

# NEWSBRIEF



**Date:** June 6, 2014

**To:** Council & Senior Staff

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2. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Proclamation Ceremony
3. Channel 12: Shriners parade trailer stolen from Crystal parking lot
4. Crystal Arrest and Crime Activity Reports dated June 4, 2014
5. Ewald at the Capitol dated June 5, 2014
6. Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins – May 2014
7. Joint Water Commission Minutes dated May 7, 2014
8. LMC Cities Bulletin dated June 2, 2014
9. Minnesota House of Representatives Rep. Lyndon Carlson Sr. (45A) Legislative Update
10. Minnesota House of Representative Rep. Lyndon Carlson Sr. (45A) – the Minnesota House Passes Supplemental Budget Package
11. Minnesota House of Representatives Rep. Mike Freiberg (45B) – Legislative Update
12. Minnesota Secretary of State – June 2014 Open Appointment Vacancy Notice
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14. Robbinsdale Area Schools Discover dated May 29 and June 3, 2014
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## Metro Cities News

### May 29, 2014

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#### 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP

##### General Summary

The 2014 Legislature adjourned *sine die* late in the evening on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, slightly ahead of the constitutionally mandated adjournment date of May 19<sup>th</sup>. The session, which convened on February 28<sup>th</sup> and thus functioned under a more compressed timeframe than usual, started with a state budget surplus forecast of \$1.2 billion, the allocation of which required considerable legislative time, negotiation, and compromise. Key results of the session were the passage of two separate tax bills providing over \$500 million in tax relief/cuts, an allocation to the state budget reserve of \$150 million, two capital investment bills (\$846 bonding bill and \$200 million cash bill) and a \$283 million supplemental appropriations bill.

The Legislature passed several significant policy bills, including an increase in the minimum wage, a limited legalization of medical marijuana, the women's economic security act, and a school anti-bullying bill, as well as a variety of "un-session" bills to streamline statutory language across state program areas.

Pointed areas of disagreement this year centered on the size and scope of the capital investment bill and how to spend the surplus, with tension points centering on how much to add to the state budget reserve versus appropriations in areas such as education, human services, economic development and tax relief. Bills to legalize medical marijuana, increase the minimum wage and regulate e-cigarettes were also complicated and contentious affairs, with significant compromises made along the way to the passage of these and other bills.

Below is a recap and status on bills of interest and specific initiatives of Metro Cities.

##### Omnibus Tax Bill One

The Legislature passed an early first tax bill with \$443 million in tax cuts that included federal conformity provisions and a repeal of newly enacted business to business taxes. The bill also allocated \$150 million to the state budget reserve, putting the state budget reserve at \$810 million. The bill contained a significant new policy on the budget reserve, requiring that thirty three percent (33%) of any surplus be required to be allocated to the budget reserve in a November state budget forecast in which the size of the reserve is at less than that recommended by the State's Office of Management and Budget. The first tax bill served to spend nearly half of the \$1.2 budget surplus.

##### Omnibus Tax Bill Two

The second omnibus tax bill, which passed the Legislature on the last day of the 2014 session, included \$45 million in property tax relief provisions, \$4.5 million for aquatic invasive species prevention in 2015 (\$10 million annually beginning in 2016), various income tax credits, and provisions to assist the Lewis and Clark water project in southern Minnesota. The following provisions in the bill are of specific interest to Metro Cities:

- *Local Government Sales tax exemption adjustments.* This year, the LMC initiated legislation to clarify several issues around the new local government sales tax exemption, which Metro Cities supported. The final bill provides a definitive list of inputs for goods and services that are subject to sales tax and are limited to cafes, laundromats, solid waste hauling, solid waste recycling, landfills, golf courses, liquor stores, gas or electric utilities, marinas, and campgrounds. This provision provides important clarity and will reduce administrative complexities around the interpretation of the law. This provision is effective July 1, 2014. The local government sales tax exemption is also expanded to joint powers entities and all special districts, except the Met Council, effective January 1, 2016. The provisions are effective for the Met Council beginning January 1, 2017. The final bill also confirms that "cities" means both statutory and home rule charter cities. There is no MVST exemption provided for maintenance trucks or snow plows.
- *One time expansion to the Homestead Credit Refund (Circuit Breaker) and Renter's Credit programs.* The final bill increases refunds by three percent in 2014 and renter refunds based on rent paid in 2013 by six percent. Metro Cities supports enhancements to direct property tax relief programs.
- *Local Government Aid (LGA) Increase of \$7.8 million.* The LGA reforms passed in 2013 included a proposal to adjust the LGA distribution to allow for population growth and inflation. The proposal was not included as part of the 2013 changes and was again proposed as part of the House second tax bill this year, but not included in the Senate bill. Adjustments to the appropriation help to ensure the new formula can work appropriately and enhances equity in the distribution of aid to the metro area. The final bill includes an appropriation for LGA of \$7.8 million, but without the automatic annual adjustment. The increase was first approved by tax conferees at an amount of \$10.1 million, but the amount was reduced late in the session to assist the Lewis and Clark water system project, which proved to be a key sticking point in the bonding bill negotiations.

The tax bill also corrects a 2013 legislative drafting error in how formula aid is calculated. Click [here](#) to see new LGA amounts for 2014.

- *Deadline extension for city/county preliminary levies.* The bill extends the deadline for cities and counties to certify proposed levies from September 15 to September 30. This proposal was initiated by the Municipal Legislative Commission and supported by Metro Cities.
- *Assistance for Lewis and Clark Water System.* The bill provides local bonding authority for the cities of Worthington and Luverne as well as Nobles and Rock Counties to issue up to \$45 million in bonds without referendum approval and without subjection to statutory net debt limits. The bill also provides annual state debt service aid for the project and allows the affected local entities expanded local sales tax authority to help finance the project.
- *Tax Increment Financing.* The bill includes an extension of the TIF five year rule for redevelopment districts to eight years for districts certified between April 20, 2009 and June 30, 2012. The final language is a modified version of the bill initiated by Metro Cities which extended the rule for districts certified up to June 30, 2013. The bill also allows for local jurisdictions to make the same fiscal disparities elections on economic development TIF districts as is allowed for other types of TIF districts. The bill also includes special law TIF authority for the cities of Bloomington, Eagan, Edina, Maple Grove, Mound, Savage, North Saint Paul and Baxter.
- *Housing Improvement Area (HIA) Authority for Ramsey County.* The bill authorizes the Ramsey County HRA to exercise HIA powers. The city in which an HIA would be established may veto it by resolution. (The language is similar to language passed in 2013 allowing the Dakota County CDA HIA powers. Metro Cities advocated for a local authority approval clause in the 2013 bill that was included in the final legislation).
- *New County Program Aid of \$4.5 million in 2015; \$10 million thereafter* to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, through a formula based on the number of public water access sites in a county and number of parking spaces at access sites. This was a key priority in the Senate tax bill.
- *Dakota County CDA Housing Credit Allocation.* The bill creates new eligibility for projects to use allocations of federal low income housing tax credits in the first round for the Dakota County CDA, with credits available for up to three projects for either new or rehabilitated multifamily housing that is not age restricted and is located in a commuter area close to transit lines or park and ride lots.
- *Special Service District law modifications.* Legislation initiated by Metro Cities to allow mixed use buildings to be included in special service districts was included in the Senate tax bill, but was not included in the final bill. We'll continue working to advance this legislation next session.

#### Supplemental Appropriations Bill

The Minnesota Legislature took an unusual approach to a supplemental appropriations bill this year, addressing appropriations to several state budget areas in a 587 page, comprehensive bill. Priorities of the House, Senate and Governor differed considerably, leading to protracted negotiations, and with the fates of the bonding, taxes and supplemental budget bills inextricably linked. The initial Senate supplemental bill had \$209 million in spending while the House bill included \$318 million. The Governor sought to put a large amount of the \$1.2 billion surplus toward tax relief, an increased budget reserve, and \$162 million towards spending projects. The final bill appropriates \$261.9 in new spending, and contains several items of interest to Metro Cities.

#### Environment/Water

Clean Water funds collected as part of the Legacy sales tax constitutional amendment were allocated for the following purposes:

- \$200,000 St. Croix River water quality monitoring and phosphorous reduction
- \$900,000 surface and drinking water grants
- \$150,000 to help identify strategies for groundwater protection and potential locations for infiltration projects and practices, including potential wetland restoration, enhancement, or creation that would contribute to groundwater recharge, surface water enhancement, and wellhead protection.
- \$100,000 for developing landscaping best management practices in the NEMGMA
- \$400,000 to predesign solutions to address water sustainability in the NEMGMA
- \$100,000 to investigate ways to treat stormwater to enhance surface water or groundwater recharge in the NEMGMA
- \$50,000 to reduce industrial water waste through the University of Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP)
- \$108 million in trunk highway fund spending that includes;
  - o \$20 million to supplement snow and ice removal on trunk highways for FY 2014
  - o \$10 million for pothole repair on state roads for FY 2014
  - o \$6 million for the Transportation Economic Development program for FY 2015
  - o \$25 million for the Corridors of Commerce program in FY 2015
  - o \$13 million for state roads operations and maintenance in FY 2015

#### Legislative Water Commission.

The supplemental bill creates a new legislative water commission. A previous commission was decommissioned in 1994. The commission will be comprised of three members each from the majority and minority caucuses in the House and Senate. The new commission will be tasked with understanding the intricacies of water issues across the state and making recommendations on any water law changes. The commission is expected to meet in the legislative interim. Members will be appointed by caucus leaders.

The budget bill also provides \$4 million for each year of this biennium and \$3 million per year in ongoing funding for state recycling grants known as SCORE funds to pay for increased recycling goals in the metro area.

The bill also includes a waiver of groundwater appropriation fees when re-using storm water. The purpose of the waiver is to mitigate de-incentivizing the re-use of storm water when a project makes it feasible to replace the use of potable water for non-potable projects like irrigation.

#### Economic Development

The supplemental budget bill includes a number of provisions in this area.

#### Broadband Infrastructure Grants

A new statewide broadband infrastructure grant program was created with grants to be awarded from a one-time \$20 million appropriation to the Department of Employment and Economic Development. The program seeks to encourage public-private

partnerships. Cities, counties, Indian tribes, businesses, nonprofits and cooperatives are among the eligible applicants. Grants up to \$5 million will fund no more than fifty percent of a project.

The program establishes two levels for grants. The first priority is for applications to be constructed in 'unserved' areas, defined as households and businesses in areas that do not meet the FCC threshold of 4 megabits per second (mbps) download and 1mbps upload. The secondary priority is for projects to be constructed in 'underserved' areas, defined as households and businesses in areas that do not meet the state broadband speed goal of 10-20 mbps download and 5-10 mbps upload.

In addition to speed priorities, applications will be evaluated on upgraded service to community institutions such as libraries, educational institutions, public safety facilities, and healthcare facilities; upgraded service to economically distressed areas; number of households and businesses served; local community support; and leveraging of other funds in support of the broadband infrastructure improvements. The new law also allows up to three percent of the \$20 million to be used to continue statewide broadband speed mapping.

Metro Cities supported legislation that tied grant funding to broadband speeds rather than geographic location. A number of cities in the metro area would potentially benefit from the program. City officials in developing areas of the metro have noted how slow speeds negatively impact economic development and their competitiveness in attracting businesses and homeowners to their communities. Metro Cities will continue to monitor and report on the grant process.

#### *Job Skills Partnership*

The Minnesota Job Skills Partnership, a program in DEED, will receive a one-time additional appropriation of \$475,000 for workforce development. Metro Cities added policy language in 2013 in support of workforce development programs and funding, with specific support for the Job Skills Partnership.

#### *Minnesota Investment Fund*

Local governments, which apply to DEED for Minnesota Investment Fund grants, will now be able to retain forty percent of the grant, up to \$100,000, when it is repaid. Currently, local governments are able to retain twenty percent up to \$100,000. While cities are currently able to use the retained funds for local economic development efforts, legislators will be examining local use of the funds more closely next session.

#### *Urban Initiative Board*

A one-time appropriation of \$650,000 to the Urban Initiative Board will be used for loans at or below market interest rates, for business technical assistance, or organizational capacity building. The Urban Initiative Program is intended to support the development of nontraditional entrepreneurs, focusing on persons of color and women, in low-income areas of the metro region. 50 percent of the funds must be allocated for projects in the counties of Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington and 50 percent of the funds must be allocated for projects in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, and Scott.

### **Capital Investment Bills**

As is typical for even numbered years, a key focus for legislators was the passage of a comprehensive capital investment bill. Leaders in the House and Senate majorities as well as the Governor originally pushed for a bonding bill of \$1 billion, but Republicans were set on a pre-negotiated \$850 million cap. The final bonding package included a cash bill, with the final package providing \$846 million in bonds and \$200 million in cash.

General highlights of the package include:

- \$240 million in higher education projects
- Over \$100 million for roads, bridges, and transportation
- \$100 million for housing
- \$45 million to the Metropolitan Council
- \$175 million for employment and economic development
- \$22 million for the Lewis and Clark project

The following provisions in the capital investment bills are of interest to Metro Cities.

*Inflow-Infiltration Grants.* The final bill appropriates \$2 million in bonding for inflow-infiltration mitigation grants to metro area communities. This was a Metro Cities' initiative, with an initial request of \$7 million. Metro Cities has previously secured \$7 million for this purpose, and the I/I grant programs resulting from those funds were oversubscribed. The language in the bill this year was amended to expand eligibility to cities that are within 20% of the threshold for being on the Council's "excess" I/I list, in addition to cities that are on the Council's list.

The bonding bill includes \$23 million in local bridge replacement, \$54 million for local road improvement grants, \$15 million for the transit capital improvement program for specific projects and \$4 million for metro regional parks and trails capital improvements.

The bill did not include proposed funding for grants for storm water pond cleanup, pothole repairs or groundwater monitoring wells or a provision that appeared in the Senate bill to preclude the state building code or any subdivision of the state from requiring fire sprinklers in single family homes. The new building code, awaiting approval by the Department of Labor and Industry, requires the installation of fire sprinklers in single family homes that are over 4500 square feet. The new code is expected to go into effect later this year. The Governor has vetoed a sprinkler ban twice in his tenure and threatened to veto the entire bonding bill if the sprinkler ban language had been in the final version.

#### *Housing Bonds*

Two funding streams for housing preservation and construction were included in the two bonding bills. The \$100 million for housing is a marked increase from previous bills. These funds can only be used on publicly-owned housing.

The package included \$80 million in housing infrastructure bonds which can be used to construct, rehabilitate or preserve housing. The funds are awarded on a competitive statewide basis, with a mix of awards going to the metro and greater Minnesota. The proposals are due next month – June 10 for Multi-family proposals and June 17 for Single Family proposals. The increase in funds from this year's legislature will make up to \$110 million available in 2014.

*Redevelopment Grant Program*

Governor Dayton and the Senate proposed funding for the Redevelopment Grant Program, however, no funding was included in the final bonding package signed into law by the governor.

*Innovative Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program*

The Innovative Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program received \$500,000 for grants to local government units for publicly owned physical infrastructure in support of businesses that use proprietary technology and are engaged in innovative businesses. Applications are judged on public benefits, proximity to public transit, and number of jobs created among other factors.

**Un-session Bills***Transit Improvement Areas*

The DEED un-session bill proposed to remove statutory language defining transit improvement areas (TIAs) and the TIA loan program. As defined in statute, a "transit improvement area" means a geographic area designated by the [DEED] commissioner composed of land parcels that are in proximity to a transit station." Over fifty TIAs have been designated.

The transit improvement area statute became law in 2008 with strong support from Metro Cities. While the loan program has never received state funding, the language is important to have in statute for when any future funding becomes available, be it local, state or federal.

Metro Cities and the League of Minnesota Cities opposed removing the language and worked with the department and both Jobs committee chairs to strike the repeal proposal.

**Minimum Wage**

In April, the Governor signed a minimum wage law indexed for inflation. The final bill, HF2091, was a product of compromise and included a phased-in, three year increase to reach \$9.50 an hour (\$8 by August 2014, \$8.50 by August 2015, and \$9.50 by August 2016). The final bill also includes a safety net that allows the state to stop the inflation in times of economic downturn. The minimum wage for small business, those grossing less than \$500,000 annually, will have a smaller wage of \$7.75 an hour enacted by 2016. The final bill, voted along party lines, will move Minnesota as the state with one of the lowest base wages to one of the highest at the end of the three year phase-in.

**Women's Economic Security Act**

This year an effort to break down economic barriers and provide equal opportunities and pay for women was brought forward by a coalition of roughly 100 organizations and individuals. The legislation that formed, HF2536, was a compilation of 9 separate bills and addressed issues ranging from childcare, sick leave, and workplace discrimination to workforce segregation and women-owned businesses. As the first legislation of its kind, it gained national attention and praise, but it wasn't without opposition during the legislative process.

Testifiers in conference committee cited concerns about the wage discloser provision and the definition of the family caregiver status. Metro Cities weighed in along with the League of Minnesota Cities and other organizations with opposition to including family caregiver status under the Human Rights Act with the argument that the language was vague and potentially costly to implement for public employers. The provision was stripped from the bill and replaced with the 'familial status' provision which protects against discrimination in cases against a woman with children or those with elder care responsibilities in hiring, firing, promotion, or compensation decisions. The final bill was met with bipartisan support in both chambers and has been signed into law. To see a highlight of provisions see our previous newsletter.

**Data Practices**

The issue of data security and proper data practices has gained significant attention as recent data breaches on all levels of government and in the corporate world has raised the question of how to protect certain private and unknowingly public data. A bill regulating license plate readers (HF474) did not pass, but several other data practices bills did. The first, HF2405, makes checking account numbers private prohibiting them from being disclosed to the public or any third party request. The second, HF183, was spearheaded by Senator Dibble and Representative Holberg and addresses public employee data access authorization and procedures.

First introduced in 2013, this second bill moved through the legislative process with extensive review and addressed several questions and concerns. The Senate version included a provision that would provide, upon request, the name of the person who accessed data even in a legal situation. The end product did not include the Senate provision and states if a breach involved unauthorized access of data by an employee, contractor, or agent of the government the report must include: a description of the data accessed, the number of people whose data was accessed, whether there was final disposition of disciplinary action, and, in specific situations, the name of employee determined responsible.

In addition to these bills, Representative Holberg and Senator Dibble worked to pass SF2066, creating a Legislative Commission on Data Practices and Personal Data Privacy to study issues relating to government data practices, security, and privacy. The commission, consisting of five senators and five representatives, will be a source of expertise on the increasingly important issue of data practice and privacy and will review any legislative proposals relating to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

**Transportation Funding**

Transportation turned out to be the issue that wasn't this biennium. Despite major proposals for a new infusion for transportation spending, there was no new long term funding made available for transportation. An increase in gas and transit sales taxes made it to conference committee last session but never made it to a floor vote in either the House or Senate this year. The state business chamber was not supportive, and the Governor and Legislative leaders did not rally around a specific proposal. This leaves the issue of transportation as a likely major campaign piece as the Governor and House head to the campaign trail.

Metro Cities joined a diverse coalition of local government, transportation, transit, labor and health advocates named Move MN, to work together toward the goal of supporting a comprehensive transportation funding package. The House and Senate Transportation Finance Committees heard and passed the comprehensive funding bill being promoted by Move MN this session. The recommendation included a 5% sales tax on gasoline at the wholesale level to augment the gas tax for road construction and

maintenance, and a ¼ cent increase in the metropolitan area sales tax to fund transit, bike, and pedestrian projects.

The coalition's message was that new funding will enable the state to properly maintain and improve transportation assets that expand access and opportunity for all and create living wage jobs, and will improve efficiency and affordability for individuals and businesses. Move MN advocated for a transportation funding package that is comprehensive, balanced, sustainable, and dedicated to transportation.

While no package passed this year, there is a sustaining effort to position the coalition to keep transportation funding front and center in 2014 campaign season to be better positioned for a new push in 2015.

#### **Street Improvement Districts**

Street Improvement Districts suffered a fate akin to the overall transportation funding package. Significant progress in advancing this legislation was made in 2013, but the issue failed to gain traction in the 2014 session. The legislation had passed several committee hurdles and was parked in the Tax Committee at the start of the 2014 session, but ultimately the focus of this year's tax bills were on tax relief and cuts, with little legislative interest in raising fees.

Late in the session, as the winter receded and potholes surfaced, proposals emerged to appropriate one time money to help local governments deal with pothole repairs. Metro Cities signed a joint letter with the League of Minnesota Cities, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, Municipal Legislative Commission and the Minnesota Association of Small Cities that asked instead for the passage of the street improvement district initiative to help cities deal with the long term problem of street maintenance and pothole avoidance. The letter was delivered to the Governor and Legislative leaders of all four caucuses.

Metro Cities will work proactively to include street improvement district authorization in any comprehensive transportation funding package in the 2015 session.

#### **Groundwater Management Area Advisory Team Changes**

Language clarifying the role and make-up of groundwater management area advisory teams set up by the DNR when a groundwater management area is designated passed as part of the omnibus environment policy bill, [HF2733](#). The new language requires that an advisory team be assembled when designating a groundwater management area and it must be comprised of a majority of public and private water appropriation permit holders. The DNR Commissioner must consult with the advisory team at least 30 days prior to implementing or modifying a groundwater management plan.

The Groundwater Management Area in the north and east metro was already in place before the legislation took effect and the DNR is currently trying to figure out if the makeup of the existing groundwater management area advisory team has to be altered to conform to the new law.

#### **Liquor Bill**

The omnibus liquor bill, [SF2336](#), passed late in session after a push to allow for Sunday liquor sales fell short. A broad repeal of the ban of Sunday sales did not have enough widespread support in the House or the Senate, but an attempt to allow Sunday sales at taprooms passed in part. Taprooms, with approval from local governments, can now be open on Sundays but because of opposition from the Teamsters, cannot sell refillable growlers which are typically taken home. Other special laws passed as part of the liquor bill including the allowance for later closing times for two days in conjunction with the Major League Baseball All-Star game in July and the sunset repeal on liquor sales at the University of Minnesota at TCF Bank stadium allowing for sales of beer and liquor for Vikings and Gopher home games to continue.

#### **Online Voter Registration System**

Legislation allowing for an online voter registration system in Minnesota took a unique path to becoming law. Secretary of State Mark Ritchie authorized an online voter registration program last fall without legislative authority making Minnesota the 19<sup>th</sup> state to allow for online voter registration. The online registration system was ruled illegal in court because it had not been authorized by the Legislature. The system operated from September to April allowing 3600 people to register online. The day it was to be dismantled by a court order, the Governor signed legislation into law allowing it to continue. Despite a court case and the contentious method by which it became law, the online voter registration passed the legislature nearly unanimously in the House, 129-2, and on a 41-24 bipartisan vote in the Senate.

#### **Medical Marijuana**

Effective July 2015, several thousand Minnesotans will have access to medical marijuana after a long battle in the legislature. The bill, the strictest in the nation, allows for two manufacturers and eight distribution sites throughout the state and a patient observational study with a registry program. The final compromised bill is a product of enormously different Senate and House versions, the cautious stance of the Governor and strong opposition of law enforcement. The final bill allows the use by those with cancer associated with chronic pain, nausea or severe vomiting or wasting; glaucoma; HIV/AIDS; Tourette's; ALS; seizures including epilepsy; severe muscle spasms from MS; Crohn's disease; terminal illness in specific cases; and any condition approved by the commissioner. While the law prohibits smoking and bars access to any plant form of the drug it does allow for the use of whole plant extracts to vaporize.

The bill passed with wide bipartisan support, but some felt the strict compromise left many out as both PTSD and chronic pain were excluded from the final list of qualifying conditions. The law has yet to be signed by the Governor, but he has stated he supports the compromised bill.

#### **Electronic Cigarettes**

The issue of E-cigarettes has gained national attention with its increasingly wide-spread use and contentious debate that has weighed potential harms/benefits of the product. The issue proved to be a controversial, yet bipartisan issue this session.

A standalone bill, [SF2027](#) Sheran/ [HF1931](#) Halverson, did not proceed through the legislative process, but language was amended onto the Health and Human Services bill ([HF2402](#)). The Senate's position differed from the House as it included a provision to add e-cigarettes to the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act. While the House author Rep. Liebling supported the Senate language, she made it clear there was not support for it to pass off the House floor. A compromise between the two positions led to

language banning e-cigarettes in city and state government buildings as well as any building owned or operated by a politician subdivision. This includes public schools, daycare facilities and clinics, but would allow cities or individual businesses to adopt a more rigid ban of both the sale and use of e-cigarettes if it chose to. The final language also prohibits the sale to anyone under the age of 18 as well as the sale of e-cigarettes from kiosks.

#### Smartphone Antitheft 'Killswitch'

A consumer protection bill, [SF1740](#), was passed session that requires a kill switch function in all new phones sold in Minnesota after July 1, 2015. The anti-theft measure allows smartphone owners to remotely disable their phone if lost or stolen, thus reducing any incentive for theft.

Also included in the bill is a provision brought forth by Senator Dziedzic regarding device acquisition and resale requirements. A wireless device dealer would be required to keep a record of device purchases and resale with information such as the VIN number, date, name and address of seller, a copy of any form of identification, and statement that it is not a stolen device. Modeled after a 2008 law concerning copper being stolen from salvage yards and sold for cash, this provision also bars against any cash payment for any wireless device.

#### Legislative Retirements

This year 14 members of the Minnesota House of Representatives, with 133 years of combined government service, made the decision to retire as lawmakers. Many come as the entire Minnesota House is up for re-election in November. The list includes: Rep. Paymar, DFL-St. Paul; Rep. Benson, R-Rochester; Rep. Kieffer, R-Woodbury; Rep. Huntley, DFL-Duluth; Rep. Benson, DFL-Minnetonka; Rep. Zellers, R-Maple Grove; Rep. Leidiger, R-Mayer; Rep. FitzSimmons, R-Albertville; Rep. Myhra, R-Burnsville; Rep. Beard, R-Shakopee; Rep. Brynaert, DFL-Mankato; Rep. Woodard, R-Belle Plaine; Rep. Abeler, R-Anoka; and Rep. Holberg, R-Lakeville. No Senators have stated they are retiring.

#### Capitol Restoration

The Minnesota Legislature included \$126.3 million in the bonding bill to finish the three-year comprehensive State Capitol restoration project. The project aims to restore and preserve the Capitol building and update the infrastructure. Primary issues cited include inefficient/aging mechanical, electrical and plumbing, safety and security, inadequate hearing rooms and office space, and lack of amenities and visitor services. This renovation, already in progress, will ramp up now that session is adjourned and offices located in the Capitol will soon be relocated. Senate offices will move to the Centennial building and the Governor's offices to the Veterans building. To see the weekly construction updates click [here](#).

During construction, the Capitol will remain open to the public and the State will continue to conduct its business during regular legislative sessions. The 2015 session, however, may have a few renovation obstacles as committee rooms, offices, and even the chambers will have limited access. We will update on the state of Capitol renovations closer to the start of next session.

#### Other Bills of Note

The 2014 session of the 2013-2014 biennium saw a total of 2842 bills introduced, 313 of which have been sent to the Governor for signature. Even as the legislature adjourned sine die, many high profile bills - some controversial, some bipartisan - saw their way through.

Some additional bills of note this year, some of which passed the Legislature, include:

[SF 2031 Reinert/HF2590](#) Loon – Authorizing cities to allow for Sunday liquor sales

\*[SF2166 Hawj/HF2566](#) Mahoney- Authorizing meetings by telephone or other electronic means

\*[SF 2255 Kent / HF 2319Nelson](#) – Permits additional investment authority for the Met Council

[SF2817 Carlson/HF3225](#) Isaacson- modifying membership of nominating committee for Met Council Members (Metro Cities initiative)

[HF2788 Uglem](#)- providing staggered terms of Met Council members (Metro Cities initiative)

\*[SF2028 Reinert/HF2446](#) Simonson- grants the Board of Pharmacy a cease and desist authority to prevent the sale of synthetic drugs

[SF1152 Pederson/HF1286](#) Dorholt- provides local governments authorization to choose websites as an alternative publication method for public notices

\*[SF1740 Sieben/ HF1952](#) Atkins -Smart phone antitheft (kill switch) protection and cellphones resale

\*[SF783 Dibble/ HF826](#) Davnie-safe and supportive schools provided by prohibiting bullying

\*[SF2214 Champion/ HF2576](#) Melin- expungement of criminal records and eviction records provisions modifications

\*Indicates the bill became law

Metro Cities would like to thank the many city officials who testified at the Capitol, called, or wrote to their legislators on behalf of bills of significance to metropolitan area cities. The 2015 legislative session will begin on January 6, 2015.

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# Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

## *Proclamation Ceremony*

**HONOR + EMBRACE + SUPPORT**

Join the Quad Cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope & Robbinsdale to show your support for our local service members. The proclamation will take place during the regularly scheduled Crystal Airport Open House and Fly-in beginning at 9:00 am.

Date: Sunday, June 15

Time: 10:30 am

Location: Crystal Airport (5800 Crystal Airport Road, Crystal, MN 55429)



**Guest Speaker:**

**U.S. Senator Al Franken**

“As a Senator, I have the chance to make sure our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and Airmen get all the support they deserve.”



**Guest Speaker:**

**Congressmen Keith Ellison**

“We will be measured by how we take care of those who risk it all to defend our nation. We can and should do better for America’s veterans.”



**Keynote Speaker: Colonel James T. Johnson**

Colonel James T. Johnson is the commander of the 133rd Airlift Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard, St. Paul, Minnesota. The 133rd Airlift Wing is comprised of the 133rd Operations Group which includes the 109th Airlift Squadron, the 133rd Maintenance Group, 133rd Medical Group, and the 133rd Mission Support Group

**What is Beyond the Yellow Ribbon?**

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a comprehensive program that creates awareness for the purpose of connecting service members and their families with community support, training, services and resources within the communities of Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope and Robbinsdale

For more information about this event, contact: [Julie.Deshler@crystalmn.gov](mailto:Julie.Deshler@crystalmn.gov)

Channel 12  
6-2-14

### Shriners parade trailer stolen from Crystal parking lot

Share this page:



Whenever they perform, they ride along on a \$46,000 trailer that they've owned since 1998.

But now, their parade performances may be in jeopardy thanks to the work of thieves.

"They should just know that what they've taken away is not just a piece of aluminum or a trailer," said Dave Hanson, director of the Zuhrah Shrine steel drum band. "They've taken away a lot of joy and excitement and enthusiasm from little kids along the parade route."

The Shriners float is a familiar staple in the northwest metro ever year at different parades. You can see the Shriners playing their steel drums on the 40-foot trailer.

But sometime between late Friday night and early Saturday morning, they say someone came by and hauled the trailer away from their parking lot along West Broadway Ave in Crystal.

With the parade season kicking off, they're not quite sure how they're going to perform if the trailer isn't recovered.

"We're looking for alternatives for parade floats, but we've only found floats that are about a third the size that we need, so we're working on that," Hanson said.

Even though it's a \$46,000 trailer, the Shriners say they don't think the thieves would use it for scrap metal because the aluminum is only worth about \$500. They're asking anyone who may have seen anything to call 911 or the Crystal Police Department.

The first parade they're scheduled to participate in is June 21 in Faribault.

Delane Cleveland  
[dclleveland@twelve.tv](mailto:dclleveland@twelve.tv)

June 2, 2014

Channel 12 proudly serves the northwest suburbs of Minneapolis, Minnesota, including Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth and Robbinsdale.

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**Northwest Community Television - Channel 12**  
6900 Winnetka Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428  
**Main Phone:** 763-533-8196

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# Crystal Arrest Report

Includes the 7 days previous to: 06/04/2014 6:02 AM

<u>Case Nbr</u>	<u>Juv</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date Arrested</u>
CYAR14-011569	N	YOUNG	TYMON	SCOTT	M	35	05/28/2014 9:01 PM
		Address: 3639 SNELLING AV		MINNEAPOLIS		MN 55406	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-1 TRAF-DUI 1ST DEGREE					
CYAR14-011569	N	YOUNG	TYMON	SCOTT	M	35	05/28/2014 9:01 PM
		Address: 3639 SNELLING AV		MINNEAPOLIS		MN 55406	
		Statute: 169A-35-3 TRAF-OPEN BOTTLE-DRIVER/PASSENGER POSSESS					
CYAR14-011569	N	YOUNG	TYMON	SCOTT	M	35	05/28/2014 9:01 PM
		Address: 3639 SNELLING AV		MINNEAPOLIS		MN 55406	
		Statute: 171-24-2 TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION					
CYAR14-011569	N	YOUNG	TYMON	SCOTT	M	35	05/28/2014 9:01 PM
		Address: 3639 SNELLING AV		MINNEAPOLIS		MN 55406	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-5 TRAF-DUI 1ST DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/I 2 HOURS					
CYAR14-011573	N	ABDELHAFIZ	AHMED	BAHAA	M	23	05/29/2014 12:30 PM
		Address: 609-2242-2 ASSAULT-DOM ASSAULT-GROSS MISD					
CYAR14-011573	N	ABDELHAFIZ	AHMED	BAHAA	M	23	05/29/2014 12:30 PM
		Address: 609-72-1 DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT					
CYAR14-011462	N	MILLER	JACLYN	LEIGH	F	35	05/29/2014 3:15 PM
		Address: 7000 82 AV N		BROOKLYN PARK		MN 55429	
		Statute: 518B-01-14-B DOMESTIC ABUSE-VIOLATE ORDER FOR PROTECTION-MISDEMEANOR					
CYAR14-011616	N	GRAY	MARCUS	D'ANGELO	M	26	05/29/2014 7:41 PM
		Address: 609-72-1 DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT					
CYAR14-011616	N	GRAY	MARCUS	D'ANGELO	M	26	05/29/2014 7:41 PM
		Address: 609-52-2-1 THEFT-VEH MOTOR VEHICLE					
CYAR14-011616	N	GRAY	MARCUS	D'ANGELO	M	26	05/29/2014 7:41 PM
		Address: 609-2242-1-2 ASSAULT- DOMESTIC ASSAULT-MISD					
CYAR14-011790	N	QUINN	PAUL	DANIEL	M	46	05/31/2014 6:23 PM
		Address: 3965 WISCONSIN AV N		NEW HOPE		MN 55427	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-1 TRAF-DUI 2ND DEGREE					
CYAR14-011800	N	LLANAS	VINCENTE	RENE	M	55	05/31/2014 7:45 PM
		Address: 609-72-1 DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT					
CYAR14-011800	N	LLANAS	VINCENTE	RENE	M	55	05/31/2014 7:45 PM
		Address: 609-2242-1-2 ASSAULT- DOMESTIC ASSAULT-MISD					
CYAR14-011820	N	ORTEGA	ELIUD		M	33	06/01/2014 2:01 AM
		Address: 8225 IDAHO AV N		BROOKLYN PARK		MN 55445	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-5 TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/I 2 HOURS					
CYAR14-011820	N	ORTEGA	ELIUD		M	33	06/01/2014 2:01 AM
		Address: 8225 IDAHO AV N		BROOKLYN PARK		MN 55445	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-1 TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE					
CYAR14-011902	N	FISHER	ANDRE	LEMARCO	M	32	06/02/2014 2:22 AM
		Address: 4913 WINCHESTER LN		BROOKLYN		MN 55429	
		Statute: 171-24-2 TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION					
CYAR14-011902	N	FISHER	ANDRE	LEMARCO	M	32	06/02/2014 2:22 AM
		Address: 4913 WINCHESTER LN		BROOKLYN		MN 55429	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-1 TRAF-DUI 2ND DEGREE					

# Arrest Report

<u>Case Nbr</u>	<u>Juv</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date Arrested</u>
CYAR14-011902	N	FISHER	ANDRE	LEMARCO	M	32	06/02/2014 2:22 AM
		Address: 4913 WINCHESTER LN		BROOKLYN	MN	55429	
		Statute: 169A-20-2	TRAF-DUI 2ND DEG REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO TEST				
CYAR14-011902	N	FISHER	ANDRE	LEMARCO	M	32	06/02/2014 2:22 AM
		Address: 4913 WINCHESTER LN		BROOKLYN	MN	55429	
		Statute: 609-66-1-4	WEAPON-POSSESS SWITCHBLADE OR METAL KNUCKLES				
CYAR14-011922	N	GADE	CHRIS	JOHN	M	43	06/02/2014 11:45 AM
		Address: 6931 PERRY AV N		BROOKLYN	MN	55429	
		Statute: MISWA	MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST				
CYAR14-011995	N	GATLIN	DAVID	MICHAEL	M	23	06/03/2014 1:18 AM
		Address: 7201 36 AV N	216	CRYSTAL	MN	55427	
		Statute: MISWA	MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST				
CYAR14-012000	N	MALACHEK	RICHARD	THOMAS	M	23	06/03/2014 2:42 AM
		Address: 6032 64 AV N		BROOKLYN PARK	MN	55429	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-1	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE				
CYAR14-012000	N	MALACHEK	RICHARD	THOMAS	M	23	06/03/2014 2:42 AM
		Address: 6032 64 AV N		BROOKLYN PARK	MN	55429	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-5	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/I 2 HOURS				
CYAR14-012000	N	MALACHEK	RICHARD	THOMAS	M	23	06/03/2014 2:42 AM
		Address: 6032 64 AV N		BROOKLYN PARK	MN	55429	
		Statute: 169-14-2-D	TRAF-SPEEDING - MORE THAN 20 MPH OVER POSTED LIMIT				

End of Report



**CRYSTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA REPORT**  
**CASE ACTIVITY: Previous 7 Days prior to**

**06/04/2014 6:02 AM**

CASE NO	LOCATION	OFFENSE	VALUE	PROP DESCR	DTE
CY14-011913	CO RD 81&BASS LAKE	ACC-MOTOR VEHICLE PROPERTY			06/02/2014 9:45
CY14-011573	57- ADAIR AV N	ASSAULT-DOMESTIC ASSAULT			05/28/2014 16:00
CY14-011616	27- BRUNSWICK AV N	ASSAULT-DOMESTIC ASSAULT			05/29/2014 16:30
CY14-011800	48- YATES AV N	ASSAULT-DOMESTIC ASSAULT			05/31/2014 19:27
CY14-011573	57- ADAIR AV N	ASSAULT-DOM ASSAULT			05/28/2014 16:00
CY14-011679	34- KYLE AV N	BURGLARY-FORCED-RES-DAY	1,000	1 SONY 42 TO 48 INCH TV	05/30/2014 11:30
CY14-011679	34- KYLE AV N	BURGLARY-FORCED-RES-DAY	0	MISC JEWELRY ITEMS - UNK	05/30/2014 11:30
CY14-011679	34- KYLE AV N	BURGLARY-FORCED-RES-DAY	20	\$20 IN CASH	05/30/2014 11:30
CY14-011606	68- 47 AV N	CRIMINAL DAMAGE PROP	0	GRAFFITI ON PARK BUILDINGS	05/28/2014 15:00
CY14-011676	51- KENTUCKY AV N	CRIMINAL DAMAGE PROP	0	GRAFFITI ON PARK BENCHES	05/30/2014 12:33
CY14-011573	57- ADAIR AV N	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			05/28/2014 16:00
CY14-011573	57- ADAIR AV N	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			05/28/2014 16:00
CY14-011616	27- BRUNSWICK AV N	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			05/29/2014 16:30
CY14-011800	48- YATES AV N	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			05/31/2014 19:27
CY14-011582	60- 56 AV N	FLEEING POLICE OFFICER			05/29/2014 0:02
CY14-011590	51 AV N/DOUGLAS DR	FOUND PROPERTY		FOUND BICYCLE	05/29/2014 5:55
CY14-011975	41- DOUGLAS DR N	FOUND PROPERTY			06/02/2014 20:03
CY14-011978	41- DOUGLAS DR N	FOUND PROPERTY			06/02/2014 20:18
CY14-011653	53- 36 AV N	GOVT-PROBATION VIOLATION			05/29/2014 23:54
CY14-011683	38- ADAIR AV N	JUV			05/30/2014 15:37
CY14-011674	51- EDGEWOOD AV N	JUV			05/30/2014 10:48
CY14-011582	60- 56 AV N	JUV			05/29/2014 0:02
CY14-011539	57- 56 AV N	JUV			05/28/2014 7:00
CY14-011582	60- 56 AV N	JUV			05/29/2014 0:02
CY14-011724	65- 43 AV N	LOST PROPERTY			05/31/2014 0:49

CASE NO	LOCATION	OFFENSE	VALUE	PROP DESCR	DTE
CY14-011638	55 AV N&SHERBURNE AV	MISC			05/29/2014 21:10
CY14-011821	60-- LAKELAND AV N	MISC			06/01/2014 2:18
CY14-011935	55-- UNITY AV N	MISC			05/29/2014 0:00
CY14-011981	57-- 32 AV N	RECOVERED STOLEN PROPERTY		1 BLACK SAMSONITE BAG	06/02/2014 21:24
CY14-011753	51-- 56 AV N	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY			05/31/2014 10:35
CY14-011502	32-- EDGEWOOD AV N	THEFT-BICYCLE	60	1 MAGNA QWEST SILVER MTN	05/28/2014 9:32
CY14-011608	53-- 36 AV N	THEFT-FROM VEHICLE	160	1 BLK WALLET/CHECKBOOK	05/29/2014 8:30
CY14-011608	53-- 36 AV N	THEFT-FROM VEHICLE	0	APPROXIMATELY 30 CHECKS	05/29/2014 8:30
CY14-011608	53-- 36 AV N	THEFT-FROM VEHICLE	0	1 MN DL	05/29/2014 8:30
CY14-011859	70-- 36 AV N	THEFT-OTHER PROPERTY	375	\$375 IN CASH	05/30/2014 0:00
CY14-011587	53-- 36 AV N	THEFT-SHOPLIFTING	0	UNKNOWN AMT OF GARDEN	05/29/2014 2:59
CY14-011867	53-- 36 AV N	THEFT-SHOPLIFTING			06/01/2014 16:55
CY14-011616	27-- BRUNSWICK AV N	THEFT-VEH MOTOR VEHICLE			05/29/2014 16:30
CY14-011751	57-- WEST BROADWAY	THEFT-VEH MOTOR VEHICLE			05/30/2014 22:30
CY14-011553	56-- WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-ACC H&R PD - MV UNOCCUPIED			05/28/2014 18:10
CY14-011653	53-- 36 AV N	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER CANCELLATION			05/29/2014 23:54
CY14-011569	36 AV N&JERSEY AV N	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION			05/28/2014 20:40
CY14-011902	56 AV N&CO RD 81	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION			06/02/2014 2:03
CY14-011851	56 AV N&RHODE ISLAND	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION			06/01/2014 14:47
CY14-011569	36 AV N&JERSEY AV N	TRAF-DUI 1ST DEG ALCOHOL CONC			05/28/2014 20:40
CY14-011902	56 AV N&CO RD 81	TRAF-DUI 1ST DEGREE			05/28/2014 20:40
CY14-011790	36-- DOUGLAS DR N	TRAF-DUI 2ND DEG REFUSAL			06/02/2014 2:03
CY14-011902	56 AV N&CO RD 81	TRAF-DUI 2ND DEGREE			05/31/2014 18:03
CY14-011989	CORVALLIS AV N&WEST	TRAF-DUI 2ND DEGREE			06/02/2014 2:03
CY14-011989	CORVALLIS AV N&WEST	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG ALCOHOL CONC			06/02/2014 23:09
CY14-011820	42 AV N&DOUGLAS DR N	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEGREE			06/02/2014 23:09
CY14-011989	CORVALLIS AV N&WEST	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC			06/01/2014 1:53
CY14-012000	CO RD 81 & AIRPORT RD	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC			06/02/2014 23:09
CY14-011820	42 AV N&DOUGLAS DR N	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE			06/03/2014 2:33
CY14-011989	CORVALLIS AV N&WEST	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE			06/01/2014 1:53
CY14-012000	CO RD 81 & AIRPORT RD	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE			06/02/2014 23:09
CY14-011851	56 AV N&RHODE ISLAND	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE			06/03/2014 2:33
CY14-011569	36 AV N&JERSEY AV N	TRAF-NO PROOF OF INSURANCE			06/01/2014 14:47
CY14-011851	56 AV N&RHODE ISLAND	TRAF			05/28/2014 20:40
CY14-012000	CO RD 81 & AIRPORT RD	TRAF-SPEEDING			06/01/2014 14:47
		TRAF-SPEEDING			06/03/2014 2:33

DTE  
06/02/2014 2:03

VALUE PROP DESCR

OFFENSE  
WEAPON-POSSESS SWITCHBLADE OR  
End of Report

CASE NO LOCATION  
CY14-011902 56 AV N&CO RD 81

# ewaldatthecapitol

June 5, 2014

## The Focus Shifts

With the legislative session now complete and the ink from Gov. Mark Dayton's signature on many bills still drying, it is now time for many to shift focus to the campaign trail. While it is safe to say that a number of candidates had one eye on the upcoming races during session, after this past weekend candidates now have tunnel vision as they focus on re-election or knocking off incumbents.

We at Ewald Consulting are also looking ahead to November. As the campaigns heat up and the races get tighter, we will spend some time volunteering and helping to re-elect legislators who have worked with us on behalf of our clients. We will also meet new candidates over the summer, and begin working to educate them regarding the issues we work on so we can make connections before the first day of session in 2015.

Campaign time is also a great opportunity for you and your organization to talk with candidates about your legislative issues. Over the next few months, candidates will host fundraisers, door knock, walk in parades and host forums. These provide perfect opportunities to educate candidates and allow for you to become a resource.

While the focus will shift, not everything from session is behind us. We will continue to re-

view the 2014 session, the changes that came out of it, and what those mean for our clients. July 1 and August 1 are important dates when many new laws take effect, so we will share that information and session recaps with you through the summer at conferences. If you have questions from the 2014 session, please reach out to your lobbyist (see list at right for contact information).

## Candidate Filing Period Closes with a Few Surprises

On Tuesday, June 3, the filing period closed for candidates to run for election this November. With everyone up for election in Minnesota except for State Senators and U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, a few surprises shook out Tuesday afternoon. The first unexpected event was a fire alarm that caused an evacuation for more than an hour at the State Office Building. The alarm did not stop the Secretary of State's staff from processing candidate filings. They jumped to action and set up a mobile station outdoors as the 5 p.m. deadline loomed.

While many thought that would be possibly the most interesting thing to come from the day, the real surprise came 15 minutes before closing time. Former DFL House Minority Leader Matt Entenza, who unsuccessfully ran for governor in 2010, filed to run for State Auditor against incumbent Rebecca Otto. According to the me-

They said it:

*"We need an auditor who will fight more aggressively to protect pensions, go after corporate giveaways at the local level. An auditor should scrutinize education spending to see why the achievement gap is still so bad, and the auditor also has to stand up on civil rights and civil liberties issues."*

*- Former House DFL Legislator Matt Entenza, who surprised many and filed at the last minute to challenge State Auditor Rebecca Otto in the Aug. 12 DFL primary.*

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dia, there were rumors that he was mulling the idea of running. Hours after the filing, a number of current and former legislators were backing Otto, who received the party's endorsement last weekend at the DFL Convention.

In the House, one surprise stood out: The DFL did not get anyone to run against current House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt (R-Crown). While a campaign to unseat Daudt most likely would have been an uphill battle, Daudt will have no opponent to keep him busy in his own district. Historically, parties try to find a candidate to run against the opposing party's leaders in an attempt to keep them from participating and helping other candidates. Daudt is one of six GOP incumbents with no challenger. Rep. Kim Norton (DFL-Rochester) was the only DFLer to go unchallenged.

The Secretary of State's office manages candidate filing for the 2014 general election. View all candidates who have filed to run for office.

A few facts (as of closing of filing) about the upcoming House elections and how the races will shape up:

- Primary Elections: No primary - 118 seats, DFL primary - 8, Republican primary - 10, Both DFL and Republican primaries - 2
- Seats with Filed Candidates: One candidate - 7 seats, two candidates - 108, three candidates - 16, four candidates - 2, five candidates - 1
- Running Unopposed: Unopposed Republican incumbents - 6; Unopposed DFL incumbents - 1

## Gov. Dayton Wraps Up Action on Bills

Last Friday, Gov. Dayton took action on the final bills that were pending following adjournment of the 2014 legislative session. With two bills pending, Dayton opted to sign one and use his veto power on the other. With strong bipartisan support coming out of the legislature, Dayton vetoed Senate File 2642, the lawful gambling bill. The bill would have prohibited the director of the state lottery from offering casino-style games and would have suspended the sale of certain lottery tickets through a website or self-service devices. This passed the House 126-2 and the Senate 56-5.

Dayton's veto of the gambling bill was only the second veto issued this session. The other bill was also vetoed after adjournment of the session. SF 1170 dealt with private contractors performing a government function under a contract. That bill passed unanimously in both chambers.

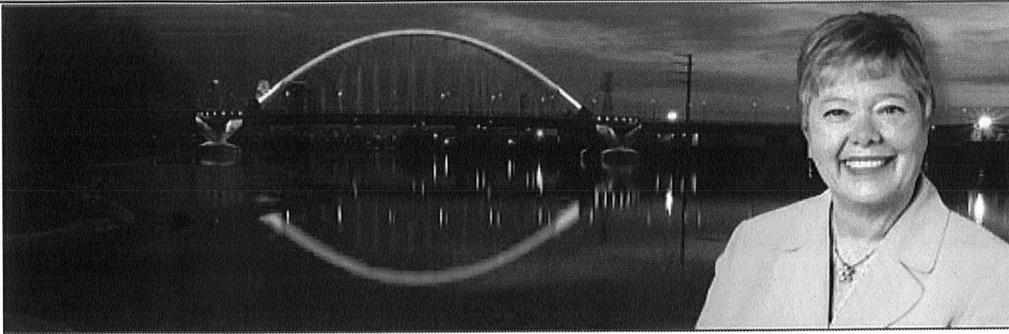
Review the actions taken by Gov. Dayton on legislation sent to him this session.

## DFL and Republican Conventions Come to a Close

Over the weekend, the cities of Duluth and Rochester were abuzz as delegates from across the state converged on the two cities to support their candidates of choice. The action started on Friday in Rochester, as the GOP kicked off its convention with the endorsement process for a U.S. Senate candidate. After recessing at 4 a.m. on Saturday morning, delegates came back just after 9 a.m. to continue the ballot process. With just two candidates remaining at that point (after the 10th round of ballots), delegates nominated Mike McFadden for Senate. McFadden will now face current Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) in a primary election.

Following the long endorsement battle for the Senate nomination, delegates shifted attention to endorsement for governor, where the real fight will happen in August during the primary election. Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson won the endorsement process but will face a tough primary with three other candidates: former State Representative Marty Seifert, businessman Scott Honour and former House Speaker Kurt Zellers.

In Duluth, the DFL endorsement process was a little calmer with only one big race before delegates, endorsement for Secretary of State. This was a two-horse race as a pair of current House members sought endorsement. Rep. Steve Simon (Hopkins) defeated Rep. Debra Hilstrom (Brooklyn Center) after one ballot for the party endorsement. To no surprise, Gov. Dayton and Sen. Al Franken were both endorsed as each seeks re-election.



## Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins

May 2014

### In Touch With District 2

The Victory Neighborhood of Minneapolis is hosting a Memorial Concert at the Victory Memorial flagpole (Victory Memorial Drive and 45th Ave. N), ([map](#)), Thursday, May 22, 2014, at 7 pm. The Robbinsdale city band will perform a concert of patriotic music. Bring a chair or blanket and a picnic.



In Golden Valley, you are invited to walk through 600 flags lining Golden Valley Road between Highway 100 and Winnetka Avenue North to honor those who have fallen while protecting their country (through May 26).

Thanks to all who have served our county. Have a great Memorial Day!

### Wildwood Park/School of Engineering Playground Ribbon Cutting a Success

Commissioner Higgins, pictured with Golden Valley Mayor Shep Harris (left), Council Member Larry Fonnest, and others cut the ribbon Wednesday for a newly redone playground at 7401 Duluth Street while kindergartners and first graders waited and waited for the playground to officially open.



The Wildwood Park playground is a community partnership with Golden Valley, the SEA School, the Golden Valley Open Space Commission, Robbinsdale School District, MN/WI Playgrounds, numerous student, parent and other volunteers, and Hennepin County, who approved a \$50,000 [Youth Sports grant](#) for the project via the Ballpark Initiative.

Since it began in 2009, the Hennepin County Ballpark Initiative has awarded grants for 69 facility projects and 86 small equipment projects in the amount of \$11.2 million.

For further information about the Wildwood Park project, visit Golden Valley's web site at [goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/wildwood/index.php](http://goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/wildwood/index.php)

#### To Contact Our Office

Commissioner  
Linda Higgins

[Email](#)

Phone 612-348-7882

[www.hennepin.us/higgins](http://www.hennepin.us/higgins)

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Roshonda A. Royston

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A2400 Government Center  
300 S. 6th St.

Minneapolis, MN 55487

[Map It!](#)

#### Did You Know?

You can subscribe to many online services on the county website: [Click here](#) and see what information is interesting or useful to you.

Enter your email or cell phone number and then select which items interest you, such as tax-forfeited real estate auctions, public health updates, even property tax due date reminders.

### Hennepin County welcomes newly elected Commissioner Marion Greene (District 3)

Commissioner Marion Greene (shown center in picture with Commissioners Opat, Callison, Higgins, and McLaughlin) was sworn in by Judge Cutter on May 21, 2014.

Elected in a special election held May 13, Commissioner Greene replaces Gail Dorfman, who accepted a position with St. Stephens earlier this year.

Greene represents the residents of Southwest Minneapolis and St. Louis Park.

Greene, of Minneapolis, is a former state representative, a healthcare finance professional who lives in Minneapolis with her husband, Bart Cannon, and two stepdaughters.



### Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority will hold joint public hearing for Southwest Green Line LRT

The Metropolitan Council and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority will hold a joint public hearing on the physical design component of the preliminary design plans of the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (Green Line Extension) as part of the municipal consent process set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 473.3994.

**When:** 6 p.m., Thursday, May 29. An open house will be held at 5 p.m. on the Public Service Level of the Hennepin County Government Center before the hearing.

**Where:** Board Room, 24th floor of the Government Center - 300 S. 6th Street, Minneapolis, MN

Written comments may be submitted to the Southwest LRT Project Office, 6465 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 500, St. Louis Park, MN 55426 Attn: Daren Nyquist  
TTY: 651-291-0904

E-mail comments to [swlrt@metrotransit.org](mailto:swlrt@metrotransit.org)  
Fax comments to 612-373-3899

### Green Line Municipal Consent Hearings

The cities of Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Minnetonka and St. Louis Park will hold separate public hearings in May and June 2014, before the city councils vote on the plans.

Additional information on these hearings will be posted at [metro council.org/](http://metro council.org/) as they are scheduled.

## May 20 county board actions included housing and TOD grants

### Strategic land acquisition

The board approved the reallocation of 2012 and 2013 Transit Oriented Development funds to an opportunity fund that will leverage an estimated \$10 million through partnership with the Twin Cities Community Land Bank. The land bank will allow the Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority to purchase strategic sites in Hennepin County that are consistent with Hennepin County goals.

### Board approves affordable housing projects

The Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority approved projects to be funded by the Affordable Housing Incentive Fund (AHIF). This year \$3.3 million will be committed to projects that work with municipalities, other government and nonprofit agencies, private and nonprofit developers and lenders to encourage development and preservation of affordable housing. Since

2000, this program has committed more than \$50 million and leveraged more than \$1 billion in more than 5,500 affordable housing units. Projects are selected through a competitive request for proposal process.

### 2014 Transit Oriented Development program

The board approved four Housing and Redevelopment Authority projects that will leverage a total of \$167 million in private and public funding to create 518 housing units, 204,500 square feet of commercial space, and 406 new and 307 retained jobs.

- Bloomington Central Station Apartment Project (City of Bloomington) - \$400,000 grant
- Broadway Flats (Broadway Flats, LLLP) - \$300,000 cash flow loan
- Cedar Plaza (Cedar Cultural Center) - \$125,000 grant
- MoZaic East (The Ackerberg Group) - \$300,000 grant

## Lots of Upcoming Events in District 2!

**St. Anthony:** *Thursdays, June 12-August 14.* Salo Park Summer Concert Series. Visit [nema.org](http://nema.org) for more information.

**Northeast:** *Saturdays, May 31-August 30, 9am-1pm.* Northeast Farmers Market. St. Boniface Church, corner of University Ave. NE and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Minneapolis.

*May 30-31.* John Stock 2014 with the Johnson Street merchants. Artists, crafters, family events, music and more. Info at [nenorthnews.com](http://nenorthnews.com).

*Wednesday, June 11, 6-8pm.* Public workshop on Lowry Avenue plan. Hennepin County is hosting a second public workshop. Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis.

*June 13-15.* Stone Arch Bridge Festival. A weekend of art and music on the Riverfront. For more info: [stonearchbridgefestival.com](http://stonearchbridgefestival.com).

*Tuesday, June 17, 6:30-9pm.* Northeast Parade. Parade route is on Central Avenue, between 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Minneapolis.

### Celebrate Northeast Parade

*June 23-27 and June 30-July 4.* Art Camp 2014. Visit [nema.org](http://nema.org) for more information.

**North:** *Saturday, May 31, 10am-4pm.* Open Streets. Open Streets is a rare opportunity to experience what streets feel like without cars. Residents can give input on the proposed North Minneapolis Greenway project. Those interested in joining the planning process or volunteering

for the event should email [OpenStreets@mplsbike.org](mailto:OpenStreets@mplsbike.org). Visit [openstreetsmpls.com](http://openstreetsmpls.com) for info.

*Saturday, May 31, 9am-4pm.* Victory Neighborhood Garage Sales. Sales throughout the neighborhood and a flea market at Loring School from 9am-2pm.

*Sunday, June 1, 1-4pm.* First annual Children's Day Festival. Crafts, games, and music. Webber Park, 4400 Dupont Ave. N, Minneapolis.

*Thursday, June 12, 6-8pm.* Live on the Drive featuring Thomasina Petrus. Victory Memorial Parkway, 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Victory Memorial Parkway, Minneapolis. Visit [liveonthedrive.org](http://liveonthedrive.org) for more information.

*Saturday, June 14.* Juneteenth. North Mississippi Regional Park, 5114 North Mississippi Drive, Minneapolis. More info at [juneteenthminnesota.org](http://juneteenthminnesota.org).

*Thursday, June 19, 5:30-8pm.* Folwell Neighborhood Association Ice Cream Social. Folwell Park, 1615 Dowling Ave. N.

*Wednesday, June 27, 7-9:30pm.* Victory Neighborhood Ice Cream Social. Victory Park, 4414 Upton Ave. N.

*Saturday, June 28, 11am-5pm.* Lind-Bohanon Home and Art Fair. Emmy award winning Zinghoppers will be hopping at this event. Jenny Lind Elementary School, 5025 Bryant Ave. N.

*(Events continued on last page)*

## Work for Hennepin County

Our website shows 29 positions currently available at Hennepin County. Positions include account clerk, community liaison, supply chain manager, volunteer special deputy, IT positions and more! If you're looking for a job or know someone who is looking, please check out this resource. Click [here](#) to see the list.

The Library also has help at [www.hclib.org/pub/search/SubjectGuides.cfm?Topic=Jobs/Careers](http://www.hclib.org/pub/search/SubjectGuides.cfm?Topic=Jobs/Careers)

**Hennepin County is a great place to work!**

## Job assistance is as close as your computer

Job seeking assistance is available as close as your computer from the Hennepin County Library.

Many tools are available at [hclib.org/pub/search/subjectguides.cfm?topic=jobs/careers](http://hclib.org/pub/search/subjectguides.cfm?topic=jobs/careers).

For online resume and interview coaching and career advice from job help professionals, visit [hclib.org/pub/search/RefDetails.cfm?DBAbbrev=JobNow&Topic=databases&Display=&SubTopics\\_Display=](http://hclib.org/pub/search/RefDetails.cfm?DBAbbrev=JobNow&Topic=databases&Display=&SubTopics_Display=).

A tool to create and save resumes and cover letters (including tools to help you prepare for a job search) is available at [http://www.hclib.org/pub/search/RefDetails.cfm?DBAbbrev=OptimalResume&Topic=databases&Display=&SubTopics\\_Display=](http://www.hclib.org/pub/search/RefDetails.cfm?DBAbbrev=OptimalResume&Topic=databases&Display=&SubTopics_Display=) (note: Subscription purchased with funding from Hennepin).

## More Upcoming Events in District 2!

Thursday, June 5, 12pm and Saturday, June 21, 10am. Givens Black Books: Community Reading Campaign. This month's featured author is Hill Harper. Join Leon Trawick and Tene Wells as they discuss Harper's "Letters to an Incarcerated Brother" and "The Wealth Cure: Putting Money in its Place." Sumner Library, 611 Van White Memorial Blvd. To register, call 612-543-6875 or online (giveaway copies available) at [www.hclib.org/pub/events/](http://www.hclib.org/pub/events/).



June 9-July 28. Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts presents Dancemania! Visit [lundstrumcenter.org](http://lundstrumcenter.org) for registration and more information.

June 17-July 17. CAST (Capri After School Theater). Summer Session for High School Students. Visit [thecapritheater.org](http://thecapritheater.org) for registration and more information.

June 17-July 10 and July 15-31. Juxtaposition Arts presents Free Wall: Introduction to Aerosol Painting. Visit [juxtapositionarts.org](http://juxtapositionarts.org) for registration and more information.

June 24-August 14. V.A.L.T. (Visual Arts Literacy Training). Juxtaposition Arts after school program. Visit [juxtapositionarts.org](http://juxtapositionarts.org) for registration and more information.

July 7-August 8. Camp Capri. A five-week middle school arts camp in the heart of north Minneapolis dedicated to theater, music, dance, writing and visual arts. Visit [thecapritheater.org](http://thecapritheater.org) for registration and more information.

**Bryn Mawr:** Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31, 7pm. Beauty and the Beast, Anwatin Middle School.

Saturday, June 7, 10am-2pm. Electronic Recycling Collection. Natural Step Tai Chi will partner with Tech Dump to collect unwanted electronics. Parking lot of Anwatin Middle School, 256 Upton Ave. S., Minneapolis. Visit [bmna.org/images/Bugle\\_2014\\_05](http://bmna.org/images/Bugle_2014_05) for more information.

**Golden Valley:** June 9-August 11, 7pm. Concerts in the Park. Every summer, the Park and Recreation Department sponsors free weekly concerts at Brookview Park, 200 Brookview Parkway N.

June 12-14, 9am-4pm. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. Dispose of your household hazardous waste. St. Louis Park Jr. High School, 2025 Texas Ave. S.

Wednesday, June 18, 6-8pm. Public Safety Open House. Tour the Police Station and any or all three fire stations. Visit [goldenvalleymn.gov](http://goldenvalleymn.gov) for more information.

Saturday, June 21, 5pm-midnight. Fire Relief Association Street Dance. Chester Bird American Legion, Hwy 100 and Glenwood Avenue N, Golden Valley.

**Medicine Lake:** Thursday, June 12, 6:30pm. Plymouth Lions Dinner Meeting, Medicine Lake City Hall. Speaker Nancy Brooks. Visit [plymouthlions.org](http://plymouthlions.org) for more information.

**Plymouth:** Saturday, May 31, 9am-noon. Volunteers needed to plant flowers at Plymouth city parks and buildings. For more information or to be assigned a planting location, call Volunteer Coordinator Jackie Maas at 763-509-5230 or email [jmaas@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:jmaas@plymouthmn.gov).

Monday, June 2, 6-7pm. Walk with a Doc. Take a 45-minute walk with a local doctor. Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

Monday, June 2, 4:30-6:30pm. Plant Swap. Residents can grow their collection of plants. Plymouth Maintenance Facility parking lot, 14900 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N.

Friday, June 6, 7:30pm. Live at the Hilde. This family-friendly, all-ages concert will feature popular regional performers. Hilde Performance Center, 3450 Plymouth Blvd.

Monday, June 16, 6:45pm. Naturalist Visit: Zoomobile. The Zoomobile will use animals and props to demonstrate to children how all life on Earth is connected. Hilde Small Stage, 3450 Plymouth Blvd.

Wednesdays, June 18-October 1, 2:30-6:30pm. Farmers Market. Plymouth Ice Center parking lot, 3650 Plymouth Blvd.

Wednesday, June 25, 10am-noon. Happy Birthday America Parade. Children are invited to bring their bikes, trikes, wagons and friends and be part of a special parade. Hilde Performance Center, 3450 Plymouth Blvd.

**Multiple Communities:** June 28-29. Twin Cities Pride. Multiple events and locations including concerts, weddings, the Rainbow Run 5K and the June 29 parade at 11am. Visit [tcpride.org](http://tcpride.org) for more information and don't forget to check out the Lowry Bridge.



If you have events you would like to promote in our newsletter, drop an email to [tina.sanz@hennepin.us](mailto:tina.sanz@hennepin.us).

Approved 6-1-14

**JOINT WATER COMMISSION MINUTES  
Golden Valley - Crystal - New Hope  
Meeting of May 7, 2014**

The Golden Valley – Crystal – New Hope Joint Water Commission meeting was called to order at 1:39 p.m. in the City of Golden Valley Council Conference Room.

**Commissioners Present**

Tom Burt, City Manager, Golden Valley  
Kirk McDonald, City Manager, New Hope  
Anne Norris, City Manager, Crystal

**Staff Present**

Tom Mathisen, City Engineer, Crystal  
Randy Klopper, Utilities Superintendent, Crystal  
Bernie Weber, Operations Manager, New Hope  
Sue Virnig, Finance Director, Golden Valley  
Bert Tracy, Public Works Maintenance Supervisor  
Kelley Janes, Utilities Supervisor, Golden Valley  
Mitch Hoeft, Utilities Engineer, Golden Valley  
Pat Schutrop, Administrative Assistant, Golden Valley

**Others Present**

Steve Nelson, Bolton & Menk, Inc.

**Minutes of April 2, 2014 Meeting**

MOVED by McDonald and seconded by Norris to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**Update on Emergency Backup Water Supply Project**

The advertisement for bids is ready and will be submitted for publication on May 15, 2014. Yellow card approvals were received from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Worksheets were submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the only remaining task is to schedule site visits. The surveys are completed.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) submitted a draft easement agreement and a draft letter of understanding. Hoeft will forward the documents to the TAC members and to Golden Valley City Attorney Allen Barnard to review. He will continue to work with the MPRB in finalizing the documents. Nelson said the well drilling will not begin until the easement and letter of understanding are finalized. The bid documents will include that contingency.

Well construction for the Golden Valley well must be scheduled after September 2014. The Crystal generator needs to be up and running and the York Pit reconnection work must be completed before work can start on the Golden Valley site. If all three wells are drilled simultaneously, well construction could be completed by the end of December 2014.

Nelson said there could potentially be two additional bid packages for JWC approval regarding the New Hope well improvements; one for watermain work and one for the chlorine feed equipment.

The bid opening for the wells project is scheduled for 11 am, Wednesday, May 28, in the City of Golden Valley Council Chambers. The TAC will request project award from the JWC at the June 4 meeting.

MOVED by Norris and seconded by McDonald to authorize advertisement for bids for the JWC Emergency Supply Wells Project. Motion carried.

**Update on County Road 9 Project**

The weather has delayed the project a couple of weeks. The contractor started removing structures on County Road 9. The original reconnection date of the pipe to the Crystal reservoir was scheduled for May 23, but will now be delayed.

Crystal tested the backfill pipe to its generator and it tested out well. Mathisen said the idea is to keep the reservoir full at all times.

**Update on Crystal Pump Station Generator Project**

The slab for the new generator has been placed. The delivery date for the generator was delayed to June 20. All preparation for the generator installation will be completed before the generator is delivered. Mathisen estimated it will take about a week after delivery to have the generator up and running.

**Other Business**

None.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Chair Burt adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

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Thomas D. Burt, Chair

ATTEST:

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Pat Schutrop, Recording Secretary

# CITIES BULLETIN



Issue 18

June 2, 2014

## Governor Acts on All New Chapters

The League's 2014 Law Summaries, with information on new laws impacting cities, will be available around June 16.

## In Other News

### New Medical Marijuana Law Should Have Little Effect on Cities

The limits on access to cannabis that are provided in the bill make it unlikely there will be public safety costs associated with implementation.

### Broadband Roundtable Set for June 17

The event will feature a discussion on the recently enacted Border-to-Border Broadband Grant program.

## More Information and Resources

Hear from Annual Conference Keynote Speaker Peter Kageyama and Learn How to Win a Copy of His Book!

LMC Board Approves Maximum Dues Increase and Proposed League Constitutional Amendments

Don't Miss the 2014 Annual Conference—Registration Closes June 6

Annexation Information Reports for LGA Calculations Due July 15

The City Spot Blog: Prepare for More Early Voters

Clerks: Join Your Colleagues at the Clerks' Orientation Conference June 18-20

Learn Ways to Help Reduce Training Injuries for Your City's Police Officers

Access Updated Information in the Directory of Minnesota City Officials—Order Today!

Keep Your Public Works Staff Safe by Conducting Job Hazard Analyses: Free Tool Available Now

NLC to Host Free Webinar on Economic and Social Impact of Walkability

LMC President Appoints 2014 Nominating Committee

## Training, Conferences, Events

Upcoming League Events

Online Training/E-Learning

Co-Sponsored Events

Events Sponsored by Other Organizations



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Cities Bulletin

## Featured Events

2014 LMC Annual Conference  
*June 18-20—St. Cloud*

2014 Clerks' Orientation  
Conference  
*June 18-20—St. Cloud*

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## LMC Business Alliance

LMC Business Alliance members provide valuable financial support to the League and help support our mission to serve Minnesota cities.

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## Contact Us/Subscribe

*For legislative questions:*  
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*For editorial or other Bulletin questions:*

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## Governor Acts on All New Chapters



**The League's 2014 Law Summaries, with information on new laws impacting cities, will be available around June 16.**

Gov. Dayton completed his review and action on May 30 for the remaining bills sent to him by the 2014 Legislature. Under the Minnesota Constitution, the governor had 14 days after the conclusion of the biennial legislative session to act on the bills.

Since the Legislature adjourned on May 16, Gov. Dayton had until May 30 to take final action. Any bill sent to the governor that he did not sign within the 14 days would have been a pocket veto.

League Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) staff are in the process of summarizing all of the new laws enacted in 2014 that affect cities. The League's 2014 Law Summaries publication will be available electronically on the LMC website around June 16, and printed copies will be available at the 2014 Legislative Recap and Policy Preview at the League's Annual Conference in St. Cloud on June 18.

The League's IGR staff and Research Department will also be periodically publishing "Focus on New Laws" articles in the bi-weekly *Cities Bulletin*. These articles will contain more detailed information on new laws that were enacted during the 2014 session. The first article in the series will be published shortly after the League's Annual Conference in June.

Major bills that have been signed into law since the Legislature adjourned include:

- Two bonding bills: Chapters 294 and 295 (**Read more** (*Link to:* <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/FinalBonding14.jsp>) )
- Supplemental omnibus tax bill: Chapter 308 (**Read more** (*Link to:* <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/TaxConference14.jsp>) )
- Omnibus pension bill: Chapter 296 (**Read more** (*Link to:* <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/PERABoardBill.jsp>) )
- Supplemental budget bill: Chapter 312 (**Read more** (*Link to:* <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/suppbudget14.jsp>) )

### Additional information

**Access the governor's status log for the status of all bills sent to him** (*Link to:*

<http://mn.gov/governor/resources/legislation/?page=1>)

**Access a complete listing of 2014 session laws and links to the chapter**

**language** (*Link to: [http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/bills/chapters.asp?ls\\_year=88&session\\_year=2013&session\\_number=0](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/bills/chapters.asp?ls_year=88&session_year=2013&session_number=0)*)

**Have an immediate question?**

League staff have covered a wide array of legislation during this past session. If you have an immediate question about the status of legislation considered during the 2014 session, please contact any member of the **League's IGR staff** (*Link to:*

*<http://www.lmc.org/page/1/IGR-Staff.jsp>* .

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>*)

## New Medical Marijuana Law Should Have Little Effect on Cities



**The limits on access to cannabis that are provided in the bill make it unlikely there will be public safety costs associated with implementation.**

(Published Jun 2, 2014)

Minnesota residents suffering from specific debilitating conditions, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, epilepsy, glaucoma, or terminal illness, will soon be allowed to consume medical marijuana if they receive certification from the health care provider who is treating them for their qualifying condition. Because the law is narrow in scope, it is not expected to create a significant burden on cities.

**Chapter 311** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=311&doctype=Chapter&year=2014&type=0](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=311&doctype=Chapter&year=2014&type=0)), also known as the Medical Cannabis Therapeutic Research Act, was signed into law by Gov. Dayton on May 29. The measure, SF 2470, was authored by **Rep. Carly Melin** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?id=15373](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?id=15373)) (DFL-Hibbing) and **Sen. D. Scott Dibble** ([Link to: http://www.senate.mn/members/member\\_bio.php?mem\\_id=1010](http://www.senate.mn/members/member_bio.php?mem_id=1010)) (DFL-Minneapolis) and passed off the House floor by a vote of 89-40 and off the Senate floor on a 46-16 vote.

While the League did not take a position on this initiative, law enforcement leaders weighed in on several versions of the bill, and insisted it be narrow in scope. The limits on access to cannabis that are provided in the bill make it unlikely there will be public safety costs associated with implementation.

Individuals suffering from intractable pain, nausea, wasting, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are not included in the new law. And, although the law is effective May 30, 2014, access to medical cannabis will not be immediate. First, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) must register two marijuana product manufacturers by either Dec. 1, 2014, or, if the department requests an extension, May 1, 2015. Each manufacturer will have four satellite distribution centers, which will be subject to strict regulations. Only pharmacists will be allowed to dispense marijuana.

Patients will be able to consume medical marijuana in the form of liquids, pills, and oils, including those produced from whole plant extracts, as well as through vaporization. They cannot use marijuana in its standard form of flowers and leaves.

Patients will also be required to pay \$200 per year to register with the MDH. Recipients of Social Security disability, Supplemental Security Insurance payments, and those enrolled in MinnesotaCare will pay a reduced rate of \$50.

They will only qualify if their health care practitioner is willing to submit data to the state regarding the patient's treatment.

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>*)

### **Your LMC Resource**

**Contact Anne Finn**  
Assistant IGR Director  
(651) 281-1263 or (800) 925-1122  
**[afinn@lmc.org](mailto:afinn@lmc.org)** (*Link to: <mailto:afinn@lmc.org>*)

## Broadband Roundtable Set for June 17



**The event will feature a discussion on the recently enacted Border-to-Border Broadband Grant program.**

(Published Jun 2, 2014)

The **Blandin Foundation** (*Link to: <http://blandinfoundation.org/>*) and the **Telecommunications and Information Society Policy** (*Link to: [http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/slp/telecommunications/tisp\\_forum/](http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/slp/telecommunications/tisp_forum/)*) (TISP) Forum will present The Broadband Roundtable on June 17 at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs in Minneapolis.

Leadership was the key factor in broadband progress this year at the Legislature. This inclusive roundtable event brings together main leaders in the broadband policy debate. You will hear about lessons learned from this past year as well as next steps in implementation of the recently enacted Border-to-Border Broadband Grant program.

A lot remains to be done, and this roundtable discussion will help clarify where we are going. The idea behind this forum is simple and essential: purposeful exchange on key issues with engaged stakeholders to create a better information future.

The following people will participate in the roundtable discussion:

- Brent Christensen, President/CEO, Minnesota Telecom Alliance
- Gary Evans, President, Greater Minnesota Partnership and Minnesota Broadband Task Force Member
- Tim Flaherty, Flaherty and Hood, P. A.
- Bernadine Joselyn, Director, Public Policy/Engagement, Blandin Foundation and Minnesota Broadband Task Force Member
- Rep. Sheldon Johnson, Minnesota House of Representatives
- Danna MacKenzie, Director, Minnesota Office of Broadband Development
- Sen. Matt Schmit, Minnesota Senate
- Rep. Eric Simonson, Minnesota House of Representatives

The Broadband Roundtable will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs in Room 180, located at 310 19th Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

For more information or to RSVP, contact TISP at [tisp@umn.edu](mailto:tisp@umn.edu) (*Link to: <mailto:tisp@umn.edu>*).

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin->*

*newsletter.jsp*

## **Your LMC Resource**

**Contact Laura Ziegler**

IGR Liaison

(651) 281-1267 or (800) 925-1122

**[lziegler@lmc.org](mailto:lziegler@lmc.org)** *(Link to: <mailto:lziegler@lmc.org>)*



## **LMC Board Approves Maximum Dues Increase and Proposed League Constitutional Amendments**

The League Board of Directors voted on two important issues at its April meeting—dues and constitutional amendments.

### **Dues increase**

The Board set a *maximum* dues schedule increase of 3.5 percent for the 2015 fiscal year, which begins Sept. 1, 2014. The actual amount of the increase will be determined at the Board's Aug. 21 meeting, when it will adopt the budget for the coming fiscal year.

Over the past 10 years, there have been two years with no dues increases and, during that same period, the annual dues schedule increases have averaged 2.78 percent. The Board takes its responsibility to prudently manage the League's assets very seriously. It also recognizes that reliance on League services continues to grow. The League Board and staff are committed to ensuring these services can be provided in the most efficient way to meet member needs. The League welcomes member feedback about the proposed dues increase and ideas for how we can better serve your needs.

### **Proposed constitutional amendments**

The Board also approved recommending two proposed League constitutional amendments to members at the Annual Business meeting to be held on June 19 at the 2014 Annual Conference in St. Cloud.

The first amendment deletes from the Constitution the requirement that the League "regularly undertake a strategic planning process." While the Board fully intends to continue its practice of doing regular strategic planning, both the Governance Committee and the full Board believe this sort of administrative requirement should not normally be included in an organizational governance document such as a constitution.

The second suggested amendment relates to the constitutional requirement that the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul have representatives on the League's Board of Directors. Historically, this provision has been interpreted to allow that requirement to be met by a person holding either a director or an officer position. For instance, for the past four years the Minneapolis seat has been held by Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges, who has been a League officer.

In reviewing the League Constitution this past winter, the Governance Committee realized there could be a problem if a Minneapolis or St. Paul representative holding an officer position were to lose their city election or otherwise be unable to fill out their League officer term. In such a case, an officer vacancy would be created which couldn't be filled by a Minneapolis or St. Paul representative since the constitution already prescribes how officer vacancies are to be filled.

Faced with the prospect of this constitutional dilemma, the Governance Committee considered three alternatives: (1) temporarily enlarging the Board; (2) providing authority to leave the Minneapolis or St. Paul seat vacant until the next annual business meeting; or (3) eliminating the Minneapolis and St. Paul designated seat requirement. The Board ultimately accepted the Governance Committee's recommendation to leave the Minneapolis or St. Paul seat temporarily vacant.

Several considerations went into the recommendation, including the observation that this scenario is very rare and that if it ever did occur, the vacancy would likely exist for less than six months since it would typically be the result of someone leaving office at the end of December. The committee thought that temporarily enlarging the Board could be unnecessarily cumbersome for a situation that occurs so rarely, and that eliminating the designated seats raised other significant member representation issues that the Governance Committee did not want to address without broader study and member input.

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>*)

## Your LMC Resource

### Contact Jim Miller

Executive Director

(651) 281-1205 or (800) 925-1122

**[jmiller@lmc.org](mailto:jmiller@lmc.org)**

*(Link to: <mailto:jmiller@lmc.org>)*

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## **Annexation Information Reports for LGA Calculations Due July 15**

Cities that have had annexations or other boundary changes in the past year may need to file an Annexation Information Report in order to ensure that those changes are reflected in the calculations for local government aid (LGA).

When the Department of Revenue (DOR) certifies aid amounts, it uses tax base information and other data contained in certified reports. The aid calculations, therefore, may not reflect data changes as a result of annexations that occur after the data is certified to the DOR.

The form for the report has two sections—one for partial annexations and one for complete annexations.

- **Learn more and access the Annexation Information Report form** (*Link to:*

*[http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/local\\_gov/prop\\_tax\\_admin/Pages/lgaannex.aspx](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/local_gov/prop_tax_admin/Pages/lgaannex.aspx)*)

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>*)

### **Your LMC Resource**

**Contact Rachel Walker**

Policy Analysis Manager

(651) 281-1236 or (800) 925-1122

**[rwalker@lmc.org](mailto:rwalker@lmc.org)** (*Link to: <mailto:rwalker@lmc.org>*)

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## NLC to Host Free Webinar on Economic and Social Impact of Walkability

Walking is a critical component of our country's urban transportation system and a practical transportation choice with powerful benefits for both individuals and their communities. The potential for increased walking is enormous: one-quarter of all trips in the United States are less than one mile in length, but only a quarter of these are made by walking. Providing more walking facilities helps enhance access to other modes of travel, improves air quality and has other environmental benefits, and contributes to health and other quality-of-life factors.

The **National League of Cities** ([Link to: http://www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org)) (NLC) will be hosting a webinar with **America Walks** ([Link to: http://americawalks.org/](http://americawalks.org/)) and **Smart Growth America** ([Link to: http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/)) on this topic on June 19. The webinar will look at how increasing walkability has had an impact in Columbia, Missouri, and Arlington County, Virginia. Current and former local officials will discuss the economic and social benefits their communities have seen and how they have gone about to get public support and the financing in place to build pedestrian facilities.

The speakers will address the role federal dollars have played in their pedestrian-related initiatives and the importance of them in leveraging funding from other sources to build walking projects that are meeting the needs of their communities and advancing social, economic, and environmental goals.

- **Learn more and register for the webinar** ([Link to: http://www.nlc.org/walk](http://www.nlc.org/walk))

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp))

### For More Information

#### Contact Julia Pulidindi

Principal Associate for Technology and Communications

National League of Cities

(202) 626-3176

[pulidindi@nlc.org](mailto:pulidindi@nlc.org) ([Link to: mailto:pulidindi@nlc.org](mailto:pulidindi@nlc.org))



## LMC 2014 Nominating Committee

LMC President Shaunna Johnson has appointed the members of the 2014 Nominating Committee. The committee plays an important role in selecting the LMC Board of Directors.

The 2014 Nominating Committee members are:

- Richard Brainerd, Councilmember, Mahtomedi, Chair
- Bart Fischer, Administrator, Falcon Heights
- Mary Hamann-Roland, Mayor, Apple Valley
- Patrick Hentges, Manager, Mankato
- Sue Iverson, Director of Finance & Administrative \*Services/Treasurer, Arden Hills
- Marvin Johnson, Mayor, Independence
- Sue Larson, Councilmember, Isanti
- Carol Mueller, Councilmember, Mounds View
- Heidi Omerza, Councilmember, Ely
- Aaron Parrish, Administrator, Forest Lake
- Todd Prafke, Administrator, St. Peter
- Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer, Aurora

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>*)

### Your LMC Resource

#### Contact Kellie Sundheim

Assistant to the Executive Director

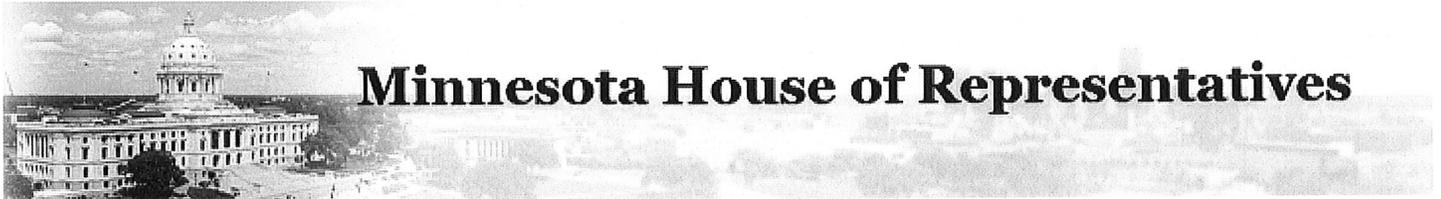
(651) 281-1214 or (800) 925-1122

**ksundheim@lmc.org** (*Link to: <mailto:ksundheim@lmc.org>*)

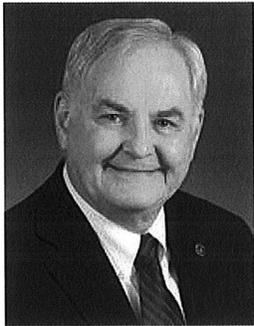
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**From:** rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn  
**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2014 4:03 PM  
**To:** Announcements from Representative Lyndon Carlson  
**Subject:** The Minnesota House Adjourns, Bringing an End to a Productive 2013-2014 Legislative Session

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## Minnesota House of Representatives



\* 479 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155  
651-296-4255

**E-mail:**  
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**Legislative Assistant:**  
Lill Pohlkamp 651-296-9552

**Committee Assignments:**  
**Chair:** [Ways and Means](#)  
[Capital Investment](#)  
[Property and Local Tax Division](#)  
[Rules and Legislative Administration](#)  
[Taxes](#)

**Biographical Information:**  
**Home:** Crystal 8216 - 35th Ave. N., 55427; 763-533-9779  
**Occupation:** Retired teacher  
**Education:** B.S., social studies, graduate work, Minnesota State University, Mankato and University of St. Thomas

### Rep. Lyndon Carlson Sr. (45A) - Legislative Update

Dear neighbors,

The Minnesota House of Representatives adjourned the 2014 Legislative Session on May 16, bringing an end to a productive 2013-2014 legislative session.

When the legislature convened in 2013, the state faced a \$600 million deficit, we owed our schools \$800 million, and property taxes were on the rise. The 2013 legislature passed a balanced budget that made historic investments in education, jobs and property tax relief.

In 2014, the legislature continued to build on Minnesota's momentum by passing a minimum wage increase, cutting taxes for more than two million Minnesotans, passing a strategic statewide bonding bill, and making further investments in bread-and-butter priorities like education, broadband infrastructure, and caregivers.

#### 2013-2014 Legislature: Progress for Minnesota

##### E-12 Education

- Invested \$525 million in Minnesota's E-12 education system, providing needed funding for schools to reduce class sizes and boost student achievement.
- Fully funded all-day, every-day kindergarten for every Minnesota child for the first time in state history.
- Invested in early learning scholarships aimed at closing the achievement gap.
- Paid back the money owed to our schools in full.

#### News Items

[The Minnesota House Passes Supplemental Budget Package](#) -(Posted: May 22 2014 11:21AM)  
[2014 Session Update: April 14](#) - (Posted: Apr 14 2014 3:06PM)  
[Rep. Carlson to Host a Town Hall Meeting](#) -(Posted: Apr 9 2014 5:37PM)

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#### Audio & Video

[Audio Commentary](#)  
[RSS Audio Commentary \(podcast\)](#)  
[Informational interview](#)

**Elected:** 1972

**Term:** 21st

**Family:** Married, spouse Carole,  
3 children

\* Prefers interim mail at this  
address.

## **Higher Education**

- Froze college tuition for students at public colleges and universities after a decade of historic tuition increases and debt and provided significant new resources to the state financial aid program.

## **Balanced Budget and Middle-Class Tax Cuts**

- The legislature put middle-class Minnesotans first with the \$1.2 billion surplus, providing \$550 million in tax cuts to more than two million Minnesotans.
- Thanks to \$178 million in direct property tax relief, property taxes are going down statewide for the first time in a decade — homeowners in particular are seeing more than a \$161 million decrease in property taxes (after direct relief).
- Due to the growing economy and honest budget, this legislature turned a budget deficit into a \$1.2 billion surplus.
- The legislature added \$150 million to our budget reserve and a \$600 million expected surplus into the future. This is the first structurally balanced budget in more than a decade.

## **A Stronger Economy**

- Raised Minnesota's minimum wage in stages to \$9.50 for large business and \$7.75 for small businesses by August 2016. More than 350,000 Minnesotans will get a raise. No one who works hard and puts in 40 hours a week should have to live in poverty.
- Enacted the Women's Economic Security Act, which aims to close the gender pay gap, strengthen workplace protections and flexibility for pregnant mothers, and expand employment opportunities for women in high-wage, high-demand professions. When women have equal opportunities to succeed, it means stronger families, stronger communities, and a brighter economic future for our state.
- Focused on making critical investments to grow our economy, such as broadband infrastructure, economic development resources, and farm-to-food shelf legislation.
- Invested in proven strategies to support job creation: the Minnesota Investment Fund to encourage small businesses expansion, the Minnesota Trade Office to help Minnesota small businesses compete globally, and key workforce development investments to help address our state's "job skills" gap.

- Cut \$346 million in taxes for small businesses – one of the largest tax cuts for small businesses in state history – by reducing the rate employers pay to fund the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

### **Health and Human Services**

- Provided a much-needed funding increase for nursing homes and long-term care providers.
- Funded cost-preventive mental health initiatives for adults and children, such as expanding school-based mental health services and mental health crisis response services.
- More than 200,000 Minnesotans have obtained high-quality, affordable health insurance through MNsure, many of them for the first time in their lives — and at the lowest rates in the nation. We're not going back to the days of denials for pre-existing conditions or having your coverage dropped when you get sick.

I look forward to talking with you about the progress we've made for Minnesota. Please contact me with any questions, comments or other feedback you may have. You can reach me by phone at (651) 296-4255 or by email at [rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn](mailto:rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn).

Sincerely,

Representative Lyndon Carlson

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**From:** rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2014 11:29 AM  
**To:** Announcements from Representative Lyndon Carlson  
**Subject:** The Minnesota House Passes Supplemental Budget Package

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## Minnesota House of Representatives



### Rep. Lyndon Carlson Sr. (45A) - The Minnesota House Passes Supplemental Budget Package

Dear neighbors,

Last week, the Minnesota House of Representatives ended the 2014 Legislative Session early after passing the supplemental budget. I was the author of the supplemental budget in the House and served as the co-chair of the conference committee between the House and the Senate.

We began the 2014 session with a projected \$1.2 billion surplus. We used this surplus to invest \$550 million in tax relief for families and businesses, increase our budget reserve, and a \$283 million supplemental budget package. The supplemental budget package focuses on improving Minnesota's education system, providing needed support for community-based health care providers, keeping our roads safe, and growing Minnesota's economy.

#### Jobs & Economic Development - \$19.8 million

- Invests in economic development resources to support job growth and small businesses in Minnesota.
- Expands access to broadband in Greater Minnesota.
- Invests in additional critical statewide infrastructure.

#### Health and Human Services - \$103.9 million

- Provides an additional 5 percent increase for home and community-based health care workers who provide care for the elderly and disabled.
- Increases funding for nursing homes and provide additional investments in senior nutrition.

#### News Items

[The Minnesota House Passes Supplemental Budget Package](#) -(Posted: May 22 2014 11:21AM)  
[2014 Session Update: April 14](#) - (Posted: Apr 14 2014 3:06PM)  
[Rep. Carlson to Host a Town Hall Meeting](#) -(Posted: Apr 9 2014 5:37PM)

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**E-mail:**  
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**Chair:** [Ways and Means](#)  
[Capital Investment](#)  
[Property and Local Tax Division](#)  
[Rules and Legislative Administration](#)  
[Taxes](#)

**Biographical Information:**  
**Home:** Crystal 8216 - 35th Ave. N., 55427; 763-533-9779  
**Occupation:** Retired teacher  
**Education:** B.S., social studies, graduate work, Minnesota State University, Mankato and University of St. Thomas  
**Elected:** 1972

**Term:** 21st  
**Family:** Married, spouse Carole,  
3 children

\* Prefers interim mail at this  
address.

- Focuses on efforts to reduce racial health disparities.

#### **Education - \$76.25 million**

- Provides a funding increase for E-12 schools to help address the costs of teacher evaluations and to further improve education outcomes
- Provides more Minnesota children with access to affordable and high-quality early learning opportunities
- Fully fund reduced price school lunches to ensure no Minnesota child is turned away in the lunch line and fully funds school breakfast for all kindergartners.
- Every student receiving a State Grant will receive an average increased grant of \$118 and nearly 5,000 new students are likely to receive grants in the next school year to improve students' access to an affordable college education.

#### **Transportation - \$15 million**

- Provides funding to local governments to repair potholes left behind after the worst winter in recent memory.
- Further invests in the "Corridors of Commerce" for statewide highway repairs.
- Increases firefighter training and adds rail safety inspectors to improve Minnesota's railroad and pipeline safety.
- Increases funding for Safe Routes to Schools to help Minnesota students get to and from school more safely.

#### **Environment & Agriculture - \$12 million**

- Invests in Farm to Food-Shelf funding to reimburse food producers for labor costs when producers donate surplus food to food banks.
- Establishes the Terrestrial Invasive Species Research Center to conduct research on invasive and problematic plants and pests in and traveling to Minnesota.

#### **Public Safety and Disaster Assistance - \$35 million**

- Supports the Department of Corrections, in addition to funding specific public safety bills assisting crime victims, such as enhanced penalties for repeat criminal sexual offenders.
- Establishes a Disaster Assistance Contingency Account to provide critical disaster relief without the need for a special legislative session.

## State Government & Veterans - \$705,000

- Provides support for veteran-owned small businesses and expedites occupational licensing procedures for members of the military and their spouses.
- Helps to find housing for veterans who are homeless or who are disabled and aging.

Minnesota continues to make progress and there are many reasons to be optimistic about the direction our state is heading. The budget will be structurally balanced in the long-term, with a \$604 million projected surplus into the next fiscal biennium.

I look forward to talking with you about the progress we've made for Minnesota. Please contact me with any questions, comments or other feedback you may have. You can reach me by phone at (651) 296-4255 or by email at [rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn](mailto:rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn).

Sincerely,

Representative Lyndon Carlson

Megan Nelson  
Communications Specialist  
Minnesota House DFL Caucus  
Email: [megan.nelson@house.mn](mailto:megan.nelson@house.mn)  
Phone: (651) 296-6970  
Twitter: @MeganNelson\_

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**From:** Rep.Mike.Freiberg@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2014 2:49 PM  
**To:** Announcements From Representative Mike Freiberg  
**Subject:** Rep. Mike Freiberg - Legislative Report - May 22, 2014

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## Minnesota House of Representatives

### Rep. Mike Freiberg (45B) - Legislative Update



551 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King  
Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155  
651-296-4176

**E-mail:**  
[rep.mike.freiberg@house.mn](mailto:rep.mike.freiberg@house.mn)

**Legislative Assistant:**  
Monica Weber 651-296-5355

**Committee Assignments:**  
**Vice-Chair:** [Government Operations](#)  
[Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance](#)  
[Legacy](#)  
[State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs](#)

**Biographical Information:**  
**Home:** Golden Valley \* 6601 Olympia St., 55427; 763-234-8749  
**Occupation:** Public health attorney  
**Education:** B.A., government/Russian,

Friends,

I'm happy to report that the 2014 legislative session has come to a successful conclusion.

We put in some long days last week, but it was worth it. We produced another tax cut bill (the second of the session), as well as a supplemental budget bill that will invest further in students from pre-K through high school and provided an additional 5 percent increase for home and community-based health care workers who provide care for our elderly and disabled.

For the second straight year, the Legislature completed its work before its constitutional deadline and adjourned late on Friday night.

We also passed a bill making Minnesota the 22<sup>nd</sup> state to allow some form of medicinal marijuana and a Capital Investment package consisting of an \$846 million bonding bill and a bill that uses \$200 million of general fund money to invest in statewide infrastructure projects.

The tax bill provides \$103 million in additional tax cuts to Minnesota homeowners, renters, businesses and farmers. An estimated 940,000 Minnesotans will see property tax relief, including 500,000 homeowners, 350,000 renters and 90,000 farmers. When combined with the first tax cut bill, the legislature will have provided \$550 million in tax cuts for nearly 2 million Minnesotans in the 2013-14 session.

### News Items

[Rep. Mike Freiberg - Legislative Report - March 28, 2014](#) - (Posted: Mar 28 2014 3:45PM)

[Rep. Mike Freiberg - Legislative Report - March 7, 2014](#) - (Posted: Mar 7 2014 3:51PM)

[Rep. Mike Freiberg E-Update - October 29, 2013](#) - (Posted: Oct 29 2013 5:04PM)

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The other important item we dealt with last week was the bill to legalize some forms of medicinal marijuana. We did this in a bipartisan manner. It will allow some treatment for those suffering from cancer, Glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, Tourette's syndrome, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), seizures, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's Disease and some terminal illnesses.

It wasn't what all sides wanted, but that's the nature of compromise.

Have a good weekend,

Mike

Mike Freiberg  
State Representative, District 45B  
551 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 296-4176  
Email: [rep.mike.freiberg@house.mn](mailto:rep.mike.freiberg@house.mn)

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## Chrissy Serres

---

**From:** Minnesota Secretary of State <MNSOS@public.govdelivery.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2014 8:41 AM  
**To:** Chrissy Serres  
**Subject:** June 2014 Open Appointments Vacancy Notice

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 SHARE

You are subscribed to Open Appointments for monthly vacancy notification. This information has recently been updated, and is now available.

### **OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE** Mark Ritchie

#### Notice of Vacancies in State Boards, Councils and Committees

June 2, 2014 — The Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State today released the June notice of vacancies for various state boards, councils and committees that are accepting applications, due June 24, 2014. Minnesotans are encouraged to apply and serve in demonstration of public service. The full list of vacancies is listed below and online.

Application forms are available online and must be submitted by June 24, 2014, to assured of full consideration by the appointing authority. Appointing authorities may choose to review applications received by the Secretary of State after June 24.

See HOW TO APPLY at the end of the message.

### **CURRENT VACANCIES**

Below are brief descriptions of vacancies.  
Please visit our website for complete descriptions.

#### **BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND THERAPY** Vacancies: One Licensed Professional Counselor

**BOARD OF COSMETOLOGIST EXAMINERS**  
Vacancies: Four Members including:  
- One Licensed Esthetician  
- One Nail Technician  
- One School Instructor teaching at a public cosmetology school  
- One School Instructor teaching at a private cosmetology school

**BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**  
Vacancies: One Public Member

#### **BOARD OF TEACHING**

Vacancies: One Classroom Teacher

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

Vacancies: One Member

**COUNCIL ON DISABILITY**

Vacancies: One Member who must reside in Economic Development Region 6.

Region map can be found at: <http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/assets/lmi/areamap/edr.shtml>

**GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD**

Vacancies: Two Members

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY**

Vacancies: Fifteen Members

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Vacancies: One Non-Voting Member with expertise in assisting women in obtaining employment in high-wage, high-demand, nontraditional occupations.

**HOME CARE PROVIDER ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Vacancies: One Member representing the Minnesota Ombudsman for Long Term Care

**MINNESOTA RESOURCE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: BLIND/VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

Vacancies: Nine Members – including Non-Profit Agencies, Teachers, Special Education Program Coordinators, Parents

**MN SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION**

Vacancies: One Public Defender Member

**MN STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE**

Vacancies: One Parent Member

**NONPUBLIC EDUCATION COUNCIL**

Vacancies: One Member

**OMBUDSPERSON BOARD FOR ASIAN-PACIFIC FAMILIES**

Vacancies: One Member

**SCHOOL SAFETY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COUNCIL**

Vacancies: Six Members –

- Two representatives of School Support Personnel
- Two Parent Representatives
- Two Student Representatives

**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AND AUDIOLOGIST ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Vacancies: Two Public Members

**STATE DESIGNER SELECTION BOARD**

Vacancies: One Association of Consulting Engineers Council of Minnesota Representative

**TASK FORCE ON MEDICAL CANNABIS THERAPEUTIC RESEARCH**

Vacancies: Sixteen Members – including:

- Two Consumers or Patients enrolled in the registry program
- Two Parents of patients under the age of 18 enrolled in the registry program
- One Licensed Pharmacist
- Three Health Care Providers
- One Minnesota Sheriff’s Association Representative
- One Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association Representative
- One Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association Representative
- One Minnesota County Attorneys Association Representative
- Four Substance Use Disorder Treatment Provider Representatives

## HOW TO APPLY

Submit an Application

Complete the application form.

Applicants should include the following documents:

- Open Appointments Application Form
- Letter of Interest
- Resume or Biography

Applications may be submitted online, by email to [Open.Appointments@state.mn.us](mailto:Open.Appointments@state.mn.us), or by mail or in person to:

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State  
180 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155-1299

The monthly Notice of Vacancies is posted on the first Monday of every month and is provided by email to those who subscribe for the notice.

In accordance with the Minnesota Open Appointments Law, the Secretary of State acts as an administrator in publishing vacancies, receiving applications and recording appointments. Applications will be reviewed and appointments made by the appointing authorities; questions about specific vacancies and appointments should be directed to the appointing authority. Applications are kept on file for a one-year period.

The 2013 Open Appointments Annual Report is available online and includes a complete listing of state boards and councils that follow the Open Appointments process, descriptions of these agencies and membership, and statistical information about appointments and vacancies during the 2013 fiscal year. A print version of the report is available at the Minnesota Bookstore, (651) 297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757.

## OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

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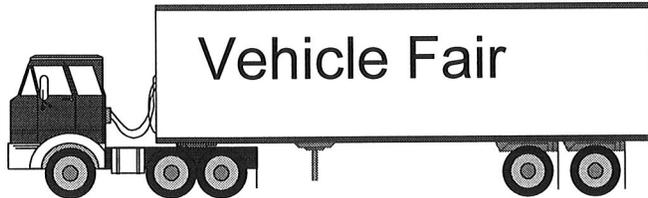
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# Recreation Department Update

## June 6, 2014



On Saturday May 17, 2014 the Cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope and Robbinsdale sponsored the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Vehicle Fair. This is a free family event to come and see the vehicles that come and go through our neighborhoods.

There were a variety of vehicles on display for families to explore. There were over 35 vehicles from 30 different agencies and companies that participated and volunteered their time and staff to come out to this event. This year over 750 people attended this popular event at the Crystal Community Center.

The annual **Crystal Friendship Center Volunteer Appreciation Brunch** was held on May 14 at the Crystal Community Center. We recognized 47 volunteers who lead a variety of activities for senior members. They enjoyed a light brunch and vocal entertainment by Jim Berner.

**From:** Robbinsdale Area Schools [robbinsdaleareaschools@rdale.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2014 11:40 AM  
**To:** Anne Norris  
**Subject:** Discover - May 29, Noble Student Receives Recognition from American Immigration Council



Thursday, May 29

## School News

### Noble Student Receives First Place in American Immigration Council Contest



Noble fifth grader Saliem Eskinder who was recognized by the American Immigration Council - Minnesota Chapter as its first place winner of the Celebrate America Creative Writing Contest. Through this contest, fifth graders from around the country are given the opportunity to embrace the United States' immigrant history through their poetry, essays, or other creative works. Saliem's poem "Why I am Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants" will be submitted on behalf of the chapter to the national contest.

### New Playground at SEA

Students from the School of Engineering and Arts enjoyed their new playground last week! Thanks to a \$50,000 sports grant from Hennepin County Government, SEA students and Golden Valley residents will enjoy the new playground at Wildwood Park for years to come! [Click here](#) to view more photos from the ribbon-cutting event at the playground.

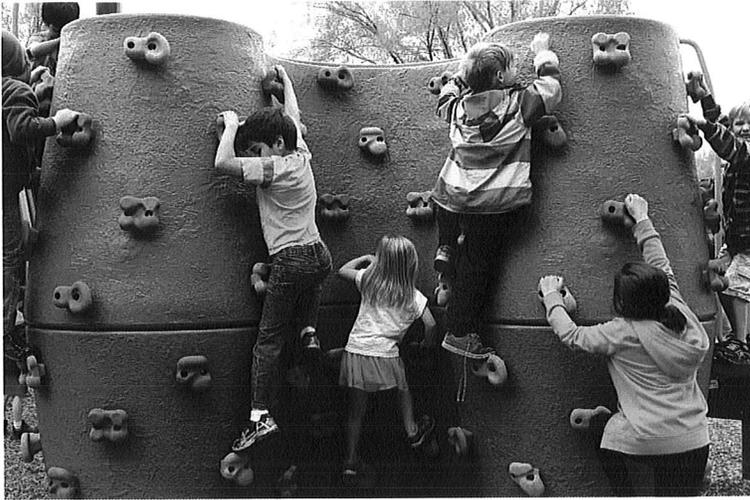
## District News

School Board Approves Teacher Development and Evaluation Model  
Last week, the School Board approved the Teacher Development and Evaluation Model to implement next school year. This model was developed through a collaborative committee of teachers and administrators. This model aligns Q-Comp with teacher evaluation and development. Next year is a learning year for us all as we prepare for full implementation.

## Digital Discovery

All District Choir  
The Robbinsdale All District Choir performed before a Minnesota Twins game earlier this month. [Click here](#) to watch the video.

## Upcoming Events



**Armstrong, Cooper Relay For Life Event a Success**  
 Congratulations to all the volunteers and organizers of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life event held earlier this month at Cooper High School. Student organizers from Armstrong and Cooper exceeded participation and fundraising goals by registering more than 560 participants and raising more than \$46,000 for cancer research. Organizers hope next year's event is even more successful and also encourage people to register as early as September for the May 16, 2015 event.



## Community Ed News

### GED Graduate Achieves One of Many Goals

The Adult Academic Program (AAP) of Robbinsdale Area Schools will have its annual [Adult Basic Education graduation](#) at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 29 at Cooper High School. This year, AAP has served over 135 adult students helping them earn a GED or a high school diploma. Now these students can move on to the next phase of their educational journey which may be more schooling or job training. AAP students have all overcome a variety of life obstacles in order to achieve their diploma. Edith Tlaseca (pictured below) will serve as a graduation speaker at this year's ceremony. To learn more about Edith's road from Mexico to receiving a GED in Robbinsdale Area Schools, [click here](#).

### Thursday, May 29

[Adult Academic Program Graduation](#)

### Monday, June 2

Last day of school for seniors

### Thursday, June 5

Last day of school of grades k-11

### Saturday, June 7

[Kody's Closet 2nd Annual Fundraiser](#)

[Click here](#) to view more upcoming events on our calendar.

## News Clips

### Star Tribune

[Robbinsdale Area Schools to seek new technology levy this November](#)

### Channel 12

[Robbinsdale Area Schools Referendum](#)

### Sun Post

[Committee to tackle joint facility proposal for New Hope and Robbinsdale Area Schools](#)

Check out our "[Media Room](#)" page on the website!

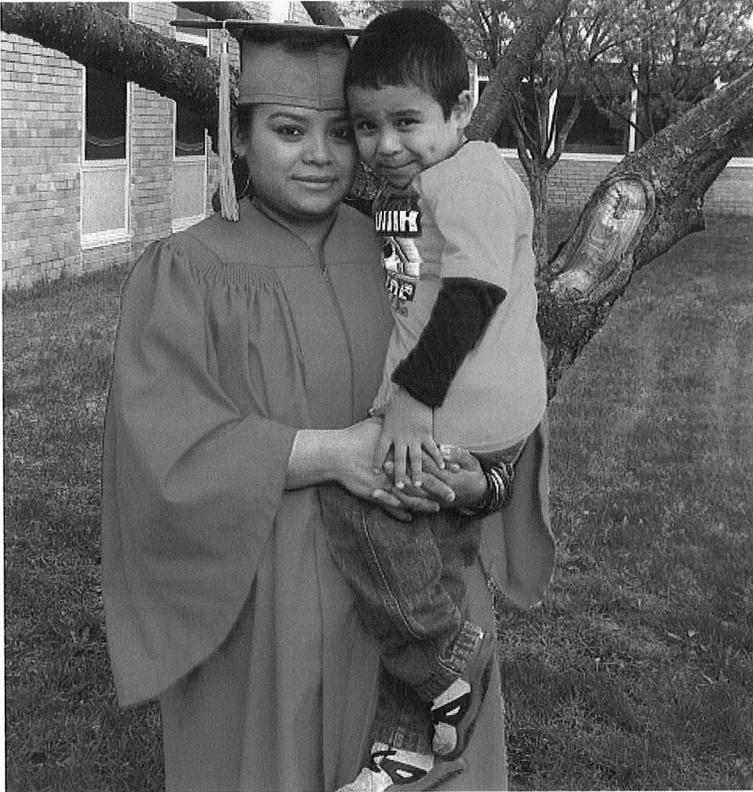
## School Board News

### Robbinsdale Area School Board Meetings

The School Board will meet on June 2 for a business meeting and work session. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook to get important votes and other news live during the regular and business meetings. For more School Board news, click on Minutes, Podcast and Webcast below.

### School Board Resources:

- [Agenda](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Minutes, Podcast and Webcast](#)



## Stay Connected



To find more social media links for our schools, activities and community education programs, [click here](#).

[Robbinsdale Area Schools website](#)

### Creative Play Holds Spring Sings

Creative Play preschoolers performed their mini-musicals for family, friends, and staff at Sonnesyn, Zachary Lane, and New Hope Learning Center during the first weeks of May.



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Anne Norris

**From:** Robbinsdale Area Schools [robbinsdaleareaschools@rdale.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2014 7:06 PM  
**To:** Anne Norris  
**Subject:** Discover - June 3, Northport Named Turnaround Arts School



**Tuesday, June 3**

## School News

### Digital Discovery

'FreeDumb' Movie Trailer  
The final movie trailer for the student produced "FreeDumb" is available to [watch here](#). The movie premiere for "FreeDumb" is **Tuesday, June 3** at Cooper High School.

### Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, June 3**

[Highview Graduation Ceremony](#)

[Movie premiere of "FreeDumb"](#)

**Thursday, June 5**

Last day of school for grades k-11

[Graduation at Armstrong and Cooper High Schools](#)

**Saturday, June 7**

[Kody's Closet 2nd Annual Fundraiser](#)

[Click here to view more upcoming events on our calendar.](#)

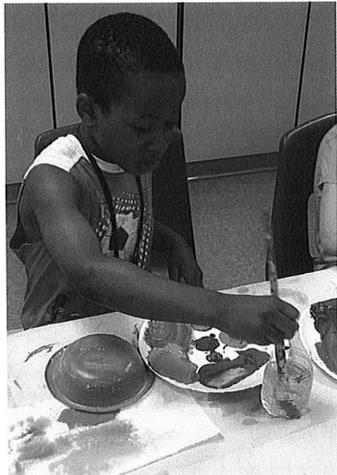
## Robbinsdale Transition Center Announces Graduates

Robbinsdale Transition Center graduated more than 30 students today at its graduation ceremony. Congratulations to the class of 2014 and best of luck!



### Northport Elementary Named Turnaround Arts School

Perpich Center for Arts Education has chosen Northport Elementary as one of four schools to participate in Turnaround Arts: Minnesota, a national initiative designed to narrow the achievement gap and improve student engagement through the arts. Schools in the program receive intensive arts education resources and expertise and the schools' communities will be involved in strategic planning processes with guidance from Perpich, a state agency serving all schools, students and educators in Minnesota. [Click here](#) for more information.



### Armstrong's Baseball Team

#### Headed to State

Armstrong's boys baseball team defeated Benilde-St. Margaret's on Monday to win the section and advance to the state tournament. [Click here](#) to read more.



## News Clips

### Star Tribune

[Robbinsdale voters to consider technology levy for schools in November](#)

[Robins win sixth straight PI adapted softball title](#)

### Sun Post

[Robbinsdale Area Schools to seek \\$3.5 million technology levy in November](#)

[Schaffer named Teacher of the Year at Robbinsdale Area Schools](#)

[How does District 281's anti-bullying policy compare to new state requirements?](#)

[Check out our "Media Room" page on the website!](#)

## School Board News

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## Stay Connected

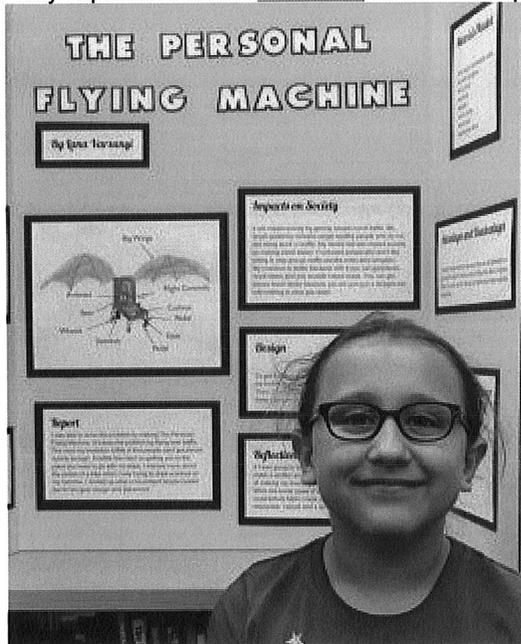


To find more social media links for our schools, activities and community education programs, [click here](#).

[Robbinsdale Area Schools](#)

## Invention Convention at SEA

Fourth grade students at the [School of Engineering and Arts \(SEA\)](#) participated in the school's first Invention Convention. Students theorized an invention for which they saw a need and planned how they would complete it. Very impressive ideas! [Click here](#) to view more photos.



[website](#)

## Community News

### 42nd Annual Cooper Arts and Crafts Fair

Crafters are need for the 42nd Annual Cooper Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday, Oct. 25. The craft fair is sponsored by the New Hope Women of Today and it raises scholarship funds for Robbinsdale Area Schools students in need of financial assistance in post secondary school. It also raises money for different charities associated with the New Hope Women of Today, a non-profit volunteer organization. [Click here](#) for more information and the application form or contact [CooperCraftFair@NewHopeWT.org](mailto:CooperCraftFair@NewHopeWT.org).

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6-4-14  
StarTribune

## Crystal settles labor dispute with police officer

Article by: Jim Adams  
Star Tribune  
June 3, 2014 - 8:28 PM

The city of Crystal and police Sgt. Rob Erkenbrack have settled a nearly two-year-old labor dispute, with \$160,000 going to the veteran officer who told a state mediator he was unjustly demoted in May 2013 and fired last August.

Under the agreement, neither side admits wrongdoing. The city maintains it had cause to discipline Erkenbrack, but it agreed to rescind his demotion and firing, and Erkenbrack, a 27-year veteran, retired effective April 15.

Erkenbrack said Crystal dropped its initial request for a gag order. "They paid me \$160,000 to settle. That is a statement of guilt by the city," he said Tuesday.

But Police Chief Stephanie Revering said "the city maintains we had just cause for the employment actions that we did." She said the city settled to avoid the cost and uncertainty of continued litigation.

The city's insurer, the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust, paid \$50,000 of the settlement and the city paid \$110,000, league attorney Jana Sullivan said. Erkenbrack agreed to drop all claims of age discrimination and other issues against the city.

"It is a good settlement for all parties," given the potential for further litigation expense, Sullivan said.

Communities United Against Police Brutality, an area nonprofit group that supported Erkenbrack, held a celebration Tuesday night at Crystal City Hall. About 20 to 25 people attended, including Erkenbrack, who called the outcome a "vindication."

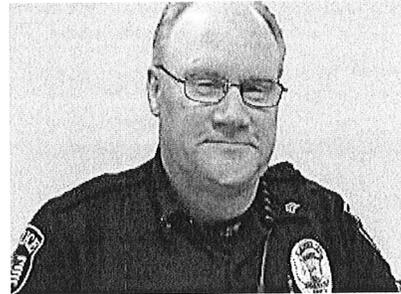
Earlier, Erkenbrack said the underlying issue was the city's allegation that he had not properly supervised officer Alan Watt, who left his handgun unattended on a table in the police squad room while he went to talk to Revering in April 2012.

Erkenbrack said he produced city records showing he was on vacation that day and couldn't have supervised Watt.

Revering said that the handgun situation was not the issue but that she could not discuss why Erkenbrack was disciplined.

Erkenbrack and Watt were put on paid leave and then fired. They have said they were disciplined for questioning the thoroughness of the Crystal police investigation of a home theft report stemming from a 2008 raid by the now-defunct Metro Gang Strike Force.

Revering said the city hired the Everett & VanderWiel law firm to look into the theft. She said Watt was returned to duty in September but terminated Feb. 28 because of new and old issues, which he is contesting.



Susan Hogan.

Jim Adams • 612-673-7658

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Sun Post  
6-5-14

## Former Crystal cop settles with city

By Joe Bowen

### Robin Erkenbrack receives \$160,000 after wrongful termination dispute

After the threat of a lawsuit and a separate union grievance filed against Crystal city government, former Crystal Police Sgt. Robin Erkenbrack has reached an out-of-court settlement for \$160,000, which he and City Manager Anne Norris signed on April 30. The agreement is the result of mediation between Erkenbrack and the city, which resolved both the pending litigation and the grievance.

Per the settlement, the city agrees to rescind Erkenbrack's prior demotion and subsequent termination, and he formally resigns his former position in the department effective April 15. Erkenbrack will therefore retire as a sergeant – the position from which he was demoted previously – and will be provided with a retired sergeant badge.

The agreement also stipulates that the settlement is not a statement on the merits of Erkenbrack's grievance or an admission of wrongful conduct or liability on the part of any current or former city employee, official or representative.

The settlement money will be paid to Erkenbrack and his attorneys by the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust on behalf of the city.

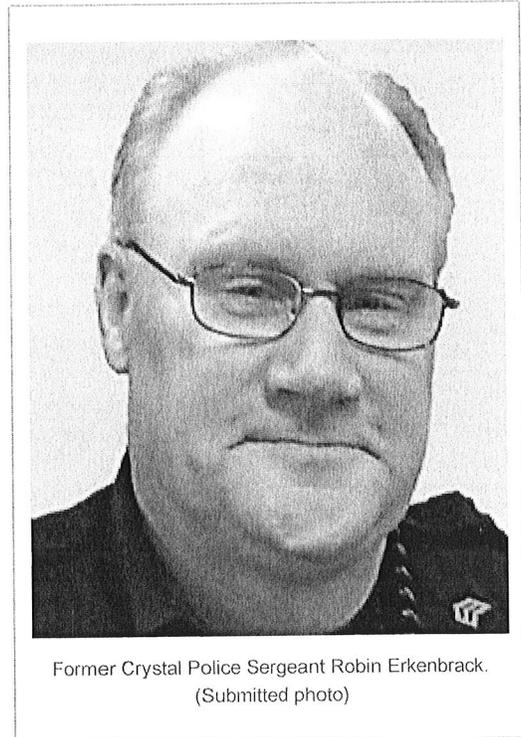
Additionally, the agreement stipulates that Erkenbrack will not enter the nonpublic parts of city property unless he has written authorization to do so.

In exchange for the settlement, Erkenbrack also releases the city, the league and any current or former employees and officials from any further claims regarding his employment with the city.

Erkenbrack will also dismiss his union grievance against the city and agree not to pursue any additional grievances relating to his employment there.

The agreement is a result of a months-long dispute between the city and Erkenbrack, who alleges that he was wrongfully terminated after speaking out against conduct within the department, particularly that of Police Chief Stephanie Revering.

"The city maintains it had just cause for taking those employment actions, which Erkenbrack denies," reads the agreement. City staff have declined to comment on the matter in the past, citing Minnesota's Data Privacy Act.



"He (Erkenbrack) was completely vindicated in every way," said Michelle Gross, President of Communities United Against Police Brutality, who added that the settlement and reinstatement shows that "everything he was saying and we were saying was correct."

The group had held rallies outside Crystal City Hall to advocate Erkenbrack's cause and the cause of fellow officer Alan Watt, whom they maintain was wrongfully fired for similar reasons.

Gross and Communities United called the settlement a "victory," and plan to hold a press conference 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 3, at Crystal City Hall, 4141 Douglas Drive N.

The conference will immediately precede the city's regularly-scheduled council meeting at 7 p.m.

Crystal Mayor Jim Adams said he was happy that Erkenbrack was able to retire as a sergeant, and "I'm happy that they were able to come to an agreement."

Other members of the city's government and police department declined to comment.

The city is insured against civil settlements through the League of Minnesota Cities. The city has already paid \$85,000 for the settlement and will pay an additional \$25,000 copay to the insurance provider. The league will contribute the remaining \$75,000 towards the settlement, which will then be given to Erkenbrack and his attorneys, as per the agreement.

"It's a good deal for the city and for Mr. Erkenbrack," said Jana O'Leary Sullivan, an attorney for the league who represented Crystal during the legal proceedings. "Everybody can just leave and walk away from the table."

The City of Crystal released a statement on May 30 reiterating many of the terms of the settlement. The statement concludes, "The Crystal Police Department looks forward to serving the City of Crystal in the same manner we always have, with compassion and integrity."

*Contact Joe Bowen at [joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com](mailto:joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com)*

Sun Post  
5-29-14

## Little Free Libraries aim to boost child literacy

By Joe Bowen

Jen Jamar and her family became Robbinsdale's most recent participants in a nation-wide literacy campaign when they dug a post hole and set up a Little Free Library in their front yard.

As one might suspect from the name, Little Free Libraries are mailbox-sized libraries with a take-a-penny-leave-a-penny philosophy about the books inside.

"There's no sign-in system," Jamar said of the books each library contains. "It's kind of on an honor system. You take a book when you like it and bring it back when you're done."

Users can also return a different book if they so choose or if, perhaps, the book they "checked out" was lost or damaged by a younger sibling.

The materials and funding for each library comes from Alpha Bits cereal, although Jamar says she wasn't compensated beyond that.

"They reached out to bloggers in the area to see if we would be interested in installing one," said Jamar, who blogs part-time about her family and her life.

"I said, 'cool' because we were thinking about doing that anyway," she said.

The purpose of the library, Jamar explained, is to promote literacy by providing children with free, simple access to books, "especially in neighborhoods where having a library isn't very accessible to kids."

Jamar explained that Robbinsdale has no community library of its own, and the Little Free Libraries are a way for kids to ride by on their bikes and grab a book or two.

Stocking the library is simple, as well, she said. Her blog has connected her with several publishers who can provide books for her library, she said.

She plans to add several installments of the Pigeon Books, by Mo Willems, to start her collection. Jamar said "The Pigeon Drives the Bus" is a particularly popular title.

The books provided by a library are up to its owners, Jamar said. She plans to have books appropriate for children as old as middle school.

"That's kind of the age range of the kids on our block," she said, adding that her own kids range in age from 3-12.

The libraries aren't just popping up in the Jamar's neighborhood, though. The Robbin Gallery recently installed one, and the city itself plans to put one near the downtown plaza. More libraries are scheduled to be installed in Crystal, as well.

"This is becoming a popular thing," Jamar said.

Contact Joe Bowen at [joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com](mailto:joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com)

## One step closer to Mars

By Gina Purcell

Sun Post  
5-29-14



*New Hope resident Paul Larson survives second cut of adventurous candidates*

One year after the candidate filing began for a one-way mission to Mars, New Hope resident Paul Larson remains in the running to be one of the first humans to live on the red planet.

### Background

Larson, a paid-on-call firefighter for West Metro Fire-Rescue District, college student and stay-at-home dad, was one of many to apply for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

With a wife of 24 years, a 15-year-old daughter and 11-year-old son, his decision was not easy.

He learned about the Mars One mission during his last year of college – Larson had returned to school several times throughout adulthood eventually earning a Master of Education degree with a focus on science education. The mission to Mars was an opportunity he simply could not pass up.

“I have this grandiose idea of changing the world,” he said.

Of course the thought of never seeing his family in the flesh again saddens him but he believes in helping humanity for the greater good.

"The impact on me, resulting from forever being away from my family, is lessened with the knowledge that humanity can work together to solve the problems facing our world," he wrote in his initial application. "The impact on me is lessened knowing the goals and objectives of the Mars mission will benefit generations to come long after my family and I are gone."

### **The selection process**

In April 2013, Mars One, a nonprofit created with the intent to establish a permanent human settlement on Mars, launched its Astronaut Selection Program. In August 2013, after the deadline passed, Mars One had 202,586 candidates worldwide interested in making the voyage.

The large pool of candidates was narrowed to 1,058 seriously dedicated to the success of this mission from 107 countries after the first round of cuts.

The next phase of the program included a medical evaluation. From the 1,058 that moved into the second round, 705 passed the medical evaluation – Larson was one of them.

According to a letter addressed to Larson from the Mars One Selection Committee, nearly one-third of the candidates dropped out in the first phase of this selection round. They were either not able to provide the medical statement or make their profile public.

Several withdrew for personal reasons. Before successfully passing the second round of cuts, Larson must also attend a face-to-face interview with representatives from Mars One.

"We're incredibly excited to start the next phase of Round 2, where we begin to better understand our candidates who aspire to take such a daring trip," said Mars One Chief Medical Officer Norbert Kraft in a statement. "They will have to show their knowledge, intelligence, adaptability and personality."

For now, Larson awaits an email with the date, time and location of the interview.

"Being part of the 705 is pretty exciting," Larson said. "It is all still a bit surreal. We are actually talking about colonizing another planet. That is wild."

While his wife remains supportive, her nerves grow the further into the process he gets.

"I know I am a perfect candidate for this mission and it is now my goal to ensure the Mars One Selection Committee sees that as well," Larson previously said. "I think that is what makes my wife nervous; she knows I am a perfect candidate too."

According to Larson, his emotions remain stable as there is a lot of "hurry up and wait" in the selection process. Mars One plans to select its final 24 candidates by the end of 2015.

### **Negative response**

One aspect of this mission Larson is confused about is the negative feedback he has read and heard.

"I am getting a little tired of the negative comments about the mission and about my decision to participate when I have a family," he said. "How comments can be made about me and my family when those people don't even know us just boggles my mind."

In an April presentation at St. Cloud State University, Larson explained the mission, his intentions and criticisms of the mission.

According to him, the four most popular negative arguments about the mission include it being a huge scam or hoax, not having the adequate technology to pull this off, astronauts being subject to radiation that would kill them and the founders of the mission not being real scientists.

Larson said about 95 percent of the arguments are created from ignorance about the project. The other 5 percent come from scientists who are asking legitimate questions.

While Larson understands the mission is not for everyone, he is shocked at the lack of support by some.

He told St. Cloud students that his parents are fully supportive, his siblings think he is crazy anyway, his wife is not too bent out of shape about it yet – she is banking on him not surviving the next three rounds of cuts, and his children have shown their support as well.

“My 15-year-old daughter, she said, ‘Will you be terribly upset if I tell you I’m not going to miss you?’” Larson recalls. “She’s thinking big-picture.”

Larson said his daughter will be 25 by the time he is sent to Mars if chosen. She would be living her own life.

“My 11-year-old son, he said, ‘Well, I’m going to miss you tons dad,’” Larson recalls. “But who am I to tell you that you can’t shoot for your dreams.”

With the mission beginning 10 years from now, Larson knows the family has plenty of time to prepare and spend time with one another.

“The family is still pretty low key,” he said. “We are just going about our daily lives right now – trying to get done with school (the kids and me), trying to pay the bills, trying to stay warm in this cold Minnesota spring. You know, just normal everyday family stuff.”

Despite negative feedback, Larson remains optimistic about the mission. He wants to teach and excite children about math and science.

“I want to be a good teacher,” he said. “I want to be a teacher that can inspire children to become whatever they want to be. I am changing my little corner of the world but I would like to make a difference for the rest of the world. I think the Mars One program can help me inspire an entire generation of kids around the world to become scientists and engineers. We, as one humanity, are capable of making a difference. We’re capable of making a difference for every body. Let’s all work together. Let’s all make a difference.”

Larson is not the only Minnesotan still in the running. According to him, there are four others who have made it this far the selection process thus far – one has not.

If Larson moves beyond round two of the process he would then go through the regional selection round where 20-40 applicants participate in challenges to demonstrate their suitability. This round may be aired on TV and internet allowing the audience to choose one winner while the organization selects the others.

The final round would be held as an international event broadcast worldwide. Candidates will be divided into groups of four. The groups will demonstrate their ability to live in Mars’ harsh environments as well as work together in challenging circumstances.

To learn more about the mission visit [mars-one.com](http://mars-one.com).