

BOATING TIPS: Minnesota DNR offers 4th of July reminders. PAGE 6

70 mph: Centennial Police Department warns not of E-bikes, but E-motos

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

There are roughly four classes of E-bikes (electric bicycle)—classes one and two can reach a pedal-assisted 20 miles per hour. Classes three and four can reach speeds of 28 miles per hour.

“E-bikes are usually not the ones that are causing the problems,” said Centennial Lakes Police Department Chief Jim Mork. “The typical person that’s riding an E-bike is going to be responsible.”

Mork is, instead, concerned with E-motos, or electronic motorcycles, which can reach speeds of more than 70 miles per hour.

Identifiable by their lack of pedals and presence of foot pegs, E-motos operate like dirt bikes and are not

legal to operate on any street or trail in Minnesota. They are off-road or track-use vehicles only.

“They aren’t licensed, they don’t have insurance, they go too fast, there’s no turn signals,” said Mork. “Someone should have a motorcycle license to operate that.” Mork added that Twin Cities suburbs also don’t have the infrastructure or bike lanes to support vehicles like E-motos.

“Kids think they’re just having fun,” Mork said. “What 13-year-old knows to look for traffic as they’re coming out on an intersection?”

CLPD has recently seen an uptick in complaints and reports involving E-motos. They are spreading awareness about the issue through bike rodeos and summer festivals, as well as more immediate notices on

electronic signs and billboards.

According to Minnesota Statute, E-moto drivers riding at top speeds could be charged with reckless driving, a misdemeanor that comes with a \$1,000 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Mork explained, though, that CLPD must take the age of the riders into consideration. “We’re doing all we can to stop them ... but chasing some 14-year-old kid isn’t safe either,” said Mork.

He also explained that many of the riders CLPD stops are not aware they are breaking the law. Their parents, meanwhile, are not aware of the capabilities of E-motos. Even if parents buy their kids E-motos with a set top speed, Mork advised, many



CLPD | CONTRIBUTED

From top: An E-bike, which tops out at 28 mph, an E-moto can reach over 70 mph.

SEE E-BIKES VERSUS E-MOTOS, PAGE 2



COON RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT | CONTRIBUTED

A family at the 4th of July Celebration in Boulevard Plaza. See a north metro guide of Fourth of July celebrations on page 11.

Police chief retires

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

After more than two decades with the Centennial Lakes Police Department and six years as its head, Chief of Police Jim Mork is retiring. An open house celebrating the occasion is scheduled from 2-4 p.m. June 30, at Centennial Library, 100 Civic Heights Circle, Circle Pines. Mayor Matt Percy of Circle Pines addressed Mork at a recent city council meeting.

“I just want to say thank you for everything you’ve done for CLPD. You’ve done a tremendous job as chief, and I’m really honored to have worked with you, seeing everything you’ve done for the department and our communities,” Percy said. “It’s been a steady hand at the wheel.”

Mork stated that he felt his tenure went by quickly. “I feel very blessed because I came into a department that was already on the right track,” Mork said. “That’s what I was fortunate enough to have, and that’s



CONTRIBUTED

Retiring Chief Jim Mork

hopefully what I’m leaving for the next chief that’s coming in.”

The outgoing chief also acknowledged the support he received throughout the years from the cities of Centerville, Circle Pines and Lexington, as well as their city administrators and staff.

“It was a tough decision to leave a department I’ve worked at for more than 23 years. I was very much enjoying the position,” Mork concluded. “It’s pretty fun for a young kid to chase his dream and actually become a police chief.”

“We’re very lucky that you did,” Percy responded.

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E-BIKES VERSUS E-MOTOS: Police department explains the difference

FROM PAGE 1

YouTube videos exist that show how to bypass the governor, allowing the owner to go speeds far greater than the product advertises.

A legislative solution is not coming for at least a couple of years, as wording around electronic powered vehicles is tricky to pin down given the evolving industry. A total ban could affect senior mobility options or unnecessarily punish law-abiding bikers.

At present, Mork is imploring city leaders to adopt strict ordinances

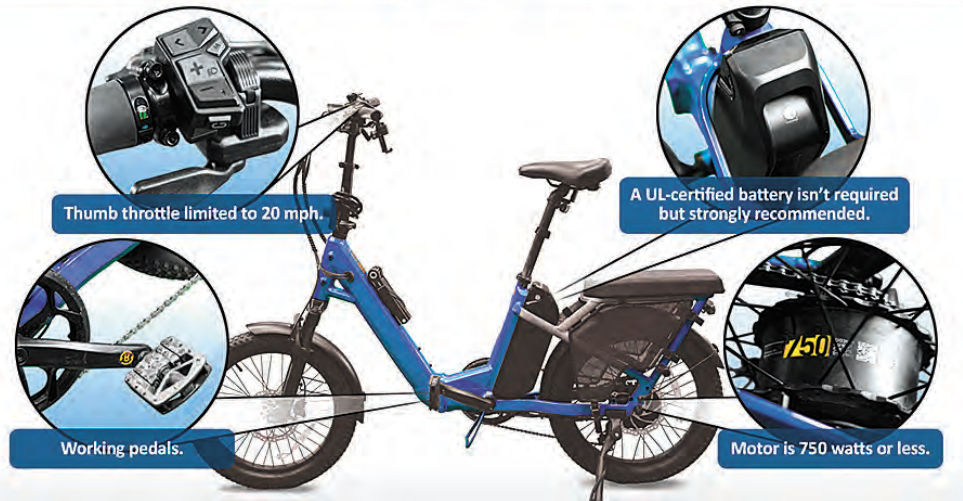
around E-motos specifically. "It's one thing if you ... ticket them or warn them and talk to their family, but what if you run into the same kid next week?" Mork asked. "An ordinance could have some teeth in it where we grab the bike, we hang onto it for 30 days." Such a consequence, Mork stated, would make a child think twice while keeping them from reoffending. Regardless of the actions local governments take, Mork remarked that E-motos are becoming a metro-wide problem.

"It's trouble waiting to happen," he said.

CLPD Bike Safety Tips:

- Wear a helmet
- Avoid distractions
- Walk your bike in crowded areas
- Announce, "On your left," when passing on a shared pathway
- Ride in the same direction of traffic—never against
- Look both ways before entering an intersection
- Be respectful

E-MOTOS ARE ILLEGAL ON THE ROAD. A LEGAL E-BIKE MUST HAVE ALL THE FOLLOWING:



MN OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY | CONTRIBUTED

An informational card from Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety

E-bikes versus E-motos:

E-bikes:

- Can reach speeds of 28 mph with throttle assist
- Have distinguishable pedals
- Do not fall under Minnesota motor vehicle laws
- Can be operated on bike paths and trails
- Do not require a license to operate
- Cannot be ridden by anyone younger than 15
- Must yield to pedestrians and slower trail users
- Have motors under 750 watts

E-motos:

- Can reach speeds of 70+ mph regardless of software installed
- Have motorcycle foot pegs
- Fall under Minnesota motor vehicle laws
- Cannot be operated on any public path, trail or road
- Require a motorcycle license, license plate and registration to operate
- Cannot be ridden by anyone younger than 16
- Are beholden to posted speed-limits and stop signs
- Usually have motors greater than 1500 watts or 50cc

WEEKLY WAG

Nova Jean is a beautiful, sweet young girl with a big heart. She is a Pit Bull/Bull Terrier mix. She is two years old, and she weighs 65 pounds. Once she gets to know you—which doesn't take long—Nova Jean is a deeply devoted companion. She is affectionate but not overwhelming. Her foster says Nova Jean is not clingy, but she is content knowing her people are nearby and in sight. She likes to lounge in the backyard or rest nearby in the house while you relax. She will, however, stop by for an occasional gentle, reassuring pet before settling back in her own spot. Nova Jean is people-focused, friendly and always eager to play. She is fully house trained and knows her basic commands. She is also curious, intelligent and trainable. Nova Jean would do best and thrive in an adult-only home. She is affectionate and enduring, and has a wonderful, loving personality.



If you are interested in learning more about Nova Jean or adopting her, please fill out an application at www.ruffstartrescue.org. Once your application is received, Ruff Start Rescue will contact you as soon as possible.

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JUNE 30, 2026

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QUAD COMMUNITY PRESS **3**

ONGOING EVENTS

CENTERVILLE MUSIC IN THE PARK

When: 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays
Where: Hidden Spring Park, 1601 LaMotte Drive, Centerville
Details: Local musicians perform at beautiful Hidden Spring Park from June to August each year. Bring your own lawn chairs and blanket. This week's band is North Suburban Chorus. July 7's act is Billee Jo Hall Acoustic Live.
Contact: 651-429-3232

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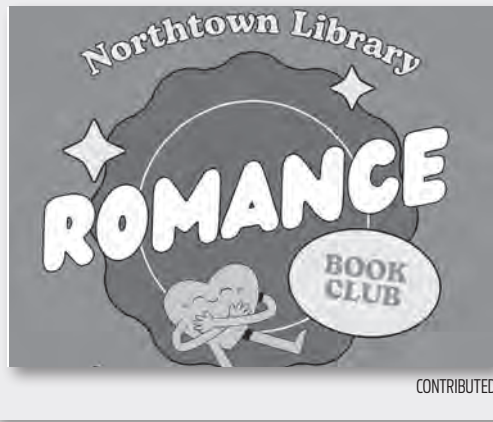
When: 2:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Where: Lexington Municipal Liquor Store, 9271 Lake Drive
Details: A variety of vendors will be set up in the parking lot selling produce, plants, breads, syrups, crafts and more.
Contact: 612-272-3386 or kgregory244@gmail.com

BABY STORYTIME

When: 10:15-10:45 a.m., Tuesday, July 7, and every Tuesday after
Where: Anoka County Library, Centennial Branch, Centennial Community Room, 100 Civic Heights Circle, Circle Pines
Details: Enjoy books, songs, rhymes and playtime with your baby in a storytime specially designed by our early literacy experts for the youngest learners. For babies ages 0-24 months with a caregiver.
Contact: 763-324-1540

BLAINE PERFORMANCE IN THE PARK

When: 6 p.m., Thursdays
Where: Tom Ryan Park, 10802 Town Square Drive NE, Blaine
Details: This is a wonderful spot to relax, enjoy some great music, and maybe even get up and dance with the kids. There's lots of space for everyone to spread out and have fun. This week's act is The Centennial



NORTHTOWN'S ROMANCE BOOK CLUB

When: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 2
Where: Northtown Library, 711 County Highway 10 Frontage Road, Blaine
Details: Meet in-person to discuss books you have read based on a chosen theme. This month's theme is games and sports romances.
Contact: 763-324-1510

CONTRIBUTED

Community Band, a wind and percussion ensemble serving adult and youth musicians in the north metro, including Blaine and Lino Lakes.
Contact: 763-717-2723 or jhandt@blainemn.gov

FRIDAY DROP-IN DOMINOES

When: 9:30 a.m.-noon every Friday
Where: The Rookery Activity Center, 7690 Village Drive, Lino Lakes
Details: Dominoes is played with two or more players, and the goal is to be the first one to use all of their tiles by matching them to other tiles that have already been played. Admission will be charged for non-members. Pre-register at linolakes.gov/608/The-Rookery-Activity-Center.
Contact: 651-982-2468

FIRST FRIDAY KARAOKE

When: 8 p.m.-midnight, Friday, July 3, and every first Friday of the month
Where: Lino Lakes American Legion Post 566, 7731 Lake Drive, Lino Lakes
Details: Kick off your weekend the first Friday every month with us at the Legion. Come sing and listen to karaoke run by DJ Reina Starr with R.Starr Entertainment.
Contact: 651-783-0055 or officepost566@gmail.com

SUMMER SUNDAYS ON THE PATIO

When: 3-6 p.m. Sundays

Where: Boulevard Bar and Grille, 3800 Restwood Road, Circle Pines

Details: Every week, Boulevard Bar and Grille provides live music. This week, Blaine Howard, who hails from Fairchild, Wisconsin, plays a blend of acoustic americana, pop and classic rock.
Contact: 763-204-8091 or lexingtonboulevard@gmail.com

ONCE UPON A STORY TIME

When: 9-10 a.m., Tuesday, July 7, and every first Tuesday of the month
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 at anokacountyparks.com/activities-events is encouraged to ensure there are enough craft supplies for all attending. For ages 2 and up.
Contact: 763-324-3350

MINNEAPOLIS SENIOR LAW ADVICE CLINIC

When: 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 7, and every first Tuesday of the month
Where: Mary Ann Young Center, 9150 Central Ave. NE, Blaine
Details: Seniors ages 60 and up can get general legal advice at this monthly clinic. Sponsored by Lawhelpmn.org.
Contact: 763-786-9375

CURRENT EVENTS

LUNCH WITH A NATURALIST: RAPTORS

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

FAMILY COOKING

When: 4:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 7
Where: Anoka County Library, Centennial Branch, Centennial IQ Kitchen, 100 Civic Heights Circle, Circle Pines
Details: This program is for youth with their grownups; we will all be cooking together. This summer theme is "Game On." We'll be making fun snacks to share with family and friends while we're all playing games. Grab your family and come join us as we get ready to explore.
Contact: 763-324-1540

LION'S VOLUNTEER PARK CONCERT

When: 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 8
Where: Lions Volunteer Park, 5524 Upper 146th St. N., Hugo
Details: M.T. Pockets and Loose Change perform a dance-worthy blend of classic soul, R&B, Motown, swing and pop hits. Bring lawn chairs.
Contact: 651-762-6342 or ci.hugo.mn.us

FRIDAYS WITH FIREFIGHTERS

When: 10 a.m.-noon Friday, July 10
Where: Hugo Fire Department, 5323 140th St. N.
Details: Stop by to meet firefighters, go for a ride in a truck, jump in a bounce house, and get free popcorn.
Contact: ci.hugo.mn.us

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To make changes or to advertise here, call at 651-407-1200.

America: A rotating cast of characters

This Fourth of July weekend, I'm headed to a reunion at my family's homestead in rural North Dakota. My extended family has farmed that land since the late 1800s, and I have cherished memories in that house:

- Eating my grandmother's kifle, a German-Hungarian croissant
- Playing "Sonic Adventure" with my cousin on his Dreamcast and finding the secret blue-screen level
- Shooting rusted-out milk pails with my grandpa and his 12-gauge shotgun that nearly dislocated my, at the time, 10-year-old shoulder
- Sliding mattresses down the crazy-steep, vertigo-inducing farmhouse stairs



Looking Out with Logan Gion

- Beating my aunt at Rummikub after only 14 tries
- Getting peppered with ash from fireworks that my uncle swore he set up the right distance away

This time, though, I've been nervous to go back. Both of my grandparents have passed away, all of my cousins have expanding family trees I need to memorize and many of my aunts and uncles have been through life-changing health ordeals. Conversely, recent life and health events have changed me too.

Going back, I can't help but wonder, "Is this the same family I had those memories with? Will I still recognize them? Will they recognize me?"

Whenever I want to avoid pondering big questions, I watch TV. This time, I watched the series finale of "Hacks." My favorite character on that show is Randi, the sheltered assistant, played by Robby Hoffman, who uses common sense and a sturdy work ethic to get ahead in a loopy industry. Hoffman joined the cast in season four, quickly stealing every scene she was in. Watching the finale, I was struck by how essential to the show Randi had become in such a short time—much like Kirstie Alley did in season six of "Cheers" or Rob Lowe in season three of "Parks and Recreation."

My media-addled brain extrapolated that thought to my family reunion. This year, I might make a new favorite memory with new favorite family member. Maybe an in-law and I will get first place in the scavenger hunt. Maybe a younger cousin has matured into a great conversationalist. Maybe my uncle will actually set the fireworks back far enough for once.

While that last one is doubtful, time and new blood have not made this family reunion something alien, but instead, something original and exciting, something worth anticipating.

This Fourth of July, our country turns 250 years old. The Gion clan missed the first 110 years of that history. Still, my grandfather was a WWII vet, many of my cousins have served in our military and my uncle holds an elected office. My family is deeply, proudly American.

The same goes for Minnesota. As a state, we missed the Revolutionary War, but we have deep Union ties to the Civil War and continue to play a role in our country's history today. If the US was a TV show, Minnesota wouldn't be an episode-one regular cast member. Regardless, I feel like we've become a fan-favorite addition.

This Fourth of July, while revisiting the cherished memories we have of our great nation, I hope we also make room for new ones. America looks different today than it did in 1776, but instead of asking questions like "Is this the same country I had those memories with? Do I still recognize it? Does it recognize me?" I encourage you to ask, "How will I help create something original and exciting in my community, state, nation?"

"How will I create an America worth anticipating?"

Logan Gion is a staff writer at Press Publications.



Last week I witnessed an arrest

I took my lunch break in downtown Minneapolis and headed down Nicollet Mall. I was behind a dad and his little girl, heading south towards Target. We came upon several people waiting at a corner with two transit police nearby. As we approached, a young man began harassing a woman. The cops immediately intervened to stop him. He didn't, which was a big mistake. Then he resisted, and that was a bigger mistake. In the blink of an eye, he was face first on the pavement, and the cuffs were coming off.



Movers & Shakers Matt Percy

The rest of the scene was predictable: everyone else backed off to make room and — in a more modern twist we are all familiar with — multiple phones were pulled out to record the incident. Fortunately for everyone, there was no George Floyd moment this time around.

This incident is one that most of us rarely see. It hit hard and left me pondering several thoughts:

First, why did this kid think that his behavior towards the woman was OK? Growing up, I was taught early on to respect all other people regardless of their gender, size or age. In our house, the Golden Rule was not an abstract concept, it was a law, and my parents never let me forget it. The concept is simple: If you want to be treated with kindness and dignity, then lead with those values. I wonder whether this youth was not taught those lessons, or if he deliberately chose to disregard them.

Second, disobeying law enforcement is an extremely poor decision, and it never ends well. In this case, the cops gave the guy a verbal warning, which he ignored. Then, they physically inserted themselves between the two. He pushed back on the officers, and that took it to the next level. Many times, we have watched recordings of this same performance playing out, often with tragic results.

Look, I get it: It's an emotional moment, and maybe it feels like the accusation is unjust. But it's a fact that our police have the authority to step in and make an arrest based on their own judgment. Fighting back results only in injured pride, body parts or worse. When my kids were growing up, I drilled them on these guidelines:

- Be respectful and follow the officers' commands.
- It doesn't matter if you think they are wrong or you feel your rights are being violated; that will be sorted out later in court.
- The most important rule is to minimize the conflict and live for the next day.
- Remember that police officers are people like you and me. They also deserve to be treated as human beings.

And there's one last part I can't stop running through my head: that little girl, who was out for a fun afternoon with her dad and wound up seeing a violent event she could have never imagined. Did she understand what she saw? Will that change the person that she grows into? My greatest hope is that her dad made something good from it, and that he seized the opportunity to teach her important lessons about how we behave towards both others and law enforcement.

Matt Percy is the mayor of Circle Pines.

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- Letter writers must live, work or have another connection to Press Publications coverage area.
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- Due to space limitations, letters that don't address local issues are not guaranteed publication.
- Repeat letters by the same writer about the same subject matter will not be

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- All letters are subject to editing.
- Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday of the week prior to publication.
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Press managing editor, intern honored by Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists

Former Press Publications Intern and current contributing writer Maya Betti is one of the 2026 Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists scholarship winners.

Managing Editor Shannon Granholm received an award from the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists (MNSPJ) at the Page One Awards. She earned third place in the profile reporting category for her story, "From White Bear Eagle Scout to 'Night Stalker,'" May 21, 2025, White Bear Press. The story is about Major Curtis Donald Feistner who died at the age of 34 in a helicopter crash in the Philippines in 2002.

This year's Page One contest drew more than 550 entries representing every corner of the state from newspapers, radio and television stations and online publications.

According to the MNSPJ, these awards "celebrate the state's best journalism."

Former Press Publications' intern Maya Betti, Shoreview, is one of the MNSPJ 2026 scholarship winners. Betti, a student at St. Olaf College, is executive editor at The Olaf Messenger and has reported for Press Publications, KYMN Radio, The Roseville Reporter and The Park Bugle. She is currently working as a communications intern at the New York Times. In her role, she compiles data-driven media coverage reports, develops multimedia content and assists with media inquiries.

For a full list of award winners, visit www.mnspj.org/2026/06/16/mnspj-2026-page-one-awards-winners.



CONTRIBUTED

Press Publications' Managing Editor Shannon Granholm receives an award from the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists at the Page One Awards ceremony June 16 at The Lowlands in St. Paul.

CONSTRUCTION BRIEF

Otter Lake Road at County Road J closed July 6

Construction continues on the Interstate 35E and County Road J interchange. From July 6 to Aug. 20, weather permitting, Otter Lake Road will be closed at County Road J. There will be no access to County Road J during this closure. Throughout July, work will continue on connecting Otter Lake Road into the new roundabout.

Also in July, Crews will work on connecting the new bridge to the roundabouts on County Road J. They will also work on paving and curb pouring on the north side of County Road J. Work will continue on the west roundabout and new southbound exit ramp on 20th Avenue.

CENTERVILLE TIDBITS

• The Centerville City Council has now been made whole, after Kale Haluptzok was appointed to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of Council Member David Kubat several months ago. Council conducted interviews prior to the June 22 council meeting to fill that vacancy. Staff received two applications for the position, one of which was withdrawn last week. Haluptzok grew up in Centerville and is currently raising four young children in the city. He has also been a small business owner for more than 10 years.

• The city is required to update its Comprehensive Plan every 10 years and usually hires a city planning firm to do the large amount of work that can overwhelm city staff. Staff received comparable quotes from WSB and Bolton & Menk. Currently, the city's planning firm is Bolton & Menk who would provide a \$5,000 discount for the city on its Comprehensive Plan Update. The city is also receiving a \$40,000 grant from the Metropolitan Council to apply to this project, along with an anticipated \$4,000 for early submittal of the plan. The city will pay Bolton & Menk \$85,000 to complete the project during the next two years. Money will come from all of the city's enterprise funds. The 2050 Comprehensive Plan will be a document to guide land-use and infrastructure decisions for decades to come.

• Recently, the city authorized Stantec engineering firm to prepare a memo summarizing the condition of the key components that make up the city's water

supply system and recommend improvements. Components reviewed in the memo include Wells No. 1 and No. 2 and their pumphouses, as well as the city water tower. The memo also summarized the existing condition of the system, past improvements, recommendations and high-level cost estimates for proposed improvements. The discussion about the memo focused on drilling a third well to serve the city. After council reviewed and talked about the memo, city staff will use it as a guide for implementing the city's Capital Improvement Plan.

• The city recently contracted with MGT to create a compensation plan to ensure that its employees receive market-rate compensation. The consulting firm presented a plan which council reviewed at their April and May work sessions. Based on discussion and consensus, staff brought the plan forward for approval as presented. With council approval, the city will implement the MGT Compensation Plan starting with the pay period beginning June 29. On implementation, employees will enjoy new pay rates for half the year's pay periods. Eight of nine regular city employees will see a pay rise due to their compensation being upgraded to the going rate among government employees. The ninth employee, already enjoying above-market compensation, will likely see a pay increase next year if the cost-of-living adjustment exceeds 1%.

• City staff said that James Huisenga, an employee

of the public works department, has successfully completed his annual performance review. On approval by council, Huisenga will enjoy a step increase and be paid \$81,390 per year, starting on his anniversary date.

• Public Works Director Charlie Lehn has now successfully completed his six-month probationary period, and council approved his transition to regular status.

• The city approved a special event permit for an applicant wishing to use barricades to block the roadway for an event. The application has been reviewed by the Centennial Lakes Police Department, the SBM Fire Department, the public works director and city administrator.

• In her report, City Administrator Athanasia Lewis noted that the city is also looking to hire an assistant to the city administrator. The salary range for this position is \$78,099 to \$83,395 annually. The city planned to review applications and resumes until June 29. At present the city has four exceptional candidates available to fill the new position of assistant city administrator, Lewis said.

The council next meets at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 9, at City Hall, 1880 Main St.

Loretta Harding

PUBLIC NOTICES - PUBLIC NOTICES - PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LINO LAKES ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA AD FOR BIDS

BIRCH STREET SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

GENERAL NOTICE

City of Lino Lakes (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of Birch Street Sewer Improvement Project. Bids for the construction of the Project will be received online through QuestCDN vBid™ until **Thursday, July 16, 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 309.205.3325 and entering Meeting ID 970 5471 2776 and Passcode 016622. 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:

450	SY	Remove and Replace Bituminous Walk
150	LF	Salvage and Reinstall Chain Link Fence
1	LS	Dewatering
1	LS	Steel Sheet Piling (Temporary)
47	LF	Construct 48" Dia. Sanitary Manhole
125	LF	15" PVC Sanitary Sewer
125	LF	24" Steel Casing Pipe (Jacked)
1	LS	8" Temporary Water Service
1	LS	Temporary Structural Support (16" DIP Watermain)
1	EA	16" Gate Valve & Box
720	LF	Temporary Fence
2,900	SY	Rolled Erosion Prevention Category 20
1	LS	Traffic Control
0.6	AC	Turf Establishment

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/submission 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 #10097312 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: April 7, 2026 BY THE ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Michael Grochala, Community Development Director, Lino Lakes, MN
Published two times in the Quad Community Press on June 23 and 30, 2026.

CITY OF LINO LAKES ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

2026 TRUNK WATERMAIN PROJECT

GENERAL NOTICE

City of Lino Lakes (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of 2026 Trunk Watermain Project. Bids for the construction of the Project will be received online through QuestCDN vBid™ until Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 10:00AM 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 929.205.6099 and entering Meeting ID 974 6177 1427 and Passcode 336197. 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	Construct Access Road
1	EACH	Hydrant
6	LF	6" Watermain Ductile Iron CL 52
58	LF	16" Watermain Ductile Iron CL 50
339	LF	18" Watermain HDPE (Directional Drilled)
335	LF	30" HDPE Casing Pipe (Directional Drilled)
3200	LF	Sediment Control Log Type Wood Fiber
1	LS	Site 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/submission 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 #1027145 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: June 22, 2026 BY THE ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Michael Grochala
Community Development Director, Lino Lakes, MN
Published two times in the Quad Community Press on June 30 and July 7, 2026.

CITY OF LINO LAKES SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 02-26 TO REZONE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY FROM R, RURAL TO R-2, TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND R-3, MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL FOR HARVEST GRANGE

The City Council of Lino Lakes ordains:
Section 1. The Lino Lakes City Code Chapter 1007: Zoning Code has been amended to rezone the property located in the future plat of Harvest Grange from R, Rural to R-2, Two Family Residential and R-3, Medium Density Residential.

Passed by the Lino Lakes City Council on June 22, 2026.
This is a summary of the adopted ordinance. A full printed copy of the ordinance is available at City Hall or on the City's website at <https://linolakes.us/163/City-Code-Zoning-Ordinances>

Submitted by:
Roberta Colotti, CMC, City Clerk
Published one time in the Quad Community Press on June 30, 2026.

LINO LAKES CITY COUNCIL SNIPPETS

• Lino Lakes Resident Danielle Ward-Lorenz expressed concerns about the amendments proposed to the Harvest Grange development plan and the effect it will have on the neighborhood. Ward-Lorenz mentioned the right-in, right-out proposed on Cedar Street and the volume of traffic it would create in the neighborhood. Another concern she mentioned is the fact there is no park, green space or pathway connections to existing trails included in the plans.

• The Centennial Football Boosters' request to change language on its gambling permit has been approved by the council. The Centennial Football Boosters are applying for a gambling permit with the State of Minnesota. The state has requested a language change to remove the specific types of gambling, such as pull-tabs with dispensing device, electronic pull tabs and electronic linked bingo, to a generic approval of "lawful gambling."

• The council has approved a property owner agreement prior to connection for the property located at 904 81st St. The city has completed the 2025 Street Reconstruction project. As part of the project, sanitary sewer main and municipal water was extended to serve adjacent properties and for future utility extension. According to the city staff report, the property owners of 904 81st St. connected to municipal water and sewer. The Minnesota State Department of Health sent correction orders listing specific properties that required well sealing due to the proximity of the newly installed sanitary sewer main. As part of the agreement between WSB, the city's engineering firm, and the city,

properties that were included in the correction order and already connected to utilities are to receive water service connection reimbursement. The property is one of 20 properties included in the correction order.

• Michael Cave will join the public works team as a full-time park maintenance worker following council approval of his appointment to the position. The starting wage for Cave will be \$34.52 an hour, which is step 2 of a seven-step wage scale.

• City staff have the go ahead to order the project and authorize the ad for bid for the 2026 Trunk Watermain Project following council approval in a 4-0 vote (Council Member Michael Ruhland was absent). The project includes directional drilling a 30-inch diameter casing pipe and installing a 16-inch diameter watermain under I-35E, north of Main Street in Lino Lakes. According to City Engineer Diane Hankee, the project will loop the water system from the Watermark Development to the future system on the east side of I-35E that will be installed with the Otter Lake Road Extension project. The estimated total project cost is \$690,000. Funding for the project is expected to be from the Area and Unit Trunk Fund, according to Hankee.

• The council has accepted bids, awarded a construction contract, approved a construction services contract and approved utility agreements for the Otter Lake Road Extension Project in a 4-0 vote (Council Member Michael Ruhland was absent). The project includes the extension of Otter Lake Road from Main Street to its

intersection with 24th Avenue/Elmcrest approximately three-fourths of a mile north; connection to Rosemary Lane; paving of 24th Avenue/Elmcrest gravel section to 80th Street; extension of the trunk sanitary sewer and water; and regional surface water management improvements. North Pine Aggregate of Forest Lake was awarded the construction contract after the council accepted its bid of about \$10.59 million. The estimated total project cost, including construction contingency, engineering, right of way acquisition and roadway lighting is \$14.9 million. According to Community Development Director Michael Grochala, the project will be funded by several sources, including Municipal State Aid, a MN/DOT Local Road Improvement Grant, area and unit fund, surface water management fund and the city of Hugo. The project will start in mid-July, and the final completion date is scheduled for the fall of 2027. WSB will complete the construction services for the project in the amount of \$857,900. The city will enter into an encroachment agreement with Minnesota Pipe Line Company and a street lighting agreement with Connexus Energy for the project as well.

• The council has approved the terms and conditions for the Local Road Improvement Program grant terms and conditions for the Otter Lake Road Extension Project. In accepting the grant, the city has agreed to pay any additional costs over the grant amount of \$1.5 million, certify that the city owns or has easement over the land proposed for improvement, and acknowledges that it cannot be sold, mortgaged or

encumbered without the approval of the Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget and the property remains restricted for a period of 37.5 years.

• The council has approved a professional services contract with RJM Construction. RJM Construction will serve as construction manager as agent for the Public Works Building project. RJM's scope of work includes pre-construction activities, procurement activities, construction phase and closeout. According to Grochala, staff have worked with RJM to finalize the compensation based on a 14-month schedule, the adjusted building size is 98,000 square feet and the cost of work will be around \$26.73 million.

• The council has also approved an encroachment agreement with Great River Energy in relation to the Public Works Building project. The property includes an easement in favor of Great River Energy electrical transmission lines. The proposed stormwater pond is located partially within the transmission line easement.

• The council held a special closed meeting pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a) to conduct the city administrator's annual performance evaluation.

The next city council work session will be at 6 p.m., Monday, July 13, followed by a regular city council meeting at 6:30 p.m. at city hall.

Madeline Dolby

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES BRIEF

Minnesota DNR offers boating tips for Fourth of July

Waterways likely will be extremely busy in the days around and including the Fourth of July, as people across Minnesota enjoy getting out in their motorized and non-motorized watercraft. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds all recreationists to remember the state's waters belong to all people, and everyone has the right to enjoy them.

"Some people will be fishing, kayaking or paddleboarding, and others just out for a cruise, riding a personal watercraft, or wake surfing," said Lt. Eric Sullivan, leader of the DNR's statewide Marine Unit. "We all play a role in protecting our waterways and keeping them safe, so please remember: These are shared resources and it's up to everyone to ensure their activities don't negatively affect the environment or the safety and enjoyment of other users."

A few things to keep in mind:

- **Prioritize safety:** Wear a life jacket and, on watercraft that have one, an engine cut-off device. Leave alcohol on shore.
- **Own your wake:** All motorized watercraft can create wakes that pose safety risks to other water users, erode shorelines, harm water quality, and negatively impact fish and wildlife habitat. The DNR recommends all boaters stay at least 200 feet from the shoreline or other boaters. Anyone creating a wake should avoid repetitive passes through the same area.
- **Minimize distractions:** With so many people on the water, it's important to always pay attention to your surroundings, rather than looking at a phone or other

on-board electronics.

• **Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:** Always clean watercraft, trailers and equipment to remove aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species. Drain all water and leave drain plugs out during transport. Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

• **Plan ahead:** Public access sites likely will be busy. Extend courtesy to other people using the access and be ready to launch at the ramp.

• **Get a watercraft operator's permit:** A law that went into effect in 2025 requires more operators to obtain a permit, which is aimed at educating boaters and making waterways safer for everyone. Beginning July 1, 2026, anyone who is 12 years or older and those born after June 30, 2000, must obtain a watercraft operator's permit to operate most motorboats and personal



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SEE MORE DNR BRIEFS, PAGE 7

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POLICE REPORTS

The Centennial Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- At 11:09 a.m. June 17, Officers responded to a report of a lost wallet in the 9100 block of Hamline Avenue.
- At 6:17 p.m. June 17, arson officers were dispatched to the 9100 block of Hamline Avenue. The case has been cleared.
- Officers were dispatched June 19 on a disorderly conduct call in the 3800 block of Restwood Road. Officers mediated the situation and followed up with property management regarding trespassing. Pending property management followup, the case is inactive.
- Officers initiated a traffic stop June 19 at Lexington Avenue and Lovell Road after observing a violation at Lake Drive and Woodland Road. Upon speaking with the driver, officers discovered the driver had multiple prohibited items inside to the vehicle. The driver was released from scene.
- On June 20, police conducted a traffic stop in the 6800 block of Lake Drive and cited the driver with a second-degree DWI.

- On June 22 in the 9000 block of Jackson Avenue, police mediated a neighbor dispute which resulted in trespass notices being issued.
- On June 22, officers were dispatched to a report of found property near the intersection of Peltier Lake Drive and Main Street in Centerville.

The Lino Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- Officers responded June 15 to the 8000 block of 4th Avenue to a possible personal injury motor vehicle crash. Officers located the vehicle which was unoccupied. The officers determined the vehicle was stolen and the investigation remains ongoing.
- An officer responded June 15 to the 8000 block of Lake Drive to a gas station for a possible theft report. The officer spoke with the involved parties, and the driver ultimately paid for their fuel.
- On June 15 in the 7900 block of Nancy Drive, an officer responded to a motor vehicle property damage crash. The officer documented the

- incident and provided the involved parties the case number for the police report.
- On June 15 in the 6500 block of Clearwater Creek Drive, an officer responded to a report of a contained cat. The cat was transported to a local animal shelter.
- On June 15 at the intersection of Birch Street and White Oak Road, an officer responded to an automated phone crash alert. The officer located a cellphone that was later returned to the owner.
- Officers responded June 15 at the intersection of Ash Street and Centerville Road to a two-vehicle motor vehicle crash. There were no injuries and both vehicles were towed from the scene.
- An officer responded May 19 to a report of a suspicious male in the 6500 block of Pheasant Hills Drive. The caller later found out the male was a neighbor and there were no problems.
- Twice on June 15—once at 8:44 p.m. and again at 11:47 p.m.—Officers responded to an audible burglar alarm at a church on Elm Street. The officers located an open door and cleared the building, finding no issues.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES BRIEF

Find Fourth of July weekend fun at state parks and recreation areas

Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are great places to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday. Whether you're looking for a day trip or a full weekend enjoying nature, there is something everyone can enjoy.

"Most Minnesotans live within 30 miles of one of our 73 state parks and recreation areas, and we encourage everyone to spend time outdoors during Fourth of July weekend," said Ann Pierce, director of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks and Trails Division. "Visitors can relax, connect with nature and celebrate the holiday in a peaceful setting."

For those seeking a quieter celebration, parks and recreation areas could be the perfect fit, since the use of fireworks is prohibited in these areas.

DNR's ParkFinder tool (mndnr.gov/parkfinder) can help everyone find locations offering desired recreational opportunities.

A few ideas for outdoor Fourth of July fun in one of Minnesota's state parks or recreation areas include:

Enjoy a day on the water

Looking to cool off on a hot summer day? More than 25 state parks and recreation areas have public swimming beaches (mndnr.gov/state_parks/starter_kit/beaches.html) to enjoy. From Lake Louise State Park in the south to Zippel Bay State Park in the north, there are beaches for everyone, no matter where you live.

Visitors can also find canoe, kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals (mndnr.gov/state_parks/starter_kit/paddle.html) at many state parks. Most rentals cost \$15/half day and \$25/full day, though prices at parks that contract with a private concessionaire may vary.

Visitors can also fish for free at most state parks, and many parks have equipment to lend. Learn more about fishing opportunities at state parks (mndnr.gov/state_parks/fishing.html) on the DNR website.

During the holiday weekend, two state parks will offer programs to learn angling skills:

- Fishing Frenzy Friday—9-11 a.m. July 3, Lake Carlos State Park
- I Can Fish!—10 a.m.-noon July 4, Whitewater State Park; registration required

Stay overnight

Campgrounds are getting full for the weekend of July 3-5, but there are some sites still available. Locations with 20 or more drive-in sites still open include Lake Bronson, Myre-Big Island, Sakatah Lake, Schoolcraft, St. Croix and Zippel Bay state parks.

Lake Bronson State Park is the only location with multiple drive-in sites with electric hookups available. Other state park lodgings – including camper cabins, yurts and guesthouses – are full for July 3-5.

Those interested in camping over the holiday weekend can see current campsite availability at mndnr.gov/reservations. Users can also sign up for the "notify me" function on the reservation website to get an email alert if a cancellation meets their search criteria.

Learn more about the outdoors through naturalist programs and tours

Naturalist-led programs are offered at many parks. Most naturalist events are free to attend but may require reservations. A state park vehicle permit is required. There are 51 naturalist programs scheduled from July 3-5.

A few options include:

- Bog Discovery: Naturalist on the Move—10-11:30 a.m. July 3, Lake Bemidji State Park

- Bear Head Lake Adventure Bingo—6:30-8 p.m. July 3, Bear Head Lake State Park

- Birding in the Big Woods—10-11 a.m. July 4, Nerstrand Big Woods State Park

- The Glow Code: How Fireflies Talk—9-9:45 p.m. July 4, Blue Mounds State Park

Visit mndnr.gov/ptcalendar to find the full schedule of events across the state.

Check out a state park tour

- Prairie and bison tours at Blue Mounds State Park. Learn about the prairie ecosystem and Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd.

- Mystery Cave tours at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park. Here you can discover flowstone, fossils, underground pools and more in Minnesota's longest cave.

- Soudan Mine tours at Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park. Visitors can head deep underground to explore the oldest and deepest iron mine in Minnesota.

Learn more and make tour reservations at mndnr.gov/tours.

SEE MORE DNR BRIEFS, PAGE 10



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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES BRIEFS

Check for invasive species before buying or selling docks or boats

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is reminding people to check boats and trailers, docks and boat lifts and all other water-related equipment for aquatic invasive species, especially when buying or selling used equipment.

“Although we are past the initial spring shoreline equipment installation rush, the mid-season market for used equipment presents a much higher risk of spreading AIS,” DNR Invasive Species Training Coordinator April Rust said. “This is because used docks, lifts, boats, trailers and swim rafts moved mid-season can carry attached AIS to waters that don’t have zebra mussels or other invasive species.”

Minnesota law requires that docks and lifts remain out of the water for at least 21 days before they can be placed into another waterbody. In addition, anyone who transports a dock or lift with attached zebra mussels from a shoreline property to another location for decontamination needs a free permit (mndnr.gov/invasives/ais_transport.html) to transport it legally.

The DNR recommends these steps:

- Look for zebra mussels on the posts, footings, wheels and underwater support bars of docks and lifts, as well as any parts of boats, pontoons and rafts that might have been submerged in water for an extended period. Ensure water is drained from equipment before transporting.
- Hire DNR-permitted lake service

provider businesses (apps.dnr.state.mn.us/ais_business_training/lake_service_provider_permits/public_website_list) to install and remove docks, lifts, rafts, boats and other water-related equipment. They have been trained on Minnesota’s aquatic invasive species laws and have experience identifying and removing invasive species.

- Contact an area DNR aquatic invasive species specialist (mndnr.gov/invasives/ais/contacts.html) to report any invasive species not already known to be in the water body.

Whether or not a lake has any invasive species, Minnesota law requires people to:

- Clean watercraft, trailers and equipment to remove aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.
- Drain all water and leave drain plugs out during transport.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- Never release bait, plants or aquarium pets into Minnesota waters.
- Dry docks, lifts and rafts for 21 days before moving them from one water body to another.

These additional steps reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species:

- Decontaminate watercraft and equipment – find free stations on the courtesy decontamination page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/decon).
- Spray watercraft and equipment with high-pressure water or rinse with water if high-pressure water is not available.
- Dry watercraft and equipment for at least five days before using in another water body.

Minnesota DNR adds five counties to deer feeding and attractant ban

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has added five counties to a deer feeding and attractant ban to reduce the risk of chronic wasting disease spread, following detections of CWD in wild deer in new areas of the state last year.

“Where people place food or attractants out for deer, higher numbers of deer tend to congregate in one place,” said Paul Burr, acting big game program leader. “The feeding and attractant ban is one tool to reduce the unnatural congregating of deer and lower the risk of CWD spread.”

The Minnesota DNR uses a deer feeding and attractant ban where it provides the greatest benefit to the health of Minnesota’s white-tailed deer.

The ban is in effect for 37 Minnesota counties, including Anoka, Ramsey and Washington counties. A map of the feeding and attractant ban area is available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/cwd/feedban.html).

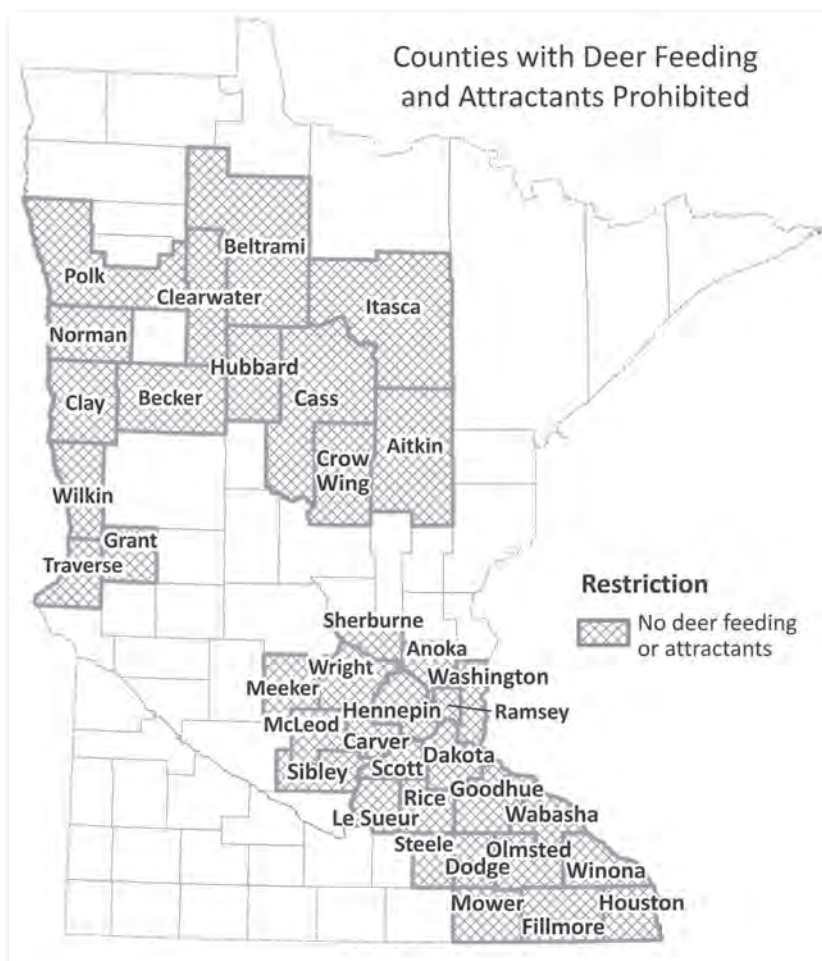
Even in areas outside the ban, the Minnesota DNR discourages people from feeding deer. People interested in helping deer should focus efforts on improving habitat to provide long-term food resources and shelter.

For more information on how to improve private land for the benefit of deer and other wildlife, visit the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/privatelandhabitat).



MN DNR | CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources pose before inspecting a boat.



MN DNR | CONTRIBUTED

A state map highlighting the counties which have a deer feeding and attractant ban.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**CITY OF CENTERVILLE
NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILINGS FOR OFFICE**

The candidate filing period will be open between Tuesday, July 14, 2026, and Tuesday, July 28, 2026, during office hours. All candidate filings must be received by Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Candidate filings for the following offices are to be filed at Administration, Centerville City Hall, 1880 Main Street, Centerville, MN 55038-9794.

- Mayor – 2 Year Seat
- City Council Members at Large, (2), 4 Year Seats
- Special City Council Member at Large Seat, 2 Year Seat
- Teresa Bender, City Clerk

Published one time in the Quad Community Press on June 30, 2026.

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CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

- Joy Mulch will join district staff as the executive assistant to Superintendent Jeff Holmberg. Previously, Mulch served as the executive assistant of the superintendent at Forest Lake as well as a paraprofessional in the Forest Lake School District.

- A new position has been created following board approval. The position will be for an MTSS Specialist TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment). According to Executive Director of Human Resources Dan Melde, this position was established through a grant awarded to Centennial Public Schools by the Minnesota Department of Education. This will support the implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), with a focus on improving student achievement and providing professional learning and support for staff. The grant is for two years.

- The Language Access Plan for Centennial Public Schools has been approved by the board. The plan ensures families who speak languages other than English have equitable access to school information through translation, interpretation, multilingual staff support and communication tools supporting more than 65 languages across the district, according to Mark Grossklaus, executive director of teaching and learning. The plan aligns with Minnesota Statute 123B.32.

- The 2025-26 Q Comp Annual Report was presented to the board by Gifted Services Resource Teacher Casey Molitor and Dave Mundale, a science teacher at Centennial Middle School. According to Mundale, Centennial is one of 111 school districts that

participates in the Q Comp Program. The Centennial Alternative Compensation System (CACS) provides additional compensation for educators based upon student achievement and teacher performance. In the district, there are 82 Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) or Collaborative Teams (CT). During the school year, staff work with their PLC and students to attain a Student Learning Goal set by a certified staff member. According to Molitor and Mundale, 96.8% of staff members met their Student Learning Goal for 2025-26. Each building also sets a site goal related to literacy in October for the school year. For the 2025-26 school year, four of 11 sites met their goal.

- The fiscal year 2028 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) Plan has been approved by the board. On a yearly basis, the school board updates the LTFM and indicates its intention to levy the LTFM funds. According to Executive Director of Business Services Patrick Chaffey, this is a 10-year plan that levies the maximum for the LTFM so the district can maximize state aid. Currently, Chaffey is working with the director of building grounds to finalize the necessary documents for future board approval consideration.

- The district will once again partner with Advanced Imaging Solutions to provide print management services following board approval. Advanced Imaging Solutions has been providing print management services for the last five years to the district. The agreement cost will be around \$8,742 per month, for

a five-year term and includes the non-appropriation clause as required by state statute.

- Holmberg provided the board with an update regarding the district’s policy on artificial intelligence (AI) and its use. The policy will establish guidelines for the responsible use of AI to enhance teaching, learning and efficiency, while upholding academic integrity, protecting privacy and ensuring equitable access for all students and staff. In the policy it states “(T)he school district supports AI use as an augmentative tool, not an autonomous decision maker (following the Human-AI-Human or H-AI-H model) to enhance teaching, learning and administrative efficiency. This policy will apply to all AI use by students and staff, on and off campus. After discussion, the board ultimately decided to adopt the policy in a 6-0 vote.

- Contributions to Centennial Elementary, Centerville Elementary, Golden Lake Elementary, Centennial Middle School and Centennial High School were accepted by the board.

- Board Chair Tom Knisely has reported Holmberg has received a positive evaluation. The evaluation is measured on five standards, according to Knisley. These standards have five or six questions, which Holmberg received proficient or distinguished. During the evaluation, the board also went over the goals it had set for Holmberg to achieve during the course of the school year. Knisely reported Holmberg did an “outstanding” job on the goals.

Madeline Dolby

4th of July calendar of events

BLAINE

FIREWORKS

When: 10 p.m. Saturday, July 4
Where: National Sports Center, 1700 105th Ave. NE, Blaine
Details: Spectacular fireworks display at the National Sports Center. Parking information available at blainemn.gov/4029/Blaine-Fireworks.
Contact: 763-785-6164

COON RAPIDS

4TH OF JULY COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

When: July 2-4
Where: Boulevard Plaza, 11002 Crooked Lake Blvd., Coon Rapids
Details: Festivities include a community parade, live music, games, midway rides, a 5k run and more. Don't miss the grand finale fireworks at 10 p.m. on July 4, voted a top fireworks show in Minnesota. Full schedule of events at coonrapidsmn.gov/1312/4th-of-July-Community-Celebration
Contact: 763-755-2880 or mail@coonrapidsmn.gov

FOREST LAKE

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

When: July 1-5
Where: Forest Lake American Legion Post 225, 355 W. Broadway Ave., Forest Lake
Details: Carnival, Bingo tent, medallion hunt, live music and entertainment. Parade and flyover at 10 a.m., fireworks at dusk at Lakeside Memorial Park, 97 First St. NE, Forest Lake. See schedule of events online.
Contact: post225.com/4th-of-july

MAHTOMEDI

BOAT PARADE

When: 1 p.m. Saturday, July 4
Where: Mahtomedi Beach, 1045 Park Ave., Mahtomedi
Details: Join us for the White Bear Lake Boat Parade, where our lake community shines in red, white and blue. Cheer from shore and enjoy a day packed with music, laughter and unforgettable summer vibes. Let's celebrate freedom, friendship and our amazing lake life—we can't wait to see you on the water.
Contact: 651-271-6334 or angela@redseaglass.com

WHITE BEAR LAKE

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

When: 8-10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 4
Where: VFW Post 1782, 4496 S. Lake Ave., White Bear Lake

Details: This pancake breakfast supports programs and services for veterans.
Contact: 651-426-4944

FLYOVER, LIVE MUSIC AND FIREWORKS

When: 8-11 p.m. Saturday, July 4
Where: Memorial Beach, 4980 Lake Ave., White Bear Lake
Details: The Fourth of July fireworks celebration starts with music in West Park at 8 p.m. At 8:30 p.m., there will be a flyover featuring World War II North American AT-6 aircraft. Fireworks start promptly at 10 p.m.
Contact: 651-272-3799 or info@explorewhitebear.org

STILLWATER

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION: CIVIL WAR CANNONS, MUSIC AND FIREWORKS

When: 3-10:30 p.m. Saturday, July 4
Where: Lowell Park, 201 S. Water St., Stillwater
Details: Battery 1, 1st US Artillery will have hourly live cannon-firing demonstrations 3-7 p.m. on Mulberry Point. There will be concerts from the bands Hero's End at 5:30 p.m. followed by Audio Circus at 8 p.m. at the Amphitheater Stage. The St. Croix Jazz Orchestra will be at the Pioneer Park Bandshell at 7 p.m. A spectacular firework show will begin at dusk over the St. Croix River and Historic Lift Bridge.
Contact: 651-430-8800 or stillwater@ci.stillwater.mn.us

POLITICAL BRIEF

Gustafson appointed to Legislative Inspector General Advisory Commission

Senator Heather Gustafson (DFL-Vadnais Heights) has been appointed to the Legislative Inspector General Advisory Commission. The commission will be responsible for recruiting and recommending qualified candidates to serve as Minnesota's first inspector general, who will lead the newly established office tasked with investigating fraud against state government programs. "This appointment is an opportunity to help ensure we build an Office of the inspector general

that is truly independent, transparent and focused on serving the people of Minnesota," said Senator Gustafson. "When we passed this legislation, our goal was to strengthen accountability and restore public trust by creating an office that follows the facts, protects taxpayer dollars

and operates free from political influence. I'm honored to continue to lay the foundation for that work." The Office of the Inspector General was established during the 2026 legislative session through bipartisan legislation authored by Senator Gustafson, after

first being passed by the Senate in 2025. The new office consolidates oversight functions and provides an independent authority to investigate fraud against state agencies while making recommendations to improve efficiency and accountability. The eight-member

advisory commission, with two members from each legislative caucus, will conduct a nationwide search and recommend candidates to the

governor for appointment as Minnesota's first inspector general, subject to Senate confirmation.

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-SATURDAY-
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LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL SNIPPETS

•Peter Lindstrom, Metropolitan Council representative of District 10, suggested a filtration grant or water efficiency grant to help lower Lexington's water waste spending (currently at \$14,000 a month). Lindstrom also informs the Council of plans to install an F-Line stop at Northway Shopping Centre that will run to downtown Minneapolis every 15 minutes.

•The Council approved liquor license renewals for Boulevard Bar & Grill, Carbone's Pizza, Cowboy's Saloon, Curious Crow, El Loro and Pancho's.

•The Council approved business license renewals for more than 40 businesses, including Festival Foods,

Dairy Queen and Lexington Square Chiropractic.

•The Council approved Deputy City Clerk Brenda Beaudet's request for a pay raise for election judges ahead of the 2026 primary and general elections. The head judge will receive \$18 an hour and regular judges will receive \$16 an hour.

•The council meeting on July 2, 2026, will be canceled due to Independence Day.

•The Council approved the Park Board's recommendation to improve the pickle ball court in Memorial Park.

•The Council approved a proposal to allow the Lexington Lions Club to utilize the Fire Relief Association's office space for charitable gambling

starting July 1, 2026.

•The Council approved a proposal to allow Congressional District 6 to utilize the fire station for \$4700 a month for the 2026 elections. Signs will be put in place to inform the public that the fire station is no longer functioning.

•The Council approved a memorandum of understanding that Centennial Lakes Little League Association will pay the city of Lexington to install a water meter that will irrigate the baseball fields with treated water from Blaine, not from one of the wells in Lexington.

Hannah Testa

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