



# Chaska City Hall Bulletin

## "The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

### Chaska City Hall

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

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Volume 4, Issue 2:

January 20, 2011

## UTILITY RATE CHANGES GO INTO EFFECTIVE

Summarized by Matt Podhradsky  
City Administrator

As a reminder to residents, the utility rate changes adopted by the City Council on December 20, 2010, will go into effect for the 2011 January billing period. As shown in the chart below, the proposed electric, water and sewer rate changes will increase the average residential customer utility bill by 5.09% in 2011, for an average increase of \$6.00 per month for the entire utility bill. This is due mainly to the water utility rate increases that were adopted in 2009 to address issues identified in the water rate analysis.

	2009	2010	2011	Increase	Increase %
Water	\$8.19	\$12.23	\$16.27	\$4.04	33.03%
Sewer	\$20.30	\$21.91	\$22.26	\$0.35	1.60%
Electric	\$78.79	\$80.75	\$82.36	\$1.61	1.99%
Storm Sewer	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total	\$110.28	\$117.89	\$123.89	\$6.00	5.09%

### Electric Fund

The 2011 Electric Fund Budget anticipates an effective increase of 2.25%. This overall 2.25% increase has been distributed across both the fixed monthly customer charges and variable energy and demand charges. Monthly customer charges for each customer class have been increased to better match the customer charge to competitive markets and to also better match the cost of fixed services with the customers that use the services. Changes to the customer charges in 2011 are the first of a five-year effort to appropriately set customer charges.

Again, between the rate increase and the increase in customer service charges, the overall net effect of these changes will equal the 2.25% increase planned for and discussed during our 5-year financial forecasting process and our annual budgeting process. By having some portion of the overall increase go to the customer service charge, we are able to spread it to the area of our charges that we have typically been significantly less than what Xcel charges.

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Chaska Electric has once again been very competitive with Xcel for 2010, and the City would expect that even with these adjustments we will still be very competitive with these two services. The average total bill for residential users was 12.1% below what Xcel charged in 2010. This is due mainly to the fact that Xcel received over a 5% increase in rates from the State Public Utilities Commission in 2010, and has once again requested an increase for 2011, this time requesting a 7.4% increase. We do expect to be competitive in each of our user categories, including residential, commercial, and industrial users.

**Sewer Fund**

The Sewer Fund Budget includes a 1.6% increase in sewer rates for the upcoming year. This is due to the fact that Metro Waste is passing a 2.27% cost increase onto Chaska for treatment costs in 2011. This is much less than the 12.91% increase we saw in 2010 from Metro Waste because of the slowdown in the economy and their need to generate enough revenue to pay off debt service on their infrastructure. The City rate increase would allow us to cover our Metro Waste costs, without having to decrease the percent of reserves that we have in our Sewer Fund. The proposed rate adjustments increase the sewer rate from \$3.13 to \$3.18 per thousand gallons. Since most of the costs in metro sewer utilities come from Metro Waste fees, the overall costs for sewer service from City to City are very similar.

**Water Fund**

Even though we have seen the large percentage increase in our Water rates, Chaska’s total water rates are very

competitive in comparison to other cities across the metropolitan area. While we have increased our Water rates, we have been able to do so in a manner that still keeps them lower than other surrounding municipalities. As mentioned previously, the second half of the water rate increase was approved in the fall of 2009, and will be implemented in January of 2011. The average bill will go up approximately \$4.04 per month.

Questions about any of the utility rates may be directed to Matt Podhradsky at 952-448-9200 or [matt@chaskamn.com](mailto:matt@chaskamn.com).

**212 MEDICAL CENTER TO OPEN FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>**



On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Chaska area residents will no longer have to travel outside the City for emergency, urgent, or specialty health care services. That is the date the new 212 Medical Center located at the northeast corner of Highways 212 and 41 will open its doors. The facility includes a 24-hour emergency and urgent care, a multi-specialty clinic, advanced imaging services and operating rooms. Anchored by Ridgeview Medical Center’s emergency response services, the four-story building will allow access to comprehensive health care all under one roof. This is the only stand alone emergency room in the state and it will bring together the most innovative health care models in the country. (Continued on Page 3)

As part of the emergency services, patients who are unsure whether they should go to the Emergency Room or Urgent Care, will no longer have to make that decision. They can now walk into the 212 Medical Center, receive evaluation by a triage professional and be channeled to the appropriate care based on their condition. Patients brought to the site by ambulance will not have to worry about the cost of transport to a second facility. Only about 10% of patients who are treated in the Emergency Room end up being admitted to a hospital room. If that is the case however, there is no additional charge for a second ambulance ride to the hospital of the patient's choice.

In addition to the medical services housed in the building, there will also be a Subway sandwich shop and pharmacy.

To celebrate the opening of the 212 Medical Center, Ridgeview will be holding a grand opening celebration on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is a free event and the public is invited. Residents will be able to meet physicians and staff and view the facility on a self-guided tour.

The City of Chaska is very excited about this addition to the community and feels that it will continue to add to the many services Chaska residents already enjoy.

**Chaska City Council Meeting**

January 24, 2011

7:00 pm

Chaska City Hall

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

Commissioners will be appointed at this meeting.

**CHRISTMAS IN MAY**

Christmas in May Chaska is accepting home applications for this year's event through March 15, 2011. If you need help with home repairs such as painting, yard clean-up, accessibility, or other repairs call 952-361-5350 for an application.

This program is available to any of the following residents who live in the Chaska City Limits: Elderly, Disabled, or Households with Modest Incomes.



Christmas in May has helped over 80 families in the past 15 years and is excited to continue the program with the help of its volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering you can call 952-361-5350 and sign up for the event to be held May 21, 2011. You can also show up at Guardian Angels gym at 7:30 am that day to register.

If you are able, please consider possible financial support of Christmas in May Chaska. You will not be sorry. Send your support to: Christmas in May, P.O Box 141, Chaska, Mn. 55318.

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54th Annual Chaska Fire Department  
Fishing Contest  
January 29th, 2011 - 1:00pm to 3:00pm  
Highways 41 and 61  
Clayhole Lake at Firemen's Park  
For more information – go to the Fire Department's awesome website at:  
[www.chaskafire.org](http://www.chaskafire.org)





**CHASKA  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER  
ACTIVITIES**

**Standard First Aid**

Following the American Red Cross guidelines, this course provides the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize and provide basic first aid care for injuries and sudden illnesses until advanced medical personnel arrive and take over. Upon successful completion, participants receive an American Red Cross certificate. Textbook provided.



Date: Tuesday, January 25  
Time: 5:30–9:30 pm  
Cost: \$40 Member; \$50 Non-Member

**Child/Infant CPR Review**



Is your certification expiring soon? To Be eligible to participate participants must bring to class a current American Red

Cross certificate (or equivalent). Participants and their instructor will review video segments, practice and perform skills, and complete written tests. This review covers only child and infant CPR. If you also need AED certification, inform the instructor. Upon successful completion, you'll receive an American Red Cross certificate.

Date: Wednesday, January 26  
Time: 5:30–9:30 pm  
Cost: \$40 Member - \$50 Non-Member

**January Game Extravaganza!**

If you like playing games, you won't want to miss the Game Extravaganza! Whether you enjoy the fast action of video games or the thrill of board games, this event is for you! We will have two televisions set up for you to enjoy Nintendo Wii or X-Box games, along with fun and exciting board games. Snacks will be provided to all who participate.



Date: Thursday, January 27  
Time: 2:30–4:00 pm  
Place: Community Room  
Cost: FREE

**CHASKA FIRE DEPT. FISHING  
CONTEST TRIVIA**



**Q: WHEN CAN I ENTER THE  
CONTEST AREA?**

PARKING IN THE PARK BEGINS AT 11:30 PM.

**Q: WHAT TYPE OF FISH CAN I WEIGH IN?**

A: ONLY GAME FISH ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE WEIGHED IN FOR CONTEST PRIZES. THESE INCLUDE; NORTHERN, WALLEYE, CRAPPIE, BLUEGILL, SUNFISH, PERCH AND ANY BASS SPECIES. ROUGH FISH, INCLUDING BULLHEAD AND CARP ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FISH TO BE WEIGHED IN.

**Q: CAN I PULL CANVAS OVER MY HEAD FOR  
PROTECTION?**

A: NO. ALL CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN COMPLETELY VISIBLE WHILE FISHING.

**Q: CAN I FISH TWO HOLES?**

A: NO, ONLY ONE HOLE AND ONE LINE PER CONTESTANT. YOU MAY JUMP TO OPEN HOLES AND FISH A DIFFERENT HOLE DURING THE CONTEST.

**Q: CAN I BRING MY OWN BEER, POP OR FOOD  
INTO THE CONTEST AREA?**

A: YES. GLASS BOTTLES ARE NOT ALLOWED, PLASTIC BOTTLES ARE. WE ENCOURAGE YOU, HOWEVER TO PATRONIZE OUR CONCESSIONS FOR GREAT FOOD AND DRINK.