



Chaska City Hall Bulletin

"The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

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CHASKA ELECTRIC UTILITY TO THE RESCUE!

On Friday, November 2nd a crew of 26 linemen from nine Minnesota municipal utilities (Grand Rapids, Chaska, Hutchinson, St Peter, Owatonna, Rochester, Willmar, Austin and Brainerd) left for Long Island, New York to help with the power restoration efforts after hurricane Sandy devastated the area. Three linemen from Chaska volunteered to go (Jack Worm, Greg Wickenhauser, and Toby Saxon) taking Chaska's new small bucket truck.

When the convoy of vehicles and men arrived on Long Island there was no place for them to stay so they had to drive another two hours out of New York City to get to an 8-bedroom bed and breakfast for the night; a little cozy for 26 guys but probably the most restful night while they were there. The next day the guys attended briefings and safety training before locating to an abandoned army depot for the night. There they spent the night with another 70 tree trimmers and only one bathroom.



Cozy conditions.

The third day they finally got to work putting up lines, restoring services, and turning on transformers. They did about 100 homes their first day. That night they went to a park shelter to stay, which had no heat or electricity and only one bathroom. But they made themselves as comfortable as they could.



Greg & Jack on the pole.

They averaged about 300 homes a day, working 16-hour days, getting the power back on. Then a snowstorm knocked power out again to thousands of homes so they had to start over! But the residents

Chaska City Hall
www.chaskamn.com

Council Members:
 Mayor – Mark Windschitt
mwindschitt@chaskamn.com
 Ward I – Scott Millard
smillard@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
 Jeffrey Dahl
jdahl@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:
 Matt Haefner
mhaefner@chaskamn.com

Public Works Director:
 Tim Wiebe
twiebe@chaskamn.com

Electrical Director:
 Dan Geiger
dgeiger@chaskamn.com

Park & Recreation Director:
 Tom Redman
trredman@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

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mrcobbin@chaskamn.com



Greg posing by an up ended tree.

were really appreciative. The guys also said that their group was about 3 to 1 in getting residents back up and running. Yep, us Minnesotans know how to work!!!! The three guys returned on Friday, November 16.

During the time that Jack, Toby, and Greg were gone, the rest of the Electric Department scrambled to get meters read for the month and continue with other chores. Everyone did a great job pitching in and helping out.

The City of Chaska would like to take this opportunity to thank the electric crew for their work and for their dedication to the profession to help other people in need. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and highly knowledgeable crew and we are very proud to have them represent our community.

Questions about the Electric Department or their crew or services can be directed to Matt Podhradsky, the City Administrator at 952-448-9200 or Dan Geiger, Electric Director, at 952-448-4335.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



be having special sales and holiday treats.

On Saturday, December 1st, the Chaska Human Rights Commission will host the annual multi-cultural tree lighting event in City Square Park at 4:00 pm. As part of the day, the Commission partners with Chaska's Downtown business retailers to create an expanded Hometown Holiday event that includes horse drawn hayrides, a coloring contest, an appearance by Santa Claus and an elf, and the lighting of the Christmas tree by the winner of the coloring contest. Members of the community participate by sharing stories of their holiday traditions and music is provided by students from Chaska High School. Many downtown businesses will

Also occurring at the tree lighting event, the Chaska Human Rights Commission announces the presentation of the 2012 Human Rights Award. The Homebound Ministry Program of Guardian Angels Church was selected by the Commission to receive the award. The award recognizes individuals and organizations that have shown special efforts to ensure the social well being of all citizens of Chaska. The nomination was submitted by a member of the Chaska community who receives weekly visits from the Homebound Ministry teams. The nomination stated, "I never thought of myself as a 'shut in' but that is where I am at this point in my life. I have discovered that shut-ins are people who really need other people. The Homebound Program enriches my quality of life immensely, and it also makes me feel like part of the community." (Continued on pg. 3)

The Beyond the Yellow Ribbon steering committee will be serving a spaghetti supper at the Legion after the event. There is a minimum donation of \$5 per adult. It was really fun last year to relax, get warm, and have a hot meal a mere few feet away from the park!



The Chaska Town Course begins its annual holiday sale at the Pro Shop beginning Saturday, December 1st. Everything is marked down to clearance prices! Hours are Tuesdays – Fridays from 9am to 5pm and Saturdays from 9am to 3pm. Also, Tis the Season Boutique and Craft Sale will be held at Charlie’s Town Course Grille on November 30, and December 1, 2, 7, and 8. Hours are Fridays from 5-8pm, Saturdays from 9am to 6pm, and Sundays from 11am to 5pm.

Finally, another holiday activity beginning this weekend, is the presentation of “It’s a Wonderful Life” by the Chaska Valley Family Theatre and performed at the Chaska High School theatre. For specific information, go to: www.cvft.org.

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

At the Monday, December 3rd meeting of the Chaska City Council, the annual Truth in Taxation Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 pm. This is a yearly opportunity for residents to address the Council with questions and concerns about the proposed budget for the upcoming year. Under State Statute, it is required that cities hold these public hearings annually.



Chaska has always held this Public Hearing at the first meeting in December to gather public input, for inclusion into the final budget proposal considered at the second Council meeting in December, on 12-17-12 this year.

As in the past three years, the City of Chaska is once again proposing a zero percent increase in the operational tax levy for 2013. This will be the fourth year in a row that the levy would be set at a zero percent increase. While there is a special levy this year for approximately \$152,000, directly in relation to a tax abatement project done to spur economic development in the West Creek Corporate Center, it is completely paid for by the business located in the business park. Therefore it has no impact on the taxpayers in the community.

While the economy has certainly created issues over the past four years, the City of Chaska has been able to keep a constant tax levy, while at the same time avoiding drastic impacts to service levels. Some of this has occurred due to the growth we have seen in economic development activities over the last two years. With more electric use in the community, this has increased the amount of electric franchise revenue that has come back to the General Fund. At the same time, while this has increased some franchise fee revenue coming back into the General Fund, it also mitigates the losses we have seen in revenue in other areas. City of Chaska residents and businesses have

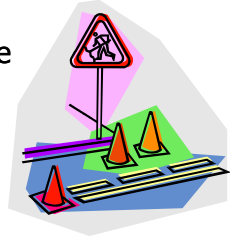
been able to have electric service that on average ran approximately 8% lower than Xcel Energy or Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, both of whom provide electric services around the Chaska electric territory.

In 2013 we do expect that economic development activity will continue to grow, as we will see the expansion of the 212 Medical Center, the construction of The Landing senior facility at Highway 41 and First Street, the development of additional residential units in the community, and the likely addition of another industrial building in West Creek Corporate Center.

These projects and others have necessitated the reinstatement of two positions in our Building Inspection Department that were eliminated in 2012 when building activity dropped off significantly. The two positions include one building inspector and one community development technician who processes the permits internally to maintain a quick turnover to businesses and homeowners in need of building services. These changes are supported by the additional building permit revenue expected in 2013.

A new position proposed to be added in 2013, is a full time Fire Chief. The City of Chaska has been looking at the possible addition of this position since 2010. We feel it is important to add this position if we are going to be able to keep a volunteer base of firefighters in our community. Over the years, a significant amount of administrative work has been added to all fire departments across the state, thus making it more difficult and time consuming for volunteers to step up into these positions. The City of Chaska is currently one of two cities of approximately 20,000 residents who does not have a full time Fire Chief.

Finally, our Street Reconstruction Program will include a project in the downtown area, as well as the sealcoating and overlay of roads in other areas of the City.



Questions about the Truth in Taxation process may be directed to the City Administrator, Matt Podhradsky, at 952-448-9200. Copies of the draft budget and staff reports will be on the City website by the end of the day on Friday, November 30th.

Chaska City Council Meeting
 Monday, December 3 at 7:00 pm
 Chaska City Hall
 For the complete agenda, go to:
www.chaskamn.com



**CHASKA
COMMUNITY
CENTER
ACTIVITIES**

Science Explorers

Ages 3-1/2 to 6 years
Time: 9:30–11:00 am.

Magical Magnets
Join Science Explorers for a morning of magical magnet fun. We will explore magnetic force with fun, hands-on experiments. We will use a variety of different shape and size magnets as we learn about attraction and repulsion, magnetic poles and the invisible magnetic force. Please join us as we also play games and make art projects to learn more about this mysterious force.



Date: Tuesdays, December 4–18
Cost: \$45 Member;
\$50 Non-Member

Teen Swimming and Pizza

Ages 11 to 15
A pool party you won't want to miss! Enjoy the waterslide and games like Water Basketball, Water Polo, Capture the Brick, relay races and other group games in the CCC pool. Pizza and pop will follow the pool activities in the Turtle Bay Room.



Date: Thursday, December 6
Time: 2:30–4:15 p.m.
Place: Chaska Community Center
Cost: FREE

Santa Visits the CCC

Friday, December 7

A Chaska Fire Truck will deliver Santa to the CCC front door, and Santa will visit from 4:30–6:30 pm. Refreshments will be served and crafts will be available. Don't forget to bring your camera! Free musical entertainment by Chaska Music Studios.



CHRISTMAS TREE TRIVIA

1. Where did the Christmas tree originate?
 - a-America
 - b. Asia
 - c. Europe
 - d. Africa

2. In which century was the Christmas tree first used?
 - a. 16th
 - b. 17th
 - c. 18th
 - d. 19th

3. What were the first artificial Christmas trees made from?
 - a. Goose feathers
 - b. Plastic
 - c. Metal
 - d. Chicken feathers

4. What is a tree with fake snow called?
 - a. Snowed
 - b. Flocked
 - c. White
 - d. Frosted

5. When do most Europeans put up a Christmas tree?
 - a. Weekend after Thanksgiving
 - b. Second week of November
 - c. Second week of December
 - d. On Christmas Eve



Answers: 1-c, 2-a, 3-a, 4-b, 5-d.