

## Ask us

# Civic centers fill market niches

**Q:**

Mankato, St. Cloud and Rochester are all seeking expansions of their civic centers. How do our city's facilities and size compare with other regional centers around the state?

**A:** Mankato City Manager Pat Hentges said each civic center has a market niche.

Rochester's Mayo Civic Center has a much larger convention business than Mankato but there's less use of the arena because there's no anchor sports team like the Mavericks. It is seeking close to \$60 million in state funding to build more convention space.

Please see ASK US, Page [B2](#)

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[See ASK on Page B02](#)

ASK US: Shredders will come to your house

Continued from Page B1

St. Cloud is also seeking state funding for an expansion of its civic center. The arena is located on St.

Cloud State University's campus and owned by the state, limiting its non-hockey use in the winter, Hentges said.

Duluth is probably closest in usage to Mankato, he said.

"Ours is probably the most multi-use," Hentges said, with an arena that's used for sports, concerts and convention and floor shows.

Mankato's proposal before the Legislature is to upgrade both hockey arenas - the Verizon Wireless Center and All Seasons Arena - add more rooms for conventions and add a 1,100-seat auditorium.

From the perspective of city officials like Hentges who are jostling for state money, a huge difference among the civic centers is their history of state support.

Rochester is on its third request, St. Cloud its second and Mankato its first, Hentges said.

**Q:** We have a 25-year or more collection of personal checks and other personal papers we would like to destroy with some degree of privacy. Do you know of a service that will handle this relatively small project?

**A:** There are at least two businesses that will come to your house with a truckmounted shredder.

(They're called RVS Shredding and Elite Shredding, Inc.) You can watch your information being shredded, too. There's an entire industry devoted to this - represented by a trade group called the National Association for Information Destruction.

Contact Ask Us at The Free Press, P.O. Box 3287, Mankato, MN 56002. Call Dan Linehan at 344-6355 or e-mail your question to [dlinehan@mankatofreepress.com](mailto:dlinehan@mankatofreepress.com); put Ask Us in the subject line. This Ask Us was compiled by Free Press staff writer Dan Linehan.

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