



# Chaska City Hall Bulletin

## "The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

### Chaska City Hall

[www.chaskamn.com](http://www.chaskamn.com)

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## LIGHT OF THE WORLD

On Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> a power outage occurred at about 1:30 am that affected customers along Bavaria Road north of Pioneer Trail, and in the Fairway Hills neighborhood by the Chaska Town Course. First one underground cable failed. Then a second underground cable failed, making it difficult to determine where the problem was. About 100 customers were affected by the outage. The electric crew got about half of the customers turned back on around 5:30 am. But the exact location of the faults had still not been determined.

At about 6:00 am, while the crew was restoring power to the other half of the customers in Fairway Hills, some strange things happened. Power came back on to those customers who should have still been out of power. And it came back on with a vengeance. Customers who called in said their lights were much brighter than they should have been. Christmas lights lit up the neighborhood with an overpowering glow. There was definitely something wrong! An over voltage condition occurred on circuits that should have been off.



The cause of the problem is still being investigated but preliminary results show that a capacitor bank was backfeeding the system, causing the over voltage. One circuit never experienced an outage and that good circuit was energizing the two circuits that were out of power. Once the bad circuits were isolated and the power was restored to normal using an alternate route, the power surge went away.

A letter is being sent out to the homeowners affected to explain the outage and recommend procedures for reimbursement. Thanks to the many electrical contractors and heating and cooling contractors who were busy in the neighborhood getting furnaces and other equipment working properly again. We will continue to answer phone calls and investigate the problem. It is not something we want to experience again, ever!

## ANOTHER WEEKEND, ANOTHER SNOWFALL

Weekends have become synonymous with snow plowing for the Municipal Services snow removal crew! By 4:00 am on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, five of the Public Works crew got the call to begin plowing. By 4:00 pm Saturday afternoon, 21 municipal workers had worked 172 hours and gone through 80 tons of salt and sand. On Sunday, they started again and worked 149 hours total, going through another 80 tons of salt and sand. Some of the guys even had to plow the off ramp at Highway 212 and Engler Boulevard so members of the crew could get to work in Chaska, as MnDOT had not yet plowed the ramps.

MSB crewmembers often serve as Good Samaritans during the snowstorms, and this blizzard provided a lot of opportunities. One plow driver came upon a woman in a minivan who was stuck in the street. He plowed around the front of the van and then physically helped push her out. She thanked him and drove off. About two minutes later and two blocks down the street, there was the same van, same woman, stuck again. He made a deal with her that he would help her again if she promised to go directly back home!

Aside from plowing the streets, the crews also have to move the snow to a central location when accumulations are so large. In Chaska, that central location is Athletic Park. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday were spent loading and hauling the plowed snow to Athletic Park. Did you know that it only takes three seconds for the big snow blower to fill a dump truck? That's a lot of snow that is being hauled as 15 trucks drive back and forth all night along First Street, the main route to the

park, where the pile is now about 30 feet high. Those residents aren't too happy with the disruption of their sleep. But the ones really losing sleep are the municipal workers. Thanks to all of them for their hard work to keep our roads cleared and safe for travel!

Tim Weibe, the Public Works Director, measured 4 ¾ inches of new snow today. Six City plow drivers started at 3:00 am and finished the snow emergency routes at 10:00 am. Another 15 guys joined them at 10:00 am to work on the neighborhood streets and plowed until 3:00 pm.

Flood Reports to Follow!



(Snow piled at the Athletic Park)

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Chaska City Council Meeting  
 Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>  
 7:00 pm  
 Chaska City Hall

Go to: [www.chaskamn.com](http://www.chaskamn.com) for the complete agenda. (Posted on Friday)

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Chaska City Hall and the Municipal Services Building will close at noon on Dec.23<sup>rd</sup>. They will also be closed all day Christmas Eve. For CCC holiday hours go to [www.chaskacommunitycenter.com](http://www.chaskacommunitycenter.com).

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**FUN STUFF**

Not finished shopping yet and looking for some holiday fun? Take the SW Transit bus tonight to the Holidazzle Parade. It leaves at 5:30 pm from SW Village in Chanhassen or at 5:40 pm from the SW Station in Eden Prairie. Return from 4<sup>th</sup> & Marquette at 7:19 or 8:34 pm.

AND IT'S FREE WITH THE DONATION OF AN UNWRAPPED TOY OR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM!

This is a one night only bus offer so gather up your family and take advantage of a great event!



**CHASKA COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES**

**A Family Christmas in Chaska**

On Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> the City of Chaska will be working in partnership with St. John's Lutheran Church and the Active Older Adults for Christ to host an old fashioned family event at the CCC Lodge focused on Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you can come for the whole afternoon or any part of it, we would love to see your family!

- Hot Apple Cider
- Christmas Cookies
- Christmas Music
- Children Story Time
- Christmas Carols
- Live Animals on display, including camels and a donkey
- Horse Drawn Carriage Rides at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

*SPECIAL Christmas Happening!*

Back by popular demand is the St. John's Live Nativity Performance on the CCC stage starting at 6:00 p.m. Free seats are first-come first-served.

The live nativity will also once again be presented outdoors at St. John's on Fourth Street in Chaska starting at 7:30 pm.

Date: Sunday, December 19

Time: 4:00–6:00 p.m.

Place: The Lodge at the CCC

Cost: A donation of your choosing to the Honey Bear!

**Bag Lunch Bingo**

Grab a bag lunch of sandwich, chips, fruit, and cookie or bring your own bag lunch for an afternoon of fun. Win prizes and play with friends! Registration and payment is due two days in advance to reserve your lunch.

Date: December 21

Time: Lunch at 11:30 am; Bingo at Noon

Cost: \$3 Member; \$3.50 Non-Member per lunch

Free Bingo

*Posadas* begins today in Mexico, a 9-day annual celebration when pilgrims knock at doors asking for *pasada* (shelter), commemorating the search by Joseph and Mary for shelter where the baby Jesus might be born. Pilgrims are invited in to celebrate and to break a pinata filled with gifts and goodies. *Pasadas* concludes on Dec. 24.

Today is National Chocolate Covered Anything Day.

If you and the kids have nothing to talk about at supper tonight, try and break this Guinness record. In 1998 Kevin Cole of Carlsbad, New Mexico, set a world record by blowing seven inches of spaghetti out of his nose. The previous Guinness spaghetti nose-blowing record was five inches.

