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THE CITIZEN

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HUGO: Future veterans memorial moves on to design phase **PAGE 3**



Savannah

Arlo

Haven

Ruth

Chris

Leland

Derek

What do you love most about Mom?

Ahead of Mother's Day on Sunday May 10, The Citizen asked students at Agape Spanish Immersion Academy in Hugo what they love about their mom.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Best of the Press returns inviting community to spotlight local favorites

BY SHIVAM VASHISHTHA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The familiar signs of spring in the northeast metro aren't just warmer days and busier patios — they also signal the return of one of the community's most anticipated traditions. The Readers' Choice Best of the Press Contest is back for its sixth year, with nominations officially opening Wednesday, April 29.

Spanning multiple communities and publications, the annual contest gives readers the opportunity to recognize

the people, businesses and places that define their local experience.

From neighborhood restaurants and small businesses to essential service providers, the contest has grown into a reflection of what residents value most in their communities.

This year's contest has more than 150 categories, covering everything from dining and retail to services, schools and community events.

"It's a great way for our readers and patrons to recognize the places they genuinely value"

Patty Steele
General Manager

"It's a great way for our readers and patrons to recognize the places they genuinely value — whether that's a restaurant they love or a service they've trusted for years," said Patty Steele, general manager and marketing director for Press Publications. "Everything is driven by our readers. There's nothing selected by us."

What's new this year:
This year brings a notable expansion.

The Citizen and Quad markets will merge into a single, combined contest, broadening participation and increasing visibility for businesses across a wider area. This change is an indicator of both the growth of the program and continued interest from readers and business owners.

Organizers have also refreshed and modified categories to better reflect current trends and community priorities. Among the highlights:

- Meal for the Money, recognizing

SEE **BEST OF**, PAGE 11

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



CONTRIBUTED

ONCE UPON A STORYTIME: CAMOUFLAGED ANIMALS

When: 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, May 5
Where: Wargo Nature Center, 7701 Main St., Lino Lakes
Details: Step into a world where imagination knows no bounds as our storyteller takes you on nature adventures through stories, songs, and crafts. Registration encouraged through Anoka County Parks.
Contact: www.anokacountyparks.com

ONGOING

CRIBBAGE

When: 1 p.m. Monday, May 4; 1st and 4th Monday of every month
Where: Rice Lake Centre, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo
Details: Senior citizens from Hugo and surrounding area are invited to an afternoon of cribbage. Coffee and refreshments served.
Contact: 651-429-4413

HUGO SENIOR CITIZENS PLAY 500

When: 12:45 p.m. Thursday May 7 and May 21; and every 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday of each month.
Where: Rice Lake Centre in Hugo, 6900 137th Street N.
Details: Games begin promptly at 12:45 p.m. Refreshments and coffee will be served.
Contact: Barb at 651-592-0369 or barbconnolly1958@yahoo.com

CURRENT

UNDERSTANDING IMMIGRATION: OPERATION METRO SURGE - WHERE ARE WE NOW?

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30
Where: St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi
Details: Community event to reflect on Operation Metro Surge, how it affected our community, and learn and share about what's needed now, presented by Many Faces of the White Bear Lake Area.
Contact: manyfaceswblarea.org

CENTURY COLLEGE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA SPRING CONCERT

When: 2 p.m. Saturday, May 2
Where: Century College west Campus Theatre, 3300 Century Ave. N., White Bear Lake
Details: Performance by students and community musicians.
Contact: century.edu/campus-life/fine-performing-arts

DOG WALK FOR VETERANS

When: 1 p.m. Sunday, May 3
Where: Matoska Park, 2345 5th St., White Bear Lake
Details: Community dog walk from Matoska Park to the VFW will benefit Believeet, a non profit that trains

service dogs for veterans living with PTSD, MST, and other disabilities to restore independence, confidence and hope. Also drawings and prizes.
Contact: believeet.org

COMMUNITY LUNCH

When: Noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, May 5
Where: Mahtomedi District Education Center, room 103
Details: Lunch catered by Red Luna Seasons, live music by Folk Revival, and conversation with neighbors. Register by noon, May 1.
Contact: mahtomedi.ce.eleyo.com

MATOSKA INTERNATIONAL IB ANNUAL ART SHOW

When: 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 7
Where: Matoska International IB school
Details: Support Matoska's art enrichment program by viewing and purchasing artwork made by students and participating in the silent auction.

HEART 4 ART

When: 5 p.m. Thursday, May 7
Where: Ford Family Gallery, White Bear Center for the Arts
Details: Annual fundraiser for White Bear Center for the Arts includes social hour with cash bar followed by dinner and program. Tickets available online.
Contact: whitebeararts.org

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY

When: 5-7 p.m. Friday, May 8
Where: Mahtomedi District Education Center Parking Lot
Details: Enjoy live music by Beartown Band, yard games, and food from Mansetti's, Mik Mart Ice Cream and Sasquatch Sandwiches.
Contact: mahtomedi.ce.eleyo.com

'ONCE UPON A MATTRESS'

When: Through May 17
Where: Hanifl Performing Arts Center, White Bear Lake
Details: Lakeshore Players' presents a twist on the classic fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea." Ticket information online.
Contact: lakeshoreplayers.org



LUNDS & BYERLYS

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WHITE BEAR BAR

MONDAY	9:00AM BINGO @ JIMMY'S 6:00PM BINGO @ SAK'S 6:00PM BINGO @ BEARTOWN
TUESDAY	6:00PM BINGO @ JIMMY'S
WEDNESDAY	9:00AM BINGO @ JIMMY'S 5:00PM MEAT RAFFLE @ DOC'S & BEARTOWN 6:00PM BINGO @ BEARTOWN
THURSDAY	6:00PM BINGO @ JIMMY'S 7:00PM BINGO @ WB BAR
FRIDAY	5:00PM MEAT RAFFLES @ WB BAR & DOC'S 6:00PM TRI-WHEEL @ WB BAR
SATURDAY	12:30PM BINGO @ SAK'S 6:00PM TRI-WHEEL @ WB BAR 5:00PM MEAT RAFFLE @ JIMMY'S

DAILY PULLTABS & ETABS

WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION #03111

GO BEARS!

Future veterans memorial moves onto design phase

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

HUGO — The City Council has authorized the use of city funds to be used for the design of a future veterans memorial to be located at Lions Volunteer Park.

Last July, the council gave the green light to the formation of a committee to plan for the memorial planned for the corner of 147th Street N and Finale Avenue N. (See “Hugo establishes committee to plan for a veterans memorial,” *The Citizen*, July 24, 2025.)

The committee asked the council to approve the design guidelines for the memorial and to hire WSB for design services for \$21,000, which will come from special park funds.

“The committee has had some fun getting to this point,” said Parks Planner Shayla Denaway. She explained that the committee looked at 50 images of existing veterans memorials with a variety of memorial types, scales, materials and landscaping, and ranked them for discussion purposes.

Design guidelines require that the memorial:

- Have multiple focal features
- Provide reverent space for reflection



CONTRIBUTED

The Veterans Memorial Committee gravitated toward a veterans memorial design like the one pictured above, which features a simplistic design with seating that connects to its surroundings.

- Engage with both memorial and park visitors

The committee was drawn to a simple design with six standalone monuments to represent each of the branches of the armed forces. The committee would also like to see flags, lighting and a floral display incorporated.

“They liked the simplistic design and that it had seating areas and also fit in with the surrounding landscapes,” Denaway explained. “They appreciate a defined area, so you really know that you are in the memorial and not another portion of the park ... Their thoughts are to create a memo-

rial that is traditional in style and will stand the test of time.”

WSB has submitted a proposal for design services, which will include a kickoff meeting with city staff, two committee meetings, four 3D images to be used in marketing, and the site plan and electrical design. The Parks Commission recommended the council approve both the design guidelines as well as the proposal from WSB.

Denaway explained that the next phase in the process will likely kick off in June and is expected to last three to four months.

“They look like they are well thought out and great goals. I

think it will be a challenge to do all of that and fit it in, but we’ve got the right criteria and requirements documented, so I think that is a great start,” said Council Member Dave Strub.

Council Member Mike Miron added, “I appreciate the work that the committee has done so far. This was always a goal in the master plan when the park was created, but it takes a group of people to get together and create the vision for what they want it to be ... I think we have a really good mix of folks who have been involved in this work for a long time who brought forward some strong priorities and a vision of what this could be.”

Mayor Tom Weidt questioned whether the vision for the memorial would still fit within the footprint that was laid out within Lions Volunteer Park. Denaway said that would be a key item of discussion in the next phase, but the committee has already had several discussions on the scale of the monument. “The committee has been fairly realistic in what their vision is. The park is still going to have space for Good Neighbor Days and all of those activities and be realistic in budget,” she said.

“Hugo has had such a great

history with the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon network and, more importantly, the citizens who have supported the network and the military in town that I want to make sure that we don’t shortchange this,” Weidt said. “It’s a fine line between having it there and noticeable and having it too small to be honorable. We have one chance to do it right. Let’s make sure it’s a very great representation of the sacrifice that the military service members of Hugo have provided, not only to Hugo, but to the world.”

He added that he wanted the memorial to be as “well designed” as Lions Volunteer Park.

“I think you guys have done great work putting together the framework for this. The ideas look fantastic. It’s going to be really neat to see this go in,” Weidt said. “I don’t want to take a lot of time getting this done, either. I don’t want this to be one of those eight-year projects. Let’s move swiftly on this and get it installed so we can appreciate it and enjoy it.”

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

CENTERVILLE TIDBITS

• City staff received a conditional use permit (CUP) request from the owners of commercial property at 7075 21st Avenue S. to provide flexibility to the code standards for the number of off-street parking spaces required on commercial property. The owner, FGS Properties LLC (Lukas Peters), is proposing to bring in a retail tenant for this site. However, the parking lot is not code compliant in that it lacks curbing, a bituminous or concrete surface and the required number of parking spaces. The property must become code compliant before it can establish new uses on the site.

The applicant and property owner proposed to remedy the physical improvements by installing curbing and a new asphalt surface but requested a CUP to allow for flexibility in the total number of parking stalls required by code. A change of use requires a CUP to have flexibility with parking. The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing over the request for a CUP for fewer than the required number of parking spaces and recommended approval of the request. City staff recommended six conditions of approval for the CUP, and council approved them all.

• After council addressed the issue of removing trees on city property adjacent to 6886 and 6890 Deer Court, they then discussed what the city’s tree removal policy would be in the future. There are approximately 16 dead or hazardous ash and box elder trees leaning significantly toward the two properties adjacent to city-owned property. Some of the trees threaten to fall on homeowner outbuildings at 6886 and 6890 Deer Court. Other damage to spruce trees and underground drainage and irrigation could also result.

Staff obtained two bids to remove the trees. The city will pay the low bidder, Dehn Tree Company Inc., \$8,700 to remove the trees and restore the yard. The

residents have their own trees to remove at their own expense. Money for the removal of city trees will come from general fund-park maintenance. The city anticipates having more dead trees to remove, said City Administrator Athanasia Lewis, and wondered what the city’s policy should be, as this expense was not included in the city budget. Council Member Anita Rios suggested that the city revisit the budget and include costs for removing city trees in the budget. “We’re going to lose trees, and we have to take care of them,” she said. Rios also said she appreciated the low bid the city received for the current work.

• The city contracts out for turf fertilizing and weed spraying services at City Hall and in the city’s parks every season. For 2026, TruGreen submitted an estimate in the amount of \$8,532 for services.

• The city also has a portable toilet season and has received two quotes for those services. The low bidder, LRS company, will rent out and clean the city’s six handicapped toilets for an amount not to exceed \$13,000. The provider will keep the cost for 2026 service the same as the 2025 cost, which is \$135 per cleaning once each week.

• Council approved off-sale liquor and tobacco licenses for NY liquor, 7093 20th Avenue S., pending the establishment’s purchase. All the appropriate paperwork has been submitted, and a successful background check has been completed by the Centennial Lakes Police Department.

• Council approved a request from city staff to allow them to continue to take part in a rebate program with the Metropolitan Council. The program encourages annual water use reduction and reduced sewer flows. The Metropolitan Council will cover 80% of the grant, and Centerville 20%. Staff plans to apply for a \$5,000

grant with a cap of \$150 per parcel. The participating homeowner will cover any costs that exceed \$150 for replacement only. The grant will be implemented in early July. The city will pay \$1,000 in match funding for the total rebate of \$6,000. Money will be provided by the water fund.

• City budget includes funding for leadership development opportunities. A provision in the city administrator’s contract calls for annual attendance at the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) national conference. However, the city’s administrator is unable to attend this year’s conference and will receive executive coaching with Dave Webb of Homerun Leadership over a 12-month period. The cost of the leadership development coaching is similar to the cost of attending the ICMA conference.

• City staff are working on updating the city’s capital improvement plan and requested the city engineer to complete an analysis of the existing water system and identify needed repairs and improvements. Costs for this work are not to exceed \$3,974 and will use money from the water fund.

• In her city administrator’s report, Lewis noted that the Rice Creek Watershed District will give Centerville Lake its final alum treatment this spring. Anyone interested in applying for the City Council seat left vacant by the departure of David Kubat may stop by City Hall, visit the city website and click on the link for an application, email Lewis at alewis@centervillemn.com, or call her at 651-792-7931.

Loretta Harding

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Mental Health Awareness Month

For those who don't know, May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. May has been recognized as National Mental Health Awareness Month since 1949 to reduce stigma, educate the public and support those with mental health conditions.

As someone who has struggled with mental health for almost a decade, it can be difficult asking for help. Some days it feels like I'm a ghost hovering above my own body and I can't wait to crawl back into bed. Others, I am on Cloud 9 and never want the day to end. Mental health is never linear. It's always changing.



Madeline's Mail
Madeline Dolby

When I was 19, a song by one of my favorite artists, Harry Styles, called "Treat People with Kindness" came out. Now, I don't know how it happened, but the title of the song became my life mantra. If you listen to the song, you will find that it is about encouraging people to be genuinely kind to one another, make small positive changes and embrace a more welcoming world.

Since listening to the song, I've worked on trying to change my mindset to look at the positives in the world instead of all the negatives. Instead of complaining about having to wake up at 3 a.m. to go to the airport, I think to myself "How lucky am I to be able to afford to go on a fun trip with my friends (or family)!" Instead of complaining about how tired my legs are going to be after long walk with my parents on a Saturday afternoon, I think "I am so glad I'm able to move my body. I'm so glad I'm able to spend time with my parents."

Another thing I've tried to accomplish is not being afraid of complimenting strangers. It sounds weird, I know, but it pushes me out of my comfort zone. I know when I receive a compliment from someone, my mood instantly lifts, and I feel more confident. Why should I not provide those same feel-good feelings to those around me? Who knows, your compliment might just make someone's day, or even their week.

I've realized it is small positive changes, like these, can make all the difference in the world.

While these changes have helped me, I know they might not work for everyone. And resources are available for those who might need extra help. Northeast Youth and Family Services (NYFS) serves a majority of Press Publications' cities and serves students in the Centennial School District.

NYFS is a local nonprofit mental health clinic and community service provider and has served the area since 1976. It offers therapy, medication management and community programs for individuals, families and couples, specializing in youth, children and adult services. The main NYFS office is located in Shoreview on Lexington Avenue N.

Another resource available is the National Alliance on Mental Health, better known as NAMI. NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. The organization provides a support group for those struggling with mental health conditions called NAMI Connection. Groups meet weekly, monthly, every other week or monthly depending on your location. Many of these support groups are virtual and attendance is open to everyone across the country.

If you, or someone you know is struggling with mental health issues, know you are not alone. Resources can be found at, www.nami.org or nyfs.org.

And remember to treat people, and yourself, with kindness.

Madeline Dolby is an editor at Press Publications.



A bill for prioritizing fosters in school programs

In Minnesota, close to 6,000 children experience foster care on any given day. Children who are not placed with family are placed in foster homes, homes where the caregivers are strangers to them.



Movers & Shakers
Zoua Vue

Many foster parents choose this role because they want to help children, whether by loving them, caring for them, or providing stability. However, once they step into the role, they often realize that support from the county is minimal.

I experienced this firsthand as a foster parent who also works full-time as an educator. The three children placed in my home were all seven years old and under. When I tried to enroll them in before- and after-school programs, they were put on a waiting list. The children were too young to be left home alone, and sending them to a daycare outside of their school was not a feasible option for me. This forced me to decide between my job or continuing to foster.

That is why I am working alongside Representative Mary Frances Clardy, Foster Advocates and a community of advocates to advance legislation that prioritiz-

es youth in foster care and their caregivers when it comes to access to school programming.

For young people in foster care, instability is not an abstract concept. It is a lived experience. Moves between homes can happen quickly and more than once. Each move often brings a school change, a loss of trusted relationships, and a disruption to learning. Even when a school remains the same, everything else around it may not.

In those moments, access to school programming can make all the difference, whether through before- and after-school care, summer programs, or enrichment opportunities. These are the spaces where young people build relationships, find routine, and begin to feel grounded again.

But for foster families, access to these programs is far from guaranteed.

As a foster parent, you step in quickly, often with little notice, to meet a young person's immediate needs. You are building trust, establishing routines, and trying to create a sense of safety. And then you encounter a system that tells you there is a waiting list. No priority. No flexibility. No acknowledgment of urgency.

Stories like this are way too common. A foster parent unable to secure a spot in an after-school program, leaving them scrambling to cover care. A young person losing access to an activity that helped them feel connected. Families

doing everything right, only to find that the systems around them are not designed to support them.

The consequences ripple quickly. Instability rises, caregivers are stretched thin, and young people, already navigating trauma, are asked to adapt yet again.

Passing HF 3714 and SF 4879 this legislative session would be a meaningful step toward removing these barriers and prioritizing timely access to afterschool programming for foster youth. It also strengthens training and resources for foster parents and providers so they can better navigate school systems and plan ahead. And it encourages stronger coordination between schools and child welfare systems to reduce unnecessary barriers.

We know this not just from data, but from lived experience. This effort is grounded in community. It reflects the voices of Fosters, foster parents, educators and advocates who see both the challenges and the possibilities. There is strong support for doing better. But we need continued leadership to turn that support into action. If we want to give young people the stability they deserve, this is a place to start.

Zoua Vue is a Hugo resident who was a foster parent for five years. She is now the adoptive parent of her former foster children and works as a Peer Assistance Review educator for St. Paul Public Schools.

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- Submissions containing libelous or derogatory statements will not be published.
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National Day of Prayer

It is always good to have someone to talk to. Human beings are social creatures, and we are designed to be around others. Having conversations with others is healthy for us and is an important part of our mental health.



Pastor's Ponderings

Tim Heinecke

While we have always known this fact, it became so much more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. When we had to isolate ourselves, we quickly came to realize the value of interacting with others. While some people are naturally more “extroverted” and enjoy conversing with others, we all need someone to talk to.

May 7 is the National Day of Prayer. While we can pray and talk to God anytime, the National Day of Prayer is a great reminder of how God is always there for us to talk to. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. During

this time, many people faced a lot of uncertainty and were concerned about the world with the Korean War. The declaration of the National Day of Prayer was a reminder that everyone has someone they can talk to about anything: God.

The day is officially described as, “The President shall set aside and proclaim the First Thursday in May in each year, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.”

However, the roots of this day go back long before 1952. Many of our Founding Fathers emphasized the importance of talking to God in prayer. In 1808, Thomas Jefferson said, “Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the time for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets; and right can never be safer than in their hands, where the Constitution has deposited it.”

It is healthy for us to have someone to talk to. This is true for everyone, regardless of how much of an “extrovert” we are. Thankfully, God is always there to lend a listening ear!

Tim Heinecke is the pastor at New Life Church – Lutheran in Hugo.

COUNTY BRIEFS

Master Gardeners host annual plant sale May 16

Mark your calendars now for the annual Plant Sale and Garden Expo from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 16, hosted by the University of Minnesota Extension Washington County Master Gardener Volunteer program. Home gardeners can buy a wide selection of plants, including varieties featured in ready-made garden exhibits, and get their gardening questions answered at a diagnostic clinic. The event will be held inside Building A at the Washington County Fairgrounds, located at Highway 5 and Manning Avenue in Lake Elmo.

The plant sale will feature annuals and perennials, Minnesota Seed Trial winners, native and prairie plants, monarch and pollinator plants, grasses, shade plants, both heirloom and hybrid tomatoes, herbs, vegetables and more. Plants are selected for their ability to thrive in the area. Master Gardener volunteers will be ready to offer expert advice on plant selection.

The public is encouraged to bring in plant or insect samples to the diagnostic clinic for analysis and recommendations. The Garden Expo features education by specially trained tree care advisors, planting for pollinators and other gardening topics. A professional sharpening service will also be on hand, so the public is encouraged to bring garden tools, knives and scissors to be sharpened while they shop.

Proceeds from the sale help support our work, including growing produce to donate to food shelves, teaching science-based horticulture classes, helping build community gardens, and other

efforts. “By buying plants at the sale, you not only walk away with ideal varieties for our area, but you also give back to the community through supporting these efforts,” said Master Gardener volunteer Ruth Rathbun. For more information about the UMN Extension Washington County Master Gardener Volunteer Program, visit washingtoncountymn.gov.

County Board approves design contract for CSAH 32 project

The Washington County Board of Commissioners has approved an \$857,728 contract with SRF Consulting Inc. for final design of the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 32 Pedestrian and Safety Improvement Project.

CSAH 32 (11th Avenue Southwest) is an important east-west route in Forest Lake connecting CSAH 33 (Everton Avenue) to Trunk Highway (TH) 61 via the newer overpass over I-35, making this corridor a regionally important route. The pavement along this corridor from I-35 to TH 61 (Lake Street) is in poor condition, and the road is experiencing growing traffic volumes, resulting in the need for improvements.

Preliminary design, along with a robust public engagement plan, has been completed, and a final scope of work has been determined. This project will reconstruct CSAH 32 from I-35 to Trunk Highway 61 and will include a new pedestrian trail, additional turn lanes, a new traffic signal at 12th Street SW, a new roundabout at Fourth Street SW and realignment of Forest Road to the west to connect to the

new roundabout at Fourth Street SW. A new stormwater management plan will be created and constructed to improve runoff to Clear Lake.

SRF Consulting provided the preliminary design services for the project. Project construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2027.

Regional Rail Authority adopts property management ordinance

The Washington County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the Washington County Regional Rail Authority (WCRRRA), adopted WCRRRA Property Management Ordinance 222. The board’s action converts the former WCRRRA Property Management Plan, adopted in 2002, into an ordinance. Using an ordinance to manage property owned by the WCRRRA is the same process the county uses to manage county-owned right of way.

In addition to the conversion of the structure of the document from a plan to an ordinance, the other changes include:

- Updated WCRRRA-owned property descriptions for consistency
- Expanded definition section
- Added language to provide flexibility in permit fee, if desired
- Clarified roles and responsibilities between staff, the WCRRRA Board, and the permit holder
- Updated references to current county policies and ordinances, including:

- o Acceptable uses at county facilities
- o Washington County and Hugo 2025 Memorandum of Understanding for Trunk Highway 61

CHURCH BRIEFS



CONTRIBUTED

New Life hosts Fix it Clinic

New Life Church – Lutheran will host a Fix it Clinic from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16. The community is invited to this unique opportunity to have textiles or household items repaired by volunteers. Fixers and menders will do their best to fix items along with teaching the basics on how to make some of the repairs yourself.

This event is designed to promote the spirit of reuse, reduce unnecessary waste and empower our community to extend the lifespan of their belongings. Not only is it better for the environment to repair and reuse, it will also most likely save you money.

Items to bring could include antique radios, blenders, camping gear, chairs, toasters, lamps, clocks, fans, hair dryers, toys and small tables. Do not bring e-cigarettes, tobacco products, weaponry, gas-powered tools and any oversized items that cannot be carried in by a single person.

Attendees can bring up to three items to be fixed. New Life Church – Lutheran is located at 6000 148th St. N. in Hugo.

Serving the community

To do a little spring cleaning, a group of volunteers from New Life Church – Lutheran recently picked up the trash along Frenchman Road to help take care of the community. New Life sponsors Frenchman Road as a part of Minnesota’s Adopt-A-Highway program.

BUSINESS BRIEF

Workforce Development Board seeks business representatives

The Washington County Local Workforce Development Board has several business representative vacancies. A business representative must be someone in a leadership position (policymaking and hiring authority) at a private sector business within Washington County. It is also ideal that the person be in an industry that is in demand within Washington County, including health care, manufacturing, construction or other key industries.

Generally, representatives are expected to attend about four meetings each year, but there may be opportunities for additional meetings for strategic planning or events that are occurring across the county. To apply, or for more information, visit www.washingtoncountymn.gov/1603/Workforce-Development-Board. Questions should be directed to Ryan Selock at Ryan.Selock@washingtoncountymn.gov.

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POLICE REPORTS

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

- Deputies on overnight patrol issued a written warning to a motorist speeding along 170th Street N. and Ingersoll Avenue N. at midnight March 13.
- A motorist was cited at 6:51 p.m. March 13 in the 4000 block of Frenchman Road for failure to provide proof of insurance following a traffic stop for expired registration.
- Hit-and-run was reported at 7:31 p.m. March 13 in a parking lot near the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N. After deputies arrived on scene and took statements from the victim, they later located the suspect vehicle while still on patrol. An inspection of the parked vehicle displayed damage that corresponded with damage to the complainant's vehicle. A citation for hit-and-run was placed on the suspect's car.
- A motorist in the 5000 block of Frenchman Road was cited at 9:04 p.m. March 13 for expired registration and expired insurance, following a traffic stop for expired registration and illegal window tint.
- A Minnesota motorist was cited at 2:56 a.m. March 14 in the 5000 block of Egg Lake Road N. for failure to provide current proof of insurance after being pulled over for a license plate light that was too dim, headlights that were not dimmed enough for oncoming traffic and for an object suspended from the rearview mirror.
- An oblivious driver in the 14000 block of Forest Blvd. N. was cited at 8:23 p.m. March 15 for using a cellphone while operating a motor vehicle.
- A boat that no one wanted was towed from the 12000 block of Falcon Court N. at 9:25 a.m. March 16, after deputies were approached by a citizen who was sick of the boat being parked at the end of his cul-de-sac. Deputies tracked down the last registered owner living in Wisconsin, who said he had gifted the boat to an unknown teenager more than 15 years ago and did not want the boat back. Deputies summoned Dan's Towing to remove the boat, which was parked in the way of the Public Works Department

when workers were trying to remove snow.

- Deputies cited a motorist on Frenchman Road and Oneka Parkway for expired registration at 4:26 p.m. March 16. A second motorist was issued a written warning on Forest Blvd. N. and 170th Street N. at 4:37 p.m. March 17 for multiple equipment violations.

• Residents in the 6000 block of 177th Street N. reported two mailboxes struck by a vehicle that fled the scene overnight March 16-17.

• A business in the 13000 block of Fenway Blvd. N. reported a hole cut in their back fence overnight March 17-18. The suspect walked through the fenced-in equipment and materials area, but nothing was reported taken.

- A suspicious vehicle reported in the 4000 block of Victor Path N. at 9:58 a.m. March 18 turned out to belong to a security company.
- A resident in the 5000 block of 170th Street N. at 1:12 p.m. March 18 reported his father, against whom he has a current harassment restraining order, for driving onto his property and making a U-turn before leaving.
- A motorist pulled over for expired registration at 7:10 p.m. March 18 on Heritage Parkway N. and Eminence Avenue N. was cited for driving after suspension. A second motorist pulled over at 9:11 p.m. March 18 on Frenchman Road and Oneka Parkway N. for tabs that expired in August was cited for that violation. A third motorist was cited at 11:38 p.m. March 18 in the 5000 block of 137th Street N. for using their wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle.
- Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a theft report from the 15000 block of Grafton Avenue N. at 12:02 p.m. March 19.
- A motorist was cited at 9:06 p.m. March 19 for failing to stop at a stop sign in the 14000 block of Mercantile Drive. A second motorist was cited at 3:46 a.m. March 20 on Victor Hugo Blvd. N. and Frenchman Road for failure to provide proof of insurance following a traffic stop for no license plate on the vehicle. Two more motorists were cited for undisclosed offenses, the first at 1:48 p.m. March 22 in the 14000 block of Forest Blvd. N., and the second at 2:13 p.m. March 22

on Heritage Parkway. A fifth motorist was cited for speeding at 7:05 a.m. March 23 in the 6000 block of 170th Street N. by deputies on routine patrol, who conducted a traffic stop.

- A suspicious vehicle checked out by deputies on routine patrol at 4:33 a.m. March 20 in the 7000 block of 137th Street N. turned out to belong to people letting their dogs out for a run.
- A suspicious masked person reported in the mobile home park in the 15000 block of Forest Blvd. N. at 2:45 p.m. March 20 turned out to be a man cleaning his father's vehicles and wearing the mask to avoid getting dust in his eyes, nose or mouth.
- A Hugo man was arrested at 6:28 p.m. March 20 in the 15000 block of Forest Blvd. N. for disorderly conduct, lewd behavior, property damage and drug possession, after deputies were dispatched out to a report of an unruly adult who was breaking his father's items. Deputies found the suspect outside urinating and detained him. During the routine search conducted at an arrest, deputies found a large bag of drugs in the possession of the suspect.
- Deputies responded to the 17000 block of Henna Avenue at 3:14 p.m. March 21 on a report of a gas odor and located the source of the gas. Xcel Energy was summoned to the scene.
- Responding to a report of suspicious activity at 4:23 a.m. March 22 in the 4000 block of Fair Oaks Circle N., deputies located a vehicle with two occupants who claimed to live in the area. After they explained that they were just talking, deputies advised them to turn off their lights, as people were worried about them. In response, the couple left and headed to a different location.
- A theft followed by a disturbance was reported at 8:01 p.m. March 22 in the 15000 block of Enfield Avenue.
- A semitruck was reported for idling outside a house in the 7000 block of 132nd Street N. at 1:03 a.m. March 23. Deputies found the driver in his resting cab. When deputies spoke to the semi driver, he stated he had a delivery at 6 a.m. at a nearby residence. The semi was parked off the roadway and not violating any laws. The complainant confessed that he was upset about the semi parking there.
- In the Case of the Horse on the Lam, a loose horse was reported near the intersection of 170th Street N. and Forest Blvd. N. at 6:43 a.m. March 23.

Loretta Harding

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Suzie is a sweet, 4-year-old Labrador retriever/rottweiler mix. She is an all-in-one multipurpose loyal companion, adventure seeker and snuggle buddy. Suzie weighs about 66 pounds. She enjoys going for walks and playing outside. At the end of the day, she likes nothing more than cuddling up beside you. Suzie is always happiest when she is with her people. She is house-trained and leash-trained. Suzie is intelligent and likes to play with her toys; she especially likes to play fetch. She knows her basic commands and she is treat-motivated to learn more and become the best girl she can be. Suzie would do best as an only dog/pet. She is a little shy when meeting new people, but with a gentle and respectful approach, Suzie warms up quickly. With patience, love and confidence-building, Suzie will become a wonderful companion. She is a sweet and loyal girl who just wants to be by your side. If you are interested in learning more about Suzie 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.



Kidz N Biz: Connecting community 1 booth at a time



PHOTOS BY SHANNON GRANHOLM | PRESS PUBLICATIONS
The Hugo Business Association hosted the annual Kidz N Biz event Saturday, April 18 at Oneka Elementary School. The event included a variety of activities including inflatables, balloon-animal making, face painting, prize drawings, dance performances and more. Attendees who stopped by The Citizen booth were invited to a front page photo opp.




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Otter Lake Road improvement project receives stamp of approval

The Lino Lakes City Council has ordered the Otter Lake Road improvement project, approved the plans and specifications and authorized the advertisement for bid for the project in a 5-0 vote.

The project includes trunk sanitary sewer and water main, a regional

stormwater conveyance and ponding system, and street and pedestrian/bicycle improvements.

According to City Engineer Diane Hankee, the new road, which includes two roundabouts, will extend from north of Main Street to a merge point with 24th Avenue, just north of Heritage Park-

way in Hugo. The project also includes paving the gravel section of Elmcrest Avenue/24th Avenue from approximately 400 feet north of Heritage Parkway to Washington County Road 4A/Anoka County Road 140.

In August 2023, the council authorized the preparation of the plans

and specifications for the Otter Lake Road improvement project. The extension of Otter Lake Road, north of Main Street, is identified in the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan as an arterial roadway providing access to the city's commercial and industrial corridor along I-35E.

According to Hankee, planning for the corridor has been underway since the late 2000's.

A master plan for Otter Lake Road was completed in 2022. The plan identified a preferred alignment for the roadway connecting to 24th Avenue.

The estimated construction cost is around \$10.8 million. The estimated total project cost including right of way, contingency and overhead, is approximately \$14.9 million. Funding for the project, according to Hankee, is through municipal state aid, the trunk area and unit fund, the surface water management fund, cost

share with Hugo and a local road improvement grant.

The local road improvement grant is in the amount of \$1.5 million. Hankee said the 50/50 cost share with Hugo in the amount of \$375,000 is for paving Elmcrest Avenue/ 24th Avenue, which serves as the border between the two cities. Hankee added that a joint powers agreement is being crafted and will be presented to the council at a future meeting.

According to the project timeline, construction would begin in June 2026 and be completed by Aug. 31, 2027.

Madeline Dolby



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POLITICAL BRIEF

Stacey Stout secures Republican endorsement for House District 33A seat



Mahtomedi resident Stacey Stout has won the Republican endorsement for Minnesota House District 33A seat. The seat, which is comprised of Mahtomedi, Dellwood, Grant, Hugo and Forest Lake, is currently held by Rep. Patti Anderson, who has announced she will not run for reelection.

Stout has been an attorney for over 25 years. She has been a member of the Mahtomedi School Board for the past 10 years, for four years as chair. Stout's priorities include quality education, accountability and lower taxes. She lives in Mahtomedi with her husband Tim and their two sons. For more information, visit <https://staceystout.com>.

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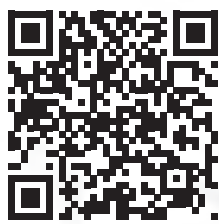
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Clutch hits, Miller's arm lift Bears to 3-0 week

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Three pitching gems by Lily Martin — four hits, 35 strikeouts in 21 innings — and two big swings of the bat by Allie Casemore highlighted a 3-0 week by White Bear Lake softball.

The Bears (6-2) won 4-3 over East Ridge (3-4) as Miller, senior right-hander, had a three-hitter, with an error leading to three unearned runs. RBI hits were delivered by Kendall Roeser, Allie Castro, Camille Castro and Maddie Pearson.

Miller twirled a no-hitter with 13 strikeouts in a 3-0 win over Roseville Area (0-9). Casemore belted a two-run double in the first inning, to deep right-center, on a 3-2 count after fouling off four pitches. Martin singled home the third run two innings later.

Martin gave up one single and struck out 15 in a 2-0 win over Mounds View-Irondale (6-5). Casemore, for the second straight game, smacked a two-run double in the first



BRUCE STRAND | CONTRIBUTED

Lily Martin grins after ending an inning with a strikeout against Roseville Area.

inning. MVI's Annalise Foley held the Bears to seven hits and one walk.

Cougars clip Elks with homer hat trick

The Centennial Cougars slammed three home runs in a 13-3 win at Elk River on Tuesday in their only game last week. The Cougars are 5-1. Grace Nickle hit a solo homer in the fourth inning. During a seven-run burst in the sixth, Khloe Waldemar, pinch-hitting, cranked out a two-run homer, and Kendall Cochran capped off the rout with a three-run blast, both clearing the center field fence. Denver Hogberg was 2-for-4 (two doubles, three runs), Lilly Renslow 2-for-4 and Kendall Innes 2-for-3 (double, RBI). Kendal Saffert threw 4 2/3 in-



CONTRIBUTED

Kendall Cochran, Grace Nickle and Khloe Waldemar posed with a bat after each of them homered against Elk River.

nings (two runs, seven strikeouts) and got the win with Brooklyn Springman getting the last four outs (one run, three strikeouts).

Bruce Strand



BRUCE STRAND | CONTRIBUTED

Neven Leopold, Mahtomedi senior, twisted backward to make a juggling catch of a pass Sunday.

Zephyr flag footballers start 2-0

Mahtomedi's girls flag football team, defending state champions, started their 2026 season with two wins at home, over Stillwater

19-0 and Forest Lake 28-20. This is the second year of the club team program sponsored by the Vikings. Freshman quarterback Katelyn

O'Connor passed for 348 yards (31-for-48) and six touchdowns in the two games, reported coach Nick Sullivan.

BEARS SPORTS BRIEFS

FLAG FOOTBALL

White Bear Lake's first-year girls flag football team made its debut at Mahtomedi with a loss to Forest Lake, 31-7, and a win over Stillwater, 20-14. With less than a minute left, Maddy Thompson snagged a pass in the end zone from Chloe Theissen to break a 14-14 tie.



BRUCE STRAND | CONTRIBUTED

Maddy Thompson (10) and Sophie Menier celebrated Thompson's touchdown catch against Stillwater.

Jinet Dimanou sixth (100-6). Also winning were Arianna Minor (high jump, 5-0), Grace Mueller (triple jump, 34-5) and Mabel Nethercut (3200 run, 11:36). Piper Heinsohn was second in the 400 (1:01)

GIRLS LACROSSE

White Bear Lake is 5-1 after a busy week in which they routed Irondale 17-1 and Totino-Grace 22-5 while absorbing their first loss, to Stillwater 8-7. Against Irondale, Cayla Helmberger netted five goals, Rylan West three, and Olive Holvig and Whitney Fleming two each. Against Stillwater (4-1), Helmberger tallied five goals and Olivia Simpkins and Whitney Fleming one each. Harper Laden, goalie, saved eight of 14 shots. Against Totino, West had six goals, Helmberger four, and

Kylee Lehman, Kayla Swanson, Simpkins, Holvig and Hazel Holvig two each. Helmberger and West, both sophomores, lead with 21 goals apiece.

BOYS LACROSSE

White Bear Lake (3-2) dueled two unbeaten teams last week, beating Irondale 14-9 and losing to Stillwater 8-6. Wyatt Raleigh logged five goals and six ground balls against Irondale (5-1). Colton Butts and Gavin Huot added three goals each and Liam Maloy two. Tanner Olsen won seven ground balls. Reid Vickstrom, goalie, made 11 saves against Irondale and 15 against Stillwater (6-0), keeping it close. Butts had three goals, Huot two and Raleigh one against the Ponies.

BASEBALL

The Bears (2-5) picked up their first two wins, over Park 5-2 and Irondale 18-1, while losing to Cretin-Derham Hall 10-0, all on the road. Against Park (1-8) Jack Kook threw a four-hitter with five strikeouts, Logan Magnuson singled home two runs and Max Butters had an RBI single. CDH (3-2) got home runs from Davis Fleming, Harrison Falk and Joe Fenlon (grand slam) against the Bears. Brody Laschom took the loss. Against Irondale (0-5) the Bears had 18 hits and 14 walks. William Connors was 3-for-5 (double, two RBI's, three steals), Magnuson 2-for-4 (triple, four RBI's), Miles Oklobzija 2-for-2 (RBI, three runs), and Kook 2-for-5 (RBI). Jackson Kolb threw four innings (one run, nine strikeouts) for the win and Joseph Setter finished.

VOLLEYBALL

White Bear Lake notched its first win, over Richfield 25-23, 24-21, 22-25, 25-16. Stillwater defeated the Bears (1-4) 25-19, 25-20, 22-25, 25-13.

GIRLS GOLF

In two nine-team Suburban East meets, White Bear Lake placed fifth at Tanners Brook in Forest Lake and sixth at Prestwick in Woodbury. East Ridge won both with 161 and 167. The Bears totaled 182 at Tanners Brook as Adelle Blasing and Maddy Vang shot 44's and Macie Marston and Lily Sjostrom shot 48's. The Bears totaled 188 at Prestwick where Vang had 40, Sjostrom 46, Lilly Maietta 50 and Nora Hall 52.

GIRLS TRACK

White Bear Lake placed third of six teams in a true-team format at Hopkins, won by Edina. The Bears had three of the top five in shot put — Madelyn Erickson first (39-5), Karen Enow second (34-5) and Pearl Niemioja fifth (33-6) — and three of the top six in discus — Enow first (120-9), Niemioja fourth (102-5) and

TENNIS

The Bears (4-2) lost to Stillwater 4-3, getting singles wins from Martin Hennig, Mason Voeller and Brooks Peltier at 2-3-4. Stillwater beat Graham Hennig at 1-singles and swept the doubles.

BOYS GOLF

White Bear Lake placed 13th of 18 teams in The Preview, an annual gala featuring many of the best teams in the state, at Edinburgh in Brooklyn Park. The Bears scored 625 with Easton Fiddle shooting 76-69-145 for ninth place, Grady Geifer 80-72-152, Cody Olinger 83-80-163, and Thomas Pederson 83-83-165. Edina won with 572 led by Sander Ohe, medalist with 70-67-137.

Bruce Strand



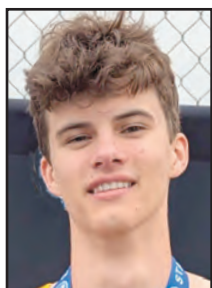
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Andrew Russell

Mahtomedi Track & Field

April 30, 2026

Andrew Russell, Mahtomedi senior track-and-field standout, high-jumped 6 feet, 10 1/4 inches at Metro East mid-season meet last week, the best leap in the state this season. Russell was state Class 2A champion with 6-7 last June and had a season best of 6-10. His personal best is 6-10 3/4 in an indoor meet in January. Russell has also placed second in long jump in three meets with a long of 20-7 and runs the 4x100 relay that placed second in the MEC meet. The 6-foot-5, 170-pound athlete averaged 6.7 points on Mahtomedi's 25-4, section runner-up basketball team this winter.



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BEST OF: Allows readers a chance to weigh in on their local favorites

FROM PAGE 1

affordable, high-quality dining

- Chicken Wings, a category that's sure to spark a debate
- Best Electrician, spotlighting skilled trades and essential services
- New Business, celebrating recent additions to the local landscape

"Some ideas come from us, but a lot come directly from readers and even businesses," Steele added. "People will call and say, 'How do you not have this category?' and we'll realize — it's a great addition."

While returning favorites remain, these additions aim to capture both everyday needs and evolving tastes.

A boost for local businesses

For many businesses, being named a "Best of" winner carries real impact. Past honorees such as the Hugo American Legion and Cabin 61 have seen increased visibility and customer engagement following recognition in the contest.

"When a business is nominated year after year, it tells other readers that the place is trusted and authentic," Steele noted. "It shows consistency and that they're doing something right."

That visibility is especially meaningful for small and locally owned businesses that rely heavily on community support and word of mouth.

How it works

The process begins with nominations, when readers can submit their favorite businesses and organizations across a range of categories. After the nomination period closes, the top contenders move on to a voting round, where the community determines the final winners.

Specific timelines for nomination and voting phases will vary slightly across publications, but all contests will be accessible through the "Best Of" section at presspubs.com.

Participants are encouraged to nominate early and often, which helps ensure that their favorite spots make it onto the ballot. "Every year, we've seen growth in participation," Steele indicated. "We've never gone backward — it continues to build momentum."

A reflection of the community

At its core, the Readers' Choice Best of the Press Contest is less about rankings and more about recognition. It highlights the places people return to, the services they trust and the businesses that help shape everyday life in their communities.

As nominations open at the end of April, readers once again have the chance to weigh in — and to make sure their local favorites get the recognition they deserve.



Lettuce celebrate: Joe Faiad retires after 48 years in grocery

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

Joe Faiad's first job was in the grocery store, and he's never looked anywhere else.

"When I was 15 years old, my father told me I needed to find something to do, so he drove me down to the old Knowlan's main office and I put in an application," Faiad explained. A few months later, after he turned 16, Knowlan's hired him on April 26, 1978.

Perhaps a grocery store was in his blood. His grandfather, also named Joe Faiad, owned Faiads Grocery on West Seventh Street in St. Paul for nearly 40 years.

Young Joe worked in the produce department at the Knowlan's store on Randolph Avenue in St. Paul until 1982, when he was promoted to a full-time position at the Roseville location.

"I've worked at pretty much all of our stores," he said. In his 48 years with Knowlan's (21 years)/Festival (27 years), Faiad has held the titles of produce manager, assistant manager and store manager, but for the past eight years or so, he has worked in the produce department at the Hugo Festival store as a senior retail specialist. Prior to that, he worked at the Festival in White Bear Lake.

He credits his work family, which he calls his "bonus" family, for his choice to stay in the industry for so long. "My work family has always been a vital part of my life. They've been a part of the group of people who've helped me navigate the last 48 years," he said. "I realized at a young age that it made me feel good to be a part of this work group ... I wasn't afraid to work hard, and I've taken lots of pride over the years in doing the best job that I could. I certainly didn't want to let those early mentors of mine down. It meant so much to feel appreciated and valued."

Hugo Festival Produce Manager Brian Mishler has known Faiad for over 20 years. They met while working at the Lexington store. "Joe is probably one of the hardest workers you can have. He is a workhorse,"



Joe Faiad was hired by Knowlan's on April 26, 1978. Here he is pictured at the Roseville store in 1984.



Joe Faiad makes his last punch out at the Festival store in Hugo April 24, 2026.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Joe pictured with his wife Leah, who he met while working at the Roseville store. They have been together for over 40 years and have three sons together.

Mishler said. "He is very particular in how things are filled and likes things to be a certain way."

Produce Supervisor Paul Leslie has known Faiad for 20 years but has served as his supervisor for approximately eight of them. "You will not find a harder-working guy," he said. "His dedication to quality ... the community really benefited from his work ethic."

Store Director Robin Mishler (No relation to Brian) added, "Joe is one of the kindest men you will ever meet. He is a strong and dedicated employee, whom I personally will miss very much. He has an infectious smile that lights up a room and makes everyone's day better when they walk into the room. He has been the perfect greeter of customers when they arrive at Festival."

Perhaps the best part of Faiad's career was that it introduced him to his wife, Leah.

"I was at the Roseville store, and one of the senior cashiers (Barb Hoag) knew that I was dating a gal, and she wasn't as serious as I was. So, one day by the time clock, she told me, 'If you ever are looking, and you see a girl here in Roseville, let me know. I know just about every girl in Roseville.' She pulled out her billfold, and she had a slew of pictures that literally went down to the floor," Faiad said. "Then a couple of years after that ... I was managing, and Barb was my front-end gal. I saw Leah come in with her mom... I kind of winked at Barb, like, 'Do you remember what you told me two years ago?' and I nodded towards Leah. And next thing I know, Barb was talking to both her and her mom, and she came back and she told me, 'Her name's Leah. She's 23, and as far as I know, she's available.'" Barb set them up, and 40 years later, they are still together. They have three sons.

Leah has worked at Northview Dental in Shoreview for 42 years. In addition, this year she will celebrate her 50th anniversary of working at the Minnesota State Fair. "We both have longevity in what we do," Faiad said.

Faiad has been contemplating retirement for a couple

of years, but finally decided it was time, so that he could spend more time with his three grandchildren. He said the physical aspect of the job was catching up with him. His arthritis in his feet and hands has worsened. "My doctor said the only thing I can decide is how I want to use what's left of my joints because there's nothing really that can be done to make it better," he explained.

This summer, Faiad is looking forward to being a part of "Grandma camp," when they watch their grandchildren on Fridays. "When I was working, I didn't get to partake in that as much," he said. He said he's also looking forward to getting to a lot of the things he hasn't had the time to do while he was working. The only travel plans he has as of now are trips to see his uncle in Tennessee.

"I'm a pretty simple person," he said.

He said he will forever be grateful to the Knowlan's/Festival team for providing him with so many opportunities. "I've had the privilege of being associated with wonderful colleagues, vendors and customers, and have made lifelong friends along the way," he said. "I have so many good memories to cherish. It's been a pleasure to be a part of the team, and I'll be forever grateful."

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



Festival celebrated Joe with a lettuce-themed cake to honor his many years of service in the produce department.

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CITY OF HUGO MINNESOTA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

A property owner may at any time prior to certification of the assessment to the county auditor, pay the entire assessment on such property, with interest accrued to the date of payment, to the City of Hugo. No interest shall be charged if the entire assessment is paid within 30 days from adoption of this assessment. A property owner may at any time thereafter, pay to the City of Hugo the entire amount of the assessment remaining unpaid, with interest accrued to December 31 of the year in which such payment is made. Such payment must be made before November 15 or interest will be charged

through December 31 of the succeeding year. If a property owner decides not to prepay the assessment before the date given above the rate of interest that will apply is 4.55% per year. The right to partially prepay the assessment is not available.

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

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

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

Dated this 6th day of April, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Michele Lindau, City Clerk
City of Hugo

Washington County, Minnesota

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

CITY OF HUGO PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

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

Improvements made would assess benefited properties for all or a portion of the improvement, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429 and pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 429.011 to 429.111. The estimated cost of the improvement is \$4.7 million. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessment will be available at the hearing. The meeting will be held at the City of Hugo City Hall, 14669 Fitzgerald Avenue North, Hugo, MN 55038. Such persons wishing to comment on the proposed improvement will be heard at this meeting. Comments can also be submitted in writing to City Clerk Michele Lindau prior to the meeting.

Bryan Bear, City Administrator

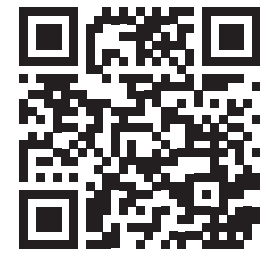
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★ ★ ★ *Reader's Choice 2026* ★ ★ ★

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★ ★ Contest Categories 2026 ★ ★

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- Outdoor Event

Eating & Drinking

- Appetizer Selection
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- BBQ Ribs
- Beer Selection at a Bar
- Beer Selection at Liquor Store
- Bloody Mary
- Brat/Hot Dog
- Breakfast
- Brewery
- Burritos
- Cocktail at a Bar/Restaurant
- Cheese Curds
- Chicken
- Chicken Wings
- Coffee
- Deli
- Fajitas
- Fast Food
- Fish Fry
- French Fries
- Hamburger
- Happy Hour
- Ice Cream Cone
- Italian Restaurant
- Lasagna

- Lunch
- Mocktail at a Bar/Restaurant
- Meal for the Money
- Outdoor Dining
- Pie
- Pizza
- Restaurant
- Salad
- Seafood
- Soup
- Spirits at a Liquor Store
- Steak Dinner
- Sub/Sandwich
- Tacos
- Walleye Dinner
- Wine at a Bar/Restaurant
- Wine Selection at a Liquor Store

Health & Fitness

- Assisted Living
- Acupuncturist
- Audiologist
- Chiropractic Care
- Chiropractor
- Clinic
- Cosmetic Dentist
- Dentist
- Dermatology
- Esthetician
- Eye Doctor
- Gym
- Healthcare Facility
- Health Food Store
- Hospice Care

- Massage Therapist
- Mental Health Service
- Orthodontics
- Orthopedic Clinic
- Orthopedic Doctor/Surgeon
- Pediatric Dentist
- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapy Clinic
- Retirement Facility/Independent Living
- Senior Care Facility

Local

- Apple Orchard
- Curbside Pickup
- Elementary School
- High School
- Middle School
- New Business
- Place To Work, Large (>50 Employees)
- Place To Work, Small (<50 Employees)
- Teacher K-5
- Teacher 6-12
- Wedding Venue Indoors
- Wedding Venue Outdoors

Services

- Accounting Firm
- Air Duct Cleaning Service
- Auto Body

- Auto Repair
- Bank
- Bartender (Include First/Last Name/Place Of Work)
- Car Wash
- Childcare
- Credit Union
- Customer Service From A Local Business
- Dog Groomer
- Dog Trainer
- Electrician
- Exterior Painting Service
- Financial Planner
- Funeral Home
- Gas Station
- Hair Stylist (Include First/Last Name/Place Of Work)
- Hair Salon
- Heating/Air Conditioning Company
- Hotel
- Insurance Agent
- Insurance Company
- Jeweler
- Landscape Company
- Lawn Care Service
- Lawyer
- Mechanic
- Mortgage Company
- Oil Change
- Paint Store
- Pet Sitter/Boarding
- Plumber
- Realtor
- Remodeler
- Rental Business
- Roofer

- Self Storage
- Server (Include First/Last Name/Place Of Work)
- Spa
- Tax Preparer
- Tire Shop
- Tree Service
- Veterinary Clinic
- Veterinary Clinic - Emergency
- Water Treatment Service

Shopping

- Clothing Store
- Dispensary
- Flooring/Carpet Store
- Florist
- Gift Shop
- Greenhouse/Nursery
- Grocery Store
- Hardware Store
- Home Furnishing Décor
- Liquor Store
- Specialty Shop
- Vintage/Thrift Store

Sports & Recreation

- Bowling Alley
- Dance Studio
- Golf Course
- Ice Arena/Rink

Changes continue to Centerville's downtown vision

BY MADELINE DOLBY
QUAD COMMUNITY PRESS EDITOR

Centerville continues to refine its vision for downtown. According to City Planner Nathan Fuerst, the updated vision plan will guide future development and public infrastructure investments in the downtown area.

"It's a good time to update. We're looking at a roughly 20-year-old master vision for the downtown. It was a little overambitious, I think, in some areas. That's what we've heard from the community as well as noticing that before we started the process," Fuerst said. "That's a big reason why we're here."

He also noted the current downtown vision may no longer reflect community priorities or current market conditions. The updated vision will also inform the city's upcoming 2050 Comprehensive Plan development.

Research for the downtown vision study began in January, followed by listening and learning sessions with residents in February. Now, recommendations are being formulated based on the feedback collected during that time.

Fuerst said there are two approaches the City Council can take to implement the study's recommendations.

"Option 1, probably the most efficient option, would be to do this vision (study), do the comprehensive plan update (and) then, after all of that's done, then update our zoning code," Fuerst explained.

The second option would be to do the vision study first, update the city's zoning code followed by the 2050 Comprehensive Plan, and update the zoning codes again.

Fuerst noted that Option 1 would be the most efficient because it's likely the city will have to amend its ordinances or map once the comprehensive plan is finalized, regardless. He did say there will be a period where planned unit developments in the downtown area are going to be a little complicated due to the 2006 Downtown Master Plan, as the downtown vision and land use controls were not implemented.

Other recommendations were also presented to the council by Cody Flannery, urban planner at Bolton & Menk, for its consideration based on community feedback collected through a survey

and an open house.

According to community feedback, mixed-use projects are the No. 1 priority in downtown for 54% of residents. The addition of mixed-use zoning to the downtown area would allow for commercial and residential developments in a single district.

Vertical mixed use would create a combination of uses in the same building. A commercial use would occupy the ground floor with residential use on top. A horizontal mixed-use building positions residential and commercial uses next to each other, either on the same parcel or on adjacent ones.

Mayor Nancy Golden asked Flannery and Fuerst which structure of the mixed-use buildings residents preferred.

"I think people really like the vertical use. You've got potentially a retail on the bottom floor and maybe some living or office space above," Fuerst responded.

He added, in many communities, developers find it difficult to make this type of development work due to the financing and it seems, from a project success standpoint, that horizontal mixed-use tends to be the favored option.

Flannery added another barrier of development with vertical mixed-use is the historical precedent of it in downtown or main street areas.

"A typical storefront building almost always will have an upper floor that usually is residential — shopkeepers historically living above, their shops underneath," he said. "In a contemporary context, that's a little bit difficult when you think about security measures, fire suppression."

Building types residents showed favorability toward include townhouses, cottages, low-rise multifamily developments, mercantile and living spaces, restaurants and retail, and retail and office spaces, Flannery said.

Another recommendation Flannery provided was, upon approval of the downtown vision, is to begin to untangle the 2006 downtown design guidelines from city policies. He said new design guidelines should focus on outlining desirable materials and form, site design features and design outcomes, rather than specific architectural styles.

Fuerst said the city does not have to "do away" with the things it holds dear,

such as its French-Canadian influence. Instead, he said the city could provide ideas how to implement it into a project.

Other recommendations collected during the open house included additional places to eat, drink and gather; no "high-rise" developments or chain stores/ restaurants; good parking, walkability and safe crossings; improvements to rundown buildings; making it family-friendly; and avoiding impacts to existing homes.

Residents also provided input the priorities the city should focus on moving forward.

"We had 120 respondents say that their first priority was finding mixed-use in downtown," Flannery said. "Second priority was office/retail space. Medium priority for (land) uses would be single-family homes and townhouses, and on the low end (would be) single-use, low-rise apartments."

Three scenarios were presented at a work session earlier this spring. Scenario 1 would have a dedicated commercial core around a new downtown center, with surrounding housing to support activity. Scenario 2 showed a large mixed-use center around a new downtown center, with surrounding housing to support activity. The final scenario presented a small mixed-use area adjacent to a new downtown center, with lots of surrounding housing options.

Scenarios 1 and 2, according to Fuerst, were the favored options. Based on this feedback, Fuerst said they were able to create a draft of a land use strategy for the downtown area.

"Commercial blocks (would be) north of Sorel Street, between Sorel Street and Main Street ... That is where we have most of our existing commercial already. Moving south, at Sorel and Centerville Road, you're looking at mixed-use. Mixed-use is helpful in this situation because it provides the most flexibility for future development," Fuerst added. "Going outwards from there, thinking about medium-scale housing." This could look like townhouses, cottage courts

and medium-scale apartments.

Council Member Linda Broussard Vickers said while these are excellent survey results, it still only represents a small portion of the city's population that is paying attention and willing to respond.

"Making our decisions based on this alone, for me ... I can't do that because I know there are people who are not commenting," she said. "When I look at this, the basic information that you're giving to us, is the same information that has been brought forward to us just about every time we've looked at something on Block 7."

Golden said she agrees that the city has to work with what it has. She noted that a three-story building is too big for Block 7.

"If you put something like that on Block 7, it is going to dominate over everything that's already there. I think it's going to really look out of place," Golden said. "The key to this is going to be Block 7 and what are we going to do there, because I think that is going to dictate the rest of what will happen."

Council Member Anita Rios said her mindset has shifted when it comes to Block 7. She said the city was looking at only residential developments for Block 7 for a long time and her mindset was, "this is the only thing developers would want to put in there."

"But getting all the community feedback and hearing strong feedback about wanting more spaces for dining, for gathering ... Folks were pretty excited about moving that center of downtown one block south," Rios said. "It's really changed my mindset to embracing the horizontal mixed-use and trying to promote that on Block 7."

The final draft of the downtown vision will be presented to the council at a future meeting and will likely be adopted at the same time. Once the final vision plan is adopted, Fuerst said the staff would have the ESMC (Empowering Small Minnesota Communities) team incorporate it into its work.

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