

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF HOUSTON)

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Ellyn Baumann, being first duly sworn on oath states, or affirms, that she is the publisher of the newspaper known as *The Houston Banner*, or the publisher's designated agent, and has full knowledge of the facts stated below:

A. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minn. Stat. 331A.02, 331A.07, and other applicable laws, as amended.

B. The printed public notice that is shown on the reverse side of this signed Affidavit was published in the newspaper on the following date:

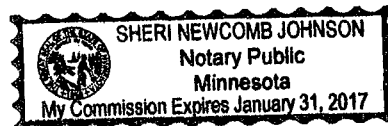
Thursday, September 19, 2013

THE HOUSTON BANNER

By Ellyn Baumann
Publisher or Publisher's Designated Agent

Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me
on this 28 day of October, 2013.

Sheri Newcomb Johnson
Notary Public



RATE INFORMATION

Lowest classified rate paid by
commercial users for comparable space: \$ 1.952 per 2-col. line

Maximum rate allowed by law: \$ 2.5378 per 2-col. line

Rate actually charged: \$ 1.952 per 2-col. line

+ \$0.25/line with extras (tabs, bullets, all caps, center, bold, italics,
underlines, col. size change, etc.)

\$5.94/col. in. display setup

OBITUARY

RAYMOND J. BOLDT

Raymond J. Boldt, 92, of Houston, formerly of La Crescent, died Saturday, September 14, 2013, at Valley View Healthcare & Rehab, Houston. He was born at home on South Ridge, rural Houston, on February 15, 1921, to John and Elvera (Witt) Boldt. He married Jean (Arnett) Vix on October 21, 1955, at South Ridge EUB Church. Ray was employed by Norplex, Houston-Money Coop Creamery and was a lifelong farmer. He could build the best and tightest 3-wire fence and enjoyed the peace and quiet of walking those fence lines after every storm. Ray will be remembered as a lover of all Minnesota sports teams. He especially loved the Minnesota Wild and the Minnesota Lynx. He was a well-read person and was known for having an excellent memory of what his grandchildren did and said. Ray loved telling stories of his grandchildren. Although he was a man of few words, he loved his family. If anyone in the family needed help, he was always more than generous. Even though he moved to Valley View Healthcare & Rehab due to a fall, he took pride that he never pushed the call button once. Ray will be sadly missed.

Ray is survived by his 4 children and 12 grandchildren: Ken (Irene)

Boldt of Houston and their children, Janice & Doug Goede, Carla & Charles Hahn, Joy Boldt, Kris (Scott) Walters, Robin (Scott) Hoeg, Kelly (Matt) Larter and Kim (Tim) Larsen; Edwin (Nancy) Boldt of Houston and their children, Susan (William) Selke and Tim (Tami) Boldt; Carolyn (Lawrence) Newcomb of La Crescent and their children, Sheri (Eric) Johnson and Jay (Ellen) Newcomb; Kathleen Boldt of West Salem, Wis., and her child, Becky (Doug) Daniels. Ray is also survived by 33 great-grandchildren; 9 great-great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends. In addition to his wife Jean, Ray was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Lois Rosenow; brother, Donald Boldt; and 3 grandsons, Wade and Blaine Boldt and Tim Huerkamp.

The funeral service was at 11am Wednesday, September 18, at La Crescent United Methodist Church in La Crescent, with Rev. Mark Bengtson officiating. Burial followed at Hillcrest Cemetery, South Ridge. Visitation was held 6pm to 8pm Tuesday at Hoff Funeral Home in Houston and one hour prior to the funeral service at the church in La Crescent. Memorials preferred to Hillcrest Cemetery, Hokah United Methodist Church or the Valley View Foundation.

Please share a memory of Ray, sign his online guestbook and view his video tribute at www.hofffuneral.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE and OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT

The City of Houston is proposing a permanent change to the recreational land use designation in the southern 80-acre portion of the 118-acre parcel of South Park from its existing recreational land use designation. The current land use designation allows for strictly non-motorized uses; the proposal is to allow a motorized off-highway vehicles (OHV) trail system. At this phase in the Project development, no trail alignments have been designated, but the conversion of land uses on the property requires an environmental review. The purpose of the change in use to allow off-highway vehicle (OHV) uses within South Park is to provide park visitors with a range of passive and active recreational opportunities. The need for this change has been requested by recreational users in Minnesota who are seeking recreational opportunities for OHV activities.

South Park was developed with assistance from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program (LWCF). This program was enacted "...to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to all citizens of the United States of America of present and future generations and visitors who are lawfully present within the boundaries of the United States of America such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation in such recreation and to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States by (1) providing funds for authorizing federal assistance to the States in planning, acquisition, and development of needed land and water areas and facilities and (2) providing funds for the federal acquisition and development of certain lands and other areas."

Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act requires that no property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance shall be converted to other public outdoor recreation uses without the approval of the Secretary of the Depart-

ment of Interior, and only if he/she finds it to be in accord with the then existing State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and only upon such conditions as he/she deems necessary to assure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location (36 CFR 59).

In accordance with federal rules, activities which change LWCF funded park land uses from the original designated land uses require the completion of a Proposal Description and Environmental Screening Form as well as an Environmental Assessment. These documents are subject to review and approval by the National Park Service.

The Proposal Description and Environmental Screening Form and Environmental Assessment must also be made available for the public to comment upon. These reports provide analysis of potential impacts to South Park as a result of the potential change in recreational land use.

The Proposal Description and Environmental Screening Form and Environmental Assessment indicate impacts are either negligible or not applicable as a result of adding an additional recreational land use designation to the southern 80-acre portion of the Park. These documents do acknowledge that if a trail project moves forward, careful consideration for trail location and design will be needed to address environmental impacts associated with implementation of a trail system.

Copies of the Proposal Description and Environmental Screening Form and Environmental Assessment are available on the city's website <http://www.houston.gov/office.com/>, at Houston City Hall and at the Houston Public Library.

Comments must be submitted on or before October 19, 2013, to Larry Jerviss, City Administrator, at the City of Houston office, 105 W Maple, PO Box 667, Houston, MN 55943. Comments will become a part of the official record and will be considered when making future project-related decisions.

Houston Public Schools

School Board Meeting Tues., Sep. 3, 2013

I. Call to Order: Chair Tom Stillin called the meeting to order at 5:32pm. Members present: Gary Wilson, Michaelleen Bonner, Tom Stillin, Kevin Kelleher and Mimi Carlson. Absent: Ron Evenson and Joe Krage

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Agenda Approval: Supt. Bartleson requested the addition of items VII. A. School Board Meeting Schedule, VII. B. Dates for Caledonia Meeting and Policies 601, 603, 613 and 614 under IX. F. Policies for First Reading. A motion was made by Bonner to approve the amended Agenda. Seconded by Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Resolution to Hold a Closed Meeting for Negotiation Strategy: A motion was made by Wilson to pass the resolution to hold a closed meeting for negotiation strategy. Seconded by Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment: None

VI. Consent Items: A motion was made by Bonner to approve the Consent Items. Seconded by Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Minutes: 1. Approval of Aug. 20, 2013

B. Personnel

1. Contract(s): a. Jill Baldwin; b. Jennifer Briscois; c. Elisabeth Krumholz; d. Jodie English; e. Mara Schottenbauer; f. Tracy Sigl
2. Hiring Memo(s): a. Anthony Schultz
3. Resignation: a. Roger Dahlin

VII. Discussion Items

A. School Board Meeting Schedule: Supt. Bartleson led a discussion on the possibility of reducing the number of School Board meetings to one per month.

B. Dates for Caledonia Meeting: Supt. Bartleson polled Board members for their interest in meeting with representatives from Caledonia. Board members Carlson, Stillin and Bonner expressed interest in participating and shared dates they would be avail-

able for a September meeting.

VIII. Old Business - None

IX. New Business (Items for Discussion and Approval)

A. Houston Public School Day Treatment Agreement: Supt. Bartleson outlined the details of this program and answered questions from Board members. A motion was made by Bonner to approve the Houston Public School Day Treatment Agreement. Seconded by Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Truth in Taxation Meeting - Setting of Date and Time: Gwen Rostad, Finance Director, explained the requirements for this meeting and proposed that it be held on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 6pm. A motion was made by Bonner to approve the Truth in Taxation meeting at 6pm on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Seconded by Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Speech Therapy Service Contract: Supt. Bartleson reviewed the proposed contract for speech services through Speech Partners and answered

(Continues on Page 6)



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts

805 N. Hwy. 44/76

Agricultural Service Center

Caledonia, MN 55921

(507) 724-5261 Ext. 3

<http://co.houston.mn.us/RRSWCD.aspx>

October 15, 2013

Larry Jerviss, City Administrator
City of Houston
105 W. Maple Street
PO Box 667
Houston, MN 55943

Dear Larry,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the South Park project in Houston, MN.

Even though the current issue at this time is only **land-use**, I wanted to briefly touch on issues that will certainly arise should the land-use change be approved.

The slopes and soils that exist on this parcel are highly erodible especially when exposed. Vegetation establishment is difficult and even the slightest use may cause problems and be difficult to maintain its structure. It is also likely that off-site sediment delivery could be significant.

The Root River SWCD staff is continually involved with critical area construction plans, bank stabilization projects and access road development for residents in Houston County. We have seen the effects that recent rainfall events have had on our fragile topography and how difficult it can be to maintain our natural resources.

With all sincerity the Root River SWCD looks forward to providing additional environmental review and comment should an EAW be required.

Please feel free to contact our office with any concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Ron Meiners
District Manager
Root River SWCD

City of Houston

From: Kieffer, Tony [Tony.Kieffer@edwardjones.com]
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2013 1:23 PM
To: houtcity@acegroup.cc
Subject: support for proposed OHV park

Mr. Jerviss,

I wanted to write you to submit my comments for the support of the proposed OHV trail system within the south park.

Off-highway vehicle recreation is an important activity for many people in the Houston area and across the state, frequently bringing together families and friends in a active and outdoor setting.

We have seen from other sites such as Gilbert, that OHV designated areas can provide an economic boost for the hosting community and that many of the initial concerns such as traffic, noise and sustainability are not the issue they were initially feared to be.

When the trail area is open, I look forward to visiting and staying the Houston area with my friends and family.

Sincerely,
Tony Kieffer

Tony Kieffer, CFP®
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City of Houston

From: Gaudette, David [dgaudette@asap.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 12:23 PM
To: Houtcity@acegroup.cc
Subject: Houston Park with OHV usage

Good morning Larry. My name is David Gaudette from Plymouth MN. I would like to offer up support for your proposed look into whether to allow OHV trails in the Houston Park. I am 59 years old. I drive a rather stock SUV with a stock muffler and enjoy trail riding with it. My four now adult children grew up trail riding with me and it was used as a father child bonding activity throughout their youth. We have always practiced a "Tread Lightly" approach to off-roading meaning staying on designated trails and respecting the environment. OHV Parks offer a planned destination and activity. I have been to Gilbert OHV park in northern Minnesota for many weekends over many years. I have also been to Appleton MN to their OHV park and I have traveled to Attica OHV Park in Indiana. In all my trips to these parks I have experienced people thoroughly enjoying themselves. People bring their children, friends meet, and one gets a personal feeling of exploring on trails without the need to travel to the mountains or the deserts. On our weekends we will usually stay at a local motel or may stay at a local campground. We eat out for breakfasts and congregate at a nice eating establishment for dinner. Before heading home on a Sunday afternoon we will usually take a stroll through town to check out antique stores and fun shops. The Houston area is definitely a place I would come for weekends to ride and enjoy the area.

Thank you for your time and considering OHV usage at the Houston Park area.
David Gaudette

October 15, 2013

Re: Public Comment – LWCF Act 36 CFR 59.

The DNR owns over 1,300 acres of recreational land 3.5 miles west of the city of Houston that would be an ideal location for the OHV Trail. The 1,300 acres permits motorized vehicle operation, has camp sites, parking and is not surrounded by residential homes nor is it within city limits.

Minnesota Statutes 2011 116D.04 Subd. 6 Prohibitions:

Subd. 6. **Prohibitions.** No state action significantly affecting the quality of the environment shall be allowed, nor shall any permit for natural resources management and development be granted, where such action or permit has caused or is likely to cause pollution, impairment, or destruction of the air, water, land or other natural resources located within the state, ***so long as there is a feasible and prudent alternative consistent with the reasonable requirements of the public health, safety, and welfare and the state's paramount concern for the protection of its air, water, land and other natural resources from pollution, impairment, or destruction. Economic considerations alone shall not justify such conduct.***

The Houston City Council and Mayor are in possession of a petition drawn up according to the Minnesota League of Cities petition guidelines; it was reviewed for accuracy by an independent City Attorney. The purpose of the petition was to obtain a **Ballot Question Election** for prohibiting the use of motorized recreational vehicles in the City of Houston's South Park.

The petition was signed by over 100 city residents meeting the requisite number for obtaining the Ballot Question Election. There are approximately 300 homes in the city of Houston. Not a single city resident that we approached refused to sign the petition—we stopped knocking on doors when we had obtained the requisite number of signatures.

I provided to the Houston City Attorney, at his request, the League of Minnesota Cities document for his verification of the petition. His opinion was that the City of Houston could not hold the election. The Minnesota State Attorney General's office assigned a Municipal Attorney to review both the petition and the League of Minnesota Cities document upon which it was based. After review she too questioned upon what the Houston City Attorney based his opinion. Her recommendation was to hire an attorney to argue the issue with the Houston City Attorney; we couldn't afford to do so. Apparently the Houston City Attorney represents the Houston City Council, not the residents of the City of Houston; desires of the few outweigh the desires of the many?

We are asking your assistance in directing the City of Houston to abide by Minnesota State Law and consider their "...feasible and prudent alternatives..." for the OHV Trail on the DNR-owned, recreational 1,300 acres located 3.5 miles west of the city of Houston. Please consider this in light of 36 CFR 59.

Why do we have Minnesota Statutes if they may be violated with impunity?

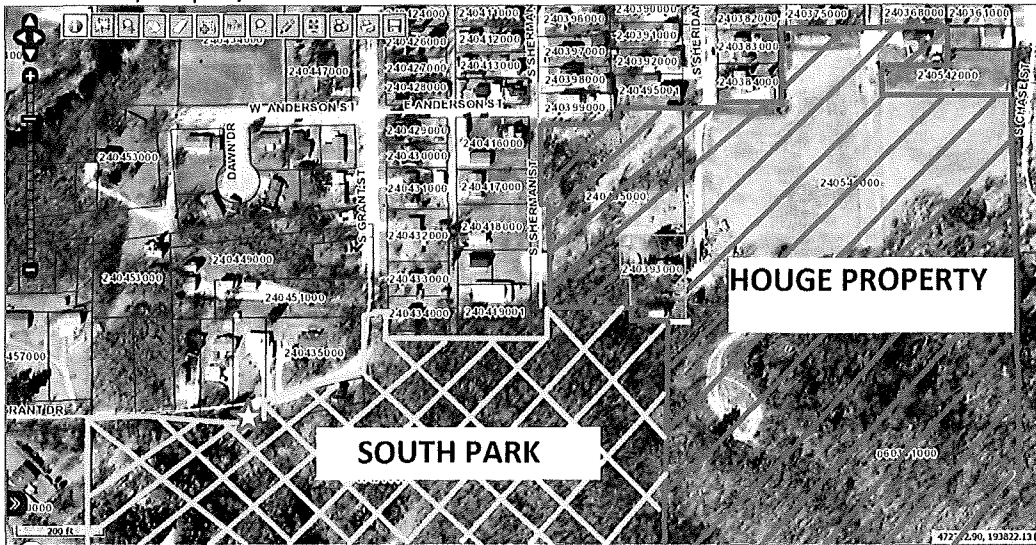
Regards,



Lisa Erickson

613 S Sheridan Street
Houston, MN 55943

Partial Map of propsed OHV Trail



Red Star indicates sole entrance to South Park on the residential South Grant Drive – 26 FEET from the nearest residence

The State of Minnesota is now in The Lower Third of States. (Debt Rating)

7.6 Per Cent of G.D.P. in unfunded Pension Liabilities.

10.0 Per Cent Debt and pension Liability.

While California who we hear so much about is only 5.7 and 10.6 Respectively.

We don't need to be a Philadelphia Economist to know The U.S. Debt is out of Control.

So where will all The Grants down The Road gonna Come From? Duh.

When The Trail Entrance and Exit Comes OUT on County 13 it will be illegal to drive 13 with These unless Highway Licensed.

They will Sneak out Emergency Exits untill one of Them Runs over Aunt EMMAS Cat, Then you guys will be Sorry!

AS This is to long To be read
At Meeting Copies made so all at
Table table can absorb at Their leisure

Ronald Burfield

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This Surely Will look Like a lot of
Rambling but I need all This To make my point.
Writing a letter was a good Idea. Not Many
Will Write so you will think That gives you the
Mandate To Proceed with your Madness. They won't
be offered up For public Viewing so you Can Spin
Them any way you wish.

This works for me as Council Meetings are harmful
To me health. I get Terrible gas pains when Someone
blows Smoke up my posterior.

Did Anyone else go to the State Fair?
The Tour of The DNR Exhibits Then accidentally
Finding Oneself at another location with Familiar
Faces in deep Conversation (Remained Incognito)
was very Enlightening!

With Traffic increase Also increases The Chance of Kwik Trif

Houston Mayor and Council.

The One Thing we learn From History is That we don't learn From History.

Remember When the Bicycle trail was going To bring Lots of business To Houston. A Bicycle Shop, Ice Cream and Gift Shop sprang up now defunct. Bed and Breakfasts were announced. The mentality was akin To The Field of Dreams "Build it and They will Come." They Came but NOT Numbers expected. To Be Blunt, only a dribble. Houston had Water ways that Could^{be} Cleaned up, Campgrounds established. Lets not forget losing an Historical Depot but saved a pile of Crap to be The information Center. They rented it out For one dollar a year and now a Coffee Shop. IF The Cost of Trail and new bridge plus yearly upkeep was Compared To Revenue brought To Houston it have to rate near The top of worst deals in Minnesota History.

Fortunately in Stead of a Feet on The desk Trailmaster you had Carla who was able to Salvage something From it bringing business and Culture To Houston with The Festival of owls. IT Surely will get larger. I hope Some other City Sees The Value of This and raises The ante Stealing her away leaving The Mayor and Council with well placed Feathers.

As per The Trail

Classified

I doubt That any of Them have Thought it Through. Bicyclists and Big Toy hauler rigs plus OHVs on The Street is not a good Mix. You guys will always have an answer To problems NOT necessarily The right one.

(2)

Let's examine The possibilities. The Hardware store! Cris Cox, "Bless her for all she has done for Houston" deserves To have an increase in business. However OHV nuts will bring their tool Box and Spare parts. In a years time the hardware store may Sell To Them a Few nuts and bolts, half dozen Hitch balls, a Couple male Hitch assemblies, a Few yards of Chain, a half dozen fuel Containers, a Few auto bulbs. They are not going To Christmas Shop or Haul back a new washer and dryer. IT won't Change The bottom line much.

When I drive To The Cities, Rochester, Waterloo, I Fill up in Houston and Fill again on my return. OHV people will Fill at Their home town and only if needed Fill in Houston. They will however block all Four Pumps ^{-Cenex-} with two trucks and trailers while Filling a Couple Five gallon Containers, Then Chatting a Few minutes about Their trail adventures. "A Fat Hog Cut on That one!"

At The Crossroads, Four Trucks and Trailer Can use all of The parking area. Four Customers! "another Fat Hog Cut!"

Parking Behind JTs! Trucks and Trailers not being able To park diagonally will park parallel! Using 3 parking spots! "And Still another Fat Hog Cut!"

When all The parking on Cedars main business block is Full with only a Few Trucks and OHV Trailers while They are, at JTs having a burger and a beer or two or Three! Some Older Shopper with a Cane will drive on To Rushford. "Another Fat Hog Cut!"

At This Rate we may have To get Louis Beecher To Come down ~~from~~ Winona and open a butcher Shop!

③

Of Course The Rumored Campground will surely have bagged ice, propane exchange, microwave sandwiches, some grocery and other amenities. Well! Well! Well!

I will concede there will be increased sales of prepared foods.

There will be some, stay at the local motel (in the township). Will you annex it into the city so you can collect city motel tax?

Some hope the trail will save the grocery store. Look how all the tourist traffic helped the store in Lanesboro! (Oops! I'm sorry, I forgot, it closed!)

Now let's get into the smoke and mirrors!

Twenty short years ago the Community Center was basically the same as today. 1993 the Mayor and Council decided it was good enough to build the brick addition with handicap access! Years later an elevator was added!

Were these officials such a short time ago grossly in error. OR do we now have an ulterior motive to create a panic. IF that's the case what you have to do now is to put up some yellow caution ribbons and under the guise of inspection rip down a few more pieces of the facade!

You let it happen or your watch. A little well placed call would have helped.

I suggest you contact Steve Erickson to repair the facade.

④

Why Can't you build The Center in The Same Spot.

The Elementary School on Sherman built in 1903 was torn down, pilings driven and The present Building built in one year. First grad in 1940. ~~was~~

The present location has become tradition although not used as much as when Community "The Word had meaning"

If You Old Enough to Remember all The Wedding dances, 2 or 3 in a month at times! The legion Sponsered dances (That was one of Their Fundraised before The Bar) - Storys about bootleggers about, during prohibition. In my memory, Many back and Forth to The Liquor store where The legion is ~~not~~ Pints, half pints hid in The alley. The alley back Then was like a Jungle, Farm machinery, large trees, a delivery Van sat (not Running) For years. There are many stories about That Alley - You could write a Novel. Also a Shack out There lived in by an old fellow who Used to go to The gas Station to get Used oil To Burn in his Studebaker.

The past Few years during events at The Center people could walk to legion or JTS. Maybe a quick Run to Cenex to get a powerball Ticket.

But if you build "OUT THERE" people will be held hostage So to speak and it will lose some of The Traditional glamour.

⑤ Right out of OBAMA-HOLDER Playbook

My belief is That To build a Community Center "OUT THERE" is a guise.

I believe The Real intention is To have an OHV Operations Center Located Near The Trail.

IF You Fessed up That is what The Reasons are The Silent majority in Houston would Finally Rise up in protest. Maybe only a Couple of people in Council Chambers are privy To Such information.

Sometime in The Future it will announced That The unused Large Room on The South end of The Center Could be Used for The OHV operations Center— Of Course Then you will want Kudos For your insight in Utilizing The Center.

AFTER 150 yrs ~~is it~~ important That we Know The Western boundary line Through The Woods and Catrails. The Taxpayer will of Course pay for Survey

I, ~~he~~ bet its OHV and Campground related.

And you Can't run all That Traffic past The School. So a New Roadway Could be on The drawing board. IF The DNR will allow destruction of The bluffside They probably won't See any harm in destroying habitat for frogs and blanding Turtles.

There are 2 people on The Council with The Scholastic ability To pencil This all out. Mr Schutte being one. IF he were To do it, i ~~is~~ Sure would look good on his Resume when he applys for That Principles Job in "Montevideo."

Being on The Council plus mathematically Saving Houston From bankruptcy would Certain Shine on Resume.

6

Not To Worry about Those folks in The quiet little neighborhood on Anderson Street worrying about Noise, Dust and Traffic. You Can Lubricate Them with promises of Sewer and Water

I wish we could bring back Conservative Man for The people Dana Dyer!

I bet if he is watching he has Rolled So many Times The Corners on his Casket have Rounded Off.

My advice to anyone out there needing Employment "Build a Sport Center specializing in Skis and Snowboards. When business is slow approach The Council. They will then Partner with The DNR, buy a Bluffside for The purpose of a Ski Resort.

When Will You Fess up to The Public all property's involved in Trail?

Why is Only Original South park plat to be on Culture Study? Is there something to be Feared about Checking purchased lands?

There is Humor in all of this - One Time adversaries (ARE NOW BEDFELLOWS).

Quote

IF You get into bed with Government you never again get a good nights sleep!

Ronald Reagan



1-28-1948 2 Interesting Publications In This Week's Signal

In this week's issue of the Signal our readers will find two legal publications that will prove to be very interesting reading. One is the financial statement of our own village of Houston, the other the Personal Property tax list of Houston county.

In the financial statement of Houston Village one finds that our village is in an excellent financial condition having a total in cash and bonds on hand of approximately \$50,000. When one looks over the disbursements and finds that a Recreational Field has been purchased in the amount of \$5,000; new Fire Truck completely equipped for over \$5,000; \$2,000 spent building a new pump house and over \$9,000 on our streets we fully realize that our financial affairs of the village have been in very competent hands. ↑ ↑

Receipts at the Liquor store during the past year amounted to over \$87,000 of this amount some over \$60,000 was paid for merchandise, salaries, rent, etc., and then too, \$25,000 has been transferred from the Dispensary Account to the General Account making it possible for the village to purchase the Recreation Field, Fire Truck, keep up our streets, etc. and still have about \$50,000 in bonds and cash on hand.

Anyone can well visualize the condition, or should we say the taxes that would need to be levied to carry on our village without the revenue from the Dispensary. This not an argument for or against the Dispensary, but just cold facts. We have not attempted to give the correct figures, only approximate ones in this article. Now turn to page three and read the Statement over carefully and then you will know more about the \$125,972.92 business you as taxpayers are engaged in.

After reading the statement turn to page two and start reading the property tax and commence the age-old discussion why your taxes are higher than your neighbors.

TEN YEARS AGO

Jan. 21, 1943

Village faces 1943 with \$18,996.28 in treasury. Houston is one of the few villages to be debt free and no tax for 1943.

Born, Jan. 16, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Gale Forsyth.

D. A. Comstock is attending Masonic Grand Lodge at St. Paul.

32 degrees below this morning, Jan. 23.

Lynn Wilsey left Monday for Whitehorse, Canada where he will be employed.

Born, Jan. 8 a son to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McManimon.

Mrs. V. L. Mann during 1942 canned 4400 cans of her famous chicken.

The village of Houston will hold a special election on April 4, 1904, for the purpose of voting on the question by ballot, that said village purchase, establish and control all necessary buildings, machinery and apparatus for making, generating and supplying light, and for water-works; for public and private use in said village. A committee composed of A. C. Evanson, Severt Hanson and A. T. Rowland recently made a trip to Bricelyn, Minn., where they viewed and examined the plant at that place. All were in favor of having Houston install such a plant.

PROPOSED OHV PARK

I feel as a neighboring property owner of the proposed OHV park, I need to respond.

Mayor Edwards stated at a city council meeting that she did not care about anyone not in the city of Houston or something to that effect.

These OHV parks are all about noise, erosion and total disregard for neighborhoods and wildlife habitat. We all remember the erosion problems caused by the 2007 rains. I hope that in the future, during the International Owl Festival, the city can be proud of their decision with regard to the OHV park.

We have cattle in the pasture next to this property and the potential problems are unthinkable.

I realize this is a mute point, but this is one of the most ridiculous projects I have ever heard proposed.

John
Beckman

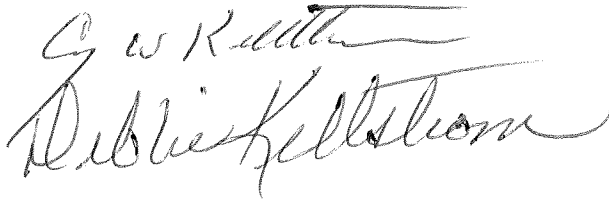
Comments and Concerns

Regarding the OHV Park in South Park of Houston. We feel that if this type of activity is going to be within the boundary of the city's park, it should be regulated by Minn. State Statues 169.693 (Motor Vehicle Noise Limits), and Statue 169.69 (Muffler) on Motor vehicles noise limits. These statutes should be enforced by whoever is going to be responsible for the OHV Trail.

The signed petition for a Ballot Question Election submitted by the residents of Houston to the Houston City Council was denied by the Houston City Attorney; we feel that both the petition and the City Attorney's written opinion justifying his conclusions should become part of the permanent record. After all the very people who signed the petition are those paying his fee.

We feel the OHV Trail will have a negative impact on property values and the quality of life in the City of Houston, especially impacting the immediately adjacent property and home owners.

Craig and Debbie Kellstrom

Handwritten signatures of Craig and Debbie Kellstrom. The signature for Craig is written above the signature for Debbie. Both are in cursive script.

City of Houston

From: Garrick Olsen [gbolsen@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2013 11:42 AM
To: Houtcity@acegroup.cc
Cc: Tony Kieffer
Subject: Off Road Park

Dear Mr. Jarvis:

I am a member of the Minnesota Land Rover Club. I have enjoyed off roading with the club and my little family over the past 15 years. During that time, I have see trail access gained and denied. I have seen the economic impact of those decisions and have no longer traveled and stayed in some locations that are now closed. With that in mind, with my family living in Hastings, and with the enjoyment had at the MN4WD event this spring at the Frontenac farm, I am sure that a park in southeast MN would be warmly welcomed by the OHV community.

Of note, I have enjoyed Houston before via motorcycling and the BMW club.

Great B&B and I still have a token for a free bottle of beer from the evening spent in the corner bar!

-Garrick Olsen
in Hastings

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL – SOUTH PARK LAWCON PUBLIC HEARING

Houston Community Center

July 9, 2012, 5:30 p.m.

Present: See attached sheet (84 attendees).

Mayor Connie: Welcomed everyone, stating that the purpose of the public hearing was intended to be an informal discussion to dispel some of the rumors about the Houston OHV project and also explain LAWCON/Grant-in-Aid, and why the additional use change is being proposed (applies only to 80 acres in South Park, not the 70 acres recently purchased). She stressed that the project is in a preliminary stage, and that all successive steps will proceed very systematically and with caution. Opinions voiced in opposition will be compiled and sent to the appropriate Federal agencies. She stated that everyone who wished to speak should give their name then their question or comment, and that it be done in a civil, orderly fashion. She introduced the DNR and ATV club representatives who were present.

Paul Purman, DNR Parks & Trails: Summarized project to date, saying that in an effort to get word out about the project, an informational booth had been available at Hoedown 2011 and will be again at Hoedown 2012, and an informational/Q&A session was held at the Skifton Building as well last year that was well attended. He described the steps that must be taken in the OHV Grant-in-Aid process. He introduced members of the four OHV clubs who were present (Rochester Rough Riders, Rochester Golden Eagles, Twin Cities Cycle Riders, and the North Metro Trail Riders, also the MN 4-Wheel Drive Association representative).

He explained that in 2009 they began looking for sustainable trails in an area that has unusual terrain yet a ready supply of food and gas; the Houston area was identified as being such a site. The DNR/the Clubs and the City of Houston met to discuss this idea. In August, 2010, they settled on a grant-in-aid process. On-site field visits were conducted. A three-day workshop was held in Houston with national experts present. At this time the exact location of the Trail System is unknown. The Grant-in-Aid is user funded by gas tax, user fees, etc. and does not come out of City funds.

Involved and providing project oversight will be OHV clubs, the City as the local sponsor, and the DNR. It will be years before any trails are developed as this is a lengthy process. The outcome is OHV trails through this partnership that develops into a managed, usable trail system. Steps involved: 1) Preliminary discussion; 2) Identify an area and users; 4) Other facets of DNR are brought into play – Environmental impact, etc. The proposal is then taken to the regional group and information is published. In no way does it mean that OHV will immediately begin here in South Park. What it does mean is that this will determine if there is a possibility to create this trail. Currently, there are 150 acres available.

An Advisory Committee will be formed by the City. Considerations will include: Environment, Sustainability, User group needs, Ecosystem balance, Preservation of tree canopy cover system, Local economic benefit; Maintenance plan (clubs do the work); Handling emergency situations; Helmet requirements; Invasive species plan; Cultural resources; Sound and Noise (state standards will be adhered to); Parking and access; Town services available to clubs; Daily seasonal hours and use; Other trail use – equestrians, etc.

Mayor Connie: Some City Council members toured the OHV park in Appleton, MN; was very positive.

QUESTIONS:

Ellyn Baumann, Houston: How will you guarantee good air quality – no smog? **Purman:** This has not been a problem so far. Controls on the machines are installed for smog, exhaust and noise.

Craig Kellstrom, Houston: Is this our last chance to have a say in this? **Purman:** The Grant-in-Aid repeats annually. The City can pull out if the citizens decide they do not want it.

Steve Rischette, Houston: What is generating interest in this project? **Purman:** This part of the state has the hills and terrain that is sought by OHV and ATV users.

Steve Erickson, Houston: There's DNR land all around – why not use that and leave this area alone.

Sandie Traff, Houston: Why was there only two weeks' notice of this hearing given? **Mayor Connie:** The notice was posted and published in accordance with legal requirements.

Corey Francis, Houston: The only way into the Park is through my land and it isn't going to happen!"

Mayor Connie closed the Q&A period, stating that the hearing was turning into comments, not questions. She stressed the need for an orderly, civil process. She asked the Council members present if they had any comments.

Kevin Knutson: I live right by this area and do not want a lot of noise and cars going by all the time, but there is a 30 acre buffer to help keep things the way they are today.

Tony Schultz: A project like this brings people to town and helps businesses succeed; it will make Houston into a sustainable community, where people will want to come. There are so many opportunities with a park like this. We have a viable resource here and with the help of the DNR/NOHVCC, they will make sure the area remains what it is today.

COMMENTS:

Steve Erickson, Houston: With all the land that the DNR already owns in this County, why are they taking land off the tax rolls? **Purman:** The property will be owned by the City with the necessary funding provided by the club users.

Richard Carr, Houston: Change of LAWCON use means what? **Purman:** For this purpose, it is just adding to its use - ATV's, motorcycles, snow mobiles, horse trails, etc.; any change must be recreational. The only other option would be a total conversion, such as putting it into housing or development; this would be possible only if a similar area can be traded.

Question: What if the DNR should pull out? **Purman:** Once the land is purchased, then it belongs to the City but they can only use it for this purpose. If the DNR should decide not to do this, then the City can pull out. Then, they can condemn the land, put it up for sale because it was acquired with motorized funds. However, the DNR has never pulled out of a GIA project, and I cannot foresee a circumstance that would cause the DNR to pull out because we work problems out.

Shirley Van Gundy, Houston: Concern about the park access. **Purman:** This is where the local Advisor Committee composed of local residents will come in. It depends on what land is available at the time needed.

What about insurance? Who pays the liability? **Purman:** State law states that the landowner is held harmless as long as admission is not charged, which it will not be in this case; instead, they must buy user stickers. The only other way there would be a liability or lawsuit is if the City was on the land, dug a hole and someone fell in.

John Beckman, Houston: Does the City have their eye on the Houge property? **Purman:** It has been considered, yes. The appraisal is being done but no dollars have changed hands.

Ian Young, Houston: What happens if the DNR changes the funding for a project like this? **Karen Umphress:** Minnesota law requires that registration fees for use of these trails be placed into set-aside fund. The ongoing premise of any GIA fund is if the money goes away, then the project goes away as well.

Sandi Traff, Houston: Has the City bought any more land other than Krukow's? **Purman:** No; the parcels under consideration are Houge and Schultz.

COMMENTS IN FAVOR:

Dan Larson, Apple Valley: I work with the 4-Wheel Drive Association and we are looking for locations in SE MN where we would be welcomed to bring our recreational activities, and partner with the local government and its people on a long-term basis. We do many good things in these cities; we hold the largest MS benefit and Toys for Tots in the State. We have been in Gilbert, MN. We also help to eradicate invasive species and help rebuild that which is falling down. We hope that we are welcome by this community.

Terry Chiglo, Houston: I urge the Council to look at the maximum use of the 80 acres through the DNR. Might there be a different or additional use of this land? I am in favor of requesting the additional use.

John Loken, Houston: This is my town and I have a business here. I took the time to go to meetings and find about this project. I found that the clubs are very good people. I have not heard one thing stated here tonight that cannot be worked out. I ask you to keep an open mind. Our town really needs something; for example, the motel is only running at 40%. I am asking you to just listen and try to work together as a community. This additional use does not commit us to anything and just might give us a lot. (Applause)

Steve Anderson, Winona: I have been a volunteer for the DNR and I can tell you that people do not have to be afraid of this.

Jordan Wilms, Houston County EDA: We must look at how we can play to the strengths and one of those is recreation. Houston County is in favor of changing the use of the land.

Gregg Huggenvik, Preston: You have a very quiet community and while OHV's will not mean thousands of people, you do need more people here. Need to find ways to bring more people in.

Marlene Schultz, Houston: Change is always difficult but I have a lodging business and could use the additional business that this will represent. I also have my horse trails and will use the OHV for my trails as well, and if the OHV will help this community, then I am in favor of it.

Tom Steiger, DNR Rochester: I have been doing this for 40 years. The town now has the opportunity to change the use of these 80 acres to give additional use of the land. If there is a problem, such as those that have been stated here today, they are dealt with and fixed. I have a lot of confidence in this project – it will be a partnership between the DNR and the people of Houston. The project provides money in such a way that would benefit people in town such as additional jobs, people who move here, or make it a yearly stop and develop new relationships. The question here today is will we allow the change in use of the 80 acres already owned by the City which not affect the tax base.

Rick Langness, Lexington: Many of the 4-wheel drive clubs belong to the 4-Wheel Drive Association; we have people who will come here and buy food and gas. We bring in a lot of dollars to the area. I urge you to look at the bigger picture and approve this so the next steps can proceed. This is early in the planning process and all the concerns can be addressed as time goes on. The Advisory group will determine many things – such as the hours the trail will be open, etc.

Matt Wittlief, Utica: I have been riding off-road motorcycles all my life; your concerns about noise and traffic will be alleviated because there are regulations by the State and DNR and also noise regulators on the equipment. We will not come in and ruin your town; we want to help you.

Tom Early, Hager City, WI: I want to speak to the type of people coming in. I am a college educated engineer, working in Red Wing; am a family man of two little girls. Closest place for me to go ride off-road cycles is four to six hours away. I just want a place to bring my daughters to ride.

Mitch Bublitz, Houston: My club took care of Chatfield's trail. There are parents and grandparents who bring their children to these trails to experience outdoor life. Regarding horses, I know for a fact that horses interact well with these clubs; they get along well. They learn to respect each other and co-exist in courtesy and working together in a positive fashion. For the City, I predict five new businesses at least. Noise will be minimal. Gilbert, MN is booming now from the clubs' involvement.

Mike Halvorson, Rushford: I was just in Silver Bay for three days; we spent \$680 per day so these clubs will have a big impact on the City.

Jeremy Halvorson, Spring Grove: We go to Black River Falls two or three times every year to ride our 4-wheelers; that is the closest place to go. There are 10-12 of us who go and we eat, buy gas, camp for the weekend or a week...people will come from all over the place to Houston.

Dave Kryzer, Brooklyn Park: I moved from Winona to Brooklyn Park, where I am Regional Director of the ATV Association. I am asking the citizens of Houston to support the added use change.

Nicole Walker, Rochester: I am with the Rochester Rough Riders and we want a constructive place to come – and we are positive, caring people who bring their children to teach them how to drive and respect the vehicle before they ever are allowed to drive on actual roads.

Milo Bjerke, Byron: 700 people attended the OHV Club family event that we hold every year. Houston is a great area for this sport; there are no technical trails in SE MN and I encourage the City residents to support this.

Francis VanGundy: The community should remember that years ago, before the Bike Trail came there were many “negatives” and the Trail turned out to be a good benefit to the City.

Karen Umphress: I am speaking in favor of the change in use. I own many vehicles and am a founder of a dirt bike club. There are many user trails that are dual purpose – horses and OHV’s. The GIA process is a very good blend for a community. We have an appreciation for the wilderness and we care for and respect it, and there are solutions for every issue. With your contribution to the entire process, you will have a say in what happens, and that is positive, not negative. In order to any of the positive impacts to occur, you have to allow this change of use to go forward. You will be giving your community a chance for real positive growth.

OPPOSITION:

Craig Kellstrom: I am opposed to the location. I have two four-wheelers myself, but this project doesn’t have to be in someone’s backyard (pointed out the location of his house on the map).

Steve Erickson: It is obvious that the cart is before the horse; it looks like a put-up deal. At some point elected officials have to stop taking property off the tax rolls. You purchased property before holding this public hearing. It has to be stopped.

Stacy Vix: I think a lot of people would like the property developed into housing or other uses that would help the City.

Bob Borowiak: My main concern is water run-off and erosion. The City’s storm water system is extremely fragile and cannot take on more water. I have an ATV and enjoy riding; but if you open up the hillside, the water will come down into the City. Until someone can show me where this water is going, I have to oppose this project.

Mayor Edwards: There are two different points of view – we hope that we can come to a middle ground, taking everyone’s comments into consideration.

Terry Chiglo: When will the Council take action on this? **Mayor Edwards:** In fairness to the seriousness of this project and comments heard, the Council needs time to digest all the information presented. Therefore it will be on the August agenda.

Sandie Traff: Is any information brought in after the public hearing allowed? **Purman:** This is a local issue and as such is up to the Council. Historically it is kept to whatever information is presented at the public hearing, not what comes later.

Mayor Edwards: Audrey Hegland will be transcribing her notes so have the information there by when she has completed the job (Hegland indicated Thursday).

Sandie Traff: I will bring in the information I have collected by noon on Thursday.

Marilyn Erickson: Pay attention to the water issue presented by Borowiak. **Mayor Edwards:** He will be asked to serve on the Advisory Committee to have input on the erosion and water issue. Every attempt will be made to make sure the project works harmoniously with the residents of Houston.

Mitch Bublitz: Must respect the landowners who have concerns about the noise.

Ron Meiner: I worked through the 2007 Flood. The erosion factor is a concern as is getting vegetation to grow because of the shading. There are many ways to address erosion.

John Botcher: I just bought a house and am expecting a baby. I am on the fence about this issue; we need something for the town's future yet the point of access does concern me – you could have many people going through residential areas. The town really does need an economic boost, however.

Rick Fitting: You shouldn't have cut them off from asking questions. **Mayor Edwards:** That was done because there were no questions – just comments being made and it was getting out of hand.

Mayor Edwards: The next Council meeting will be August 13, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center upstairs.