



Chaska City Hall Bulletin

"The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

Chaska City Hall

www.chaskamn.com

Council Members:

Mayor – Mark Windschitt

mwindschitt@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:

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 3, Issue 33:

September 16, 2010

WHAT THE PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY MEANS TO RESIDENTS

At the September 13th meeting of the Chaska City Council, approval was given to set the Preliminary Tax Levy for the 2011 budget year at the same level as it currently is for 2010 for a zero percent increase. Under State Statute, local communities are required to establish a maximum tax levy prior to September 15th. The purpose of this is to allow the County Auditor enough time to use this information to put together a Preliminary Tax Statement for the Truth in Taxation process. This leads up to the establishment of the actual tax levy for the next budget year in December.

As in past years, the City Council did once again use the five-year forecasting process as the basis for establishing the maximum tax levy. The main purpose of utilizing the five-year financial forecast process is to make sure that any decisions made now take into consideration the implications for next year and into the future.

The establishment of the Preliminary Tax Levy for 2011 at the same level as 2010 is to achieve the primary objective of providing the same level of high quality services at no additional cost to residents. The Preliminary Tax Levy is set at \$4,883,354, with just over \$74,000 being established as the EDA Preliminary Tax Levy for 2011.

As for the expected impact on the average homeowner, the median home price in Chaska is now \$216,216. In 2011 there will be a decrease of approximately 7.4% in taxable market values of residential properties. The actual city taxes paid in 2010 for this median valued home would be approximately \$480. If the tax levy were kept constant, that same home would pay approximately \$476 next year. This slight decrease is due to the overall decrease in property market values.

While the City felt it important to try and meet the objective of maintaining our current service levels, we also felt it was important to keep taxes as stable as possible, particularly in this current economic environment. In keeping the tax levy the same for 2011, Chaska would still have one of the lowest tax levies per capita in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Currently we are the third lowest in the Twin Cities, at \$188 per capita. This is significantly lower than any of the other surrounding Carver County communities.



At the same time, City expenditures have also been below the State average for cities with a population of 20,000 to 100,000. The average city of that size spends approximately \$597 per capita, with Chaska spending approximately \$552. The City feels we can meet the objective of providing great services in a very efficient and cost effective manner.



As part of the annual budgeting process, between now and the end of December the City will be working to develop the final budget proposal. The annual Truth in Taxation Public Hearing will be held on Monday, December 6th at 7:00 pm in the Chaska City Council Chambers as part of the regular Council meeting. Consideration of the final tax levy will not occur until the second meeting in December, which is Monday the 20th at 7:00 pm.

If residents are interested in finding out more information on establishing the tax levy and budget process, you can check out the City website home page at www.chaskamn.com or contact Matt Podhradsky, the City Administrator, at 952-448-9200 or matt@chaskamn.com.

**"I MISSED IT"
ACCESS THE STATE OF THE CITY
ADDRESS ON THE WEB PAGE OR
CABLE TV**

Mayor Mark Windschitl presented the State of the City Address on Wednesday, September 8th at The Lodge. Access his power point presentation at www.chaskamn.com. Or access the live video on cable TV where it will be replayed on Comcast Cable Channel 15 at 7:30 am, 12:30 pm and 6:30 pm seven days a week until the end of September.



For those that don't have Comcast Cable, it can be viewed online at: www.chaska.tv.

**Today is Stop the World
Day, a day to pause,
calm down, be nice, and
plant a seed.**



**CITY CONTINUES TO MOVE
FORWARD ON DOWNTOWN MASTER
PLANNING PROCESS**

Over the past six months the City of Chaska has been moving forward on the Downtown Master Planning Process. As part of the process, a 15-member Task Force was appointed, comprised of a wide variety of community members, including representatives from the Downtown Business Council, faith based community, City Commissions, schools, and residents. Additionally, the contracted staff of Hoisington Kogler, has also been meeting with key stakeholders in the downtown district to understand the vision of businesses and residents for the future.



The Downtown Master Planning Task Force has been meeting monthly to review different elements of the project. This includes such priorities as downtown

(Continued on Page 3),

(Downtown Master Plan Continued)

business retention, parks and open space, trails, transportation connections, and catalyst sites that could work toward stabilization of the downtown commercial district. The Task Force will also be studying implementation strategies to make sure the Downtown Master Plan does not just end up being a document collecting dust on a shelf, but has actionable steps and implementation strategies to make sure it is an active document to guide the direction of the downtown into the future.

As part of the overall process, the general public will be invited to two open houses to solicit their comments regarding the master planning process. The first open house will be held during the month of October. The second open house will be held prior to any final draft going before the Commissions and Council for consideration of approval. In this way we hope to give the public an opportunity to be involved in the planning process and their input is incorporated into the final decision making process.

In the meantime, residents who are interested in specific elements of the Downtown Master Planning process may contact the Community Development Director, Kevin Ringwald, at 952-448-9200.



THE CITY HALL BULLETIN IS NOW BEING SENT OUT BY EMAIL AS A WEB ATTACHMENT. TO SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE CITY HALL

BULLETIN, GO TO THE HOME PAGE OF THE CHASKA CITY WEBITE AT WWW.CHASKAMN.COM. YOU CAN ALSO FIND IT ONLINE AT THE CITY SITE UNDER THE COUNCIL SECTION, CITY HALL BULLETIN.

Chaska City Council Meeting
Monday, September 20, 2010
7:00 pm

Chaska City Hall

Go to www.chaskamn.com for the agenda.

Chaska Human Rights Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 23, 2010

6:30 pm

Chaska City Hall



CHASKA COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES

AOA FITNESS ASSESSMENTS

Get a baseline measurement of your fitness level. We will lead you through seven safe and effective functional fitness tests designed for independent adults, age 65 and older. The tests provide feedback on activities for daily living through related fitness components of cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, posture, agility, and balance. Your assessment can be compared to peer population performance and we can help set plans to improve these measurements.



Sign up at The Lodge.

Date: Monday, September 20

Time: 10:00; 10:30 and 11:00 a.m.

(8 people per time slot)

Cost: FREE for all AOAs

Save on CCC Memberships

Watch for a flyer in your utility bill telling you how Chaska residents can save 13% on a membership to the Community Center, beginning September 24th!
(CCC News Continued on Page 4)

CCC News Continued

AGE STRONG. LIVE LONG.

Tuesday, September 21

This is one event you won't want to miss! SilverSneakers will be "supersized." Fitness coordinator, Susan, and her staff will lead an entertaining and active class in the CCC Gym. The class will be followed by a continental breakfast and the Brick City Brewers in The Lodge. Everybody is welcome!

Event Schedule:

8:30–9:15 am
SilverSneakers
Supersized
(CCC Gym)
9:15 am Bagel, juice and coffee
(The Lodge)
9:30 a.m. Brick City Brewers, games, and
entertainment.
(The Lodge)
Cost: FREE



AOA Brick City Brewers



Grab your favorite mug and join us for a great time! We'll gather this month for Scott Heiserman, and listen to his guitar music. Brick City Brewers events are made possible by the Chaska Parks and Recreation Department and are free!

Date: Tuesday, September 21
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: The Lodge

SCIENCE EXPLORERS' STARS, PLANETS, AND STORIES

Ages 3 ½ to 6
Blast off with Science Explorers for a fun filled trip to the stars. Upon our departure, we will learn how the



earth's rotation affects our everyday lives. Then we will stop to investigate the planets of our solar system and how they orbit the sun.

Date: Saturday, September 25
Time: 10:15–11:30 a.m.
Cost: \$11.50 Member; \$12.50 Non-Member

THE FALL YOGA MALA

Accompanied by LIVE African Drumming
Sunday, September 19, 2010
6:00 – 8:00 pm – during the setting sun!
The Lodge



Register online at
www.chaskacommunitycenter.com.

CCC Calendar:

Monday, September 20th
Swim Lessons Begin

Tuesday, September 21st
Youth Volleyball Begins

Saturday, September 25th
Youth Flag Football Begins
Red Cross Babysitting Clinic
FREE Self Defense Workshop

Photo Show & Contest



We invite all local photographers to participate in our first ever Chaska Community Photo Show and Contest. The subject of the photo contest is "Chaska

Scenes." Categories: Nature in Chaska or Lifestyle in Chaska. Go to www.chaskacommunitycenter.com to find out more information.