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New winter event a hit in Linwood



During the first Linwood Lake Ice Bocce Tournament on Feb. 9, Raegan Englund from the team Charlie's Angels sends a puck made from a slab of tree down the rink in the semifinal championship round against Fire and Ice, a team of Linwood firefighters.



Justin Hansen of the Linwood Fire Department dressed for the cold weather as he competed with his team Fire and Ice in the semifinal round. Temperatures started out that day at 10 below zero, with a wind chill factor of 20 below zero. The event was sponsored by the Linwood Lake Association to help raise funds for lake protection and conservation.



Jeff Anderson of the team Chilly Willy sends his puck down the rink in the championship round of the tournament.

Eight seek to be FL council's fifth member

Commissioners, former office holders among applicants

Ryan Howard
News Editor

Next week, the Forest Lake City Council will consider eight candidates who wish to join the body as its fifth member. Many of the applicants are familiar faces, thanks to local elections and the previous council vacancy about a year ago.

The council has had a vacancy since January, when Mayor Mara Bain took office, vacating the remaining two years of her in-progress council term. On Tuesday, Feb. 19, the four sitting council members will interview the eight applicants and likely make a decision on which one will join their number, though they could decide to hold off on the decision until their Feb. 25 meeting. If the four-person body cannot come to a majority decision on a member, then Bain could appoint the new member herself. The last two times the council has had a vacancy, the sitting mayors at the time ended up appointing the new member.

The people who have applied to be on the council are Dennis Batty, Kaylyn Bower, Paul Girard, Connie Grobove, Jeff Klein, Geneva Kubal, Tim Miller and Susan Young. Brian Hile also applied but later withdrew his name from consideration.

Several of the applicants will be immediately familiar to followers of local Forest Lake politics, as Batty, Grobove, Miller and Young all ran for local office in the fall of 2018 – Young for mayor and the other three for City Council (Bain won the mayoral election, and Kathy Bystrom and Kelly Monson won the open council seats).

Local policy wonks or those with longer memories might also recognize several of the candidates from current or former local government service. Young has been off the council since 2014 but served on the body for more than a decade. Klein was briefly a council member in 2013 before resigning his seat, which itself was filled at the time by mayoral appointment. Batty and Girard are current members of the Forest Lake Planning Commission; Miller is on the Parks, Lakes, and Trails Commission; and Grobove is a former member of the Police Commission.

ALC changes name to Forest Lake Area Community School

Name change meant to signal inclusiveness

Hannah Davis
Community Editor

The Area Learning Center in Forest Lake is now officially known as the Forest Lake Area Community Learning Center after the school was approved for a name change by the Forest Lake Area School Board on Thursday, Feb. 7.

"We wanted to rebrand our school to reflect our core values and what we have to offer students who may need different instructional setting," Principal Kelly Tschudy-Lafean said. "I think it's a reflection of what we have to offer here at FLACS."

The Forest Lake Area Community School is an alternative school designed to provide an education for students who need a non-traditional school environment. The school serves over 1,300 students in the areas of social, emotional, and academic assistance for elementary and middle school students, and academic support, including credit recovery, dual-enrollment, or an alternative school, for high school students under the Minnesota Department of Edu-



The newly named Forest Lake Area Community School (formerly the Area Learning Center) will be housed in the former Southwest Junior High building, which will be currently undergoing remodeling.

cation standards.

The name change process included discussions, outreach, and surveys with faculty, families of students, students themselves, and board members.

"We had many meetings about what we really wanted to portray to the communi-

ty on who we were," Tschudy-Lafean said. The name change process began two years ago, and has also included a comprehensive look at the school's programming and values, as well.

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