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SIGNS OF SPRING: Ice is out, lake is up PAGE 2A, 11A

Exhaustive data privacy requests have bowhunters up in arms

BY DEBRA NEUTKENS
STAFF WRITER

MAHTOMEDI – The city has been mired in an unprecedented government data practices request unlike any staff has seen. It involves deer hunting within city limits.

The first request for data, legal under the state's data practices privacy law, came via email last September

after City Council approved three weekend hunts by members of the Metro Bowhunters Resource Base.

The person making the request, Christopher DeWuske, wanted personnel data under the Act, Statute Chapter 13, that included names and addresses of hunters, when precisely they would be hunting, GPS coordinates of their locations, licenses and other

credentials, as well as names of council members and other involved government officials who favored or opposed the deer hunt.

DeWuske, who listed two addresses of residence on the paperwork, one in Hudson and one in Mahtomedi, said he wanted the information no later than 10 days before the first day of the October hunt.

"We've never had a request this expansive," observed

City Administrator Scott Neilson, who admitted he "doesn't have a clue" why the request was made. He does know how much it has cost the city in legal fees through March: \$10,041.

The initial request was followed by a flurry of electronic missives that have lasted months as DeWuske claims reports are incomplete and the city is being dishonest. The city was

not in possession of liability insurance certificates until Dec. 8, he said, which is a breach of contract, as no hunting was allowed until the certificate was provided.

Follow-up data practice requests to City Hall also asked for all data regarding deer going back to 2020, all internal communications concerning his previous

SEE **HUNTER'S PRIVACY**, PAGE 9A



Timely tree distribution

At left: Advisor Amy Donlin visits with Jen Mattson as she prepares to depart with the tree saplings she recently picked up at the White Bear Lake Area High School Environmental Club hosted Earth Day/Arbor Day tree sale. Her son Ernie helped organize the event along with other Environmental Club and National Honor Society students. The students distributed approximately 400 white spruce, red oak and red maple saplings just in time for Arbor Day, which is officially the last Friday in April. One of the goals of the project is to help offset paper usage in the school district and to reduce the carbon footprint. The next group project the Environmental Club will be undertaking is a courtyard, Peace Garden cleanup at South Campus on Saturday, May 14.



PAUL DOOLS | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

South Shore Blvd. reconstruction gets go-ahead

BY CYNTHIA SOWDEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WHITE BEAR TOWNSHIP — A \$6.7 million reconstruction of South Shore Boulevard will proceed.

The township's share of the bill will come to \$1,171,439, said Town Engineer Jim Studenski. Although the bid came in higher than estimated, he said the township will actually save money on the project, which will be run by Ramsey County.

That's because the county will be in charge of digging up the roadway and replacing it. The township will be responsible for installing a new water main designed to its specifications.

When finished, South Shore Boulevard will be a one-way street, starting at McKnight Road. The White Bear Township Board ratified its portion of the contract with Ramsey County April 18.

In another action, the board returned a proposal on recreational fires to the Planning Commission. Board members sought clarification over who would be responsible for reinforcement of the ordinance — the fire department, or the sheriff's department. They will take up the question again at their May 2 meeting.

Cynthia Sowden is a contributing writer for Press Publications.

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