Winona Area Youth Hockey Association (WAYHA) has been selected as one of only 11 community organizations in Minnesota to pilot the Minnesota Wild Foundation's new "Skate It Forward" program — a statewide initiative designed to welcome new families to hockey and grow the game at the grassroots level.

The Skate It Forward announcement was made on October 6 at the TRIA Orthopedics Rink in St. Paul, marking the start of an exciting new opportunity for local families. Thanks to a Skate It Forward grant, there will be no registration fees for firstyear players under 8 in Winona this season. WAYHA also provides free equipment and a Learn to Skate program for all 8U players, removing barriers and making it simple for families to get started in the sport. "We're incredibly proud to be chosen as

one of just 11 communities in Minnesota to pilot Skate It Forward," said Alex Tipton, president of WAYHA and a local dentist. "Our goal has always been to make hockey a sport for everyone in Winona. Our association already works hard to keep fees among the lowest in the region, and this program takes that commitment even further by covering the first year."

The Skate It Forward initiative is part of



the Minnesota Wild Foundation's mission to help youth associations attract new players and strengthen community hockey. The program's long-term vision is to make the first year of youth hockey free for every

WAYHA, which skates out of the community-owned Bud King Ice Arena in Winona, was selected for its strong vol-

Submitted

Former

Minnesota

goaltender

Alex Stalock

(left) and

Assistant

Coach Anna

Van Hercke

show Little

Wild players

the ropes.

SMU

photo

new player in Minnesota.

unteer base, community partnerships, and long-standing focus on inclusion and affordability.

"Community is at the heart of hockey in Minnesota," said J.J. Pettit, WAYHA's representative to the Minnesota Wild Foundation and head coach for Winona's Little Wild program. "This is about growing the game by making it easier for families to take that first step onto the ice. Winona has always had a proud hockey community, and programs like this help it continue to

The Skate It Forward announcement comes shortly after another major milestone for Winona hockey. Throughout September, the Minnesota Wild's Little Wild Learn to Play program was hosted at Bud King Ice Arena on Fridays — the first time the program has ever been held in Winona. Forty-one area children participated, receiving full equipment and instruction through the Wild's development program.

gram was simple - showing kids and families just how fun hockey can be. Sessions emphasized smiles, encouragement, and basic skills to help first-time players fall in love with the sport. Instruction was led by Pettit and sup-

The primary focus of the Little Wild pro-

ported by the men's and women's hockey teams from Saint Mary's University, who volunteered their time to teach young players skating, passing, and teamwork.

Cole Mickel, a junior defenseman on

Submitted photo

Local kids got free hockey equipment and training this September through the Little Wild Learn to Play program at **Bud King Ice** Arena.

men's team, and Anna Van Hercke, an assistant coach with the Saint Mary's women's program, played leading roles in coordinating practices and providing on-ice instruction. "Being able to be on the ice with the kids each week during the Little Wild Program

the Saint Mary's

reminded all of us in the Saint Mary's program why we fell in love with the game," said Mickel. "It's special to be a part of something bigger than ourselves to grow the game that has given us so much and inspire the next generation of hockey play-The program also featured a special ap-

pearance by former Minnesota Wild goaltender Alex Stalock, who joined the young players on the ice, signed autographs, and shared words of encouragement about teamwork and perseverance.

Together, the Skate It Forward and Little Wild programs represent an exciting step forward for youth hockey in Winona one centered on community, opportunity, and the pure fun that comes with being on the ice.

Families interested in learning more about Skate It Forward or upcoming Try Hockey for Free events can visit www.winonahockey.com or follow Winona Area Youth Hockey Association on Facebook for updates.

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First Publication Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING DATE OF HEARING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 PLACE OF HEARING: CITY HALL,

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CONTACT PERSON:
LUKE SIMS,
SENIOR PLANNER
SUBJECT: INTERIM **USE PERMIT-**

420 EAST 3RD STREET On Monday, November 10, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall (207 Lafayette Street), the City of Winona Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a non-owner-occupied Interim Use Permit at 420 East 3rd

Street.

During the public hearing, any person desiring to speak will be given an opportunity to do so. Further information may be obtained by controlled the controlled to the controlled the cont by contacting the Winona City Hall, Department of Community Development, Room 210, 207 Lafayette Street, Winona, MN 55987, (507) 457-8250.

DEPARTMENT

DE COMMINITY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CITY HALL, ROOM 210 207 LAFAYETTE STREET WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

First Publication Date: Wednesday,
October 29, 2025
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING DATE OF HEARING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 PLACE OF HEARING: CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

(507) 457-8250

public hearing to consi Unified Development 3. Code modify elements to townhouses related

During the public hearing, any person desiring to speak will be given an opportunity to do so. Further information may be obtained programming in by contacting the Winona City Hall, Department of Community Development, Room 210, 207 Lafayette Street, Winona, MN 55987, (507) 457-8250. DEPARTMENT

OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CITY HALL, ROOM 210 207 LAFAYETTE STREET WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987 (507) 457-8250

First Publication Date: Wednesday,
October 29, 2025
HIAWATHA VALLEY
EDUCATION DISTRICT
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE CLOSING OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING

LOCATED AT: 211 MAIN STREET, HOKAH. MINNESOTA 55941 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.51, the Board of

Directors for the Hiawatha

Valley Education District ("HVED") will conduct a public hearing regarding the necessity and practicability of closing the school building located at 211 Main Street, Hokah, Minnesota 55941.

2. The profits Conduct Clerk Hiawatha Valley Education District Education District First Publication Wednesda October 29. 2 CONTACT PERSON:
LUKE SIMS,
SENIOR PLANNER
SUBJECT: UDC TEXT
AMENDMENT TOWNHOUSES
AND ROWHOUSES
On Monday, November 10, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City will be held at 6:00 p.m. Hall (207 Lafayette Street), on Thursday, November the City of Winona Planning 13, 2025, at 1410 Bundy Commission will hold a Boulevard, Winona, public hearing to consider

The reasons for the Text Amendment to proposed closing of the y elements related school building include the and following: a. HVED has

a. HVED has purchased property at 1213 Gilmore Avenue, Winona, Minnesota 55987 that special currently operating in the school building at 211 Main Street. school The property located 1213 Gilmore Avenue, Winona, Minnesota provide a safer school building, more modern opportunity for students in will HVED's various educational on programs to share the same 13, 2000. space, that will provide enhanced instructional

services to students. c. Closing the school building at 211 Main Street will provide a cost savings viiii provide a cost savings following: resulting from reductions a. HVED has from the duplication of staff and savings in Avenue, Winona transportation and operation

sts. the special Persons requesting to programming against the proposed closing shall be heard before the Board of Directors at the time and place designated above.
Dated this 24th day

of October, 2025. BY ORDER OF THE **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** Sharleen Klennert

First Publication Date: Wednesday,
October 29, 2025
HIAWATHA VALLEY
EDUCATION DISTRICT
NOTICE OF

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE CLOSING OF THE LOCATED AT: 51 RED SCHOOL LANE, KELLOGG, MINNESOTA 55945

NOTICE IS HEBERY GIVEN, that, as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.51, the Board of Directors for the Hiawatha Valley Education District ("HVED") will conduct a public hearing regarding the necessity and practicability of closing the school of closing the school building located at 51 Red School Lane. Kellogg modern Minnesota 55945.

Villnesota 55945.

2. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 1410 Bundy Boulevard, Winona, Minnesota 55987.

3. The reasons for proposed closing of school building include the

a. HVED has purchased property at 1213 Gilmore Avenue, Winona, Minnesota that will education currently testimony for and operating in the school st the proposed building at 51 Red School Lane. b. The

property located Gilmore Avenue, Minnesota will at 1213 Winona, safer school provide а building, more modern equipment, opportunity for students in HVED's various educational

programs to share the same 3

reductions from the following:
duplication of staff and a HVED has purchased savings in transportation property at 1213 Gilmone and operating costs.

4. Persons requesting to give testimony for and the area learning center and the area learning center of the property of against

proposed closing shall be heard before the Board of Directors at the time and place designated above Dated this 24th day

of October, 2025. BY ORDER OF THE Sharleen Klennert Clerk Hiawatha Valley **Education District** 

First Publication Date: Wednesday,
October 29, 2025
HIAWATHA VALLEY
EDUCATION DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE CLOSING OF

THE RIVER VALLEY
ACADEMY AREA
LEARNING CENTER 1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.51, the Board of Directors for the Hiawatha Valley Education District ("HVED") will conduct a public hearing regarding the necessity and practicability of closing the River Valley

Academy Area Learning Center. public will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 1410 Bundy Boulevard Minnesota 55987

services to students.

c. Closing the school Minnesota 55987.

building at 51 Red School 4. The reasons for the Lane will provide a cost proposed closing of the savings resulting from school building include the

operating in the River Valley Academy Learning

property located Gilmore Avenue, Minnesota will at 1213 Winona, safer school provide building а modern d the more and equipment, opportunity for students in HVED's various educational programs to share the same space, which will provide enhanced instructional

students c. Closing the River Valley Academy Area Learning Center will provide a provide cost savings resulting from reductions from the

duplication of staff and savings in transportation and operating costs. Persons requesting to give testimony for and against the proposed give testimony for against the proj against the proposed closing shall be heard before the Board of Directors at the time and place designated

above. Dated this 24th day of October, 2025. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Sharleen Klennert Hiawatha Valley

## miscellaneous

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