



# Chaska City Hall Bulletin

## "The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

### Chaska City Hall

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

#### Council Members:

Mayor – Mark Windschitl  
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Ward IV – Jay Rohe

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#### City Administrator:

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#### Asst. City Administrator

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#### Planning Director:

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#### Administrative Services Director:

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#### City Engineer:

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#### Water & Sewer Supervisor:

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#### Public Works Director:

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#### Electrical Director:

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#### Park & Recreation Director:

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#### Golf Course Pro:

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#### Police Chief:

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#### Fire Chief:

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## COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF 2014 MAXIMUM TAX LEVY AT SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

As part of the Truth in Taxation process, one of the items City Councils are required to complete annually is to establish a maximum tax levy by September 15<sup>th</sup> for the upcoming budget year. While the number that the Council establishes in September can be lowered prior to formal establishment in December, this number cannot go up. Carver County utilizes these numbers to put together the Truth in Taxation statements sent to all property owners in November, prior to the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing which will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Council Chambers.

As the Council looks to establish the maximum tax levy for 2014, they will consider several changes that occurred in our budget environment over the past 12 months, as well as the means for implementing the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP focuses on properly maintaining and reinvesting into the assets we already own and meeting the demands of new development.

A significant number of things have changed during the past year, both economically, and in the State Legislature. For the first time in four years Chaska is seeing positive growth in the market values in the community. The market values for 2014 will be up over 5%, with the tax



capacity value (this is the value that determines what value of property in the community is taxable) up by more than 7%. Due to the recession, during the past four years property values had dropped an average of 5-6% each year.

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Along with positive trends in market values we are also seeing significantly more residential development occurring, as well as a continuation of the commercial/industrial growth we have been seeing over the past two years. This is a healthy sign for the community, as it means people are starting to reinvest



into new development and also expand existing businesses.

In addition to seeing positive economic changes, the City of Chaska will see the re-institution of Local Government Aid from the State of Minnesota. Sales tax will also be eliminated for city purchases. These

are both items that will help the bottom line of the budget for cities and allow changes to the tax levy to be minimized.

For 2014 the City of Chaska is considering an approximate 3.5% increase in the tax levy. This would be to capture any new growth in the community, which increases the cost of existing services, as well as to start the implementation of our Capital Improvement Program. The Council will also be considering a gas franchise fee which would be a fee similar to the electric franchise fee to help pay for the cost of right-of-way acquisition and maintenance where utilities are placed. This would have an impact to residents of approximately \$2.50 per month.

Given the proposed changes in the tax levy and the implementation of a gas franchise fee, the overall impact to the average home in the City of Chaska would be an increase of approximately \$23.00 per year.

On Monday night, the Council will be hearing a presentation on the five-year financial forecast which City Staff has been working on for a number of weeks. They will look at the 2014 budget, as well as the five-year forecast to make sure that decisions made today do not negatively impact the future. It should be noted that if the City Council moves forward with the proposed tax levy for 2014, Chaska would still be the third lowest out of the 91 communities in the metropolitan area for tax levy per capita at \$210.00 for the year. This is nearly \$40 less per capita than the next closest city in this ranking. The City of Chaska has traditionally been very low when compared to the property tax of other municipalities in the metro area. Any questions about the financial forecast or the establishment of the maximum tax levy, may be directed to the City Administrator, Matt Podhradsky at 952-448-9220 or at [matt@chaskamn.com](mailto:matt@chaskamn.com).



**WELCOME TO  
BREAKAWAY  
ACADEMY**

The City of Chaska would like to welcome Breakaway Academy to the Chaska Community Center facility! Breakaway Academy is a new school that provides students with an excellent academic education as well as the inclusion of a high level of hockey training. This is a new user at the Community Center. They are located in the lower level in the space formerly occupied by Capable Kids. Breakaway Academy serves students through eighth grade and currently has approximately 30 students enrolled. Over the next two years the Academy hopes to double their enrollment. We are excited to have Breakaway Academy in the community and we wish them a great school year.



**Chaska Skate  
School**

Skate Lessons  
September 3 –  
October  
21 Lessons  
available for all ages!



**2013  
CHASKA  
CARES *Chaska*  
Golf Social**

Proceeds benefit programs supported by the Rotary, Lions, and Kiwanis Clubs of Chaska and Bountiful Basket Food Shelf

Date: Friday, September 13

Time: 8:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.

Double Shotgun Start

1:00 p.m. Lunch & Raffle Prizes

Location: Chaska Town Course

3000 Town Course Drive Chaska, MN  
952-443-3748

What: Four Person Scramble, Lunch,  
Raffle Prizes, and Silent Auction

Price: \$30 - Lunch only

\$100 - Golf 18 holes at 8:00 a.m. start

\$125 - Golf 18 holes at 2:00 p.m. start

Includes: Cart, Range, Prizes, Lunch

Questions: Call the Town Course at 952-443-3748

Corporate Hole and Tournament Sponsorships are available for the benefit of the local food shelf. Contact Matt at 952-227-7523 for more information.

CHASKA CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

7:00 PM

FOR THE COMPLETE AGENDA, GO TO

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

# OPEN HOUSE

The Chaska American Legion would like to invite citizens to an Open House in honor of local resident, **EUGENE MEUWISSEN**, in recognition of 60 years of service to his community. The event will be held on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 7:00 pm at the Chaska American Legion Post 57 located at 102 West Fourth Street.



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18  
3:00 – 6:00 PM  
CHASKA FIRE STATION  
285 ENGLER BOULEVARD

CarFit is a free, interactive and educational program designed to improve older driver safety. Trained volunteers provide information to ensure the safest “fit” for older drivers and their vehicles. Simple safety adjustments can be made on site to your seat, mirrors, headrests, steering wheel and other important vehicle equipment to make sure your car fits you! And it only takes about 15 minutes.

Call Chaska Officer Julie Janke at 952-448-4200 to reserve a time slot.

## SPEAKING OF TAXES....

### Weird state tax laws:

In 1698 Peter the Great of Russia imposed a tax on beards.



New York imposes an 8 cent tax to all “altered bagels”, whether it is sliced, toasted, or served with a schmear of cream cheese or butter. Uncut bagels are tax free.



The state of California imposes a 33% tax on fruit bought from vending machines.

A 6% tax is charged in Arkansas for tattoos, body piercings, and electrolysis.



West Virginia imposes taxes on glow-worms, trick nosiemakers, and sparklers.

In Connecticut, adult diapers go untaxed. Children’s diapers on the other hand, are taxed.



There is an amusement tax for a ride in a tethered (attached to the ground) hot air balloon in Kansas. Unattached balloon rides qualify as transportation and are tax exempt.

