

COMMUNITY LINK

FEBRUARY 2007



CITY OF
CHATFIELD

THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND YOUR UTILITY BILL

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As residents of Chatfield know, the City's utility bill includes fees for basic garbage & recycling services, water usage and sanitary sewer usage. Along those lines, this article is one of those good news—bad news stories. The bad news is that sanitary sewer fees are going up, effective with the billing included in this mailing. The good news, though, is that water and garbage rates are not increasing.

To be very plain about it, the basic sewer bill will increase by \$3.60 / month and the cost of every 1000 gallons of use beyond the basic service will increase by \$.76. In other words, those folks who use less than 2000 gallons of sewer each month will have a monthly sewer bill of \$27.63 and a family who uses 5000 gallons would have a bill of \$45.15. This is the first increase in about 18 months.

The reason for the increase is to meet the increased cost of the debt caused by constructing a new wastewater treatment plant. The need to pay off a debt of \$6.5 million simply causes rates to increase. Knowing that the project would force rates higher, the City Council had the choice of dramatically increasing rates at one time, or to increase rates gradually over time. Ultimately, the Council decided to use a series of smaller, but more frequent, rate increases, hoping that it would be easier to fit those increases into personal budgets.

Even though the rate increase is unavoidable, the City still regrets the need to do so and would appreciate your understanding.

THE CHATFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THE REVOLVING LOAN FUND

One of the long-standing programs of the Chatfield Economic Development Authority (EDA) is the local revolving loan fund (RLF). This form of business assistance continues to be available as a financing tool to facilitate business expansion, relocation or start-ups. The purpose is to create additional jobs in the community, further diversify the economic base of Chatfield and to provide for community growth.

The Chatfield RLF is administered by the EDA and the original funds came from the US Housing and Urban Development Department through the State of Minnesota as a grant application to assist a local manufacturing company. As the original loan was repaid, a portion of the funds remained in the community to create the current RLF. The community has enjoyed success in utilizing these funds to assist local businesses.

There are general policies in place for these funds to be borrowed. For further information on this program or other economic development items, please contact Ron Zeigler, Community Development Director, at 507-867-1523 or rzeigler@ci.chatfield.mn.us.

CITY OF CHATFIELD

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Fax: 507-867-9093

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Chatfield, MN 55923

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

PLANNING OUR PARKS!!!

Mill Creek Park is the home park, you might say, to team sports activity. Shady Oak Park is that quiet, out of the way, park where folks can enjoy a peaceful time, or even camp overnight. Floyd Mohawk Park is typical of what one might expect in a small neighborhood park and City Park represents that town square gathering place—that open area that sits in the middle of hundreds of acres of a mature city. And there is more, of course.....

As people and cities evolve, so do parks and what we expect from them. The Park Master-Planning process is a great way for regular folks to help forge the future of the community. Get involved in this process and make your mark!!

FEBRUARY 2007

- Mon Feb 5th— Planning & Zoning 7:00 pm
- Mon Feb 12th— City Council 7:00 pm
- Wed Feb 14th-Cable Television Board 7:00 am
- Tue Feb 20th- Heritage Preservation Commission 6:45 pm
- Mon Feb 26th- City Council 7:00 pm

MARCH 2007

- Mon Mar 5th- Planning & Zoning 7:00 pm
- Mon Mar 12th- City Council 7:00 pm
- Wed Mar 14th-Cable Television Board 7:00 am
- Mon Mar 19th— Heritage Preservation Commission 6:45 pm
- Mon Mar 26th- City Council 7:00 pm

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Chatfield Park Partners.

Just Imagine!

Have you heard the plans for new park equipment in Chatfield's City Park on Main Street? This is a wonderful project being organized by Park Partners, a group of concerned citizens who want to see safer play equipment for our children. Their goal is to raise \$100,000 and mobilize an army of volunteers to build this new structure in spring of 2008. It's a true grassroots effort to improve our City Park and give kids of all ages and abilities a safe and fun place to play. And you can be part of this fantastic community-wide effort!

Park Partners needs volunteers in every area – no experience required! They also need donations of any kind – money, building supplies, advertising, printing, snacks for volunteers and more. All donations are tax-deductible and the Chosen Valley Community Foundation has agreed to handle all the funds. The kick-off Design Day is being planned right now for March 6, 2007. Look for information in The Chatfield News or for a flyer coming home from school.

To find more details, pictures of similar projects, volunteer opportunities or donation options, visit the Park Partners blog site at <http://parkpartners.blogspot.com>. Or call Sue Greiner at 507-867-0119 or email her at SueGreiner@mchsi.com. Or contact Shannon Glenzinski at 867-3439 e-mail glenzinski7@msn.com



Recreational Trails - - -

In Parks & Beyond.....

From the Town Meeting Initiative process there sprung a local effort to continue the development of recreational trails in the city parks and to points yet unknown.

Folks who are interested are encouraged to join Dick Fenwick, Glenn Hisey and others as they ponder how to make one more recreational opportunity available to the residents of the community.

To stay current on meeting places & times, you can find Dick at 867-4434. Your help would be appreciated!

EMT TRAINING

Become part of this "Caring Team". The Chatfield Ambulance Service invites you to join the Service. Classes begin in February, right here in Chatfield. EMTs are needed. Please call 867-4446 for information or stop in the office. This is an exciting way to serve your community!!!