



COMMUNITY LINK

NOVEMBER 2011

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City Services, Taxes & The Budget

COMMUNITY NOTES

Brush & Leaf Dump Hours of Operation:

Wed & Fri 1-4 p.m.
Sat 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

**Closing for the season
Wed 11/02 at 4 pm**



CHATFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY



LIBRARY HOURS
TUE. & WED. 10:00AM-6:30PM
THUR. 10:00AM-8:30PM
FRI. 9:00AM-5:00PM
SAT. 9:00AM-2:00PM
PHONE: 507-867-3480

In approximately three weeks, residents will receive their preliminary property tax statements for taxes payable in 2012. Those statements will be based on the preliminary budget/levy that was set in September and will represent the worst case scenario. Before finalizing the tax levy, the City Council can lower this amount but cannot increase it.

Typically, the City can anticipate how the preliminary levy might affect property owners but that is not so easy to do this year because of the changes made in the last legislative session. While the City Council has adopted a preliminary levy as required by law, the Council has stated that they will seriously revisit the issue once the tax statements are distributed. Unfortunately, because the information that is typically provided to cities has not been available yet this year, the budgeting process will be a little more uncomfortable than normal.

To deal with the fiscal problems of the State of Minnesota, the City cut \$98,000 of expenses in 2009, another \$45,000 in 2010 plus a hard wage freeze that year, and cut another \$9,000 in 2011. Unfortunately, those cuts were only enough to deal with Local Government Aid and Market Value Homestead Cuts and they probably didn't cover all of that.

At the same time, virtually all of the costs of the City have increased and the City's infrastructure continues to age, so it can be difficult to hold the line. Even so, be assured that the City Council will be very deliberate before deciding on the final tax levy. The Council is very aware of the economic conditions of today and does not want to add to the financial burden of the residents in the community.

The issue that makes budgeting

for 2012 more difficult than normal is the elimination of the Market Value Homestead Credit Aid (MVHC) program and the implementation of the Homestead Market Value Exclusion program. The MVHC program reduced homeowners' taxes through a program whereby the State would send a check to the City for the amount of tax relief provided to the homeowner. The new program reduces the amount of property value that is subject to tax, which reduces property tax to that property owner. Unfortunately, though, since the State will no longer send a check to the City to pay for that reduction, someone else's taxes will go up to make up for the reduction.

It appears that this program switch is simply moving a portion of the tax burden from certain homes to businesses, apartments and high value homes. These are things that a City cannot control but be assured that the City is sensitive to these issues.



On Tuesday, November 8th, a school election will be held for an operating levy referendum. An operating levy is a vote to provide local tax funds for schools to educate students. Operating funds support the day-to-day operations for schools.

Additional information is available on the district website at www.chatfieldpublicschools.net or by calling the district offices at 507-867-4210.

Please VOTE on November 8th. Polls are open from 7am to 8 pm in the elementary school media center.

Chatfield Elementary School
11555 Hillside Drive



CITY OF CHATFIELD

www.ci.chatfield.mn.us
21 Second Street SE Chatfield, MN 55923
Phone: 507-867-3810
Fax: 507-867-9093

In Case of Emergency: 9-1-1
Ambulance (Non Emergency) 507-867-4446
Police (Non Emergency) 507-867-3331
Chatfield Public Library 507-867-3480

Some helpful fall reminders

Leaf burning is **NOT allowed**—Fall is here. Football is in full swing, hunters are taking to the woods and the leaves have shown their colors and have fallen from the trees. When that happens, it's "fall clean up time". Bag up those leaves; burning them under any circumstances is not allowed.

Burning is not allowed within the city limits with the exception of a recreational fire. Recreational fires are allowed when the following provisions are followed:

1. The fire is contained to a 3X3 foot area. This can be an in-ground, on ground or in a free standing pre-manufactured fireplace.
2. In-ground and on ground fires must be surrounded by a fire ring.
3. Fire must be for recreational purposes only, not for land clearing or yard clean-up.
4. The ground must be clear of all vegeta-

tion down to bare soil around the perimeter of the fire ring.

5. Only clean burning wood or vegetative fuels can be used. No burning of trash, leaves or anything that would create a black smoke (treated lumber, tar paper, etc.)
6. The fire should be at least 25 feet from any

structure or combustible material. The smoke should not be a nuisance to the neighbors.

7. All fires must be attended by an adult until it is completely extinguished and the ashes are cold
8. Recreational fires are not allowed when a Burning Ban is in place.



Sidewalks need to be cleared as quickly and completely as possible, after a snowfall (within 24 hours). Downtown business owners need to clear the entire sidewalk, from the building to the curb. Please keep downtown safe, convenient & inviting.

Homeowners need to clear the public sidewalk in front of their home. Clear, safe sidewalks are extremely important to young children as they walk to school early in the morning. Please respect the safety and convenience of your neighbors and keep the sidewalks clear.

To assist in keeping the **public** walks clear, citizens may obtain small amounts of sand from the City sand pile located by the garage on the State property at the South end of Winona Street. Please limit yourself to a 5 gallon pail. This service is not meant for private driveways or parking lots, rather it is meant to keep public walkways safe for all to enjoy.

Generally, snowplowing occurs when we receive a snowfall of 2" or more. When snow accumulates to an unacceptable amount in the downtown area, the snow will be banked in the middle of the street for pick-up and removal. *Parking is strictly prohibited in the downtown area during this time when snow is being removed*

Parking tickets will be issued and cars may be towed if parked cars interfere with snowplowing or snow removal.

NOVEMBER 2011

- **Mon Nov 7th—**
Planning & Zoning 7:00 pm
- **Mon Nov 14h—**
City Council 7:00 pm
- **Mon Nov 28th—**
City Council 7:00 pm

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Don Hainlen (507) 867-3810
mayorhainlen@ci.chatfield.mn.us

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Paul Novotny (507) 867-3549
paulcti@qwestoffice.net

Russ Smith (507) 867-4711
councilorsmith@ci.chatfield.mn.us

Ken Jacobson (507) 867-4759
chatfieldjake@yahoo.com

Josh Thompson (507) 867-4448
councilorthompson@ci.chatfield.mn.us

Dave Frank (507) 272-7016
councilorfrank@ci.chatfield.mn.us

CHATFIELD Historic Potter Auditorium
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

405 MAIN STREET SOUTH—CHATFIELD, MN 55923 (507) 867-3810 WWW.CHATFIELDCA.COM

NOVEMBER 2011

JERRY RAU BAND TRIO

Chosen Bean Concert Series



Saturday, November 12th

7:30—9:30 PM

Tickets \$10

Tickets available at the door

SIGURD'S QUEST—MADRIGAL DINNER

Wits' End Theatre Second Annual Madrigal Dinner

Thu, Fri, Sat, Nov 17, 18 & 19th

Merry Hour 6:30 Show 7:00 PM

\$35.00 Advance Sale Tickets

rachelmarybean@yahoo.com



SEMYO

Southeast Minnesota Youth Orchestras

Sunday, November 20th

2:00 PM

Adult \$12, Stud/Sr. \$8, Family \$30

Tickets available at the door

