-0026, 1-31-24-34-0036-0043, 1-31-24-34-0058-0059, 1-31-24-34-0061, 3-31-24-13-0002, 3-31-24-13-0043-0046, 3-31-24-13-0055-0056, 3-31-24-13-0078-0080, 3-31-24-13-0095, 3-31-24-13-0121, 3-31-24-14-0021-0024, 3-31-24-14-0031-0035, 3-31-24-14-0038-0048, 3-31-24-14-0088-0096.
 The estimated cost of the improvement is \$2,107,696.
 The total cost of the improvement to be assessed is \$463,304.
 Such people who desire to be heard regarding the proposed improvement and assessment shall be heard at this meeting.
 Joan Lenzmeier, Clerk

CITY OF RAMSEY
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT #17-00
 SUNWOOD DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION
 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
 Notice is hereby given that the Ramsey City Council will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14th, 2017 in the Ramsey Municipal Center Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, MN. The purpose of the hearing is to consider Improvement Project #17-00 which proposes grading, concrete curb and gutter, bituminous pavement reclamation and paving, drainage, and miscellaneous appurtenant improvements to approximately 3,050 linear feet of Sunwood Drive NW between Ramsey Boulevard NW/CSAH 56 and Bunker Lake Boulevard NW/CSAH 116.
 Properties abutting the improved street are proposed to be assessed per Minnesota Statutes, Sections 429.011 to 429.111, Chapter 8 of the Ramsey City Charter, and the City's adopted Special Assessments Policy. The total estimated cost of the above described project is \$607,000. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessment, to be assessed over ten years with interest at two percent above the bond interest rate, will be available at the hearing. Written comments are welcome and shall be addressed to the Ramsey City Council, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, MN 55303. Written comments will be received at the above address until 4:30 p.m. on February 14th, 2017. All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing provided in an alternative form and interpreters will be available. Any person with such a request on the project and proposed assessments may be directed to City Engineer, Bruce Westby, at 763-433-9825. The City of Ramsey complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and

City of Columbus PUBLIC NOTICE

2017 Budget Summary

The following is a summary of the Operating Budget and Debt Service for the 2017 calendar year for City of Columbus, as compared to the Budget for 2016. This summary is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. Chapter 471.6965. The budget figures include all governmental funds and two (2) enterprise funds. The detail of the City Budget is on file in the Administration Office at the City of Columbus City Hall, 16319 Kettle River Blvd., Columbus, MN, and may be reviewed during normal business hours. Copies of the approved budget are also available at the City of Columbus City Hall.

CITY OF COLUMBUS OPERATING BUDGET GOVERNMENTAL AND ENTERPRISE FUNDS

REVENUES	2016	2017
Property Taxes (Levy)	\$2,494,812	\$2,762,001
Franchise Fees	\$12,000	\$12,000
Licenses & Permits	\$79,800	\$79,300
Intergovernmental-State	\$45,416	\$47,416
County and Other Government	\$17,000	\$17,000
Charges for Services	\$26,840	\$26,890
Fines and Forfeits	\$32,000	\$32,000
Interest on Investments	\$5,300	\$5,300
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$86,000	\$86,000
Total Revenues	\$2,799,168	\$3,067,907
OTHER SOURCES		
Enterprise Funds / Transfers	\$80,204	\$89,530
Other Financing Sources	\$0	\$0
Total Other Sources	\$80,204	\$89,530
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$2,879,372	\$3,157,437
EXPENDITURES		
General Government	\$958,031	\$964,526
Public Safety	\$526,050	\$536,530
Streets & Highways	\$881,232	\$884,717
Sanitation	\$8,000	\$8,000
Culture and Recreation	\$44,011	\$45,211
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$0	\$0
Economic Development	\$18,200	\$85,000
Debt Service/Capital Improv Budget	\$355,644	\$536,423
Other Financing Uses	\$8,000	\$7,500
Enterprise Funds / Transfers	\$80,204	\$89,530
Total Expenditures	\$2,879,372	\$3,157,437
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$2,879,372	\$3,157,437

Elizabeth Mursko, City Administrator

RANGER MURRAY HILL

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT
 COUNTY OF ANOKA TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 In Re: Estate of PROBATE DIVISION
 Ranger Murray Hill, a/k/a Court File No. 02-PR-17-18
 Ranger M. Hill
 Deceased. NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL, INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is given that an Application for Informal Probate of Will and Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar, along with a Will dated July 29, 2016. The Registrar accepted the application and appointed Roy Snyder and Kathryn Snyder, whose address is 5210 5th Street Northeast, Columbia Heights, MN 55421, to serve as the personal representatives of the decedent's estate.
 Any heir, devisee 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 testamentary, 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: 1/13/17 /s/ Karol Bennett, Registrar
 Dated: 1/13/17 /s/ Lori Meyer, Court Administrator
 Jeffrey W. Lambert (#59675); JEFFREY W. LAMBERT, P.A.
 1000 Twelve Oaks Center Drive # 100; Wayzata, MN 55391
 jeff@lawyerlambertmn.com; (952) 475-3435
 Attorney for Personal Representative
 (Published 1/24, 1/31, 2017 ACR) #587

CITY OF RAMSEY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT #17-00
 SUNWOOD DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION
 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
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persons are invited information will be provided in an alternative form and interpreters will be available. Any person with such a request on the project and proposed assessments may be directed to City Engineer, Bruce Westby, at 763-433-9825. The City of Ramsey complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and

Anoka County RECORD SINCE 2011

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