



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

cschulz@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 34:

August 27, 2009

MAYOR VAN EYLL RESIGNS

After serving nearly seven years as the Mayor of Chaska, and four years as a Ward I Councilmember, Gary Van Eyll will be resigning his post as Mayor effective after the Monday, August 31, 2009 Council meeting.



The vacation of the position is necessitated because of the job position Gary recently took with the US Census Bureau. He will head up the Carver County and Hennepin County offices, excluding the City of Minneapolis, for the 2010 census. The US Census Bureau does not allow employees to hold an elected office.

Much has changed since Gary began his Council seat in 1998. At that time Chaska had a population of just over 16,000. The Chaska Town Course had just opened. Since that time, many significant things have occurred in Chaska. Our population has grown

to approximately 24,000. Redevelopment has occurred in the downtown area. Chaska has hosted three major golf tournaments. We became the first city in the United States to have a city-wide wifi network. The Lodge and Wellness additions were added to the Community Center. The Clover Ridge neighborhood and Highway 212 freeway were both completed. In the past three years, Chaska has twice been ranked in the top 20 US cities in which to live.

At the same time, Chaska has always continued to strive toward its mission of being the "Best Small Town in Minnesota" and maintain an atmosphere of community. Many of these attributes and events occurred because of a strong commitment by the Mayor and City Council to focus on a strategic planning process and set large goals for the community.

With the vacation of the Mayor's position, the City Council will discuss over the next several weeks as to how to best fill the position. Because there is less than two years left in the Mayor's term of office, State Statute dictates (Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

that the Council does not have to hold a special election to fill the remainder of the term, which ends December 31, 2010. But if the Council were to hold a special election, the same process would be followed as for a regular election. The Council may also decide to appoint internally or from an at-large resident. This process could occur in a short period of time. If an existing Councilmember was appointed to fill the Mayor's position, then the Council could appoint a resident from that same Ward to fill the vacant Council position. The Council will be discussing potential options at an August 31st Work Session.

The City of Chaska wishes Gary Van Eyll and his family well in his future endeavors and thanks him for his services to the community. Questions concerning the vacancy may be directed to the City Administrator, Matt Podhradsky at 952-448-9200.

HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY

To help celebrate the beginning of a new era at Chaska High School, and the continued partnership between Chaska Schools and the City of Chaska, a special day of events will be held on Thursday, September 3rd. This event revolves around the first home football game against Bloomington Jefferson School at the Chaska Hawks football field. During the day, football players and cheerleaders will have a roving pep fest, visiting various locations in the community throughout the morning, providing a free breakfast, and an invitation to the evening event. That night there will be a family carnival from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in conjunction with the Booster Club's tailgating party prior to the football game. As part of the pre-game festivities the Chaska High School Marching Band will be performing, along with the American Legion color guard during the singing of the National Anthem. Recognition will also be given to two Chaska High School hall of fame football players from the 1940s. They will participate in the ceremonial tossing of the coin at the beginning of the game. During half time, a performance will be given by the dance team, along with speeches by School Officials and the Mayor. Post game festivities include a bon fire and fireworks.

**Chaska Council Agenda
08-31-09**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Adopt Agenda
5. Visitor Presentation
6. Approve Minutes of 08-03-09 Council Meeting
7. Consent Agenda
8. Adopt Resolution No. 09-54 Approving Site & Bldg Plans for Hanlon Carriage House
9. Adopt Resolution No. 09-55 Approving Final Plat of Riverwoods 4th Addition
10. Adopt Resolution No. 09-56 Approving Site & Bldg Plans for Athletic Park Renovations
11. Adopt Resolution No. 09-53 Establishing Proposed 2010 Budget & Maximum Tax Levy
12. Adopt 2009-2013 Capital Improvement Plan
13. Adopt Ordinance No. 832 Approving 2010-2011 Water Rates
14. Adopt Resolution No. 09-57 Authorizing Issuance & Sale of GO Water Revenue Refunding Bonds Series 2009A.
15. Accept Resignation of Mayor
16. Bills
17. Other Business
18. Adjourn

WORK SESSION

Review Options for Filling Mayoral Vacancy

For more information on the Chaska City Council go to: www.chaskamn.com



COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY

At the August 31st Council meeting, the Council will consider the adoption of the maximum tax levy for the 2010 fiscal year. Under State Statute, cities are required to establish their maximum levy by September 15th of each year to provide the County Auditor's Office with ample time to distribute the information to residents prior to adoption of the final levy in December. Under State Statute, a City is able to decrease the amount of levy from what they adopt as a preliminary levy, but cannot increase the levy beyond this amount during the budgeting process.

For 2010 and the entire five-year financial forecast, the down turn in the economy has created significant issues for the City to address. In particular, a lack of growth in taxable market values in the community, a significant reduction in building activities, and the unallotment of local government aid from the State, has created several holes in the revenue stream coming in to support city services. For 2010, the taxable market value in the City did increase by only 0.3%, with the value projected to remain relatively flat over the five-year period.

Building permit revenue continues to be very low, with 2010 building permit revenues projected to be just under \$400,000. This compares to over \$1 million in revenue in 2004.



The third major issue has been Local Government Aid (LGA). Since 2003 the City of Chaska has lost nearly \$1 million in LGA, which represents 10.4% of the 2010 General Fund Revenues. Also in 2008 and 2009 the State of Minnesota unallotted nearly \$260,000 of LGA.

This aid had been budgeted for both fiscal years. For the five-year forecast, the City of Chaska has budgeted no LGA dollars, as this has become a very unreliable source of funding.

The City has been focusing on achieving three primary objectives as we put together our five-year forecast. These are:

- *Maintaining an existing service level for residents .
- *Fully funding the levy needs of our street reconstruction program.
- *Develop a five-year plan that allows the City to discontinue to draw from General Fund Reserves.



Because of the decrease in revenues, the City of Chaska has had to draw down on its General Fund Reserves for the last five years. This is a trend the City is working to reverse. With the objective of keeping service levels constant, while also funding the street reconstruction program which has not had dedicated dollars in the past, the City is going to consider a slight increase in the tax rate in 2010 to help offset the loss of Local Government Aid. To do this, the City will consider utilizing a Special Levy provided by the State to help recoup the unallotted LGA dollars. After reestablishing that tax rate, the City feels we can keep the tax rate constant through the five-year period and still meet its objectives.

The impact on a \$200,000 house with this change, would be \$28.00 annually, from \$416.00 to \$444.00 annually. While this would be a slight change in the tax rate, the City of Chaska would still be within the lowest 10% of the 102 metro cities and the tax rate would still be the lowest in Carver County and surrounding cities.

Besides assuring that the Street Reconstruction Program now receives (Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)
dedicated funding, little changes are proposed for the 2010 Budget. No new personnel or program changes have been recommended. At the same time, the City is projecting to be able to generate small reserve amounts in each of the years, eliminating the need for draw down on the General Fund Reserve balance.

If residents have questions about the 2010 five-year forecast or the preliminary tax levy, please feel free to contact the City Administrator, Matt Podhradsky, at 952-448-9200.



**Chaska
Community Center
Activities**

Pottery Workshop for Adults

Tuesdays (6 week sessions)
September 1–October 6
Time: 6:00–8:30 p.m.
Cost: \$136 Member &
\$160 Non-Member



This class will offer you the opportunity to work on the wheel and/or hand built projects. It is a good beginning or refresher course for anyone interested in ceramics. Cost includes clay, glazes, and firing. This class is structured for adults. Instructor: Kathleen Theship-Rosales.

**The Lodge Stampede
For AOA's**

Date: Wednesday, September 9
Time: 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$6 per person (pay at the door)

Yee-Ha! Put on your favorite pair of blue jeans and your cowboy hat for this western-themed luncheon. Saddle up and join us at the Lodge for a bucking

good time. Square dancing demonstrations provided by Square Dance ABC. We will wrangle up a delicious sloppy joe lunch from our chuck wagon. Round up your fellow cowboy friends and we will see you at the ranch! Please call the Lodge at 952-448-2023 by Friday, September 4 to reserve your spot.



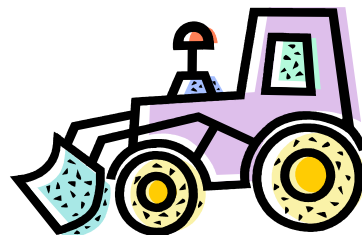
Touch a Truck 2009 Recap

In its 6th year, this year's Touch a Truck was hosted both inside and outside at the Chaska Community Center on Thursday, August 20. The skies cleared just long enough for over 800 kids to touch the many trucks from all our City departments. Although it was a little soggy, it did not dampen the spirits of our little attendees.

Touch a Truck Statistics

- 900 ice cream cones handed out by the Chaska Lions Club
- 600 cans of soda distributed by the Chaska Kiwanis
- 1,000 hot dogs cooked up by the Chaska Park Board
- 900 bags of popcorn given out by Kleinbank Chaska
- 18 Youth organizations and associations hosted carnival games (the most to date!)

A big thanks to the City of Chaska departments, refreshment sponsors, and youth organizations for all their contributions!



HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

