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TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

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CIRCLE PINES: Residents have additional recycling opportunity **PAGE 3**



FILE

Runners invited to 'Shake their Shamrock' at annual 5K

On Saturday, March 14, you might spot hundreds of runners wearing various shades of green along routes in Centerville during the Minnesota Multisport Races Shake Your Shamrock event. Both races, a 5K and 7K, are scheduled to kick off at 11 a.m. The start and finish line will be at Kelly's Korner Bar, 7098 Centerville Road. See page 3 for more information.

Centerville says no to tax abatement for development

BY LORETTA HARDING
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Centerville City Council and its citizens would welcome commercial development, along with a certain amount of residential development. They just don't want to pay for it.

Following presentations from Northland Securities Managing Director Tammy Omdal and representatives of Equinox Development, the council voted not to hold a tax abatement public hearing. A public hearing would have been the first step in the tax abatement process to help Equinox Development finance the construction of a 59-unit market rental property at 7181 21st Avenue.

The development would have taken up approximately 5.3 acres of long-vacant land in the northeast corner of Centerville 1.2 miles from downtown. The buildings of two or three stories would have housed one-, two- or three-bedroom units, all with 2.5 bathrooms. Construction on the project was planned for summer 2026 through early fall 2027, said Katelyn Murray from Equinox Development.

SEE TAX ABATEMENT, PAGE 5

3-party joint powers agreement discussion continues

LINO LAKES — The city of Lino Lakes continues to make progress on the joint powers agreement (JPA) with the City of North Oaks and White Bear Township to provide water and sanitary sewer to the Wilkinson Waters development.

A second JPA is also being prepared between the city of Lino Lakes and North Oaks for the construction and maintenance of Wilkinson Way. According to Community Development Director Michael Grochala, the purpose of both JPAs is

to establish a cooperative, multijurisdictional framework under Minnesota Statutes §471.59.

3-party joint powers agreement

Wilkinson Waters is a new residential development located entirely within Lino Lakes. The development will contain four parcels totaling approximately 76 gross acres and would consist of a mix of 340 units of various residential housing types and commercial development.

The JPA between the three

entities outlines how water and sewer will be conveyed across jurisdictional boundaries, assigns operational responsibilities and establishes cost-sharing and compliance obligations.

According to Grochala, the project area currently lacks Lino Lakes water and sewer service. White Bear Township has available water and sewer capacity, and North Oaks has existing conveyance infrastructure capable of transporting these utilities to and from the project area.

Lino Lakes will construct and maintain the local distribution and collection systems serving the development. Under the agreement, each entity will have its own responsibilities and financial implications (see sidebar for more information).

White Bear Township is subject to the White Bear Lake Restoration Association settlement. Because of this, according to Grochala, Lino Lakes must adopt ordinances enforcing applicable water-use restriction, provide

resident counts for per-capita usage calculations and address any violations identified by the township. The township may also reduce water flow if usage exceeds settlement limits, after providing a 30-day notice.

Under the three-party JPA, North Oaks will share maintenance responsibilities with Lino Lakes over portions of the system.

SEE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT, PAGE 2



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JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT: Available for consideration this month

FROM PAGE 1

According to Grochala, the agreement for water services is an initial 10-year term. After the initial term, any party may terminate water services with a three-year written notice and immediate termination is allowed for uncured nonperformance. The sanitary sewer services part of the agreement calls for a 99-year term and termination is only possible by a mutual written agreement.

Wilkinson Way joint powers agreement

The Wilkinson Waters development requires construction of a new public street, known as Wilkinson Way, and reconstruction of the easterly portion of Wilkinson Lake Boulevard to connect the two systems.

Lino Lakes will construct these improvements at its sole expense. According to the staff report, Wilkinson Way will run from Ash

Street to Centerville Road. A portion of the roadway lies within North Oaks, though it primarily serves Lino Lakes residents.

The city will maintain the entirety of the roadway system except for the storm sewer within North Oaks. North Oaks will also be responsible for any costs associated with the cooperative and maintenance agreement with Ramsey County for the roundabout construction and will split future county road improvements with Lino Lakes.

Grochala said city staff is working through remaining issues regarding maintenance responsibilities and how these may change with future extensions of service. He added that staff is attempting to have the draft agreements available for consideration this month. However, White Bear Township will also need to review the JPA and approve it.

Madeline Dolby

Responsibilities of Lino Lakes under the 3-party JPA:

- Constructs, owns and maintains large-capacity meters and the Wilkinson Waters systems.
- Reads meters quarterly and reports usage to White Bear Township and North Oaks.
- Bills end users for water and sewer; White Bear Township has no billing responsibility.
- Collects and remits hookup fees to the township (fee still under review as of Press deadline).
- Shares maintenance responsibilities with North Oaks over portions of the system.
- Must obtain White Bear Township and North Oaks approval before extending service outside of project area.

Financial responsibilities:

- Water purchase cost: 125% of White Bear Township Tier 1 residential rate. This is approximately \$3.19 per thousand gallons. Lino Lakes' rate is currently \$2.28 per thousand gallons. To this, the city will need to add an operation and maintenance component.
- Hookup fees: Collected from developers/property owners and remitted to the White Bear Township.
- Operating cost share: Contributes to maintenance of shared facilities through in-kind contributions or cost share.
- Local system costs: Responsible for all construction, maintenance, repair and replacement of Wilkinson Waters systems.
- Billing: Lino Lakes retains the ability to charge additional fees for capital, maintenance or availability charges.

LINO LAKES CITY COUNCIL SNIPPETS

• Staff provided an update regarding the joint powers agreement (JPA) with the city of North Oaks and White Bear Township to provide water and sanitary sewer to the Wilkinson Waters development, a new residential development located entirely within Lino Lakes. According to Community Development Director Michael Grochala, the agreement outlines how water and sewage will be conveyed across jurisdictional boundaries, assigns operational responsibilities and establishes cost-sharing and compliance obligations. A JPA is also being prepared with North Oaks for the construction and maintenance of Wilkinson Way (see full story in this week's issue).

• The council provided staff with direction on the landscaping improvements for the proposed Ash Street/ Centerville Road roundabout. According to the staff report, Anoka County proposes to construct the roundabout in 2027. Lino Lakes city staff is planning for the extension of the pavement design to match the improvements completed to the south as part of the County Road J/ I-35E interchange project. Anoka County's typical landscaping in a roundabout is a grass center island.

• The City Council has proposed to sell approximately 63 acres of land in the southwest quadrant of Birch Street and Centerville Road to a private party, with the condition that it be used specifically for recreational purposes. According to the city staff report, a portion of the site was used for the construction of Fire Station No. 2 in 2015. Water Tower No. 3 was constructed on the site four years later. In 2024, the city was approached by a private development group interested in partnering with the city to construct a domed athletic facility (See "Lino Lakes considers sports dome for north metro," Quad Community Press, Jan. 9, 2024.) After several months of discussion and negotiation with the development group, the project did not move forward. The council and city staff discussed goals for a potential land sale and defined desired outcomes (see full story in a future issue of the Quad Community Press).

• Lieutenant Anthony Mendoza from the Anoka County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) provided council and staff with more information about the countywide initiative, proposed by ACSO and the Anoka County Emergency Communications Centers, that aims to establish

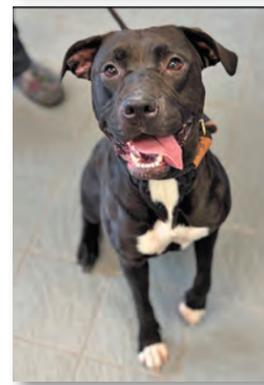
a real-time crime center at the Anoka County Emergency Communications Center. Additionally, the proposal includes public safety departments within Anoka County to enter into a pilot program agreement with Flock Safety to deploy a drone as a first response to implement a variety of camera technologies. The Flock Safety system includes drones, license plate readers and other technology focused on public safety (see full story in future issue of the Quad Community Press).

• Grochala reported that staff have been working with WSB and the city attorney on a resolution agreement for proposed corrective action related to the 2025 street reconstruction project (See "Department of Health raises issues with sewer, well separation," Quad Community Press, Dec. 17, 2025). The agreement will be brought back to the council for formal approval at a future meeting.

The next City Council work session will be at 6 p.m. Monday, March 23, followed by a regular City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Madeline Dolby

WEEKLY WAG



Kallie is a charming young girl with a zest for life. This 2-year-old Labrador retriever/pit bull terrier mix weighs almost 60 pounds. Kallie has a high energy level and she loves to play. She is social and friendly to everyone she meets. Kallie is intelligent and eager to learn. She knows her basic commands and she is always willing to learn more. A formal training program would suit her well. Kallie is also house-trained and crate-trained. When she's not playing, Kallie is a sweet cuddlebug and she is always ready to shower you with her love. Kallie is a Keeper, and she has immense potential. If you are looking for an affectionate best friend, and if you have the patience and time to help Kallie become her best self, then Kallie is the companion for you. If you are interested in learning more about Kallie or adopting her, please fill out an application at www.ruffstartrescue.org. Once your application is received, Ruff Start Rescue will contact you as soon as possible.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MARCH 10, 2026

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QUAD COMMUNITY PRESS **3**



FILE

Press Publications Wedding Show

When: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sunday, March 15
Where: Best Western Plus White Bear Country Inn, 4940 Hwy 61, White Bear Lake
Details: Experience local vendors and participate in wedding planning. Event includes food sampling, vendor giveaways and more.
Contact: <https://www.presspubs.com/weddingshow/>

ONGOING EVENTS

LIVE TRIVIA

When: 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays
Where: Lino Lakes American Legion Post 566, 7731 Lake Drive
Details: General knowledge trivia. No limit on team sizes.
Contact: 651-783-0055

LINO LAKES TOASTMASTERS CLUB

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays

POLITICAL BRIEF

Stoss receives Republican endorsement for house seat

Sebastian Stoss has received the Republican endorsement for House District 36A. According to a press release, Stoss said he is committed to lowering taxes, protecting schools from radical agendas, securing state borders and defending the Second Amendment.

District House 36A covers Circle Pines, Lino Lakes, Centerville, North Oaks and White Bear Township. For more information about Stoss and his campaign, go to stossforhouse.com.

CITY BRIEF

Circle Pines residents have additional recycling opportunity

Circle Pines residents have an additional opportunity to recycle materials from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 14. Residents can drop off their recyclables at Recycle Materials, 1525 99th Lane NE, Blaine.

A photo ID will be required. Those dropping off materials should enter at 99th Lane NE and exit at Davenport Street NE.

Where: Zoom

Details: Develop your communication and leadership skills.

Contact: Phyllis Moore: 763-268-9366

HUGO SENIOR CLUB

When: 1 p.m. Monday, March 16 and every 3rd Monday of every other month

Where: Rice Lake Centre, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo
Details: Planning meeting for 2026 followed by games. Coffee and refreshments served.

Contact: 651-592-0369 or barbconnolly1958@yahoo.com

'THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST'

When: March 13-22

Where: Hanifl Performing Arts Center, White Bear Lake

Details: Live performance of Oscar Wilde's timeless comedy that highlights absurdities of Victorian life.

Contact: lakeshoreplayers.org

CURRENT EVENTS

FAT TIRE BIKING

When: 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, March 11

Where: Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park,

Details: Participants, and staff, will explore single track trails together. Basic bike riding ability is required. Register through Anoka County Parks.

Contact: anokacountyparks.com

ESTATE PLANNING

When: 10-11 a.m., Thursday, March 12

Where: St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 1965 East County Road E, White Bear Lake

Details: Learn about estate planning, estate administration, elder law, get answers to questions and find resources to get started with planning. RSVP required. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: 651-777-1107 or office@ststephenwbl.org

MUSIC OF THE DECADES: THE 1960'S

When: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 12

Where: White Bear Lake Armory, 2228 Fourth St.

Details: Explore exhibits and enjoy a "tour" of folk music from the 60's era with Folk Revival MN. Open house style event.

Contact: whitebearhistory.org

SHAKE YOUR SHAMROCK

When: 10 a.m. Saturday, March 14

Where: Kelly's Korner Bar, 7098 Centerville Road, Centerville

Details: Runners participate in a 5k or 7k hosted by the Minnesota Multisport Races. It is a St. Patrick's Day themed run.

Contact: www.mmraces.com/shake-your-shamrock

SPRING FLING CRAFT FAIR

When: 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Saturday, March 14

Where: Blaine City Hall, 10801 Town Square Drive NE

Details: Features local vendors and artists.

Contact: www.blainemn.gov/4014/BlaineEvents

BINGO FOR BOOMSTICKS

When: 11 a.m. Sunday, March 15

Where: Trappers Bar and Grill, 6810 Lake Drive, Lino Lakes

Details: Play a few rounds of Bingo for a chance to win a Boomstick. Doors open at 11 a.m. Bungo begins at 12:30 p.m.

Contact: 651-784-7474

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Honoring heroes

Our team here at Press is focused on reporting hyper-local news specific to the communities in our coverage areas. When it comes to national or world news, we generally report stories with a local connection. Sometimes the stories are fun to cover, such as our recent reporting of our local athletes who participated in the Winter Olympics and



Publisher's View
Carter Johnson

Paralympics. Other times the stories are heartbreaking when local residents and our community are in the spotlight because of a tragedy.

This past week, Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Amor, a resident of White Bear Lake, was killed in a drone strike in Kuwait. She was among six soldiers who became the first casualties of the war with Iran.

Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Sgt. 1st Class Amor, (posthumously promoted to Master Sergeant) the families of the other fallen soldiers, and to those

who have a loved ones serving our nation. Flags throughout our community fly at half-staff and our local VFW and American Legion erected memorials set up for Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Amor. Bring your kids to view these memorials and give them the opportunity to honor those who have served this nation. You can learn more about Sgt. 1st Class Amor's life and legacy by reading Shannon's story at presspubs.com, which includes information about a gofundme account that has been set up to support her family. We, as a community, support you and will keep you in our prayers during this time of grief.

We pay extra attention to the sacrifices made by our service members around holidays such as Veterans Day and Memorial Day, and we should be honoring them every day. How do we support them and their families? One way is to get involved or donate to local nonprofits that provide assistance to service men and women such as the American Legion, VFW Auxiliaries and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Network. There may be opportunities to put together and send care packages with small items such as snacks, coffee, goodies, toiletries, games and reading materials. I'll never forget when we were running the local paper in western Wisconsin and were asked if we could provide hundreds of copies of the local paper in the care packages. We heard that the care packages were important to our service men and women. To this day we proudly display that photo in our Wisconsin office of the local newspaper being held up on the deck of an aircraft carrier.

Leadership Tomorrow is a months-long leadership development program for local business, nonprofit and community leaders put on by the Greater White Bear Lake Area Community Foundation. Participants consist of a diverse group who are interested in growing their leadership skills and involvement in the community. These types of programs are conducted throughout our state by local nonprofits and other organizations.

This week five of our staff at the Press were invited to give a presentation about community news and journalism to the current class of roughly 20 individuals. The group had questions for us such as where do we get our standards? How do we know what stories to write? What opinion columns do we choose to publish? The time together, although short, was productive for our staff to understand what leaders in the community think about journalism and how they get their news and we are hopeful they learned more about the inner workings of the nearly 250 local papers serving the 87 counties in Minnesota and their own local paper. Thank you to those who help support the foundation through volunteer time, donations and the program like Leadership Tomorrow. We are fortunate to have a community foundation that supports our local initiatives and works toward building the next generation of community leaders and volunteers.

Carter Johnson is Publisher of Press Publications.



Fraud in any form is unacceptable

Fraud in any form is unacceptable, and I am furious about for-profit fraudsters targeting Minnesotans and our public services and programs.

Fraud on our public programs is particularly maddening because it cheats the Minnesotans who rely on vital services in our communities and all of us who pay taxes to support them. Public dollars should help parents pay for child care, people with disabilities get the support they need, and elders to age with dignity—not line the pockets of for-profit fraudsters.

The problem is greedy organizations have created a business model of fraud and made public programs their mark. That's why I've been leading the charge at the Capitol to crack down on these criminals and protect your tax dollars.

Last year, I teamed up with Sen. Heather Gustafson to introduce a bill to create an independent Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in Minnesota. The OIG would be an independent watchdog to stop the misuse of taxpayer dollars. The effort to create an OIG has been a bipartisan one, and I've enjoyed working with both Democrats and

Republicans to shape this idea.

The OIG bill that passed the Senate at the end of last session is a good start, but I've been pushing for changes to make it even stronger. For example, I want to expand the office's powers and duties to focus more on preventing fraud before it occurs rather than simply investigating fraud after the fact. It is often very challenging to recover stolen funds after they're out the door. As a result, it is far more cost effective for us to prioritize preventing those dollars from being fraudulently paid out in the first place.

I also want to fully fund the office, so it has the resources on day one to do the important work Minnesotans are counting on. We also should remove responsibilities that duplicate work already being done by other state agencies. Most importantly, we should maintain the essential independence of the office while guaranteeing the bill is constitutional. Otherwise, the office could encounter court challenges before it even starts its work.

While the OIG bill has gotten a lot of media attention, it's just one part of a broader response that's needed to fight fraud. I am also authoring another bipartisan bill to enhance our ability to prosecute Medicaid fraud. This bill would expand the definition of Medicaid fraud and stiffen penalties for those who are found guilty. It would also give the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in the Attorney General's Office more investigators and lawyers to prosecute these criminals.

Many of my colleagues have also introduced meaningful bills to stop fraud. One critical step is strengthening oversight with mandatory in-person site visits and electronic tracking systems to ensure private providers are actually delivering services to Minnesotans.

We also need to invest in outdated IT systems. Too many government systems run on clunky programs that create gaps and errors. This leads to improper payments, increased fraud risk and residents waiting for help.

We should also begin reversing the push toward privatizing government services which has allowed this business model of fraud to develop. Keeping public dollars public and reducing risky outsourcing ensures effective, accountable services to Minnesotans.

Lastly, we must look everywhere for fraud against the government, not just in public programs. For instance, we should crack down on employers who intentionally misclassify their workers to avoid paying taxes and public benefits. And we should strengthen tax audits for large corporations and the ultra-wealthy to make sure everyone pays what they owe.

With this all-of-the-above approach, we can give Minnesotans what they deserve: A government they can trust.

State Rep. Matt Norris represents District 32B.



Legislator's Lingo
Matt Norris

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- Letter writers must live, work or have another connection to Press Publications coverage area.
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- Due to space limitations, letters that don't address local issues are not guaranteed publication.
- Repeat letters by the same writer about the same subject matter will not be published.
- Submissions containing libelous or derogatory statements will not be published.
- Submissions containing facts not previously published in the Press must be accompanied by factual verification.
- All letters are subject to editing.
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Do better, Bezos

With \$77 billion in profits for FY 2025, you would think Amazon can either train their employees to put their garbage in a trash can or pay someone to walk the grounds and pick it up. Take a drive around

the Centerville warehouse. It's embarrassing! Try your best to support your local small businesses. Do better, Bezos.

Bob Noha
Lino Lakes

TAX ABATEMENT: 'Pennies count'

FROM PAGE 1

The developers had planned to finance the project through tax abatement from the city, Metropolitan Council livable communities grant money and funding from Anoka County. Applications for the Metropolitan Council grant are due in April.

Terms of assistance from Centerville to the developer included a maximum term of 10 years, with the estimated tax abatement value to the developer of \$520,762, payable with 5% interest. Tax abatement acts like a simpler and less powerful version of tax increment financing (TIF), Omdal said.

Granting tax increment financing has always been a tough sell in Centerville. The council believed that tax abatement, or "TIF-lite," would not have been well received by its residents, either.

"Based on review and analysis of the application, Northland is of the opinion that the project would not reasonably be expected to occur solely through private investment within the reasonably foreseeable future," Omdal said. "These are policy decisions that this project is a priority, but you may be OK with the project not proceeding," she told the council.

"I don't think this is a very good idea. This project has a long way to go," said Council Member David Kubat. "Other projects have already been financed by the developers, and this isn't. The vacant lot (in question)

got rezoned from commercial to residential recently. We were already going to get this going to begin with and (now we're) adding financing to it. I'm not opposed to this type of thing, but (we have) a 10-year wait to get paid back. I know what our residents think about things like this."

"I really wanted this project," said Mayor Nancy Golden. "The land use — tucked back in a quiet area to be residential — is the right use. But our budgets are so tight now and getting worse. We're not going to have any support from the state, and that makes it really tough. Everyone up here wants it, but when you live in a town this small, not only dollars count — pennies count."

"That's the part I don't understand. I need to have to explain to taxpayers why they need to be involved," Council Member Russ Koski said. "(In my day, you built, you made money, you never had to ask for someone else to help you pay. The financial gain isn't necessarily a gain for the city, but for the developer. A grocery store is different — it provides jobs and a service," he said.

"We're not saying 'no'. We're waiting for the right thing," Kubat said. "It's frustrating because things sit longer than we want to. Amazon is here now, but that (land they're on) used to be a huge pile of dirt. It's about what Centerville will support."

Loretta Harding is a contributing writer for Press Publications. She can be reached by emailing news@presspubs.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEF

Local Lions Club accepts farmers market applications

The Circle Pines-Lexington Lions Club will once again be manage the Open Air Farmers Market in Lexington. The club has been managing the farmers market since June 2021. Vendors who would like to return to

the market, or know of a vendor who would like to join, should reach out to Karen Gregory at 612-272-3386 or by email at kgregory244@gmail.com and an application will be sent.

Applications for the farmers market must be received by Friday, May 16. This year, the farmers market is scheduled to take place every Wednesday afternoon from 2:30-6:30 p.m. beginning on June 10.



CONTRIBUTED

The Open Air Farmers Market kicks off on June 10.



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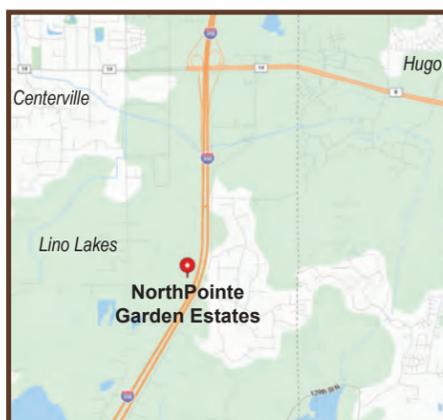
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CENTERVILLE TIDBITS

• In December, special assessment agreements and waivers were approved for 6996 Brian Drive and 1932 and 1940 Eagle Trail. These agreements were for the completion of a backyard drainage project. The city has received an updated proposal for the entire project from the lowest bidder, Olson's Excavating Service.

Due to cost increases in materials, the new bid proposal is \$57,796.39; the original bid was \$54,005.34. The work is tentatively scheduled to start in June 2026. The residents of 6996

Brian Drive have agreed to pay for their portion of the project, which is \$14,196.40. This includes \$2,000 for the 1922 Eagle Trail homeowners' portion. Xcel Energy has stated there may be an additional \$3,000 expense if the transformer on site requires relocation. The residents of 6996 Brian Drive have agreed to this additional cost if relocation is needed. Council approved the contract with Olson's for \$57,796.39 that will use money from the stormwater fund. It also approved the revised special assessment agreement

to include the added costs for the property owners at 6996 Brian Drive.

• The city is developing a future vision for the downtown area. The city needs to hear from residents, property owners and visitors about their perspectives and desires for downtown and how the guidance for development, transportation and public spaces can be better aligned in a cohesive, achievable framework, said City Administrator Athanasia Lewis in her report. Residents are invited to take the online survey

at www.surveymonkey.com/r/DowntownCenterville.

• Kubat announced that the meeting would be his last due to uncertainty in his residential status. He said he would soon submit a formal letter to the city. "I'm saying goodbye, but I'm not gone."

The council next meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

Loretta Harding

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To apply, complete and submit a White Bear Township Employment Application found on [whitebeartownship.org/Job-s.aspx](http://whitebeartownship.org/whitebeartownship.org/Job-s.aspx). Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 27, 2026 at 4:30 pm. Submit completed applications to: White Bear Township, 1281 Hammond Road, White Bear Township, MN 55110 or via email adminoffices@whitebeartownship.org

The City of Hugo is NOW HIRING for seasonal public works employees. These positions are responsible for assisting the Public Works Dept in tasks including park, street and utilities maintenance. Positions are from May - Sept and will not exceed 40 hrs /wk. Pay is \$18/hr. Applicants must have a valid MN drivers license and be at least 18 yrs old. Applications are available at Public Works, 8220 140th St. N., Hugo, MN 55038, 651-762-6301 or on the City's web site at www.ci.hugo.mn.us/employment. Applications must be completed and returned to Public Works or emailed to pw@ci.hugo.mn.us by 4:00 p.m., Mar 30, 2026.

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SEASONAL PUBLIC WORKS POSITION. The City of Hugo is currently accepting applications for seasonal public works employees. These positions are responsible for assisting the public works department in a wide variety of tasks including park, street and utilities maintenance. These positions will exist from May through September and will not exceed 40 hours per week. The rate of pay is \$18 per hour. Applicants must have a valid Minnesota driver's license and be at least 18 years of age. Applications are available at Public Works, 8220 140th St. N., Hugo, MN 55038, 651-762-6301 or on the City's web site at www.ci.hugo.mn.us/employment. Applications must be completed and returned to Public Works or emailed to pw@ci.hugo.mn.us by 4:00 p.m., March 30, 2026.

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Help Wanted
The Public Works Maintenance Worker performs skilled labor in the maintenance of roads, water systems, sanitary sewer systems, stormwater infrastructure, parks, equipment, and Township facilities. Responsibilities include operating heavy equipment and power tools, as well as performing physically demanding tasks. This position serves as a visible representative of the Township and often acts as the first point of contact for public inquiries. The role is essential to preserving public assets through timely maintenance and the safe operation of equipment.



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· Class A driver's license is required or must be obtained within 12 months
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· Ability to respond to emergency calls within 1 hour
· Anticipated hiring range is \$32.98 - \$41.05

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POLICE REPORTS

The Centennial Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- Officers were flagged down Feb. 25 for a noise complaint near the intersection of Brian Way and Brian Drive in Centerville.
- Officers were dispatched Feb. 28 to theft report in the area of Oak Ridge Trail in Circle Pines. Officers took information regarding a package theft. There are no known suspects at this time.
- Officers responded Feb. 28 to a phone call request in the 6900 block of Dupre Road in Centerville for fraud.
- A Lino Lakes Officer conducted a traffic stop Feb. 28 in the 2000 block of Main Street in Centerville; the driver was arrested for third-degree DWI.
- Officers were dispatched March 1 for an assault in the 9000 block of Griggs Avenue in Lexington. A suspect has not been identified as of press deadline.
- Officers were dispatched March 2 to a report of harassment in the 6900 block of 21st Avenue South in Centerville. Officers determined there was no crime and advised the complainant about filing a restraining order.
- Police conducted a traffic stop March 2 near the intersection of Ball Road and Lexington Avenue in Blaine.
- Officers located a male with multiple warrants March 2 in the area of Dupre Road and Partridge Place in Centerville. Officers made contact with the male, who resisted arrest and fled. A taser was deployed and the male was ultimately taken into custody.

The Lino Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- While on patrol Feb. 23, an officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in the 8000 block of Interstate 35E. The male driver showed signs of impairment and was arrested for fourth-degree DWI and booked in the Anoka County Jail.
- An officer responded Feb. 23 to a vehicle-versus-deer property damage accident in the 7000 block of Lake Drive. The vehicle was driven from the scene.
- An officer responded Feb. 23 to a possible fraud report in the 6900 block of Glenview Lane. The incident is under investigation.
- An officer took a phone call report Feb. 24 of a

two-vehicle crash that occurred in the 8100 block of Haywood Drive. Both vehicles were driven from the scene.

- An officer responded Feb. 24 to a report of a dog at large in the 500 block of Wood Duck Trail. The owner of the dog was not identified but extra patrol will be provided to the area.
- Officers responded Feb. 24 to a report of multiple dogs at a park in the 600 block of Arlo Lane that were not on leashes. When the officer arrived, the dogs were gone.
- Officers responded Feb. 25 to an attempted theft from a store in the 700 block of Apollo Drive. The suspect fled the scene before officers arrived. The incident is under investigation.
- An officer responded Feb. 26 to a report involving inappropriate comments by a student in the 300 block of Elm Street. The officer investigated and determined there was no crime committed.
- Officers responded Feb. 26 to a report of a motor vehicle crash with injuries near the intersection of Ash Street and Baldwin Lake Road. Both drivers reported minor injuries and declined medical assistance. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.
- An officer responded Feb. 26 to a report of a deer possibly trapped within a fenced property in the 6000 block of Hodgson Road. The officer searched the area and only observed a German shepherd on the property.
- An officer responded Feb. 27 to an attempted fraud report in the 7100 block of Ivy Ridge Lane. There was no financial loss, and the incident was documented.
- Officers responded Feb. 27 to a domestic assault incident involving two males in the 1000 block of Black Duck Court. After an investigation, an adult male was arrested and booked in Anoka County Jail.
- An officer received a report Feb. 27 involving concerns about a vulnerable adult in the 700 block of Town Center Parkway. The case is under investigation.
- An officer responded Feb. 27 to a residence in the 100 block of Stallion Lane that had been vandalized. The incident is under investigation.
- While on patrol Feb. 28, an officer conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of Main Street and found the driver showed signs of impairment. After an investigation, the driver was booked in jail for DWI.
- Officers responded Feb. 28 to a department store in the 700 block of Apollo Drive where the store employees wanted three juveniles trespassed from the store. Officers were unable to locate the juveniles.
- While on patrol March 1, an officer located a vehicle in the area of Interstate 35W and Main Street that was called in as a traffic complaint. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was issued multiple citations.
- An officer responded March 1 to a parking lot in the 500 block of Birch Street for a two-vehicle property damage accident. The officer documented the incident, and the vehicles were driven from the scene.

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEF

Burn restrictions in place for Anoka County

Due to the lack of a 3-inch snow cover, burn restrictions are now in effect in Anoka County. Anyone wishing to conduct an open burn within the county must obtain a permit prior to burning.

For residents of the City of Lino Lakes, open burn permit applications are available online at: tinyurl.com/4pd6sv9s.

Residents who have the required 3-inch snow cover may continue to burn without a permit, unless their municipality requires one. Campfires are permitted and do not require a permit.

For more information about fire danger and burning restrictions throughout the state, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html.

CENTERVILLE TIDBITS

• In December, special assessment agreements and waivers were approved for 6996 Brian Drive and 1932 and 1940 Eagle Trail. These agreements were for the completion of a backyard drainage project. The city has received an updated proposal for the entire project from the lowest bidder, Olson's Excavating Service.

Due to cost increases in materials, the new bid proposal is \$57,796.39; the original bid was \$54,005.34. The work is tentatively scheduled to start in June 2026. The residents of 6996 Brian Drive have agreed to pay for their portion of the project, which is \$14,196.40. This includes \$2,000 for the 1922 Eagle Trail homeowners' portion. Xcel Energy has stated there may be an additional \$3,000 expense if the transformer on site requires relocation.

The residents of 6996 Brian Drive have agreed to this additional cost if relocation is needed. Council approved the contract with Olson's for \$57,796.39 that will use money from the stormwater fund. It also approved the revised special assessment agreement to include the added costs for the property owners at 6996 Brian Drive.

• The city is developing a future vision for the downtown area. The city needs to hear from residents, property owners and visitors about their perspectives and desires for downtown and how the guidance for development, transportation and public spaces can be better aligned in a cohesive, achievable framework, said City Administrator Athanasia Lewis in her report. Residents are invited to take the online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/DowntownCenterville.

• Kubat announced that the meeting would be his last due to uncertainty in his residential status. He said he would soon submit a formal letter to the city. "I'm saying goodbye, but I'm not gone."

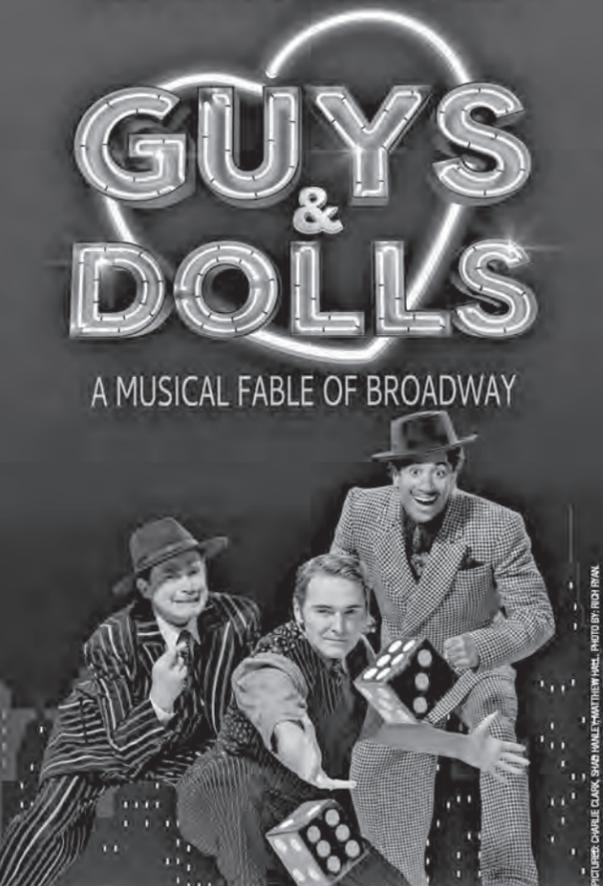
The council next meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

Loretta Harding

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Awards, stats for state runner-up Cougars listed

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Centennial/Spring Lake Park's state runner-up girls hockey team had seven all-conference picks and four on the all-tournament team, while their best player was a Miss Hockey finalist.

Alaina Gnetz, senior forward who led the Cougars with 33 goals, was one of five finalists for the top hockey award. The St. Cloud State recruit transferred to Centennial from Woodbury for her senior year and had 114 career goals.

Cougar Coach Sean Molin cited Gnetz as a fierce competitor with elite physical tools, a stellar work ethic and a shot "like a rocket" during clutch situations.

The Cougars were 26-4-1 overall, beating Maple Grove in the section finals and Farmington and Holy Family at state before losing in the finals to Hill-Murray 4-3. They were unbeaten in the Northwest Suburban Conference.

Named all-conference were seniors Gnetz and Katie Ball

and Grace Laager, junior Kaia Wieland, sophomores Mia Sutch and Annabelle Buccicone and freshman Jozie Kelzenberg.

All-state tournament picks were Sutch, Wieland, Laager and junior Brooke Ueland.

Laager, a varsity player since seventh grade, reflected on this memorable season:

"I think second place shows how far our program has grown over the last few years. This is my fifth year. My first state tournament was my eighth-grade season. At that time, I remember it being so crazy we won the section final and were going to state. Fast forward to now — we took a shot at the championship game."

Cougars with 20 or more points were (goals-assists-points) Sutch 25-35-60, Gnetz 33-26-59, Laager 16-39-55, Kelzenberg 25-23-48, Avery Wagner 15-24-39, Ball 11-28-39, Madeline Wolter 9-22-31, Ueland 7-21-28, Melanie Reff 4-17-21 and Lillian Renslow 13-7-20.

Wieland had a .920 save percentage and a 1.86 goals-against-average.



JON NAMYST | CONTRIBUTED

Alaina Gnetz was a Miss Hockey finalist and one of seven all-conference picks.

UWGB's Guyer is conference Player of the Year

Jenna Guyer, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UWGB) senior from Centennial, was named Player of the Year for the Horizon Conference, after leading the Phoenix to the regular season championship. Guyer was also named to the All-Defensive team.

The 6-foot-2 forward had a slow start, missing five games with an injury that happened during an exhibition game, then playing off the bench for three games. But once she

got locked in, Guyer was a force, averaging 15.2 points and 6.7 rebounds, shooting 45.4 percent, in conference, with five 20-point games.

Her coach, Kayla Karius, told the Green Bay Post-Gazette: "I just felt like she had this look in her eye, like, 'You can't guard me, and I'm going to knock down shots, outside, inside.' And then just her defense just continued getting better and better."

Guyer made a big jump

from her junior season when she averaged seven points and 3.1 rebounds. As a sophomore she averaged 6.1 points off the bench and shot a torrid 61.4 percent.

The Horizon is a Division I, mid-major conference.

At Centennial, Guyer averaged 16 points as a junior on a 21-8 team, and 12 points as a senior on a 21-2, state tournament team.

Bruce Strand



CONTRIBUTED

Jenna Guyer had a breakout senior year and led UWGB to the Horizon Conference regular-season championship.

Centerville Ice Fishing Contest



PHOTOS BY PAUL DOLS | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

Hundreds of anglers tried their luck on the ice during the annual Centerville Lions Ice Fishing Contest last month on Centerville Lake.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF LINO LAKES, MINNESOTA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING A PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Lino Lakes, Minnesota (the "City"), will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 23, 2026, at or after 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, located at 600 Town Center Parkway in the City, relating to a proposal the City abate all or a portion of property taxes levied by the City on properties located in City with the following property identification numbers (the "Property"):

24-31-22-11-0007	24-31-22-42-0006	25-31-22-12-0003	25-31-22-12-0013
24-31-22-11-0009	24-31-22-42-0009	25-31-22-12-0004	25-31-22-12-0019
24-31-22-11-0012	24-31-22-42-0012	25-31-22-12-0005	25-31-22-12-0020
24-31-22-12-0005	24-31-22-43-0006	25-31-22-12-0006	25-31-22-12-0021
24-31-22-12-0007	24-31-22-43-0009	25-31-22-12-0007	25-31-22-12-0022
24-31-22-12-0008	24-31-22-43-0011	25-31-22-12-0008	25-31-22-12-0023
24-31-22-13-0007	24-31-22-43-0013	25-31-22-12-0009	25-31-22-12-0024
24-31-22-13-0008	24-31-22-24-0005	25-31-22-12-0010	
24-31-22-14-0002	24-31-22-24-0007	25-31-22-12-0011	
24-31-22-34-0003	25-31-22-12-0002	25-31-22-12-0012	

The City Council will consider the property tax abatement in connection with financing the costs of the extension and improvement of Otter Lake Road in the City including utility improvements (the "Project") through the issuance of general obligation tax abatement bonds under Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.1812 through 469.1815 (the "Bonds"). At the public hearing, the City Council will consider an abatement resolution under which the City will collect the City's share of property taxes from the Property for a maximum of 10 years each, and use those revenues to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds issued to finance the Project. The total amount of abatement is estimated not to exceed \$5,000,000, representing the aggregate abatement dollars to be collected and transferred to the City over a maximum of 10 years.

At the time and place fixed for the public hearing, the City Council will give all persons who appear at the hearing an opportunity to express their views with respect to the proposal. In addition, interested persons may direct any questions or file written comments respecting the proposal with the City Clerk, at or prior to said public hearing.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LINO LAKES, MINNESOTA

Roberta Colotti, City Clerk, City of Lino Lakes, Minnesota

Published one time in the Quad Community Press on March 10, 2026.



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Grace Laager

Centennial/Spring Lake Park Hockey

March 10, 2026

Grace Laager, senior left winger on Centennial/Spring Lake Park hockey team, racked up 59 points (third on the team) with 16 goals and 39 assists, helping the Cougars win conference and section titles and place runner-up in the state tournament. The 5-foot-10 skater made the all-tournament team and picked up her fourth all-conference award. Laager finished her prep career with 224 points on 97 goals and 127 assists.



Men's Club fish fry hooks 'best of' honors for St. Odilia

BY MADELINE DOLBY
EDITOR

In honor of fish fry season, the Press will feature some Readers' Choice Best of the Press winners and finalists of the "Fish Fry" category in our coverage area.

St. Odilia Catholic Church's fish fry has been labeled "the best" in the Shoreview Press Readers' Best of the Press Contest for 2025. During the Lenten season, the St. Odilia Men's Club puts on a fish fry on select Fridays.

"It's a wonderful thing (to be recognized). It gives our club, our men's club at St. Odilia, some recognition," said Dan Britz, president of

the St. Odilia Men's Club. "Our goal as a men's club is to bring the community together."

Leon Hass, a member of the St. Odilia Men's Club and chairman of the fish fry committee, said the recognition means a lot of the club's members who help put on the fish fry.

"We told the members, and that means a lot to them. They work hard to try and pull these things off. When they get recognized that way, they feel good," he said. "It means a lot."

According to Hass, the club has hosted a fish fry twice during the Lenten season for the past decade,



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Twenty-five to 30 people help pull off the fish fries. Volunteers come from the parish, St. Odilia Men's Club and the Knights of Columbus.

except during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hass noted that the parish has a large Latino contingent, and in previous years, they've tried to hold their own Lenten supper. But recently, the parish has combined the dinners into one and it has helped raise attendance and has "ejected energy into the parish community," according to Hass.

"They bring a whole new aspect to the fish fry that we didn't have before. They offer some of the Latino foods we've never offered before ... You get to try something a little bit different that you wouldn't try at a usual fish fry," Hass said.

It takes about 25 to 30 people to pull off the fish fries. Volunteers come from the parish, the St. Odilia Men's Club and the Knights of Columbus. During the fish fry dinner, Britz added, about 20 eighth grade

students from St. Odilia School who are confirmation candidates will help out.

"Mainly, what their tasks are is customer service to those on the floor ... For example, if there are people who come through the line that are elderly, they'll help carry their tray,"

dinner rolls; and dessert. For children who don't prefer fish, there will be spaghetti.

"We talk about it (the menu) probably in the middle of February. We make the (final) decision by the end of February, so we know what we're going to

have by then," Hass added.

Feedback from those who attend the fish fry is always positive and a lot of people appreciate that the men's club has it, according

"You get to try something a little bit different that you wouldn't try at a usual fish fry,"

Leon Hass

Member, St. Odilia Men's Club

Britz explained. "It's also teaching our young people in the community, service — community service."

The next fish fry is scheduled to take place from 5-8 p.m. Friday, March 20, at St. Odilia. Hass, who helps finalize the menu each year, said this year's menu includes baked or deep-fried breaded pollock; fish tacos and sauces made from scratch by Latino committee members; cheesy potatoes; Spanish rice; coleslaw;

to Hass.

Proceeds raised during the fish fry go toward the needs of the parish community and St. Odilia School. As well as the fish fries, the Men's Club holds two bingo events and a pancake breakfast.

St. Odilia Catholic Church is located at 3495 Victoria St. N., Shoreview.

Editor Madeline Dolby can be reached at 651-407-1226 or quadnews@presspubs.com.



The St. Odilia Men's Club hosts the church's fish fries every Lenten season on select Fridays. They have putting it on for a decade.

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