



Scan for deals on page 2

THE CITIZEN

SINCE 1998

Press Publications
4779 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 9
CIRCLE PINES, MN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER, 29
VOL. 23 NO. 22 www.readthecitizen.com \$1.50



Daylight Savings
ends on Nov. 1

SPOTTED: See spooky Halloween decorations from around town **PAGE 9**



CITY OF HUGO | CONTRIBUTED

The city of Hugo is hoping to secure Minnesota Local Bridge Replacement program funds to replace the bridge within the Fable Hill neighborhood in 2027.

City of Hugo gears up for next street project

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

Next on the city's docket for street projects will most likely be the Fable Hill neighborhood.

The city council will conduct a public hearing and consider approval of the final design for the project in November.

The council authorized the preparation of the feasibility study for the Fable Hill Street Improvement Project back in August. The project addresses deteriorating street conditions within the Fable Hill neighborhood which were originally constructed in 2004, according to City Engineer Mark Erichson. The project would include partial reconstruction and mill and overlay techniques, spot curb and gutter replacement, trail replacement, city owned sidewalk repairs, sanitary sewer repairs and other minor drainage and

SEE FABLE HILL, PAGE 14



PHOTOS BY SHANNON GRANHOLM | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

Festival Foods in Hugo recently hosted its annual Boo Bash event. For more Halloween fun, see the What's Happening section on page 3.

Judge rules against cities challenging conditions

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

A new ruling marks the latest development in a years-long legal battle over groundwater pumping and water levels in White Bear Lake, a dispute that has raised difficult questions about how the state should protect the lake while ensuring reliable drinking-water supplies for northeast metro communities.

The decision comes as cities in the northeast metro face questions about

groundwater use, conservation requirements and the potential shift to alternative water sources.

Earlier this month, Administrative Law Judge Megan J. McKenzie issued his Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in the matter of amendments to various water appropriation permits (CAH 25-2002-37733).

Seventeen water appropriation permit holders sought contested case hearings on the permit amendments, but only seven municipal permit holders proceed-

ed to an evidentiary hearing, including Oakdale, Mahtomedi, White Bear Lake, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Lino Lakes and Vadnais Heights. Every permit holder did not challenge the lawfulness of each of the four conditions.

Judge McKenzie evaluated whether it was reasonable for the appealing cities to meet conditions attached to water appropriation permits that were amended back in 2018 following lengthy litigation in Minnesota's district and appeal courts. McKenzie found that "it is reasonable

and feasible" for all the appellant permit holders to meet all four conditions. In other words, the cities did not show that it is unreasonable or unfeasible to meet those conditions.

Hugo City Administrator Bryan Bear said the city is still reviewing the ruling from the administrative law judge and in the coming weeks, the city council will decide if it wants to appeal that ruling.

"Unless a solution is agreed to, the con-

SEE LAKE LEVEL, PAGE 15

\$5 OFF ANY purchase of \$25 or more
excludes alcohol
Not valid with any other offers Expires 9/30/26
(651) 407-1094 • 7095 20th Ave S • Centerville, MN | Voted Best Pizza!

Pizza & Salad
Lunch Buffet
\$11.95
M-F from 11am - 2pm
WISEGUYS
PIZZA & PUB

WINNER NNER NNER NNER
2023 2022 2021 2020

Lebens
FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1923
FLORAL & GARDEN CENTER
FLOWERS FOR EVERY OCCASION
16155 Forest Blvd, Hugo (Highway 61) • Visit us On [f](#) • 651-488-6707



CIRCULATION
651-407-1234
ppcirc@presspubs.com

NEWS
651-407-1200
citizennews@presspubs.com

ADVERTISING
651-407-1200
marketing@presspubs.com

CLASSIFIED
651-407-1250
classified@presspubs.com

PRODUCTION
651-407-1253
artmanager@presspubs.com



WASHINGTON COUNTY BRIEFS

County Board approves design contract for County Road 50, Highway 61 project

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$449,777 contract with HDR Engineering Inc for final design services on the County Road 50 (202nd Street North) and Trunk Highway 61 intersection improvement project.

The project, located in Forest Lake, will construct a new roundabout at the intersection of County Road 50 and Highway 61 to improve traffic operations and safety. The project began preliminary design in April 2025, and it has now progressed to the final design phase in preparation for construction. This project is a cooperative effort between Washington County, the city of Forest Lake, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Funding has been secured through the Regional Solicitation program (\$1,674,880), MnDOT's Local Partnership Program (\$1,000,000), and is included in Representative Stauber's Community Project Funding list with the Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations bill (\$2,000,000).

In July 2026, the county issued a request for proposals to provide final design services. HDR Engineering Inc. was selected. The project scope includes final road design, stormwater design, utility coordination, environmental review and coordination, and preparation of plans and specifications.

County Board sets public hearing on the 2027 fee schedule

The Washington County Board of Commissioners set a public hearing for Nov. 10 to consider revisions to Wash-

ington County's fee schedule.

The county's fee schedule establishes the amounts of fees to be charged for fee-based county services. The fee schedule is updated annually. By law, the fee schedule can only be adopted after holding a public hearing. The board will consider adopting the 2027 fee schedule at its Nov. 17 meeting.

County continues participation in Snowmobile Trails Assistance Program

The Washington County Board of Commissioners voted to continue county participation in the Snowmobile Trails Assistance Program and will administer grant funding for the Star Trail Association.

The Star Trail Association uses funds from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources snowmobile trail maintenance and grooming grants-in-aid program to cover the cost of trail maintenance. However, because the snowmobile club cannot receive the funds directly, Washington County sponsors the club and acts as a pass-through agency.

The Washington County Board first entered into a county/club agreement with the Star Trail Association on July 31, 1991. The DNR requires a board resolution each year to facilitate the official involvement of the county.

The term of the grant will be from the date of the DNR approval to June 30, 2027. All grant revenue received by the county on behalf of the Star Trail Association will be forwarded to the club as a reimbursement for costs expended for trail maintenance during the 2026-2027 snow season.

Share your input on Washington County's draft Climate Action Plan

Washington County has developed a draft climate action plan and wants to hear from residents. Individuals and organizations can share feedback on the draft plan through Nov. 15. Input will help ensure the final climate action plan reflects community needs and priorities.

The climate action plan will guide the county's response to the impacts of climate change. The plan looks at how weather patterns and the environment in Washington County are changing now and will change in the future. It also offers clear steps to reduce emissions and prepare for those changes.

Since the planning process began in summer 2025, community members have shared their priorities for climate action and provided feedback on draft goals and strategies. That input has helped shape the draft climate action plan. To read the draft plan and submit your feedback, visit WashingtonCountyMN.gov/ClimateActionPlan.

Washington County to light buildings green in recognition and honor of veterans

From Nov. 4-11, Washington County will illuminate several county buildings in green for Operation Green Light for Veterans. Operation green light is a nationwide initiative led by the National Association of Counties to honor veterans and raise awareness about resources available to them and their families.

Throughout the week, the entrances of various Washington County government buildings will be lit green including the Washington County Government Center, county courthouse, law

enforcement center and service centers in Woodbury, Cottage Grove and Forest Lake. This show of support recognizes veterans' contributions and highlight services provided at the county, state, and federal levels.

Washington County is home to approximately 13,000 veterans, many of whom face challenges related to employment, housing, education and healthcare.

Residents, businesses and other organizations are encouraged to participate in Operation Green Light for Veterans by simply changing one light bulb inside or outside their home to a green bulb. By shining a green light, we let our veterans know that they are seen, appreciated and supported, and we open conversations about the needs of veterans and the services that support veteran communities.

County Board sets two public hearings for November 17

The Washington County Board of Commissioners has set two public hearings for Nov. 17. The first hearing will be to consider the county's 2027-2031 capital improvement plan. During the public hearing, the county board will hear public comments and consider any recommended changes to the draft CIP. The board will consider adopting the 2027-2031 capital improvement plan at its Dec. 15 meeting.

The second hearing for Nov. 17 will consider an update to the eligibility list associated with the county's current transportation sales, use and excise tax, including shifting more funding to transportation from transit projects. The board will consider adopting the updated list at its Dec. 15 meeting.

BUSINESS BRIEF

Local nonprofit launches program for retired racehorses

EquiKare has launched Redemption Run, a nonprofit program to rehabilitate, retrain and rehome retired Standardbred racehorses, including horses leaving Minnesota's harness racing circuit.

The program will provide veterinary evaluations, rehabilitation, retraining for careers in riding or driving, and placement with suitable adoptive homes. Follow-up support and education about transitioning horses from racing are also part of the initiative.

Karrie Cable Rodriguez, founder of EquiKare and director of Redemption Run, brings experience in equine rehabilitation and Minnesota's racing industry. She previously directed Racehorse Reimagined, an aftercare program associated with This Old Horse.

The program aims to help retired harness horses transition into second careers as riding or driving horses, sport partners or companions. Redemption Run is located on the border of Hugo and White Bear Lake along Elmcrest Avenue. For more information, visit <https://equikarellc.com>



CONTRIBUTED

HEATING • AIR • PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL

DAIKIN

*Servicing all brands

Licensed, Bonded, Insured

FREE TRIP CHARGE

With repair

\$109 value!

Valid during regular business hours • Expires 11/30/26

Now offering electrical services!

24/7 Emergency Service

Serving the St. Paul and Surrounding Area

651-426-5220

Read our reviews and check out our current promotions at www.krinkies.com

When you need us, we are here to help.

Readers' Choice 2026 WINNER

Best of the Press

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

MasterCard VISA

SCANDIA CLINIC

Powered by Osceola Medical Center

age well.
live better.

Visit with our clinicians, meet local health resources, and even complete your annual **Medicare Wellness Visit** (if you're due)!

Free event for elders (65+) who want to get the most out of Medicare.

SCANDIA CLINIC • DEC 03 • 8AM-5PM

SIGN UP NOW!

CALL 715-294-5680 OR SCAN THE QR to schedule your one-hour time slot!

868675



CONTRIBUTED

FREE PARK ENTRY DAY

When: Nov. 3
Where: All Washington County Parks
Details: Free entry into all Washington County Parks on the first Tuesday of every month. No vehicle permit required.
Contact: washcoparks.com

ONGOING EVENTS

HUGO SENIOR CITIZENS PLAY ‘500’

When: 12: 45 p.m. Oct.29 and Nov. 5, and every 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursday of each month.
Where: Rice Lake Centre in Hugo, 6900 137th St. N.
Details: Games begin promptly at 12:45 p.m. Refreshments and coffee will be served. All senior citizens from the area are invited.
Contact: Jim at 763-639-4756 or allenj4992@gmail.com.

CRIBBAGE

When: 1 p.m. Nov. 2, and every 1st & 4th Monday of each month.
Where: Rice Lake Centre in Hugo, 6900 137th St. N.
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

HUGO SENIOR CLUB MEETING

When: 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16, and every 3rd Monday of every other month.
Where: Rice Lake Centre in Hugo, 6900 137th St. N.
Details: The meeting will include planning activities for future months and our monthly luncheons. Coffee and refreshments will be

served. Games will be played after the meeting.
Contact: Jim at 763-639-4756 or allenj4992@gmail.com.

CURRENT EVENTS

THE \$40 TRILLION DEBT

When: 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29
Where: Parkview United Methodist Church, 3737 Bellaire Ave., White Bear Lake
Details: Nonpartisan community event featuring presentation by U of M economist, Professor Hannes Malmberg on what the national debt means for social security, Medicare, Medicaid and long-term care.

AUTHOR TALK: GIRLS IN A WORLD AT WAR

When: 2-3:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30
Where: Gladstone Community Center, 1945 Manton St., Maplewood
Details: Join Peggy Munro as she shares her mother's firsthand experiences serving in the Army during WWII. Registration required.
Contact: 651-653-3121

MICK STERLING PRESENTS: BORN TO RUN

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, and 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31
Where: Hanifl Performing Arts Center, 4941 Long Ave., White Bear Lake
Details: Electrifying concert captures the heart, soul and unmistakable sound of Bruce Springsteen and the legendary E St. Band.
Contact: Lakeshoreplayers.org/2627-concert-series

TO REMEMBER IS TO BEGIN: A CONCERT OF REMEMBRANCE

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30
Where: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi
Details: Performance by the National Lutheran Choir features Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms. Tickets online.
Contact: nlca.com

SHREDDING EVENT

When: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5
Where: North Environmental Center, 6065 Headwaters Parkway, Forest Lake
Details: Washington County residents and businesses can drop off up to 6 boxes/30 lbs of documents for shredding and recycling.
Contact: washingtoncountymn.gov/3434/Property-Environment

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

When: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 7
Where: Sunrise Park District Senior Center, 2399 Cedar Ave., White Bear Lake
Details: Handcrafted items made by local senior artisans, including kitchenware, seasonal decorations, knitted goods, jewelry, apparel and bake sale.
Contact: 651-653-3121

BALD EAGLE HALF MARATHON

When: 8 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 7
Where: Bald Eagle Recreation Area, 5767 Hugo Road, White Bear Township
Details: Scenic fall race is a 13.1 mile loop around the lake and countryside, with a pancake breakfast at the finish. Registration information online.
Contact: mmraces.com/baldeaglehalf

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

When: 10-11:30 Thursday, Nov. 12
Where: Sunrise Park District Senior Center, 2399 Cedar Ave., White Bear Lake
Details: Short presentation and refreshments. Registration appreciated.
Contact: 651-653-3121

ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB

When: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15
Where: Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park, 6970 LaMotte Drive, Hugo
Details: Hike around Centerville Lake and through the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, approx. 5 miles.
Contact: stpaulhike.com

TRUNK OR TREAT

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH TRUNK OR TREAT

When: 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29
Where: 4790 Rosemary Way N., Hugo
Contact: 651-444-1144

FIFTH ANNUAL CENTERVILLE ELEMENTARY HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT/TOUCH A TRUCK

When: 9:30-11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 31
Where: 1721 Westview St., Centerville
Contact: 651-792-7933

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT

When: 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31
Where: 6000 148th St. N., Hugo
Contact: 651-429-1975

Catching up with Centennial Cross-Country

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

Most of Centennial High School is empty during MEA break, but this year, the west gym was filled with the scent of slow-cooked apple crumble. This was the prize that awaited the boys and girls Centennial Cross-Country teams as they returned from practice.

“We have a great culture here,” said senior Henry Schwartz. “We have a meet every weekend. Every day, before a meet, we have a pasta feed — ‘cause carbs. We have practice every Saturday in the morning, and we have breakfast at someone’s house. So, we have a lot of team-building.”

Food, however, is not what has kept Schwartz on the team for four years.

“It’s really fun to run with people you know,” he said.

Schwartz’ sentiment was a common refrain. Only one interviewee was new to the team: Lena Weber, an exchange student from Berlin, Germany.

“Everyone is so nice,” Weber said. “The friendships are really close because you see each other every day, and then you have to run. It pushes you through hard things together as friends ... I learned how important support is, to cheer on each other.”



CONTRIBUTED

Nathan Anderson

With a sport like cross-country, there are a lot of people to cheer on.

“My sister is always like, ‘How do you know so many people?’” said senior Brooke Hayes. “It’s because I do cross-country. There’s, like, 40 people on each team.” As Hayes explained this, she motioned her teammate Kinlee Engstrom over.

“She is one of my closest friends on the team, but she’s a sophomore,” Hayes said.

Unlike other high school sports that have grade-level delineations, cross-country accepts grades 7-12 and has co-ed practices.

“It’s pretty common for there to be one head coach for the girls and the boys team, so ... in general, everyone practices together,” said Head Coach Nathan Anderson. “We even have races where they run girls and boys in the same race. At Chisago Lakes, they had a mass start for girls and the boys, varsity and JV.”

THE CITIZEN

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Find the church that fits your needs

THE CHURCH OF
St. Genevieve
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF
CENTERVILLE & HUGO

Celebrate Mass with us!

Saturday at 4:30 pm Parish Community Center
6995 Centerville Rd, Centerville

Sunday at 8:30 am St. John’s Site
14383 Forest Blvd N, Hugo

Sunday at 10:30 am Parish Community Center
6995 Centerville Rd, Centerville

www.stgens.org 651-429-7937

761079

First Presbyterian
Church of White Bear Lake

Join us on Sunday:
10:15 am in-person Worship and
Live-streaming on
YouTube: FPCWBL

5th and Bloom Ave, White Bear Lake • 651-429-3381 • www.fpcwbl.org

761058

9:00 a.m. Worship,
10:30 a.m. Education Hour
for All Ages, Worship and
Bible Study are also available
through our YouTube Channel

The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

NEW LIFE CHURCH - LUTHERAN
6000 N. 148th St. East of HWY 61(next to Hugo Elementary)
651-429-1975 • www.newlifehugo.org

651014

Service times are subject to change. Contact your local church or check church web sites for service time and online service information. To make changes or to advertise here, call 651-407-1200

SEE CROSS COUNTRY, PAGE 10

Why we're considering leaving Facebook

Our newspaper is considering discontinuing its Facebook and Instagram pages because of concerns that Meta's new commercial terms threaten the future of local journalism and local newspapers like The Citizen.



Shannon's Shenanigans
Shannon Granholm

The National Newspaper Association has warned that Meta's revised terms, scheduled to take effect Oct. 30, could give the company broad permission to collect content from websites associated with Facebook and Instagram business accounts. That content could include our news stories, photographs and archives.

The concern is simple. We pay reporters and editors to produce local journalism, and we believe that work should be protected.

Our coverage of local government, schools, businesses, community events and the people who live here takes time, effort and resources. Meta should not be able to benefit from using our content without compensation to our newspaper.

We urge our elected officials to help protect our intellectual property, and we ask our readers to please stand up for the small businesses whose copyrighted materials are being improperly used.

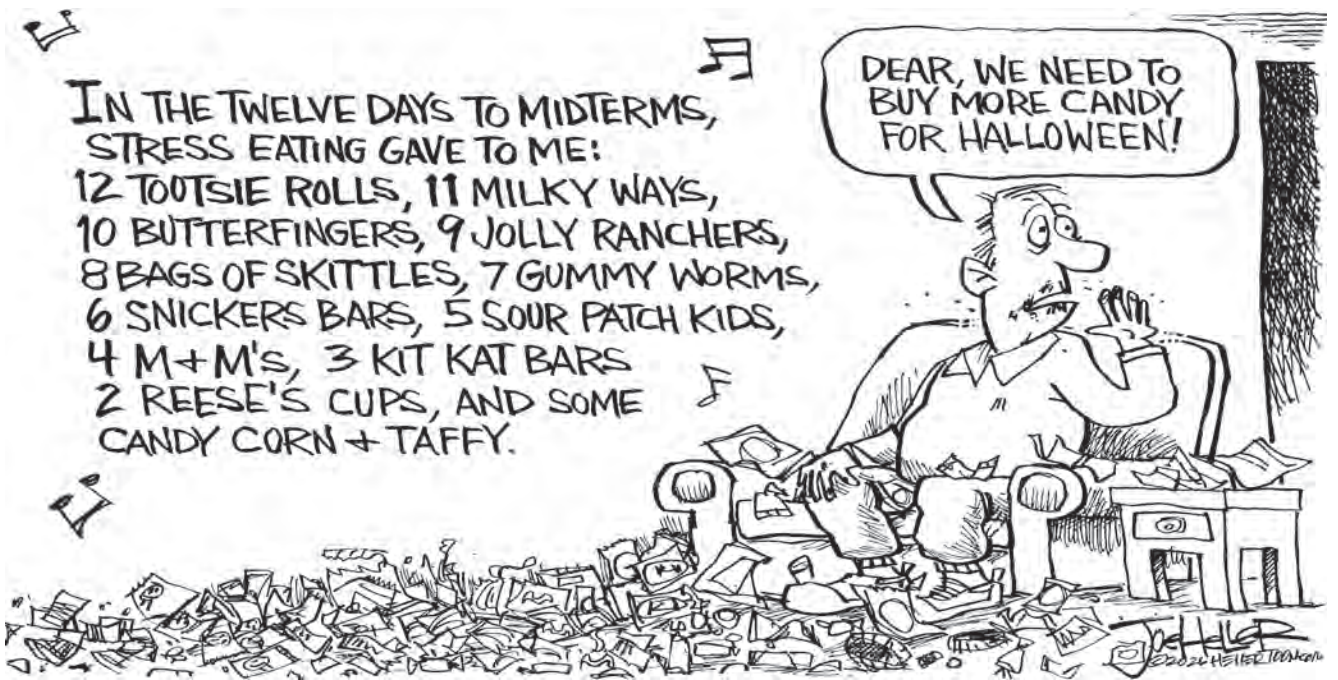
We recognize that Facebook helps us reach readers and share important community news. While no final decision has been made, we must weigh the benefits of maintaining a Facebook presence against the need to protect our journalism, intellectual property and long-term sustainability.

Our responsibility is to serve our community while ensuring that the work we produce remains valued and protected. We will continue to monitor developments and consider the best way to keep readers informed without unnecessarily compromising the journalism they depend on.

We encourage readers to continue visiting our website at presspubs.com. Please continue to subscribe to our newspaper, share our stories directly with your friends and neighbors on your own social media accounts and sign up for our regional e-newsletter.

Supporting local journalism helps ensure that reliable, independent coverage of our community remains available for years to come.

Shannon Granholm is the managing editor for Press Publications.



Prepping your relationships for election night



Movers & Shakers
Shannon Watson

Every election season comes with its own kind of emotional baggage. Anticipation, anxiety, hope, dread — they swirl together in ways that can make even the most grounded people feel unsteady. And because elections are collective experiences, those emotions don't stay contained.

They spill into our conversations, our group chats, our workplaces and our families. We talk about the candidates, the stakes, the issues, the awful ads and the flood of mailers. What we talk about less is how to prepare our relationships for what happens when the results arrive.

But we should, because in many relationships — be that friends, siblings, partners, colleagues — one person is likely to be relieved or happy about the outcome, and the other may be disappointed, frustrated or fearful. Pretending that dynamic won't matter is how we end up with hurt feelings, avoidable conflicts, or long silences.

The good news is that we can plan ahead. Just like campaigns prepare for Election Day, we can prepare for the emotional aftermath. And doing that work before the results come in — when everything is

calmer and less reactive — can set a baseline of care that makes the harder moments easier to navigate.

Start with a simple question: "What do you think you'll need from me after the results come in?" It's disarming in the best way. It signals that you're thinking about the relationship, not the scoreboard. It also gives the other person a chance to articulate their needs without the pressure of the moment.

Some people will say they want space. Others want distraction. Some will want to talk immediately; others won't be ready for hours or days. You don't have to agree with their political views to honor their emotional needs. You just have to decide that the relationship matters more than the election.

It also helps to share what you will need, not in a dramatic way, but in an honest one: "If the results don't go the way I hope, I might need a little time before I'm ready to talk." Or, "If my candidate wins, I'll be relieved, but I won't expect you to celebrate with me." Naming your own expectations makes it easier for the other person to respect them.

And then there's the question of what to say when the moment arrives. This is where solidarity — not unity, not agreement, but solidarity — becomes a practical tool.

If someone you care about is happy with the results and you aren't, a simple congratulations doesn't require you to join the celebration. It's not an endorsement; it's an ac-

knowledge of their experience. On the flip side, if someone you care about is upset or overwhelmed, saying, "If you aren't ready to talk while you process the results, I understand — but I am here for you," can be a lifeline. These small gestures don't solve polarization, but they soften its edges. They remind us that relationships don't have to rise and fall with political outcomes.

Prepping your relationships for election night isn't about pretending politics don't matter. They do. They shape our communities, our policies and our futures. But relationships matter too — often more, and certainly longer. And in a season that rewards division, taking time to plan for connection is a quiet act of solidarity.

Campaigns prepare for Election Day because they know the stakes. We can prepare for election night because we know the stakes in our own lives. A little planning, a little curiosity and a little solidarity can make the difference between a relationship strained by politics and a relationship strengthened by care.

If we want a civic culture that isn't defined by winners and losers, this is one place to start: not with unity, but with the intentional, human work of showing up for each other when the results come in and the next chapter of civic life plays out.

Shannon Watson is founder and executive director, Majority in the Middle

P.O. Box 393
Hugo, MN 55038
www.ReadTheCitizen.com

DISCLAIMER: Paid advertisements appear in Press Publications' publications, including print and other digital formats. Press Publications does not endorse or evaluate the advertised product, service, or company, nor any of the claims made by the advertisement. Advertising does not influence editorial decisions or content. Press Publications reserves the right to refuse, reject, or cancel any ad for any reason at any time without liability.

Distributed and mailed bi-weekly in:

Hugo • Centerville • Lino Lakes

Carter C. Johnson - Publisher
cjohnson@presspubs.com
Gene Johnson - Publisher Emeritus
ppinfo@presspubs.com
Patty Steele - General Manager
marketing@presspubs.com
Shannon Granholm - Managing Editor
citizennews@presspubs.com

Mikeala Pelkola - Production Designer
art@presspubs.com
Paul Dols - Photo Journalist
photos@presspubs.com

Circulation
circ@presspubs.com
Obituaries
obits@presspubs.com
Classifieds
classified@presspubs.com
Call a Specialist
callaspecialist@presspubs.com

COPYRIGHT © 2025 BY PRESS PUBLICATIONS, INC. Material may not be reproduced in whole or part in any form whatsoever.	
News.....	651-407-1235
Advertising.....	651-407-1200
Circulation.....	651-407-1234
Classified/Obits.....	651-407-1250
Production.....	651-407-1253
FAX.....	651-429-1242

Published bi-weekly Thursdays by Press Publications, Inc.
4779 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Mailed Subscription Rate:
\$30.00 per year.

Subscribe online at presspubs.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Election systems and security

I have lived, worked, and loved this region of White Bear Lake and the St. Croix Valley for over three decades. I believe we have truly wonderful community resources and assets. Today I am writing about another asset in our region: election systems and security.

With the elections approaching, there is a lot of talk about election security and the integrity of our voting systems. For me it has created a deeper appreciation of the planning, communication, cognitive and physical labor it takes to host a legitimate election to ensure an intact democracy prevails.

I recently had the opportunity to serve as an observer during the public accuracy test of local election machines. Before votes are cast, election officials conduct mandatory accuracy testing on the voting machines. I volunteered as an observer at Hugo City Hall on Thursday, Oct. 22. This process is open to the public to promote transparency and happens at county and city offices that conduct elections by law.

We were welcomed by the Hugo City Elections Clerk. Soon after three trained volunteer election judges arrived. Each independently tested the machines from three precincts as required by law. A pre-marked "test deck" of ballots — which includes intentionally flawed ballots and votes for every single candidate across various ballot styles — is run through machines. We watched as machines processed ballots, and upon completion, the results matched the predetermined spreadsheet perfectly. The machines were then reset to zero, and the test ballots were securely preserved. If an error is detected in any part of the testing, the cause must be found and the error corrected. Seeing this process firsthand demystified how our votes are counted.

I encourage anyone with questions about our elections to attend a public accuracy test in the future. There are

several election officials and dozens of volunteers serving tirelessly to ensure our local elections are safe and legitimate. I volunteered to witness just one "check" of the many checks and balances that are in place by law to ensure a secure safe election. I am so glad I did. I wanted to share my positive experience.

Mary Rivard
Hugo

PAID LETTER
Want better schools: Vote BARK

I strongly support the BARK school board candidates: Colleen Berquist, Dan Arcand, Melissa Roberts, and Bob Krominga. White Bear Lake Area Schools District 624 needs balanced, constructive leadership that puts students and parents first. BARK offers the experience, independence, and commitment to strengthen academics, promote responsible spending, and rebuild community trust.

Colleen Berquist, a district parent, real estate professional and small business owner, understands strong schools, sound decisions and accountability to families and taxpayers.

Dan Arcand, a district parent, former Marine combat veteran and president of Oneka Golf Club, brings proven leadership, service and a practical commitment to the community.

Melissa Roberts, a district parent and financial professional with local government experience, would bring valuable fiscal expertise and disciplined stewardship.

Bob Krominga, a retired Army officer and former president of the local VFW, offers extensive leadership and community-service experience.

We need independent leaders with real-world experience who will restore a student-first focus, welcome parents, oversee finances responsibly and make accountable decisions.

I urge voters to support Berquist, Ar-

cand, Roberts, and Krominga - BARK for BETTER SCHOOLS.

Juliann Brown
Hugo

PAID LETTER
State Rep. Patti Anderson encourages support for Stacey Stout

It has been an honor and privilege to represent you – District 33A – in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Serving our communities is a responsibility I have taken seriously, and I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me.

At the State Capitol, one of my highest priorities has been protecting taxpayer dollars and holding government accountable. As Vice Chair of the House Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Policy Committee, I have worked to strengthen oversight, expose fraud and advance reforms to prevent the misuse of public funds.

Minnesotans work hard for their money. We deserve a state government that spends responsibly, delivers essential services effectively, and operates with transparency. Every dollar lost to waste, fraud, or abuse is a dollar unavailable for public services or taxpayer relief.

As my time in the Legislature comes to a close, I remain grateful for the opportunity to have served our communities. I am supporting Stacey Stout for House District 33A because of her commitment to fiscal responsibility, government accountability, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Her experience as a school board member and attorney will bring a valuable perspective to the Legislature.

The people of our district deserve leaders who listen carefully, exercise sound judgment and respect taxpayers. I believe Stacey understands the importance of asking difficult questions, working collaboratively and holding government accountable to the people

it serves.

I encourage residents of House District 33A to vote for Stacey Stout on November 3.

Patti Anderson
(Retiring) State Representative, District 33A

PAID LETTER
Vote for Stacey Stout

Living in House District 33A for 30 plus years, we urge our neighbors in Dellwood, Hugo, Mahtomedi, Willernie and surrounding communities to support Stacey Stout on Nov. 3.

Stacey brings exactly the kind of experience and practical leadership our district needs. She has served on the Mahtomedi School Board since 2016, including four years as chair. During her tenure, the district has delivered strong academic results, engaged the community in strategic planning and made difficult (but responsible) budget decisions. That hands-on experience with education, finance and local accountability is rare and valuable.

Her campaign priorities are clear and grounded: quality education focused on core skills that prepare students for success, lower taxes and disciplined spending to make Minnesota more affordable for working families, greater accountability and transparency to address fraud in state government, and stronger public safety. These are not abstract talking points; they reflect the concerns we often hear from our neighbors.

District 33A needs a representative who listens carefully, asks hard questions and works collaboratively to solve problems. Stacey Stout has demonstrated those qualities for years in our community.

We respectfully ask voters to support Stacey Stout on Election Day.

Chuck and Marykay Haas
Hugo

Centennial Middle School gets (soap) operatic

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

Soap operas can be overly dramatic, but the actors of hit television soap opera “The Whispers of Scandal” have good reason to scream: their new television studio is haunted by a phantom. Even worse, this phantom has fallen in love with Julianna Sterling, the backup for the lead part — and he’ll do anything to make sure his love can be the star of the show.

This is the premise of “As the Phantom Turns: A Soap Opera,” the Centennial Middle School fall play, written by Eric Webster. Webster also co-directs with Laurie Tangren. The play is co-directed by Wester and Laurie Tangren, who see the

complexity of a spooky comedy about soap-opera stars as an asset for the students.

“It’s a comedy, and we have students with a lot of stage experience and a great knack for comedy. So, they were on it since day one,” Webster and Tangren said. “We all laugh a lot every rehearsal.”

Despite the 98-person cast and crew, rehearsals—unlike the show’s plot — has been a smooth ride.

“Our actors and our crew, every year, work so hard and love theater so much ... We are constantly impressed and amazed by our students,” they said.

In fact, the most difficult obstacle production faced was “figuring out how to make a chandelier and how to make it fall,” said Webster and Tangren.

Though “As the Phantom Turns” concerns



CONTRIBUTED

From left: Evan Malone as Julianna Sterling and Cooper Vanyo as The Phantom/Brad.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER INDEMNIFICATION:

The Newspaper shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of the advertisement. The Newspaper shall not be liable or responsible for any error in any advertisement except to give the Advertiser credit for so much of the space occupied by the advertisement as is materially affected by the error; credit shall be by refund or republication of the advertisement at the election of the Newspaper. Such credit shall not be given for more than one incorrect insertion unless the Publisher is notified in writing of the error before the repetition of the insertion. When the Advertiser wishes to correct or change copy submitted as a "proof," the Newspaper shall not be liable for the changes or corrections unless they are received by the Newspaper within a reasonable length of time before the deadline for publication. If an advertisement is requested to run after copy deadline, the Newspaper will not honor an adjustment request if an error occurs. No specific page or position shall be guaranteed. The Advertiser or Agency shall indemnify the Newspaper for any attorney's fees incurred in defending against claims, pay any judgments against the Newspaper, and pay associated expenses and losses that are caused by the publication of any advertisement submitted by or published at the direction of the Advertiser or Agency, including claims for libel, copyright infringement, and invasion of privacy.

IF YOU GO:

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATER PRESENTS "AS THE PHANTOM TURNS: A SOAP OPERA,"

When: Oct. 29-Nov. 1,

Where: 399 Elm St., Lino Lakes.

Details: A senior preview will show at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Contact: For tickets, visit gobound.com/mn/schools/centennial/tickets and select "As the Phantom Turns."

READ REUSE RECYCLE

Think GREEN

If every person takes one small step toward being more conscientious of the environment, the collective effort will change the planet.

Press Publications

POLICE REPORTS

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

- Deputies conducted a traffic stop at 7:55 p.m. Sept. 6 on a speedy motorist in the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N. and issued a citation for speeding.
- Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to an ongoing harassment incident in the 15000 block of Everton Ave. N. at 11:31 p.m. Sept. 6 and issued citations for curfew violations. At 9:27 p.m. Sept. 7 deputies followed up on the harassment case and discussed the options of taking out a Harassment Restraining Order.
- A person sitting on a bench in the 5000 block of 127th St. N. was reported at 12:05 a.m. Sept. 8. The complainant said the person sitting beside her on the bench made her feel uncomfortable. When deputies arrived on scene, the person was gone.
- A friend's dog was reported for biting the complainant's child somewhere in Hugo at 12:57 p.m. Sept. 8.
- An Amazon driver reported getting his amasonal delivery vehicle stuck in a field near the 14000 block of Fenway Ave. N. at 1:04 p.m. Sept. 8. The driver said he thought the access road was a through road and had people coming to help pull the vehicle out.
- Deputies issued a written warning to a motorist on Oneka Parkway N. at Prairie Trail N. at 5:08 p.m. Sept. 8 for failing to stop at a stop sign. Another driver was cited for running a red light at Elmcrest Ave. N. and 24th Ave. N. at 9:14 p.m. Sept. 8. A third motorist on Irish Ave. N. at 147th St. N. was warned at 10:24 p.m. Sept. 8 for failing to register his vehicle.
- Residents in the 14000 block of Forest Blvd. N. at 11:21 a.m. Sept. 9 reported suspicious activity on their AmEx card that didn't produce any monetary loss.
- Hit and run was reported at 2:48 p.m. Sept. 9 Rosemary Way N. and Elmcrest Ave. N.
- Deputies responded to a suspicious trespass complaint at 7:04 p.m. Sept. 9, after the complainant had an unknown female call a restaurant in the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N. to say a male she believes to be trespassed was at the location. Deputies determined

that the trespass in question had expired and, besides, the caller did not see the alleged male at the restaurant.

- A motorist was cited at 4:16 p.m. Sept. 10 for passing in a no-passing lane on Forest Blvd. N.
- Hit and run to a parked vehicle was reported at 4:31 p.m. Sept. 10 in the 6000 block of 147th St. N.
- A resident in the 5000 block of 157th St. N. called at 6:06 p.m. Sept. 10 to state that her neighbor's car that was parked on the street in front of her house was on her property. Deputies responded to the address to advise the complainant that the neighbor was parked on public property.
- A speeding driver on Forest Blvd. N. and 159th St. N. was cited at 6:32 p.m. Sept. 10 for that offense.
- A motorist was arrested for DWI at 6:47 p.m. Sept. 10 on Forest Blvd. N. and Frenchman Road following a traffic stop for unknown offenses.
- A driver reported for throwing a beer can into a private driveway in the 15000 block of Everton Ave. N. at 3:56 p.m. Sept. 11 will be mailed a citation for littering. The complainant took a video of the man driving by the residence and tossing the beverage can and recognized the subject by a Driver Vehicle Services photo.
- A dog owner was cited at 8:05 p.m. Sept. 11 for having a dog at large in the 5000 block 138th St. N.
- A resident in the 14000 block of Geneva Way N. at 6:19 p.m. Sept. 12 reported being served fake workers compensation paperwork by civil servants. The complainant did not want to accept the papers and requested deputies take custody of the paperwork to be logged into evidence. Deputies took photographs of the documents to be uploaded into Visual Labs.
- A motorist was issued a written warning at 9:20 p.m. Sept. 12 for driving without lights illuminated on Forest Blvd. N. and Frenchman Road N.

- Residents in the 5000 block of French Drive reported their house egged overnight Sept. 12-13.

- Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies conducted a traffic stop

- at 1:31 a.m. Sept. 13 on a vehicle speeding along Forest Blvd. N. at 170th St. N. and cited the driver.
- In the Case of the Disappearing Dog Walker, residents in the 16000 block of Finale Ave. N. reported a black and white mix showing up at their home with no dog walker at 8:47 a.m. on Sept. 13. Deputies took custody of the dog and prowled the neighborhood on the lookout for anyone lacking a dog. They spotted a slowly driven vehicle with its four-way flashers on and a person walking with an empty dog leash. Deputies reached out to the people who said they were missing their black and white therapy dog, and all were reunited.
- Helmets, gloves and foils littered the parking lot of a senior living facility in the 14000 block of Finale Ave. N. as the business at 6:29 p.m. Sept. 13 reported a vehicle driving through their lot and spilling several pieces of fencing equipment.
- Deputies arrested a person on warrant in the 5000 block of Lower 147th St. N. at 10:07 a.m. Sept. 14.
- A motorist who ran a red light on Forest Blvd. N. and Frenchman Road N. was cited for the violation at midnight Sept. 15.
- A suspicious mail theft reported at 1:14 p.m. Sept. 16 in the 15000 block of Forest Blvd. N. turned out to be the subject mistakenly picking up an Amazon envelope from a vacant trailer at the park office and bringing it to the trailer she thought it was meant for. Deputies responded by collecting the package and returning it to the complainant.
- A resident in the 5000 block of 130th Way N. reported transferring \$78,000 by wire to a scammer at 3:04 p.m. Sept. 16.
- Vehicle tampering was reported at 5:24 p.m. Sept. 17 after the complainant saw a person entering a vehicle parked in the 16000 block of Fair Oaks Ave. N.
- After deputies on patrol saw a vehicle taking the 170th St. roundabout too quickly and crossing the median yellow line at Forest Blvd. N. they conducted a traffic stop at 9:38 p.m. Sept. 17. The driver was identified and made to take roadside sobriety tests. Deputies took the driver into custody for DWI and awaited the results of the blood alcohol tests

that eventually showed the suspect was nearly three times over the legal limit.

- A motorist roaring along Highway 61 at 165th St. N. at a high rate was issued a written warning at 10:12 p.m. Sept. 17. A second motorist was cited at 1:49 a.m. Sept. 18 in the 2000 block of Main St. for failure to provide proof of insurance following a traffic stop for having no front plate on the vehicle.
- Cash was reported stolen from a residence in the 5000 block of 134th St. N. at 1:25 p.m. Sept. 18.
- A resident in the 14000 block of Glenbrook Ave. N. at 2:46 p.m. Sept. 18 reported a family member threatening to expose the complainant's past to the complainant's new significant other and wanted deputies to do something about it. Deputies advised the complainant that nothing reported so far was illegal.
- Residents in the 5000 block of Finley Bay N. at 4:16 p.m. Sept. 18 reported a suspicious person in the back woods behind their property several days earlier. Deputies said the complainant "was highly encouraged" to call when situations are happening in real time, as law enforcement cannot adequately respond "when they decide to report" situations days later.
- A motorist was arrested for DWI at 10:59 p.m. Sept. 18 on Frenchman Road and Oneka Parkway N., after deputies pulled the vehicle over for numerous driving violations, expired registration and excessive window tint.
- The registered owner of a vehicle parked illegally in the 6000 block of Egg Lake Road N. was mailed a citation at 7:25 a.m. Sept. 19.
- In the Case of the Cattle Complaint, deputies heard all about cows in the road in the 6000 block of 170th St. N. at 1:15 a.m. Sept. 20 but saw no cows.
- A motorist was cited for speeding at 6:54 p.m. Sept. 20 after deputies observed a moving violation on Forest Blvd. N. and 140th St.
- A bike was reported stolen by another juvenile at 7:10 p.m. Sept. 20 in the 4000 block of Rosemary Way N. When deputies arrived on scene, they recovered the bike near a building and returned it to its rightful owner.

Loretta Harding

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

Minnesota State Patrol investigating Hugo utility line incident

At 6:39 a.m. on Monday, Oct.19, Hugo Fire along with the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Minnesota State Patrol responded to a crash at 130th



SHANNON GRANHOLM & DEB BARNES | CONTRIBUTED

Crews work to repair damage after a crash at 130th Street N. & Highway 61 in Hugo.

Street N and Highway 61.

According to the state patrol, a Peterbilt dump truck was traveling southbound on Highway 61. The truck entered the intersection with its dump lifted, which collided with the railroad crossing signs and overhead traffic control signal. The crash caused a power and cable outage.

The driver, an 81-year-old from Vadnais Heights, was not injured as a result of the crash.

Xcel Energy, MnDOT and the Minnesota Commercial Railway were called to repair the damage and control traffic. 130th Street was closed for approximately 30 minutes after the crash.

The Minnesota State Patrol is investigating the incident.

Sheriff's Office receives \$1 million for body-worn and squad car camera upgrades

The Washington County Sheriff's Office received \$1,031,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice to upgrade body-worn and squad car camera technology. The funding comes from the Byrne Discretionary Community Projects Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the grant agreement with the U.S. Depart-

ment of Justice and a \$1,866,285.78 purchase order with Axon Enterprise Inc. for a five-year contract to upgrade its body-worn and squad car camera systems.

The investment updates and standardizes the existing body-worn and fleet camera system, which currently operates through a cell phone. The new system is a standalone body camera with increased durability, streamlined storage and data collection and upgraded picture quality. The advanced imaging and audio standards help capture accurate video evidence. The body-worn camera will integrate with the enhanced fleet cameras, providing comprehensive video capture by both the deputy and the vehicle.

Save up to
**\$800 on
a stairlift!***

Move confidently up and
down your stairs with an
AmeriGlide stairlift.

DON'T WAIT! CALL US TODAY!

1-866-852-5506

*Terms and Conditions apply. Call for details.

AmeriGlide
POWERED STAIRLIFTS

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

- Lino Lakes Ambassadors Grave Schuette, Brooklyn Segner and Aubrey Frechette, all seniors at Centennial High School, were introduced to the board by Kristin Hilger, assistant principal of Centennial High School. Schuette, Segner, and Frechette were crowned ambassadors at Blue Heron Days in August.
- Peterson Bros. Roofing will be responsible for the 2027 building envelope improvement project after the board accepted its bid for the project in the amount of \$4.8 million. The project includes roofing replacements for Blue Heron Elementary. This project is included as part of the district’s long-term facilities maintenance place.
- HealthPartners will provide medical insurance to the district from Jan. 1, 2027, through Dec. 31, 2028, and meet the minimum aggregate value following the board’s acceptance of its proposal. Minnesota Statute 471.6161 requires school districts to seek proposals for group medical insurance every two years under the Health Insurance Transparency Act.
- The board has also approved the medical and dental insurance rate and plan structure proposed by the Health Insurance Committee. Last month, the committee met to review current claims and the plan performance of the self-insured medical and dental funds. After discussion and review, it was the consensus of the committee to recommend increases of 4% for the medical HSA plan, 7% for the medical copay plan and 5% for the district’s dental plan. These increases will be effective Jan. 1, 2027, for the calendar plan year 2027.
- Superintendent Jeff Holmberg and Director of Public Information and Community Outreach Krista Bergert provided the board with the results of the community survey conducted by Morris Leatherman. The survey, according to Holmberg, was completed in September. The purpose of the survey was to gather data from the community about the upcoming referendum, specifically the messaging and what resonated.
- Contributions have been accepted by the school board for Centennial Middle School and Golden Lake Elementary.
- There will be no school on Friday, Nov. 6, and Monday, Nov. 9, due to the end of the quarter and staff development.
- The next school board meeting work study session will be at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 2.
- The next regular meeting will be at 10:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16 at the district center.

Madeline Dolby

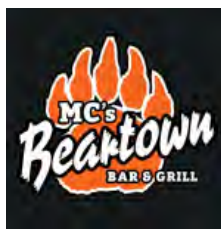
CENTERVILLE TIDBITS

- According to Minnesota Statute 473.864, Subd. 2a, the city is required to update its comprehensive plan every 10 years, a process that requires collaboration and input from many staff members, community members and commissions. Included in the comprehensive plan requirements are updates to technical reports that include a water supply plan and a local water plan. Engineering components and input are also woven into the chapters of the comprehensive plan document. Stantec Consulting Services Inc. prepared these technical reports as part of the previous (2040) comprehensive plan update and has submitted a proposal to provide these same services for the current (2050) comprehensive plan update. The Centerville City Council unanimously approved the engineering services proposal from Stantec to complete a water supply plan, local water plan, comprehensive sewer plan and provide input and updated figures to be incorporated into the 2050 comp plan document. The city will pay Stantec \$74,491 using money from various enterprise funds over the next two years.
- In more 2050 comp plan news, council also unanimously passed a resolution authorizing city staff to apply to the Metropolitan Council for a planning assistance grant of \$38,644 for which the city is eligible as part of its 2050 comprehensive plan update. The city has completed a new downtown vision and would like to update its zoning ordinance to reflect this renewed vision. As a participant in the Livable Communities Act’s Local Housing Incentives Program, the city is eligible to apply for funds through the Metropolitan Council’s Livable Communities Program.
- There was no alcohol in the Kelly’s Korner parking lot at 7098 Centerville Road on Oct. 11, but there were goats, after council approved a special event permit application from Kelly’s Korner for Gina Paar’s 15th annual breast cancer fundraiser in memory of Micki Madland. Kelly’s Korner submitted an application and a copy of its insurance for the breast cancer fundraiser. The Centennial Lakes Police Department, SBM Fire Department and city staff reviewed the application and were not concerned about any issues. At the fundraiser, “Giving is the GOAT” (greatest of all time), was a goat (or two). Attendees, who were invited to wear pink, took part in some goat cuddling and a raffle.
- The property owners at 1820 Laramie Lane applied for an encroachment agreement to build new portions of a 4-foot ornamental, black-powder coated fence, which council approved. The fence would run from the east of the home to the lot line and then run along the east property line to the rear yard. They will also install a portion of the fence from the west of the home to the lot line. The fence footprint is within the rear and side yard setbacks within the city’s right of way/drainage and utility easements.
- The exterior of the city water tower is cleaned approximately every three years; the last cleaning was completed in 2023. Staff obtained three estimates to clean the exterior of the water tower, which were \$9,000, \$9,950 and \$10,730, respectively. So, why did

the city not accept the lowest bid, as required by law? Badger State Inspections provided the lowest bid but notified staff in an email of its inability to complete this work due to broken equipment. Therefore, the city accepted the second lowest bid from Manthei Management Group. The job is expected to take two days and is scheduled for mid-to-late October. Council approved the contract with Manthei Management Group; the city’s water fund will foot the bill.

- A representative from the Anoka County Sheriff’s Office attended the pre-meeting workshop to give a presentation on Flock Safety. The presentation covered both automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) and drone assisted response (DARs). During the overview, council learned that Flock cameras do not use facial recognition, which is prohibited under Minnesota state law. In addition, the Flock camera does not have direct access to criminal justice databases. The drone-assisted response provides real-time “eyes on the scene” before first responders arrive, enables faster deployment of initial resources, typically arrives within 90 seconds of launch, supports searches for missing persons, enhances responses to officer-needs-help calls, and assists during vehicle pursuits. Much more detailed information was presented, and everyone is invited to visit the city webpage to see presentation slides on the workshop agenda or visit the Anoka County website at: <https://transparency.flocksafety.com/anoka-county-mn-so>.
- In her report, City Administrator Athanasia Lewis is noted that Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Election Day voting for Centerville residents is at St. Genevieve’s Church Community Parish Center, 6995 Centerville Road. To see what is on the ballot, a sample ballot can be obtained from the Secretary of State’s Office by phone at 1-877-600-VOTE (8683) or at its website at <https://www.sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/what’s-on-my-ballot>. Anoka County will assist all voters who choose to vote by absentee voting. Please contact the county at 763-324-1300 with any questions. The city will be providing early direct ballot voting at City Hall. Call City Hall at 651-429-3232 to learn the available hours for voting.
- The Fifth Annual Halloween Trunk or Treat/Touch a Truck event is scheduled from 9:30=11 a.m. Oct. 31 in the Centerville Elementary School parking lot, 1721 Westview St. This event is in conjunction with the Centennial School Community Education’s Halloween Hustle 5K. The website, <https://isd12.arux.ap/course/6526/fall-2026/halloween-hustle-5K> is available for anyone interested in participating in or registering for this activity. Anyone interested in promoting their business by hosting a booth at Trunk or Treat may register at <https://tinyurl.com/bdfc2d8d>.

Loretta Harding





DAILY
PULLTABS
& ETABS

WHITE BEAR LAKE
AREA HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION
#03111

GO BEARS!

MONDAY	9:00AM BINGO @ JIMMY'S 6:00PM BINGO @ SAK'S
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 2:00PM MEAT RAFFLE @ COOPER'S 3:00PM BINGO @ COOPER'S 5:00PM MEAT RAFFLE @ JIMMY'S 6:00PM TRI-WHEEL @ WB BAR



October is... BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Awareness Can Save Lives

Clinical breast exams and mammograms are important to every woman's health, so it's important to talk with a doctor about the best screening schedule to meet your needs and protect your health at every age. To establish care or learn more, please contact a physician.

Breast cancer is the most common form of non-skin-related cancer in women and the second-leading cause of women's cancer deaths in both the United States and Canada.

Sources: American Cancer Society, Canadian Cancer Society



Symptoms and Screening:

Symptoms of breast cancer

The most common symptom of breast cancer is a new lump or mass, although most breast lumps are not cancer. A painless, hard, fixed mass that has irregular edges is more likely to be cancer, but breast cancer can also be soft, round, tender, or even painful.

Other possible symptoms of breast cancer include:

- Swelling of all or part of a breast even if no lump is felt.
- Skin dimpling, sometimes looking like an orange peel.
- Nipple or breast skin that is red, dry, flaking, or thickened.

- Breast or nipple pain.
- Nipple retraction (turning inward).
- Nipple discharge other than breast milk.
- Swollen lymph nodes under the arm or near the collarbone can be a symptom of breast cancer spread even before the original tumor in the breast is large enough to be felt.

Causes of breast changes besides cancer

Breast changes can be caused for reasons other than cancer.

- Benign breast conditions

Many of these symptoms can also be caused by benign (noncancerous) breast conditions, including lumps, pain,

or discharge from your nipples. Some benign conditions might show up on a mammogram.

- Hormones

Your breasts might feel different throughout different periods in your life because of changes in your hormone levels. Before menopause, your breast size and shape might change throughout the month as you go through different phases of the menstrual cycle. A pregnancy can also cause changes in your breasts.

As you get close to menopause, you might notice lumps or other differences in your breasts.

Taking hormone medicines, like birth control or hormone replacement therapy, can also cause breast tissue to change.

When to see a healthcare professional

It's important to have any new breast mass, lump, or other change checked by an experienced healthcare professional so the cause can be found and treated, if needed.

Remember to also continue regular screening for breast cancer as recommended. Screening tests can often help find breast cancer early, before any symptoms appear and when treatment is most likely to be successful.

This information was found on www.cancer.org



indulge
Salon, Spa and Wigs
Downtown White Bear
(651) 797-6440



HALLBERG ENGINEERING
Mechanical / Electrical / Commissioning
1750 Commerce Court
White Bear Lake
651-748-1100



Cub
1059 Meadowlands Drive
White Bear Township 55127
651-426-6534



Signature ORTHODONTICS
www.signaturesmilesmn.com



F&M BANK
www.fmbank.bank
MEMBER FDIC



LAKESIDE FLORAL
Boutique
(651) 770-0248
lakesidefloral.net
109 Wildwood Rd
Willernie, MN 55090



CenterLife COUNSELING
Therapy and psychological testing.
Immediate availability. Yoga classes starting soon.
Call Today 651-289-3111
Centerville | White Bear Lake | Telehealth throughout Minnesota



LAKESHORE FAMILY DENTISTRY
Dr. Jason Ross Dr. Ellen Jacobson
Dr. Kali Hildebrand
Lakeshorefamilydentist.com
4706 Banning Ave. White Bear Lake
651-429-3348
Since 1968



JON'S A-I MAINTENANCE, INC.
Tree Removal
Tree Pruning Shrub Removal Landscaping
Stump Grinding Shrub Pruning and Maintenance
FREE ESTIMATES
Phone: 651-771-2654
Mobile: 612-363-6169
E-mail: A1main@aol.com
Website: a-1inc.com
We Support Veterans, Seniors and Paralympics!



Possehl Agency • Possehl Agency • Possehl Agency

It's Annual Election Period time!

What's best for you is our #1 priority!

Call Kirk Today at: 612-747-2726
possehlagency@gmail.com • possehlagency.com

Your Local, Trusted Independent Medicare Insurance Agent

SPOTTED

AROUND TOWN

1



2



3



4



5



1-3. This giant spider web display is located near Geneva Avenue and 145th Street N. in Hugo. — Shannon Granholm, Press Publications.

2. An alien learns how humans celebrate halloween (and what Hugo residents do with solicitors) on Janell Bender's front lawn. — Contributed

3. A chubby skeleton welcomes visitors to a house near the north end of Bald Eagle Lake. — Contributed

4-5. Sequined skeletons and mutant clowns stalk trick-or-treaters near 125th Street. — Logan Gion, Press Publications

Send us your photos for possible inclusion in Spotted Around Town. Please email your best shot to citizennews@presspubs.com. Please include information about when and where it was taken and who is in the photo.

Seniors craft pink ribbons for veterans

1



2



3



1-3. Residents at Good Life Senior Living in Hugo have been busy making beautiful pink ribbons in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The handmade ribbons will be sent to the Center for Women Veterans. — Contributed

L&B

LUNDS & BYERLYS

4630 CENTERVILLE RD,
WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110
651-653-0000



HUGE
DEAL



OCT 29-NOV 4, 2026 | 2 LTR.

\$1.99

Pepsi Cola
Products



CROSS-COUNTRY: Athletes supported by coaches

FROM PAGE 3

"I feel like, with other sports, the varsity is mainly upperclassmen," Engstrom said. "I think it's so cool that we can interact and be friends with so many different grades. It brings so much more community."

"They're very supportive of one another," Anderson added. "They make sure they're lining the course for each race, and both teams get genuinely excited to cheer each other on."

Engstrom also noted that cross-country builds community between competitors because all runners face the same direction.

"Other teams, when you're racing, they're in the same boat as you," Engstrom said, "compared to hockey or football where the teams are playing against each other ... All the teams are committed and competitive, but everybody is together. We're all running this."

The nature of the sport leads to both unique strategy and scoring.

"Your team wants to score the lowest possible amount of points, much like golf," explained senior Madi Chrusciel, one of the girls team captains. "During high-stakes meets like sections, there



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The girls Centennial Cross-Country team stacks together for a group shot.

that each runner needs to have their own long-term strategy for the race as well.

"I feel like the real race starts after mile two," Louks said. "You can recover from a bad first mile. Last meet, actually, I was in sixth place on our team at the one-mile mark, and I finished second."

Cross-country athletes also compete against themselves. Multiple team members said

mile left. Think of the time you could get," Sonnek said.

Sonnek has rolled these lessons into other areas of his life: "Whenever any other difficult things come up, with work or with school, I say, 'Get this done. The benefits are going to be good.'"

Anderson believes that helping each runner meet their goals is what makes the team work together.

"I want to be somebody that is there for everybody. I don't want to just give attention to the runners that are the fastest," Anderson said. "I think you can see, too, our athletes just really love coming (to practice). There's like a community aspect where they know they're supported by their coaches, by each other. They feel free to be themselves and take chances, and they're not closed off."

As Anderson says this, one of the girls grabs the last slice of apple crumble and shouts to Louks, "Bro, you missed the cinnamon casserole!"

Centennial's boys and girls cross-country teams compete in the 7AAA Section Tournament Thursday, Oct. 29, at Anoka High School. Of the tournament, Chrusciel said, "We have been training hard since June and it shows ... Sections is a race where we need to have faith in ourselves, our training but, most importantly, our team. It will be a battle, but I know we will do great things."



The boys Centennial Cross-Country team huddles up before a meet. Both the boys and girls teams compete in the 7AAA Section Tournament Thursday, Oct. 29, at Anoka High School.

are seven runners on the line. Only five of these runners are scored, but runners six and seven still play a crucial part in the race. They act as a defense against other teams. If they do not get passed by other runners, it adds points to the other teams."

Connor Louks, the boys cross-country captain, noted

their goal for the season is to get a personal record, or PR. Others hope to one day run a marathon. For junior Bryce Sonnek, cross-country has helped him break down mental barriers.

According to Sonnek, in previous year the first few miles were particularly difficult. Now, however, I say to myself, 'You're halfway there. You only have a

Zephyrs nip Cadets; playoffs next

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Two quarterbacks helped Mahtomedi close the regular season with a 22-21 win over St. Thomas Academy. The previous Friday, Mahtomedi lost to unbeaten Cretin-Derham Hall 26-13.

Mahtomedi (6-2) has a first-round bye in sectionals and will host Highland Park or Harding on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Zephyrs 22, St. Thomas 21

A 29-yard TD run by backup quarterback Joey Wright with nine minutes left, and Gavin Bifulk's kick, vaulted the Zephyrs into their final lead.

Trevor Rogosheske was 8-for-8 passing for 61 yards and threw an eight-yard TD pass to Bifulk, who caught seven for 111 yards. After Rogosheske left the game due to concussion protocol, Wright

was 5-for-8 for 97 yards with one interception.

The Zephyrs rushed for 213 yards. Will Seevers scored on a 36-yard run and totaled 77 yards in 13 carries. Wright carried nine times for 56 yards and Isaac Opitz 12 for 50.

For the Cadets (3-5), Grant Keeley hit 11 of 19 passes for 179 yards and one touchdown. Toren Pillingsrud kicked two 39-yard field goals.

Cretin-Derham Hall 26, Zephyrs 13

Mahtomedi sprang touchdown runs by Rogosheske from 36 yards and Seevers from 69 yards. Seevers carried 12 times for 92 yards and Rogosheske 13 for 57 while passing 10-for-19 for 104 yards. CDH's Gavin Russell was 19-of-31 for 250 yards and two touchdowns to De'mandre Frierson-Hollie. Jack Cool kicked two field goals.

Cougars smother Anoka, take 6-2 mark into playoffs

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Centennial Cougars capped a 6-2 regular season by smothering the Anoka Tornadoes 38-6, highlighted by six quarterback sacks, on Friday evening in Anoka.

The Cougars led 30-0 over the Tornadoes (4-4) at half-time, with touchdowns by quarterback Wesley Kukkonen on runs of four and nine yards, Jaxon Lauzon on a 24-yard run, and Nolan Larson with an interception and 58-yard return.

Keegan Prigge added four extra points and a 33-yard field goal in the first half. Carter Hemming closed the scoring with a 51-yard run in the fourth period.

The Cougars ran for 335 yards and gave up a season-low 165 total yards. Noah Morell had 15 total tackles, Brayden Boesch and Matt McManus each sacked the quarterback twice.

State playoffs start Friday. The Cougars, seeded third in their eight-team division, will host No. 6 East Ridge (3-5).



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Wes Kukkonen

Centennial Football

October 29, 2026

Wes Kukkonen, versatile Centennial football standout, made his first quarterback start Friday and directed the offense to a 38-6 win over Anoka, scoring two touchdowns himself. The 5-foot-10, 165-pound senior also shines at cornerback and running back. "Wes is playing both ways, which is unique as a quarterback," said coach Michael Diggins. "He is one of the more complete corners I have ever coached, able to cover every number 1 (receiver) and also be able to tackle." Highlights include a pick six against Osseo, another interception against Blaine, two extra-point runs against Roseville and a touchdown against Rogers. "He is one of the best role models I have ever coached," Diggins said.



FOUR SEASONS

AIR SPECIALISTS, INC.
"Experts in Indoor Air Comfort Since 1974"



4457 White Bear Parkway,
Ste B, White Bear, MN 55110
651-426-5254
info@4seasonsairwbl.com



LUNDS & BYERLYS

Scan for this week's specials!



4630 Centerville Rd, White Bear Lake | 651-653-0000

Follow

on
Instagram!

@presspubs

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Yellow Ribbon Network seeks secret Santa volunteers

It's that time of year again where the Hugo Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Network is searching for volunteers to help with its annual secret Santa program. Volunteers are encouraged to spend what they can afford and purchase one or two items from a wish list for each family member. For more information, or to sign up, contact Secret Santa Coordinator Holly Knutson at holly.laurene@gmail.com.

Trick-or-treaters invited to Good Life

Good Life Assisted Living and Memory Care invites trick-or-treaters to stop by from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31 to celebrate Halloween and trick-or-treat with residents. Good Life is located at 5260 127th St. N, in Hugo. For questions, contact Activity Director Melissa a 651-426-1335.

Minnesota ranked in top 10 states for best trick or treating

Minnesota currently ranks eighth in the country for best trick-or-treating according to KURU Footwear. The shoe company compiled state rankings by considering five equally-weighted factors: walkability, child population, Halloween enthusiasm according to Google Trends, pedestrian safety, and average Halloween-night temperature.

Minnesota's low pedestrian death rate (7 per 100,000 people) and strong walkability score put the state in the top 10. The state doesn't rank as well with a low Google Trends score and low average temperature — only Alaska and Maine were colder. Wisconsin nabbed this year's top slot.

National Safety Council offers tips for a safe Halloween

Kids love the magic of Halloween, but costume and traffic safety are essential for trick-or-treaters. The National Safety Council offers these tips can help make a safe and happy holiday for everyone.

Costume safety:

- Be sure to choose a costume that won't cause safety hazards; all costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags, or give them glow sticks.
- Because masks can obscure vision, opt for nontoxic Halloween makeup. Also make sure to always test makeup in a small area first to see if any irritation develops.
- Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation.

When they're on the prowl:

Here's a scary statistic: children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year. Key factors for this statistic are low light and lack of visibility. Keep these tips in mind when your children are out on Halloween night:

- A responsible adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you.
- Agree on a specific time children should return home.
- Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car.
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends.
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home, and take care to avoid any food allergies.

Safety tips for motorists:

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.
- Discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween.

CLASSIFIEDS

Press Publications suggests that you be aware of advertisers requesting payment for shipping merchandise. Confirm and verify all contact resources prior to sending any money. Take caution when responding to text messages that are not local numbers.

Deadline for Classified Line and display ads Thursday 4pm
651-407-1250 | classified@presspubs.com

52 Cars



2018 Subaru Forester Limited 73,000 Miles Newer Tires & Battery Heated Leather Seats. Sunroof, Very Clean \$17,500. Call Jim 612/366*7801

150 Help Wanted

HOUSE CLEANERS NEEDED 2-5 days/wk Must be Thorough Cleaner Maids of White Bear 651/247*2807

Part-Time Proof Reader Do You enjoy reading? Do You love this community? Have people told you that you have a knack for catching typos, grammar, spelling and other mistakes? The local newspaper is looking for somebody to help out 7-10 hours a week to make sure the pages of the Press are fresh, clean and accurate. Send resume to whitebearnews@-presspubs.com

PART-TIME PROOF READER Press Publications in White Bear Lake is seeking a detail-oriented Proof Reader with strong grammar, editing and writing skills. Must be knowledgeable and familiar with AP style and able to produce clean, accurate, engaging copy on deadline. Part-time, flexible hours. In office Mondays and Fridays, remote other days. Pay range \$16 - \$19. Send resume to whitebearnews@-presspubs.com

PART-TIME COPY EDITOR/WRITER WANTED: SEEKING A DETAIL-ORIENTED COPY EDITOR/WRITER WITH STRONG GRAMMAR, PROOF-READING AND WRITING SKILLS. MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND FAMILIAR WITH AP STYLE AND ABLE TO PRODUCE CLEAN, ACCURATE, ENGAGING COPY ON DEADLINE. JOURNALISM OR NEWSROOM EXPERIENCE PREFERRED. PART-TIME, FLEXIBLE HOURS. IN OFFICE MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS, REMOTE OTHER DAYS. SEND RESUME TO MARKETING@-PRESSPUBS.COM

150 Help Wanted

PRESS PUBLICATIONS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME Proof Reader Do you enjoy reading? Do you love this community? Have people told you that you have a knack for catching typos, grammar, spelling and other mistakes? The local newspaper is looking for somebody to help out 7-10 hours a week to make sure the pages of the Press are fresh, clean and accurate. Part-time, flexible hours. In office Mondays and Fridays, remote other days. Pay range \$16 - \$19. Send resume to whitebearnews@presspubs.com.



PRESS PUBLICATIONS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME COPY EDITOR/ WRITER

Press Publications in White Bear Lake is seeking a detail-oriented copy editor/ writer with strong grammar, proof reading, editing and writing skills.

Must be knowledgeable and familiar with AP style and able to produce clean, accurate, engaging copy on deadline.

Part-time, flexible hours. In office Mondays and Fridays, remote other days. Pay range \$16 - \$19.

Send resume to whitebearnews@presspubs.com



150 Help Wanted

Auto Glass Express

Founded in 2001, Auto Glass Express is a small company with a friendly atmosphere located in downtown White Bear Lake.

Customer Service Representative

Providing exemplary service to our wonderful customers. Duties include:

- Handling phone calls from customers, insurance companies, body shops, and commercial accounts.
- Determining correct parts for various jobs.
- Other duties as assigned.

Salary is DOE! Immediate opening. Position is full-time.

(651) 269-3551

lisa@autoglassmn.com
www.autoglassmn.com

Auto Glass Express is Hiring for a Full Time Customer Service Representative. Friendly atmosphere located in Downtown White Bear Lake 651/269*3551

157 Part Time

Otto Hollaus Is Hiring Ski Instructors. No Teaching Experience Necessary. Contact ohollaus@gmail.com

Part-Time Customer Service Calling Existing Customers Flexible Hours Local Safety Supply Company Hourly Wage Based on Experience Potential to be Full-Time E-mail resume to jobs@primaryproducts.biz or call (651) 426-6303.

358 Firewood

2 yr Dry Oak 8'x4x16' \$160. dl 651/900*3094

362 Miscellaneous

DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 866/852*5506

150 Help Wanted

Auto Glass Express

Founded in 2001, Auto Glass Express is a small company with a friendly atmosphere located in downtown White Bear Lake.

Customer Service Representative

Providing exemplary service to our wonderful customers. Duties include:

- Handling phone calls from customers, insurance companies, body shops, and commercial accounts.
- Determining correct parts for various jobs.
- Other duties as assigned.

Salary is DOE! Immediate opening. Position is full-time.

(651) 269-3551

lisa@autoglassmn.com
www.autoglassmn.com

362 Miscellaneous

GET DISH SATELITE TV + INTERNET! Free install, free HD-DVR upgrade, 80,000 on-demand movies, plus limited time up to \$600 in gift cards. Call today! 855/*562*4309

NO MORE CLEANING OUT GUTTERS Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 888/755*5761 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

REPAIRING OR REPLACING APPLIANCES and home systems like heating and cooling can be costly. A home warranty plan can help. Start saving and get 30% off any plan today. Workmanship Guarantee included. Terms apply. Call Cinch Home Services 855/887*4521



362 Miscellaneous

SAFE STEP NORTH America s #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/*966*3882

366 Guns

Wanted: Pistols, Rifles Shotguns, Gun Parts. Any Condition Will Pay Cash. As a Federal Firearms Licensee, firearms will be legally transferred out of your name. Appraisals available. Nick 651/755*3096

369 Want to Buy

WANTED: ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall. Call Dan at 612/*720*2142

Housecleaners Needed!

2-5 days/wk No experience needed, will train



Maids of White Bear

651-247-2807

WE BUY HOUSES for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844/*978*0683

369 Want to Buy

We Buy Vinyl Records Lps, 45s, Stereo Equip We make house calls by appointment. White Bear Lake Records 4775 Banning Ave,WBL wblrecords.com 651/224-4947

451 Rentals/ Commercial

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY, all real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll free: 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

452 Rentals/ Residential

HUGO 1 Bedroom with Garage \$840/month No Pets No Smoking 651/260*6546

REMODELING



Custom Decks/Footing Repair
Screen Rooms/Additions
Garages/Roofing/Siding
Aluminum/Glass/Cable Railings
All Repairs

Call Us for
WINTER SPECIALS

651-746-4582
www.northlandlandscape.com
Bonded Insured • Lic #BC638094

RESTORATION

Your Local Insurance
Restoration & Renovation
Contractor



YARES RENOVATION SERVICES
-Exterior & Interior-
-Storm Damage-Fire Damage-Water
Damage-Home Renovations-Roofing
License#BC200945 651.333.0007

ROOFING/SIDING

TREE SERVICE

Cameron Tree Service

- Affordable Trimming & Removal
- Storm Damage & Large Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Family Owned & Operated
- FREE ESTIMATES
- FREE WOOD CHIPS
- Licensed / Insured
- Senior / Vet discount

(651) 775-8602

SHERCO CONSTRUCTION INC
Quality Home Building and Remodeling

TIME TO REMODEL?

Kitchen / Bathroom
Basement / Deck
Check out our Models
for design ideas.
*Financing
options available*
SHERCO
CONSTRUCTION



651-888-4138
License # BC627690



• Kitchens • Remodels
• Bathrooms • Basements
SUMMER PROMO
• PVC & Composite Decks
• 3 & 4 Season Porches

Mention this ad
to receive promotion

651-653-0190
cartercustomconstruction.com
MN Lic #BC632066

APPLEWOOD BUILDERS
helping you love your home!
applewoodmodelers.com

612.670.7004
MNLic#BC003215



Olson Construction, LLC
612-868-6837

Room Additions • Kitchens
Basements • Decks
All Remodeling
For more info visit
KOolsonconstruct.com
Lic. #BC-516217



EXCALIBUR BUILDERS
BUILDING, REMODELING
& EXTERIORS

Building, Remodeling,
and Exteriors...
Specializing in Bathrooms,
Kitchens, Basements,
Garages, and much more!

612-300-4990
Free Estimates and
Fully insured
License # BC809283

“WE Treat Your
Project Like It’s Our
Own Home”

Decades of Residential
Experience

excaliburbuilders.net
excaliburbuilder@gmail.com

STUMP GRINDING

STUMP GRINDING
Free Estimates
SAME DAY SERVICE



Fast, dependable, insured

651-426-8660
budgettreeservice@outlook.com

TREE SERVICE



GENE’S TREE SERVICE
& STUMP GRINDING
Licensed/Insured • Free Estimates
Call Today! 763-785-1629

HALVERSON TREE

Board Certified Master Arborist
Fully Licensed + Insured

651-478-0710
HalversonTree.com

BUDGET TREE SERVICE

WINTER IS COMING!

DISEASED TREE REMOVAL
SNOW PLOWING
WINTER OAK TRIMMING
CERTIFIED ARBORIST

651-426-8660

A Cut Above Tree Service
Licensed Insured
Free Estimates
Tree Removal and Trimming
Emergency Storm Damage
Stump Grinding
Local Family Owned Business
www.facebook.com/acutabovetreecareservice
www.acutabovetreecareservice.com
651-334-9063

Primeau’s Tree Service
Tree & Shrub
Trimming/Removal
46 years of experience
Family owned
Certified Arborist onsite!
651-773-5643

WATERPROOFING

GREAT LAKES WATERPROOFING
Exterior Waterproofing

FREE ESTIMATES
651-340-2901
NO DIGGING REQUIRED

Targeting water flow at a fraction
of the price of drain-tile systems
Since 1978
MN License # IR660365
www.RealWaterproofing.com

Pet Services



Since 1989

Personal Touch Pet Grooming
“When Quality and Service Matter”

763 784-4833
TDD 784-0662
Dial 711 for Relay Assistance

Deb Molin
Certified Master Groomer
200 Marian Ct., Circle Pines, MN 55014

WEEKLY WAG

Buddy is a handsome, softhearted gentle giant. He can be a little shy and fearful at first, but underneath his cautious exterior is a pure heart of gold.

Buddy is a 2-year-old Great Pyrenees, and he weighs 78 pounds. He is affectionate, social with cats and other dogs, and he is friendly to everyone he meets once he warms up. Buddy has a low energy level, but he loves to be outside. Rain, snow or sunshine: Buddy is a boy for all seasons. He enjoys nothing more than patrolling and hanging out in the backyard, keeping an eye on the world, its creatures and all of his surroundings. He would be happiest in a home with a big backyard or even at a home in the country.

When inside, Buddy likes to play with his toys and cuddle with his people. One thing is for sure, Buddy will keep you smiling. With patience, love and affection, Buddy will continue to grow, and he will be a wonderful lifelong companion.

If you are interested in learning more about Buddy or adopting him,



please fill out an application at www.ruffstartrescue.org. Once your application is received, Ruff Start Rescue will contact you as soon as possible.

HUGO BITS & PIECES

- The city continues to pay for this year’s Bald Eagle Industrial Park Street Improvement Project. Most recently, the council authorized payment of \$489,455 to Bituminous Roadways, Inc. for work certified through Sept. 30. The project is substantially complete with just punch list items remaining.
- There will be a public hearing for the Fable Hill neighborhood street improvement project at the Nov. 16 City Council meeting. (See more information in this week’s issue.)
- Hugo Fire Department’s annual banquet has been scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 16 at the Hugo American Legion.

The next City Council meeting will be Monday, Nov. 2 at City Hall.

Shannon Granholm

Journeyman Chorus earn first-ever district championship

Since the beginning, The Journeyman Chorus has sung and performed at a championship level. Now they have the trophy that proves it.

In their first-ever appearance on the Land O’Lakes District contest stage, The Journeyman Chorus earned top honors and captured the 2026 District Chorus Championship.

The chorus posted an overall score of 85.8, a score which also qualifies them for the Barbershop Harmony Society’s (BHS) 2027 International Chorus Contest, to be held Saturday, July 10, in Minneapolis.

Led by founding director Scott Perau, the chorus performed Justin Miller’s arrangement of Bob Dylan’s “The Times They Are A Changin’,” followed by “Wait Til You See What’s Next,” an uplifting and energetic song originally composed by Jason Robert Brown and arranged for the chorus by Adam Bock.

“When our chorus performs, we offer up heartfelt messages in the hopes that they impact people’s hearts and minds in those few moments, and maybe even change the way they got out into the world after,” Journeyman President Jay Fahl said. “While we are incredibly proud and honored to represent the Land O’Lakes District at International next summer, there is no contest metric that can even

come close to matching the joy we feel from knowing we achieved those impacts today.”

The Journeyman Chorus was established in the summer of 2022, when founding director Perau began meeting with a group of his close friends and fellow barbershop singers. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, many were unable to participate in organized singing at that time. Perau’s idea was to gather accomplished barbershop singers from across the Upper Midwest to perform at a high level and have fun before and after gatherings.

The special opportunity to perform at the BHS International in Minnesota was something the chorus couldn’t pass up. The opportunity eventually became what the chorus now calls its Journey 2027.

As part of that journey, the chorus joined the St. Croix Valley Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society and earned a district championship. The Journeyman Chorus will complete its journey with an appearance on the international stage.

Up next, the chorus will perform a concert at 3 and 7 p.m. Nov. 7 at North Heights Church in Arden Hills, alongside featured quartets Vocality and Frostbite. Tickets to those performances are available online at www.journeymanchorus.org.

Contributed

FABLE HILL: City Council schedules public hearing for street project in November

FROM PAGE 1

utility improvements.

The project area consists of the following streets:

- Fable Hill Parkway North from Europa Trail North to Elmcrest Avenue North – partial reconstruction
- Fable Hill Way North from Fable Hill Parkway North to Fable Hill Parkway North – partial reconstruction
- Fable Hill Circle North from Fable Hill Parkway North to its termini – mill and overlay
- Fable Road North from Fable Hill Parkway North to Fable Road Court North – mill and overlay
- Fable Road Court North from Fable Road North to its termini – mill and overlay

The city of Hugo is also hoping to secure Minnesota Local Bridge Replacement Program funds to replace the bridge within the neighborhood. (See “Hugo seeks

bridge funding for 2027 project,” Aug. 20, 2026, The Citizen.)

Erichson explained the recommendation for bridge reconstruction is to install a new concrete beam bridge estimated to cost \$1.5 million. Although the concrete beam bridge is the most expensive option, it’s expected to last 100 years. Other options include reinforcing the steel and adding a concrete deck for approximately \$1.1 million (50-year lifespan) or rehabbing the bridge for \$800,000 (25-year lifespan).

If the city is not successful in securing funding from the state, the project will be delayed until funding is available.

The total cost for street improvements, sanitary sewer improvements and watermain improvements is estimated to cost \$3,223,600. For the streets portion of



CITY OF HUGO | CONTRIBUTED

Streets within the Fable Hill neighborhood were constructed in 2004 and have many patches, surface wear and drainage issues.

the project, property owners would be assessed \$4,100 per unit for partial reconstruction and \$2,100 per unit for roadway overlay. There are no assessments for the sanitary sewer or watermain improvements. The city would pay approximately 88% of the project costs and residents would pick up just over 12%.

The City Council will conduct a public hearing and consider approval of the final design at its Nov. 16 meeting. A neighborhood open house is planned for January 2027, and the council is expected to accept construction plans and authorize bids in February 2027, followed by awarding a contract in March 2027.

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

The Real Dogs of Hugo

BY RICKA MCNAUGHTON
SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN

Ricka McNaughton writes a recurring column for The White Bear Press featuring glimpses into the lives, loves and everyday dramas of random dogs she runs into by chance throughout the White Bear Lake region. Every dog has a story.

We’re sharing this one featuring two Hugo dogs.

She didn’t know he was looking. And he didn’t know she was looking. But after the heartbreak of losing their first little Italian greyhound unexpectedly, Lynn and Wade Setter discovered that they had both been quietly on the prowl for another dog. Wade wanted another Italian Greyhound, a breed often called an Iggy for short. Lynn produced a photo of an available puppy she found. And Wade smiled. Or let’s assume he did, because that puppy was Abby, the start of the Setters’ current dynamic duo, Abby and Holly.

Greyhound varieties typically make fine couch potatoes who can thrive on brief bursts of exercise between long stretches of lolling around, not requiring much, other than regular demonstrations of your undying love and devotion. But Abby turned out to be full of beans. The Setters decided to get a second Iggy, thinking it might help Abby to have a kindred spirit she could burn off some zoomies with. That was Holly. But on Holly’s arrival, Abby jealously sought to stake her claim on Lynn and Wade’s attention.

And yet, despite a performative show of teeth now and then, the two Iggys grew very close. In zoom mode, they swoop and dive around the house together like a sleek pair of playful otters. When not in someone’s lap, often the dogs loll side by side, observing their surroundings, quietly entertaining any thoughts they may have on the fundamental questions of existence.

Abby is now 8 years old. Holly is 5. Lynn now believes that all Iggys should be sold in pairs, but they should be loved as unique individuals. Which they are. Both dogs ably completed obedience classes, but Abby sometimes acts as though she’d done a close reading of her graduation certificate, and nowhere did she see the word “mandatory” before the word “obedience.” Both find the agility work Lynn does with them exhilarating. But there, the tables turn. Abby would gladly run agility courses for you all day long. But Holly will occasionally pause before an obstacle, as though the whole business suddenly struck her as an absurd use of her time.

What’s remarkable is that at around age 2, Abby was found to have a growth on her spine that seri-



RICKA MCNAUGHTON | CONTRIBUTED

Close pals Abby and Holly with owners Wade and Lynn Setter.

ously affected her neurologically. The surgeon who removed the growth gave her little chance to regain anything like full function again. But she regained about 95% of it. The vet cleared Abby to do agility classes if she wanted to. And Abby sure did.

The Iggys are considered a distinct breed from their bigger greyhound cousins. Both descended from common ancestors called sighthounds, so named because with their extraordinary peripheral and distance vision, they hunted more by sight rather than scent. Loving, statuesque, yet lap-sized, the Iggys were popular with Italian nobility as far back as 2,000 years ago.

The Setters have been retirees throughout the Abby and Holly Experience. Lynn is a former RN. Wade served as head of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Out from under those weighty responsibilities, Lynn and Wade have leaned fully into the daily pleasures of caring for and simply being around Abby and Holly, who return the favor by simply being themselves, a job they both do brilliantly. But differently.



SELL YOUR HOUSE FAST FOR CASH
No Repairs. No Showings. DONE this week!

"Selling my home with Liz Buys Houses was a game-changer!"
—Michael Beck

We work fast and are ready to help with your sale when you are. **Call today to see if our fast cash offer aligns with your home sale needs!**

CALL 1-844-978-0683
Not for mobile homes, not for homes listed on the market

**OCTOBER 2 -
FEBRUARY 27, 2027!**

Annie
©2026 Hanna-Barbera, LLC

The happiest family musical
is back for the first time
in 22 years to inspire a
whole new generation!

952.934.1525
ChanhassenDT.com

entertaining you!
Chanhassen
DINNER THEATRES

HUGO TREE CARE
Specializing in
Difficult Removal
651-429-4705
www.hugotree.com
Certified Arborist

2012-2013

Lawsuit begins

White Bear Lake Restoration Association and White Bear Lake Homeowners' Association challenged the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), arguing that groundwater permitting was contributing to harm to the lake and its surrounding natural resources.

2014-2016

Settlement attempt fails

2017

Ramsey County District Court orders stronger controls

2020

Minnesota Supreme Court rules

The Minnesota Supreme Court restored the plaintiffs' ability to pursue a claim under the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act, while rejecting one part of the public-trust theory. The subsequent Court of Appeals decision largely preserved the District Court's key remedies.

2024-2026

Permit requirements are challenged

An administrative law judge upheld several requirements but rejected the residential irrigation-ban condition. In 2025, the Court of Appeals sent the administrative decision back for further findings about whether the conditions were feasible for individual municipal water suppliers.

LAKE LEVEL: Administrative law judge rules against cities

FROM PAGE 1

ditions that are the subject of this ruling would restrict the way residents can maintain their lawns and gardens. It will influence development in the community: favoring apartments instead of restaurants and commercial development and it will require the city to spend money on developing plans to convert our water supply to a surface water source like the Mississippi River - which is a solution that is impractical and not feasible for Hugo," Bear said. "Ultimately, restrictions on access to drinking water will have negative economic consequences for the entire northeast metro."

Attorney Dick Allyn, representing the White Bear Lake Restoration Association, explained that the case will likely either go back to the Court of Appeals or to Judge Marrinan.

With the exception of Lake Elmo, no new pumping permits have been issued since August 2017.

"It's important. People may want to think (lake level) is just a temporary problem or that it only affects people who live on the lake," Allyn said. "The lake is a big resource for the whole region. Is there still a problem? Certainly there is still a problem ... White Bear Lake deserves to be protected."

In May 2023, the Minnesota Legislature passed the Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources bill, otherwise known as Chapter 60. Article II, Section 5 of the bill appropriated sums "to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure communities in the White Bear Lake Area have access to sufficient safe drinking water to allow for municipal growth while simultaneously ensuring the sustainability of the surface water and ground water resources."

The legislation set aside resources to plan for the conversion of surface water sources to replace the permit holders'

current appropriation of groundwater. The bill provided: \$2 million the first year is to develop a comprehensive plan. The Metropolitan Council established a work group consisting of the commissioners of natural resources, health, and the Pollution Control Agency or their designees and representatives from the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee; the St. Paul Regional Water Services; and the various the cities to advise the council in developing the comprehensive plan. The work group is scheduled to report back possible solutions to the legislature in June 2027.

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

CONDITIONS

- Condition 1 (plan to convert to surface water source):**
A revised water supply plan must be submitted to the DNR, by Aug. 29, 2018, that includes a contingency plan to fully or partially convert the source water that is authorized under this permit from groundwater to surface water source(s). The contingency plan must include a schedule for funding design, construction and conversion to a surface water supply. Whether any conversion would occur shall be determined by the DNR and the holder of this permit.
- Condition 2 (residential irrigation ban):**
The permittee must prepare, enact and enforce a residential irrigation ban when notified by the DNR that the lake level of White Bear Lake has fallen below 923.5 feet (MSL 1912), to continue until notified by the DNR that the lake level has reached an elevation of 924 feet (MSL 1912). By April 30, 2018, send the DNR an approved ordinance or other enforceable mechanism for implementing an irrigation ban consistent with this permit condition. The current lake levels of White Bear Lake may be viewed on the MN DNR website.
- Condition 3 (per capita water-use plan):**
By Aug. 29, 2018, submit an enforceable plan to the DNR to phase down per capita residential water use to 75 gallons per day and total per capita water use to 90 gallons per day.
- Condition 4 (report on collaborative efforts):**
Annual reporting to the DNR is required on your collaborative efforts with northeast metro communities to develop plans to phase down per capita residential water use to 75 gallons per day and total per capita water use to 90 gallons per day. Annual reports are due on March 31st of each year, beginning in 2019.

CITY OF HUGO FINDINGS

- The city of Hugo holds two water appropriation permits, No. 1969-6218 and No. 2010-0445 (Hugo Permits). Together, the Hugo permits allow for the withdrawal of up to 650 million gallons of water per year for municipal/public water supply and up to 7.1 million gallons or 21.8 acre-feet of water per year for landscaping/athletic field irrigation of 12 acres. The Hugo permits were issued on March 1, 2018, and are long-term appropriations with no end date. Hugo permit No. 1969-6218 includes all four new DNR conditions. Hugo permit No. 2010-0445 includes condition 2 (residential irrigation ban), condition 3 (per capita water use plan), and condition 4 (report on collaborative efforts).
- The Hugo permits include five wells and landscaping/athletic field irrigation of 12 acres.
- Hugo makes withdrawals of groundwater from the Prairie du Chien and Jordan aquifers for use in its community.
- Hugo contests condition 2 (residential irrigation ban) and condition 3 (per capita water use plan).
- Hugo pumps on average 112% more from the aquifer in summer months (May-August).
- Hugo has a water conservation ordinance that allows

the city council to adopt resolutions for water conservation and emergency water regulations.

- On April 2, 2001, the Hugo City Council passed Resolution 2001-10 which set lawn watering limits for odd/even days, based on a finding that "unrestricted watering of lawns by sprinkling or other means could create a shortage of water threatening the city." The resolution limits watering "lawns, trees or other vegetation" to every other day. The city imposes administrative citations and civil penalties for noncompliance.
- Hugo used less than 90 gallon per person per day every year from 2018 to 2022
- Hugo's 2021 Water Conservation Report to the state found 64 residential gallons per capita per day.
- Hugo argues that it is unreasonable to apply the residential irrigation ban because it is "draconian," because it makes "aberrant and arbitrary distinctions," and because it is infeasible and unreasonable. Hugo also argues that it is unreasonable to require it to adhere to the 75/90 condition because of the lack of efficacy of the condition and the impacts on city planning.
- Hugo has not shown it is unreasonable or unfeasible for it to comply with conditions 2 and 3.



Scan QR Code or go to
presspubs.com/signup

Sign up for our Newsletter

The Regional Press Publications Email Newsletter



License: BC692167





Your Local Remodeling, Custom Home & Storm Damage Experts.

Gregory Contracting



651-213-0668 • gregorycontracting.com



PIES FOR THANKSGIVING



Apple, Pumpkin, Mincemeat, Strawberry-Rhubarb, Dutch Apple, Apple-Pecan Pies... from Pine Tree's own recipes.

Call ahead to reserve your pies

OPEN DAILY
651-429-7202

Coming soon — holiday gift ideas and seasonal hours

North of White Bear Lake off E. Hwy. 96, on Apple Orchard Road
Open Daily | 651-429-7202 | www.pinetreeappleorchard.com





Find us on Facebook!



facebook.com/TheCitizenNewspaper



FINANCIAL PLANNING

What this fall's housing market means locally

BY SHIVAN VAHSHISHTHA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For several years, buying a house might have felt like a race. A home would hit the market, showings would fill up and buyers sometimes had only days – or hours – to decide whether to make an offer. There was little room to hesitate.

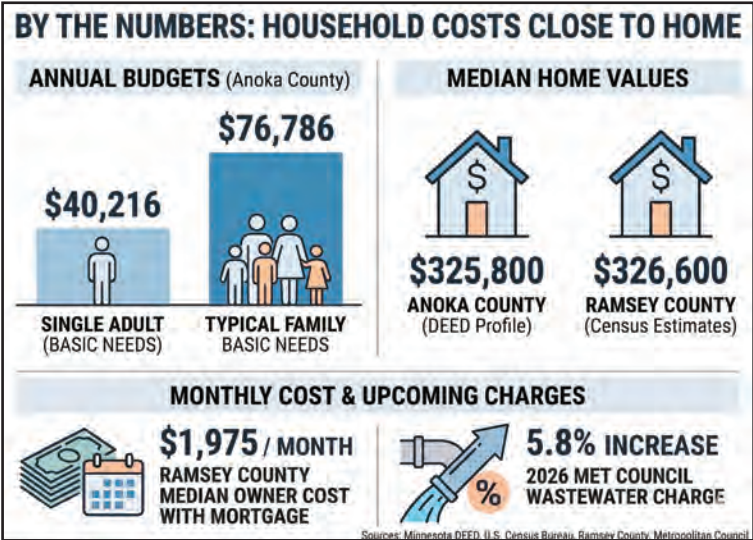
This fall, and the past summer for the matter, looks different.

Across the Twin Cities area, the number of homes for sale has grown noticeably. For buyers in White Bear Lake, Vadnais Heights, Hugo and Centerville, that can mean something that was difficult to find a few years ago: time.

But more choices have not necessarily made buying a home easier. The market has traded one kind of pressure for another. Realtor.com's August housing data showed active listings across the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro up nearly 33% from a year earlier. Approx. one out of five listings had received a reduction in the price. The median list price for the metro was about \$419,900, down 3.1% from the previous August.

The shift is visible closer to home, too.

In Ramsey County, where White Bear Lake and Vadnais Heights are located, active listings were about 9% higher than a year ago in August. In Washington County, which includes Hugo, Mahtomedi and part of White Bear Lake, inventory was up about 11%.



Anoka County, home to Centerville, saw an even larger increase of about 20%.

White Bear Lake itself had 105 active homes listed in August, according to Realtor.com – about 35% more than a year earlier. Its median sold price was about \$365,000.

Now, those figures do not mean every neighborhood has suddenly become a buyer's market as a well-priced home in a desirable location can still move quickly. And smaller communities such as Centerville can see their monthly statistics swing sharply simply because relatively few homes change hands.

What the larger trend does suggest is that buyers have regained some room to think.

And that matters. More inventory

can give buyers the ability to compare several homes instead of feeling forced to bid on the first acceptable one. It can also make inspection contingencies, closing dates and seller concessions more negotiable.

For sellers, though, the lesson is almost the reverse. A house no longer competes only against the clock; it competes against more listings. Pricing a home based on what a neighbor received during the frenzy of a few years ago may not work in today's market.

But there is another number shaping the fall market, and it may matter more than the listing price: the mortgage rate.

Freddie Mac reported that the average 30-year fixed mortgage rate reached at a high of 6.76% on Sept. 10. A year earlier, it was 6.35%. Rates have

also been climbing in recent weeks after sitting closer to the mid-6% range earlier this summer.

For buyers, that difference alone changes the monthly payment before property taxes, insurance or association fees are even added.

It is one reason a price reduction does not automatically make a house affordable. A buyer who negotiates several thousand dollars off the purchase price can still end up with a higher monthly payment if borrowing costs rise.

That makes shopping for the loan almost as important as shopping for the house. Freddie Mac specifically recommends getting mortgage quotes from multiple lenders. Even a relatively small difference in rate can add up over years of payments.

Then there is the cost that is easy to overlook during an open house: homeowners insurance.

Minnesota homeowners have been hit particularly hard. A 2026 industry report found that the state's average homeowners insurance premium rose 34% during 2025 – the largest increase in the country – bringing the average annual premium to about \$3,530. Minnesota Department of Commerce officials have pointed to severe weather, repair costs and the state's older housing stock as factors behind rising costs.

That is especially relevant when comparing homes. An older roof, aging electrical system or previous storm damage may not simply become a future repair expense. Those factors can affect whether a home is easy to insure

and what that insurance ultimately costs. Buyers should obtain an insurance estimate before closing rather than assuming the premium will look like the one on their current home.

The same principle applies to property taxes, association dues and maintenance. The sale price gets most of the attention, but the real financial question is the total monthly cost of owning the home.

For someone considering a move this fall, that may be the most useful change in mindset.

Do not begin with the maximum price a lender says you can borrow. Instead, it might be good to begin with the monthly housing cost that still leaves room for groceries, utilities, transportation, savings and the inevitable repair that arrives without an invitation.

And for homeowners thinking about selling, more inventory does not mean there are no buyers. It means those buyers have more alternatives. A realistic price, good condition and fewer surprises matter more when shoppers can compare.

With all this being said, this fall's housing market is neither clearly "good" nor "bad."

Buyers have more homes to choose from. Sellers are still seeing substantial home values. But higher borrowing and insurance costs mean both sides have to pay closer attention to the numbers.

The market may finally be giving people more time to make a decision, and using that time well may be worth more than winning a bidding war.



ROYAL
CREDIT
UNION®

\$400

FOR NEW
CHECKING ACCOUNTS!*

Getting Your
\$400 Is Easy!

1

Open your
new checking
account

2

Receive two
payroll direct
deposits

3

Get a
\$400 bonus!

Visit a Royal office or open online at rcu.org/CheckingOffer2026

Insured by NCUA. *Receive a \$400 bonus after opening a new checking account between 10/15/26-12/15/26 and receiving two qualifying direct deposits of at least \$500 each from a paycheck, pension, Social Security, or government benefit electronically deposited into the account from an employer or outside agency. Both deposits must occur within 120 calendar days of account opening. Account must remain open for six months. Must open and be primary on a Primary Base Savings account. Incentive will be deposited into the qualifying Member's Primary Base Savings account within 10 calendar days after the second qualifying deposit. Membership qualification required. Business checking accounts are not eligible. Recipients with existing Royal checking accounts or with a previous Royal checking account in the last 12 months do not qualify. Royal reserves the right to withhold or reclaim incentive if qualifications are not met based on Royal's sole discretion. Limit of one account per Member may be included in promotion. The incentive is subject to federal and state tax requirements, which are account holder's responsibility. Royal reserves the right to end this promotion at any time. Offer cannot be combined with any other Royal checking account offers. No minimum balance to open a checking account. Fees could reduce the balance and earnings on the account. Other conditions or restrictions may apply. Refer to our disclosures and service fees for more information.



868672