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HUGO FIRE DEPARTMENT: Sees call volume increase **PAGE 15**



FILE

Public works gears up for cleanup

The city of Hugo will host its once-a-year spring cleanup from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 25, at the Public Works Facility, located at 8220 140th St. N. Residents can bring trash and certain household items for disposal. Find more Earth Day-inspired events in the roundup and coloring contest on pages 8 and 9.

Hardwood Creek Trail: Hugo will continue negotiating

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

HUGO — The City Council has decided to proceed with improvements on the Hardwood Creek Trail extension to the south as part of this year's street improvement project, even though an agreement with the county is still being finalized.

For several months, city staff have been working with Washington County to reach an agreement on the cost share for the trail improvements.

"Collaboration and communication with Washington County has been excellent. They have been good to work with," City Engineer Mark Erichson said. "I think we see it a little bit differently, so we have hit a little bit of a roadblock. We are continuing conversations ... but we need a little more time to work through some of these items, and I'm not sure we will get there before we get to a point where we need to look at awarding a (construction) contract."

The city's planned Bald Eagle Industrial Area

SEE TRAIL, PAGE 11

Final phase of Old Mill Estates in the works in Centerville

BY MADELINE DOLBY
QUAD COMMUNITY PRESS EDITOR

The third and final phase of development is in the works for the Old Mill Estates development. This third phase would be called Woods of Old Mill.

The concept plan proposed by Elmcrest Vistas LLC includes four single-family residential lots on approximately 6.5 acres, according to Centerville City Planner Nathan Fuerst. Old Mill Estates encompasses about 20 acres along Old Mill Road in Centerville and has been subdivided into two plats.

"Concept plan reviews are advisory. These are really helpful for us to have a discussion, ask questions and provide the developer with feedback on their respective project," Fuerst said.

Approvals of the first two phases of

development occurred in 2019 and 2020. Since then, Fuerst said the developer has refined plans for the final phase and brought it to the city's Planning and Zoning Commission in 2024 and 2025. As the commission now has several new members, the developer has asked to bring the concept back for review to ensure there is support prior to proceeding with formal approvals.

Fuerst said that based on his understanding, this would be the last addition of the development due to the presence of nearby wetlands.

"There is a pretty sizable wetland on the property, which is really driving the location of the home sites and it's also really driving the number of home sites proposed," he added.

The future land use category for the site, which is low-density residential, requires two to four units per acre. Fuerst explained since there are four

units proposed for the 6.5 acres, it's about a gross density of less than one unit per acre.

"That being said, we can net out the unbuildable wetland areas. So, in future submittals the developer will have to calculate what the area of wetland on the property is so we can get an accurate calculation of net density, not gross density," he said.

Once those numbers are in front of the city, Fuerst said they would probably be seeing something that is compliant with the two to four units per acre.

Due to wetland impacts, three of the lots are shown to share an access point off Laramee Lane. The fourth home also would have its own entrance off Laramee Lane.

The city did receive a letter from the Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department regarding the shared

access point. Written by Assistant Fire Chief Matt Montain, the letter states that the fire department would like to see a turnaround location at a proposed fire hydrant and the water extended to the two homes at the end of the shared access point.

Commissioner Jeannie Seppala asked Fuerst if the concept plan for the development will undergo major changes, and if buildable acreage was already calculated in the original concept plan.

"I think this may have been initially planned to some degree in terms of the number of units," Fuerst responded. "I think we're in a good place at this point ... It appears to me that we're likely able to meet the density standard for this area."

The Planning and Zoning Commission did not make a formal decision. It was discussion only.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS

Madelyn Lee, a lifelong resident of Hugo and a White Bear Lake varsity hockey player, helped bring home the National USA Hockey Tier 1 19U Championship title in Amherst, New York.

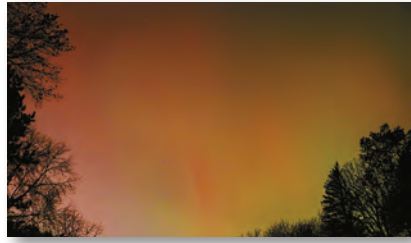


PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Madelyn Lee

As part of Minnesota's Tier 1 Elite League team, Tradition Vegas, Lee scored two goals and made three assists in the six-game series, competing against 15 teams from 10 different states in the USA Girls Hockey Nationals from March 24-29.

Tradition Vegas is made up of players from 11 different high schools around the Twin Cities



"Northern Pulse"

The team earned a trip to nationals by winning the Minnesota Elite series last fall.

JC Peterson is one of 122 artists from 24 schools to be featured in the Emerging Young Artists (EYA) Juried Student Art Show at Saint Paul's Landmark Center. His artwork titled "Northern Pulse" is on display. Peterson is a junior at Liberty Classical Academy in White Bear Lake.

Now in its fifth year, the EYA offers young artists the opportunity to see their work in a professionally curated public ex-

hibition. The show runs through May 7.

2025 White Bear Lake Area High School graduate Andrew Klier recently earned second place in the college division of the Minnesota SkillsUSA Automotive competition. The contest assesses a wide range of automotive skills, including technical reading comprehension, diagnostic ability and hands-on application. Klier competed on behalf of White Bear Lake Area High School last year and built upon the skills he learned during his time in the Automotive Career Pathway.



Andrew Klier

BUSINESS BRIEF

New business opens in former MC's Taco & Tequila space

Cooper's Kitchen & Spirits has opened its doors in the former MC's Taco & Tequila space, located at 1190 County Road J in White Bear Township.

Cooper's is owned by Trever Peerson and Tim Trochman. Trochman also owns the Rusty Cow Café in Circle Pines.

Cooper's Kitchen offers a blend of casual comfort and dining. On the menu, customers will find classic, quality bar favorites including burgers, sandwiches and shareable appetizers. Behind the bar, there are beers and cocktails along with a whiskey and bourbon selection.



CONTRIBUTED

"We're excited to give you a place that feels like your go-to neighborhood spot from day one," Peerson said. "At Cooper's, you can expect a laid-back, welcoming atmosphere where great food, cold drinks and good company come together. Whether you're stopping in for a quick bite, catching a game, or meeting up with friends and family, our goal is simple: deliver great service, consistent food and a place you'll want to come back to again and again."

For more information about Cooper's, visit <https://cooperswbl.com/>.

CITY BRIEF

Registration open for annual Garage Sale Days

Centerville residents are now able to register for the 34th annual Garage Sale Days, scheduled to take place Friday, June 5, and Saturday, June 6, across

the city. Registration closes on Friday, May 29.

Applications can be found on the city's website. With registration, participants will receive one garage sale sign. The sign will need to be returned to Centerville City Hall within one week of the event.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

APRIL 16, 2026

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THE CITIZEN **3**



FILE

KIDZ N BIZ

When: 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 18
Where: Oneka Elementary
Details: Free community event hosted by the Hugo Business Association connects local business and families through vendor booths and activities such as games, inflatables, face painting, prize drawings, demos, food and more.
Contact: hugobusinesses.com

ONGOING EVENTS

HUGO SENIOR CITIZENS PLAY '500'

When: 12:45 p.m. Thursday, April 16; 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday of every month
Where: Rice Lake Centre, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo
Details: Games begin at 12:45 p.m.

Refreshments and coffee served. All senior citizens from the area invited.
Contact: 651-592-0369 or barbconnolly1958@yahoo.com

HUGO SENIOR CLUB

When: 1 p.m. Monday, April 20; every 3rd Monday of every other month
Where: Rice Lake Centre, 6900 137th St., N. Hugo
Details: Planning meeting for 2026 followed by games. Coffee and refreshments served.
Contact: 651-592-0369 or barbconnolly1958@yahoo.com

CRIBBAGE

When: 1p.m. April 27, and every 1st & 4th Monday of each month.
Where: Rice Lake Centre, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo
Details: All senior citizens from Hugo and surrounding areas are invited to join for an afternoon of Cribbage. Coffee and refreshments will be served.
Contact: Alice at 651-429-4413

CURRENT EVENTS

HOT TOPICS: WATTS, WATER AND SECRECY: THE HIDDEN COST OF DATA CENTERS

When: 6:15-7:45 p.m. Thursday, April 16
Where: Maplewood Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr.
Details: Learn about data centers, including the demand for power, water, land and metals. Hear from Kathryn Hoffman, CEO of Minnesota for Environmental Advocacy, and a resident who will share her lived experience of a data center proposal in her community, and what is being

done to address these issues legally and legislatively. Register online.
Contact: lwv-wbla.org

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

When: 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18
Where: Wargo Nature Center, 7701 Main St., Lino Lakes
Details: Celebrate Earth Day at Wargo Nature Center. There will be booths from community partners, live kids entertainment, a spring scavenger hunt and a visit from local author Sandra Hisakuni and more.
Contact: www.anokacountyparks.com

EARTH DAY CLEANUP

When: 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 18
Where: Wargo Nature Center, 7701 Main St., Lino Lakes
Details: Help clean up trash around Lino Lakes or invasive species removal. All registered volunteers will meet at Wargo Nature Center for a briefing and supplies. Lunch will be served after the cleanup. Register through Anoka County Parks.
Contact: www.anokacountyparks.com

CHAIN OF GIVING

When: 5:30-9 p.m. Saturday, April 18
Where: Peder Pederson Pavilion
Details: "Beach Bingo" theme includes 10 rounds of Bingo, dinner and cash bar serving vacation-mode drinks. Fundraiser for Chain of Lakes Rotary supports STRIVE seniors college scholarships and support for community outreach programs.
Contact: chainoflakesrotary.com

SPRING FLING

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, April 18
Where: Third Street, White Bear Mall,

downtown White Bear Lake
Details: Family activities, shopping and dining specials, gardening activities, seed swap
Contact: downtownwhitebearlake.com

HUGO CLEANUP DAY

When: 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 25
Where: Hugo Public Works Building, 8220 140th St N
Details: Residents can bring trash and certain household items for disposal.
Contact: www.ci.hugo.mn.us.

HUGO AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY DAY

When: Saturday, April 25; A presentation is planned for noon; rib sampling and judging from 4 to 5 p.m.
Where: Hugo American Legion Post 620, 5383 140th St N
Details: American Legion Family Day is observed annually on the last Saturday of April. To celebrate, the Hugo Legion will host a Family Day event, which will include a rib contest, Auxiliary bake sale, bouncy house, fire truck, pictures with Sugar the unicorn (1 to 2:30 p.m.), face painting and caricature artist.
Contact: post620hugo@gmail.com or 651-255-1432

GANGSTER BUS TOURS

When: 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 25
Where: White Bear Armory, 2224th St.
Details: Explore the hideouts and haunts of the 1930s era gangsters who laid low in the cottages around White Bear and Bald Eagle Lakes. Sights include a Mahtomedi speakeasy and the location of a notorious dance club.
Contact: whitebearhistory.org

HUGO BITS AND PIECES

- The city has made its hires for summer seasonal workers. Seasonal public works employees assist with mowing, garbage/ litter removal, park maintenance, boulevard maintenance and general public works maintenance. Five seasonal workers from last year will be rehired, including William Heise, Beck Rogers, Jacob Weierke, Kristofer Bower and Matias Evert.

- The Hugo American Legion continues to donate to the Hugo Fire Department from pull-tab proceeds. Most recently, it donated \$1,000. Hugo Fire also received a donation of approximately \$50 from The American Online Giving Foundation – Benevity Giving Platform, which disperses money donated by employees and/or matching funds from corporate clients. Brent Tervola elected Hugo Fire for his contribution.

- James' Triumph Charity will have a table at the Back to the '80s Car Show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 6 at the Blacksmith Lounge. At the event, the charity plans to have merchandise for sale as well as raffle prizes. James' Triumph exists to support families who have been affected by miscarriage, stillbirth and infant loss. For more information, visit www.jamestriumph.org.

- Good Neighbor Days falls on June 5-7 this year. Keep an eye on The Citizen (in print and online) for more information about this year's festival. The council has approved a lawful gambling exempt permit to conduct bingo, paddlewheel and raffle drawings. The council also approved an off-site gambling permit for Merick Inc. to hold bingo during the event.

- Hugo American Legion Post 620 will host its annual Family Day Event Saturday, April 25. The National Executive Committee of the American Legion passed a resolution in October 2025 to establish American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday in April. Hugo Legion's event will include a rib contest and vendors. Approximately 200 to 300 people are expected to attend. The council has approved a special event permit.

- The city will purchase a Ferris zero turn mower for the Public Works Department to replace its Toro zero turn mower that was purchased in 2005. The mower, from LTG Power Equipment, costs \$22,618.

- The 165th Street alternative urban areawide review (AUAR) will be sent out to the public and various agencies for the public review process after council authorized its distribution. City staff and consultants have been drafting the AUAR for several months and held public information meetings to provide information and gather feedback from residents. The AUAR allows for environmental review of development and associated infrastructure along the corridor, which is expected to see development in the near future.

There will be a 30-day comment period (through May 14) followed by a 10-day objection period. The council is expected to adopt the final AUAR and mitigation plan in June or July.

- After some adjustments were needed to the 2026 Bald Eagle Industrial Park Area Street Improvement Project assessment roll, the assessment hearing — originally scheduled for April 6 — has been rescheduled to the council meeting on Monday, May 4.

The council previously received the plans and specifications and held the improvement hearing, but Washington County requested some modifications to the assessments. City Engineer Mark Erichson explained that there are approximately six to eight units within one building on a parcel that share common ownership. The county requested the city modify how it was doing assessments and assess each individual property owner versus the one parcel they are jointly responsible for. Total project costs are estimated to be \$4,678,427; \$1,021,356 will come from assessments.

- City Administrator Bryan Bear provided some information to the council on the repeal of the shotgun-only zone in Minnesota. The city of Hugo has been included in the longstanding shotgun-only zone. The shotgun-only zone restricted deer hunters to using only shotguns, muzzleloaders and handguns. A new law passed during the 2025 Legislative session repealed the shotgun-only law effective Jan. 1, 2026. Hunters

may now use rifles or other legal firearms statewide, though individual counties in the old zone may pass ordinances to restrict rifle use. Bear explained that counties have until May 1 to pass an ordinance to get it published in the DNR hunting regulations booklet. If counties act after that date, the ordinance will only be published online. As of press deadline, Washington County has not taken any action to pass an ordinance to restrict rifle use.

In the city of Hugo:

- A person may not discharge a firearm or a controlled weapon (bow and arrow) within 500 feet of a building capable of being occupied by a human or livestock.

- A person may not discharge a firearm or controlled weapon within 500 feet of a stockade or corral containing livestock, including stockades/corrals located on adjacent properties.

- A person may not discharge a firearm or controlled weapon within 500 feet of any public road.

- Bear's annual performance review is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, May 4. Bear has been employed by the city of Hugo for 22 years.

The next City Council meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, May 4, at City Hall.

Shannon Granholm



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Reflecting on a decade at Press

I recently celebrated my 10-year anniversary with Press Publications. I honestly cannot believe I've been here for a decade. Where does the time go?

I graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a bachelor's degree in writing studies (journalism) and Hispanic studies. While I was searching for a journalism job, fun fact, I worked at Black Bear Resort and Casino in Carlton, both at the front desk and in the call center.



Shannon's Shenanigans
Shannon Granholm

I eventually landed a job as a county staff writer for the Steele County Times in Blooming Prairie. A year later, when the publisher purchased the Dodge County Intendent in Kasson, I took on the role of news editor. I learned so much in southern Minnesota, but my goal was always to get back to the metro area.

I applied for a staff writer position with Press Publications, and I remember being so impressed

when Carter Johnson, the publisher, was willing to drive all the way to Cabela's (now Bass Pro Shops) in Owatonna for an interview. Thinking back to a phone conversation we had shortly after, I remember Carter telling me the one worry he had about hiring me. He was worried I didn't have thick enough skin for this job. And he wasn't wrong. I admitted it then, and I still admit it now; I don't have very thick skin. Sometimes, I take things way too personally, but in 10 years, I've managed to cope and hopefully grow a little thicker skin, even if just a little bit.

When I came to Press Publications in 2016, I began as a staff writer for the Quad Community Press. I eventually became the editor of the Quad Community Press and The Citizen. For approximately four and a half years now I've held the title of managing editor. Although my bylines still show up in many of our publications, most of my time is spent on writing for the White Bear Press and The Citizen.

One of the things that has kept me here for a decade is the community journalism aspect of the job. Local newspapers are truly the heartbeat of a town. Over the years, I've had the privilege of telling truly local stories. I've covered it all — development projects, city councils, school boards, community organizations, business anniversaries, elections, churches, events, artists and more.

What I've learned is the big stories matter, but sometimes the small ones leave the biggest impression. The feature about a longtime volunteer making an impact in the community, a student achieving something special or a local business owner who has served the community for decades, those are the stories that remind me why local journalism is so important.

This job has allowed me to meet so many incredible people doing amazing things who care about the communities they live in.

Even on the tough days, when I'm reminded that my skin might not be thick enough for this job, it helps to remember what I'm doing matters. What Press Publications does matters. Local newspapers help keep residents informed, connected and engaged with their communities.

Ten years later, I'm still grateful to be part of that mission.

Shannon Granholm is the managing editor at Press Publications.



SHANNON GRANHOLM | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

A sign welcomes Shannon to the newsroom in 2016.



UCare cancellation prompts further thought to insurance alternatives

For 300,000 residents within Minnesota and Wisconsin, health care just became one dangerous step closer to impossibility. The cancellation of health insurance provider UCare



Health Care Hurdles
Evie Gardner

exemplifies the struggle of those caught between spending an exorbitant amount of their pay check on insurance and remaining uninsured. More pressing, it shows the need for an alternative solution away from insurance.

UCare was first established in 1984 by the University of Minnesota to give low-income earners access to healthcare. The provider was uniquely inexpensive, offering monthly payments of \$30-\$50 in place of the usual \$300-\$500. At its peak, it had approximately 600,000 users across the state and some western-Wisconsin territories.

The affordability of UCare was a welcome alternative to the extremely expensive U.S. health care system. It provided a resource for those who didn't have the means for more expensive health care. UCare would have been the perfect solution, if it didn't fail.

Typically, Americans receive health insurance through their

employers or the Affordable Care Act marketplace, where individuals compare and enroll in health insurance packages. The government funds programs like Medicaid and Medicare for low-income individuals and seniors. Premiums on insurance are also offered for those between 100%-400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This translates to a yearly salary of \$62,500 or less for an individual, or \$128,600 for a family of four. An estimated 5.8% of Washington county households are in the 100% FPL range.

However, despite insurance, U.S. health care is still notoriously expensive. In 2024, the average price per capita of healthcare was \$15,474, roughly double that of its European counterparts.

Premiums and government subsidies are solutions to the widespread problem of healthcare expenses, but millions are still "underinsured." They have coverage without government assistance, but struggle to pay out of pocket costs. With UCare gone, this title increasingly encompasses Minnesotans.

In all, UCare was short lived, only lasting 42 years following recent financial losses. In 2024, UCare lost an estimated \$1.4 billion due to rising medical costs that outweighed government reimbursements and unpaid claims. After being declared in "hazardous financial condition" by the Minnesota Department of Health,

UCare's executive leadership decided to shut down the provider and transfer 300,000 patients to health insurance provider Medica, which is significantly more expensive.

Now, hundreds of thousands are forced to pay ten times what they would have previously for coverage. These costs open up a broader issue. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, those without health insurance are less likely to get necessary drugs or comprehensive treatment due to price. Once people start to view their health as a second priority, society is threatened.

UCare's cancellation is a threat to public health and proves that the future of health access cannot lie within insurance. What was once a seemingly perfect and inexpensive insurance option had its illusion shattered by money, or lack thereof. Now, individuals are forced to resort to an option that they can't afford. Without government assistance, people are either forced to be uninsured or overspend on health insurance.

These cannot be the only options for those who are uninsured. There must be an alternative way from both insurance and government funding, because subsidies for some just aren't enough to save lives.

Evie Gardner is a junior at Saint Paul Academy and Summit School. She serves as the news editor for the student paper, The Rubicon.

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- Letter writers must live, work or have another connection to Press Publications coverage area.
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- Repeat letters by the same writer about the same subject matter will not be published.
- Submissions containing libelous or derogatory statements will not be published.
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CENTERVILLE TIDBITS

• In September, council approved a four-year tree plan to plant 19 trees, as initiated by the Parks & Recreation Committee. The first-and second-year trees will be planted this spring in the city's five parks. The committee discussed the difference in costs for in-house installation versus having Gertens do it. The cost of the plantings is not to exceed \$15,000. Council discussed the plan to have the public works department install the trees at the workshop and unanimously approved that plan later in the meeting (3-0; Council Member Linda Broussard-Vickers attended on Zoom).

• After approving the plan to have city staff plant the trees, council approved the purchase of equipment to be used for the project. After public works staff removed the trees that were scheduled to be removed prior to the planting this spring, they requested that council approve \$4,926 for an auger and mount. Staff also requested \$1,127 for a 24-inch auger bit that will fit the city's skid steer unit. These costs would be included in the first-year cost of \$15,000 along with 19 trees for year one and 13 trees for year two. Due to the cost savings of city staff doing the planting, more trees will be purchased. The trees will be mulched, provided with a watering bag for three years, and fertilized twice per season. The equipment will be used for three years, and the purchase will be less expensive than renting it repeatedly. The costs for the equipment will be split between

the park dedication and capital replacement funds.

• In other tree news, residents in the city will have the opportunity to have their trees treated by the city's professional arborists, Rainbow Treecare, after council approved the contract for professional services as recommended by the Parks & Recreation Committee. For four years, the city has contracted with Rainbow Treecare for treatment of city trees on parks and publicly owned land. The firm has also offered reduced rates to residents to treat their privately owned trees. The public works director determines whether to continue treatment of previously treated trees or to add new trees to be treated. The contract remains in effect even if the city chooses not to treat parks or city trees. In 2024, 30 trees on 17 properties were treated and paid for by property owners. In 2025, 17 trees on 13 properties were treated and paid for by property owners.

• The 2026 budget and capital improvement plan both require an infusion of money transferred from other funds to be fully funded, so council passed a resolution authorizing city staff to transfer \$25,000 from the 2009A street bonds fund (351) to the general fund (101). Staff will also transfer a total of \$61,800 from the water (601), sewer (602) and storm water funds (603) to the equipment replacement fund (409). The water fund will contribute \$25,000 plus an inflationary increase of 1.03%, or \$25,750. The sewer fund will contribute the same. The storm water fund will contribute \$10,000 plus an inflationary increase of 1.03%, or \$10,300.

• The city's vision for downtown is more than 20 years old and may not align with current community desires or market realities for downtown. Therefore, the city is updating a future vision for downtown to align development, public spaces and transportation decisions toward a community-driven vision. This updated vision will guide development and public infrastructure investment in downtown and be reflected in the city's upcoming comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan is a required policy document that guides the city's next 20 years of growth and change. City Planner Nathan Fuerst and Cody Flannery of Bolton & Menk, the city's planning firm, presented an overview of resident input as well as a couple of development scenarios based on the public input received thus far. Planners held an open house on Feb. 25 and conducted a survey with 281 respondents that included 261 residents and 19 frequent visitors. Feedback from the Feb. 25 open house revealed that respondents favored:

- A strong desire for more places to eat, drink and gather, as well as a family-friendly atmosphere
- A desire for good parking, walkability and safe crossing
- A need for improvements to run-down buildings
- A need for more places to go for daily services
- A modest desire for medium- and small-scale commercial uses, including mixed-use commercial
- A modest desire for housing, but interest in medium-scale multifamily housing types.
- A rejection of "high-rise" development, chain stores or chain restaurants
- A disfavor to anything that impacts existing homes

The next step for council was to direct staff in drafting the downtown vision plan.

• The city's leadership team has been signed up to take part in a one-day strategic planning process using city leadership software. The training will provide a team-building opportunity to facilitate working together toward the development of organizational goals. The training will cost \$2,500, using money from the general fund.

• City employee Caleb Molitor will receive a pay raise following the successful completion of his annual performance review. He has received a step increase from pay grade 6 step 4 to pay grade 6 step 5.

• The Cadillac Dinner will take place on May 2 at St. Genevieve Parish Center, after council approved the Centerville Lions request for licensing. As a nonprofit organization, the Lions asked for and received a waiver of permit fees for a temporary on-sale liquor license and temporary charitable gambling (LG220) permit. This has been an annual event for many years without incident.

• Anoka County has mailed property tax statements to Centerville residents, said City Administrator Athanasia Lewis in her report. These statements are for property taxes payable 2026 and valuation notices (2026 values that taxes will be based on in 2027). Citizens who question the valuation or classification of their property may call Centerville City Assessor Mary Wells at 763-412-1966, Ext. 1 to discuss it. There is also a formal appeal option, which will be held at the Centerville Local Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting on April 23 at approximately 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

• The Centennial Lakes Police Department has announced the retirement of Chief James Mork. He will continue serving the CLPD through the end of June. In the meantime, there will be a special meeting of the Police Governing Board to approve hiring a search firm for his replacement.

• With the departure of Council Member David Kubat, there is now a vacancy on the City Council. Centerville residents who are interested in being considered for this vacancy may visit the city website for an application or stop by City Hall. For further information, contact Lewis at 651-792-7931.

The council next meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

Loretta Harding

OBITUARIES

Dorothea Anna Zaiger

Age 92 of Hugo, passed away peacefully on January 23, 2026. Preceded in death by husbands, James Dougherty, Carl Zaiger; special friend, Earl Letourneau; parents, Paul & Anna Schmidt. She is survived by many dear friends. Dorothea's life will be celebrated with a service at 11 AM Saturday, April 25th with visitation beginning at 10 AM at New Life Lutheran Church, Hugo. Interment at Union Cemetery, White Bear Lake. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to donor's choice. www.RobertsFamilyFH.com 651-464-4422



John Philip Thomas

Age 79 of May Township (Hugo), passed away on March 28, 2026.

John was born on May 20, 1946 in St. Paul, MN to Theodor and Winifred (Taylor) Thomas. He graduated from Cretin High School (1964) and attended the University of Minnesota where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Business (1968).

John was united in marriage to Constance Fischbach on September 6, 1968 at the Church of the Nativity in St. Paul. A few months later, John was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served with a Military Police unit in Europe. He later served with the Army National Guard from 1978 to 1999, retiring as a First Sergeant and having earned the Meritorious Service Medal. John worked for the State of Minnesota as a Manager of Unemployment Tax.

John was a longtime member of the American Legion Post 620 in Hugo and served as their Commander twice. He also belonged to the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and was also a longtime member of the Junior Pioneer Association of Ramsey County and the Church of St. Michael in Stillwater.

John cherished his family and enjoyed cross-country road trips, going to concerts with Connie, and gardening.

John will remain in the hearts of his wife of 57 years Connie; children Jen (Dwight) Parker and Chris (AnnMarie); 5 grandchildren Kennedy (Chad), Colton, Kyla; Sage and Grace; siblings Barbara Schaffhausen and Rich (Teena Moy) Thomas; and sister-in-law Helen Thomas. He is preceded in death by his parents; and siblings Larry, Paul, and Br. Robert Thomas.

Mass of Christian Burial 11AM Friday, April 10, 2026 at the Church of St. Michael, 611 3rd St S, Stillwater, MN. Interment with military honors at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to Cretin-Derham Hall High School.

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PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS



HUGO FIRE | CONTRIBUTED

Hugo Fire responded to an oven fire in the 14900 block of Generation Ave. N. on April 14.

Hugo fire responds to oven fire

At approximately 6:45 p.m. Saturday, April 4, the Hugo Fire Department was dispatched to the 14900 block of Generation Ave. N. for an oven fire.

Upon arrival, fire crews encountered moderate smoke throughout the home. They made entry and extinguished the fire using a fire extinguisher and ventilated the home. The family was alerted to the fire by working smoke detectors and was able to evacuate to safety and call 911.

After investigating the fire, it was determined that the oven was on self-clean and started on fire. No injuries were reported, and the family is working with their insurance company to have the home cleaned due to the smoke damage.

Fire department offering carbon monoxide alarms

The Hugo Fire Department has partnered with the State Fire Marshal's Division to offer free carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to residents. In order to qualify for the program, you must be a Hugo resident and not have working CO alarms installed in your home or have CO alarms that are expired. If you are interested, contact the HFD at 651-762-6362 or jrcompton@ci.hugo.mn.us.

POLICE REPORTS

The Washington County Sheriff's Office reported the following calls for service:

- Residents in the 16000 block of Ingersoll Avenue N. reported that a semi-truck had broken down at their house at 7:58 a.m. March 4. After the driver/owner left his information with the complainant that he would have it removed, the semi driver had not returned by the time of the report. Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies advised the complainant that the semi was not on the stolen list and to give the semi a few days to be in the location before having it towed.
- Deputies conducted a traffic stop at 3:46 p.m. March 4 in the 9000 block of 122nd Street N and cited the driver for undisclosed violations. A second motorist was pulled over at midnight March 5 on Oneka Lake Blvd. N. and Goodview Avenue N. and issued a written warning for speeding. A third motorist was pulled over at 2:36 p.m. March 5 on 140th Street N. and Forest Blvd. N. and cited. A fourth motorist was pulled over for expired registration at 9:10 p.m. March 5 on 158th Street N. and Enfield Avenue N.

• A motorist on Frenchman Road and Forest Blvd. N. was arrested at 5:05 p.m. March 5 for multiple violations and convictions on record that he had never taken care of, after deputies pulled him over for speeding through downtown Hugo.

On identification, deputies discovered he had a revoked license status, multiple no insurance convictions and no current proof of insurance.

- In the Case of the Runner Ruminant, deputies took a loose cow report from the 6000 block of Egg Lake Road N. at 5:58 p.m. March 5 but were unable to find the animal. At 7:14 a.m. March 6, the complainants reported the return of the cows to their property. The cow's owners were contacted and stated they would retrieve the cow. At 7:50 a.m., the complainants reported that the cow was still on their property. After deputies contacted the owner, the cow was removed shortly afterward. At 9:33 a.m. deputies took a follow up phone call regarding animals in the area generally.
- A license plate was reported lost at 9:17 a.m. March 6 in the 16000 block of Forest Blvd. N.
- The driver of a BMW sedan was arrested at 9:31 p.m. March 6 on 158th Street N. and Enfield Avenue N., after she was pulled over for a loud exhaust that violated Minnesota's noise pollution laws. When deputies advised her she was pulled over for the racket she was making, she said she didn't believe that was a valid reason for a traffic stop.

Although deputies asked for identification multiple times, the driver argued about the validity of the traffic stop instead. The reason for the stalling became clear after the driver reluctantly complied. On identification, deputies learned that she did not have valid driving status but did have multiple no insurance priors.

In addition, she didn't have insurance to present during the current traffic stop either and was taken into custody.

- A youth was arrested for underage drinking at midnight March 8 in the 2000 block of Main Street, after being pulled over for equipment violations.
- A motorist on Forest Blvd. N. and 140th Street N. was arrested for DWI at 9:06 p.m. March 8, following a traffic stop for speeding. All the minor passengers in the vehicle were cited for minor consumption of alcohol.
- A resident in the 4000 block of 162nd Court N. reported an unknown female for sitting on his neighbor's doorstep at 2:03 a.m. March 9. The caller said he just wanted to be a good neighbor and report the suspicious activity. Deputies advised the neighbor that they could perform extra patrols in the neighborhood.
- A business in the 13000 block of Fenway Blvd. Circle N. reported their property had been broken into overnight March 8-9.
- Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies recovered a stolen motor vehicle at 11:46 a.m. March 9 in the 5000 block of 165th Street N.
- Deputies were dispatched out to the scene of a cell phone dropped down a sewer drain in the 15000 block of French Drive N. at 4:19 p.m. March 9. On arrival deputies met with the juvenile callers, one of whom made the emergency call and another of whom had dropped the phone. Deputies couldn't see the phone to retrieve it, so they advised the youths to have their parents call the city public works department for assistance.
- Deputies called out to a noise complaint in the 4000 block of Rosemary Way N. at 12:01 a.m. March 10 arrived on scene and paused outside the door of the residence in question and heard loud noises of talking and moving furniture. They managed to get one of the occupants to come out and talk to them.

The resident told deputies "I wasn't doing nothing" before slamming the door in their faces.

However, deputies later identified the resident through Driv-

er Vehicle Services for future reference and, of course, know where she lives.

• A two-vehicle accident brought deputies out to the 14000 block of Finale Avenue N. at 6:34 p.m. March 10 to mediate an altercation. After deputies separated the combatants, they mailed a citation to one of them.

- Credit card theft was reported at 7:23 p.m. March 10 from the 4000 block of Garden Way N.
- A motorist on 170th Street N. and Henna Avenue N. was cited for both a moving violation and non-moving violation at 4:29 p.m. March 11.
- All occupants of a vehicle in the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N. were cited at 10:10 p.m. March 11 for various violations following a traffic stop for a large crack in the windshield and expired registration. The driver was cited for driving after revocation and for failure to provide proof of insurance. All the passengers were cited for failing to wear their seatbelts.
- In the Case of the Sashaying Shepherd, a German shepherd was reported at 10:27 p.m. March 11 for being loose on Forest Blvd. N. at 165th Street N.
- A motorist on the phone on Oneka Lake Blvd. N. at Goodview Avenue was cited at midnight March 12 for driving after revocation.
- Deputies dispatched out to a long-term care facility in the 5000 block of 150th Street N. on a trespassing complaint at 12:16 p.m. March 12 warned the trespassing party that if he were ever to return to the location, he would be arrested immediately.
- A Minnesota motorist operating an ATV on a public roadway was arrested and mailed a citation at 1:25 p.m. March 12 after being pulled over on northbound Forest Road and 180th Street N. for crossing Highway 61 and not displaying a visible license plate. During the stop deputies discovered his driver's license had been revoked, which might explain why he was getting around on an ATV. The subject also had no safety certification. Due to his behavior during pat down, he was detained. During that pat down, deputies found assorted drug paraphernalia, including a meth pipe, on his person.
- A motorist leaving a parking lot on Elmcrest Avenue N. and Rosemary Way N. at 5:30 p.m. March 12 was cited for violating traffic code, after being pulled over for driving in dark and rainy conditions without his headlights on.

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FINANCIAL PLANNING

APRIL 16, 2026

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THE CITIZEN 7

Metrics to gauge your financial health

Effective money management can help people achieve their short- and long-term goals. Wise investment strategies and a commitment to saving for retirement are great ways to manage money over the long haul, but it's important to seek ways to do so in the short-term as well.

Monitoring financial health is a short-term strategy that can keep individuals on a path toward long-term security. While various metrics can be looked to as indicators of financial health, adults can keep these three variables in mind as they look to utilize short-term strategies to ensure their long-term success.

1. Debt-to-income ratio: Debt-to-income ratio can be a good indicator of financial health. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau defines debt-to-income ratio (DTI) as all your monthly debt payments divided by your monthly gross income. Lenders utilize DTI to determine the creditworthiness of loan applicants, but individuals also can use it as a metric to gauge their financial health. Monthly debt payments include mortgages, auto loans, student loans, and other debt payments, including credit cards. Individuals whose debt payments total \$2,000 per month and who earn



a gross monthly income of \$6,000 have a 33% DTI. The credit experts at Experian suggest a DTI of 35% or less is indicative that debt is being handled well, so that's a figure to keep in mind.

2. Savings balances: Savings accounts don't generate as much interest as they did throughout the 1980s and 1990s. According to Nasdaq, savings interest rates climbed as high as 8% in the 1980s, but have fallen below 0.25% since the financial crisis of 2008. That's led some to devalue savings, but savings balances can be a good indicator of financial health. A substantial savings account can help

individuals avoid taking on debt when costly emergencies and expenses arise unexpectedly, thus helping them keep their DTI in a financially advantageous range.

3. Credit score: Credit score is another strong, and easily accessible, indicator of personal financial health. Individuals can now access their credit scores for free each month through their banks and credit card providers. Experian notes that credit scores range from 300 to 850, and where a score falls in that range can indicate if a person is managing credit in a healthy or unhealthy way. Experian reports scores 740 and above are very good, while scores between 670 and 739 are considered good. Scores between 300 and 579 are considered poor, while a score between 580 and 669 is considered fair. Scores below 669 indicate there's room to use credit more wisely, which involve reducing reliance on consumer credit, making payments on time and ensuring payments are more than the monthly minimum.

These three metrics and others can be utilized by individuals looking to gauge their financial health in an effort to realize their short- and long-term goals.

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Earth Day roundup

Free entry to parks

Washington County will waive daily vehicle permit fees to allow for free entry to Washington County Parks on April 22 in honor of Earth Day.

City of Hugo hosts cleanup

The city of Hugo will host its once-a-year spring cleanup from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 25, at the Public Works Facility, located at 8220 140th St. N. Residents can bring trash and certain household items for disposal. For more information on pricing and which items will be accepted, visit www.ci.hugo.mn.us.

Going Green Guide out now

Washington County's 2026 Going Green Guide is now available. The guide, which is mailed to all county residents, includes information on what to recycle, how to dispose of household hazardous waste and yard waste and special events happening this year. To view the guide online, visit www.washingtoncountymn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7432/2026-Going-Green-Guide-PDF.

Donations needed for Garden Tool Swap

Do you have garden and yard tools

you no longer use? Share them with others by donating to this year's Garden Tool Swap! Drop off items at the Washington County Environmental Center in Forest Lake or Woodbury during open hours through May 2.

Items accepted include hand tools, shovels and rakes; ceramic pots and planters; garden art and décor; and bird houses and feeders. Items that won't be accepted include mowers, power tools, plastic planters, broken items, oversized items, potting soil, dirt or rocks.

The Garden Tool Swap will be held from 5-7 p.m. May 6 at both the North Environmental Center in Forest Lake and the South Environmental Center in Woodbury. Donations are not required to participate. For more information, visit www.washingtoncountymn.gov/3775/Reuse-and-Donation-Opportunities.

Rain barrel and compost bin sale

Washington County is partnering with the Recycling Association of Minnesota to sell discounted compost bins and rain barrels to county residents. Pre-ordered items must be picked up at an Environmental Center (Forest Lake and Woodbury) within 90 days of purchase. To order, visit www.washingtoncountymn.gov/2813/Compost-Bin-and-Rain-Barrel-Sale.

How to declutter and stay decluttered

Do you feel overwhelmed with too much stuff? Here are some Washington County resources to help you declutter and focus on buying only what you need. Search the Disposal Directory (www.washingtoncountymn.gov/630/Disposal-Directory) to learn how to properly reuse, recycle or dispose of items you no longer want. You can also find a variety of opportunities to donate, buy and sell secondhand by visiting www.washingtoncountymn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/33051/Donate-Buy-Sell-Second-hand-Guide-2024-PDF.

The county also offers Fix-It Clinics throughout the year, where volunteers with repair skills will disassemble, troubleshoot and fix items. The next one is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at the Wildwood Library in Mahtomedi. For more information, visit <http://washingtoncountymn.gov/3776/Fix-It-Clinics>.

Shredding days

Washington County has many shredding day events scheduled in the near future. First up is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at the South Environment Center in Woodbury. Another one is planned for 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14, at the North Environmental Center in Forest Lake.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 25

The 30th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25. The nationwide event offers free and anonymous disposal of unused, unwanted or expired medications at thousands of locations across the country. Washington County has a Take Back event planned at Wildwood Elementary School in Mahtomedi. In addition to the one-day event, many locations offer year-round disposal options. For a full list of collection sites, visit www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/takeback.html

20th annual RITE of Spring event planned

The 20th Annual Really into the Earth (RITE) of Spring event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at Wildwood Elementary School, located at 8698 75th Street North. The event will feature various organizations like local nonprofits and county agencies as well as private vendors. The Mahtomedi Public Schools Passages Transition Program also plans to collect and give away Zephyr gear.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Time to nominate a good neighbor

The Hugo Lions Club is seeking nominations for the Good Neighbor of the Year. Each year, the Lions select someone nominated by community members who lives in Hugo and has been a good neighbor to the community. To nominate someone, send a letter explaining why the person should be considered for the award. Be sure to include your name and phone number as well as the name of the person you are nominating and their contact information.

Send letters to Good Neighbor Days 2026, Katie Riopel, 8089 165th St. N., Hugo, 55038. Letters can also be emailed to heytkk9@gmail.com. Nominations are due by May 22. The Good Neighbor of the Year will receive a plaque and personalized camp chair, among

other gifts, and serve as the grand marshal in the Good Neighbor Days Parade on Saturday, June 6.

Many Faces hosts 'Operation Metro Surge – Where Are We Now'

Many Faces will host "Operation Metro Surge: Where Are We Now" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30, at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi.

Kicking off in the fall of 2025, Many Faces hosted two Understanding Immigration public educational events to explore the complex issues surrounding immigration. The goal of the programs was to help community members better understand the challenges of the U.S.

immigration system and the impact those challenges have on immigrant neighbors and friends.

The April 30 event is Part 3 of Many Faces' Understanding Immigration Series. Attendees will reflect on experiences since the last event and learn about what is needed now. Local community leaders and others from across sectors will join the discussion.

To register, go to bit.ly/48u9ufQ or visit the Many Faces website at manyfaceswblarea.org. Recordings are available on the Many Faces website from the previous two events.

Many Faces is a collaboration of 30 local organizations working to create a community where everyone feels they belong.



DAILY PULLTABS & ETABS

WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION #03111

GO BEARS!

MONDAY

9:00AM BINGO @ JIMMY'S | 6:00PM BINGO @ SAK'S
6:00PM BINGO @ BEARTOWN

TUESDAY

6:00PM BINGO @ JIMMY'S

WEDNESDAY

9:00AM BINGO @ JIMMY'S
5:00PM MEAT RAFFLE @ DOC'S & BEARTOWN | 6:00PM BINGO @ BEARTOWN

THURSDAY

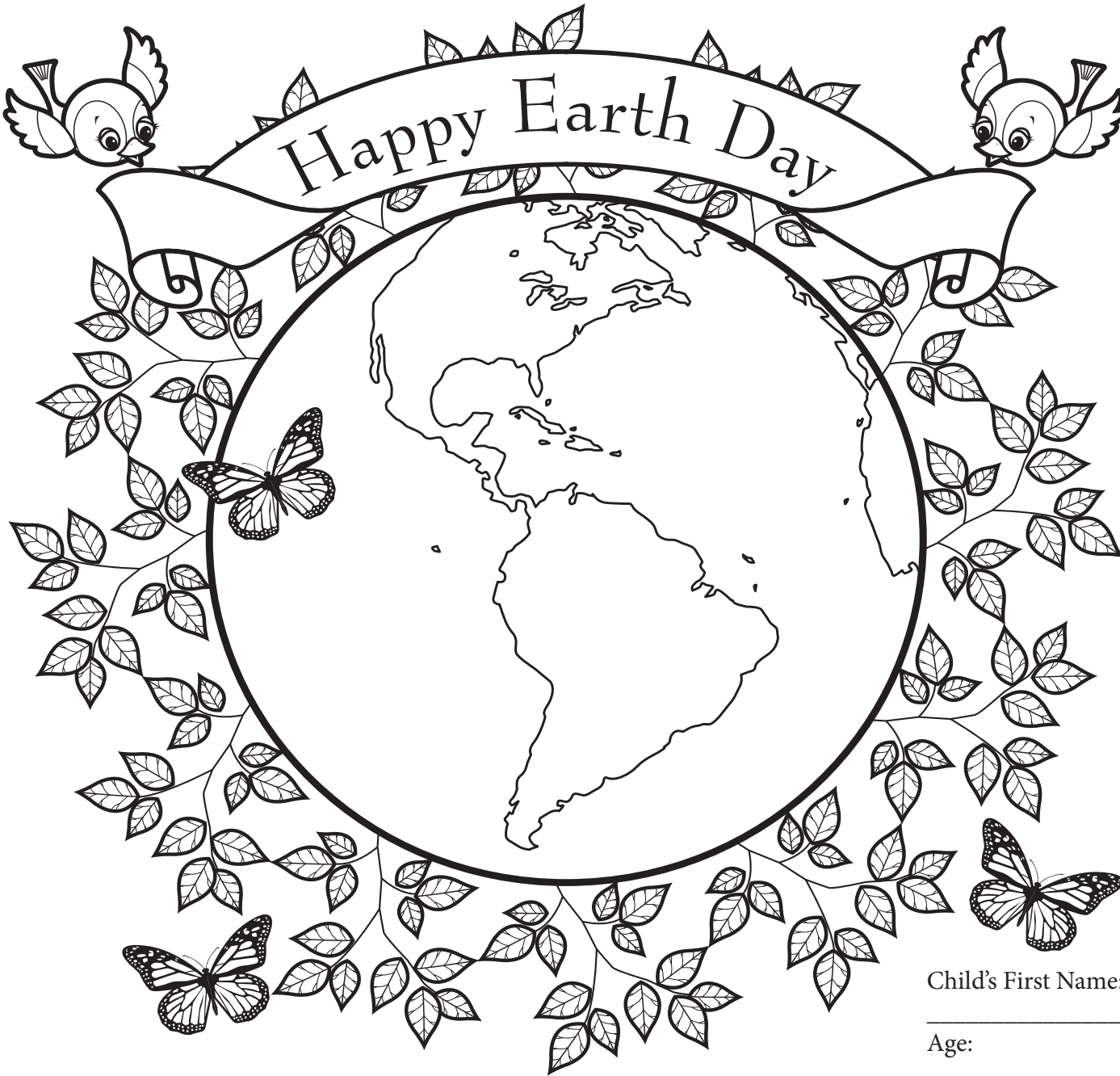
6:00PM BINGO @ JIMMY'S | 7:00PM BINGO @ WB BAR

FRIDAY

5:00PM MEAT RAFFLES @ WB BAR & DOC'S
6:00PM TRI-WHEEL @ WB BAR

SATURDAY

12:30PM BINGO @ SAK'S | 6:00PM TRI-WHEEL @ WB BAR
5:00PM MEAT RAFFLE @ JIMMY'S



Earth Day Coloring Contest

Return completed coloring page to Press Publications at 4779 Bloom Ave, White Bear Lake, MN 55110. Mail or drop off by April 23, 2026 for a chance to win a \$20 local gift card. Thank you for participating!

Child's First Name: _____

Age: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Phone#: _____

Email: _____

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 Community Cleanup Day - April 25
 Compost Bin Sale while supplies last

Irrigation System Rebates
 Save water this spring with a smart irrigation controller. Rebates for 75% of the cost are available! Hurry - program ends June 30th!

Electric Lawncare Rebates
 Outdoor electric equipment is better for the environment, quiet, easy to operate, and needs less maintenance. Get money back for upgrading to cleaner, greener cordless electric equipment.

LEARN MORE: CITYVADNAISHEIGHTS.COM/ENVIRONMENT

RECYCLE SMART

- ✓ YES
 - #1, 2 & 5 plastic
 - Cardboard, newspaper, office paper, boxboard
 - Steel & aluminum cans
 - Glass bottles & jars
- ✗ NO
 - Plastic bags (recycling should not be bagged)
 - Batteries
 - Scrap metals
 - Shredded paper

This Earth Day take a minute to see what does and does not belong in your curbside recycling cart!

Keeping recyclable goods out of the trash is very important! However, 'wishcycling' can increase costs, cause equipment failures, contaminate recyclable goods and lead to injuries for people working in recycling facilities.

Visit our website for a complete list and to find info about recycling items that don't belong in your curbside recycling bin.

WHITEBEARLAKEMN.GOV/RECYCLE

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OTTER LAKE TECHNOLOGIES

Mahtomedi teen fencer is international achiever

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

When William Siedow was six, his family was watching the Olympics when the fencing competition came on. Enthralled, he pointed to the TV and exclaimed, to his parents, “I want to do that!”

The Mahtomedi student, now 15, has been devoted ever since to the sport that resembles sword-fighting, and making strong showings internationally.

At the Junior and Cadet Fencing World Championships in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, April 7-9, Siedow placed 35th of 135 fencers (top 25%) in his age group, Cadets (U17), while also competing “up” in Junior Men’s, where he was 145th of 211.

Holding dual US/Danish citizenship, Siedow was competing for Team Denmark as the reigning Danish national Cadets champion. He is a member of the Twin Cities Fencing Club in St. Paul.

His mother, Rebekah, told the anecdote about William discovering fencing while watching the Olympics. They were living in Washington, D.C. at the time. “It just happened that D.C. Fencers Club was five minutes from our house,” Rebekah said. That gave the boy quick access to the sport and he took advantage.

“William was pretty much hooked from the beginning,” his mother said, “but especially after he won his first medal in a smaller Y8 tournament in New York City.”

William’s dad, Jeffrey, took up fencing a few years back to better understand the rules and to help coach William.

Fencing is sometimes described as “physical chess,” said William, when asked what’s appealing about his sport, and what’s required to succeed.

“It takes patience and strategy while setting up attacks,” he explained, “It also takes good hand-eye coordination and explosive movement — for example, being able to go from a regular pace to a fast attack — and quick reaction time, to respond to your opponent’s attacks.”

Siedow won the Danish Cadet National Championship last September. Other recent highlights were placing 26th of 366 fencers in the U.S. Junior Olympics (national champions for Junior and Cadet) and placing sixth in a Cadet national tournament in February, which earned him the sport’s “A” rating.

He qualified for the world meet with his performances on European and North American circuits. At the world meet, the fencers are ranked, based on those results, then seeded into pools of six or seven. Siedow beat all six of his pool opponents. Moving on to direct elimination matches, he got a bye in the



CONTRIBUTED

William Siedow, of Mahtomedi, is Denmark’s national U17 champion and placed in the top one-fourth of contestants in the world meet.

first round, then lost a close match that put him in 35th place.

After the family moved to Mahtomedi in 2023, he joined the school trapshooting team, but didn’t keep that up due to commitments to fencing. Siedow’s one sport affords him a wealth of travel, adventure and challenges.

“Fencing is a year-round sport, but I do have a little break after Summer Nationals in July,” Siedow said. “I train five days a week and travel to tournaments in the U.S. and abroad at least once a month, sometimes more.”

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Bears start 3-0 before loss to Ponies

White Bear Lake softball picked up three victories to start the season before falling to Stillwater 4-3 on Friday. The Bears were No. 5 in the Star-Tribune’s state pre-season rankings for all classes.

The Bears beat Roseville Area 6-3 as Lilly Martin struck out 16 batters and allowed just three hits. Allie Castro was 3-for-4 (two RBI’s), Camille Castro 2-for-4 (two runs), Anessa Pena 2-for-4 (run, RBI).

Martin gave up 10 hits against Woodbury but struck out 12 and the Bears won 4-3. Castro and Anessa Pena had two hits each.

The Bears then won a pitchers duel 1-0 over Park. Martin spun a two-hitter with nine strikeouts. Park’s Ava Youngquist gave up just one hit, a single by Maddie Pearson, and one walk, to Pena, who scored the lone run on Lauren Simmons sac fly.

Mackenzie Zrust powered Stillwater (2-2) over the Bears with a two-run homer and RBI double. Martin allowed only one other hit. Stillwater’s Ella Weisser spaced out nine hits and three walks. Teagan Kotzmacher was 3-for-4 (two RBI run) and Castro was 2-for-3 (RBI).



JON NAMYST | CONTRIBUTED

Cooper Sanders gets a face-full of dust as he scores with a head-first slide against Osseo.

Cougar 9 has loss, two wins

Centennial lost its baseball opener to Andover 9-5 on Tuesday, then defeated Minneapolis Roosevelt 5-2 on Wednesday and Osseo 16-6 on Thursday, in the first week of competition.

Against Andover, pitching three innings each were Casey Morris (three runs) and Tommy Meyer (six runs). Calvin Coppersmith, Logan Mielke, Matthew Siegler and Jaden Anderson

had RBI’s.

Against Roosevelt, Siegler got the win, pitching 2 2/3 innings (no runs, four strikeouts). Anderson threw 4 2/3 innings (two runs, four strikeouts). Cooper Sanders belted a solo home run. Siegler had a double and two RBI’s, and Ethan Lewis an RBI single.

Bruce Strand



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Kendall Cochran

Centennial Softball
April 16, 2026

Kendall Cochran, Centennial softball junior shortstop, had a productive first week of the season at the plate, going 3-for-7 with a home run, four walks, seven runs and nine stolen bases. Cochran has committed to a Division I team, University of St. Thomas. Coach Rick Thomas said she stands out for her outstanding athletic ability in every game. Cochran made all-conference in ninth and 10th grades. She has a .303 career batting average and 13 home runs.



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TRAIL: Hugo City Council to front costs with hope of Washington County contribution

FROM PAGE 1

Improvement Project consists of full-depth pavement removal, paving, mill and overlay improvements, spot curb and gutter replacement, trail improvements, street lighting improvements and minor utility improvements along 140th Street N., Fenway Boulevard, and 130th Street N, all west of Highway 61. (See "Council sets public hearing for street project," The Citizen, Nov. 28, 2025.)

As a part of the project, the city would like to replace the section of the city trail that runs along the west side of Fenway Boulevard. The existing concrete walkway along the south side of 140th Street N. is also proposed to be replaced. Currently, there is no trail along 130th Street N. on the west side of Highway 61, but a trail is planned along the north side of the street to line up with the city trail on the east side of the highway.

Washington County is estimating that the trail project from 130th to 120th Street will cost \$3,199,000. Of that total, approximately \$776,000 could be the city's share, but all of that has yet to be worked out.

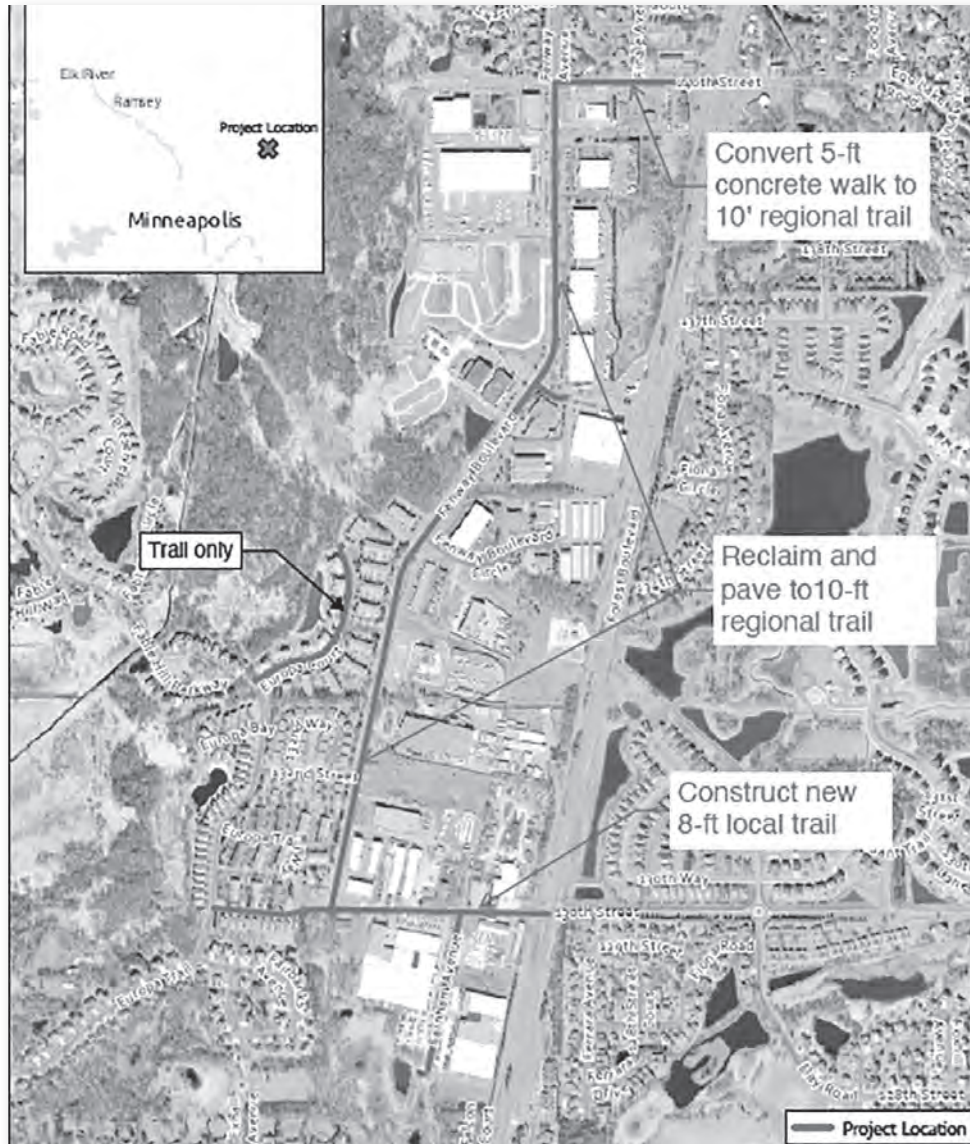
The city of Hugo is leading the portion of the project from 140th Street to 130th Street. Erichson said the city is hoping the county will pick up \$464,000 of the bill and the city would be responsible for \$90,000.

Erichson explained that the county has agreed to fund the trail upgrades along 140th Street, but when it comes to the trail along Fenway Boulevard, the county reverts to its turnback policy, which says they will take over that portion of the trail, but it needs to be improved first.

"We don't necessarily feel like the roadway turnback policy would be analogous to a trail," Erichson said. "We've talked a little bit about if the state were to take over a county roadway and introduce that into their highway system, they wouldn't ask the county to upgrade it first."

One of the challenges is that the two project timelines don't necessarily line up. Washington County just kicked off the design phase for the regional trail and construction of the one-mile gap in the trail. (See "Regional trail: Public invited to open house," The Citizen, April 2.) The city's project is slated for construction this year, whereas the county is hoping for construction on its portion of the trail in 2027 or 2028.

"We are a little bit ahead of them in



As a part of this year's street project in the Bald Eagle Industrial Park, the city is proposing some trail improvements on 130th Street, 120th Street, Europa Court and Fenway Boulevard.

CONTRIBUTED

the process, and so I think it makes it a little bit challenging for them," Erichson noted. "They don't want to make some investments if they are not certain that this will become a regional trail because they haven't gotten to the point where they have acquired right of way. They aren't quite there yet with full knowledge that they are going to meet that and have reservations about contributing ... because they don't know if that is actually going to come to fruition."

That right of way acquisition is necessary south of 130th Street N.; there is no easement beyond a platted extension of Fenway Boulevard that terminates about 500 feet south of 130th

Street N. Any trail extension through to Falcon Court N. would cross private property owned by Wilson Tool and the Bald Eagle Estates townhome community's homeowners association.

Erichson added that a draft joint powers agreement (JPA) is in place with the county, but an agreement on how to fund the segments of the trail has yet to be reached. He said it was unlikely that a JPA would be in place by the time the council awards a contract in May.

Erichson laid out a couple of options for the council:

- The city could exclude the trail improvements from the street project altogether.

• The city could go out for bids on the project and ultimately decide not to move forward with the bid alternates for the trail segments.

• The city could move forward with the trail improvements and document all of the costs for continuing and future negotiations with the county.

"The timing is right. We will have a project that is under construction. We will have crews mobilized to the site and paving equipment on site. We have half the roadway shut down to allow ease of construction, so it makes a lot of sense and certainly would be more cost-effective for both the city and the county," Erichson said.

Council Member Becky Petryk wanted to confirm that if the city moved forward with trail improvements using city funds, it would not be an additional assessment to property owners. Erichson confirmed that funds would come from the city's budget and that the city does not currently assess for trail improvements.

Mayor Tom Weidt said he was supportive of moving forward with the third option. "We are never going to do a project cheaper than we are today. This will benefit the citizens of Hugo. It is not ideal that we are fronting the money. It certainly would be nice for the county to step up and do this, but I know that the timing of their project and our project is not lined up and I'm willing for the benefit of the taxpayers in the city of Hugo and the taxpayers in Washington County, to do it as part of this project because it just makes common sense to ... spend the money and then work with them to get our money back for the taxpayers of Hugo at a later date. I think that makes perfect sense."

Council Member Mike Miron said he agreed. "If this were any other project, we would improve that trail with the road because that's how we do things to be efficient with the taxpayers' money," he said. "I do think there is a benefit. It is only going to be more expensive as we move forward."

The council authorized city staff to formalize its position in a letter to the county and continue those discussions.

"We just need to continue our dialogue on that. We have made great progress so far, and we have a little bit further to go," Erichson said.

Managing Editor Shannon Granholm can be reached at 651-407-1227 or citizen-news@presspubs.com.

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CITY OF HUGO MINNESOTA

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ASSESSMENTS 2026 BALD EAGLE INDUSTRIAL PARK AREA STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

To Whom It May Concern:

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2026, to consider and possibly adopt, the proposed assessment against abutting property for the 2026 Bald Eagle Industrial Park Area Street Project. Adoption by the City Council of the proposed assessment may occur at the hearing.

The proposed assessment roll is on file for public inspection at the City Clerk's office. The total amount of the proposed assessment is \$1,021,356.84. Such assessment is proposed to be payable in equal annual installments extending over a period of 10 years, the first of the installments to be payable on or before the first Monday in January, 2027, and will bear interest at the rate of 4.55% per annum from November 15, 2026. To the first installment shall be added interest on the entire assessment from November 15, 2026 to December 31, 2026. To each subsequent installment when due shall be added interest for one year on all unpaid installments.

A property owner may at any time prior to certification of the assessment to the county auditor, pay the entire assessment on such property, with interest accrued to the date of payment, to the City of Hugo. No interest shall be charged if the entire assessment is paid within 30 days from adoption of this assessment. A property owner may at any time thereafter, pay to the City of Hugo the entire amount of the assessment remaining unpaid, with interest accrued to December 31 of the year in which such payment is made. Such payment must be made before November 15 or interest will be charged through December 31 of the succeeding year. If a property owner decides not to prepay the assessment before the date given above the rate of interest that will apply is 4.55% per year. The right to partially prepay the assessment is not available.

Written or oral objections will be considered at the meeting. No appeal may be taken as to the amount of an assessment unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner is filed with the City Clerk prior to the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing. The City Council may upon such notice consider any objection to the amount of a proposed individual assessment at an adjourned meeting upon such further

notice to the affected property owners as it deems advisable.

An owner may appeal an assessment to district court pursuant to Minn. Stat. 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal upon the Mayor or City Clerk within 30 days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the district court within ten days after service upon the Mayor or City Clerk.

Under Minn. Stat. 435.193 to 435.195, the City Council may, in its discretion, defer the payment of this special assessment for any homestead property owned by a person 65 years of age or older for whom it would be a hardship to make the payments. When deferment of the special assessment has been granted and is terminated for any reason provided in that law, all amounts accumulated plus applicable interest become due. Any assessed property owner meeting the requirements of this law and the resolution adopted under it may, within 30 days of the adoption of the assessment, apply to the City Clerk for the prescribed form for such deferral of payment of this special assessment on his property.

Dated this 6th day of April, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Michele Lindau, City Clerk

City of Hugo

Washington County, Minnesota

Published two times in The Citizen on April 16 and 30, 2026.

CITY OF HUGO PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Hugo will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2026, to consider the 2026 Bald Eagle Industrial Park Area Street Improvement Project.

The project includes full-depth pavement removal, paving, mill and overlay improvements, spot curb and gutter replacement, trail improvements, street lighting improvements, and minor utility improvements on the following streets:

- 130th Street N from Europa Trail to Forest Blvd N / Trunk Highway 61 (TH 61)
- Farnham Avenue N from the south terminus to 130th Street N
- Fenway Blvd N from 130th Street N to 140th Street N
- 140th Street from Fenway Blvd N to Forest Blvd / TH 61
- Fenway Blvd Court N from Fenway Blvd to its eastern terminus

Improvements made would assess benefited properties for all or a portion of the improvement, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429 and pursuant

to Minn. Stat. §§ 429.011 to 429.111. The estimated cost of the improvement is \$4.7 million. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessment will be available at the hearing. The meeting will be held at the City of Hugo City Hall, 14669 Fitzgerald Avenue North, Hugo, MN 55038. Such persons wishing to comment on the proposed improvement will be heard at this meeting. Comments can also be submitted in writing to City Clerk Michele Lindau prior to the meeting.

Bryan Bear, City Administrator

Published two times in The Citizen on April 16 and 30, 2026.

CITY OF HUGO, MINNESOTA PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY ALTERNATIVE URBAN AREA WIDE REVIEW FOR THE 165TH STREET AREA

As the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU), the City of Hugo has determined that an Alternative Urban Area Wide Review (AUAR) is required for development within the 165th Street Area. The purpose of an AUAR is to evaluate the potential for environmental effects from development of potential land uses within a specific geographic area and identify mitigation measures to address anticipated impacts. The AUAR evaluates three development land use scenarios, one that is consistent with the Hugo 2040 Comprehensive Plan and two others that include varying amounts of residential, mixed use, and industrial development. The AUAR study area encompasses approximately 784 acres of land in the northwest portion of Hugo. The study area includes 165th Street and is generally bounded by Elmcrest Avenue to the west and Oneka Lake to the east.

The public is invited to review and provide comments on the Draft AUAR and mitigation plan. The Draft AUAR document is available for review at Hugo City Hall during normal business hours and online at <https://www.ci.hugo.mn.us/index.asp?SEC=9FCE4D-0A13-4FD9-82BF-9EE60D12AD4B> (or <https://tinyurl.com/HugoAUAR>). The 30-day comment period will begin on April 14, 2026. Comments will be accepted through 4:00 PM on May 14, 2026, and should be addressed to:

Rachel Juba, Community Development Director

14669 Fitzgerald Avenue N, Hugo, MN 55038

RJuba@ci.hugo.mn.us

Published one time in The Citizen on April 16, 2026.

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- Beer Selection at a Bar
- Beer Selection at Liquor Store
- Bloody Mary
- Brat/Hot Dog
- Breakfast
- Brewery
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- Cocktail at a Bar/Restaurant
- Cheese Curds
- Chicken
- Chicken Wings
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- Fajitas
- Fast Food
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- Ice Cream Cone
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- Lasagna
- Lunch
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- Pizza
- Restaurant
- Salad

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April 29 - May 17

Hugo Fire Department sees call volume increase

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

HUGO — For the past decade, the fire department has seen an increase in the annual number of calls it responds to. Last year was no exception.

In 2025, the Hugo Fire Department (HFD) had a total of 488 calls, which represents an increase of 77 calls from 2024.

“That’s a 19% increase. Typically, we run about an 8% increase,” said Fire Chief Jim Compton Jr. He noted statistics from neighboring departments for 2025 that included an 18.5% increase from 2024 in Stillwater; 4.5% in Mahtomedi; 12.7% in Lake Elmo; and 9.3% in Forest Lake. “Mahtomedi was quite a bit lower than average, but the rest of us were up quite a bit,” he said.

Of those 488 calls to which HFD responded, there were 204 medical (assisting MHealth Fairview EMS), 128 fire and service, 82 alarms, 55 motor vehicle accidents (rescue) and 19 mutual aid calls.

Compton pointed out that the fire department only responds to major medical calls and lift assists. He said 42% of HFD’s calls were medical, but the average percentage of calls that are medical within fire service is around 80%. He explained that last October, the department eliminated some of the medical calls it responded to. Mainly, the department stopped responding to mutual aid ambulance calls because most of the time, the other responding agency beat HFD to the call.

“We didn’t feel like we were bringing much value to that call,” Compton explained. “We want to bring value to

these calls if we are going to respond to them, so that’s why we made that decision ... By shaving off a few different call types, I think we are going to improve these increases into the next year.”

City Council Member Becky Petryk wanted to know more about the department’s response to lift assist calls. Compton noted that for most lift assist calls that HFD responds to, crews arrive on the scene after the sheriff’s office and MHealth arrive.

“It can be taxing for some departments, and there are some cities that charge for that kind of thing. We are not asking for that. We are not pursuing that. We want to make sure that people get the help that they need.”

The number of alarm calls increased from 56 in 2024 to 82 in 2025. Compton attributed the increase to the age of homes and the type of construction in the area. “As big developments come online, as alarms age out, they start to fail,” he said. “We are continually trying to educate the residents as we get to these houses for issues with their alarms. The department is currently offering carbon monoxide alarms to residents through a partnership with the State Fire Marshal’s Division.” (See more information on page 6.)

HFD responded to 36 structure fires in 2025 compared to 25 the year prior. Of those structure fires in 2025, 17 of those were within Hugo and 19 were outside of the city, where Hugo responds through mutual aid agreements.

Motor vehicle accident calls were also up. HFD responded to 55 motor vehicle accidents in 2025 compared to 29 motor vehicle accidents the year before.

In 2025, July was the busiest month for calls (49) followed by May (48) and January (46). The slowest month in terms of calls was October (31). The busiest time of day was from 1 to 2 p.m. and 3 to 4 p.m., tied at 36 calls, followed by from 5 to 6 p.m. and 8 to 9 p.m. with 32 calls. In 2025, Wednesdays were the busiest day of the week at 79 calls, followed by Sunday and Monday with 75 calls each.

In 2025, HFD completed 3,602 training hours. It also finished the renovation of the 27-year-old fire station, which included replacing the SCBA fill station, cleaning/ painting the apparatus bay, finishing the office remodel and adding work stations.

“We did roughly over \$100,000 of improvements to the fire station over the last year,” Compton said. “I’m proud to say that we only spent that, because many other departments are spending tens of millions of dollars on theirs.”

Compton noted that the areas within the station where firefighters can work remotely during the day have been popular. They have proven to be an effective strategy for quick responses to daytime calls. He explained that when a fire broke out at a home on 151st Street N. back in February he, as well as three other firefighters, were all working remotely at the station and were able to get water on the fire within 7 minutes of the call coming in. “That’s full-time staff numbers on a response,” Compton said. “The next truck was on scene in 11 minutes. We were able to save that house because of that model.”

Council Member Ben Krull suggested the fire department share that insight with other neighboring departments.

2025 MHealth Fairview ambulance service annual report highlights

- Responded to 5,136 calls in its northern region, which represents an increase of 7.4% from 2024. Of those 5,136 calls, 1,029 of them were within the city of Hugo, which represents a 6.9% increase from 2024.

- Provided 291 mutual aid responses and received assistance on 298 calls.

- In the region, the average emergency response time was 8 minutes and 11 seconds; the average combined response time (emergency and nonemergency) was 8 minutes and 49 seconds. In the city of Hugo, those times were 7 minutes and 49 seconds for emergency and 8 minutes and 35 seconds for combined.

Compton said HFD has done so, and even had some representatives from other departments tour the Hugo station to see it in person.

Another success for 2025 was that the department was able to save two people’s lives who were experiencing cardiac arrest. The firefighters involved in those saves will be honored at a future council meeting.

So far in 2026, call volumes are down. Compton noted that at the end of March, HFD was where it was in terms of call volume for the first two months of 2025.

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Arts and CULTURE 2026

EMERGING ARTIST: ELI MURPHY

BY LOGAN GION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

White Bear Lake Area High School Theater's production of "Dear Evan Hansen" holds the distinction of being the first in the area to stage the show's teen version. It also marks the school's first spring musical in over a decade. For the show's star, Director Braylon Lane needed someone seasoned and dependable. Enter Eli Murphy, a White Bear senior and PSEO student at University of Northwestern St. Paul, who has participated in 24 shows since first grade.

Murphy started acting in shows at Lincoln Elementary, then branched out to Children's Performing Arts, playing Kristoff in "Frozen Jr." and Buddy in "Elf The Musical." In eighth grade, Murphy was SpongeBob SquarePants in White Bear's middle school musical, a role he considers a turning point.

"I guess that was my first big role, and



Eli Murphy

CONTRIBUTED

I didn't know too much," Murphy said. "I just watched the proshot [professionally

recorded live musical] of Ethan Slater doing his performance and piggybacked off of what he was doing." After that role, Murphy began putting more of himself into his roles.

Playing Evan Hansen, however, revealed to Murphy a new hurdle: Putting too much of oneself into a character. "Sometimes you're super similar to this character, but there's still a fine line you have to draw," Murphy described. "You can incorporate yourself into this character, but you also have to make sure that it's separate." To ensure this happens, Murphy focused on the differences between himself and his character. "We do have some similarities. Like, he has mental health issues, and I have ADHD and dyslexia. That's a similarity that I have a connection to," Murphy explained. "But I think that's a good spot where I can draw a line. I don't have to go too far into immersing myself with the character."

Still, Murphy feels that inhabiting his

character has given him a different perspective. "This is the most serious show I've done," he stated. "I can understand why [Evan's] feeling this way ... a lot more than I would have in the past."

Going forward, Murphy plans to join a new theater community at University of Northwestern, St. Paul this autumn. "I've done two shows with them so far ..." Murphy stated, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," that was just this December, and then I was just recently in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which was my first Shakespeare show."

Even after 24 shows, Murphy keeps finding new and deeper experiences. By bringing a better understanding of his characters to his performances, Murphy believes he better understands himself. Murphy remarked, "I think theater helps me show people who I am more. Theater, to me, it's a family, for sure. It's such a welcoming community."

CENTURY COLLEGE BRINGS THE LAUGHS ON WITH 'NOISES OFF'

BY LOGAN GION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Noises Off," a play which the New York Post once called "the funniest farce ever written," is coming to Century College this weekend. Director Paul Aberasturi explained that Century's theater program is staging the show for two reasons. First, the show is funny. "Because of everything in our world ... people sometimes don't want to have to think about social and moralistic issues when they go to the theater. They like to go to theater because people love to laugh," Aberasturi commented. "That is something that has helped throughout time."

Just because a show is funny, though, doesn't mean it is easy. "Noises Off" requires precise rhythm and slapstick so advanced Aberasturi brought in a stunt coordinator. "In this play, when I have characters flying over the couch backward or falling headfirst and rolling, I said, 'Okay, let's get this done right,'" Aberasturi said.

Performances are another area Aberasturi carefully calibrated. Today's actors, who have been raised on television and movies, are not used to performing to the back row of a theater. For farce especially, cast members' actions have to be even more larger than life. "We don't want to be too big because the audiences are going to think we're overacting," Aberasturi explained. "You've got to be honest and sincere, but you've got

to be exaggerated times 10, and every single moment is that life-or-death situation."

The gravity with which the actors treat the situations in which they find themselves adds to the absurdity. "Noises Off" is simply a play about putting on a play. The three acts of the show are simply the same one-act play, "Nothing On," repeated three times. In Act 1, the audience views the show-within-the-show's dress rehearsal. Then, in Act 2, the crew turns the set 180 degrees. "The set is reversed, and the audience gets to see what's happening from behind the scenes," Aberasturi revealed. "Act 2 is so physical and so funny. There's so much going on because of madcap character relationships and mishaps." Finally, in Act 3, the set is turned back, and the audience sees the show again near the end of its fictional run.

All of this technical craftsmanship is possible because of Century College's newly remodeled theater, which held its grand opening last November.

The second reason, then, Century College is staging "Noises Off," is to show the community at large the extent of its theater program's capabilities. Just because a play is light does not mean its artisans should be taken lightly.

Century College presents "Noises Off," April 17-26 at Century College Performing & Visual Arts Theatre West Campus, 3401 East County Line N., White Bear Lake. For tickets, visit century.edu/campus-life/fine-performing-arts/theatre.

CHILDREN'S PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES NEW SEASON, NEW WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

BY LOGAN GION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Twenty dollars buys an actor a costume at Children's Performing Arts (CPA), but a young performer who participates in a well-made show learns confidence, socialization and teamwork—skills that last a lifetime and help young people become dependable members of the community. Illustrating this positive domino effect is the goal of "It Starts with You," CPA's spring giving campaign.

"We're hoping to be able to raise sustaining funds for CPA. We're hoping to get some recurring donors. We're hoping to build more community," stated CPA Production and Operations Manager Laura Long. The two-month campaign is set to kick off at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, during CPA's season

announcement. The event will also feature performances from members of CPA's student leadership committee as well as details of a special event at the campaign's close in June.

For Long, this campaign is about offering students accessibility and opportunity. Since COVID, CPA has steadily rebuilt its foundation and structure. Now, its looking to include children in its programs whose families cannot pay the full membership fee. "You can be a sustaining donor that helps provide everything for CPA, or you can just help us buy a costume or help us provide a teaching artist for a class," Long described.

While students who take classes or participate in shows at CPA learn performance skills, Long reported that children often describe CPA as a place where they feel they belong. "It's a place where you can build friendships and

where you can learn skills," Long said. "But not only acting skills, but really life skills, social skills ... when you are an actor in a show, it forces you to see a perspective of a totally different person when you're playing a character."

Finally, Long believes that sense of belonging and friendship allows CPA's students to learn teamwork. "Some kids do multiple shows, so they're working with multiple, different groups of people. It's helping them in their schools. It's helping them if they go to church. It's helping them if they are trying to get a job—how to cohesively create something."

Children's Performing Arts' 2026-2027 Season Announcement Party is from 3-4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Hanifl Performing Arts Center, 4941 Long Ave., White Bear Lake. Visit childrensperformingartsnmn.org for more details.

CALENDAR

'HADESTOWN: TEEN EDITION'

Location: Chautauqua Fine Arts Center, 8000 75th St. N., Mahtomedi
Dates: 7 p.m. April 23-April 25; 1 p.m. April 26

Details: The teen version of the 2019 Tony winner for Best Musical comes to the Mahtomedi High School stage. This retelling of the Orpheus and Eurydice Greek myth is a jazz-inflected folk opera that delivers a deeply resonant and defiantly hopeful theatrical experience. "Hadestown" invites audiences on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back.

'MATILDA JR.'

Location: Central Middle School Community Auditorium, 4857 Bloom Ave., White Bear Lake
Dates: 7 p.m. April 23-24; 1 p.m. April 25

Details: Rebellion is high in Matilda Jr. This story of a girl who dreams of a better life and the children she inspires will have audiences rooting for the "revolting children" who are out to teach the grown-ups a lesson. Packed with high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs, Matilda Jr. is a joyous girl-power romp.

'ONCE UPON A MATTRESS'

Location: Hanifl Performing Arts Center, 4941 Long Ave., White Bear Lake
Dates: April 24- May 17

Details: The classic fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea" gets a hilarious twist in this raucous and romantic musical comedy. Packed with catchy tunes, laugh-out-loud moments, and a cast of colorful characters, "Once Upon a Mattress" is a rockin' musical adventure.

'HEART 4 ART'

Location: White Bear Center for the Arts, 4971 Long Ave., White Bear Lake
Dates: 5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7
Details: WBCA's annual fundraising event, "Heart 4 Art," is an inspiring celebration designed to connect and empower our creative community.