



Chaska City Hall Bulletin

"The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

Chaska City Hall

www.chaskamn.com

Council Members:

Mayor – Mark Windschittl

mwindschittl@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

Bart Fischer

bfischer@chaskamn.com

Planning Director:

Kevin Ringwald

kringwald@chaskamn.com

Administrative Services Director:

Noel Graczyk

ngraczyk@chaskamn.com

City Engineer:

William Monk

brmonk@chaskamn.com

Water & Sewer Supervisor:

Dean Hylland

dhylland@chaskamn.com

Public Works Director:

Tim Wiebe

twiebe@chaskamn.com

Electrical Director:

Dan Geiger

dgeiger@chaskamn.com

Parks & Recreation Director:

Tom Redman

fredman@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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mrobbin@chaskamn.com

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DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN TO GET FINAL APPROVAL

At the Monday, February 6th Chaska Council meeting, consideration will be given to the adoption of the final Downtown Master Plan. The plan has been many months in the making, involving local business owners, residents, institutional, and public facilities. The final plan is a comprehensive look at the downtown and some of the strategies the community will be able to implement over the next several years to help revitalize and strengthen our downtown.

Over the past two months the final Downtown Master Plan has been reviewed and supported by each of the City Commissions. It has also been strongly supported by the Downtown Business Council.



After adoption of the plan by the Council, the City will prioritize the implementation of the recommendations. This summer residents will see redevelopment begin on Block 53, which is located along the river at the southeast corner of Highway 41 and First Street. The site will include senior housing and create a great entrance into the downtown. Residents will also see continuation of the Street Reconstruction Program to address the old infrastructure in historic downtown. Redevelopment will also occur to the Chaska Building Center site. The City also continues to work on utilizing the \$500,000 grant from the Met Council to support the long-term sustainability of a grocery store in the downtown area.

Comprehensive focus on the downtown will be critical to accomplish the goals of revitalizing the area. Questions about the Downtown Master Plan and its implementation may be directed to the Community Development Director, Kevin Ringwald, at 952-448-9200. Citizens are also encouraged to attend the February 6th Council meeting at 7:00 pm to learn more about the plan.



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BULLYING FORUM REMINDER

On Saturday, February 4th CLIMB Theatre and the Chaska Public Safety Focus Group are bringing CLIMB’s acclaimed programming on bullying prevention to the Chaska Community Center from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Professional actors will be performing scenes depicting various types of bullying – including school, GLBT, and cyber-bullying – and initiating dialog on bullying awareness and prevention. According to Chaska Police Chief Scott Knight, “bullying targets, and often those who know that another person is being bullied, don’t always know what to do or how to get help. The aim of this program is to help the target, educate the community, and ultimately align resources to help the bully too.”

Last year’s first annual Town Hall on Bullying drew national attention, including an invitation from the White House to Chaska Police Chief Scott Knight to attend the first national summit on bullying hosted by President Obama and the First Lady.



If you are interested in attending the forum or have questions about the presentation, please contact Chaska Officer Julie Janke at 952-448-4200. Reservations for the event are encouraged, but not mandatory.

HOMEOWNER HELP IS ON THE WAY



Chaska homeowners who need assistance with the maintenance of their residence, may qualify for help. The local organization, Christmas in May, is currently taking applications from area homeowners who may have landscaping, roofing, painting, handicap accessibility projects, and other needs. Applications for assistance are due by March 2nd and may be obtained by calling 952-361-5350. Home renovation will take place on May 19th.

BOUNTIFUL BASKET VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to assist in moving the Bountiful Basket Food Shelf from the Snyder’s building at Highways 41 and 61 into its new location at the Old Water Treatment Plant on Bavaria Road and Engler Boulevard. The bulk of the volunteers will be needed on Saturday, February 18th beginning at 8:00 am to move all the food. However, volunteers are also needed on the 16th and 17th to move large refrigerators and freezers, shelving, and office equipment. Please call 952-227-7745 for more information.



Chaska City Council Meeting 7:00 pm
Monday, February 6th
City Hall

No Chaska Planning Commission Meeting on
Wednesday, February 8th.

For agenda info, go to:
www.chaskamn.com.

FD FISHING CONTEST A BIG SUCCESS!

Firemen Jeff Lenzen and Andy Brkovich, Co-Chairs of the Chaska Fire Department Fishing Contest held on Saturday, January 28th, would like to thank the community, the City workers, and all the businesses who contributed time and donations to make the annual Fishing Contest a huge success.

City crews did all the plowing that was needed for the event. It took about 40 minutes for twenty firemen to use ten augers to drill approximately 1200 holes through 9 1/2" to 11" thick ice. Hundreds of prizes were donated by businesses, including prizes for the top 50 fish. It was estimated that 1500 people attended the event. It was rumored the beer vendors had to run out and buy more beer, due to the huge number of attendees and Fire Marshall, Kevin Gravalin, knew he sold 500 hot dogs. But they also sold hamburgers and pork burgers. So who knows how much meat they actually went through!



All in all it was a successful fund-raising event for the Fire Department!



**CHASKA
COMMUNITY
CENTER
ACTIVITIES**

Batting Cage Opens February 4!

The supervised baseball and softball (fast and slow pitch) hitting will be available by making an advanced reservation. Reservations can be made in 15-minute increments by calling the front desk (952) 448-5633 ext. 0.

Hours: Monday–Friday, 6:30–9:00 pm.
Saturdays, Noon–6:00 pm.
Sundays, Noon–6:00 pm.
Cost: \$4 Member; \$6 Non-Member

The batting cage is run as a fundraiser for the Chaska Youth Softball Association.

American Red Cross Babysitting Clinic

This American Red Cross class is for youth age 11 and older. It prepares a babysitter for what every parent wants, including safety, basic childcare, safe play, first aid, and critical emergency action steps. Upon completion of the course a certificate is issued. Cost includes Red Cross babysitting handbook (New Edition with DVD), certification, and instruction. You only need to attend one session.

Dates: Monday and Tuesday
February 6 and 7
Time: 5:15–7:45 pm.
Cost: \$50 Member; \$65 Non-Member

Spring Swimming Lessons



Registration begins
February 6 for Members
and February 13 for Non-Members.
Register online or at the
CCC Front Desk.

Mini Chefs

Ages 4 to 6
Join us as we delve into the delicious kid friendly recipes that the chefs will want to make again! Each day we'll create a new recipe, learn about new kitchen utensils and practice a kitchen safety tip. And, of course, we'll sample our new creations.

Days: Tuesdays
Dates: February 7–28 (4 weeks)
Time: 10:00–11:00 am.
Place: CCC Sunroom
Cost: \$30 Member; \$39 Non-Member

American Red Cross Safe on My Own:
A Child's Guide to Home Alone Safety

Ages 8 to 12

As a parent, would your child be safe and feel confident if they were to be left alone for a minute or hours while you'd be away? The American Red Cross has developed this course to help teach children 8 to 12 years how to be safe when at home alone.

Skills taught:

- Home safety skills
- How to interact with strangers
- Internet safety skills
- Basic First Aid
- Choking emergencies
- They will create a fun, safe and healthy snack and more!

Course includes student guide book!

Date: Thursday, February 9

Time: 5:15–7:45 pm.

Cost: \$28 Member; \$36 Non-Member

Sweetheart Dance

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

For children ages 6 and under and their families.

Children under 1 are free.



Bring your family and friends to the Tot Time Sweetheart Dance. Designed for preschoolers and their parents. Do the Hokey Pokey and dance along with other fun children's music. Refreshments will be served. Space is limited — register online! Co-sponsored by the Chaska and Chanhassen Parks and Recreation Departments.

Date: Friday, February 10

Time: 6:30–8:00 pm.

Place: Chaska Community Center

Cost: \$3 per person (parents and children), children under one are free.

Jam Pack Saturday:
Slap Shot Floor Hockey

Join us once a month for a super Saturday sports event.

Ages: 4 to 7

Place: CCC Upper Gym

Date: Saturday, February 11

Time: 10:15 a.m.–12:15 pm.

Cost: \$12 Member; \$16 Non-Member



Like the fast paced game of hockey? Then this is the program for you. We'll start off with a skills clinic and move on to a variety of games and contests, including passing, shooting, and puck movement. A round robin tournament will wrap up the morning.



* Groundhogs, also known as woodchucks, are a type of marmot, a large rodent related to squirrels.

* In the wild, groundhogs usually live 2-3 years, but have been known to live up to 6 years. In captivity, they can live much longer. The original Wiarton Willie – one of Canada's most famous prognosticating groundhogs, lived to be 22 yrs old.

* Groundhogs are typically 16-26 inches long, and weigh 4-9 pounds.

* Groundhogs actually have two coats of fur; a thick, wooly, grey undercoat and a longer coat of silky brownish hairs. This helps to keep them warm throughout the year.

* Groundhogs prefer to eat wild grasses, leaves, berries, and of course, food crops from the garden! They will also occasionally eat nuts, insects, grubs, snails, and other small animals.

* The average groundhog moves approximately 710 pounds of dirt when digging its burrow. Burrows can be up to 46 ft long and 5 ft underground.

* Groundhogs hibernate during the winter usually between October and March or April, depending on the weather.

* If in danger, they produce a high pitched alarm whistle. This is how they got the nickname "whistle-pig" in some regions.