



Chaska City Hall Bulletin

From the desk of Mayor Van Eyll

"The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

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Chaska City Hall

www.chaskamn.com

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COUNCIL APPROVES FAST TRACK FOR SIGNAL

At the January 5th meeting of the City Council, approval was given to a plan that would phase the Chestnut Street improvements discussed over the past few years by the City of Chaska, MnDOT, Carver County, and the Chaska Chamber of Commerce. The full concept for improvements along Highway 41 include left turn lanes on Highway 41 at both 4th and 2nd Streets, a center median down the Highway to reduce the width of driving lanes and help slow down traffic speed, removal of the parking along the east side of Chestnut Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets, and the addition of a signal at the 2nd Street and Hwy 41 intersection.



While there was agreement between the organizations as to the desire to move forward in implementing these improvements, MnDOT did estimate that the total cost would be approximately \$4 million. MnDOT did not feel they would be able to add the improvements into their construction schedule until 2013. Given the circumstances and safety issues at 2nd Street and Hwy 41, the City of Chaska felt it prudent to move forward and request that the project be divided into phases and prioritize the signal. The City agreed to move forward with the project design and cost sharing with MnDOT to help complete the project.

A meeting will be held with MnDOT and the City on January 20th to address pedestrian safety concerns. While Highway 41 is a state highway and ultimately needs to receive MnDOT approval to install a signal at 2nd Street, the City does plan to lobby hard for this addition, as we do feel it is an immediate safety need. Questions about this project can be referred to the Chaska City Administrator, Matt Podhradsky at 952-448-9200.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Positions are still available for the Chaska Human Rights Commission, Park and Rec Board, and the SW Transit Commission. The Human Rights Commission is seeking two new members and the Park Board is seeking three members. All are three-year terms and meet once a month. The SW Transit Commission meets in Eden Prairie and is seeking a Chaska resident representative for a one-year position. Interested applicants may contact the City of Chaska at 952-448-4200 for an application or more information. The Council will interview interested parties at 6:30 pm at their January 26th meeting.

LAKE GRACE OFFICE BUILDING TO BE BUILT THIS SUMMER

In the summer of 2000 the City of Chaska approved plans for a multi-story office development at the southwest corner of Highway 41 and Pioneer Trail just north of Lake Grace, where the fireworks show used to occur. The approved plans included a three-story Class A office building just under 40,000 sq ft in size, with views overlooking Lake Grace. The building included some surface and underground parking and also created a plaza on the north end of Lake Grace, with trail connections along Pioneer Trail to complete the entire loop around the lake. Chaska Investment currently owns the site but they have plans to sell it to another developer this January.

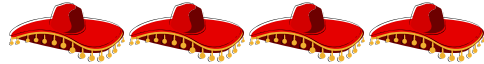
The site is the only remaining vacant site at this corner and when completed will be both an attractive building and create some public amenities for the trail connection, enhancing the usability of the lake area. The building that was approved in 2000 is the exact same building the new developer is planning to construct. It will therefore not need to go through an additional City approval process. At this point the developer is proposing to initially build two of the three stories, with the third story phased separately. It is possible however, that the third story will be built in the initial phase if enough tenants are found.

Questions about the project may be directed to Chaska's Community Develop Director, Kevin Ringwald at 952-448-9200.



NEW MEXICAN RESTAURANT PLANNED

The restaurant and bar space at Second Street and Hwy 41 (formerly Chestnut's/River City Pub) will see a new tenant in the near future. A Mexican restaurant and cantina is being planned for the site, with a focus on authentic Mexican food and \$4 margaritas. Plans are to open in late February or early March. The City of Chaska is excited to welcome this new business into the downtown area.



COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

Do you have the winter blues? Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D.)

On Monday, January 12 at 10 a.m. join other Active Older Adults in The Lodge and learn about Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Bob Fairbanks, Director of the Sleep Clinic at Ridgeview Hospital in Waconia, will explain the cause, identify the symptoms, and discuss therapeutic options.

Krav Maga

Krav Maga, Hebrew for Contact Combat, was developed by the Israeli military special forces. This self-defense training leads you to a high level of efficiency quickly. Join Instructor Paula Meyers, a professional Mixed Martial Arts fighter who's passionate about personal safety skills, on Thursdays, beginning, January 15 and learn a variety of strikes (hitting and kicking) and simple, effective techniques for self-defense in attack situations. With Krav Maga, protect yourself and walk in peace. No need for previous martial arts experience/all fitness levels welcome.

Adult Co-Rec Wiffle Ball League

We're bringing one of America's favorite pasttimes indoors! First time ever, we are organizing co-rec teams consisting of 4 players with 1 designated hitter. We will be base running and games will be 5 innings of play or 30 minutes, whichever comes first. Re-live your elementary years by participating in this organization league, Thursday nights, starting January 15!



