



COMMUNITY LINK

NOVEMBER 2010

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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 11/10 at 4 pm



CHATFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY



Preschool Storytime

Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

507-867-3480

City Services, Taxes & The Budget

In approximately three weeks, residents will receive their preliminary property tax statements for taxes payable in 2011. Those statements will be based on the preliminary budget/levy that was set in September and will represent the worst case scenario.

The most difficult aspect of budgeting for a city these past few years in Minnesota is the un-reliability of state aids. Minnesota has a complicated property tax system which was designed to equalize property taxes throughout the state and to ensure that all city residents, regardless of where they live, have access to certain basic services at a relatively affordable rate. The good part of the aid system is that residents of Chatfield benefit from the system. Unfortunately, though, when the State has financial problems, they generally cut aids to cities, which results in increased property taxes.

Recent state aid cuts have resulted in Chatfield losing \$73,000 in 2008 while an additional \$204,000 was lost in 2009 and 2010. If the City's preliminary budget for 2011 is approved, the tax levy would increase by \$95,620, which replaces only a portion of the lost aid. The tax increase on a home worth \$160,000 would be approximately \$80.00 or \$6.67 per month.

Chatfield's two primary financial challenges has been the loss of Local Government Aid (LGA) and the increasing cost of debt service on our

wastewater treatment plant (wwtp).

Over the past three years, the City has made numerous cuts and changes to deal with the LGA cuts. When notified that the City's LGA payments might actually increase in 2011, the City decided it would be most appropriate to pledge those increased aid payments to help service the wwtp debt as one effort to stem the ever-increasing sewer rates. At the same time, the City is planning to take advantage of the low interest rates

that are available, together with its newly acquired AA bond rating, to refinance that debt, which will also help stabilize the sewer rates.

If this budget is adopted and if the State of Minnesota fulfills the local government aid payment as certified to the City, a strong measure of relief will be provided to the sanitary sewer rate-payers of the community.



Tuesday, November 2nd is that day when we all get to exercise one of our most basic, and precious, rights, which is to vote. While much attention is naturally given to state and federal races, some of the most important races are right here at home. The oversight and guidance given by the local school board and city council to their respective employees is critical to our community's future.

Although three seats are open, only two people, Kathy Schellhammer and Matt McMahon, have filed to serve on the school board. It seems that a write-in will decide the third seat.

Also on the ballot will be an operating levy referendum which has been recommended by the School Board.

At the City, Don Hainlen has filed to serve as Mayor while three people, Ginny Engle, Paul Novotny and Russell Smith, have filed for the two open council seats.

Be sure to vote on Tuesday—it matters!!

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



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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wit's End Theatre.

"Once Upon a Time in Olde Chatfield"

Enjoy a local evening of dinner theater!

Friday, November 19th & Saturday, November 20th at 7:00 PM

Wit's End Theatre and Old Tyme Café are joining forces to create;

"Once Upon a Time in Olde Chatfield—A Madrigal Evening of Merriment".

The Potter Auditorium stage will be transformed into ancient Potter Castle and guests will enjoy a feast with the royal court. There will be singers and performers who mingle with guests, strolling among the tables, and after dinner there will be the play "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Let Down Your Hair".

The meal, served by sassy wenches and comely young men, will consist of:

Leafy Green Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette

Old Tyme's Famous Toasty Garlic Bread

New Roasted Potatoes

Glazed Carrots

Chicken & Barbeque Ribs

Beverages

& Dessert (to be determined!)

The cost of tickets is only \$25. Due to the catered dinner, tickets will be advance sale only (none available at the door). The cut off date will be November 12 for ticket sales (expecting to sell-out early due to limited seating of 85 each night.)

It promises to be a really fun night. The play is hysterical and the meal alone is worth \$25!

Call Rachel Schieffelbein at 867-0172 with your ticket order.

NOVEMBER 2010

- **Mon Nov 1st—**
Planning & Zoning 7:00 pm
- **Mon Nov 8th—**
City Council 7:00 pm
- **Mon Nov 22nd—**
City Council 7:00 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) 319-0998
gineng2@aol.com

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

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