



# Chaska City Hall Bulletin

## "The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

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## CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER HIRING FULL-TIME FIRE CHIEF

Did you know that with over 24,000 residents, the City of Chaska is one of the largest communities in the state to not have a full-time Fire Chief or Fire Administrator? As the City has grown, so has the responsibility of the Chaska Volunteer Fire Department (CFD). As a result of these additional responsibilities and the time, effort, and personnel needed in order to accomplish them, the City Council is considering hiring a full-time Fire Chief in early 2013.



## History and Growth

The CFD, which is the oldest City department, has been in operation since 1871. For most of these years, the department experienced 500 or less calls annually. However, as the City has seen exponential residential and commercial growth over the past 20+ years--- households grew from 4,500 in 1990 to over 10,000 today, calls have increased to over 1,000 per year!

As the service of the CFD has expanded, so has the administration. Currently, there are over 40 firefighters including Chief Trebiatowski and officers. In addition, residents' expectations of the CFD and state and federal administrative requirements are exhausting the time and capabilities of CFD staff.

## The Issue

Chaska is a thriving community with even more growth ahead; further increased call volumes and administrative requirements will significantly impact the City's ability to meet future service delivery expectations while keeping a volunteer-based organization.

### Chaska City Hall

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

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## Looking at Solutions

To best address this issue, a Fire Department Study Group was created in 2009-2010. The main objective of the group was to develop recommendations on how to keep strong service levels, adequate administrative support, continuity in leadership, and integration with other City departments into the future, all the while keeping a volunteer-based organization. The result of Study Group's work was a recommendation to City to consider staffing a full-time Fire Chief position.



Since then, a Fire Chief Exploratory Committee (made up of staff members from the Fire Department, Administration, Community Development and Police) was established in 2010 to further explore Study Group's recommendations. Since then, the position has been defined with a job description and programmed into the City's pay classification plan. The position is currently a part of the financial forecast for 2013.

## Next Steps

While City staff continues to prepare for the new position, advertisement will not start until the City's 2013 General Operating Budget is approved by the City Council this fall.

In the meantime, the Fire Chief Exploratory Committee is moving forward with the following activities:

- Communicating with the Fire Department about the new

position in order to respect the tradition and pending cultural change within the department.

- Messaging the position to the rest of City staff and community.
- Buttoning up job description and other details of the new position such as office location, hiring process, appointment of officers, etc.

## Conclusion

While the Council will have many challenging decisions to make in prioritizing utilization of city resources, the goal is to complete the aforementioned tasks in anticipation of the Council moving forward with the position during the budgeting process in order to allow for advertising of position and hiring process in fall to allow for early 2013 position start.

Moving forward with this process will help the City strive in its main goal, to be the best small town in Minnesota. As always, the City encourages feedback from the community in order to help achieve its goal. For comments and or questions about the Fire Chief position, contact Assistant City Administrator Jeffrey Dahl at 952-227-7529 or [jdahl@chaskamn.com](mailto:jdahl@chaskamn.com).

## GA FALL FESTIVAL

Looking for a great family event?  
Guardian Angels  
Angel Fest on  
Saturday, September  
29<sup>th</sup> from noon to 11:00 pm.



Tunes & Food

For more info, go to [www.angelfest.org](http://www.angelfest.org).

**SW CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL  
GRAND OPENING AND  
DEDICATION CEREMONY**

Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

Run for the Stars 5K run or 3K walk begins at 9:00 am  
Check in/Registration /opens at 8:00 am

Dedication Ceremony & Ribbon Cutting at 10:30 am

Campus Tours from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

1981 Bavaria Road  
Chaska, Mn. 55318

**ANNUAL COAT GIVEAWAY**



The Blessed Bee Thrift Store seeks your assistance in collecting winter attire to be distributed at the "Annual

Coat Giveaway" to be held on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. St. John's Lutheran Church and School located at 4<sup>th</sup> and Oak Streets, Chaska, will again host this event in the school gym from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

New or gently worn clean/washed coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, snow pants, and boots may be dropped off at the Blessed Bee Thrift Store located at 2450 Chaska

Boulevard during regular business hours through October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers for this opportunity to help our neighbors are also needed. Help is needed to sort and bag donated items during the week of October 23-31. On Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, help is needed to get St. John's gymnasium ready for the event, and then volunteers are also needed the day of the event. To volunteer, call the Blessed Bee Thrift Store at 952-448-7794.

**CHASKA HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION MEETING**

TONIGHT  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2012  
6:30 PM  
CHASKA CITY HALL

**CHASKA CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

CHASKA CITY HALL  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2012  
7:00 PM

Go to: [www.chaskamn.com](http://www.chaskamn.com) for the complete agendas.

**RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL**

This is the last weekend for the Renaissance Festival . It is also open on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. The theme for Saturday and Sunday is Shamrocks and Shenanigans and features an Irish village with dancers and music, a harvest market, kilt competition, and free beer tasting!

