

# NEWSBRIEF



**Date:** March 25, 2016

**To:** Council & Senior Staff

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11. Minnesota House of Representatives Rep. Mike Freiberg (45B) Legislative Update (Mar. 10, 2016)
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17. Sun Post articles:
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  - b. LaRoche declares Crystal City Council candidacy
  - c. Mother and son honored by Crystal PD
  - d. New Hope businessman, community supporter A.C. Carlson dies at 89
  - e. Remembering Barway Collins one year later
  - f. Wary of opioids, Crystal resident pushes to expand insurance coverage for acupuncture


 
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## Metro Cities News

March 18, 2016

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### Governor Releases Supplemental Budget Recommendations

On Tuesday, March 15th, Governor Dayton released his FY 2016-17 supplemental budget proposal. The Governor's budget recommendations include \$661 million in general fund spending and tax reductions of \$37.1 million for a total general fund effect of \$698.1 million. The proposal includes spending and revenue increases. The net change to the general fund in FY 2018-19 is \$811.8 million. The February budget forecast shows a \$900 million surplus for the current biennium.

The Governor's supplemental budget includes investments in water infrastructure, transportation, early education, local government/county aid, public safety, broadband access, job creation, and mental health care. He also calls for an extension on iron range steelworker unemployment benefits and measures aimed to decrease economic disparities for Minnesotans of color.

#### Local Government Aid

Governor Dayton recommends a one-time \$46.5 million increase in aid to local governments. This would bring the total local government aid (LGA) appropriation up to \$540.9 million for aids payable in 2016. The additional appropriation for cities represents a \$21.5 million, or 4% increase, for this year. The increase does not extend into future years and the method of distribution, whether through the formula or another means, is not specified in the budget recommendation. The Governor also recommends a one-time increase to county program aid of \$25 million.

#### Housing

The recommendation proposes \$6.2 million to housing finance initiatives. This includes \$5 million one-time funding to the Homeownership Assistance Fund program, \$1 million in one-time funding for the Enhanced Homeownership Capacity initiative, and \$250 thousand for a new Landlord Guarantee Fund pilot program to provide incentives for landlords to rent to tenants such as people they might not otherwise accept.

#### Transportation

The Governor's proposal recommends an additional \$50.1 million in transportation spending from his recommendation last year, with spending for FY 2016-17 of \$13.9 million and FY 2018-19 of \$36.2 million. Over 40 percent of the new revenues would go to cities, counties, and townships and allow for local direction of the funds.

#### Economic Development

The redevelopment grant program is included for \$2 million. Metro Cities supports increases in this account. \$6 million would support the Emerging Entrepreneurs Fund, also called the Urban Initiative Program which lends funds for small business development in low-income areas in the metro.

The supplemental budget also includes funding for workforce development. \$4.1 million for the Pathways to Prosperity program would provide services for individuals who face

multiple barriers to employment. \$8 million for the Minnesota Youth at Work Competitive Grant Program. \$2 million for a pilot Capacity Building program would expand community-based organizations' ability to address disparities faced by communities of color, particularly in the areas of employment and economic opportunity.

#### *Broadband*

The supplemental budget includes \$100 million for the statewide broadband grant program. The governor notes this state investment will complement federal funding and leverage an additional \$100 million in private and local sources due the required match.

#### *Water Infrastructure*

\$220 million is proposed to address aging water infrastructure, buffer reimbursements, the Metropolitan Council inflow/infiltration grant program, as well as wetland replacement, and contamination cleanup. He stated that this investment would alleviate costs to local governments.

During the budget announcement, Governor Dayton stated that economic forecasts indicate a possible national recession by 2018 and that the budget proposal leaves \$571 million on the bottom line.

The full budget proposal breakdown and supplemental materials can be viewed [here](#) and a spreadsheet outlining the recommendations by budget area, prepared by Senate fiscal staff here:

[http://www.senate.mn/departments/fiscalpol/tracking/2016/Overall\\_GovRec\\_Feb.pdf](http://www.senate.mn/departments/fiscalpol/tracking/2016/Overall_GovRec_Feb.pdf)

### **Senate Tax Reform Division Hears Joint Powers Sales Tax Exemption Bill**

The Senate Tax Reform Division heard and laid over [SF 2249](#)-Rest, which would reverse the delay in the sales tax exemption for joint powers entities that was enacted in the 2015 session, and changed the effective date for this exemption from January 1, 2016 to January 1, 2017. The original provision with a 2016 effective date was included in 2013 legislation that reinstated the sales tax exemption for local governments. The delay to 2017, included in the omnibus education bill late last session, created savings for the state of \$32 million. Metro Cities, along with the League of MN Cities and others, opposed the delay last year and supports the bill to reverse the delay and effectuate the exemption. Rep. Freiberg-Golden Valley, is carrying the companion bill in the House, [HF 2387](#). The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the House Taxes Committee next Wednesday--March 23rd.

The Senate bill was laid over. It remains unclear as to whether the House and Senate Tax Committees will take up last year's omnibus tax bill still in the conference committee as a starting point or begin to assemble a new omnibus bill. Metro Cities encourages city officials to contact their local legislators in support of this bill. Please contact Patricia Nauman at 651-215-4002 or email: [patricia@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:patricia@metrocitiesmn.org) with any questions.

### **Bill Would Change Interim Ordinance Approval Process**

A bill has been proposed by Rep. Jim Nash-Waconia, ([HF 2585](#)) that would require two-thirds approval by a city council to adopt an interim ordinance. The bill as introduced would require a public hearing before an interim ordinance takes effect if the proposed ordinance is to regulate, restrict or prohibit activities relating to housing or development. The hearing would follow a 30-day notice by a publication in a newspaper that is in regular circulation in the municipality before the interim ordinance takes effect.

The bill is co-authored by Rep. Uglem-Champlin, Rep. Nelson-Brooklyn Park, Rep. Lillie-North St. Paul, Rep. Thissen-Minneapolis, and Rep. Heintzeman-Nisswa. The companion bill ([SF 2694](#)) is chief authored by Sen. Franzen-Edina, and co-authored by Sen. Housley-St Mary's Point.

If you have concerns or questions about the bill, we encourage you to contact the authors of the bill to help legislators understand how the bill would impact your city.

### **House Subcommittee Hears and Passes Bills on Metropolitan Council Governance**

The House Subcommittee on Met Council Transparency and Accountability heard two bills relating to the governance of the Metropolitan Council this morning. [HF 2104](#) and [HF 2467](#), both authored by Rep. Tony Albright-Prior Lake, were heard, passed and referred to the House Government Operations committee. HF 2104 provides for a study of the Met

Council. HF 2467 adds staggered terms for Metropolitan Council members, and would change the governance of the Metropolitan Council to compose the Council of county and city officials.

Metro Cities provided testimony along with Terry Schneider, Mayor for the city of Minnetonka, to oppose composing the Metropolitan Council with local officials due to the incompatibilities of these offices. Metro Cities supports the staggered terms provision and changes to the nominating process for Council members to include a majority of local officials, contained in [HF 2467](#). Metro Cities' opposition to local officials and concerns on the incompatibility of these offices, were identified in a 2011 Metro Cities Metro Governance Task Force of city officials.

Metro Cities supports a study of the Metropolitan Council as provided in HF 2104. We have some concerns on the makeup of the study group and will work with the author on these issues should it advance through the legislative process. Mayor Schneider spoke in favor of staggered terms and his city's engagement with regional level issues, as well how the city addresses any conflicts with the Council, and spoke against putting local officials on the Council. The Governor's administration spoke to his opposition to HF 2467. The bill is being put forth by representatives of Dakota, Anoka, Scott and Carver counties.

On a related note, Metro Cities has been observing the work of a Citizens League Task Force on Metropolitan Governance. That task force, which began its work last September and undertook a comprehensive study of the Metropolitan Council, has completed its work and its recommendations are being finalized for consideration by the Citizens League Board. The task force voted to recommend six year staggered terms for Metropolitan Council members and changes to the nominating process for the selection of members to increase the number of members, require a majority of local officials to serve on the committee, and to require specific measures aimed at increasing transparency in the Governor's selection process for Met Council members. The task force also recommended a number of items for additional study in the areas of transportation, equity and water supply. The governance recommendations align closely with Metro Cities' positions on governance and are more specific in stating the need for measures to increase transparency in the selection process for Metropolitan Council members, which Metro Cities will support.

Please contact Patricia Nauman at 651-215-4002 or email: [patricia@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:patricia@metrocitiesmn.org) with any questions.

### **Counties Seek EDA Authority**

Ramsey and Washington counties have introduced bills this session that would expand their existing Housing and Redevelopment Authorities (HRA) to include economic development authorities (EDA).

The Washington County bill, [HF 2820](#), changes the Washington County HRA into a Community Development Agency (CDA) with the powers of an HRA and an EDA. It would allow a city or town with municipal EDA authority to ask the county CDA to handle economic development, housing or redevelopment duties. If it does, the CDA would have exclusive jurisdiction. The CDA would be allowed to levy under the HRA law and to any higher limit authorized by the EDA law. CDA projects would be subject to city or town planning, zoning, sanitary and building laws, ordinances and regulations. A city or town that has not granted exclusive CDA authority would have authority to authorize a project. The bill was heard in and passed by the House Government Operations committee.

The Ramsey County bill, [HF 2957](#), creates the Ramsey County Economic Development Authority. It would require the county EDA to notify each municipality by January 31 of each year if the EDA plans any activities within the municipality. The municipality would have 45 days to object. The EDA would be permitted to exercise any municipal authority if requested. The local governing body would be required to approve of any project the EDA undertakes in the local jurisdiction. The bill was heard in and passed by the House Government Operations committee.

Metro Cities will continue to monitor the House and Senate bills. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or [charlie@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:charlie@metrocitiesmn.org).

### **Broadband Funding Bill Heard**

A bill to fund the Border-to-Border broadband grant fund was heard in the House Greater

Minnesota Economic and Workforce Development policy committee Thursday. A delete everything amendment to the bill, [HF 2381](#), would appropriate \$35 million in one-time funding for statewide broadband development grants. \$500,000 would be targeted to projects in areas with that contain a significant proportion of low-income households (less than 200 percent of the most recent calculation of U.S. federal poverty guidelines, adjusted for family size). The bill also directs the DEED commissioner to award 60 percent of grant funds in unserved areas and 40 percent in underserved areas.

An amendment to the bill that would have increased the appropriation to \$100 million and given DEED priority to award grants for projects that would serve businesses outside the seven-county metro region which face competitive challenges due to their broadband service levels was discussed. It was ruled out of order due to the funding increase and no vote was taken on the amendment.

Metro Cities signed on to a letter of support for funding the broadband grant program and advocated for support of continued grant eligibility for areas of the metro which qualify based on speed, rather than geographic location. The bill, as amended, passed the committee and will next be heard in the House Job Growth and Energy Affordability committee. A Senate hearing on a broadband funding bill will be heard next week.

Please contact Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or [charlie@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:charlie@metrocitiesmn.org) with any questions.

### **Drop Homes Bill has First Hearing in House**

On Wednesday, March 16th, Rep. Roz Peterson presented her bill, [HF 2497](#) (zoning of temporary family health care dwellings) to the Committee on Aging and Long-term Care Policy Committee. League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) staff spoke to concerns about this legislation to the committee including concerns on the elimination of local zoning authority regarding the temporary dwellings and the well-being of occupants. Metro Cities shares these concerns and staff have been working with the author and LMC staff to improve the language of the bill. The bill was passed and has been referred to the Government Operations and Election Policy Committee.

If you have any feedback or comments on this legislation, please contact Steve Huser at [steven@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:steven@metrocitiesmn.org) or call 651-215-4003.

### **Transportation Conference Committee Meets**

The Conference Committee for [HF 4](#) (Transportation Omnibus Bill) was re-appointed, and met for the first time this session on Wednesday, March 16th. Senate and House staff presented the committee with a walk-through of a 'side by side' document of provisions enacted in last year's Special Session bill, along with how what was enacted differed from what each body originally proposed. Both chairs agreed that they would like to meet again soon but no date for its next meeting was announced. If you have any questions on this bill, please contact Steve Huser at [steven@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:steven@metrocitiesmn.org) or call 651-215-4003.

### **DNR and Legislative Auditor Present Reports to Legislature**

Two reports were presented to the Legislature this week. On Monday, March 14th, a joint hearing of the Transportation Committees included a presentation by the Legislative Auditor on its report on MNDOT Highway Project Selection. The Legislative Auditor found that transparency could be improved at MNDOT, and suggested making changes to the Corridors of Commerce selection process. To view this report, click [here](#).

On Tuesday, March 15th, the DNR presented their Definitions and Thresholds for Negative Impacts to Surface Waters Report to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee. This report was asked for by the Legislature in the 2015 session. The purpose of the report was for the DNR and stakeholders to make clarifying recommendations to rule and statute regarding the states surface and ground water. To view this report, click [here](#).

Metro Cities will continue to monitor discussions of these reports and provide further information in a future newsletter.

### **LUAC Discusses Comprehensive Plan Updates and Requirements**

The Metropolitan Council's Land Use Advisory Committee met Thursday and discussed the next round of comprehensive plan updates, including planning assistance outreach to city planners and housing element requirements in the comp plans.

A comprehensive plan training program called [PlanIt](#) was introduced. Council planning staff explained how the program is targeted to local planners and planning consultants and will provide guidance to cities updating their comprehensive plans. Content will include planning requirements as well as topics that are not required but encouraged by Council policy to be included in the comp plan update.

Met Council housing staff discussed [tools and resources](#) they will make available to city planners as they write the housing element of their comp plan update. The Council will provide data and maps for the existing housing assessment as well as provide technical assistance. Cities will be required to guide land to meet their share of the region's affordable housing need.

The committee discussed how there may be multiple perspectives on what cities should include in the housing element. Council staff clarified that they will provide information on what is statutorily required and will provide additional assistance and information should a city wish to supplement the requirements with additional housing policy. A housing advocate on the LUAC noted how affordable housing advocacy organizations plan to offer their own independent training sessions on what cities should include in the housing element. Those efforts may include sessions for city planning staff and consultants as well as for residents who can then advocate for a more robust housing element in their own community's comp plan update. Council staff explained that any training sessions authorized or approved by the Met Council will be clearly indicated.

Council staff will provide technical assistance around guiding land at required densities for affordable housing development. For the implementation program requirement, Council staff will provide technical assistance to cities, specifically by [identifying tools](#) to meet existing and projected housing needs. (Met Council staff [presented on this topic](#) at last month's Metro Cities Housing Forum.)

Please contact Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or [charlie@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:charlie@metrocitiesmn.org) with any questions.

### **Metro Cities Annual Meeting is April 21—Mark Your Calendar!**

Metro Cities will host its Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 21st, starting at 5:30 p.m. The evening will begin with a social hour (cash bar and hors d'oeuvres). Nationally renowned public policy expert and Hamline Professor David Schultz will be our guest speaker this year, at 6:30 pm. The meeting finishes with a brief business meeting at 7:00 p.m.

There is no charge, but we ask that you RSVP by contacting Laurie Jennings at [laurie@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:laurie@metrocitiesmn.org), or 651-215-4000. We hope to see you!

### **Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources**

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will be putting out a Biennial Budget Request (BBR) for the 2018-19 Fiscal Year in March. All cities in the seven county metro area are eligible to participate. The primary purpose of the BBR is to generate information on local water projects and activities that support the partnership between State and local governments. The BBR can then provide information to support relationships local governments have with other state agencies as well, and provide transparency with state funds.

Most of the information that was requested in the last BBR is the same for this year. The BBR this year is also collecting information on the demand for clean water funds to be used in the Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants process, as well as information on projects for the next State biennium from state-approved, locally adopted, water management plans. A tentative window for submission of BBRs has also been moved up to March 1st through April 15th.

Local governments should review their water management plan, and begin to consider what priorities to include in their BBR. Review the previous BBR to see the type of information that was requested in previous years, and watch for further information about the upcoming FY 2018-19 BBR process.

### **Bills of Note**

[HF 3028](#), McDonald - A bill for an act relating to eminent domain; providing for certain attorney fees;

[HF 3034](#), Draskowski/[SF 2843](#) Anderson - A bill for an act relating to human services; directing the legislative auditor to conduct financial audits of spending related to refugee resettlement costs; transferring money.

[HF 3082](#), Anderson, P/[SF 2649](#) Carlson A bill for an act relating to criminal justice; expanding the damage to energy transmission or telecommunications equipment a crime.

[HF 3096](#), Slocum - A bill for an act relating to transportation; amending prohibition governing use of wireless communications device.

[HF 3155](#), Backer/[SF 2386](#) Dibble - A bill for an act relating to transportation; modifying eligibility requirements for the corridors of commerce program; makes all cities in MN eligible for this funding.

[HF 3179](#), Johnson, S - A bill for an act relating to public safety; prohibiting the sale and possession of firearms designed to look like a mobile communications device.

[HF 3295](#), McNamara/[SF 2900](#) Sieben - A bill for an act relating to local government; eliminating the cap on spending for purchase of awards and trophies.

[HF 3302](#), Theis/[SF 2780](#) Metzen - A bill for an act relating to liquor; clarifying off-sale license for microdistilleries.

[HF 3314](#), Dean/[SF 2917](#) Wiger - A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money to restore water level on White Bear Lake.

[HF 3362](#), Uglem/[SF 2866](#) Hayden - A bill for an act relating to capital improvements; appropriating money to the Metropolitan Council for regional park and open-space land acquisition and improvements; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

[SF 2630](#) Abeler/[HF 2935](#) Newberger - A bill for an act relating to public safety; prohibiting the use of unmanned aerial vehicles near public safety helicopters.

[SF 2689](#) Sparks/[HF 3353](#) Hamilton - A bill for an act relating to agriculture; establishing voluntary solar site management practices for solar sites; allowing local governments to require management practices as a condition of a site permit.

[SF 2731](#) Hawj - Minnesota investment fund and job creation fund programs grant eligibility requirements modification.

[SF 2738](#) Hayden/ [HF 3017](#) Mahoney - Targeted group business mentoring program modifications.

[SF 2872](#) Champion/ [HF 3343](#) Dehn - Metropolitan economic development association (MEDA) minority business development grants appropriation.

[SF 2930](#) Wiklund - Manufactured home relocation trust fund provisions modifications.

[SF 2964](#) Hall - Landlord information dissemination requirements by local ordinance or charter provisions prohibition.

[HF 3003](#) Garofalo - Economic development policy changes made, agency programs modified, commissioner's promotional authority modified, commissioner and employees protected from subpoena, workforce development outcomes modified, and Workforce development Board created.

[HF 3052](#) Clark - State-financed housing projects required to provide for maintenance.

[HF 3260](#) Newberger - Level III sex offender residency regulation by local governmental units allowed.

[HF 3265](#) Runbeck - Metro regional planning processes modified. System statements must be approved by the affected local governments before the development guide and policy plans are adopted.

[HF 3268](#) Simonson - Border-to-border broadband grant program modified, Minnesota's statewide broadband goals modified, and money appropriated.

[HF 3324](#) Clark - Urban agriculture development pilot program established, and money appropriated.

#### Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) Comments Due March 24

The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency is accepting public comments on the 2018 Qualified Allocation Plan for Low Income Housing Tax Credits. The agency has made changes to the current plan, the details are which outlined on [Minnesota Housing's website](#). A public hearing has been scheduled on March 24 from 1-3, at Minnesota Housing. Written comments may also be submitted to [mn.housing@state.mn.us](mailto:mn.housing@state.mn.us) or by mail to Minnesota Housing, Attn: Tamara Wilson, 400 Sibley Street, Suite 300, St. Paul, MN 55101. Written comments must be submitted by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 24.

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# Good PD News on Facebook? Like.

## Like us

A city's police department social media account can be a valuable outlet for distributing information about suspects, crime trends, and cautionary advice. But don't forget to share the good news, too! The City of Crystal Police Department took a moment to share some great news—a DWI-free New Year's Eve—on Facebook, and they were rewarded with shares, comments, and over 400 of those coveted "likes." Best of all, the post gave residents one more thing to cheer about in their community. Check it out at <http://on.fb.me/1StKIGH>.

## READY, SET, GO GREEN

Go from bright idea to clean energy action with the help of the Metro CERTs Clean Energy Accelerator Program. The accelerator program pairs your city's resources with a knowledgeable staff guide to get you from point A to point B on your quest for clean energy. Examples of assistance would include organizing community workshops to educate the public, helping your city navigate existing programs and resources, and helping choose the right vendor for the job. If your metro-area community is considering ways to embrace electric vehicle fleets, community solar, public education about energy-efficiency programs, or another project to boost clean energy, apply by March 24 for "deep assistance." Rapid assistance applications are accepted on a rolling basis. If you're interested in energy efficiency in your public buildings, there's a special track for that, too. Learn more at [www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/accelerator/application](http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/accelerator/application).



the overall winner in the city category for its Rochester Public Library BookBike program (think mobile library on two wheels). Other cities receiving recognition were Breezy

Point, Brooklyn Park, Minneapolis, New Brighton, and St. Paul. In addition to these honorees, awards were also given to counties, school districts, and townships. Learn more at <http://lgia.umn.edu>.

## Feed People, Not Landfills



The U.S. will reduce food waste 50 percent by 2030—that's the goal announced by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency late last year. Pie in the sky? Maybe, but when approximately 31 percent of the food supply is ending up in a landfill instead of on the plate of someone who needs it, it sounds more like a "bread and butter" issue. To put that percentage in perspective, cutting the amount of food waste in the U.S. by just 15 percent a year could feed more than 25 million Americans, and dramatically reduce methane emissions from landfills. The food waste reduction goal pairs nicely with a 2013 U.S. Food Waste Challenge dedicated to educating organizations, businesses, and consumers about food waste. Find food waste reduction resources for your city newsletter or neighborhood meetings at [www.usda.gov/oc/foodwaste](http://www.usda.gov/oc/foodwaste).

## LMC TRAINING & EVENTS

### 2016 Safety & Loss Control Workshops

- March 22—Bemidji
- March 23—Fergus Falls
- March 31—Biwabik
- April 6—Springfield
- April 7—Willmar
- April 12—St. Cloud
- April 20—Brooklyn Park
- April 26—Rochester
- April 28—St. Paul

### 2016 Minnesota Mayors Association Annual Conference

April 29-30—Bloomington

### 2016 LMC Annual Conference

June 14-17—St. Paul

### 2016 Clerks' Orientation Conference

Aug. 2-4—St. Paul

### On the web

Learn more about these and other events at [www.lmc.org/events](http://www.lmc.org/events).

# Crystal Arrest Report

Date Range: 03/16/2016 06:00:00 AM - 03/23/2016 06:00:00 AM

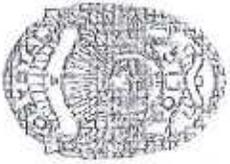
<u>Case Nbr</u>	<u>Juv</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date Arrested</u>
CYAR16-006103	N	HATCHER	JAMES	LOUIS	M	29	03/16/2016 11:31 PM
		Address: 6501 62 AV N		CRYSTAL	MN	55428	
		Statute: 609-50-1-1	GOVT-OBSTRUCT LEGAL PROCESS-MS-LAWFUL EXECUTION LEGAL				
CYAR16-006113	N	STEINBACHER	NIKOLAS	CARY	M	32	03/17/2016 2:22 AM
		Address: 510 OAK AV N		OWATONNA	MN	55060	
		Statute: 169A-25-1-A	TRAF-DWI-2ND DEG-DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED-2 OR MORE				
CYAR16-006113	N	STEINBACHER	NIKOLAS	CARY	M	32	03/17/2016 2:22 AM
		Address: 510 OAK AV N		OWATONNA	MN	55060	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-1	TRAF-DUI 2ND DEGREE				
CYAR16-006113	N	STEINBACHER	NIKOLAS	CARY	M	32	03/17/2016 2:22 AM
		Address: 510 OAK AV N		OWATONNA	MN	55060	
		Statute: 169A-35-3	TRAF-OPEN BOTTLE-DRIVER/PASSENGER POSSESS				
CYAR16-006113	N	STEINBACHER	NIKOLAS	CARY	M	32	03/17/2016 2:22 AM
		Address: 510 OAK AV N		OWATONNA	MN	55060	
		Statute: 171-24-2	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION				
CYAR16-006197	N	CEASER	BYRON	ALLEN	M	29	03/18/2016 1:25 AM
		Address: 1904 1 AV S	28	MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55403	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-1	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEGREE				
CYAR16-006197	N	CEASER	BYRON	ALLEN	M	29	03/18/2016 1:25 AM
		Address: 1904 1 AV S	28	MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55403	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-1	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEGREE				
CYAR16-006197	N	CEASER	BYRON	ALLEN	M	29	03/18/2016 1:25 AM
		Address: 1904 1 AV S	28	MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55403	
		Statute: 152-025-2-1	CONT SUBST-5TH DEG POSS-COCAINE				
CYAR16-006197	N	CEASER	BYRON	ALLEN	M	29	03/18/2016 1:25 AM
		Address: 1904 1 AV S	28	MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55403	
		Statute: 152-025-2-1	CONT SUBST-5TH DEG POSS-COCAINE				
CYAR16-006197	N	CEASER	BYRON	ALLEN	M	29	03/18/2016 1:25 AM
		Address: 1904 1 AV S	28	MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55403	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-5	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/ 2 HOURS				
CYAR16-006197	N	CEASER	BYRON	ALLEN	M	29	03/18/2016 1:25 AM
		Address: 1904 1 AV S	28	MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55403	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-5	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/ 2 HOURS				
CYAR16-006275	N	VOSS	KRYSTAL	NICOLE	F	27	03/19/2016 2:23 AM
		Address: 5930 HALIFAX PL		BROOKLYN	MN	55429	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-5	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/ 2 HOURS				
CYAR16-006275	N	VOSS	KRYSTAL	NICOLE	F	27	03/19/2016 2:23 AM
		Address: 5930 HALIFAX PL		BROOKLYN	MN	55429	
		Statute: 169A-20-2	TRAF-DUI 2ND DEG REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO TEST				
CYAR16-006338	N	ESPELIEN	KYLE	CURTIS	M	23	03/20/2016 1:01 AM
		Address: 3816 CEDAR AV S		MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55407	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-5	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/ 2 HOURS				
CYAR16-006338	N	ESPELIEN	KYLE	CURTIS	M	23	03/20/2016 1:01 AM
		Address: 3816 CEDAR AV S		MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55407	
		Statute: 169A-26-1-A	TRAF-DWI-3RD DEG-DRIVING WHILE IMPARED; 1 AGGRAVATING FACTOR				

# Arrest Report

Date Range: 03/16/2016 06:00:00 AM - 03/23/2016 06:00:00 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>
CYAR16-006347	N	WEISE	JACOB	CHARLES	M	27	03/20/2016 2:28 AM
Address: 9675 107 AV N Statute: 169A-20-1-5 TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/I 2 HOURS							
CYAR16-006347	N	WEISE	JACOB	CHARLES	M	27	03/20/2016 2:28 AM
Address: 9675 107 AV N Statute: 169A-20-1-1 TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE							
CYAR16-006353	N	LOR	WANG	CRYSTAL	M	31	03/20/2016 4:55 AM
Address: 5625 ADAIR AV N Statute: 609-224-1-2 ASSAULT-5TH DEG-INFLICT OR ATTEMPT BODILY HARM							

End of Report



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

**March 23, 2016 - 12:00:00 AM**

CASE NO	LOCATION	OFFENSE	VALUE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	DATE OCCURRED
CY16-006366	55-- WEST BROADWAY	ACC-ACCIDENT PUBLIC			03/20/2016 13:30
CY16-006052	38 AV N&KENTUCKY AV N	ACC-MOTOR VEHICLE PROPERTY DAMAGE			03/16/2016 11:15
CY16-006353	56-- ADAIR AV N	ASSAULT-5TH DEG-INFLICT OR ATTEMPT			03/20/2016 03:31
CY16-006393	57-- 32 AV N	ASSAULT-5TH DEG-INFLICT OR ATTEMPT			03/19/2016 14:45
CY16-006212	27-- JERSEY AV N	ASSAULT-DOM-STRNGL-HINDS-FAM			03/18/2016 09:30
CY16-006212	27-- JERSEY AV N	ASSAULT-TERR THREATS-INTIMIDATION			03/18/2016 09:30
CY16-006197	47 AV N&WEST BROADWAY	CONT SUBST-5TH DEG POSS-COCAINE			03/18/2016 01:25
CY16-006472	68-- 47 AV N	CRIMINAL DAMAGE PROP			03/20/2016 12:00
CY16-006212	27-- JERSEY AV N	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			03/18/2016 09:30
CY16-006249	52-- FAIRVIEW AV N	GOVT-CONTEMPT OF COURT			03/18/2016 18:30
CY16-006397	45-- MARYLAND AV N	GOVT-FALSE NAME TO POLICE			03/20/2016 22:49
CY16-006509	31-- SUMTER AV N	JUV			03/21/2016 00:00
CY16-006509	31-- SUMTER AV N	JUV			03/21/2016 00:00
CY16-006508	58-- NEVADA AV N	JUV			03/16/2016 00:00
CY16-006284	56-- WEST BROADWAY	LOST PROPERTY			03/18/2016 10:00
CY16-006402	77-- 36 AV N	LOUD MUSIC			03/20/2016 23:28
CY16-006483	33-- DOUGLAS DR N	LOUD MUSIC			03/21/2016 22:31
CY16-006227	51-- IDAHO AV N	THEFT-OTHER PROPERTY	10	GAS CAN	03/18/2016 14:40
CY16-006288	77-- 58 PL N	THEFT-OTHER PROPERTY	150	GARMIN GPS UNIT	03/19/2016 03:15
CY16-006351	60-- LAKELAND AV N	THEFT-OTHER PROPERTY	150	150 DOLLARS CASH	03/20/2016 02:50
CY16-006036	78-- 36 AV N	THEFT-SHOPLIFTING	36	CANDY - \$36	03/16/2016 07:30
CY16-006373	1-- WILLOW BEND	THEFT-SHOPLIFTING	55	ATWOOD TENNIS SHOES	03/20/2016 15:00
CY16-006480	53-- 36 AV N	TRAF-ACC-HIT AND RUN-DRIVER			03/21/2016 20:59
CY16-006197	47 AV N&WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG ALCOHOL CONC			03/18/2016 01:25
CY16-006338	42 AV N&WELCOME AV N	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG ALCOHOL CONC			03/20/2016 00:53
CY16-006197	47 AV N&WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG			03/18/2016 01:25

CASE NO	LOCATION	OFFENSE	VALUE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	DATE OCCURRED
CY16-006347	60 AV N&WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC			03/20/2016 02:21
CY16-006347	60 AV N&WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE			03/20/2016 02:21
CY16-006338	42 AV N&WELCOME AV N	TRAF-DWI-3RD DEG-DRIVING			03/20/2016 00:53
CY16-006472	68 <sup>th</sup> 47 AV N	TRESPASS-BUILDING OR DWELLING			03/20/2016 12:00
CY16-006483	33 <sup>rd</sup> DOUGLAS DR N	UNLAWFUL NOISE-GENERAL PROHIBITION			03/21/2016 22:31

End of Report

## Anne Norris

---

**From:** Hanson, Melodie [melodie\_hanson@rdale.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 6:12 PM  
**To:** Anne Norris; kmcdonald@ci.new-hope.mn.us; Leone Valerie; Jason Minnick; Gene Hackett; khemken@ci.new-hope.mn.us  
**Subject:** Results are in! February Diaper Drive a success!  
**Attachments:** Diaper Drive Collection results press release.docx; 20160217\_125501.jpg; COLLECTION SITE!.JPG; HIGHVIEW BRANDLAB GROUP 2.jpg; RTC ASSEMBLY LINE 3.jpg; RTC ASSEMBLY LINE 6.jpg

Dear all:

Thank you to both New Hope and Crystal for their support and participation in the February Diaper Drive. I've attached a press release which I will send out tomorrow to local media. I have also attached a few pictures from the event which you might enjoy. *(We have permission to share the student photos!)*

Thank you for being great cities to live, work and play in!

With gratitude,  
Melodie

Melodie Hanson, Program Director  
Robbinsdale Area Redesign  
2400 Sandburg Lane #302  
Golden Valley, MN 55427  
[melodie\\_hanson@rdale.org](mailto:melodie_hanson@rdale.org)  
[www.HelpingUsGrow.org](http://www.HelpingUsGrow.org)  
763-504-4981  
763-504-4985 (Fax)  
763-291-8413 (cell)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Submitted by:

Melodie Hanson  
Program Director, Redesign/HUG  
2400 Sandburg Lane  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

### **February HUG Diaper Drive a Success!**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Helping Us Grow Diaper Drive during the month of February 2016. The community support was overwhelming! The collection sites gathered 5,681 diapers and 3,670 wipes as well as financial contributions to The Diaper Drive of MN of \$430.00 – not to mention increasing awareness of the fact that one in three families struggle to provide diapers for their children.

Special thanks to the Robbinsdale Area Schools students who participated: Highview BrandLab students in the creation of marketing materials and presentations in the community; Robbinsdale Transition Center students who created an assembly line and sorted donated diapers; and the Neill Adventure Club students who took on this cause after reading an article in the Sun Newspapers. In three weeks the Neill Adventure Club students collected 500 diapers, 800 baby wipes and raised \$230 cash donations. Feeling moved by the need in our community, one Neill student went home and asked his parents to withdraw \$100.00 from his computer savings account to give to the diaper drive! We extend heartfelt thanks to **ALL** who participated through donations and time, including supporters at the collection sites at New Hope City Hall, Crystal Community Center, Osseo ECFE sites, Robbinsdale ECFE and Sandburg Learning Center.

Initiatives like this are only made possible through broad-based community participation. This community response sends the message of, *"This community cares about all our children . . . and we know what to do!"* You may continue to donate diapers year round at the New Hope Learning Center at 8301 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue N, New Hope MN. Financial contributions will also continue to be collected. Please make all checks out to: The Diaper Drive of MN.

The next HUG community-wide diaper drive will be during the month of October, when the governor typically proclaims "Diaper Awareness Week." For more information or to sign up to be a collection site at your business or organization, please contact Melodie Hanson, HUG director at 763-504-4983 or via the HUG website at [helpingusgrow.org](http://helpingusgrow.org). You may also visit the Diaper Drive of MN website at: [diaperbankmn.org](http://diaperbankmn.org)



March 18, 2016

## Dayton's Supplemental Budget

Gov. Mark Dayton released his supplemental budget proposal this week. During his announcement, he stated that his top priority for this budget proposal was securing future fiscal integrity for the state budget — a theme he brought up at his State of the State address. While many of his 2015 priorities have drastically reduced funding proposals this year, there are still a number of projects he hopes to complete this year.

Here are the highlights of [Gov. Dayton's supplemental budget](#):

### Economic Development

The governor's proposed supplemental budget calls for critical investments in a number of projects across the state. These programs are all part of his larger plan to create an economy that "works for all of Minnesota" by creating long-term fiscal stability while providing the citizens of Minnesota with the

tools and securities they need to drive the local economy. A few key initiatives of Gov. Dayton's budget proposal include:

- **Broadband Funding:** Proposed \$100 million investment to jumpstart expansion efforts and ensure that Greater Minnesota is connected to the 21st century economy.
- **Infrastructure and Jobs:** [Gov. Dayton's Jobs Bill](#) would invest \$1.4 billion in more than 200 infrastructure projects statewide, creating more than 39,900 Minnesota jobs.
- **Clean, Affordable Drinking Water:** Proposed \$220 million plan to modernize Minnesota's aging water infrastructure and protect groundwater from contamination. The proposal would allocate \$167 million to assist communities across the state that cannot afford to invest in aging water infrastructure. The plan also would invest an additional \$53 million for water quality protection initiatives to help leverage millions of federal dollars to implement conservation practices to restore and protect water quality across the state.
- **Closing Economic Disparities:** The proposal creates a \$100 million investment to

### They said it:

*"[Gov. Dayton's budget] prioritizes many of the same goals the Senate DFL Caucus has this session, particularly his dedication to bringing equity for workers and families, expanding education opportunities, and building Minnesota."*

— Tom Bakk, Senate Majority Leader (DFL-Cook).

*"[Gov. Dayton] is proposing to spend about \$7 for every \$1 he's giving back in tax relief — obviously out of whack with what I think Minnesotans' expectations are."*

— Kurt Daudt, Speaker of the House (R-Crown).

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expand economic opportunities and eliminate disparities for Minnesotans of color from across the state.

### Education

Gov. Dayton's E-12 recommendations include two significant priorities – voluntary pre-Kindergarten and expanding the teacher workforce. His voluntary pre-Kindergarten initiative includes \$25 million for a grant program to public schools and would be awarded based on poverty rates and the lack of high rating under the state's quality rating system. Gov. Dayton also proposes to invest \$12.3 million in an initiative to diversify and increase the teacher workforce by lowering tuition for candidates who agree to work in shortage areas, and creating pathways for paraprofessionals to pursue teacher licensure.

### Health & Human Services

In the area of health and human services, Gov. Dayton has proposed an increase to the Department of Health of \$28 million as well as an increase of \$191 million to the Department of Human Services. Gov. Dayton is looking to pursue a federal waiver in order to expand MinnesotaCare up to the 275th percentile of the federal poverty guidelines. A number of high-profile provisions include:

- Increasing the Minnesota Family Investment Program cash grant by \$100 per month that totals \$12.3 million in state spending along with federal matching funds.
- \$559,000 for home visits of nurses to families with infants.
- \$94 million to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to the 50th percentile.
- \$33 million to implement the federal Child Care Development Block Grant passed by Congress in 2014.
- \$39 million for increased inpatient psychiatric beds.

### Transportation

Gov. Dayton's supplemental budget includes his 2015 transportation plan, which seeks to invest \$6 billion over the next 10 years. While he supports a 6.5 percent excise tax on gasoline and several other fee and tax increases, he also stated he would support any transportation package that provides sustainable, long-term funding. Last year, Republicans vowed they will not pass a gas tax increase,

leaving this year's negotiations between Senate Democrats and House Republicans to focus on finding funding sources that do not rely on an increase to the gas tax.

### Taxes

"Tax Relief" has been a very popular buzzword in St. Paul for the past two sessions, and Gov. Dayton provided targeted tax cuts aimed at increasing income for 400,000 Minnesota families in his supplemental budget. Included in the cuts would be an expanded child care tax credit, increased working family tax credits, and tax cuts for education expenses. Gov. Dayton's supplemental budget provides just over \$261 million in tax relief over the next four years.

### Senate Democrats Renew Push for Transportation Plan

Last year, legislators failed to reach an agreement on a comprehensive transportation funding package. Both the House and the Senate passed omnibus transportation bills, but significant differences remained between the two bills that could not be worked out by the end of the 2015 session. This week, Senate Democrats renewed their efforts for long-term funding by increasing the gas tax and other transportation-related service fees. Sen. Scott Dibble (DFL-Minneapolis) stated that "at a minimum, we need to be putting \$600 million more per year" into the state's transportation system. While House Republicans are opposed to any increase in taxes, Sen. Dibble has stated they may be willing to make some concessions, as long as the funding package does not rely on shifting existing revenue from one area to fund transportation.

The transportation conference committee has resumed negotiations, and will likely be meeting until a final product is produced or until session is close to ending.

### Committees Begin Hearing Bills

Following the record-breaking turnout of the March 1 presidential primaries, Rep. Tim Sanders (R-Blaine) has proposed a bill that would transition Minnesota to an open primary system. [HF 2735](#) would not replace the caucus system, so if a local political party unit chose to keep the precinct caucus



system, a presidential primary would also be held. The bill doesn't have a Senate companion, so there is still work to be done in a short amount of time for this bill to have a chance at being signed into law this year.

Over the interim, a joint House and Senate working group was created to address the issue of REAL ID compliance for Minnesota driver licenses. This week the House Transportation committee heard [HF 1732](#), authored by Rep. Dennis Smith (R-Maple Grove) that would repeal the law forbidding REAL ID compliance that was passed in 2005, and charge

the Department of Public Safety with finding the necessary actions to allow the state to meet the more stringent federal ID requirements. The Senate companion, [SF 1646](#), has passed through the Transportation committees. Both bills have been passed on to the Ways and Means/Finance committees, and may be passed into law before the end of the month.

**Anne Norris**

---

**From:** Joel Nelson [jnelson@westmetrofire.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2016 3:47 PM  
**To:** Adam Wodtke; Al Kuehne; Albert Kuehne; Amy Leininger; Amy Moser; Ben Kinne; Bethany Brunzell; Bill Merriam; Brad Krawiecki; Brandon Olson; Brian Roby; Charlie Black; Chris Brooks; Dan Halvorson; Dave Neuenfeldt; Dave Neuenfeldt / Polaris; Douglas Swerdfiger; Dwight Gorder; Edward Forcier (forcierchip@gmail.com); Eric Enselein; Eric Grimes; Eric Moser; Erick Anderson; Glen Beske; Jacob Wheeler; Jared Carlson; Jason Braun; Jeff Hortenbach; Jeff Hurney; Jeff Rowedder; Jim Wallace; John Lonsbury; Jon Jaeger; Jon Jaeger / Home; Jon Tate; Jonathan Miller; Josh Anderson; Josh Kunde; Karsten Nelson; Kevin Harty; Louis Biondo; Mark Carpentier; Matt Preston; Matt Rowedder; Michael Zacharias; Mike Magers; Mike Todd; Nazib Chowdhury; Pat O'Malley; Philip Maki; Raul Valadez; Richard Fosler; Ron Sederstrom; Ryan Sodd / DOT; Ryan Sodd / Home; Sarah Larson [WMFRD]; Sean Watson; Shelby Wolf [WMFRD]; Tara Piazza; Tim Herlofsky; Todd Moser / FedEx; Tom Anderson; Tom Eliason; Vance Schwartz; Vladimir Garcia; William Leaf; Aaron Thraen; AJ Gerst; Amy Anderson; Angela Biondo; Angie Maki; Becky Moore; Betsy Maloney; Bridget Enselein; Dana Anderson; Deb Spencer; Erin Campbell; Jennifer Sodd; Jessica Black; Joann Nelson; Judy Watson; Kasia Carlson Msuchick; Kate Braun; Katherine Jaeger; Katie Zacharias; Kendria Orvik Chowdhury; Kevin Bubach; Kristin Lonsbury; Linda Kammerer; Liz Adams; Miranda Forcier; Miranda Hortenbach; Renee Soltis Foster; rncjoy@yahoo.com; Roberta & Gene Bakke; Sandi O'Malley; Sarah Valadez; Shari Nelson; Shelly Rowedder; Stephanie Watson; Sue Wallace; Suzanne Sederstrom; Theresa Halvorson; Trisha Herlofsky; Wendy Grimes; West Metro Auxilliary  
**Subject:** Food Drive Results

We had our best Food Drive ever!!

**Together we raised 2,386 pounds of food +  
\$10,949.28!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

People were still dropping off donations Tuesday morning and several of the FF's who volunteered at the Food Drive went to the Relief Association meeting on Monday evening and secured a matching donation of \$5500.00!!! All of the cash donations the Food Group receives in March (MN Food Share Month) are eligible for a matching donation – so you might say we are responsible for \$21,989.56 in 4 hours of volunteering.

**I don't think we will ever truly understand the impact of this contribution but I can quantify it by saying we raised enough to provide ~30,000 meals for our hungry neighbors.**

**Thank you all – I could not be more proud, you are amazing!!!**

Thank you,

Joel Nelson  
Assistant Fire Chief  
West Metro Fire-Rescue District  
4251 Xylon Ave N  
New Hope, MN 55428  
Telephone 763.230.7007

# CITIES BULLETIN



Issue 41

March 21, 2016

## Governor Recommends Funding for Broadband, Increased 2016 LGA, and More

Gov. Dayton released his supplemental budget recommendations on March 15, and the Legislature will begin considering them this week.

### CAPITOL UPDATES

[Send future updates to my email!](#)

#### Follow the Action with Capitol Updates

*(Published Mar 8, 2016)* During the legislative session, Capitol Updates will give you breaking legislative news in between issues of the weekly Cities Bulletin.



View/print a PDF of the Cities Bulletin

### Featured Events

2016 Safety & Loss Control Workshops

*9 dates and locations around the state!*

2016 LMC Annual Conference

*June 14-17—St. Paul*

### In Other News

#### MnDOT Commissioner Wants City Officials to Champion Transportation Funding

The commissioner is asking local leaders to sign an online statement calling for “dedicated, predictable, and sustainable” transportation funding at all levels.

#### Paid Family Leave Bill Clears Two Senate Committees

The bill would create a statewide insurance program that would be funded through a tax assessed equally on employees and employers.

#### Significant Changes to PERA Pensions Unlikely This Year

Action on other statewide pension plans could set the stage for future PERA changes.

#### Bill Would Establish a Presidential Primary Election

During a House hearing last week, much of the discussion was on the need to reimburse local election officials for administering the election.

#### Bill to Change Interim Ordinance Process Scheduled for Hearing

The League is opposed to the bill as written and needs your help contacting legislators.

#### Disposable Wipes Labeling Legislation Passes First Committee

This League-supported measure to improve consumer education could reduce operation and maintenance costs for municipalities across the state.

#### Temporary Family Health Care Dwelling Legislation Advances in House

Numerous changes were made to the proposal, but significant local control and public health, safety, and welfare concerns remain.

#### Fireworks Expansion Bill Opposed by League Advances to House Floor

Despite opposition from cities, fire chiefs, and the Regions Hospital Burn Unit, the bill was passed by two House committees and is awaiting action on the floor.

#### League-Sponsored Partition Fence Legislation Scheduled for House Hearing

This bill would prevent cities from being dragged into neighbor disputes via a costly fence-viewing process.

#### Massage Therapist Registration Bill Passes Out of House Civil Law

An amendment was added to the bill to broaden the types of convictions that may be considered for disciplinary action.

### Quick Links

[Archive of Previous Issues](#)

[City Jobs](#)

[Jobs with LMC](#)

[Wanted/For Sale/RFP Announcements in the LMC Marketplace](#)

[Weekly 4M Fund Rates \(Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund\)](#)

### 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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*For legislative questions:*  
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[choffacker@lmc.org](mailto:choffacker@lmc.org)

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### In-Person Absentee Balloting Bill Heard in Senate Elections Committee

Committee testimony emphasized the difficulty in administering the current in-person absentee balloting process.

### Broadband Funding Bills Differ Between House and Senate

Both House and Senate bills make investments in the broadband grant program, but they differ in funding levels and policy language.

### Federal REAL ID Compliance Planning Bill Moves Swiftly

A League-supported measure that requires state planning for Federal REAL ID conformity is likely to reach the governor's desk in weeks, if not days.

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## More Information and Resources

[Minnesota's Mayors to Explore the State's Economic Future April 29-30](#)

[Protect Your City from Ransomware](#)

[Don't Miss Safety & Loss Control Workshops in Biwabik, Springfield, and Willmar—Registration Is Closing Soon!](#)

[Honor Your City's Outstanding Programs and Leaders with a 2016 LMC Award](#)

[New LMC Memo Outlines City Employment Issues Related to the Use of Medical Cannabis](#)

[Health Care Reform Forms 1095-B and 1095-C Due on March 31!](#)

[A New, Free Tool for Police Departments Helps Assess Potential Issues and Liability](#)

[Discover Leading-Edge Ideas During 45+ Educational Sessions at the 2016 Annual Conference](#)

[Get Tips to Keep You Safe When Working in Water Near a Source of Electricity](#)

[The March-April 2016 Issue of Minnesota Cities Magazine Has Arrived!](#)

[Celebrate Procurement Month in March](#)

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## Training, Conferences, Events

[Upcoming League Events](#)

[Online Training/E-Learning](#)

[Co-Sponsored Events](#)

[Events Sponsored by Other Organizations](#)

## Governor Recommends Funding for Broadband, Increased 2016 LGA, and More



Gov. Dayton released his supplemental budget recommendations on March 15, and the Legislature will begin considering them this week.

Gov. Dayton's supplemental budget recommendations include \$100 million for the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program, and an immediate, one-time increase of \$21.5 million for 2016 local government aid (LGA). In addition, the governor recommended some increases for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) that will affect cities.

These funding priorities were included as part of his supplemental budget recommendations released on March 15. Supplemental budget recommendations are an opportunity for the governor to adjust his budget recommendations following the release of the February forecast.

The House and Senate have announced hearings beginning this week where the governor's recommendations will be considered. The House and Senate will develop legislation reflecting their supplemental budget priorities in the coming weeks.

### Broadband

The governor's supplemental budget recommendations were presented in summary fashion and did not include drafts of legislation reflecting his initiatives, or more information on broadband-related policy proposals. The governor's recommendations will be added to the ongoing broadband discussions at the Capitol.

A separate bill, **SF 2447** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=senate&f=SF2447&ssn=0&y=2016](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=senate&f=SF2447&ssn=0&y=2016))

(**Sen. Matt Schmit** ([Link to: http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member\\_bio.php?leg\\_id=15387](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member_bio.php?leg_id=15387)), D-Red Wing), was scheduled to be heard in the **Senate Jobs, Agriculture, and Rural Development Committee** ([Link to: http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/committees/committee\\_bio.php?](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/committees/committee_bio.php?cmte_id=3060&ls=89)

[cmte\\_id=3060&ls=89](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/committees/committee_bio.php?cmte_id=3060&ls=89)) this week, but the bill was pulled from the committee agenda and rescheduled for March 21 at 2 p.m. The bill funds the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program at \$100 million for fiscal year (FY) 2017 and also makes changes to the program's eligibility requirements to match the new state speed goals adopted by the Governor's Task Force on Broadband earlier this year.

The House companion bill, **HF 2381** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF2381&ssn=0&y=2015)

[b=House&f=HF2381&ssn=0&y=2015](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF2381&ssn=0&y=2015)) (**Rep. Dave Baker** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg\\_id=15429](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg_id=15429)), R-Willmar), funds the broadband grant program at \$35 million for FY

2017.

## **LGA**

The governor is recommending that the LGA distributions scheduled for July and December of this year be increased by \$21.5 million over the originally certified amounts announced last July. The governor does not extend this funding increase to 2017 or beyond.

When the Minnesota Department of Revenue certified the LGA distribution for 2016 last July, the LGA appropriation was only increased by \$2.5 million, or less than 0.5 percent over the 2015 distribution level. The governor's recommended increase would represent a 4 percent, one-time increase in the LGA appropriation over the original certified 2016 level.

The governor's recommendations do not yet include an identified method to distribute the increase. The additional appropriation could be distributed in any number of ways, including through the existing LGA formula or simply by proportionally increasing the distribution to each city by approximately 4 percent. Without a bill reflecting the governor's supplemental budget recommendations, no city-by-city estimates can be provided at this time.

## **Environment**

One of the items in the MPCA supplemental budget request would allow staff to begin to restructure water permit fees. The agency has a continued interest in dramatically escalating water permit fees paid by municipal and industrial permit holders.

Past proposals have seen fee increases of seven to 10 times current fee levels with no change in services provided. The increase would allow the agency to use general fund resources currently covering a portion of their water programs for other purposes. The League does not support this request.

The MPCA also requests additional staff positions to assist in increased permit and facility plan review to handle the increase in activity that will result from the large influx of new funding in the governor's water infrastructure bonding recommendations. The League supports that request.

## **Learn more about the governor's supplemental budget recommendations from the Minnesota Management and Budget website** *(Link to:*

*<http://www.mn.gov/mmb/budget/currentbud/gov16-17/>)*

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

## MnDOT Commissioner Wants City Officials to Champion Transportation Funding



The commissioner is asking local leaders to sign an online statement calling for “dedicated, predictable, and sustainable” transportation funding at all levels.

(Published Mar 21, 2016)

Calling city officials “influential voices in your local community,” Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Commissioner Charlie Zelle is asking mayors and councilmembers to publicly support passage of a meaningful transportation funding bill in 2016.

In an open letter received by the League on March 17, Commissioner Zelle asks city officials to sign an online Transportation Funding Solution Support Statement calling for the 2016 Legislature to pass a transportation finance bill that provides “dedicated, predictable, and sustainable” funding. The League is encouraging city officials to sign the petition.

### **Here is the full text of the letter:**

*Dear Mayors and City Councilmembers,*

*Since I became commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation three years ago, I have traveled to all parts of our state speaking to local and state officials about the need to adequately fund our transportation infrastructure.*

*We know that our transportation system is a key component of our state’s economy. And we know that good transportation supports a high quality of life as well as a healthy and vibrant society. We also know that this infrastructure will continue to deteriorate without a significant infusion of resources to address critical needs. Adequate, long-term funding will provide a more modernized system with longer lasting repairs and expansion projects throughout the state that bolster economic development and ease congestion.*

*We have an opportunity in 2016 to convince our legislators that now is the time to focus on transportation and pass into law a robust funding package that will address our long-term needs. As influential voices in your local community, I ask for your help in this effort. The 2016 legislative session has just begun and we need your direct outreach and advocacy.*

*We continue to build our list of supporters, so please click on this link [below] and sign on to our statement of support for transportation funding.*

**Transportation Funding Support Statement** (Link to:

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ecf294ftilwzlzlrp/a011jily3dqoe/questions>)

*Sincerely,*

*Charles A. Zelle*

*Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation*

**Ongoing work toward transportation funding**

The letter comes on the heels of a legislative session that promised but did not yield a robust transportation funding proposal. Legislative leaders and Gov. Dayton indicated at the end of the 2015 session that 2016 would be the year to get something passed. During the interim, Commissioner Zelle has traveled the state, including attending most of the League's fall Regional Meetings, to drum up more support for a comprehensive package.

The 2016 session has so far not yielded encouraging signs of an agreement between the Democrats, who lead the Minnesota Senate, and the Republicans, who control the House of Representatives. The conference committee appointed in 2015 to resolve differences between the House and Senate proposals has been reconstituted for the 2016 session. They met March 16 to revisit unresolved issues, but did not make progress on reaching an agreement.

The League is encouraging city officials to sign Commissioner Zelle's petition.

**More transportation resources**

For more information on how you can help advance the League's efforts to secure funding for city streets as part of an omnibus transportation funding proposal, see the League's **City Transportation Toolkit** (Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/transportationtoolkit.jsp>) .

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

[newsletter.jsp](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp))

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## Paid Family Leave Bill Clears Two Senate Committees



The bill would create a statewide insurance program that would be funded through a tax assessed equally on employees and employers. (Published Mar 21, 2016)

A bill authored by **Sen. Katie Sieben** (Link to: [http://www.senate.mn/members/member\\_bio.php?mem\\_id=1115](http://www.senate.mn/members/member_bio.php?mem_id=1115)) (DFL-Newport) would establish new paid family and medical leave requirements for employers, including cities.

The bill, **SF 2558** (Link to: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?b=Senate&f=SF2558&ssn=0&y=2016>) , was passed by the **State and Local Government Committee** (Link to: [http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee\\_bio.php?cmte\\_id=3061&ls=](http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee_bio.php?cmte_id=3061&ls=)) on March 14 and the **Senate Judiciary Committee** (Link to: [http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee\\_bio.php?cmte\\_id=1016&ls=](http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee_bio.php?cmte_id=1016&ls=)) on March 17. It now awaits a hearing in the **Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development Committee** (Link to: [http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee\\_bio.php?cmte\\_id=3060&ls=](http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee_bio.php?cmte_id=3060&ls=)) .

### Types of benefits

The bill proposes making four types of benefits available:

- Pregnancy benefits paid for periods of medical conditions related to pregnancy.
- Bonding benefits paid to adoptive, birth, and foster parents for periods of bonding with a child.
- Family care benefits paid for periods of care for a family member with a serious health condition.
- Serious health condition benefits.

The bill would create a statewide insurance program, similar to unemployment insurance, that would be funded through a tax assessed equally on employees and employers. The program is to be administered by the Department of Employment and Economic Development under a new division created for that purpose.

### Additional provisions

There is a provision in the bill that allows employers to substitute their own paid leave program for the new mandated program by applying for an exclusion. As the bill is currently written, however, cities may not meet the criteria for the exclusion because the bill requires that the substitute program be offered to all employees.

Most cities offer paid leave programs only to their regular full- and part-time employees and not to seasonal or temporary employees. Cities would then be obligated by union contracts or personnel policies to continue their current paid

leave programs, but would also have to offer this statewide program and pay the associated tax.

Unlike most current family and medical leave laws, this new program would allow an employee to take up to 24 weeks of paid leave in a 52-week period in some instances. This provision could create significant coverage problems for small police departments already struggling to achieve around-the-clock protection for residents.

The House companion, **HF 2963** (*Link to: [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?f=HF2963&y=2016&ssn=0&b=house)*

*f=HF2963&y=2016&ssn=0&b=house*), authored by **Rep. Jason Metsa** (*Link to:*

*http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg\_id=15407*) (DFL-Virginia), has yet to be scheduled for a hearing.

### **We need your help**

If passed, this bill is likely to have a big impact on cities. Contact your legislators and tell them how this would impact your city's current benefit policies.

Also, please let the League know of any questions or concerns you have by contacting staff members Ann Lindstrom at (651) 281-1261 or **[alindstrom@lmc.org](mailto:alindstrom@lmc.org)** (*Link to: <mailto:alindstrom@lmc.org>*), or Laura Kushner at (651) 281-1203 or **[lkushner@lmc.org](mailto:lkushner@lmc.org)** (*Link to: <mailto:lkushner@lmc.org>*).

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

### **Your LMC Resource**

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## Significant Changes to PERA Pensions Unlikely This Year



Action on other statewide pension plans could set the stage for future PERA changes.

(Published Mar 21, 2016)

The **Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement** (*Link to: <http://www.lcpr.leg.mn/>*) indicated at a March 15 meeting that it has no major **Public Employees Retirement Association** (*Link to: <http://www.mnpera.org/>*) (PERA) General Plan or Police & Fire Plan funding legislation before it this year. However, proposed legislation to address funding deficiencies in other statewide pension systems could indicate future actions for the PERA plans.

Although the Pension Commission will not consider significant changes to PERA General or Police & Fire plans, city officials should monitor the changes to the **Teachers Retirement Association** (*Link to: <https://www.minnesotatra.org/>*) (TRA) and the **Minnesota State Retirement System** (*Link to: <https://www.msrs.state.mn.us/>*) (MSRS) plans. The Legislature tends to enact changes that make the major statewide pension systems generally consistent in structure and, therefore, changes to TRA and MSRS this year could lead to PERA plan changes.

At this time, it is not clear whether the Pension Commission will forward major funding recommendations from the TRA and the MSRS boards to the Legislature this session.

### TRA proposal highlights

Proposed legislation for the TRA plan would:

- Increase the employer contribution rate for coordinated members from 7.5 percent to 8.5 percent on July 1, 2017 (there is no recommended employee contribution increase).
- Extend the TRA amortization period (the target date to reach full funding) from June 20, 2037, to June 30, 2046.
- Modify the annual post-retirement cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) as follows:
  - Temporarily lowers the COLA from 2 percent to 1 percent, effective Jan. 1, 2017, through Dec. 31, 2021.
  - Permanently sets the COLA to 1.75 percent on Jan. 1, 2022.
  - Deletes the COLA triggers that permitted a COLA increase to 2.5 percent if the plan's funding ratio equals or exceeds 90 percent on a market value of assets for two consecutive actuarial valuations.

**MSRS proposal highlights**

Proposed legislation for MSRS plans would:

- Increase employee contribution rates from 5.5 percent to 6 percent on July 1, 2017, for MSRS-General and Unclassified members.
- Increase employer contribution rates from 5.5 percent to 6 percent on July 1, 2017, for MSRS-General employing units, and adds a temporary employer contribution of an additional 1 percent on July 1, 2017, which continues until MSRS-General reaches a 100 percent funding ratio.
- Modify the annual post-retirement COLA as follows:
  - Permanently lowers the post-retirement COLA from 2 percent to 1.75 percent.
  - Deletes the COLA triggers that permitted a COLA increase to 2.5 percent if the plan's funding ratio equals or exceeds 90 percent on a market value of assets basis for two consecutive actuarial valuations.
  - Specifically excludes the State Patrol and Judges plans from the above COLA changes.

The Pension Commission currently has two additional hearings scheduled for this legislative session, where the commission will likely finalize recommendations that will be forwarded to the House and Senate.

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

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## Bill Would Establish a Presidential Primary Election



During a House hearing last week, much of the discussion was on the need to reimburse local election officials for administering the election.

(Published Mar 21, 2016)

A bill that would establish a presidential primary election was heard in the **House Government Operations and Elections Policy Committee** *(Link to:*

*http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cmt/Home/?comm=89011)* on March 16. If passed, it would be up to local units of government to administer such elections.

The bill was prompted by the turnout at this year's party caucuses, which was huge for both of Minnesota's major political parties. Shortly after the caucuses, legislative leadership, Gov. Dayton, Secretary of State Steve Simon, and the party chairs for both the GOP and DFL stated support for Minnesota to move to a statewide presidential primary.

The bill, **HF 2735** *(Link to: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF2735&ssn=0&y=2015>)* (**Rep. Tim Sanders** *(Link to: [http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg\\_id=15316](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg_id=15316))*, R-Blaine), would require that a presidential primary election take place on the first Tuesday in March in a presidential election year. This would be separate from the party caucuses, which would be held on a different day.

Last week's hearing was for information only, but the bill will be taken back up on March 22 for a vote.

### Reimbursing local governments

Committee members discussed the importance of reimbursing local units of government for the cost of essentially doing the work of political parties. The Office of the Secretary of State is still determining the final number, but a presidential primary is estimated to cost around \$5 million.

The League of Minnesota Cities does not have a formal position on the bill, but will be advocating for reimbursement of local officials for election costs.

Additionally, legislators are debating whether the primary would be "open" or "closed." A closed primary is limited to registered party members who must declare their party affiliation to vote. An open primary would not require this declaration, and administering an open election would be very similar to other statewide elections.

A Senate version of the bill, **SF 2985** *(Link to: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?>*

*f=SF2985&b=senate&y=2016&ssn=0*) , authored by **Sen. Ann Rest** (*Link to: [http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member\\_bio.php?leg\\_id=10558](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member_bio.php?leg_id=10558)*) (DFL-New Hope) is scheduled to be heard in the **Senate Subcommittee on Elections** (*Link to: [http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee\\_bio.php?cmtc\\_id=3021&ls=](http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee_bio.php?cmtc_id=3021&ls=)*) on March 22 at 2 p.m. in the Minnesota Senate Building, room 2308.

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

## Your LMC Resource

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## Bill to Change Interim Ordinance Process Scheduled for Hearing



The League is opposed to the bill as written and needs your help contacting legislators.

(Published Mar 21, 2016)

**HF 2585** (*Link to: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF2585&ssn=0&y=2015>*), authored by **Rep. Jim Nash** (*Link to: [http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg\\_id=15441](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg_id=15441)*) (R-Waconia), would require a 30-day notice of a public hearing on an interim ordinance related to housing, and would also require a two-thirds majority to pass any interim ordinance.

The bill will be heard in the **House Government Operations and Elections Policy Committee** (*Link to: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cmt/Home/?comm=89011>*) on March 24 at 10:15 a.m. in the State Office Building, basement hearing room.

### We need your help

If you have concerns about this bill, please do the following:

- Contact Rep. Jim Nash and express your concerns about how this bill would impact your city.
- Contact members of the House Government Operations and Elections Policy Committee and urge them to oppose the bill.

To learn more about this bill, read a previous **Cities Bulletin article** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/InterimOrdinance.jsp>*).

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

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#### Contact Craig Johnson

IGR Representative

## Disposable Wipes Labeling Legislation Passes First Committee



This League-supported measure to improve consumer education could reduce operation and maintenance costs for municipalities across the state. (Published Mar 21, 2016)

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has proposed legislation this session that would ban the use of the word “flushable” on the labels of disposable wipes (used for changing diapers, personal hygiene, housecleaning, and more).

**Sen. Vicki Jensen** (Link to: [http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member\\_bio.php?leg\\_id=15383](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member_bio.php?leg_id=15383)) (DFL-Owatonna) and **Rep. Denny McNamara** (Link to: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?id=10776>) (R-Hastings) have authored that legislation (**SF 2525** (Link to: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?b=Senate&f=SF2525&ssn=0&y=2016>) / **HF 2842** (Link to: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?f=HF2842&y=2016&ssn=0&b=house>)).

This proposal is supported by long-standing League policy and has been frequently raised as a concern by cities. The recent attention by Gov. Dayton on water quality issues also brings renewed attention to the issue this session.

### The Senate Environment and Energy Committee (Link to: [http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/committees/committee\\_bio.php?cmte\\_id=3058&ls=](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/committees/committee_bio.php?cmte_id=3058&ls=))

heard the bill on March 17.

Following a presentation by Sen. Jensen and testimony from the MPCA, the League provided testimony in support of the legislation, along with Travis Block, public works director for the City of Faribault. The bill was passed and referred to the **Senate Commerce Committee** (Link to: [http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/committees/committee\\_bio.php?cmte\\_id=1003&ls=](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/committees/committee_bio.php?cmte_id=1003&ls=)).

### The proposed bill would:

- Ban “flushable,” “septic safe,” or “sewer safe” labeling from nonwoven disposable products (wipes) sold in Minnesota.
- Help change public behavior and over time reduce the amount of such wipes being flushed.

Fewer wipes flushed would reduce operation and maintenance costs for municipalities across the state.

### Your help needed

If your city has any data on public works staff time and/or repair costs associated with these products being flushed into the wastewater system, please let the League know by contacting Craig Johnson at [cjohnson@lmc.org](mailto:cjohnson@lmc.org) (Link to: <mailto:cjohnson@lmc.org>) OR

(651) 281-1259, or Heather Corcoran at [hcorcoran@lmc.org](mailto:hcorcoran@lmc.org) (Link to: <mailto:hcorcoran@lmc.org>) or (651) 281-1256.

Also, please contact your legislators and let them know that cities will continue to work to educate the public on what not to flush, but we need their help to stop misinformation through inaccurate marketing and labeling.

To learn more about this bill, read a previous *Cities Bulletin* article (Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/Flushable-Wipes.jsp>).

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

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## Temporary Family Health Care Dwelling Legislation Advances in House



Numerous changes were made to the proposal, but significant local control and public health, safety, and welfare concerns remain.  
(Published Mar 21, 2016)

The House Aging and Long-Term Care Policy Committee held a hearing on March 16 on **HF 2497** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=house&f=HF2497&ssn=0&y=2016](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=house&f=HF2497&ssn=0&y=2016)) (**Rep. Roz Peterson** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg\\_id=15442](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg_id=15442)), R-Lakeville), a bill that requires local governments to permit certain types of recreational vehicles as temporary family dwellings.

The main motivation behind the bill is to provide transitional housing for seniors. For example, if a family wanted to keep a close eye on grandma while she recuperates from surgery, they could have grandma stay in a temporary family health care dwelling in the yard or driveway. The bill is drafted more broadly than that, however, making anyone who needs assistance with two or more instrumental activities of daily life for mental or physical reasons eligible to be housed in this manner.

### Amendment adopted

After the bill was presented by the author, an amendment was offered and adopted that made numerous changes to the legislation, many of which were the result of meetings the proposers held with the League.

- **See the current version of the House bill** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF2497&version=1&session=1s89&session\\_year=2016&session\\_number=0](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF2497&version=1&session=1s89&session_year=2016&session_number=0))

League IGR Representative Craig Johnson, along with Dean Lotter and Janice Gundlach from the City of New Brighton, testified about city concerns with the remaining provisions of the proposal. It was made clear that the League would continue to work with the advocates of the bill. The bill was passed with a voice vote and referred to the Government Operations and Election Reform Committee.

### Bill specifics after the amendment

The bill requires cities to issue a permit to qualified applicants for the placement and use of a dwelling unit. The permit fee is set at \$100, with \$50 for renewal, if the city has not set a different fee schedule by ordinance. The permit stands for six months and can be renewed once for a period agreed to between the applicant and the local government. The permittee would have 60 days to apply for an extension of their permit to a date certain.

The bill provides that the temporary family health care dwelling can be no bigger than 300 square feet and cannot have a permanent foundation. There can be only one occupant per temporary family health care dwelling and only one temporary family health care dwelling per lot. The bill also requires that temporary family health care dwellings must comply with all setback requirements. Requirements for backflow check valves and pre-arranged septage management were added.

The temporary family health care dwelling can only be on the property of a “caregiver” who is (1) a relative of the mentally or physically impaired person, and (2) providing care for the mentally or physically impaired person.

### **League’s initial concerns**

League staff have been working with the bill authors and previously expressed initial concerns, some of which were addressed by the amendment. Other local government organizations, including the Association of Minnesota Counties, have joined the League in raising concerns about this legislation.

A letter outlining the League’s initial concerns was sent to the founder of **Next Door Housing** ([Link to: http://www.nextdoorhousing.com](http://www.nextdoorhousing.com)), an organization that is working with Rep. Peterson on the bill.

- **View letter to the bill authors (pdf)** ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/letter\\_healthcaredwellings.pdf](http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/letter_healthcaredwellings.pdf))

### **We need your help**

Contact Craig Johnson at [cjohnson@lmc.org](mailto:cjohnson@lmc.org) ([Link to: mailto:cjohnson@lmc.org](mailto:cjohnson@lmc.org)) or (651) 281-1259 to let us know your reactions to this bill and how this bill might impact your city. The League will continue to work with the bill authors and can provide input based on what we are hearing from cities.

### **More information**

For a more in-depth understanding of permitted uses or accessory uses, see the League’s information memo, **Zoning Guide for Cities (pdf)** ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/zoning\\_guide.pdf](http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/zoning_guide.pdf)).

[http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/zoning\\_guide.pdf](http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/zoning_guide.pdf) .

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## Fireworks Expansion Bill Opposed by League Advances to House Floor



Despite opposition from cities, fire chiefs, and the Regions Hospital Burn Unit, the bill was passed by two House committees and is awaiting action on the floor.

(Published Mar 21, 2016)

A bill that would expand the definition of consumer fireworks in Minnesota to include aerial and audible fireworks has cleared committees in the House and is now awaiting action on the floor. The measure, **HF 1089** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=HF1089&b=house&y=2016&ssn=0](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=HF1089&b=house&y=2016&ssn=0)) (**Rep. Jason Rarick** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg\\_id=15445](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg_id=15445)), R-Pine City), is backed by the fireworks industry.

It passed on a voice vote out of the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy Committee on March 10 and out of the Government Operations and Elections Policy Committee on a rollcall vote of 9-7 on March 15.

### Senate bill

The Senate companion, **SF 465** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=SF465&y=2015&ssn=0&b=senate)

[f=SF465&y=2015&ssn=0&b=senate](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=SF465&y=2015&ssn=0&b=senate)) (**Sen. Torrey Westrom** ([Link to: http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member\\_bio.php?leg\\_id=10709](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member_bio.php?leg_id=10709)

[http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member\\_bio.php?leg\\_id=10709](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member_bio.php?leg_id=10709)), R-Elbow Lake), has not been scheduled for a hearing. The measure is similar, but not identical, to legislation that was vetoed in 2012 by Gov. Dayton.

### League opposition

The League of Minnesota Cities has long opposed fireworks expansion legislation for safety and other reasons. City officials with concerns about this legislation are encouraged to contact their legislators and request they vote against the bill.

To learn more about this bill and the League's opposition to it, read a previous **Cities Bulletin article** ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/fireworksexpansion.jsp](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/fireworksexpansion.jsp)).

**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))

### Your LMC Resource

### Contact Anne Finn

## League-Sponsored Partition Fence Legislation Scheduled for House Hearing



This bill would prevent cities from being dragged into neighbor disputes via a costly fence-viewing process.

(Published Mar 21, 2016)

**HF 2757** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=HF2757&b=house&y=2016&ssn=0](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=HF2757&b=house&y=2016&ssn=0)), a bill that would allow cities to pass an ordinance to be exempted from the partition fence law for land less than 20 acres, is scheduled to be heard in the **House Government Operations and Elections Policy Committee** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/committee.asp?comm=89011](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/committee.asp?comm=89011))

on March 23 at 10:15 a.m. in the State Office Building, basement hearing room.

The bill, authored by **Rep. Cindy Pugh** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?id=15411](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?id=15411)) (R-Chanhassen), would give cities and counties the same authority to preempt the partition fence law that townships already have under **Minnesota Statutes, chapter 344** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.us/statutes/?id=344](https://www.revisor.mn.us/statutes/?id=344)).

The Senate companion will be introduced Monday. It is being carried by **Sen. Bev Scalze** ([Link to: http://www.senate.mn/members/member\\_bio.php?mem\\_id=1207](http://www.senate.mn/members/member_bio.php?mem_id=1207)) (DFL-Little Canada).

### Support this bill

Please take the following action to advocate for passage of this bill:

- Contact members of the House Government Operations and Elections Policy Committee and urge their support of the bill.
- Share your city's experience with the partition fence law and fence-viewing with League staff and your legislators.
- Contact the office of **Sen. Patricia Torres Ray** ([Link to: http://www.senate.mn/members/member\\_bio.php?mem\\_id=1151](http://www.senate.mn/members/member_bio.php?mem_id=1151))

to push for a hearing in the **Senate State and Local Government Committee** ([Link to: http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee\\_bio.php?cmte\\_id=3061&ls=](http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee_bio.php?cmte_id=3061&ls=)) .

For more background information on this legislation, read a previous **Cities Bulletin article** ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/PartitionFence.jsp](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/PartitionFence.jsp)) .

**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))

## Massage Therapist Registration Bill Passes Out of House Civil Law



An amendment was added to the bill to broaden the types of convictions that may be considered for disciplinary action.  
(Published Mar 21, 2016)

The League-supported massage therapist registration bill cleared one more committee hurdle on March 17 when it passed out of the **House Civil Law and Data Practices Committee** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cmte/Home/?comm=89005](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cmte/Home/?comm=89005)) . **HF 644** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF644&ssn=0&y=2015](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF644&ssn=0&y=2015)) , authored by **Rep. Nick Zerwas** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg\\_id=15422](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg_id=15422)) (R-Elk River), would establish a voluntary statewide massage therapist registration system.

### Amendment adopted

**An author's amendment** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/8e3f40ae-3e07-4ac5-b38f-f1935a50afd5.pdf](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/8e3f40ae-3e07-4ac5-b38f-f1935a50afd5.pdf)) was adopted to amend section 12.09 of the bill regarding disciplinary action. Local law enforcement had expressed concerns that, prior to the amendment, as one of the grounds for disciplinary action, a massage therapist would have to be convicted of or plead guilty to a felony.

The amendment replaced this to include an admission of guilt or a no-contest plea to ensure that cases that are pleaded down to lower offenses can still be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

This new language will assure cities that those who register with the state may receive disciplinary action, including having their registration revoked, if they have been convicted of a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor.

The bill has one more stop in the **House Health and Human Services Finance Committee** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cmte/Home/?comm=89013](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cmte/Home/?comm=89013)) , which has yet to be scheduled. If it passes out of that committee, it will be referred to the general register to be taken up by the full House.

### Senate bill also making progress

The Senate companion, **SF 1310** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?b=Senate&f=SF1310&ssn=0&y=2015](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?b=Senate&f=SF1310&ssn=0&y=2015)) (**Sen. Chris Eaton** ([Link to: http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member\\_bio.php?leg\\_id=15374](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member_bio.php?leg_id=15374)) , DFL-Brooklyn Center), has been

scheduled for a hearing in the **Senate Health, Human Services and Housing Committee** ([Link to: http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/committees/committee\\_bio.php?cmte\\_id=3059&ls=89](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/committees/committee_bio.php?cmte_id=3059&ls=89)) for March 21. League staff plan to testify in support of the bill in the Senate once it is referred on to the **Senate State and Local Government Committee** ([Link to:](#)

[http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee\\_bio.php?cmtc\\_id=3061&ls=](http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee_bio.php?cmtc_id=3061&ls=)).

### **We need your help!**

Please advocate for this bill by doing the following:

- Contact Sen. Chris Eaton's office and members of the Health, Human Services and Housing committee to share your support for the bill.
- Contact the chair of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee, **Rep. Matt Dean** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?id=12258](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?id=12258)), to encourage a hearing in the House.
- Thank Rep. Nick Zerwas for his hard work on this bill.
- Share your city's experience with regulating massage therapists with your legislators.
- Contact League staff with any questions about the bill or about how to get in touch with your legislators.

For more background information about this legislation, see a previous *Cities Bulletin* article ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/massagetherapistregistration.jsp](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/massagetherapistregistration.jsp)).

**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))

### **Your LMC Resource**

#### **Contact Ann Lindstrom**

IGR Representative

(651) 281-1261 or (800) 925-1122

**[alindstrom@lmc.org](mailto:alindstrom@lmc.org)** ([Link to: mailto:alindstrom@lmc.org](mailto:alindstrom@lmc.org))

## In-Person Absentee Balloting Bill Heard in Senate Elections Committee



Committee testimony emphasized the difficulty in administering the current in-person absentee balloting process.  
(Published Mar 21, 2016)

A League-supported bill that would improve the in-person absentee balloting process was heard by the **Senate Subcommittee on Elections** ([Link to: http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee\\_bio.php?cmte\\_id=3021&ls=89](http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee_bio.php?cmte_id=3021&ls=89)) on March 15, and was laid over for possible inclusion in an omnibus elections bill.

The bill, **SF 2495** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?b=Senate&f=SF2495&ssn=0&y=2016](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?b=Senate&f=SF2495&ssn=0&y=2016)) (**Sen. Katie Sieben** ([Link to: http://www.senate.mn/members/member\\_bio.php?mem\\_id=1115](http://www.senate.mn/members/member_bio.php?mem_id=1115)), DFL-Newport), would allow in-person absentee voters to place their ballots directly into a secure tabulator beginning seven days before Election Day.

Testimony by city and county officials emphasized the difficulty in administering the current in-person absentee balloting process.

New Brighton City Clerk Terri Haarstad testified on behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities and spoke to the importance of allowing in-person absentee voters to place their ballots in the tabulator as well as the cost savings of the proposal.

As more and more voters choose to vote early with absentee balloting, improvements must be made to increase efficiency of administering absentee balloting before Election Day, to reduce the potential for errors, and to improve voter experience. The League of Minnesota Cities supports SF 2495 for these reasons.

The House companion, **HF 2959** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF2959&ssn=0&y=2015](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF2959&ssn=0&y=2015)), is authored by **Rep. Denny McNamara** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg\\_id=10776](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg_id=10776)) (R-Hastings) and has yet to be scheduled for a hearing.

For more information and tips on how your city can help, see this **Cities Bulletin story** ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/absenteevoting.jsp](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/absenteevoting.jsp)) from March 14.

**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))

## Broadband Funding Bills Differ Between House and Senate



Both House and Senate bills make investments in the broadband grant program, but they differ in funding levels and policy language.

(Published Mar 21, 2016)

Legislators in both the House and Senate have brought forth bills to provide funding for the state's broadband development grant program, but they are miles apart on dollar amounts and also differ on policy language.

### Senate bill

The Senate bill, **SF 2447** (Link to: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?>

[b=Senate&f=SF2447&ssn=0&y=2016](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?b=Senate&f=SF2447&ssn=0&y=2016)) (**Sen. Matt Schmit** (Link to:

[http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member\\_bio.php?leg\\_id=15387](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member_bio.php?leg_id=15387)), D-Red Wing), will be heard in the

**Senate Jobs, Agriculture, and Rural Development Committee** (Link to:

[http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee\\_bio.php?cmte\\_id=3060&ls=](http://www.senate.mn/committees/committee_bio.php?cmte_id=3060&ls=)) on March 21. It funds the Border-to-

Border Broadband Development Grant Program at \$100 million for fiscal year (FY) 2017.

The bill also makes changes to the program's eligibility requirements that match the new state speed goals adopted earlier this year by the Governor's Task Force on Broadband. The Senate committee will also discuss **SF 2448** (Link to:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?b=Senate&f=SF2448&ssn=0&y=2016>), a bill to update the

state's broadband speed and adoption goals.

### House bill

The broadband funding bill in the House, **HF 2381** (Link to: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?>

[b=House&f=HF2381&ssn=0&y=2015](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF2381&ssn=0&y=2015)) (**Rep. Dave Baker** (Link to: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?>

[leg\\_id=15429](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg_id=15429)), R-Willmar), was heard in the **Greater Minnesota Economic &**

**Workforce Development Policy Committee** (Link to: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cmte/Home/?>

[comm=89012](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cmte/Home/?comm=89012)) on March 17.

The House bill funds the grant program at \$35 million for FY 2017, and makes some changes to the Office of Broadband Development's administration of the grant. The House proposal would require 60 percent of the funds to go to unserved communities, and 40 percent to areas identified as underserved as defined by **Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.394** (Link to: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=116J.394>).

The League testified in support for the continued investment in the program, while citing some concerns with policy language. Specifically, the League is working with legislators and stakeholders on changes to the program details included in the

House version, such as speed criteria and the allowance of incumbent providers the right of first refusal should they decide to serve an area that another provider may seek grant funds for.

Both bills make investments in the grant program, which supports the League's broadband policy priority.

**Read the latest 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>*)

## Federal REAL ID Compliance Planning Bill Moves Swiftly



A League-supported measure that requires state planning for Federal REAL ID conformity is likely to reach the governor's desk in weeks, if not days.

(Published Mar 21, 2016)

A bill repealing a 2009 state law prohibiting Federal REAL ID Act compliance activities by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is moving swiftly through committees in the House and Senate.

The Senate version passed easily out of policy and finance committees and is awaiting final action by the full Senate. The House version has passed out of **Transportation Policy and Finance** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cmte/Home/?comm=89025](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cmte/Home/?comm=89025)) and is on its way to the **Ways and Means Committee** ([Link to:](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cmte/Home/?comm=89026)

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cmte/Home/?comm=89026>).

The League-supported measure, **SF 1646** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?b=Senate&f=SF1646&ssn=0&y=2015](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?b=Senate&f=SF1646&ssn=0&y=2015)) (**Sen. Scott Dibble** ([Link to:](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member_bio.php?leg_id=10142)

[http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member\\_bio.php?leg\\_id=10142](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member_bio.php?leg_id=10142)), DFL-Minneapolis)/**HF 1732** ([Link to:](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?f=HF1732&y=2015&ssn=0&b=house)

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pages/doctypes/bills/bill.php?f=HF1732&y=2015&ssn=0&b=house>) (**Rep. Dennis Smith** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg\\_id=15447](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/members.asp?leg_id=15447)), R-Maple Grove), also directs the

DPS to quickly undertake planning for conformity. If this bill is enacted, the Legislature will have to consider a second bill that provides for state compliance. The two initiatives could not be combined into one bill because the DPS must first be able to identify changes needed to existing statutes, rules, and procedures that must be enacted or adopted in order to achieve compliance with REAL ID.

Discussions between House and Senate members during the recent interim indicated moving forward is a priority for both bodies. Conformity with the federal REAL ID Act is necessary if Minnesotans are to continue using driver's licenses as a form of identification to board domestic flights and enter certain federal buildings.

To learn more about this bill and the League's support, read a previous *Cities Bulletin* article ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/REALID2016.jsp](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/REALID2016.jsp)).

**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))

# Protect Your City from Ransomware

It doesn't seem like we can go a day without hearing about another entity hit by ransomware. Lately it appears many public agencies, such as law enforcement, are targets of ransomware attacks.

Ransomware is a type of malware that restricts access to the infected computer system in some way, and demands that the user pay a ransom to the malware operators to remove the restriction. Ransomware often uses encryption as a method of restricting access.

## Steps for protection

Protecting computers and networks from ransomware is very similar to protecting from viruses and malware in general.

To help protect your computers and network, take the following steps:

Back up systems on a daily basis. This includes cloud-based services. Make sure you can restore data if a system is compromised.

Install updates as soon as possible. On end-user equipment, critical updates should be installed as they're released.

Limit people's access to their computers. Don't allow end users to have local administrative rights. This means end users and a large number of viruses are unable to install software without first gaining administrative access.

Limit data access to only what users need to do their job. If a user only needs to view data and not change it, make sure they can only view the data. Ransomware can only encrypt or take hostage data if rights for changing or writing are granted.

Filter email for executable code and other malicious attachments. If you're using online services like Office 365 or Google Apps, this is usually part of their service.

Use firewalls, both on your network and on local computers.

Use anti-virus software.

Separate any public wireless network from the network used for city business. (And avoid using wireless networks whenever possible.)

Educate employees to not click on unknown links or download unknown documents, and to be cautious with email.

## More information

For more information on keeping city computer networks safe, please see the League's memo on Computer and Network Loss Control (pdf) ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/computerandnetworklosscontrol.pdf?inline=true](http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/computerandnetworklosscontrol.pdf?inline=true)), or join us for the Technology Track at our 2016 Safety & Loss Control Workshops ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/2016LCWorkshops.jsp](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/2016LCWorkshops.jsp)).

Learn more about this issue from a recent *Government Technology* article ([Link to: http://www.govtech.com/security/Ransomware-Poses-Tremendous-Threat-to-Police-Departments.html](http://www.govtech.com/security/Ransomware-Poses-Tremendous-Threat-to-Police-Departments.html)).

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))

## Your LMC Resource

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### Contact Greg Van Wormer

Assistant Technology Services Director

(651) 281-1211 or (800) 925-1122

[gvanwormer@lmc.org](mailto:gvanwormer@lmc.org) ([Link to: mailto:gvanwormer@lmc.org](mailto:gvanwormer@lmc.org))

## Meet our city vendors!

## New LMC Memo Outlines City Employment Issues Related to the Use of Medical Cannabis

A new League of Minnesota Cities memo, *City Employment Issues and Medical Cannabis in Minnesota*, outlines the provisions of the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Act, especially who may use medical marijuana and for what purposes.

This memo also discusses employment discrimination prohibitions and what cities can do about use, possession, and impaired employee performance in the workplace. In addition, it explains how federal and state drug testing standards apply. Special consideration is given to the unique issues of employees in public safety positions.

Minnesota law is different from many other state laws regarding employment. Be careful when considering other resources on this issue that are not Minnesota-specific.

View the memo: *City Employment Issues and Medical Cannabis in Minnesota* (pdf) (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/medicalcannabisinminnesota.pdf?inline=true>*)

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

### Your LMC Resource

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#### Contact Rachel Carlson

Loss Control Manager

(651) 281-1210 or (800) 925-1122

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

### Register Today!



(*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/ads/102600>*)

## Celebrate Procurement Month in March

Procurement is everywhere in the public sector, and it's a growing niche profession. For the month of March, the Minnesota Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) is marking its 35th anniversary by celebrating the difference that professional purchasers make in our organizations.

To support this work, Gov. Dayton has proclaimed March as Procurement Month because procurement professionals make important contributions to public organizations. (See the governor's proclamation [pdf]. (*Link to: <http://mnnigp.org/images/downloads/2016procurementmonthproclamation.pdf?inline=true>* )

From cleaning supplies to snow plows to fiber optic installation projects and beyond, government purchasers assure the responsible use of taxpayer dollars by providing efficient and effective service to Minnesota citizens. Furthermore, these personnel are responsible for following complex purchasing regulations at each of the local, state, and federal levels.

### Two training opportunities

One of the primary missions of Minnesota's NIGP Chapter is to provide quality professional development training and networking opportunities for administrative personnel. The chapter is currently sponsoring two full-day trainings, which are taking place at the Bloomington Civic Plaza.

The trainings are as follows:

When Bad Things Happen to Bids: Strategies Ensuring a Successful Public Construction Project

Date: May 6

Price: \$405 nonmembers; \$305 Institute members

Register for this training (*Link to: [https://ams.nigp.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?webcode=NIGPEventInfo&Reg\\_evt\\_key=ff7556f8-0a08-45fe-8050-b9ab49a25f47](https://ams.nigp.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?webcode=NIGPEventInfo&Reg_evt_key=ff7556f8-0a08-45fe-8050-b9ab49a25f47)*)

Tools for Ensuring Contractor Performance on Public Construction Projects

Date: June 3 (early-bird registration by April 2)

Price: \$380 nonmembers; \$280 Institute members

Register for this training (*Link to: [https://ams.nigp.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?webcode=NIGPEventInfo&Reg\\_evt\\_key=6f81551a-77db-4456-8db9-7abbf01b0f1c](https://ams.nigp.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?webcode=NIGPEventInfo&Reg_evt_key=6f81551a-77db-4456-8db9-7abbf01b0f1c)*)

The MN NIGP Chapter is offering a \$100 tuition rebate to the first 15 members who sign up for one of the classes above. For classes to be held, a minimum of 15 attendees must register in advance and then rebates will be provided to qualifying members. Questions can be directed to Heidi Scholl at [HScholl@mvta.com](mailto:HScholl@mvta.com) (*Link to: <mailto:HScholl@mvta.com>*) or (952) 230-1233.

Learn more about these resources and Minnesota's NIGP Chapter (*Link to: <http://mnnigp.org>*)

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

## For More Information

### Contact Heidi Scholl

(952) 230-1233

[HScholl@mvta.com](mailto:HScholl@mvta.com) (*Link to: <mailto:HScholl@mvta.com>*)

## Register Today!

# Local Market Update – February 2016

A RESEARCH TOOL PROVIDED BY THE MINNEAPOLIS AREA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



MINNEAPOLIS AREA Association  
of REALTORS®

## Crystal

**+ 18.2%**

**+ 20.0%**

**+ 32.9%**

Change in  
New Listings

Change in  
Closed Sales

Change in  
Median Sales Price

### February

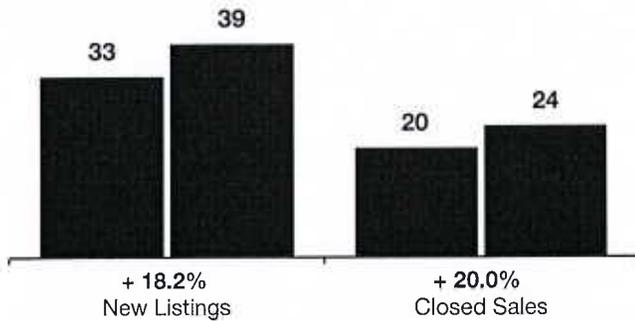
### Year to Date

	2015	2016	+ / -	2015	2016	+ / -
New Listings	33	39	+ 18.2%	69	62	-10.1%
Closed Sales	20	24	+ 20.0%	39	41	+ 5.1%
Median Sales Price*	\$133,100	\$176,950	+ 32.9%	\$147,000	\$172,000	+ 17.0%
Average Sales Price*	\$149,555	\$177,663	+ 18.8%	\$159,196	\$172,180	+ 8.2%
Price Per Square Foot*	\$95	\$106	+ 11.1%	\$98	\$110	+ 12.7%
Percent of Original List Price Received*	90.9%	98.0%	+ 7.8%	92.5%	96.6%	+ 4.4%
Days on Market Until Sale	101	64	-36.6%	85	70	-17.6%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	95	52	-45.3%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	3.0	1.3	-56.7%	--	--	--

\* Does not account for seller concessions. | Activity for one month can sometimes look extreme due to small sample size.

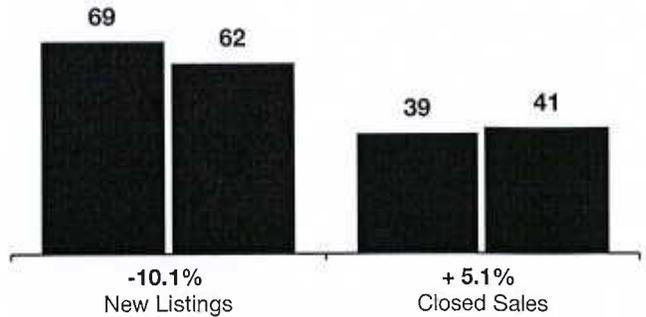
### February

■ 2015 ■ 2016



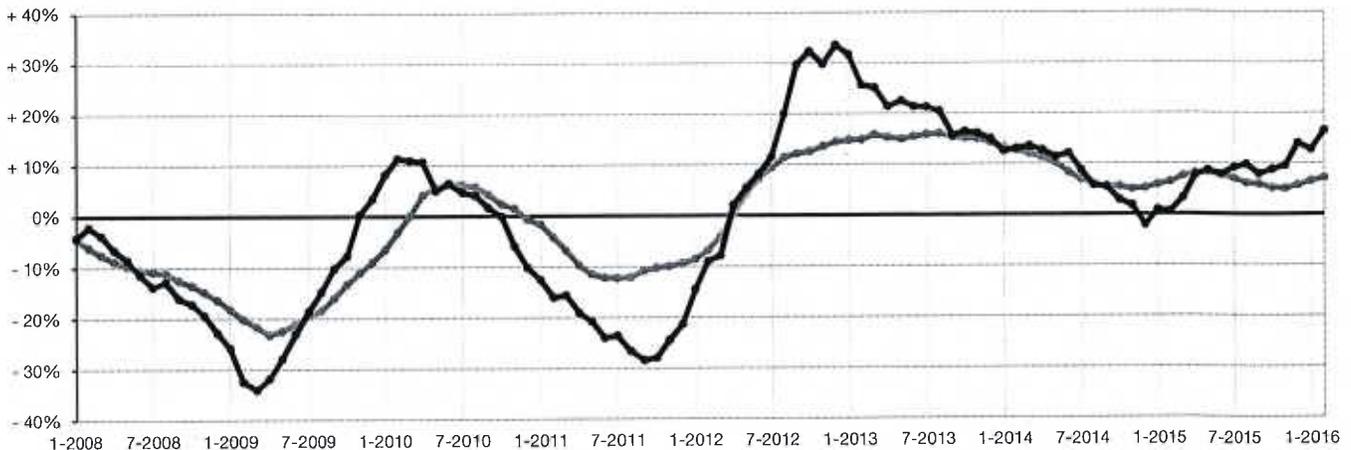
### Year to Date

■ 2015 ■ 2016



### Change in Median Sales Price from Prior Year (6-Month Average)\*\*

Twin Cities Region —  
Crystal —



\*\* Each dot represents the change in median sales price from the prior year using a 6-month weighted average. This means that each of the 6 months used in a dot are proportioned according to their share of sales during that period. | Current as of March 8, 2016. All data from NorthstarMLS. | Powered by ShowingTime 19K.

March 8, 2016

## Job Growth is Strong, but Wage Growth Remains Stagnant

The U.S. Department of Labor released its February employment report on March 4, 2016. Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 242,000 in February and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent as more people entered the labor market, offsetting employment gains (only those individuals that are unemployed and actively seeking employment are considered). Employment gains occurred in health care and social assistance (+57,000), retail trade (+55,000), food services (+40,000), and private educational services (+28,000).

The report also brought favorable adjustments to previous months. The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for December was revised from +262,000 to +271,000, and the change for January was revised from +151,000 to +172,000. With these revisions, employment gains in December and January combined were 30,000 more than previously reported. Over the past three months, job gains have averaged a robust 228,000 per month.

Nevertheless, there were some dark spots in the report. In terms of job loss, the mining industry lost 19,000 jobs in February primarily because of lower commodity prices. Manufacturers also reduced their payrolls by 16,000 as slow growth in key nations around the world and the rising value of the dollar has reduced demand for U.S. manufactured products. In February, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls declined by 3 cents to \$25.35, following an increase of 12 cents in January. Average hourly earnings of private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees were unchanged at \$21.32. Market prognosticators have opined that sluggish wage growth and low inflation reduces the likelihood of another interest rate increase by the Federal Reserve later this month.

As we reported in our last [Market Commentary](#), the U.S. stock market has experienced a steady recovery since mid-February. A headline in *USA Today* summarizes this gradual improvement as “Stock storyline shifts from ‘worst start to the year’ to not too bad”. As of the close on Friday, March 4, 2016, the equities markets are down 2.2% for the year.

## Municipal Yields Increase, Volume Picks Up, but Bidding Environment Remains Strong

Over the past two-week period, there have been increases in municipal bond yields across the curve, with sharp increases on the short end. A seasonal uptick in supply often occurs this time of year. *The Bond Buyer* reports new money issuance in February 2016 increased 22 percent compared to a year earlier, but refundings decreased 23 percent. There is still strong demand for municipal bonds as summarized on our table of Selected Sale Results February 22, 2016 – March 4, 2016. Competitive sales early this week for our clients have seen strong bidding interest, as well.

### Trends in Municipal Bond Yields February 19, 2016 to March 4, 2016

	February 19, 2016	March 4, 2016	Change
AAA Yields*			
5 Years	0.83%	1.08%	0.25%
10 Years	1.66%	1.90%	0.24%
20 Years	2.45%	2.64%	0.19%
30 Years	2.78%	2.90%	0.12%
Bond Buyer 20 Bond Index**	3.27%	3.34%	0.07%

Source:

\* Thomson Reuters Municipal Market Data

\*\* *The Bond Buyer*. Average yield on a portfolio of municipal bonds maturing in 20 years, with an average rating of AA/Aa2.

Spring is a popular time for infrastructure and building projects to be financed in anticipation of the upcoming construction season. If you are planning to go into market in the next few months, we encourage you to stay in touch with your Ehlers Municipal Advisor, who can keep you informed about market conditions and sale activity. One strategy to keep in mind for upcoming bond sales is to consider a parameters resolution. By adopting a parameters resolution, the governing body establishes certain financial parameters and then delegates authority to execute and approve the bond sale to a specific official or officials as long as the parameters are satisfied. For example, a not to exceed true interest cost, or for a refunding, minimum present value savings as a percentage of refunded principal, are common parameters included in the resolution.

As sale activity picks up, it can be beneficial to schedule a bond sale through a parameters resolution. Because the parameters resolution allows the sale to be approved by signature of the designated officials, the bond sale can take place on an “off day” when fewer bond sales are scheduled compared to a regular meeting day. This could

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increase the exposure of your bond sale if there is a lot of competition in the market on your regular meeting day.

## Data on Continuing Disclosure Filings

The Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“MSRB”) tracks the number of continuing disclosure documents issuers have submitted over the past few years. *The Bond Buyer* reports overall disclosures declined about 6% in 2015 from 2014, but overall disclosures are still 12% higher than 2013. The number of financial submissions and event submissions over the past five years are summarized below. Event submissions refer to specific circumstances or actions that require disclosure, such as a payment delinquency or a change in a credit rating. Financial submittals primarily consist of annual financial statements, budgets, and other operating data.

**Number of Continuing Disclosure Submissions  
2011-2015**

Year	Financial Submissions	Event Submissions	Total
2011	65,284	67,609	<b>132,893</b>
2012	72,471	67,707	<b>140,178</b>
2013	79,156	68,771	<b>147,927</b>
2014	101,289	74,340	<b>175,629</b>
2015	97,379	68,309	<b>165,688</b>

Source: MSRB 2015 Fact Book

There was a significant increase in disclosure filings in 2014 due in large part to the Securities and Exchange Commission’s (“SEC”) Municipalities Continuing Disclosure Cooperation Initiative (“MCDC”). The MCDC initiative allowed issuers and underwriters to self-report the occurrence of materially inaccurate statements or omissions of fact in final official statements during a five year period dating back to 2009. We were recently informed that the SEC has started contacting issuers in other states with settlement offers. We were also informed that the SEC has been giving issuers a week to accept the settlement terms. It is important that you pay attention to any communication received regarding MCDC and let Ehlers or your bond counsel know of that occurrence immediately.

A more detailed review of the types of disclosures filed reveals that one of the more notable changes from 2014 to 2015 was the decrease (22%) of filings for failure to provide annual financial information. The extensive reviews of continuing discourse

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practices that issuers and market participants completed as a result of the MCDC initiative have increased the awareness and importance of accurate and improved disclosure practices.

Many communities have contracted with Ehlers to be their dissemination agent for continuing disclosure compliance. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to visit the Electronic Municipal Market Access (“EMMA”) [website](#) to review the information that is posted regarding your community.

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## Investment Trends – Ehlers Investment Partners

### Negative Interest Rates Continue to Increase in Popularity

In today's financial markets it appears as though nothing is out of the realm of possibilities. Such is the case with negative interest rates. Once seen as taboo, negative interest rates continue to increase in popularity in the global economy. The Bank of Japan and the European Central Bank have lowered the deposit rate that commercial banks receive for depositing funds with the central bank to a negative percentage. Thus, commercial banks now pay for the central bank to hold reserves. This is done in the hope of providing an economic boost by incentivizing banks to mobilize deposits for productive economic purposes, rather than holding reserves at the central bank. That being said, not all experts believe that this is a viable strategy. PIMCO founder and current Janus Capital portfolio manager, Bill Gross, warns that negative interest rates are "an enigma to almost all global investors...(b)ut central bankers seem ever intent on going lower." Only time will tell if negative interest rates will do as they intend, but as a municipal investor, it is important to understand the topic. To continue the discussion on interest rates, and to ensure your community is well positioned in the current market, reach out to an investment advisor at Ehlers Investment Partners.

Source:

Vigna, Paul. "Bill Gross: Negative Rates Are Finance Economy's Last, Dying Gasp." *Wallstreet Journal*. 3 Mar. 2016. Web. 4 Mar. 2

### Trends in Investment Returns

March 8, 2016

	1 Year Ago	1 Month Ago	Today
1 Yr Certificate of Deposit	0.4000%	0.7250%	0.6750%
3 Yr Certificate of Deposit	1.1000%	1.5750%	1.4750%
5 Yr US Agency Note	1.6500%	1.9000%	1.8250%
Money Market Funds	0.01%-.25%	0.15%-.40%	0.10%-.30%

Source :Bloomberg

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March 23, 2016

## Markets Settle After Rough Winter

The last few weeks have brought our first taste of spring and, along with it, speculation that winter weather may soon be behind us. As with the seasons, there are some signs that a harsh winter in the financial markets may be easing into a more pleasant spring. The year began with a precipitous drop in stock markets around the world and an intense period of volatility that lasted through much of February. By mid-February, the dreaded "R word," recession, was appearing throughout the financial press, with fears that the U.S. economy was heading toward one. Markets finally began to stabilize later in February, but we still began the month of March uncertain about where the economy was headed.

News as the month has progressed seems to have brought a greater sense of calm to the markets. Facing low growth and the threat of deflation, the European Central Bank cut interest rates and announced an unprecedented program to begin purchasing corporate bonds later in 2016, expanding on its purchases of government bonds. Several central banks, including the United States' Federal Reserve, have used bond purchases as a method to stimulate their respective economies in recent years, but these programs have usually focused primarily on government securities. Expanding the scope to corporate securities has triggered a wave of plans by European firms to issue debt for new investments. Time will tell if the program brings about the desired boost to growth.

On the home front, the Federal Reserve made the widely-anticipated decision last week to leave its target federal funds rate unchanged. The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) held a regularly scheduled meeting on March 15 and 16. The FOMC raised its target rate by 0.25% at its meeting in December and had provided forward guidance at that time indicating the potential for four quarter point rate increases in 2016. Following that path would have meant increasing rates again at last week's meeting, but the volatile start to the year had left most market observers feeling that another increase was unlikely in March. Indeed, a recent survey of members of the Fed indicated that their overall expectations had shifted to two rather than four rate increases in 2016. It is not a guarantee of future action by the FOMC, but provides some insight into members' outlooks.

Lastly, the price of oil has increased significantly over the last month. After a benchmark price reached a low of \$26.21 per barrel on February 11, the price has rebounded to over \$40 per barrel. While low oil prices are a positive for consumers, they have been a drag



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on many economies, including that of the United States, that have significant energy sectors. Furthermore, low prices are indicative of low global demand and seem to have fed many of the fears about risks to global growth that were front and center during the stock market rout in January and February. Indeed, there was an unusually high correlation during that period between the prices of oil and stocks. The recent increases in oil prices have at least eased some fears.

All of these factors have buoyed markets. The Dow Jones and S&P 500 indices closed on Friday, March 18 in positive territory for 2016 for the first time since early January. This followed several weeks of slow but steady gains and a notable lack of the volatility that characterized the beginning of the year. Meanwhile, the interest rate environment has remained favorable for issuers. The yield on the policy-sensitive two-year Treasury note increased from 0.85% on March 1 to 0.98% in advance of last week's Fed decision, but has since declined back to 0.84% as of Friday. The 10-year Treasury note followed a similar path, and is up only five basis points for the month to 1.88%. Meanwhile, municipal rates have dropped slightly for intermediate and later maturities, as shown in the table below.

## Trends in Municipal Bond Yields March 4, 2016 to March 18, 2016

	March 4, 2016	March 18, 2016	Change
AAA Yields*			
5 Years	1.08%	1.12%	0.04%
10 Years	1.90%	1.83%	-0.07%
20 Years	2.64%	2.55%	-0.09%
30 Years	2.90%	2.79%	-0.11%
Bond Buyer 20 Bond Index**	3.34%	3.40%	0.06%

Source:

\* Thomson Reuters Municipal Market Data

\*\* The Bond Buyer. Average yield on a portfolio of municipal bonds maturing in 20 years, with an average rating of AA/Aa2.

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## Preparing for Upcoming Bond Issues

We have seen scheduled bond issuance pick up significantly with our clients, as is often the case heading into the spring and summer. The beginning of construction season is a good time to take stock of your borrowing plans and to begin preparing if you have not already spoken with your Ehlers Municipal Advisor. Bond issuance can be complicated, but a few simple steps can pave the way for a smooth process:

- **Take the necessary steps for reimbursement.** This is a common pitfall for issuers. Issuers can use tax-exempt bond proceeds to reimburse themselves for previously expended funds, but there are some limits. An issuer must declare its intent to reimburse for costs other than preliminary expenditures such as engineering within 60 days of the expenditure, and generally then must issue the debt within 18 months. Preliminary expenditures do not require a declaration of intent, but there are some limitations on the amount of eligible reimbursement as a percentage of a tax-exempt debt issue. The declaration can be made by resolution of the governing body, or can be delegated to staff. Be sure to speak with your Municipal Advisor and bond attorney well before you begin to incur major construction expenditures.
- **Prepare for a credit rating.** Not all issuers have credit ratings, but those that do understand that it can be a time-consuming process. Compiling detailed financial information and policies related to debt and financial management ahead of time will ensure a smoother and less stressful credit rating process. Issuers should identify any changes in financial conditions that have occurred since the last rating. In particular, declines in fund balance should be noted and issuers should be prepared to discuss the reasons for these changes.
- **Set a timeline.** Aligning the award of construction contracts with securing financing can sometimes allow an issuer to fully finance a project without borrowing more than needed. It is not always possible to align these steps, but we recommend that the issuer work together with their Municipal Advisor and engineering or construction consultants to devise a coordinated timeline. In any case, financing should be in place on or around the time construction bids are awarded in an effort to have a fully funded project and mitigate risk to the issuer.

We always welcome hearing from our clients and invite you to contact Ehlers at any time related to upcoming financing needs or any other financial management matters.

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## Investment Trends – Ehlers Investment Partners

### Investors Witness Substantial Volatility

The financial markets experienced their fair share of March Madness last week as investors witnessed substantial volatility in the U.S. Government bond market. The yield on the U.S. 10-year note briefly reached 2% percent last week, but later dropped 0.11 percentage point after news that the Federal Reserve would hold off on increasing interest rates, closing at 1.871% on Friday. As foreign government bond yields continue to drop, some into negative territory, U.S. bonds become increasingly attractive for foreign investors. As demand increases and prices rise, yields decline. For municipal investors, it is important to understand these trends and evaluate how your community can optimize yield while maintaining liquidity and safety of principal. To continue the conversation on interest rate movements and suitable investments, reach out to your investment advisor at Ehlers Investment Partners.

### Trends in Investment Returns

March 22, 2016

	1 Year Ago	1 Month Ago	Today
1 Yr Certificate of Deposit	0.4500%	0.7000%	0.6500%
3 Yr Certificate of Deposit	1.3000%	1.3000%	1.3500%
5 Yr US Agency Note	1.6000%	1.8750%	1.8500%
Money Market Funds	0.01%-.25%	0.10%-.25%	0.10%-.35%

Source :Bloomberg

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## Anne Norris

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**From:** rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2016 2:18 PM  
**To:** Announcements from Representative Lyndon Carlson  
**Subject:** Legislative Update - Revised Budget Forecast

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# Minnesota House of Representatives

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



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[State Government Finance](#)  
[Taxes](#)

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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:** 22nd  
**Family:** Married, spouse Carole,  
3 children

Dear Neighbors,

This morning the Office of [Minnesota Management and Budget](#) announced a forecast balance of \$900 million for the FY 2016-17 biennium, a reduction from the \$1.2 billion forecasted last December. While the February forecast is smaller, it still signals positive trends in Minnesota's economic outlook.

In the upcoming session, Legislators and the Governor will work to use the surplus on targeted investments in Minnesota's future. After hearing from the people of our district, I believe we must use this surplus in a balanced way that invests in a brighter future for Minnesota families.

The forecast showed that Minnesota's economy continues to strengthen, but at a slower rate. Minnesota's unemployment rate is down to 3.5 percent. My main focus in 2016 will be priorities that expand economic opportunity for middle class families.

The 2016 Legislative Session begins on March 8<sup>th</sup>, and I encourage you to contact me with any questions, comments, concerns, or ideas on any legislative topic by phone at [651-296-4255](tel:651-296-4255) or by email at [rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn](mailto:rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn).

Sincerely,  
Lyndon Carlson  
State Representative

## News Items

[Legislative Update: Increasing Campaign Integrity and Transparency](#) - (Posted: Feb 11 2016 4:35PM)

[Season's Greetings from Rep. Lyndon Carlson](#) - (Posted: Dec 30 2015 3:17PM)

[Legislative Update: Budget Outlook Improves](#) - (Posted: Dec 4 2015 5:27PM)

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# Minnesota House of Representatives

## State Representative Lyndon Carlson Sr.

283 State Office Building  
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651-296-4255

For more information contact: Bennett Smith 651-296-6422

**Posted:** Mar 17 2016 12:00PM

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## E-Update

### Legislative Update - March 17, 2016

Dear Neighbors,

This week, Governor Dayton released his supplemental budget proposal for the state's \$900 million surplus. His plan echoes the priorities he outlined in the [State of the State Address](#), ensuring Minnesota's economy works for everyday Minnesotans, and targeting prudent investments in needed infrastructure and initiatives helping ordinary families get ahead.

#### Supplemental Budget

Too many families are feeling squeezed by an economy that is stacked against them, so the [Governor's supplemental budget](#) focuses major investments on initiatives to expand broadband access throughout the state, increases child care assistance to low income families, expands paid family leave to thousands of Minnesotans, provides tax relief for 400,000 middle-class families, and invests in eliminating economic disparity issues. The Governor's plan would leave about \$200 million on the bottom line to hedge against the possibility of a future recession or economic downturn to protect the fiscal integrity of our state budget.

#### Veterans

I have co-authored [a bill that was introduced yesterday](#) that aims to improve how our state responds to the needs of our veterans. The bill approaches supporting veterans at every stage of their life by improving access to mental health services, aiding in transition expenses to veterans homes, expanding health coverage, and increasing access to classes and training for those suffering from domestic abuse, post-traumatic stress, or who are struggling to reintegrate into society. [You can read about the bill here.](#)

#### Primary vs. Caucus

As many of you know, there was record turnout this year at Minnesota precinct caucuses on March 1<sup>st</sup> from members of both political parties. The turnout resulted in confusion at some sites and has triggered [a debate about whether or not Minnesota should move away from a caucus system to a presidential primary instead.](#) Expect to hear more debate on the issue as session continues.

#### Legislative Survey

You can go online and take my legislative survey [here](#) ([www.surveymonkey.com/r/45a](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/45a)) I would appreciate your input on the major issues we're facing this year. It takes less than 5 minutes to complete, and your responses are confidential. Please feel free to share the link with other members of our district who don't receive my email updates.

You can always contact me at [rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn](mailto:rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn) or 651-296-4255. It's an honor to serve you at the Capitol!

## News Items

- [Legislative Update - March 17, 2016](#) - (Posted: Mar 17 2016 12:00PM)
- [Legislative Update - Revised Budget Forecast](#) - (Posted: Feb 26 2016 2:20PM)
- [Legislative Update: Increasing Campaign Integrity and Transparency](#) - (Posted: Feb 11 2016 4:35PM)
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## Anne Norris

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**From:** Rep.Mike.Freiberg@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 5:21 PM  
**To:** Announcements From Representative Mike Freiberg  
**Subject:** Legislative Update - March 10, 2016

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# Minnesota House of Representatives

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



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[Rules and Legislative  
Administration](#)

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8749  
**Occupation:** Public health  
attorney  
**Education:** B.A.,  
government/Russian,  
Georgetown University; J.D.,  
William Mitchell College of Law

Dear neighbors,

The legislative session has begun and it will be limited to a quick ten weeks. At the start of the month, Minnesota's economic forecast was released showing that our projected budget surplus shrunk from \$1.3 billion to \$900 million. While the Minnesota economy is stable, the future is uncertain. Many Minnesotans feel left behind in our current economy. My priority this legislative session will be to use the surplus to ensure that our economy works for everyone, not just those who can afford a lobbyist or are politically connected.

Last night, the Governor outlined a strong vision for Minnesota during his State of the State address. When he came into office, we had a \$6 billion deficit and now we have a structurally balanced budget. The Governor has many important initiatives, but I appreciate that his top priority not disrupting Minnesota's stable budget while pursuing those initiatives. Here are a few of my priorities for this legislative session:

- **Addressing our statewide transportation system.** For Minnesota to be successful, we need a dependable transportation system to move goods, services, and people that we can count on for years. That's why I support funding that is

## News Items

[Legislative Update - May 16th, 2015](#) - (Posted: May 16 2015 5:23PM)

[With \\$2 billion surplus, our kids should be top priority](#) - (Posted: Apr 25 2015 6:22PM)

[Rep. Freiberg statement on Governor Dayton's State of the State address](#) - (Posted: Apr 9 2015 9:16PM)

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**Elected:** 2012

**Term:** 2nd

**Family:** Married, spouse Lauren,  
2 children

\* Prefers interim mail at this  
address.

constitutionally dedicated for all modes of transportation – including roads, bridges, transit, and pedestrian access – instead of shifting money around.

- **Paid family and medical leave for every Minnesotan.** Workplace policies haven't kept up with needs of families. Nobody should have to choose between earning a paycheck and taking care of a loved one. We need to make sure that our work polices allow for families to take care of one another without fear of losing income.
- **Tackling our student debt crisis.** Minnesota currently ranks 5th in the nation in student debt. The average student graduates in Minnesota with \$30,894 in debt. We have an opportunity to make college affordability a priority this session by freezing tuition and making it easier for graduates to refinance their loans at a lower rate.

There are many more issues facing Minnesotans. What issues are you concerned about? I would like to hear about your priorities for this legislative session and how we can provide the tools for Minnesota families to thrive.

Please email me or contact my office at any time.

Sincerely,

Mike Freiberg  
State Representative

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## For Immediate Release

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### **91,000 Square Feet of Retail Space Leased at Crystal Shopping Center**

Robbinsdale Area Schools Opening a Learning Center at Crystal Shopping Center

**St. Paul, Minn.**, March 24, 2016 - St. Paul, Minn.-based Paster Properties, a leading developer and manager of neighborhood shopping centers in Minnesota, is proud to announce that it has leased more than 91,000 square feet of retail space at Crystal Shopping Center in the past year. Crystal Shopping Center's newest tenant, Robbinsdale Area Schools, is expected to open a 43,369 square foot learning center at the beginning of August.

Robbinsdale Area Schools will be relocating the community and adult education programs that are currently housed at Sandberg Learning Center in Golden Valley to Crystal Shopping Center. The new school will be named Crystal Learning Center.

In addition to working with a trustworthy and transformative property manager and developer, the location of Crystal Shopping Center was fundamental for Robbinsdale Area Schools when selecting a site for the new learning center. Crystal Shopping Center has good access to public transportation, which is essential for many of the students enrolled in the adult academic program.

"Goal One of our Unified District Vision speaks to implementing policies and practices that open pathways to academic excellence for all students," said Robbinsdale Area Schools Superintendent Carlton D. Jenkins, Ph.D. "Offering these programs in an educational setting that is more accessible to more of these learners will help us continue to strive for excellence in our district."

The new learning facility will service nearly 350 students through both its adult academic program and transition program, which helps young adults with learning disabilities transition from school to adult life.

"We are eager to add value to the community by utilizing retail space in a unique respect," said Paster Properties President Howard Paster. "Crystal Shopping Center has transformed into a lively shopping center and we are confident that it will provide an engaging setting for the students to learn."

Including the space designated for Robbinsdale Area Schools, Paster Properties has leased more than 91,000 square feet of retail space at Crystal Shopping Center since March 2015. Dollar Tree will be relocating from the west side of the shopping center to the east side of the center this spring and Phenix Salon Suites is expected to open this summer. Pro Nails recently reopened in a new space a few doors down from their previous location and Payless ShoeSource relocated from the west side of the center to the east side of the center this past summer. Additionally, Pet Supplies Plus, Rainbow

Shopping Center within the past year.

Additional information about Paster Properties can be found at [www.PasterProp.com](http://www.PasterProp.com).

***Founded in 1948, Paster Properties is a family-owned leader in shopping center management and development that owns and manages more than 1,000,000 square feet of commercial real estate. For over 60 years, Paster Properties has planned, built, leased and managed attractive, successful shopping centers in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, as well as in greater Minnesota. Paster Properties is committed to helping retailers flourish and serving as an excellent corporate citizen in the communities in which they have shopping centers. For more information, visit [www.pasterprop.com](http://www.pasterprop.com).***

XXX

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Contact: Jessica Peterson

Paster Properties

2227 University Ave. W

Saint Paul, MN 55114

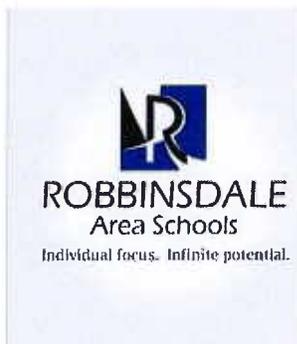
651-265-7885

[JPeterson@pasterprop.com](mailto:JPeterson@pasterprop.com)

**Anne Norris**

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**From:** Robbinsdale Area Schools [robbinsdaleareaschools@rdale.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 5:04 PM  
**To:** Anne Norris  
**Subject:** Discover: the latest news updates from Robbinsdale Area Schools!



# DISCOVER

ROBBINSDALE AREA SCHOOLS  
COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTER



Tuesday, March 22, 2016

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**Seeing the world without leaving the classroom**



Students at the **School of Engineering and Arts** recently participated in a Google Expeditions Pioneer Program visit, a new product allowing teachers to take their classes on virtual field trips. Students were able to check out coral reefs, a mangrove swamp in Borneo, and even the surface of the moon, thanks to this immersive technology. **Sonnesyn Elementary School** and **Armstrong High School** are also participating later this week. Click [here](#) to watch Channel 12's story!

## Armstrong, Cooper pick Athena Award winners

Cooper High School senior **Kylie Christensen** and Armstrong High School senior **Hannah Rudd** have won Athena Awards. The awards go to outstanding senior female athletes from each of the 50 metropolitan area high schools. Each student was nominated by their coaches, and was selected based on excellence in an individual sport or for participation and accomplishment in group sports. Click [here](#) to learn more!



## Cooper senior honored as 'Standout Student'

Cooper High School senior **Sharon Ouma** was recently showcased as a Channel 12 "Standout Student." "The insightful senior at Cooper High School noticed one year ago that some of her school mates needed food. She knew if some students in her circle needed food, then other students likely did. So, she organized the school's first food shelf," Channel 12 said. Click [here](#) to watch the story!



## HUG diaper drive collects for families in need

A recent diaper drive for Helping Us Grow (HUG) across several sites in the district collected more than 5,700 diapers for those in need. Moreover, in three weeks, students at the Neill Adventure Club collected 500 diapers and 800 baby wipes, and also raised \$230 in cash donations. Moved to address needs in the community, one Neill student went home and asked his parents to withdraw \$100 from his computer savings account for the diaper drive.



## Meet our Remarkable students and staff

More than 12,000 students and 2,000 staff members attend class or work at the Robbinsdale Area Schools. They come from different walks of life and different backgrounds, and each has a unique story. We will be sharing their stories through a new campaign. Learn more [here](#). At Robbinsdale Area Schools, we invite all students to make their mark. We are Robbinsdale Remarkable. Know someone Remarkable? Click [here](#) for a nomination form!



## Meet Candace

Candace Lewis, one of Robbinsdale Area Schools' remarkable students, knows a thing or two about spelling.

The Northport Elementary School fourth-grader won the Robbinsdale Area Schools District Spelling Bee in her grade category for the second year in a row. The 10-year-old says the keys to being good at spelling include believing in yourself, and pursuing learning because you enjoy it. Candace practiced "a lot" this year, with some help from Northport Principal Leona Derden.

"This girl brings such positivity to our school," Derden says. "She exemplifies courage, leadership and is a model. She puts her all into everything she does. You can tell this kid has what it takes - she's going to be a doctor."

Read more [here!](#)



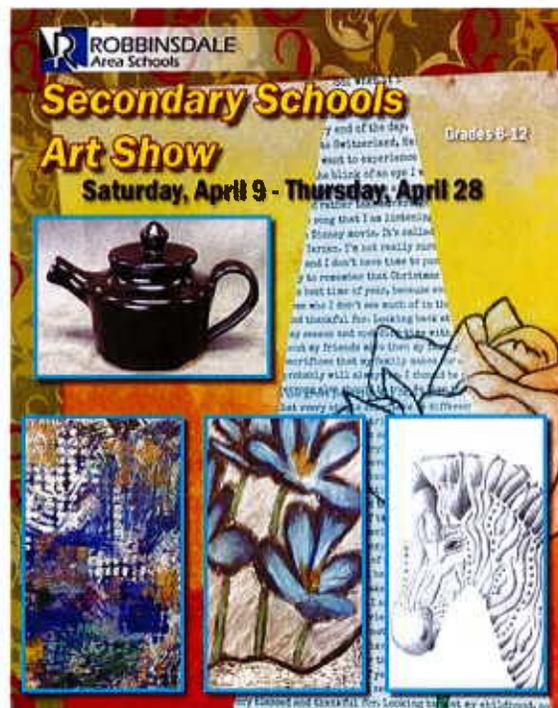
## Performing Arts News

Artwork from Robbinsdale Area Schools students in grades 6-12 will be available for public viewing during the district's Secondary Schools Art Show, which runs April 9-28 at Robbin Gallery, 4915 42nd Ave. N., Robbinsdale.

The exhibit includes paintings, drawings, mixed-media, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry and prints. The artwork will be judged by a panel. Awards will be given out on the night of the reception and winners from each school will receive art supplies.

A reception for student artists and their families will be held 4-6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14.

Robbin Gallery's hours are noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturdays, and 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays. Go to [www.robbingallery.org](http://www.robbingallery.org) for more information.



## Upcoming arts events

**Noble Elementary Third-Grade Concert**, 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, Noble

Elementary School

**Neill Band and Orchestra Concerts**, 2:20 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 24,  
Neill Elementary School

**Northport Orchestra and Band Concerts**, 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24,  
Northport Elementary School

**ADC Spring Tour**, 8 a.m. Thursday, March 24, at Lakeview, Northport, Noble  
Elementary schools

**Arts Showcase**, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24. Robbinsdale Middle School

**AHS Concert Choir Benefit**, 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 8, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

#### **Concert Videos:**

[AHS Parade of Bands](#)

[AHS Fall Orchestra Concert 10-19-15](#)

[Fall Music Festival at Orchestra Hall](#)

[Cooper Marching Band Concert "Light Up the Night"](#)

[All District & Combined Symphony Band Concert](#)

[AHS - PMS Winter Band Concert](#)

[CHS Bel Canto & Concert Choir](#)

[CHS Variety Show "In The Mix"](#)

[Cooper Band Pops Concert 3-4-16](#)

[Spring Orchestra Concert 3-5-16](#)

[Honors Orchestra and Best In Site Performances 3-14-16](#)

[CHS Choir Masterworks Concert 3-15-16](#)

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## **Commencement information**

Our **Highview Alternative Program** students will graduate in ceremonies at 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 4, and at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 8. Both ceremonies will be at Sandburg Learning Center.

Our **Adult Academic Program** graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 2, at Sandburg Learning Center.

Our **Robbinsdale Transition Center** Program graduation ceremony will be at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, June 2, at Sandburg Learning Center.

**Armstrong** and **Cooper** high school commencements are at 7 p.m. Friday, June 10. We want to remind people that this year's commencements are on a Friday.

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## **Short Items**

--- Congratulations to Plymouth Middle School seventh-grader **Ani Tonoyan**! She participated in the Twin Cities Science and Engineering Fair and won four awards. Ani placed in the top 15 percent and moves on to compete at an event at the state fair next month.

--- **Meadow Lake Elementary students** got to meet Kathi Hemken, the mayor of New Hope, on March 22. Hemken came to read to many classes, and she talked about what it is like to be the mayor of a city. The mayor explained how we get our water from the

Mississippi and how the street lights turn on.

---  
The **Robbinsdale Area Schools ECFE Parent Advisory Council** is sponsoring the Kids Stuff Garage Sale, which meets indoors from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at New Hope Learning Center. The event will feature a large selection of kids and baby items for sale. Cost to attend is a \$3 suggested donation, which supports the ECFE Scholarship fund. Click [here](#) for an event flyer!

---

## Your attention, please:

**Kevin's Kicks**, a charity named after Kevin Messer (an AHS student who died in a car accident last summer), has partnered with an organization called World Soles for the Kevin's Kicks Shoe Drive, which ends Thursday. Drop off cleats, tennis shoes, basketball shoes, etc., before school in the auditorium foyer. All shoes will be shipped and donated to kids in Cameroon and Uganda.

---  
The **3rd Annual Birdtown Race**, on May 21, is in need of volunteers. Volunteers would serve as race marshals and stand (or sit; chairs will be provided) along the race route cheering on runners and ensuring their safety by pointing them in the right direction. T-shirts and food will be provided as a thank-you to volunteers (including beer from Wicked Wort for volunteers 21 and older). More volunteer opportunities found [here](#).

---  
Registration is now open for the fourth-annual **New Hope Women of Today 5K**. The April 16 event is at French Regional Three Rivers Park, and this year's beneficiary is The 30 Days Foundation. The organization, run by Mick Sterling, assists individuals and families in financial crises. Register [here](#).

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## School Board news

The School Board will meet **Tuesday, April 4**, for a 5:30 p.m. business meeting followed by a 6:15 p.m. 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:





2016 Weekly Update #3

March 18, 2016

### Governor Dayton Releases Supplemental Budget

On Tuesday, Governor Dayton released his supplemental budget proposal for the 2016 legislative session. The budget proposed \$117 million in tax cuts, \$100 million for statewide broadband coverage, \$77 million for early education, and \$100 million in one-time spending for programs that address economic disparities. The governor's budget appropriates \$698 million of the \$900 million forecasted surplus, leaving \$202 million remaining in the general fund. You can find a detailed explanation of the governor's budget [here](#).

### Free Tax Preparation Assistance

Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin is offering free tax preparation and e-file services to low income families and individuals during the filing season. AARP is providing similar services for individuals aged 60 and over through April. For a full list of providers for free tax preparation, visit the Department of Revenue's website [here](#).

### New OLA Reports

On Monday, the Office of the Legislative Auditor presented its report on [MnDOT Highway Project Selection](#) to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Transportation Committees. The report recommends that MnDOT increase transparency in its project selection process. Specifically, the Legislative Auditor found that the new Corridors of Commerce

The listening session scheduled for this Saturday, March 19, has been cancelled. Senator Rest will be attending the funeral of former Congressman and State Representative Martin Olav Sabo that morning and will be unable to host this event. A new schedule of Spring listening sessions will be released in the near future. Thank you for your understanding.



Senator Rest addresses the body from the floor of the temporary Senate Chamber, located in Committee Room 1150 of the Minnesota Senate Building. *Photo courtesy of Senate Media Services.*

program, which provides targeted funding to congested sections of state highways, needs to make less subjective decisions in order to be in full compliance with the law. The report calls for MnDOT to provide more detailed information to the Legislature about its selection process and to limit its use of alternative methods for selecting new projects.

### **Bills Introduced by Senator Rest**

Senator Rest introduced three new bills this week. [S.F. 2586](#) expands eligibility for the Working Family Credit, and also increases the amount of the credit. [S.F. 2884](#) increases the time that taxpayers have to seek a corrected tax refund from the Department of Revenue if it can be proven that the initial refund was too small. Both bills were referred to the Tax Committee. [S.F. 2730](#) (H.F. 2728-Lien) provides funding to help small businesses plan for their future and match business owners looking to sell their organization to aspiring business owners. The bill was referred to the Committee on Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development.

### **Action on Senator Rest's Bills**

Wednesday was the first meeting of the Tax Reform Division of the Tax Committee. Several of Senator Rest's bill were heard, including the following: [S.F. 2288](#), providing a tax credit to parents of a stillborn child; [S.F. 2250](#), removing the deadline for taxpayers to request a reissued property tax refund check; and [S.F. 2249](#) (H.F. 2387-Freiberg), which fast tracks the removal of sales tax obligations for purchases by joint powers entities. All three bills were laid over (S.F. 2249 was amended).

On Thursday, the Capital Investment Committee heard [S.F. 2248](#) (H.F. 2699-Simonson), a bill seeking state dollars to match federal funding for continued clean-up of the St. Louis River Estuary Area of Concern. The bill will be considered for the omnibus bonding bill later this session, and an amendment was discussed to appropriate funds for staffing needs associated with the project.

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### **Senate Bills of Interest**

Two of the three pieces of legislation that were considered for a possible special session earlier this year were taken up by the Senate during the first two weeks of the regular session. Last Thursday, March 10, the Senate voted 62-3 to extend unemployment benefits to workers who have been laid off on the Iron Range for an additional 26 weeks ([S.F. 1006](#)-Tomassoni). Senator Rest voted for the bill. On Thursday, the House voted for similar legislation, but the bill they passed ([H.F. 2032](#)-Garafalo) included tax breaks for businesses that pay into the state's unemployment trust fund. The Senate is likely to request a conference committee to resolve the differences in the language.

[S.F. 1646](#) (Dibble), a bill allowing the Department of Public Safety to begin planning for compliance with the federal REAL ID act, was heard in several committees during the first two weeks of session, including the Transportation Committee where Senator Rest voted in support of the legislation. The bill is scheduled for a vote on the Senate Floor next Monday.

Several bills have also been introduced this session to address economic disparities among communities of color, a topic that legislators had also suggested addressing during a special session this past winter. These proposals will be considered for inclusion in the supplemental budget bill.

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### **Minnesota Senate Building Spotlight**

*Note: Throughout the session, intern Keegan Flaharty will highlight different aspects of the new Minnesota Senate Building, which opened at the beginning of 2016. Today's update focuses on the new public hearing rooms.*

The new Minnesota Senate Building has three hearing rooms, one of which currently has with theater-style seating. Two hold 150 people, another seats 250 people. The Minnesota Senate is currently using one of the smaller hearing rooms as a temporary chamber while the Capitol continues to be renovated. This is the first year the Senate has met outside of the Capitol since it was first opened in 1905. All three of the main hearing rooms were designed to include modern audio/visual infrastructure, provide work space

for Senate staffers, and provide ample space and resources for people with disabilities.



TPT's Almanac recently checked in on the renovations being made to the Capitol's exterior. Construction workers found more water damage than expected under the stone staircases around the building and have removed all the steps to restore the foundations. Funding for unexpected setbacks such as this comes from bonding dollars for "out-of-scope" issues. The report also highlights the repaired stone carvings that have been completed on the exterior walls and are visible now that the scaffolding around the building has been taken down. Watch the report [here](#) (story begins at 17:05.)

#### Question of the Week

Legislators have introduced a bill ([S.F. 2323](#)-Brown) that requires a student to be expelled from school if they assault a teacher. Proponents of the bill state that this is a matter of workplace safety for teachers. Opponents argue that expelling the student only transfers the problem to another district rather than dealing with the underlying issue. What course of action should school districts take to address assault on teachers?

- A.) I support the proposed legislation, students should automatically be expelled and charged with assault.
- B.) Students should receive remediation services in their current school.
- C.) Districts should provide de-escalation training to teachers.
- D.) School districts should have the flexibility to determine the best course of action on a case-by-case basis.
- E.) Other (please provide your suggestions)

#### [Answer the Question of the Week](#)

#### Last Week's Question of the Week Results

Due to high turnout on March 1 for both major parties, Minnesota's precinct caucuses experienced long lines and confusion despite the heroic efforts of volunteers. The state has switched back and forth between primaries and caucuses several times, most recently returning to caucuses in the 1996 election. What is your opinion on how Minnesotans should select presidential candidates?

- A) Maintain the current caucus system for all elections. **6%**
- B) Adopt a hybrid system where a primary is used to vote for presidential preference, but parties still hold caucuses to conduct other business. **53%**

C) Return to a primary system and eliminate the caucus process entirely.  
42%

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#### **Note from Ann**

Dear Constituents,

Thanks to those of you who joined me and my staff at the District 45 Open House at the Minnesota Senate Building last Saturday. It was really fun for us to show folks around and to watch videos of the construction of the MSB and the renovation of the State Capitol.

This coming week I will be introducing a bill to provide for a presidential primary in the 2020 election. I have been working with the state party leaders and the leadership of the House and Senate on a proposal that allows a more orderly manner for both Democrats and Republicans to choose their presidential nominee in Minnesota. The bill will not disturb the precinct caucuses as an exercise in party building, but it will allow those who are supporters of a candidate to participate in the selection of the nominee even if they are not able to attend the precinct caucus. There is wide bi-partisan support for the initiative and it will be heard in the Senate Elections Subcommittee next week.

The Senate and the House will be in recess from March 25-March 28 in observance of the Easter holiday and April 22 in observance of Passover.

I welcome your comments and suggestions about legislation before us.

In your service.

**Ann**

3209 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave West  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

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## Springsted Market Update

### Springsted Market Update: January - February 2016

*In a series of market commentaries, we hope to keep you informed of recent events, help explain what is going on in the markets, and how these events may affect your community - especially from a public finance perspective.*

#### January – February 2016: Interest Rates Decline as Equity Volatility Continues

Interest rates for both US Treasury and public finance issues declined January and February 2016 for a variety of reasons. Adjustments to projected future economic growth and declining economic activity in much of the world outside the United States precipitated a classic “flight to quality” as investors sought the haven of US Treasury debt. After raising US interest rates in December and indicating that there would be four additional increases in 2016, the US Federal Open Market Committee (“FOMC”) of the Federal Reserve Board began to discuss delaying some of the planned rate increases. As the month of February progressed, the discussion of “will they or won’t they” raise rates increased and market sentiment changed to projections of no more than one, possibly two rate increases in 2016.

As markets look to economic statistical releases, they saw the price of oil reach levels not seen for decades. There has been an announcement of an agreement among major oil producers to limit production, which the market greeted with a muted rise in oil prices. The addition of new supplies from Iran and Iraq onto the market could easily disrupt any production limit from other major producers, which would increase the supply of oil, keeping pressure on oil prices.

**This chart** shows the range of General Obligation and Revenue bond rates for the past 5 years. The second graph shows the 10-year and 30-year US Treasury rates for the past five years. Both graphs show that rates have been volatile through 2015, with rates declining in 2016. Rates remain well below the average level since 2013 and only slightly higher than rates for 2012 through the first quarter of 2013.

As an indication of the persistence of low rates, we observe that the SIFMA weekly variable rate reset remained at 1 basis point (0.0001) for 19 consecutive weeks, from October to the end of February, before rising to 2 basis points the first week of March. The time at 1 basis point represents the longest stretch observed of “no change” to the weekly rate.

With the overall steady to declining market rates, both competitive and negotiated sales in January and February showed strong positive results for issuers. A number of refunding issues were revitalized by the decline in interest rates and both competitive and negotiated sales showed strong results. The positive performance was due to a number of factors, including a low supply, strong demand as investors reallocated funds away from the volatile equity market and an increased awareness of the tax benefits of tax-exempt public finance debt as taxpayers began to focus on preparing tax returns.

On a cautionary note, investors appear to be showing signs of resisting low absolute rates, with a number of competitive and negotiated sales reporting unsold balances of bonds for a few days after the initial offering date. This may be an indication that rates could be at the “bottom of the range”. Possible evidence of this resistance is reflected in tax exempt mutual fund cash flows. While reports show weekly inflows of funds to tax exempt funds for the past 22 weeks, the level of funds being deposited into such funds has declined to only \$212 million in the last week of February.

#### March - April 2016 Preview

The market expectation is that the FOMC is not likely to raise rates at their March 2016 meeting. Projections reported on Bloomberg show that expectations are only at a 40% level for rates to rise by June and the 50% expectation level is not reached until September. Most measures of inflation continue to be observed at levels well below the 2% level favored by the FOMC as a benchmark used to determine if interest rates should be adjusted upward.

In February, the central bank of Japan adjusted its benchmark interest rate to -0.10%. They join the central banks of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland with a negative benchmark rate. That means that effectively 30% of sovereign bonds are providing negative rates. Interest rates on German government bonds are trading at negative rate levels out to 5 year and even longer maturities. So long as this situation continues, there will be strong demand for US Treasury debt, helping keep rates low. Tax exempt public finance rates are likely to follow the lead of US Treasuries and remain at low levels across the yield curve.

The effect of negative rates has been mitigated by a number of banks that absorb the cost, providing depositors with a “0” return. This has effectively reduced the stimulus effect of negative rates, resulting in less effectiveness of this policy than hoped. In addition, a number of small investors are simply converting their bank account balances to cash and depositing the cash into safe deposit boxes or other options. This effectively reduces the desired effect of negative rates. After all, no return is preferable to a loss. FOMC Chair Yellen discussed the option of negative interest rates for the US after the January FOMC meeting and indicated that such a move was very unlikely and needed additional study to determine if such a policy is allowed under FOMC governing rules and legislation.

## Where Do We Go From Here?

There are a number of larger long-term factors that are combining to keep economic activity lower than what would be expected at this stage of a recovery. These factors are not subject to adjustment in the short term and some are not subject to change in the long term. These include demographic issues.

In 2016, the first baby boomers turn 70. People aged 70-79 will increase by 50% in the next decade. While one can't predict with certainty how baby boomers will vote, if voter turnout rates for the 2016 election are consistent with turnout rates by age as observed for the 2012 election, it is expected that all boomers (aged 52 – 70) will make up 35% of all expected voters. That is a greater number of voters than the millennials (aged 18 - 35), who made up 24% of those who voted in the 2012 election. Of course, it is quite possible that the percentage of millennials who vote will increase as they will be slightly older and age is a strong predictor of the likelihood of voting.

An increasing possibility is that regardless of who prevails in the Presidential election, it is possible that there will be continued strong difference of opinion between the President and Congress. This raises the possibility that efforts to reform taxes, entitlement programs and healthcare may continue to be unresolved unless all parties can compromise their strongly held policy positions.

As always, we encourage you to submit comments on the Market Update or contact us about topics you would like to see addressed in future issues. [CLICK HERE](#) to see current market information or go to [www.springsted.com](http://www.springsted.com) click on "The Markets" and select "Investment Information". We're also producing a weekly "Municipal Market Minute" video report posted on our web site that provides timely and concise commentary on events of the past week and how they may affect your situation. Be sure to check regularly and view the latest updates.

### Springsted Incorporated Independent Municipal Advisors

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Public Sector Advisors

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NORTH METRO

# A year later, Barway Collins case still haunts Crystal Police Department

By Karen Zamora (<http://www.startribune.com/karen-zamora/272885141/>) Star Tribune

MARCH 19, 2016 — 8:07PM

Four snapshots of Barway Collins lean against Crystal Police investigator Julie Severson's computer monitor.

Lt. Derrick Hacker has the 10-year-old's last school picture, the one of him grinning in a blue and white polo shirt, pinned on a message board in his office. Contrasting with Barway's smiling face are court documents chronicling how his enraged father, Pierre Collins, punched his son unconscious, bound his body and hurled him into the river.

It's been a year since Barway was last seen alive. For the officers who solved the mystery of his disappearance, the details of the case continue to haunt them. Severson and Hacker, the lead investigators, kept the boy's photos as reminders of the gut-wrenching story that shattered their community and how they solved the biggest case of their careers. The department from the quiet Minneapolis suburb was thrust into a missing child case that garnered national attention.

Months later, they would go on to present their tactics to other law enforcement agencies across the state. They're scheduled soon to speak in Texas.

"In some ways we felt connected to him," Severson said recently. "As the investigation went on, we were doing this to find justice for him. And personally I think Barway and this experience will be something that in 50 years from now I'll remember."

Barway's memory is especially stirring for Crystal Police Chief Stephanie Revering, who unlike her colleagues has kept no photos.

Whenever she tells the story of how her police department solved the case to put Collins behind bars for decades, her connection to the boy grows.

"I thought it would get easier and easier, but quite frankly it gets a little harder on my emotions," Revering said. "And so for me I have to relive it often and I want to honor Barway by just talking about it — because I see his face every time I do a presentation."

## Telling signs

In the beginning, investigators held onto hope that Barway was alive and with family.

But as the investigation wore on, that hope turned to suspicion.

For Severson, a turning point came four days after Barway vanished, when she received cellphone location data that placed Collins at the Mississippi River — the same place Barway's body was later found.

"It was a somber morning," Severson said. "I still held on to a small part of hope, but just looking at the facts it didn't look or feel good."

Revering said she suspected him right away. His story didn't add up, and then he failed a lie-detector test.

"From the minute Pierre reported Barway was missing, I knew he wasn't being truthful," Revering said. "What possessed him to do it, I don't know."

Hacker saw key inconsistencies during a series of initial interviews with Collins.

The night after the boy disappeared, Hacker placed Collins and his wife, Yamah, in different rooms at their Crystal apartment. They were asked the same questions, yet



([http://stmedia.startribune.com/images/ows\\_145842950070659.jpg](http://stmedia.startribune.com/images/ows_145842950070659.jpg))

Crystal police investigator Julie Severson keeps photos of Barway Collins on her desk. "Certain moments ... are still with me."

their answers differed.

Yamah thought Collins was at work, when in reality he was unemployed. She had said her husband would often threaten to send Barway back to his native country of Liberia when the boy got into trouble. Collins was quick to say there were no problems at home.

“He was not giving the answers that a reasonably prudent father would give,” Hacker said.

Collins would fidget in his seat, his eyes darting to the interviewer then down to his feet. His social cues were consistent with someone being untruthful, Hacker said. He wasn’t forthcoming with a lot of information, but was adamant about handing investigators an ATM receipt showing he was not with Barway at the time of his disappearance.

“I could kind of see that he was becoming more of a person of interest,” Hacker said.

Days later, after he failed the polygraph test, Collins made an unexpected move.

“He gets up and storms out during the interview,” Hacker said. “We knew we [were] getting close. If this guy was truly a victim and had nothing to do with it, then why is he going to leave an interview?”

After Hacker told Collins a school van video showed Barway pointing out his father to a friend the day he disappeared, he grew nervous.

Collins started talking in the third person and said Barway was lying.

“Most people wouldn’t say that,” Hacker said. “If their child was missing and if they truly had nothing to do with it, they are not going to watch that video and that be the first thing they are going to say.”

Collins grew defiant, even after Barway’s swollen body was found floating in the Mississippi River and evidence placed Collins at the scene. Investigators visited him one last time in an attempt to learn the truth.

They told him they knew he was lying, but he challenged them: “Come back and get me when you have enough,” Collins told them.

They did. Hours later, he was arrested.

Collins’ words are now framed next to Hacker’s office.

#### **‘It’s not fair’**

Of all the cases in her 7½ years of police work, this is the one that stuck most with Severson.

“Even after the case was done, I would relive certain things and it would stir up emotions,” Severson said. “Certain moments, like when I got the call that a child’s body had been found in the river, are still with me.”

Severson was at a restaurant after a basketball tournament to honor slain Mendota Heights police officer Scott Patrick when she got the call. Her heart sank.

Severson doesn’t have any kids, but when she sees a child playing outside or at a park, her mind goes to Barway — the boy she never met but came to know.

“It’s this moment of sadness,” Severson said. “You think, ‘It’s not fair. How could this happen?’”

Twitter: @KarenAnelZamora

## Government

# Adams declares re-election bid

Published March 14, 2016 at 12:38 pm

By Joe Bowen



*Jim Adams*

Crystal Mayor Jim Adams announced March 13 that he will be seeking re-election as Mayor of Crystal.

“I ran for mayor on a platform of fiscal responsibility, building a strong community, and bringing back respect for the citizens, and in all three areas, Crystal has improved,” Adams said.

Adams negotiated a solution for the purchase of the city’s new Public Works facility, which he says saved Crystal residents over one million dollars in “unnecessary” finance charges over the life of the project.

During Adams’ tenure, Crystal began making audio recording of work sessions and campaign finance reports available online, and it has held numerous open forums and public hearings on major initiatives.

“As long as I am Mayor, Crystal will be a place where all citizens are represented, all voices are welcome, and all views are both tolerated and encouraged,” Adams said. “A city

only works well if citizens are well represented, and they have a voice in their government. That's the kind of Crystal I want to live in, and that's the kind of Crystal you will continue to get from me."

Adams says his goals for his second term would be to continue the progress that has been made toward making the city budget as transparent and fiscally responsible as possible, to continue developing a long-term plan for funding infrastructure needs, and to continue to engage citizens in a respectful manner, giving them a voice in their city government.

"I have been honored to serve as Mayor, and I am humbly asking citizens for another term," Adams said.

Adams is married, has three adult children, runs a remodeling construction business, and operates sober and transitional housing for 29 men. He was initially elected in 2012.

Info: [adams4crystalmayor.com](http://adams4crystalmayor.com).

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Government

# LaRoche declares Crystal City Council candidacy

Published March 7, 2016 at 3:02 pm

By [Joe Bowen](#)

Nancy LaRoche, a 19-year resident of Crystal, on Feb. 25 announced her run for Crystal City Council, Section 1.

Section 1 encompasses Wards 1 and 2 in the southern portion of the city. The incumbent in that council seat is Laura Libby.

LaRoche has served on the Crystal Park and Recreation Advisory Commission since 2011. Additionally, she was appointed to the Crystal Charter Commission in 2015.

Her volunteer activities in the community also include helping to organize the annual Crystal Frolics for the past four years. She has also served as an election judge for nearly 10 years.

LaRoche, a graphic designer with a local marketing firm, is a graduate of North Hennepin Community College. She also graduated from Brown College in Radio and TV broadcasting and attended Ball State University.

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Community & People • Public Safety

## Mother and son honored by Crystal PD

Published March 23, 2016 at 8:27 am

By Joe Bowen

### **Jennifer Auger and Cameron Auger-Pirri reported a car following a woman**

A Crystal mother and son were honored by the Crystal Police Department at a March 15 city council meeting.



*Jennifer Auger and Cameron Auger-Pirri, who received the Chief's Award from the Crystal Police Department at a March 15 city council meeting. The Crystal mother and son called 911 after they saw a man following a woman in his car. (Submitted photo)*

Jennifer Auger and her son Cameron Auger-Pirri were driving home near 36th and Winnetka Avenues North on Dec. 20 when they noticed a visibly upset woman being followed by a man in a car.

“They observed the female attempting to walk away from the suspect vehicle, but the

driver changed course in his vehicle and would follow the female in the opposite direction when she changed her path of travel,” Chief Stephanie Revering told the council as Auguer, Auger-Pirri, and a family friend looked on.

“I could tell that the woman did not want to talk to whoever was in the vehicle,” Auger said later. “It just seemed awkward to me. ... I just felt in my stomach that it didn’t seem right.”

The pair determined that something was amiss and doubled back. Auger called 911 and later gave police detailed descriptions of the woman, the man in the car, and the car itself.

Auger said she didn’t expect the call to amount to much, but responding officers discovered that the driver had been ordered not to contact the woman, whom police say he had previously abused.

The driver was arrested and charged the next day for violating an order for protection, a misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of \$3,000 and 90 days in jail.

The Crystal mother and son are the second pair of Crystal residents to receive the chief’s award in 2016. Peter and Mary Wiggins were similarly honored in January after alerting police to a man who nabbed a neighbor’s mail last holiday season. The award is designed to encourage residents to call 911 and report suspicious activity or a crime in progress.

“Jennifer and Cameron took the important step of making the 911 call,” Revering said. “Because of their actions, a potentially dangerous situation was curtailed, allowing the victim to return home safely and the suspect to be arrested and charged with the violation.”

Auger said the incident became a good learning experience for her son, who was recently taken on a tour of the police department’s building.

“It’s important that he learns how helpful police officers can be,” she explained.

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Business • Community & People • Faith

## New Hope businessman, community supporter A.C. Carlson dies at 89

Published March 18, 2016 at 10:47 am

By [Gina Purcell](#)



Alton Carroll "A.C." Carlson, a son, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend and New Hope business owner, died March 16 at age 89.

Born Nov. 23, 1926, Carlson is the youngest of seven children and grew up in Center City, Minnesota.

In 1945, Carlson sold bakery goods door-to-door by horse and wagon.

In 1954, he founded A.C. Carlson Furniture and Appliance Store in Crystal. His store was completely destroyed by fire in 1982. A new store was built the following year in New Hope. In 2005, Carlson relocated the store but remained within New Hope's city boundaries, where the store remains today.

He was a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church and an active participant in his local Toastmasters organization, a nonprofit that helps its members improve their communication, public speaking and leadership skills.

Mayor Kathi Hemken admits she did not know Carlson too well, but given his strong support for the city, Duk Duk Daze and her loyal business to his store, she had a plethora of good things to say.

“A.C. Carlson was the kind of person everyone felt like they knew because he was so welcoming to everyone,” she said. “Once you met A.C., you just considered him a friend. He was so upbeat all the time. He was very devoted to family, very devoted to the community, to his church and friends.”

Hemken remembers how proud he was of his 12 grandchildren.

There was always a picture of them hanging in the store, she said. Each year, the picture was updated.

The kids would be lined up according to size, holding signs with their ages on it.

“It was fun to go into the store and watch these grandchildren grow,” Hemken said. “If you asked him about it, you would be there for an hour.”

Not only was A.C. interested in talking about his own family, but he was genuinely curious how other’s families were doing as well.

He was often known for handing out monthly calendars with a different quote written for each day.

“He had Toastmasters kind of lines he would use all the time,” Hemken said. “He was a delight to talk to. You loved being around him.”

Carlson’s funeral service will be 11 a.m. Saturday, March 19, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4201 Regent Ave. N., Robbinsdale, with visitation at 9 a.m.

Interment at Hillside Cemetery in Center City.

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to Redeemer Lutheran Church.

He is preceded in death by wife of 62 years, Gladys; two brothers and three sisters. He is survived by children, Cathy (John) Keto, Carolyn (Gordy) Peterson, Cindy (Anthony) Lipari and David (Carolyn); 12 grandchildren; four great grandchildren; other relatives, friends and customers.

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Community & People

# Remembering Barway Collins one year later

Published March 21, 2016 at 4:28 pm

By Joe Bowen



Pastor Marie Vah leads a group of West Metro residents in prayer at a memorial for Barway Collins, who disappeared exactly one year prior and was later found dead. At left is Louise Kerkulah, Collins' mother. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)



## Memorials and tears on anniversary of Crystal 10-year old's disappearance

Dozens of people gathered March 18 to somberly remember Barway Collins, the 10-year

old Crystal resident whose disappearance and death were continual front-page news at this time last year.

In a scene reminiscent of the many community-led searches for the boy, a series of speakers told reporters about the search for Collins, recalling a bright, effervescent young man and the sorrow they felt that his life had been cut short. Collins was first reported missing on the same date in 2015, and his body was discovered in the Mississippi River three weeks later. Police zeroed in on the boy's father, Pierre Collins, who eventually confessed to the killing in a packed Hennepin County courtroom.

"Lord, we haven't forgotten," said Seyon Nyanwleh, who organized the memorials and has come to be the leader of "Team Barway," some members of which wore shirts with Collins' picture across the chest. "He left for us a smile."

"Let us remember that Barway brought tears in the eyes of so many people who didn't know him," said Mamadee Sesay, Executive Director of Organization of Liberians in Minnesota, as Louise Kerkulah, Collins' biological mother who flew back from Liberia after his disappearance, sobbed quietly behind him.

One speaker chose to simply recite the 10 commandments in lieu of a prepared speech, and still others sang hymnals.

"When he went missing, as a parent, my heart went over to my kids," said Messie Saylee, a friend of Kerkulah's who attended a second memorial on March 19 in Brooklyn Center and has four boys of her own. "It could have been my son."

"He was a very active person, his smile, he was respectful and always willing to help," said Edith Zoogley, a friend of Collins' step mother Yamah Collins. "He was like a nephew to me."

Nyanwleh said this year is only the beginning, and Team Barway shirts read "1st Memorial." 

"We'd like to memorialize him as long as he can," Nyanwleh said of Collins. "The whole point of this is to keep the memory alive."

Collins' death and disappearance have had an effect across social media, as well. The Facebook group "All Missing Persons Matter" was originally formed to share news and information during the search and investigation, but it has since donned its current name and turned into a repository for memories about Collins and alerts about other missing children throughout the region.

The Crystal Police Department's Facebook page shared a photo of Collins – the same one

they circulated far and wide when he first disappeared – with a simple caption: “We remember.”

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Community & People • Government

## Wary of opioids, Crystal resident pushes to expand insurance coverage for acupuncture

Published March 22, 2016 at 1:26 pm

By Joe Bowen

### **Bonnie Bolash has been lobbying state lawmakers on both sides of the aisle**

As the number of overdoses reported in the state continues to rise, a Crystal acupuncturist hopes to make her trade more accessible as an alternative to painkillers, prescriptions of which she says can sometimes lead to heroin use.



*Bonnie Bolash*

Bonnie Bolash, who runs an acupuncture practice with locations in Crystal and Osseo, has been lobbying state lawmakers in an effort to expand insurance coverage for acupuncture treatments and to educate caregivers about the benefits of “non-pharmacological” treatment for pain. Bolash has taken a couple trips to the state legislature building in St. Paul, and her efforts have resulted in bills in the house and senate.

“There is this huge opioid epidemic, but really what we have is a pain epidemic,” Bolash said. “I can’t take another story of people going in for a simple sprain or pain and

receiving a narcotic and then getting on this path to heroin or dying from the respiratory suppressing effects of an opioid while their pain hasn't been addressed."

Bolash's plan would require state-regulated health insurance plans to cover acupuncture for acute and chronic pain or pain management. The legislation would not apply to larger, multi-state plans regulated by federal rules and guidelines.

"There are pain pill ways to treat pain and there are non-drug ways to treat pain, and everyone should have options on the table," Bolash said.

Other language in her legislation would require opioid prescribers to receive two hours of continuing education about non-pharmacological treatment options, but does not specify acupuncture.

The bill has received support from a number of state legislators in both major political parties in the West Metro, including Rep. Mike Freiberg, DFL-Golden Valley, and Rep. Mary Franson, R-Alexandria, who are two authors of the version making its way through the house: H.F. 3244.

"If there are other things that can accomplish the same goal that don't risk people getting addicted, I'm certainly in favor of them," Freiberg said. Franson could not be reached for comment.

Bolash is also set to meet with representatives from the Minnesota Board of Nursing. The board, in conjunction with the Minnesota Boards of Medical Practice and Pharmacy, has maintained a joint statement on pain management since 2004, said Shirley Brekken, the nursing board's executive director.

"One of the considerations is that health care professionals should consider non-opioid alternatives when possible, and to consider using a multidisciplinary approach to identify all treatment options," Brekken said. The statement itself is not a rule and doesn't tell caregivers what to prescribe or when to prescribe it, Brekken stressed, but she c ↑ consider it to outline "best practices," which she said health care professionals consider very carefully. It was most recently updated late last year.

The specific training requirement could be a sticking point, however, because the nursing board likes to let individual practitioners decide which training best suits their specific practice. Brekken said staff from the three boards would like to speak with Bolash about how best to accomplish the training requirement.

Bolash's plan comes during a widely-acknowledged opioid "epidemic" in the state, which has seen an increasing number of people overdose on the drugs in the past few years.

The medical practice, nursing, and pharmacy boards reported that, in 2013, the leading cause of death due to injury was drug overdoses, 51 percent of which were related to prescription drugs. In 2014, the state's health department reported that more Minnesotans died from overdoses of prescription painkillers and heroin than traffic accidents. Even more recently, several news outlets reported on a rash of heroin overdoses in Northern Minnesota earlier this month.

Bolash said patients may seek out a doctor's care for an injury, get a prescription for painkillers, then seek out heroin once the prescription runs out.

"Desperate people in desperate times do desperate things, and I don't want to see that anymore," Bolash said.

On March 16, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published its first-ever list of guidelines for prescribing opioids for chronic pain. The guidelines are non-binding, but they list non-pharmacological and non-opioid therapy as "preferred" and remind caregivers that "opioids are not first-line or routine therapy for chronic pain" and encourage them to "discuss benefits and risks and availability of non-opioid therapies with patient."

"Primary care clinicians report having concerns about opioid pain medication misuse, find managing patients with chronic pain stressful, express concern about patient addiction, and report insufficient training in prescribing opioids," writes Deborah Dowell, Tamara Haegerich, and Roger Chou, the doctors who authored the centers' guidelines. "Across specialties, physicians believe that opioid pain medication can be effective in controlling pain, that addiction is a common consequence of prolonged use, and that long-term opioid therapy often is overprescribed for patients with chronic non-cancer pain. These attitudes and beliefs, combined with increasing trends in opioid-related overdose, underscore the need for better clinician guidance on opioid prescribing."

Lesla Bader, a spokesperson for North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale, said the hospital already offers several alternatives to opioids, but wasn't sure if caregivers there undergo specific training for opioid alternatives. 

Sen. Chris Eaton, DFL-Brooklyn Center, who is putting together the senate version of the legislation, could not be reached for comment.

### **H.F. 3244**

Below is the complete text, as introduced in the state house of representatives on March 16, of the legislation that Bolash is pushing for.

Section 1. [62Q.528] **Coverage for acupuncture services.**

All health plans must cover acupuncture services for the treatment of pain and ongoing pain management when those services are performed by an individual who is licensed as an acupuncture practitioner under chapter 147B.

**Effective date.** This section is effective January 1, 2017, and applies to health plans offered, issued, or renewed to a Minnesota resident on or after that date.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 214.12, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 6. **Opioid alternatives.** The Board of Medical Practice, the Board of Nursing, and the Board of Dentistry shall require that licensees with the authority to prescribe opioid medicines receive two hours of continuing education on nonpharmacological alternatives for treatment of pain and ongoing pain management.

**Effective date.** This section is effective January 1, 2017.

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