



# Chaska City Hall Bulletin

From the desk of Mayor Van Eyll

**"The Best Small Town in Minnesota"**

## Chaska City Hall

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

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## CHASKA SEEKING MEMBERS FOR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

The City of Chaska is seeking residents who are interested to serve on the third Commitment to Community Task Force that will be forming in April and meeting monthly throughout the summer. The Task Force is a group that the City of Chaska put together in the early 1990s. The group has typically met to discuss what things residents and businesses can do together to help enhance our sense of community pride, identity, opportunities, and involvement.

The first Commitment to Community Task Force developed a mission statement and goals to help build on Chaska's sense of community. Some of the things they focused on were communications, preservation of our heritage and historical sites, intergenerational opportunities, arts and cultural opportunities, and planning development. In 2001 the group focused on green space enhancement, neighborhood gathering opportunities, transportation, communication, arts and business opportunities.

The Commitment to Community group has been integral in helping to set the vision for creating some of the most recognizable places in Chaska. Past recommendations from the Task Force have included:

- ❖ Theatre and Arts Addition to the Community Center
- ❖ Arts in Public Places
- ❖ Livery Stable/History Center Renovation
- ❖ The Lodge Addition at the CCC
- ❖ Neighborhood Block Party Wagon
- ❖ Chaska.net
- ❖ Chaska Today Section of the Herald Newspaper
- ❖ Heritage Preservation Commission



The task force is made up of various community representatives, including the school district, Jonathan Association, and the four City Commissions. Additionally, there are six at-large citizen positions, for which the City is now seeking candidates. Individuals interested in serving on the Task Force should send a letter of interest to the City of Chaska, Attention Matt Podhradsky, City Administrator, One City Hall Plaza, Chaska, Mn. 55318 prior to March 25<sup>th</sup>. The City Council will interview perspective members and make appointments at their March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. Questions may be referred to Matt Podhradsky, at 952-448-9200 or [matt@chaskamn.com](mailto:matt@chaskamn.com).

**2030 COMP PLAN OPEN HOUSE**

The City of Chaska will be hosting an open house for the public to review the final draft of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan update on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the Chaska City Council Chambers at City Hall. Every ten years the City is statutorily required to go through the process of updating the Comp Plan. The process began last summer with an open house where the public could comment on the current 2020 plan and give their suggestions as to what should be included in the new 2030 Comp Plan.

The purpose of the March 11<sup>th</sup> open house is to report back to the public as to what changes and updates have been made to the plan, including proposed policies to address future development, transportation, parks and open spaces, downtown development, and job growth. Following the open house the draft Comp Plan will be considered by the Planning Commission for final adoption, with the City Council considering the document at their March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Residents interested in viewing a copy of the draft 2030 Comp Plan can visit the City website at [www.chaskamn.com](http://www.chaskamn.com) or you may contact the Director of Planning and Development at 952-448-9200.

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**CITY CLOSSES MCKNIGHT ROAD BRIDGE**

At the February 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting, formal action was taken to temporarily close the McKnight Road bridge, which passes over the Twin Cities and Western railroad just north of the intersection of McKnight Road and Pioneer Trail. As required by MnDOT, the City of Chaska had a third party structural analysis completed of the bridge this past fall. This analysis determined that over the past two



years significant structural deterioration had occurred, bringing the weight rating for the bridge down to 7 ton. At 7 ton, the only vehicles that can safely cross the bridge are cars and light trucks. Over the past two months the City has been observing the traffic using the bridge. It was noted that although the bridge is posted for smaller vehicles, large vehicles such as garbage trucks and busses, continue to utilize the bridge. This has prompted the City to declare a safety hazard and close the bridge.

During the bridge closure, residents north of the bridge will not be able to enter off Pioneer Trail, but will need to enter McKnight Road from the north off 82<sup>nd</sup> Street. Residents in the Oak Valley Townhomes south of the railroad tracks, will still be able to enter from Pioneer Trail.

The City estimates that the bridge could be closed from one to three years. The bridge is currently listed on the preliminary tier one project list by the State for economic stimulus dollars. If the project should receive economic stimulus dollars this spring, it would be possible for the City to move forward with completion of the project this summer. If stimulus dollars are not received, it is likely the project will be funded in the State's next bonding bill in 2011.

Questions about the status of the bridge or traffic routes, should be directed to City Engineer, Bill Monk, at 952-448-9200.

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**Web Page Input Solicited**

The City of Chaska's web page is currently going through an overhaul and update to make it more user friendly and informative. As part of the process, we are asking residents for their recommendations. To express your comments, contact Noah Smith, at [Nsmith@chaskamn.com](mailto:Nsmith@chaskamn.com) or see the home page of the current City website at [www.chaskamn.com](http://www.chaskamn.com).



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**LETTER OF INTENT FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> ST INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**

At the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Chaska Council meeting, consideration will be given to a letter of intent with MnDOT for completion of the Second Street and Highway 41 intersection improvements. As reported earlier, the City and MnDOT have come to a conceptual agreement with how to move forward to install a signal at the intersection this summer, along with installation of delineators to restrict left hand movements from First, Third, and Fifth Streets in the downtown area.

After completion of the letter of intent, the City will move forward aggressively to put together the plans and specs for the project, as well as to complete justification reports for the project. It is expected that the project will go forward with construction in mid-August, with completion by the end of November of this year.

Please contact Matt Podhradsky with questions regarding the project.



**Chaska Community Center Activities**

**AOA (Active Older Adults 55+)**

Brick City Brewers: New Fogey Follies  
Get ready for some side splitting laughs as we welcome New Fogey Follies to The Lodge. In addition to great entertainment, we will have free coffee and refreshments, and information for upcoming AOA events. We hope to see you there!

Date: Thursday, March 5  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Place: The Lodge  
Cost: FREE



**Creation Station:  
Under the Sea**



Parents bring your little ones to the CCC for some Under the Sea fun. Children will create aquariums, seashell paperweights, and silly jellyfish. There will also be fun Under the Sea activities for your children to participate in.

Ages: 2 to 6 (Parent/Child Class)  
Date: Thursday, March 5  
Time: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.  
Cost: \$10 Member  
\$12 Non-member

**AOA Back Talk – New Treatments for Back Pain**



Join Dr. Kevin Mullaney of St. Francis Orthopedic & Neuroscience Center/Twin Cities Spine Center as he discusses lower back pain, slipping vertebrae, and arthritis. St. Francis Regional

Medical Center and the Chaska Community Center present this event. Call 952-403-2000 to register. Date: Thursday, March 5 Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Place: Community Room Cost: FREE (Pre-registrations is required)

**There are currently no items on the Chaska City Council Agenda for Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Stay tuned.**

**DRIVE SAFE IN THIS WINTER WEATHER!**

