

99% of Ramsey voters say 'we don't care who's on the city council'

In what has to be some kind of a record, only 1.37% of the nearly 15,500 registered voters in the city of Ramsey voted in the Feb. 13 primary special election, where four candidates had to be winnowed to two.

The special election was required due to the resignation of Kristine Williams last fall. She stated at meetings that she was moving out of the city. She won her at-large city council seat in the 2014 general election, and the seat will again be on the ballot in the regular 2018 elections later this year.

Observations from the Field

Bryan Olson

COMMENTARY



The city's charter however calls for a special election whenever a seat is vacated with 365 days or more left on the term. There were 15 months left on Williams' term at the time her resignation Oct. 1, 2017.

The current city councilor for Ward 4, Chris Riley, was the top vote-getter with 113 votes, and Ida Theis placed second with 45 votes. They will advance to the special election on Tuesday, April 10. The primary eliminated the candidacies of Skip Carlson (29 votes) and Sue Suchy (25 votes).

213 people voted, 5 of which were new registrants. 44 voters from Riley's ward went to the polls. Riley was first elected in 2012 and re-elected in 2016 when he and several incumbents ran unopposed. If Riley continues to be successful in the coming elections, his current Ward 4 seat may require a special election.

EXCLUSIVE

Anoka County Library Board picks new chair

by Bryan Olson — Special to the *Anoka County Record*

After inclement weather cancelled its January meeting, the Anoka County Library Board carried on with its agenda on Feb. 26.

As is the case with many government bodies, the first meeting of the year is when several required pieces of business are decided. Among those is choosing a chair and vice chair to preside over meetings.

Mark Lenz of Coon Rapids, who has been on the Library Board since April 2017, was selected as the new Chair, and Virginia Kost of Ham Lake will serve as Vice Chair. Kost was appointed to the board in March 2016 — her term expires at the end of this year. Lenz's term expires at the end of 2019.

Dan Greensweig of Circle Pines had been the board chair for the last three years, 2015 through 2017. He was appointed to the board in August 2014 and is serving his second term, which expires at the end of 2019. Greensweig had encouraged any of the other board members to take the position of Chair. He has often said at meetings that the role should rotate among the board members.

The board's meeting schedule was approved for 2018. The dates remaining are March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19 and December 17. Meetings are held at the ACL offices behind the Northtown Library, at 5:30 p.m.

Announced at the meeting was a plan by State Library Services to purchase approximately "100 titles on Native American culture and history." The state agency, part of the Minnesota Department of Education, is seeking a place to house the all-print materials selected by an MDE committee. Drew Wylie, Collections

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2018 Elections

Candidates begin to show their cards

Candidate filing for public office opens May 22 and runs through June 5 for all state House of Representatives seats and state constitutional offices, as well as county offices. Cities and school districts that hold primary elections will also have their candidate filing period during this time. For offices where there is no primary election held, the filing period is July 31-Aug. 14.

Jim Kordiak was among the first to announce he would not be a candidate for re-election this year. The Anoka County commissioner, representing District 4 (Columbia Heights and Fridley) and first elected in 1986, sent his announcement in the form of a letter to the editor to newspapers in his district in early February.

Rep. Abigail Whelan also announced she would not seek re-election to the Minnesota House District 35A in Anoka-Ramsey.

Several campaign committees have registered with the State Campaign Finance Board in the past few months for the 35A seat: Identifying as Republican candidates, committees for Mandy Benz, Jill Novitzke, John Heinrich, John LeTourneau and Andre Champagne were registered in December and January. LeTourneau is a city councilor in Ramsey. Two DFL candidates, William Vikander and Donavon Balaski registered campaign committees in December and August 2017, respectively.

Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo and Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart have announced their intentions to run for third terms. Both were elected in 2010. They both ran unopposed for re-election in 2014.

Library Board *continued from page 1*

Strategies manager for Anoka County Libraries, stated that Hennepin County had been approached but turned down the project. Board members asked Wylie why — he presumed that HCL didn't want to take on the work. Wylie explained that it would involve staff time for cataloging the materials. The collection will be housed at one library, and it's expected to mostly circulate among teachers and scholars by Inter-Library Loan (ILL). It was said at the meeting that MDE anticipates the collection will be used state-wide. The library board agreed to move ahead with this endeavor.

Wylie presented a sneak preview of new databases that will debut this spring on the ACL's website. One is called Demographics Now, a product of the Gale company. The database appears to have many features and allows copying of the data which can then be pasted in your own spreadsheet. Researchers of U.S. Census information may rejoice over this database, as it appears to be much easier to use than official government websites that have the same information. Wylie also said a new database or means of reading the *Star Tribune* is in the works but he had no details yet.

Short updates and briefs were given by Library Director Maggie Snow. Regarding the Centennial branch library remodeling project, she told the board

that furniture has been chosen, and a fundraiser will be held April 21 for equipment needed for the kitchen to be placed in the library for public use and instructional purposes. Variance requests have been submitted to Circle Pines City Hall, asking for new property setback permissions. Final designs are to be finished shortly. Snow said new book handling systems for the Johnsville branch in Blaine and the Centennial branch are in the works.

The Library Board gives an annual job performance review of the Library Director and at this meeting the board's comments were informal in nature and brief, but were highly positive for Snow's management of the county library system.

Absent from the meeting was board member Tchamong Hurh. Robert Schiller of Nowthen was also not present because his term had expired at the end of 2017 and chose not to be reappointed. Schiller represented District 1 on the board since August 2014. The seat corresponds with the district of County Commissioner Matt Look; the County Board is responsible for appointing an applicant to the vacant seat. — ACR

Previous coverage of the Centennial Library project in Circle Pines:

Feb. 7, 2017 • Aug. 15, 2017 • Dec. 5, 2017

All past editions are available on [www.](http://www.AnokaCountyRecord.com)

[AnokaCountyRecord.com](http://www.AnokaCountyRecord.com) as downloadable PDF files.

Are you out of business?

Yes, the *Anoka County Record* published its last edition as a printed paper on Jan. 30. The *Record* had been the legal newspaper for Anoka County and the cities of Ham Lake, Oak Grove and Nowthen. Of those, only the county was required to conduct a formal bid process which produced competition for its legal notice business. State laws require that certain legal notices must be published in a printed newspaper.

After several years of underbidding the competition by offering rates that were reduced by more than half of what the county had previously been accustomed to, the new ownership of one of the *Record's* competitors finally won the annual bid by dropping down to about \$2 an inch.

A column that explains the reasons for closing the paper can be found in our Jan. 23 edition, which is on the AnokaCountyRecord.com website as a PDF file.

This online edition may occasionally be posted on our website with news articles and opinion, however we can no longer accept paid legal advertising. This online version will not follow a firm schedule and is provided in the public interest.

For further information you may want to read this recent *Star Tribune* article about the *Record*:

<http://www.startribune.com/anoka-county-free-weekly-newspaper-ends-seven-year-run/475744093/>

CITY OF RAMSEY ANNUAL SALARY NOTICE

Minnesota State Statute §471.701 Salary Data: A city or county with a population of more than 15,000 must annually notify its residents of the positions and base salaries of its three highest-paid employees. This notice may be provided on the home page of the primary website maintained by the political subdivision for a period of not less than 90 consecutive days, in a publication of the political subdivision that is distributed to all residents in the political subdivision, or as part of the annual notice of proposed property taxes prepared under section 275.065. **City Administrator \$144,086; Police Chief \$119,690; Finance Director \$117,252.**



Sunshine Week
It's Your Right to Know
March 11-17, 2018
sunshineweek.org

editor@anokacountyrecord.com

Past editions are archived at AnokaCountyRecord.com



ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHERIFF JAMES STUART

FRIDAY UPDATE: 02.23.18-03.02.18

Last Tuesday we had a report of a purse being stolen out of a grocery cart. The victim was a 70-year-old woman who was looking at fruit in the produce section and she walked away from her cart for a short time. When she returned, she noticed right away that her purse was missing. The victim also stated that she had spoken with a female who was standing near her cart about the fruit. The woman she was talking to was carrying a "shopping-basket" which was found abounded a short distance from the crime.

While the deputy was taking this report, a resident reported a purse that he found in his driveway. The purse was confirmed to be the victim's. Everything was still in her purse other than 3 credit cards. Detectives are still investigating the case and hoping for some good security camera photos to help identify the criminal.

When shopping with a purse, take precautions. Make sure it is visible to you always, zip it closed, and attempt to secure it in the cart (the cart's baby straps work good). Otherwise, the safest solution is to purchase a cross-body purse that can stay on your body.

Andover

Thefts & Damage to Property

02.27 141xx Eagle St NW – unsecure vehicle; electronics

02.27 22xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW – business; purse stolen from a cart

Arrests

02.28 18xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW – 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, DAS, Warrant Arrest; a deputy stopped a driver for not having a valid driver's license. During the search of the vehicle narcotics were located. The male was arrested.

02.27 1800 Block of 161 Ave NW – 4th Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety test were conducted and failed. The female was arrested.

Bethel

No incidents that would be reflected in this report were reported in Bethel this week.

Columbus

Thefts & Damage to Property

02.23 152xx Zurich St NE – business; unattended keys stolen

Arrests

02.25 15200 Block of Zurich St NE – 4th Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for and obstructed rear windshield. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. .12

02.23 162xx Xingu St NE – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a female/male assault. The male was arrested.

East Bethel

Arrests

03.02 Hwy 65 NE/237 Ave NE – DAR, Possession of Stolen Property; a deputy stopped a driver for having stolen license plates on the vehicle. The driver did not have a valid driver's license. The female was arrested.

02.28 35xx Viking Blvd NE – 2nd Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a male on a dirt bike. The male appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. .19

02.27 Hwy 65 NE/187 Ln NE – Warrant Arrest, Possession of Marijuana; a deputy stopped a driver for not having a valid driver's license. The driver of the vehicle was cited for not having a driver's license and a male occupant arrested for having an active felony warrant.

Ham Lake

Arrests

03.01 134xx Hwy 65 NE – Possession of Counterfeit Currency; deputy's responded to a report of a female who paid with a counterfeit 20 dollar bill. The female was located with a printer and fake money in her garbage can. The female was arrested.

02.27 16900 Block of Hwy 65 NE – DAC-IPS, 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance; a deputy stopped a driver for obstructed license plate and littering. The driver did not have a valid driver's license. During the search of the vehicle narcotics were located. Both of the male occupants were arrested.

02.26 165xx Madison St NE – DANCO Violation; deputies responded to a report of a domestic abuse no contact order violation. It was determined that the order was violated. The male was arrested.

02.24 Hwy 65 NE/153 Ave NE – 4th Degree DWI; deputies responded to a single vehicle in the ditch at the location. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. .13

Linwood

Arrests

03.01 220xx Volga St NE – 5th Degree Domestic – deputies responded to a report of a daughter/father domestic. The father was arrested.

Nowthen

No incidents that would be reflected in this report were reported in Nowthen this week.

Oak Grove

Thefts & Damage to Property

02.25 189xx Lake George Blvd NW – vehicle window smashed; electronics

Arrests

03.01 32xx Viking Blvd NW – KOPS (Keeping our Police Safe) Alert, Possession of a Controlled Substance; a deputy stopped a driver for having a KOPS alert. The male gave the deputies a false name. During the search of the male and vehicle narcotics were located. The two male occupants were arrested.

Laura Landes & Missi Reeder

Crime Prevention

Anoka County Sheriff's Office

**Information shared in this report covers crimes that may affect you - things like burglaries, thefts, damage to property, identity theft, etc. We only include a fraction of the calls that deputies regularly respond to.*

If you want to see data about what types of calls and how many we respond to log on to www.anokacounty.us/crimewatch and click on Crime Statistics on the left side. Stats are updated monthly.