



CITY OF
CHATFIELD

COMMUNITY LINK

NOVEMBER 2006

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GENERAL ELECTION

A General Election will be held in the City of Chatfield at the Thurber Community Building at 21 Second Street SE, Tuesday, November 7, 2006. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Voter Registration Information

To vote, you must be: A U.S. citizen, At least 18 years old, A Minnesota resident for at least 20 days on Election Day, Properly registered.

Election Day Registration Requirements

In Minnesota, you can register at your polling place on Election Day. Voters may register by providing any one of these IDs with the voter's current name and address.

- Valid **Minnesota driver's license** or **learner's permit** (or receipt for either) showing current address.
- Valid **Minnesota identification card** (or receipt) showing current address.

You must re-register if your name or address has changed or you have not voted in four years.

City Services, Taxes & the Budget

While "city services" can mean different things to different people, the one thing that most people agree on is that the service most important to them should rank pretty high on the priority list. For instance, an individual who cares deeply about health care might like to see the ambulance service at the top of the funding list while someone who is most concerned about their security and safety might like to see the police department very well funded.

Some city services are quite obvious, like street maintenance, snow plowing and the fire department while other services might be less noticeable, such as protection of the drinking water supply, storm water management or providing space for historical museums.

Some city services might actually be a bit progressive, such as the efforts to assist in the start-up of a business or the development of housing opportunities while other services might be more regulatory in nature, such as restricting the number of dogs and cats that people own, enforcing a curfew on young people and that

sort of thing.

Regardless of what service might be most important to whom, one reality is that the City provides quite a number of services, each of which cost money, money which generally comes in the form of fees or taxes.

Some services, like drinking water and sanitary sewer services, are operated on a business model and are funded entirely by fees charged to users and developers who demand additional services. Other services, such as the ambulance service, the swimming pool and the CCTV effort are somewhat of a hybrid, since they have some ability to generate revenue from customers but also need a certain amount of tax support to make the service work. And still other services, such as the library, the park facilities, meeting rooms, street lights, and so forth, are provided on the very premise that they are services needed for the common good and must be supported completely by tax revenue.

The City's tax levy will increase by \$40,546 in 2007. That equates to a 5.5% increase over the 2006 levy but,

since the City must ask for its tax revenues in terms of dollars, rather than by percentages, the percentage increase in the City Tax Asking does not necessarily correspond to a tax increase on any individual property. The notices that are mailed out in mid-November will give each property owner a better idea of what this means. It is helpful to know that approximately \$6,000,000 of building permits were issued in 2005, which is property value that should help "pay the bill." While the new construction does not add dollars to the city coffers, it does add more property so the taxes can be spread out over a larger area.

The City has been notified that, due to the relatively low increase in the tax levy, a "truth-in-taxation" hearing is not required but one will be held in December, anyway. The City hopes that hearing is helpful for those who want to learn more about the cost of services and why those services are provided. City services, fees and taxes all go hand-in-hand and your City Council, and its staff, strive to find balance among the many requests, demands, priorities and costs.

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

Etcetera

Brush & Leaf Dump

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 4th**

Community Link the TV Show

See the televised version of the
newsletter on CCTV Channel 11—
Mondays, at 5:30 pm or
Tuesdays, at 11:30 am.

Reading Meters

Please keep the meter readers in
mind when tying your dogs out.
Leave a clear path that is outside
the dogs range in order to get to the
meter pad (black box) on the out-
side of your house.

GIVING AWAY THE \$12,000!!!

In late September, approximately sixty or seventy people gathered at the High School to participate in a town meeting that focused on spending \$12,000 on a community improvement project. Many ideas surfaced and the participants enjoyed spending their time, talking about the positive aspects of life in the Chosen Valley and what they could do to put their own stamp of influence on the community.

After considering the many ideas that came up, the group arrived at a "final four," which will be further considered on November 14th. One idea was to paint a mural on a large wall of a downtown building, to both beautify the community and to promote the community. Another idea was to establish signage along the highways that would direct travelers and visitors to the city parks, streams and other significant places in town. A third idea was to establish recreational trail in and around the community and, perhaps, to points beyond while the fourth idea was a playground project, a project that would upgrade the equipment in City Park.

Now, it is time for the next phase, which will result in the selection of which idea should get the sought after \$12,000. The second Town Meeting will be held at the Val-A Lodge, on Tuesday, November 14th. Be sure to arrive by 6:45 so you don't miss out on any of the presentations. After hearing presentations from those people interested in trails and from the playground group, everyone will be invited to vote on giving out the \$12,000. It is possible that all of the money will go to one group but it is also possible that the money will be split up and allocated to two or more projects.

This is shaping up to be a fun event, an opportunity that doesn't come along very often. Jump in and make a difference!!

CITY OFFICIALS

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Snowplowing & Parking

Move your car off the streets if the plows are out. If your parked vehicle is in the way of the plow, it will get a ticket.

The City would be pleased to never issue a ticket, so please watch the weather!!

Snowplow Routes

Generally, with a snowfall of 2" or more, plowing procedures begin as close 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. In a large, continuous snowfall, plowing operations may begin after 2" of snow depending on conditions.

Garbage Cans/Recycle Bins

Place garbage cans and recycle bins two (2) feet behind the curb at the end of your driveway, **NOT** in the roadway. Plow operators cannot stop and leave the vehicle to move items obstructing the path to plow.

NOVEMBER 2006

- Mon Nov 6 — Planning & Zoning 7:00 pm
- Wed Nov 8 — Cable Television Board 7:00 am
- Mon Nov 13 — City Council 7:00 pm
- Mon Nov 20 — Heritage Preservation Commission 6:30pm
- Mon Nov 27 — City Council 7:00 pm
- Wed Nov 29 — Economic Development Authority 5:30 pm

DECEMBER 2006

- Mon Dec 4 — Truth-in-Taxation Hearing 6:30 p.m.
- Mon Dec 4 — Planning & Zoning 7:00 pm
- Mon Dec 11— City Council 7:00 pm
- Wed Dec 13 — Cable Television Board 7:00 am
- Mon Dec 18- Heritage Preservation Commission 6:30 pm
- Thu Dec 28— Economic Development Authority 5:30 pm