



# COMMUNITYLINK NEWSLETTER

21 SE SECOND STREET—CHATFIELD, MN 55923

507-867-3810

WWW.CI.CHATFIELD.MN.US

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## HELPFUL WINTER REMINDERS

**NO STREET PARKING** The City makes every effort to keep the streets clean and safe during the winter. The best way that residents can help is to remove vehicles and trailers from city streets before the plows come by. **Please, if it is about to snow, move your vehicles off the street.**

In order to allow residents to make the most use of the streets as possible, the City Council has chosen not to require even-odd parking or to totally prohibit parking during the winter months. Instead, residents are allowed to use the streets all winter long but vehicles must not be left in the way of the snowplow. **If a plow driver must plow around a vehicle, a ticket may be issued.**

While it might seem difficult to anticipate when the plows might go out, this is the only way to allow the most use of the streets as possible. If it is about to snow, please, move your vehicles off the street.

**Sidewalks need to be cleared as quickly and completely as possible, after a snowfall (within 24 hours).** Please respect the safety of your neighbors and keep the sidewalks clear.



## SNOW REMOVAL FROM FIRE HYDRANTS

Please help the fire department do their job by clearing snow away from fire hydrants. If you have a hydrant on or near your property please clear a 3 foot path around the hydrant and shovel a path to the street. It's critical that firefighters have immediate access to water when they arrive to save time and potentially save lives and property.

## CITY DRINKING WATER & NITRATE INFORMATION

Nitrate levels have been in the news lately. Following is some information about our drinking water system that might be helpful.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM THE MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Nitrate occurs naturally and at safe and healthy levels in some foods (e.g. spinach and carrots) and comes from natural processes, like plant decay. Nitrate is in many fertilizers used on yards, golf courses, and crops. Other sources of nitrate include discharge from sewage systems and animal wastes.

Natural processes can cause low levels of nitrate in drinking water—usually less than 3 mg/L. The health concern is with levels of nitrate over 10/mg/L. High levels of nitrate in water can be from run-off or leakage from fertilized soil, wastewater, landfills, animal feedlots, septic systems, or urban drainage.

### COMMUNITY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Public water systems are required to regularly test for nitrate and make sure levels meet the EPA standard.

Chatfield has 2 wells. The nitrate level in one of wells is 1.9 mg/L and is tested annually. The nitrate level in the other well is 4.6 mg/L.

This well is tested 5 times a year. The level of nitrate detected in our system is routinely made available in the water quality report (also known as a Consumer Confidence Report) which is available on the website (Public Works / Water Department / Water Reports).

Chatfield is very active with our Well head protection program working with Minnesota Dept. of Ag, MN Dept. of Health, U of M extension program (Forever Green Program), Olmsted and Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation, and MN Rural Water Association.

Other activities that have been accomplished to protect the community water supply include; sealing 28 unused wells in our Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) and planting 25 acres of cropland in Kernza or Winter Cereals to help reduce nitrate leaching.

The City of Chatfield has earned awards for the efforts to protect our public water system. The Minnesota Rural Water Association and Minnesota Department of Health presented the Source Water Protection award to Chatfield for recognizing the importance and value of source water protection, and for showing long term commitment, initiative, leadership and participation in activities which resulted in protection or improvement of

source water. The University of Minnesota's Local Government Innovation Award was earned for partnering with the Forever Green Initiative, Mn Rural Water Association, a private farmer, and General Mills to develop a model to protect the water supply from nitrate contamination.

Councilor Novotny is a great source of information about the Forever Green program and has been featured in a couple news stories on this topic;

- "Tackling the 'big brown spot': Keeping fields in living cover could be a path to reducing nitrate" is featuring these efforts and is available on the mprnews.org website and
- "Meet Paul Novotny, Continuous Living Cover farmer, steward & community leader" on umn.edu

*These links are included in the news story on the City's website.*

We are proud of our Public Works Staff and Elected Officials for their commitment to the safety of our drinking water.

Additional information is also available from the Minnesota Department of Health [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)—search Nitrate in Drinking Water .

## CITIZEN ALERT SYSTEM - CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE



The sms text alert system that we were using to send messages about snow emergencies is currently unavailable. **Please do not park on the streets if snow is in the forecast.** We apologize for this disruption in service.

Be on the look out for notification and details about the new system that is being implemented. Olmsted County offers the City of Chatfield the courtesy of accessing their emergency management system.

## CITY OF CHATFIELD

**21 Second Street SE  
Chatfield, MN 55923**  
Phone: 507-867-3810  
Fax: 507-867-9093  
[www.ci.chatfield.mn.us](http://www.ci.chatfield.mn.us)

**In Case of Emergency:**  
Ambulance (Non Emergency) 507-867-4446  
Police (Non Emergency) 507-867-3331  
Chatfield Public Library 507-867-3480



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day - City Offices Closed  <i>Happy New Year 2024</i>	2 <u>Recycling Collection</u> 10:30 AM <u>Storytime - Chatfield Public Library</u> 7:00 PM <u>Planning &amp; Zoning Commission Meeting</u>	3 <u>Fillmore County Residents Garbage Collection</u>	4 <u>Olmsted County Residents Garbage Collection</u> 5:00 PM <u>Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting</u> 7:00 PM <u>Library Board</u>	5	6
8 4:30 PM <u>Personnel   Budget Committee Meeting</u> 5:30 PM <u>Public Works Committee Meeting</u> 7:00 PM <u>City Council Meeting</u>	9 <u>Recycling Collection</u>	10 <u>Fillmore County Residents Garbage Collection</u>	11 <u>Olmsted County Residents Garbage Collection</u>	12	13
15 <u>Martin Luther King Day - City Offices Closed</u>	16 <u>Recycling Collection</u> 10:30 AM <u>Storytime - Chatfield Public Library</u>	17 <u>Fillmore County Residents Garbage Collection</u>	18 <u>Olmsted County Residents Garbage Collection</u> 2:00 PM <u>Aging In Place Class @ CVCC</u>	19	20 <u>Utility Bills Due</u>
22 4:30 PM <u>Economic Development Authority Board Meeting</u> 4:30 PM <u>Public Services Committee Meeting</u> 5:30 PM <u>Park &amp; Recreation Committee Meeting</u> 7:00 PM <u>City Council Meeting</u>	23 <u>Recycling Collection</u>	24 <u>Fillmore County Residents Garbage Collection</u>	25 <u>Olmsted County Residents Garbage Collection</u>	26	27 
29	30 <u>Recycling Collection</u>	31 <u>Fillmore County Residents Garbage Collection</u>	1	2	

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

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**LIBRARY HOURS**

Tue. 10:00am - 6:30pm  
Wed. 10:00am - 6:30pm  
Thur. 10:00am - 8:30pm  
Fri. 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Sat. 9:00am - 2:00pm  
507-867-3480  
Storytime every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 10:30am. If school is cancelled due to weather, then so is Storytime.

FIRST SATURDAY IN FEBRUARY

# CHILLFEST

WINTER ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FEBRUARY 3, 2024

\*ACTIVITIES ADDED EVERY WEEK & MAY CHANGE DUE TO WEATHER. CHECK WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR CURRENT INFO!

[www.chatfieldmn.org/chillfest](http://www.chatfieldmn.org/chillfest)

