

**City of Ramsey  
Weekly Update  
October 25, 2012**

1. **Weekly Update - October 25, 2012**

**Weekly Update**

**1.**

**Meeting Date:** 10/25/2012

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**Information**

**Weekly Update**

**Weekly Update - October 25, 2012**

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**Attachments**

Weekly Update

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**Form Review**

Form Started By: Kathy Schmitz

Started On: 10/25/2012 02:36 PM

Final Approval Date: 10/25/2012

October 25, 2012

## Weekly Calendar of Events

**Please Note:** there are no meetings schedule for next week.

### Council Update

**November Planning Commission Cancelled.** As no land use applications were submitted prior to the deadline, the November Planning Commission originally scheduled for November 1, has been cancelled.

**Metropolitan Council seeks applicants for Transportation Advisory Board (TAB).** The Metropolitan Council is seeking a citizen representative from the north metro for the Transportation Advisory Board. The TAB advises the Metropolitan Council and Mn/DOT on transportation issues and helps develop plans and programs to meet the transportation needs of the metropolitan area. TAB Applications are due Friday, November 9. *Attached to the Weekly Update is a notice from the Metropolitan Council regarding the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB).*

**Metropolitan Council seeks input on proposed changes to Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) credit rules.** According to the Metropolitan Council, the proposed changes will simplify SAC rules and give communities flexibility. A video outlining the changes can be found at [www.metrocouncil.org](http://www.metrocouncil.org). *Attached to the Weekly Update is a background presentation on the proposed SAC changes.*

**Alpine Park's Off-leash Area Loved Too Much? (Or, Matters and Manner of Mitigating Messy Mud...).** The city continues to get favorable (occasionally ecstatic) feedback on Alpine's 'Bark Park', from regular users, and sometimes from people who discover it for the first time. However, there have been an increasing number of observations, or requests to address the growing amount of bare soil there, and corresponding muddy conditions when wet. *Attached to the Weekly Update is a letter being placed on the kiosk there – that responds to some of those comments.* One person posted a suggestion (on the kiosk) that park users go to the November Park and Recreation Commission meeting to 'brainstorm' on ideas for correcting the mud issues, thus a part of the reason for the explanatory letter replying to the posting.

### Department Activities:

#### Building Maintenance

- Complete annual fire alarm inspections for City Hall and Parking Ramp
- Complete fall HVAC maintenance checks
- Start prep work for 2012 general election

### City Clerk

- Election machine testing
- Marking test ballots for general election
- Personnel Committee minutes

### Engineering

- **Sunwood Drive Project.** The Contractor is working on the Armstrong Blvd storm sewer and the draitile swale this week. The base course for the new driveway entrance to the Northstar Marketplace shopping center has been paved. Wear course paving on Armstrong Blvd was scheduled for Tuesday 10/23/12 but was cancelled due to the rain.
- **Alpine Drive.** The project is mostly complete with the exception of the bituminous wear course. The wear course paving was scheduled for Thursday, 10/25/12, but was cancelled due to the unfavorable weather.

### Finance

- Prepare 2012 Census of Government Survey
- 2013-2017 CIP draft and cash flows
- Training on new rapid pay debit card – payroll debit card
- 3 payrolls with incorporating the payroll/JDE upgrades

### Fire

- Notable Responses:
  - 3 vehicle PI on Hwy 10, Fluid cleanup
  - 2 vehicle PI on Cleary Rd and Viking Blvd (Nowthen) 2 people transported
  - Several calls for illegal burning in both Ramsey and Nowthen
  - Home filled with natural gas. Stove left on, ventilated home
- Administration
  - Address issues with new construction
  - Fire Marshal at code training this week
  - Fire Chief at Joint Law group meeting
  - Quarterly County Fire Protection group meeting in East Bethel
- Training this week: SCBA Usage and Maintenance

### HR

- Prepared for Open Enrollment
- Met with Anoka Tech College Staff on Training & Safety Opportunities
- Worked on Benefits and Workers Compensation Tasks

### IT

- Work on IT issues related to the JDE's upgrade
- Server upgrades

### Parks

- Boulevard tree planting continues as does winterization of municipal irrigation systems (altogether 334 different zones to be fired and blown out with compressed air – plus mainlines, drinking fountains, service lines etc.)
- Dept. of Corrections – one full-day chipping brush at shop and stacking wood for sale on the auction site
- Emerald Pond's restroom winterized – with interior painting scheduled for next week
- Trail cam placed for surveillance at Peltzer Park two+ weeks in October – dozens of users confirmed to be using the playground consistently. Next placement will be at Alpine Park's off-leash area to count park patrons.

### Planning/Building

- Responded to multiple inquiries regarding potential homes in VILLAGE OF SUNFISH LAKE
- Reviewed remaining Required Improvement for Cross of Hope Expansion-surety requirements
- Coordinate with Podawiltz Development Company re: MHFA funding approval
- Responded to request for information re: Comprehensive Plan Amendments in preparation for upcoming review

### Police

- **Caught Again.** A Ramsey business reported a burglary on 10/01/12 in which approximately 2,000 lbs. of brass ingots that looked like gold bars were stolen. The value was over \$10,000. A Ramsey officer gave a photo of the stolen items to a metal recycling business in Anoka and advised them to call police if anybody tried to sell them. On 10/03/12 the business contacted Anoka PD and advised a female was trying to sell three of the brass bars that she said she got from a neighbor. A search warrant was executed at the mobile home park in Ramsey and four more brass ingots and 300+ grams of marijuana hidden in hole in the floor were located. Officers also located receipts from a metal recycling business in Maple Grove. The Maple Grove business was contacted and it was learned that 1,800 lbs. of brass bars were brought it on the morning of Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. The brass was seized and returned to the victim. The suspect will now be charged with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burglary (unfortunately he's already been released from jail).
- **Lecture Series.** Chief Way presented to 40 new first line supervisors from around the State at the MN Chiefs' Association Leadership Academy at Camp Ripley this past week. The presentation centers on the chaos and lessons learned during the 2004 explosion in Ramsey where three people were killed and one seriously injured. This is the fifth time that the Chief has presented on this topic.
- **Explorer Conference.** The Ramsey Explorers attended the Duluth conference at Fond Du Lac Community College over MEA weekend. The Explorers had a great time and Explorer Laura Kroll won third place in the Job Interview competition. The money to send the post came from fundraising by the explorers and by donations.

### Public Works

- Street work consisting of street sweeping, pothole patching, and grading of dirt roads
- Move snow plowing equipment to main shop
- Clear leaves from catch basins after the heavy rain
- Pave pads for a future oil recycling center and material storage bins for the park department

### Utilities

- Hydrant repair and winterization
- 45 multifamily irrigation meters are currently being pulled and winterized
- Fire hydrant at Life Fitness will be moved on Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup>
- Well # 4 was pulled, sent in for testing of the pump and the 150 hp. motor is in Arizona. Well was televised and footage was compared to footage in 1998
  - This is a CIP project that was planned for

**Save the Date:**

- **Ramsey Station Ribbon Cutting** – Inaugural First Ride at Ramsey Station, Thursday, November 8, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. Plan on a train ride from Ramsey to Elk River and back. Regular commuter services begins mid-November. *Attached to the Weekly Update is a flyer for the Ramsey Station Ribbon Cutting.*
- **Robert Enstrom Invite.** Robert Enstrom invited the public to come to Verteran's Lake on Veteran's day, Monday, November 12, in recognition and honor of those that served.
- **Mediation Services 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Volunteer Recognition Celebration** – to be held Friday, November 16, 2012, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the new Harvest Grill at Bunker Hills golf Course, Coon Rapids. Tickets are \$35 per person which includes dinner. *Attached to the Weekly Update is the flyer and information relating to the Mediation Services event.*
- **Annual City of Ramsey Holiday Party**– To be held on Friday, January 4, 2012. Stay tuned for details.

Best regards,



Kurtis G. Ulrich  
City Administrator

Attachments: Notice from the Met Council regarding the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)  
Background presentation on the proposed SAC changes  
Letter being placed on the kiosk at 'Bark Park' regarding muddy conditions  
Flyer for the Ramsey Station Ribbon Cutting  
Flyer and information relating to the Mediation Services event  
Press Release: Anoka County Buildings Earn Nation Energy Star Certification  
Press Release: Anoka County Launches Online Child Car Locator  
Press Release: Anoka County – Bully Prevention through Empowered Bystanders  
Effort Launches with Retreat  
Transportation Alliance, October 23, 2012

## Metropolitan Council seeks applicants for an opening on Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

### Citizen member needed to represent north metro district

Contact: Bonnie Kollodge  
651.602.1357

ST. PAUL—Oct. 12, 2012—The Metropolitan Council is taking applications to fill an open position on the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) representing a portion of the north metro. The TAB is a 33-member body, composed of elected officials, representatives of government agencies involved in transportation issues, citizen members, and members who represent transportation modes, such as transit, freight and non-motorized modes.

The Council is seeking a citizen representative to serve TAB District E, which includes Metropolitan Council districts 9 and 10. The district includes the Anoka County cities of Andover, Anoka, Bethel, Blaine, Circle Pines, Coon Rapids, East Bethel, Ham Lake, Lexington, Nowthen, Oak Grove, Ramsey, St. Francis, and the town of Linwood, and the Ramsey County cities of Arden Hills, Blaine, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Mounds View, New Brighton, North Oaks, Roseville, Shoreview and Spring Lake Park.

The appointment spans a two-year term, from Jan. 2013 through Dec. 2014. The application deadline is Friday, Nov. 9. Applications should be submitted to Julie Meadows, Metropolitan Council Appointments Coordinator at:

Julie Meadows, Appointments Coordinator  
Metropolitan Council  
390 North Robert Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
**FAX:** (651) 602-1358  
**Phone:** (651) 602-1630  
**Email:** [Julie.Meadows@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Julie.Meadows@metc.state.mn.us)

TAB helps to ensure coordination and cooperation among the many agencies and local units of government responsible for transportation planning, and encourages citizen participation.

TAB advises the Council and Minnesota Department of Transportation on transportation issues involving the regional highway, public transit and airport systems, as well as bike and pedestrian facilities. It helps develop plans and programs to meet the transportation needs of the seven-county metro area. TAB also solicits, reviews and selects local, state and regional projects and programs in the metro area to receive federal transportation funding.

Additional questions about TAB can be directed to TAB Coordinator Kevin Roggenbuck at 651.602.1728 or [Kevin.Roggenbuck@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Kevin.Roggenbuck@metc.state.mn.us) ([More information on TAB.](#))

The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Council runs the regional bus and light rail system and Northstar commuter rail, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates regional water resources, plans regional parks and administers funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income families. The Council board is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

# **Business Item 2012-314: Direction to Hold Public Meeting on Changes to Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) Credit Rules**

Jason Willett, Director, MCES Finance & Energy Management

Environment Committee, October 9, 2012



# Background

- MCES applies credits against SAC for permanent reduction in wastewater capacity needs of individual properties
- In 2006, Council approved changes to SAC credit system that became effective 1/1/10; most significant changes:
  - SAC credits to cities are limited to amount needed on site for new use; “Net Credits” usable by cities off that site were eliminated
  - Credits for site are based on prior demand, in SAC units, over previous 7-8 years (Look-Back Period), not based on SAC payments or grandparenting
- Metro Cities requested MCES revisit rules

# 2012 SAC Work Group

- Meetings

- July 16, Aug. 13, Aug. 27, Sept. 17, Oct. 1

- Members

- Gary Van Eyll, Met Council Member & Co-chair
  - Patricia Nauman, Metro Cities & Co-chair
  - Wendy Wulff, Met Council Member
  - James Dickinson, Andover
  - Robert Cockriel, Bloomington
  - Amy Baldwin, Brooklyn Park
  - Jon Watson, Brooklyn Park
  - *Brent Mareck, Carver (resigned)*
  - Gene Abbott, Lakeville
  - Lisa Cerney, Minneapolis
  - Pierre Willette, Minneapolis
  - Patrick Trudgeon, Roseville
  - Brian Hoffman, St. Louis Park
  - Ellen Muller, St. Paul
  - Jim Bloom, St. Paul
  - Lorrie Louder, St. Paul Port Authority
  - Jay Scherer, Savage
  - Bruce Loney, Shakopee

# Net Credit Recommendation

- SAC paid at any time is sufficient evidence by itself for potential credit
  - In redevelopment, where determination requires less SAC than prior demand, Net Credits occur
  - Net Credits from actual SAC payment may be taken city-wide or left site-specific at city's option
- Also, if city records show either grandparented or continuous demand from site, there is potential non-conforming use credit
  - In redevelopment, there are no Net Credits
- Look-Back Period and vacancy rules would no longer apply

# Net Credit Example: Where SAC Was Paid

- Property built in 1980 paid 10 SAC
- In 2013, 15-SAC demand replaces existing
  - $15 - 10 = 5$  SAC due
- Property built in 1980 paid 20 SAC
- In 2013, 15-SAC demand replaces existing
  - $15 - 20 = 5$  Net Credits to take city-wide or leave site-specific

# Net Credit Example: Non-conforming Use—Continuous Demand

- Property built in 1980 did not pay SAC
  - Prior demand was 10-SAC of continuous demand through 2012
- In 2013, 15-SAC demand replaces existing
  - $15 - 10 = 5$  SAC due
- If prior continuous demand was 20-SAC
  - $15 - 20 = 0$  SAC due, but no Net Credits

# Net Credit Example: Non-conforming Use Grandparented

- Property built in 1960; shown that it was 15-SAC demand around 1973
- In 2013, 10-SAC demand replaces existing
  - $10 - 15 = 0$  SAC due, but no Net Credits
  - Non-conforming demand reduced to 10 units
- If in above, in 2015, 2-SAC demand was added
  - $12 - 10 = 2$  SAC due

# Net Credit Example: Combo of Paid and Non-conforming

- Property built in 1960; shown that it was 2-SAC demand around 1973
- Paid 10 SAC for addition in 1985
- In 2013, 15-SAC demand replaces existing
  - $15 - 12 = 3$  SAC due
- If in above, 2013 demand was only 8 SAC
  - $8 - 10$  paid SAC = 2 Net Credits (0 from unpaid demand)

# Minor Transfer Recommendation

- Limited to small businesses (10 SAC or less)
- Minor transfers upon request by city:
  - Amount of credit to be transferred
  - Address where credit taken from and applied to
  - Signature of city official
- City may need to deal with different interests of business owners vs. property owners

# Small Business Loans

- SAC charges often not well-known nor included in business loan package for small businesses
- Loan recommendation:
  - Met Council would enter standing loan agreement with cities that wanted to participate (*per M.S. 473.517 subd. 6*)
  - Case by case, but limited to small businesses of 10 SAC or less
  - Cities would make loan or assessment arrangements with businesses or property owners
  - If business defaults, cities not required to make remaining payments to MCES (but also would not receive full SAC credit)
- Finance to bill all loan payments to city in lump
  - Some cities concerned about administrative effort

# Small Business Loans

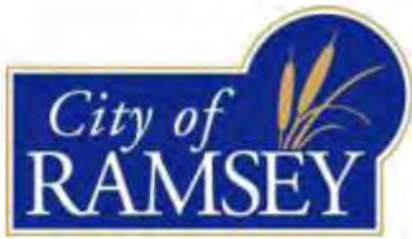
- Offer SAC brochure in 4 languages
- Future training sessions with city staff regarding new rules and determinations
- Limit community reviews to 3 years (currently entire 7-8 year Look-Back Period)

# Schedule

- Public Meeting October 23
- Public input period ends November 2
- Environment Committee reviews public input & recommendation November 13
- Potential Council approval November 28
- Implementation of new rules Jan. 1, 2013

# Questions?





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7550 Sunwood Drive NW • Ramsey, Minnesota 55303  
City Hall: 763-427-1410 • Fax: 763-427-5543  
[www.cityoframsey.mn.us](http://www.cityoframsey.mn.us)

24 October 2012

Subj: Alpine Park's Beloved Off-leash Area

Dear Park Patron and Dog Owners:

The purpose of this correspondence is to respond to the posting encouraging solutions for the muddy areas in Alpine's Dog Park.

Foremost, thank each of you who are using the kiosk to communicate on pet matters and on other community issues and opportunities. (Did you know this kiosk was a volunteer Eagle Scout project?).

Regarding the November Park and Recreation Commission meeting, everyone is *more* than welcome to attend any meeting to discuss recreation, park and trail matters at any time. However, the Commission typically addresses issues of policy and other recommendations to City Council – rather than operations and maintenance.

Indeed, the off-leash area does have many muddy areas where dogs and their people tend to concentrate. We were somewhat certain that maintaining turf was going to be a challenge even before City Council's approval to develop the facility – despite starting with very nice, irrigated lawn. The difficulty is that these recreation areas are so popular that compaction occurs, and turf impacts are exacerbated by exuberant dogs tearing around, further causing a decline in the grass. This is why many bark parks are simply wood chips (or mostly bare ground). In fact, one can see that our canine friends have even partially 'worn' the bark off the top of the exposed tree roots in this same area.

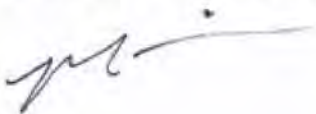
What can we do\*? Perhaps not too much. About the only possible (feasible) solution would be if owners made a deliberate and consistent effort to congregate away from the main area. However, this may not be realistic...especially with the pet fountain centralized at the midpoint. The actuality is that dogs, like children, love to play in the mud - and this activity creates more mud. So any time the area is wet in the morning or with rain (yes, the site is irrigated, but the system is not 'leaking'), the trampling and digging in the wet areas contributes to more 'mud making'.

Having highlighted some of the background and also understanding that muddy paws in clean vehicles is a frustration; I sincerely invite any and all ideas. Please jot down your ideas in bullet point fashion on the adjacent posting for this purpose (or kindly e-mail me).

\*Additionally, we will (for the second within a year) be reseeding the bare areas this coming spring, and this time fencing these areas off; and therefore ask for your assistance in keeping pets out of the fencing until grass has a chance to grow later in the spring/early summer...

Please call on me for additional detail or questions at 763 238 1733 or [mrriverblood@ci.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:mrriverblood@ci.ramsey.mn.us) . Thank you for your time, attention and ideas!

Yours in Public Service,



Mark Riverblood  
Parks & Asst. Public Works Superintendent

Cc: Ramsey City Council  
Park and Recreation Commission  
Grant Riemer, Public Works Superintendent

# SAVE THE DATE!

**Ramsey Station Ribbon Cutting  
Inaugural First Ride at Ramsey Station**

**Thursday, Nov. 8 – 1:00 p.m.**

Plan on a train ride from Ramsey to Elk River and back. Regular commuter service begins mid-November. More details will follow.



*Come Celebrate With Us!*

**Mediation Services for Anoka County's**  
*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
**& Volunteer Recognition Celebration**

**Friday, November 16, 2012 - 6 to 9 pm**  
*The new Harvest Grill at Bunker Hills Golf Course, Coon Rapids*

**Tickets = \$35 per person**

**Dinner, Silent Auction, Wall of Wine and more!**

*Help us celebrate 25 years of nonprofit service to the area, recognize our wonderful mediators and learn exciting news about the future.*

*Please consider sponsoring the event to help us meet the growing needs in Anoka County for conflict resolution*  
**\$1000+ Gold    \$500 Silver    \$250 Bronze    \$100 Table Host**

*All contributions are appreciated! RSVP reply card and payments by mail should be received no later than Wednesday, November 7th, 2012. Learn more about the event at our new website: [www.mediationservice.org](http://www.mediationservice.org)*

Mediation Services for Anoka County is a community-focused 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are very much appreciated and are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law.

2520 Coon Rapids Blvd. Suite 100 Coon Rapids, MN 55433

[www.mediationservice.org](http://www.mediationservice.org) office: 763-422-8878 fax: 763-422-0808 [info@mediationservice.org](mailto:info@mediationservice.org)



# COUNTY OF ANOKA

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT CENTER  
2100 3RD AVENUE STE 700 • ANOKA, MINNESOTA 55303-5024  
(763) 323-5700

October 23, 2012

**MARTHA WEAVER**

Public Information Manager

Direct #763-323-5744

E-mail: [martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us)

Contact: Martha Weaver, Public Information Manager, 763-323-5744, or e-mail: [martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Anoka County Buildings Earn National Energy Star Certification**

The Anoka County Government Center in Anoka and the Human Service Center in Blaine, Minn., have earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Energy Star certification, which signifies the buildings perform in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency and meet strict performance levels set by the EPA. Anoka County is one of just two counties in Minnesota to earn the Energy Star certification this year.

Achieving the Energy Star certification caps Anoka County's long-held commitment to cutting energy costs and addressing necessary upgrades to its aging infrastructure. Beginning in 2002, the county collaborated with Energy Services Group (ESG) by Honeywell to develop a comprehensive plan to identify energy and operational savings in all county facilities. (ESG is part of Honeywell's [Building Solutions](#) business unit, which is based in Golden Valley, Minn. The business is a global leader in technology and services that helps organizations reduce energy consumption and costs, having delivered billions in savings to date.) In the last 10 years, Anoka County saved a total of \$6.17 million by implementing projects to boost building efficiency and upgrade operations; savings topped more than \$1 million last year alone.

**-more-**

## **Anoka County Buildings Earn Rare National Energy Star Certification – Add 1**

“The Energy Star certification demonstrates that Anoka County is proactively working to save energy resources, along with county tax dollars,” said Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look, chair of the county Finance and Capital Improvement Committee. “Even by making small changes, such as turning back the thermostat a few degrees and turning off the lobby lights on sunny days, we’re achieving significant, ongoing savings in energy costs.”

Commercial buildings that achieve the Energy Star certification use an average of 35 percent less energy than typical buildings and release 35 percent less carbon dioxide, according to the EPA. In Anoka County, carbon dioxide emissions have been cut by 3,200 tons each year, the equivalent of taking more than 600 cars off the road. Electricity use has been reduced by more than 3,900-megawatt hours each year, enough energy to power 350 homes.

“Anoka County exceeded the minimum 75 point threshold for earning the Energy Star certification by a significant margin, receiving a score of 95 out of 100,” said Scott Schroeder, general manager for ESG by Honeywell. “Even more commendable, Anoka County has maintained that high industry standard for the last 10 years.”

To achieve these significant energy savings and to meet the stringent Energy Star requirements, Anoka County implemented energy efficiency upgrades in seven phases. All the work was funded by the savings the improvements generated so county administrators didn’t have to extend budgets or request additional taxpayer dollars.

As part of the initiative, the county:

- Retrofitted lighting to use newer, more energy efficient technology;
- Upgraded the energy management system;
- Installed energy efficient motors with variable speed drives to cut energy use and increase comfort;
- Replaced the central heating and cooling plants;
- Converted to a dual duct ventilation system to better maintain a consistent temperature;

**-more-**

## **Anoka County Buildings Earn Rare National Energy Star Certification – Add 2**

- Installed back-up generators;
- Made repairs to the temperature control system to boost energy efficiency and enhance comfort;
- Replaced insulation; and
- Conserved water by retrofitting plumbing and adding sensors in bathrooms.

In addition, Facilities Management officials asked county employees for energy saving ideas. Among the employee suggestions implemented:

- Adjusting the thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter and 74 degrees in the summer: \$120,000 ongoing annual savings;
- Turning off overhead lights on sunny days to “harvest daylight”: \$50,000 ongoing annual savings;
- Removing one-third of the fluorescent bulbs in overhead light fixtures: \$40,000 ongoing annual savings;
- Scheduling lighting and heating and air conditioning systems to turn on later in the morning and off earlier in the evening: \$110,000 ongoing annual savings;
- Setting up computer monitors to switch into energy saving mode after 10 minutes of inactivity and shutting down computers and printers at the end of the work day: \$30,000 ongoing annual savings; and
- Implementing a computer maintenance management system to allow for preventive maintenance and life cycle replacement of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems and all other equipment: 2-4 percent continued annual reduction in utility costs over the next five years.



# COUNTY OF ANOKA

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT CENTER  
2100 3RD AVENUE STE 700 • ANOKA, MINNESOTA 55303-5024  
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October 22, 2012

**MARTHA WEAVER**

Public Information Manager

Direct #763-323-5744

E-mail: [martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us)

Contact: Martha Weaver, Public Information Manager, 763-323-5744, or e-mail: [martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Anoka County Launches Online Child Care Locator**

Today, Anoka County announced the official launch of the Anoka County Licensed Child Care Locator. The application is accessible online via the county's Child Care Licensing webpage at [www.anokacounty.us/childcare](http://www.anokacounty.us/childcare).

"As a parent, I know how important it is to find someone you can trust to care for your children," said Anoka County Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah. "We are proud to support parents in their search to find just the right fit for their family."

Parents who've already tried the Anoka County Child Care Locator via [www.anokacounty.us/childcare](http://www.anokacounty.us/childcare) say it "is the best I've found so far to find local child care" and "I really found it helpful to see where I live compared to day care providers."

The locator was designed to help parents find a licensed child care provider in the neighborhood that's convenient for them. Users can search by address, map location, license class, or city. The information comes directly from Anoka County's Child Care Licensing files and is applied to the County's geographic information system technology. The direct link is <http://gis.anokacountymn.gov/childcare/>.

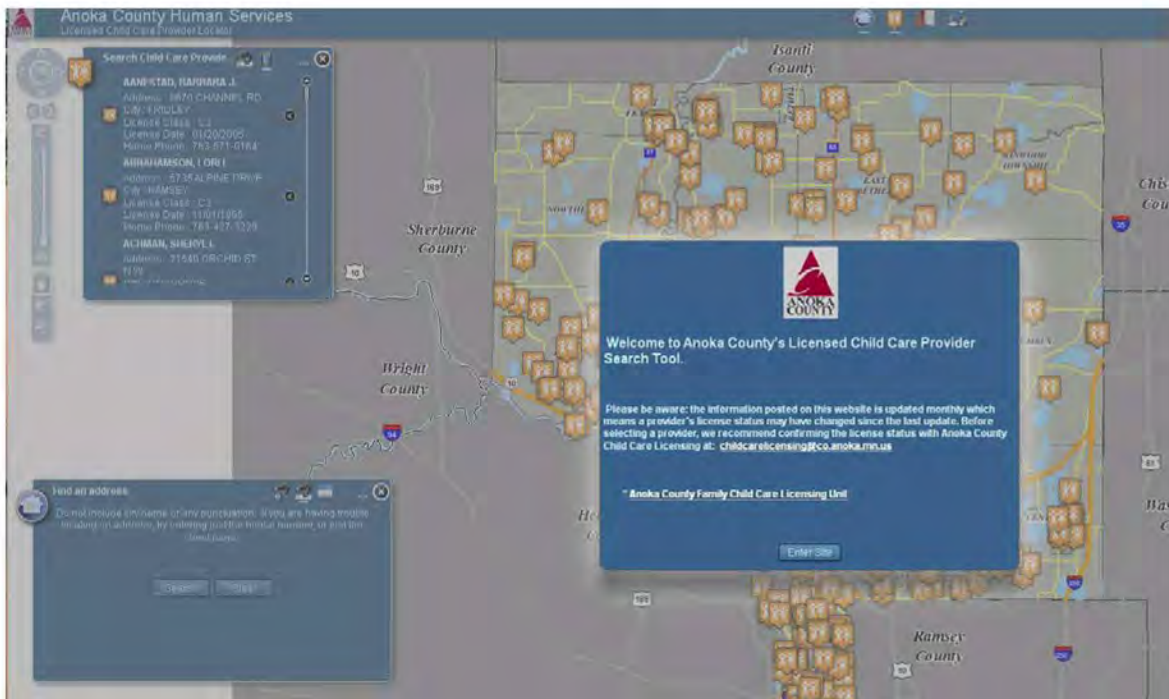
**-more-**

## Anoka County Launches Online Child Care Locator – Add 1

Clicking on the provider icon generates a pop-up window that allows users to see the child care provider’s name, address, license type, date the license was first granted, and phone number. The pop-up window also allows users to view the current status of the provider’s license via a web link that connects the user to the Minnesota Department of Human Services child care licensing website.

“Once a parent has found a potential provider, we encourage them to contact us to learn more about the provider’s current status with us,” said Evelyn Nelson of Anoka County Child Care Licensing. “This is a great new tool designed to help us work together with parents to help them find the best care possible.”

-30-



MW:de



# COUNTY OF ANOKA

HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION  
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE  
GOVERNMENT CENTER • 2100 3RD AVENUE • ANOKA, MN 55303-2264

ADMINISTRATION	763-422-7000	FAX: 763-422-6987
FINANCE	763-422-7002	FAX: 763-422-7287

**Don Ilse**  
Human Services Division Manager  
Phone: 763-422-7008

**October 23, 2012**

**Contact: Don Ilse, Anoka County Human Services Division Manager, 763-422-7008**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Bully Prevention through Empowered Bystanders Effort Launches with Retreat**

A hundred students, 50 each from Coon Rapids and Centennial High Schools, have been selected to lead a new effort focused on reducing or eliminating bullying by empowering bystanders.

They will attend a retreat Oct. 25 at Glen Cary Lutheran Church, Ham Lake, to begin mapping out strategies to enlist other students, faculty, parents, and community members. The youth, primarily ninth and tenth graders, were selected by their schools to represent the broader student populations.

The project is led by a team of staff from Anoka County Human Services and the two school districts, with support and participation from Brave New Workshop, LifeTouch, and Fallon Worldwide. A grant from the Anoka County Children and Family Council helps fund the effort.

The motivation behind the project comes from research showing positive influences can reduce the duration of a bullying episode in a majority of instances, according to Donna McDonald, violence prevention coordinator for Anoka County.

“Research shows the typical episode of bullying takes about 30 seconds,” McDonald said. “If a bystander takes action in a positive manner, the episode can be reduced to 10 seconds in 57 percent of instances. Through positive intervention by both adults and children, the bullying can be reduced or prevented.”

-- more --

## **Bully Prevention through Empowered Bystanders Effort Launches with Retreat – ADD 1**

Reducing the frequency of any kind of bullying--be it verbal, physical or via the Internet—will make healthier environments in our schools and communities. But, there are benefits to the bystanders as well, according to Tom Breuning, Centennial High School principal.

“Once you’ve witnessed an incident, your innocence is gone,” Breuning said. “If a bystander does nothing, they feel powerless. You have to make a choice about your reaction.”

The 100 students at the retreat will increase their understanding of the powerful role bystanders can play in bullying incidents. They will use creative skills and their own experiences to begin developing strategies to empower bystanders in their schools and communities.

“We are very pleased to be working with Anoka County and Centennial Schools in this grant project because we believe it will help us meet our goal of keeping all students safe,” said Jennifer Cherry, Title IX coordinator for Anoka-Hennepin School District.

The public is invited to join the effort at community summits, scheduled for Feb. 11, 2013 at the Coon Rapids High School, and Feb. 25 at Centennial High School.

The retreat aligns with Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. Additional activities in the Anoka-Hennepin School District during October include an annual anti-bullying survey of students, poster contest, staff trainings, and activities in individual buildings. In the Centennial School District, for the second year, they will have multiple activities through Project Purple, a domestic and dating violence awareness initiative created by students in collaboration with Alexandra House and local community leaders.

For more information on the Empowered Bystanders project, contact Donna McDonald, Anoka County violence prevention coordinator, 763-422-7047.

**Editor’s Note: Reporters are welcome to attend the Oct. 25 retreat, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Glen Cary Church, 15531 Central Ave. NE, Ham Lake, MN.**

## Electronic Agenda

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**Subject:**

FW: Transportation Alliance News Review Oct 23, 2012

**From:** "Margaret Donahoe" <[Margaret@transportationalliance.com](mailto:Margaret@transportationalliance.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 3:52:37 PM

**Subject:** Transportation Alliance News Review Oct 23, 2012



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### **MN Transportation Alliance News Review**

#### **Top Story**

[Funding for MN Road Repair Lacking, Candidates Weigh In](#) *WDIO Duluth*

A transportation advocacy group says the quality of Minnesota roads is at risk in the coming decades. The group says the cost of fixing the roads is growing every year, but funding isn't increasing.

In a forum at Duluth's city hall Thursday afternoon, candidates running in six different races for House and Senate discussed how that money should be raised. But before they offered their solutions, Margaret Donahoe, the Executive Director of **the Transportation Alliance**, told those candidates, and community members, more on the expected problem.

"In a lot of cases we're talking about, we can't even maintain the system we have today," Donahoe said. "We just don't have enough money to really do a good job of rebuilding the roads that we have."

Over the next 20 years, Donahoe said the Minnesota Department of Transportation will need \$2.7 billion to maintain and keep northeastern Minnesota infrastructure, like roads, safe. But she said projected revenue over that same time period is a much less \$1.5 billion.

[Billions Behind: Group Warns MN Road Funding Well Below What's Needed](#) *Fox 21*

A transportation advocacy group shared its predictions on Thursday that Northland roads will need a \$2.7 billion investment that Minnesota politicians have no plan for. **The Minnesota Transportation Alliance** shared its long-term concerns at an open forum that included local politicians and their opponents in the upcoming election.

Group representative Margaret Donahoe said, despite there being a "sticker shock", it is actually more expensive and less safe to maintain current roads that were built immediately after World War II and not replaced since.

The bottom line for District One (the Northland's region) is that during the next 20 years, \$1.5 billion worth of revenue will be brought in for construction, Donahoe said.

But the need is projected at \$2.7 billion. That's a \$1.2 billion gap, Donahoe said.

A lot of the information is very numbers heavy. [Check out the Transportation Alliance's website to get really into depth.](#)

#### **National**

[Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood was on the road to retirement — but lately, he's dropped some hints about a possible U-turn.](#) *Politico*

The Illinois Republican has left his mark at the Transportation Department, from standing up for the administration's stimulus in the face of heavy criticism to making distracted driving a national safety priority. So last year, when he told the Chicago Tribune that he'd leave after President Barack Obama's first term, it wasn't a major surprise. A heavy Cabinet turnover is typical when a president is reelected, and no one could say he hasn't done a lot of work in four years at the agency.

But LaHood's tone has changed lately, leaving many to think he might be open to staying on the job if Obama wins in November. Insiders say he's inclined to step down but could easily be persuaded to stay if the president asks. No matter the outcome, LaHood has options. His 14 years in the House and four years leading DOT are a great résumé if he wants to head to the private sector.

### [Top Congressional Races for Transportation](#) *Politico*

This November, it's all about three dynamics for T&I committee members: freshman Republicans protecting seats they swiped from Democrats during last cycle's tea party wave, senior Democrats looking to withstand bombardments of outside spending and member vs. member clashes.

### [1st Illinois Amtrak train hits 111 mph in milestone for Obama's high-speed rail plans](#) *Star Tribune*

For the first time on a key Midwestern route between Chicago and St. Louis, an Amtrak passenger train topped 110 mph Friday, ripping through fog-shrouded farm fields and blowing past cars on a parallel highway. The test run on a special train packed with journalists, politicians and transportation officials was a milestone in President Barack Obama's vision of bringing high-speed rail to the United States and transforming the way Americans travel. It also was a welcome morale booster for high-speed rail advocates who have watched conservatives in Congress put the brakes on spending for fast train projects they view as expensive boondoggles.

## State

### [Minnesota Transportation Plan Finalized](#) *Finance & Commerce*

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has finalized a plan outlining transportation investments that could be made over the next 20 years.

The Minnesota Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan 2012-2031 is described as "a policy framework" and covers the state's entire transportation network, including highways, local streets, transit, ports, railroads. Pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure is also covered in the document.

State officials last updated the plan in 2009, and revised it based on a fresh analysis of transportation trends and issues.

## Local/Regional

### [Bridges of Hennepin County – Drivers can now get to the other side](#) *Finance & Commerce*

The Plymouth Avenue bridge also reopened to vehicle traffic on Monday, restoring a link between north and northeast Minneapolis that has been absent for two years. Its opening comes two weeks before Hennepin County plans to open the new [Lowry Avenue bridge](#), another north Minneapolis link that has been under construction since January 2010.

Each of the bridges reopening this month closed for different reasons, but the underlying concern in each case was structural integrity.

Their reconstruction became more urgent after the Aug. 1, 2007, collapse of the Interstate 35W bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. The disaster, which killed 13 people and injured 145, led the state to invest \$6.6 billion in road and bridge repair.

Tim Worke, director of transportation for Associated General Contractors of Minnesota, said the work on the bridges has come with good timing, too. Contractors were able to keep active during the downturn, and the work cost less than it may have in a robust economy, he said.

"It's been opportune for everybody," Worke said. "The taxpayers are getting tremendous value and from an employment standpoint it puts people to work immediately. We see immediate impacts in construction hours, but are also building the economy of the future."

### [St. Cloud's Bond Choice Isn't One](#) *St. Cloud Times*

The city of St. Cloud on Election Day will ask its voters to approve an \$18 million bond that raises property taxes the next four years so the city can catch up on road and infrastructure repairs it delayed the past several years.

Voters should approve the question for two reasons. First, the work needs to be done. Second, doing it now is cheaper than waiting.

### [Shake Up Coming to Shady Oak Road](#) *Finance & Commerce*

Hopkins developer Bill Beard likens Shady Oak Road to a dumbbell, with strong anchors on either end but not a lot in between.

That may change as city and county officials work to [widen the road between Highway 7 and Excelsior Boulevard](#) while making a host of other improvements they hope will inspire redevelopment along the corridor. The \$22.9 million road plan calls two new travel lanes, as well as new sidewalks and a trail, improved intersections and better traffic lighting. The county is also primed to put \$3 million into redevelopment activity on the west side of Shady Oak Road, between Oak Drive and Bradford Street.

### [Met Council Revising its Look Into the Future](#) *Star Tribune*

Now the Met Council is in the early stages of updating the framework -- which serves as an overall growth plan for the region -- and is soliciting ideas from the hard-hit homebuilding and commercial real estate industries on the direction they'd like to see it take.

They call the updated plan "Thrive MSP 2040" and council officials have been conducting outreach sessions this year in which they're trying to get real estate professionals to think beyond the usual short-term timeframes and picture a future 30 years from now in which their customer bases will be much, much different.

### [Bridge road work unfolding](#) *Star Tribune*

The wheels of a dramatic roadway transformation stemming from the St. Croix Bridge project have begun turning and will soon begin altering the landscape and familiar travel patterns in Stillwater and Oak Park Heights.

Washington County commissioners, at a workshop last week, got a look at some of those details even as preliminary work on the bridge is beginning. Construction on the river piers for the bridge's foundation is set to begin next year.

The bridge itself is now estimated to cost \$293.2 million, and roadwork associated with it on both sides of the St. Croix River will more than double that figure. But direct costs to Washington County will be relatively small, said County Engineer Wayne Sandberg, who estimated its share at \$75,000.

"For a \$700 million project, \$75,000 is a pretty good deal for us," he said. Most of that cost is associated with new signal lights; although the bridge is a freeway-style design, that doesn't mean Hwy. 36 is becoming a freeway.

The project will affect three key roadways in the immediate area of the bridge along Hwy. 36: the Beach Road overpass with on- and off-ramps to the highway; the intersection of Osgood Avenue N., and the intersection to the west at S. Greeley Street.

#### [Editorial: A bridge to jobs](#) *Star Tribune*

Construction of the piers for the foundation of the new [St. Croix River Crossing Bridge](#) will begin in 2013 -- a year ahead of schedule -- project leaders said in an unexpected announcement earlier this month. It's a welcome surprise.

This means jobs will be created soon rather than later. It also should drive down inflation costs on the overall bridge project, which is estimated at \$580 million to \$676 million. [Beyond the bridge](#), the costs include extensive pedestrian and bike trails, as well as highway construction leading up to the site in both Minnesota and Wisconsin.

In a slowly recovering economy with too many people out of work, the expedited timetable is good news.

#### **Other States**

##### [Fee Hike Might be Leading Contender for Texas Roads](#) *Lubbock Online*

Texas lawmakers are mulling ways to raise more money for roads during next year's legislative session and two proposals are drawing the strongest interest.

The Texas Association of Business has thrown its support behind a \$50 hike in the annual fee Texas drivers pay to register vehicles, with the money earmarked for new transportation projects. Meanwhile, some key lawmakers favor dedicating to roads the sales tax from vehicle purchases that Texans already pay.

As the 2013 legislative session approaches, transportation advocates have been trying to draw more attention to severe shortages in road funding, stressing that delaying road work around the state will lead to more congested roads and more expensive fixes later on.

##### [Eyes on Texas as 85 mph Speed Implemented](#) *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

A 40-mile stretch of a Central Texas toll road is slated to open Wednesday, and officials and residents will be watching to see how fast traffic goes—and whether the state's drivers can handle the extra speed.

The new stretch of Texas Highway 130 will allow drivers to bypass Austin and avoid an often-congested Interstate 35. Its 85 mph speed limit will be the highest in the United States. Officials have arranged the installation of 3,400 signs that tell drivers the left lane is for passing only—a message also displayed on electronic signs.

##### [Construction is expected to begin in 2014 on a new \\$1.4 billion Route 460 from Petersburg to Suffolk, with the road opening in 2018.](#) *Sfgate.com*

Drivers would pay \$3.69 for cars or \$11.72 for trucks to use the 55-mile road, the [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#) (<http://bit.ly/P9ny3s>) reported Wednesday ahead of a Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting where the details were to be discussed. The tolls come out to 6.7 cents per mile for cars and 21.3 cents for trucks, collected electronically through E-ZPass to make charging a toll figured to the cent practical.

Toll rates would increase 3.5 percent per year, according to the state's Office of Transportation Public-Private Partnerships. The existing U.S. 460 will remain an alternative route without tolls.

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