



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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STATE BUDGET DEFICIT TO AFFECT MUNICIPALITIES



Governor Pawlenty unveiled his plan this week to address the nearly \$5 billion deficit the State of Minnesota will experience during the next budget biennium. As part of the proposed cuts announced by the Governor, two significant items will have direct impact on municipalities. These include the reduction of Local Government Aid (LGA) and Market Value Homestead Credits (MVHC). For the 2009 budget year, Chaska had planned to receive \$363,000 in LGA, with an additional \$150,000 planned to come from MVHC. Based on the Governor's proposal, in 2009 the City of Chaska will lose approximately \$247,000 of the LGA but will see no reduction in the MVHC. In 2010 the City would experience a dramatic reduction by the Governor's proposal, in that we would receive no assistance through Local Government Aid or Market Value Homestead Credit.

During the 2009 budgeting process, the City of Chaska developed a contingency plan, in case the State of Minnesota would not be able to provide all the LGA payments originally planned. As part of the contingency process, Chaska identified approximately \$240,000 of expenditure reductions. These reductions included the elimination of a position in the Building Inspection Department, reduction of dollars into the street overlay and sealcoating program, and the delay of a police squad car replacement.

Although the budget reductions from the State are not yet completed, the City of Chaska does feel confident that the budget contingencies we identified during the 2009 budgeting process should significantly address the cuts expected this year. But the cuts will still pose a significant issue in 2010 as it appears the City will not receive any LGA or MVHC that year.

Questions about the impacts of the state budget deficit on municipalities may be directed to the City Administrator at 952-448-9200.

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR STARTS

On Monday, February 2nd the City of Chaska welcomed Bart Fischer as the new Assistant City Administrator. Bart comes to the Chaska from the City of Newport, where he served for the past five years as the Assistant City Administrator and Economic Development Coordinator. Most recently, he served as the Newport Interim City Administrator upon the retirement of their long-time Administrator, Larry Bodahl. Newport is located in the

southeast metro on the Mississippi River adjacent to Cottage Grove. Bart previously served as the administrative intern in the City of Oakdale and in the information office of the Minnesota State Senate.

Bart will perform a number of duties for the City of Chaska, including all economic development activities, and human resource functions. As the Assistant City Administrator he will work on general administrative projects and be the staff representative for many local boards and committees.

Bart is married to his wife Tammy and has three children under the age of five. They currently live in Cottage Grove.

The City of Chaska is happy to welcome Bart into the organization and is confident he will be a great asset to the team. Please take the time to welcome him into the community.

BLOCK 11 REDEVELOPMENT NEARS COMPLETION

Although it has been cold over the past two months, work has continued on the Block 11 redevelopment project on the southwest corner of Highway 41 and Chaska Boulevard. The redevelopment of Block 11 has been planned for several years and moved forward this past fall with the purchase of the site by developer, Chad Wiech. As part of the redevelopment, one new 3500 sq ft building was built adjacent to Chaska Boulevard, as well as a 1200 sq ft addition to the north side of Kelly’s Bar, which will serve an individual commercial use. To round out the public components of the redevelopment, a landscaped public plaza will be incorporated into the corner to mimic the plazas at the Walgreens and Depot sites.

The main tenant of the project will be Snyder’s Drug. Snyder’s is currently adjacent to Cooper’s County Market in the Brickyard shopping center. As part of Snyder’s new corporate model, they are significantly reducing their square footage and will focus on pharmaceutical and medical supplies. The store is scheduled to open on Monday, February 9th and will not see any lapse in service, as the old store will remain open through the previous day.

The City is very excited about this redevelopment, as it helps implement the concept vision for the intersection which was developed years ago. We are pleased that Snyder’s has decided to remain a focal point and reinvest in the downtown area. Any questions about the project may be referred to the Chaska City Administrator, Matt Podhradsky, at 952-448-9200.



THE LEGENDS AT HAZELTINE

At the February 2nd meeting of the Chaska Economic Development Authority action was taken to approve a development agreement that would provide tax increment financing assistance to The Legends at Hazeltine, proposed to be constructed adjacent to the Hazeltine Gates office building north of the Kohls store. The Legends at Hazeltine will be the flagship facility for the Goodman Group, which is known for their premier senior living facilities. This facility will house approximately 160 units for independent, assisted, and memory care individuals.

A significant development clause has been included in the infrastructure improvements, (Continued on Page 3)

(The Legends Continued)
to address the stormwater issues on the site. Specifically, the Goodman Group will be making improvements to the stormwater pond on The Par 30 golf course. This will accommodate not only the stormwater, but also help improve the quality and aesthetics of the pond on the golf course.

Included in the development of the project, will be the moving of the Par 30 clubhouse and parking lot adjacent to the current Hole No. 2. Other significant improvements are also planned to the golf course. In total, nearly \$1 million will be invested back into the golf course.

To help defray some of these significant costs, the City of Chaska utilized its policy of tax increment assistance to developments that are able to include affordable housing units. The Chaska EDA was able to provide assistance for the project, which will yield public improvements to the golf course and housing affordability.

While preliminary and final approvals for site and building plans have not yet been instituted, the tax increment financing was a significant addition to the project, as the use of the assistance will allow the project to move forward, whereas it may not have been economically feasible otherwise. The Goodman Group is scheduled to return to the Planning Commission on February 11th for preliminary approvals and would like to begin construction by mid-summer.

Questions about the project may be referred to the Chaska City Administrator.



WEBSITE WORRIES???

Anyone who has ever visited the www.chaskamn.com

website cannot fail to notice that it needs a great deal of work. Over the years, the site has suffered from a lack of attention and a lack of resources dedicated to it. That will be changing, however, as we are happy to announce that the City Administrator has assigned the Administrative Intern, Noah Smith to redesign the site to better serve and represent the City of Chaska over the internet.



The goals of this site redesign will be to; one, make the City website the primary source for keeping the public informed of City business and community news; and two, to provide an internet experience through the site that is user friendly, pleasant to look at, and provides an ease of navigation, not only for advanced web users but for anyone with access to the internet.

Of course, a redesign of the website can only go as well as the planning that goes into it. For that, we need input from individual citizens. In order to meet the needs and expectations of a diverse community, we need input from as many people as possible from as many levels of internet experience as possible. Send your comments and suggestions to:

nsmith@chaskamn.com

Send in links to your favorite sites that should be an example for us, or tell us how you would like to be able to have information presented to you. What aspects of City business do you feel are underrepresented on the site? How do we best serve those with little to no internet or computer experience? How do we best serve the “power users” out there? We look forward to better meeting your needs!

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS



Congratulations to the following residents who were appointed to fill vacancies on the various City Commissions:

Planning Commission

- Chad Hewitt
- Dan Keyport
- Jean Personius
- Alex Young-Chairperson
- Michael Broback – Vice Chairperson

Heritage Preservation Commission

- Joyce Bohn
- Mark Kalscheuer
- Debbie Boe
- Nicholas Calder-Chairperson

Park & Recreation Board

- Tom Skoogman
- Joe Maloney
- Jack Spizale
- Nate Bostrom - Chairperson

Human Rights Commission

- Patricia Leck
- Laxmi Govindan
- Ethropic Burnett
- Libby Fairchild-Chairperson

SW Transit Commission

- Jennifer Wolff-Rider Representative
- Greg Boe-Chaska Council Representative

Carver County Elected Officials Commission

- Councilmember Gino Businaro

SW Transportation Coalition

- Councilmember Christopher Schulz

Thanks for contributing to your community!

COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES



Clay Play Pottery Workshop

This is a three-week workshop for kids, ages 5-12, to play with clay, create sculptures, and bowls. Kathleen Theship-Rosales will assist children through the pottery process.

Date: Saturdays, February 14, 21, 28

Time: 10:30 – 11:30 AM

Cost: \$48 Members \$52 Non-Members

Teen Skate Party

Teens, bring your friends to the CCC Arena to skate and sing your favorite karaoke songs. The party is Tuesday, February 10 from 2:30 – 4:00 PM on Arena 1.

Games, prizes, and a snack will be offered for FREE! Skate rental is available for \$2.

Music Event

Join Chuck Thiel of the Jolly Ramblers at River Gables Apartments, 110 East First Street, Wednesday, February 11th at 10:00 AM, to celebrate the Valentines holiday with some great polka music.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Guardian Angels Sausage Dinner from 11:00-2:00 on Sunday, February 8th.

Chaska Valley Family Theatre presents "The Sound of Music beginning Friday, Feb. 13th at the Community Center Theatre.

Chaska Civic Theatre presents the dinner show production of "Something's Rotten in the State of Denmark" beginning Friday, Feb. 13th at Dahlgreen Golf Course.

If you have a community event you would like to have residents know about, email msteffel@chaskamn.com and we will include it, providing there is space.
