



# COMMUNITY LINK

FEBRUARY 2010

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                                         |          |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>POTTER CENTER FOR THE ARTS</b>       | <b>1</b> |
| <b>COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS</b>           | <b>1</b> |
| <b>PROPERTY TRANSFER</b>                | <b>2</b> |
| <b>SEWER AND GARBAGE RATES</b>          | <b>2</b> |
| <b>EMT TRAINING</b>                     | <b>2</b> |
| <b>CALENDAR &amp; ELECTED OFFICIALS</b> | <b>2</b> |

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Chillfest 2011 needs volunteers!!**
- **Western Days 2010 planning is in full force. Volunteers Needed!**
- **The musical, "Footloose" will be on stage in August. Watch for auditions!**
- **Be an EMT—Join the Chatfield Ambulance Crew!!**

## POTTER CENTER FOR THE ARTS THE IDEA ...

Just after the referendum of 2007, the School District convened a group of residents who were active in various community groups to discuss the future of Potter Auditorium and the elementary buildings that would soon become vacant. These discussions were facilitated by a professional architect and resulted in the ideas that have formed into the vision of the Potter Center For the Arts.

These discussions, which occurred over the course of several months, indicated that there was a need for community space, be it for large private gatherings or as space that would support community celebrations and events. It was also clear

that Wit's End Theatre Group, the Chatfield Brass Band and the Chatfield Band Music Lending Library are community groups with a firm foundation in the heritage of the community and were also in need of space.

The Chatfield Brass Band, for instance, has been around since 1969 but the presence of community bands date back to the early 1870's.

The Music Lending Library is also about forty years old and has made its mark throughout the world, routinely lending music to bands around the globe.

Wit's End Theatre, building on the base created by Western Days Musical Pro-

ductions, continues to develop a rich tradition of providing young and old residents, alike, the opportunity to express themselves on stage.

Whether it is the bands, the theatrical performances or other forms, it is clear that the arts have a major role in the history of Chatfield. The availability of the arts, together with the natural environment, athletic opportunities and jobs, are major criteria by which people choose where to send their children to school and where to live.

The Potter Center for the Arts is intended to serve the residents of the community in many ways.



## CHILLFEST & CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

Recently, the community celebrated Chillfest with the annual Polar Plunge, Snowmobile Races, Wagon Rides, the 1850's encampment and lots of games and food, not to mention some really awesome (and free) hot chocolate.

Many thanks go to the Lion's Club for taking the lead on

hosting this celebration. Without that group, along with a few other individuals, it is highly unlikely that this celebration would have gone on this long.

As evidenced by the many plungers and people who participated in this celebration, it is hard to think of a year without Chillfest in

Chatfield. Unfortunately, though, without people to help organize this event, the likelihood of a 2011 celebration is as unclear as the future of the Vikings quarter-back.

To ensure the continuation of Chillfest, Western Days and other community events, please volunteer.

## CITY OF CHATFIELD

[www.ci.chatfield.mn.us](http://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**

**POTTER AUDITORIUM****THE TRANSFER OF THE PROPERTY**

The proposed transfer of the former elementary school property from the School District to the EDA certainly has people searching for answers. "Why", some people wonder, "would the School District actually give away this property, in the first place, much less give cash along with it?" At the same time, others are wondering, "Why would the City, through its EDA, be willing to take possession of these buildings that some think are an albatross?" Well, depending on who you talk with, of course, you might get differing answers.

As it pertains to the School District, it had become clear that this property did not fit into the future plans of the District, and, as such, the cost of maintain-

ing old buildings at a third location would just be too expensive to justify. The cost of demolishing the buildings, if that would have been the choice, would have far exceeded the value of the land that sits underneath the buildings. Given the historical significance of the property, this would also take several years to accomplish. These costs would easily exceed the amount of cash that has been proposed in this transfer.

As for the EDA, well, that group sees this property as an opportunity to create jobs and to provide services that will attract and retain residents while stimulating the local economy over the long term. But they also understand that a project of this size carries a significant

amount of risk. The cash payment is necessary to protect the EDA in the event that one or more buildings do need to be demolished and, in the meantime, to help pay the heat, lights, general maintenance and operation of the property.

In the end, this is a collaborative project between the City, the EDA and the School District. This is an effort to provide a great benefit to the overall community.

One result of transferring the property from the School District to the EDA is the transfer of a liability from one to the other. Fortunately, though, the EDA is determined to turn that liability into an asset for the entire community.

**SANITARY SEWER AND GARBAGE RATE INCREASE**

The utility bill enclosed with this mailing includes an increase in both the basic garbage rates and the sewer rates.

Specifically, garbage rates have been increased by \$.75 per month. This is the first basic fee increase in a number of years and is meant to offset the continuing increase in the cost of the spring clean-up and the fall household hazardous waste collection. This increase is not caused by the hauler.

The basic sanitary sewer

rate has increased by \$3.21 per month and the volume based charge has increased by \$.81 per thousand gallons. For those residents without a water meter, the monthly rate has increased by \$3.53. The cause for this rate increase is to meet the debt service associated with the wastewater treatment plant.

Water rates have not been increased.

The January bill is one of the three months when the City charges everyone

for the actual amount of sewer that is used. During the months of April–December, the sewer bill is capped so that residents do not get charged for sewer when they use water for washing the car, watering the yard, etc. To do that, the City calculates the amount of water each resident uses in the months of Jan., Feb. and March, and the average use during that period is the most that a resident can be charged for sewer throughout the rest of the year.

**EMT TRAINING**

Become part of this "Caring Team". The Chatfield Ambulance Service invites you to join the Service. The next session will begin with a CPR prerequisite class on Tuesday, February 23rd.

EMT classes will begin on Thursday, February 25th and continue from 6–10 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays through June 8th.

If you have ever considered being a volunteer now is the time. There is no charge for class with a volunteer commitment; Call 867-4446 for more details.

This is an exciting way to serve your community.

**FEBRUARY 2010**

- **Mon Feb 1st—**  
**Planning & Zoning 7:00 pm**
- **Mon Feb 8th—**  
**City Council 7:00 pm**
- **Tue Feb 16th—**  
**HPC 7:00 pm**
- **Mon Feb 22nd—**  
**City Council 7:00 pm**
- **Thu Feb 25th—**  
**EDA 5:30 pm**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS****MAYOR**

**Les Knutson (507) 867-1500**  
*mayorknutson@ci.chatfield.mn.us*

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

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

**Ginny Engle (507) 867-4701**  
*gineng2@aol.com*

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

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