



**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 01, 2022**  
**CITY HALL at 7:00 PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA**
- 5. PRESENTATION**
  - A. Oath of Office - Sergeant Karen Fiske
- 6. DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR**
- 7. CONSENT AGENDA**
  - [A.](#) Approval of Minutes - July 18, 2022 City Council Meeting
  - [B.](#) Contractor's Licenses
  - [C.](#) Special Event Permit - Spring Lake Park Schools (fee waived)
- 8. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
  - [A.](#) Public Works Report
  - [B.](#) Code Enforcement Report
- 9. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS**
  - [A.](#) Resolution Granting Approval of Interim Use Permit for Platinum Auto Group LLC to Permit Indoor Auto Sales at 1313 Osborne Road NE
- 10. NEW BUSINESS**
  - [A.](#) Authorization to Begin Testing Process for Police Officer Position
- 11. REPORTS**
  - A. Attorney Report
  - [B.](#) Engineer Report
  - C. Administrator Report
- 12. OTHER**
  - [A.](#) Correspondence
- 13. ADJOURN**

**SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR RULES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS AND**  
**DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR**

Individuals with disabilities needing auxiliary aid(s) may request assistance by contacting the City Clerk at 1301 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432. Ph.763-784-6491 at least 48 hours in advance.

## **RULES FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR**

- Discussion from the floor is limited to three minutes per person. Longer presentations must be scheduled through the Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer's office.
- Individuals wishing to be heard must sign in with their name and address. Meetings are video recorded so individuals must approach the podium and speak clearly into the microphone.
- Council action or discussion should not be expected during "Discussion from the Floor." Council may direct staff to research the matter further or take the matter under advisement for action at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The purpose of a public hearing is to allow the City Council to receive citizen input on a proposed project. This is not a time to debate the issue.

The following format will be used to conduct the hearing:

- The presenter will have a maximum of 10 minutes to explain the project as proposed.
- Councilmembers will have the opportunity to ask questions or comment on the proposal.
- Citizens will then have an opportunity to ask questions and/or comment on the project. Those wishing the comment are asked to limit their comments to 3 minutes.

In cases where there is a spokesperson representing a group wishing to have their collective opinions voiced, the spokesperson should identify the audience group he/she is representing and may have a maximum of 10 minutes to express the views of the group.

- People wishing to comment are asked to keep their comments succinct and specific.
- Following public input, Councilmembers will have a second opportunity to ask questions of the presenter and/or citizens.
- After everyone wishing to address the subject of the hearing has done so, the Mayor will close the public hearing.
- The City Council may choose to take official action on the proposal or defer action until the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. No further public input will be received at that time.

## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Regular was held on July 18, 2022 at the City Hall, at 7:00 PM.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Robert Nelson  
Councilmember Ken Wendling  
Councilmember Brad Delfs  
Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff

#### MEMENERS ABSENT

Councilmember Lisa Dircks

#### STAFF PRESENT

Public Works Director Terry Randall, Sergeant Richard Kramer, Recreation Director Kay Okey, Attorney John Thames, Administrator Daniel Buchholtz.

#### VISITORS

Christine Jones, 8081 Garfield Street NE  
Abby Kosberg, 110 77<sup>th</sup> Way NE  
Alein Kemp, 1066 County Highway 10 NE  
Jordan Budke, 1066 County Highway 10 NE  
Lugene Flores, 1066 County Highway 10 NE  
Georgeann Copestick, 1066 County Highway 10 NE  
Karen Winehold, 1066 County Highway 10 NE  
Sharon, 1066 County Highway 10 NE  
Ruby, 1066 County Highway 10 NE

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA**

Administrator Buchholtz requested that the following changes be made to the agenda: 1) that Item 5A. be added to the agenda: Abby Kosberg – North Suburban Center for the Arts. 2) that item 7A, Hearing on Revocation of Rental Housing License – 530 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE be removed; and that item 7B, Hearing on Revocation of Rental Housing License – 7827 Quincy Street NE be removed. He stated that all the properties have been brought into compliance.

**5. DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR**

- A. Abby Kosberg – Executive Director of North Suburban Center for The Arts. Ms. Kosberg stated that the Center had a new mission, is to engage the community through the arts. She said this engagement is done by hosting art programs. She stated that 25% of the membership is made up of Spring lake Park residents.
- B. Christine Jones asked for an update on the Garfield Pond trees. Administrator Buchholtz stated that he and Public Works Director Randall were working on a potential plan for plantings with more sustainability.
- C. Lugene Flores, a representative of the residents from the Legends of Spring Lake Park discussed the concerns of the residents seeing a 12.5% rent increase. She stated that the residents currently are utilizing 70% of their income for rent, and that the COLA they received from Social Security does not match the increase that the rate of inflation does. Ms. Flores asked for assistance discussing the issue with Legislators and Dominion.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that rents are based on the median income of Anoka County. Council suggested reaching out to Dominion. Administrator Buchholtz suggested that the residents reach out to Senator Klobuchar, Senator Smith and Representative Omar. Council requested Buchholtz draft a letter to Dominion requesting them to reconsider the rent increase.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes - June 13, 2022 City Council/Planning Commission Joint Work Session
- B. Approval of Minutes - July 5, 2022 City Council Work Session
- C. Approval of Minutes - July 5, 2022 City Council Meeting
- D. Approval of Claims List - June 2022 General Disbursements - \$896,876.71
- E. Contractor's Request for Payment No. 1 - 2022 Street Seal Coat and Crack Repair Project
- F. Public Right-of-Way Application - CenterPoint Energy
- G. Contractor's Licenses

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to approve Consent Agenda.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Delfs, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

**7. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A. Rental License Revocation for Certain Property Located at 530 82nd Avenue NE

Removed

B. Rental License Revocation for Certain Property Located at 7827 Quincey Street NE

Removed

**8. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

A. Police Report

Sergeant Kramer reported that the Police Department responded to 860 calls for service in June 2022 compared to 650 calls for service for the month of June 2021.

Sergeant Kramer said Investigator Bennek handled 25 cases for the month of June, 23 of which were felony in nature and 2 misdemeanors. He said Investigator Bennek coordinated the catalytic converter event with Heartland Tire on June 30, 2022. He said 25 vehicles were marked during the event.

Sergeant Kramer stated that Officer Lemke, the evidence room officer donated 14 bikes to Bikes4Kids in Ham Lake. He stated that Chief Antoine would like to thank Officer Fiske for coordinating the Police Departments involvement with the parade. He reported that Chief Antoine was able to finish the hiring process to a close for Officer Drinkwine who started on June 13, 2022.

He said that Chief Antoine also would like to thank Blaine Police Department, Anoka County Sheriff's Office and the Ramsey Police Department for sending reserves and explorers to assist during the parade. Sergeant Kramer stated that Chief Antoine participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics on June 24, 2022.

B. Recreation Report

Parks & Recreation Director Okey stated that the summer programs are going well and the participation has increased since July 4, 2022. She noted that the summer Adult Softball Program finished the season with a tournament and that the Parks Department is now taking registrations for the Fall League. Director Okey thanked the Junior Leaders for their participation.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Authorize Conditional Job Offer to Anne Scanlon for Recreation Program Supervisor Position

Recreation Director Okey stated that council gave prior approval to advertise and interview candidates for the Recreation Program Supervisor position. She noted the five candidates interviewed were all well qualified, with one candidate Anne Scanlon being the leading selection.

Director Okey is recommending Anne Scanlon for the position with a start date of August 9, 2022. Ms. Scanlon will begin at the starting salary of Step 1 on the compensation scale, \$66,381.11 annually.

Motion made by Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff to Authorize Conditional Job Offer to Anne Scanlon for Recreation Program Supervisor Position.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Delfs, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

B. Schedule Work Session for August 8, 2022 at 5:30 pm

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the Work Session on August 8 is the annual budget meeting. He noted that the topic of edibles will be discussed at that time.

## 11. REPORTS

A. Attorney Report

No Report

B. Engineer Report

Engineer Report is in the packet.

C. Administrator Report

Administrator Buchholtz expressed his appreciation for the floral arrangement sent on behalf of the City for his father-in-law's funeral.

## 12. OTHER

A. Correspondence

Mayor Nelson stated that the Yellow Ribbon Program will be ending the Tuesday hamburger night once the supplies have been depleted. He noted that the second Monday of the month will be dedicated to the Yellow Ribbon Program along with the fourth Monday of the night for Pork Chop night.

## 13. ADJOURN

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to adjourn.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Delfs, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

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Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

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Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

City of Spring Lake Park  
1301 81st Avenue NE  
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432

## Contractor's Licenses

August 1, 2022

### General Contractor

Manarola, LLC.

### Mechanical Contractor

Centraire Heating & Air Conditioning

Summit Mechanical, LLC.

### Plumbing Contractor

Appliance Connections, Inc.

Mad City Windows and Baths

### Sewer & Water Contractor

Gustafson Excavating

### Tree Contractor

Precision Landscape and Tree, Inc.





## Special Event Permit Application/Checklist

*Application and fee must be filed with the City at least 45 days in advance of the date in which the Special Event is to occur. Applications should be sent to City of Spring Lake Park, Attn: Daniel Buchholtz.*

PROPERTY INFORMATION	
Property Address	1100 81st Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
Property Legal Description	LOT 11 AUD SUB NO 152, EX RD, SUBJ TO EASE OF REC
Property ID Number	01-30-24-32-0001
PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION	
Owner Name	IND School Distrcit #16 Spring Lake Park Schools
Owner Address	1415 81st Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
Owner Phone	763.600.5051
Owner E-mail	CPEDER@District16.org
APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Applicant Name	Spring Lake Park School District, MN ISD#16
Applicant Address	1415 81st Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
Applicant Phone	763.600.5051
Applicant E-mail	CPEDER@District16.org
EVENT INFORMATION	
Name of Event	"Start Your Engines"
Location/Address of Event	1100 81st Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
Dates & Times of Event	9/10/22 Approximately 8:00am - 3:00pm
REQUIRED SUBMITTALS	
<p><i>This application is not considered complete until the following materials have been submitted. Failure to submit any or all of the required materials may result in a delay or denial of your permit. Please attach separate pages as necessary.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Admission Fee / Rental Fee / Donation Requested \$ <u>N / A</u></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Food / Alcohol being served <u>N / A</u></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special City Services Requested (road closure, security, traffic control, etc) <u>N / A</u></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Copies of any required State, County or other local government license or permit (liquor, gambling, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Insurance (must name the city as an additional insured, see insurance requirements)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Any Public Health Plans (water supply, solid waste collection, toilet facilities, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Plans (fire prevention, emergency medical, severe weather, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Site Layout</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Security Plans</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Traffic / Parking Plans</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sound / Noise Plan</li> </ul>	

**INSURANCE CARRIER FOR EVENT**

A certificate of insurance naming the City of Spring Lake Park as an additional insured **must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the event start date.** Amount of insurance required is \$1,000,000.

Name of Insurance Carrier\_\_\_\_\_ Policy #\_\_\_\_\_

## PROPERTY OWNER'S STATEMENT

I am the fee title owner of the described property and I agree to this application. I certify that I am in compliance with all ordinance requirements and conditions regarding other City approval that had been previously granted.

Signature:

Date:

## APPLICANT'S STATEMENT

The application shall be processed in my name and I am the party whom the City should contact regarding the application. I have completed all of the applicable filing requirements and I hereby acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the applicable provisions of the City Ordinances and current policies related to this application and that the documents and information I have submitted are true and correct.

Signature:

Date:

## CITY APPROVAL

Conditions for Approval:\_\_\_\_\_

## DEPARTMENTAL ROUTING

City Administrator

Police

Public Works

Code Enforcement

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Fire Department (if required)

## COUNCIL ACTION

☐ Approved      ☐ Denied      Date:\_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVAL BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPT: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Application fee (non-refundable): \$50.00**

**Paid:**

Receipt #:

\* Additional Administrative, Public Works and Police costs may apply.

## Special Event Permit Addendum

Spring Lake Park Schools Community Education

Start Your Engines Event

Saturday, September 10, 2022

**Public Health Plans:** Spring Lake Park High School will be open for toilet facilities both at door #1 and #6. No change to normal solid waste collection. Water supply not necessary.

**Emergency Plans:** In the case of severe weather, event would be canceled. SLPHS facility would be available for emergency use if needed. Event will take place outside. Heavy rain forecast will likely cancel event.

### Site Layout/Traffic/Parking Plans:

Volunteers will be located at road closure barricades to assist with traffic flow and monitor accessibility.

Participant parking will be located in the parking lot east of the main entrance, south of the baseball fields. There are two entrance and exit points to 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue. This is a come and go event. Participants will come and go throughout the four hour period. We do not anticipate parking issues because of this.

The Event Exhibits will be in the “Student” parking lot, south east corner of the property.



**Security Plans:** Staff and Volunteers will be equipped with two-way radios for quick and easy communication between points on the property. OEC will be a participant in the event. If emergency occurs, staff and volunteers will call 911.

**Sound/Noise Plan:** We don't anticipate and sound or noise coming from exhibit.

**All standard Spring Lake Park school district protocols will be in place regarding: health, safety and security.**



# Memorandum

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To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council  
From: Terry Randall, Public Works Director  
Date: July 28, 2022  
Subject: July 2022 Public Works Report

**During the month of July, the Public Works Department was busy doing the following activities:**

- Mow grass, weed whip, weed the flower beds, pick garbage and recycling up
- Fertilized the parks
- Dug out and formed up concrete for new shelter at Terrace Park
- Installed new conduit and wire for the shelter at Terrace Park
- Painted crosswalks and stop bars
- Painted arrows in the sealcoat project area
- Installed new traffic signs on 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE
- Cleaned sewers
- Repaired Equipment

**July Appointments:**

- July 21– Meeting on Able Park Building Reconstruction



**City of Spring Lake Park**  
**Code Enforcement Division**  
1301 Eighty First Avenue Northeast  
Spring Lake Park, Minnesota 55432  
**(763) 783-6491 Fax: (763) 792-7257**

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## REPORT

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**TO:** Spring Lake Park City Council  
**FROM:** Jeff Baker, Code Enforcement Director  
**RE:** Code Enforcement Monthly Report for July 2022  
**DATE:** July 27, 2022

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Permits for July, had a total of 16 building, 1 certificate of occupancy, 3 fire suppression, 9 Zoning, 7 mechanical and 8 plumbing for a total of 45 permits issued compared to a total of 41 in 2021. Code Enforcement conducted 126 inspections in the month of July including 60 building, 25 housing, 16 fire, 22 nuisance and 3 site-visits.

I met with Don Sivigny from the MN Department of labor and Industry. Don is the inspector for the current high school project. We had a great conversation about getting reserve delegation to perform more inspections on state projects. This will result in more inspection revenue on work at the schools in our City.

1200 81<sup>st</sup> Ave and 8030 Central Ave were inspected in the month of July, The new owner/property management company are making great progress. It shows that they truly care about their properties.

The Legends of Spring Lake Park and Northtown apartments are going through a new management change. Don't be surprised if you hear more complaints while the transition takes place. If you do, let myself or inspector Morris know so we can follow up.

In July of 2022, I also attended the following appointments:

- SLP High School Site Visit July 14th.
- Able Park pre-con meeting 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Code review Meeting with the City of Ramsey July 28<sup>th</sup>.

This concludes the Code Enforcement Department monthly report for July 2022. If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding my report, I would be happy to answer them at this time.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 22-36**

### **RESOLUTION GRANTING APPROVAL OF INTERIM USE PERMIT FOR PLATNUM AUTO GROUP LLC TO PERMIT INDOOR AUTO SALES AT 1313 OSBORNE ROAD NE**

**WHEREAS**, Triet Nguyen, Tint Pro's LLC. (the "Applicant") submitted an application for approval of a conditional use permit to permit the operation of an auto detailing, window tinting, vinyl wrap, light mechanical, auto sales and other associated auto services at 1313 Osborne Road NE; and

**WHEREAS**, the legal description for the conditional use permit is as follows:

That part of Lot 22, Auditor's Subdivision No. 152, lying South of the North line of the South 505 feet of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 1, Township 30, Range 24, Anoka County, Minnesota, except the South 330 feet of the West 230 feet of said Lot 22, also except that part of said Lot 22, lying within the South 100 feet of said Quarter Quarter

AND

That part of Lot 22, Auditor's Subdivision No. 152 and of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 1, Township 30 North, Range 24 West, Anoka County, Minnesota, described as that part of the Southerly 100 feet of said Quarter-Quarter lying Westerly of the Southerly extension of the East line of Lot 22, Auditor's Subdivision No. 152, except Lot 24, Auditor's Subdivision No. 152. Abstract property; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council approved a conditional use permit to permit auto detailing, window tinting, vinyl wrap, light mechanical and other associated auto services at its June 6 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council approved a code amendment creating an interim use permit process and making automobile sales as an interim use in the I-1 zoning district; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 6, 2022, Mr. Nguyen requested his application for auto sales be amended from a conditional use permit to an interim use permit; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 25, 2022, the applicant requested the name associated with the auto sales business be updated to Platinum Auto Group, LLC; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission considered the Applicant's request at a duly noticed Public Hearing which took place on July 25, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the application to the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council considered the application at its August 1, 2022 meeting and has made the following findings in support of approval of the conditional use permit application:

1. The proposed use is a reasonable use of the property, anticipated as a interim use in the I-1 Light Industrial District.
2. Automobile sales will occur entirely inside the building and is therefore not expected to have a detrimental effect on surrounding properties or lower property values.
3. Adjacent roadways and the existing parking lot are adequate to handle anticipated traffic and vehicles using the site.
4. No changes are proposed to site grading and drainage and therefore stormwater management should be adequate as it exists now.
5. Unusual odors, fumes, dust, noise or vibration associated with the use will be adequately mitigated by the applicant and work will be conducted indoors.
6. No residential use is proposed on the site; and, therefore incompatible growth in that regard is not an issue with this use.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Spring Lake Park that the City Council does hereby approve the application made by the Applicant for a interim use permit to permit auto sales at 1313 Osborne Road NE, subject to the following conditions:

1. Applicant shall store automobile vehicles for sale inside the building. No outdoor storage of vehicles and associated merchandise is permitted.
2. The applicant shall comply with the conditions outlined in Resolution 32-22.
3. The interim use permit shall expire either upon the sale or transfer of ownership of the building and/or business, a violation of the conditions of the interim use permit or a change in the City's zoning regulations which renders the use nonconforming, whichever is earlier.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the City Council that the application for a conditional use permit to permit auto sales at 1313 Osborne Road NE is denied with the finding of fact that auto sales is not a permitted or conditional use in the I-1, Light Industrial District.

The foregoing Resolution was moved for adoption by Councilmember .

Upon Vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

And the following voted against the same:



Whereon the Mayor declared said Resolution duly passed and adopted the 1st day of August, 2022.

APPROVED BY:

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Robert Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Daniel R. Buchholtz, City Administrator

State of Minnesota )  
 Counties of Anoka and Ramsey ) ss  
 City of Spring Lake Park )

I, Daniel R. Buchholtz, duly appointed and qualified City Clerk in and for the City of Spring Lake Park, Anoka and Ramsey Counties, Minnesota, do hereby Certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 22-36, Resolution Granting Approval of Interim Use Permit for Platinum Auto Group LLC at 1313 Osborne Road NE, adopted by the Spring Lake Park City Council at their regular meeting on the 1st day of August, 2022.

(SEAL)

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_



# Memorandum

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**To:** Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

**From:** Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

**Date:** July 27, 2022

**Subject:** Platinum Auto Group LLC Interim Use Permit

Tint Pros, 1313 Osborne Road, has applied for an interim use permit to permit automobile sales in the I-1 zoning district. They have requested that the business name associated with the interim use permit be Platinum Auto Group LLC.

Tint Pros originally applied for a conditional use permit to allow their business to expand into the 1313 Osborne Road premises. They also applied for a text amendment to permit auto sales in the I-1 zoning district as a conditional use. The City Council approved the request from Tint Pros to approve a conditional use permit to allow auto detailing and light repair at 1313 Osborne Road on June 6, 2022.

The City Council, in consultation with the Planning Commission, came to consensus that auto sales as a conditional use is not appropriate for the I-1 zoning district but that it may be appropriate for an interim use. An ordinance amending the zoning code to establish an interim use permit process and to include automobile sales as an interim use was considered by the Commission at its June 27 meeting and subsequently approved by the City Council at the July 5 Council meeting.

The difference between a conditional use and an interim use is that a conditional use is a permitted use with reasonable conditions that runs with the land. An interim use ends at a specific time or event.

After discussing the City Council's action with the applicant, Tint Pros agreed to amend their application to seek an interim use permit to permit automobile sales in the I-1 zoning district.

Staff has reviewed the application and recommends approval of the interim use permit with the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall store automobile vehicles for sale inside the building. No outdoor storage of vehicles and associated merchandise is permitted.
2. The applicant shall comply with the conditions outlined in Resolution 22-32.
3. The interim use permit shall expire either upon the sale or transfer of ownership of the building and/or business, a violation of the conditions of the interim use permit or a

change in the City's zoning regulations which renders the use nonconforming, whichever is earlier.

We recommend the following findings of fact for approval of the interim use permit:

1. The proposed use is a reasonable use of the property, anticipated as an Interim Use in the I-1, Light Industrial District.
2. Automobile sales will occur entirely inside a building, thereby not having a detrimental effect on surrounding properties or lower property values.
3. Adjacent roadways and the existing parking lot are adequate to handle anticipated traffic and vehicles using the site.
4. No changes are proposed to site grading and drainage and therefore stormwater management should be adequate as it exists now.
5. There are no unusual odors, fumes, dust, noise or vibration associated with the interim use.
6. No residential use is proposed on the site and therefore incompatible growth in that regard is not an issue with this use.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the application at its July 25, 2022 meeting and recommended approval of the application.

If you have any questions regarding the application, please don't hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.



## Memorandum

Date: August 1, 2022

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Joshua Antoine  
Chief of Police

Re: Authorization to begin testing process for a Police Officer position

Mayor and City Council Members,

On July 5, 2022, you authorized me to give conditional offers for employment to our top candidate pending finishing the testing process. Unfortunately, our top candidate was unable to successfully finish the process. Due to this development I am requesting to start the testing process by advertising the position for a police officer, accepting applications, and conducting interviews to determine top candidates for the position.

I am seeking Mayor and Council authorization for this process now to minimize the amount of time that the police department will be short-staffed.

Thank you,

Chief Antoine



City of Spring Lake Park  
Engineer's Project Status Report

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To: Council Members and Staff  
From: Phil Gravel

Re: **Status Report for 08.01.22 Meeting**  
File No.: R-18GEN

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**Note:** Updated information is shown in *italics*.

**2022 MS4 Permit and SWPPP Update (193805251).** Annual Report was submitted on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Public Meeting was held on June 20, 2022. Pond, structural BMP, and outfall inspections due by July 31<sup>st</sup>. Program analysis and annual training is due in December.

**2021 Sewer Lining Project (193805204).** This project included lining in the general area between Terrace and Monroe and south of 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Terry Randall is watching this project. Lining work has been completed. *Grout work will occur this summer. Contractor is Visu-Sewer – status request message was sent to Contractor on 7-26-22.*

**2023 Sewer Lining Project (19380xxx).** Terry Randall has received preliminary televising reports of the remaining sanitary sewers in the city that need to be lined. This information will be used to determine the scope for a lining project in 2023.

**2022 Street Seal Coat and Crack Repair Project (193805507).** 2022 project area included 81<sup>st</sup> Ave., Arthur St., Middletown, and the Service Drive southwest of 10 and 65. Project also included striping part of 81<sup>st</sup> Ave. as a 3-lane road. Crack repair work completed week of June 13<sup>th</sup>. *Seal coat was placed on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Pavement Markings were placed in late-July. Final payment will be processed when close-out documents are received from Contractor.*

**2022 Street Improvements Project (193805383).** Public Improvement Hearings were on 10/4/21 and 11/15/21. Bids were received on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Public Assessment Hearing and Project Award were on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Construction Contractor is Northwest Asphalt. Construction started on May 9th. Bituminous base course and sidewalk work were completed in May. Final bituminous wear course was paved on June 6, 2022. *A punch-list inspection will be completed with the Public Works Director this month.*

**City Hall Building (193805580).** A process for evaluating possible city hall remodel options has started. Data on the existing building has been collected. A kick-off meeting with city staff was held on 5-31-22. *Initial schematic floor plan options as distributed on 7-8-22 are being considered.*

Feel free to contact Harlan Olson, Mark Rolfs, Phil Carlson, Jim Engfer, Peter Allen, Bruce Paulson, or me if you have questions or require additional information.

in Roseville. I stopped both Sat. & Sun.  
I ended up staying most of the day!!  
Also, fantastic CAR SHOW!!!  
Just really an all around fun festival,  
nice crowd of decent people, met some  
~~new~~ folks and thoroughly enjoyed  
myself! Although, I did miss out on  
the Parade! Next year I will look  
at the calendar and make sure I come  
to it! I know these events are a lot of  
work and you all are so very much  
appreciated! THANK YOU!!! 😊  
I loved it so much after being locked up  
with the pandemic - it just did my soul  
some good!! P.S. Loved the Bands - John &  
the Whales, Power of 10, and of course the  
kids dancing was darling!!  
Sincerely - North Star Lion - Coon Rapids  
Sue Ronchak

July 20, 2022

Dear Spring Lake Park Rec/Park &  
Tower Day Committee (SLP Lions)

Thank you for making  
my day brighter!

I meant to write this sooner, but wanted  
to thank you for a wonderful Tower Days  
festival! It was beautiful weather,  
fabulous music, wonderful events with  
the log roll and chain saw demos, great  
food from the hard working Spring Lake  
Park Lions, fun treats of ice cream  
from Culvers, delightful - Balloons by  
Kevin, and the list goes on!! I have  
never been to SLP Tower Days and I  
saw the sign driving by to visit my mom

## U.S. Municipal Bond Market

# A Playbook to Navigate Municipals in the 2nd Half of 2022

- The evolving U.S. political dynamic could threaten both an economic recovery and U.S. public finance credit conditions if there is limited to no appetite for emergency fiscal policy in response to a U.S. recession.
- The U.S. Federal Reserve is expected to continue to tighten its monetary policy into a declining macro-economic landscape. Fed Chair Powell says recession is a "possibility." Now, a 100 basis point increase is possible in July.
- We review the municipal bond market buying opportunities in 2008, 2011, 2013, 2020 and today so investors can establish their playbook for municipal bond investing for the second half of this year.
- In June we revised our issuance forecast to \$410 billion. If rates rise substantially and issuance continues to fall we may need to revise it lower again.
- Negative municipal fund flows slowed toward the end of June and into July. Thursday we saw \$206 billion flow into municipal funds, per Lipper data. This was the first positive flow number we have seen since June 2.
- We are not ready to call an end to the Golden Age of Public Finance. U.S. public finance credit quality will remain strong over the last half of 2022, and we still expect public finance upgrades to outpace downgrades.

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## U.S. POLITICAL DYNAMIC

### Voter Sentiment Souring on Direction of Country, Democrats

The government experiment that is the United States of America is experiencing another profound shift just about a year and a half after voters rallied around hope for normalcy in 2020, and 2021. The results from the 2020 U.S. elections were an important driver of public finance in 2021 and so far for the first half of 2022. The key reason the Democrats were able to pass the sixth phase of COVID relief, also known as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, was because Democrats somewhat surprisingly won both run-off Senate elections in Georgia. Democrats did not secure a mandate from the voters. Nor did these victories create the Blue Wave the Democrats were seeking. But, a tie-breaking vote gave Democrats a method to slam through the Rescue Plan Act legislation via a path known as budget reconciliation.

*We review the municipal bond market buying opportunities in 2008, 2011, 2013, 2020 and today so investors can establish their playbook for municipal bond investing for the second half of this year.*

### Political Dynamic Weakening for Democrats Going Into Second Half of 2022

Poll Result	Topic
77%	Believe the country is headed in the wrong direction
64%	Of Democrats don't want Pres. Joe Biden as Nominee in 2024
94%	Of Democrats (ages 18-29) don't want Pres. Joe Biden as Nominee in 2024

Source: New York Times/ Siena College poll July 5-7, and HilltopSecurities.

Now, just a year and a half after the surprise results in Georgia voter sentiment is very much souring on Democrats and their progressive agenda. Almost everywhere, and almost daily we see negative stories and worsening polling data painting a difficult road



ahead for Democrats. The building of undesirable trends are harming reelection hopes for sure. This sentiment was reaffirmed at the beginning of July in a New York Times/Siena College poll taken between July 5-7. An easier path to power for Republicans is developing as a result.

*The NYT/Siena poll results indicated that 77% say the country is headed in the wrong direction.*

The NYT/Siena poll results indicated that 77% say the country is headed in the wrong direction. More importantly for Democrats' chances in Nov. 2022 and 2024 elections are that 64% of Democratic primary voters do not want President Joe Biden as their nominee. This message gets even worse for Democrats. This is because 94% of those polled (who would vote in the Democratic primary) between the ages of 18-29 do not want President Biden as their nominee.

## Why the Politics Matters – Potentially Limited Appetite for Emergency Fiscal Policy

These political trends could have massive implications for not only U.S. public finance but for the U.S. economy especially if, or when there is an economic downturn. The political whiplash building throughout the country is likely going to at least split control of Congress. It is also possible Republicans take control of both the House and Senate in November. If that is the outcome it is going to be very difficult to envision any type of meaningful emergency fiscal policy spending materializing in a situation where the White House is controlled by the left and Congress by the right. This dynamic is especially important to consider because of the increased risk of a potential recession that may occur in 2022, 2023, or even right around the 2024 Presidential election.

*We expect there to be limited to no political appetite in D.C. for significant fiscal policy once an economic downturn is experienced. This would be a negative not just for the prospects of a quick economic recovery, but also for credit conditions in U.S. public finance.*

Since March of 2020 voters, politicians (on each side of the aisle), and even the private sector became accustomed to a massive amount of U.S. fiscal policy spending. In 2020 and 2021 Washington spent over \$6 trillion on its COVID-19 response and much of that has been questioned. Therefore, we expect there to be limited to no political appetite in D.C. for significant fiscal policy once an economic downturn is experienced. This would be a negative not just for the prospects of a quick economic recovery, but also for credit conditions in U.S. public finance.

## U.S. ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

General concern about economic problems have risen in 2022. When asked in June 2022, "What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today?" 40% of those polled by Gallup included topics such as: inflation (18%), economy in general (13%) and, fuel/ oil prices (5%). Only 1% of those polled included "recession," in the June poll. In February 2022 only 30% cited economic problems.

Even within the month of June the concern about economic problems increased. A Monmouth University poll conducted between June 23-27 reported that 66% of those polled are concerned with economic issues such as inflation (33%), gas prices (15%), the economy (9%), everyday bills (6%), and job security (3%). 42% of those polled say they are struggling to remain where they are financially. It should not be surprising that 88% of those polled indicated that the Country is headed in the wrong direction.

*It should not be surprising that 88% of those polled indicated that the Country is headed in the wrong direction.*

## Inflation-Watch Transitions to Worries About Recession

Inflation concerns and the U.S. Federal Reserve's potential response were chief issues for financial markets in the first half of 2022. Market concerns about a potential economic recession are rising as the second half of the year gets underway. Jobs data from Friday staves off immediate concern of recession but labor market data is being closely watched. Friday's non-farm payroll release showed that 372,000 jobs were added in June, this is well above the 265,000 Bloomberg median forecast. At the end of last week this meant that the Fed was likely to raise their target rate later in the month by at least 75 basis points.

*Inflation concerns and the U.S. Federal Reserve's potential response were chief issues for financial markets in the first half of 2022.*

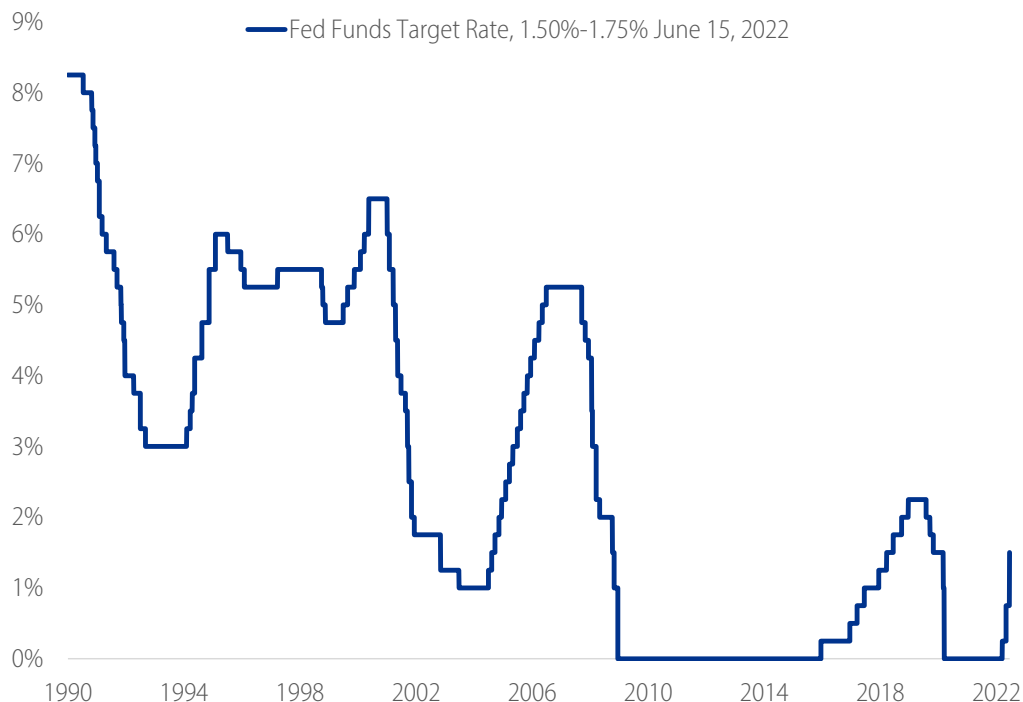
A data release this week showed an important inflation indicator, the consumer price index, increased by a significant level or 9.1% year-over-year. This was above the median forecast of 8.8% and also a 41-year high. This indicator even more importantly is telling the markets that the Fed may have to act with more punch when they meet July 26-27. After July the Fed's next scheduled meeting is for September 20-21. In the middle to the end of this week support for a 100 basis point hike on July 27 gained more attention and support. The Bank of Canada tightened their policy by 100 basis points on Wednesday June 13. The potential for a 100 basis-point increase by the U.S. Fed is rising for July.

## Fed Tightens Into a Declining Macro-Economic Landscape

The action and/or inaction of the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank has been among the leading storylines of 2022. Wednesday (June 15) the Federal Reserve barely surprised the market with a 75 basis point rate hike. The largest rate hike in nearly 30 years was a little bit expected and a little bit of a surprise at first glance. When viewed another way, a more realistic way, it is probably just not enough monetary policy action at an inappropriate time. The battle to achieve the goal of conquering inflation was going to be long and painful at best. The Fed's June 15 action illustrated that volatility and uncertainty is something financial markets and policy makers will need to get used to. For now, the Fed's overnight target rate is set between a range of 1.50%-1.75%. We can't say June's action was a complete surprise because by the afternoon of Monday June 13 over half of financial firms were calling for or expecting a 75 basis point increase compared to the 50 basis point action earlier expected. It will not be surprising if we see a similar dynamic develop before July 27, especially considering the hot CPI data we saw on Wednesday (July 13).

*It will not be surprising if we see a similar dynamic develop before July 27, especially considering the hot CPI data we saw on Wednesday (July 13).*

## U.S. Interest Rates are Steeply Rising in 2022



Source: U.S. Federal Reserve Bank and HilltopSecurities.

This change in June's Fed expectation occurred very quickly. The adjustment occurred because questionable economic data was capped off the previous Friday by a very hot consumer price index number, the highest in 40 years. Sound familiar? Financial markets tumbled on June 10 and analysts quickly revised their forecasts. Fed projections released in June now project their benchmark short-term rate to rise to 3.4% by the end of 2022. In his comments to the public on June 15 Fed Chair Jerome Powell noted that more rate hikes were coming. In comments to Congress he admitted a soft landing will be difficult, and recession is a "possibility."

Financial markets have become increasingly fearful and most participants are expecting pain economically, financially and even politically (for the party in control for the time being as we highlight above). Whether or not you buy into the potential or likelihood of a recession, one cannot deny that the economic data and analysis is mostly becoming more negative every day. There are some like Mark Zandi, of Moody's Analytics who are leaning toward the positive side. Then, again there are some who would say that it already feels as though a recession is already here. Inflation is costing the average American family \$460 a month, according to Moody's Analytics. The 30-year mortgage rate rose to just under 6.00% amounting to a more than 40% increase in the monthly payment for a \$300,000 mortgage compared to the end of 2021. Credit card interest charges are higher, and rising as well.

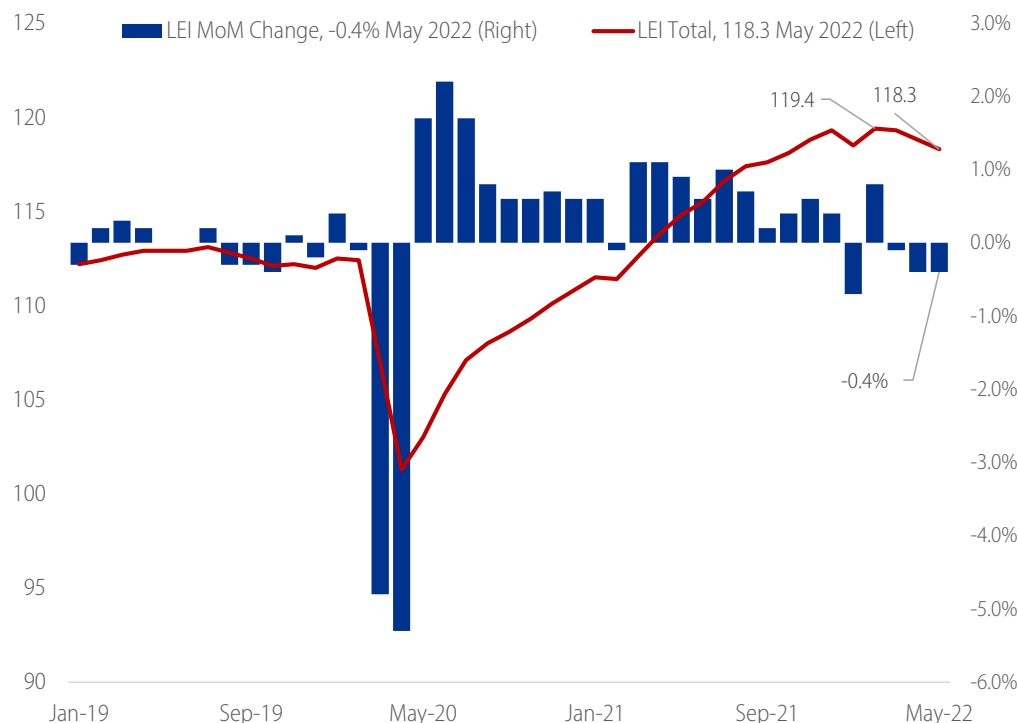
Some data indicates the economic landscape is in fact deteriorating. The Conference Board's Leading Economic Index (LEI) which is made up of ten meaningful indicator components such as jobless claims, the S&P 500, and average workweek data dropped 0.4% in May (June 17). This was the third straight month the LEI fell and the fourth time in five months.

*Fed projections released in June now project their benchmark short-term rate to rise to 3.4% by the end of 2022.*

*In his comments to the public on June 15 Fed Chair Jerome Powell noted that more rate hikes were coming. In comments to Congress he admitted a soft landing will be difficult, and recession is a "possibility."*

*Some data indicates the economic landscape is in fact deteriorating.*

## Leading Economic Index Down Fourth Time in Five Months



Source: Conference Board and HilltopSecurities.

Many observers have also been closely watching the [Atlanta Fed's GDPNow model](#) to gauge the likelihood of a U.S. recession. [The GDPNow model](#) has been consistently showing a negative second quarter result since the end of June.

*The GDPNow model has been consistently showing a negative second quarter result since the end of June.*

## SECOND HALF PLAYBOOK FOR MUNICIPAL INVESTORS

### Among the Finest Environments for Municipal Bond Investing in Last Decade or So

Uncertainty often uncovers opportunity for investors. We are continuing to see one of the best environments for municipal bond investing that we have seen when compared to others over the last ten years, or so. We examine a few briefly below. Common themes among many of the historical investing opportunities usually include one or more of the following characteristics:

- Economic uncertainty,
- Asset and price volatility,
- Favorable technical indicators, and
- Lack of liquidity in certain market segments.

Federal Reserve policy also played an outsized role in most cases. Below we compare and contrast the similarities and differences amongst the municipal bond market opportunities in 2008, 2011, 2013, 2020 and today so investors can establish their playbook for investing in municipal bonds for the second half of this year.

*We are continuing to see one of the best environments for municipal bond investing that we have seen when compared to others over the last ten years, or so.*

## The World Financial Crisis, 2008-2009

Financial history was shaped by the events of 2008-2009. The world turned so sharply that even Warren Buffett became a regular reader of *The Bond Buyer*. What this period is

more commonly known for are the waves of negative major financial events between 2008 and 2009 that are known as the World Financial Crisis and Great Recession. The U.S. mortgage market meltdown occurred during this period as well. During this time several major financial firms merged, or were forced to merge. In September 2008 [the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy](#) (Sept 15, 2008) coincided with the more major negative financial market reactions.

*What this period is more commonly known for are the waves of negative major financial events between 2008 and 2009 that are known as the World Financial Crisis and Great Recession.*

Municipal to Treasury (M/T) ratios were trading at relatively attractive levels, around 100%, leading up to the Lehman bankruptcy. In the weeks after M/T ratios rose well above even levels we would have described as attractive levels. It was not until the end of 2008 that the 30-year M/T ratio peaked just over 200%. They eventually retreated about nine months later but this was even well after the almost \$1 trillion 2009 Recovery Act was passed, which included the taxable direct pay Build America Bond financing option.

### The 30 Year M/T Ratio Peaked at Just Over 200% Just After Lehman Filed



Source: Refinitiv and HilltopSecurities.

Although M/T ratios (some at least) can still be described as somewhat attractive to attractive we have still not seen enough force that would cause M/T ratios to come close to the elevated levels we saw at the end of 2008. Municipal credit quality declined significantly during this time.

### The Meredith Whitney Municipal Bond Selloff, 2011

At the end of 2010 Meredith Whitney, a former bank analyst, shifted her focus to the municipal bond market. In September 2010 she published *The Tragedy of the Commons* for her private client roster. Then at the end of December she told an interviewer that she expected 50-100 state and local government related defaults that would amount to hundreds of billions of dollars. See the [State Budgets: Day of Reckoning](#) segment for more details. Whitney was not the only financial pundit punching at the U.S. municipal bond market around this time. Bloomberg's Joe Mysak created a timeline of some of the "Muni Mania" that occurred (see page 3) in his [The Muni-Meltdown That Wasn't](#) (Nov.

*Although M/T ratios (some at least) can still be described as somewhat attractive to attractive we have still not seen enough force that would cause M/T ratios to come close to the elevated levels we saw at the end of 2008.*

2014.)

Whitney was completely wrong about the municipal bond market. She was completely wrong about the big picture and the details. Some investors, especially retail investors, bought into Whitney's advice because just before the World Financial Crisis she published an against-the-market analysis of Citigroup, that soon thereafter became true. She quickly became known as a truth-telling, oracle, and darling of Wall Street wrapped into one package. So, it should not be considered a surprise that some investors listened to her also in December of 2010 and into 2011.

*Whitney was completely wrong about the municipal bond market. She was completely wrong about the big picture and the details.*

The 2011 municipal landscape is probably more well known for those municipal investors who maintained their positions and added to them despite the fear. The situation offered a buying opportunity, but relative value indicators like M/T ratios were no where near as attractive in 2011 as they were at the end of 2008 or even in March/April of 2020. In 2011 M/T Ratios were mostly above 100% in the first half of the year (peaking around 130%), until the Debt Ceiling showdown in the summer of 2011.

## The Taper Tantrum, 2013

A defining financial event for all of 2013 is still known as The Taper Tantrum. Some may still think of 2013 as the year of the taper tantrum. In May of that year then U.S. Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke made mention of the Fed's intention to begin to wind down quantitative easing measures. He specifically said, "If we see continued improvement and we have confidence that that's going to be sustained then we could in the next few meetings ... take a step down in our pace of purchases." That is all it took for bond yields to leap.

*A defining financial event for all of 2013 is still known as The Taper Tantrum. Some may still think of 2013 as the year of the taper tantrum.*

The 30 year AAA Municipal Market Data (MMD) benchmark rose almost 150 basis points peaking around 4.40% in September 2013 compared to the 70 basis point increase in the 30 year U.S. Treasury. Municipal and Treasury yields did not fall back to pre-tantrum levels until over a year later, around November 2014. Relative value indicators in the form of M/T ratios (30 year) rose from 95% to almost 120% by September then fell back down to the mid to high 90% range over the next year.

## COVID-19, Mid-March to Mid-April 2020

From the middle of March to the middle of April of 2020 policymakers seemingly did everything they could do to maintain financial market stability as economic activity grinded to a quick halt as COVID-19 related shutdowns occurred throughout the U.S. This period included rapidly increasing yields, which elevated M/T ratios to among the highest we have seen (at over 250% in the 30 year spot) since the 2008 World Financial Crisis. Record amounts of money flowed out of municipal funds and liquidity was all but non-existent on the institutional and retail side of the municipal bond market. Municipal fund flow activity reversed quickly in 2020 and this positive fund flow activity continued through 2021.

*Municipal bond investors have had to make adjustments in 2022, but luckily the investing landscape for municipals is looking more attractive as we begin the second half of the year than it was in January.*

## The U.S. Fed's Unwind, 2022

Municipal bond investors have had to make adjustments in 2022, but luckily the investing landscape for municipals is looking more attractive as we begin the second half of the year than it was in January. We are seeing neutral to positive technical

indicators still. Some indicators are not as constructive as what we observed around May 11 when we published Municipal Bonds are an Exceedingly Appealing Fixed Income Opportunity Right Now, but there are some investors putting money to work here. We think this makes sense. In the middle of June we also indicated that Municipals [were] Still Investable. This is still the case, municipal bonds remain very investable right now and we think that is still a good way to approach the market landscape. We may not be as enthusiastic as we were in the middle of May, but the argument in favor of municipals are still plentiful here nonetheless because of relatively higher yields and somewhat attractive M/T Ratios in the mid to longer range maturities. Credit quality remains very strong.

*Municipal bonds remain very investable right now and we think that is still a good way to approach the market landscape.*

## Supply - Municipal Bond Outlook Second Half of 2022

We revised our issuance forecast for 2022 down to \$410 billion from \$495 billion in June. However, June issuance did not come close to what we expected. Furthermore, we are seeing indicators that July municipal bond supply could be lower than our revised forecast as well. If issuance slows like it did in June for the rest of the year we could see annual issuance this year under \$400 billion. We did note in our June revision report that slower issuance was a possibility, and we noted that we may have to revise our forecast again in August. We need to see what is happening on the ground and gauge sentiment before we make another revision.

Where July issuance is concerned there may be a push for issuers to get primary market activity done ahead of the Fed's July 26-27 meeting, but it does not seem a significant amount of issuance is likely to hit the calendar for the week of July 18. Therefore, July issuance is likely to be around \$30 billion. July of 2021 saw \$37 billion and we saw \$47 billion in July 2020. A lighter amount of supply this July would be in-line with the supply dynamic we have seen so far in 2022.

*We revised our issuance forecast for 2022 down to \$410 billion from \$495 billion in June. However, June issuance did not come close to what we expected.*

## Demand - Municipal Bond Outlook Second Half of 2022

The significant selling we have seen in municipals over the first half of 2022 has been a surprise. About \$22 billion flowed into municipal funds in 2020 and another \$66 billion was added in 2021. So far, through the middle of July we have seen about \$47 billion flow out of municipal mutual funds. We think municipal bonds have been oversold over the first six months of 2022. We think demand is going to come back, but the numbers maybe not flow in as enthusiastically as they did in 2020 and 2021.

The negative flows slowed toward the end of June and into July. On Thursday July 14 we saw \$206 billion flow into municipal funds, per Lipper data. This was the first positive flow number we have seen since June 2. We have only seen five weeks (out of 28) this year where municipal flows were positive.

*We are not ready to call an end to The Golden Age of Public Finance. It is under threat from hybrid work, and macro-economic, and political forces for sure. But, we expect it to last at least through the end of this year.*

## HTS Still Expects Public Finance Upgrades to Outpace Downgrades in 2022

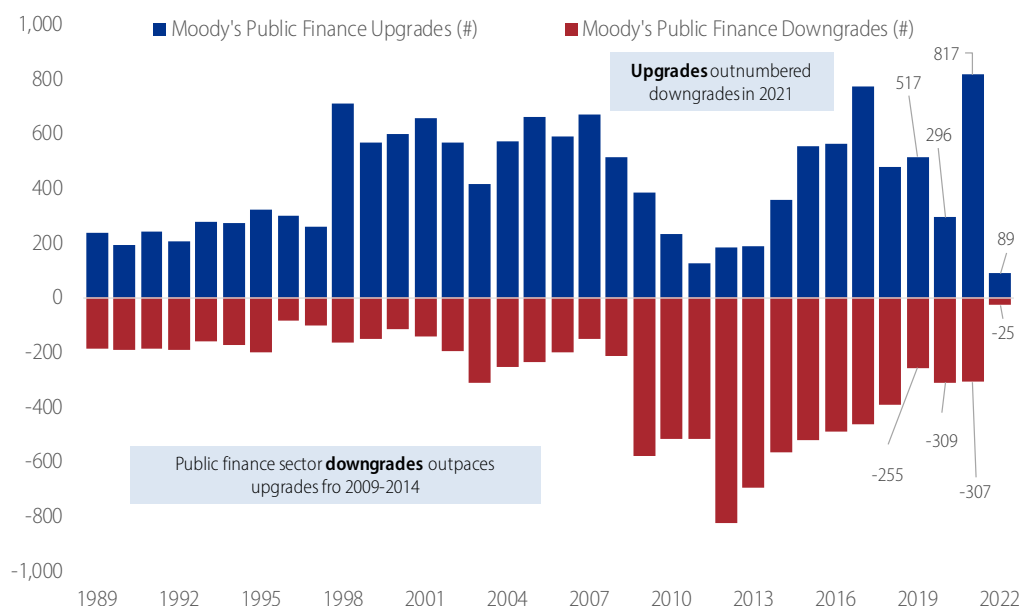
We are not ready to call an end to The Golden Age of Public Finance. It is under threat from hybrid work, and macro-economic, and political forces for sure. But, we expect it to last at least through the end of this year. We raised our credit sector outlooks for state and local government, and school districts at the beginning of the year in REVISED: The Municipal Market in 2022, Due to the COVID-19 Paradigm Shift to "positive" from



"stable". We still expect public finance upgrades to outpace downgrades in the second half of 2022, mostly because of the substantial fiscal policy aid that flowed to almost the entire U.S. public finance sector. This year there will be more positive upgrade activity in the tax backed versus the revenue backed sub-sectors. Political pressure could develop into credit deterioration depending upon what happens in the macro-economic environment in upcoming years, as we indicated in the first section of this commentary, however.

*This year there will be more positive upgrade activity in the tax backed versus the revenue backed sub-sectors.*

## Public Finance Upgrades Massively Outpaced Downgrades in 2021



Source: Moody's and HilltopSecurities.

## Recent HilltopSecurities Municipal Commentary

- [Municipals Still Investable in Front of Fed's June 2022 Announcement](#), June 14, 2022
- [REVISED: Our 2022 Municipal Bond Issuance Forecast](#), June 13, 2022
- [School District Credit Quality is Strong, Former Mayor Bloomberg is Overreaching](#), June 2, 2022
- [Voters Want Normalcy – This is Not It – More Political Change is Likely](#), May 31, 2022

Readers may view all of the HilltopSecurities Municipal Commentary [here](#).

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July 26, 2022

Paul Sween  
Managing Partner  
Dominium  
2905 Northwest Blvd, Suite 150  
Plymouth, MN 55441

Dear Mr. Sween:

The City of Spring Lake Park has been informed by residents living in the Legends of Spring Lake Park that rents are proposed to increase by over 12% for the next year. On behalf of the City Council, I ask that you reconsider this significant rent increase.

Nearly all of the residents of the Legends of Spring Lake Park live on a fixed income, utilizing Social Security as their primary source of income. While median income growth in Anoka County from fiscal year 2021 to 2022 increased by 12.6%, the COLA for Social Security only increased by 5.9%. Seniors do not have the income to pay this increase while at the same time paying for medicine, utilities, transportation, insurance and food.

With inflation levels at 40-year highs, seniors everywhere are having to make difficult choices. At our most recent City Council meeting, we heard a number of stories from residents saying they would need to decide whether to take their medicine or pay that month's rent. Seniors shouldn't be forced to make those choices.

The City has been a key partner with Dominium in the construction of the Legends of Spring Lake Park. The City issued a TIF note in the amount of \$3,270,000 and issued tax exempt conduit bonds to facilitate the construction of the Legends of Spring Lake Park. Our goal in doing that was to provide 194 senior families with an affordable place to live. The proposed rent increase will make the Legends unaffordable to our senior residents, causing some to move out of our community. We ask that you reconsider and reduce the rent increase to a more manageable level for 2022.

Sincerely,

Robert Nelson  
Mayor

cc: Spring Lake Park City Council

# Municipal Basis Points – Weekly

July 27, 2022

## Municipal Market Comments

### Feeling The Muni Heat

We are now well into the summer months and many parts of the country are experiencing uncomfortably high temperatures. Market participants are juggling their summer vacations while managing their financial asset exposures during these uncertain times. Believe it or not, another FOMC meeting is concluding and this one will likely be one of the more impactful for the year. Futures contracts are placing the easy money on a second 75 basis point hike in the fed funds rate, bringing it to a new range of 2.25% - 2.5%. Of course, ***the accompanying statement language may provide some useful guidance, but the real direction should derive from Chair Powell's post-meeting press conference*** and we will be sure to listen attentively as this meeting will not come with a summary of economic projections.

Consistent with our ongoing narrative, the Chair's messaging must be carefully scripted with almost every word considered for market reaction. ***While the Fed strongly desires to avert recession, it will nevertheless deploy all policy tools necessary to bring inflation under control in order to fulfill its prime directive of price stability. We have made no secret of our overall support of Fed policy actions conducted to date and we are much appreciative of the Central Bank's commitment to a routine of transparent communication. Whether one believes that the Fed was slow to deter runaway inflation, there is now widespread concurrence that Chair Powell and team have fashioned a sufficiently aggressive tightening sequence that is already constraining, albeit unevenly, demand and tempering inflationary pressure.***

Certainly, there has been no shortage of recession speak with the discourse resonating loudly in the absence of any Central Banker commentary during the present blackout period. Our readership recognizes that we have distanced ourselves from the popular recession mantra, yet we do have an appreciation for the complexities involved in the identification of a recession. Conventionally, the accepted textbook "technical" definition of recession is two consecutive quarters of negative GDP, but as we discussed in a recent edition of our ***Basis Points, the official pronouncement must be rendered by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).***

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Let's recall that the third and final print for Q1GDP showed a 1.6% contraction in the annualized rate. Following this week's FOMC meeting, the preliminary release for Q2 GDP is expected to show 0.4% annualized growth as the economy is evidencing a reduction in consumption and spending activity. A formal declaration of recession from the NBER, comprised of an eight-person panel of esteemed academics, typically comes when the nation is already entrenched in a down cycle. **While we do not expect such action from the NBER anytime soon, the textbook or "technical" guidance could reflect a recession should we receive enough of a downside miss in the GDP forecast this week.** The last recession occurred between February and April 2020 as COVID-19 effectively shut down our economy and we have repeatedly expressed the unprecedented circumstances involved.

**The emergence from one of the shortest recessions on record (possibly the shortest) has also been chaperoned by extremely unprecedented circumstances as both monetary and fiscal policies quickly infused heavy doses of liquidity and stimulus into the economy with multiple backstops in support of financial assets. The point here is that we are dealing with unique events and so it is challenging to advance recessionary projections based upon historical framework.**

Although our base case does not forecast recession between now and at least through the first half of 2023, we must be prepared to acknowledge the arrival of the textbook definition for recession. **From our perch, we are reluctant to place disproportionate reliance upon the two consecutive quarterly contractions scenario, as we prefer to consider a broader basket of economic data points and activity.**

We believe that our expertise in municipal credit analysis affords us with a unique and insightful perspective on the economy and we can incorporate a cross-section of sectors and regional trends into our calculus. Consumer and corporate balance sheets remain in good shape and while consumer goods spending is slowing, service related activity shows consistently strong demand. We continue to exhibit a robust labor market with low unemployment, there is no looming financial institution crisis, personal income levels remain favorable, and from our view, we do not foresee any sector-wide bubbles that could undermine our economic integrity. Thus, **while we could see a negative GDP for Q2, we would argue that many areas of the economy continue to expand. If it doesn't look like a recession, smell like a recession, and act like a recession, then it probably isn't a recession.**

We must also recognize that declines in car sales and for other purchases may reflect outsized price advances driven more by supply chain disruptions and less by substantive drops in consumer spending preferences. **As pricing hopefully normalizes with abating inflationary pressure, we would expect to see more typical demand patterns and with the strong demand for services, we are not convinced that spending would decline to levels more consistent with recessionary indications.** It was not that long ago when the markets were obsessing over inflationary expectations, and now they are fixated on the Fed's tightening cycle and its impact on economic growth. **The shape of the Treasury yield curve continues to portend recession with demand for longer-tenor securities becoming less conflicted given ebbing inflationary forces and advancing concern over economic growth.**

**During his post-meeting press conference, we expect Chair Powell to acknowledge a softening in certain key data points, yet he can still cite the overall strength of our national economy. One area that**

***he should address is the state of the housing sector given some recent evidence of cooling activity attributable to a doubling of mortgage rates and 20% year-over-year escalations in home prices.***

***Overall, our support for a second 75 basis point hike in the funds rate this week, as opposed to a 100 basis point lift, should align with a less hawkish tone throughout Mr. Powell's press conference.***

Perhaps he will address the Central Bank's outlook regarding corporate hiring activity and expectations for unemployment insurance claims with the latter migrating upward, and of course the outsized June CPI print cannot be ignored, which is sufficient justification for a 75 basis point boost in the funds rate.

Against this backdrop, we are by no means suggesting that the end of the Fed's tightening sequence is upon us. In fact, ***there is plenty of work to do in order for monetary policy to curb excess demand in the system, although we believe that much of the heavy lifting is behind us with the bond market providing assistance to the Fed. Although recession is not a desired outcome for the Fed, failing to gain control over runaway inflation could have greater adverse consequences for the economy.***

Of course, we must recognize that the Fed yields no control over the inflationary elements brought about from COVID and geopolitical driven supply chain dislocations and this is a worrisome reality. Yet we would mention that ***a cooling housing sector with softening demand could provide some degree of supply chain relief, thus curbing some cost inflation in the housing market and returning the sector closer to equilibrium.***

Looking at the futures contracts before going to press, a 50 basis point boost in the funds rate is anticipated at the September meeting with smaller jumps expected at the final two meetings of the year, bringing the implied rate to 3.405% (at the moment) at year-end. A policy reversal is currently being priced in beginning in February 2023 as the Fed is expected to ease policy in order to ignite economic growth with an implied funds rate of 2.86% (at the moment) by the end of next year.

While Treasury market volatility was more pronounced ahead of the FOMC meeting, munis managed to firm up with 3 to 5 basis point bumps along much of the curve on Tuesday. It was only late last week when munis underperformed a UST rally. ***Muni participants are not without worries over the Fed's tightening campaign, but cyclical forces and strong fundamentals have catalyzed positive returns for July, with the asset class doubling the returns shown for UST securities month-to-date.***

***With the outperformance booked by munis, relative value ratios have become more expensive with shorter maturities still the richest.*** The 10 and 30-year benchmarks presently stand at 84% and 98% respectively and while munis have moved further away from fair value, relative value remains far more compelling today compared with the more expensive ratios that existed throughout 2021. ***Given the looming FOMC meeting this week, it was not a surprise to have a very light calendar, in fact the smallest of the year so far, as issuers often display caution ahead of a rate decision.***

***Demand for muni product has been strong this summer and we expect market technicals to remain supportive through August with a likely continuation of positive performance. We suspect that as recessionary concerns intensify, a sustainable flight-to-quality trade should emerge with munis well positioned to offer investors a predictable revenue stream of tax-exempt income. A repositioning of deployable cash into longer dated maturities may offer strategic value with more attractive total return should rates revert to lower ground, and so we suggest that curve extensions may be appropriate for those investors relatively unhindered by duration risk.***

***As we think about spread activity, there has been some noted thinning among the weaker investment grade and high yield cohorts.*** We note that month-to-date, muni high-yield is outperforming the broader index with respective returns of 2.87% and 2.0% respectively. ***We posit that high-yield spreads could continue to narrow with potentially stronger performance through year-end.***

***Although fund flows returned to negative during the last reported period, we continue to believe that stronger market conviction and less inflationary stress will temper the pace of outflows and likely produce a cycle of intermittent inflows or perhaps even a sustained period of positive flows. While there may still be somewhat active bid wanted activity, we expect institutional selling pressure to subside with the availability of better relative value along the long end of the curve.***

***Although long dated muni yields have come down from their YTD highs, the 30-year AAA benchmark is still about 150 basis points higher than where it was at the beginning of the year. We expect short ratios, which have become extremely rich, to cheapen up later this year or during the first quarter of 2023 as inflationary concerns ease and the higher rate bias subsides and possibly shifts course, thus potentially underperforming the overall market. Should this scenario come to fruition, we would expect to see some curve flattening as front-end strength steepened the muni slope.***

***In our view, there is a compelling list of muni tail winds that provide fertile ground to extend the July performance momentum. Entry points are now attractive with munis poised to recover even more of their year-to-date losses, although it would be a reach to end the year in positive territory. Greater comfort with Fed policy actions can make fixed income investment more compelling for those anxious investors starving for directional guidance and can pave the way for heavier allocations of capital into the muni asset class.***

***While one could argue that muni credit has peaked, the asset class enters a possible recession with strong fundamental attributes, which can be relied upon to augment portfolio performance and resiliency. Of course, we must be mindful that volatility and declining valuations within the equity markets may pressure pension funding requirements for certain issuers, and tax collections will likely reveal mixed performance as national and regional growth metrics weaken.***



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STATE OF MINNESOTA  
IN SUPREME COURT

A20-1637

Court of Appeals

Moore, III, J.  
Concurring in Part, Dissenting in Part, Gildea, C.J.,  
Anderson, Hudson, JJ.

City of Circle Pines

Appellant,

vs.

Filed: July 20, 2022  
Office of Appellate Courts

County of Anoka,

Respondent.

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Louis N. Smith, Smith Partners, PLLP, Minneapolis, MN, for amicus curiae Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Inc.

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S Y L L A B U S

1. Minnesota Statutes section 103D.311, subdivision 3(a) (2020), requires counties to appoint managers to watershed districts wholly within the metropolitan area from



an aggregate list of city-submitted nominees, unless the total number of nominees is less than three or the county finds that none of the nominated persons can fairly represent the various hydrologic areas within the watershed district, under Minnesota Statutes section 103D.311, subdivision 3(c) (2020).

2. A remand is necessary to allow the district court to determine, under the proper standard, whether the disputed manager appointed by the county was nominated by a city, and whether the county considered the city nominees' ability to fairly represent the various hydrologic areas within the watershed district.

Reversed and remanded.

## OPINION

MOORE, III, Justice.

This case requires us to interpret Minnesota Statutes section 103D.311 (2020), which governs the appointment of watershed district managers, to determine whether the County of Anoka followed the proper procedure in reappointing City of Columbus resident Patricia Preiner to the Rice Creek Watershed District board of managers. The issue arises from an appeal of cross-motions for summary judgment in an injunction and declaratory judgment action brought against the County by the City of Circle Pines challenging Preiner's reappointment. Circle Pines asked the district court to hold that the County violated the statutory process when it reappointed Preiner, while the County requested that the district court uphold its reappointment decision.

The district court denied Circle Pines's motion and granted the County's motion for summary judgment, agreeing with the County that the statute unambiguously allows the

County the discretion to appoint a manager from any city that fails to submit a list of nominees. The court of appeals affirmed, and this appeal follows. We conclude that the watershed district manager appointment statute is ambiguous. The legislative history and purpose of the statute support the position that, when there are three or more total city nominees, a county must make an appointment from the city nominees unless it finds that those nominees cannot fairly represent the various hydrologic areas within the watershed district, under section 103D.311, subdivision 3(c). We therefore reverse and remand.

### **FACTS**

Watershed districts are governed by the Minnesota Watershed Law, codified at Minnesota Statutes sections 103D.001–.925 (2020). The Minnesota Watershed Law was originally enacted in 1955, *Adelman v. Onischuk*, 135 N.W.2d 670, 673 (Minn. 1965), and was recodified, reclarified, and relocated under chapter 103D in 1990, Act of April 6, 1990, ch. 391, 1990 Minn. Laws 354, 446–508. Watershed districts were established “to develop and manage uniform and integrated programs of water use in separate areas.” *Adelman*, 135 N.W.2d at 673. Some responsibilities of watershed districts include managing water quality in public waters, working to “maintain and improve water quality in lakes and rivers,” and “harmonizing competing demands for development, recreational use, and conservation.” 25 Larry M. Wertheim, *Minnesota Practice–Real Estate Law* § 8:19 (2021-2022 ed.); *see also* Minn. Stat. § 103D.201 (declaring the purposes of watershed districts).

Several types of watershed districts exist under the statute and can be categorized by geographic area—metropolitan area<sup>1</sup> and non-metropolitan area—and by method of establishment—county-initiated, city-initiated, or resident-initiated.<sup>2</sup> Metropolitan area districts and city-initiated districts share the similarity that the first governing board of these districts is appointed from a list of persons nominated by the cities within the district. Minn. Stat. § 103D.225, subd. 4(a–b). Metropolitan area districts often have added requirements or expanded statutory authority. *See, e.g.*, Minn. Stat. § 103D.251 (giving metropolitan area districts additional statutory authority for changing their boundaries under §§ 103B.215 and 103B.225).

Each district is governed by a board of at least three (or, in metropolitan areas, five) but no more than nine managers. Minn. Stat. § 103D.225, subd. 4(a). In districts involving more than one county, “managers [must be] distributed by residence among the counties affected by the watershed district.” Minn. Stat. § 103D.301, subd. 1. Minnesota Statutes section 103D.311 governs the appointment of managers to watershed district boards. The statute outlines manager eligibility requirements in subdivision 1, a timeline and open appointments process in subdivision 2, a special nomination process for city-initiated and

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<sup>1</sup> Minnesota Statutes section 103D.011, subdivision 16, defines metropolitan area by cross referencing Minnesota Statutes section 473.121, subdivision 2 (2020), which defines it as “the area over which the Metropolitan Council has jurisdiction,” including Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties, with the exclusion of certain cities within those counties.

<sup>2</sup> Watershed districts can be established by a petition signed by one-half or more of the counties in the proposed district, by counties with one-half or more of the area in the proposed district, by a majority of cities in the proposed district, or by 50 or more resident owners in the proposed district. Minn. Stat. § 103D.205, subd. 3.

metropolitan area districts in subdivision 3, and a record-keeping requirement in subdivision 4.

The main controversy in this case involves the County of Anoka's (the County) reappointment of Patricia Preiner to the Rice Creek Watershed District board of managers under section 103D.311, subdivision 3, after her term expired on January 17, 2020. The statute reads as follows:

**Nominees for city-initiated and metropolitan watershed districts.** (a) If the establishment petition that initiated the watershed district originated from a majority of the cities within the watershed district, the county commissioners must appoint the managers from a list of persons nominated by one or more of the townships and municipalities located within the watershed district. If the district is wholly within the metropolitan area, the county commissioners shall appoint the managers from a list of persons nominated jointly or severally by the towns and municipalities within the district. The list must contain at least three nominees for each manager's position to be filled. The list must be submitted to the county boards affected by the watershed district at least 60 days before the manager's term of office expires. The county commissioners may appoint any managers from towns and municipalities that fail to submit a list of nominees.

(b) If the list is not submitted 60 days before the managers' terms of office expire, the county commissioners must appoint the managers from eligible persons residing in the watershed district.

(c) Managers of a watershed district entirely within the metropolitan area must be appointed to fairly represent the various hydrologic areas within the watershed district by residence of the manager appointed.

Minn. Stat. § 103D.311, subd. 3.

The Rice Creek Watershed District (the District) is a metropolitan area watershed district spanning approximately 185 square miles of rural and urban land located entirely in Anoka, Ramsey, Washington, and Hennepin Counties. The District is governed by a Board of Managers made up of five managers appointed by the county boards of

commissioners for Anoka, Ramsey, and Washington Counties. Anoka and Ramsey Counties appoint two managers each, while Washington County appoints one manager.<sup>3</sup>

The District is divided into five hydrologic areas, and the managers must “fairly represent the various hydrologic areas within the watershed district by residence of the manager appointed.” Minn. Stat. § 103D.311, subd. 3(c). As of 2019, each District manager resided in a different hydrologic area. The two managers appointed by Anoka County resided in area three and area four: Patricia Preiner, whose term expired in January 2020, in area three; and Steve Wagamon, whose term expired in January 2022, in area four. Both Preiner and Wagamon reside in the City of Columbus (Columbus). Columbus covers land in areas three and four, while the City of Circle Pines (Circle Pines) covers a small amount of land in areas four and five.

In September 2019, the County notified all nine cities in its part of the District of an upcoming manager vacancy at the expiration of Preiner’s term. Circle Pines submitted a resolution to the County nominating three residents to the open position on October 31, 2019. Columbus submitted a letter to the County supporting the reappointment of Preiner on October 29, 2019.<sup>4</sup> The County received both submissions more than 60 days prior to

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<sup>3</sup> Although the District includes a small amount of Hennepin County, it is not enough to justify appointment of a manager residing in that area.

<sup>4</sup> Columbus stated in its letter that it decided not to submit a list of three eligible nominees but rather a letter of support for Preiner “due to her wealth of knowledge of watershed matters and years of leadership experience on the Rice Creek Watershed Board.”

the expiration of Preiner's term. None of the other seven cities in the County's part of the District submitted nominees or sent letters about the open position.

The County board of commissioners met 30 days before the expiration of Preiner's term, on December 17, 2019, with the intention of appointing a manager. During the meeting, the commissioners discussed the submissions from the cities of Circle Pines and Columbus. Two commissioners noted that, other than Circle Pines and Columbus, no other city submitted nominees to the County for the manager position. Anoka County, *December 17, 2019 Board Meeting*, <https://northmetrotv.com/schedulewithondemand/> (search "Anoka County Board Meeting 12/17/2019") at 01:06:49, 01:11:30.<sup>5</sup> Ultimately, the County voted to postpone the appointment after a disagreement with Circle Pines about the appointment process, and the appointment appeared on its meeting agenda for June.

In anticipation of the impending appointment at the County's June meeting, Circle Pines filed an action against the County under Minnesota Statutes section 103D.551,<sup>6</sup> seeking a temporary restraining order, a temporary injunction, and a declaratory judgment to prevent the County from reappointing Preiner and instead interpreting the statute as requiring the County to appoint a manager from Circle Pines's list of nominees. The district court denied the requested temporary restraining order on June 8, 2020, finding that

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<sup>5</sup> See *In re Reissuance of an NPDES/SDS Permit to U.S. Steel Corp.*, 954 N.W.2d 572, 581 n.8 (Minn. 2021) (noting that even when information is not included in the record, "we are empowered to take judicial notice of public records" and consider those records when justice requires it).

<sup>6</sup> Section 103D.551 gives the district court authority to enforce the provisions of chapter 103D by injunction or other appropriate order.

Circle Pines failed to show irreparable harm. The County voted to reappoint Preiner at its June 9, 2020 board meeting.<sup>7</sup>

Circle Pines and the County filed cross-motions for summary judgment. On October 28, 2020, the district court ruled in favor of the County and upheld Preiner's reappointment. In its findings of fact, the district court found that Circle Pines was the only city to submit a list of three nominees for Preiner's position; the court noted that Columbus sent a letter of support for Preiner but found that it "did not submit a list of candidates." The district court agreed with the County that the appointment statute unambiguously gave the County discretion to appoint a manager from any city that did not submit a list of nominees, notwithstanding the existence of a list of nominees submitted by another city in the District. The district court found that because the only city to submit a list was Circle Pines, the County could appoint a manager either from Circle Pines's list of nominees or from eligible residents of any other city, and the County validly appointed Preiner. The court of appeals affirmed the decision and reasoning of the district court. *City of Circle Pines v. County of Anoka*, No. A20-1637, 2021 WL 2528449, at \*3 (Minn. App. Jun. 21, 2021).

## ANALYSIS

This case requires us to determine when, under Minnesota Statutes section 103D.311, subdivision 3, a county must appoint a metropolitan area watershed

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<sup>7</sup> A motion to postpone the reappointment failed, although three of the seven commissioners voted in favor of that motion. The reappointment vote passed with five of the seven commissioners voting in favor of reappointment.

district manager from nominees submitted by cities, and when it has discretion to disregard city-submitted nominees. We have not had previous occasion to examine and construe the provisions within section 103D.311, subdivision 3, governing the appointment of metropolitan area watershed district managers.

According to Circle Pines, subdivision 3(a) requires a county to appoint managers from a list or lists of nominees submitted by the cities. A county can only appoint managers from outside a valid city list or lists if it finds that the nominees on the list(s) cannot fairly represent the various hydrologic areas as required by subdivision 3(c). Each individual city can submit a separate list, but to be valid, Circle Pines contends, each separate list must contain at least three nominees. In contrast, the County contends that it is bound by city-submitted lists of nominees only if *all* cities in the district nominate candidates; otherwise, a county has discretion to appoint either a city nominee or an eligible resident from a city that did not submit nominations. Each individual city can submit a separate list of any number of nominees, the County contends, and to be valid, the *aggregate* list of all city nominees must contain at least three nominees.

Circle Pines argues that the County violated the statutory requirements because it appointed Preiner—who it asserts was not validly nominated by any city—without first determining that Circle Pines’s three validly nominated candidates could not fairly represent the various hydrologic areas. Circle Pines asks us to hold that the County’s appointment of Preiner was invalid and to require the County to make fair representation findings about Circle Pines’s nominees before appointing a manager. The County defends the decisions of the district court and court of appeals, requesting we affirm Preiner’s appointment as valid.



We review summary judgment decisions de novo to determine if the district court erred in its application of the law. *McBee v. Team Indus., Inc.*, 925 N.W.2d 222, 227 (Minn. 2019). In granting summary judgment for the County, the district court interpreted and applied section 103D.311, subdivision 3. Statutory interpretation is a question of law that we review de novo. *500, LLC v. City of Minneapolis*, 837 N.W.2d 287, 290 (Minn. 2013).

## I.

We first address the interpretation of section 103D.311, subdivision 3, including what requirements it places on counties appointing managers to metropolitan area watershed districts. The goal of statutory interpretation is to “ascertain and effectuate the intention of the legislature.” Minn. Stat. § 645.16 (2020). When interpreting a statute, we first determine whether the language of the statute is clear on its face. *Christianson v. Henke*, 831 N.W.2d 532, 536 (Minn. 2013). We read words and phrases in the statute according to “rules of grammar” and to “their common and approved usage.” Minn. Stat. § 645.08(1) (2020).

Additionally, we interpret a statute to “give effect to all its provisions,” Minn. Stat. § 645.16, reading parts of a statute together to determine the plain meaning, *Christianson*, 831 N.W.2d at 537. And we attempt as much as possible to interpret the statute “in a manner that renders no part of it meaningless.” *State v. Wilson*, 830 N.W.2d 849, 853 (Minn. 2013). If we determine that the plain language of the statute is clear, we apply that language directly. *Staab v. Diocese of St. Cloud*, 853 N.W.2d 713, 716–717 (Minn. 2014).

But “[w]hen the Legislature’s intent is not clearly discernible from the explicit words of the statute,” we must look to other tools to interpret its meaning. *Hansen v. Robert Half Int’l, Inc.*, 813 N.W.2d 906, 915 (Minn. 2012). Such tools include “the occasion and

necessity for the law, the object to be attained, and the consequences of a particular interpretation.” *In re Welfare of Children of N.F.*, 749 N.W.2d 802, 807 (Minn. 2008). Additionally, if lack of clarity in a statute raises problems involving governmental functions, “[s]uch problems should not be resolved upon technical grounds, but rather upon broad and practical considerations favoring the public interest.” *Lenz v. Coon Creek Watershed Dist.*, 153 N.W.2d 209, 218 (Minn. 1967).

A.

We begin with the text of section 103D.311. This case requires us to harmonize various parts of section 103D.311, subdivision 3. The parties dispute two main issues in their interpretations of the statute: the scope of a county’s duty to appoint from city nominees, and the requirements of a valid list of nominees. Ultimately, we conclude that the statute is ambiguous because the language is not clear on its face as to either of these issues. *See Hansen*, 813 N.W.2d at 915–16.

Section 103D.311, subdivision 3(a), states that, for watershed districts wholly within the metropolitan area, “county commissioners *shall* appoint the managers from a list of persons *nominated* jointly or severally by the [cities] within the district.” (Emphasis added). The last sentence of subdivision 3(a) states that “county commissioners *may* appoint any managers from [cities] that *fail* to submit a list of nominees.” (Emphasis added). Thus, subdivision 3(a) creates a mandatory duty for a county to appoint city nominees—with the use of “shall”—and a permissive duty for a county to appoint eligible residents of cities that fail to nominate—with the use of “may.” *See* Minn. Stat. § 645.44, subd. 15, 16 (2020) (defining “may” and “shall”).

These coexisting mandatory and permissive duties within subdivision 3(a) conflict in certain situations because of the unclear language about when the duties are triggered, but the duties do not conflict in all scenarios. For example, when *no* cities nominate candidates for the manager position, these two provisions do not conflict because the mandatory duty to appoint city nominees is not operative when no cities nominate. Accordingly, the permissive duty to appoint eligible residents of a non-nominating city can operate without conflict in such circumstances. Likewise, there is no conflict when *all* cities nominate because the permissive duty to appoint eligible residents of cities that fail to nominate is not triggered when all cities nominate. Accordingly, the mandatory duty to appoint city nominees can operate without conflict in this scenario. But in the situation presented in this case—when *some*, but not *all*, cities nominate—the mandatory and permissive county duties conflict because both could potentially operate.

The main question about the scope of a county's duty to appoint from city nominees, then, is whether the mandatory and permissive duties can operate at the same time, as the County argues, or whether the permissive duty only operates when the mandatory duty cannot, as advocated by Circle Pines. The County argues that because we must read statutes to give effect to all its provisions, the only reasonable interpretation of the statute is that both duties must operate simultaneously. It contends that when only some cities nominate candidates, the statute *either* requires it to appoint a nominated candidate from a city that submitted nominees *or* allows it to appoint any eligible resident from a city that failed to submit nominees. Circle Pines counters, however, that this interpretation renders the word “shall” meaningless, because it makes the duty to appoint from city nominees optional. In

its view, the only way to interpret the statute to give “shall” meaning is to require counties to appoint from city nominees *any time* a city validly nominates candidates, even if some cities fail to nominate. Yet the statute offers no explicit guidance on this question, and both interpretations are plausible given the lack of clear language dictating the intent of the Legislature. Consequently, the statute is ambiguous as to the scope of a county’s duty to appoint from city nominees when some, but not all, cities nominate.

The statute is also ambiguous regarding the requirements for a list or lists of nominees to be valid. Subdivision 3 frequently cites the “list” in reference to both individual city nominee lists and the aggregate list of all city nominees and does so without distinguishing the requirements that pertain to each. Subdivision 3(a) uses the word “list” four times in different contexts. The statute initially provides that counties “shall appoint the managers from a list of persons nominated jointly or severally” by the cities in the district. Minn. Stat. § 103D.311, subd. 3(a). In the next sentence, the statute specifies that “[t]he list must contain at least three nominees.” *Id.* The following sentence states that “the list” must be submitted to the county board at least 60 days before the manager’s term of office expires. *Id.* And finally, the last sentence of the paragraph states that counties may appoint managers from cities “that fail to submit a list of nominees.” *Id.* Subdivision 3(b) then states that if “the list is not submitted” within the proper time frame, the county must appoint eligible residents to the position. Together, these provisions demonstrate that multiple cities can submit lists and that the county can appoint a manager from the aggregate list of those nominees. The statute

thus contemplates two types of lists: individual city nominee lists and the aggregate list of all city nominees.<sup>8</sup>

The statute does not distinguish between the two types of lists, however, referring to both as “the list” or “a list” in different sentences. The requirement that “[t]he list must contain at least three nominees” immediately follows the sentence explaining the aggregate list, implying that it only applies to the aggregate list. But conversely, if “the list” must be submitted within a certain timeframe, then “the list” in subdivisions 3(b) and 3(a) must refer to each individual city list because cities “submit” lists, while the aggregate list is presumably compiled, not submitted. Like the arguments about the scope of the county’s duty to appoint from city nominees, these arguments are plausible due to the absence of clear language stating the Legislature’s intent. Accordingly, we conclude that the statute is ambiguous as to the requirements of a valid list of nominees.

#### B.

Because the meaning of the statute is not discernible based on the plain language, we may look to the purpose of the statute, the context in which the statute was enacted, the

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<sup>8</sup> The concurrence/dissent contends that there is no statutory support for our conclusion that the statute contemplates an aggregate list of all city nominees created by the county. But the statute’s use of the singular article “a” when explaining that counties must appoint from “a list of persons nominated jointly or severally” by the cities in the district shows that section 103D.311, subdivision 3, contemplates a singular list of all nominees submitted by participating cities. This singular list does not refer to each individual city list because, as the statute explains, this list includes all persons “nominated jointly or severally,” so it must include the nominations from all cities that participate. *Id.* We agree with the concurrence/dissent that “the list” of nominees *from each city* is “submit[ted]” to the county. *Id.* But, as noted above, the statute lacks clarity as to how the *aggregate list* is created and what it requires. That lack of clarity is yet another reason why we conclude that the statute is ambiguous.

legislative history of the statute, and the consequences of various interpretations, so that we can ascertain the Legislature’s intent and interpret the statute accordingly. Minn. Stat. § 645.16. When we consider the goals of the statute against the backdrop of the practical realities at play in this process and the consequences of the various proposed interpretations, we conclude that the statute requires counties to choose from city nominees unless those nominees cannot fairly represent the various hydrologic areas. We also conclude that the three-nominee requirement applies only to the aggregate list of all city nominees.

Section 103D.311, subdivision 3, was enacted in 1990 as part of a recodification and clarification of Minnesota’s water law.<sup>9</sup> The 1990 version of the statute was the same as it exists now, except subdivision 3(a) did not include the last sentence creating the permissive duty for a county to appoint from eligible residents in cities that failed to nominate. Minn. Stat. § 103D.311, subd. 3(a) (1990). Thus, in the 1990 version of the statute, the direction given counties in metropolitan area watershed districts was that counties “shall appoint the managers from the list of persons nominated jointly or severally by the [cities] within the district.” *Id.* Subdivision 3 was then amended in 1992. Act of April 17, 1992, ch. 466, 1992

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<sup>9</sup> Two bills passed in 1990 affected the language of subdivision 3. The first bill recodified the Watershed Law into chapter 103D and repealed the original law in chapter 112. Act of April 6, 1990, ch. 391, 1990 Minn. Laws 354, 465, 751–52. The second bill amended the language of the original law in chapter 112 by altering the requirements for appointing managers of districts wholly within the metropolitan area. Act of May 3, 1990, ch. 601, 1990 Minn. Laws 2426, 2427–28. The final version of the law ultimately published by the revisor’s office merged the language of the two bills passed by the Legislature in 1990. Minn. Stat. § 103D.311, subd. 3 (1990); *see* Minn. Stat. § 645.33 (2020) (requiring that when two amendments to the same provision are enacted but one overlooks the other, the amendments “be construed together, if possible, and effect be given to each”).

Minn. Laws 306, 307. The 1992 amendment to the statute added the last sentence of the current subdivision 3(a) but left the text of the 1990 statute the same. *Id.*

The legislative history to the 1992 amendment made clear the following purposes of subdivision 3: to encourage city involvement via the submission of nominees, to encourage counties to pay attention to city needs, and to ensure adequate representation and geographic balance across the district for each hydrologic area. Hearing on S.F. 2298, Sen. Comm. Env't Nat. Res., 77th Minn. Leg., Mar. 11, 1992 (audio tape at 3:21:11–33:36). In the hearings on the 1992 amendment, the legislators discussed that the law was intended to get cities involved in the nomination process, but that as of 1992, cities often failed to participate. *Id.* The result of lackluster city participation was that counties were forced to either choose nominees from a list submitted by only some cities in one area of the district, ignoring the fair representation requirement in subdivision 3(c); or appoint eligible residents to ensure geographic distribution, violating the mandate to appoint managers from city nominees in subdivision 3(a). *Id.*

The legislators first considered and rejected an initial proposal to give counties full discretion to appoint metropolitan area watershed district managers in an open appointments process without city nominations. *Id.* Instead, the legislators added the final sentence of subdivision 3(a), which enabled counties to appoint managers from municipalities that failed to submit a list of nominees. *Id.* Keeping the original text of subdivision 3(a) ensured that cities would have a chance to participate in the appointment process, while adding the last sentence of subdivision 3(a) ensured that counties had discretion to appoint outside city nominees so that subdivision 3(c)—requiring fair geographical representation—could

always operate. *Id.* Thus, the solution strengthened the requirement that managers be appointed with fair representation and geographic balance across the hydrologic areas in mind, guaranteeing that this requirement could always be met.

Interpreting the statute to require counties to choose from city nominees unless they do not meet the fair representation requirement in subdivision 3(c)—and to always consider fair representation when making appointments—honors the purposes of the statute. This interpretation encourages cities to participate in the process of nominations because their nominees must be considered. It also makes the counties pay attention to cities by requiring prioritization of their nominees. Prioritizing city involvement makes sense for metropolitan areas where development in cities requires consistent coordination with watershed districts. Additionally, this interpretation prioritizes geographic balance because it requires counties to consider fair representation when making appointments, fulfilling the subdivision 3(c) mandate in every case. Allowing counties to appoint from outside city nominees only when the fair representation requirement is not met by the city nominees also gives counties the appropriate discretion to balance city input with geographic balance. Ensuring geographic balance of metropolitan area watershed district managers also helps fulfill the purposes of the Watershed Act by facilitating the creation an integrated water plan across the district. *See Adelman*, 135 N.W.2d at 673.

In contrast, adopting the County’s reading of the statute would greatly diminish the incentive for cities to participate in nominating managers because there would be no guarantee that the county would consider city nominations unless all cities in a district participated. Across-the-board city participation is unlikely given the difficulty in finding



people interested in serving in these positions. Additionally, under the County's reading, the fair representation requirement in subdivision 3(c) would be left entirely up to county discretion. Absolute county discretion over the appointment of managers would not necessarily ensure the geographic balance that the legislators were concerned about when making special requirements for metropolitan area watershed districts. Not only that, but the Legislature also chose not to adopt the proposal to give counties full discretion to appoint managers in metropolitan area watershed districts. Instead, it opted to add a sentence giving counties limited discretion and kept the city nomination process. Consequently, adopting the County's interpretation would run counter to the legislative intent.

As to the requirements of a valid list, interpreting the statute to require counties to apply the three-nominee requirement only to the aggregate list of all city nominees also honors the purposes of the statute. Applying the three-nominee requirement only to the aggregate list allows cities to nominate one candidate or as many as they wish, giving more flexibility to cities, lowering the barrier to participation, and fulfilling the purpose of encouraging city participation in the nomination process. This interpretation still preserves some level of choice for counties because they must be presented with at least three candidates to be bound by the city nominations.

Conversely, applying the three-nominee requirement to each individual city list would undermine the ability of cities to participate in various ways. Finding multiple people who are interested in, qualified for, and available to serve on watershed district boards is a difficult task because of the relatively low availability of qualified candidates and the time requirements of the job. And requiring each submission to have three nominees would

undermine the ability of cities to express support for the current manager in a contested appointments cycle because cities would have to nominate two additional candidates to get the current manager on a valid list.

For that reason, we conclude that the statute requires the aggregate list of city nominees to have three nominees to be valid. We also conclude that the statute requires counties to appoint managers to metropolitan area watershed districts from city nominees. Additionally, counties must consider the requirement in subdivision 3(c) that managers be appointed to fairly represent the various hydrologic areas in the district for every metropolitan area watershed district appointment. Thus, the requirement that counties appoint managers from city nominees applies unless those nominees cannot fairly represent the various hydrologic areas in the watershed district.

## II.

Having determined what is required of counties in making appointments to metropolitan area watershed districts under section 103D.311, subdivision 3, we address the district court's application of the law in its summary judgment decision and the appropriate remedy. The district court upheld the County's appointment of Preiner, making several conclusions to support this result. The district court agreed with the County's interpretation of the statute that the statute grants counties the discretion to appoint residents from non-nominating cities if not all cities nominated. Additionally, the district court impliedly concluded that each individual city's list must include at least three nominees to be valid, and that consequently, Preiner was not validly nominated by Columbus.

These conclusions were made in error, because they were based on an incorrect interpretation of section 103D, subdivision 3. The case must therefore be remanded to allow the district court to reconsider its application of the law to the facts in light of the statutory interpretation we have adopted herein.<sup>10</sup> A county must appoint from the valid, aggregate list of city nominees unless those nominees fail to meet the fair representation requirement, and the aggregate list is valid when it has at least three nominees submitted by the participating cities. The County, in making its decision to appoint Preiner, considered her to be a nominee from Columbus. Yet the district court assumed that Preiner was not validly nominated. On remand, the district court should answer the question of whether Columbus validly nominated Preiner, keeping in mind that the three-nominee requirement applies only to the aggregate list of city nominees. Additionally, the district court must assess whether the County considered, when making the appointment, whether the nominees complied with the fair representation requirement in subdivision 3(c).<sup>11</sup>

### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, we reverse the decision of the court of appeals and remand to the district court for proceedings consistent with this opinion.

Reversed and remanded.

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<sup>10</sup> We note that section 103D.311, subdivision 3, is not a model of clarity, and the district court did not have the benefit of our interpretation when making its decision.

<sup>11</sup> If the district court finds that Preiner was nominated, the County need only have considered Preiner's compliance with subdivision 3(c). But if the district court finds that Preiner was not nominated, the County should have considered whether Circle Pines's nominees complied with subdivision 3(c), and only considered Preiner if they did not.

## CONCURRENCE & DISSENT

GILDEA, Chief Justice (concurring in part, dissenting in part).

I agree with the majority that we should reverse the court of appeals. But I disagree with the majority's analysis.

The plain language of the statute, Minn. Stat. § 103D.311, subdivision 3 (2020), resolves the issue presented here. *Sershen v. Metro. Council*, 974 N.W.2d 1, 8 (Minn. 2022) (“If the statutory language is unambiguous, our analysis ends, and we apply the statute's plain meaning.”). Under that statute, the County “shall” appoint the manager from the list a city submits. Minn. Stat. § 103D.311, subd. 3(a). And to qualify as a “list” under the statute, the list must have three nominees. *Id.* (“The list must contain at least three nominees . . . .”). If no city submits such a list, then the County is able to appoint a manager who lives in any of the cities in the district. *Id.* (“The county commissioners may appoint any managers from towns and municipalities that fail to submit a list of nominees.”).

Here, the City of Circle Pines is the only city within the district that submitted a list under the statute. The City of Columbus nominated one person, but Columbus' submission is not a list because it did not have three names.<sup>1</sup> The County therefore is not able to consider the nomination Columbus submitted.

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<sup>1</sup> The majority concludes that the “list” here was created when the County aggregated the three names from the list Circle Pines submitted and the one name Columbus submitted. There is no support in the statute for the majority's conclusion that the County creates the “list” by aggregating all names the County receives however the County receives those names. The statute makes it clear that the “list” comes from cities and is directed “to” not created by the county. Minn. Stat. § 103D.311, subd. 3(a) (noting that “[t]he list must be submitted *to* the county boards”).

But because Circle Pines submitted the list the statute defines, the County was obligated to appoint someone from that list unless the people nominated on the Circle Pines list are otherwise unqualified to serve. *See* Minn. Stat. § 103D.311, subd. 3(c) (“Managers of a watershed district entirely within the metropolitan area must be appointed to fairly represent the various hydrologic areas within the watershed district by residence of the manager appointed.”).

I would resolve the case on this basis and reverse. Under my analysis, a remand is not necessary. My determination that the County’s appointment does not comply with the statute ends the case.

ANDERSON, Justice (concurring in part, dissenting in part)

I join the concurrence and dissent of Chief Justice Gildea.

HUDSON, Justice (concurring in part, dissenting in part)

I join the concurrence and dissent of Chief Justice Gildea.

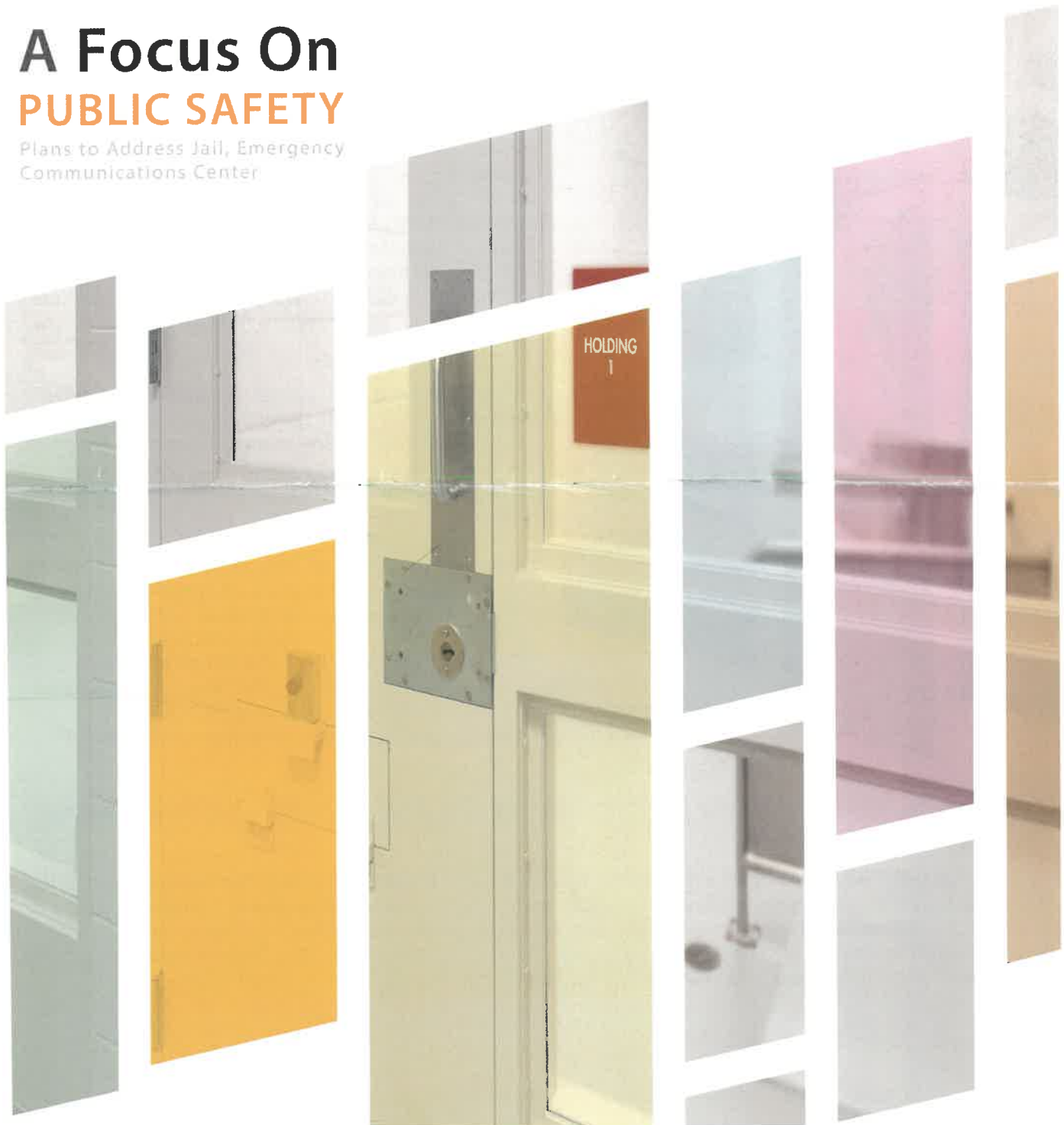
# ANOKA COUNTY

## NEWS

Volume 2-2022

### A Focus On PUBLIC SAFETY

Plans to Address Jail, Emergency  
Communications Center





# The Case

## FOR A NEW JAIL

As of the 2020 Census, the population of Anoka County was 363,887. The county has one jail in Anoka to serve that population, and it was originally built in 1983, when the county had 205,362 residents. At that time, the jail had functional bed capacity for 139 inmates, and that number has only increased to 180 usable beds based on current inmate classifications.

Unlike office buildings and many other facilities, jails are used extensively seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The Anoka County Jail, as one would expect from population growth and continuous use, is struggling to serve the county's growing population. Subsequently, the county has been looking at options for building a new jail in Anoka — state statute requires jails to be built in county seats. Two jail assessments were completed, one in 2017 and another in 2020, to identify the shortcomings of the current jail and to offer options for housing inmates into the future.

Following those studies, several scenarios and locations were discussed, with the preferred option being a two-story, 540-bed facility. The county continues to work with the City of Anoka about the location of the proposed building. The estimated cost for a new jail is \$159.2 million.

Construction of a new jail is currently still in the planning phases — no building has yet to be approved by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. The last action the board took on this issue was in October of 2021, when it approved a contract amendment with Wold

Architects and Engineers for site plan and design services related to the construction of various public safety and correctional facilities, including a new jail, new parking ramp and new emergency communications facility.

The following pages will detail some of the issues facing the Anoka County Jail and the benefits of the proposed new facility.

"The county has been researching options for housing inmates for several years, and during that time a criminal justice workgroup was formed, consisting of representatives from county administration, social services, corrections, 10th Judicial District, public defenders, Sheriff's Office, jail administration, and the County Board of Commissioners," said Scott Schulte, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. "This group, along with other board members and county staff, have been diligently working to identify the best options for our jail population, moving forward."

# Classifications Affect

## HOW MANY INMATES CAN BE HOUSED

The Minnesota Department of Corrections requires jails and prisons in the state to implement an inmate classification system that necessitates differently classified inmates be separated, for safety reasons. The growing number of classifications include:

Minimum security  
Medium security  
Maximum security  
Discipline segregation  
Protective custody  
Medical  
Mental Health  
Male/Female



So, for example, overcrowding in a male housing unit cannot be resolved by moving males into a female housing unit that has empty beds. Thus, each housing area must have excess capacity to accommodate normal fluctuations in the various types (classifications) of inmates. This is the reason that a jail with unfilled beds may have to transport inmates, who cannot fill those beds, to out-of-county jails.

“Older jails, like Anoka County’s, are impacted more severely by classification issues than newer ones that are designed with classification requirements in mind,” said District 2 Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad. “Our jail is currently licensed for 238 inmates, but it only has a functional capacity of 180, primarily due to classifications.”

## Cost to BOARD INMATES OUT

Due to insufficient capacity at the jail, Anoka County has been paying other counties for years, primarily Wright and Sherburne, to house the overflow of inmates. Paying for beds at other jails is expensive, and not part of this amount is the cost of transportation to out-of-county jails — e.g., vehicle depreciation, maintenance costs, gasoline, and deputies to conduct the transport. During 2019-20, the county spent over \$1 million to house inmates in other jails. Recent years have seen this problem exacerbated even more, since some jails are taking less out-of-county inmates amid the pandemic.

2019-2020 Cost  
**\$1 + Million**





# Age, Wear, Design CAUSING PROBLEMS

Given that the jail is a heavily used facility and the oldest in the metro area, fixes have been implemented over the years to address deterioration, but issues still arise.

The jail has dealt with roof leaks, pipe bursts and other age and wear-related problems that have damaged parts of the building and have resulted in costly repairs.

Additionally, some high-traffic areas are overused due to the burgeoning inmate population.

Core services (kitchen and laundry) were originally sized in 1982 to accommodate a population of 139 inmates. Modifications were made to the facility to increase the bed capacity, but the kitchen and laundry have not been increased in size or modified for functionality.

The current facility is situated on a site that cannot accommodate additional expansion. The courthouse size and parking requirements prohibit expansion of the site. Moreover, engineers have indicated expansion cannot be added vertically to the building.

Functional design issues have been a problem with the jail for years. This chart details some of those problems, which can increase danger for both jail staff and detainees, in the jail inmate and support areas.

Functional Areas	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA										
	Obscured Visibility	Capacity Limitations	Movement Problem	Escape Risk	Inmate Harm Risk	Staff/Public Harm Risk	Accident/Safety Risk	Communication Issue	Design Problem(s)	Deterioration	Ease of Resolution
<b>Male Housing Units</b>											
<b>Female Housing Units</b>											
<b>Medical Area</b>											
<b>Kitchen Area</b>											
<b>Laundry Area</b>											
<b>Program Space</b>											
<b>Professional Visiting Area</b>											
<b>Staff Locker Rooms</b>											

- Serious problem
- Moderately serious problem
- Lesser serious problem
- No serious problem

2020 Jail and Workhouse Study



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# The Benefits OF A NEW JAIL

A new jail has a variety of benefits that would positively impact jail staff, inmates and the public.

General	Mental Health
Flexibility to build out space to respond to inmate classification changes and needs.	Dedicated beds designed for inmates experiencing mental health issues.
Supports security and safety for inmates/staff.	Space to provide better access to psychiatric services, counseling, and case management.
Minimizes vertical circulation, more secure.	Flexibility to build out space to respond to inmate classification changes and needs.
Larger vehicles can fit in sally-port for inmate transport (improves safety).	Child-friendly visitor spaces to reduce adverse childhood experiences.
Significant boarding out and transportation cost savings (\$1 M+ in 2019-20).	Room for program services designed to help reduce chances of inmates reoffending.



"The purpose of our county jail is not to just house pre-trial and sentenced detainees," said District 6 Anoka County Commissioner Jeff Reinert. "A main focus of our jail is to help cut down on the instances of recidivism, and a new facility, with spaces dedicated to rehabilitating offenders, would certainly help aid in this effort. The benefits of a new facility would be many, and the county will keep researching options and working with our partners to figure out the best long-term solution for our jail."

## License Centers Offer Several Services, Job Opportunities

When Anoka County residents come into the county's License and Passport Centers or search for this department online, they might not be aware that the array of services goes beyond the two mentioned in the department's moniker, or that this can be an interesting, rewarding place to work.

In addition to issuing and renewing driver's licenses and passports, the centers offer other services, such as tab renewal, titles and transfers, ID card procurement, and more.

### How to access services

While walk-ins are still welcome, there are now other options to get your documentation processed, including the county's eight drop box locations — License Center staff can process 16 different types of documents delivered to drop boxes. More information on this service, including drop box locations and printable forms, can be found at [anokacounty.us/3897/Drop-Box-Services](https://anokacounty.us/3897/Drop-Box-Services).

### Career Opportunities

Positions at Anoka County License and Passport Centers are currently available, and people who are organized, interested in public service, and thrive in fast-paced environments are encouraged to apply when positions become available. The centers are implementing a career ladder system based on aspects such as length of service, increases in job responsibilities, ability and proficiency in processing difficult transactions, and assignment of advanced job duties. Being employed at a License Center location offers people opportunities to work in their communities at jobs that have great variety — every day brings something different. To find out if positions at the License and Passport Centers (or other Anoka County Departments) are currently open, visit [anokacounty.us/1432/Career-Opportunities](https://anokacounty.us/1432/Career-Opportunities).



## Legal Team Advises Several **DIVISIONS, INCLUDING JAIL**

Similar to many large corporations, Anoka County has an in-house legal team. The County Attorney's Office provides legal counsel to County Administration and other departments, including the Sheriff's Office and the jail. "Jails generate a lot of liability questions, data issues, and questions about constitutional rights," said Bryan Frantz, chief of the County Attorney's Office Civil Division.

Civil Division attorneys regularly field questions from the Sheriff's Office and jail staff to review issues through a legal lens. The goal is twofold: To make sure inmates' rights are protected and to protect the county from litigation. The County Attorney's Office also helps navigate personnel matters at the jail and will provide guidance if a court order impacts the activities of inmates.

Though the jail isn't new, novel questions arise frequently. Examples of emerging issues include religious attire, food and diet requirements, and the ever-evolving methods of smuggling in contraband.

"The new issues we see are a reflection of society," said Civil Attorney Bryan Lindberg, who advises the Sheriff's Office, "because that's who's in the jail. And when you go to jail, you lose your freedom, but you don't lose your constitutional rights."

Lindberg continued, "Inmates are getting more assertive about the rights they have and wishing to be treated fairly within the constitution and the law. There are more resources available to them, and more information is readily available because of the internet. I think that is why these questions come up more frequently than in previous decades."

A large portion of the Civil Division's jail-related work focuses on contracts. Any equipment used or service provided by an outside agency in the jail requires a vendor contract. This includes food service, communication equipment, security technology, and health care services. The goal is again twofold: to make sure the county is getting a service it paid for and to ensure vendors do not violate inmates' constitutional rights.

As the county explores the idea of a new jail facility, the Anoka County Attorney's Office works alongside project staff to provide legal guidance.

"We're advising county staff who are working with city officials to make sure it's a good situation for both the county and the city," Frantz said.

## New Jail Would be **BETTER FOR COUNTY STAFF**



The mission of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office's Jail Division is to provide secure, safe, and humane confinement to individuals legally committed to the jail. Daily, employees at the jail see some of the worst experiences that an individual, and a society can endure. Their environment is always unpredictable and often volatile. However, their mission remains steadfast to keep everyone in the building safe and secure.

The growing number of required inmate classifications continues to reduce the jail's functional capacity as more inmates require separation due to discipline segregation, protective custody, mental health, etc. Due to the lack of space for COVID-19 positive and exposed inmates, there were periods when the entire jail had to go on lockdown to properly segregate inmates to decrease the risk of spreading the virus. However, extended lockdown periods can take a toll on inmate behavior and usually lead to increased aggression and assaults to staff. Additionally, staff see an increase of workload during a jail lockdown to care for inmates.

The goal of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office is to

release inmates back into the community better than when they came in. However, programming for inmates is severely limited due to the lack of space for them to receive these services. As the current facility is a high-rise building, emergency response times are not as efficient due to the jail's layout. Unruly behavior that requires additional responders takes extra minutes due to staff having to wait for elevators or climb multiple flights of stairs to respond. The Anoka County Jail has experienced many challenges hiring and retaining detention staff throughout the years. As county representatives have met with jail administrators from other areas who recently built new facilities, it was consistent that after new jails were built, employee sick time decreased, and employee retention and the number of qualified candidates applying increased.

It is clear that a new jail for Anoka County is long overdue and essential to ensure that all who work in and are legally confined to jail are in a secure, safe, and humane environment.

"After many years of exploring the best way to meet the future needs of Anoka County, we are on a solid path forward," Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart said. "The new jail will provide a safer environment for staff and inmates while ensuring programs and treatment options that can tackle recidivism while creating more constructive futures. I am grateful for all of the hard work that has gone into the development of this plan to date."

*Anoka County News*



# County Moving Forward WITH NEW 911 CENTER

Plans are in the works to build a new facility in Andover that will house the county's 911 Emergency Communications Center and Radio Shop.

The county will go out for bids later this year, with the construction, estimated to last around 16 months, likely beginning in mid-spring 2024. The estimated cost for the building is \$29 million, a large portion of which will be funded by American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

For years, Anoka County 911 dispatchers have worked in the basement of the Government Center, with no access to windows or daylight. This work environment has been difficult, as these are high-stress jobs and dispatchers need optimal working conditions to be in the right mindset to expertly help the public.

In addition to the sub-par mental health aspect of the current setup, scattered consoles make coordination and supervision difficult, the low ceilings create noise issues that can affect calls, and there's no room for expansion or social distancing.

Emergency call volume handled by 911 staff continues to increase — in 2020, staff fielded about 496,000 calls, which equates to about one a minute. Subsequently, increased staffing is needed to handle this volume, and a new facility can accommodate future growth.

Other beneficial features of the new facility will include:

- A dedicated space for a social worker to assist callers experiencing mental health issues.
- A quiet room for staff to step away and collect themselves privately.
- A wellness/fitness room to reduce stress.
- A setup that is more conducive to learning and distraction reduction.
- Energy conservation.

The new facility will be thoroughly storm-proofed, to ensure it is operational during potential natural disasters. Critical areas of the building will be able to withstand 300-plus-mph winds.

"This new Emergency Communications/Radio Shop facility is designed to meet today's sustainability and construction standards, said District 3 Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West. "Our staff and the public will benefit from a safe, new facility for all our vital emergency telecommunicators."



*Artist rendering of the new facility.*

# RECREATION PROGRAMS



## Introduction to Kayaking

Aug. 11, 4 – 6 p.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

Aug. 31, 6 – 8 p.m.

Rum River South County Park

## Stand Up Paddle Boarding

July 18, 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes, Centerville Beach

Aug. 23, 12 - 1:30 p.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

## Nordic Walking

Aug. 16, 9 - 10 a.m.

Lakeside Lions Park, Spring Lake Park

## Fat Tire Biking

Aug. 22, 4 - 6 p.m.

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve

## Rice Creek Paddling Adventure

Aug. 25, 12 - 4 p.m.

Rice Creek — water levels will determine which section is paddled

## Introduction to Fly Fishing

July 7, 6 - 8 p.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

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Wargo Nature Center

**Ages 4-5** Join us for a season or register for the whole school year! We will spend Wednesday mornings exploring and learning about different nature topics and seasonal changes along the way. In addition to guided activities, each week will include a free-explore time where participants will be encouraged to follow their senses and create their own adventure with new friends! This is a great hands-on experience for young children. Pre-registration is required.

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**Winter session: Jan. 4 - March 15**

**Spring session: March 29 - June 7**

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Anoka County News



C H O M O N I X G O L F C O U R S E

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AUGUST

12

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Tuesdays (Space is limited)

Aug. 16

Aug. 23

#### LAP SWIM DATES

(In Rocky Bay)

Monday Mornings

Wednesday Mornings

Saturday Mornings

Sunday Mornings

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT [BUNKERBEACH.COM](http://BUNKERBEACH.COM)

## CONOCER LOS PARQUES

(MEET THE PARKS)

TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS (EVERYONE IS WELCOME)  
GIVEAWAYS THROUGHOUT THE EVENT!

### RESERVA (SAVE THE DATE)

DOMINGO 22 DE AGOSTO (SUNDAY AUGUST 22)

2-5PM - LOCKE PARK - 840 71ST AVE NE, FRIDLEY, MN 55432

COMIDA  
FOOD

MÚSICA  
MUSIC



ACTIVIDADES AL AIRE LIBRE  
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

PREGUNTAS SOBRE EL EVENTO  
(QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EVENT)  
[info@outdoorlatinominnnesota.com](mailto:info@outdoorlatinominnnesota.com)

ANOKA  
COUNTY  
PARKS

@anokacountyparks



@CityofFridley



@outdoorlatinominnnesota

# ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARY



## Having Trouble Breaking Away from Screens this Summer?

Use screen time for learning, exploration, and fun with apps and resources from the library.



Pairs classic video storybooks with related nonfiction eBooks to build a love of reading and learning. Includes games and fun activities related to the stories.



Stream over 30,000 films and TV shows for all ages anywhere, anytime on your device.

Includes The Great Courses series, English as a Second Language Videos, and Cooking videos from The Culinary Institute of America. Check out the "**Kanopy Kids**" section for family friendly viewing including video books brought to life in Kanopy's Storytime collection.



Audiobooks, eBooks, and eMagazines for all ages.

Great for summer road trips

and time at the cabin! Items from the eLibrary automatically return on the due date, so you never have to worry about making it back to town to avoid overdue fines — plus, they don't take up room in your suitcase!

## SUMMER ADVENTURES -UNEARTHED-

**June 1 - Aug. 14**

**Register at [anokacounty.beanstack.org](https://anokacounty.beanstack.org)**

All ages can register for the summer reading challenge; track your reading minutes, share book reviews, enter for prize drawings.

- Kids get a free book for registering.
- Complete fun activities and earn digital badges to enter weekly prize drawings.
- Youth under 18 can read down their fines through Aug. 14.

### Collective Reading Goal

Last summer Anoka County readers logged more than 1 million minutes of reading during the 2021 #ACLSummerAdventures reading challenge. This summer we will try to reach a goal of 1.5 million minutes by Aug. 14. Join the community in tracking your reading online and contribute to the collective reading minutes on the Beanstack Tracker app or visit [anokacounty.beanstack.org](https://anokacounty.beanstack.org).



**Did you know you can use the Beanstack Tracker app all year long?** We add extra

activities and have prize drawings during our seasonal challenges, but you can track your reads, share reviews, and compete with friends and family all year long.

Always FREE at the library

Visit the online event calendar for information on upcoming events & programs

**anokacountylibrary.org**

### Reading Mentors Needed

Did you know only about half the students in our county are reading at grade level? This fall, the Library is offering a new program to support 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders build a love of reading and practicing their skills to become more confident readers. The Library needs volunteers who can commit to one hour per week September to December to read and play literacy games with students.



Visit [anokacounty.us/4197/Volunteer-Reading-Mentors](https://anokacounty.us/4197/Volunteer-Reading-Mentors) to learn more about becoming a reading mentor at the library.



**EVERY MEAL**  
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

Every Meal focuses on the food gaps when children aren't able to receive free and reduced meal programs. This summer, Anoka County Library locations will offer free meal bags for pickup July 29 to Sept. 5. No questions asked. Visitors can take what they need from the table near the entrance.

**Friends**  
of the Anoka County Library



Thank you to the Friends of the Anoka County Library for your generous \$10,000 donation to support library programs and services!

Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization that has been dedicated to supporting and promoting library services since 2003. They donate their time to help with library programs and the funds they raise make it possible for every child to receive a book to keep when they register for Summer Adventures. They also sponsor the annual Teen Write On! Contest, the Book Club in a Bag collection, and provide bike locks, diapers, and USBs for people who visit the library and find themselves in need.

Support high-quality education and entertainment in our community with the Friends. Ways to get involved:

- Become a Friends member for as little as \$10 a year.
- Give a one-time donation.
- Follow them on Facebook at Friends of the Anoka County Library to learn about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

For more information about the Friends, visit [anokacounty.us/2680/Friends-of-the-Library](https://anokacounty.us/2680/Friends-of-the-Library) or email [friendsofanokacolib@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofanokacolib@gmail.com).



New! Bring Lead Tackle to the HHW Facility



## What's the problem with lead?



**Lead is toxic to wildlife.** Even in small amounts, it is lethal to loons, eagles, and trumpeter swans. It is estimated that lead is responsible for up to 25% of loon deaths.



**Loons pick up lost lead tackle** while gathering pebbles for their gizzards. Loons are also exposed when eating fish that have ingested lead.



**Lead is toxic to people,** both when handling lead products and in the manufacturing process.



### Non-toxic alternatives

- Tungsten
- Bismuth
- Steel
- Tin
- Glass
- Stone
- Metal composite

## DATE

Aug. 6, 2022

## HOURS

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## LOCATION

**Northtown Library**

711 County Hwy 10 NE, Blaine

**FIX IT  
CLINICS**

Want to get that much-loved item repaired free of charge? Join us at the Blaine Fix-It Clinic Aug. 6 and our fixers will try to fix your item. For details on what may be fixed, go to [AnokaCounty.us/fixit](http://AnokaCounty.us/fixit) or call 763-324-3400.

Paper shredding will be offered in conjunction with this event. Limit is up to three bankers boxes equivalent of paper per vehicle.



[AnokaCounty.us/fixit](http://AnokaCounty.us/fixit)  
763-324-3400



**Anoka County  
MINNESOTA**  
Respectful. Innovative. Fiscally Responsible

# Career Pathways TRAINING



For more information on job search and career services, visit [careerforcemn.com/blaine](http://careerforcemn.com/blaine), call 763-324-2300, or email [careerforce.blaine@state.mn.us](mailto:careerforce.blaine@state.mn.us)



## Healthcare

Short-term Certified Nursing Assistant training with strong employment growth.

Average starting wage \$18.11/hour



## Transportation

Class B license training, including pre-trip planning and behind-the-wheel.

Average starting wage \$23.12/hour



## Manufacturing

Training designed to assist justice impacted individuals prepare for:

- MIG welding training & 3G.
- Certification through American Welding Society.
- Forklift & OSHA 10 safety certifications.

Average starting wage \$23.31/hour

## ENROLLING NOW!

No-cost training to eligible applicants (class sizes limited)

Inquire Today! Visit [anokacounty.us/jtcapply](http://anokacounty.us/jtcapply)

No computer access? Call 763-324-2284



**BLAINE HUMAN SERVICE CENTER**

**1201 89TH AVE NE STE 235**

**BLAINE MN 55434**



# Redistricting Summary, What to Know this Election Season

## Redistricting

New election district boundaries were established during the 2022 redistricting process. Congressional and legislative districts were approved by the Judicial Special Redistricting Panel Feb. 15. Precinct and ward boundaries were re-established by cities and townships on or before March 29. Anoka County Commissioner districts, Anoka Conservation District Supervisor districts, and school board member districts (for Anoka-Hennepin ISD No. 11 and Elk River ISD No. 728) were approved on or before April 26.

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners adopted the map titled "Proposed Redistricting Scenario C" at a special board meeting April 26. All districts experienced a shift in boundaries that will require each commissioner seat to appear on the ballot in 2022. To comply with staggered term length requirements, districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 will each have 4-year terms. Districts 5, 6 and 7 will each have 2-year terms in 2022 (and will return to 4-year terms in 2024). More information and updated maps are available at [anokacounty.us/4160/Redistricting](https://anokacounty.us/4160/Redistricting).

## Precincts & Polling Places

Now that the 2022 redistricting process is complete, voters are encouraged to reconfirm their polling place location if they plan to vote in-person on Election Day. Some precinct lines and/or polling place locations may have changed due to redistricting. Anoka County will mail a postcard to all households with registered voters in the county that will confirm election districts and polling place locations. Voters can also look up their polling location at [pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us](https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us).

## 2022 Elections Key Dates & Information

- June 24 - start of absentee voting for the state primary election.
- Aug. 9 - state primary election.
- Sept. 23 - start of absentee voting for the state general election.
- Nov. 8 - state general election.

"Voters are encouraged to register to vote in advance of Election Day," said District 4 Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner. "A resident can confirm if they're registered to vote at their current address by visiting [mnvotes.org](https://mnvotes.org). Being involved in the electoral process as a voter is relatively simple, but people should take a moment to either register prior to Election Day or double check their registration, so the process goes as smoothly as possible."

In-person absentee voting is available at the city/township hall for the city in which the voter resides, or any voter can come to the Anoka County Government Center in Anoka. To vote absentee by mail, apply online at [mnvotes.org](https://mnvotes.org) or contact Anoka County Elections at 763-324-1300 to receive a paper application by mail.

More elections information is available at [anokacounty.us/elections](https://anokacounty.us/elections).



## .Gov Transition

Coming this summer, Anoka County will be switching from the .us domain for its website and email addresses to the more trusted .gov extension. While this seems like a minor change, it actually has some major benefits.

The .gov domain is like a gated community — it's a digital space that's only available to genuine and vetted U.S.-based government organizations. This domain also has enhanced security benefits, which will enable Anoka County to better protect county systems from malicious email traffic and Domain Name System hijacking.

"When the .gov domain becomes active, the county's former .us domain will still remain active, for a time," said District 5 Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache. People who email an Anoka County employee with the .us domain or visit the website with that same extension will still be directed to the right person or place online. When the .us domain is set to be completely retired, this information will be communicated with the public prior to the cessation."

[anokacountymn.gov](https://anokacountymn.gov)





# 2022 Summer Roadwork



**Those who drive through Anoka County have likely seen the orange cones, detour signs and construction workers at various thoroughfares this season. Several projects are underway to restore pavement, add lanes, improve accessibility and fix drainage issues.**

For more information on current and upcoming Anoka County road projects, visit [anokacounty.us/4065/Highway-Projects](https://anokacounty.us/4065/Highway-Projects). This site also contains a helpful map that shows all in-progress projects, as well as detour maps.

"The projects being completed this summer/fall are going to help improve the flow of traffic, increase safety and add to the longevity of our highway infrastructure," said District 1 Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look. "There will be detours and slowdowns in some areas, but as long as motorists plan ahead and visit our website for updates, they should be able to successfully navigate construction zones."

## 125th Avenue in Blaine

- Reconstruction of 125th Avenue from approximately Harpers Street to Lexington Avenue.
- Replace the existing 2-lane roadway with a 4-lane roadway.
- Includes new curb and gutter, multiuse path, ADA improvements, stormwater/drainage improvements, new traffic control signal system at Legacy Creek Parkway/North Lake Boulevard, raised concrete median, and other associated improvements.
- Construction started in April and will be completed in November of this year.

## Foley Boulevard Railroad Grade Separation Project

- Reconstruction of Foley Boulevard between East River Road and Coon Rapids Boulevard in the City of Coon Rapids.
- Includes the construction of a new bridge overpass over the railroad.
- Roadway will remain a 4-lane roadway.
- Includes the installation of a new traffic control signal on Foley Boulevard at the entrance to the Metro Transit park-and-ride.
- Also includes ADA improvements, sidewalk and multiuse trail enhancements, storm sewer system improvements, and water and sanitary sewer replacement.
- The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year (year 2 of 2 for project).

## Overlays

- Divided into two separate projects this year. One project covers the northern Anoka County area, and the other one covers the southern Anoka County area.

## Intersection Improvements at Coon Rapids Boulevard and Blackfoot Street (Mercy Hospital's main entrance) in Coon Rapids

- Replace existing traffic control signal with a new one.
- Includes ADA improvements, roadway surface improvements, and other associated improvements.

## Intersection Improvements at Radisson Road and Cloud Drive in Blaine

- Install a new traffic control signal system.
- Includes ADA improvements and roadway geometric/lane configuration adjustments to facilitate the installation of the signal.



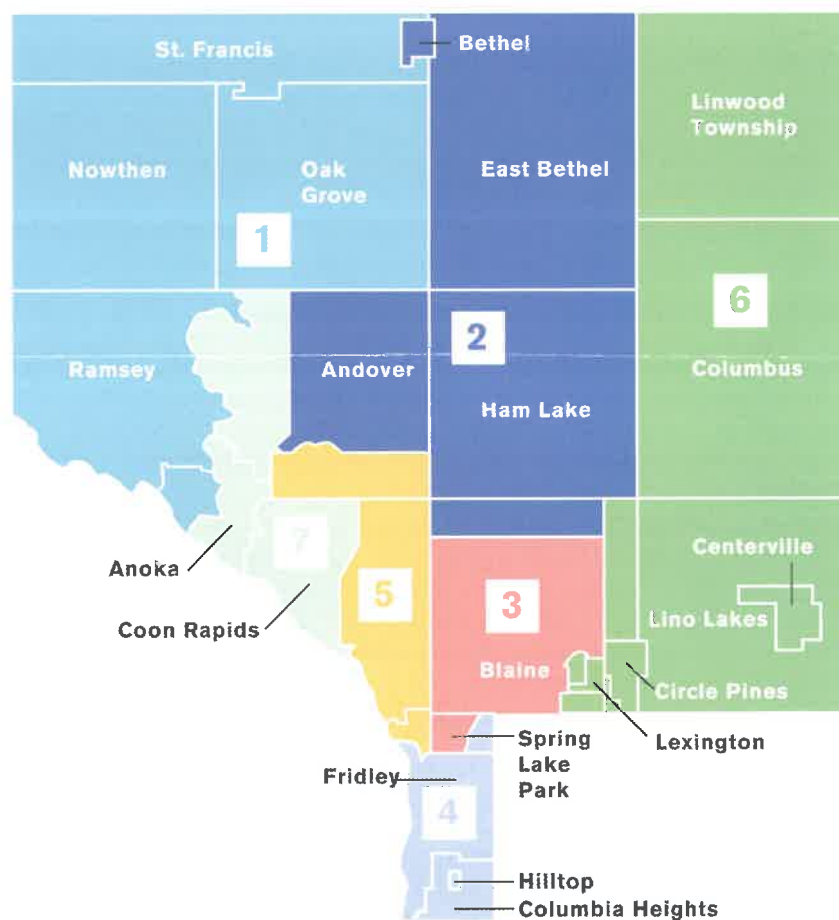
Anoka County  
2100 3rd Ave.  
Anoka MN 55303-5024



*Visit our website!*

## ANOKA COUNTY LEADERSHIP

763-324-4700



**Matt Look**  
DISTRICT 1  
COMMISSIONER



**Julie Braastad**  
DISTRICT 2  
COMMISSIONER



**Robyn West**  
DISTRICT 3  
COMMISSIONER



**Mandy Meisner**  
DISTRICT 4  
COMMISSIONER



**Mike Gamache**  
DISTRICT 5  
COMMISSIONER



**Jeff Reinert**  
DISTRICT 6  
COMMISSIONER



**Scott Schulte**  
DISTRICT 7  
COMMISSIONER



**James Stuart**  
COUNTY  
SHERIFF



**Tony Palumbo**  
COUNTY  
ATTORNEY

County board meetings are generally held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. in Room 705 of the Anoka County Government Center in Anoka. Watch board meetings live at [anokacounty.us](http://anokacounty.us). "Anoka County News" is produced by Anoka County Communications, Erik Thorson, Director, 763-324-4612 [publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us) • [anokacounty.us/newsletter](http://anokacounty.us/newsletter)  
Printed on 30 percent post-consumer recycled paper.



# your Connexus Connection

For Connexus® Energy Members

Summer 2022 Edition

A new  
look for  
electric



\*Powered by  
solar energy  
from Connexus

**STORM RESPONSE AND  
READINESS**

August is Cash Back Month  
The Renewable Energy Club





## The benefit you only get from your electric co-op, Connexus Energy.

Cash Back is based on your annual purchases of electricity and will be directly applied to your August statement if you are eligible.

### CONTACT US

Services/Outage: 763.323.2650

ConnexusEnergy.com

 facebook.com/connexusenergy

 @connexusnews

14601 Ramsey Blvd.  
Ramsey, MN 55303

*Connexus Energy is an equal opportunity/  
affirmative action employer.*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fran Bator, Chair (East Bethel)

Mark Ethen, Vice Chair (Blaine)

Shelly Peterson, Secretary/Treasurer  
(Nowthen)

Michael Cady, Assistant  
Secretary/Treasurer (Blaine)

Richard Braastad (Ham Lake)

Kenneth Fiereck (Clear Lake)

Donald Holl (Forest Lake)

Gordon Westerlind (Big Lake)

*Cover photo: Connexus CEO Greg  
Ridderbusch and powersports pioneer  
Derek Guetter with a OneWheel,  
CAKE electric motorcycle, and a  
Polestar 2 EV provided by Pritchard  
Electric Motors.*



## Reliable Affordable Safe



## Get the new Connexus app for your phone

iOS and Android now available



Connexus Energy is offsetting 100% of the energy used for printing this newsletter with renewable energy credits.

# CEO sparks

Greg Ridderbusch, President & CEO

## Reliable electric service through stormy weather and industry changes

Years of preparations and drills paid off this spring when a series of major storms rolled across Minnesota one early May Monday, bringing down trees and power lines in communities served by Connexus Energy. Instantly notified of the first outages by our digital meters, the team and systems acted immediately to safely restore power. Three storms in four days ended up causing a substation outage as well as more than a hundred minor outages, impacting 19,000 of Connexus' more than 141,000 members. Service to all members was promptly restored.



A safe storm response is an all-hands-on-deck moment, and we are thankful for our line crews and operations staff sometimes working multiple 16-hour days, including some through the entire night. In addition, we are thankful to several neighboring utilities that were able to assist, reminding us that in times of need we are a community that helps one another. With a grid designed in a series of loops and more than two-thirds underground, increasingly protected from trees and vehicle crashes, Connexus provides service reliability in the top three percent of all utilities nationwide.

Whether it's in response to storms or successfully navigating modernization and changes in how power is generated, Connexus Energy is prepared to continue to provide reliable electric service for our members. You can play a role as well by signing up for Connexus Energy's most flexible program, Peak-Time Rebate, the program that alerts you about peak usage days in the summer, and then pays you to conserve energy during peak hours.

It's not just how we reliably provide and deliver power that's modernizing though, we're also proud to be helping members learn about the new look of electric — lightweight motorbikes, medium- and full-size pickups, as well as several new lawnmower models, all providing a superior experience by using electric motors. Coming to the Anoka County Fair at the end of July, we encourage you to take a look at the Big Air Tour's Electric Activation show featuring some of these vehicles.

We're also pleased to be making progress in negotiating new contracts with our wholesale electricity supplier that will enable power cost savings and increased flexibility for localized control of our membership's power supply future. As true today as it was when we were founded in 1937, we're working for you — For the Members — adapting to changing technologies and market conditions while providing reliable and affordable electric service.

Thank you for being a member-owner,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Ridderbusch'.

### Learn More

*Check [connexusenergy.com](http://connexusenergy.com) for information about an online town hall event on power supply.*



# A new look **for electric**

Powersports pioneer Derek Guetter (see cover photo) grew up with gas engines — he and his brother toured the world backflipping ATVs and producing motorsports events and DVDs. He had already heard about early electric motorbikes and was curious about their performance when Connexus approached him about whether they could fit in his acclaimed show, the ATV Big Air Tour.

“No question — they rip,” said Guetter after trying several models of lightweight electric motorcycles.

Across America, there’s a new look for electric vehicles emerging — Ford F-150 Lightnings, Rivian pick-ups, and Chevy Silverados, as well as nearly a dozen new electric motorcycle brands including CAKE, Sur-Ron, Talia, and others. “It’s all about an improved customer experience,” said Matt Mukomela, of Polaris Inc., when introducing the new electric Ranger ATV to a group of energy leaders from around the state at the University of Minnesota.



*Three-time X Games gold medalist Brett Turcotte on a CAKE electric motorcycle from Pritchard Electric Motors.*



*Even lawnmowers are getting a new look — and benefit from being able to be fueled by the electricity from the battery of an electric pickup.*

Connexus members Shaun and Rick Olson agree and are glad they waited until now to buy an electric car — the vehicles have much larger ranges than earlier models. Shaun, who works at Invictus Brewing, loves that the company offers workplace charging as a benefit. She’s also encouraged by the convenience of a rapidly growing number of stores and clinics providing charging stations so she can always be “topping off” the battery, even though the car has a range of more than 400 miles per charge.

“As employers large and small are competing for the best workers and offering existing staff new perks, we’re seeing a steadily growing interest in our rebates for workplace EV chargers” said Connexus Energy’s Paul Hanson, who advises members on electric vehicle chargers for business or home. “Whether it’s gas for your car, or propane for home heating, it’s just hard to know what the price of these fuels is going to be. One thing is certain though, and particularly in Connexus service territory — electricity costs are stable and affordable.”



*Ridderbusch and Brian Burandt, VP of Power Supply, with a Rivian light-duty pickup.*

A recent study found that when financing and operating costs of six different competitively priced EVs — including the Ford F-150 Lightning and Nissan LEAF — are compared to their gas equivalents, EV credits and rebates combined with overall lower operational costs, made the EV cheaper on a monthly basis over the financing term in most states.

Connexus Energy and other electric cooperatives across the country are always looking for ways to brighten their communities and help their member-owners save energy and money. “Beneficial Electrification” is one of those ways — a term that encompasses vehicle electrification as well as a broad set of other uses.

“Locally produced renewable energy is the ideal way to power electric vehicles, appliances, heat pumps, and other beneficial electrification measures,” says Connexus CEO Greg Ridderbusch. “Keeping energy dollars in our own community is another way of creating more economic benefits.”

To a rocking soundtrack, Derek Guetter and his team can appreciate the appeal of local power. As their athletes send electric bikes soaring into the air, the announcer tells the crowd the vehicles are powered by some of the “millions of megawatts of raw power from the sun,” harvested right here in Connexus service territory.



In 2022, Connexus Energy became a member of the Beneficial Electrification League, a non-profit organization bringing together numerous co-ops and other organizations across the country to help consumers save money on their energy bills and improve the economy while achieving environmental goals.

The Beneficial Electrification League highlights four conditions that, if satisfied, ensures that electrification activities will be beneficial to consumers. They must:

- » Save consumers money over the life of the appliance or product
- » Improve product quality or the consumer’s quality of life
- » Benefit the environment
- » Foster a more robust and resilient grid

Long-time Connexus Energy members may remember the co-op’s several resources and brochures over the years highlighting a wide variety of electric home appliances.

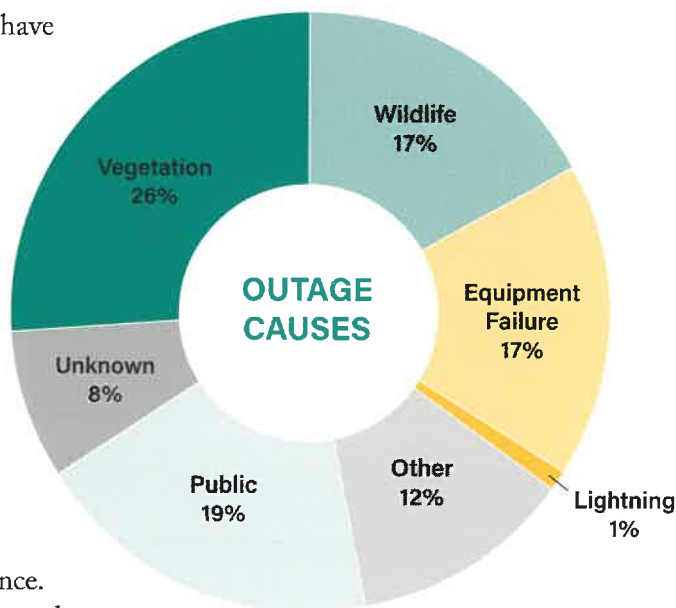


# Connexus Energy ready for summer 2022

Similar to the last several years, the summer of 2022 is predicted to have above-average temperatures driving increased usage of air conditioning during the hottest summer days. This year, we have been hearing questions about the grid and its ongoing reliability from members at home.

For Connexus Energy, this year is not much different than last year or previous years regarding the number and variety of risks managed by our expert staff to provide reliable electric service. The organization that operates the regional grid, MISO, and local experts successfully manage and respond to changing factors on the bulk grid. Always on our “radar” are wildlife, car crashes, and vegetation (particularly blown down by storms) which account for nearly two-thirds of all unplanned electric service interruptions on the Connexus grid. Happily, Connexus members on average experience an unplanned, temporary power outage just once every 3.6 years.

Know that in a power-out situation, we’re always grateful for your patience. Our field teams and office staff are working hard to restore your power and that often involves behind-the-scenes work you can’t directly see. As a nonprofit electric cooperative, that’s been serving this community since 1937 — more than 85 years — our priorities are always to provide affordable, reliable, resilient, and safe services to members.



## What you can do to help grid reliability

- » Take action to manage your use on the hottest days. Sign up for Connexus Energy’s Peak-Time Rebate program and install a Wi-Fi thermostat to help manage and reduce electricity use throughout the summer months.
- » Support our initiatives regarding tree trimming near power lines and ensure there’s six feet of space around any green utility boxes on or near your property.
- » Almost 20% of damage to Connexus’ grid is caused by automobile crashes, dig-ins, or other forms of public damage. Drive safe and ensure that you, or any contractors, call 811 before you dig.



See full-size versions of these May 2022 photos on Connexus Energy’s Facebook or Twitter pages.

# Co-op cuisine

## SUPER CREPES

From the Haines family

2 large eggs

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup milk

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup water

1 cup all-purpose flour

2  $\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoons granulated sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

3 tablespoons salted butter melted

Equipment:

Induction cooktop, bowl, immersion blender, spatula

Instructions

1. Combine all of the ingredients in bowl and thoroughly combine with 10-20 seconds of an immersion blender. Let the batter rest for 10 minutes.
2. Heat a nonstick pan over medium heat. Add a little butter to the pan and swirl it to coat the bottom before cooking your first crepe.
3. Pour about  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of batter into the hot pan, tilting and swirling the pan while pouring, to cover the bottom of the pan in a thin, even layer of crepe batter. Let it cook for about 30 seconds until lightly browned around the edges and the top has lost its glossy wet sheen, then carefully flip with a spatula and cook on the other side for about 10 seconds. Remove to a plate and repeat with remaining batter.
4. Serve with your favorite crepe fillings. We do ours with bananas and peanut butter on the inside (though sometimes strawberries and mixed fruit) then powdered sugar, whip cream, and sprinkles after it's rolled up.



*Connexus member AJ Haines of Andover is a photographer, videographer, and BMX athlete performing with the Big Air Tour.*

A photograph of solar panels installed on a roof, with a field of yellow wildflowers in the foreground. A green banner is overlaid on the bottom left, and a yellow starburst sign is on the right.

### Go for 100%

Join the Renewable Energy Club to get the "We Run on Solar" yard sign.

Sign up today at [connexusenergy.com](http://connexusenergy.com).

**we run on SOLAR**

 SOLAR WISE |  CONNEXUS ENERGY





14601 Ramsey Blvd.  
Ramsey, MN 55303

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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PERMIT NO. 1000

\*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*5-DIGIT 55432

P-15 P152 00123886  
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Or Current Resident  
1301 81ST AVE NE  
FRIDLEY MN 55432-2188



## Oh snap



CEO Greg Ridderbush and CFO Yan Paul Martinez join other Connexus staff in the co-op's annual roadside cleanup. Connexus has been donating trash bags to Anoka County roadside cleanup work for 20 years.



Serving seniors in Anoka County, Impact Services received a \$1500 Your Community Your Choice grant. Visit Connexus' website today and nominate a nonprofit serving your community — a new grant is awarded each month.



A large group of Connexus Energy field and office staff helped with several landscaping projects including spreading mulch, planting flowers, and tree trimming at Volunteers of America's Bar None ShelterPlus facility.



In coordination with Connexus hosting a meeting of the Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association, grazer Arlo Christofaro-Hark brought a flock of lambs and ewes to the co-op's headquarters solar project.

# HOUSING ISSUE PAPER

## INTRODUCTION

Metro Cities represents the shared interests of cities in the metropolitan region at the executive, legislative and metropolitan branches of government.

Housing proposals have and continue to receive significant legislative debate, some of which impose considerable restrictions on local zoning, regulations, and development/infrastructure fees.

Legislation that would set a one-size state zoning policy and restrict cities' ability to set and manage local infrastructure fees for new housing is under consideration. Such proposals are chiefly supported by the building industry that would presumably stand to gain in terms of savings and profits.

Metro Cities supports local zoning authority and opposes legislation that would impede cities in this function as well as in cities' ability to manage public infrastructure needs and costs.


**City officials must guide local land uses in a manner that balances existing and future uses and compatibility as well as physical and fiscal constraints and local input by residents. Local officials are in the best position to make these decisions.**


Metro Cities' policies recognize private and public roles in housing, the need for sufficient resources, and the preservation of local decision-making that allows cities to address a range of local housing needs.


## GOVERNMENT ROLES IN HOUSING


Housing is predominantly built by the private and nonprofit sectors. 95 percent of the housing in the state is privately owned. Cities and other levels of government support housing needs via specific and limited but important roles and responsibilities.

**State funding is a critical and significant component in meeting housing needs. Current funding is insufficient, with many programs chronically oversubscribed.**

 **CITIES:** Cities ensure the structural integrity of housing through land use planning, zoning, subdivision regulations, building inspections, code enforcement, and rental licensing. Cities consider aging populations, workforce housing, affordability, racial disparities, and the preservation of existing housing. Cities provide long-term public infrastructure to serve new developments. Many cities offer financial incentives to advance housing and apply for resources through state programs.

 **FEDERAL:** Federal investments maintain and increase affordable and life cycle housing as well as help first time homebuyers, and aid affordability through rental assistance programs.

 **METROPOLITAN COUNCIL:** The Metropolitan Council determines regional needs for new affordable housing production and in collaboration with local governments sets requirements to ensure land is guided to meet this need and to meet overall forecasted growth. Density requirements vary based on local characteristics and regional infrastructure needs.

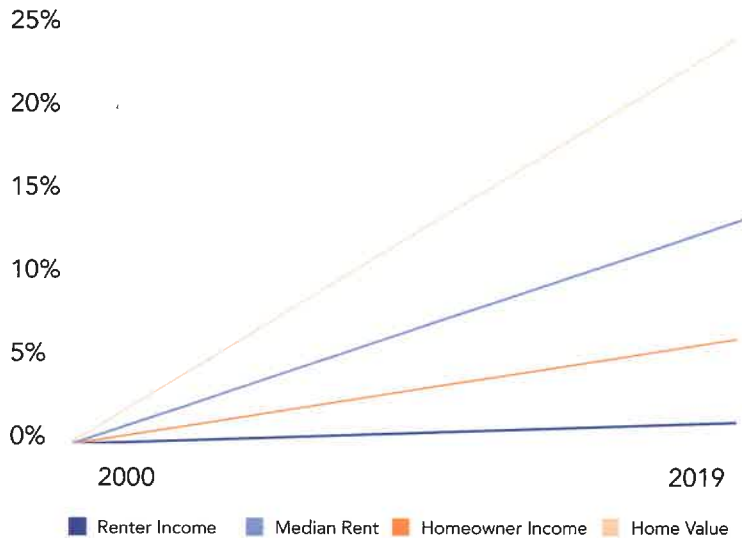
 **STATE:** The state finances and administers programs to support affordable, lifecycle, supportive, senior, workforce, and family housing. State funding is a critical component in meeting housing needs and current funding is insufficient.



## HOUSING CHALLENGES: CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

### Incomes are Not Keeping Pace with Housing Costs

Between 2000 and 2019, the median renter income in Minnesota increased by just 1 percent, while median gross rent for the state increased by 14 percent. Homeowner income went up six percent, while home values increased 24 percent.



Renter Households			Homeowner Households		
Year	Income	Rent	Year	Income	Value
2000	\$39,295	\$838	2000	\$81,900	\$181,152
2019	\$39,637	\$977	2019	\$86,805	\$223,900

[Source: Minnesota Housing Partnership]

### State Funds are Oversubscribed 3:1

Projects from across the metropolitan region submit requests for affordable housing projects to Minnesota Housing's Consolidated RFP every year. In the last five years, the following cities did not receive funding awards from MN Housing due to limited state resources: Anoka, Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Burnsville, Carver, Chaska, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Cottage Grove, Crystal, Eden Prairie, Edina, Elko New Market, Forest Lake, Fridley, Hopkins, Jordan, Long Lake, Maple Grove, Maplewood, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Mounds View, Plymouth, Ramsey, Richfield, Robbinsdale, Rogers, Rosemount, Roseville, Saint Anthony Village, Saint Louis Park, Saint Paul, Savage, Shakopee, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, Waconia, and Woodbury.

Year	Apps Received	Apps Selected	# of Non-selects	% of Apps that were Selected	% of Apps that were Non-select
2015	78	23	55	29%	71%
2016	71	25	46	35%	65%
2017	55	25	30	45%	55%
2018	63	25	38	40%	60%
2019	77	38	39	49%	51%
2020	81	33	48	41%	59%
2021	64	22	42	34%	66%
Averages	70	27	43	39%	61%

[Source: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, 2022]

### Affordable Homes for Sale

Affordable homeownership opportunities are available for first-time and lower-income Minnesotans. Over 50 percent of existing homes sold since 2008 have sold for less than \$300,000. For new construction, builders are often choosing to build larger, more expensive houses.

Year	\$0 - \$199,999	% Total Home Sales	\$200,000 - \$299,999	% Total Home Sales	\$300,000 - \$499,999	% Total Home Sales	\$500,000+	% Total Home Sales
2008	7149	35%	7289	36%	4083	20%	1630	8%
2009	9209	47%	6209	32%	3169	16%	1071	5%
2010	7944	45%	5215	30%	3121	18%	1262	7%
2011	7708	48%	4448	28%	2811	17%	1097	7%
2012	10493	46%	6348	28%	4201	19%	1601	7%
2013	13183	43%	9170	30%	6093	20%	2123	7%
2014	13893	43%	9827	30%	6391	20%	2146	7%
2015	13372	39%	11436	33%	7301	21%	2219	6%
2016	16942	34%	16359	33%	11818	24%	4209	9%
2017	14577	29%	16865	34%	13278	27%	5061	10%
2018	10670	24%	15695	35%	13925	31%	4974	11%
2019	8777	19%	15971	34%	16112	34%	6242	13%
2020	2748	15%	5309	30%	7111	40%	2636	15%

[Source: Metropolitan Council]

## ADDRESSING HOUSING NEEDS: LOCAL TOOLS, REGIONAL POLICY, HOUSING PRODUCTION

### Regional Density Requirements

Regional minimum densities are intended to guide orderly growth while maintaining local land use flexibility. All metropolitan cities guided land at or above minimum required densities in 2018 comprehensive plan updates.

#### OVERALL DENSITY EXPECTATIONS FOR NEW GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, AND REDEVELOPMENT

##### Metropolitan Urban Service Area: Minimum Average Net Density

Urban Center	20 units/acre
Urban	10 units/acre
Suburban	5 units/acre
Suburban Edge	3-5 units/acre
Emerging Suburban Edge	3-5 units/acre
Rural Center	3-5 units/acre minimum

[Source: Metropolitan Council]

### Single Family and Multifamily Housing

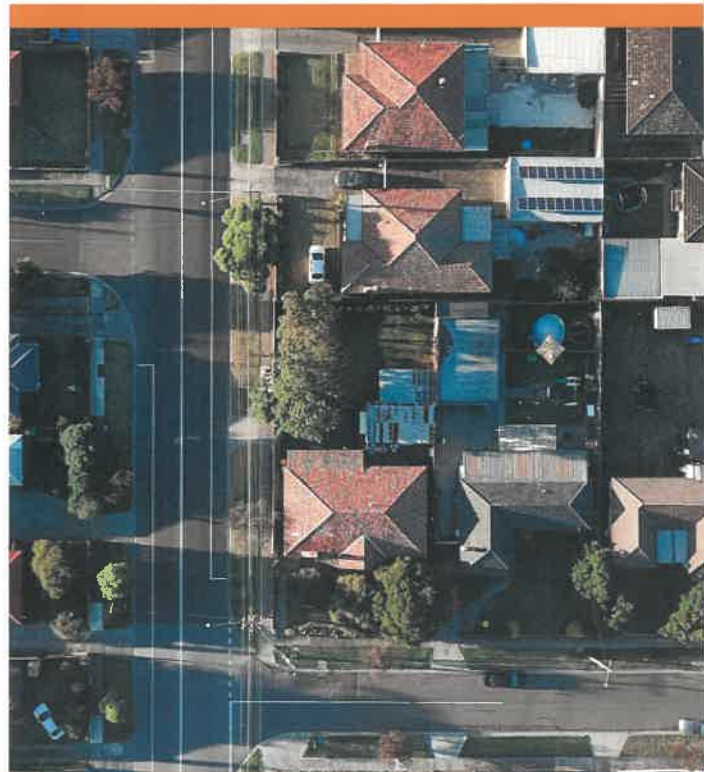
Since 2008, production of single-family housing has doubled, and higher density multifamily construction outpaces single family construction almost two-to-one.

Year	Single Family - attached, detached, ADU	% Total Homes	MultiFamily 2+ units	% Total Homes
2008	3251	63%	1880	37%
2009	3219	72%	1227	28%
2010	3475	59%	2409	41%
2011	3410	53%	2972	47%
2012	4925	45%	6018	55%
2013	5911	48%	6505	52%
2014	5262	49%	5461	51%
2015	5289	44%	6864	56%
2016	6238	45%	7508	55%
2017	6793	43%	8988	57%
2018	6808	39%	10535	61%
2019	7353	35%	13363	65%
2020	7251	36%	12796	64%

[Source: Metropolitan Council]

### Tools and Resources Cities Use to Advance Housing Include:

- Reduce Lot Size Requirements
- Allow planned unit developments to add density or to lower development costs
- Down Payment Assistance
- HRA, CDA, EDA contributions
- Local Fee Waivers
- Land Subsidies, Assembly and Donations
- Property Tax Reductions, including Abatement and Low-Income Rental Classification
- Local Housing Trust Funds
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Reduced Parking Minimums
- Density Bonuses and Higher Density Zoning
- Adjusted Setbacks
- Expedited Plan Reviews
- Elimination of Minimum Building Size Requirements
- Mixed Income Housing Policies
- Rental Licensing and Inspections
- Tenant Protection Ordinances





## METRO CITIES' POLICY POSITIONS ON HOUSING

### Metro Cities Policies Support:

- Local zoning authority.
- Increased funding for state housing programs.
- Affordable housing tax credit.
- Programs that help alleviate foreclosures, increase homeownership, and increase homeownership for BIPOC populations.
- Preserving tools that enhance local innovation.
- Clarification of state laws on infrastructure fees.
- Strategic partnerships and financial assistance from the state and federal governments to help address housing needs.
- Increased Section 8 funding and federal funding to assist HRAs in facilitating tax exempt bonds for housing.

### Key State Programs Supported by Metro Cities:

- State Housing Infrastructure and GO Bonds
- State Challenge Program
- State Match for Local Housing Trust Funds
- Pre- and post-purchase education, counseling, and training; mortgages and downpayment/closing-cost assistance loans; home improvement loans
- Rental assistance, supportive housing, homelessness prevention resources
- Fix up Funds for Rental Homes



### Metro Cities Opposes:

- Preempting local zoning decision-making authority on zoning, planning and land use.
- Prohibitions and restrictions on planned unit development (PUD) agreements.
- Restrictions on local housing development and financing tools.
- Policies that shift costs for infrastructure for new housing to existing taxpayers.
- Preempting local voter-approved rent control authority.