

TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 7, 2017

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ACR Exclusive

## CIRCLE PINES LIBRARY PROJECT TAKES A STEP FORWARD

### County May Sell Lino Lakes Property

by Bryan Olson  
Special to the Anoka  
County Record

A remodel and expansion of the Centennial Library in Circle Pines is moving along after discussion by the Anoka County Library Board at its January 23 meeting and by the County Board the following day. On January 25, library staff were to interview two architectural firms, that of Leo A. Daly and the Cuningham Group, which responded to the ACL's request for proposals. Library Director Maggie Snow told the library board that four firms were contacted but only Daly and Cuningham showed interest. Both firms have designed and constructed several libraries. (At its Nov. 21 meeting, the library board approved a \$8,400 contract with ICS Consulting for preliminary design work.)

The Centennial library building dates to 1985; only 11 years later structural problems with the walls and roof had to be repaired, according to the library board's meeting packet of last July 18. The 6,300 square foot building is next to Circle Pines City Hall, off Lake Drive. Air handling systems, restrooms, windows and countertops are original to the 32-year old building and will most likely be the focus of the remodeling.

What to do with county-owned property that was originally planned to be the site of a new library, was discussed at both the Library Board meeting and a Jan. 24th County Board "work session" meeting.

County Commissioner Mike Gamache, liaison to the library board, told board members that the property, which runs along the I-35W freeway in Lino Lakes was purchased for a top-tier price in 2007, just before the economic downturn.

The idea to build a new library on the eastern edge of Anoka County had been kicked around for several years prior to the land purchase. Two parcels were purchased for a total of \$3,054,247. The county assessor



Map view of county owned property in Lino Lakes. Property is located near the intersection of 35W and County 23 at the green arrow and blue X.



Aerial view of county owned property and adjoining Holiday Stationstores property for sale in Lino Lakes.

appraised the 8.7 acres as having a value of \$2.3 million in 2015. The county has been receiving approximately \$12,100 per year by continuing a lease for a commercial billboard sign which was on the property at the time of the 2007 purchase.

During the Jan. 24 County Board meeting, County Administrator Jerry Soma said he would look into the feasibility of selling the two parcels. Whether the county would be able to find a buyer and at least break even on its \$3 million investment is a question the County Board is wrestling with. He also mentioned that an adjoining parcel owned by Holiday Stationstores is for sale and that he would inquire as to its availability for a package sale if a developer would be so interested. Holiday's parcel, located behind its gas station at 7509 Lake Drive, is 1.47 acres. The asking price for

Library cont. on page 4

## VACANT COL HTS CITY COUNCIL SEAT TO BE APPOINTED

### Feb. 23 set as application deadline

The Columbia Heights City Council officially declared a vacancy at its Jan. 9th meeting. Applications are being taken by the city clerk until Feb. 23 for the council seat that was vacated by Donna Schmitt after she took office as mayor in early January.

Schmitt had 2 years yet to go on her second term on the council, thus causing a need to appoint a successor. Schmitt said at the Jan. 9 meeting that interviews of applicants will be done March 2 and 3.

City Manager Walter Fehst made comments regarding the vacancy: "Hopefully there will be quick agreement appointing a fifth person — sometimes that is difficult, but I would hope we can find somebody who has an open mind and neutral to any particular position. We want to maintain an open attitude... the thing to remember is we are serving the general public. I would like to have five members on the council (where) cool heads prevail. We'll hopefully get somebody that is open to different ways of looking at things before they make quick decisions. What we don't need is someone who is locked into one particular attitude and been around for a long time... Sometimes these things are tough to get somebody appointed but I'm sure you'll (the council) do the right thing. I've always been impressed that councils ultimately arrive at decisions that everybody can live with and I hope that's the case here."

### New members appointed to commissions

Michael Novitsky was appointed to the Planning Commission and Tricia Conway to the Library Board. The seats became open by

Appointment cont. on page 4

## Oak Grove Seeks Planning Commission Applicants

The Oak Grove City Council is seeking applicants for vacancies on the city's Planning Commission. Responsibilities include attendance at monthly meetings, becoming familiar with city processes, and contributing to research topics and special task forces. Terms for these volunteer positions is three years. Applications are available at city hall and at [www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us](http://www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us). Applications are due by Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Applicants must be residents of the city.

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**Sen. Michelle Benson****Republicans Set a Legislative Calendar with Early Deadlines**

Republicans have committed to a calendar that will avoid end of session breakdowns, increase transparency and help get our work done on time.

Last year's session ended with confusion and chaos. The Governor failed to work with the Legislature to pass laws in time for the close of session, and we earned a reputation that we can't work together to pass quality legislation for our state.

This year, Republicans are looking to restore faith in government and demonstrate to Minnesotans that we can get things done with thoughtful planning and open communication. One way to do this is to set committee deadlines that are early enough to allow the Governor ample time to negotiate and approve legislation before the end of session. Leadership in the House and Senate have committed to a Legislative Calendar that sets finance deadlines 52 days prior to the last day of session, which gives the Governor four additional weeks to review and sign our bills, avoiding any special sessions or government shutdowns.

**Minnesota Recognized for Results First Initiative**

In 2015, I sponsored Senate File 844, a bill to implement evidence-based guidelines into the policymaking process at the Minnesota Legislature. These guidelines are known more broadly as the Results First Initiative. The Results First approach to lawmaking is innovative because it utilizes data gathered from policy outcomes. Data-driven outcome analysis allows lawmakers to measure the value and efficiency of government programs and policies more accurately and objectively. With better information, we are able to cut those programs that don't work for Minnesota and expand the ones that do.

PEW Charitable Trust recently released a report that recognized Minnesota as one of five states that leads the nation at evidence-based policymaking. By utilizing this approach, our government is reducing waste, strengthening accountability, and supporting Minnesotans with programs that work.

To view a recent Results First report that provides a benefit/cost analysis of Adult Criminal Justice in Minnesota, please visit: <https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/results-first/adult-criminal-justice-report.pdf>.

**Bonding Bill Moves through Committee**

The Capital Investment Committee passed Senate File 210 to fund various public works projects across the state. It is essentially the same bonding bill that was offered at the close of last year's legislative session, but failed to pass in the final moments. It includes funding for the Anoka area to improve the I-35W Interchange linking Lake Drive and West Freeway Drive as well as the I-35 Interchange in Columbus.

**Exploring Palliative Care in Minnesota**

The Aging and Long Term Care Policy Committee heard Senate File 112, a bill that would set up an advisory council to explore palliative care in Minnesota. Palliative care is a specialized type of care to treat the symptoms of serious illnesses. Diseases such as cancer, Parkinson, Alzheimer's, or heart failure all come with a host of additional symptoms like nausea, pain, depression, and anxiety that affect patients' quality of life. Palliative care offers treatment that is focused on making patients more comfortable by easing those symptoms that exacerbate serious illnesses. I look forward to hearing the bill in the HHS committee.



**Sen. Michelle Benson  
District 31**  
3109 Minn. Senate Bldg.  
95 University Ave. W.  
St. Paul MN 55155  
**651-296-3219**

**Expanding Job Training for High School Students**

The Tax Committee heard Senate File 474, sponsored by Sen. Paul Anderson, a bill to expand youth work-based training programs. Work-based training programs like apprenticeships or internships give high school students and excellent opportunity to gain real-world experience and bolster their professional skill set. They get the youth prepared for life after graduation while allowing them to explore different career options. Investing in our youth is the key to securing our future, and I look forward to hearing more innovative ways to empower students in the classroom and beyond.

**Sen. Carolyn Laine****Premium relief signed into law**

Last week, both the Senate and House passed a premium relief bill for Minnesotans purchasing health insurance on the individual market. After swiftly moving through the conference committee process, the bill will provide immediate relief to Minnesotans who are struggling with increased premiums. Governor Dayton signed the bill into law last week, which will reduce 2017 health insurance premiums by 25% for Minnesotans, regardless of their income, who purchase their insurance on the individual market and do not receive federal tax credits to offset costs.

Minnesotans eligible for this new subsidy would see immediate premium relief on their insurance bill from the health plans and the health plans would be reimbursed by the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget. This plan would reduce the average premium increase facing Minnesotans in the individual market from 55% to 16%, and some families could save as much as \$594 per month on their premiums.

Under the bill, the health plans are required to implement the subsidy program no later than April 30, 2017, and the 25% subsidy is retroactive to January 2017. The 2017 subsidy program will take the health plans approximately six to eight weeks to implement, so Minnesotans eligible for the subsidy would begin to see the discounted rate on their April or May premium bills.

Premium relief was a top priority for legislators from both bodies and both parties, myself included. Once it became clear that the premium relief bill had enough votes to pass comfortably, I made the decision to vote "no" on the bill because it includes a concerning provision to allow for-profit HMOs to operate in our state. I am glad that premium relief passed, but am discouraged to see our state place a priority on for-profit HMOs that exist to make a profit for their shareholders first and look out for the best interests of their customers second.

**Funding needed to crack down on tax fraud**

Governor Dayton's budget proposal calls for additional funding for the Minnesota Department of Revenue to crack down on fraud and make the filing process as smooth as possible for Minnesotans. Last year, many Minnesotans experienced delays in receiving their property tax refunds. Revenue Commissioner Cynthia Bauerly testified at a Senate committee hearing on the budget proposal earlier this month outlining the importance of robust funding to assure timely delivery of refunds and to prevent instances of fraud. Bauerly said costs to administer Minnesota's tax system have increased over the past four years and will continue to increase.

**Reports from Your Legislators**

To maintain a fair tax system, the department of Revenue must level the playing field by pursuing people who are the furthest from compliance. No company in Minnesota should have an advantage over law-abiding competitors because the department did not have the resources to bring them into compliance. Additional funding would allow the department to complete more timely and efficient audits to meet customers' needs and support fair and consistent tax policy.

One of the department's most important duties is to make sure taxpayer funds stay out of the hands of criminals. We must adequately fund the department of revenue as they continue to combat the increase in identity theft-related tax fraud.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue opened state individual income tax filing season on January 23, 2017. The filing deadline to submit 2016 tax returns is Tuesday, April 18, 2017, rather than the traditional April 15 date. Filing electronically and choosing direct deposit helps improve the accuracy and security of your return.

**Sen. Roger Chamberlain**

My focus this year is on getting things done that matter to you. In the first month of session, relief was a large part of our agenda; the first two bills we passed provided relief from soaring health insurance premiums and burdensome taxes.

Relief will continue to be a theme of this session, and I will continue to listen to your ideas. Jobs, taxes, schools, and burdensome business regulations are all on our radar. Our goal is to make your life a little easier.

**An update on dyslexia issues**

Regular readers of my newsletter, and those of you who are familiar with me, know that I have been helping parents who have children with dyslexia get access to better, more specialized instruction. This issue first came to my attention when two mothers in my district, Rachel and Heather, set up a meeting with me a number of years ago. They are both mothers of students with dyslexia, and they founded Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota to persuade the legislature that we need to change our approach to teaching dyslexic students. I'm happy to report that we're continuing the fight this year.

Senate File 453 focuses on two goals: First, it appropriates monies for grants to help train teachers who volunteer to learn more about dyslexia, so that we can develop a new set of specialists. The second goal is to make adjustments to the screening process, so that we can better identify dyslexia in struggling students. We won't let any more kids slip through the cracks.

**Rep. Peggy Scott****Minnesota Records Disposition Panel**

In the Civil Law and Data Practices Committee, we listened to a presentation from the Minnesota Records Disposition Panel. What we learned was startling. This group is in charge of setting data retention guidelines for governments and agencies. The government must send



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**Rep. Peggy Scott  
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**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*

February 3th, 2017

**Factoid of the Week:** state and local governments in Minnesota boast a total of 285,000 employees, about equal to the population of Saint Paul, the Capitol City.

**Factoid of the Week:** Union membership in Wisconsin is down nearly 40 percent since Republicans passed legislation known as Act 10 that all but eliminated collective bargaining for public workers, new federal data show.

In 2016, the percentage of public and private workers who were members of unions was 8.1 percent, or 219,000 union members. That's down by 136,000 members, or 38.3 percent, since 2010 levels, the year before passage of Act 10, according to a report released Thursday by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## GRANDPA'S YELLING AGAIN

It's time once again for another edition of "Grandpa's Yelling Again."

"Grandpa," of course, being one United State Senator Al Franken.

As Minnesotans know (painfully), Franken is wont to yell and rant like an old man who's seen one too many kids walk on his lawn.

Decidedly not Minnesota Nice.

This edition concerns Franken's yelling at Senate colleagues John Cornyn (R - TX) and Chuck Grassley (R - IA), chairman of the Senate Judiciary.

Al got all riled up over Sen. Ted Cruz calling Franken out for Franken's attacks on Jeff Sessions, President Trump's Attorney General nominee.

Like a petulant child, Franken just couldn't stop from yelling about Cruz, even after the chairman asked him to stop.

Those tolerant liberals.

## SUPREME COURT CAPERS

While examples of liberal hypocrisy aren't hard to find, like finding crime in Minneapolis or a pot hole in Saint Paul, their conduct over the vacant Supreme Court nominee is something to behold.

Let's start with Democrats criticizing the fact that Trump has a Supreme Court nominee at all.

Democrats urged the GOP - controlled Senate to confirm President Obama's nominee before the 2016 election was held.

The Senate declined to do so, invoking the "Biden Rule."

Yes, that Biden. Joe Biden.

It was Biden in 1992 who called for delaying consideration of Supreme Court justices in an election year, so the "voice of the voters" could

be heard.

No matter. The Democrats called for Merrick Garland, the Obama pick, to be heard before a possible Trump presidency.

Now the Senate Democrats are expressing "grave reservations" about Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch.

By their rhetoric, before Gorsuch has even had an opportunity to testify, you would think he some sort of judicial monster.

By their rhetoric, you would have never guessed that Gorsuch was UNANIMOUSLY confirmed by the Senate on a 95-0 vote for appointment to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

All the way back in 2006.

Who were some of the Democrats in the Senate back then?

Oh, names like Hillary Clinton, Chuck Schumer, Joe Biden, and one Barack Obama.

Now watch as Democrats proceed to tear down Gorsuch as some sort of wholly unqualified ogre.

Of course, Democrats will try to filibuster the Gorsuch nomination.

If that happens, Senate Republicans should simply use the "nuclear option" and strip the 60-vote requirement to move the nomination to a final vote on a simple majority of 51 votes.

Democrats have already changed the rules and invoked the "nuclear option" for lower court nominees and cabinet confirmations.

The damn has already been broken and it was Democrats who broke it.

Republicans should get it done with altogether, especially since Democrats will do it at some point down the road if they don't.

We all know that.

## BAD MONEY

All too often, people decry the influence of money in politics.

But does money really matter all that much in politics?

The short answer is that money indeed matters, but probably not as much as critics claim.

This last election was a dramatic case in point.

If money had indeed mattered a whole lot, the outcome in many elections would have been different.

For example, the liberal Alliance for a Better Minnesota spent a whopping \$6.6 million to back DFL candidates.

The GOP nonetheless gained seats in the House to increase its majority and won a majority in the Senate as well.

Spending by that group dwarfed spending by GOP-aligned counterparts like Freedom Club State PAC, which spent a paltry \$1.6 million by comparison.

The same held true with respect to spending by each of the legislative caucuses.

In the House, the GOP was outspent by the

DFL caucus \$2.9 million to \$4.5 million.

In the Senate, the GOP was outspent by an even greater margin, \$1.36 million to \$5.2 million.

In other words, the GOP was outspent by better than 2 to 1 and still won big victories.

The same held true in the most expensive legislative races, three of which topped \$1 million in total spending, when outside interest group spending is factored in.

Of the ten most expensive races, the GOP won seven of them.

Indeed, millions of dollars can't paper over bad candidates with a bad message.

*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](http://www.AnokaCountyWatchdog.com)

or contact me personally at:

[harold@anokacountywatchdog.com](mailto:harold@anokacountywatchdog.com)

Sincerely,

Harold E. Hamilton, owner.

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## Career Fair February 22 at Anoka Technical College

A career fair featuring 100 local employers will take place Wednesday, February 22, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Anoka Technical College, 1355 U.S. Hwy. 10, Anoka.

High school and college students are invited to attend the fair early, from 10-11 a.m. It is open to the general public from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. The event is free for job seekers.

Industries represented at the fair include health care, manufacturing, retail trade, transportation, financial services, and more. "This event is a great way to find companies with job openings that match your qualifications," said Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah, chair, Anoka County Board. "You'll also have the opportunity to network with other job seekers and talk with recruiters from multiple companies, all in one place."

With 122,281 jobs, Anoka County accounts for 7.2 percent of the metro region's total employment. Anoka County gained 2,280 jobs — a 1.9 percent jump — between 2015 and 2016.

The career fair is sponsored by the Minnesota WorkForce Center in Blaine and Anoka Technical College. Individuals needing an accommodation to attend the career fair may contact Christine at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development at 651-259-7169.

## Library *continued from page 1*

the property is \$750,000 according to the company website, which lists several pieces of Holiday-owned land for sale in multiple states.

Soma said the proceeds from a sale would be earmarked for the Centennial Library project. County Board members thought the parcels were better suited for commercial use anyway.

### Other Library Board action Jan. 23

Chair Dan Greensweig and Vice Chair Linda Backlund were reinstated by the board to serve in those capacities again in 2017. Greensweig reminded the other board members that he will have served three consecutive years as an officer of the library board, and that someone new has to be chosen to fill the role of Chair in 2018. Backlund and board member Tchamong Hurh were absent from the meeting.

Board meeting dates for 2017 were approved: Feb. 27, Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18 and Jan. 22, 2018. Meetings are held at the library offices behind the Northtown Library building unless otherwise re-located.

Library Director Maggie Snow gave a verbal rundown of some of the preliminary 2016 statistics. Circulation of print materials was down again, by 4%, and electronic material was up over 5%. Computer usage and wi-fi sessions went up, and the use of meeting rooms skyrocketed with an 88% increase. This includes the use of the small study rooms.

About 100,000 patron records were recently purged from the ACL rolls. The criteria for purging a library card is eight years of inactivity. Anyone can have their card's borrowing privileges reinstated if it had been let to lapse.

Telephone numbers in the world of Anoka County government will soon be changing, once a new VOIP telephone system is installed. All contact information for the county departments, from print pieces to the web, will have to be updated to reflect the changes. It was thought this would be a good time to also introduce a new library card design from this point on. The new cards will feature a local artist's work on one side of the card.

## Appointment *continued from page 1*

Planning Commission member Connie Buesgens' election to the city council, and Barbara Tantarella resigned from the Library Board in October after having served since 2009. Novitsky was appointed by a vote of 3-1, with Buesgens voting nay. Her preferred candidate was someone who had lived in other cities and could bring a new perspective, she said. The others preferred Novitsky's long-time residency in the city. Conway was Vice Chair of the Library Task Force and was approved unanimously. Schmitt remarked that the appointment ought to please Library Director Renee Dougherty.

An update about the Johnsville Library in Blaine was provided by its manager Elizabeth Ripley. She reported high usage of the library by students; storytime programs for youngsters and programs for teens also remain popular. Chair Greensweig asked how the older students use their time in the library. Ripley thought it was about a 50-50 split between study and research, and entertainment.

The staff of the Johnsville library, Ripley said, is looking for volunteers during the school year. She mentioned that some students, who may be in the National Honor Society or other organizations, may be required to serve as volunteers and the library would like to attract those people with "meaningful, not mindless tasks" to do in the library. The library has been featuring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) materials and ACT preparation as well. Ripley said teenagers seemed to be more interested in volunteering than attending programs.

Volunteer hours for calendar year 2016 were provided in the meeting packet. For all Anoka County libraries combined, there were 3,242 hours donated by teens and 3,089 by adults. These numbers were very close to the 2015 tallies.

Library Director Maggie Snow was given an informal job performance review by the board. She had been the interim director for a few months until being appointed the Library Director last May. Chair Dan Greensweig took comments from the board and summarized that Snow was found to be a dedicated hard worker and members have been impressed by her efforts to research their queries and provide timely answers. They expressed their confidence in Snow with handling the Centennial project.

Among ACL events to come, the annual mini-golf fundraiser for the Friends of the Anoka County Library will be held March 11 at the Rum River Library, and the "read down" program for young people will be held again this June and July. Last year over 500 individuals 'paid off' their library fines by reading for an aggregate 644 hours, upon which the ACL wiped \$2,579 worth of fines off those patrons' records.

Schmitt explained the council had met in the back room just before the televised meeting was to start, interviewed the candidates and deliberated. The candidates were ranked on a points system. Other applicants were Eric Penniston, who is on the city's Charter Commission, Tom Kaiser and Scott Norcross. The names of all the candidates were not mentioned at the televised meeting, nor were their applications included in the meeting packet. The packet also did not indicate which commission each candidate had applied for. — *Bryan Olson for ACR*

## Legislative Updates *continued from page 2*

their data retention policies to the board for approval.

The problem is, there's no actual policing or oversight of these policies. In fact, nobody even makes sure there is a policy all together. Astounding is the simplest way I can put it. Government keeps large amounts of data, and we have to be sure policies and safeguards are in place to ensure this is stored in conjunction with state law, provides transparent government, and protects Minnesotans personal data.

### Commission Appointment

On Tuesday, Speaker Kurt Daudt appointed me to the Legislative Commission on Data Practices. The commission is made up of a bipartisan group of legislators from the House and Senate with a goal "to study issues relating to government data practices and individuals' personal data privacy rights and to review legislation impacting data practices, data security, and personal data privacy." As a data privacy advocate, I'm honored by this appointment, and look forward to ensuring Minnesotans private data is protected by our state.

### Rep. Nolan West

As this is a budget setting year at the State Capitol, Governor Dayton recently presented his budget to the Legislature. He has proposed spending \$45.8 billion on state government programs over the next two years, which would represent a nearly ten percent increase over our current spending total of \$41.5 billion.

Governor Dayton also has tax increases he'd like to implement. \$1.5 billion would be raised over the next two years alone by increases in the gas tax, tab fees, the Metro area sales tax, new license/title surcharges, and more. He also wants a \$1.4 billion tax increase on trips to the doctor by extending the provider tax, otherwise known as the sick tax.

Worth remembering is that Minnesota is also projected to see a \$1.4 billion surplus this year.

Governor Dayton's plan will now be discussed in House committees. Moving forward, know the goal of House Republicans is to work hard for meaningful tax relief and a responsibly-sized state budget that respects hardworking Minnesota taxpayers.

### Rep. Abigail Whelan

#### Anti-BDS Bill

Recently, I introduced House File 639, which is a clone bill of Representative Ron Kresha's House File 400. The bill supports Israel against the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, barring the state of Minnesota from engaging in business contracts with companies who support BDS or a political boycott of Israel.

Fifteen other states have passed similar legislation, and this initiative has bipartisan support in the House.

#### MnDOT Hwy 47 Event

On Thursday, I attended the public meeting hosted by MnDOT to discuss mobility needs along Hwy 47/Ferry Street, a main thoroughfare in our community.

At the meeting the focus was on improving traffic movement and rail safety in this busy part of Anoka. Currently, more than 18,000 vehicles pass through there per day, along with 40-80 trains. On average, a train crosses there every 18 to 36 minutes.

Last session, I introduced legislation for a \$20 million bonding appropriation for the highway-rail grade separation project. This session, I plan to introduce similar legislation to help fund these much-needed transportation improvements.

I am hopeful we can get something accomplished this biennium to improve safety for commuters and families in our community and will continue to work toward that end.



**Rep. Nolan West  
District 37B**  
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**651-296-4226**



**Rep. Abigail Whelan  
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**651-296-1729**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**ANOKA COUNTY HRA AMENDED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

Date: Friday, February 3, 2017  
Anoka County Community Development Department  
325 East Main Street, Suite W250  
Anoka, MN 55303  
763-323-5764

**Request for Request of Funds**

On or about March 13, 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 CDBG funds for the following project:

2016 CDBG 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 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 10, 2017, will be considered by the County of Anoka 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, 2/21, 2017 ACR) #591

**PUBLIC NOTICES UNPAID**

**CITY OF ANDOVER**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. 17-12 RECONSTRUCTION OF 133RD AVE. NW WEST OF CROOKED LAKE BLVD. NW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Andover, Anoka County, Minnesota will meet at the Andover City Hall, 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW in the City of Andover, at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7:00 PM to consider construction of the following improvements:

Reconstruction of 133rd Ave. NW West of Crooked Lake Blvd. NW  
The properties to be

assessed, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 429, for the improvements are within the following described area:

Reconstruction of 133rd Ave. NW West of Crooked Lake Blvd. NW  
The assessment rate is \$3,014.96 for one unit and \$1,843.08 for three units.

Such persons desiring to be heard with reference to the proposed improvements will be heard at this meeting.

**CITY OF ANDOVER**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. 17-12 RECONSTRUCTION OF 133RD AVE. NW WEST OF CROOKED LAKE BLVD. NW

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Reconstruction of 133rd Ave. NW West of Crooked Lake Blvd. NW  
The properties to be assessed, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 429, for the improvements are within the following described area:

Reconstruction of 133rd Ave. NW West of Crooked Lake Blvd. NW  
The assessment rate is \$3,014.96 for one unit and \$1,843.08 for three units.

Such persons desiring to be heard with reference to the proposed improvements will be heard at this meeting.

**CITY OF CIRCLE PINES**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an aeration system is in use on Golden Lake in the City of Circle Pines.

The possibility of open water, or thin ice exists on Golden Lake throughout the winter.

Patrick Antonen  
City Administrator

**CITY OF COLUMBUS**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Variance

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as parties may be heard, in the City Hall located at 16319 Kettle River Blvd., Columbus, Minnesota to consider a request for a variance from the required platting subdivision requirement to a combination of a plat and metes & bounds subdivision of property. The hearing shall continue until all evidence and testimony has been received.

Applicant: Woodlund Development  
Property Owner: Preiner, M V & P L & JRH

Property Location: Vacant Lots - 147th & W. Freeway Drive NE  
Existing Legal Description:

**ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NOTICE OF AUCTION**

Notice is hereby given that the Anoka County Sheriff's Office will be auctioning surplus, found, unclaimed and seized items in an online auction. The online auction can be found on the internet at [www.propertyroom.com](http://www.propertyroom.com). Some of the items that will be auctioned are: bicycles, household items, electronic equipment, tools, sporting goods, computer equipment and jewelry.

The auction billing may be viewed on the Anoka County website at:

<http://www.anokacounty.us/sheriff-auction>

The items for auction will begin appearing no sooner than February 8, 2017. Items will remain on auction until the date indicated by the auction company. Potential buyers can access the site 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you feel you may have claim to the property listed on the Sheriff's Office website, please contact a Property Room Technician at 763-323-5053.

For more information on how to participate in viewing and bidding, log onto [www.propertyroom.com](http://www.propertyroom.com). All sales are subject to the bidder's responsibility for shipping and handling. All sales are final. The Anoka County Sheriff's Office makes no guarantee or warranty, expressed or implied, (of any nature) as to the condition of the items offered. This auction method complies with Minnesota State Statute 345.15.

(Published 2/7, 2017 ACR) #592

THE NE1/4 OF NW1/4 OF SEC 25 TWP 32 RGE 22, SUBJ TO EASE OF REC, ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA PIN#25-32-22-21-0001 AND

and classified by the assessor, and to determine whether corrections need to be made. If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to the county board of appeal and equalization. Given under my hand this 2nd day of February, 2017.

THAT PRT OF NW1/4 OF NW1/4 SEC 25 TWP 32 RGE 22, LYG ELY, NELY AND NLY OF 147TH AVE, EX RD SUBJ TO EASE OF REC, ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA PIN#25-32-22-0004

Elizabeth Mursko,  
Zoning Administrator

**CITY OF COLUMBUS**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Interim Use Permit  
Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as parties may be heard, in the City Hall located at 16319 Kettle River Blvd., Columbus, Minnesota to consider a request for an Interim Use Permit for a residential zoned business. The hearing shall continue until all evidence and testimony has been received.

**CITY OF FRIDLEY**

Public hearing Notice-Vacation, SAV 17-01

PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that there will be a public hearing of the Fridley City Council at the Fridley Municipal Center, 6431 University Avenue N.E. on Monday, February 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

For the purpose of:

Consideration of a Vacation, SAV # 17-01, by E & T Fridley Properties, LLC, to vacate an unimproved portion of 77th Avenue NE, generally located north of 220 77th Avenue NE, legally described as Lot 4, Block 1, East Ranch Estates Third Addition.

Any and all persons desiring to be heard shall be given an opportunity at the above stated time and place. Any questions related to this item may be referred to Stacy Stromberg, Planner, at 763-572-3595.

**CITY OF COON RAPIDS**

Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property

This may affect your 2018 property tax payments. Hearing impaired persons planning to attend who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids should contact Roberta Collins at 763-572-3500 no later than February 21, 2017. The TDD number is 763-572-3534.

**CITY OF FRIDLEY**

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**FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup>**

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<b>Our Price</b>	<b>Rosuvastatin™</b>	<b>\$141</b>			
Generic equivalent of Crestor™				Generic Price for 100mg x 100	

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**Steve Fields**  
Minnesota Attorney

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Public Hearing Notice- hearing of the Fridley Consideration of a Plat Plat, PS 17-01  
PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION  
Notice is hereby given that there will be a public

hearing of the Fridley Planning Commission PS #17-01, by Allina at the Fridley Municipal Health System, to replat the existing Lot 3, of Avenue N.E. on Block 1, Unity Addition February 15, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

For the purpose of:

**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
*continued on page 6*

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

to create 3 lots that will further define and legally describe the parking lot areas.

Any and all persons desiring to be heard shall be given an opportunity at the above stated time and place. Any questions related to this item may be referred to Stacy Stromberg, Planner, at 763-572-3595.

Hearing impaired persons planning to attend who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids should contact Roberta Collins at 763-572-3500 no later than February 8, 2017. The TDD number is 763-572-3534.

**CITY OF RAMSEY**  
Part-Time Administrative Assistant

The City of Ramsey is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. The primary objectives of this position is to provide administrative support to the Assistant City Administrator / Economic Development Manager. Other duties may include: agenda creation, attending City events, scheduling meetings, tracking leases, writing business letters/documents, and updating the City's property listings. The schedule is 20 hours/week and is flexible during the Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 p.m. business week. There are up to four special events per year that will require evening or weekend hours. The 2017 starting wage is \$20.16/hour. Please note that this is an AFSCME union position. Applicants must possess: 1) be at least 18 years of age; 2) high school diploma or equivalent; 3) must have a valid unrestricted drivers' license; 4) must have at least six months of experience in building cleaning, maintenance, and repair or the equivalent in education and/or training.

To apply, download and print the City's application packet below, or they are available for pick-up between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Send application materials via US mail or hand deliver to: City of Ramsey, Human Resources, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, MN 55303. Questions can be directed to Sue

between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Send application materials via US mail or hand deliver to: City of Ramsey, Human Resources, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, MN 55303. Questions can be directed to Sue Hurd at 763.433.9816 or by emailing shurd@cityoframsey.com Applications must be received by 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2017.

To download the packet please visit www.cityoframsey.com/employment

**CITY OF RAMSEY**  
Part-Time Building Maintenance Worker

The City of Ramsey is seeking a part-time Building Maintenance Worker. The primary objectives of this position is to assist in maintaining City facilities including, but not limited to buildings, offices, meeting rooms, the municipal parking facility, fire stations, City parks, Public Works, and the equipment and grounds of the Ramsey Municipal Center. The schedule is 20 hours/week and the selected candidate must have the ability to work within the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. The 2017 starting wage is \$17.65/hour. Please note that this is an AFSCME union position. Applicants must possess: 1) be at least 18 years of age; 2) high school diploma or equivalent; 3) must have a valid unrestricted drivers' license; 4) must have at least six months of experience in building cleaning, maintenance, and repair or the equivalent in education and/or training.

To apply, download and print the City's application packet below, or they are available for pick-up between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Send application materials via US mail or hand deliver to: City of Ramsey, Human Resources, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, MN 55303. Questions can be directed to Sue

Hurd at 763.433.9816 or by emailing shurd@cityoframsey.com Applications must be received by 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2017.

To download the packet please visit www.cityoframsey.com/employment

**FOREST LAKE SCHOOLS**  
IND. SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 831  
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

January 30, 2017

Revised for Publication The following unapproved minutes have been revised for publication and will be approved at the next School Board Meeting. The full text is posted on the district web site, available by standard or email, and for public inspection at the school district offices during normal business hours.

A Special Schl Bd Mtg of the Schl Bd of ISD No. 831, Forest Lk., MN, was called to order by Karen Morehead at 6:01 pm on 1-30-17 at the Schl District Offices. At roll call the following mmbrs were present: Julie Corcoran, Karen Morehead, Luke Odgaard, Jill Olson, Jeff Peterson, and Gail Theisen. Member Rob Rapheal arrived at 6:03 pm

A. Fullenkamp-Taylor and S. Novak from MSBA revwd their superintendent search svcs. They revwd search timeline, hiring criteria, search procedures, stakeholder involvement, and advertising. After conversation, Mmbr Peterson made a motion to appv the supt search calendar as discussed. Mmbr Olson 2nd the motion and all mmbrs voted aye. Mmbr Theisen made a motion to appv the survey as discussed. Mmbr Corcoran 2nd the motion and all mmbrs voted aye. The motions carried.

MSBA will send the appvd calendar and survey to the district office to be posted on the website. The online survey will be open from Feb 1-19, 2017.

As there was no further business, Mmbr

Morehead moved, 2nd by Mmbr Peterson to adjourn. All mmbrs voted aye and the mtg adjourned at 8:17 pm.

**FOREST LAKE SCHOOLS**

Call for Bids - FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS - ISD 831, Century Jr. High Wall Repair 2017 Notice is hereby given that bids will be received by Forest Lake Area Schools - ISD 831 (herein called the owner) at: Independent School District No. 831, Forest Lake Area Schools, District Office, Attention: Larry Martini, 6100 North 210th Street, Forest Lake, Minnesota 55025, until 1:00 p.m. local time on March 3, 2017, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The Project Scope is to remove approximately 7,700 s.f. of existing sheet metal wall panels, replace exterior sheathing, install liquid applied air barrier system, and reinstall sheet metal panels.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. in the main office conference room, Century Jr. High School, 21395 Goodview Avenue North, Forest Lake, Minnesota 55025. The Architect/Engineer and/or School Representatives will review the bidding procedures, bidding documents and other conditions with interested bidders and answer questions.

Bids shall be submitted on the bid forms supplied in the project manual. No oral, facsimile or telephone bids will be accepted. Each bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to Independent School District No. 831, Forest Lake Area Schools, District Office, Attention: Larry Martini, 6100 North 210th Street, Forest Lake, Minnesota 55025. Each sealed envelope containing a bid must be plainly marked on the outside as bid for 2017 Wall Repair - Century Junior High School and the envelope should bear on the outside the name of the bidder, license number if

applicable. If forwarded by mail, the sealed envelope containing the bid must be enclosed in another envelope addressed to Larry Martini at Independent School District No. 831.

The owner may waive any irregularities, informalities or minor defects or reject any or all bids. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the above scheduled time for the opening of bids or authorized postponed thereof. Any bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered and will be returned unopened. No bidder may withdraw a bid within 30 days after the actual date of the opening thereof. Should there be reasons why the contract cannot be awarded within the specified period, the time may be extended by mutual agreement between the owner and the bidder.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond payable to the owner for the five percent of the total amount of the bid. As soon as the bid prices have been compared, the owner will return the bonds of all except the three lowest responsible bidders. When the Contract is awarded, the bonds of the two remaining unsuccessful bidders will be returned. The bid bond of the successful bidder will be retained until the payment bond and the performance bond have been executed and approved, after which it will be returned. A certified check may be used in lieu of a bid bond.

BIDDING DOCUMENTS are as prepared by the Project Architect/Engineer; the ADKINS ASSOCIATION inc., 901 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 101, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102, Joel Severson, Sr. Project Manager, Phone 651-224-1358. Bidding Documents are available for viewing at the ADKINS ASSOCIATION inc. Architects office. Copies are available upon payment of \$50.00 for each set (refundable if returned within 2 weeks after bid opening).

**4-H Offers Winter Camps for Kids!**

Winter camps and outdoor adventures are being offered through the University of Minnesota Extension, Anoka County 4-H. These programs are held at 4-H Camp Salie located in Linwood Township. Camps are open to 4-H and non-4-H youth. These camps encourage learning about nature and the environment, making new friends, and indoor and outdoor recreation! Campers will participate in a variety of crafts and special projects.

Overnight camps:  
February 17-18, 2017 (grades 1-5)  
February 24-25, 2017 (grades 6 and up)  
Day Camp: February 18, 2017 (grades K-5)

For more information and registration form: visit our website at [www.extension.umn.edu/county/anoka](http://www.extension.umn.edu/county/anoka), or call (763) 755-1280.

**VIOLET VIRGINIA LUNDY**

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT  
COUNTY OF ANOKA PROBATE DIVISION  
Estate of Tenth Judicial District  
Violet Virginia Lundy, Decedent Court File No. 02-PR-16-635  
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON  
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT  
OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 14, 2017 at 9:00 AM, a hearing will be held in this Court at Anoka County Courthouse, 325 East Main Street, Anoka, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purported to be the will of the Decedent, dated February 14, 2000, under Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 ("Will") and for the appointment of Paul James Lundy, whose address is: 8533 10th Street, SE, Buffalo, MN 55313 as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 11/17/16 /s/ Tammi Fredrickson, District Court Judge  
Dated: 11/21/16 /s/ Lori Meyer, Court Administrator  
Paul James Lundy  
8533 10th Street SE; Buffalo, MN 55313; (763) 438-7448  
(Published 2/7, 2/14, 2017 ACR) #594

**VENESSA ROSE JOHNSON**

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT  
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
Charles Arthur Pizel Jr Case Type: Harassment  
Petitioner Court File No. 27CV17-49  
vs. Notice of Issuance of  
Venessa Rose Johnson Harassment  
Respondent Order For Relief by Publication

To Respondent named above:  
**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that a Harassment Order for Relief has been issued in the above matter.

You may request a hearing on this matter if you file a Request for Hearing with the Court within 45 days of issuance of the Harassment Order For Relief. You may obtain a copy of the Harassment Order For Relief from the court administrator's office at the following address:

Hennepin County Government Center / B-Level Record Center  
300 South Sixth Street - Minneapolis MN 55487

Failure to appear at a scheduled hearing or to obtain a copy of the Harassment Order For Relief will not be a defense to prosecution for violation of the Court's order.

/s/ Thomas Selisker, Senior Court Clerk  
Dated: 2/2/2017  
(Published 2/7, 2017 ACR) #593

**Anoka County RECORD**  
SINCE 2011

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