



Chaska City Hall Bulletin

"The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

Chaska City Hall

www.chaskamn.com

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COUNCIL APPROVES NEW UTILITY BILLING SYSTEM

At the Monday, February 25th Council meeting, approval was given to a proposal to replace the current utility billing and finance applications the City has been using for the past 16 years. Our current system was no longer supported by the manufacturer and was unable to provide some of the features our customers wanted. The City started working about six months ago with a Request for Proposal process to find a new system provider.

The product selected by the City was an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system provided by Tyler Technologies, called MUNIS. This system will not only allow for the updating of our current system, but will also allow us to tie information and data bases together to provide a better product for our customers. Customers will notice new features on their utility bills, such as the option to pay by credit card, generate data on their usage of water and electric services, and manage their account on line. At the same time the new ERP system will provide the City with greater integration of other data systems in use by the City, such as the GIS mapping system, and our new advance meter reading infrastructure the Electric, Water, and Sewer Departments will be installing over the next year to provide greater accuracy and data from each individual user.



It is our hope that customers will be better able to manage their personal accounts and have more payment options, as well as utilize the data generated to manage their utility usage. This will be a system that also provides the City with more disaster recovery support in that the data collected will be supported through redundant data servers in various locations so as to avoid the potential loss of data in case of a disaster. With the servers hosted off site, this will also help us reduce the

cost we would normally incur in adding onto our servers in the City to accommodate the growth in the utility billing accounts.



The City of Chaska will now be working on implementing our finance and utility billing system. The finance system will be implemented first and will be up and running by the end of the year. The utility billing system will be installed and available in mid-2014. As we get closer to the actual “go live” date for the system, we will keep residents informed of any changes or new options on the utility billing accounts.

Questions about this new system may be referred to the City Administrator, Matt Podhradsky, at 952-448-9200.

COUNCIL TO HEAR RESULTS OF DECISION RESOURCES COMMUNITY SURVEY

For several years the City of Chaska has contracted with the firm, Decision Resources, to conduct community surveys to obtain responses from residents about the services the City provides and generate data for comparison to other metro cities. Over the past two decades we have completed four community surveys. In the past, Chaska’s quality of life and the feelings of residents about city services have ranked very high compared to other metropolitan areas.

At the Council meeting Monday night, Decision Resources will be presenting the results of the 2012 community survey. Four hundred residents were randomly selected to complete this statistically sound survey. The information presented to the Council on Monday night will compare the results from this year to past years, as well as other surrounding metro communities.



Residents are encouraged to attend the Council meeting at 7:00 pm Monday night to learn about the results of the survey, or watch the live meeting on cable channel 15. The presentation will also be made available by replays of the Council meeting on the cable channel and on line at www.chaskamn.com. City news articles, including Chaska Today and the City Hall Bulletin will also contain information on specific aspects of the community survey.

Questions about the survey may be directed to Matt Podhradsky, the Chaska City Administrator.

DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR CHRISTMAS IN MAY APPLICATIONS

The deadline for Christmas in May applications is March 22nd. Any Chaska residents who think they might qualify for assistance with home repairs, should contact Emily Kendall at ekendall@chaskamn.com or by calling 952-361-5350 to obtain an application or more information. About a half dozen homeowners will be selected. So hurry and get your application in! Repair work will take place on Saturday, May 11th.



**CHASKA CITY COUNCIL
MEETING**

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013
7:00 PM

CHASKA CITY HALL
FOR THE COMPLETE AGENDA, GO
TO: WWW.CHASKAMN.COM.

2013 STREET RECONSTRUCTION
PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING
CONTINUED TO MARCH 18, 2013

DON'T MISS IT!! TONIGHT!!

Bullying - Social Networks
How pervasive is it?
What can you do about?

Don't miss the premiere of
"The Bully Effect"
on CNN's "AC360" tonight, February
28th, at 9 pm.



**CHASKA
COMMUNITY
CENTER
ACTIVITIES<**

The Chaska Community Center is hosting "Under the Sea," a fun carnival for all ages on Friday, March 8th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. This free family event includes all your favorite carnival games, a snack, the inflatable jumper, and DJ music. Don't miss out!



Most of you know that Chaska is the name the Sioux would give to their first born son. But do you know the origin of some of these other well-known US cities?



Minneapolis gets its name from two languages. In 1852 an early schoolteacher combined the Sioux word *mni* for "water" with the Greek word *polis* for "city" to get a name that paid tribute to the town's lakes.

Chicago may be the Windy City, but its name has a fragrant origin. "Chicago" comes from the French pronunciation of *shikaakwa*, the word for "wild garlic" in the Miami-Illinois language. Chicago was originally rife with the wild garlic we also know as ramps.

Detroit, also known as The Motor City, gets its name from the French word *d'À@troit*, or "strait," because of its position along the strait connecting Lake Erie to Lake Huron.

When Phoenix, Arizona was first taking off in the late 1860s, settlers realized that their little town needed a name. Founder Jack Swilling, a Confederate veteran, wanted to name the town Stonewall in honor of Stonewall Jackson, but Darrell Duppa recognized that their site had been a Native American settlement centuries earlier. He suggested Phoenix because their new city would rise from the ruins of the former civilization.

Charlotte, North Carolina's largest city, gets its name from German Princess Charlotte-Mecklenburg-Sterlitz, who is best remembered as Queen consort of British King George III. Early settlers named the city in her honor, which is why Charlotte still has the nickname "the Queen City."

When Spanish settlers headed west through the area that later became Las Vegas, they were surprised to find beautiful green pastures around what is now Sin City. Turns out there were natural wells that supported plant life in the area, and they also gave the city its name. *Las Vegas* is Spanish for "the meadows."