



Chaska City Hall Bulletin

From the desk of Mayor Van Eyll

"The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

Chaska City Hall

www.chaskamn.com

Council Members:

Mayor - Gary F. Van Eyll

gvaneyll@chaskamn.com

Ward I – Gino Businaro

gbusinaro@chaskamn.com

Ward II – Greg Boe

gboe@chaskamn.com

Ward III – Christopher Schulz

cshulz@chaskamn.com

Ward IV – Rick Ford

Rford@chaskamn.com

City Administrator:

Matt Podhradsky

matt@chaskamn.com

Asst. City Administrator

Bart Fischer

bfischer@chaskamn.com

Planning Director:

Kevin Ringwald

kringwald@chaskamn.com

Administrative Services Director:

Noel Graczyk

ngraczyk@chaskamn.com

City Engineer:

William Monk

wmonk@chaskamn.com

Water & Sewer Supervisor:

Dean Hylland

dhylland@chaskamn.com

Public Works Director/Fire Chief:

Tim Wiebe

twiebe@chaskamn.com

Electrical Director:

Dan Geiger

dgeiger@chaskamn.com

Parks & Recreation Director:

Tom Redman

fredman@chaskamn.com

Golf Course Pro:

John Kellin

jkellin@chaskamn.com

Police Chief:

Scott Knight

sknight@chaskamn.com

One City Hall Plaza

Chaska, MN 55318

952.448.9200

952.448.9300 Fax

To subscribe or unsubscribe to
our weekly bulletin, please send
an email to:

tdahlberg@chaskamn.com

Volume 2, Issue 17:

May 7, 2009

MAYOR COMMENTS ON GANG ACTIVITY

Chaska made front page news this past week in the Minneapolis Star Tribune. They wrote about the presence of gangs in our community and schools. I do not believe we can deny the presence of gangs in our community; they are a problem in almost every community across the United States. Ignoring or denying their existence is not a feasible way to deal with the problem.

Since 2001 we have had two officers in our police department who are experts on gang issues. They are Trent Wurtz and Mike Kleber. Police Departments and other entities throughout the country request these officers to share their knowledge and perform training regarding our community's method of dealing with the problem. These officers are dedicated to working to lessen the problem and to educate the young and vulnerable children of our community. Officers Wurtz and Keleber also are the same officers who assist at our schools every day. Along with the school staff, they have made Chaska schools the safest place for our children.

The unfortunate incident that recently occurred at the High School was quickly handled by the trained school staff, along with the assistance of our police officers. There were no injuries and the school has taken action against these youths for the fight on school property. They have also been charged through our legal system.

I do want to state this type of action is not the norm in our schools. We have a great educational system in our community. The list of student accomplishments could fill numerous pages of this bulletin and we should be proud of this. The City of Chaska and District 112 are committed to fostering safe community gathering places. They will remain this way with the partnership and cooperation of the schools and our community.

As the weather warms and residents are outside walking in their neighborhoods, remember that City Ordinance also makes it unlawful for any person to apply graffiti to any public or privately owned structure. If you notice graffiti you can report it to the Public Works Department at 952-448-4335 or the Chaska Police Department at 952-448-4200. Parents or guardians may also be jointly and severally liable for payment of civil damages resulting from the misconduct of any minor. Be aware of the whereabouts and activities of your children. Together we can keep our community The Best Small Town in Minnesota!

Athletic Park Designated as Top Ten Endangered Historic Site in the State

In a press release today, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota will announce its top ten most endangered historic sites. The Chaska Athletic Park and grandstand has been named to the list. Each year the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota selects ten sites based on impending threats to the facilities. Several months ago the Chaska Heritage Preservation Commission nominated the Athletic Park for this distinction because of the pending threat of the C2 alignment for the Highway 41 bridge crossing. Under the C2 alignment the bridge crossing would run within several feet of the Athletic Park right field fence. This would physically and visually disturb the ballpark, as well as the historic downtown corridor.

The Athletic Park was established in the 1950s and is one of the few remaining town team structures in the state with an original grandstand and field alignment. The Athletic Park is home to many teams, including the Cubs, Hawks, Diamonds, and other baseball teams.

To recognize this historic designation, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota will have an informational booth and volunteers at the Chaska Cubs Baseball home opener doubleheader on Sunday, May 17th. Mayor Van Eyll will throw out the first pitch at the 1:00 pm game, followed by the presentation of the historic designation prior to the second game at 4:00 pm.

Questions about this designation may be directed to City Planner, Melissa Duchinsky at 952-448-9200.



STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

On Wednesday, May 27th Mayor Van Eyll will hold his annual State of the City address in the theatre of the Chaska Community Center at 7:00 pm. In the past the address had been given at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon. However, this year a different format will be utilized. It will involve a town hall style where the Mayor will give his remarks and then questions will be taken from the audience. The meeting will also be broadcast live on the City cable access channel. By utilizing this new format it is hoped that more residents will be able to attend.



Status on Federal Economic Stimulus Dollars

At the May 4th Council meeting, two Public Hearings were held for two projects for which Federal Economic Stimulus Dollars are being sought. The first project is the restoration of the Hazeltine Bluff wetland and ravine stabilization improvement project. This project is located at the end of Wildflower Lane. It is needed to help stabilize severe erosion that has occurred since the wetland dissipated two years ago during a rainstorm. The deterioration of the ravine has caused untreated storm water to run down the ravine and eventually into the Seminary Fen.



The second project is the restoration of a retention pond and ravine along Birdie Lane from the Hazeltine water tower and into Lake Hazeltine. This ravine has eroded over the years, which has led to steep slopes and untreated water running into Lake Hazeltine. This project would include the addition of a pond adjacent to the clubhouse to treat water. It would also include piping of storm water into the lake to slow down the flow and increase the water treatment.

Funds are being sought through the clean water program offered by the Federal Government, which offers a 25% grant and 20-year low interest loans. We are hopeful that the City of Chaska will receive dollars to complete these projects.

We recently received good news that the Second Street and Highway 41

intersection project has made the cut for those projects being considered by the Met Council's Transportation Advisory Board for funding. We anticipate receiving \$540,000 of the \$600,000 requested. The City should receive final notification on the status of the project funding by the end of May.

Questions about the Federal Stimulus Dollars may be directed to the City Administrator at 952-448-9200.

HOME TOWN WIND POWER PROGRAM UPDATE

An Open House for the Home Town Wind Power Program was held on April 29th to educate the public and discuss a possible site location for a wind turbine. At this point the City of Chaska has narrowed down the options for potential site locations to two preferred alternatives. One possible site is at the corner of Engler Boulevard and Clover Ridge Drive on the south edge of the Clover Ridge neighborhood. The other possibility is along the freeway near the Pioneer Ridge Freshman Center on the south end of the existing soccer and softball fields. Both of these sites were discussed at the public Open House last week.

During the next phase of the program, we will be holding two neighborhood meetings to further discuss the program and answer questions and concerns from residents. The neighborhood meeting for the Clover Ridge area will be held Thursday, June 4th from 6:00-7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers. The meeting for the Pioneer Ridge Freshman Center site will follow from 7:30-8:30 pm. Notices will be sent to residents surrounding the two potential sites. However, the entire community is welcome to attend.

More information can be found on the City of Chaska website at www.chaskamn.com or directed to the Electric Director, Dan Geiger at 952-448-4335.

SPRING TIME REMINDERS

As we move into the spring and summer lawn mowing season, residents are reminded that all yard waste and grass clippings should be disposed of either through private compost piles, a garbage hauler, or the Carver County Recycling Center, which is open six days a week to accept de-bagged yard waste. In the past we have had some issues with residents who dispose of yard waste in ravines or wetlands, which is against City ordinance.



The Christmas in May home repair event will take place this Saturday, May 9th. You can still help out with this worthwhile cause by coming to the Guardian Angels gymnasium at 7:00 am. You'll get breakfast, a free Tshirt, and your work assignment. Come for the day or part of the day. You need not have any special home repair skills to participate.



Chaska Community Center Activities

Child Infant CPR

This course teaches first aid for choking, rescue breathing, and CPR for victims up to age 12. Upon successful completion participants will receive an American Red Cross certificate.

Date: Monday, May 11
 Time: 5:30 – 9:30 PM
 Place: Chaska Community Center
 Cost: \$50 Member, \$60 Non-Member
 Includes textbook.

Mom's/Dad's Morning Break

Your children will participate in crafts, stories, and songs while you take a morning break to get caught up on things or meet a friend for coffee. There will also be time to play in the gym and the castle. A snack will be provided.

Ages: 1-6 years old
 Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
 Cost: \$15 Member
 \$20 Non-Member

Chaska Veterans Memorial 10K/5K

A community gathering event for all ages. All events will start and finish at the Chaska Community Center.

Date: Saturday, May 16th
 Place: Chaska Community Center
 Cost: \$25
 Registration/Check In 6:45 – 7:45 a.m.
 10K Start 8:00 a.m.
 5K Start 8:15 a.m.
 Youth Fun Run 9:30 a.m.
 Register online at chaskacommunitycenter.com
 or at the front desk.
 Race day registration is accepted.

Chaska Park Board Meeting
 Monday, May 11th 7:00 pm
 Community Center

Chaska Planning Commission Meeting
 Wednesday, May 13th 7:00 pm
 Chaska City Hall

Mother's Day
MAY 10TH