



Council and Senior Staff

NEWSBRIEF

November 4, 2016

Turn the page for a list of what's included in this packet.

City of Crystal | 4141 Douglas Dr. N. | Crystal MN 55422
763-531-1000 | www.crystalmn.gov | Monday-Friday | 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(Items are alphabetized)

1. Crystal Arrest and Crime Activity Reports (Oct. 26 – Nov. 2, 2016)
2. Ewald at the Capitol (Oct. 28, 2016)
3. LMC Cities Bulletin (Oct. 31, 2016)
4. Met Council: METRO Blue Line Extension Newsletter October 2016
5. New Hope letter: Canadian Pacific Holiday Train Stop in New Hope (Nov. 3, 2016)
6. Robbinsdale Area Schools Discover (Nov. 2, 2016)
7. Star Tribune article:
 - a. Cash, not borrowing: Libertarians shake up Crystal City Hall

Crystal Arrest Report

Date Range: 10/26/2016 06:00:00 AM - 11/02/2016 06:00:00 AM

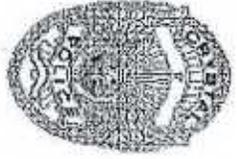
<u>Case Nbr</u>	<u>Juv</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date Arrested</u>
CYAR16-025921	N	FISHER	WENDY	MARIE	F	37	10/26/2016 10:49 AM
		Address: 5240 DREW AV N		9	BROOKLYN	MN 55429	
		Statute: MISWA MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST					
CYAR16-023532	N	JAMISON	ERNIE	LEE	M	45	10/26/2016 4:15 PM
		Address: 8317 BASS LAKE RD		204	NEW HOPE	MN 55428	
		Statute: 152-025-2(B)(1)DONT SUBST-5TH DEG-POSS SCHEDULE 1,2,3,4 - NOT SMALL AMOUNT					
CYAR16-023532	N	JAMISON	ERNIE	LEE	M	45	10/26/2016 4:15 PM
		Address: 8317 BASS LAKE RD		204	NEW HOPE	MN 55428	
		Statute: 624-713-1(10) WEAPON-POSSESS PISTOL/ASSAULT WEAPON-USER OF CONTROLLED					
CYAR16-023532	N	JAMISON	ERNIE	LEE	M	45	10/26/2016 4:15 PM
		Address: 8317 BASS LAKE RD		204	NEW HOPE	MN 55428	
		Statute: 609-667-2 WEAPON-POSSESSION WITH REMOVED SERIAL NUMBER					
CYAR16-026079	N	PORTER	PARIS	NICOLE	F	27	10/28/2016 12:22 AM
		Address: 3331 WASHBURN AV N			MINNEAPOLIS	MN 55412	
		Statute: 171-22-1-8 TRAF-USE NAME/DOB OF ANOTHER TO FALSELY ID ONESELF-GM					
CYAR16-026079	N	PORTER	PARIS	NICOLE	F	27	10/28/2016 12:22 AM
		Address: 3331 WASHBURN AV N			MINNEAPOLIS	MN 55412	
		Statute: MISWA MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST					
CYAR16-026088	N	JONES	HENRY	LARKIN	M	20	10/28/2016 2:25 AM
		Address: 3607 MORGAN AV N			MINNEAPOLIS	MN 55412	
		Statute: 171-02-1 TRAF-DL-NO MN DL/WRONG CLASS/MORE THAN ONE VALID					
CYAR16-026157	Y					15	10/28/2016 7:56 PM
		Address:					
		Statute: 609-605-1-B-4 TRESPASS-BUILDING OR DWELLING					
CYAR16-026157	Y					15	10/28/2016 7:56 PM
		Address:					
		Statute: 609-66-1-4 WEAPON-POSSESS SWITCHBLADE OR METAL KNUCKLES					
CYAR16-026157	Y					14	10/28/2016 7:56 PM
		Address:					
		Statute: 609-605-1-B-4 TRESPASS-BUILDING OR DWELLING					
CYAR16-026157	Y					15	10/28/2016 7:56 PM
		Address:					
		Statute: 609-605-1-B-4 TRESPASS-BUILDING OR DWELLING					
CYAR16-026157	Y					15	10/28/2016 7:56 PM
		Address:					
		Statute: 609-66-1-4 WEAPON-POSSESS SWITCHBLADE OR METAL KNUCKLES					
CYAR16-026157	Y					14	10/28/2016 7:56 PM
		Address:					
		Statute: 609-605-1-B-4 TRESPASS-BUILDING OR DWELLING					
CYAR16-026179	N	WILLIAMS	DIASHLEE	SJANIECE	F	25	10/29/2016 2:38 AM
		Address: 6328 CORVALLIS AV N			CRYSTAL	MN 55428	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-1 TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE					
CYAR16-026179	N	WILLIAMS	DIASHLEE	SJANIECE	F	25	10/29/2016 2:38 AM
		Address: 6328 CORVALLIS AV N			CRYSTAL	MN 55428	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-5 TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/ 2 HOURS					

Arrest Report

Date Range: 10/26/2016 06:00:00 AM - 11/02/2016 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>
CYAR16-026179	N	WILLIAMS	DIASHLEE	SJANIECE	F	25	10/29/2016 2:38 AM
		Address: 6328 CORVALLIS AV N		CRYSTAL	MN	55428	
		Statute: 171-24-2 TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION					
CYAR16-026179	N	WILLIAMS	DIASHLEE	SJANIECE	F	25	10/29/2016 2:38 AM
		Address: 6328 CORVALLIS AV N		CRYSTAL	MN	55428	
		Statute: 168-09-2 TRAF-FAIL TO DISPLAY CURRENT LICENSE PLATES/TABS					
CYAR16-026179	N	WILLIAMS	DIASHLEE	SJANIECE	F	25	10/29/2016 2:38 AM
		Address: 6328 CORVALLIS AV N		CRYSTAL	MN	55428	
		Statute: 169-791-2-A TRAF-NO PROOF INSURANCE-MS					
CYAR16-026260	N	KAMARA	HAGEH	PAPE	M	32	10/30/2016 11:38 AM
		Address: 965 40 AV NE		508 COLUMBIA	MN	55421	
		Statute: 609-52-2-1 THEFT-SHOPLIFTING-\$500 - \$1000					
CYAR16-026296	Y					16	10/30/2016 11:51 PM
		Address:					
		Statute: 152-027-4-A CONT SUBST-POSS OR SELL-SMALL AMT MARIJUANA					
CYAR16-026383	N	BLAIR-FOSTER	CAREY	VINCENT	M	23	10/31/2016 6:36 PM
		Address:					
		Statute: 518B-01-14-C DOMESTIC ABUSE-VIOLATES OFF W/IN 10 YEARS OF PREVIOUS					
CYAR16-026383	N	BLAIR-FOSTER	CAREY	VINCENT	M	23	10/31/2016 6:36 PM
		Address:					
		Statute: 629-75-2-C DISTURB-DOMESTIC ABUSE-VIOLATE NO CONTACT ORDER WITHIN 10					
CYAR16-026383	N	BLAIR-FOSTER	CAREY	VINCENT	M	23	10/31/2016 6:36 PM
		Address:					
		Statute: 609-2242-2 ASSAULT-DOM-GM-FEAR BOD HRM-HNDS-FAM					
CYAR16-026383	N	BLAIR-FOSTER	CAREY	VINCENT	M	23	10/31/2016 6:36 PM
		Address:					
		Statute: 609-72-1 DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT					
CYAR16-026395	N	HOPKINS	LAWRENCE	KEITH	M	50	10/31/2016 9:23 PM
		Address: 6306 LEE AV N		BROOKLYN	MN	55429	
		Statute: 609-50-1-1 GOVT-OBSTRUCT LEGAL PROCESS-MS-LAWFUL EXECUTION LEGAL					
CYAR16-026395	N	HOPKINS	LAWRENCE	KEITH	M	50	10/31/2016 9:23 PM
		Address: 6306 LEE AV N		BROOKLYN	MN	55429	
		Statute: MISWA MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST					
CYAR16-026395	N	HOPKINS	TELISA	MARIE	F	22	10/31/2016 9:23 PM
		Address: 6306 LEE AV N		BROOKLYN	MN	55429	
		Statute: 609-50-1-1 GOVT-OBSTRUCT LEGAL PROCESS-MS-LAWFUL EXECUTION LEGAL					
CYAR16-026414	N	FRYE	JESSE	THOMAS	M	25	11/01/2016 2:45 AM
		Address: 9700 45 AV N		122 PLYMOUTH	MN	55442	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-1 TRAF-DUI 3RD DEGREE					
CYAR16-026414	N	FRYE	JESSE	THOMAS	M	25	11/01/2016 2:45 AM
		Address: 9700 45 AV N		122 PLYMOUTH	MN	55442	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-5 TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/I 2 HOURS					

End of Report



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

November 2, 2016 - 12:00:00 AM

CASE NO	LOCATION	OFFENSE	VALUE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	DATE OCCURRED
CY16-026383	50 th LAKESIDE AV N	ASSAULT-DOM-GM			10/31/2016 18:25
CY16-023532	83 rd BASS LAKE RD	CONT SUBST-5TH DEG-POSS SCHEDULE			10/26/2016 16:15
CY16-025909	51 PL N&WEST BROADWAY	CONT SUBST-POSS OR SELL-SMALL AMT			10/26/2016 00:52
CY16-026296	30 th SUMTER AV N	CONT SUBST-POSS OR SELL-SMALL AMT			10/30/2016 23:51
CY16-026113	52 nd WEST BROADWAY	CRIMINAL DAMAGE VEH-TAMPERING			10/28/2016 09:40
CY16-026383	50 th LAKESIDE AV N	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			10/31/2016 18:25
CY16-026383	50 th LAKESIDE AV N	DISTURB-DOMESTIC ABUSE			10/31/2016 18:25
CY16-026383	50 th LAKESIDE AV N	DOMESTIC ABUSE-VIOLATES OPF W/IN 10			10/31/2016 18:25
CY16-026115	66 th CLOVERDALE AV	FRAUD-THEFT-IDENTITY THEFT			10/27/2016 19:44
CY16-026395	56 AV N&RHODE ISLAND AV	GOVT-OBSTRUCT LEGAL			10/31/2016 21:08
CY16-025909	51 PL N&WEST BROADWAY	MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST			10/26/2016 00:52
CY16-026079	72 nd 36 AV N	MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST			10/28/2016 00:11
CY16-026395	56 AV N&RHODE ISLAND AV	MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST			10/31/2016 21:08
CY16-026260	2 nd WILLOW BEND	THEFT-SHOPLIFTING	795	CLOTHING ITEMS - \$794.86	10/30/2016 11:14
CY16-026177	53 rd 36 AV N	THEFT-SHOPLIFTING	100	LAUNDRY DETERGENT - \$100	10/29/2016 02:27
CY16-026113	52 nd WEST BROADWAY	THEFT-VEH MOTOR VEHICLE			10/28/2016 09:40
CY16-026088	36 AV N TO SB	TRAF-DL-NO MN DL/WRONG CLASS			10/28/2016 01:29
CY16-026179	53 rd WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION			10/29/2016 02:30
CY16-026414	DOUGLAS DR N&WEST	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG ALCOHOL CONC			11/01/2016 02:29
CY16-026414	DOUGLAS DR N&WEST	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG ALCOHOL CONC			11/01/2016 02:29
CY16-026179	53 rd WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC			10/29/2016 02:30
CY16-026179	53 rd WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE			10/29/2016 02:30
CY16-026179	53 rd WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-FAIL TO DISPLAY CURRENT LICENSE			10/29/2016 02:30
CY16-026179	53 rd WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-NO PROOF INSURANCE			10/29/2016 02:30
CY16-026079	72 nd 36 AV N	TRAF-USE NAME/DOB OF ANOTHER			10/28/2016 00:11
CY16-026157	33 rd FLORIDA AV N	TRESPASS-BUILDING OR DWELLING			10/28/2016 19:56

CASE NO	LOCATION	OFFENSE	VALUE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	DATE OCCURRED
CY16-023532	83- BASS LAKE RD	WEAPON-POSSESS			10/26/2016 16:15
CY16-026157	33- FLORIDA AV N	WEAPON-POSSESS			10/28/2016 19:56
CY16-023532	83- BASS LAKE RD	WEAPON-POSSESS			10/26/2016 16:15

End of Report



October 28, 2016

MNsure Rate Increases May Cause Special Session

In recent weeks, the state-run insurance exchange MNsure has faced intense scrutiny from legislative caucus leaders and Gov. Mark Dayton because of a 50-67 percent increase to the insurance premiums of Minnesotans who purchase their insurance from the individual market. Estimates from the Minnesota Department of Health show that roughly five percent of Minnesotans will purchase their health care from the individual market when open enrollment begins on Tuesday, November 1. While roughly half of those people will qualify for federal tax credits to assist with increasing insurance premiums, over 100,000 people whose income exceeds the income limit for those credits will face increased health care costs. These premium increases will not affect those who receive their coverage through their employers or from a government program.

The issue has caused quite a stir at the capitol, less than two weeks before Election Day.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) has said that he supports a special session where legislators can pass some form of relief for those Minnesotans facing increased insurance premiums. Sen. Bakk stated that the issue is urgent, and the Legislature must consider solutions prior to the start of the regular session starting in January. Speaker of the House Kurt Daudt (R-Crown) has called the issue a "full-blown crisis" and has encouraged Gov. Dayton to work around the clock so that Minnesotans will continue to have health care coverage on January 1. Earlier this month, Gov. Dayton stated that the Affordable Care Act is "no longer affordable" and that he will consider calling a special session after Election Day to pass some form of relief for those Minnesotans whose salary is too high to qualify for federal assistance but don't have employer-provided healthcare coverage. Gov. Dayton has proposed using the over \$300 million in funds set to go into the state's budget reserve in December to address the MNsure health care cost increases, but there is no consensus yet on a solution.

They said it:

"In this emergency for some Minnesotans and their families, I am hopeful that DFL and Republican legislators will be able to set aside the politics of the Affordable Care Act, work together, and find a short-term solution for those in crisis. During the past couple of weeks, some legislative leaders have said a special session is critical. It is now time to walk the talk and agree upon a solution to provide much-needed relief."

– Gov. Mark Dayton

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The 2016 Elections: Vote on November 8

Election Day is less than two weeks away, and while attention has been fixated on the race for the White House, numerous important races will be decided for Minnesota's state government. Note: Ewald Consulting will have a comprehensive breakdown of election results the day after Election Day on Wednesday, November 9.

Here is what will be on the ballot across the state:

State Legislature

201 legislators will be elected, with voters deciding on their state senate and house representation. Currently the House of Representatives is controlled by a Republican majority. Democrats must flip seven seats to take the majority. The Senate is controlled by a Democratic majority, requiring Republicans to flip six seats to take the majority.

Congress

Minnesota's eight congressional districts are up for election this year. Incumbents are running in all but one district, with Democrat Angie Craig and Republican Jason Lewis running to replace retiring Congressman John Kline in the Second Congressional District, which includes some of the southern Twin Cities suburbs and a generous swath of southern Minnesota.

Constitutional Amendment

An amendment may be added to the state constitution, as voters across Minnesota will decide if a citizen council should be the authority on designating state legislative salaries. Current state law requires the legislature to approve its own salary changes, which hasn't happened since 1999. Legislators make roughly \$30,000 per year, and this has been cited as a barrier to recruiting and retaining the best people

for the positions. Voters should note that when they vote on the constitutional amendment, leaving the question blank on the ballot is counted as a "No" vote.

State Supreme Court

The Minnesota Supreme Court has a vacancy, meaning voters will decide who will be the newest State Supreme Court Justice.

Voters can view their ballot using the [Secretary of State's My Ballot](#) online tool.

Questions about how to vote early via absentee ballot? Review the [Secretary of State's guide to in-person absentee voting](#).

Questions about what you will need on Election Day if you are not yet registered to vote? Check the [Secretary of State's guide to same-day voter registration](#).

Governor Creates Council on Law Enforcement and Community Relations

Gov. Dayton recently released an Executive Order establishing the Governor's Council on Law Enforcement and Community Relations. The council will be tasked with identifying strategies to improve the relationship between Minnesota communities and law enforcement officers. The work will include reviewing best practices and recommending specific reforms to the governor and legislature to consider for statutory and administrative rule changes. The preliminary recommendations will be delivered to the legislature and Gov. Dayton by February 15, 2017, with the final report presented on June 30, 2017.

CITIES BULLETIN



Issue 62

Oct. 31, 2016



View/print a PDF of the Cities Bulletin

League Appoints Executive Director to Governor's New Council on Law Enforcement

The council is required to make preliminary recommendations about ways to create and restore trust between communities and law enforcement by Feb. 15.

In Other News

\$105 Million in Federal Road and Bridge Funds for Minnesota Hung Up Over Politics

Absent approval from House Transportation Committee Chair Tim Kelly or the full Legislature, federal funding for 28 local road and bridge projects cannot be accepted.

Ag Containment Facility Exemption: Without Repeal, What Happens to 2017 Taxes?

If the property tax exemption remains, several cities will experience a significant loss of tax base, resulting in potentially large tax increases for many property owners.

MN Secretary of State Outlines Goals at LMC Regional Meetings

In addition to 2017 legislative goals, the secretary discussed Minnesota's strong voter turnout, which he attributed to various election laws and the state culture.

Data Practices: Make Sure You're in Compliance with State Requirements

Having policies and procedures in place before a request is made will assist staff in responding quickly.

More Information and Resources

Just One Month Left Until the Metro Regional Meeting! Have You Registered Yet?

League Forming New Learning Cohort Focused on Advancing Racial Equity

Mayors: Register by Nov. 11 for This Workshop on Running Effective Meetings

Training for Minnesota's Soon-to-Be-Elected City Officials Available in Early 2017

Hear Case Studies on City Resiliency at Nov. 2 GreenStep Cities Workshop & Webinar

Two Minnesota Foundations Provide Critical Training for Public Safety Officials

Introducing New LMC Employee Rory Lee

Don't Forget to Order Your Copy of the 2016 Directory of MN City Officials—Now Only \$37!

Learn About Responsible Use of Social Media and More with FirstNet Safety Training

Survey: Help Shape Regional Development in MN

It's a Wrap! 2016 Greater Minnesota Regional Meetings

Training, Conferences, Events

Upcoming League Events

Online Training/E-Learning

Co-Sponsored Events

Events Sponsored by Other Organizations

Featured Events

2016 Regional Metro Meeting
Nov. 30—Brooklyn Center

Running Effective Meetings and
Leading with Civility
Nov. 16—St. Paul

Newly Elected Officials: 2017
Leadership Conference
Jan. 20-21—Mankato
Jan. 27-28—Bloomington
Feb. 24-25—Brainerd

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.
View Alliance members

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For legislative questions:
Contact IGR Staff

For editorial or other Bulletin
questions:

Contact Claudia Hoffacker
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League Appoints Executive Director to Governor's New Council on Law Enforcement



The council is required to make preliminary recommendations about ways to create and restore trust between communities and law enforcement by Feb. 15.

Upon recommendation of the League's Executive Committee, the LMC Board of Directors has unanimously approved the appointment of Executive Director David Unmacht to represent the League on the new Governor's Council on Law Enforcement and Community Relations.

Earlier this month, Gov. Dayton announced the formation of the council to advise state policymakers and other stakeholders about immediate actions that can be taken in Minnesota to create and restore trust between communities and their law enforcement agencies. The executive order that establishes the council calls for preliminary recommendations to be completed by Feb. 15. A final report is due on June 30.

The council, which will convene in late October, will meet at least once a month. It will be co-chaired by Fourth District Judge Pamela G. Alexander and Grand Rapids Police Chief Scott Johnson, and will include 15 voting representatives and 17 ex-officio members including the League representative.

The group is charged with:

- Reviewing the current status of law enforcement and community relations through a lens of procedural and social justice that may impact areas, including, but not limited to: sentencing reform; prosecutorial discretion; law enforcement workforce; law enforcement recruiting and retention; law enforcement training; and community health and wellness.
- Identifying, publishing, and promoting information about the implementation of the best practices in community and law enforcement relations, and also facilitating information sharing among local, state, and federal departments and jurisdictions.
- Identifying, publishing, and promoting information about the resources needed for statewide access to training and officer safety.
- Identifying, publishing, and promoting information about how communities and law enforcement agencies can positively engage each other.
- Designing and implementing specific policy proposals and actions that can be taken by the executive and legislative branches of state government to enhance law enforcement and community safety.

The League's Executive Committee met prior to the Oct. 20 Board of Directors meeting to discuss this appointment, and determined that Unmacht is best suited to represent the array of city interests, including the perspectives of cities of all sizes, locations, and demographic makeup. Additionally, they concluded that appointing the highest ranking League staff member to the council underscores to state policy officials that the League takes the issue and participation on the council very seriously. Staff from various departments will work closely with Unmacht to support him in his council role.

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

\$105 Million in Federal Road and Bridge Funds for Minnesota Hung Up Over Politics



Absent approval from House Transportation Committee Chair Tim Kelly or the full Legislature, federal funding for 28 local road and bridge projects cannot be accepted.

(Published Oct 31, 2016)

Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Red Wing), chair of the Minnesota House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee, has formally denied approval of \$105 million in federal transportation funds. The denial came in an Oct. 19 letter to Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) Commissioner Myron Frans.

According to the letter, Rep. Kelly's opposition is based on concerns that the Legislature would not have oversight of expenditures related to the appropriation due to the failure of the Legislature to pass transportation and bonding bills in 2016. The move threatens to delay 28 highway, road, and bridge projects in over a dozen communities across Minnesota.

- **View Rep. Kelly's letter objecting to the acceptance of federal funds (pdf)**

(Link to: http://mn.gov/gov-stat/pdf/2016_10_19_Rep_Tim_Kelly_MNDot_LAC_Request.pdf)

Funding via federal FAST Act

Under the federal FAST Act, passed in December 2015, Minnesota received an increase in highway construction program funding. This increase will amount to a \$105 million reimbursement of federal funding for the 2016-2017 biennium.

Federal law requires states to commit to the increase, or lose the federal funding. Historically, the Minnesota Legislature authorizes the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to participate in this reimbursement. Because the 2016 Legislature failed to pass a transportation bill that would authorize the funding, MnDOT requested that the **Legislative Advisory Commission** (Link to:

<http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lac/lac.htm>) (LAC) approve this federal funding.

The LAC's role

The LAC is administered by the MMB commissioner. The commission has authority to review and grant requests by state departments and state agencies for funding from contingent appropriations or spending of federal funds. The commission has four permanent members: the majority leader of the Senate or a designee; the chair of the Senate Finance Committee; the speaker of the House or a designee; and the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee.

One additional member from the House of Representatives and one additional member from the Senate sit on the commission, and are determined by the funding request(s) being considered. As chair of the House Transportation Committee, Rep. Kelly would serve on the LAC to consider the federal transportation funding request.

If any member of the LAC objects to a request, the MMB commissioner cannot approve it, meaning if Rep. Kelly does not change his mind, the funds will remain in limbo at least until the 2017 legislative session.

Governor responds

In response to Kelly's letter, Gov. Dayton issued a scathing letter to Rep. Kelly criticizing him for holding up critically needed funds for roads and bridges.

- **View the governor's letter to Rep. Kelly (pdf)** (*Link to: http://mn.gov/gov-stat/pdf/2016_10_25_GMD_Letter_to_Rep_Kelly_LAC.pdf*)

In his letter, Gov. Dayton calls the objections from Rep. Kelly to MnDOT's recent LAC request to be "lacking in substance and merit," noting that the Transportation Committee chair failed to produce a significant transportation funding package to utilize these federal dollars and provide a long-term transportation solution for the state.

The governor's letter stresses that, due to this funding being blocked by Rep. Kelly, road and bridge projects in communities like Forest Lake, Bagley, New Ulm, Winona, Pine River, Hallock, Fairmont, Worthington, Foley, New Richland, Farmington, Savage, and Shakopee, among others, will now face delays.

- **View governor's press release, which lists some of the projects that would be affected** (*Link to: <https://mn.gov/governor/newsroom/#/detail/appId/1/id/261461>*)

Contact your legislator

If your city has a project that will be impacted by these pending federal funds, the League urges you to contact your legislators and request that they ask Rep. Kelly to reverse his opposition.

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

Your LMC Resource

Contact Anne Finn

Assistant IGR Director

(651) 281-1263 or (800) 925-1122

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

Ag Containment Facility Exemption: Without Repeal, What Happens to 2017 Taxes?



If the property tax exemption remains, several cities will experience a significant loss of tax base, resulting in potentially large tax increases for many property owners.

(Published Oct 31, 2016)

The demise of the 2016 omnibus tax bill (Session Laws 2016, Chapter 188) will affect several cities across the state that host agricultural storage facilities with containment structures. City officials in cities that host these facilities should be prepared to address taxpayer questions and concerns about proposed property taxes.

Had the omnibus bill been enacted, a longstanding property tax exemption for agricultural containment facilities that has been inconsistently administered by county assessors would have been repealed. Without the repeal, county assessors will begin exempting a larger portion of those facilities from the property tax, shifting a large share of the taxes to the remaining taxable properties like city residences and commercial properties. The exemption will impact property taxes payable in 2017.

How will it affect cities?

The impact of the broader exemption will first appear in the proposed property tax statements mailed to property owners this fall. Residents and other businesses in cities with a large percentage of tax base currently eligible for the expanded exemption could see potentially large tax increases on their proposed tax notices due to shifting taxes, even if a city freezes its proposed property tax levy. The shifting taxes might be alarming to property owners and could result in many taxpayer questions and concerns.

Although the proposed tax notices will almost certainly reflect the increased exemption and the tax shift, it is possible that the state Legislature could take action yet this year in a special session or early next year during the 2017 session to repeal the exemption before the final tax notices are distributed.

Where are ag containment facilities located?

In a survey of assessors conducted in 2015 by the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR), 76 of the state's 87 counties responded and identified approximately 400 agricultural chemical containment facilities. The amount of property value statewide that will shift from taxable to tax-exempt under a consistent administration of the law was estimated to be \$112 million in a total of 55 counties, 254 cities and towns, and 142 school districts.

Among the impacted cities, the survey indicated that 24 will lose more than 5 percent of their tax base. The counties that did not respond to the survey were Cook, Crow Wing, Faribault, Hennepin, Isanti, McLeod, Nobles, Pine, Rock, Wabasha, and Yellow Medicine. Facilities in those counties could add to these totals.

The table below provides information from the 2015 DOR survey on those cities that will experience a loss of more than 5 percent of their tax base (net tax capacity) unless the Legislature repeals the exemption. The tax base loss will translate into a shift of taxes to all other taxable properties within these cities.

For example, in the city of Holloway, the loss of 27.6 percent of the city's tax base will increase the city's tax rate by more than 38 percent (assuming constant city levy and constant values for all other properties), which will increase taxes paid to the city by all other taxable properties by 38 percent. Smaller shifts in the county and school district taxes will also occur.

Cities with Over 5 Percent Tax Base Loss Due to Ag Facility Exemption

City	County	City/Town Total Taxable Market Value	Taxable Market Value to Become Exempt	Change in Net Tax Capacity	Increase in City Tax Rate (all else constant)
HOLLOWAY	SWIFT	\$16,969,307	\$4,099,800	-27.63%	+38.18%
BELTRAMI	POLK	\$8,551,954	\$1,263,900	-22.39%	+28.85%
BINGHAM LAKE	COTTONWOOD	\$10,765,243	\$1,294,700	-17.63%	+21.40%
MURDOCK	SWIFT	\$14,764,387	\$1,969,300	-17.56%	+21.30%
ULEN	CLAY	\$25,004,795	\$3,013,300	-16.90%	+20.34%
DARFUR	WATONWAN	\$2,286,024	\$197,911	-15.98%	+19.02%
GEORGETOWN	CLAY	\$4,939,633	\$408,100	-14.74%	+17.29%
WALNUT GROVE	REDWOOD	\$18,460,362	\$1,746,500	-13.55%	+15.67%
CLARKS GROVE	FREEBORN	\$16,991,706	\$1,396,200	-13.25%	+15.27%
WINTHROP	SIBLEY	\$58,004,355	\$4,884,000	-12.86%	+14.76%
HERMAN	GRANT	\$14,631,897	\$1,174,800	-12.09%	+13.75%
BROOTEN	STEARNS	\$28,445,387	\$2,082,000	-11.64%	+13.17%
GENOLA	MORRISON	\$5,972,307	\$476,300	-11.07%	+12.45%
CHOKIO	STEVENS	\$11,319,602	\$692,700	-11.02%	+12.38%
CLONTARF	SWIFT	\$8,869,146	\$456,300	-10.27%	+11.45%
DANUBE	RENVILLE	\$16,967,566	\$1,064,800	-9.90%	+10.99%
WELCOME	MARTIN	\$31,158,707	\$2,264,772	-9.89%	+10.98%
CLIMAX	POLK	\$6,853,460	\$326,400	-8.52%	+9.31%
KENSINGTON	DOUGLAS	\$9,024,838	\$434,000	-7.83%	+8.50%
BELLINGHAM	LAC QUI PARLE	\$6,919,465	\$360,067	-6.76%	+7.25%
NASSAU	LAC QUI PARLE	\$2,255,113	\$110,528	-6.44%	+6.88%
ALBERTA	STEVENS	\$5,180,495	\$250,000	-6.00%	+6.38%
MYRTLE	FREEBORN	\$1,290,467	\$51,400	-5.87%	+6.24%
HATFIELD	PIPESTONE	\$13,429,340	\$272,100	-5.83%	+6.19%

Source: Minnesota Department of Revenue

For this fall’s tax hearings, city officials should be prepared to explain to residents the shifts in property taxes due to the expanded exemption for agricultural containment facilities.

If you have further questions about the exemption or the impact on property taxes, contact Gary Carlson, LMC, at gcarlson@lmc.org (Link to: <mailto:gcarlson@lmc.org>) or (651) 281-1255.

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

Your LMC Resource

Contact Gary Carlson

IGR Director

(651) 281-1255 or (800) 925-1122

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

MN Secretary of State Outlines Goals at LMC Regional Meetings



In addition to 2017 legislative goals, the secretary discussed Minnesota's strong voter turnout, which he attributed to various election laws and the state culture.

(Published Oct 31, 2016)

Secretary of State Steve Simon said two legislative initiatives for his office in 2017 are the expansion of mail balloting and the replacement of aging voter equipment. Simon made his remarks during the League's 2016 Regional Meetings, which took place over the last few weeks.

Mail balloting

The option for cities to switch to mail balloting would directly impact many cities across the state. Currently, over 50,000 Minnesotans vote by mail only, but cities within the metro area are not allowed to conduct elections by mail—only those outside of the metro and with fewer than 400 registered voters.

The proposed expansion would allow all cities—regardless of location—to conduct mail balloting and potentially increase the number of registered voters required to switch to mail balloting. This would allow more cities the option to consider conducting elections by mail.

The League has drafted a new policy in support of the expansion of mail balloting, should cities decide to do so. That policy can be reviewed on page 73 of the **2017 Draft City Policies (pdf)** ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/draft2017policies.pdf](http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/draft2017policies.pdf)) (*See SD NEW C*).

Replacing voting equipment

The secretary also talked about the need to replace aging voting equipment across the state. As equipment needs to be replaced, there are no federal funds to do so.

This year is a budget year at the state Capitol, and the Office of the Secretary of State intends to request funding from the state for up to a 75 percent match with counties and cities that will need funds to replace equipment. While it is not a “crisis” at this point, Simon told city officials it's important to “dig your well before you're thirsty” and would like to ensure equipment can be replaced sooner than later.

Minnesota laws result in high voter turnout

Also at the LMC Regional Meetings, Simon discussed Minnesota's great culture of voting. Minnesota has often had the highest voter turnout in the country, and Simon

believes this is due to Minnesota laws and culture.

However, Minnesota slipped from No. 1 in the country for voter turnout in the most recent election and, therefore, Simon is focusing on awareness, education, and changes that can be made to get Minnesota back to No. 1.

Over the past several decades, Minnesota has enacted a series of laws that Simon believes have had a direct impact on the state's high voter turnout. These include same-day registration for voters. Minnesota—one of only 11 states that has this option—has had it for more than 40 years. Over 500,000 Minnesotans have used it.

Additionally, in the past few years, Minnesota has eliminated the requirement for voters to provide a reason for voting absentee before Election Day. Data showed that more and more Minnesotans were using this option and in Simon's words, this requirement was unintentionally making "lawbreakers out of every-day people" who, for a variety of reasons, needed or wanted to vote before Election Day.

The most recent addition to election law, online voter registration, has shattered the record for registrations submitted in one day. Recently, over 73,000 Minnesotans registered to vote in one day, breaking the previous record of 7,600 registrations.

A culture committed to voting

Speaking about the culture of voting in Minnesota, Simon told attendees about the passage of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) in the summer of 1965. Minnesota's congressional delegation included four Republicans and four Democrats in the United States House of Representatives, and they did not agree on much at the time. When it came time to vote on the VRA, all eight Minnesota members of the U.S. House and the two Minnesota senators voted unanimously in favor of the bill.

Simon told city officials that while this does not mean that legislators agree on all things related to elections, it does demonstrate that when it comes to "who's in and who's out," lawmakers tend to agree.

Be a voter

Simon concluded his remarks by asking city officials to help get people out to vote. Citing research about messaging that works with people—particularly young people—Simon said that instead of telling people to go vote, tell them to "Be a voter." So far this year, 250,000 Minnesotans have opted to be a voter; that's how many absentee ballots have already been accepted.

Simon will also attend the Metro Regional Meeting, co-hosted by the League of Minnesota Cities and Metro Cities on Nov. 30 in Brooklyn Park.

- **Learn more and register for the Metro Meeting** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/2016-Regional-Meetings.jsp>*)

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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IGR Representative

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

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Data Practices: Make Sure You're in Compliance with State Requirements



Having policies and procedures in place before a request is made will assist staff in responding quickly.
(Published Oct 31, 2016)

Cities are sometimes asked to share data. Whether it is a resident, business owner, or outside organization, cities must respond to each request in an appropriate and prompt manner. Having policies and procedures in place before a request is made will assist staff in responding quickly.

If the city has not yet adopted policies and procedures for handling data requests, it is something the council should consider immediately because some are required by state law. The Minnesota Department of Administration's Information Policy Analysis Division (IPAD) has sample policies, a data inventory, and procedures for handling non-public data that will be helpful to cities new to this or in need of an update.

- **Access the samples on the IPAD website** (*Link to: <http://www.ipad.state.mn.us/docs/accesspol.html>*)
- **View a list of policies and procedures required by state law (pdf)** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/mgdppoliciesprocedures.pdf>*)

If a request for these policies and procedures is made before a city has had time to start this process, the city should respond that the city does not have the data requested. If a city has created procedures, but they are unwritten, a city may have no data that responds to such a request for those procedures, but best practice would be to eventually incorporate those procedures into written policies.

Once a city receives a data request, it is a best practice to respond as soon as reasonably possible with the data requested or an acknowledgement that the data request was received and when the city anticipates being able to provide the data. A sample response to a request for government data that will take some time may look something like this.

Dear [name of requestor]

The City of [name of city] has received your request for government data. The city is working to provide you with a response within a reasonable time. Given the nature and complexity of the request, the city anticipates responding to this request by [date].

State statute does not provide guidance on a reasonable time to respond to a data

request from someone other than the subject of the data. IPAD, the state agency responsible for interpreting the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, says:

“Pursuant to **Minnesota Statutes, section 13.03, subdivision 2(a)** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=13.03](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=13.03)), when a government entity receives a request from an individual who is not the subject of the data, the entity is required to respond in an appropriate and prompt manner, and within a reasonable time. (See also **Minnesota Rules, part 1205.0300** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=1205.0300](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=1205.0300))). Although the Legislature did not define “reasonable time,” the commissioner has stated in previous opinions that it is relative to the nature or complexity of the request and amount of data requested. (See Advisory Opinions **98-040** ([Link to: http://www.ipad.state.mn.us/opinions/1998/98040.html](http://www.ipad.state.mn.us/opinions/1998/98040.html)) and **02-020** ([Link to: http://www.ipad.state.mn.us/opinions/2002/02020.html](http://www.ipad.state.mn.us/opinions/2002/02020.html))).

“Further, previously issued advisory opinions have established that, when responding to data requests, government entities should respond in one of three ways: (1) provide the data; (2) advise that the data are classified such as to deny the requesting person access; or (3) inform the requestor that the data do not exist.”

There is a specific time limit when the data request comes from the data subject. If an immediate response is not possible, the responsible authority must respond within 10 business days of the request.

Whenever you have concerns about how to respond correctly to a data request you’ve received, please consult your city attorney and/or IPAD for assistance.

More resources

For more information, consult these resources:

- **LMC Handbook for Minnesota Cities, Chapter 27, Records Management (pdf)** ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/chapter27.pdf](http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/chapter27.pdf))
- **LMC Information Memo: Data Practices: Analyze, Classify and Respond (pdf)** ([Link to: http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/datapractices.pdf](http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/datapractices.pdf))
- **IPAD Advisory Opinions** ([Link to: http://www.ipad.state.mn.us/opinions/#RequestData](http://www.ipad.state.mn.us/opinions/#RequestData))

If you have questions, contact the League Research Department at (800) 925-1122, (651) 281-1200, or research@lmc.org ([Link to: mailto:research@lmc.org](mailto:research@lmc.org)).

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 Amber Eisenschenk

Staff Attorney

(651) 281-1227 or (800) 925-1122

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

Contact Edward Cadman

Staff Attorney/Special Counsel

(651) 281-1229 or (800) 925-1122

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

League Forming New Learning Cohort Focused on Advancing Racial Equity

The League, in partnership with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (*Link to: <http://racialequityalliance.org/>*) (GARE), announces the formation of a new Minnesota cohort of governmental jurisdictions that will work to systemically advance racial equity in 2017. Following on the success of the 2016 cohort of 11 cities, one county, and several state agencies, the 2017 cohort will be for those jurisdictions interested in in-depth learning on the issues of racial disparities and in developing a comprehensive action plan for their own community.

What is the Government Alliance on Race and Equity?

GARE is a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. GARE uses a three-pronged approach:

1. Supporting jurisdictions that are at the forefront of work to advance racial equity.
2. Building pathways for new jurisdictions to begin doing racial equity work, including cohorts of new jurisdictions.
3. Expanding and strengthening local and regional collaborations that are broadly inclusive and focused on achieving racial equity.

Government's proactive work on racial equity has the potential to leverage significant change, setting the stage for the achievement of racial equity in our communities. Supporting targeted cohorts of jurisdictions and providing best practices, tools, and resources is helping to build and sustain current efforts and build a national movement for racial equity.

LMC was the first state municipal league to establish a partnership with GARE in forming a multi-jurisdictional cohort model.

What is an Advancing Racial Equity cohort?

Over the last decade, a solid field of practice has developed that advances racial equity and transforms government. The field of practice is based on the experiences of early adopters of racial equity within government. Cities and counties across the country have developed and are implementing racial equity initiatives or agendas and using racial equity tools.

GARE cohorts implement proven practices and replicate success, changing the norm of what is expected and possible from government. New jurisdictions can make use of the field of practice and begin and expand work on institutional and structural equity. Based on the experiences of leaders, the new cohorts will participate in a structured curriculum that focuses on strategies that normalize conversations about race, operationalize new policies and cultures, and organize to achieve racial equity.

What if I have questions or my city would like to join the 2017 cohort?

For more information or to join, please contact Julie Nelson, Director of GARE, at jnelson@thecsi.org (*Link to: <mailto:jnelson@thecsi.org>*) or (206) 816-5104, or Kevin Frazell, League of Minnesota Cities Director of Member Services, at kfrazell@lmc.org or (651) 281-1215. (*Link to: <mailto:kfrazell@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

Contact Kevin Frazell

Director of Member Services
(651) 281-1215 or (800) 925-1122
kfrazell@lmc.org (*Link to: <mailto:kfrazell@lmc.org>*)

For More Information

Contact Julie Nelson

Director of GARE
(206) 816-5104

jnelson@thecsi.org (Link to: <mailto:jnelson@thecsi.org>)

Meet our city vendors!



(Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/ads/102706>)

LMC Staff News

New employees

Rory Lee joined the League staff on Oct. 24 as an associate systems administrator in the Technology Services Department. Lee received his bachelor's degree in information studies from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. His most recent work experience has been with C.H. Robinson, where he was a service desk analyst, and Foley and Lardner, LLP, as a technology analyst.

William Wright joined the League on Sept. 28 as a paralegal in the Insurance Trust. He has a bachelor's degree in economics and studio art from St. Olaf College. He gained paralegal experience while working for a law firm in Anchorage, Alaska, as well as working for the Department of Workers' Compensation for the State of Alaska.

Kristen LeRoy joined the League as the LMCIT Program Manager on Sept. 13. Leroy will be responsible for managing the Peace officer Accredited Training Online (PATROL) program, providing our members with expertise on issues related to the federal Affordable Care Act, and assisting with a variety of other loss control matters. Prior to joining the League staff, LeRoy was the director of operations at the Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust. In addition, she has an extensive background in benefit administration and working with elected and appointed local government officials.

Casey Casella is the League's new Administrative Intern, beginning Sept. 12. Casella is working on her master's degree in public policy at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. She plans to add this to a bachelor's degree in political science (also from the University of Minnesota). Casella has been interning for Hennepin County in their Business Technology Solutions division for the past year. She is an Eagan resident and has engaged in a variety of volunteer activities, such as Feed My Starving Children and Eagan Marketfest, and is especially active with the Eagan Funfest Committee and Festival.

In memory

Employee recognition

Promotions

Departures and retirements

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

Your LMC Resource

Contact Donyelle Mikacevich

HR Manager

(651) 281-1202 or (800) 925-1122

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

LMC Public Safety Blog

ON THE LINE
**PUBLIC SAFETY
RISK MANAGEMENT**

VISIT
LMCONTHELINE.BLOGSPOT.COM

(Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/ads/102705>)

FirstNet Safety Training

Have you been looking for an affordable, convenient, and engaging way to get safety training for your employees? LMCIT is offering web-based training provided by FirstNet Learning to all members!

This tool provides access to more than 45 online training courses covering a wide variety of safety topics that can provide basic training for new employees, as well as refresher training for experienced and seasonal employees.

Read more about courses offered (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/FirstNetTrainingCourses.jsp>*)

Employees will be able to complete these interactive training courses anytime, anywhere using a tablet, laptop, or desktop computer.

Each city/entity will be able to choose individuals to administer their program. These administrators will be able to assign trainings, set due dates, and monitor when a course has been completed. Do you have questions on how to make the most out of FirstNet? A tutorial is available, and administrators can easily contact FirstNet by calling (888) 948-4949 x 1 to get your questions answered.

Cost: \$16/employee (provides access to all trainings available) *Note: payment must be made with a charge card. Regional Safety Group (RSG) members have free access.

To Get Started:

For members of a Regional Safety Group (RSG):

New users can begin registering for FirstNet by signing up on FirstNet's website (*Link to: https://firstnetcampus.com/LMCIT/entities/LMCIT/registration/alert_message.asp?C=318*).

For LMCIT members who do not belong to a Regional Safety Group:

New users should contact FirstNet to begin the setup process and make payment by calling (888) 948-4949 x 1. **Once you have made your payment**, you can sign up for courses on FirstNet's website (*Link to: https://firstnetcampus.com/LMCIT/entities/LMCIT/registration/alert_message.asp?C=318*). *Please note: If your municipality does not appear in the list of municipalities, please contact Chris White (information at right.)*

For current LMCIT FirstNet users:

To quickly access FirstNet Learning and continue your safety trainings, visit LMCIT's FirstNet webpage (*Link to: <http://firstnetcampus.com/LMCIT/entities/LMCIT/logon.htm>*).

Your LMC Resource

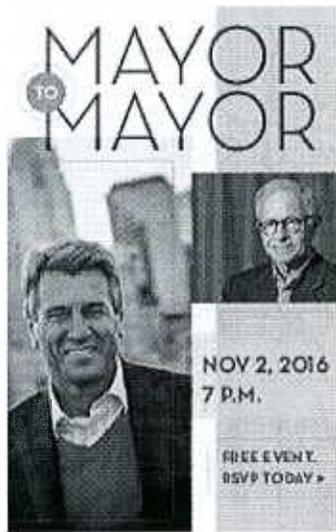
Contact Kristen LeRoy

LMCIT Program Manager

(651) 281-1268 or (800) 925-1122

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

Register Today!



(Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/ads/104202>)

Survey: Help Shape Regional Development in MN

A new research project on the latest approaches to city and regional development is underway, and the perspectives of mayors, city councilmembers, city managers, city planners, and others involved in local development efforts are being sought to inform this research.

The study seeks to understand what makes 21st century development on a regional scale easy or difficult. The McKnight Foundation (the primary funder of the project) is working in partnership with the Minnesota Architectural Foundation and the American Institute of Architects—Minnesota to conduct this research. The deadline to take the survey is **Nov. 4**.

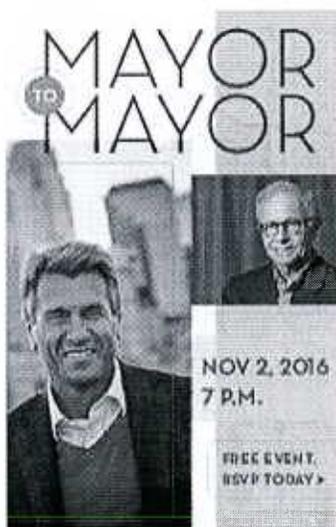
Take the survey (*Link to: https://umn.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bvFkNtXOQGfQjhb*)

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

For More Information

Contact Mary-Margaret Zindren
Executive Vice President
American Institute of Architects—Minnesota
zindren@aia-mn.org (*Link to: <mailto:zindren@aia-mn.org>*)

Register Today!



(*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/ads/104202>*)

[Share](#)

Receive Updates



METRO Blue Line Extension Newsletter October 2016

Metropolitan Council sent this bulletin at 10/31/2016 12:02 PM CDT

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

BROOKLYN PARK | CRYSTAL | ROBBINSDALE | GOLDEN VALLEY | MINNEAPOLIS

TRACKING THE BLUE LINE EXTENSION



Issue 7 | October 2016

Station design open houses set for November

Public open houses are set for November in each corridor city for Blue Line Extension LRT Project staff to share light rail station design concepts and gather feedback.

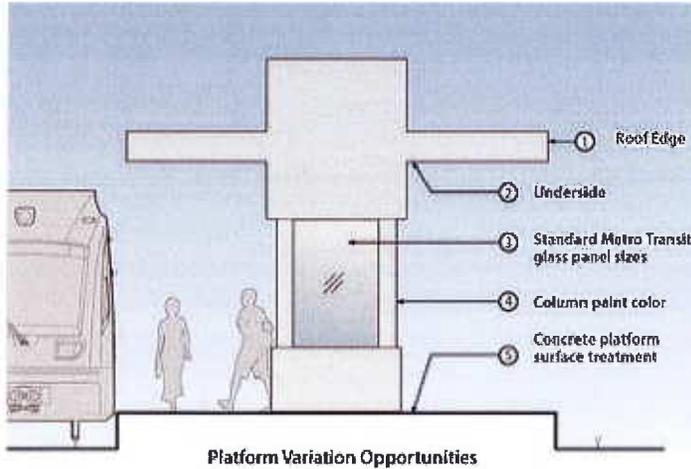
Staff worked over the summer with their counterparts at the five corridor cities, Hennepin County, Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to collect information about each station site's context and character. Their conversations and the station sites informed the draft design concepts to be previewed at the open houses. The designs



also reflect public feedback through years of other meetings on station area planning, West Broadway Avenue design and municipal consent plans.

Above: Participants in a Robbinsdale planning workshop identified elements of station identity that are important to their community.

Below: Rendering of platform variation opportunities.



Stations will get individuality through design treatments on four areas

Four areas on each of the 11 stations are available for design treatments to provide some individuality while maintaining common features for all stations to ensure they're easy for passengers to use and for Metro Transit staff to maintain and repair. The four areas are the station roof, glass panels (using different arrangements of Metro Transit's

standard-size panels to create variety), the column paint color and the concrete platform surface treatment. Staff will seek the public's feedback on design concepts to help refine plans.

Interpretive elements to note history of areas around stations

Five stations will have panels or other interpretive elements that note nearby historic properties, as required by the federal process. The Osseo Branch Line/Great Northern Railway Historic District (BNSF corridor) contains the future 63rd Avenue, Bass Lake Road and Robbinsdale stations, as well as the Golden Valley Road and Plymouth Avenue stations. The latter two stations are also in the Grand Rounds Historic District in Theodore Wirth Park which borders both sides of the LRT route.

Designs to reach 60 percent level of detail by March 2017

Staff will advance station designs to a 60 percent level of detail by March 2017 when plans for each station will be ready for review by the public and staff at the cities, county and park board. The 60 percent design plans will include details such as passenger access to the station platforms, the site dimensions and locations of lights, security cameras and ticket vending machines. Color and material finishes will be identified for some station elements.

The stations will share common elements such as security cameras, emergency phones, lighting, heaters, roofs to provide some protection from normal weather, tactile warning strips on the platform edges, ticket vending machines and card validators.

Staff expect to finalize all designs in late 2017. This includes advancing work on roadway design, the stations and operations and maintenance facility.



Photo at left shows Prospect Park Station on the METRO Green Line.

- 1. Shelter Roof: Protects passengers from the elements
- 2. Lighting: Illuminates the platform and access areas



using the platform and riding the train

3. Railings: ADA-compliant; protect ramps and access areas

4. Prohibited behavior sign: Rules for

5. Center-platform design: A single platform serves both eastbound and westbound trains; access from both ends

6. Rider alert sign: Information on train shutdowns and alternative routing



1. Waste receptacle

2. Information kiosk: Route map, station information and schedule

3. Card validators: For GoTo fare cards and UPass

Light rail transit station photos show Prospect Park Station (METRO Green Line) at left; Target Field Station in Minneapolis (METRO Green and Blue Lines) at left below.



1. Station name

2. Shelter roof: Protects passengers from the elements

3. Platform tactile edge: Creates a necessary buffer between edge of platform and rail; ADA compliant

4. Benches

1. Real time departure information: Updated real-time information for the next two trains

2. Security cameras: Monitored 24/7 for safety

3. Emergency telephone: Direct contact to Rail Control Center



4. Platform tactile edge: Creates a necessary buffer between edge of platform and rail; ADA compliant

Public Open Houses: Station Design

The public is invited to review station design concepts for the METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit (LRT) project and learn about the station design process.

Minneapolis Wednesday, November 9

Harrison Recreation Center, 503 North Irving Avenue

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/QZB8Z5RdFH72>

Golden Valley Thursday, November 10

Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/z7VTxX1csC72>

Crystal Monday, November 14

Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive North

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/qiysUxWzoSr>

Robbinsdale Wednesday, November 16

Robbinsdale City Hall, 4100 Lakeview Avenue North

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/FZJHpzU2qJS2>

Brooklyn Park Thursday, November 17

Brooklyn Park Library, 8500 West Broadway Ave.

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/GqrwmdAMrz92>

These open houses are an opportunity to learn about the station design process, review specific station design concepts, and give feedback to project staff. Other project information will also be available including updates on LRT design issues in each community.

A brief presentation will be given at 6:00 p.m. but feel free to come and go at any time. Staff will be available to answer your questions and receive your comments.

Meeting Agenda

Open House: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Presentation by project staff: 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Open House: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Anyone who requires assistance to participate in these meetings is invited to contact Blue Line Extension Community Outreach Coordinator David Davies: David.Davies@metrotransit.org or 612-373-5336. Requests for special assistance should be made at least five business days in advance of the scheduled open house.

Meeting materials and a comment form will be posted on the project website at www.BlueLineExt.org.

Corridor gets \$1.2 million for community development planning

The Blue Line Extension LRT corridor will receive \$1.2 million for community development planning and revitalization that the Federal Transit Administration awarded to the Metropolitan Council.

The planning effort will provide the five corridor cities with tools to implement economic development and encourage redevelopment. Partners in the effort include Hennepin County and several private organizations in addition to the cities. Final outcomes will include transit-oriented development policies and zoning codes, infrastructure plans, housing and economic development strategies, and financing strategies.

The Met Council is one of 16 organizations around the country receiving a share of \$14.7 million in grants to support comprehensive planning projects that improve access to public transit. The funds are made available through FTA's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Pilot Program for communities that are developing new or expanded mass transit systems.

FTA's TOD Pilot Program provides grants for planning work around the country, helping communities integrate land-use and transportation planning efforts as they improve their transit systems. The program helps localities plan improved access to transit, jobs, education and services, and helps revitalize communities by attracting new business opportunities, jobs and housing. In addition, the program seeks to connect people to opportunities and to enhance connectivity of disadvantaged populations to essential services.

More information on the TOD Pilot Program is available at <http://bit.ly/2dynL0i>.

Dovetail Consulting found niche in rail safety

Safety and security are always a priority on light rail projects, and Dovetail Consulting's job is to make sure that safety-related details from overhead wires to pedestrian crossings are impeccably planned and executed.

The Atlanta-based firm is the safety and security consultant on the Blue Line Extension LRT Project.

Mignon Allen, Dovetail's founder and owner, has built the company over its 14-year history with an eye toward detail and meticulousness.



Left: Mignon Allen, founder and owner of Dovetail Consulting.

"We're known for having very high quality standards," Allen said. "When we do an assessment, someone else may do a five- to six-page report. We'll do a 150-page report."

Dovetail's work has included light rail and streetcar projects across the nation, and Allen credits the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program for helping her firm continue to thrive.



Requirements for participating in the DBE program include limits on personal net worth (less than \$1.32 million). Also, participating firms need to meet Small Business Administration size standards as measured by annual gross receipts. Those standards vary by industry. Ownership must also be at least 51 percent female or persons of color.

Dovetail has been a DBE contractor working on transit projects around the nation since it was first founded in 2002.

"I don't think people choose to work with us because we're a DBE, but it's an enhancement," Allen said. The DBE program "does vet firms and yields qualified participants," she said, and the process of maintaining DBE credentials requires responsible owners.

The DBE program allows contractors such as Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc., the prime engineering contractor on the Blue Line Extension, to know there are small firms with a solid accounting system and the technical qualifications to do the job, Allen said.

The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) recruited Allen in 1994 as she was finishing her undergraduate degree at Spelman College in Atlanta. She started at MARTA doing work in planning and moved into engineering and later rail transportation.

Seven years later, as she was finishing an MBA degree at Atlanta's Emory University, Allen decided to join a consulting firm and helped roll out the state of Georgia's first regional express bus system.

In 2002, she started Dovetail with a business partner, specializing in bus and rail planning. One of her long-time employees is Fred Mead, her company's vice president, who had worked on the METRO Blue Line (Hiawatha) LRT back in the early 2000s before he joined Dovetail. Kimley-Horn also worked on the Hiawatha Line, which opened in 2004.

When Kimley-Horn was looking for a subcontractor to do safety and security-related work on the Blue Line Extension, Dovetail's track record on similar projects around the country helped it win the contract.

Dovetail's staff has expertise on the various components of light-rail projects, including an architect, retired law enforcement officials and fire captains, and safety specialists. "We're practitioners who were in these departments in the transit system, so we know how it's supposed to work," Allen said.

Dovetail has worked on the Blue Line Extension's safety and security management plan, and is now moving onto other items, including a preliminary hazard analysis, said Paul Danielson, a Kimley-Horn senior vice president and the Blue Line Extension's project manager for engineering services.

A third focus for Dovetail will be safety certifiable items for the Blue Line Extension, Danielson said.

An example of safety certification would include checking the slope of an access ramp on an LRT station to meet Americans with Disabilities Act guidance. Dovetail will make certain that the station design meets that requirement. Project designers will check it again, and construction field staff will verify that the ramp was built to standards.

After construction, Dovetail also does a field audit on a cross-section of the project's various components to make sure the plans on paper are reflected in the finished product.

"[Dovetail's] role is to get this ready for the design team and make sure the construction staff is doing what they said," said Danielson.

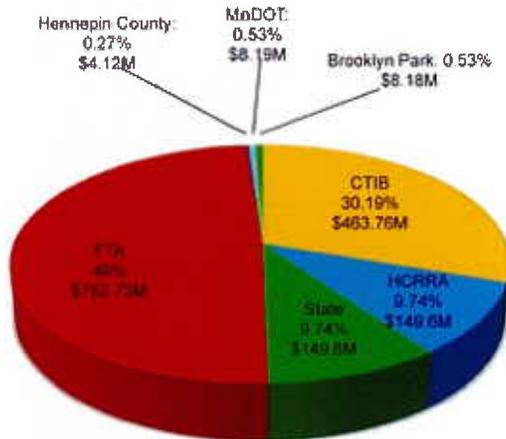
Dovetail also does state safety oversight, reviews accidents and audits bus and rail transit systems. "When we're part of a design and construction project," Allen said, "we have that lead several years before operation, and we can identify what the potential issues might be."

The DBE goal is 19 percent for the Blue Line Extension engineering contract and for the Green Line Extension Project's advanced design contract.

Small minority-owned or women-owned companies that want information about the DBE program and working on LRT projects should contact senior equal opportunity consultant Andrew Larson of the Metropolitan Council's Office of Equal Opportunity at Andrew.Larson@metc.state.mn.us or 612-373-3896.

State funding needs to be secured in 2017

After setting the Blue Line Extension LRT Project's budget at \$1.536 billion in September, the Metropolitan Council will seek the state's share of the project in the 2017 legislative session.



Proposed Project Budget: \$1.536 billion

Project planners need to secure all local funding before they can submit the request to the Federal Transit Administration for full federal funding in mid-2017. The federal government is expected to pay nearly half of the project's cost, and the state share would be \$149.6 million, or just under 10 percent of the total cost.

Other partners providing funding include the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB), which will provide \$463.7 million or roughly 30% of the total cost, and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA), which will contribute \$149.6 million (9.7%). The remaining local funds would come from Hennepin County (\$4.12 million), MnDOT (\$8.19 million), and the City of Brooklyn Park (\$8.18 million). The pie chart at right shows a breakdown of project funding.

The Metropolitan Council will be seeking a metro-area sales tax for transit, which would not only provide the necessary funding for Blue Line construction, but also the operations for the line and other transit services into the future.

For details about the recent approvals of the project's environmental reviews, see the Sept. 28 news release:

<https://metrocouncil.org/blrt/news/2016/blrt-moves-ahead>.

About the project

The planned METRO Blue Line Extension (Bottineau) light rail transit project will operate about 13 miles northwest from downtown Minneapolis through north Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park, drawing riders northwest of Brooklyn Park. The proposed alignment will have 11 new stations in addition to Target Field Station where it will continue as the METRO Blue Line, providing one-seat rides to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. It will connect Minneapolis and the region's northwest communities with existing LRT on the METRO Green Line, future LRT on the METRO Green Line Extension (Southwest LRT), bus rapid transit on the METRO Red Line, the Northstar commuter rail line and local and express bus routes.

The Metropolitan Council will be the grantee of federal funds and is charged with building the line in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee, which includes local officials from Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park and Minneapolis, provides advice and oversight. Funding is provided by the Federal Transit Administration, Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB), Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRRA), and the state of Minnesota.

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This letter is being mailed to properties within 500 feet of the New Hope Ice Arena property at 4949 Louisiana.

November 3, 2016

Re: Canadian Pacific Holiday Train Stop in New Hope

Dear Resident,

The Canadian Pacific (CP) Holiday Train will be making a stop near the New Hope Ice Arena on Saturday, December 10, at 2:20 p.m. The CP Holiday Train is decorated with holiday lights and stops at various cities to put on musical performances as it travels throughout North America and Canada. Objectives of the train include entertaining the community and raising money and food for local food banks. It is expected that the event will draw 2,000 to 3,000 people.

The railroad crossing to the west of the intersection of 49th Avenue North and Nevada Avenue North will be closed on the day of the event from approximately 1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Access to 49th Avenue North will also be blocked from Nevada Avenue North. The train is scheduled to arrive at 2:20 p.m. with a musical performance by Kelly Prescott and Colin James from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will depart shortly thereafter.

Parking at the Ice Arena will be reserved for a hockey tournament. Some industrial businesses to the west of the Ice Arena have volunteered their parking lots for the event, and the city is coordinating park-and-ride locations. Police and CP staff will be on-site to direct traffic.

The Food Group, which is based out of New Hope, will be collecting financial donations and nonperishable food items at the stop. Those who are able are encouraged to bring heart-healthy food donations. Every pound of food and dollar raised will stay with The Food Group and help feed those in need in the community.

The city is excited to have this opportunity and will make every effort possible to make the stop successful, and minimize impact to surrounding properties. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Alger
Community Development Assistant
763-531-5119

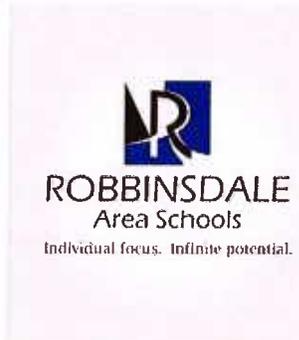
cc: New Hope City Council
Kirk McDonald, City Manager
Jeff Sargent, Community Development Director

CITY OF NEW HOPE

4401 Xylon Avenue North • New Hope, Minnesota 55428-4898 • www.ci.new-hope.mn.us
City Hall: 763-531-5100 • Police (non-emergency): 763-531-5170 • Public Works: 763-592-6777 • TDD: 763-531-5109
City Hall Fax: 763-531-5136 • Police Fax: 763-531-5174 • Public Works Fax: 763-592-6776

Anne Norris

From: Robbinsdale Area Schools <robbinsdaleareaschools@rdale.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2016 7:04 PM
To: Anne Norris
Subject: Discover: The Latest News Updates from Robbinsdale Area Schools!



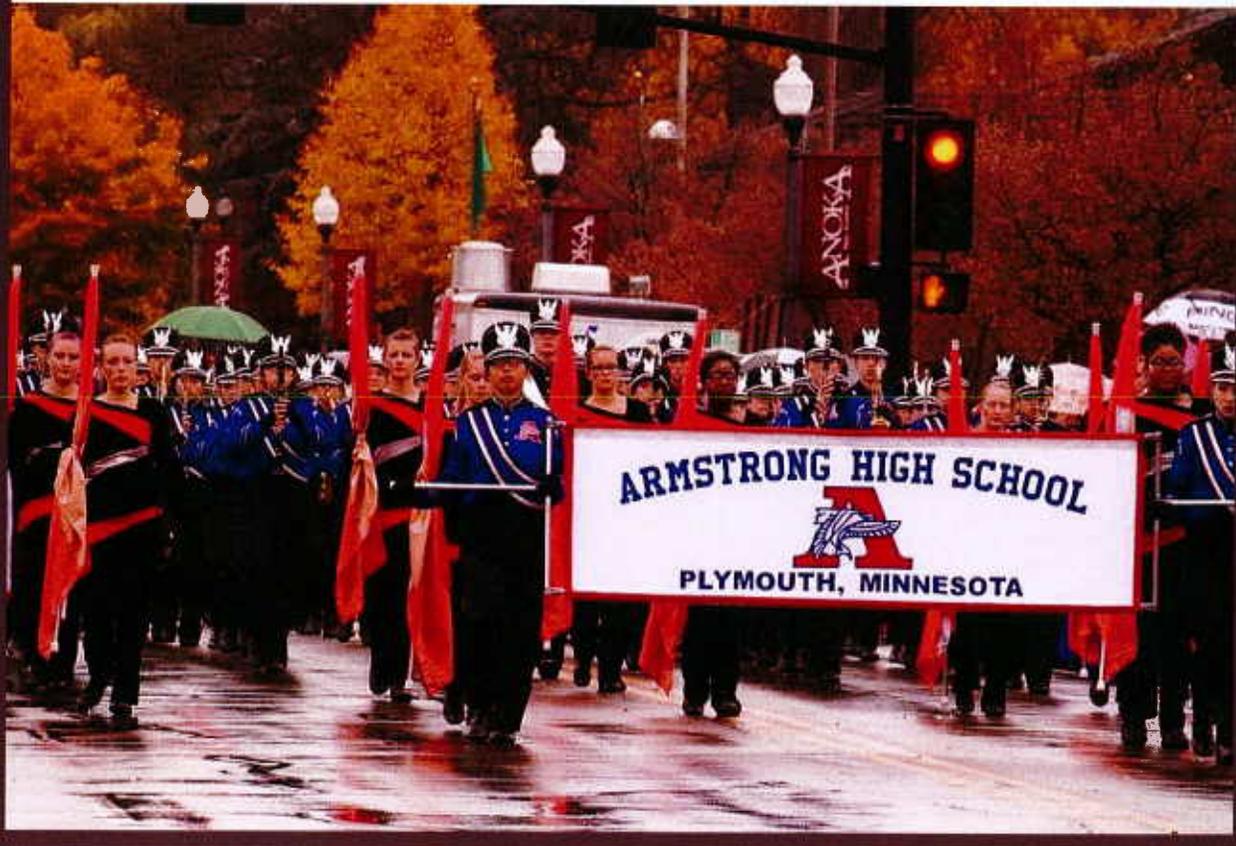
DISCOVER

ROBBINSDALE AREA SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016

Armstrong Marching Band earns parade honors



The Armstrong Marching Band received the AA Grand Champion Trophy for the Anoka Halloween Parade on Saturday, Oct. 29. Eight high school bands marched in the parade this year. There are 130 members in the AHS marching band, which marched at Disney World and at the Outback Bowl in Tampa Bay, Florida, last year.

"The band members are always very motivated to do a great performance at this last parade in Anoka each year," said Director Todd Burkholder. "It was raining on Saturday, but the students were very focused and received high scores from the three judges related to their music, marching and general effect."

Gifted/Talented conference meets Nov. 12 at RMS

The Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented (MCGT) will host its annual conference 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at Robbinsdale Middle School. This year's theme is "On Behalf of Gifted Kids." District families can attend for the MCGT membership rate instead of the non-member rate (\$55 versus \$70). Scholarships are also considered on a case-by-case basis. The discount is available until Friday, Nov. 4, and the registration code is "Robbinsdale." [Click here](#) for more information!



Special Education Advisory Council movie night

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) will host its third-annual movie night at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, at New Hope Cinema Grill Theatre, 2749 Winnetka Ave. N. The documentary "Life Animated" will be shown during this free event, where free popcorn and beverages will be provided. Event organizers are asking for RSVPs, so if you plan to attend, please call 763-504-8075 or [email Sandra Goettl](mailto:sandra.goettl@seac.org). This event is sponsored by SEAC, Robbinsdale Area Redesign and the district.

A promotional graphic for the SEAC movie night. At the top, a red ribbon banner reads "Please join the Special Ed Advisory Council for Our 3rd annual movie night!". Below this is a cartoon illustration of a purple bear-like character and a small child. A speech bubble from the bear says "Imagine being trapped inside a Disney movie and having to learn about the mostly brain animated characters standing across a screen of color & fantasy? A nightmare?". At the bottom, there is a green-bordered box containing text about the documentary "Life Animated" and a small image of the movie poster. The text in the box reads: "Life Animated is a documentary by Academy Award winning filmmaker Roger Ross Williams, which is based on a book by Pulitzer Prize winning author Ross Welford. 'Life Animated' is the real-life story of Owen, a autistic boy who can't speak for years. Owen memorized dozens of Disney movies, and turned them into a language to express love and loss, friendship & brotherhood. In order to communicate with Owen, his father was forced to become animated characters, communicating in Disney dialogue and song. As they unfold they emerge together, revealing how, even in darkness, we all have to find ways to survive." To the right of the text is a small image of the movie poster for "Life Animated" featuring a man's face.

Arts News

FAIR Fall Musical, 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, and Saturday, Nov. 12; 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13. All performances at FAIR School Crystal.

All District Band Concert, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, Armstrong High School

FAIR 5th Grade Interdisciplinary Performance, 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, at FAIR School Crystal

Fall Orchestra Festival, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, at Armstrong High School

District 281 Fall Music Festival, 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 21, at Orchestra Hall, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

Coming Up

Armstrong Cooper Youth Hockey Association will host a "Try Hockey for Free Day!" at 10:45 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at New Hope Ice Arena. [Click here](#) to learn more!

School Board news

The School Board will meet **Monday, Nov. 7**, 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.

School Board Resources:

- [Agenda](#)
- [Webpage](#)

Publishing Schedule Change

Dear readers; Direct Line and Discover will be moving to an every-other-week publishing schedule starting with this issue. Our publishing dates for the remainder of the year are **Nov. 16, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, and Dec. 28**. If you have an item to submit, please specify which issue you would like it to run in. For regular updates, please refer to our website and social media channels.

STAY CONNECTED:



Robbinsdale Area Schools, 4148 Winnetka Ave N, New Hope, MN 55427

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NATIONAL

Cash, not borrowing: Libertarians shake up Crystal City Hall

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press | OCTOBER 31, 2016 — 2:14PM

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When most cities want to build something — a water plant, a convention center — they borrow the money on the bond market and pay it off over time with interest. Not Crystal, a middle-class suburb of Minneapolis.

It paid \$13 million in cash when it needed a new public works building, taking the money from its savings accounts and shrinking the city's reserves by nearly one-quarter.

Pay-as-you-go wisdom or long-term financial folly? However it eventually works out, the decision is just one example of how the Crystal City Council approaches civic issues a bit differently. The reason: A majority of its seven members are Libertarians or are sympathetic to the party's philosophy of maximum personal freedom and minimum government.

In fact, the bedroom community of 22,500 people has the highest proportion of Libertarians in power of any elected body in the U.S., according to the party. No Libertarian serves in Congress, and just four sit in state legislatures.

For voters who can't stomach either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump and are thinking of casting their ballots for Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson, Crystal provides a window — admittedly a very small one — onto how the party's principles might apply in the real world.

In addition to paying cash for civic improvements, Crystal has undertaken a cleanup of the municipal code to get rid of ordinances considered outdated, unenforceable or just plain silly. And it has all but eliminated the city's human rights commission. At the same time, in a seeming departure from Libertarian principles of thrift, the city has raised property taxes and water and sewer fees.

"I know a lot of fears that are out there: If Libertarians get into government, they're going to be cutting government," Libertarian council member Casey Peak said. "The reality is we just think differently because we come at it with a different core mentality."

Crystal is a city of well-kept homes, built mostly in the 1950s and '60s, with big leafy trees. The population is about 80 percent white and tends to vote heavily Democratic in statewide and national races.

Peak was elected in 2012 and recruited other Libertarians and like-minded people to run for the council two years later, leading to the current five-member majority.

The results have dismayed some of their political adversaries.

"They're inexperienced to the max," said former Mayor ReNae Bowman, a Democrat trying to regain the seat she narrowly lost in 2012. "They don't know what they're doing."

She and other candidates running to replace the Libertarian bloc in November say the council is mismanaging city finances, squandering tens of thousands of dollars on the municipal code just to "move periods and commas around," as Bowman put it, and inviting community divisions by abandoning the human rights commission.

Peak defended the project to overhaul the code, which is as thick as an unabridged dictionary. He said several parts had become "almost unenforceable" because they referred to state laws that have been eliminated or rewritten. None of the revisions fundamentally changed policy, he said.

"Finally, the pool table at the community center is going to be legal," said Mayor Jim Adams, who is not a party member but considers himself "liberty-minded." "Because you can't have a pool table within so many feet of a city building."

As for the human rights commission, which was set up in the civil rights era to advise the council on eliminating discrimination in the city, it still exists on paper, but there's nobody on it.

Star Tribune
11-1-16



(http://stmedia.startribune.com/images/1477935242_10001922+Can
STEVE KARNOWSKI, ASSOCIATED PRESS)

In this Oct. 18, 2016 photo, Crystal, Minn., Mayor Jim Adams poses in front of city hall in Crystal. Since the 2014 election, the officially

Peak said that even under the previous mayor, it was difficult to find people to serve on the commission and that it no longer had a clear purpose, holding events that weren't "Crystal-centric," such as forums against genocide.

John Budziszewski, who is challenging Peak to regain a seat on the council, said: "It's heartbreaking. I'm astounded by what these people are willing to do just in order to get their point across."

In 2015, the newly seated council decided against issuing bonds to finance the public works building because that would have meant debt, something Libertarians don't like. The mayor said the move saved the city more than \$1 million in financing costs. The building opened just over a year ago.

That decision and others have reduced the city's reserves from about \$54 million before the Libertarians gained control to \$37 million today. That's still considered healthy for a city of Crystal's size, said finance director Charles Hansen, a longtime civil servant who says he stays out of politics.

Nevertheless, the city might have to consider raising money on the bond market for big future projects, he said.

If that happens, it would not be the first time the Libertarians had to abandon their small-government, tax-cutting approach when faced with real-world concerns.

The alliance split in September when the City Council raised property taxes nearly 8 percent. One of the Libertarians, Councilwoman Olga Parsons, said she voted in favor because she thought the budget was already lean and she didn't see anywhere to cut spending.

Parsons said she adheres to a philosophy of "personal liberty, property rights, personal responsibility," but also takes things "one issue at a time."

The Libertarian bloc was united on a vote to raise water and sewer charges 25 percent, saying it was the most cost-effective way to save for repairs and pay the higher rates Minneapolis is charging to tap into its water. Peak said the increase works out to only a few dollars per quarter for most households.

Critics said the tax increases are a direct result of the Libertarians' financial mismanagement: Their use of cash to pay for infrastructure has depleted reserves and left the city unable to produce the kind of investment income that for years helped hold down taxes.

Bowman also complained that people who disagree with the Libertarian agenda are being shut out of or driven off advisory panels.

"We're poorer and more disenfranchised than we ever were," she said.

Crystal's experiment with Libertarian governing has drawn little attention, even within the city. Because the council is officially nonpartisan, few residents seem to have noticed.

Carol Harbison, 66, follows council meetings on cable and said her dealings with her Libertarian-leaning councilman have been positive.

"I'm very happy with city government," she said. "I think it works well."