

RITCH MENNE STEPS DOWN: Centennial coach's decision 'unbelievably hard' **PAGE 11**



LOGAN GION | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

Circle Pines unveils EV charger

Circle Pines Mayor Matt Percy prepares to cut a ribbon that Circle Pines City Council Members and Centennial Utilities staff hold in front of the city's new EV charging stations. According to Percy, the Blink chargers are designed to top off citizens' vehicles as they spend time at the library, playground or city hall. "Even if I'm not fully charged up before I leave the house, I know I'll be OK," said Percy. "The infrastructure is growing, and it's becoming a lot easier to drive."

Circle Pines council adopts environmental stewardship plan

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

The Circle Pines City Council is adopting an environmental stewardship plan (ESP). Consulting firm WSB prepared the report, which includes a greenhouse gas inventory, a climate vulnerability assessment and a community engagement compilation. The city plans to include large portions of the ESP in its Imagine 2050 Comprehensive Plan for the Metropolitan Council. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) fully funded preparation of the plan through a Local Climate Action Planning Grant. "This will be an entire section of our comp plan," said Circle Pines City Administrator Patrick Antonen at the July 28 Circle Pines City Council meeting. "We would've had to come up with \$40,000, if we didn't get the grant, to pay for this study."

SEE ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN, PAGE 7

New CLPD police chief spotlights patrol-informed experience

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

Arrest a drunk driver, chase an escaped chihuahua, mediate a child custody dispute, assist the fire department, return a lost bicycle, investigate mail fraud, locate a missing adult with dementia —within a single day, Centennial Lakes Police Department (CLPD) officers are dispatched to a myriad of calls. Newly appointed CLPD Police Chief Brian Goetzke, however, believes every incident shares one commonality: "Regardless of the reason (citizens) are calling, in some capacity the situation got bad enough for them to call 911 and ask for help." Goetzke took over as CLPD chief of police July 1 after former chief Jim Mork retired. Goetzke has been with CLPD since 2018 and was a patrol sergeant before his promotion. "There's way more responsibility as a chief of police than there was as a patrol sergeant, so

naturally, there are some insecurities, right?" Goetzke said. "If you don't feel those insecurities when you're overseeing an entire police department, I don't think you fully understand the magnitude of what you're doing." Goetzke acknowledged that he will operate CLPD differently than his predecessor did. "I think that Mork did a great job, but I can't be Mork again because we're two different people," Goetzke said. "I take a lot of things from Chief Mork that worked really well, and take some things that I have for my ideas that I want to try and do, and tailor things to who I am ... I could do a great job as chief. That doesn't mean the next person can't come in and make modifications that are going to benefit the department." Allowing police officers to reasonably find their own avenue to meet community and department needs is a skill Goetzke refined during his years as

SEE NEW CLPD CHIEF, PAGE 6



CLPD | CONTRIBUTED

Centennial Lakes Police Department (CLPD) Chief Brian Goetzke.

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Centennial School Board looks to add policy around service animals

The Centennial School Board will consider adopting a new policy regarding service animals at a future meeting. Currently, the district does not have a standalone policy addressing the rights and responsibilities associated with service animals on district property and at school-sponsored events.

Federal and state laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Minnesota Human Rights Act, require public school districts to permit the use of service animals by qualified individuals with disabilities.

According to Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Mike Grossklaus, while the district has consistently complied with these legal requirements, adoption of a formal policy will provide clear guidance for students, employees, families, volunteers and visitors.

The proposed policy establishes district expectations regarding:

- The definition of a service animal and qualified handlers.
- Equal access to district programs, services, facilities, transportation and activities.
- Responsibilities of handlers for the care and control of service animals.
- Circumstances under which a service animal may be removed.
- Appropriate staff inquiries consistent with federal law.
- Procedures for addressing concerns, such as allergies, safety and the presence of miniature horses.

According to Grossklaus, this policy also clarifies that emotional support, therapy, comfort or companion animals are not considered service animals under the ADA.

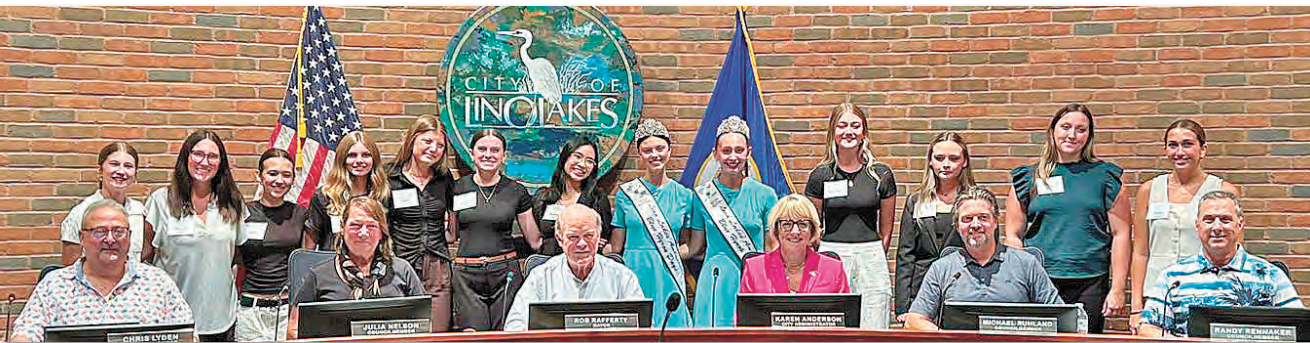
He added that district staff and administration recommend assigning this policy as Policy 521.5 - Service Animals. The placement aligns the policy with the district's existing disability nondiscrimination policies, specifically Policy 521 - Student Disability Nondiscrimination.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact associated with adoption of this policy, according to Grossklaus. A second reading and adoption of the policy will take place at a future regular School Board meeting.

Madeline Dolby

LINO LAKES CITY COUNCIL SNIPPETS

- The 2025-2026 Lino Lakes Ambassadors, Delilah LeClair, Sophia Taylor and Ella Friedman, provided an update to the council about what they have been doing. Since their coronation, the ambassadors have participated in a variety of networking, volunteering and professional events. Some of the ambassadors' favorite events included the St. Michael Holiday Party, Snow Day at Wargo Nature Center and the Alexandra House Hope Gala.
- The council has approved the acquisition of certain real property affecting Parcels 4, 3 and 4, 6 and 8, Right of Way Plat No. 4 for the Otter Lake improvement project. The City Council authorized the preparation of plans and specifications for the project in August 2023. The project requires the acquisition of permanent right-of-way and utility and drainage easements as well as temporary construction easements. According to Community Development Director Michael Grochala, eight parcels are affected by the project. Staff have continued to negotiate with the appropriate property owners and have reached agreements with the owners of Parcels 4, 6 and 8. Under the memorandum of agreement, the parties agree that the compensation for the land and easements is \$534,234. The city will reimburse the owner for appraisal costs of \$6,000; the city will be responsible for obtaining quotes and coordination of demolition of the existing pole barn, including any asbestos abatement and remediation work; the owner will share 50% of the cost of demolition and hazardous material assessment and abatement not to exceed \$60,000. The city will retain \$60,000 from the settlement proceeds until completion of the demolition work; and more.
- The council has approved a site improvement performance agreement for a commercial building on Lot 2 of the Otter Lake Crossing South Second Addition. The building will be located on a commercial lot south of Main Street and west of Otter Lake Road. The proposed commercial plans meet ordinance and performance standards.
- Chloe Solorzano will join the Lino Lakes Police Department as a police officer, following council approval of her appointment to the position. Solorzano completed her POST-mandated law enforcement curriculum in July 2026. According to Chief of Police Curt Boehme, Solorzano has served as a community service officer with the department since April 2025. Solorzano's starting wage will be \$44.57 per hour, which is the starting step in a 7-step wage scale for the position. She will start once she receives her POST license.
- Cohen Vang will also join the Lino Lakes Police Department following council approval of Vang's appointment to the position. Vang has served as a community service officer with the department since February 2026. The starting wage for Vang also will be \$44.57 per hour. Vang will start once he receives his POST licensure.
- The city will make its first and final payment for the 2026 seal coat and crack fill project in the amount of approximately \$112,477 following council approval. The project, completed by Pearson Brothers Inc., included seal coating and crack filling of approximately 3.3



CITY OF LINO LAKES | CONTRIBUTED

The current Lino Lakes Ambassadors, as well as this year's candidates, visit Lino Lakes City Council.

miles of streets in the Stoneybrook neighborhood and the Rohavic neighborhood. Funding for the project is through the pavement management fund.

- MPJWR LLC, also known as Bank No. 1722, will receive 0.7617 acres of wetland credit after the council approved the purchase agreement in a 5-0 vote. The Otter Lake Road construction project included wetland impacts totaling around 3.4 acres. The Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) is the local government unit (LGU) responsible for the administration of the Wetland Conservation Act in Lino Lakes. As part of the RCWD permit requirements, the city must provide wetland replacement in this amount. RCWD rules also require that the replacement be provided from banks within the watershed district, if applicable. To fulfill this requirement, the city will provide around 2.64 credits from the city-owned Wollan Park bank (Bank No. 1601) and purchase the remaining 0.7617 credits. The total amount of the purchase, including fees, is approximately \$91,332.
- Minger Construction Co. Inc will be responsible for the 2026 Birch Street sewer crossing project after the council accepted its bid of \$613,000 and awarded it the construction contract. The project includes boring or jacking a 24-inch diameter casing pipe and installing a 12-inch diameter sanitary sewer pipe from the north side to south side of Birch Street approximately 200 feet west of the intersection of Birch Street and West Shadow Lake Drive. The project, according to City

Engineer Diane Hankee, is necessary to increase capacity in the city's trunk sanitary sewer system. This increase will also accommodate the new water treatment plant flushing effluent. The council will also enter into a construction services contract with WSB for the project in the amount of \$48,800.

The next City Council work session will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10, followed by a regular council meeting at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Madeline Dolby

CONSTRUCTION BRIEF

Otter Lake intersection to reopen a day early

Ramsey County expects to reopen the intersection of Otter Lake Road at County Road J on Aug. 19. The county originally estimated closure of the area until Aug. 20.

Also on Aug. 19, eastbound County Road J and the southbound I-35E entrance ramp will close, weather permitting. During this closure, the entrance to the theater shops and Holiday will be closed on County Road J. Access will be available from Centerville Road and marked via posted detour signs.



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QUAD COMMUNITY PRESS 3

ONGOING EVENTS

BABY STORYTIME

When: 10:15-10:45 a.m., Tuesdays
Where: Anoka County Library, Centennial Branch, Centennial Community Room, 100 Civic Heights Circle, Circle Pines
Details: Enjoy books, songs, rhymes and playtime with your baby in a story time specially designed by our early literacy experts for the youngest learners. For babies ages 0–24 months with a caregiver.
Contact: 763-324-1540

CENTERVILLE MUSIC IN THE PARK

When: 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 4 and 11
Where: Hidden Spring Park, 1601 LaMotte Drive, Centerville
Details: Local musicians perform at beautiful Hidden Spring Park from June to August each year. Bring your own lawn chairs and blanket. This week's band is Capital City Wind Ensemble. The 24-member ensemble is made up of Saint Paul and Ramsey county employees and retirees. Aug. 11, the final performance of the summer, will be from On Tap, a four-piece, acoustic-style band.
Contact: 651-429-3232

CIRCLE LEX LIONS CLUB FARMERS MARKET

When: 2:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Where: Lexington Municipal Liquor Store, 9271 Lake Drive
Details: A variety of vendors will be set up in the parking lot selling produce, plants, breads, syrups, crafts and more.
Contact: 612-272-3386 or kgregory244@gmail.com

MAIN STREET MARKET AND WATER SKI SHOW

When: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays, now through August
Where: Centerville Road near Centerville Elementary School, 1721 Westview St.
Details: Shop among local artisans, listen to live music and grab a bite to eat from a food vendor before walking to the popular Bald Eagle Waterski Show next door at Trailside Park, 7111 Main St.
Contact: info@centervilllemn.com

BLAINE PERFORMANCE IN THE PARK

When: 6 p.m., Thursdays
Where: Tom Ryan Park, 10802 Town Square Drive NE, Blaine
Details: This is a wonderful spot to relax, enjoy some great music, and dance with the kids. There's lots of space for everyone to spread out and have fun. This week's act is LP and the 45s, a classic hits cover band known for performing energetic renditions of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, The Beatles and The Temptations, keeping vintage music alive for audiences at festivals and events.
Contact: 763-717-2723 or jhandt@blainemn.gov

MUSIC ON THE LAKE...IT'S GOLDEN

When: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays
Where: Golden Lake Park, 67 W. Golden Lake Road, Circle Pines
Details: Enjoy summer nights with cool concerts. This week's band is Brady Perl, an American singer-songwriter performing modern and traditional Americana music. Performing professionally for over 15 years, Brady Perl is an award-winning, fourth-generation, local musician, delivering high quality and original material.
Contact: 763-792-6100 or cceonline@isd12.org

SUMMER SUNDAYS ON THE PATIO

When: 3-6 p.m. Sundays
Where: Boulevard Bar and Grille, 3800 Restwood Road, Circle Pines
Details: Every week, Boulevard Bar and Grille provides live music. This week is Axel and Betty, who perform an eclectic mix of covers and originals. The originals are "Outlaw Folk," unfiltered stories and feelings created by a troubled artistic soul that doesn't quite fit and doesn't quite want to.
Contact: 763-204-8091 or lexingtonboulevard@gmail.com



CONTRIBUTED

ST. JOSEPH'S SUMMER FESTIVAL 2026

When: Aug. 8-9
Where: St. Joseph of the Lakes Catholic Church, 171 Elm St., Lino Lakes
Details: A tradition since 1908, this festival includes a fireworks spectacular, great food, a silent auction, live music, Bingo, miniature golf and more. See Page 6 for full schedule and details.
Contact: 651-784-3015 or www.mystjoes.me

CURRENT EVENTS

LUNCH WITH A NATURALIST: FROGS AND TOADS

When: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5
Where: Wargo Nature Center, 7701 Main St., Lino Lakes
Details: Bring your lunch and learn. Listen to a naturalist present on a local natural or cultural history topic and go on a relaxing stroll on the trails. This session's topic is frogs and toads.
Contact: 763-324-3350

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY ANNUAL COMMUNITY CORN ROAST

When: 4-8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6
Where: Lino Lakes American Legion Post 566, 7731 Lake Drive, Lino Lakes
Details: The best corn around and hot dog baskets brought to you by the American Legion riders. There will be carnival games for the kids, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. The Lino Lakes Ambassadors and candidates will run the games.
Contact: 651-783-0055 or officepost566@gmail.com

BARK IN THE PARK

When: 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6
Where: Aquatore Park, 9191 Lincoln St. NE, Blaine
Details: To mark the end of the dog days of summer, Blaine is hosting Bark in the Park. Bring your favorite four-legged friend to visit with companies and non-profit groups specializing in dogs. You and your dog can each enjoy an ice cream while you sit back and listen to the music from The Backyard Band. Dogs must be leashed outside of the fenced in dog park.
Contact: 763-785-6164

WEEKNIGHT WONDERS COOKING DEMO

When: 4-5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6
Where: Anoka County Library, Centennial Branch, Centennial Community Room, 100 Civic Heights Circle, Circle Pines
Details: Join us for a deliciously fun cooking demo with Ashely Craft, author of the "Weeknight Wonders" cookbook. Participants will learn simple recipes, helpful kitchen tips and step-by-step guidance to recreate these foods at home.
Contact: 763-324-1540

TRI YOUR WAY CHALLENGE

When: Aug. 13-Sept. 20
Where: The Rookery Activity Center, 7690 Village Drive, Lino Lakes
Details: Tri Your Way is a triathlon-style fitness challenge open to everyone—members and non-members alike. Swim, bike, and run your way to the finish line on your own schedule and complete your miles at your own pace. Cross the finish line and earn your spot in the prize drawings.
Contact: 651-982-2468

FOOD TRUCK AND FUN FESTIVAL

When: 4-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13
Where: Centennial Middle School, 399 Elm St., Lino Lakes
Details: There will be many food trucks to choose from in addition to a car show and vendor booths. A portion of the evening's food truck sales will benefit the Community Education Financial Assistance Program.
Contact: jorcutt@isd12.org

BLUE HERON DAYS

When: Aug. 13-16
Where: The Rookery Activity Center, 7690 Village Drive, Lino Lakes
Details: Celebrate Lino Lakes—enjoy a car show, food truck festival, carnival games, bounce houses, miniature golf, open swimming at The Rookery, a parade and more.
Contact: linolakes.gov/407/Blue-Heron-Days



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Immobile

Over the last few weeks, I have a new appreciation for mobility around our communities.

The evening of June 13, I stepped off the back of a pontoon and tore my quadriceps tendon. I knew something was terribly wrong right away, as it felt like the tendon rolled up into my thigh, and I couldn't stand up. My wife Amy took me to the emergency room where I was able to get an MRI and learned that the injury would require surgery. The ER at Regions Hospital was busy, yet the staff was amazing and extremely professional. One of the staff who made sure I was kept comfortable throughout the night was Brenda. After 12 hours, I was released with a leg brace to keep my leg completely straight, crutches, medication and a plan to follow up with an orthopedic surgeon.

Because of the potential for the tendon and muscle to atrophy, surgery was scheduled five days later to reattach the tendon to my knee. It was a relatively quick outpatient procedure, but they warned me the recovery would be long. I had to be in the leg brace for 12 weeks and would have to go to physical therapy for months. It is also my right leg, so it has been difficult to drive.

Surgery was two days before the Manitou Days Boat Show the Press staff helps organize. Amy rented a scooter for me so that I would be able to go and get around. It was so fun to see the vintage boats. I was pretty medicated, but the scooter enabled me to go for a couple of hours and connect with many of the participants and volunteers.

The past several weeks have raised my awareness about how difficult it is for those with mobility issues. During my short time traveling on a scooter between home and work, I have had a few close calls with vehicles, runners and bicycles. I was even honked at by a guy in a pickup while I was in the pedestrian crossing. I was also on the scene where a food delivery driver hit a young girl on a bike. Scootering around highlights how treacherous steets and sidewalks can be in our neighborhoods. In some areas, sidewalks are so uneven the streets are the only option because the bumps can be jarring and painful. The placement of the crosswalk buttons on poles has been a challenging too. Some of them are right in the middle of the sidewalk and difficult to get around. I have learned that crossing Highway 61 on a scooter is confusing and downright scary. Some streets have unfinished sidewalks that are impassable.

It is difficult to open doors on a scooter, and while many people are helpful and friendly, others look at you as if you are someone to be fearful of. A trip to the grocery store was a real eye opener as the upper shelves are untouchable and floor freezers are difficult to see inside. It's hard to open the door to grab milk. I really have an appreciation for the electric scooters with a basket.

Handicap bathrooms are spacious, but I found it more comforting in a tight stall where I didn't feel like I could fall over. You pay attention to where sinks and paper towel holders are mounted. ADA codes are good, but we also need common-sense flexibility.

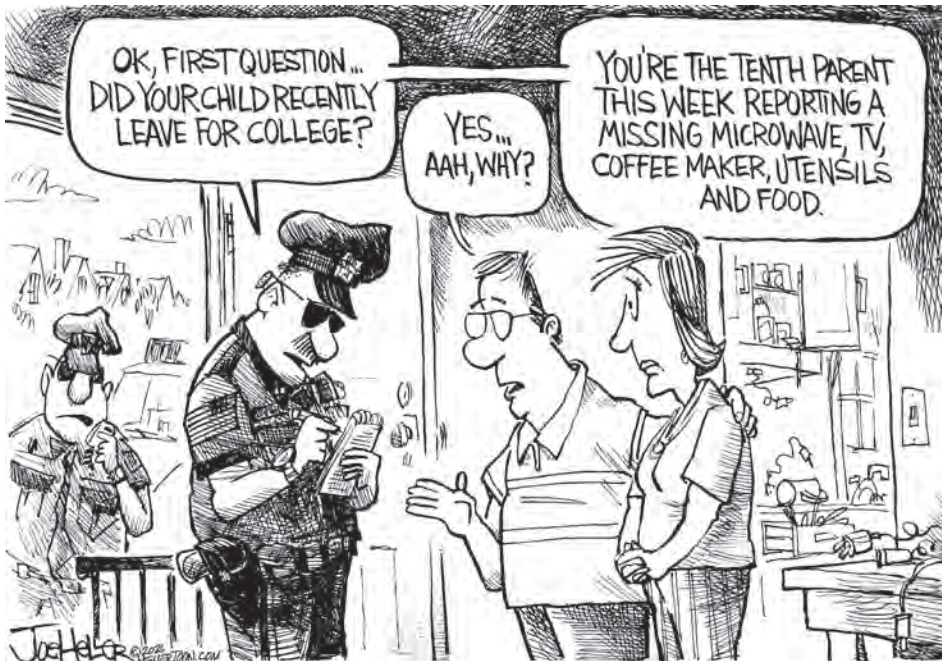
Overall, the mobility scooter has been eye opening to me and in some ways life-changing these past 6 weeks. The new scooters and batteries are lightweight and can be easily disassembled to lift in and out of a car. One of my co-workers offered her mom's scooter to use and that has reduced the rental fees.

Let's get back to some common-sense planning in our communities and find ways for infrastructure to be more sustainable, practical, affordable and user-friendly. Sidewalks are not needed on all streets, as multi-use bike and walking paths can be marked on the streets. As we navigate around our neighborhoods and local businesses, start seeing walkers, bikers, wheelers and those who are just trying to live and get around safely.

Carter Johnson is publisher of Press Publications.



Publisher's View
Carter Johnson



Where there's smoke, there's fire – and heart health risks

Smoke from wildfires is rapidly drifting into the U.S. and the American Heart Association warns that this wildfire smoke exposure may pose an increased risk for heart disease.

“Wildfire smoke contains a lot of pollutants including fine, microscopic particles that can be toxic and cause inflammation and get into the blood vessels,” said Dr. Catherine Benziger, a cardiologist at Essentia Health. “The acute toxic effects include increased risk of arrhythmias, such as atrial fibrillation. It may also increase blood pressure and cause dizziness, headaches, strokes, heart attacks and heart failure exacerbations.”

Several research studies have linked smoke exposure to an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest and a higher volume of visits to local emergency rooms for other cardiovascular disease-related causes.

In research presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2023, investigators

found smoke from summertime wildfires that created short-term spikes in fine particulate matter air pollution was significantly associated with same-day hospitalization for unstable chest pain in Utah.

A study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association found that exposure to heavy smoke during wildfires raised the risk of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests up to 70%. The risk was elevated among men and women, among adults 35-64 years old and in communities with lower socioeconomic status.

Previous findings from the same research group noted that wildfire smoke exposure was associated with increased rates of emergency room visits, not just for breathing trouble, but also ischemic heart disease, irregular heart rhythm, heart failure, pulmonary embolism and stroke. ER visits increased 42% for heart attacks and 22% for ischemic heart disease within a day of exposure to dense wildfire smoke. The increase was most notable for adults age 65 and older.

People with underlying cardiovascular disease risk factors may be at risk for an acute cardiovascular event when exposed to wildfire smoke. Recognizing the signs of a heart attack or stroke are important. Pay attention to your body and call 911 if you have:

- Chest discomfort. Most people

having a heart attack feel discomfort in the center of the chest. It can last more than a few minutes, or it may go away and then return. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

- Discomfort in other areas of the upper body. Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in the arms (one or both), back, neck, jaw and stomach
- Shortness of breath.
- Breaking out in a cold sweat; nausea, rapid or irregular heart-beat, feeling unusually tired; feeling lightheaded

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, offers a zip code-level tracking map of current air quality at airnow.gov. Benziger offers the following tips for reducing exposure to wildfire smoke:

- Stay indoors with doors and windows closed.
- Use high-efficiency air filters in air conditioning systems or portable air cleaners.
- Avoid exertion.
- Keep well hydrated.
- Consider seeking other shelter if your home does not have an air conditioner and it's too warm to stay inside.
- Be mindful that pets may also be affected by the smoke and bring them indoors, as well.

The American Heart Association has resources to help at www.heart.org.



QUAD COMMUNITY PRESS | ELECTION LETTER GUIDELINES

- Election season is considered to be when filing first begins until the day of the election.
- Limited to 350 words. Paid letters running longer will be charged \$10 per 30 words after that.
- Letters are free unless endorsing a candidate, party or question on the ballot. Endorsement letters will have a \$50 fee. Please call 651-407-1200 to arrange payment by credit card or mail a check payable to Press Publications to 4779 Bloom Ave, White Bear Lake, MN, 55110. Endorsement letters are labeled, "paid letter."
- Letters for or against a candidate will qualify as paid letters.
- Submissions must include a full name, address and phone number for verification.
- Letter-writers must live, work or have another connection to Press Publications coverage area.
- Letters are meant to express opinions. If letter-writers include facts, they must attribute those facts to a reputable source.
- Due to space limitations, letters that don't address local issues are not guaranteed publication.
- Repeat unpaid letters by the same writer about the same subject matter will not be published. Repeat paid endorsement letters will be published as space permits.
- Four weeks (or issues) must pass between publication of unpaid letters from the same writer. Exceptions may be made for rebuttal letters at the editor's discretion.
- Submissions containing libelous or derogatory statements will not be published.
- Letters by campaign managers or candidates designed to champion the candidate's position on a specific issue will be accepted as paid letters.
- Letters reprinted as part of letter-writing campaigns are paid letters.
- All letters are subject to editing.
- We reserve the right to not publish any letter.
- The deadline to submit a letter is 5 p.m. Wednesday the week prior to publication.
- The last batch of letters to be printed before the Nov. 3 election will be printed in the Oct. 20 issue and must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct.14.
- To submit a letter, email news@presspubs.com or mail/deliver it to Press Publications.



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CENTERVILLE TIDBITS

• In December 2025, the Centerville City Council determined that a new community vision was necessary for downtown Centerville. City staff and planning consultant Bolton & Menk solicited feedback from the public to better understand community needs and concerns. The result was the Downtown Centerville Vision Plan, the final version of which City Planner Nathan Fuerst presented to council for adoption at the council’s July 23 meeting. The City Council adopted the Downtown Vision Plan with two amendments. Council expects to implement the plan by making future amendments to its Zoning Code and Comprehensive Plan.

• The city has been holding a letter of credit for the completion of public sidewalk improvements for the Old Mill Estates II development. The infrastructure improvements have been made and accepted by the city, and staff recommended releasing the letter of credit in the amount of \$11,750. The developer has submitted plans for Phase III of the project, and a new letter of credit and escrow funds will be applied to this phase.

• City staff presented a preliminary look at the potential 2027 budget at a work session prior to the meeting. Council then discussed the 2027 budgeted general fund revenues, expenditures and tax levy. However, city staff’s estimates could not include police or fire expenditures, so staff estimated expenses on the high side. The debt service levy for 2027 is estimated to be \$208,440, an 8.9% decrease from 2026 during which the levy was \$228,810. This is a reduction of \$20,370. The general fund levy is estimated to be \$3.4 million, a 6.8% increase over the 2026 general fund levy of \$3.2 million, or an increase of \$222,767. The total 2027 levy is estimated to be \$3.7 million, a 5.8% or \$202,397 increase over the 2026 total levy of \$3.5 million. The preliminary 2027 budget is due to be submitted to the county by the end of September, and the final 2027 budget and levy will be considered for council adoption in December.

• The council is halfway through

its strategic planning process; additional time is needed to finalize city goals for next year. At the work session, staff requested that council schedule future planning sessions and get them on member calendars.

• The city’s public works staff discovered that the security gate’s opener/closer has a broken footing, which is in the way of the concrete/drainage repair project pathway. Although the gate opener/closer is almost 30 years old, staff will keep it and move it onto a stationary concrete footing. This way, the gate will still open and close for security reasons but no longer be in the path of the concrete/drainage project. After council approved the repair, Century Security of Forest Lake will fasten the opener/closer onto new block footing and bring it up to code for \$3,430.

• The capital improvement plan approved in May will include a salt storage facility for the public works department. According to the estimate from the proposed contractor, the shed alone will cost \$89,000 for materials and labor. The public works yard at the shop does not have a constructed base area where the building will reside. The proposed builder, Greystone Construction, concluded that the amount of material appropriate for this site would cost \$2,500. City staff would do the heavy lifting by hauling materials from Bituminous Roadway in Columbus. With council approval, money for the material will come from the city’s equipment fund.

• Property owners making improvements regularly encroach slightly into the city’s right-of-way/ drainage and utility easements and need an encroachment agreement if council decides certain conditions are met and the fence or shed won’t cause harm to the purpose of the easement. At the July 23 meeting, council approved two encroachment agreements, one in the backyard of 1707 Dupre Road for an accessory structure shed and the other at 6805 Grouse Hollow for a black, 4-foot chain link fence.

• There are two elections coming

up — the primary election on Aug. 11 and the general election on Nov. 3. By statute, the city must formally approve by resolution the trained election judges who will be working the polling places. Council approved two head judges and eight election judges. City Clerk Teresa Bender will administer the election.

• The Constitution of the United States was drafted on September 17, 1787, by the Constitutional Convention. Every year the president of the United States proclaims the week beginning on that date as Constitution Week, and Centerville signs on every year. For 2026, council adopted a resolution proclaiming the week of Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week.

• In her report, City Administrator Athanasia Lewis acknowledged the hard work of Fete des Lacs volunteers, especially Bridget Lemire and the annual festival’s organizers. She called out the parade organizers, Centennial Lakes Police Department, the Lions Club and all the volunteers who worked the festival.

• Absentee voting is under way, and voters are invited to contact City Hall with questions. Offices up for election are mayor (two-year term), two four-year council member seats and one two-year council member seat by special election. The terms of all the above seats start in January 2027.

• The public works department is working to patch various streets in the northeast part of town, along with a portion of the Fete des Lacs parade route. Please contact public works about any asphalt deterioration or potholes in these areas that need to be addressed. Staff are also working throughout the parks and trail system on detail and maintenance projects. One project will involve replacing the Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park hockey boards with new boards for rink containment.

The council next meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

Loretta Harding

POLITICAL BRIEF

Local candidates file for council, mayoral and school board seats

Multiple municipalities are looking to fill city council and mayoral seats during the Nov. 3 election.

The city of Centerville is looking to fill two regular City Council seats as well as the mayor’s seat. Council seats are determined “at large,” meaning that, from the entire field, the top two vote-getters win seats. Linda M. Broussard and Anita Rios, both incumbents, have filed to be on the Nov. 3 ballot. Similarly, Nancy Golden, the incumbent, has filed to run for mayor. Separately, Kale Kaluptzok has filed to run in a special election to fill the remainder of former Council Member David Kubat’s term.

The city of Lexington is also looking to fill two City

Council seats as well as the mayor’s seat. Lexington’s City Council seats are elected at large as well. Kim Jay DeVries, Heidi A. Fust and Brandon Winge have filed to be on the Nov. 3 ballot. DeVries and Winge are incumbents. Similarly, Mike Murphy, incumbent, has filed to run for mayor.

Meanwhile, Centennial School District has three of its seven seats open for the Nov. 3 election. Voters also determine this race at large. So far, Joe Ackerman, Laura Gannon, Tom Knisley, Gloria Murphy and Jessica Schwinn, have all filed to be on the Nov. 3 ballot. Knisley, Murphy and Schwinn are incumbents.

The general election candidate filing period for local offices and school districts closed July 28.

For information about official candidate filings, visit candidates.sos.mn.gov.

WEEKLY WAG

McGee is a fun, affectionate and entertaining young boy. He is a Chihuahua/Jack Russell Terrier mix, and he is just a couple months shy of celebrating his second birthday. McGee may only weigh 21 pounds, but he has a big personality. He has a high energy level, and he is social with other dogs. However, cats are not quite his thing. McGee likes to play with his toys and he likes going for walks and on adventures. He is social and friendly to everyone he meets. He even recently attended a Twins baseball game and had his picture taken with TC Bear.

McGee is house trained and crate trained, although he likes being out with his people best. His foster says McGee is a mix of playful energy and snuggly sweetness. If you are looking for an active, loyal companion, and if you like to explore as much as McGee, then he is anxiously waiting for you.



If you are interested in learning more about McGee 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.

OBITUARY

Donna Rae Marie Reinert

August 17, 1934 - July 16, 2026
Lino Lakes, MN

Donna grew up in Gresham, WI with her sisters, Charlene and Mary Ellen, and her brothers, John “Jack” and Kenny. Donna attended the College of St Catherine’s in Minnesota, but left after one year and was hired by Burlington Railroad in IL.



In 1955, Donna left her job to marry Vernon and start a family. After living in Wausau, WI, the family moved to Lino Lakes, MN in 1975. Donna worked as a school librarian at Centennial Jr High School for 22 years, a job she loved, before she retired.

After retirement, Donna and Vernon purchased a second home in AZ where they spent winters for 17 yrs. They also purchased a cabin on the Rainy River.

Donna loved life and brightened every room she walked into, but what she loved most in life was her family and spending time with her five children, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

Survived by husband, Vernon; children, Cheryl Lamers (Arnie), Steve Reinert (Geri), Jeff Reinert (Lisa), John Reinert, and Lisa Delgado (David).

CORRECTION

In the July 21 edition of Quad Community Press, an incorrect name of a lake was listed in a community brief. The correct name of the lake is George Watch Lake. We apologize for the error.



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Minnesota Attorney



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NEW CLPD CHIEF: Brian Goetzke balances officer and community needs

FROM PAGE 1

a field training officer, one of the most challenging positions in a police department. In that position, Goetzke trained new police officers while riding in the passenger seat.

“Think of the first time that new officer responds to an emergency with lights and sirens. I have a 15-year-old daughter who’s got her permit right now. It’s the same kind of feeling,” Goetzke said, laughing.

While Goetzke said that a field training officer is able to instill upon a new officer their views and values on what policing is and should be, the trainer must allow the trainee to find their own way to the answer.

“Just because it’s not the way I would do it doesn’t mean it’s wrong. There’s so many different communication styles, lines of questioning,” said Goetzke. “What your job is as a field training

officer is that oversight, making sure they don’t go down the wrong path ... Other than that, you let them work through it. Then we debrief after calls — this is how we did it, this is what we could do differently, but that was good.”

Goetzke plans to extrapolate this attitude across the department because he believes showing individual personalities of officers, while still meeting citizens’ needs, will strengthen community engagement.

“We’re human; we can’t be robotic in how we do things,” Goetzke said. “When I was a kid, you would see a police car drive by, and it was kind of scary sometimes, kind of intimidating. And for no reason. The police didn’t do anything bad to me as a kid. But I think that was just the perception of it ... We want the people in the community to understand that we are an extension of the community.”



Chief Goetzke rides a horse.

CLPD | CONTRIBUTED

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD SNIPPETS

- Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Mike Grossklaus provided information to the School Board regarding the upcoming new teacher workshop, the start of back-to-school activities, and district professional development for the 2026-2027 school year. The new teacher workshop is scheduled to take place the week of Monday, Aug. 17. Back-to-school activities will start the week of Monday, Aug. 24. The district professional development session falls during the week of Monday, Aug. 24, as well.
- The board approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to provide instructional services that support

teacher compensation for READ Act training. During the 2024 legislative session, Minnesota Laws 2024, Chapter 115, appropriated funding to school districts, charter schools and cooperative units that provide direct instructional services to compensate teachers for completing required READ Act training. The 2025–2027 CEA contract includes an MOU to meet this requirement. Since the contract was approved, a new READ Act training vendor has become available. This vendor offers a training option with different hour requirements that will be used for secondary teachers. The revised MOU reflects this new training option.

- The board will consider adopting a new policy revolving around service animals at a future meeting. Currently, the district does not have a standalone policy addressing the rights and responsibilities associated with service animals on district property and at school-sponsored events (see full story in this week’s issue).
- The first day of school for grades 1-5, 6 and 9 will be Monday, Aug. 31. Students entering pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, 7-8, 10-12 and Journey can mark their calendars for their first day of school on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Madeline Dolby



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I enjoy being a paraprofessional at Centennial schools because I have an opportunity to impact young lives every day.” -Kristine

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6:45 – 10 pm Java Soul	11 am – 3 pm Silent Auction – Online bidding ends at 3:00 pm
7:30 - 9:30 pm - New this Year Mini Golf	11 am – 4 pm Live Music and Dancing featuring Saints of Swing and Wilde Rose Cloggers, BINGO, Carnival Games, Concessions, Joe's Bar, Classic Car Show & More
10 pm Fireworks Spectacular!	11 am – 4 pm - New this year Farmers Market & Crafts - features handcrafted, homemade and one of a kind items
	4 pm Special Raffles and Grand Raffle Drawings over \$20,000 in prizes!



ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN: Circle Pines completes section of 2050 document

FROM PAGE 1

By simply adopting the ESP and including it in its comprehensive plan, the city of Circle Pines will have more options for green-initiative grants. “Many funding programs favor communities with adopted plans like this,” said Maddie Anders, a sustainability program manager with WSB who presented an overview of the ESP at the same meeting.

According to Anders, the ESP contains a framework on how to protect and enhance Circle Pines’ natural assets; practically reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; and guide future city decisions by integrating environmental stewardship into policies, operations and planning efforts.

Anders said that to gather community input, Circle Pines created an anonymous online survey. The city then informed residents of the survey by sending out more than 2,000 postcards, posting on

social media and holding a community event at the Centennial Library (see “Circle Pines family fun night revolves around wildlife,” Nov. 11, 2025).

“Before identifying solutions, we first asked residents what they value the most ... what environmental challenges the city should prioritize,” Anders said.

According to the survey, resident responses listed the protection of natural resources as well as the improvement of water and air quality as the environmental issues that matter most to them. Similarly, survey participants named water and air quality as the top issues that the city should prioritize.

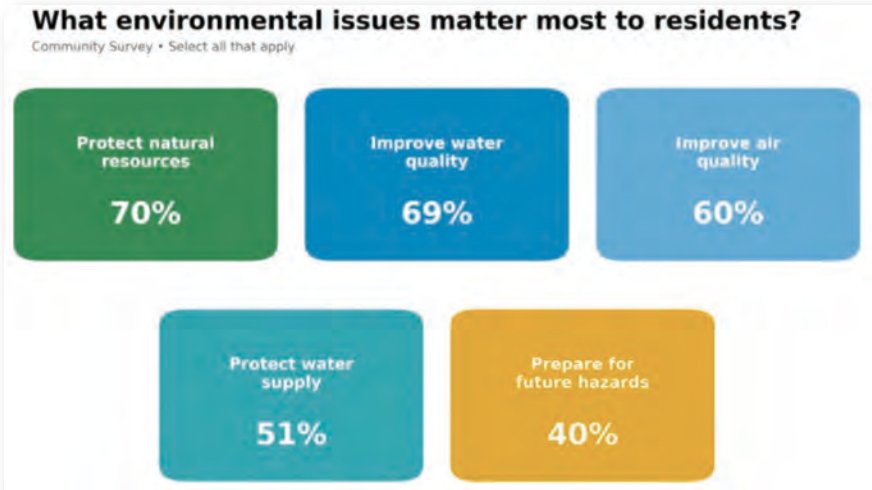
Anders said, “Overall, I think they made it clear that protecting Circle Pines’ natural character, preparing for future environmental challenges and making thoughtful investments that improve quality of life should remain priorities for the city.”

Developed strategies within the ESP, Anders noted, are intended to be practical and achievable, yet flexible. “We recognized that implementation work really depends on staff capacity, available funding partnerships, evolving community needs — a lot of moving targets all at once,” Anders said.

One specific, immediate strategy she mentioned involves reducing GHG emissions from residential energy use.

Anders said that Circle Pines has goals of cutting 2005-level emissions in half by 2030 and achieving “carbon neutrality” — reducing emissions as much as possible, then balancing any remaining emissions through other actions — by 2050. These goals, Anders noted, are in line with international and state GHG reduction goals.

In 2005, GHG emissions in Circle Pines totaled a carbon-dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) of 50,000 tonnes (metric tons). Since 2020,



CHARTS BY CITY OF CIRCLE PINES | CONTRIBUTED

Issue priorities from Circle Pines resident comments for the environmental survey plan (ESP).

levels have hovered near 30,000 tonnes of CO₂e, a 40% reduction. The plan’s GHG inventory also shows that 74% of emissions come from energy use, while 23% come from transportation.

“Circle Pines is actually pretty darn close to meeting their 2030 goal,” Anders said, though she added that this reduction is largely due to the energy sector switching the electricity grid to green sources.

Therefore, the ESP outlines a strategy to engage with more residents about SolarWise solar garden credits offered through Connexus Energy. Anders estimated that 1.5% of Circle Pines residents subscribed to these credits.

“The nice thing about those programs is that it doesn’t take a lot of effort,” said Circle Pines Mayor Matt Percy. “You don’t have to go into a contract with somebody to put panels on your house and go through all that effort. Just sign up for the program, and the rest takes care of itself.”

“It’s a small charge, and you can do a half-house or whole-house per month to buy in,” added Anders. “You’re helping support putting new solar arrays online.”

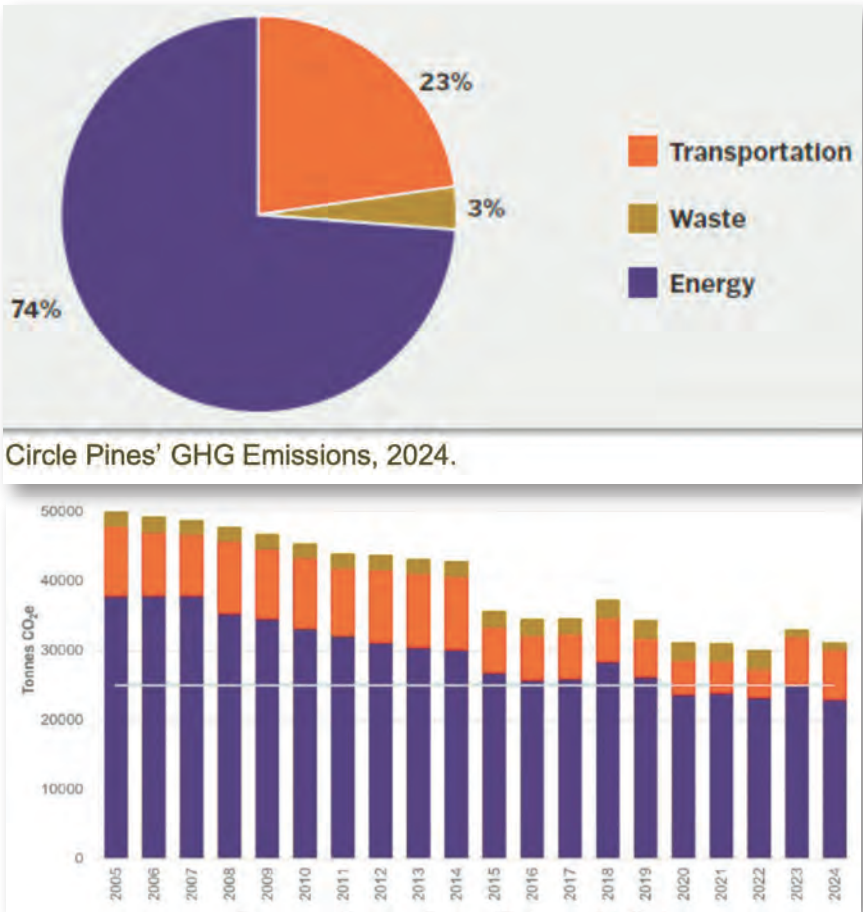
Another strategy the city is implementing involves purchasing more electric vehicles when replacing municipal trucks. Antonen said that

while going electric is not possible for all vehicles, especially snowplows, Circle Pines will have a mix of vehicle types going forward.

“Circle Pines is in a really good place,” Anders said. “We have beautiful natural resources. We have a lot of these great policies that are already part of the fabric of how we do our work ... (The ESP asks) ‘Where are the opportunities to do more ... within the things

that are important to the citizens in our city? Where can we empower people and give them more resources?’”

For more information on the SolarWise program, visit connexusenergy.com/residential/save-money-and-energy/rebates-and-programs/solar-energy/solar-wise.



Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels divided by sector percentages and measured by metric tonnes.

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Steve Vermeersch, owner and mechanic of Vermeersch Automotive in Centerville, has lived in the local area since 1977. He and his wife, Carisa, have 2 children. Steve graduated from St. Paul College and is ASE Certified in multiple categories. Carisa works in White Bear Lake. Steve is a member of the White Bear Lake Lions & WBLHS Alumni Association and they are members of First Presbyterian Church.

Steve has 20 years experience in the auto repair industry. Whether your vehicle needs an oil change or is in need of major engine repairs, Vermeersch Automotive is qualified to handle it all. He offers personal service, affordable rates and the understanding he will go the extra mile for you.

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POLICE REPORTS

The Centennial Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- On July 22, officers were dispatched to a fraud report on Central Street.
- On July 23 in the 9000 block of Griggs Avenue, officers took down information on a theft report. There are no known suspects.
- On July 23, officers were dispatched to the 9100 block of Lexington Avenue for a found bicycle.
- On July 23, officers were dispatched to the 9200 block of Lexington Avenue for suspicious activity. While investigating, officers discovered a person had an active warrant. The person was cleared by arrest.
- On July 27, officers observed traffic violations at S. Highway Drive and Griggs Avenue that resulted in a DWI arrest.
- On July 28, officers took a report of found property near the 6700 block of Centerville Road.

The Lino Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- On July 20 in the 7200 block of Savanna Court, an officer responded to a request for assistance removing an animal from an egress window. The animal promptly fled the area, and there were no other problems.
- On July 20 in the 7300 block of Main Street, an officer attempted to stop an electric dirt bike that was driving on the roadway without registration and did not have the proper lights. The rider fled from the officer and was not located.
- On July 21 in the 500 block of Birch Street, officers responded to a complaint about a dead wild animal. Arrangements were made for the animal to be removed.
- On July 21 at the intersection of Rainy Lane and Norway Lane, an officer responded to a

suspicious activity report. The officer investigated and determined two suspects stole items from a vehicle. The suspects fled from police. The investigation is ongoing.

- On July 21 in the 8200 block of Haywood Drive, an officer responded to a complaint about items illegally dumped at a construction site. The person involved was identified and agreed to dispose of items elsewhere.
- On July 21 at the intersection of Watermark Way and Forest Lane, an officer responded to a report of a golf cart driving on the sidewalks. The officer spoke with the driver of the golf cart and advised them of city ordinance.
- On July 22 in the 7300 block of Apollo Court, officers responded to a business and arrested an adult male with an active warrant. The male was booked at jail.
- On July 23 at the intersection of Lake Drive

and Apollo Drive, while on patrol, an officer stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation. The adult male driver was arrested on a warrant.

- On July 24 in the 2100 block of Pepin Drive, an officer responded to a motor vehicle hit-and-run report. The investigation is ongoing.
- On July 24 at the intersection of Nottingham Lane and Lois Lane, officers responded to a motor vehicle crash, provided assistance and documented the incident.
- On July 25 in the 800 block of Oak Lane, an officer responded to delayed report regarding a suspicious male who walked onto a resident's property. The resident provided the officer with security video of the male, who is unknown at this time.
- On July 25 at the intersection of Lake Drive and Main Street, an officer responded to delayed report

of a two-vehicle property damage accident. The incident was documented in a report.

- On July 25 in the 7800 block of Lois Lane, an officer responded to a dog bite report. The officer spoke to all parties involved and documented the incident.
- On July 25 in the 7500 block of Lake Drive, while on patrol, an officer located a motorist in need of assistance. The officer assisted by transporting the vehicle owner to a gas station and back to their vehicle.
- On July 26 in the 700 block of Apollo Drive, officers responded to a shoplifting report at a local business. A female suspect was cited for theft.
- On July 26 in the 700 block of Apollo Drive, officers responded to a parking complaint at a local business. Officers advised the driver he could not park at the location overnight.

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

Blaine Police Department arrests 24 in multi-operation stings

The Blaine Police Department arrested 24 people in a coordinated juvenile suppression operation aimed at protecting minors from exploitation, targeting individuals attempting to engage in illegal activity involving underage youth.

According to a statement from the Blaine Police Department, the operation focused on undercover exploitation stings, in which investigators posed online as underage individuals to identify and apprehend adults seeking to engage in illegal conduct with minors.

Blaine Police Department partnered with multiple agencies during the large-scale investigation, including Anoka County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, U.S. Secret Service and Homeland Security Investigations.

Throughout the two-day operation, investigators communicated with 368 individuals who responded to an online advertisement. As a result, 24 individuals who offered to pay for illegal sexual contact with a person they believed to be a juvenile were arrested. All suspects were booked into the Anoka County Jail.

“The safety of our youth is a top priority,” said

the Blaine Police Department. “This operation underscores our commitment to protecting minors from harm and holding accountable those who seek to exploit them.”

Lino Lakes Fire Department District Chief Jon Stalker retires

After 15 years of dedicated service to the Lino Lakes Fire Department, District Chief Jon Stalker is retiring.

According to a statement from the Lino Lakes Fire Department, “Jon exemplified our core values of loyalty, integrity, neighborly service and ownership. His commitment, professionalism and willingness to always step up have left a lasting impact on our members and the community we proudly serve.”

Stalker’s fire service career began with the Centennial Fire District before continuing with the Lino Lakes Fire Department, eventually becoming District Chief of Station 2.

Lino Lakes Volunteers in Public Safety (LLVIPS) sponsored a retirement plaque for Stalker. The fire department thanked LLVIPS, adding, “Their generosity goes far beyond this gift. They continually volunteer their time, support



CONTRIBUTED

Retiring Lino Lakes Fire Department District Chief Jon Stalker with his family. Stalker is holding a retirement plaque made by Lino Lakes Volunteers in Public Safety.

emergency events, fund projects that benefit our members and make a difference behind the scenes every day. We are incredibly grateful for their partnership and unwavering commitment to public safety.”

At a retirement ceremony, the Lino Lake Fire Department thanked Stalker for his years of service.

PUBLIC NOTICES - PUBLIC NOTICES - PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF CENTERVILLE, MINNESOTA
PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held in the City of Centerville, Minnesota, on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at the polling locations listed below for the purpose of voting for candidates of the offices specified below. The polls for said election will be open at 7:00 AM and will remain open until closing at 8:00 PM.

The City of Centerville's polling location, voting hours are as follows:

St. Genevieve's Community Parish Center
6995 Centerville Road
Centerville, MN 55038
HOURS: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

FEDERAL OFFICES

- US Senator
- US Representative District 3, 5, 6
- Governor and Lt Governor
- Attorney General
- State Auditor
- Secretary of State
- Supreme Court Associate Justice, Seat 4
- Court of Appeals Judge, Seats 9, 13, 15
- State Representative District 17A, 27B, 30B, 31A, 31B, 32A, 32B, 34B, 35A, 35B, 36A, 39A, 39B
- District Court Judge District 10, Seats 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 17, 22, 23, 24, 28, 32, 38, 39, 43

Centerville's polling location: Church of St. Genevieve Parish Community Center, 6995 Centerville Road, Centerville, MN 55038

Voting hours: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Precinct Name	Voting Location
Centerville P-1	St. Genevieve Community Parish Center 6995 Centerville Road, Centerville, MN 55038

Teresa Bender,
City Clerk

Published two times in the Quad Community Press on July 28 and August 4, 2026.

CITY OF CENTERVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public accuracy test of vote counting equipment to be used in the August 11, 2026 Primary Election will be held on Friday, August 7, 2026. at 9:00 a.m. at Centerville City Hall, 1880 Main Street, Centerville, MN 55038-9794.

If you would like to witness this demonstration, you are welcome to do so at the above mentioned location.

Teresa Bender, City Clerk

Published one time in the Quad Community Press on August 4, 2026.

CITY OF CIRCLE PINES, MINNESOTA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Circle Pines Planning Commission will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2026 at the Circle Pines City Hall.

The purpose of this meeting will be to review a variance application for a detached garage construction located in the front yard at 64 East Golden Lake Road, Circle Pines, Minnesota.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a disabled individual may one week in advance contact City Hall by phone at (763) 784-5898, or TDD (763) 231-2617; or in writing to request reasonable assistance to be able to participate in these proceedings.

Patrick Antonen, Clerk of the City of Circle Pines

Dated: July 29, 2026

Published one time in the Quad Community Press on August 4, 2026.

CITY OF LEXINGTON, MINNESOTA
PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held in the City of Lexington, Minnesota, on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at the polling locations listed below for the purpose of voting for candidates of the offices specified below. The polls for said election will be open at 7:00 AM and will remain open until closing at 8:00 PM.

FEDERAL OFFICES

- US Senator
- US Representative District 3, 5, 6

- Governor and Lt Governor
- Attorney General
- State Auditor
- Secretary of State
- Supreme Court Associate Justice, Seat 4
- Court of Appeals Judge, Seats 9, 13, 15
- State Representative District 17A, 27B, 30B, 31A, 31B, 32A, 32B, 34B, 35A, 35B, 36A, 39A, 39B
- District Court Judge District 10, Seats 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 17, 22, 23, 24, 28, 32, 38, 39, 43

The voting places are as follows:

Precinct Name	Voting Location
Lexington P-1	Lexington City Hall 9180 Lexington Ave. Lexington, MN 55014

Brenda Beaudet, Deputy City Clerk

Published two times in the Quad Community Press on July 28 and August 4, 2026.

CITY OF LINO LAKES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Lino Lakes, Minnesota will hold a public hearing on August 24, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Lino Lakes City Hall, 600 Town Center Parkway, Lino Lakes, Minnesota, to consider the following:

- Utility Easement Vacation
- Property Address: 6030 Blanchard Blvd
- PID #31-31-22-73-0070
- Outlot C, Lyngblomsten at Lino Lakes Addition

For further information regarding the above item, please contact City Engineer, Diane Hankee, at 651-982-2430.

Anyone wishing to be heard regarding these items will be given the opportunity at the time of the hearing. If you have any questions or need special accommodations, please call 651-982-2400.

Roberta Colotti, CMC, City Clerk

Published two times in the Quad Community Press on August 4 and 11, 2026.

Ritch Menne, distinguished Cougars hockey coach, steps down

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

After 34 years with the district, Centennial Cougars boys hockey coach Ritch Menne is resigning. He was head coach for 15 years, with four state trips in his ledger.

The reason: a job promotion that Menne couldn't pass up. He is a salesman for FleetPride, which deals in heavy duty truck parts and service.

"I was in outside sales for years, but now was promoted to Area Manager," Menne said, "where I will be responsible for seven stores in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, with 150 employees."

Parting from his beloved Cougars is painful, although he'll still be around as a devoted fan.

"The decision was unbelievably hard. I loved every second being the high school coach at Centennial," stated Menne. "I told the players that this is something I had to do, but wasn't something I wanted to do as

far as coaching. This opportunity for work was just too good to pass up."

He added that both he and his wife shed many tears.

"I was blessed to have terrific coaches by my side all of those years and outstanding players to be around," Menne said.

As head coach, Menne led the Cougars to state tournaments in 2013, 2014, 2018 and 2024. His last team had an 18-10 record and lost in the section finals to Andover. Menne had only two losing seasons in his 15-year tenure, compiling an overall record of 247-132-20.

He was also an assistant to Erik Aus when the Cougars were state champions in 2004.

During this time, Menne coached his three sons: Richie, Class of 2015; Jack, 2018; and Sam, 2023.

Menne is a Centennial lifer, having played for the Cougars himself. He noted that he lives five minutes from the rink and will continue to attend games.



CONTRIBUTED

Ritch Menne Posed with next year's Cougar captains after announcing his decision to resign

SPORTS BRIEF

College Athletes

In Track and Field, Landen Liu, Bethel senior sprinter from Centennial, was 100-meter dash champion in the MIAC meet, with a time of 10.35, and led off a first-place 4x100 relay. Bethel was MIAC team champion.

In Basketball, Autumn McCall, St. Thomas freshman post from Centennial, played 20.7 minutes per game for the Division I team, averaging 4.9 points and 3.1 rebounds. The Tommies were 16-18.

In Softball, Riley O'Connell, Northern State freshman pitcher from Centennial, worked 37 innings with 32 strikeouts, a 3-4 record and 5.39 ERA. The team was 21-27.

Bruce Strand

COMMUNITY BRIEF



CONTRIBUTED

Lino Lakes Ambassador Ella Friedman

Ambassador to rep Lino Lakes Ambassadors at 2027 Aquatennial

The Lino Lakes Ambassador Program has chosen Ella Friedman to represent the city of Lino Lakes at the 2027 Minneapolis Aquatennial. The annual outdoor event usually takes place in the third week of July. Minneapolis first held the Aquatennial in 1940.

CATCH OF THE WEEK



CONTRIBUTED

Saundra Tomascak of Lino Lakes caught a 53-inch, roughly 48-pound muskie on Lake Vermillion using a Lindy Rig, a size 6 red hook on six-pound test line and custom-made spool from Tomascak's friend.

WATER SKI BRIEFS

Local water skiers win

George Lindy of Lino Lakes placed first in the Men 9 division, ages 75-79, at the Minnesota State Waterski Tournament, July 25, 2026, at Trophy Lakes Estates III in Center City, MN. He also topped his division at Midwest Regional Water Ski Championships on July

31 at the same site.

David Poppe of Lino Lakes also placed first in tricks in the Men 5 division, ages 55-59, in both the state and regional tournaments. Meanwhile, David's son Jordan Poppe placed third in tricks and first in slalom at the state tournament in the Men 1 division,

ages 18-24. Men 1 regional scores posted past press deadline.

Trophy Lakes Estates will also host the national tournament Aug. 9-16. The last time Minnesota held a national water ski tournament was 1965 on Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis.



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Please support me in the Primary - Tuesday, August 11

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- Chair of Parks
- IT Committee
- Human Services Committee
- Public Safety Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Management Committee
- Government Operations
- Children and Family Council Governing
- East Central Regional Juvenile Center Advisory Board
- Anoka County - Blaine Airport Advisory Commission
- Anoka County Regional Railroad Authority
- Library Board Committee
- Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority - (HRA)
- Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)
- AMC Executive Board - Past Member
- Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) Board
- MMCD Executive Board
- Mercy Hospital / Allina Health Foundation Board of Directors - Past Member

About Commissioner Jeff Reinert:

- Grew up in Lino Lakes and graduated from Centennial High School before heading off to college in Mankato
- Has called Lino Lakes his home for over 50 years
- Lives in Lino Lakes with his wife, where they raised three amazing daughters
- Business owner for more than 40 years
- Currently President of SentryDx, a diagnostic test to detect various cancers
- Commander at Post 566 SAL American Legion in Lino Lakes
- Enjoys hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, sailing, and mountain biking

Prior civic/volunteer experience:

- 7 Years - Anoka County Commissioner
- 10 Years - Mayor of Lino Lakes
- 10 Years - Lino Lakes City Council prior to becoming mayor
- 3 Years - Lino Lakes Park Board
- 7 Years - President of Lino Lakes Economic Development Authority
- 7 Years - Anoka County Joint Law Enforcement Committee
- 11 Years - Centennial Fire District Steering Committee
- 4 Years - Anoka County Fire Protection Council (and Finance Committee)
- 12 Years - Sons of the American Legion - Commander 5 Years
- 2 Years - Chain of Lakes Rotary Club
- 3 years - Lino Lakes Lions Club
- 1 Year - President and founder of Lino Lakes Yellow Ribbon Network

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Jeff Reinert - The ONLY Serious Choice

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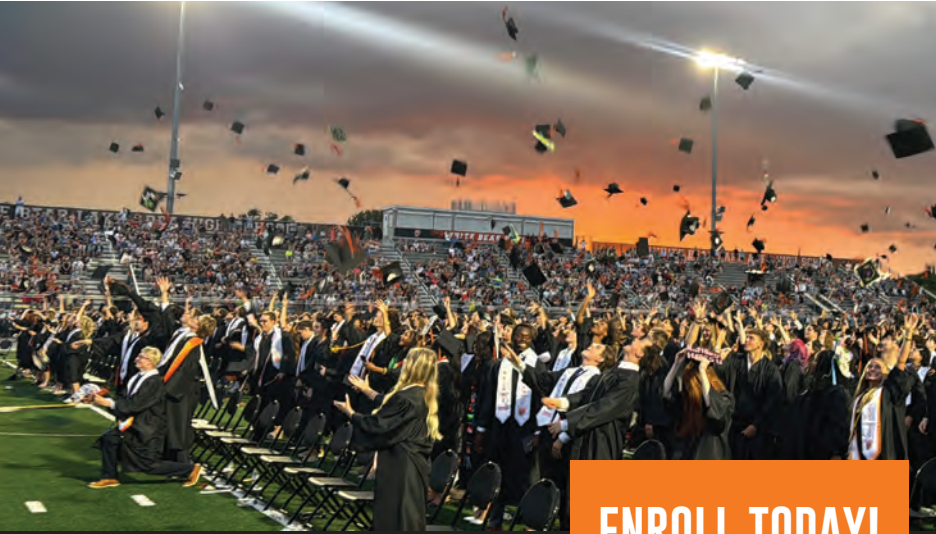
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GO DISCOVER.

Design Your Future.
Create Your Success.

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ENROLL TODAY!



isd624.org/enroll

WHY BE A BEAR?

- Student-centered instruction.**
We believe all students grow and learn in different ways and at different rates — that all can achieve.
- Expanded academic opportunities.**
Our students explore their interests, excel and design their futures.
- Empowered, supported learning.**
Students are agents and owners of their learning in an environment that is safe, supportive and challenging — with high expectations for student success.
- Inspiring, nurturing educators.**
Our educators facilitate learning and challenge students — fostering curiosity and confidence.
- Transformative learning.**
Our flexible learning spaces and learning studios ignite opportunities for communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

Int'l Baccalaureate (IB)
& Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion
programs available!

White Bear Lake Area Schools

ELEMENTARY BEARS...
The White Bear Lake Area School District offers a choice of K-5 programs:

- Neighborhood schools:** Strong academic programs are offered at neighborhood schools located throughout the District.
- International Baccalaureate:** Matoska International is available to all students in the White Bear Lake Area School District. The program is an International Baccalaureate (IB) world school. The District provides transportation from any point in the school district for resident students enrolled at this school. Learn more at the Matoska International website.
- Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion:** An Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion program is available at Matoska International and Otter Lake Elementary. The District will provide transportation from any point in the school district for resident students enrolled in this program. Learn more at the Immersion page of the website.

Find complete info at
isd624.org/
kindergarten

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