



Chaska City Hall Bulletin

From the desk of Mayor Van Eyll

"The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

Chaska City Hall

www.chaskamn.com

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PGA IS HERE!

In less than 72 hours the 91st PGA Championship will begin at Hazeltine National Golf Course. The tournament will run August 10-16th. The PGA is one of six major golf tournaments held in the world and attracts some of the best professional players, including Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson. Not only will the PGA be an opportunity for us to see some of the best golfers in the world, but the event also brings national recognition to the City of Chaska.



Please be aware in conjunction with tickets available for Monday and rounds. Tickets

the front desk of City Hall. Juniors (17 and younger) **are free** all of Championship week with a ticketed adult.

that the City of Chaska, the PGA, still has free local residents for the Wednesday practice

may be picked up at

Free shuttle service is also being provided by SW Transit to residents. Residents may park at Clover Field Elementary School or the adjacent Community Park and busses will run every 15 minutes from 7:00-10:00am and from 4:00pm to one hour past closing of the PGA gates in the evening. During non-peak hours the service will run every half hour. Riders will be dropped off and picked up at the main shuttle area at Chaska High School. Bus passes may also be picked up at City Hall.

A general public merchandise sale will take place on August 8/9 from 10:00am-5:00pm at Hazeltine. This sale will feature **complimentary autographs** from **Tom Lehman** on Saturday from noon-1:00pm and from **Minnesota Vikings** players on Sunday from 1:00-2:30pm. The **Wanamaker Trophy** will also be on display and available for photos both days. Parking for this event will be on-site at Hazeltine National Golf Club.

Another family event being held in conjunction with the PGA, is a jazz festival sponsored by the Chaska Park and Rec Department. The Joel Shapira Jazz Quartet will perform at 5:30pm and the Paul Cherba Jazz Quartet will play at 7:15pm at City Square Park on Friday, August 14th.

(PGA Continued on Page 2)

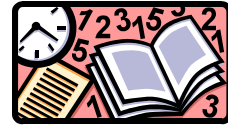
Pioneer Trail east of Hundertmark Road and west of Oriole Lane will be completely closed from 5:00am to 8:00pm during the week of the tournament. This area will be used by security and safety personnel during the PGA and as a safe drop off location for shuttle service. Parking in the surrounding neighborhoods of the golf course is by permit only for residents. Chaska Commons, SuperTarget, and Kohls will have restricted PGA parking.



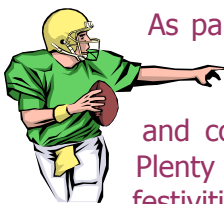
For the ultimate in answers to your PGA questions contact the PGA phone line at 952-368-4774. The City of Chaska is extremely pleased to have the PGA held in our community and looks forward to an exciting golf experience.

GRAND RE-OPENING OF CHS

This upcoming school year will be an exciting one at Chaska High School, as they begin a new era of traditions. With the opening of the second high school in Chanhassen, Chaska High School will serve the geographic boundaries of our community, providing us with a tremendous opportunity to help build and strengthen our community, with the High School being the center point.



To help celebrate the grand re-opening of Chaska High School, the City of Chaska in partnership with Chaska High School will be hosting a beginning of the year celebration entitled "Excellence, Tradition, Community – A Celebration of Community." This event will be held throughout the day on Thursday, September 3rd, in conjunction with the first varsity football game at the school.



As part of the day, events are being planned such as a roving community pep fest, family carnival and tailgate party prior to the football game at 4:30 behind the high school, a half time show with the CHS marching band and color guard. A bonfire and fireworks show will follow the football game. Plenty of opportunities will exist for families to join in the festivities.



Chaska High School and the City of Chaska hope this event will be used as a steppingstone to enhance pride in the school and spur partnerships throughout the school year and into the future that help make CHS an integral part of the community. With the City of Chaska's mission to be "The Best Small Town in Minnesota," having the high school at the center of the community fosters a unique identity and small town values.

For more information about the celebration, contact Chaska City Hall at 952-448-9200 or the activities office at the Chaska High School. Information can also be found on the City, School, or Chaska Herald websites.

City Completes Water Rate Analysis (A Re-print from 07-25-09)

Over the past 2 months, the City of Chaska has been in the process of completing a water rate analysis. The purpose of this study was necessitated because of several reasons, including:

The State of Minnesota, through the DNR, is requiring all municipalities by January 1, 2010 to have an inclining block water rate to encourage water conservation. Currently the City of Chaska charges the same flat rate per thousand gallons of water no matter how much water is utilized

With the dramatic decline in our growth rate, there is a short-term need to analyze our current debt obligations in our water utility to make sure all of our financial obligations are able to be met

With much of our water system aging, there is a need to analyze and understand our future operation and maintenance cost, to ensure that our rates are structure so as to keep our water system sustainable into the future

Currently the City of Chaska has in place a flat water rate of \$1.17/1,000 gallons of water. This means that no matter how much water a resident uses, they will always be charged the same rate per unit of water. With Chaska's water rate being significantly lower than average rate of not only surrounding cities, but also those in the metro area, this has not created the incentive that the State has wanted to see put in place to help promote the conservation of water in our system. On an average winter day, the City of Chaska will pump approximately 2.5 million gallons of water into our system. On a peak summer day, that number will jump to over 8 million gallons of water per day. This incremental difference is primarily accounted for through the addition of residents and business irrigating their lawns. With so much water being used to supply irrigation systems, the State felt there was a need to mandate municipalities to implement inclining block water rate structures so that users would pay more for the more water they utilize.

In addition to needing to complete an analysis of our water rates to look at how to implement the State mandates for water rate structures, the City also utilized this study to look at our entire water system to determine if our rate structure was sufficient to maintain and operate a sustainable water system both in the short term, and into the future as we start needing to reinvest into our aging infrastructure system. As mentioned previously, Chaska is one of the lowest water rates in the Twin Cities Metro area, and is significantly lower than any of the surrounding municipalities. Looking at the surrounding municipalities, the average water rate and customer service charge is \$3.92/1,000 gallons of water, with the lowest rate being at \$2.36/1,000 gallons. With Chaska's currently at \$1.17/1,000 gallons of water, and being an outlier compared to other municipalities, it was important to understand whether we were charging enough to both accommodate the costs we will have in the short term, and those we will have in the future to keep our water system sustainable. This becomes especially acute given the slowdown in the building market, and the effects the slowdown has on our entire water systems revenues.

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To analyze this, the City consulted with PCE, a firm specializing in providing expertise to municipalities to financially plan their water systems. Looking at our current water rate structure, our project water trunk fund revenues, anticipated growth in the future, and the capital needs of our water system, PCE was able to help quantify if the City of Chaska's water system would be sustainable into the future, and what it would need to do to become financially sustainable. What PCE found is that if the City continued to raise its current rate of \$1.17/1,000 gallons of water even by 5% annually for the next 10-years, the system would be in deficit by \$7 million at the end of this 10-year period. Given Chaska's very low water rate compared to other municipalities, this financial strain on our water system has been evidenced in recent years by the Cities finding the funding of infrastructure maintenance such as painting our water towers and utility replacement in our street reconstruction program difficult to afford. As the study found, Chaska, under its current rate structure is not putting enough money into our system to make it sustainable-instead it is depleting it.

What the findings of the study show is that if the City were to meet its current and future obligations, the rate of the water for the average residential customer (7,000 gallons/month) should be at \$2.01/1,000 gallons. In addition, unlike other cities, Chaska has never recouped its fixed costs such as utility billing and meter replacement, and that to cover these fixed costs, a fixed customer service rate should be charged. The rate determined to be necessary to cover these costs was \$2.27/month. This compares to the average of surrounding cities which is \$7.94 as a fixed charge/month on a utility bill.

While the water rate analysis did determine that there were changes that need to be made to our water system to keep our system financially and functionally sustainable into the future, the City of Chaska was able to find that this could be accomplished while still keeping our water rates the lowest the surrounding cities. When fully implemented, an average resident would pay \$2.32/1,000 gallons of water per month, including the monthly fixed service charge. Again, the average of both the usage and fixed service charge for surrounding cities is \$3.92/1,000 gallons, with the next lowest being at \$2.36/1,000. In this respect, the City feels it can take care of the financial needs it has to maintain its system, while still keeping our rates lower than other surrounding cities.

To help ease the implementation of the proposed new water rates to our customers, the City is proposing to implement 50% of the increase on January 1, 2010, with the other 50% coming on January 1, 2011. For the average user of 7,000 gallons per month, this would increase their bill by approximately \$4 per month in 2010 (from \$8.19 to \$12.23), and \$8 per month in 2011, with this ultimate rate going to \$16.27 in 2011 for 7,000 gallons of water per month.



The City of Chaska will bring back the rate increase proposal to the Council for their consideration at the August 31st meeting. If there are any residents who have questions on this proposal, they can be referred to City Administrator Matt Podhradsky at 952-448-9200.



Chaska Community Center Activities

Child Infant CPR Review

This course reviews 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. Register at the CCC or online at www.chaskacommunitycenter.com

Date: Monday, August 10

Time: 5:30 – 9:30 PM

Place: Chaska Community Center

Cost: \$40 Member, \$50 Non-Member



Horseback Riding

Head west to River Valley Ranch to explore the beauty of nature on a guided tour through the woods. Beginner riders are welcome, but must be comfortable around horses. Register at the CCC or online at www.chaskacommunitycenter.com

Ages: 11 to 15

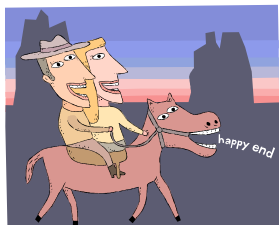
Date: Wednesday, August 12

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Place: Departure and pick-up at CCC

Cost: \$30 per person

Note: Please bring a sack lunch.



Jazzn' Up Chaska

Enjoy the jazz scene of downtown Chaska Friday night. Two entertaining jazz bands will be swinging in City Square Park. The City of Chaska Parks and Recreation Department and supporting downtown businesses will provide refreshments.

Date: Friday, August 14

Time: 5:30 Joel Shapira Jazz Quartet



7:15 Paul Cherba Jazz Quartet

Place: Chaska City Square Park

Cost: FREE!



Don't forget!

The Carver County Fair started yesterday in Waconia. Go to www.carvercountyfair.com for a full schedule of events.



