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CONSTRUCTION TIME: Work continues on County Road J interchange **PAGE 2**



Summer concert series returns for 18th season

FILE

The beginning of the summer season means communities are slowly kicking off their summer concert series. Many begin in June and end, respectively, in August. The next city to kick off its concert series is Centerville. Centerville's Music in the Park concert series is scheduled to return on June 9. Find more information and a list of performances on page 2.

SBM Fire pays a visit to the city of Lexington

BY MADELINE DOLBY
EDITOR

LEXINGTON — Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View (SBM) Fire Department Fire Chief Dan Retka and Assistant Chief of Emergency Management Matt Montain visited the Lexington City Council to provide an overview of the services and operations of the SBM Fire Department.

The SBM Fire Department was established in 1944. At the time, the department included Spring Lake Park, Blaine, Mounds View and six other cities.

"Not one city, not one township, could stand up a fire department on their own so they got together, collaborated and we were off and running," Retka said.

Today, the department continues to serve Spring Lake Park, Blaine and Mounds View. Under a service contract, the department serves Circle Pines and Centerville (see "Centennial Fire District taking 'big step' to integrate with SBM," Quad Community Press, Sept. 4, 2025).

Retka said the department is now working with the city of Lexington to provide administrative services (see "Lexington temporarily partners with the SBM Fire Department," Quad Community Press, April 9, 2026).

The SBM Fire Department serves more than

SEE SBM FIRE, PAGE 12

Lexington, Blaine reach agreement on water connection

BY MADELINE DOLBY
EDITOR

Lexington and Blaine have reached an agreement regarding the connection of the two cities' water utility systems. The Lexington City Council has approved a joint powers agreement (JPA) with Blaine related to the connection.

In 2020, Blaine filed a lawsuit in District Court against Lexington. The lawsuit claimed there was no active JPA in place between the two cities and Blaine is the sole owner of the 16-inch water main that runs through Lexington. Furthermore, the city of Blaine has the right to

maintain infrastructure situated within Lexington; and Lexington must comply with its own ordinances regarding the issuance of right-of-way permits to the city of Blaine. (See "Blaine takes Lexington to court over water system," Quad Community Press, Sept. 27, 2021.)

Five years later, in June 2025, Judge Jenny Walker Jasper ruled the city of Blaine has the right to disconnect its water system from Lexington. The ruling also stated Blaine owned a key water main in Lexington, having paid to build it. (See "Blaine cuts Lexington from water system," Quad Community Press, June 18, 2025.)

Now, the two cities are putting the

past behind them and are looking to resolve their mutual disputes regarding water utility systems.

According to the JPA, Blaine and Lexington have agreed upon an amount due for Lexington's past water usage in 2025, prior to the adoption of the JPA. The amount of water provided by Blaine to Lexington will be calculated by taking the total amount of metered water usage by Lexington, based upon meter readings. The calculation will then deduct the amount of water pumped by Lexington's Well 15, based upon the well meter. The JPA states this sum will be considered the amount of water provided by Blaine.

The agreed amount due will be based upon 75% of the amount of water provided by Blaine, billed at a rate of \$3.24 per 1,000 gallons. As stated in the agreement, both parties agreed that such payment, and receipt of payment without limitation, is in complete satisfaction of payment obligations to Blaine, based on Lexington's past 2025 water usage.

For all water usage between Jan. 1, 2026, and the adoption of the JPA, Lexington agreed to pay 101% of the total amount of metered water usage by Lexington. This is per terms set forth in Section 8.2 of the agreement.

SEE JPA, PAGE 5

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FILE

Music in the Park kicks off Tuesday, June 9.

Season 18 of Centerville Music in the Park commences this month

For the 18th year, Centerville's Music in the Park is scheduled to take place this summer on Tuesdays starting at 6:30 p.m., in Hidden Springs Park. The summer tradition brings the community together for an evening of live music. A variety of local bands and musicians perform everything from classic rock and country, to pop and family-friendly favorites.

The first concert is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 9, and feature the Centennial Brass Quintet.

This year's lineup also includes performances by the Jon Sullivan Band, On Tap, the North Suburban Chorus, Billee Jo Hall Acoustic Live, Grunge Unplugged, B+ Brass, Low Down Dirty Fools and Capitol City Wind Ensemble. Sawyers Dream will close out Music in the Park on Tuesday, Aug. 11.

Hidden Springs Park is located at 1601 LaMotte Drive, Centerville. For more information visit the events Facebook page.

Madeline Dolby

CONSTRUCTION BRIEF

Upcoming work on County Road J/I-35E interchange

County Road J and all adjacent roads are currently open to traffic. Ramsey County is encouraging drivers to use caution, however, while traveling through the area and watching for construction workers and equipment.

Beginning this month, crews will continue to work on the new bridge and approach panels on County Road J. Work is also scheduled

to begin on the new southbound exit ramp. Crews will start on both roundabouts and begin installing new storm sewer and other utilities under the north side of County Road J.

On 20th Avenue South, crews will continue working on the new roundabout. On Otter Lake Road, crews will start connecting Otter Lake Road to the new roundabout.

For construction updates, visit tinyurl.com/kmnh8b9p.

Madeline Dolby

Former city council member, commission member receives leadership award

CIRCLE PINES — Former Planning Commissioner Member and Circle Pines City Council Member Dan Greensweig has received the Mayor's Award for Community Leadership.

From 1996 to 2006, Greensweig served as chair of the Planning Commission. He served one term as a city council member from 2006 to 2010. Greensweig also served as the assistant administrator for the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust.

Former Circle Pines Mayor Dave Bartholomay thanked the council and city staff for honoring Greensweig.

"His service made a big

difference for our community," Bartholomay said. "Dan gave a master class as the Planning Commission chair. He and his colleagues listened so long, and so well, at so many Planning Commission meetings."

Bartholomay added Greensweig and his colleagues gave citizens the quality time and attention they deserved. He said they showed citizens respect and residents knew that whether they liked the project or not, it had been handled fairly.

"Dan was the calm and quiet leader who delivered trust. The coin of the realm in city government," Bartholomay said. "I believe, that during my terms as mayor, a big part of

the reason I was successful was because of the groundwork laid by Dan Greensweig."

Greensweig thanked the council for being the recipient of the award and said it was an honor.

"All of you know how much Circle Pines means to me. My wife and I have been here for 35 years now...I have such fond memories of Carl Eck Park and Golden Lake," Greensweig said. "It's been a wonderful place to live, and it's been a real pleasure to be able to serve the residents here."

Madeline Dolby

LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL SNIPPETS

• Julie Morris, a member of the Lexington Fire and Rescue Auxiliary, addressed the council about the contract with the Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View (SBM) Fire Department. She stated "I want everybody to know that I'm not mad at SBM. My frustrations lie with the city of Lexington." Morris went on to say that "the facts have been manipulated" and "it's not hard to figure out" that the council has not been as transparent as they've claimed. She stated the council has "distorted" facts about both the Lexington Fire Department and former Fire Chief Mike Mohler. Morris mentioned the fire department and community coming together in 2025 to collect food donations for the food shelf, collecting more than 1,500 pounds of food. She says the community has "obviously lost a lot of respect" for the council and that they don't have the same "open and honest communication" as other cities have with their citizens.

• Lexington resident Diane Harris asked the council if they considered interviewing a replacement fire chief before making the decision to contract with SBM. She said that "many residents... would be interested in a petition" to replace City Administrator Bill Petracek. Harris said that in the case of finding a new administrator, Lexington would not dissolve the way the council decided to dissolve the Lexington

Fire Department. She said "shutting down the fire department was the plan all along, you just needed another excuse... and a scapegoat."

• Maria Nelson, of Shoreview, asked the council where the funds from selling the Lexington Fire Department will go, and who decided how to spend said funds. The council responded that the funds will go into the general fund for the city and the council is in charge of spending. Nelson then proceeded to ask if the contract with SBM is temporary or permanent, given conflicting information. Mayor Mike Murphy responded that the council meeting scheduled for June 4 will be when they make that decision.

• Daniel Johnson will serve on the Lexington Planning and Zoning Board following council approval of the appointment. Johnson will fill a vacancy on the board.

• The council approved a joint powers agreement between Lexington and Blaine to resolve Lexington's water utility. Lexington will play Blaine \$3.90 per 1,000 gallons of water, billed quarterly with a 2% administration fee contingent on the total (see full story in this week's issue).

The next City Council meeting will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 4 at City Hall.

Hannah Testa

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

ONGOING EVENTS

LIVE TRIVIA

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

LINO LAKES TOASTMASTERS CLUB

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays
Where: Zoom
Details: Develop your communication and leadership skills.
Contact: Phyllis Moore: 763-268-9366



CONTRIBUTED

SIZZLING SUMMER KICKOFF

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 6
Where: Tom Ryan Park and City Hall Atrium, 10801 Town Square Drive NE, Blaine
Details: Event features food trucks, live music, a craft fair, touch-a-truck and a kids garage sale.
Contact: blainemn.gov/4027/Sizzling-Summer

CAMPFIRE FIRE TALKS: OWLS

When: 7-8 p.m. Saturday, June 6
Where: Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Campground, 7373 Main St, Lino Lakes
Details: Enjoy a naturalist-led presentation around a roaring campfire at the Rice Creek Campgrounds to learn about a new topic. Sign up through Anoka County Parks.
Contact: anokacountyparks.com

MICK STERLING PRESENTS: HEART & SOUL! THE MUSIC OF HUEY LEWIS AND THE NEWS

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6 and 2 p.m. Sunday, June 7
Where: Hanifl Performing Arts Center, 4941 Long Ave., White Bear Lake
Details: Three-piece horn section and vocals pay tribute to Huey Lewis and the News. Ticket information online.
Contact: 651-478-7427 or lakeshoreplayers.org

CAR CARE 101: ESSENTIAL VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SKILLS

When: 9 a.m.-noon Tuesday, June 9
Where: 916 Intermediate School District Body Shop, 3300 Century Ave. N., White Bear Lake
Details: Hands-on class for ages 13+ covers the basics of vehicle maintenance. Registration required.
Contact: 651-407-2018 or communityed.mahtomedi.k12.mn.us

CURRENT EVENTS

2ND ANNUAL THEE FOODIE FUNDRAISER

When: 4-7 p.m. Friday, June 5
Where: Golden Lake Park, 53 West Golden Lake Road, Circle Pines
Details: Fundraiser put on by Centennial Middle Schooler Sierra Taylor and helps supports the Centennial Community Food Shelf. Also includes live music, a talent show and food trucks.
Contact: Facebook: Thee Foodie Fundraiser

Square Drive NE, Blaine
Details: Features local vendors and artists.
Contact: www.blainemn.gov/4025/Craft-Fair

TOUCH A TRUCK

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 6
Where: Tom Ryan Park, 10801 Town Square Drive NE, Blaine
Details: Part of the Sizzling Summer Kickoff.
Contact: www.blainemn.gov

KIDS GARAGE SALE

When: Noon-3 p.m. Saturday, June 6
Where: Blaine City Hall, 10801 Town

Square Drive NE, Blaine
Details: Part of the Sizzling Summer Kickoff.
Contact: www.blainemn.gov

DROP IN NATURE INVESTIGATIONS: BIRDS

When: 2-4 p.m. Saturday, June 6
Where: Wargo Nature Center, 7701 Main St., Lino Lakes
Details: Investigate the natural world up close with a naturalist in this drop-in program. Stop by at any time during the session to explore more about a nature topic through hands-on activities and nature artifacts.
Contact: anokacountyparks.com

SUMMER CRAFT FAIR

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 6
Where: Blaine City Hall, 10801 Town

WEEKLY WAG

Charlie is part loyal shadow and part active athlete, which makes sense given Charlie is a Black Labrador Retriever/Greyhound mix. Charlie is one year and nine months old. He is active and affectionate and has a great big heart. Charlie definitely needs a loving forever home with a secure fenced yard where he can run and explore as he pleases. He loves being outside. He also enjoys nice long walks. Charlie is very smart and learns quickly. He already knows his basic commands but has so much more potential. He would thrive with a companion who has the time to work with him. When he is not playing, running or exploring, Charlie is the perfect shadow companion. His favorite place is anywhere his human companions are. He does have a bit of separation anxiety. So, if you are looking for a loyal, devoted companion that you can spend a lot of time with, then Charlie is waiting for you. If you are interested in learning more about Charlie or adopting him, please fill out an application at www.ruffstartrescue.org. Once your application is received, Ruff Start Rescue will contact you as soon as possible.



CIRCLE PINES CITY COUNCIL SNIPPETS

- City Administrator Patrick Antonen said the water tower project continues to move forward. The contractor has almost finished sandblasting the tower. Next, four layers of paint will be applied. Anoten said the water tower will be painted tank white and two shades of green. He added the project is expected to be completed by July 4.
- Dan Greensweig has received the Mayor's Award for Community Leadership. Greensweig served on the city's Planning Commission and the City Council. Mayor Matt Percy said he was "instrumental in helping put together a couple big developments," such as the Pine Hollow neighborhood. From 1996 to 2006, Greensweig served as chair of the Planning Commission. He served one term as a city council member from 2006 to 2010. Currently, Greensweig is

the assistant administrator of the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (see full story in this week's issue).

• Aaron Nielson, from LB Carlson, presented the 2025 audit report to the council. The city has received an unmodified, or clean, opinion on its audit. Similar to prior years, there was one finding for internal controls related to the limited segregation of duties. Nielson said this is simply due to the small number of office staff that are involved in the processing of the financial records for the city.

The next City Council meeting will be at 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 9 at City Hall.

Madeline Dolby

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Service times are subject to change. Contact your local church or check church web sites for service time and online service information.

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Welcome to the neighborhood

Hi! I'm Logan Gion, and I'm joining Press Publications as its newest staff writer. For the past three years, I've worked as a contributing writer for Press Publications, covering the Arts and Culture page, the White Bear Lake Area School Board and the White Bear Township Council. Over the past two years, I've also served as the editor of SaVour: The joy of living magazine, Press Publications' quarterly food and lifestyle imprint covering the northeast metro.



Looking Out with Logan
Logan Gion

Writing has been a part of my life since I was 6 years old, when my first-grade teacher praised a story I wrote about a man who wanted to be green and met a mad scientist in need of a Frankenstein. The font color of that story? Definitely green.

Since then, I've produced all types of writing. I graduated from the University of Miami, Florida, in 2011 with degrees in communications and English. From 2012-2015, I wrote and co-produced

a movie. After that, I read submissions for the Austin Film Fest, the largest screenplay competition in the world. During that time, I gravitated to editing, becoming a communications coordinator and curriculum editor for a tutoring agency, liaising with the Stillwater School District.

Throughout COVID, I helped many students and their families navigate the rapidly changing education landscape. Because of these students, I gained an interest in how local school boards and city councils functioned. The assignments available at Press Publications were the perfect fit.

Press Publications has skyrocketed my writing and editing capabilities over the past three years. Writing is a craft; the more a person does it, the better they get. That's true for a writer's entire career. That means the baseline quality of my work is higher this year than it was in 2024 or 2025. What I produce next year will likely be superior to what you read this year. What that means for profile pieces is continually finding or rediscovering people and places in our community. What that means for traditional news is constantly sharpening my ability to fairly report the facts with necessary context, giving appropriate space to multiple perspectives without minimizing or over-representing them.

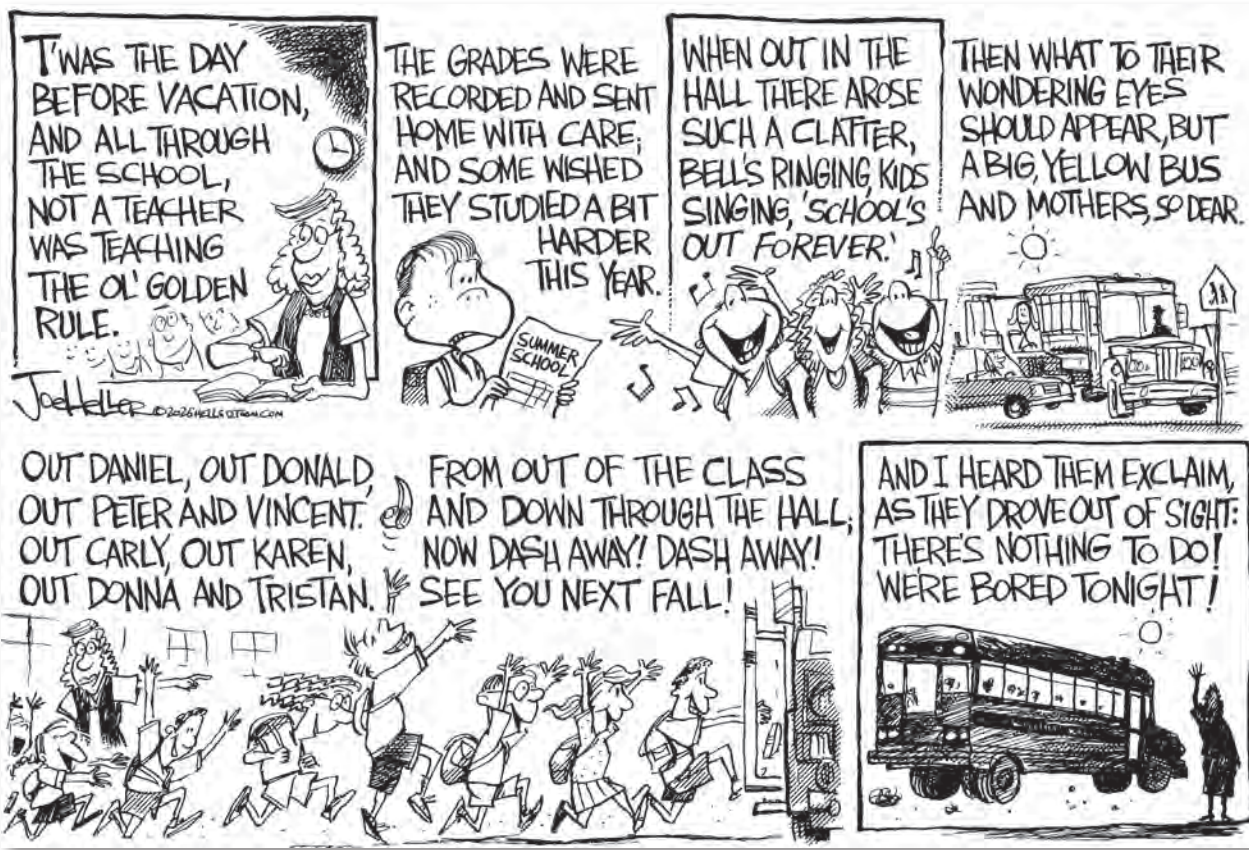
Separate from what I share in opinion columns here, I paradoxically hope readers find my writing full of personality yet devoid of slant. The highest compliment I've received on this job came from a council member at a previous assignment: "Logan, you've always treated us fairly, and that's all we've ever asked for." In my position as staff writer, I'll aim not to tell readers what to think, but rather what to think about.

In my time at Press Publications, I've learned one lesson above all else—no one can keep their eye on everything. That's what the local newspaper is for; that's what local readers are for.

My email is quadnews@presspubs.com if you have a story idea or need to reach me.

In my free time, I obsesses over the latest movies and television shows, take drawing classes at White Bear Center for the Arts and sample the latest specials at local cafes. Feel free to send me recommendations.

Logan Gion is a staff writer at Press Publications.



Level up your summer at the library

Minnesota summers are always an adventure as everyone tries to cram in as much warm weather playtime as possible. Rather than rolling the dice and hoping you can find ideas, information and inspiration

for your family this summer, come play at the library!

Our summer reading theme this year is "Game On!" a celebration of the joy and fun that comes from reading, learning and connecting with the community. Whether your

game is football, Mah Jongg, Monopoly or Zelda, the library has you covered. Registration is open now at anokacounty.beanstack.com or in the Beanstack Tracker app. All players are welcome, and you pick how you play.

Starting June 1, participants can unlock virtual badges and

prizes by tracking their reading, sharing book reviews and completing activities in Beanstack. You can also compete with friends and family for the top spot on the leaderboard.

Everyone who reads five hours gets a book prize: Youth pick a book at the library and adults get a coupon for a free book from the library sale shelf or from a Friends book sale. At 20 hours, both youth and adults earn a certificate for a free book from Avant Garden Bookstore.

Every virtual badge comes with a ticket to enter prize drawings. The more you read and activities you do, the more chances you have to win! Youth drawings include family four-packs of tickets to Anoka County Fair, Bunker Beach, SeaLife, State Fair and Twins games. Adults can enter drawings for four-packs to the Anoka County Fair and Twins games or gift cards to Blainbrook Entertainment Center and Curious Crow Game Store.

Help us solve the case of the missing book! Starting July 1, players can pick up a case file full of suspects and notes. Solve

a puzzle at each library branch and gather clues that will help you identify the culprit.

From cross stitch to wrestling, concerts to magic, book clubs to Lego club, free events and classes are offered all summer long. Some programs require registration, so be sure to check full descriptions and plan ahead. For a full list of programs, visit tinyurl.com/aclEventCalendar.

For quality time at home, the cabin or your summer travels, check out board games, video games, and our newest collection—Emerging Reader Kits with literacy games. Visit tinyurl.com/aclSpecialCollections to see all of our game options and other perfect-for-summer collections like bike locks and state park passes.

Whether you're a solo player or part of a team, we invite everyone to come play at the library this season. Game on!

Matt Youngbauer is an associate librarian at the Anoka County Library Centennial Branch located in Circle Pines.

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- Due to space limitations, letters that don't address local issues are not guaranteed publication.
- Repeat letters by the same writer about the same subject matter will

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- Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday of the week prior to publication.
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JPA: Ends disagreement

FROM PAGE 1

Utility rate study shows impact of agreement on Lexington's water, sewer funds

Keith Dahl, a municipal advisor at Ehler's and Associates, provided data collected from a water utility rate study requested by Lexington on the city's water fund and sewer fund.

"The purpose of this study is to make sure the sewer fund and water fund are in good position moving forward," Dahl explained.

The water and sewer funds are an enterprise fund, and according to Dahl, operate like a business. He said it is important to make sure the funds are self-sufficient and are not dependent on the general fund.

"We want to make sure that we maintain appropriate cash balances, and you have adequate reserves to cover any one-off expenditures, but also plan for future capital improvements and maintenance," Dahl said.

As part of the study, Ehler's and Associates looked at three scenarios the city could take in regard to water utility rate costs. One of those scenarios included building a water treatment plant. Dahl said this would cause rates, over a six-year period, to increase about 180% and would have a significant impact to what residents and businesses are currently paying.

The second scenario proposed purchasing 84% of the city's water from Blaine, with the remainder being sourced from wells in Lexington. This scenario, after discussion with the Minnesota Department of Health, was not a viable option.

After negotiations between city staff, the city engineer, the city attorney and Blaine, the city will

purchase water from Blaine at 101% of what their lowest tier residential rate would be.

"What that means is, as far as a dollar figure, that's \$3.90 per 1,000 gallons," Dahl explained. "This over a six-year period ultimately equates to about an 82% increase in the rates. So lower than what we were anticipating back in August and September of last year." Prior to negotiations, utility rates were predicted to increase 120% over six-years.

During the first three years, the city will have to increase the water utility base rate and usage rate by 17.5%. After 2030, Dahl said the city can lower the rates to 12%, and then 5%, until the city gets down to 3% for 10 years.

"The water rate is driving the increase, but with the 17.5% increase in the base rate and usage rate in the water fund, it equates to about a 7.4% increase to a property that's using 12,000 gallons of water a quarter," Dahl explained.

Dahl said the best option for Lexington is to purchase water from Blaine because it will have the lowest impact to the residents and businesses. It will allow the city to put away funds in its reserve for future maintenance and capital needs to pay for operating expenses and maintain the water fund in a positive position.

Ehler's and Associates is not recommending any rate increases in the fees for the city's sewer fund.

The Lexington City Council ultimately approved the JPA in a 5-0 vote. The city of Blaine has already approved the JPA.

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

LINO LAKES CITY COUNCIL SNIPPETS

- Nate Hamann and Robert Strub have been officially sworn in as sergeants with the Lino Lakes Police Department. According to Chief of Police Curt Boehme, Hamann grew up in Circle Pines and graduated from Centennial High School. Hamann joined the Lino Lakes Police Department in 2005 as a volunteer in the Police Explorer Program. He was a part of the program until 2009, when he became a reserve officer. He served as a reserve officer until 2011 and became a part-time community service officer. Boehme said in 2013, Hamann was promoted to police officer. Strub joined the Lino Lakes Police Department in 2012 and since joining the department, he has been a police training officer, peer support explorer adviser, union steward and investigator.



CONTRIBUTED

Nate Hamann and Robert Strub are sworn in as sergeants with the Lino Lakes Police Department.

- Election judges have been appointed following council approval for the State Primary Election on Tuesday, Aug. 11, and the General Election scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 3.

- The locations for absentee voting have been established following council approval. Absentee voting begins 46 days prior to the election and early voting begins 28 days prior to the election. Absentee voters can visit the Anoka County Government Center, located at 2100 Third Ave., Anoka to vote in-person. Those looking to cast their vote early in-person can do so at Lino Lakes City Hall, 600 Town Center Pkwy.

- The Lino Lakes Volunteers in Public Service (LLVIPS) will be able to host its

Firehouse Family Splash Down event on June 14, following council approval of a special event permit submitted by LLVIPS. The event will take place at Fire Station 2 from noon to 2 p.m.

- City staff will order the project and authorize the ad for bid for the 2025 Street Reconstruction Water Service Connection Project following council approval. The project is being completed to address the Minnesota Department of Health correction orders (see "Department of Health raises issues with sewer, well separation," Quad Community Press, Dec. 17, 2025). The project includes connecting identified properties in the Pine Haven neighborhood and one property on Red Maple Lane to the municipal water system and sealing their existing wells. Construction would begin on Aug. 17, 2026, and be completed by November 2026.

- WSB and the city will enter into a professional services agreement following

council approval. WSB will be responsible for the preparation of the West Relief Sewer Feasibility Study. The West Side Relief sewer is proposed to run from Main Street to North Road. Flow from both new development and existing areas will be diverted to this system once completed, according to Community Development Director Michael Grochala. The project is currently included in the city's Capital Improvement Program and is intended to coincide with both the 2027 Sunset Avenue reconstruction and the 2028 Street Reconstruction Project. WSB will complete the study on an hourly basis, not to exceed a fee of \$76,714. The project will be funded by the Area and Unit Trunk Fund.

The next City Council work session will be at 6 p.m., Monday, June 8, followed by a regular City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Madeline Dolby

CITY BRIEFS



CONTRIBUTED

Lino Lakes unveils new little library

A Free Little Library is now located outside of Lino Lakes City Hall, near the New Creations daycare entrance. The city is asking residents to drop off gently used books for kids, teens or adults to help get the library started.

Lino Lakes City Hall is located at 600 Town Center Pkwy.

Lakeside Park, beach open for summer season

The Lakeside Commons Park and Beach, located in Blaine, is officially open for the summer season. The park and beach will be open through August 23. Parking permits are required during beach season. Blaine residents can get permits for free at City Hall or onsite at the park.

Lake Commons Park and Beach is located at 3020 Lakes Pkwy.

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Casey Morris

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POLICE REPORTS

The Centennial Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- Officers responded May 20 to a phone call request referencing harassment occurring in the 9400 block of Lexington Avenue in Lexington.
- Officers observed suspicious activity May 21 in the area of Griggs Avenue and South Highway Drive in Lexington.
- Officers were dispatched May 21 to a disturbance in the 8800 block of Jackson Avenue in Lexington. Officers arrived and mediated the situation. It was determined no crime had occurred.
- Officers were dispatched May 21 to a phone call domestic report in the 600 block of Village Parkway in Circle Pines. Officers made contact and took information regarding a party with an HRO against the caller who was following them.
- Police responded May 22 to a traffic complaint in the 100 block of South Drive in Circle Pines.
- Police fielded a phone call harassment report May 23 in the 1900 block of Center Street in Centerville.
- Officers responded May 24 to a theft call in the 9000 block of Griggs Avenue in Lexington.
- Officers observed suspicious activity May 25 in the 4100 block of Woodland Road in Lexington. Officers located one juvenile who was in violation of curfew and brought the juvenile back to their home.
- Officers responded May 25 to a report of a disorderly person in the 600 block of Village Parkway in Circle Pines.
- Officers were dispatched May 25 to a domestic situation in the 3900 block of Restwood Road in Lexington.
- Police conducted a traffic stop May 26 in the area of Lexington Avenue and Lake Drive in Lexington. The driver had a warrant and was

ultimately arrested.

- Police conducted a felony warrant arrest May 26 in the area of Restwood Road and North Highway in Lexington.
- Officers were dispatched May 26 to a property damage report in the area of Lake Drive and Lexington Avenue in Circle Pines. Officers took information from the two drivers involved and facilitated the exchange of information.

The Lino Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- An officer responded May 18 to a fraud report in the 6400 block of Rice Court. The investigation is ongoing.
- Officers responded May 18 to a report of an assault in the 7500 block of Fourth Avenue. A juvenile male was charged with assault and transported to a secure juvenile facility.
- Officers responded May 18 to a report of a naked male in the pool area at a hotel in the 500 block of Apollo Drive. Officers were unable to locate the male.
- While on patrol May 19, an officer stopped a vehicle for suspended registration in the 2200 block of Main Street. The adult female was arrested and booked in jail for driving after cancellation inimical to public safety, no insurance, failure to transfer title and displaying suspended registration.
- While on patrol May 19, an officer stopped a vehicle in the 2200 block of Main Street because the adult female driver didn't have a driver's license. The female driver was arrested and booked in jail.
- An officer responded May 19 to a report of a male soliciting without a permit in the 1200 block of Velvetleaf Lane. The officer contacted the male and verbally warned him of the violation.
- An officer responded May 19 to a report of a suspicious male in the

6500 block of Pheasant Hills Drive. The caller later found out the male was a neighbor and there were no problems.

- An officer responded May 20 to a suspicious activity report involving a person looking into vehicle windows in the 600 block of Arlo Lane. The identity of the person is unknown.
- Officers and fire units responded May 20 to a report of a structure fire in the 1200 block of Birch Street. Officers found it was a recreational fire and had the property owner extinguish the fire.
- While on patrol May 21, an officer conducted a traffic stop in the 2200 block of Main Street of a vehicle for the owner showing a warrant from another county. The male driver was arrested and booked in jail.
- Officers responded May 21 to a report of a theft at a local business in the 700 block of Apollo Drive. The officers located the suspect and charged them with theft.
- While on patrol May 21, an officer conducted a traffic stop in the area of I-35W and Lake Drive. The male driver was arrested for driving after cancellation inimical to public safety and booked in jail.
- Officers responded May 22 to a two-vehicle personal injury accident in the 6200 block of Hodgson Road. One driver was transported by ambulance and one driver self-transported to the hospital. Both vehicles were towed. One driver was cited for the incident.
- An officer stopped a vehicle for

speeding May 23 in the 1300 block of I-35E. The driver was cited for speeding and underage drinking and driving. A male passenger was cited for underage consumption of alcohol.

- An officer responded May 23 to a residence in the 1900 block of Rehbein Street for an ordinance violation involving a recreational fire. The officer spoke to the homeowner and educated them on the city ordinance that regulates recreational fires.
- An officer conducted a traffic stop May 23 on a vehicle in the area of I-35W and Lake Drive. The officer found the male driver was driving after cancellation inimical to public safety. The male was arrested and booked in jail.
- An officer responded May 24 to a noise complaint in an apartment building in the 700 block of Town Center Parkway. The officer heard no excessive noise but advised the complainant that a report was made.
- While an officer was conducting traffic control May 24 in the 7700 block of 20th Avenue, a motorist was honking their horn at officers continuously. The motorist was cited for unreasonable use of horn.
- While on patrol May 24, an officer located a truck pulling a camper blocking a lane of traffic in the area of I-35E and Main Street. The officer determined the trailer disconnected from the vehicle and there was minor damage.
- An officer responded May 24 to a theft at a local business in the 700 block of Apollo Drive. The suspect was issued a citation for theft.

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEF

Lino Lakes Duty Crew responds to vehicle fire

Just after 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27, the Lino Lakes Duty Crew was dispatched to a possible vehicle fire in the 500 block of Apollo Drive. Lino Lakes Chief

4 arrived to a working engine compartment fire and assumed command.

Engine 4 arrived after and pulled a line for fire attack while Engine 3 assisted with water supply and fire attack. No injuries were reported.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

CENTENNIAL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 12 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Centennial Independent School District No 12 is requesting self-funded proposals for Group Medical Insurance. The RFP (with submission instructions, general information and all pertinent underwriting details) can be obtained by contacting Katie Tillemans at Gallagher Benefit Services -- Phone: 612.619.1324; E-mail: Katie.Tillemans@ajg.com -- 3600 American Blvd W, Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55431. All questions regarding the RFP should be directed to Katie Tillemans at Gallagher. All proposals must be submitted electronically to Gallagher Benefit Services no later than **2:00 pm on June 16, 2026**. Proposals received after the deadline will be considered late and ineligible for consideration.

Published two times in the Quad Community Press on May 26 and June 2, 2026.

CITY OF LINO LAKES SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 04-26

AN ORDINANCE VACATING DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENT

Section 1: Findings

The City Council of Lino Lakes has determined to vacate a portion of the drainage and utility easement dedicated over, under, and across 6030 Blanchard Blvd, Lot 2, Block 2, & Outlot C, Lyngblomsten at Lino Lakes Addition; and

A public hearing was held on May 11, 2026 before the City Council in the City Hall Council Chambers after due published and posted notice had been given and a reasonable attempts were made to give personal notice to all affected property owners, and all persons interested were given an opportunity to be heard; and

Section 3: Effect

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after its passage and publication according to the Lino Lakes City Charter and upon recording of the Drainage and Utility Easement Vacation.

Passed by the Lino Lakes City Council on May 26, 2026.

This is a summary of the adopted ordinance. A full printed copy of the ordinance is available at City Hall.

Published one time in the Quad Community Press on June 2, 2026.

CENTENNIAL FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION NOTICE OF NONPROFIT DISSOLUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the Centennial Fire Relief Association, a nonprofit corporation organized under Minn. Stat. chapters 317A and 424A, hereby gives notice of its dissolution. The Centennial Fire Relief Association filed its Notice of Intent to Dissolve with the Secretary of State on May 28, 2026. Written claims against the Centennial Fire Relief Association may be sent to the Centennial Fire Relief Association, 2 East Road, Circle Pines, MN 55014. Claims must be received by July 1, 2026 to be considered.

Published four times in the Quad Community Press on June 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2026.

CITY OF LEXINGTON 2025 DRINKING WATER REPORT

Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from the following groundwater sources: Lexington purchases water from Blaine and your system has a 309-foot-deep well that draws water from the Quaternary Buried Artesian aquifer.

Lexington works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact the City of Lexington at (763) 784-2792 or ap@cityoflexingtonmn.org if you have questions about Lexington's drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by visiting the website epa.gov/safewater.

Lexington Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage [Basics of Monitoring and testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>).

How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Definitions

- AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- N/A (Not applicable):** Does not apply.
- pCi/l (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.
- ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).
- ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- PWSID:** Public water system identification.

Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

LEAD AND COPPER – Tested at customer taps.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Action Level	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	<2 ppb	0 out of 10	0 - 3.6 ppb	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.4 ppm	0 out of 10	0.07 - 0.53 ppm	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Gross Alpha	0 pCi/l	15 pCi/l	21.5 pCi/l	20.0 - 23.0 pCi/l	YES	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium	0 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	0.7 pCi/l	0.0 - 1.4 pCi/l	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Gross Alpha: Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Gross Alpha: Previous testing results show that the average level of gross alpha was above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 15 pCi/L. An MCL violation was issued for this system on 10/24/2019. Testing will continue until the violation is resolved. This is not an emergency. You do not need an alternative source of water such as bottled water. However, if you have specific health concerns consult your doctor. Home water treatment units are available to reduce gross alpha, which include water softening, reverse osmosis, and distillation. It is recommended that these home water treatment units be certified to ensure gross alpha removal. The use of carbon filters is not recommended for removal of gross alpha, as it may accumulate in the filter over time. Your public water system is exploring methods to reduce the level of gross alpha, which may include an alternative water source or water treatment. You will be informed when the public water system has reduced the level of gross alpha and meets the standard. Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, hospitals, schools, prisons, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION – Tested in drinking water.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N/A	80 ppb	5.7 ppb	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N/A	60 ppb	3.8 ppb	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.88 ppm	0.43 - 1.03 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

Total HAA refers to HAAs

OTHER SUBSTANCES – Tested in drinking water.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.82 ppm	0.76 - 0.88 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Fluoride: Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to an optimal concentration between 0.5 to 0.9 parts per million (ppm) to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances/Emerging Contaminants

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water. MDH, EPA, and other health agencies may have developed comparison values for some of these compounds. Some of these comparison values are based solely on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations nor the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. These values may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impractical for a water system to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant). Sample data are listed along with comparison values in the table below; it is important to note that these comparison values are not enforceable.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The significance of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little to no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions-like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity—may need to take extra precautions. We are notifying you of the unregulated/emerging contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the Agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future.

- More information is available on MDH's A-Z List of Contaminants in Water (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html>)
- Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html>)
- Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>)
- EPA has developed a UCMR5 Program Overview Factsheet (<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/ucmr5-factsheet.pdf>) describing UCMR 5 contaminants and standards.

In the past year, your drinking water may have tested for additional unregulated contaminants as part of the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>) and results are still being processed. The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) Data finder allows people to easily search for, summarize, and download the available UCMR 5 analytical results (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder>).

UNREGULATED/EMERGING CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.

Contaminant	Comparison Value	Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results
Sodium*	20 ppm	7.37 ppm	N/A
Sulfate	500 ppm	0.52 ppm	N/A
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	N/A	0.7 ppt	0.00 - 1.40 ppt

*Note that home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available on EPA's website epa.gov/safewater.

Service Line Material Inventory

Lexington has completed and submitted our service line materials inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health. The service line inventory is publicly available, and you can check the materials for your service line by visiting the Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (LITT) (<https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>). You may also contact us at [travis.schmid@cityoflexingtonmn.org](mailto:schmid@cityoflexingtonmn.org) (Travis Schmid). The City of Lexington used a combination of methods to determine the status of service lines, including reviewing historical documents, conducting in-home inspections, sending out mail surveys, and performing mechanical excavation. As of 11/17/2025, our inventory contains 0 lead, 0 galvanized requiring replacement, 0 unknown material, and 645 non-lead service lines.

Continued on next page.



JON NAMYST | CONTRIBUTED

Jake Williamson threw a shutout in the Cougars' section opener

Boys track: Cougars win relay at section, have 3 state entrants

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Centennial boys earned state track-meet berths in three events at Section 7AAA Wednesday and Friday.

The Cougars won the 4x800 relay in 7:59.97 with Noah Berg, Connor Louks,

Luke Flaschberger and Liban Ahmed.

Also qualifying were Owgio Wreh, second in triple jump (46-10 3/4), and Brayden Boesch, third in shot put (53-7 1/2) and qualifying by standard.

Next-highest placements were Berg, fourth in the 800 run (1:59.09); Inyene Ekah,

fifth in long jump (21-6 3/4); and Tristan Hanson, fifth in high jump (6-2)

Also scoring points: Noah McCloud, sixth, high jump (6-0) with Ryan Lindsay ninth (5-10); Levi Peterson, sixth, 300 hurdles (41.78); Eliot Shepard, sixth, 200 (22.83); Matthew McManus,

seventh, discus (143-3); Evan Sikkink, eighth, pole vault (12-4) with Devin Swenson ninth (12-4); and Andrew Russell, ninth, shot put (48-2 1/2).

The state meet will be Thursday and Saturday at St. Michael-Albertville.

Cougars lose in playoffs but win twice

Centennial, top-seeded in Section 7AAAA baseball, beat Coon Rapids 7-2, lost to Andover 10-4, and beat Duluth East 11-2 last week. Centennial (21-6) faces Anoka at 4 p.m. on Tuesday in Forest Lake. The winner faces Blaine at 7 p.m. That winner goes to finals Wednesday against Andover. Against Coon Rapids, Jake Williamson threw a four-hitter with eight strikeouts. Matthew Siegler, back after missing a month with an injury, went 2-for-4. Tanner Dittrich had two steals and two runs, and Tripp Stensrud a double and a sac fly.

Cougar girls reach state in 8 events

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Centennial girls will have state track-meet entrants in eight events, with Regina Tandoh in four of them, after Section 7AAA action Wednesday and Friday at Forest Lake. The top three teams were Blaine with 239.5 points, the Cougars 131 and Forest Lake 128.5.

Tandoh was champion in the 100 dash (12.37) and 200 dash (25.38) and took second in long jump with 18-3, surpassing 18 for the first time.

Hailey Peterson qualified in pole vault with

second place (10-10) and high jump with fourth place (5-2) by standard. She was seventh in triple jump (34-8 1/2). Lauren Klein won the 800 in 2:12.30 and will make her fourth state trip. Centennial won the 4x400 in 3:56.50 with Tandoh, Klein, Khloe Reker and Anna Swanson. Amelia Sutch qualified with second in triple jump (37-7). She was sixth in long jump (17-8 1/2).

Also scoring points: Swanson, fourth, 1600 (5:19.78); Deborah Timothy, fourth, discus (112-2), and sixth, shot put (35-10 1/2); Charly Hayes, fifth, pole vault (9-10) with Maylin Schneider seventh (9-10); and Josephine Steinhoff, seventh, 400 (1:00.59).

Cougars finish section runner-up in softball

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Centennial softball was runner-up in the Section 5AAAA tournament with three wins and a pair of losses to Champlin Park. The Cougars had a 15-9 record.

After opening with a 2-1 no-hitter win over Osseo (reported previously), the Cougars got another pitching gem from Kendal Saffert (four-hitter, 13 strikeouts) to beat Maple Grove 4-0. Her catcher, Lily Renslow, slammed a

three-run homer. Denver Hogberg had an RBI double.

Champlin Park beat the Cougars 3-2. Gracie Nickle delivered a two-run single in the first, but Avangeline Abrahamson blanked them after that. Saffert allowed only four hits and walked none. June Semling hit a solo homer for the Rebels.

The Cougars scored twice in the last of the seventh to beat Rogers 6-5. Khloe Waldemar singled home Hogberg, who had bunted for a hit, with the game winner. Nickle

was 3-for-4 with a two-run homer and three RBIs. Saffert pitched the distance (seven hits, two walks, one strikeout).

Needing two wins over Champlin in the finals, the Cougars and Saffert led 1-0 before the Rebels tallied seven runs in the sixth on seven hits. Errors rendered all the runs unearned. Abrahamson held the Cougars to four hits, two each by Grace Lien and Renslow.

SPORTS BRIEFS

BOYS GOLF

Centennial will have two golfers in the state tournament June 9-10 after the Cougars placed third in team standings in Section 5AAA at Bunker Hills. Cougar junior Brady Zins shot 68-80-148 to place fifth while sophomore Caleb Lounsbrough was seventh with 78-73-151. Lounsbrough won a four-way playoff for the

final state slot with a birdie on the first hole. The top four teams were Spring Lake Park 588, Maple Grove 598, Centennial 611 and Rogers 625. Cooper Daikawa was 15th with 75-79-154, Colton Lang 23rd with 79-82-161 and Aiden Rome 24th with 83-79-152.

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Continued from previous page.

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Drinking Water Sources

Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water, and is found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water, and is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticide**: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
- **Herbicide**: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Lexington is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at 'Source Water Assessments' (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa>) or call 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health problems, babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk. You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. There is no safe level of lead.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes from service lines but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** before drinking tap water flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap. If you have

a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.

- Activities such as taking a shower, doing laundry or dishes help keep water moving in your home system but are not a replacement for running the tap before you drink if it has not been used for a long period of time.
- The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.

2. **Know your service line materials** by contacting your public water system, or you can search for your address online at the Minnesota Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (<https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>).

- Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>) is EPA's step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.

3. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.

4. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.

- Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to purchase a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample:

Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>)

The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.

5. **Treat your water.** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. You can use a filter certified with ANSI/NSF standards 53 and 42 for lead reduction.

- Read about water treatment units: Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html>)

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and other steps you can take to minimize exposure are available at:

- Visit EPA Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>)
- Visit the Minnesota department of Health Lead in Drinking Water (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>)

- To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/fs/common.html>)

6. **Be Aware:** Head Start Programs, Child Care Centers, Public and Charter Schools all have requirements to test for lead in drinking water. These programs can learn more about requirements and resources for testing and remediation at MDH Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care (<https://www.web.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/schools/index.html>)

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SBM FIRE: Fire chief says department will try to replicate community feel

FROM PAGE 1

106,000 residents, five school districts, the Blaine Airport and the National Sports Center and Super Rink located in Blaine. There are 20 full-time staff members with the department, 55 duty crew members and 30 volunteer fire corps members. Three stations are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year.

The department is governed by a board of directors. The board includes representation from members' cities and two representatives from the SBM Fire Department.

"We operate independently from direct municipal control. That is huge," Retka said. "That is one of the things that have provided us the opportunity to do the things that we do." He added the department's independent, nonprofit model provides flexibility and the agility to adjust to changing service demands.

For 78 years, Retka said the SBM Fire Department ran as a strictly volunteer department. He added the department was proud they were able to maintain that model for all of those years.

"We always said we were going to continue to operate that way," Retka said. "I ran as fire chief with that in mind. I didn't want to change our model...because there is no better model for a community than a volunteer model, as long as its operationally and fiscally able to continue... And that's where we ran into the problem."

On an operational level, Retka said they were struggling to find people to combat the increased demand for firefighters. On the cost side of things, fire trucks are close to \$1 million to purchase today, when 10 years ago, an engine cost \$350,000, according to Retka.

Retka said after discussion that the department decided to move to the duty crew model. The duty crew model is a staffing strategy where firefighters are scheduled for active duty and stationed in the firehouse during specific shifts.

"This approach allows SBM to focus on resources where they matter most: Front line staffing, training equipment and service delivery while continuing to operate in a financial, responsible matter for the communities that we serve," he added.

All firefighters with the SBM Fire Department are EMT certified. Retka said this is a new practice for SBM and they implemented it around seven

years ago. The department is also able to provide water rescue. It has boats located on lakes in Blaine, Circle Pines and Centerville.

Financially, Retka said SBM provides the lowest per capita cost among other departments in the state of Minnesota. The average cost per resident for SBM is \$35.16. Retka compared this cost to the Maple Grove Fire Rescue, where the average cost per resident is \$98.79.

Centennial Fire District integration 'similar' to Lexington merger

Retka said it is important to discuss the Centennial Fire District (CFD) integration into SBM because it is similar to what is happening between the Lexington Fire Department (LFD) and SBM. According to Retka, CFD was experiencing staffing issues, and the city completed a third-party study to see what made sense for the future of the CFD.

"The number one recommendation that was brought forward was collaboration with another department. SBM was pointed out due to the way we were built out," Retka explained. After discussions with CFD staff, it was agreed upon to start with an administrative contract.

The administrative contract eventually developed into a fire protection partnership. "As that went on, we saw the benefits of it...We saw the fruits of coming together, training together, utilizing the same people and utilizing the same equipment," the fire chief added. As of January 1, 2026, CFD fully integrated with SBM.

A Lexington resident asked how many firefighters were assimilated into SBM and if the firefighters were notified ahead of time about the integration.

Retka responded that all but five firefighters joined SBM, and they were notified of the collaboration. Montain, who was originally with CFD, said they were notified of the administrative contract and Chief Retka came in to take over the fire chief role, which was vacant at CFD at that time.

"There wasn't a whole lot of change, but we continued to grow and advance, so we began training the same way...As the contract was coming to an end, we did a one-year extension on it," Montain explained.

Another resident asked why the five firefighters left. Montain said one firefighter didn't stay with the department due to a grandchild on the way and

retired. One decided it was time to hang up their hat and another firefighter stepped down because his daughters were going off to college and it felt like the right time.

Where the Lexington Fire Department is today

Right now, the SBM Fire Department is operating under an administrative agreement with the city of Lexington.

"SBM is currently providing operational coverage. What that means is SBM is responding to Lexington calls right now," Retka said. According to Retka, LFD was taken offline due to critical staffing shortages.

"We cannot simply safely run a fire department with five or less firefighters. It's not safe. I'm not on board with that," he explained. "If we're going to take the liability of things, we need to make sure we're doing that safely."

Retka said the SBM Fire Department makes sense for Lexington due to 24/7 staffing and an established command structure. Another reason the department "makes sense" for the city is how close Station 4 is to Lexington. Station 4 is located at 2 East Road in Circle Pines and has fast response capabilities. Strategically its benefits include long-term sustainability, shared resources and reduced duplication of services.

"The number one thing we cannot compete with the Lexington Fire Department is community... The thing the Lexington Fire Department had was that community presence. It was made up of its own people," Retka said. "We can't replicate that. We're going to try... The (Lexington) fire department deserves a lot of credit for the amount of hours and time they put in since 1954."

The SBM Fire Department Station 1 is located at 1710 County Hwy 10 in St. Louis Park. It also serves as the department's administrative headquarters. Station 3 is located at 11920 Ulysses St. NE in Blaine. Station 6 is located at 1800 Main St. in Centerville. A fifth station is located adjacent to Blaine City Hall and is operated by city employees Monday through Friday.

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