

**Date:** Feb. 3, 2026  
**Contact:** Tina Elam, Communications Manager  
**Phone:** 651-430-6004 (office), 651-592-5989 (after hours)  
**E-mail:** Tina.Elam@WashingtonCountyMN.gov

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The following actions were taken at the Feb. 3, 2026, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota.

## **County accepts bench donation for Lake Elmo Park Reserve**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted a \$2,500 donation Feb. 3 for a cedar bench and plaque to be placed in Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

Tracinda Yaw donated in honor of her late son. The cedar bench and plaque will commemorate the many memories Yaw shared with her children in the park.

**Contact: JJ Williams, Parks Manager, 651-430-8245**

## **Sheriff's Office receives \$7,500 grant for new K-9**

The Washington County Sheriff's Office received a \$7,500 Reunited K-9 grant from the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) and American Kennel Club (AKC) for the purchase of a new K-9.

The new K-9 will replace one retiring from the K-9 Unit. The Sheriff's Office will provide the \$2,500 minimum county match for the grant. The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted the funding Feb. 3.

**Contact: Pafoua Lo, Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer, 651-430-7994**

## **County Board proclaims February Black History Month in Washington County**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners proclaimed February Black History Month in Washington County Feb. 3.

Black History Month is a month-long commemoration of the history and achievements of Black Americans in the U.S., celebrated annually in February. The County Board's adopted resolution seeks to raise awareness of and celebrate the rich history and contributions of Black people in Washington County and across the United States.

Black History Month began as Negro History Week in 1926, after Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and conceived of the week. It was first celebrated during the week encompassing the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas in February 1926. In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford expanded the celebration to a month.

Today, Black American communities celebrate with events and educational programs that focus on the past, present, and future.

**Contact: Angie Nalezny, Human Resources Director, 651-430-6075**

## **TKDA Associates to provide design services for the Stonebridge Trail, Norell Avenue, and Dellwood Road intersection improvement project**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$580,500 contract with TKDA Associates Feb. 3 to provide final design services on the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 (Stonebridge Trail), County Road (CR) 55 (Norell Avenue), and CSAH 96 (Dellwood Road) intersection improvement project.

TKDA Associates conducted the preliminary design study for this project located in Stillwater Township in 2025. After engaging adjacent property owners and the general public throughout the year, the project team created and shared a preferred layout to improve this intersection. The Stillwater Township Board supported this layout.

In October 2025, Washington County issued a request for proposal to provide final design services. The county received three proposals from qualified firms, with TKDA Associates selected as the preferred consultant. The scope of work under this contract includes project management, public engagement, utility coordination, drainage design, permitting, cost estimating, and creation of final construction plans.

In addition to the final design contract, the County Board approved the acquisition of the necessary right-of-way and associated easements to move forward with the project. The right-of-way estimate is \$200,000.

Final design and right-of-way acquisition will be completed in late 2026 or early 2027, with construction scheduled for 2027.

**Contact: Andrew Giesen, Public Works Engineer III, 651-430-4336**