



Scan for deals on page 2

THE CITIZEN

SINCE 1998

Press Publications
4779 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 9
CIRCLE PINES, MN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025
VOL.22 NO.19 www.readthecitizen.com \$1.00

WHITE BEAR SCHOOLS: ISD 624 board approves preliminary tax levy **PAGE 13**



HUGO FIRE | CONTRIBUTED

Hugo Fire kicks off Fire Prevention Month

The Hugo Fire Department will host its annual open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4 at the fire station. The event coincides with Fire Prevention Week, which will be observed Oct. 5-11. See calendar listing for more details.

Block 7 shows signs of life after years of dormancy

BY LORETTA HARDING
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During a recent workshop on wheels prior to a regularly scheduled meeting, Centerville's city staff gave city leaders a tour of city-owned locations due to receive attention within the next 10 years. Block 7 was a stop on that tour.

The grassy, 1.6-acre parcel on the west side of Main Street between Sorel and Heritage streets has remained vacant after Centra Homes abandoned its plans to develop the site into 26 townhomes. This corner parcel was originally part of the 2006 Downtown Redevelopment Plan and had attracted a developer, the Beard Group, which pulled out of development during the 2007 economic crash.

Over the years, several developers have almost been to the finish line before dropping their plans to develop the parcel.

There is some urgency to get this corner developed, as the city has already accepted a \$400,000 federal grant to provide infrastructure for the parcel's development. City staff fears the city may have to return the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money if development doesn't happen soon. Using some of the grant funds, the city has already installed a 42-inch sewer pipe on the property.

With a substantial investment already baked into the property, the city held out a beckoning hand to developers and put the parcel on the market for \$1.

SEE **BLOCK 7**, PAGE 13

Council adopts assessments for 2025 street project

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

HUGO — One property owner is hoping the City Council will reconsider a proposed assessment for street improvements.

The council recently held an assessment hearing for the 2025 street improvement project. The roadway reclamation/repaving project included the neighborhoods of Duck Pass and Palmes Long Lakes

Estates as well as Ingersoll Avenue. The total project cost came in at \$1,296,232. Of that amount, \$177,378 (or 13.7%) will be assessed to benefiting property owners at a rate of \$3,400 per unit.

City Engineer Mark Erichson explained that assessments can be paid over a 10-year period at an interest rate of 5.05%. Assessments can be prepaid without interest before Nov. 15. Assessments that are not prepaid will then

be certified to Washington County for taxes payable in 2026.

John Dostal, whose family owns approximately 100 acres on the northwest corner of Jody Avenue and 122nd Street, asked the council to reconsider the proposed assessment for the property. Dostal explained that about 16 acres of property abuts the Long Lake Estates neighborhood.

SEE **ASSESSMENTS**, PAGE 15



CONTRIBUTED

A before and after view of a street in the Duck Pass neighborhood.

\$5 OFF ANY purchase of \$25 or more
excludes alcohol
Not valid with any other offers Expires 10/31/25

Pizza & Salad Lunch Buffet \$11.95
M-F (from 11am - 2pm)
WISEGUYS PIZZA & PUB

WINNER NNER NNER NNER
of the Press of the Press of the Press of the Press

(651) 407-1094 • 7095 20th Ave S • Centerville, MN | Voted Best Pizza!

FALL SALE
TREES AND SHRUBS
PERENNIALS
STILL TIME TO PLANT!

FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1923
Lebens Lebenscape Landscaping

16155 Forest Blvd, Hugo (Highway 61) • Visit us On **f** • 651-488-6707



CIRCULATION
651-407-1234
ppcirc@presspubs.com

NEWS
651-407-1230
citizen@presspubs.com

ADVERTISING
651-407-1200
marketing@presspubs.com

CLASSIFIED
651-407-1250
classified@presspubs.com

PRODUCTION
651-407-1239
art@presspubs.com



White Bear Lake Area High School honors distinguished alumni

Brigadier General (Ret.) Bryan John Hult and Dr. Paul Anthony Iaizzo have been selected as 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients.

Brigadier General (Ret.) Bryan John Hult, Class of 1974 Mariner Campus

Hult's career began when he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1978. Within a year, he graduated from Officer Candidate School, Airborne School and Helicopter Flight School. After serving at Fort Hood, Texas, he pursued theological studies at Western Seminary, graduating summa cum laude with both a master of divinity and a master of theology.

His call to ministry and military service ran in parallel. After pastoring in Minnesota and Indiana, he transferred into the Army Chaplain Corps. His career culminated with his promotion to brigadier general, where he served as the assistant chief of chaplains for the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., the highest chaplaincy position in the Army National Guard. In recognition of his service, he was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash by Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels.

Hult also pursued advanced theological studies, earning his doctor of ministry degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 2002. After retiring from the National Guard in 2010 and from Grace Evangelical Church in 2014, he and his wife Barbara moved to Sandpoint, Idaho. There, he served for more than eight years as the veteran service officer for Bonner County, where he supported countless veterans

and their families.

Today, Hult continues to teach Biblical Greek and Hebrew, counsel individuals and couples, and speak at veteran and community events. On Nov. 9, he will be inducted into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame in Indianapolis.

Rooted in the White Bear Lake community where he grew up swimming, sailing and working summer jobs, Hult remembers fondly his Plymouth Duster and the music of the Beach Boys and Chicago echoing on summer nights. He credits his wife Barbara, his siblings Gary and Connie, and countless mentors, friends and teachers for shaping his path.

"Bryan's life of service to faith, family, community, and country reflects the highest values of White Bear Lake Area High School," said WBLAHS Principal Russ Reetz. "We are honored to recognize him as a Distinguished Alumnus."

Dr. Paul Anthony Iaizzo, Class of 1974 (Mariner Campus)

Dr. Iaizzo is a professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School, where he has served for over 35 years. He is widely respected for his leadership as director of the Visible Heart Laboratories and the Institute for Engineering in Medicine, where his pioneering research continues to make a lasting impact in medicine and engineering.

A lifelong learner, Iaizzo earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, followed by a Ph.D. in neurophysiology



WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS | CONTRIBUTED

Brigadier General (Ret.) Bryan John Hult and Dr. Paul Anthony Iaizzo are recognized at the Homecoming football game for being Distinguished Alumni Award recipients.

at the University of Minnesota. His thesis research was completed at the Mayo Clinic, where he later trained as an NIH Fellow. He was also honored as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow in Germany.

Throughout his career, Iaizzo has trained more than 140 graduate students and has provided White Bear Lake Area High School students with the unique opportunity to tour and learn within the Visible Heart Laboratories for over 20 years. His efforts have inspired countless young people to pursue careers in science and medicine.

Beyond academia, Iaizzo has given back to his community in many ways. He and his wife Marge — married for 42 years — raised three daughters,

all White Bear graduates. He coached youth basketball and soccer for over a decade and enjoys spending time with his five grandchildren. His personal passions include beekeeping, foraging and black bear research, which he has pursued for nearly three decades.

"Dr. Iaizzo's outstanding professional achievements and lifelong commitment to learning and mentorship embody what it means to be a Distinguished Alumnus," said White Bear Lake Area High School Principal Russ Reetz. "We are proud to honor him as an example for our students and community."

For more information about the Distinguished Alumni Award, visit <https://wblalumni.com/wall-of-fame>.

COUNTY BRIEFS

County Board sets preliminary levy, proposed budget for 2026

The Washington County Board of Commissioners set a preliminary property tax levy at \$150.2 million for 2026. The board also set a levy for

the Regional Rail Authority at \$660,000 and the Land and Water Legacy Program at \$1.2 million, the same as in previous years.

The preliminary levy is an increase of 6.9% over 2025. The county tax rate will increase slightly from 23.9 in 2025 to 24.4 in 2026. Market appreciation and a slight decrease in new construction in 2025 are contributing factors to the increase in the tax rate.

It is anticipated that the owner of a median-valued home that had a median increase in value in the county would see a \$41 increase in the county portion of property taxes for 2026, or a 4.2% increase from 2025. (The median-value home is valued at \$423,700 in Pay 2026, which includes the median increase in value of 1.7% from 2025.)

The board also adopted a proposed budget for 2026, which includes ex-

penditures of 299,943,900 in operating expenses, \$117,457,900 in capital investments and \$16,793,900 in debt service.

The county is planning capital investments in 2026 for the central yard waste site, Park Grove Library, electric vehicle charging stations, road construction and parks improvements. Population growth in the county requires additional services in libraries and other programs that provide direct service to residents. Inflationary pressures for salaries and wages, fuel for vehicles and the increased cost of construction of buildings are also influencing budget requests.

The board will conduct a public hearing on the proposed budget and levy at 6 p.m. Dec. 2. The board is expected to adopt the budget, levy and capital improvement plan Dec. 16.

County receives Minnesota Governor's Workplace Safety Award

Washington County received a silver achievement award in the annual Minnesota Governor's Workplace Safety Awards, which recognize excellence in workplace safety and health.

Washington County received the award for having a consistent, outstanding record with incident rates that are better than the 50th percentile of the industry's state and national average, and having a continuously improving and satisfactory safety program. The Minnesota Safety Council has over 3,800 member organizations.

Since 1934, the annual Minnesota Gover-

nor's Workplace Safety Awards program has honored Minnesota companies and organizations that have exceptional safety performance. Applicants are judged on several years of injury data, as it compares with their industry's state and national statistics, and on their progress in implementing a compre-

hensive safety program. Washington County was one of the 244 employers to be honored through the awards program. In addition, over the past 34 years, Washington County has received the Minnesota Governor's Workplace Safety Award 33 times.



CONTRIBUTED

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized staff from the county's Safety Committee for receiving a silver achievement award in the Minnesota Safety Council's 2024 Minnesota Governor's Workplace Safety Awards.

**COME SEE THE FALL COLORS
RIDE Duluth River Train**

**Weekend Rides Through
October 26, 2025
10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
6930 Fremont Street
Duluth, Minnesota
218-624-7549**

DISCOUNT CODE: PRESS925

L&B
LUNDS & BYERLYS
Scan for this week's specials!

4630 Centerville Rd, White Bear Lake | 651-653-0000

**PINE TREE
APPLE ORCHARD**
Apple Pie... oh my!
Baked Fresh Daily
**Apples, Apple Cider, Apple
Bakery & Caramel Apples
Open Daily**

North of White Bear Lake E.
Hwy 96 on Apple Orchard Rd.
Corn Maze
Sept. 27 through Oct. 26, Sat and Sun 10-3
Pumpkin Patch
Oct. 4th-26th 10-3
651-429-7202
www.pinetreeappleorchard.com

**HUGO
Oktoberfest**
CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW
Saturday Oct. 4th | 10 – 4pm
at the Hugo American Legion

- 70 Vendors
- Beer and Grill Tent

For info call: 715-557-1785
rsgdevelopment.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING

OCTOBER 2, 2025

www.readthecitizen.com

THE CITIZEN **3**

CURRENT EVENTS

BINGO

When: 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 2
Where: White Bear Area Senior Center
Details: Seniors can play Bingo; bring in a "gift" or unused gift card for the prize table.
Contact: 651-653-3121 or whitebearseniorprogram.org

HUGO FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

When: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4
Where: Hugo Fire Station, 5323 140th St. N
Details: Annual open house includes bounce house, k-9 and fire safety demos, fire prevention poster contest, fire engine rides, raffles, popcorn and more. Don't miss the Kids Fun Run at noon. Costumes are welcome.
Contact: 651-762-6362

HARVEST HOWL

When: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4
Where: Wildlife Science Center, 22830 Sunrise Road NE, Stacy
Details: Annual fundraising event features resident animals including wolves, raptors, bears and cougars, educational demos, local vendors, food and Brewstillery. Leashed dogs welcome.
Contact: wildlifesciencecenter.org

RIVERTOWN ART FESTIVAL

When: Saturday, Oct. 4 and Sunday, Oct. 5
Where: Lowell Park, Stillwater
Details: More than 210 artist booths, live music, food, beer & wine tent and interactive activities. Free.
Contact: greaterstillwaterchamber.com

FULL MOON FOREST BATHING

When: 7-9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6
Where: Lake Elmo Park Reserve, 1515 Keats Ave. N., Lake Elmo
Details: Join us on an immersive, meditative, and awe-inspiring Japanese forest bathing experience (Shinrin-Yoku). Our guided walks offer thoughtful invitations, encouraging you to experience the forest in deeply personal and transformative ways. \$45 per person plus \$7 vehicle permit.
Contact: 651-430-8370

CONSUMER ROAD SHOW SCAMS FOR SENIORS

When: 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7
Where: White Bear Area Senior Center

Details: Overview of scams to watch out for and resources for customer assistance and filing complaints. Free.
Contact: 651-653-3121 or whitebearseniorprogram.org

PUNKINMANIA

When: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11
Where: Mahtomedi District Education Center and Veteran's Memorial Park
Details: Outdoor, community event with painted pumpkins for sale, games, crafts, fire trucks, food, refreshments and more. Sponsored by the Wildwood Lions Club and Kramer-Berg American Legion Post 507.

STILLWATER HARVEST FEST

When: Saturday, Oct. 11 and Sunday, Oct. 12
Where: Downtown Stillwater along St. Croix River
Details: Giant pumpkin weigh-off, pumpkin drop, pumpkin regatta, live music, vendor market, kid's activities, food, beer and wine garden.
Contact: harvestfeststillwater.com

ONGOING EVENTS

WHITE BEAR LAKE FARMERS MARKET

When: 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Fridays
Where: Clark Ave., between Second Street and Third Street
Details: A tradition since the 1970s, the farmers' market features more than 50 vendors.
Contact: whitebearlake.org or 651-429-8526

HUGO SENIOR CITIZENS PLAY '500'

When: 12:45 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2 and 16; and the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday of every month
Where: Rice Lake Centre, 6900 137th Street N.
Details: Games begin at 12:45 p.m. Refreshments and coffee served. All senior citizens from the area invited.
Contact: Barb at 651-592-0369 or barbconnolly1958@yahoo.com

CRIBBAGE

When: 12:45 p.m. Oct. 6; the 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: Alice at 651-429-4413

HUGO Oktoberfest CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW

CONTRIBUTED

Hugo Oktoberfest craft & vendor show

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4
Where: American Legion Post 620, 5383 140th St. N, Hugo
Details: Fall colors, great food, good music, ice cold beer or your favorite beverage ... then add some awesome crafters and vendors and what do you have? Hugo Oktoberfest Craft Show. The 8th annual indoor/outdoor event will feature approximately 70 crafters/vendors. Event will include an outdoor grill tent along with a Bloody Mary and beer tent and games.
Contact: 651-255-1432

CALENDAR BRIEF

Kindergarten preview day

Start your child on the path to a smooth transition to kindergarten. Join Centennial Schools for Kindergarten Preview Day from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23 at your neighborhood school. You and your future kindergartener will take a guided tour with the principal, get a sneak peek of the school; play on the playground and get comfortable with future classmates; connect with families. RSVP online at www.isd12.org/enroll-today/kindergarten-registration.

COMMUNITY BRIEF

Twin Cities Salvation Army kicks off 'Coats For Kids' campaign

The Salvation Army in the Twin Cities has launched its annual "Coats For Kids" campaign to collect warm weather gear for Twin Cities children in need. Due to continued higher costs for food, gas, rent and utilities, the cost of winter wear is an additional stressor for families who will be struggling with financial pressures again this winter.

The public can help by donating new or gently used coats for children and youth of all ages—as well as winter accessories like

hats, mittens, gloves, boots and snow pants. Coats are needed in all sizes, including adult sizes for high school-aged youth. The "Coats For Kids" drive runs through Saturday, Oct. 11.

"As the cost of living continues to rise, more families are finding it harder to afford even the basics," said Lt. Colonel Randall Polsley, Salvation Army Northern Division commander. The Northern Division serves Minnesota and North Dakota.

"Too often, parents are forced to choose between paying bills, buying groceries or keeping their children warm. Our annual coat drive helps lift that burden, making sure kids have the protection they need

to face the cold months ahead."

Coats and other winter wear can be dropped off at:

- Salvation Army Division Headquarters, 2445 Prior Ave. N., Roseville
- Maplewood Salvation Army, 2080 Woodlynn Ave., Maplewood
- Blaine Salvation Army at Anoka County Service Center, 1201 89th Ave. NE, Blaine

The Salvation Army's Coats for Kids campaign has helped keep children warm for over 30 years. In that time, supporters have donated nearly 500,000 coats and accessories to aid families in need. Families that need coats this winter or those who want more information should visit GiveCoats.org.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Find the church that fits your needs

THE CHURCH OF St. Genevieve Celebrate Mass with us!
 SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF CENTERVILLE & HUGO
 Saturday at 4:30 pm Parish Community Center
 6995 Centerville Rd, Centerville
 Sunday at 8:30 am St. John's Site
 14383 Forest Blvd N, Hugo
 Sunday at 10:30 am Parish Community Center
 6995 Centerville Rd, Centerville
www.stgens.org 651-429-7937

Service times are subject to change. Contact your local church or check church web sites for service time and online service information. To make changes or to advertise here, call 651-407-1200



Join us on Sunday:
 10:15 am in-person Worship and
 Live-streaming on
 YouTube: FPCWBL

5th and Bloom Ave, White Bear Lake • 651-429-3381 • www.fpcwbl.org



9:00 a.m. Worship,
 10:30 a.m. Education Hour
 for All Ages, Worship and
 Bible Study are also available
 through our YouTube Channel

The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?
 The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

NEW LIFE CHURCH - LUTHERAN
 6000 N. 148th St. East of HWY 61 (next to Hugo Elementary)
 651-429-1975 • www.newlifehugo.org

Donate Your Car



Imagine the Difference You Can Make

FREE TOWING & TAX DEDUCTIBLE

- Every donated vehicle will be properly recycled, reducing waste and harmful emissions.
- Vehicle donations are fully tax-deductible and the proceeds help provide services to help the blind and visually impaired.

When you donate your car, you'll receive:

- ✓ a \$200 restaurant voucher
- ✓ a 2-night, 3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations



Call 1-844-220-9501

Help Prevent Blindness
 Get A Vision Screening Annually



My little heart dog

If you have been reading the Press for quite some time, chances are you have probably read a column or two about my miracle pup Twinkie or seen a photo of her in the Spotted Around Town section.

Twinkie, a one-eyed Pembroke Welsh corgi, will celebrate her 8th birthday this November. When she was just 8 months old, Twinkie was diagnosed with Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA), a congenital heart defect that was causing too much blood to flow into the left side of her heart. At the time we were told if she didn't have surgery, she would likely only live to be 1 or 2 years old before dying from congestive heart failure. The surgery was successful.



Shannon's Shenanigans

Shannon Granholm

Twinkie has been relatively healthy over the years, except for some eye problems. In 2022, she was diagnosed with neurogenic dry eye. Her left eye wasn't producing any tears. We tried multiple drops, but none

of them worked and she had to have her eye removed after developing an ulcer. That surgery saved her life, again.

It's hard for me to wrap my brain around the fact that Twinkie will soon be a "senior" and some may even consider her a senior already. This summer, I started to notice her slowing down a bit while we were out on a walk. I wasn't sure if it was just her being the spoiled little princess she is and wanting to ride in the bottom of our son's stroller, or if something was wrong and causing her to get tired faster.

I decided to make an appointment with the cardiologist who performed her PDA surgery all those years ago to check things out and make sure the device they placed in her heart ago was still doing what it was supposed to and was in the right spot.

Thankfully, I was reassured it was just my anxiety talking. Twinkie's echocardiogram looked as great as it could for a dog of her age. The device is still where it is supposed to be and doing what it is supposed to do. He was very pleased with how everything is looking and doesn't have any concerns for her related to her heart. She really is my little heart dog.

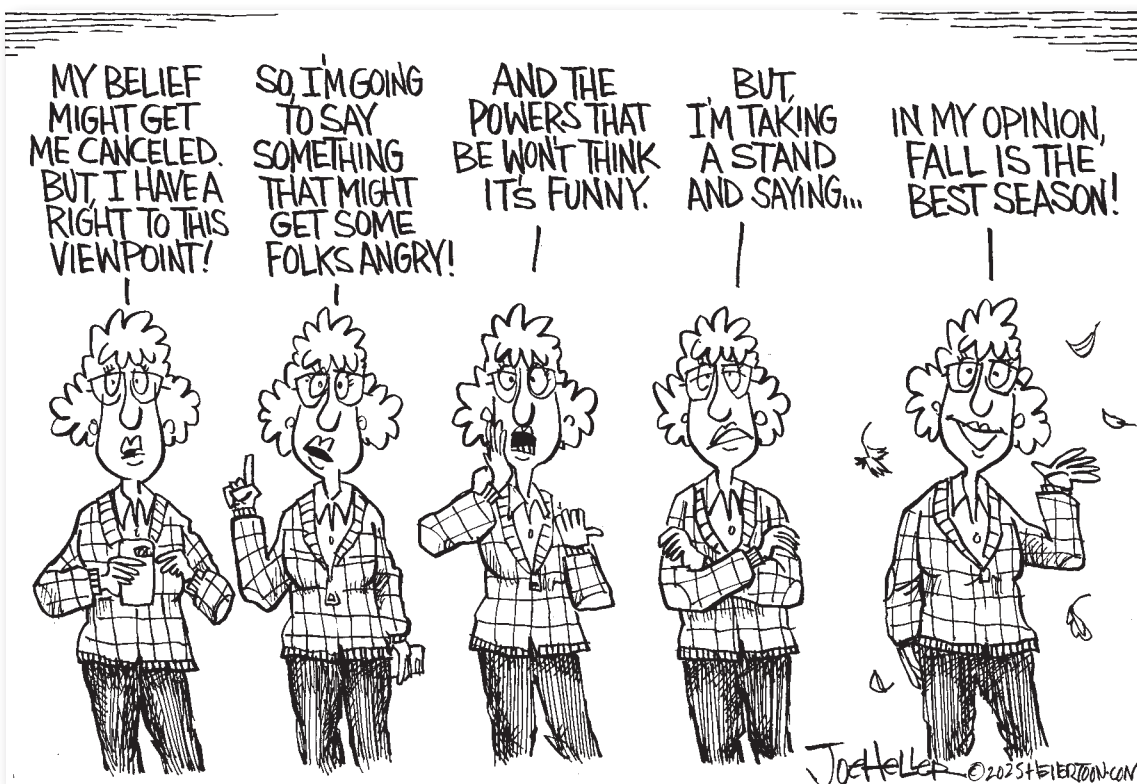
I will forever be grateful to the cardiology team and Bandit's K-9 Care, a nonprofit organization that has followed Twinkie's story since she was a puppy. I now have some peace of mind that my little corgi is well — being a corgi. She does what she wants to do, when she wants to do it.

Shannon Granholm is the Managing Editor at Press Publications.



SHANNON GRANHOLM | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

Twinkie visits the cardiologist for an echocardiogram.



The itch to fly

When I was twelve years old my dad and a pilot friend of his took me on a flight in a Cessna 172.

The pilot encouraged me to move the yoke to see what happens and I found myself in climbs, banks and dives. Feeling the g-forces



Movers & Shakers

Paul Lundh

and watching the ground and sky was absolutely exhilarating. The entire flight took only a few minutes yet it remains one of my most formative experiences.

Fast forward 20 years and it's finally feasible to take flying lessons. I also learned that the vast majority of

people who start flight training never complete. This is sometimes due to cost but mostly because it just scares them.

But most things worth doing are difficult so I thought, let's do this.

At the time there was an outfit called Anoka Flight Training. There I met my instructor Tom and we arranged our first flight a

few days later. The day came and he explained that the students do most of the flying. So, on that first flight, I taxied to the runway (you drive an airplane on the ground with your feet, so that was odd), made the radio calls and took off.

We went up north and did some mild banks and climbs and it was all very tame. When we returned, he landed the plane and my thought was how can this possibly scare anyone? But I didn't know what was coming.

A few flights later Tom said that we were going to start on stalls. Now here it's important to explain a little about what a stall is. Airplanes fly because the pressure on the bottom of the wing is greater than the pressure on the top. This is the case as long as air is flowing over the wing at the correct angle and speed. Disrupt either and the plane stops flying.

Tom explained all this to me, but I didn't quite anticipate the reality. We started out in level flight at full power and he told me to gently pull back on the yoke. This caused the plane to climb, and I remember feeling heavy in the seat. After a few more gentle pulls on the yoke, it happened; the wings stalled and the plane stopped flying and started fall-

ing. One second you feel heavy in the seat and the next you have almost no weight at all. You are falling out of the sky, but you are still inside an airplane. It made the wildest rollercoaster tame by comparison. It also scared my socks off.

Tom recovered the plane easily and informed me that I had just experienced my first stall. He correctly sensed that I had had enough so we called it a day. I told him that I'd call him to schedule our next lesson but subconsciously I really had no plans to call. That triggered a bit of a crisis on the way home. I understood why flying scared people, but I'd had the itch to fly for a long time.

Fortunately, a night's sleep tends to give perspective and I ultimately called Tom back for that next lesson. We did more types of aggressive maneuvers, but they scared me less and less as my knowledge and skills increased. By the time I took the pilot's test, I found them exhilarating. Like that first airplane ride when I was twelve.

Paul Lundh is a longtime resident of Centerville and a periodic columnist for the Citizen Press.

THE CITIZEN | ELECTION LETTER GUIDELINES

- Election season is considered to be when filing first begins until the day of the election.
- Limited to 350 words. Paid letters running longer will be charged \$10 per 30 words after that.
- Letters are free unless endorsing a candidate, party or question on the ballot. Endorsement letters will have a \$50 fee. Please call 651-407-1200 to arrange payment by credit card or mail a check payable to Press Publications to 4779 Bloom Ave, White Bear Lake, MN, 55110. Endorsement letters are labeled, "paid letter."
- Letters for or against a candidate will qualify as paid letters.
- Submissions must include a full name, address and phone number for verification.
- Letter-writers must live, work or have another connection to Press Publications coverage area.
- Letters are meant to express opinions. If letter-writers include facts, they must attribute those facts to a reputable source.
- Due to space limitations, letters that don't address local issues are not guaranteed publication.
- Repeat unpaid letters by the same writer about the same subject matter will not be published. Repeat paid endorsement letters will be published as space permits.
- Four weeks (or issues) must pass between publication of unpaid letters from the same writer. Exceptions may be made for rebuttal letters at the editor's discretion.
- Submissions containing libelous or derogatory statements will not be published.
- Letters by campaign managers or candidates designed to champion the candidate's position on a specific issue will be accepted as paid letters.
- Letters reprinted as part of letter-writing campaigns are paid letters.
- All letters are subject to editing.
- We reserve the right to not publish any letter.
- The deadline to submit a letter is 5 p.m. Wednesday the week prior to publication.
- The last batch of letters to be printed before the Nov. 4 election will be printed in the Oct. 8 issue and must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15.
- To submit a letter, email news@presspubs.com or mail/deliver it to Press Publications.

THE CITIZEN

P.O. Box 393
Hugo, MN 55038
www.ReadTheCitizen.com

Distributed and mailed bi-weekly in:

Hugo • Centerville • Lino Lakes



Carter C. Johnson - Publisher
cjohnson@presspubs.com
Gene Johnson - Publisher Emeritus
ppinfo@presspubs.com
Patty Steele - General Manager
marketing@presspubs.com
Shannon Granholm - Managing Editor
citizennews@presspubs.com

Mary Peterson - Production Manager
artmanager@presspubs.com
Michael McNamara - Production Designer
art@presspubs.com
Paul Dols - Photo Journalist
photos@presspubs.com

Circulation
circ@presspubs.com
Obituaries
obits@presspubs.com
Classifieds
classified@presspubs.com
Call a Specialist
callaspecialist@presspubs.com

COPYRIGHT © 2025 BY PRESS PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Material may not be reproduced in whole or part in any form whatsoever.

News.....	651-407-1235
Advertising.....	651-407-1200
Circulation.....	651-407-1234
Classified/Obits.....	651-407-1250
Production.....	651-407-1239
FAX.....	651-429-1242

Published bi-weekly Tuesdays by Press Publications, Inc.
4779 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Mailed Subscription Rate:
\$30.00 per year.

Subscribe online at presspubs.com

DISCLAIMER: Paid advertisements appear in Press Publications' publications, including print and other digital formats. Press Publications does not endorse or evaluate the advertised product, service, or company, nor any of the claims made by the advertisement. Advertising does not influence editorial decisions or content. Press Publications reserves the right to refuse, reject, or cancel any ad for any reason at any time without liability.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Wildlife Forever and 'Into the Outdoors' nominated for EMMY Award

In partnership with "Into the Outdoors," a youth education television program of Discover Media-works, the show "Real-life Case Files!" has been nominated for best short and long form content in the Children/Youth/Teen Award division. The 67th Chicago/ Midwest Emmy Awards will take place on Saturday, Nov. 1.

"Through an innovative partnership with Into the Outdoors, the Getting Families Fishing and Boating Initiative, and the U.S. Coast Guard, "Case Files" highlights critical boating safety information and the important work of the U.S. Coast Guard. It also highlights the importance of conservation and organizations such as the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium for efforts to conserve marine wildlife," said Pat Conzemius, president and CEO of Wildlife Forever.

CONSTRUCTION BRIEF

Stop sign added to intersection as part of construction project

The intersection at Birch Street and 20th Avenue in Lino Lakes is now an all-way stop in response to the County Road J and I-35E interchange project. Before, there was only one stop sign at Birch Street, which made it difficult for those turning left onto northbound 20th Avenue because of increased traffic.

HUGO BITS AND PIECES

• Kyle Anderson has resigned from the Hugo Fire Department. Anderson was hired in December 2023. In his resignation letter, Anderson noted he would like to spend more time with family and friends.

• The Hugo Fire Department will replace its self-contained breathing apparatus filling station. The current filling station has been used for over 25 years and needs to be replaced due to age and breakdowns, according to Fire Chief Jim Compton Jr. The department received three quotes and decided to go with MacQueen for \$62,762.

• The City Council has a longstanding history of following the flat tax rate policy when setting the city's property tax levy. For 2026, the city plans to continue this approach, which provides for no increase in the urban tax rate. According to Finance Director Anna Wobse, the total proposed 2026 property tax levy of \$13,567,000 will keep the urban tax rate at 39.107.

• Hugo American Legion Post 620 will host its annual Oktoberfest celebration Saturday, Oct. 4. (See calendar listing for more information.)

• The city continues to pay its bills for the 2025 Beaver Ponds street improvement project. Most recently, the council authorized pay request No. 2 for \$789,861 to Northwest Asphalt Inc. City Engineer Mark Erichson said the project is substantially complete and only has minor punch list items remaining.

• The Parks Commission is recommending the council approve the purchase of 16 new park monument signs for \$20,980. One of the 2025 goals of the Parks Commission was to install new park signs according to the park sign replacement plan. The majority of active and passive parks in Hugo either do not have a sign at their entrance or their sign is in disrepair. New signs were installed this summer at Hugo Public Works, Irish Avenue Park and Diamond Point Park. The council

ultimately approved the purchase.

• The park in the Oneka Prairie Development has officially been named Prairie Park per the recommendation of the Parks Commission. In June 2023, the council approved the final plat and development agreement for Southwind Holdings LLC on the property located at 16345 Everton Ave. N. for Oneka Prairie. The developer dedicated 0.62 acres of parkland and paid fees to satisfy the park dedication requirement. Prior to dedication, the developer installed a small playground and landscaped the park.

The city has since taken over maintenance, and the park is now available for public use. At its meeting last in August, the Parks Commission discussed having a name affiliated with the development and the surrounding landscape. Members did not wish to include "Oneka" in the park name due to the frequency in which it is used and the existing Oneka Lake Park.

• A reminder that the 19th annual city bus tour is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 4. Those who want to attend should RSVP by contacting Associate Planner Max Gort at mgort@ci.hugo.mn.us or 651-762-6311. That same day, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Hugo Fire Department will host its open house at the fire station. (See calendar listing for more information.)

The next City Council meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6, at City Hall.

Shannon Granholm

LeafFilter advertisement: Stop cleaning-out your gutters this season. Our patented system keeps out all common debris. Expires 11/30/2025. 15% OFF + 10% Discount For Seniors + Military. Get a FREE full gutter inspection and estimate: 1-877-627-0238. Promo: 285.

Boost Infinite advertisement: Get Boost Infinite 1-855-849-6621. INFINITELY BETTER WIRELESS! Plans starting at \$25/mo. Unlimited Talk, Text and Data. America's Smartest Network. Smart Switching Between 3 Wireless Networks. Get the latest iPhone every year with unlimited wireless for \$60/mo. iPhone 15 included with no trade-in needed to get started. Unlimited Talk, Text and Data. Free upgrade to the latest iPhone EVERY YEAR.

HUGO TREE CARE advertisement: Specializing in Difficult Removal. 651-429-4705. www.hugotree.com. Certified Arborist.



SUBSCRIBE



Scan QR code or go to tinyurl.com/subscribetopress

You make a difference in the community just by subscribing to The Citizen. You are supporting local:

- athletes, artists, businesses, carriers, journalists, neighbors, designers, authors, community events

HUGO POLICE REPORTS

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

• The week of July 28-Aug. 9 was a good news/bad news week for the citizens of Hugo regarding incidents involving the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies were not spending their time having to deal with major crimes. However, that left them with lots of time to patrol the streets.

Deputies conducted four traffic stops for violations other than expired registration during the week. A motorist in the 5000 block of 150th Street N. at 5:03 p.m. July 28 received a written warning for using the shoulder to pass another vehicle. A second motorist was cited for using a wireless communication device while driving on Highway 61 at 152nd Street N. at 6:49 p.m. July 30. A third motorist was cited for careless driving at 12:31 a.m. Aug. 1 in the 4000 block of Europa Trail N.

• An e-bike was reported stolen at 7:50 a.m. July 31 from the 6000 block of 150th Street N.

• **Motorists, possibly thinking that the city of Hugo was a sanctuary city for not paying the annual vehicle registration, paid the price during the week of July 30-Aug. 9, as deputies cited 13 motorists throughout the city for the tardy tabs, the**

most egregious expiration of which was May 2024.

Registered owners found tickets under their windshield wipers, in their hand or in the mail. For some drivers, the citation included other offenses, such as driving after revocation, equipment violations and failure to provide proof of insurance. The earliest ticket was issued at 2:28 a.m. Aug. 4. The impact was felt far and wide, as a motorist from Florida was also in on the fun.

• A resident in the 14000 block of Fitzgerald Avenue N. at 2:46 p.m. Aug. 4 reported a bank account opened using his name. No monetary loss had occurred at the time of the report. A resident in the 4000 block of Empress Way N. at 4:17 p.m. Aug. 6 reported a scam.

• A motorist on the phone was cited at 8:25 p.m. Aug. 6 in the 5000 block of Frenchman Road for failure to signal a turn, as well as using a wireless communication device while driving.

• Deputies on patrol at 10:24 p.m. Aug. 6 in the 9000 block of 170th Street N. observed "a vehicle taking an egregious turn crossing the fog line" and conducted a traffic stop after the vehicle picked up speed. Radar confirmed the speed at 64 mph in a 55 mph zone. The driver was unable to provide proof of insurance and was cited for several offenses.

• A motorist in the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N. was cited at 11:17 p.m. Aug. 6 for failure to stop at a traffic control signal. Deputies were unable to pull the vehicle over and mailed a citation to the registered owner.

• A Minnesota motorist was cited at 7:58 a.m. Aug. 7 for failure to stop at a traffic control device at southbound Forest Blvd. N. at 147th Street N., after northbound deputies with the green light observed

the vehicle turn right on red without stopping and cutting off vehicles that had the green arrow.

• Deputies took a call at 4:08 p.m. Aug. 7 from a Wisconsin resident wondering about activities at Fountain Avenue N. that involved a Wisconsin custody court ruling and wondering whether the case could now be adjudicated in Minnesota. Deputies advised the caller that each state is its own jurisdiction, and that people could not go state shopping to look for a more favorable decision. Furthermore, deputies themselves were powerless to overturn court decisions from another state.

• A motorist with an unmounted front plate was pulled over at 3:42 p.m. Aug. 8 on Forest Blvd. N. and 165th Street N. During the stop, deputies noticed a marijuana grinder in plain view and conducted a vehicle search for pot. Deputies issued a written warning for the license plate and grinder in the vehicle.

• A male was arrested at 5:17 p.m. Aug. 8 in a bank parking lot in the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N., after a bank manager approached deputies to say the male had just tried to cash a fraudulent check. When deputies found the male, he admitted to trying to cash the fraudulent check.

• A visiting son in the 7000 block of 125th Street N. at 6:43 p.m. Aug. 8 reported his parents' neighbors for harassing him when he comes to visit. The latest incident involved the neighbors driving ahead of the complainant dumping juice onto their window onto the street in front of him. The complainant wanted the ongoing issues documented.

• A motorist was arrested on a warrant at 9:42 a.m. Aug. 9 on Elmcrest Avenue and 170th Street N. following a traffic stop.

• A driver who caused an accident at the intersection of 140th Street N. and Forest Blvd. N. at 10:02 p.m. Aug. 9 was cited for failure to yield the right of way.

• Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested a motorist for DWI at midnight Aug. 10 on Frenchman Road and Everton Avenue N., following a traffic stop on a vehicle that was unable to maintain its lane.

• The owner of a wallet lost in Duluth over the weekend at 5:44 p.m. Aug. 10 reported it tracking to the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N. Deputies located the wallet at the Victor Hugo address and spoke to the homeowner, who said she found the wallet and was trying to get in contact with the owner.

• In the Case of the Long-Leashed Lab, a resident in the 5000 block of 145th Street N. at 2:06 p.m. Aug. 11 reported that while she was biking in the neighborhood, a neighbor's dog charged at her in an aggressive manner, causing her to fall off her bike. The complainant said the dog was at the end of a very long cable. When deputies spoke to the dog's owner, she said she was aware of the incident and has since shortened the cable.

• License plates were reported stolen from the 12000 block of Farnham Avenue N. at 7:53 p.m. Aug. 11.

• A business financial card was reported stolen at 11:43 a.m. Aug. 12 from the 4000 block of Empress Way and used in White Bear Township.

• Deputies on barrier patrol for vehicles cutting through the construction barriers along Highway 61 at 9:53 p.m. Aug. 12 observed a vehicle drive straight through the barricaded area without hesitation. The driver told deputies he was told he could drive through with his vehicle, even though his was not an emergency vehicle.

Because the driver failed to see the multiple orange and white signs indicating that travel between 140th Street N.

and Frenchman Road was not allowed, he was cited.

• In the Case of the Meandering Milker, deputies on patrol on Frenchman Road and Oneka Parkway at 8:54 p.m. Aug. 13 observed a cow loose from a nearby pasture and in the middle of the road. Deputies paid a visit to alert the homeowners, and all was well.

• A motorist on 147th Street N. and Forest Blvd. N. was cited at 10:09 p.m. Aug. 13 for driving after revocation and for not carrying proof of insurance, after deputies conducted a traffic stop for a missing headlight.

• A motorist along Keystone Avenue N. at Lynch Road N. was arrested at midnight Aug. 15 for gross misdemeanor no proof of insurance after being pulled over for poor driving conduct. During the traffic stop, deputies discovered the driver had two prior convictions for failure to provide proof of insurance during the past 10 years.

• Deputies arrested a motorist on a warrant at 2:57 p.m. Aug. 15 in the 5000 block of 149th Street N.

• Residents in the 15000 block of Falk Drive N. at 11:40 a.m. Aug. 16 reported a male unknown to them for knocking on their door and asking for tax information. While at the door, the stranger found whatever information he was looking for on the internet. It is unclear whether the visitor was looking for the complainants' personal information or was seeking general advice and thought the complainant to be some sort of financial adviser on demand.

• Deputies on stationary patrol on Oneka Parkway N. and Falcon Circle N. at 5:55 p.m. Aug. 16 cited a motorist for blowing through a stop sign at a high rate of speed. After being pulled over, the driver said he didn't see the stop sign.

• A frantic mother in the 6000 block of 157th Street N. at 6:15 p.m. Aug. 16 reported that her daughter, 2, had somehow locked everyone out of the house. Luckily, mom had access to a phone and deputies were summoned, arriving at the same time as a helpful neighbor. Deputies advised the mom that the quickest, cheapest way to get in would be to simply kick the door down, using deputies' strong legs and boots, which were all free of charge. The helpful neighbor convinced mom to cut open the sheetrock, strip the door trim and gut some of the caulk out of the lock mechanism. After the locks did not retract into the mechanism, deputies took aim and kicked the door open. Mother and child were reunited, but the door repair bill was made a bit more extensive than originally planned.

• A motorist was arrested on multiple warrants at 9:44 p.m. Aug. 16 after deputies conducting stationary patrol near the road construction area between 140th Street and Frenchman Road observed the subject drive through the barricaded roadway and pulled him over.

During the traffic stop the driver appeared nervous and gave deputies false information. As soon as deputies realized the information was false, they detained the driver until they learned his real name. The reason for the nervousness and false information became clear, because the driver was canceled and had warrants out on him. Giving false information and his poor driving conduct also contributed to his arrest.

Loretta Harding

reported the the dogs, who did not appear to be in distress. The owners were informed of the complaint under ir

Coming Soon...

The Press is launching an email newsletter

STAY TOP-OF-MIND WITH YOUR COMMUNITY



attempting to engage in sexual activity with a minor in exchange for payment.

charged with solicitation of a child to engage in sexual conduct — a felony.

8/27/25

Arts and CULTURE 2025

A CONVERSATION WITH: BRAYLON LANE

BY LOGAN GION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Children's Performing Arts' newest staff member is Education and Programming Coordinator Braylon Lane, who, this past January, took White Bear Lake Area High School to state for the Competitive One Act Play for the first time in 13 years. While Lane is at CPA full-time, he is also continuing as advisor to the high school's newly established Theatre Guild along with Wendy Suoja and Anna Haselmann.

"The Theatre Guild is basically a club name for the program," Lane explained. "Everybody else in our section operates as a theater club. (White Bear) has been very separate up until this point." Now, high schoolers who participate in multiple productions can letter in theater and will have their accomplishments and participation recorded like any other activity or sport.

Lane believes that his roles at the high school and at CPA will synergize student



LAURA LONG | CONTRIBUTED

Braylon Lane opportunities. High school students, for instance, can take curiosity garnered from the school's fall musical and learn introductory directing and stage management during a class offered at CPA this October. In turn, those same students can apply that knowledge with Odell Garcia Anderson during her

Assistant Directing Program for grades 9-12 in tandem with the middle school spring musical. In years to come, Lane hopes that high school level classes offered at CPA could earn college credit.

Of course, Lane also has plenty in store at CPA for elementary and middle schoolers. Grades 4-7 have an opportunity this October to take Beginner Acting Techniques, a class geared towards children interested in auditioning for TV or stage roles. Teaching Specialist Laura Paulson is also running Saturday Morning Drop-In classes for grades K-2. "Lauren will have a storybook picked out, and then it's page to stage," Lane described, elaborating that the class becomes exploratory for the children. "How can we, as kids, take this storybook create something physically on stage?"

Even with all of these classes, programs and obligations, Lane reported feeling calm and comfortable. "I'm very happy where I'm at. I'm very happy that I'm here," Lane said.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR FALL THEATER CLASSES

All classes take place at Hanifl Performing Arts Center, 4941 Long Ave., White Bear Lake. To register, visit childrensperformingartsmn.org/classes-workshops

BEGINNER ACTING TECHNIQUES

Grades: 4-7

Dates: 5-6:30 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays, Oct. 1-31

INTRODUCTION TO DIRECTING AND STAGE MANAGEMENT

Grades: 8-12

Dates: 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Oct. 2-30

PIZZA PERFORMANCE POP UPS

Grades: 6-12

Dates: 6-9 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 11 and Nov. 22

SATURDAY MORNING DROP-IN

Grades: K-2

Dates: 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays Oct. 18, Nov. 1 and Dec. 13

OCTOBER EVENTS

LAURA E. MIGLIORINO: RETROSPECTIVE AND REFLECTION

Location: Century College West Campus, 3401 Century Ave. N.

Dates: Exhibit open now-Dec. 11; Artist Talk 12-1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14

Details: Laura Migliorino has been an exhibiting artist for over 30 years, mainly in photography and collage. Her works are in the collections of the Walker Art Center and The Warehouse in Atlanta. Her work has been featured in national newspapers and exhibited in New York City, London and Rome. View her storied career in the Niche Gallery at Century College.

IGNACIO 'NACHITO' HERRERA IN CONCERT

Location: McNeely Music Center, 4910 Hwy 61 N.

Date: 7:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27

Details: The McNeely Music Center will have its first public event. Grammy-and-Emmy-winning, world-renowned piano virtuoso and White Bear Lake resident of 20 years Ignacio "Nachito" Herrera will perform Cuban and Latin Jazz melodies live in concert. Register online at mmcwbl.org/events

GANGSTER BUS TOUR

Location: White Bear Lake Armory, 2228 Fourth St.

Dates: 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 25

Details: Everyone's favorite tour is back. Come along for an adventurous outing to explore the hideouts and haunts of the 1930s-era gangsters who laid low in the cottages around White Bear and Bald Eagle Lakes. Sights include a Mahtomedi speakeasy and the location of a notorious dance.

'THE CON'

Location: Chautauqua Fine Arts Center, 8000 75th St. N., Mahtomedi

Dates: 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26

Details: Mahtomedi Middle School performs this hilarious heist whodunit, in which a rare first-issue comic is up for grabs. Through a series of vignettes set at a comic convention, audience members will spy the underlying main scheme as it progresses in the background. This clever Comic-Con caper will have you laughing and guessing throughout.

LAKESHORE PLAYERS HAS AUDIENCES SEEING 'RED'

BY LOGAN GION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Art usually requires the artist to be vulnerable—then subjects that vulnerability to public criticism, which determines its value. Such is the premise of "Red," a play being staged in Lakeshore Players' black box theater now through Oct. 12.

Unlike a traditional stage, a black box theater has black floors and curtained walls as well as flexible seating, which gives audience members an stripped-down, intimate viewing experience. In the case of "Red," the entire 90-minute play takes place in artist Mark Rothko's studio as he takes on a new assistant to help him paint murals for a famous restaurant. Director Jess Yates believes the black box staging will make the audience feel as close to the main character's art as the artist himself does.

"We got very lucky in that Justin Hooper, who is playing Rothko, is a professional painter," revealed Yates. "They don't only paint on stage, they build canvases from scratch... You get to watch the process from step one."

The scenes that make up "Red" then happen further and deeper into Rothko's artistic process, with his new assistant getting under his skin along the way. "You're getting right as these people meet each other, then months later, then a year later," lists Yates. "It's really cool to see how we develop their

relationship over time."

Though the characters' relationship becomes fraught, Yates believes her primary responsibility as director is to create a safe and creative playground for her cast. "I truly believe I will never understand an individual character better than the actor playing them," Yates stated. "The structure I add—staging, timing, design choices—is all built to support that story without putting my commentary into these characters."

This approach has allowed Yates to chart a directorial career at Lakeshore Players free of genre constrictions. In 2024, Yates directed the political biography "What the Constitution Means to Me." Earlier this year, she helmed The Office-esque comedy "The Book Club Play." "Red" marks another swerve, veering into psychological drama. Instead of a specific genre, Yates finds herself attracted to material with clashing viewpoints. "No matter what I'm doing, I like to look for stories where you're getting different perspectives, rubbing up against each other in surprising ways," Yates explained.

With "Red" specifically, Yates is grateful to work with a script that is a love letter to the artistic process. "I think this has been such a gift. How often do a room full of artists get to come together and work on the art they love, that honors the love of art?"

"Red" runs from Sept. 26-Oct. 12 at the Hanifl Performing Arts Center Black Box Theater. For more information, visit lakeshoreplayers.org.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY UNEARTHS GRAVE MATTERS WITH 'STORIES FROM THE STONES'

BY LOGAN GION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This time of year, residents usually ask Executive Director Sara Hanson if White Bear Lake Area Historical Society is doing anything spooky. While Hanson would not describe the society's upcoming library program "Stories from the Stones" as frightening, it uses Halloween as an opportunity to explore local cemeteries and the notable figures who reside in them.

"(The program is) a sampler, if you will," Hanson described. "There are four main cemeteries around White Bear—St. Mary's, the Catholic one; St. John's,

the Episcopal one; Union, the public one; and Lakeview, which is in Mahtomedi."

"Stories from the Stones" promises to cover tales both new and old. "Over at Lakeview Cemetery, we tell the story of Tom and Winnie Stick, who were the proprietors of the Picadilly restaurant in Mahtomedi for decades," Hanson shared. "They passed away in this century." Stretching back, the program will also cover the earliest burials in town, including Civil War veterans. Hanson will also discuss the Native American burial mounds discovered in the late 1800s, relocated to Union in 1889, and properly marked a century later.

Markings in general will be a running theme throughout the program. "In addition to the people, I like to talk

about cemetery symbolism, the art on the stones and the customs," Hanson added. "You've probably seen lambs for children, but there are other things. Sometimes they'll have logs on there, symbolic of the tree of life cut short... Cemeteries have a culture all of their own."

Hanson's aim, then, is not to stoke fear, but appreciation with "Stories from the Stones." "There's history all around us," she said. "You just might not know you're looking at it."

"Stories from the Stones" will be from 6-7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27, at the White Bear Lake Library, 2150 Second St. The event is free to attend, put on with support from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



BELLE ÂME Vineyard
 KITCHEN • BAR • WEDDINGS • EVENTS
 Plan your next visit to the vineyard to enjoy our full-service bar, gourmet food options, and special events including family nights and games!
 W10829 875th Ave - River Falls, WI
 www.belleamevineyard.com

DANCING DRAGONFLY WINERY
 Hand Crafted - Locally Grown
 Award Winning Wine
 www.DDWinery.com

AWARD WINNING BEER BREWED RIGHT HERE!
BIG WOOD BREWERY
 NEW LOCATION! Vadnais Heights
 OPEN WED-SUN

RUSTIC ROOTS WINERY
 Take Comfort. Drink Well.
 We invite you to try our award winning wines along with our wine slushies, hard cider, craft beer and our scratch-made food menu.
 rusticroots.wine
 651.433.3311 • 20168 St. Croix Trail N
 Join us for live music every Sunday afternoon from 3 - 6pm

Vineyards & Breweries

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	Vineyard/Brewery
Saturdays	Live Music (June-August)	1p-4p	Saint Croix Vineyards
Sundays	Acoustic Sundays	1p - 4p	Dancing Dragonfly Winery
Sundays	Ongoing - Game Day, BYO Or use our selection	1p - 4p	Dancing Dragonfly Winery
Sundays	YOGA in the VINES	10a-11A	Saint Croix Vineyards
Sundays	Live Music	3p - 6p	Rustic Roots Winery
Tuesdays	Yoga Class	6p-7p	Rustic Roots Winery
Tuesdays	Rotating Trivia & Bingo	6:30	Rustic Roots Winery
Wednesdays	Keychain Kash	All Day	Big Wood Brewery
Oct 2	Soccer Shots	5p-7p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 2	Trivia Night	6:30-8p	Dragonfly Winery
Oct 4	Beauty & Brews Mobile Medspa	2p - 5p	Big Wood Brewery
Oct 4	Renfaire Day	White Bear Meadery	
Oct 5	Music: Michael August	2p-5p	7 Vines Vineyard
Oct 6	Fall Styled Shoot	9a -5p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 7	Music: Jennifer Grimm & Joe Cruz	4:30-7p	7 Vines Vineyard
Oct 9	Soccer Shots	5p-7p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 9	Keys and Corks - Dueling Pianos	5:30-9p	Rustic Roots Winery
Oct 9	Music: Maddie Forsythe	6p-8p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 10	Soccer Shots	5p-7p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 11	Riverdale's Travel Wedding Even	10:30a-4p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 11	Morbid Makers market	12-5p	White Bear Meadery
Oct 12	Paint and Sip Wine Glass	11a-1p	Saint Croix Vineyards
Oct 12	MN Bride Open House	12p-4p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 12	Music: PK Mayo & Band	2p-5p	7 Vines Vineyard
Oct 15	Music: Josh Quinn & Rose Duffey	5p-8p	7 Vines Vineyard
Oct 16	Monthly Farmers Market	4-7p	Rustic Roots Winery
Oct 16	Hat Lady Event-Stephanie Murphy	5:30-7:30	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 16	Trivia Nigh	6:30-8p	Dancing Dragonfly Winery
Oct 16	Soccer Shots	5p-7p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 17	Soccer Shots	5p-7p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 17	Halloween Movie Marathon	5p-9p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 17	Plant & Sip	6-8:30p	Dancing Dragonfly Winery
Oct 19	Fall Market	11a-3p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 19	Music: Steve Poynter	2p-5p	7 Vines Vineyard
Oct 22	Music: Tim Cheesebrow	5p-8p	7 Vines Vineyard
Oct 23	Soccer Shots	5p-7p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 23	Music: Ryan Sullivan	5p-8p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 24	Puzzle Night	6p-8p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 24	Music: Cole Thomas	5p-8p	7 Vines Vineyard
Oct 25	Wine-O-Ween	12p	Saint Croix Vineyards
Oct 26	Music: Gary LaRue	2p-5p	7 Vines Vineyard
Oct 26	Wine and Canvas Painting	11a	Saint Croix Vineyards
Oct 26	Fall Market	11a-3p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 28	Music: Billy McLaughlin	5p-8p	7 Vines Vineyard
Oct 29	Music: Becky Rae	5p-8p	7 Vines Vineyard
Oct 29	Monthly Book Club Meeting	5:30-6:30p	Rustic Roots Winery
Oct 30	Music: Mark Stary	5p-8p	7 Vines Vineyard
Oct 30	Murder at the Vineyard-Show	6p-9p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Oct 31	Halloween Contest	4p-8p	Belle Ame Vineyard
Nov 11	Holiday Market	2p- 6p	Big Wood Brewery

WHITE BEAR MEADERY
 DRINK LIKE A VIKING.
 DRINK MEAD!
 •Gluten Free •Locally Sourced •Private Event Space
 See our website for tasting room hours
 MINNESOTA'S FIRST MEAD HALL
 1320 COUNTY RD. D. CIRCLE, MAPLEWOOD
 WHITEBEARMEADERY.COM | 651-352-9552
 FIND US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

RIVER SIREN BREWING CO.
 FIND WHAT YOU SEEK.
 • GREAT ST. CROIX RIVER VIEWS
 • WEEKLY EVENTS AND LIVE MUSIC
 Bingo, The Initials Game, Trivia Mafia
 • CRAFT BEER AND HARD SELTZERS
 • N/A OPTIONS
 • FAMILY FRIENDLY!
 • PIZZA KIOSK WED-SUN 4-8 PM
 225 MAIN ST N STILLWATER, MN 55082
 RIVERSIRENBREWING
 WWW.RIVERSIRENBREWING.COM

SAINT CROIX VINEYARDS
 6428 Manning Ave., Stillwater
 Open 7 Days a Week 10-6
 Since 1992 • 651-430-3310
 scvwines.com

7 VINES VINEYARD
 "A premier destination for all good things"
 101 hwy 96 East
 Dellwood 7vinesvineyard.com
 651-478-6300
 info@7vinesvineyard.com



*Note: Events are subject to change or cancellation
 Please call or visit the websites or Facebook pages for the most up-to-date information.

White Bear Schools enrollment up for K-8, extended day; down for 9-12

BY LOGAN GION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Opening week enrollment numbers for ISD 624 revealed a 22-student increase for grades K-5, a 22-student increase for grades 6-8 and a 90-student decrease for grades 9-12. Enrollment in the district's extended day programs increased by 130 students and cut its waitlist by 81%.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Tim Wald explained that fluctuations in birth rates account for the secondary school results. "People are having less children," Wald said, "and that's a statewide trend ... We knew we were graduating a much larger senior class than we were transferring and moving up." Wald holds that the same principle is true for grades 6-8; the incoming sixth grade class is much larger than last year's eighth-grade class.

Wald credited increased K-5 enrollment to multiple factors. First, increasing population on the north end of the district boosted nearby schools. Oneka Elementary, for example, increased by nearly 24 students. Second, the Spanish dual immersion program stabilized Matoska's numbers

after a small kindergarten class last year and increased Otter Lake's numbers by 10. Third, more families are returning to White Bear's schools after the pandemic. "The numbers aren't finalized yet, but we think we'll see a bit of a downtick in homeschool numbers," Wald stated. "Some of those families are sending their kids back to school."

More families are also keeping their kids after school. Director of Community Services Tim Mauer reported that White Bear's extended day and community education and recreation programs increased from 750 in fall 2023 to 1,010 in fall 2025. Simultaneously, the waitlist for the programs shrank from 390 to 33 in the same time period. Mauer stated that he appreciated the work the department has done to build partnerships across buildings and to fill staffing needs.

Board Member Dan Skaar said, "That's a reduction in the waitlist of 90%. That's impressive ... Investments that we made in the facilities translated into real benefits."

Logan Gion is a contributing writer for Press Publications. He can be reached at savoureditor@press-pubs.com or 651-407-1227.

School	Enrollment Sept 2025	Enrollment Sept 2024	Difference +/-
Central	950	934	16
Mariner	958	952	6
6-8 Total	1,908	1,886	22
High School	2,587	2,642	-55
ALC	105	137	-32
TEC	49	52	-3
9-12 Total	2,741	2,831	-90
6-12 Total	4,649	4,717	-68

K-5 Total	3,694	3,672	22
6-12 Total	4,649	4,717	-68
K-12 Total	8,343	8,389	-46

*Reflects enrollment at 3 p.m. on the first Friday of the school year.

CONTRIBUTED

The above chart compares White Bear Lake Area Schools' enrollment for this September to last September.

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEF

Hunters come upon house fire in Hugo

The Hugo Fire Department responded to a report of a vacant home on fire in the 12300 block of Goodview Ave. N. in Hugo at approximately 5:41 p.m. Sept. 21. Upon their arrival, fire could be seen coming from the windows and doors of the first floor.

According to Fire Chief Jim Compton Jr., hunters

on the property found the vacant house on fire and called 9-1-1.

When fire crews arrived, they set up a defensive fire attack to fight the fire from the outside due to a compromised floor and safety concerns.

Automatic Aid was received from Stillwater, Mahtomedi, White Bear Lake, Lino Lakes and Scandia Fire Departments to assist with shuttling water to the scene, as there were no fire hydrants in the area.

An ambulance from M Health Fairview was on scene for firefighter safety and the Washington County Sheriff Office also assisted with information gathering. Crews were on scene for a few hours.

There were no reported injuries, and the home sustained substantial damage. The fire is under investigation by the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division's investigations team.

CHURCH BRIEF



CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers clean up Frenchman Road

A few volunteers from New Life Church – Lutheran recently picked up the trash along Frenchman Road to help take care of the community. The church sponsors Frenchman Road as a part of Minnesota's Adopt-A-Highway program.

IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE

Experience Better Banking With Royal Credit Union

- ✓ Get more checking perks
- ✓ Upgrade your vehicle
- ✓ Buy or build your dream home
- ✓ Plan for what's next



Better banking is one change away.



ROYAL CREDIT UNION

Make the switch at rcu.org/BankBetter

Insured by NCUA. Loans subject to credit approval. Equal Housing Opportunity.





BRUCE STRAND | CONTRIBUTED

The Bears celebrate after pulling out game three 26-24 against Woodbury.

Bears volleyball 8-4, beat Royals

White Bear Lake fended off Woodbury 25-8, 23-25, 26-24, 25-18 at home Monday, improving to 8-4 overall and 2-2 in the conference. Woodbury (6-7) made big rallies to win set two and almost win set three. In the fourth, the Bears pushed ahead 14-9 when Maddy Pearson served six straight points and held the lead this time. Pearson had three aces and eight digs, Martina Callegari 17 kills and Pearl Niemioja 11, Kailey Gieske 17 digs, Leila Otto 25 assists and Abby Meyer 17, and Maya Link four blocks and Addison Lee three. Woodbury got 15 kills from Kendall Worwa.

Bruce Strand

Zephyrs clip Jefferson 20-0 in debut of their new stadium

BY BRUCE STRAND
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Bloomington Jefferson was opening a brand-new football stadium Friday evening while also celebrating homecoming, with over 3,000 spectators on hand. The visiting Mahtomedi Zephyrs (5-0) made it a less festive occasion by shutting down the Jaguars 20-0.

Jefferson (1-4) suffered 14 penalties. Fifteen-yard penalties helped the Zephyrs march 85 yards for a one-yard touchdown by Gavin Kruse and 98 yards for a one-yard TD by Jacob Reubish.

The last TD, by Reubish from 13 yards, came after the Zephyrs smothered a fake punt by the Jaguars and had a short field. The Zephyrs failed on two conversion kicks

but got a two-pointer on a pass to Gavin Bifulk. Reubish carried 19 times for 108 yards and Kruse 11 times for 55 yards. Mark Graff passed 2-for-6 for 31 yards.

Jefferson's Joseph Moore completed nine of 15 for 103 yards and got them inside the red zone twice. The Zephyrs held the Jags to nine net yards on the ground.

The Zephyrs got a forfeit from Bloomington Kennedy on Monday evening. That game had been postponed from Friday, Sept. 19, when Mahtomedi school officials were informed that two gunmen might be in the area after criminal activity in Grant. Kennedy subsequently informed Mahtomedi that they would forfeit the game.



BRUCE STRAND | CONTRIBUTED

Zephyr linebacker Will Seevers wrapped up Jefferson quarterback Joseph Moore for a sack.

Cougars blank Rogers 36-0, lose to Andover

BY BRUCE STRAND
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Centennial football absorbed its first loss, against Andover 22-17, on Sept. 19, then rumbled to a 36-0 win over the Rogers Royals at Rogers last Friday evening. The Cougars are 4-1 and ranked No. 9 in the state for all classes by the Star-Tribune.

Andover 22, Cougars 16

The Cougars had a 10-7 halftime lead with a one-yard touchdown by Isaiah Belinske-Strauss and a 29-yard field goal by Justin Driver. They went ahead 16-14 in the fourth quarter on Calvin Coppersmith's 46-yard run. The extra point failed.

Andover (4-1) pushed ahead 22-16 with 4:27 left on a 13-yard touchdown pass from Joseph Mapson to Aidan Wiegert and a two-point run. The Cougars, who rushed for nearly 300 yards, drove into the red zone but suffered a turnover on a third-and-two play.

"Our QB got shaken up and had to come out. We had an exchange problem,"

Coach Mike Diggins recounted. "That's how the night went. Too many mistakes to win a game. Our kids gave good effort, but our execution was not good enough to win."

Mapson also threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to Austin Johnson and scored on a four-yard run. Belinske-Strauss gained 98 yards on 18 carries and was 4-for-7 passing for 33 yards with one interception. Caleb Melser gained 73 yards in 14 carries, Coppersmith 66 in six and Edwin Ekah 50 in six.

Cougars 36, Rogers 0

Against Rogers, Melser carried the ball nine times for 104 yards with a one-yard touchdown, and scored the final touchdown from 47 yards on a pass from backup quarterback Jack Wiste.

Coppersmith tallied a 14-yard touchdown while toting six times for 37 yards. Tobie Serna had a 10-yard touchdown. Belinske-Strauss scored from the one.

The Cougars posted their first shutout of the year, getting consistent pressure on the quarterback. They had one interception, by Wes Kukkonen. Rogers is 1-4.



JON NAMYST | CONTRIBUTED

Tanner Dittrich dragged down a Rogers ball carrier.



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Maddy Thompson

White Bear Lake Soccer

October 2, 2025

Maddy Thompson is one of the main reasons White Bear Lake soccer has posted five straight shutouts and has allowed just 12 goals in 13 games. The 5-foot-8 center back consistently shuts down scoring threats while providing strong senior leadership to the defensive corps. Thompson is a four-year regular in a prolific program (50-13-5 in her career) and has seven career goals. Thompson was also a starting forward on the Bears' 2025 state tournament basketball team where she also stands out as a defender.



FOUR SEASONS
AIR SPECIALISTS, INC.
"Experts in Indoor Air Comfort Since 1974"



4457 White Bear Parkway,
Ste B, White Bear, MN 55110
651-426-5254
info@4seasonsairwbl.com



FREE TRIP CHARGE
With repair
\$109 value!
Valid during regular business
hours • Expires 10/31/25

DAIKIN
*Servicing all brands
Licensed, Bonded, Insured

24/7 Emergency Service
Serving the St. Paul and Surrounding Area
651-426-5220

Read our reviews and check out our current promotions at
www.krinkies.com

When you need us, we are here to help.

WINNER
Readers' Choice 2023
Best of the Press

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

MasterCard VISA

Brothers charged in \$8 million armed crypto-kidnapping heist

Raymond Christian Garcia, 23, and Isiah Angelo Garcia, 24, were charged federally with kidnapping for allegedly engaging in a kidnapping and cryptocurrency heist where they held a family at gunpoint for nine hours and stole \$8 million in crypto currency. The incident forced Mahtomedi Public Schools to cancel its homecoming football game for the safety of its community.

A news release issued by the United States Attorney's Office provides the following account of the incident.

"A violent kidnapping that stole \$8 million and silenced a homecoming game is not just a crime. It is a blow to the sense of safety of everyone in Minnesota," said Acting U.S. Attorney Joseph H. Thompson. "This is not normal. Minnesotans should not accept wild violence and thievery as normal. Every Minnesotan deserves to live in peace and a life unaffected by rampant crime."

At 4:45 p.m. on Sept. 19, the Washington County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center received a 911 call from an adult male who reported that he and his family had been victims of an armed robbery and kidnapping by two adult male suspects and had been held hostage at gunpoint within their residence in Grant. The 911 caller reported that he, his father (Victim 1), and his mother had been held hostage.

At 7:45 a.m. that morning, Victim 1 was taking out a garbage can to the street when the Garcia brothers suddenly appeared and pointed an AR-15-style rifle and a shotgun at Victim 1. The Garcia brothers took Victim 1 into the garage where they bound his hands with zip ties. They then brought Victim 1 into the house. The Garcia brothers woke up Victim 1's wife and adult son at gunpoint. They also zip tied their hands and forced them to lie on the floor.

Defendant Raymond Garcia held the wife and son in their home for nine hours. Raymond Garcia was armed with the AR-15-style rifle for the duration of the kidnapping. About 15 minutes before the son called 911, Raymond Garcia left the home out the back door with the AR-15-style rifle, heading towards the tree line. Raymond Garcia returned to the home shortly thereafter, without the rifle.

Meanwhile, while Raymond Garcia held the wife and son hostage, defendant Isiah Garcia forced Victim 1 at gunpoint to log into his cryptocurren-

cy accounts. Isiah Garcia demanded that Victim 1 transfer large amounts of cryptocurrency into a cryptocurrency wallet that Isiah Garcia provided. During the robbery, Victim 1 saw both Garcia brothers frequently making phone calls to an unknown third party, who appeared to be providing the information related to the cryptocurrency accounts and transfers.

Through this third party, the Garcia brothers became aware that Victim 1 had additional cryptocurrency funds. They demanded the money. Victim 1 explained that the remaining funds were on a hard drive-style cryptocurrency wallet that was stored at a family cabin approximately three hours away.

Isiah Garcia, armed with the shotgun, then forced Victim 1 into Victim 1's truck. Isiah Garcia drove the truck and Victim 1 to the family's cabin to retrieve the hard drive. All the while, Raymond Garcia held Victim 1's wife and son hostage with the AR-15-style rifle. At the cabin, Victim 1 transferred the remaining funds to the cryptocurrency wallet provided by Isiah Garcia. Isiah Garcia then drove Victim 1 back towards Victim 1's home.

In total, the Garcia brothers forced Victim 1 to transfer \$8 million worth of cryptocurrency to their wallets.

As Isiah Garcia and Victim 1 were returning to the home, Victim 1's son used the moments that Raymond Garcia left the home to call 911. Washington County Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene following the 911 call and found the wife and son zip tied in the house. As they arrived, Washington County Sheriff's Deputies saw a man, later identified as Raymond Garcia, running out the back door. When law enforcement searched the area around the home, they located a suitcase in the tree line. In the suitcase, they found a disassembled AR-15-style rifle, AR-15 ammunition, as well as clothing items and beverages.

Multiple squads responded to the 911 call, some of whom unknowingly passed Isiah Garcia and Victim 1 as they pulled over to allow the emergency vehicles to pass. Isiah Garcia turned the truck around, parked it nearby, and walked towards a nearby middle school parking lot. Isiah Garcia ditched the shotgun in a nearby field. To protect the safety of the community, Mahtomedi Public Schools was forced to cancel its homecoming football game in

response to the ongoing law enforcement activity near the campus.

Using a Wendy's receipt located in the suitcase recovered behind Victim 1's house, law enforcement was able to determine that Isiah Garcia had rented a white Chevrolet three days prior to the kidnapping, near Houston, Texas. Law enforcement also located video surveillance showing that Raymond Garcia rented a Motel 6 room in Roseville, Minnesota, shortly before the kidnapping. Law enforcement saw that, shortly after law enforcement responded to the scene of the kidnapping, the white Malibu returned to the Motel 6. The next day, law enforcement spotted the car on cameras in Oklahoma. On September 21, 2024, law enforcement tracked the car back to the home of the Garcia brothers in Waller, Texas. After returning to Texas, Raymond Garcia reported that his AR-15-style firearm that he used in the kidnapping and robbery had been stolen.

On Sept. 22 law enforcement arrested the Garcia brothers in Texas. Once in custody, Isiah Garcia confessed. He admitted that he and his brother Raymond Garcia had driven to Minnesota, held Victim 1 and his family at gunpoint, tied them up using zip ties, and driven Victim 1 to the family cabin. On Sept. 23, the Garcia brothers were charged by complaint in Washington County with three counts of kidnapping with a firearm, one count of first-degree aggravated robbery, and three counts of first-degree burglary.



On Sept. 24, the Garcia brothers were both charged in a federal complaint with kidnapping. Both defendants made their initial appearances in federal court Sept. 25 and the government requested their detention pending trial.

Per the news release, FBI Minneapolis Special Agent in Charge Alvin M. Winston, Sr. issued the following statement. "As alleged in the complaint, the Garcia brothers terrorized a Minnesota family in their own home, kidnapping one family member while holding the rest of the family hostage in order to conduct a brazen cryptocurrency theft. This office, together with our federal, state and local law enforcement partners in Minnesota and in Texas, will work tirelessly to hold accountable those responsible for this horrific crime."

U.S. Attorney's Office

CLASSIFIEDS

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

<p>23 Free Items</p> <p>FREE WOOD DELIVERED Hugo area only 651*/426*8660</p>	<p>150 Help Wanted</p> <p>House-cleaners Needed!</p> <p>3-5 days/wk No experience needed, will train</p>  <p>Maids of White Bear</p> <p>651-247-2807</p>	<p>150 Help Wanted</p> 	<p>150 Help Wanted</p>	<p>160 Hire Me</p> <p>Ann's Awesome-Housecleaning - 20+ Yrs Exp. Dependable. Trustworthy. Ref Avail. Cll/Txt 651*/776*7834</p>	<p>301 Farm Misc</p> <p>ATTENTION FARMERS Seeing white mold in your fields? Noticing SDS? Share your location and enter to win FREE soybean seeds for 2026. Call Nolan 218/689-6367</p>	<p>362 Miscellaneous</p> <p>GET BOOST INFINITE! Unlimited talk, text and data for just \$25/mo! The power of 3 5G networks, one low price! Call today and get the latest iPhone every year on us! 855/849-6621</p>	<p>362 Miscellaneous</p> <p>DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 866/852-5506</p>	<p>369 Want to Buy</p> <p>WE BUY HOUSES for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844/978-0683</p>	<p>451 Rentals/ Commercial</p> <p>EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY, all real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll free: 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.</p>
<p>104 Hauling/Moving</p> <p>Scrap metal, appliance p/u 651*/329*0815</p>	<p>369 Want to Buy</p> <p>GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 844/220-9501 today!</p>	<p>369 Want to Buy</p> <p>WANTED: ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall. Call Dan at 612/720-2142</p>	<p>369 Want to Buy</p> <p>SAFE STEP NORTH America s #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882</p>	<p>451 Rentals/ Commercial</p> <p>1 BR upstairs apt in owner-occupied dplx in WBL. \$1300/mo. In-unit lndry, inter, dir TV. 1 car prkg. 2Blks to lk/prks/bchs/dntwn. Sngl only, no pets no smkng 651*/592*6162</p>	<p>451 Rentals/ Commercial</p> <p>We Buy Vinyl Records Lps, 45s, Stereo Equip We make house calls by appointment. White Bear Lake Records 4775 Banning Ave, WBL wbrecords.com 651/224-4947</p>				

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

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER INDEMNIFICATION:

The Newspaper shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of the advertisement. The Newspaper shall not be liable or responsible for any error in any advertisement except to give the Advertiser credit for so much of the space occupied by the advertisement as is materially affected by the error; credit shall be by refund or republication of the advertisement at the election of the Newspaper. Such credit shall not be given for more than one incorrect insertion unless the Publisher is notified in writing of the error before the repetition of the insertion. When the Advertiser wishes to correct or change copy submitted as a "proof," the Newspaper shall not be liable for the changes or corrections unless they are received by the Newspaper within a reasonable length of time before the deadline for publication. If an advertisement is requested to run after copy deadline, the Newspaper will not honor an adjustment request if an error occurs. No specific page or position shall be guaranteed. The Advertiser or Agency shall indemnify the Newspaper for any attorney's fees incurred in defending against claims, pay any judgments against the Newspaper, and pay associated expenses and losses that are caused by the publication of any advertisement submitted by or published at the direction of the Advertiser or Agency, including claims for libel, copyright infringement, and invasion of privacy.

SERVICES DIRECTORY

APPLIANCE REPAIR

Bruce's Appliance Repair
 Honest Work for Honest Pay
651-270-7360
 Reasonable Rates
-all jokes and laughs are free
 Servicing All Major Appliance Brands
 Major Credit Cards Accepted

AUTO SERVICE

VERMEERSCH AUTOMOTIVE
 • Auto Repair • Oil Lube & Filter Service
 20 years of experience serving White Bear Lake & Centerville - Friendly, Honest Service
651.226.4235
 Monday-Friday 8am-6pm
 7137 20th Avenue North • Centerville
 www.facebook.com/vermauto

VIKING AUTO REPAIR
 Foreign & Domestic
 • Complete Automotive Repair
 • Friendly Service • Low Rates
2501 E. County Rd F
White Bear Lake
651-407-3465
 vikingautomotiverepair.com

BATHROOMS

Bathrooms by *Young Castle*
 • Design
 • Bath Repair
 • Remodeling
 • Tub Surrounds
 • Free Estimates
HUGE SAVINGS!
 Lic. #20060261
651-257-4706
 www.youngcastlebathrooms.com

CABINETRY

SEW SCHNEIDER
 CUSTOM WOODWORKS
Commercial & Residential
 • Cabinet resurfacing and refacing
 • Custom exterior work
 • Deck refacing
 Free Estimates & Callbacks within 24 hours
651-213-6638
 schneidercustomwoodwork.com

CARPENTRY

Small Job Specialist
 45 years experience
 Basement Finish/Remodel
 Exterior & Interior Painting
 Doors/Windows/Siding
 Ceiling Textures/Roofs
 Kitchen Remodels/Counter Tops
 Decks/Landscaping
 Odd Jobs
 Bathrooms
651.653.9920 / 612.816.8544

CLEANING

JOHNSON JUNK REMOVAL
651-323-4682
 Household Waste
 Construction Debris
 Appliances
 Furniture

STEINER CLEANING, LLC
\$20 OFF FIRST CLEANING
 basic cleaning, deep cleaning, move-out cleaning
 CALL DANIELLE
651.503.3244

CONCRETE

BETTER SOLUTIONS
 Sidewalks • Steps
 Driveways • Repairs & More
763-742-7500
 better sol.com

Meet Your Specialist



Are you tired of paying too much for your auto repairs?

You are always welcome to the home-like atmosphere with friendly service and low rates at Viking Auto Repair.

We offer services on:

- Engine & Transmission
- Brakes
- Exhaust
- Tires
- Computer & fuel injection system repair
- Suspension & steering
- Cooling system service
- Electrical
- Tune-up
- Air conditioning
- Classic car repair
- Alignment

Viking Auto Repair
 Service so honest, you can even keep your leg
 Find Viking Auto under "Automotive Repair"

2501 E County Road F
 White Bear Lake, MN 55110
 651-407-3465



CONCRETE

Bill Lee
 Masonry & Concrete
Fix and Repair Specialist
 • Commercial tuck point
 • Restoration work
 • Fall-Winter Special
 FULLY INSURED • FREE ESTIMATES • SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE
651-308-1101

DECKS

NORTHLAND LANDSCAPE & CONSTRUCTION INC.
 Be ready to enjoy your deck this spring!
 Let us build your deck now
 We build decks all winter long!
CALL US FOR SPECIALS!
651-746-4582
 northlandlandscape.com
 Bonded Insured | Lic #BC638094

DEMOLITION

SD Contracting
 Demolition, Excavating, Grading
 Landscape Materials
 Gravel | Fill | Black Dirt
 Land Clearing/ Clean-up
 Patrick David
 651-206-5634

DRYWALL

LORENZ DRYWALL
 • CHANGING CEILINGS OVER TO KNOCK DOWNS
 • TAPING • SPRAYING
 • ADDITIONS • BASEMENTS
 • NEW HOMES • GARAGES
 No job too small!
 Kerry 651-653-9021
 (Cell) 651-271-4221

Wolf Bros. Drywall Co.
 Total Drywall Services
 New Const & Basement Finishes
 Residential/Commercial
 Family Owned & Operated
 40 yrs • Since 1979
 Insured
CALL LEE (651) 428-0229
 Forest Lake

ELECTRIC

ARROW ELECTRIC
 Small Jobs Welcome
 • Repair Circuits • Receipts Added
 • Remodels • Panels Replaced
 • Ceiling Fans • Master Electrician
 EMERGENCY SERVICE
651-383-5123

HANDYMAN

FREE Estimates! Specializing in
 • Handyman • Remodeling • Drywall Repair • Bathrooms • Kitchens
 Licensed Bonded Insured
Ron Skibsted, R.S. Construction
 651-271-5000
 License #BC002674

WE DO EVERYTHING!
 Roofing • Siding
 Windows • Doors • Gutters • Decks
 Painting • Repairs
 And MORE!
BETTER SOLUTIONS better sol.com
763-742-7500
 Full Service Contractor
 over 40 years experience MN Lic. BC639211

HEATING & COOLING

COMFORT PLUS HEATING & COOLING
 Furnace & A/C
 Installations and Service
 Licensed, Bonded & Insured
 651.426.4233 cphvac.net

INTERIOR PAINTING

Best Painting & Cedar Specialists
 Interior: commercial, residential, new construction walls, ceilings, trim, cabinets, floors
 Exterior: cedar siding/trim repairs, stains and painting, stucco painting
CALL OR EMAIL! GET 2024 PRICING FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2025 EXTERIORS
 Family owned since 1967
 651-238-1850
 brian@cedarspec-bestpainting.com

LANDSCAPING

NORTHLAND LANDSCAPE & CONSTRUCTION INC.
 Custom Decks/Footing Repair
 Screen Rooms/Additions
 Garages/Roofing/Siding
 Aluminum/Glass/Cable Railings
 All Repairs
Call Us for WINTER SPECIALS
651-746-4582
 www.northlandlandscape.com
 Bonded Insured • Lic #BC638094

Ehman Landscaping

Specializing in:
 • Sodding • Seeding • Grading
 • Sod Repair • Sod Removal
FREE ESTIMATES
 EhmanLandscaping@gmail.com
Call Ron 612-720-1893

LANDSCAPING

Jan's Maintenance, Inc.
SERVICES:
 • Landscaping • Tree Removal, Tree Trimming & Stump Grinding • Shrub & Tree Care
 • Planting • Hauling & Disposal
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT
 Expires 10/31/25
 Phone: **651-771-2654**
 www.a-1inc.com | info@a-1inc.com

Natural Creations and Design
 Est. 1971
 ♦ Pavers ♦ Plants ♦
 ♦ Outdoor Living Spaces ♦
 ♦ Retaining Walls ♦
 ♦ Front Entry Courts ♦
BBB Licensed & Bonded
 Tom Lofboom
 651-491-4623

Northern Lights Landscape Construction Inc.
 Since 1989
>>> Free Estimates <<<
CALL STEVE TODAY for fresh new landscaping ideas!
651-592-6678
 www.nelsonsnorthernlightslandscaping.com
 Angie's list

PAINTING

Cedar Specialists & Best Painting
 We'll bring your cedar back to life!
Family owned since 1967
 Staining, Painting, Cleaning, Stucco Painting, Repairs and Restoration, Siding, trim, shakes, fences, decks, pergolas, gazebos
Residential and Commercial
 Call now for Spring 2025 exterior pricing!
Call or email Brian
 651-238-1850
 brian@cedarspec-bestpaint.com

Free Estimate **Living Colors** 35 yrs Experience
Painting
 • Holiday Special
 • Professional, Residential House Painting
 • Interior & Exterior
 • Kind, Respectful Service
 Please Call Richard
612-394-8978

PAINTING

L D MARSHALL PAINTING
 Scott or Linda • 651-426-9135 (office)
 • Interior painting only
 Stain & Varnish
 • Painting of Home Furnishings (furniture, cabinets, mirrors, light fixtures, frames, etc.)
 Free Estimates • Established 1987

PLUMBING

WHITE BEAR RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL PLUMBING INC.
(651) 426-6000
 www.whitebearplumbing.com

HUGO PLUMBING & PUMP SERVICE INC.
 Hometown Friendly Service
 • Drain Cleaning
 • Hot Water Heating
 • Hot Water Heaters & Disposal
 • Well Pump Service
 • New Construction • Remodeling
Tom Thill 651-433-4866 Lic. #005402

REMODELING

K Olson Construction, LLC
 612-868-6837
 Room Additions • Kitchens
 Basements • Decks
All Remodeling
 For more info visit
 KOlsonconstruct.com
 Lic. #BC-516217

NORCON HOME SOLUTIONS
 BATHROOMS ~ KITCHENS
 BASEMENTS ~ TILES
ALL REMODELING
 Twin Cities Premier Home Improvement Company
651-238-6751
 NorconHomes.com
 Locally Owned Since 1994
 Insured / Lic #BC105943

APPLEWOOD BUILDERS
 Kitchen refresh?
 applewoodremodelers.com
 612.670.7004
 MNLic#BC003215

REMODELING

SHERCO CONSTRUCTION INC
Quality Home Building and Remodeling

TIME TO REMODEL?
Kitchen / Bathroom
Basement / Deck
Check out our Models for design ideas.
1 yr financing option available
SHERCO CONSTRUCTION
651-888-4138
License # BC627690

Carter Custom CONSTRUCTION

- Kitchens • Remodels
- Bathrooms • Basements

FALL PROMO

- Fireplace Installation
- Fireplace Tune Ups

Mention this ad to receive promotion
651-653-0190
cartercustomconstruction.com
MN Lic #BC632066

ROOFING

BEAR ROOFING & EXTERIORS

"Your Local Exterior Specialists"
Residential - Hardie Plank
Roofing • Siding • Windows
Gutters • Fascia & Soffit
651-407-1987
MN Lic. # BC223025

Leaky Roof?
"THE LEAKS STOP HERE"

- Roofing • Siding
- Storm Damage • Repairs
- Windows • Doors & More

763-742-7500
betersol.com

BETTER SOLUTIONS
Full Service Contractor
over 40 years experience MN Lic. BC639211

ROOFING & REMODELING

WM HAYES ROOFING & REMODELING, LLC
Roofing • Siding • Remodeling
Storm/Hail Damage
RoofingMinn.com
Locally owned since 1972
651-429-2682
MN License #BC002810

STUMP GRINDING

STUMP GRINDING
Free Estimates
SAME DAY SERVICE
Fast, dependable, insured
651-426-8660
budgettreeservice@outlook.com

TREE SERVICE

Cameron Tree

- Affordable Tree Trimming & Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Hedge & Shrub Shaping / Removal
- Senior / Veteran discount
- Family Owned & Operated
- Licensed / Insured
- Free Estimates

(651) 775-8602

TREE SERVICE

BUDGET TREE SERVICE
Quality Work • Reasonable Rates
**Tree Removal
Tree Trimming
Brush & Stump Removal**
651-426-8660
FREE ESTIMATE
Fast, Dependable, Insured

GENE'S TREE SERVICE & STUMP GRINDING
Licensed/Insured • Free Estimates
Call Today! 763-785-1629

A Cut Above Tree Service
Licensed Insured
Free Estimates

- Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Tree Trimming
- Emergency Storm Damage

Local Family Owned Business
www.facebook.com/acutabovetreecareservice
651-334-9063

WATER PROOFING

GREAT LAKES WATERPROOFING
Exterior Waterproofing

FREE ESTIMATES
651-340-2901
NO DIGGING REQUIRED

Targeting water flow at a fraction of the price of drain-tile systems
Since 1978
MN License # IR660365
www.RealWaterproofing.com

THE CITIZEN

Pick-up a newspaper at these locations

Centerville
Centerville City Hall
1880 Main St.
Corner Express
1990 Main St.
Minnoco
1801 Main St.

Hugo
Blue Heron Grill
14725 Victor Hugo Blvd.
Dunn Bros Coffee
14775 Victor Hugo Blvd.
Festival Foods
14775 Victor Hugo Blvd.
Kwik Trip
14730 Victor Hugo Blvd.
Speedway
14815 Forest Blvd.
Sagers Liquor
14849 Forest Blvd.
Hugo City Hall
14669 Fitzgerald Ave. N
American Legion Post 620
5383 140th St. N

S E R V I C E D I R E C T O R Y

BLOCK 7: City receives 4 concept plans for the site from interested developers

FROM PAGE 1

One year later, four concept plans for Block 7 were received from interested developers and reviewed at the Sept. 2 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. City Planner Nathan Fuerst, AICP, of Bolton & Menk, presented the four concept plans and facilitated discussion at the Sept. 10 council meeting about what steps the city's planners might take next.

Below are highlights of the four proposals Centerville received for the Block 7 city-owned property in the mixed-use neighborhood zoning district:

- Equinox Construction LLC: 20 rental units, two stories
 - Joshua Markum Builders Inc.: 30 owner-occupied/rental units, two to three stories
 - Southwind Holdings LLC: 20 two-story owner-occupied units on individual lots
 - True Blue Construction Services: 26 two-story owner-occupied/rental units.
- After Fuerst gave an overview of the concept plans, the city was tasked with evaluating which of the proposals satisfied all five of the following criteria:
- Conformance with the intent of the city's Comprehensive Plan and M-2 Zoning District
 - Conformance with the intent of the redevelopment plan (building and site designs)
 - Compatibility with the needs of the city (residential, unit types, designs, etc.)
 - Compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood
 - Compliance with CDBG funding criteria

At the September meeting, the Planning and Zoning Commission showed a preference for owner-occupied units, general conformity, impact on existing neighbors and two-story buildings.

The commission preferred two of the proposals over all the others, and individual council members preferred two

proposals over all the others. However, not everyone preferred the same two proposals.

Council therefore was not quite ready to select one proposal and chose to select no proposals. Instead, council directed staff to invite the four builders to resubmit their proposals and include more specific details that show compliance with the various requirements. For example, none of the initial four proposals met the setback/build-to line of 5 feet from the street and with a second chance could address that requirement. Council members told city staff they wanted to make sure the units front the public street, are double-fronted, address snow removal, are made with quality materials, offer approximately 20 units and are owner-occupied with the option to rent out.

"No matter what, (all the proposals) need a little tweaking," said Mayor Nancy Golden.

"A lot of tweaking," Council Member Linda Broussard-Vickers added.

Block 7 has been vacant for more than two decades, Golden said. "All of a sudden, we have four proposals. If we don't accept one of these proposals now, we never will, and we'll be negligent to our community if we have to give (back the approximately \$200,000 in money remaining from the CDBG grant). By developing, the city would have tax money coming into town and going to our residents," she said.

On the other hand, Council Member Russ Koski said that during public hearings, he heard the community say that money isn't everything. "People are willing to pay higher taxes and not sacrifice the small-town feel of the city," he said.

Loretta Harding is a contributing writer for Press Publications. She can be reached at news@presspubs.com or 651-407-1200.

ISD 624 Board approves preliminary tax levy

BY LOGAN GION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The school board has approved a preliminary maximum property tax levy increase of just over \$3,080,000, or 4.75%, for the 2026-2027 school year, payable 2026.

Throughout August and September, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) calculates an estimated levy amount for the next school year. White Bear Lake Area Schools Director of Finance Andi Johnson explained that school districts almost always approve the highest possible preliminary amount so that they can have flexibility as MDE adjusts its numbers for the final total. Were ISD 624 to approve less than the maximum, it would legally be unable to change that ceiling should the need arise in the coming months.

"Property taxes make up 20-25% of our general fund," Johnson noted. "It's an important funding stream for the school district."

Board Member Jessica Ellison stated that this is not a system unique to White Bear; this is how school districts are funded across the country.

Paradoxically, while the property tax levy is increasing, Johnson explained that the average property owner will likely pay less. "The total revenue that we're going to be receiving is going to go up," Johnson said,

"but there's a higher amount of property in the school district. There's new construction and new businesses coming in, so that's spread over the entire property value (of the district)."

Board Chair Dr. Scott Arcand asked

"It's an important funding stream for the school district."

Andi Johnson
White Bear Area Schools
Director of Finance

Johnson, "What control do we have in this room on the evaluation of our homes?"

"None," Johnson replied. "That's done by the county." Upon hearing this, Arcand suggested that residents in the district who have issues with property tax increases should bring their issue to the county.

The school board is set to approve the final levy at the Dec. 8 meeting following a public hearing.

Logan Gion is a contributing writer for Press Publications. He can be reached at savoureditor@presspubs.com

CENTERVILLE TIDBITS

• A familiar face is back on the council dais. Before any action could be taken at the meeting, new returning Council Member Broussard-Vickers took the oath of office. Her tenure in office began immediately and runs until Jan. 13, 2027. Broussard-Vickers has served on both council and the Planning and Zoning Commission in the past.

• “I’ve never seen a parade go so smoothly. It was so well organized,” Council Member Russ Koski said to Fete des Lacs Parade organizer Bridget LeMire during her 2025 Fete des Lacs presentation with Mel Lawlis. There were more than 50 participants in the parade, including new faces, she said. This year’s parade’s theme was “America the Beautiful,” and welcomed veterans’ floats. Lawlis, president of the Centerville Lions, said that although Music in the Park was rained out on Tuesday, the fireworks were shown before rain came. Some of the big successes were Market Fest, food trucks, kids’ fest and bingo. She said the Lions welcome ideas to make next year’s Fete des Lacs even better.

• Planning and Zoning Commissioner Richard Nelson resigned from the commission, effective Sept. 30. Before council accepted his letter of resignation, they recognized his work on the commission. The council called out his dedication to the community and wished him all the best in his future endeavors.

Mayor Nancy Golden read aloud the entire resolution recognizing and honoring Nelson’s service. Nelson was first appointed to the commission on Aug. 10, 2021, and served faithfully until his resignation, the resolution noted.

• The city receives annual funding from Anoka County for its residential recycling program, and council approved the 2026 agreement for the program. City staff requested funding in the amount of \$29,646 for 2026. The



CONTRIBUTED

Centerville City Administrator Athanasia Lewis swears in the City Council’s newest member — Linda Broussard-Vickers.

funding allocation is broken down by base funding and supplemental funding. The allocation for 2026 consists of base funding of \$11,500; drop-off funding of \$7,500 for four events at Recycle Technologies (for disposal of items that are hard to recycle and resident coupons); general enhancement funding of \$1,752.20; and labor and staffing of \$8,893.80. Staff determined not to use supplemental funding for 2026 because the city’s parks have enough containers.

• The annual neighborhood gathering in the 1700 block of Dupre Road will be celebrated as usual this year, after council approved a special event permit application for a private property on that block. City staff noted that this annual request has not presented any issues for the past several years. Staff have signed off with the annual caveat that no streets will be restricted or fire hydrants blocked. The outdoor neighborhood gathering will take place from 2-6 p.m. Oct. 4. Fifty to 60 people are expected to attend.

• On Oct. 22, the Parks & Recreation Committee will show its gratitude to

those who have volunteered in the community during the past year. Every year, the committee shows its gratitude and typically purchases items of less than \$5 in value each for volunteers and provides hors d’oeuvres to attendees. Council approved funding for the event, not to exceed \$1,300 for door prize items and \$500 for hors d’oeuvres. Financing will come from parks funds. Some 100-125 people are expected to attend this year’s volunteer appreciation event.

• The residents at 6996 Brian Drive have been bailing and pumping water from their pond for more than a year. After council tabled action on a solution at the July meeting, the city engineer went out to the property to survey elevations of the pond, adjacent homes, ditches and culverts. This new information was used to come up with additional options to those proposed by former City Engineer Mark Statz, as well as costs associated with mitigation.

The two new solutions were to make channel improvements, including clearing and grubbing vegetation, excavating the existing channel and restoring the area following construction. Estimated construction costs are from \$35,000 to \$45,000. The second option would be to clear the channel and install a single pump and lift station structure with controls, force main and power source, and then to complete restoration. The estimated construction costs for this second option are roughly \$100,000 to \$150,000. After a discussion, council elected to go with the first option and finance no more than \$33,000 or 75% of the project. The four property owners involved would be assessed the remainder of the costs and be provided with reminders of the city code about putting debris in the storm sewer drainage system.

• In her report, City Administrator Athanasia Lewis reminded the community that staff recently sent a mailing

to property owners affected by construction work to take place in their immediate area as part of the 2025 thin mill and overlay project. The scope of work consists of adjustment, pavement removal, curb replacement in selected areas and paving. These activities may impact driveway access, sprinkler systems, dog fences, boulevard and grass restoration, parking, trash and recycling, and school buses. Construction was expected to start Sept. 10 and will likely last about four to five weeks, depending on weather conditions.

The following streets are part of the project: Shad Avenue from Main Street N. to Fox Run; Heritage Street from Centerville Road to LaMotte Drive; LaMotte Drive from Heritage Street to the western city limits; Center Street from Centerville Road east to Dupre Road; all of Tourville Circle and Oak Circle; Pheasant Lane from Center Street to 280 feet north of Partridge Place; Dupre Road from 200 feet south of Center Street to 200 feet north of Center Street; and all of Peltier Circle.

• The Centennial Fire District is currently hiring for paid on-call positions. Anyone interested in becoming a firefighter/EMT is invited to visit www.centennialfire.org for more information.

• Council adjourned to executive session pursuant to Minnesota statutes section 13D.05, subdivision 3(c), to develop or consider offers or counteroffers related to the potential transfer of real and personal property in connection with proposals for fire services. The closed session was also to address labor negotiation strategy related to fire services pursuant to Minnesota statutes section 13D.03, subdivision 1(b). The item of discussion pertained to the Spring Lake Park/Blaine/Mounds View Fire Service contract for 2026.

Loretta Harding

NATIONAL
FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK

October 5-11, 2025

Hugo Fire Department



Open House Saturday, October 4th 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Hugo Fire Station | 5323 140th St. N.

Kids Fun Run starts at noon! Free goodies will be handed out!

Bounce house, K9 demo, DNR, fire prevention poster contest, free popcorn, various raffles (including a birthday party and a ride to a Hugo school in a fire truck) and more!

Hotdogs, chips, and bottled water will be available for purchase

OLSON'S
EXCAVATING & SEWER SERVICES
651-464-2082
Keep your Sewer
In The Pink!
www.olsonsinthepink.com
Certified by M.P.C.A.

GP'S
MINNESOTA WHOLESALE
TIRES • WHEELS • AUTO REPAIR
Tires for ALL Budgets
QR code

Agape
Spanish Immersion Academy
Infants, Toddlers & Pre K
More Information at
Agapemn.com
14663 Mercantile Drive, Hugo
763-438-3396

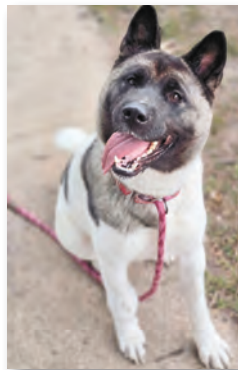
HUGO CHIROPRACTIC
Dr. Brandyn Christman
651-429-9010
5673 147th St. N
Hugo, MN

EMERGENCY APPARATUS MAINTENANCE
SERVICE WITH INTEGRITY
7512 4th Avenue
Lino Lakes, MN 55014
(651) 786-4463
www.eamservice.com

HUGO FEED MILL & HARDWARE
5582 146th Street, Hugo
(651) 429-3361
Mon - Fri: 7:30am - 6:00pm
Sat: 7:30am - 2:00pm

WISEGUYS
PIZZA & PUB
(651) 653-1196 | 7095 20th Ave S
Centerville, MN 55038
wiseguyspizzaandpub.com

WEEKLY WAG



Kittee is a beautiful 3-year-old Akita/shepherd mix, and she weighs about 75 pounds. Don't let Kittee's stunning Akita looks intimidate you. She is a friendly, lovely lady. She is social with other dogs and with cats, and she believes everyone she meets is her new best friend. Kittee is described as playful, affectionate, intelligent, even-tempered, gentle and goofy with her bouncy personality. She is house-trained and crate-trained,

and she knows her basic commands. Kittee likes to go on walks, explore outside and go for car rides, and she likes to play fetch. She is still a playful pup at heart. Kittee arrived at Ruff Start Rescue from a local impound. She is a soft, cuddly lady and she likes to snuggle after a day of outdoor adventure. She is magnificently beautiful and if you are interested in learning more about Kittee 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.

BUSINESS BRIEF

Believers' Boxing Gym hosts 'Rumble in the Forest'

Believers' Boxing Gym in Forest Lake will host its 7th annual show at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11 at Maranatha Church in Forest Lake. The boxing exhibition called, "Rumble in the Forest" will showcase the accomplishments and talent of Believers' Boxing athletes along with other athletes as well as other local musicians and entertainers. For more information about the business or the show, visit www.believersboxing.com/rumble-in-the-forest-tickets.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF HUGO PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Hugo Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 7:00 pm in Hugo City Hall to consider the minor subdivision request from Heidi Harvieux, 12935 Jody Avenue North, Hugo, MN 55038. The request is to subdivide a 30-acre parcel into two parcels at 20 acres and 10 acres in size. The property is not addressed, but is generally located east of Jody Avenue North and one third of a mile north of the intersection of Jody Avenue North and 122nd Street North. The property legally described as that part of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter, Section 36, Township 31, Range 21, Washington County, Minnesota. Full legal description available at Hugo City Hall.

Anyone wishing to comment on the request can be heard at this time. Please call Max Gort, Associate Planner at 651-762-6311 if you have any questions or comments on the application and would like to participate in the meeting.

Max Gort, Associate Planner

Published one time in The Citizen on October 2, 2025.

ASSESSMENTS: Resident asks for reconsideration

FROM PAGE 1

"We have no direct access to 125th Street Court N. ... We get access off of Jody," he said. "I don't think there is really any direct or special benefit of the road improvement that occurred that should be assessed to our property."

Erichson said this situation was "fairly similar" to how the city has handled assessments for street projects adjacent to agricultural or vacant land previously. He cited the example of an 80-acre parcel that received a total of eight assessments (at the \$3,400 unit rate) for two different projects. He added that Dostal's property was subject to one assessment because it isn't large enough to subdivide into multiple parcels.

"I understand that the parcel is not currently being used for a driveway or an access point. The way the policy is currently structured, it takes into consideration the potential future development of a piece of property," said City Council Member Mike Miron. "I can understand where there would be some confusion or frustration with that, but that really is how the policy is written, to not only access for current access points, but any potential access points in the future."

The council ultimately chose to adopt the assessments as proposed.

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




A before and after view of Ingersoll Avenue.

CONTRIBUTED


Advertisement for Hugo Dental Care featuring a woman and child smiling. Text: "Everyone Loves a Great Smile", "Schedule your dental check-up today and ensure a healthy, bright smile!", "We provide comprehensive dental care for the entire family!", Hugo Dental Care logo, address: 5677 147th Street North, hugodentalcaremn.com, 651-426-1639.

Advertisement for Apple Academy Learning Center featuring a girl blowing a dandelion. Text: "Apple Academy LEARNING CENTER", "Tuition Special", "Save \$300 on Tuition when enrolling at Apple Academy \$50 OFF for 6 weeks after the 12th week of enrollment", "Existing families refer your friends and family and receive the same discount as a new family after the 12th week of the referrals enrollment. Not valid on School-age care.", "Apple Academy provides safe, fun, and worry-free child care. We incorporate the nurturing of a home-like environment with the quality of a commercial child care center.", "1845 Main St., Centerville | 651-762-8911 centerville@applecw.com", "26427 Forest Blvd., Wyoming | 651-462-8772 wyoming@applecw.com", "Visit applecw.com or call for tuition specials".

Large advertisement for White Bear Lake Area Hockey Association featuring logos for SAK'S, Jimmy's, Doc's Landing, MC'S, White Bear Bar, and Beartown. Includes a weekly bingo schedule: 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 | 6:00PM BINGO & RAFFLE @ BEARTOWN), THURSDAY (6:00PM BINGO @ JIMMY'S | 7:00PM BINGO @ WB BAR), FRIDAY (5:00PM MEAT RAFFLES @ WB BAR & BEARTOWN & DOC'S | 6:00PM TRI-WHEEL @ WB BAR), SATURDAY (12:30PM BINGO @ SAK'S | 6:00PM TRI-WHEEL @ WB BAR). Text: "DAILY PULLTABS & ETABS", "WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION #03111", "GO BEARS!".




VOTERS' GUIDE 2025



Scan the QR to view the Voters' Guide 2025 with Lino Lakes mayor and city council candidate responses. Or go to presspubs.com/quad



It would be wonderful if everything in a city was as easy as this lake entrance and as calm as the lake



As a restaurant and sales manager, I have gained crucial negotiating skills through respecting and compromising with individuals who have different perspectives and personalities

As a lino lakes city council member, I would strive to leave this city as the wonderful place I moved into in 1987

Paid for by: Teresa O'Connell

SPOTTED AROUND TOWN



1. Washington County Attorney Kevin Magnuson presents at a recent Hugo Business Association breakfast event at Blue Heron Grill. — **Shannon Granholm, Press Publications**
2. At Oneka Elementary, each classroom is getting the opportunity to explore the different elements of their Learning Commons space. Students spent time listening to a story, learning how to check out books and enjoying the breakout rooms. — **White Bear Lake Area Schools, contributed**
3. Hundreds of cars attended the 17th annual car and tractor show in Withrow Sunday, Sept. 28. — **Shannon Granholm, Press Publications**
4. Kyle Bode from the St. Paul Fire Department and Doug Foote from the Excelsior Fire Department came through Hugo on Sept. 20 as part of Miles for MnFire. Fire Chief Jim Compton Jr. and Lt. Ryan Nadeau joined them at the Hugo welcome sign and walked with them for 8 miles across Hugo. Compton attended the closing ceremony the next day, where the Hugo Fire Department and Legion were thanked for their hospitality and support. — **American Legion Post 620, contributed**

Send us your photos for possible inclusion in Spotted Around Town. Please email your best shot to citizennews@presspubs.com. Please include information about when and where it was taken and who is in the photo.



COUPONS October 2025



651-407-1200
PRESSPUBS.COM



FALL SALE 50% OFF TREES, SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS.

HUGE SELECTION HURRY WHILE SUPPLY LASTS!!!

Celebrating Our 37th Anniversary
You Pick Up or We Deliver Mulch!
651-490-3058

6074 Hodgson Rd. (Hwy. 49) • Lino Lakes/Shoreview
(3 blocks N. of Cty. Rd. J on Hwy. 49)

- Black Dirt
- Garden Blend
- Sod
- Boulders
- Lawn Edging
- Sand Box or Beach Sand
- Excellent Prices
- Wood Chips & Mulch
- Decorative Rock
- Paving Stones
- Lawn Ornaments
- Weed Mats & Poly
- Fairy Gardens
- Excellent Quality

Check out our website: www.rockgardens.net

651-490-3058 Exp. 10/31/25
6074 Hodgson Rd. (Hwy. 49)
Lino Lakes/Shoreview
(3 blocks N. of Cty. Rd. J on Hwy. 49)
*Not valid with other coupons



Let's Cut a Deal Tree Removal

Tree Pruning
Stump Grinding
Shrub Removal
Professional Shrub Pruning and Maintenance
10% OFF Discount!

Fall and Winter Services Available

FREE ESTIMATES
We Support Veterans
Phone: 651-771-2654



Limit 2 coupons per year. Expires 10/31/25

JON'S A-1 MAINTENANCE, INC.
Phone: 651-771-2654
Email: info@a-1inc.com
Website: A-1inc.com
Credit Cards Accepted



Readers' Choice 2023 WINNER of the Press The Citizen

\$150 OFF

Any Purchase of \$1,000 or more on in-stock items*

Valid Through 10/31/25
*MUST PRESENT COUPON

Sigstad Flooring

6585 Hwy 8 Forest Lake, MN.
651.462.5698
sigstadsmilldirectflooring.com

6585 Hwy 8 Forest Lake, Mn. 55025
651.462.5698
sigstadsmilldirectflooring.com