



# 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 III -Christopher Schulz

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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:

Dan Geiger

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#### Park & Recreation Director:

Tom Redman

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#### Golf Course Pro:

John Kellin

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#### Police Chief:

Scott Knight

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#### Fire Chief:

Tim Wiebe

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## HOUSING IMPROVEMENT AREA PROGRAM

At the Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, a policy was adopted to allow for the start-up of a Housing Improvement Area within the City of Chaska. A Housing Improvement Area is a tool provided to cities through state statute to allow cities to help townhome or condo associations who are having a difficult time accessing financing to make improvements to the exterior of their units. As we saw particularly over the past five years during the foreclosure crisis, a number of older townhomes and condo associations were impacted very dramatically. Limited financial programs were available to help associations with the maintenance of the exterior of their properties. When properties are not kept up, it has a negative impact on all the surrounding neighborhoods, aesthetically, as well as in reduction of property values.

To help address this issue, the City of Chaska established a Housing Improvement Area Program that will allow the City to provide "last resort" financing for those homeowner associations that are desirous of making improvements to their units but have been unable to obtain capital through traditional financing mechanisms due to significant decreases in their property values and an inability to provide collateral. Many of these units are older in nature and were started prior to laws and state statutes requiring associations to have an adequate amount of reserve dollars on hand to deal with maintenance issues.

The program works by having homeowner associations getting 65% or more of the residents within their association to sign a petition indicating they are desirous of partaking of the Housing Improvement Area Program. Homeowners acknowledge that there will be assessments placed on the property to help repay the financing. If an association meets the threshold of requirements and has needed improvements that meet the policies of the program, the City will provide financing to the association to complete improvements such as roofing, siding, or window replacements, and painting. The dollars provided for the program are then assessed back to the property owners who pay it off as part of their normal tax bill. Because assessments are first in line before a mortgage on a property, the City is guaranteed that at some point in time they will be repaid, even if the mortgage payments are delinquent.

It should be emphasized that the program is not meant to be a first option for associations, nor is it meant to be a "cheap" source of financing. The main objective is to provide a financing option that was not available before so the entire community does not suffer from an association's inability to maintain their property. The interest rates on the financing will be similar to what financing would be in the traditional market.

With this program now in place, the City of Chaska will be accepting applications from associations who may be interested in taking advantage of the program. Any associations interested in pursuing the application process should contact the Chaska Assistant Administrator, Jeff Dahl, at 952-448-9200 or at [JDahl@chaksamn.com](mailto:JDahl@chaksamn.com). He will be happy to provide a copy of the policy and application guidelines. The City of Chaska is excited to be able to provide this program as a tool for homeowners and associations to positively impact their properties.

**CITY OF CHASKA TO JOIN CITIES NATIONWIDE FOR  
"AMERICA'S NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME"**

On Tuesday, August 6th, neighborhoods throughout Chaska are being invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the "29th Annual National Night Out" (NNO) crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and co-sponsored locally by Chaska Police Department. National Night Out is designed to:



- (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness,
- (2) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and
- (3) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

From 5:00 to 10:00 pm on August 6th, residents in neighborhoods throughout Chaska and across the nation are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights, and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Many neighborhoods throughout Chaska will be hosting a variety of special events such as block parties, cookouts, parades, and visits from police, flashlight walks, contests, youth activities, and anticrime rallies.

There will be visits to the neighborhood parties from the Chaska Police Department, Chaska Fire Department, McGruff the Crime Dog, Target, CenterPoint Energy, and Ridgeview Ambulance. Police Chief Knight will also be making visits to area parties. If you are interested in having your neighborhood participate contact Officer Julie Janke, Chaska Police Department at 952-448-4200 or email: [jjanke@chaskamn.com](mailto:jjanke@chaskamn.com).

**NO CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>**



**AUGUST 1st IS "RESPECT FOR PARENTS DAY"**

**AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> TOUCH A TRUCK**

The annual Touch a Truck event held in the parking lot of the Chaska Community Center is scheduled for Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. This event is always highly anticipated and attended by all the kids from Chaska and the surrounding area. Parents can bring their children to the Community Center and get up close and personal with dump trucks, fire engines, police cars, the Zamboni, riding lawn mowers, snow plows, and many more vehicles used by City personnel. There will be games and food and beverages and it's all free!



**AUGUST 17 & 18, 2013**  
MCKNIGHT PARK  
CHASKA, MN

August 17  
Grand Entries 1pm & 6pm  
August 18  
Grand Entry 1pm

FREE ADMISSION  
ALL ARE WELCOME

Native foods and crafts



Host drum: Oyate Ota

honorarium to the first 5 registered drums

there is no vendor fee  
interested in being a vendor?  
please call # below

DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED

for more information:  
952-448-6860

This activity is funded in part by appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature with monies from the State's general fund and its Chaska City Hall fund that was created by a vote of the Legislature on November 4, 2008

METROPOLITAN  
REGIONAL ARTS  
COUNCIL

