



BEST OF: Find out who won your favorite categories **SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE**

Unfunded mandates, public safety costs boost county preliminary levy

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

Anoka County's 2027 preliminary tax levy is \$216,238,679, an increase of 7.95% from 2026. At its Sept. 22 meeting, the county Board of Commissioners passed a motion adopting the preliminary tax levy by a vote of 5-1. Commissioner Julie Braastad dissented and Commissioner Jeff Reinert was not present. According to statute, this figure may be lowered for when the final tax levy is approved later this year but may not increase.

Additionally, the county passed a \$600,000 preliminary public safety levy, which will fund a new data system. All six board members passed the public safety preliminary levy.

"The 2027 preliminary budget and levy reflects our continued commitment toward long-term financial planning. We look to maintain service levels, and we're responsive to significant legislative and operational mandates," County Administrator Jim Dickinson said. "Our departments ... have developed budgets in alignment with county board strategic priorities with a focus on sustainability and efficient resource

allocations."

During a presentation at the meeting, Senior Budget Manager Yvonne Kirkeide not only showed the proposed tax levy amounts for 2027 but also displayed budget increase predictions for the next five years (See Five-year budget projection chart.) Commissioner Mandy Meisner said she appreciated the information, saying, "Keep in mind, it is fluid — but approaching (the budget) in this manner absolutely helps us to remain stable, rather than these peaks and valleys."

During his presentation, Dickinson noted that one of the challenges when crafting the preliminary tax levy numbers was funding impacts from the federal H.R. 1 Act, or One Big Beautiful Bill Act. While he noted the county is prepared, he believes it is a matter for the state.

"We're not going to ... inflate our budget to accomplish a state responsibility," he said.

Public safety costs

Dickinson explained that because the county's emergency call center and sheriff's office operate

SEE COUNTY PRELIMINARY
LEVY, PAGE 6

Lino Lakes City Council continues data center discussion

BY MADELINE DOLBY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Lino Lakes City Council continues to have discussions around data centers.

At the council's most recent work session, Community Development Director Michael Grochala reviewed the city's current land use regulations and provided an overview of data centers.

"We're hearing a lot more about them now," Grochala

said. "They've been around for years ... but we're seeing a lot more locally within the Twin Cities Metro Area and as a whole nationally."

What data centers do

A data center is a facility that houses computer servers and related equipment used to process, store and distribute digital information. Grochala said data centers support cloud

SEE DATA CENTER DISCUSSION, PAGE 2



The size of a typical data center. Data centers continue to be a topic of discussion for the Lino Lakes City Council.



LINO LAKES FIRE DEPARTMENT | CONTRIBUTED

'All in, all the time'

A woman plays "Taps" at the 2026 Minnesota Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service at the Minnesota State Capitol. Added to the memorial this year was Tim Bertz, a former Lino Lakes Fire Department firefighter. LLFD has created an annual award in Bertz's honor. For the full story, see Page 2.

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Lino Lakes firefighter memorialized at Capitol

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

While fires do kill firefighters. cardiac events kill far more.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, overexertion and strain caused 45% of on-duty fatal firefighter injuries in 2025. NFPA also notes several cases of firefighters who suffered heart attacks 24 hours after a shift.

Last December, Tim Bertz, a firefighter with the St. Paul Fire Department and formerly with the Lino Lakes Fire Department, suffered such an injury.

“Tim is the first firefighter we’ve had from Lino Lakes that ended up perishing from a cardiac event but five years ago, we had another one of our firefighters — same kind of thing,” said LLFD Assistant Chief of Operations Brian Finke. “It was the morning after training, (he) went into cardiac arrest. We ended up getting him back with no deficits ... but it’s not uncommon by any means.”

During the 2026 Minnesota Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service held Sept. 27 in St. Paul, the Lino Lakes Fire Department honored Bertz. His name is now etched in the memorial on the south side of the Capitol grounds.

“The fact that we have this special day to honor 255 Minnesota firefighters whose names are etched in the memorial, and then recognize them every year so that they’re not forgotten, it’s really cool,” said Gabi Streater, firefighter administrator for LLFD.

“To see that (the ceremony was) leaving no one behind, remembering everyone that has fallen, from start to where we are today ... was

something that I’ve never experienced before,” LLFD Duty Crew Firefighter Clayton Follett added.

“We were asked to bring our aerial (extendable ladder fire engine) down to the event ... I worked firsthand with Tim down at Station 2. We would do truck checks on that aerial, and so it was very sentimental, very emotional, to be able to remember him like that.”

Hung from the aerial ladders were the fire department’s new American and POW flags, which the Lino Lakes American Legion recently donated. The memorial service was the second time the new flags flew from the aerial engines; the first time was on the 25th anniversary of 9/11 last month.

“We’re very grateful to the Legion for them to donate something like that, and the opportunity to fly it. It’s very generous,” Follett said.

LLFD continues to honor Bertz within the department with the Tim Bertz Firefighter of the Year award. Finke was the first recipient earlier this year, and the department is compiling nominations for 2027.

“Loyalty, integrity, neighborly, ownership (LINO) ... When I look at our core values, Tim just encompassed those,” said Streater.

Bertz also had a motto many in LLFD continue to quote: “All in, all the time.”

“We’re here for the community, surrounding communities, each other,” Finke explained. “It’s a way to remind ourselves to do the best we can.”

To learn more about the Minnesota Fire Service Foundation, the organization associated with the Minnesota Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service, visit mnfireservicefoundation.org.



PHOTOS BY LINO LAKES FIRE DEPARTMENT | CONTRIBUTED

From left, Assistant Chief of Operations Brian Finke and Fire Chief Dan L’Allier.



Two LLFD fire engine aerial ladders hold the department’s new flag, which the Lino Lakes American Legion donated, in front of the State Capitol.

DATA CENTER DISCUSSION: Some are ‘using exorbitant amounts of water’

FROM PAGE 1

computing, artificial intelligence, data storage, online applications and other digital services.

Unlike a typical office or commercial building, a data center is designed primarily to operate computer equipment. These facilities generally run continuously and require reliable electrical power, cooling systems, network connectivity and backup power, Grochala said.

“The city’s zoning ordinance defines a data center as an establishment primarily involved in compiling, storing and maintaining information in digital form using a mainframe computer,” Grochala said. “The definition specifically excludes general business offices, computer-related sales establishments and business or personal service establishments.”

Types and sizing considerations

Data centers vary in size, ownership and function. Common types include enterprise, colocation and hyperscale facilities (see sidebar for more information). Grochala said the hyperscale data centers are driving concerns and interest.

“These are much bigger facilities. These are over 200,000 square feet, some of them getting into the million-square-foot size,” he explained. “... These places are really pushing a lot of data, storing a lot of data and now computing, as AI is expanding.”

Because these facilities differ in size, design and operating requirements, the appropriate location depends on the data center’s type and scale, available site infrastructure, surrounding land uses and local regulations.

Potential sites may include industrial districts,

Common types of data centers:

- Enterprise data centers: Generally operated by a single organization to support its own computing and data-storage needs.
- Colocation data centers: Provide space, power, cooling and network infrastructure to multiple customers. Multiple businesses or organizations may operate their own equipment within the same facility.
- Hyperscale data centers: Very large-scale facilities designed to support substantial computing and storage requirements, generally associated with large cloud service providers and technology companies.

technology or business parks, areas with existing or planned electrical and high-capacity fiber infrastructure, and locations with adequate water and wastewater infrastructure when water-based cooling is proposed.

Under the city’s current zoning code, a data center is a permitted use in the Light Industrial (LI), General Industrial (GI) and Business Campus (BC) zoning districts. The LI district includes high-tech businesses and professional services. The GI district allows general industrial uses and services, including more intensive activities. The BC district supports employment-oriented development, including offices, services, research and development, data centers and light industrial uses.

A data center proposed in one of these districts would not require rezoning, Grochala explained. However, the development would still need to comply with all applicable city building and development requirements.

The city’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan provides the broader land-use framework for determining whether a proposed data center aligns with the city’s planned development pattern. Each proposal would be evaluated according to its location, design and development characteristics.

Data centers may also be subject to state and regional regulations and approvals. Minnesota’s Business First Stop offers a coordinated resource for businesses and project proposers navigating state requirements. Depending on the project, those requirements may address environmental review, water appropriation

and use, stormwater and wastewater, air emissions, electric generation or storage, utility interconnection, and building and plumbing standards.

The city’s land use review and any applicable state or regional reviews are separate processes. A project must satisfy the requirements of each reviewing authority before the corresponding approvals or permits can be issued.

Grochala said Lino Lakes’ location within the metropolitan area, access to major transportation corridors and established business campus and industrial areas may create opportunities for technology-oriented development.

The city also participates in the Minnesota Technology Corridor, a regional economic development collaboration among six cities. The corridor encompasses development areas along I-35E and I-35W and identifies more than 1,500 acres of future development potential. According to the city staff report, supporting infrastructure includes proximity to I-35E, a fiber-optic backbone and two electric transmission lines.

Council members share feedback, thoughts

Council Member Julia Nelson clarified that no company has approached the city about building a data center. “I would be for anything that gives us the most power and control over this,” she added.

Council Member Randy Rennaker, who brought this forward for discussion to the council in July, said he wants to make certain the city is protected and has the control of what type of facilities are built in the city.

“I have friends and family who live in the city that can’t water their yard on a Monday or a Wednesday,” he added. “Some of these data centers are using exorbitant amounts of water. That’s just not right.”

Council Member Chris Lyden asked Grochala if it would be possible to ban data centers in the specific zoning districts.

Grochala said staff have not gone down the path of exploring prohibition, but the city could establish standards.

There was no formal action taken by the council. It was discussion only.

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ONGOING EVENTS

ONCE UPON A STORY TIME: TREASURE OF THE TREES

When: 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13
Where: Wargo Nature Center, 7701 Main St., Lino Lakes
Details: Children ages 2 and up can step into a world where imagination knows no bounds. Our storyteller will take you on nature adventures through stories, songs and crafts. Registration is encouraged to ensure there are enough craft supplies for all attending.
Contact: anokacountyparks.com/activities-events or 763-324-3350

SILVER SKATERS OPEN SKATING

When: 12:30-2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays
Where: Centennial Sports Arena, 4810 103rd Lane NE, Circle Pines
Details: Grab some friends or neighbors and enjoy some dedicated time in the community rink. Skating is a great way to exercise, socialize and have fun. A small fee will be charged at the door.
Contact: 763-792-6100

KITCHEN CREATIONS ADULTS

When: 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14
Where: Centennial Library, 100 Civic Heights Circle, Circle Pines
Details: Join us in the IQ kitchen as we demonstrate simple, easy to follow recipes that you will surely want to try out at home. The theme for this class is “One Pot/Sheet Pan Meals.”
Contact: 763-324-1540 or achref@anokacountymn.gov

GET A CLUE TRIVIA NIGHT

When: 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays
Where: Lino Lakes American Legion Post 566, 7731 Lake Drive
Details: Live, hosted trivia—no limit on team size. Top three teams will win a prize.
Contact: 651-783-0055 or officepost566@gmail.com

LUNCH AND LEARN: MASTERING THE ART OF DIGITAL DETOX

When: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15
Where: Centennial Library, 100 Civic Heights Circle, Circle Pines
Details: Feeling overwhelmed by the constant buzz of your digital life? If so,



CONTRIBUTED

CENTENNIAL ESCAPE ROOM: CRAZY CRYPTIDS

When: 5-5:45; 6-6:45 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15
Where: Centennial Library, 100 Civic Heights Circle, Circle Pines
Details: Do you believe in the Loch Ness Monster? Know someone that’s seen Bigfoot? Join us at the library as we sit around a “campfire” and tell stories about crazy cryptids. But the forest is spooky this season, and you’ll need to solve puzzles and codes left by previous campers to escape the forest. Although the escape room is open to all ages, the puzzles are challenging and designed for teens and adults. Adult participation is required for children under 12. Registration is required at anokacounty.libcal.com/event/17218383.
Contact: 763-324-1540 or achref@anokacountymn.gov

it’s time for a digital detox — a strategic cleanse to reclaim your mental space and well-being. Nickie Welsh from Social Club Simple will help you with practical strategies for setting boundaries, managing notifications and curating a mindful online experience with ease. Registration is required at business.centennialareachamber.com/quad-area-community-calendar.
Contact: 763-786-9672 or president@centennialareachamber.com.

LEGION LIVE!

When: 6-9 p.m. Fridays
Where: Lino Lakes American Legion Post 566, 7731 Lake Drive, Lino Lakes
Details: Come on out for the live music, drinks and Friday specials. This week’s musician is Tom Hipps, who performs melodic, message-infused pop and folk tunes.
Contact: 651-783-0055 or officepost566@gmail.com

ADULT OPEN VOLLEYBALL

When: 6:30-9:30 p.m. Fridays
Where: Centennial Middle School Gym, 399 Elm St., Lino Lakes
Details: Drop in for a night of volleyball. All experience levels welcome. A small fee will be charged at the door. A maximum number of players will be allowed.
Contact: 763-792-6100

MONDAY MAHJONG

When: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every Monday
Where: The Rookery Activity Center, 7690 Village Drive, Lino Lakes
Details: Mahjong is a tile-based game that is played with four players. In this game each player receives 13 tiles with the goal of matching their tiles to form sets or pairs to win. Admission will be charged for non-members to play.
Contact: 651-982-2468

CURRENT EVENTS

FALL PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS

When: 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15
Where: Lendt’s Pumpkin Patch, 6903 Wyoming Trail, Wyoming
Details: Join professional photographer Don Tredinnick as you photograph the pumpkins, fall colors and displays at the patch. Spend time capturing everything from close-ups to environmental images. Dress appropriately and bring a camera that allows for manual settings. Register at isd12.arux.app/search/all-programs by searching “Fall Photography.”
Contact: 763-792-6100

PULL-UP PICTURES: ADULT HORROR MOVIE NIGHT

When: 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16
Where: The Outskirts, 15201 Running Aces Blvd., Columbus
Details: Enjoy this triple feature either of “The Blair Witch Project,” “The Ring,” and “Annabelle.” Either bring lawn chairs and blankets or pull-up in a vehicle, drive-in style. For tickets, visit theoutskirtsmn.com/movie-tickets.
Contact: 651-927-2717 or theoutskirtsmn.com

BOO BASH

When: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17
Where: Festival Foods, 14775 Victor Hugo Blvd. N., Hugo
Details: Our annual Boo Bash is back. There will be live music from the Teddy Bear Band, a coloring contest, games and trick-or-treating in-store. Costumes are welcome. Kids will get a pumpkin while supplies last.
Contact: 651-762-3618 or social@festivalfoods.net
PUMPKIN POP-UP
When: 12-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17
Where: T and Nae Flower Farm, 15815 Elmcrest Ave. N., Hugo
Details: Stop by the farm to grab your pumpkins, gourds, flowers (either dried or fresh, until first frost) and other fall decor.
Contact: 651-707-2063 or tandnaelle@gmail.com



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Best of the Press

Congratulations to the Best of the Press Readers' Choice winners and finalists. The special winners' section is inserted in this week's paper. The section will also be posted on our website soon.



Publisher's View
Carter Johnson

Once again, we are excited to host the winners and finalists with a special gathering to celebrate their achievements and contributions to our community later this month. As always, please support all of our local businesses and share a great big congratulations to the Best of the Press Readers' Choice winners and finalists.

It's your duty
With elections coming up quickly I'm delighted that our papers have created a comprehensive,

informative Voters' Guide, available in print and online. As you go to the polls, we believe these guides will give you some basic knowledge of the candidates to help you make your decision about who to vote for. With early voting taking place, we wanted to make sure we published the candidate profiles early. We will run an additional condensed version of the Votes' Guide next week.

It's always been frustrating for me to walk into the voting booth and be taken off guard with what's on the ballot. This year there's a Minnesota constitutional amendment. This one's tricky because some would say it's changing the historical intentions of the Permanent School Fund. It is seeking more funding now and could hurt future interest the schools rely on.

It's sad to once again see the rage and anger that comes from political season. Please do your part and get out and vote. It's easy and vital. It matters because you're helping set the tone of the future. Remember that voting is a right that many people in this world don't have. Whether you agree with the direction our state or nation is headed, we need to be grateful for the opportunity to chart our course through the process of voting.

Please mark your calendar for Nov. 3 to get out and vote. Above is a QR code that will link you to the local paper's Voters' Guide.



Scan QR Code to view the voters' guide

Carter Johnson is publisher of Press Publications.



Let me tell you about the borage and the bees

Borage (Borago officinalis), or Starflower, is a lesser-known annual herb not typically grown in most gardens, but it should be. Its thick green leaves covered in soft, prickly bristles support a profusion of vibrant, highly visible blue, pink, or white blossoms. The distinctive star shape has a central grouping of stamens, which allows bees to easily navigate, access, and forage for food. Because bees see colors in the ultraviolet spectrum, these insects are especially drawn to the vivid indigo blossoms, which produce both nectar and pollen. Using their long tongues, bees can retrieve the nectar while also collecting pollen with their dense, fuzzy bodies.

As an important nectar source, bees visit the borage flowers then continue foraging on adjacent plants in a "chain" of visits, pollinating plants across the garden. While attractive to a broad range of honeybees, native bees, and bumblebees (Minnesota Bee Species List), the blossoms

entice impromptu visits from the occasional butterfly, moth, or hummingbird as well. Borage also lures beneficial predatory insects like lacewing bugs, hoverflies, ladybugs, and parasitic wasps, that provide pest control for common garden insects such as aphids, small caterpillars, or mites.

Borage has a long blooming period, from late spring to early fall, providing continuous and abundant flowers throughout the entire growing season, when other plants have yet to blossom or have transitioned to seed development. More valuable, however, is how quickly borage replenishes its nectar. A single plant can generate almost 1000 flowers producing a high nectar yield per flower that encourages repeat visits from pollinators. This combination of floral features (color, shape, design, extended growing season, and plentiful nectar and pollen supply) encourages frequent visits from insects, establishing it as a keystone pollinator plant.

Borage can be planted in any flower or vegetable bed, but it can also be grown in containers. Strategically placing containers of borage throughout garden spaces creates a wide-ranging oasis for bees, allowing maximum pollination, especially in vegetable gardens, where pollination is essential. Borage is

easy to grow, self-sows (but not aggressively), flourishes in full sun, and handles nutrient-poor soil. This plant has no specific insect or disease problems, although powdery mildew can sometimes occur.

For borage to thrive in containers, however, it needs enough above- and below-ground space to flourish and prevent root-bound plants and spindly leaves. An appropriate container size of 18" in diameter and at least 12" deep supports a 2-3' plant spread, which allows room for borage's long taproot. While not invasive, it can be a bully plant, overwhelming its neighbors by squashing them with its flower-loaded stems and sprawling growth habit. Allowing enough room, with plant supports, occasional trimming, and regular deadheading, helps keep borage blooming into fall.

Borage's combination of high quality, abundant, and long-lasting nectar increases the frequency of pollinator visits to nearby shrubs, vegetables, and herbs. As an important keystone plant pollinator plant, borage encourages and contributes to diverse, strong pollinator communities by sustaining a vigorous garden ecosystem.

Tamra L Boyce is a master gardener with the University of



Gardener's Grapevine
Tamra L Boyce

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- 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.
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- 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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ask for public healthcare pledges from candidates

Everyone in Minnesota deserves reliable, accessible and affordable healthcare for themselves and their families. Yet every year, premiums rise, deductibles grow, provider networks shrink and prescription costs climb. These trends are putting healthcare out of reach for too many Minnesotans.

The 2025 federal budget bill cut roughly \$1 trillion from healthcare nationally while giving benefits to the wealthiest individuals and corporations. Here in Minnesota, about 250,000 people are expected to lose healthcare coverage between 2027 and 2030. These losses affect all of us. When hospitals absorb more uncompensated care, rural hospitals face bankruptcy, families wait longer for treatment and costs are shifted to everyone through higher premiums and reduced access.

This is not acceptable. Candidates asking for our votes should publicly pledge to fight for high-quality, affordable and accessible healthcare for every Minnesotan. When candidates come to your door seeking support, ask them to make that commitment publicly before November 3.

Bobbi Henderson
Lino Lakes

A safer crossing

The Anoka County Highway Department and the city of Centerville are in the process of installing a safe crossing from the Cities Trail System in the location of 6849 Centerville Road.

This crossing has seen two crashes in which drivers were not paying attention to the vehicles in front of them, vehicle that were stopped and waiting for pedestrians to cross the street in the marked crosswalk. The project will have lighted stop signs allowing pedestrians to safely cross in the future. A job well done!

Thomas D. Wilharber
Centerville

PAID LETTER
Affordability failure

The issue of affordability has gained prominence in this election cycle. Yet when politicians or politicians-in-waiting start touting their quest to make life, or any portion of it, affordable, we'd better look long and hard under the hood.

First, affordability has been sold to us in the past, and to date is noted by its consistent failure. Affordable college? Isn't. Affordable healthcare? Isn't. Just to name a few of the bigger blandishments.

The general pattern of political affordability is to create and fund a governing bureaucracy, mandate a private sector compliance structure, and design subsidies for those falling within the parameters of need. This effort reduces market efficiency by raising costs, which are then paid by the general populace, making life in general less affordable.

Further, New Mexico has recently enacted affordable childcare, for example. Their costs are running about 20% over estimates. I've read estimates for Minnesota, running anywhere from \$1-4 billion. Similar cost overruns will prove quite expensive here, adding again to our tax burden.

But that's not all. Fabian Socialism is the incremental arrest of various facets of the economy to the control of the State. Creating dependencies is one tactic. Whatever the perspective, whether justice, compassion or affordability, over time our birthright of liberty will have been given over to the State. Which then makes the State itself unaffordable.

I'd exercise caution. The DFL already has a challenge with a strong contingent of socialists in its ranks. A vote for the Republican ticket will protect them (the DFL) from temptation and give us all time to learn of our birthright, Madison's "charter of liberty."

James Nash
White Bear Lake

PAID LETTER
Reelect Heather Gustafson

Heather Gustafson is running for reelection for Senate, and I wanted to look at her past accomplishments and her priorities before November.

Sen. Gustafson is a public servant who gets results

with bipartisan engagement. As a teacher and a mother of four, she understands the importance of consistent nutritional meals for students. The Universal School Meals legislation Heather championed provides free breakfast and lunch for all MN K-12 students, saving families about \$2,000 per year.

The 2026 property tax relief legislation she voted for created a 14.88% Homestead Credit Refund boost that was a \$200 average increase for 600,000 Minnesotans statewide.

Fraud is an issue impacting taxpayers on the federal and state level. Sen. Gustafson has been the leader in the bipartisan establishment of the new Minnesota State Office of Inspector General, the independent watchdog to investigate fraud, waste and abuse in state programs.

For the next legislative session, Heather's priorities include looking at what can be done to control healthcare costs, such as eliminating the need for you to get prior authorizations for procedures. This is between you and your doctor. The insurance company adds no value here.

I have met Heather several times and believe she is an effective leader for her constituents. Vote early if you can.

Connie Wikman
Circle Pines

PAID LETTER
We deserve a better healthcare system

On November 3 I am voting for Jim DeMay to be my next state representative because we deserve a better healthcare system. Our current system is failing too many hardworking Minnesotans. Over the past year, actions by the current president and his followers in Congress have increased insurance premiums for thousands of Minnesotans (and Americans) by as much as 58 percent.

As premiums skyrocket, more people who buy their own insurance have been forced to drop their coverage altogether. Minnesota employers who provide healthcare benefits for workers are forced to either absorb the extra costs, pass the increase on to their employees, or switch to plans with higher deductibles and copays and less coverage for treatment and care.

There are numerous benefits to more people receiving more comprehensive medical care. People with access to routine health exams and screens can detect and treat problems early, reducing expensive emergency room visits that bury them in medical debt and burden our hospitals. Healthier people take fewer sick days at work, increasing productivity for their employers. And when people can actually afford their healthcare, they won't face the impossible choice between buying groceries or prescription drugs.

Right now, affordable healthcare is out of reach for too many Minnesotans. We can fix this, but only if we elect Jim DeMay, who will stand up for us instead of protecting profits for drug companies and insurance companies.

Lisa K. Giebink
Lino Lakes

PAID LETTER
Eager to cast vote for Gustafson

As the midterm elections approach, I hope that everyone votes and I encourage everyone to vote based on their own values and research into the candidates. Based on her measurable accomplishments in her first term, I am eager to cast my vote to reelect Heather Gustafson to represent state Senate District 36 again.

State leadership requires a skilled communicator and the ability to get things done in a way that meets the needs of constituents across a large swath of land who have varied and unique resources and challenges.

Heather has a strong history of being accessible and listening to all her constituents. She is proudly running on the fact that she is one of the most bipartisan senators, and that 70% of the bills she has authored are supported by both political parties.

Even when the Legislature is not in session, Heather is out talking with her constituents, including local business owners, parents, retirees and veterans, and she hears their concerns about affordability. As a public school teacher raising children, Heather can relate. One of her primary focus areas has been trying to implement changes at the local level to help reduce costs. There is not a lot she can do at the federal level,

where Minnesota has felt the brunt of cuts in funding. Heather sponsored the universal free lunch program, saving families approximately \$2,000 per year; passed bills for property tax relief; and reduced vehicle registration fees. Priorities for the next session will be what can be done to reduce the cost of childcare and healthcare. These are the two largest items in most families' budgets.

I am proud of the positive impact Senator Heather Gustafson has had on our communities in District 36, and she has earned my vote for a second term.

Dan Cafferty
Lino Lakes

PAID LETTER
Still fighting for 'My body, my choice'

Years ago, there was a popular phrase "My body, my choice!" Now here we are in 2026, and we are still fighting for this right. We are fortunate here in Senate District 36 to have Heather Gustafson, a strong incumbent, willing to serve another term on our behalf and defend our individual freedoms. We cannot elect people with the intent of forcing their will on their neighbors' most personal healthcare choices and lifestyle opportunities. Heather believes in freedom from government overreach and in protecting privacy and personal choice.

Her priorities include supporting reproductive rights, the right to contraception and access to reproductive healthcare. And she will continue to oppose all efforts to roll back individual freedoms. She is a seasoned senator now and has proven the ability to reach across the aisle for common ground on legislation. These are just some of the reasons that I am eager to vote again for Minnesota Senator Heather Gustafson.

Rhonda Donnay-Rice
Lino Lakes

PAID LETTER
DeMay and Gustafson will cut fraud without cutting services

Recently, large banners have appeared across our Senate District proclaiming "Safe Schools - Lower Taxes - Fight Fraud". These are all worthy goals for our community, but also worth a closer look at who will be able to accomplish this in our state Legislature.

We all want safe schools. The Minnesota House brought forward a comprehensive gun violence package which had already been passed by the Senate last fall. According to the Lumaris Research Poll, as well as an Expedition Strategies Poll, the majority of Minnesotans support a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. But the House Republicans voted with the gun lobbyists and blocked this legislation from reaching the floor in spite of the fact that parents from Annunciation School were in the chamber at the time. Are Republicans really ready to pass legislation to make our schools safer?

We all would like lower taxes. But what services would have to be cut to accomplish this? State taxes pay for public E-12 education, Medicaid and disability services; healthcare, including support for hospitals; social services, including childcare and senior care; public safety programs, including state prisons, state police, fire protection and our court systems; and transportation, including roads, bridges and public transit. All of these programs are needed to maintain public infrastructure, provide essential services, support education and healthcare, and ensure that our state government can operate effectively.

We all agree fraud is a problem that needs to be dealt with. My senator, Heather Gustafson, along with Representative Matt Norris from Blaine, were chief authors of the bill to create the Independent Office of Inspector General to combat fraud and ensure accountability in state programs. Jim DeMay, the DFL candidate running for House District 36a, supports audits of all state agencies to root out fraud and promote efficiency in government.

I will be supporting Jim DeMay and Heather Gustafson in November since I believe they are the legislators that actually will accomplish these goals. Republicans have not shown the ability to support legislation that aligns with my values.

Renee Dietz
Circle Pines

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COUNTY PRELIMINARY LEVY: ‘Higher than most of us would like’

FROM PAGE 1

around the clock, many employees are being paid overtime and work long shifts for consecutive days.

“(It) is not good from a perspective of, one, being able to retain the employees, and (two), paying from a liability perspective of having people in place in these 24/7 operations,” Dickinson said.

The Minnesota Paid Leave Act and the Earned Safe and Sick Time program before that, Dickinson noted, also increase overtime requests from public safety departments.

“All these different programs, which sound good on paper at the state, really have significant impacts for our 24/7 operations. As we look ahead, there will probably be some legislative initiatives to mitigate some of that, because I don’t think that was taken into consideration,” he said. “With 24/7 operations, if someone calls, you really don’t have much choice except to go to OT.”

He continued, saying that increased staffing will minimize overtime costs in the future and

increase retention in places like the sheriff’s office and the jail, where recruitment is difficult.

“Once we get them, we need to keep them,” Dickinson said.

Dickinson said that the attorney’s office also needs more staff because the county is growing and needs to handle the increased workload. The attorney’s office also occasionally advises the county regarding contracts, so increased staff will lead to stronger attention to details.

Both the sheriff’s and attorney’s offices, Dickinson said, are also dealing with increased data requests from the public.

“Having data available for those who ask is a good thing. It’s really been a popular thing. With AI (artificial intelligence), these requests have become very detailed,” said Dickinson. “(It’s) to the point, I don’t think people know what they’re asking when they submit some of those things. That has a significant impact in the sheriff’s office, which then has a correlation of impact in the attorney’s office.”

Separately, Dickinson

	2027 Proposed Budget	2028 Budget Projection	2029 Budget Projection	2030 Budget Projection	2031 Budget Projection
Revenue					
Operational Levy	\$ 235,380,130	\$ 253,749,103	\$ 269,269,103	\$ 291,164,647	\$ 302,671,824
Debt Levy	\$ 6,194,230	\$ 5,805,533	\$ 9,921,653	\$ 8,570,253	\$ 21,471,861
Tax Abatement	\$ 5,300	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
Total Gross Levy	\$ 241,579,660	\$ 259,904,636	\$ 279,540,756	\$ 300,084,900	\$ 324,493,685
Other Revenue	\$ 195,513,489	\$ 200,776,326	\$ 205,795,734	\$ 210,940,627	\$ 216,214,143
Total Revenues	\$ 437,093,149	\$ 460,680,962	\$ 485,336,490	\$ 511,025,527	\$ 540,707,828
Expenditures					
Personnel Costs	\$ 322,764,945	\$ 342,609,068	\$ 359,532,615	\$ 377,260,854	\$ 395,835,841
Other Costs	\$ 117,210,034	\$ 119,708,739	\$ 122,307,222	\$ 125,010,812	\$ 127,825,126
Capital Costs	\$ 3,225,000	\$ 3,225,000	\$ 3,225,000	\$ 3,225,000	\$ 3,225,000
Debt Service/Abatement	\$ 6,199,530	\$ 6,155,533	\$ 10,271,653	\$ 8,920,253	\$ 21,821,861
Total Expenditures	\$ 449,399,509	\$ 471,698,340	\$ 495,336,490	\$ 514,416,919	\$ 548,707,828
One-Time Funding	\$ 12,306,360	\$ 11,017,378	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 3,391,392	\$ 8,000,000

A chart of Anoka County's total revenues and expenditures for the next five years. While 2027's budget received preliminary approval, budgets for 2028-2031 are only projections.

explained that the \$600,000 preliminary public safety levy, a separate item from the property tax levy, will pay for a public safety data system.

“The public safety data system is how police and fire share information,” explained Anoka County Attorney Brad Johnson. “When they log on to their computers, and they’re trying to talk to one another, that’s how it’s used.”

Board comments

After the budget presentation, Commissioner Mike Gamache thanked the staff for their work and added that inflation was also a factor for the increased tax levy. “We all know what the gas prices are, and we’ve all seen the diesel prices. If you can only imagine the equipment we have at the county, that affects us a great deal. We understand that, and we’re dealing with that. We’re not going to kick the can down the road,” he said.

Meisner also thanked county staff, noting that county employee salaries and benefits are included in the budget: “This is the one time of year we can put action behind words like, ‘We really value our staff.’”

Commission Chair Scott Schulte said, “This is my 26th annual budget — 12 at the city level, 14 at the county — I can say it doesn’t get any easier.”

He, too, praised staff efforts.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

A list of Anoka County's strategic priorities.

“I don’t take any pleasure in a 7.9% levy other than knowing what it could have been,” Schulte said, “but for the work of not just the finance team, but everybody that worked in every division to come up with ... a tighter budget and a better presentation than any of the 26 years I’ve ever been a part of. Not easy — 7.9% is higher than most of us would like, but a lot lower than some neighboring counties.”

Commissioner John Heinrich said the budget was “responsible.”

“I really feel like the administration have gone through the departments with a fine-tooth comb,” said Heinrich, adding that he believes roughly half of the tax levy increase “can be laid at the feet of our state Legislature and federal government.”

Commissioner Julie

Jeppson agreed with Heinrich.

“Sometimes keeping a promise is expensive,” said Jeppson. “Sometimes, what looks inefficient on a spreadsheet is just the cost of serving someone who otherwise would be very easy to leave behind. As county government, as public service, we cannot leave anyone behind. We can’t do it legally, and I can’t do it (conscientiously).”

Relieving taxpayer burden, Jeppson noted, may be within the state Legislature’s ability.

“I have heard over and over again that (our property tax system) is one of the most complex in the country. If we want to really reduce our levy ... let’s make the system more efficient, rather than continually putting it on the backs of counties and taxpayers,” said Jeppson.

While explaining her

reasons for voting no on the preliminary tax levy, Braastad mentioned concerns that new staffing positions are creating too much governmental growth.

“Yes, you can say some are justified. There’s a lot of unfunded mandates that have been pushed down to the county level,” Braastad said. “We all have to face the people who show up in truth in taxation — Social Security doesn’t keep up, they’re being priced out of their homes — and that’s real. Taxes are impacting those on a fixed income. I’m hoping we can reduce this between now and then.”

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30, at 2100 Third Ave. N., Room 705, Anoka. For more information, visit anokacountymn.gov or call 763-324-4000.



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POLICE REPORTS

The Centennial Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- On Sept. 30 in the 9100 block of Hamline Avenue in Lexington, officers responded to a case of damage to city property.
- On Sept. 30 in the 7100 block of Main Street in Centerville, officers were dispatched for a personal injury accident. Upon arrival, one driver, who was suspected to be impaired, was taken to the hospital for their injuries. Officers obtained a swarth warrant for the driver's blood and executed the warrant at the hospital. The driver was later discharged from the hospital and brought to jail.
- On Sept. 30 at the intersection of Lake Drive and Village Parkway in Circle Pines, police responded to property damage of two vehicles.
- On Sept. 30 at the intersection of S. Pine Drive and Lake Drive in Circle Pines, police responded to a two-vehicle accident.
- On Oct. 1 at the intersection of Civic Heights Drive and Golden Oak Drive in Circle Pines, officers observed a person acting strangely, conducted a welfare check, determined the person was suffering from mental health issues and was unable to take care of themselves. The person was subsequently placed on a medical hold.
- On Oct. 2, officers received a phone call reporting property damage in the 10 block of Village Parkway in Circle Pines.

- On Oct. 2 in the 9200 block of South Highway Drive in Lexington, officers took a theft report. The case is still active.
- On Oct. 3 in the 9000 block of Jackson Avenue in Lexington, an officer self-initiated an ordinance violation report.
- On Oct. 3 in the 7000 block of 20th Avenue in Centerville, police responded to a motor vehicle crash on private property.
- On Oct. 5 in the 10 block of Oak Leaf Lane in Circle Pines, an officer addressed an ordinance violation.
- On Oct. 6 at the intersection of Main Street and 20th Avenue in Centerville, police responded to a report of property damage.

The Lino Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- On Sept. 28 in the 600 block of Town Center Parkway, Officers conducted alcohol compliance checks throughout the City of Lino Lakes. Three businesses were cited for violations.
- On Sept. 28 at the intersection of Ash Street and Scenic Place, an officer documented and provided assistance to a motor vehicle crash.
- On Sept. 28 in the 100 block of Morgan Lane, an officer took a report of a missing cat. The officer passed on the information to other shifts.
- On Sept. 29 in the 7500 block of Fourth Avenue, officers responded to two juveniles who ran away from

- a juvenile treatment facility. The juveniles were apprehended and returned to the facility.
- On Sept. 30 in the 6400 block of Tomahawk Trail, an officer investigated a report of school bus stop-arm violation. The case was sent to the city attorney for charges.
- On Sept. 30 at the intersection of Hodgson Road and Ware Road, an officer was dispatched to a found property report. The officer identified the owner and returned the property.
- On Sept. 30 in the 7500 block of Jeanne Drive, an officer responded to a complaint of a juvenile riding a four-wheeler on the road. The parent was educated on the ordinance regulating ATV use.
- On Sept. 30 in the 700 block of Apollo Drive an officer documented an incident of financial transaction card fraud. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Sept. 30 in the 7100 block of Otter Lake Road, an officer documented and provided assistance to a motor vehicle crash.
- On Oct. 1 in the 600 block of Apollo Drive, an officer documented and provided assistance to a motor vehicle crash.
- On Oct. 1 in the 6900 block of Lake Drive, an officer investigated a report of school bus stop-arm violation. The case was sent to the city attorney for charges.
- On Oct. 1 in the 6700 block of Hodgson Road, an officer responded to a motorist assist involving a stalled vehicle that was

- blocking traffic. The vehicle was towed from the scene.
- On Oct. 1 at the police department, officers secured property found at the 6500 block of Pheasant Run S.
- On Oct. 1 in the 8000 block of Lake Drive, an officer on patrol conducted a traffic stop and subsequently arrested the driver for an outstanding warrant.
- On Oct. 2 in the 6600 block of W. Shadow Lake Drive, An officer located a bicycle in a city park and brought it to the police department for safekeeping.
- On Oct. 3 at the police department, officers secured property found at 600 Apollo Drive.
- On Oct. 3 in the 7500 block of Fourth Avenue, officers responded to an assault at a juvenile detention facility. Charges are pending.
- On Oct. 4 at the intersection of 21st Avenue and Main Street, officers responded to a two-vehicle personal injury crash. Both vehicles were towed from the scene and the occupants declined ambulance transport to a hospital.
- On Oct. 4 in the 300 block of Elm Street, an officer responded to a hit and run property damage crash. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Oct. 4 at the intersection of I-35W and Lake Drive, officers responded to a motorist assist. The driver was ultimately arrested by the Minnesota State Patrol for DWI.
- On Oct. 4 in the 6900 block of Otter Lake Road, an officer documented and provided assistance to a motor vehicle crash.

LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL SNIPPETS

- Council Member Barbara Mahr reported that internet service company Gateway Fiber is "suing the city of Blaine and (North Metro Telecommunications Commission) to block us from pursuing broadband franchising." Gateway Fiber has filed an injunction and a hearing was held October 1, but an attorney from the League of Minnesota Cities requested a continuance. A decision regarding the injunction will not be made until October 9, past press deadline.
- The council approved Resolution No. 26-12, which will, according to the memo, allow planning assistance grant funds to be made available to the city of Lexington, after the city "review(s) and update(s) its comprehensive plan as required by the 'decennial' review provision of Minnesota Statutes section 473.864, subdivision 2."
- The council approved the decision not to waive "monetary limits on

municipal tort liability" for liability coverage through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. According to the memo, this means that "an individual claimant could recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total all claimants could recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. These statutory tort limits would apply regardless of whether the member purchases the optional LMCIT excess liability coverage."

The Lexington City Council next meets at 7 p.m. Oct. 15, Lexington City Hall, 9180 Lexington Ave.

Hannah Testa



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LINO LAKES CITY COUNCIL SNIPPETS

• The council was presented with a revised concept of Layden Ponds, also known as Robinson South, by City Planner Katie Larsen. The applicant, TCLD Land Holdings LLC, is proposing a master planned development in the southeast quadrant of Main Street and Sunset Avenue. The development contains approximately 153 gross acres and now consists of a mix of 400 housing units and a private K-12 school. According to Larsen, revisions to the plan included an increase in the number of housing units, a reduction in the number of 55-foot-wide lots, the addition of 60-foot-wide lots adjacent to the Robinson Drive neighborhood, an increased number of 80-foot-wide lots near the Carl Street neighborhood and an increase in the number of townhome units. A majority of townhome and single-family lots will now abut open space, and there will be more separation between Main Street and the housing units.

• Community Development Director Michael Grochala reviewed current land use regulations surrounding data centers with the council. According to Grochala, the city’s zoning ordinance currently defines data centers as an establishment primarily involved in compiling, storing and maintaining information in digital form using a mainframe computer. The definition excludes general business offices, computer-related sales establishments and business or personal service establishments. (See full story in this week’s issue.)

• The council has received the 2026 Pavement Management Report. The report, presented by City Engineer Diane Hankee, coexists with the city’s Pavement Management Program. The program evaluates the condition of 108 miles of roadways and provides recommended maintenance. According to Hankee, the program involves rating one-fourth of the city roadway system mileage per year and using pavement management software to project the condition of the remainder of roadways. According to the 2026 Pavement Management Report, the city roadway system’s weighted average PCI (pavement condition index) is 75.5. The numerical score can vary from 0 to 100. The high rating is partially supported by new development construction in recent years and has helped maintain the city’s average goal of 73 PCI. Pavement ratings, along with traffic volumes, maintenance data and geotechnical information, are used for the city’s roadway capital improvement planning.

• Lino Lakes Chief of Police Curt Boehme provided more information on the Anoka County Safe County Pilot Program. Earlier this year, the Anoka County Sheriff’s Office entered into a one-year pilot agreement with Flock as part of its Safe County initiative, which aims to bring additional public safety technology to Anoka County and Lino Lakes. According to Boehme, the pilot program includes the development of a Real-Time Crime Center at the Anoka Emergency Communication Center, drone-assisted response capabilities and an expansion of license plate reader (LPR) technology throughout Anoka County. These technologies will be deployed countywide, according to Boehme. This includes Lino Lakes. Boehme said the program is not yet operational; however, the first drone-assisted response is anticipated in late 2026, which will start the one-year contract. Boehme added that participation in this program is voluntary.

Madeline Dolby

WEEKLY WAG

Rio is a young, 6-month old German Shepherd mix with a wonderful personality, a big heart and a playful spirit. Rio is described as a total sweetheart who loves all people and kids.

Rio is smart and learns quickly, especially when a treat reward is involved. He enjoys playing with his toys and playing fetch. He is adventurous and affectionate. He is leash trained, house trained and crate trained. Rio always enjoys going for a walk or going on an adventure — as long as he’s out with his people.

Rio is still learning his social skills with other dogs. He isn’t an aggressor; instead, he becomes a little afraid and skittish, and he leans on his people for reassurance. Slow, patient, easy introductions to other dogs — where he can become comfortable



at his own pace — are best. The good news is, Rio is still a puppy and has plenty of time to learn. He is looking for a loving, patient forever home and family as well as reassurance that the world isn’t a scary place.

If you are interested in learning more about Rio 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.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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Auto Glass Express is Hiring for a Full Time Customer Service Representative. Friendly atmosphere located in Downtown White Bear Lake
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Looking for a Person who is not afraid of the telephone. If you are a friendly by nature and have no problem talking to people, I am looking for someone to work in our classified department. Must have basic computer skills and likes to work in a friendly atmosphere. Please call Press Publications at 651/407*1213

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

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NEWS BRIEFS

Share your Halloween fun with Press Publications

We want to see how our community celebrates Halloween! Send us your photos of creative costumes, spooky yard decorations, festive treats, carved pumpkins and other Halloween fun. Whether you're showing off your little ghosts and goblins or your home's frightfully fun décor, we'd love to share the spirit of the season with our readers. Please email your photos to quadnews@presspubs.com by Thursday, Oct. 22, and be sure to include the names of everyone pictured. Happy Halloween!

NAMES IN THE NEWS



SHANNON GRANHOLM | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

Carter Johnson is the recipient of a Spurgeon Award.

Carter Johnson, publisher of Press Publications, is one of five 2026 Spurgeon Award recipients. The award recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding volunteer leadership, long-term commitment to their communities and dedication to the welfare of young people.

Award recipients were recently recognized at the Community Builder Celebration, which began in 1979 as a way to recognize the young leaders of tomorrow and the achievements of today's community leaders.

In addition to mentoring youth carriers at Press Publications, Johnson's community involvement spans numerous organizations and leadership roles across the northeast metro, including the Greater White Bear Community Foundation, White Bear Lake Economic Development Commission, White Bear Area YMCA and the Manitou Days Committee, as well as the White Bear Lake Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and Lions Club.

COUNTY BRIEF

Adult Health Survey now open for Anoka County residents

Anoka County invites residents ages 18 and older to take part in an adult health survey. According to a release from Chief Communications Officer Erik Thorson, feedback will help shape public health programming and guides the countywide Community Health Improvement Plan.

The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. Survey responses are private, but participants can enter a drawing to receive a gift card. Participation is voluntary; however, the county believes that input will help make a difference in helping support a healthier community. Interested participants can access the survey online at https://tinyurl.com/anoka2026.

PUBLIC NOTICES - PUBLIC NOTICES - PUBLIC NOTICES

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 November 3, 2026 General Election will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2026 at 9:00 AM 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 October 13, 2026.

CITY OF LINO LAKES
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
LIFT STATION #53 REHABILITATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids for the construction of Lift Station #53 Rehabilitation, will be received on-line through QuestCDN vBid™ until **Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 10:00 am** local time. Immediately following expiration of the time for receiving bids, representatives of the City of Lino Lakes will publicly view bids at an online bid opening meeting. Those interested in viewing the online bid opening are welcome to join the meeting by logging on to <https://zoom.us/join> or calling 1.312.626.6799 and enter **Meeting ID: 956 1211 5291 and Passcode: 285064**. The as-read on-line bid results will be available at www.questcdn.com following the bid opening.
The Project includes the furnishing of all labor and materials and appurtenant work for the construction complete in-place for the rehabilitation of the Lift Station #53 Rehabilitation as described in the Project Documents.
1 LS Lift Station Rehabilitation including mobilization to remove and replace piping, floats, rails, transducers, lifting chains and complete bypass pumping
1 LS Wet Well Coating
1 LS Procure and Install New Quick Connect
1 LS Traffic Control
1 LS Construction Allowance of \$20,000
The provisions of MINN. STAT. 16C.285 Responsible Contractor are imposed as a requirement of this contract. All bidders and persons or companies providing a response/submitmission to the Advertisement for Bids of the City of Lino Lakes shall comply with the provisions of the statute.
Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at www.questcdn.com. Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the website for a nonrefundable fee of \$55 by inputting Quest project #10400468 on the website's Project Search page.
The website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the website www.questcdn.com. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from other sources.
Bids will only be accepted via the electronic bidding service through QuestCDN.
The City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any bids received without explanation. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days.
For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.
DATED: October 9, 2026 BY THE ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Roberta Colotti, City Clerk, City of Lino Lakes, MN
Published two times in the Quad Community Press on October 13 and 20, 2026.

CITY OF LINO LAKES
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
WELL NO. 7 RAW WATERMAIN EXTENSION
GENERAL NOTICE
City of Lino Lakes (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of Well No. 7 Raw Watermain Extension. Bids for the construction of the Project will be received online through QuestCDN vBid™ until Thursday, October 29, 2026, 10:00 AM local time. Immediately following expiration of the time for receiving bids, representatives of the City of Lino Lakes will publicly view Bids at an online Bid opening meeting. Those interested in viewing the online Bid opening are welcome to join the meeting by logging on to <https://zoom.us/join> or calling 309.205.3325 and entering Meeting ID 966 3884 8054 and Passcode 501859. The as-read online Bid results will be available at www.questcdn.com following the Bid opening.
The Project includes the furnishing of all labor and materials for the construction complete in-place, of the following approximate quantities:
1 LS Dewatering
1 LS Water Manhole
1 EA Hydrant
3 EA 6", 12" and 24" Gate Valve and Box
655 LF 6" to 24" Watermain (DIP and PVC)
1100 LBS Ductile Iron Fittings
1 LS Temporary Traffic Control
1 LS Restoration
The provisions of MINN. STAT. 16C.285 Responsible Contractor are imposed as a requirement of this contract. All bidders and persons or companies providing a response/submitmission to the Advertisement for Bids of the City of Lino Lakes shall comply with the provisions of the statute.
Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at www.questcdn.com. Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the website for a nonrefundable fee of \$55 by inputting Quest project #10393515 on the website's Project Search page.
The website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered

plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the website www.questcdn.com. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from other sources.
Bids will only be accepted via the electronic bidding service through QuestCDN.
The City Council reserves the right to reject any and all Bids and to waive any Bids received without explanation. No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days.
For all further requirements regarding Bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.
DATED: September 28, 2026
BY THE ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Roberta Colotti, CMC, City Clerk, Lino Lakes, MN
Published two times in the Quad Community Press on October 6 and 13, 2026.

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 12
4707 NORTH ROAD, CIRCLE PINES, MN 55014
PUBLISHED ANNOUNCEMENT
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Centennial School District 12, is soliciting sealed bids for building envelope improvements. Sealed bids shall be received until: 2:00 pm, November 9th, 2026 at the District Office, 4707 North Road, Circle Pines, MN 55014 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids sent via FAX will not be accepted. The Board reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids as it deems to be in the best interest of Centennial School District 12. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for: October 26th, 2026 @ 10:00 am at the Centennial High School, 4757 North Rd, Circle Pines, MN 55014.
Bidding documents and specifications will be available at the Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting. Sealed envelopes must be marked on the front: 2027 Building Envelope Improvements.
The name and address of the bidder must be placed on the envelope and submitted to:
Centennial School District 12
4707 North Road
Circle Pines, MN 55014
ATTN: Buildings and Grounds
Published two times in the Quad Community Press on October 13 and 20, 2026.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 12
(CENTENNIAL), MINNESOTA
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 12 (Centennial), Minnesota, on November 3, 2026, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to vote on the following questions:
SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTION 1
Approval of New School District Referendum Revenue Authorization
The board of Independent School District No. 12 (Centennial),

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Operating Levy \$375.00 per APU (New Revenue of \$2,469,938)	Bond Levy \$108,890,000 School Building	Operating Levy \$375/APU + Bonds Levy of \$108,890,000
		Est. Annual Tax Impact	Est. Annual Tax Impact	Est. Annual Tax Impact
Residential Homestead	100,000	46.96	19.33	66.29
	200,000	93.92	53.04	146.96
	300,000	140.88	86.76	227.64
	397,256	186.55	119.54	306.09
	450,000	211.32	137.33	348.65
	500,000	234.80	154.19	388.99
	750,000	352.20	251.31	603.51
Commercial/ Industrial	250,000	117.40	131.45	248.85
	350,000	164.36	193.31	357.67
	450,000	211.32	255.17	466.49
	550,000	258.28	317.03	575.31
	650,000	305.24	378.89	684.13
	750,000	352.20	440.75	792.95
	850,000	399.16	502.61	901.77
Seasonal Rec	950,000	446.12	564.47	1,010.59
	1,250,000	587.00	750.05	1,337.05
	100,000	0.00	30.93	30.93
Ag Homestead+ (average value per acre)	200,000	0.00	61.86	61.86
	300,000	0.00	92.79	92.79
	7,500	0.00	0.35	0.35
Ag Non-Homestead** (average value per acre)	10,000	0.00	0.46	0.46
	12,500	0.00	0.58	0.58
	7,500	0.00	0.70	0.70
	10,000	0.00	0.93	0.93
	12,500	0.00	1.16	1.16

Published two times in the Quad Community Press on October 13 and 20, 2026.



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COWBOY'S SALOON

Cougar gridders (5-1) thump Roseville 44-21

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Centennial erupted for a 29-point second quarter, including 80- and 92-yard plays, on the way to a 44-21 win over Roseville Area there Friday evening. The Cougars are 5-1 and ranked No. 5.

The Cougars led 8-0 after one quarter on quarterback Jack Wiste's eight-yard touchdown and a two-point run by Wesley Kukkonen.

Scoring in the second quarter were Carter Radziwill on a two-

yard run and Kukkonen on a six-yard run before Samson Skudlarek broke away for an 80-yard TD in his lone carry and Nolan Larson capped it with a kick return from 92 yards.

The Cougars led 37-7 at the half and made it 44-7 in the third period on Radziwill's 30-yard run. Keaton Prigge kicked four extra points, and Kukkonen twice ran for two-pointers.

Roseville Area (2-4) got touchdown runs by Jordan Smith and Caio Skjon and a pass from Westin Harrison to Skjon.

Centennial will host Blaine (5-1) on Wednesday, 7 p.m.



JON NAMYST | CONTRIBUTED

Sam Skudlarek (middle) celebrates his 80-yard touchdown with Brett Pullman (15) and Wesley Kukkonen (10).

COUGAR BRIEFS

VOLLEYBALL

In a busy week of road matches, Centennial (18-7) beat Cambridge-Isanti 25-22, 25-14, 25-20 Monday and Coon Rapids 25-10, 25-11, 25-14 on Tuesday, then won two of five at the Twin Cities Challenge on Friday/Saturday in Burnsville. The Cougars beat Bethlehem Academy 25-11, 25-14 and LeSueur-Henderson 25-18, 20-25, 15-10, lost to West Fargo Sheyenne 21-25, 10-25, to Holy Angels 21-25, 25-20, 12-15; and to Eastview 25-17, 19-25, 13-15.

BOYS SOCCER

Centennial (3-7-3) defeated Rogers 3-1 and lost to Coon Rapids 2-0 last week, finishing NWSC play with a 3-7-3 record. The Cougars (3-9-3 overall) are seeded sixth and will play at Duluth East on Tuesday in Section 7AAA.

Bruce Strand

Visit www.presspubs.com/quad/sports/ for more sports briefs.



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Nolan Larson

Cougar Football

October 13, 2026

Along with his stellar defensive play from the safety position, Nolan Larson has returned kicks for touchdowns in two straight games for No. 5 ranked Centennial. The 6-foot-2, 178-pound senior took a punt 56 yards down the left sideline to open the scoring in a 41-0 win over Rogers, then sped 92 yards down the right sideline on a kickoff during a 44-21 win over Roseville. Larson is the deep man on a rugged defense that has allowed just five touchdowns in six games while the starters play. "He is as athletic and physical as any safety I have ever coached," said Cougar coach Michael Diggins. "We use him in a lot of ways on our defense because of his skill sets."



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Cougar swimmers 3rd in section, get at-large entry to state

Centennial placed third of eight teams in the Section 7 true-team swim and dive meet at Blaine on Saturday, and because the top two teams declined to compete in the state meet, Centennial will go as an at-large entry.

Top four teams were Blaine 1378, Duluth East 1226, Centennial 1180.5 and Forest Lake 1043.5.

Cougar leaders were Sophia Nguyen, second in both the 50 (25.62) and 100 (56.11) sprints; Amelia Pole, third in breaststroke (1:11.96) and fourth in medley (2:29.89); and Lydia Hydukovich, third in backstroke (1:04.02) and fourth in butterfly (1:05.79).

Cordelia Schultz was fourth in diving (298.75), Emily Quade

seventh in breaststroke (1:16.66), and Claire Mantz eighth in the 500 (6:01). Top relay finish was fourth by the 400 team of Hydukovich, Lucy Foster, Madeline Uelman and Nguyen (3:58.01).

The state meet will be Saturday at the University of Minnesota.

Bruce Strand

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