



CITY OF
CHATFIELD

COMMUNITY LINK

NOVEMBER 2007

Inside this issue:

Community Improvement	1
School Development	1
Sidewalks	2
Winter Parking	2
Meeting Calendar	2

TREETOP TOWERS, THE RECREATIONAL TRAIL AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

Just take a look at the Treetop Towers playground, in City Park, and you will see the result of one person's vision. Then take a look at the new recreational trails in Groen Park and Mill Creek Park and you will see the results of another person's perseverance. Neither of these projects were completed without great assistance from many people and organizations but then, neither project would have even gotten started but for the courage of these individuals to put forward her or his dream. Our community can be thankful for Sue Griener and Richard Fenwick.



Clearly, the playground project and the trail project resulted in improvements that many of us can enjoy on a daily basis; some very real and tangible benefits. At the same time, this effort represents textbook examples of community improvement, examples worth noting.

Consider these remarks from the

One person can make a difference!

book, "Bring a Dish to Pass, The Civil Action of Community Improvement" by Kent Roberts and Jay Newman: "Community improvement is not someone else's job; it's *our* job. If you live in a community, then you need to get involved in making it a better place to live. It doesn't matter what you do for a living or what experiences or skills you bring to the table."

"As community members, we have the most to gain or lose. It is our lives, families, neighborhoods and communities at stake.....You don't need to quit your day job and work full-time to improve the community's living conditions, but if we all join in we can make a positive impact."

"When we make a personal investment in community change, we add our strengths to the combined power of many other individuals. It is this collective effort, organized around our common interests, that has the potential to change communities. We don't have to be best friends with each other or agree on every issue, but we do all need to care enough to contribute our time and thoughts. Without your efforts, there is one less resource available."

The resources that were brought to this community these past months were tremendous. Tens of thousands of dollars, materials and labor were donated from outside the community.....many

faces of the community were brought together, many of which were new and many of which were more familiar—sometimes in adversity and other times in a common understanding, all of which contributed to the final result of the efforts. Many people can point to these projects and know that they made a mark on their community.



Roberts & Newman go on to state, "Community Improvement doesn't have to be complicated. It starts with an individual's desire to make the community a better place for *all* community members.....If you haven't been involved in community improvement before, don't worry. Jump in, get started, make mistakes and learn from them. Lead by example and others will follow."

Congratulations to Sue, Richard, their many friends and volunteers, and to the entire Chatfield community!!

Finally, consider the following quote from Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

HILLTOP ESTATES / SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT NOTES

The business of creating the new school site, and all of Hilltop Estates, has started, at least in terms of discussing the fundamental issues. This process is complex and involves a variety of people, organizations and processes. The City will do its best to keep the public informed.

CITY OF CHATFIELD

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

In Case of Emergency: 9-1-1

Ambulance Office (Non Emergency) 507-867-4446
Police Office (Non Emergency) 507-867-3331
Chatfield Public Library 507-867-3480

SIDEWALKS, WINTER PARKING & SNOWPLOWING

Sidewalks need to be cleared as quickly and completely as possible, after a snowfall (within 24 hours)!!!

Pedestrians depend on the sidewalks and need the corners clear, too.

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 salt / 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.

During the winter, the City makes every effort to keep the streets clean and safe. The best way that residents can help is to make sure that no vehicles or trailers are parked in the street when plows come by.

Accommodating parking needs and winter street maintenance is a balancing act. In order to allow residents to make the most use of the streets as possible, the City Council has chosen not to adopt even-odd parking or to totally prohibit parking during the winter months. Instead, residents are allowed to use the streets all winter long, but asked to move vehicles when necessary to accommodate the plows. If a plow driver must plow around a vehicle, a ticket will 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.

Snowplowing— Generally, with a snowfall of 2" or more, plowing procedures begin, as closely as possible to the end of a snowfall, to avoid plowing twice. If conditions warrant, plow operators inspect routes during a snowfall for icy conditions and salt/sand as needed. During a large, continuous snowfall, plowing operations may begin after 2" of snow depending on conditions.

Sanding—Streets are sanded in the following order:

1. Intersections where City streets adjoin County and State highways, schools & pedestrian crossings, bridge decks and all arterial stop sign intersections.
2. Local street intersections having higher than average traffic volumes and streets with hills or curves.
3. All other stop sign areas.
4. Areas considered to be hazardous.

Snow Removal from Private Property—When snow is being removed from your driveway or parking lot (whether you do it or hire someone to do it), do not move it onto public roads, sidewalks or neighboring property. Moving snow and ice from private property onto or across a public roadway is a violation of State Statute. Pushing snow onto a sidewalk is prohibited by City Ordinance.

Winter Parking - City ordinance 3.1.4 does not allow vehicles to be parked or to be left unattended on the streets or in the alleys such that they interfere with the plowing or removal of snow. If it is snowing or is about to snow, do not park on the street until the street is plowed curb to curb.

Parking is strictly prohibited in the downtown area during snow removal (when the snow is banked in the middle of the street for pick up & removal).

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

The fine amount for a ticket issued for violation of ordinance 3.1.4 is \$25.00 plus about \$55.00 of towing fees plus impound fees.

CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Curt Sorenson (507) 867-3810
csorenso@amfam.com

COUNCILORS

Brenda Johnson (507) 867-4650
brenda.johnson@attglobal.net

Russ Smith (507) 867-4711
rsmith@mcghiebetts.com

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

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

Ginny Engle (507) 867-1687
gineng2@aol.com

NOVEMBER 2007

Mon Nov 5th— Planning & Zoning @ 7:00 pm

Tue Nov 13th— City Council @ 7:00 pm

Mon Nov 19th-Heritage Preservation Commission @ 7:00 pm

Mon Nov 26th- City Council @ 7:00 pm

Thu Nov 29th— Economic Development Authority @ 5:30 pm

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Brush & Leaf Dump Hours

Wednesdays 1:00 pm—3:00 pm,

Fridays 1:00 pm—4:00 pm,

Saturdays 10:00 am—4:00pm

Brush, leaves & grass clippings only, please!!!

Closing for the season Saturday, November 3rd