



BRAINERD CITY NEWS

JANUARY — FEBRUARY — MARCH 2014

Theresa Goble and Tom Fitzpatrick retire

Welcome
Patrick Wussow

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Theresa Goble

Thirty-four years of public service to the City of Brainerd will come to a close in February for retiring City Administrator Theresa Goble. Theresa's public service career began in 1980 when she was hired as a Clerk Typist. In 1989 she was appointed Deputy City Clerk and in 1995, promoted to Finance Director/Deputy City Clerk overseeing all city budget and financial reporting requirements. Thanks to Theresa's work, Brainerd has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association each year since 1993.

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Tower award presentation to Tom from Mayor Wallin and Council President Cumberland

A 40-year legal career for Attorney Tom Fitzpatrick came to a close on Dec. 31, 2013 when he put down his law books and removed his sign from his Front Street office.

After graduating from Brainerd High School in 1964 and St. John's University in 1968, Tom attended the University of Minnesota Law School. While a law clerk, he was assigned work in municipal labor relations. The work interested Tom and he thought that this was a specialty that seemed to have a future for him and his law interests. That interest led Tom into a widely

Cont. pg. 2



Patrick Wussow

Patrick Wussow will be the next Brainerd City Administrator. His first day will be February 10th. Patrick has been working for Minnesota local governments since 1989. In those years he has worked for six different municipalities in jobs ranging from Intern to City Planner to City and County Administrator. He is very excited to get started and looking forward to carrying out the Brainerd mission statement to provide a high quality, cost effective public service and leadership in creating a sustainable city.

Capital improvement project - emergency preparedness

This is the first of three articles about capital improvement projects scheduled for funding by issuing capital improvement bonds. Funding that was stopped by a valid city petition. The improvement projects are:

- Emergency preparedness upgrades
- Salt and sand storage building
- Upgrade HVAC systems in City Hall, Police Department, and Fire Department and upgrades for the main entrance and façade at City Hall

This article will focus the emergency preparedness upgrades. Future newsletters will have articles on the other needs.

Picture a major storm causing a power outage at the Police Station and restoring power will take more than a few days. Police Department operations must continue during a time of a disaster or extended power outages. During such emergencies, demand for police services most likely will increase.

However, there is no backup generator at the Police Station to keep its operations running. Some of the operations that would no longer function during an extended power outage include:

- The entire records management system.

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Annual dog license required



Each January all dogs over 4-months old are required to be licensed by the City of Brainerd. Annual license fees are as follows:

Not spayed or Not neutered

- \$15.00

Spayed or Neutered

- \$10.00

Replacement of Dog Tags

- \$2.50

A license can be purchased at City Hall.

Snowmobile use in the City



City residents and visitors are reminded that snowmobile use is regulated by rules adopted by the City Council. Listed below are a few of the key regulations. The complete ordinance can be found on the City of Brainerd website under *City Code 1325 — Snowmobiles*.

Snowmobile use is permitted on all city streets, however it is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile as follows:

- Upon or over any sidewalk, boulevard, shoulder, or berm in the City.
- On public school grounds, park property, playgrounds, and recreational areas without express permission to do so by proper public authority.

Goble cont.

In July 2012, when long time City Administrator Dan Vogt retired, the City Council, in need of professional operational management, was fortunate to have someone with Theresa's experience and management skills and appointed her Interim City Administrator on July 1, 2012. This appointment thought to be temporary, became permanent in December 2012 when "interim" was removed and she was appointed City Administrator.

During her years of service, her professional accomplishments have been recognized locally and state-wide. In 2008 Theresa was awarded the League of Minnesota Cities Women in City Government Leadership Award for her leadership both inside and outside of the community. A fellow staff member stated, *"I consider myself lucky to have Theresa Goble as a supervisor and mentor. Much of my commitment to the City of Brainerd has been because of Theresa's fairness and work ethic."*

Theresa's local and regional community service activities have been numerous. She is an active member and a past President of the Brainerd Noon Rotary. She is a Blandin Community Service Leadership Program alumnus, is active in her church and community and is very proud of being a founder of the ISD 181 Kids Voting program.

Closing this chapter in Theresa's life opens a new one for her and her husband, Lonny. Theresa states that she is very blessed to have worked for a great employer all these years and that she has had great mentors and co-workers. She will miss everyone.

- Between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. on the Grant in Aide Snowmobile Trail and the trail running east from County Road 48 to the College Drive bridge, then south to Business 371.

Fitzpatrick cont.

recognized specialty law practice devoted almost entirely to serving the unique legal needs of area governmental units.

After graduating from law school in 1971, Tom returned to Brainerd and worked in the family law firm with his father, S.G. Fitzpatrick, City Attorney Duane Larson and Tom's older brother John. It did not take long before Tom was involved in local government issues. This should come as no surprise if one knows a little about the Fitzpatrick family history. As a child Tom remembers playing in his father office ... at City Hall... where he was the City Attorney! Tom's father, S.G. Fitzpatrick, served in that capacity from 1940 to 1958. This was during a time when the city attorney was a two-year elected position.

Tom's father also served as the school district attorney for 40 years, during which time Tom worked with him on school-related matters. Tom was hired as the City Attorney in 1992 and served in that capacity until his retirement.

Tom and his father provided the city and school district with over 40 continuous years of legal services. Tom estimates that he has attended between 1,400-1,500 night meetings over the course of his career! In addition to being the Brainerd City Attorney, he also served as legal counsel for the Brainerd School Board and provided legal counsel to close to 20 other cities, counties, and school districts in the area.

Tom has retired from legal practice however he has no plans to leave his hometown., he and his wife, Anna, love their home in north Brainerd, the house in which he was raised. His three children and five grandchildren live in the area and he enjoys family gatherings at his house and Gull Lake cabin. Tom plans on continuing with his model railroading hobby and ski trips to mid-west slopes.

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Capital improvement projects cont.

- Because of FBI security requirements, relocating police records management operations would be difficult.
- Freezer and refrigeration storage for required biological evidentiary items. This evidence could be compromised if it was moved.
- The HVAC system is 100 percent electrical meaning no building heating or cooling of the building.
- The telephone system which operates off electricity will not operate.
- Police portable radios could not be charged.
- The computer system that records electronic building access points, activity at the weapons vault, and Evidence Room would not operate affecting chain of command records, and building security records.
- Interior emergency lighting for hallways and exits would last only as long as battery back-up system.
- Video recording rooms for interrogations and interviews would not be available.
- Police in-squad video recordings could not be downloaded to normal storage destinations and processed for evidentiary purposes.

In addition to all of the lost Police Department functions, the City's computer system servers are located at the Police Department. This was done for security purposes, for 24/7 monitoring, and in anticipation of running on auxiliary power in the event of an extended power failure. Without a backup generator the city's computer system could no longer function. A community that cannot carry on normal police functions after a major power outage is severely compromising its citizen's health and safety. It is for the reasons above that backup generator is so very vital for our community.

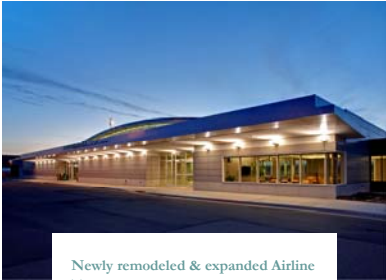
Department Spotlight - Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport by Director Jeff Wig

One of the primary goals the Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport Commission set when I was hired last year was to aggressively spread the word about the great resource the Brainerd Lakes Area has in our Regional Airport. In this effort I have joined many from our airport family who have worked in our airport booth at community events, given Airport tours, served on committees with community leaders, or organized Airport events. As we ramped up our efforts we started with just doing a better job informing folks of what we were already doing. This went well and the response was very positive. But, as the year went on new things started to happen that gave us an even better story to tell.

In one very encouraging development, SkyWest Airlines (which flies as Delta Connection) took a small leap of faith and gave us extra weekend flights during the summer. As we predicted, these flights filled to over 90 percent of capacity. But we knew the moment of truth would come once the summer was over, so we were very pleased that September-November boardings have risen by 15 percent over 2012 levels. This is a much faster pace than nationwide passenger growth and it was likely helped by the remarkable reliability record that SkyWest has compiled at Brainerd. In the past six months SkyWest flew 460 flights in and out of Brainerd and only canceled three times – a cancellation rate well below the national average.

In addition there are other exciting events happening on the “general aviation” side of the field, with the new owners at Airmotive Enterprises investing strongly in bringing more customers and visitors to our community. They have hired an additional mechanic and a full-time flight instructor and have just signed on as a regional dealer and maintenance center for the Quest Kodiak - a new type of turbine-powered workhorse aircraft. The Airport, Wings Café and the new owners of Airmotive Enterprises are also exploring a shared remodeling of our old General Aviation Terminal and café building. The project has tremendous potential to help us upgrade our image to an important segment of our region’s visitors and business travelers.

It has been a great year of progress and I am proud of what our airport community has accomplished. Here is wishing you all a great holiday season and a great start to 2014!



Newly remodeled & expanded Airline Terminal officially opened in Feb 2012



A new feature of the expanded Airline Terminal is the jet bridge that allows passengers to avoid the winter elements while boarding

Fitzpatrick cont.

Being the youngest of three, Tom sometimes found himself the eye of his sister’s and brother’s imagination. One summer when Tom was just 3 years old, his older sister and brother decided they wanted to enter a local pet contest staged by the Parks and Recreation Department. Unfortunately, the family didn’t own a pet. As their solution, they dressed Tom in an animal costume, loaded him (their pet) in a crate and off they went to the contest. The judges didn’t know what to make of this “pet in the crate” so they awarded a special 1st place prize just for him or was it for the “pet.”

Tom’s experience in municipal labor relations cannot be replaced and his guidance and advice will be missed. He has been an invaluable resource to the city and we all wish him well in his retirement.

Help clear our fire hydrants

Residents are asked to try to keep fire hydrants shoveled out in the event the Fire Department needs to use one in your area. Snow covered fire hydrants could delay firefighters from hooking up to the hydrant and from attacking a fire. As street crews get caught up with plowing and hauling the snow, they will attempt to dig most of the hydrants out but until then PLEASE try to make an effort to help us out. Your assistance is much appreciated!



Don't text and drive

- In 2011, 23 percent of auto collisions involved cell phones.
- 3,092 people in the United States die every year from texting and driving.
- 77 percent of young adults are confident in their ability to text and drive.
- 48 percent of kids have been in a car while the driver is texting.
- Using a cell phone while driving delays a driver's reaction as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of 0.08.

Source: Don't Text and Drive website

City skating rinks warming house hours

- Gregory Park: 4-7 p.m. Mon-Fri
- Bane and Mill Ave. Parks: 5-8 p.m. Mon-Fri

All three warming houses are open noon to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays. In case of heavy snow or extreme cold temperatures, the warming houses may not be open or may close early.





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Brainerd City News Jan/Feb/Mar 2014

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The History Corner

Starting in this issue, look for the ***“History Corner”***! Just for fun, local historians will be presenting interesting Brainerd historical facts. Sometimes this “Corner” will have historical information about our city and other times it may pose a question for you to answer about an important person, place or event. The questions may require some research to get an answer. There are many places to look, such as the *Crow Wing County Historical Society’s* Research Library or website, or the *Brainerd Public Library’s* City Directory section, and even the *City of Brainerd’s* website’s new history section, which includes tours, videos, vintage maps and newspapers. Some answers may be found by searched the old fashioned way...on foot!

Much of our history is yet to be discovered and resides in the memories of our residents, and this is where YOU can help US. You may have old photos or stories to share. Please contact City Hall or go to the Brainerd website’s history page (<http://www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/history/>) if you think you can help. Let’s have some fun with history!

Q.: What is the man in this portrait? Why is he important and where is the portrait now? (Answer in the next issue, but we hope you find it much sooner!)

