



Chaska City Hall Bulletin

"The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

Chaska City Hall

www.chaskamn.com

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FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT PROVIDES GOOD PROTECTION FOR CHASKA

Over the past several weeks the City of Chaska has been receiving many questions from residents about the potential of major flooding this spring. Residents and businesses, particularly near the river, have shown concern about the information they have heard in the media regarding flood predictions.

The City of Chaska feels it important that good reliable information is dispersed to the public. This past Monday night, the City Public Works Director, Tim Wiebe, along with the Public Works Foreman, Brian Jung, recapped our entire flood control program to the City Council. They reiterated that our levee and flood control system is top notch and is able to protect all of the properties in Chaska from even the most devastating of floods.



(2010 Hwy 41 bridge water level.)

In the mid-80s and early 90s the leaders of the City of Chaska and the Army Corps of Engineers put a high priority on creating a flood control system that would adequately protect downtown Chaska from even the most severe flooding conditions. In 1996 the flood control project was completed, spending approximately \$42 million toward the creation of a levee and flood control system comprised of diversion channels, gates and lift stations, relief wells, seepage berms, and a river gauge to assure that Chaska would be protected up to a 500-year flood event. To put this in perspective, the State of Minnesota has never experienced a 500-year flooding event. Even the most devastating of floods in the Fargo-Morehead area were not close to a 500-year flood event. The flood control project in Chaska protects the City from water levels of 729 feet above sea level, or a river gauge of 41 feet. The 1965 flood, the worst ever on record for Chaska, reached a height of 34.25 feet. Our flood control program can accommodate over six more feet of water. (Continued on Pg. 2)

The City of Chaska feels very confident that even if we were to experience the most difficult of flooding situations, our flood control system would adequately protect all property in Chaska. Residents should also take comfort that the City also has contingency plans in place that allow us to take action to protect the downtown area. While we would never anticipate that additional action would need to be taken, the City does have trigger points in place to ensure we are always able to handle any encroaching flood waters. In any case, we feel very confident that the flood control system in place is a very good system and it would be able to protect the community, even at levels never before experienced.

The City would like to take this opportunity to thank the past leaders of the community who had foresight to invest in and build the flood control project. This is probably the greatest asset to the City of Chaska and allows us to feel comfortable and safe during even the most worrisome of potential flooding events.

Anyone interested in viewing the presentation given by Tim Wiebe and Brian Jung to the Council, may view it on the City website at www.chaskamn.com. We are also in the process of putting together a daily update page to be used this spring to provide residents with the latest flood information. Questions may also be directed to Tim Wiebe, the Public Works Director at 952-448-4335 or the City Engineer, Bill Monk, at 952-448-9200.

FORMER MAYOR APPOINTED TO MET COUNCIL



The City of Chaska would like to take this opportunity to congratulate former Mayor Gary Van Eyll on his recent appointment to the Metropolitan Council. Former

Mayor Van Eyll was one of over 100 candidates considered for the sixteen positions on the Met Council. The four-year positions are appointed by Governor Dayton. The former Mayor will represent District 4, which encompasses the entire southwest metro area. The seat was previously held by Craig Peterson and Jules Smith.

The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning agency serving the entire seven county metro area. The Met Council has a significant impact on the development of communities. Besides providing all the regional planning services, including the

statutory authority to approve all community Comprehensive Plans, the Met Council also provides operational services. These services include the bus transportation system, wastewater services, regional population household growth forecasts, affordable housing opportunities, and development of regional parks and trails. Although many residents do not have direct contact with the Met Council, the Council truly makes decisions that impact the lives of everyone in the community.

Gary Van Eyll served on the Chaska City Council, representing Ward 1, from 1998 through 2002. He served as Mayor from 2002-2008. After 2008 he worked as the District Administrator of the US Census Bureau 2010 operations. He most recently served as a member of the Carver County Planning and Zoning Commission.

The City of Chaska looks forward to working with Councilmember Van Eyll on the Met Council and we wish him all the best in this new endeavor.

PRECIOUS RESOURCES BEING SAVED

At the Monday night Council meeting, the City's Water and Sewer Superintendent, Dean Hylland, provided the Council with an informational update on our inflow and infiltration mitigation program. Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) is a term used when clear water makes its way into the sanitary sewer pipes and eventually is treated unnecessarily at the regional wastewater treatment plants owned and operated by the Met Council.

The I & I clear water has the potential of entering the sewer system through a number of different ways. Tree roots can break sewer lines and allow ground water to seep into the sewer pipes. Or inflow can occur when it rains and residential or commercial sump pumps are directly connected into the sewer system. State law currently prohibits any sump pump connections into the sewer system, as this creates a significant amount of clear water needlessly being treated. Clear water entering the sewer system also requires treatment plants to be built to a larger capacity. This costs Chaska residents and the residents of the entire Twin Cities area more money, as Met Council rates are forced to be raised because of the unnecessary treatment of clear water.

Over the last ten years the City of Chaska has implemented an aggressive program to help address the issue of inflow and infiltration. The Chaska Water Department spends a lot of time televising and repairing sewer lines. Cracked lines allow ground water to seep into the pipes. As part of the overall I & I mitigation program, the Chaska Water and Sewer Department

does jet each one of our main sewer lines in the City at least once every two years. The lines are televised as the process is completed. When issues are found in the lines, a work order is created to repair the lines.

In 2009 the City also created an I & I Inspection Program that allows an inspector to look at residential and commercial properties to make sure there are no illegal sump pump connections to the sewer system. Approximately one third of all the residences in Chaska have been inspected for illegal sewer connections. Out of those inspections, approximately 137 homes were found to be out of compliance. Bringing these homes back into compliance has eliminated nearly 130 million gallons of clear water into the sewer system yearly.



As a result of the last ten years of work, there has been a dramatic decrease in the amount of inflow and infiltration entering the sewer system. In 2002, 24.6% of the sewer treated in the City was clear water. By 2010 that number had dropped to 3.3% clear water. This helps the entire region to properly size sewer treatment facilities. It also has a direct impact on reducing Chaska's annual cost for sewage treatment by over \$260,000 annually. This is a significant savings to the community and helps to keep our sewer bills as low as possible.

The City of Chaska would like to thank the Water and Sewer Department for their diligent work, as well as the I & I Inspector, Jack MacKinnon, who all help to keep our overall sewage treatment costs at a reasonable level.

Questions about this issue may be directed to Dean Hylland, Water and Sewer Supervisor, at 952-448-4335.

REMINDER

You have until March 15th to apply for assistance with home repairs through Christmas in May. Contact 952-361-5350 if you or someone you know needs help. Christmas in May will be held on May 21st.

NO CHASKA CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 7TH.
NEXT MEETING IS MARCH 21ST.

CHASKA PLANNING COMMISSION MEETS WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH AT 7:00 PM AT CITY HALL.



**CHASKA
COMMUNITY
CENTER
ACTIVITIES**

Red Cross Babysitting Clinic

Ages 11 and up
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 babysitting handbook, certification and instruction.
Instructor: Shelly Nahan.
Session II: March 7 and 8
Time: 5:30–8:00 pm
Cost: \$48 Member/\$62 Non-Member

Open Art Studio Time

Parent/Child Class
Make a mess in our art studio! Each open art session is just that! Studio time will include 5 to 6 open art stations

including: painting, chalks, shaving cream, build your own art, supply buffet, guided craft station, and crafty snacks. Open house style and open to all ideas!

Date: March 9
Time: 1:00-3:00 pm
Cost: \$6 Child Member
\$8 Child Non-Member



CCC Carnival

Friday, March 11 • 5:30–7:30 pm. • Free!
It's a party! You are invited to a special FREE carnival to celebrate the 20th year of the Chaska Community Center! Dedicated in 1991, the CCC has been a growing part of the Chaska community for 20 years. Join us in the CCC Arena as we kick-off the new season on the turf. We will play all your favorite birthday party games, eat a snack, and jump in the inflatable jumper. DJ music provided. All ages welcome!

Leepin' Leprechauns



Ages 3 to 8
Parent/Child Class
Let's Go Green! This class is as mischievous as it is fun. We are going to whip up some St. Patty's Day fun with many creative crafts, a wonderful Leprechaun story and a pot of gold hunt!
Date: March 12
Time: 9:30–11:00 am
Cost: \$12 Member/\$15 Non-Member

Rock on Ice

Join us for these fun themed" recreational skating events. All rock on ice events feature a special theme, a disco ball, and great music to guarantee a fun night for all. There is a warm lobby for changing and all are welcome to attend.
Cost: \$5 per skater
Saturday, March 12th at 7:30 pm.

