

# ANOKA COUNTY NEWS

Volume 2 - 2010

*Bunker Beach features new lazy river, aqua climbing towers*

## 1,000,001 gallons of summer fun

Visitors to Anoka County's Bunker Beach Water Park in Coon Rapids have even more ways to celebrate summer this season. A new 900-foot lazy river, dubbed the "Lazy Loop," has opened to rave reviews. "It's a great option for people who want a more relaxed water park

experience," said Anoka County Commissioner Dick Lang, who chairs the county's Parks Department.

*Bunker Beach continued on page 2*



## County Board will have new look in 2011

Already bracing for what's been termed a "silver tsunami" of key management staff retiring in the near future, Anoka County will now see a significant change in the makeup of the seven member county board in 2011 as well. Commissioner Scott LeDoux, who is battling ALS, resigned his county board seat in May while Commissioners Dennis Berg and Dick Lang announced they will not seek reelection this fall. Commissioners Robyn West and Jim Kordiak are up for reelection in November.

Both County Attorney Robert M.A. Johnson and Sheriff Bruce Andersohn are retiring at the end of the year and Property Records and Taxation Division Manager Maureen Devine will leave in July after 22 years with the county. "These people possess a great deal of institutional knowledge," said Anoka County Administrator Terry Johnson. "They are an invaluable resource to newer employees and elected officials and their insight and experience will surely be missed."

---

inside	Election law changes	3	Changing of the Guard	8
	Northstar Family Pass	4	New GIS application	11
	Twins Train	5	Mental Wellness Survey	12
	Recycling Stars	6	Know the flow	14
	1st Time Homebuyers	7	In Brief	15

**“Bunker Beach” continued from page 1**

Along with the Lazy Loop, new features this year include expanded concessions (state fair mini donuts are a big hit!), the Rocky Bay leisure pool with two aqua climbing towers, several large covered cabanas perfect for birthday parties and other gatherings, and Splash Cove, two new spiraling waterslides that bring the total number of waterslides to six.

Bonds used to finance construction of the Bunker Beach expansion will be repaid using fees generated by use of the facility. Bunker Beach is open daily from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. through Labor Day.



**Admission**

Guests over 48” tall: \$14 per day.  
Guests under 48” tall or Senior Citizen (age 62 and over): \$11 per day. Guests under 1 year of age are free.

Tubes for the wave pool are rented on a first come, first served basis and cost \$3 (single tube) or \$6 (double tube) for two hours. Outside tubes or flotation devices are not



allowed. U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets are permitted.

**Twilight Admission (after 4 p.m.)**

Guests over 48” tall: \$10 per day  
Guest under 48” tall or Senior Citizen (age 62 and over): \$8 per day

**Season Passes**

Guests over 48” tall: \$80  
Guests under 48” tall or Senior Citizen (age 62 and over): \$55  
Vehicle entrance to Bunker Hills Regional Park requires a vehicle permit. (\$5 for one day permit or \$25 for 12 month permit.)

Go to [www.BunkerBeach.com](http://www.BunkerBeach.com) for more information. Watch for Bunker Beach special promotions on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bunkerbeach](http://www.facebook.com/bunkerbeach). Follow Bunker Beach on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/anokacountypark](http://www.twitter.com/anokacountypark).

# Law changes streamline election process

by Cindy Reichert, Elections Manager

Several improvements to election law were made during the 2010 legislative session to streamline the voting process and enhance the integrity of our election system.

The most significant change is to the primary election date. In the past, Minnesota's September primary did not allow enough time for military and overseas voters to receive their ballot and mail it back in time to be counted. After much debate, the primary was moved to the second Tuesday in August. As a result, election deadlines have been adjusted. The candidate filing period ran from May 18 to June 1 and absentee voting for the primary began June 25. The primary will be held August 10.

Election officials and legislators worked together to develop common sense modifications to the outdated and cumbersome absentee voting process. These changes make the process easier for both voters and election officials and strengthen the system, reduce the likelihood of human error, and increase uniformity:

- Reasons for accepting and rejecting ballots have been clarified.
- Absentee materials and instructions to voters have been redesigned to make filling out the materials easier.

- Absentee ballots will no longer be sent to individual precincts for counting. Instead, they will be counted centrally under the supervision of election officials. In Anoka County we expect to count between 10,000 and 12,000 absentee



*Elections Department staff expect to count up to 12,000 absentee ballots in the November election. From left: Kay Barrett, Susan Hosford, Cindy Reichert, Terry McKusick, and Diane Teff.*

ballots for the November election. While the central count process may take longer than in the past, we are working closely with the Secretary of State and other county auditors to make sure our results reporting process works smoothly and that results are delivered as quickly as possible.

For more information about the 2010 legislative changes or elections in general, go to [www.anokacounty.us/elections](http://www.anokacounty.us/elections) or call 763-323-5277.

## Marriage certificates available online

Need a copy of your marriage license? Find it online quickly and easily at [www.mncounty.com](http://www.mncounty.com) using the new Minnesota Official Marriage System (MOMS). Anoka County has online data for marriage certificates dating from 1939 to the present and is working to add earlier records. (Marriage records in Anoka County go back to 1858.)

Before MOMS, people who didn't know in which county a marriage license was filed had to search for the information county by county. Under the new system, data is

searchable using the bride and/or groom's name and filling in a range of likely dates. "People often need a copy of their marriage license to get a driver's license in another state or to sign up for insurance benefits at work," said Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West. "MOMS is convenient, easy to use, and is available 24 hours a day. It's great for customers and saves significant staff time also."

There is no charge to look up marriage certificate information. A certified copy of a marriage certificate costs \$9.

# Families who ride together save together

Take the family along using a Northstar Roundtrip Family Pass. Pay one low price and get roundtrip Northstar rides for two adults and up to three children, ages 6-17. Kids five and under ride free. You'll get five roundtrip rides for less than it normally costs two adults.

## Family Pass prices (roundtrip)

Available after 9 a.m.

Big Lake \$17

Elk River \$13

Anoka \$10

Coon Rapids-Riverdale \$10

Fridley \$8

## Purchasing a Family Pass

1. To purchase a Northstar Family Pass, press button G

2. Insert payment (cash or credit card)

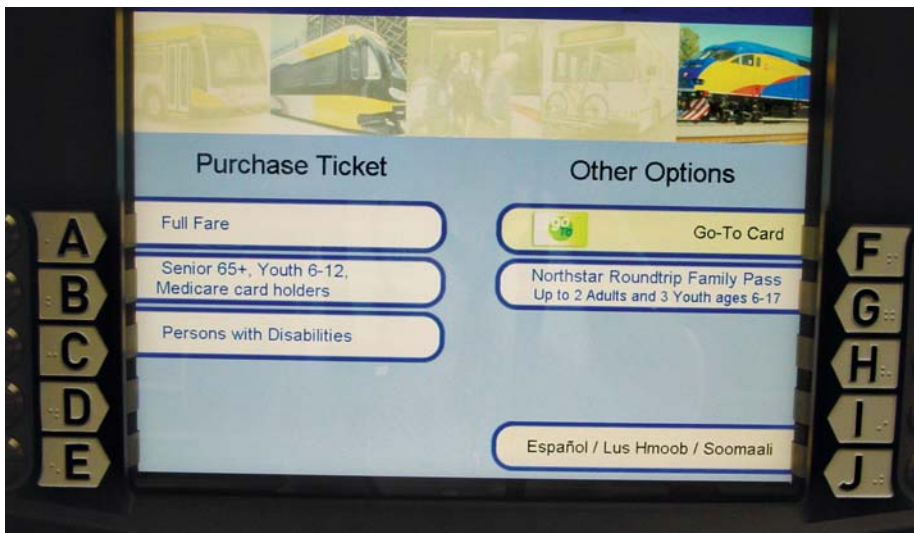
Note: The Go-To card cannot be used to purchase a Family Pass.

## Purchasing other Northstar tickets

1. For Northstar, press button A
2. Select the desired ticket type: one way, roundtrip or transfer upgrade
3. Select destination
4. Insert payment (cash or credit card)
5. Or use your Go-To card and save money!

Transfers from Northstar to buses and light rail are free.

For more information, go to [www.metrotransit.org/Northstar](http://www.metrotransit.org/Northstar) or call 612-373-3333.



## Survey shows growing interest in NLX

High demand exists for Northern Lights Express (NLX) passenger rail, according to a recent public opinion survey.

More than half of those surveyed said they likely will use NLX, many for leisure or travel to the airport, sports, arts and entertainment. Twenty-nine percent of likely users said they would take NLX to work and another six percent to school.

Most residents along the 155-mile NLX corridor between Minneapolis and Duluth/Superior believe the region's

highway and transit system needs improvement to spur economic growth and meet future needs.

NLX recently received authorization to access state bonding dollars for environmental and engineering work needed to move the project through the Federal Rail Administration process. Up to 80 percent federal funds are available to qualifying projects.

For more information, go to [www.NorthernLightsExpress.org](http://www.NorthernLightsExpress.org).

# Northstar service to Twins games

Metro Transit is providing Northstar train service to every Twins weekend game and to all weekday night games now through August.

Some games are served by regularly scheduled trips that coincide with game times; other games have extra trains added to accommodate Twins crowds. Regular trips from Target Field leave at the scheduled time even if the game runs long. Metro Transit recommends that customers arrive at the train station 15 minutes prior to departure.

Trains serve stops in Big Lake, Elk River, Anoka, Coon Rapids and Fridley. They also serve the lower level of Target Field Station, located just outside the left field wall.

Northstar service to Twins games has already proved popular, with ridership averaging 3,500 for 2010 home games. To

accommodate demand, Metro Transit has increased the number of passenger cars in service for Twins games.

For more information, go to [www.metrotransit.org/twins](http://www.metrotransit.org/twins) or call 612-373-3333 (TTY 612-341-0140).



*The Family Pass is a popular option for fans attending Twins games. (Photo courtesy of Dennis Larson)*

## Northstar service to Target Field a big hit

Thousands of people are getting acquainted with Minnesota's new star, Northstar Commuter Rail. Terry Magnuson from Fridley had this to say about her first trip on the train to a Twins game:

*"I went to the Fridley station early Saturday to buy the tickets, and was assisted by an employee. He saw me trying to buy two Family Passes and pointed out to me that*

*they had changed the ages for the children, so he saved me the extra \$8! The train ride was a great experience for all of us, even though it was full by the time it got to Fridley. We had a great time and will definitely ride to the games again."*

Got a story to share? Go to [www.mn-GetOnBoard.com](http://www.mn-GetOnBoard.com). Click on "provide feedback."

## Northstar Link Commuter Bus expands service

The Northstar Link Commuter Bus Service, which provides coach bus service between St. Cloud and Big Lake, has added a stop in Becker. The cost to ride the Link from the new stop in Becker is \$1, seven days a week, to either St. Cloud or Big Lake.

Also new are special bus runs from St. Cloud and Becker for a dozen Minnesota Twins games. For the full schedule, go to [www.CatchTheLink.com](http://www.CatchTheLink.com) or call 877-546-5010.

# Anoka County exceeds recycling goals

Anoka County residents and businesses recycled more than 136,631 tons of materials in 2009, exceeding the countywide goal of recycling 50 percent of all waste generated. Of the county's 21 municipalities, 15 met or exceeded their 2009 recycling goals: Andover, Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Columbus, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Ham Lake, Hilltop, Lexington, Lino Lakes, Nowthen, Oak Grove, Ramsey, and Spring Lake Park. The efforts of all county municipalities and businesses were recognized recently by the Solid Waste Abatement Advisory Task Force, which advises the county board on issues relating to recycling and solid waste management.

East Bethel received the Most Improved Recycling Program award. The city recycled more than 960 tons of waste last year – more than 158 pounds per person. Hilltop received the Most Prolific Municipal Recycling Program award. The 790 Hilltop residents recycled 144 tons of materials, composted 8.82 tons of yard waste, and collected nearly 8.94 tons of problem material for proper management.

In addition to municipalities, several companies received recognition. Aveda Corp., Blaine, was honored for its efforts to partner with schools to recycle

rigid plastic bottle caps. Since its inception in 2006, the program has collected and recycled an estimated 30 million bottle caps. Computer Cut EDM, Inc., Coon Rapids, was cited for its commitment to recycling and waste reduction. Last year, the company recycled 4.4 tons of mixed paper and 4.6 tons of scrap metal.



*Municipalities, waste haulers, and private companies were recognized recently for efforts to recycle. From left: Deb Gatz, Randy's Environmental Services; Anoka County Commissioner Jim Kordiak; Rich Hirstein, Allied Waste Services; Rachel Harris, City of Fridley; John Crudo, Green Lights Recycling; Jennefer Klennert, Waste Management of Minnesota; Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West; Jeanette Bachmeier, ACCAP; Dale Boerjan, Green Lights Recycling; and Denny Behm, Knights of Columbus-Cedar Council 9585.*

## Change in ownership at solid waste facility

Nearly all of the garbage generated in Anoka County ends up at the resource recovery facility in Elk River where it is used by Great River Energy (GRE) to generate electricity.

GRE recently purchased the facility from Resource Recovery Technologies and plans to increase the amount of solid waste sent to the facility to make it more efficient to operate.

“This is a positive step that helps us to continue our goal of producing more renewable energy and reducing our dependence on landfills,” said Anoka County Commissioner Jim Kordiak, who

chairs the county's Waste Management and Energy Committee.

State law bans the landfilling of unprocessed waste generated in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Anoka County has developed a highly effective and environmentally-safe integrated waste management system that includes waste reduction, recycling, household hazardous waste, and yard waste composting programs. The majority of the remaining waste generated in Anoka County goes to the resource recovery facility to be converted to electricity.

## Low interest funds for first time homebuyers

Anoka County has been allocated more than \$5 million from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's (MHFA) First Time Homebuyer Program.

The MHFA program offers people with low to moderate income a mortgage interest rate that is at or below the current market rate. Borrowers also may apply for interest-free loans to help with downpayment and closing costs. To qualify, borrowers cannot have owned a

home in the past three years; must have acceptable credit; and must meet the following income limits:

1-4 persons	\$84,000
5 persons	\$90,800
6+ persons	\$97,500

(Amounts subject to change)

The maximum purchase price for new construction and existing homes cannot exceed \$298,125.

Borrowers must use a MHFA-approved lender and may be required to attend an approved homebuyer education course before applying for a mortgage.

Learn more at [www.anokacounty.us/cd](http://www.anokacounty.us/cd) or call the Anoka County Community Development Office at 763-323-5764.



## New director of Veterans Services

Allison Lister is the new director of Anoka County Veterans Services. She replaces long-time director Duane Krueger, who retired after more than 36 years with Anoka County.

Lister served in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years, retiring as an E8 (senior master sergeant). Most recently she was employed as a Minnesota WorkForce Development representative helping clients search for a job, explore training opportunities, and obtain unemployment benefits.



*Allison Lister*

The Veterans Services Office helps veterans and their families apply for health, education, and financial benefits, obtain military records, burial flags and markers, and other services. The office is located in Suite 233 of the Anoka County Government Center in Anoka. Call 763-323-5290 for more information or visit [www.anokacounty.us/veterans](http://www.anokacounty.us/veterans).

## Musical Saturdays at Anoka County Library

There's still time to join the fun for the last two "Musical Saturdays" at the Anoka County Library. Programs are free and open to the public. Seating may be limited.

Minnesota contemporary percussion trio "Click Clack Clunk" will perform July 24 at 2 p.m. at the Mississippi Branch, 410 Mississippi St. N.E. in Fridley. The group uses buckets, tin cans, and other everyday objects to create percussion magic!

On July 31, the Columbia Heights Public Library, located at 820 40th Ave. N.E., welcomes violinists Andrea Noteboom and Katie Bast. The two will present selections from some of the greatest composers of violin duets including Bach, Bartok, and more.

For more information, call 763-717-3267 or visit [www.anoka.lib.mn.us](http://www.anoka.lib.mn.us). These programs are funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



## Changing of the guard

Bruce Andersohn was a reluctant addition to the Sheriff's Office back in 1976. Despite scoring high on law enforcement pre-employment exams, Andersohn found that city police chiefs were reluctant to hire someone so young and inexperienced. Then-Captain T. J. Anderson offered him a job working as a deputy, starting in the jail, a move that held little appeal for Andersohn. Reflecting the era's prevailing attitude – and not understanding the role of the Sheriff's Office – he believed that to do real law enforcement work, you had to be an officer in a city police department.



But after months with no luck landing a job as an officer, Andersohn accepted Captain Anderson's offer and was sworn in by Sheriff Buster Talbot.

"T.J. said 'Okay, but you're going to start in the jail just like everybody else and you've got some crow to eat for awhile.'"

After six months, a sufficiently humbled Andersohn was finally sent out on patrol.

There was limited supervision and even less formal training.

"When I went out on patrol for the first time, I rode along for four hours with (Deputy) Leroy Skog and he got so tired of having someone else in his car, he pulled in the station and said 'Here kid, you're on your own now.' They gave you a set of keys and basically said 'Don't hit anything.'"

In the ensuing years, Andersohn continued to move up the ranks, going from patrolman to sergeant to lieutenant to captain. One day in 1990, Andersohn, by then a sergeant, was riding in a squad car with Sheriff Ken Wilkinson. Andersohn remembers the conversation well. "He looked at me and said, 'Well kid, what are your plans?' I said, I don't know, someday I think I want your job. And that was the first time I ever really consciously expressed a desire to be sheriff."

Andersohn was promoted to chief deputy, the number two spot in the Sheriff's Office in 2000 and was named sheriff in March 2002 to fill the remaining term of retiring Sheriff Larry Podany. He was elected to his first four-year term in November 2002 and reelected in 2006 to serve a second term.

\*\*\*

The decision to join the Anoka County Attorney's Office was a simple one for Robert M.A. "Bob" Johnson. A newly minted law school graduate in 1968, Johnson jumped at the chance to join his father in the County Attorney's Office. He stayed for two years, then left to join the Babcock, Locher, Neilson, and Mannella law firm, working primarily in real estate law. After a few years, Johnson had an



epiphany of sorts. "I looked at the "old" senior partner, who at the time was about 50, and I thought, do I want to be doing this when I'm his age? I don't think so." So he packed up and moved to the state

Attorney General's Office, viewing it as an opportunity to think things through and try to sort out just what he wanted to do with his professional life.

"As I thought about it, the one thing that couldn't wait – because my dad was getting close to retirement – was coming back to Anoka County to practice with my father," Johnson said. When a position opened up, he returned to Anoka County, heading the Criminal Division for a short time and later, being named Chief Deputy County Attorney.

In 1981, with his father's retirement fast approaching the next year, Johnson had a decision to make. "I still wasn't sure I wanted to be the county attorney," he said. "I tried to think of what else I might do, maybe move to the corporate sector or a private law firm. But I'd done everything in the County Attorney's Office; I knew the business, so I thought, why not? I had no great aspirations to become county attorney at that point but I put together a little campaign committee and filed for election and was fortunate nobody filed against me. I like to think people thought I had done a reasonable job as chief deputy for eight years and they were accepting of me being the county attorney."

Andersohn and Johnson have been witness to tremendous changes in law enforcement and the entire criminal justice system. For Andersohn, the array of new technology available to officers is astounding. "When I started, you had the red lights on top of your car and if you were lucky, you had radar. We talked to people and we wrote down what they said on a notepad and then did reports by hand. Today computers give officers access to so much information, hundreds of times more than what we had."

When discussing how his job has changed over the years, Johnson points to the ever-expanding criminal code and the resultant workload in his office. "There are whole categories of things that are crimes now that weren't back when I started practicing," he said. "Before 1970, we were doing 50-60 cases a year. In 2006, we had over 1,800 cases, driven significantly by the war against drugs."



Shifts in societal attitudes have also impacted the way Andersohn and Johnson do their jobs. "We've seen a significant reduction in the number of DUI cases with the penalties that are imposed now for drinking while driving," Johnson said. "It used to be that people would have a drink when they went out for lunch and that's almost unheard of now."

Both Johnson and Andersohn agree that mandatory arrests in cases of suspected domestic violence have spurred families to get the help they need. "I felt as a young officer we were much more effective making an arrest in a domestic violence

*continued on page 10*

**“Changing of the guard” continued from page 9**

case because it provided immediate help for the victim and got the family into the system,” Andersohn said.

Johnson agrees. “When we start to get into intra-family matters, there is a whole different set of dynamics in place because you are dealing with relationships between husbands, wives, children, etc. I used to say that we are dealing with very difficult issues with a broad axe rather than a scalpel. It is a complex relationship situation where frankly, both parties may need counseling to talk about the issues in terms of the way they look at the world,” he said.

When asked about leaving a legacy, Johnson said, “You don’t have a legacy other than how you leave your office. You hire good people and you support those people. You try to build an organization that has the right values. You always keep in mind that you are working for the

people who elected you.” Andersohn concurs. “I don’t like to think that legacies are made of bricks and mortar,” he said. “I think they are made of the attitudes that you’ve passed on to the people who will succeed you.”

Both advise their successors to maintain a vision and keep the lines of communication open. “Move things forward,” Andersohn said. “Don’t sit back and wait for things to happen. Ask yourself what can we accomplish on behalf of the people who work here and on behalf of the citizens? Continue to focus on what is best for the future for the organization.”

Communication, Johnson says, is key. “Keep the lines of communication open. When I’m talking to a citizen about an issue, that’s not a stranger, that’s not somebody who doesn’t matter. They all matter and you have to pay attention and do the best that you can.”

A message from County Attorney Robert M.A. Johnson and Sheriff Bruce Andersohn:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you for 28 years as your County Attorney. I never forget that I work for you; that I am your voice when I make decisions about victims and offenders. Those decisions about criminal justice policy and the people involved in a crime are often difficult. In making decisions, I have worked hard to balance punishment with compassion, always trying to increase public safety. This is a wonderful community and serving it is my great pleasure.

Robert M.A. Johnson

I would like simply to thank the citizens of Anoka County for placing their trust in me as their Sheriff. It has been a humbling experience and a true honor to have served the citizens of Anoka County as their Sheriff.

Sheriff Bruce Andersohn

**ANOKA COUNTY NEWS**

Produced by Anoka County  
Public Information  
Martha Weaver, Manager  
Ruth Bedor, Editor  
2100 3rd Ave.  
Anoka, MN 55303  
763-323-5744

publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us  
**ANOKA COUNTY NEWS** online at:  
[www.AnokaCounty.us/newsletter](http://www.AnokaCounty.us/newsletter)

Tune in to the

**ANOKA COUNTY TODAY** TV Show  
online at [www.AnokaCounty.us](http://www.AnokaCounty.us) or  
check you local cable TV listings



Follow Anoka County on Twitter!  
[www.Twitter.com/AnokaCounty](http://www.Twitter.com/AnokaCounty)

## This isn't garbage.



Some household products are hazardous and cannot be placed in the garbage. Take your unneeded paint, cleaners, automotive fluids, and garden products to:

**Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility**  
3230 101st Ave. N.E., Blaine (off Radisson Road)

Warm Weather Hours: April 1-October 31  
Wednesday 2-8 p.m. • Friday & Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
No charge. Proof of residency required.

**Learn more at [www.anokacounty.us/recycle](http://www.anokacounty.us/recycle)**  
**763-323-5730**

## Create custom maps with new GIS site

*by John Slusarczyk, Anoka County GIS Coordinator*

A new interactive Geographic Information Systems (GIS) website allows Anoka County residents to view digital maps and access land record information online at <http://gis.anokacountymn.gov>. Hosted by the Anoka County GIS Department, the site allows people to create custom maps with assorted GIS layers including lot lines, aerial photos, roads, water, and park land. Users can search by property address or parcel identification number (PIN), or by a point of interest such as a school or library. On-screen measurements, mailing labels, and map printing are also available.

People used to have to make a trip to the government center and pay a fee in order to view documents such as plats, half sections, and section corner tie sheets. With the new application, users save time

and money by viewing the documents online free of charge.

The new GIS website links directly to the county's Property Records & Taxation "Property Information Online" website. This connection makes it easy for users to move seamlessly from one site to the other without having to re-enter information.

The new website was designed to look and feel like some of the most popular Internet mapping sites such as Google Maps and Bing Maps. A simplified toolbar and fewer data layers make the site fast and easy to use, giving the public convenient access to information about where they live and work in Anoka County.

**<http://gis.anokacountymn.gov>**

# Survey tracks attitudes about mental health

The Mental Wellness Campaign for Anoka County, a diverse group of partners working to increase awareness and understanding about mental health issues, recently partnered with the Wilder Foundation to survey Anoka County residents about their attitudes and beliefs about mental health. Some key findings from the survey:

## Familiarity with mental illness



- About 7 in 10 residents were very familiar with mental illness, saying it had affected a relative, someone they lived with, or themselves.
- Many residents underestimated the prevalence of mental health concerns. Research suggests that 1 in 5 people experience mental health concerns. About 37 percent of respondents gave a much lower estimate, ranging from 1 in 25 to 1 in 250.

## Attitudes about mental illness

- Almost all respondents “strongly agree” or “agree” that mental health is as important as physical health; mental illness can happen to anyone; and mental illness can be effectively treated.
- Relatively few said they try to avoid people with mental illness or would be uncomfortable if someone with a mental illness lived in their neighborhood.
- Only 36 percent “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that they would trust someone with a mental illness to take care of their loved ones and 23 percent “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that people with a mental illness should be excluded from public leadership.



## Who can you talk to about mental health concerns?

- Eight in 10 respondents would feel comfortable discussing their own or their child’s mental health issues with doctors and clergy or other religious/spiritual leaders.
- 86 percent of parents would feel comfortable discussing concerns about their child with their child’s teacher and counselors.
- Informal support was also important, with most respondents comfortable discussing mental health issues with family members and friends.

## Where would you go for help?

- Seven in 10 respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” they would know how to find out what mental health services are available.
- Respondents said they were more likely to try to solve the problem on their own rather than seek treatment when it comes to their own mental health (62 percent) as opposed to that of their children (46 percent).

## Who took the survey?

Survey respondents comprised a representative sample of the county’s population in terms of age, education, and city or town of residence. Ninety-one percent of the respondents were white; 63 percent worked outside the home; 12 percent were retired; 11 percent were current students; 7 percent were unemployed and 5 percent were homemakers. Gender is one way the survey did not reflect the overall population; men make up 50 percent of the population but only 27 percent of the sample.



For more information on either the survey or the campaign, contact Tammy Ferguson, chairperson of the Mental Wellness Campaign for Anoka County, at 612-280-0386 or Bill Pinsonnault, director of Community Social Services and Mental Health at 763-422-7007.

---

# RECYCLING UPDATE

---

## You can recycle more metal than just aluminum cans!

**Steel** is North America's #1 recycled material. Each year, more steel is recycled than aluminum, paper, glass, and plastic combined! (Source: [www.recycle-steel.org](http://www.recycle-steel.org))

All municipalities in Anoka County offer recycling days one or two times a year. Scrap metal is collected at all of them! Scrap metal also can be taken to a redemption center.



You can help!  
More than 5% of what we throw away is  
aluminum/metal food cans and other scrap metal.

## RECYCLING ONE ALUMINUM CAN SAVES THE EQUIVALENT OF SIX OUNCES OF GASOLINE.

### Yes! Recycle Curbside

- Metal food cans
- Aluminum beverage cans

### Not Yet Curbside

- Paint cans
- Aerosol cans
- Containers that held hazardous products, such as paint thinner and automotive fluids

### Drop-off Center Recycling

Many items such as lawn mowers, aluminum doors, tire rims, and other scrap metal can be taken to municipal drop-off recycling centers or to a redemption center.

### Away from home

If you can't find a recycling bin for your aluminum can when you are out and about, keep a bag in your car, take it home and recycle it there.

*Why bother? Because enough aluminum is thrown away to rebuild our commercial air fleet four times every year.* (Source: [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org))

**For more information about recycling call your city/town hall, go to [AnokaCounty.us/recycle](http://AnokaCounty.us/recycle) or call 763-323-5730.**

# Champions of public health



Members of the Nucleus Clinic Board of Directors accept a public health award from the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. (From left) Lisa Knoll, Becky Fink, Commissioner Jim Kordiak, Gretchen Wesche-Sherman, Commissioner Robyn West, Sheila Sanders, Commissioner Dick Lang, Luann Koskinen, Commissioner Dennis Berg, LeeAnn Mortensen, and Commissioners Rhonda Sivarajah and Dan Erhart.



Connie Blackwell, North Metro Pediatrics, accepts a public health award from Commissioners Jim Kordiak, Robyn West, Dick Lang, Dennis Berg, Rhonda Sivarajah, and Dan Erhart.

Individuals and organizations working to improve public health were honored recently by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners.

Connie Blackwell, CEO of North Metro Pediatrics in Coon Rapids, was recognized for providing quality health care services to families who are uninsured or underinsured.

Craig Malm, executive director of the Community Health Improvement Department for Mercy and Unity Hospitals, was honored for his integral role in numerous public health initiatives.



Craig Malm, holding plaque, from Mercy and Unity Hospitals, was recognized for his contributions to public health by (from left) Anoka County Commissioners Jim Kordiak, Robyn West, Dick Lang, Interim President of Unity Hospital Dr. John Stoltenberg, and Commissioners Dennis Berg, Rhonda Sivarajah, and Dan Erhart.

The Nucleus Clinic Board of Directors was commended for successfully transitioning from public sector to nonprofit status. Founded in 1971, the Nucleus Clinic is the only nonprofit reproductive health agency serving Anoka County and the surrounding area.

## Know the flow: stop stormwater pollution

Pollutants contained in stormwater are a growing threat to the water quality in our lakes, streams, and rivers. Stormwater flowing from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and through sloped lawns collects and carries soil, pet waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, leaves, litter, and other pollutants. Pollutants in stormwater can overwhelm streams and rivers and harm fish and other aquatic organisms.



Follow these simple steps to reduce stormwater pollution:

- Mulch flower beds, shrubs, and trees to retain moisture, reduce weeds, and prevent

erosion. Keep fertilizers, garden debris, and grass clippings off hard surfaces when landscaping or during yard work.

- Use natural insecticide soaps and sprays containing garlic or hot pepper to control plant munching bugs.
- Dispose of pet waste by flushing it down the toilet or seal the waste in a compostable plastic bag and throw it in the garbage.
- If you sealcoat your driveway, select a product that is asphalt-based instead of one that is coal tar-based. Asphalt-based products contain much lower levels of chemicals that harm fish and with prolonged exposure, pose a cancer risk in humans.

Go to [www.anokacounty.us/knowtheflow](http://www.anokacounty.us/knowtheflow) to learn more ways to reduce stormwater runoff.

# In Brief...

• **MRC Volunteers Recognized:** Anoka County's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) contributed 260 volunteer hours in the past year, primarily helping to deliver the H1N1 vaccine at 22 clinics throughout the county. Established in 2004, Anoka County has nearly 200 MRC volunteers. Two Anoka County MRC volunteers, Marijo Hain, Anoka, and Kim Brenne, Lino Lakes, were selected to attend the National Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Learn more about the MRC at [www.readyanokacounty.us/mrc](http://www.readyanokacounty.us/mrc).



*Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West presents certificates of appreciation to Anoka County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers who serve on MRC's leadership group. From left: Marijo Hain, Anoka; Jerry Sherek, Fridley; Karla Lian, Coon Rapids; Commissioner West; Marge Brchan, Blaine; Kathy Pendroy, Coon Rapids; and Joann Wessman, Blaine.*

• **License Center Relocated:** The Anoka County License Center in Ramsey has moved to a new location inside Ramsey City Hall, 7550 Sunwood Dr. NE, Suite A, from 6111 Hwy. 10. Open hours remain 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mon.-Wed.-Thu.-Fri.; 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Tue., and closed Sat. and Sun. The phone number is 763-576-5777.



• **RSVP Volunteers Honored:** The efforts of 446 volunteers with the Anoka County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) were recognized recently. RSVP volunteers contribute their time and talents at 43 sites throughout the county. Receiving special recognition for their years of service were (front row from left): Ruth Rudolph, Coon Rapids, 25 years; Forest Fout, Coon Rapids, 20 years; Myrtle Morpew, Coon Rapids, 25 years; Joanne Prusinski, Ham Lake, 10 years; Carol Felland, Columbia Heights, 10 years; and Rita Tonn, Coon Rapids, 10 years. They were congratulated by Anoka County Commissioners (back row from left) Rhonda Sivarajah, Dennis Berg, Robyn West, Jim Kordiak, Dick Lang, and Dan Erhart. To learn more about RSVP call 763-422-7090.

• **Donation to Library:** The Anoka County Library recently accepted a \$5,000 donation from the Friends of the Library. The money will be used to support the Library's summer reading program, which promotes reading throughout the summer to maintain and enhance kids' literacy skills. The contribution also will be used to purchase additional titles for the Book Club in a Bag collection. Learn more about the Friends of the Library at [www.anoka.lib.mn.us](http://www.anoka.lib.mn.us).

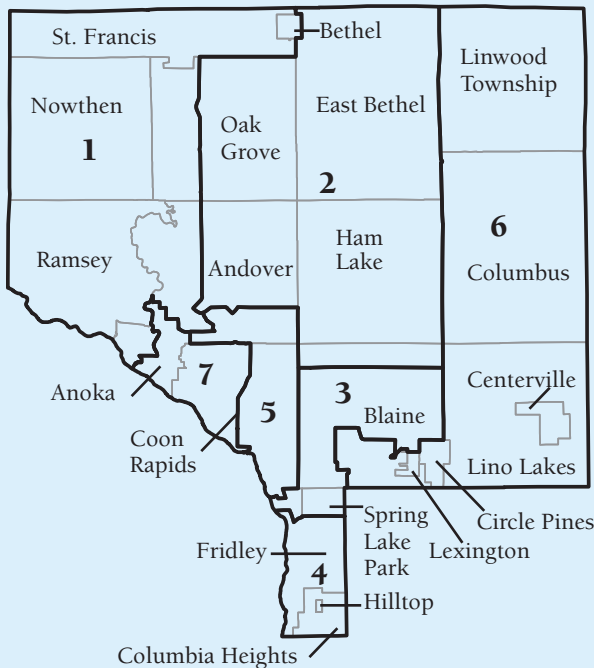
• **Enroll in Head Start:** Head Start is a quality preschool program serving children and families in Anoka and Washington Counties. Head Start provides educational, health, nutrition, and social service assistance to income eligible children and their families. There is no cost to participating families. Call 763-783-4300 for more information.



Anoka County  
2100 Third Ave.  
Anoka MN 55303-5024

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit NO. 32618  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

## Anoka County Board of Commissioners 763-323-5700



Dennis D. Berg  
District 1



Dick Lang  
District 2



Robyn West,  
District 3



Jim Kordiak  
District 4



Rhonda Sivarajah  
District 6

Vacant  
District 5



Dan Erhart  
District 7

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. Agendas are available prior to the meeting at [www.anokacounty.us](http://www.anokacounty.us).