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December 2023 ~ Volume 38, No. 12

### Watch & Listen For Santa

Thursday, December 7 • 6:00-9:00 pm

The entire width of the city from the southern border to 146th Ave NE

Friday, December 8 • 6:00-9:00 pm

The entire width of the city from 146th Ave NE to Constance Blvd NE

Saturday, December 9 • 5:00-8:00 pm

The entire width of the city from Constance Blvd NE to the northern border



# **Christmas Tree & Light Recycling**

Christmas trees, holiday lights and extension cords can be dropped off at the north side of the City Hall parking lot for recycling.

Please place holiday lights and cords in the blue container with the green lid near the small garage. Trees can be placed at the north side of the City Hall parking lot through January 7th. They must be clean of all tinsel and decorations.

## **Election Judges Needed to Serve in 2024**

### 2024 Election Dates:

Presidential Primary: Tuesday, March 5 Primary Election: Tuesday, August 13 General Election: Tuesday, November 5

For more information and to obtain an Election Judge Application/Information form, please visit www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us/services/elections or use this QR code.



If you have more questions, please contact Deputy City Clerk, Dawnette Shimek at 763-235-1673 or Administrative Assistant, Nicole Wheeler at 763-235-1671.

Articles and photos that appear in *The Ham Laker*, along with other useful information about the City, can be found on the City's website:

www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us

### Stay Safe for the Holidays

The Fire Department's Tips to Help Preserve Your Holiday Safety



While holidays typically bring with them good friends, good food, and good times, the Ham Lake Fire Department would like to remind residents to have a SAFE time as well.

Unfortunately, winter holidays can often be a deadly time of year, since many traditions include the most common causes of home fires. In most years, cooking, candles and open flames account for nearly half of Minnesota's residential fires.

During the excitement of the holiday season, normal safety precautions can sometimes be overlooked.

#### **Holiday Trees**

- If you use an artificial tree, make sure it is fire resistant
- If you use a real tree, be sure to add water daily.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat sources like fireplaces, heat vents and candles.
- Be sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

### Lighting

- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets and excessive kinking or wear before you put them up.
- Do not link more than three light strands together, unless the directions say it is safe.

#### Candles

- Do not use lit candles as decorations on your holiday tree, near flammable decorations or near curtains.
- Never leave lit candles unattended or within reach of young children.
- Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.

#### Fireplace

- If you burn wood, clean your fireplace chimney regularly to remove creosote.
- Always use a screen or have the door closed when you use the fireplace to prevent sparks from entering your home.

## Are You Struggling to Pay Your Heat & Electric Bills?

Energy Assistance may be able to help. The Energy Assistance program is available October 1, 2023-May 31, 2024.

Contact ACCAP (Anoka County Community Action Program) at 763-783-4747 or visit our website at www.accap.org/energy-assistance for more information

### **Assessor's Corner**

**2023 Property Review update:** The City Assessors have finished visits to all properties that were due for a 5-year review this year. In the weeks ahead they will be out in all areas of the city to view work done on permits issued this year (new construction, demolition, decks, additions, etc.) and follow up on projects that were in progress at the end of 2022.

**2024 Proposed Property Taxes Statements** will be mailed out from Anoka County in November.

This is a notice showing the preliminary estimate of the property tax amount for 2024. The proposed tax estimate amount is based on preliminary levies submitted by Anoka County, City of Ham Lake, School Districts and other taxing authorities.

Dates and times are included for upcoming public meetings for each of the taxing authorities. You can express your questions and concerns about the levy amounts then. This notice does not include amounts for waste management fees, special assessments or any school district referenda approved in the fall. For more information about these statements go to: www.anokacountymn.gov/4315/Sample-Notices-Statements.

**Other Resources:** For more information about Minnesota Property Taxes visit the MN Department of Revenue online at: <a href="https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/understanding-property-tax">www.revenue.state.mn.us/understanding-property-tax</a>.

## Ham Laker's Winter Parking Rules

Remember that from October 1 through April 30, NO PARKING is allowed on Ham Lake streets between the hours of midnight and 6:00 am.

In addition, no parking is allowed in the daytime hours during or after a 2-inch snowstorm or until after the streets are plowed.

### **Warming House Attendants**

Ham Lake is accepting applications for the position of part-time Warming House Attendants from about December 18, 2023 through February 23, 2024.

Hours are:

Weekdays 4:00 to 9:00 pm Weekends and holidays 11:00 am to 9:00 pm

Wage is \$15.00 per hour. Must be 16 years or older. Senior Citizens are encouraged to apply.



For an application contact Ham Lake City Hall: 15544 Central Ave NE • 763-434-9555 • website: www.ci.hamlake.mn.us.

### **Ham Lake City Council News**

#### At its October 16, 2023 meeting the City Council took the following actions:

Approved items on the Consent Agenda included:

- Appointing Angela Brumbaugh as the Finance/ **Human Resource Director**
- Ordinance No. 23-11 rezoning 4611 139th Lane NE to R-1 (Single Family Residential)
- Final Sunrise Watershed Management Organization Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)
- Warranty extension for Lund's Lakeview Forest Street Reconstruction Project Road Committee Recommendation: Approval of Ordering plans and specifications for the 2024 bituminous overlay project
- Approved Resolution No. 23-47 approving the vacation of a portion of Stutz Street NE on the recorded plat of Hidden Forest East Third Addition.
- · Approved Jesse Osborne's request to revise the approved conditions of the final plat for the Creekside Farms Commercial Development in Sections 7 and 8 related to screening, subject to requirements.
- · Approved authorizing the City Attorney to act, if necessary, on the Letter of Credit set to expire on November 15, 2023 for Shingobee Builders, Inc. concerning the project known as the Holiday Stationstores.

#### At its November 6, 2023 meeting the City Council took the following actions:

Approved items on the Consent Agenda included:

- Ordinance No. 23-12 rezoning 1016 Bunker Lake Boulevard NE to R-AH (Affordable Housing District)
- Contract with Embedded Systems for the maintenance and monitoring of the radio equipment for the outdoor warning sirens
- Final Sunrise Watershed Management Organization Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and adoption of Resolution No. 23-48 and approval of the 2024 **Budget**
- Accepting five different development projects and releasing maintenance security and commencing one-year warrantee period where applicable: Coon Creek Commercial Park, Hidden Forest East Third Addition, Constance Boulevard Terrace, Evergreen Estates and Crosstown Rolling Acres 3rd Addition
- 2024 bituminous overlay project plans and specifications and authorization to advertise for bids
- · Approved Ryan Becker's request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a construction service contractor business at 16651 Polk Street NE, subject to requirements.
- Approved Ryan Becker's request for commercial site plan approval to construct a 4,608 square foot office/warehouse building at 16651 Polk Street NE, subject to requirements.

Visit the City's website to view Council and Planning meeting videos on-demand and agenda minutes of City Council and Planning Commission: www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us.

### **Sheriff's Report**

### Thefts & Damage to Property

10.18 180xx Concord Dr NE—theft of mail; small silver Chevy sedan was identified

10.20 138xx Aberdeen St NE-a check was "washed" and cashed in New Jersey from a business for \$24K

10.25 160xx Lexington Ave NE-2 windows broken on a vehicle; purse stolen

10.29 163xx Isanti St NE-license plate cut off a vehicle in the driveway

10.31 14xx 133 Lane NE-theft of mail; business checks were washed and cashed; \$7K loss

#### **Arrests**

10.08 156xx Baltimore St NE—Theft at a store; the suspects fled in a U-Haul truck. The driver was identified. He had a felony warrant, had meth on him and was arrested. There was a 1-year-old in the vehicle without a car seat, so deputies provided a car seat to the woman and she was released at the scene.

10.12 Hwy 65/143 Ave NE—No Driver's License, Warrant; a deputy stopped a vehicle for a cracked windshield. The male identified himself and stated he has not had a driver's license since 1997. He was arrested.

10.12 20xx 176 Ave NE—Domestic Assault; domestic between a mother and daughter; one was said to have a gun. Deputies arrived and spoke with the daughter who had left the home. The mother was talked out of the home. Both were arrested.

10.13 134xx Hwy 65 NE-Warrant Arrest; a deputy observed a vehicle in the parking lot; he knew the woman driving it had a felony warrant. She was arrested.

10.15 Hwy 65/157th Ave NE—DWI, 4th degree; driver stopped for speeding 80/65. The driver smelled of alcohol. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The driver was arrested.

10.16 Central/Constance Blvd NE—Controlled Substance; a deputy saw a male in a vehicle who he knew had a CSC Warrant. The male stated he did

not have insurance or an ID. The deputies also found meth in the vehicle. The woman also had a warrant out of Kansas. Both were arrested.

10.24 15400 Block Hwy 65 NE-Drugs; a deputy ran a plate and the registered owner came back revoked and tabs came back expired. He stopped the vehicle. Meth were found in the vehicle and the driver was arrested.

10.24 15400 Hwy 65 NE-No Contact Order Violation; a male had forced his way into his ex-girlfriend's home. Deputies arrived and located him hiding in a bathroom. He was arrested.

10.27 17300 Block Hwy 65 NE-DWI Refusal; a deputy stopped a driver for speeding 80/65. The driver appeared impaired and was combative. Field sobriety tests were failed and he refused to perform the DMT test. He was arrested.

10.28 147xx Stutz St NE—Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a boyfriend/girlfriend physical fight. The boyfriend was arrested.

10.28 136xx Hwy 65 NE-DWI Refusal; a male was completely reclined in his vehicle sleeping while pumping gas. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed but he refused to take the official breath test. He was arrested.

11.02 3500 Block Crosstown Blvd NE-DWI 4th degree; driver stopped for speeding 82/55. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The driver was arrested.

11.02 Lake Netta/Crosstown Blvd NE—Criminal Vehicular Operation; deputies responded to a 2vehicle crash. One person was seriously injured. The driver who caused the crash appeared to be impaired. Field sobriety tests were stopped for the driver's safety. A warrant for blood was obtained. He was ar-

### **Display Your Address as City Code Requires**

It's the duty of the owner, lessor or occupant of every house, industrial, commercial or other building to have proper house or building numbers in metal, glass, plastic or other durable material. The numbers should be not less than 12 inches in height on all commercial/industrial buildings and a minimum of four inches in height on residential buildings. They should be in a contrasting color to the building.



The numbers should be placed on structures (not garage doors) so they can be easily seen from the street that fronts on the building.

Numbers are also to be placed on both sides of mailboxes. When mailboxes are in a group, the numbers should be placed on the front of each mailbox and on the side of each end mailbox. No auxiliary buildings within a unit having an assigned number (such as a garage, barn or similar buildings) are affected by the code.

### Fire Department Calls

The Ham Lake Fire Department responded to 31 calls during the month of October: 24 during the day and 10 at night.

The department spent 322 personal hours responding to calls for the month. Year-to-date, the department has answered 334 calls, compared with 362 calls at the same time last year.

## January '24 Issue Deadline: Wed., December 13 @ noon

Please send all Ham Laker correspondence, articles and ideas to:

City of Ham Lake 15544 Central Ave NE Ham Lake, MN 55304

Email: HamLaker@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

For advertising information please contact City Hall at 763-434-9555

Editor: Sharon Brodin, Brodin Press LLC

Printed on 20% post-recycled consumer waste paper



#### **Ham Lake Contacts**

City Hall: 763-434-9555

To report emergencies after office hours call 911. City Hall Hours: Monday-Thursday: 7:00-4:30

Friday: 7:00-11:00

Brian Kirkham (Mayor) 612-978-2764

bkirkham@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Jim Doyle (Council) 612-850-1698

jdoyle@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Gary Kirkeide (Council)

763-434-9762

*gkirkeide@ci.ham-lake.mn.us* 

Al Parranto (Council)

763-355-5171

aparranto@ci.ham-lake.mn.usJesse Wilken (Council)

763-458-4608

jwilken@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

## **Keep Batteries out of Your Curbside Cart**

Batteries, battery-enclosed electronics (household and rechargeable) and other hazardous materials should not be included in your curbside trash or recycling carts. Cell phones are the most common example. Instead, bring them to a drop-off location.

Why? Batteries and electronics with non-removable batteries can explode and start fires if crushed or punctured. As batteries get stronger this is occurring more and more. Every month garbage trucks and recycling facilities experience fires with batteries that are improperly thrown away.

#### **Drop-off Locations**

Batteries and some battery-enclosed electronics can be taken to the Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste (ACHHW) facility or select recycling centers and drop-off events.

Go to *AnokaCountyMN.gov/HHW* for location, hours and a list of accepted items at the ACHHW. Some recycling centers, drop-off events and local businesses also accept them. For more information go to: *AnokaCountymn.gov/RecyclingDirectory*.

### No Salt, Low Salt MN

Using salt/chloride products to melt ice on your sidewalk and driveway is not the best way to deal with icy areas around your home. Salt can corrode your vehicles and concrete, and excess will run off into our waterways when melting. Once salt gets into our waters it's nearly impossible to get out.

Here are ways you can have safe walking areas, reduce pollution and maybe save some money:

- #1: Remove snow during a snowstorm instead of waiting until the end. Start with the very first snow and keep up the rest of the winter, especially in shaded walkways.
- #2: Think *anti-icing*. Break the bond between ice and pavement just where you need it so you can shovel or plow (as opposed to melting everything).
- #3: Treat before a storm to help prevent ice buildup so less de-icer is needed.

Alternatives: Sand (for traction only) is safe and effective. Sweep up any excess and re-use. You can do this for salt products, too.

#4: After storms use as little de-icer as possible.

Sand is safest for pets and children. "Pet-safe" products usually have urea in them. This adds nutrient pollution and can cause algae blooms later.

Remember, regular salt (sodium chloride) is not effective at temperatures below 15°. For colder temperatures try sand—or pre-treat with a salt brine like cities are doing.

Information provided by Coon Creek Watershed District (763-755-0975 • www.cooncreekwd.org).



### Happenings at the Senior Center

Open Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm 15544 Central Ave NE in Ham Lake

763-434-0455 City Hall collection box for flexible plastics.

Everything must be clean. Grocery bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, plastic shipping envelopes, re-closable food storage bags, cereal bags, water bottle case overwrap, salt bags, pallet wrap and stretch film, wood pellet bags and produce bags are all accepted.

**Senior Dining** on Mondays and Wednesdays each week at noon. **Reservations needed!** Meals are \$7 for those 55+ and \$10 for those younger than 55.

**Senior Center Activities** include vet coffee, fitness class, fun cribbage, wood carving, Bingo, 500 cards and Dominoes.

Watch for upcoming trips to the Casino (open to the public), Jam Sessions during the day and evening (open to the public), health insurance counseling, scheduled shopping trips for those who need transportation and a birthday lunch.

**Call the Senior Center** to find out about the dates, times and details of these and other special events.

**DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSES** for 2023 are held by MHSRC (Minnesota Highway Safety Research Center) for those 55 and older. Registration is required. Call 1-888-234-1294 for information and to register. Or go online: www.stcloudstate.edu/continuingstudies/mhsrc/55-plus

**4-Hour Refresher Course:** You need to take this every three years. Time flies, so make sure you are current! The fee is \$24 for the 4-hour class:

There are none scheduled at this time.

#### 8-Hour Course for "First Timers"

There are none scheduled at this time.

**Did you know?** If you are 55 years or older, state law requires your insurance company to give you a 10% discount after taking an 8-hour Defensive Driving Course and attending a 4-hour refresher course every three years.

NOTE: The Ham Lake Senior Center is NOT available for rent!

## Ham Lake Lions Seniors Christmas Party

The 50<sup>th</sup> annual Ham Lake Seniors Christmas Party will be December 3rd at Glen Cary Lutheran Church (15531 Central Ave NE in Ham Lake).

Entertainment starts at 4:00 pm Dinner at 5:00 pm Visit from Santa at 6:30 pm

All seniors from the area are invited to attend. No reservations are necessary and there is no charge to attend.

### **October Building Permits**

The City of Ham Lake issued 150 permits in July with a valuation of \$2,525,851.00.

The issued permits are as follows: one commercial remodel, one commercial addition, one commercial roofing, five residential new construction, four residential remodel, one residential basement finish, five residential accessory building, nine residential deck, three residential window, one residential solar panel and 60 roofing/siding.

Other permits include 32 mechanical, 11 plumbing and 23 septic installations.

### **Snowmobile Rules in Ham Lake**

#### 6-300 Snowmobiles

#### 6-310 Registration

The registration of snowmobiles is governed by M.S.A. 84.88 and amendments thereto.

#### 6-320 Operation

The provisions of M.S.A. 84.81 through 84.88 as they relate to the operation of snowmobiles are adopted to govern the operators of snowmobiles within the City of Ham Lake.

#### 6-330 Other Prohibited Conduct

No person shall:

- (1) Operate a snowmobile within 100 feet of any skating rink, sliding area or fish house, except that a snowmobile may be operated to a fish house which is being used by the operator if same is operated with due care and consideration to all others.
- (2) Operate any snowmobile upon private property without the prior permission of the owner or occupant.
- (3) Tow on City roadways any sled or other object without a rigid tow bar attached between the snow-mobile and the sled or object being towed.
- (4) Intentionally drive, chase, run over, injure or kill any animal while operating a snowmobile.
- (5) Operate a snowmobile on any public property, including but not limited to school grounds, parks, playgrounds and recreation areas, except when authorized by a resolution of the City Council.
- (6) No snowmobile shall be operated on any municipal street, except in the following manner.
- a) Operation shall be restricted to the far-right edge of the traveled portion of the roadway, in the same direction as the normal direction of traffic.

- b) No snowmobile shall be driven at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour.
- c) Travel in ditches, side slopes, back slopes and boulevard areas is prohibited.
- (7) No snowmobile shall be operated in a careless or reckless manner likely to endanger persons or property, or in a manner so as to create loud, unnecessary or unusual noise which disturbs the quiet enjoyment of others;



#### 6-340 Operator Responsibility

The operator of every snowmobile operated in the City of Ham Lake shall be responsible to insure that the snowmobile is operated in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance.

### (1) First Violation

If a snowmobile is observed being operated in violation of this Code, and the operator is identified by witnesses or through investigation of the Minnesota Registration Number of the snowmobile in question, the operator may be cited for a petty misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$300.

#### (2) Second Violation

If a second violation by the same operator within any given twelve- month period occurs, the violation shall constitute a misdemeanor as that term is defined by Minnesota Statutes.

### **Local Business Spotlight:** Maxx Bar & Grill

Maxx Bar & Grill has been a familiar sight along Highway 65 in Ham Lake since owners Bruce and Ginny Westman opened it in 2006.



Maxx offers a full menu of appetizers, homemade pizza, sandwiches, wraps, tacos, burgers, salads, soups and entrees. They're especially known for their best-selling broasted chicken dinner available with a variety of sides.

Among dessert favorites are their Old Fashioned Malts and newly-added Apple Pie Egg Rolls.

Breakfast is on the menu every day until 2:00 pm. A variety of skillets, omelets and egg dishes are available complete with pancakes, toast or English muffin.

(Note that Maxx doesn't open until 11:00 am Monday-Friday. But you can go in as early as 8:00 am for breakfast on Saturday and Sunday.)



Besides its sports bar atmosphere, friendly service and tasty food, Maxx is also known for these:

- Your dog is welcome to join you in one of their two pet-friendly patio areas any day they're open.
- You can take part in Bar Bingo every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 6:30 pm.
- Enjoy a wide variety of live music with dancing with local bands every Friday and Saturday night.
- · If your group needs a private room, you can reserve Maxx's Cafe for up to 50 people. Catering is available.

Maxx Bar & Grill is located at 17646 Central Ave NE in Ham Lake. You can see their menu and live music schedule on their website: maxxbarandgrill.wpcomstaging.com

Crosstown Chiropractic, PA



(1 mile East of HWY 65)

appointments available!

763-434-5714 Crosstownclinic.com



### "Can't the plow please lift its blade at my driveway...?"

The City of Ham Lake's plow operators do the best they can to avoid placing excess snow on property owners' driveways. However, it is simply infeasible to move snow in such a way that avoids leaving piles of snow at driveway entrances.

Residents may find it less frustrating to wait until the plow trucks have completed their street before cleaning the end of their driveway. City plow units are designed to discharge snow to the sides of the road and are not capable of skipping driveway areas.

Snow from the bottom of the driveway should be shoveled to the right as you're facing the street. This will reduce the amount of snow being placed back into the driveway during the next plowing. If this area is covered with compacted snow, your driveway will be the first opening where the plow can release its snow.

However, if this area is cleared, the plow can release much of its snow before it gets to your driveway.

Residents who hire contractors to plow their driveway should remind the contractor about state and local laws that prohibit pushing or placing snow back into or across the street. Not only is it illegal, doing so creates hazards for drivers and makes it difficult for the city to keep the streets clean.

Residents should clear snow from the mailbox area after each plowing. Snow that remains in front of mailboxes will get compacted by post office vehicles and make subsequent plowing less effective.

### **Moving Snow Across or** On a City Street is Illegal

MN State Statute 160.2715 states:

- (a) Except for the actions of the road authorities, their agents, employees, contractors, and utilities in carrying out their duties imposed by law or contract, and except as herein provided, it shall be unlawful to:
- (1) obstruct any highway or deposit snow or ice thereon
- (b) Any violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

There are several issues that should be considered before pushing snow into or across the street.

One is increased spring flooding. The city's storm water system is designed to flow freely and with minimal restriction to holding areas and other water conveyances. If that system becomes blocked due to an illegal snow pile, it can begin to back up and flood streets, yards and even houses.

There is also the added wear and tear and sometimes damage to city vehicles. Some of these snow banks will freeze solid. If it's hit by a plow this ice can damage and even destroy the plow, costing taxpayer's money and time to repair the plow (time that would be better spent clearing the roads of snow for residents).

And last, there is the added cost to taxpayers for city crews, vehicles and equipment to go out and remove the illegal snow to a safe location.

### Ham Lake Mailbox Policy

The City of Ham Lake treats damage done to mailboxes, supporting fixtures and vegetation (including the deposit of foreign matter) located alongside city roadways by snowplowing and removal as ordinary and necessary maintenance for Ham Lake residents.

The responsibility to replace and repair damaged items shall be that of the homeowner unless the Street Superintendent determines the City was negligent.

Any mailbox installed or replaced by the City will use a swinging or swing-away post system designed to minimize the risk of damage from snowplows.

If a homeowner desires a different style or design of mailbox, the repair or replacement of the mailbox will be entirely at the homeowner's expense with no contribution from the City.

### Are You Recycling or Are You "Wishcycling"?

Recycling Myth: If I don't know if an item can be recycled, I should put it in the recycling bin just in case it can be recycled.

Fact: This is called wishcycling. Please avoid it!

If you don't know if an item should go in the recycling bin, go to AnokaCountyMN.gov/Recycling Directory.

Remember the phrase: When in doubt, check it out!

## **Community Calendar**

Dec 4: City Council mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm Dec 11: Planning Commission mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm

Dec 13: The Ham Laker ads and articles deadline for the January issue @ noon

the Christmas holiday

Dec 18: City Council mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm Dec 22/25: City Offices closed in observance of

Dec 26: Planning Commission mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm

Dec 29: City Offices closed in observance of the New Year's holiday

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23

**DECEMBER 2023** 

**Tim Ross** Owner



612-961-0906 MyTrustedCarpetCleaners@gmail.com www.MyTrustedCarpetCleaners.com



#### SANNERUD, SAVARESE & ASSOCIATES, P.A. Certified Public Accountants

|24<sub>31</sub>| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29

Specializing in accounting and taxes for closely-held and family-owned businesses since 1974.

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