

CITY OF  
CHATFIELD

# COMMUNITY LINK

OCTOBER 2006

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"Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat" - is the message for this year's Fire Prevention Week (FPW). More fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. According to NFPA statistics, cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Most cooking equipment fires start with the ignition of common household items such as food or grease, cabinets, wall coverings, paper or plastic bags, curtains, etc. The leading cause of cooking equipment fires is unattended cooking.

**Stand By Your Pan** - "Prevent Cooking Fires—Watch What You Heat," reminds us that leaving cooking unattended and other unsafe kitchen practices are a recipe for disaster.

Often when fire departments are called to a cooking related fire, the residents state they only left the kitchen for a few minutes. Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. The bottom line is that there's really no safe period of time for the cook to step away from a hot stove. A few key points to remember;

- Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended, and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (e.g. potholders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging).
- Keep children away from cooking areas.
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire.
- Always keep a potholder, oven mitt and lid handy. If a small fire starts in a pan, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is completely cool.
- Never pour water on a grease fire and never discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire, as it can spray or shoot burning grease around the kitchen, actually spreading the fire.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing.
- If there is a microwave fire, keep the door closed and unplug the microwave.
- Never use the range or oven to heat your home.
- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them once a year.



**"Trick or Treat"** will soon be heard. It is time to think about safety for Halloween; do not wear masks that block vision or hearing, carry a flashlight, use reflectors or glow wands to be more visible, use sidewalks and cross only at street corners.

## 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

## Community Events

### Grower's Market

Get fresh flowers, plants and other goodies Thursdays from 3:00—6:00 pm. !!!

### Brush & Leaf Dump Hours

Wednesdays 1:00 pm—3:00 pm & 5:00 pm—7:00 pm,  
Fridays 1:00 pm—4:00 pm,  
Saturdays 10:00 am—4:00pm  
Brush, leaves & grass clippings only, please!!!



### CITY LEAF PICK-UP

**Monday, October 30  
and**

**Tuesday, October 31**

*Please place your bagged leaves  
at the curbside for pick-up.*

### 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

## CITY OFFICIALS

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## PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Chatfield, like other public water suppliers, is required to develop and implement a Wellhead Protection Plan. Such a plan involves the delineation of a Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA), an inventory of land uses, potential contaminants and strategies that can lessen the possibility that the city water wells might get contaminated.

Historically, the City's wells have produced good quality water. No contaminants have ever been detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards but nitrates have been detected in trace amounts. The level of nitrates in Well #3 has been 3.2 ppm and Well #2 has shown nitrates at 1.1 ppm for a number of years, both of which are well below the legal limit of 10 ppm.

Even though the level of nitrates is quite low, the mere presence of them causes concerns at the City. To protect our water supply, the wellhead protection plans requires that the City identify land uses that could possibly contaminate the aquifer and public water supply, and to identify other wells that could become pathways for contamination to enter the aquifer.

In terms of quantity, the City's wells have done a fine job of meeting demand. The two wells operate at 400—500 gallons a minute and have a total daily capacity of producing 1.7 million gallons of water each day. Although the use of the wells increases dramatically during the summer months, due to recreation and maintenance, the wells have not had any difficulty in responding to the increase in demand.

Although a large growth of population is not projected in Chatfield, it has been projected that Fillmore County will grow over the next 25 years and that Olmsted County will grow substantially over that same time period. Since Rochester and other area communities use the same aquifer to supply drinking water, the City is thinking about reach into a deeper aquifer when it constructs its next well.

The main goal of the Wellhead Protection Plan is to maintain a safe drinking water supply for the residents of Chatfield, now and into the future. Other goals for the City of Chatfield are:

- Increase general public awareness of groundwater issues such as contamination and future resource sustainability.
- Maintain or reduce the current level of 3.2 ppm of nitrates in the raw water of Well #3 and 1.1 ppm of nitrates in the raw water of Well #2.
- Maintain current situation whereby there are no contaminants present in the raw water other than nitrates.



## OCTOBER 2006

- Mon Oct 2nd— Planning & Zoning @ 7:00 pm
- Mon Oct 9th— City Council @ 7:00 pm
- Mon Oct 16th- Heritage Preservation Commission @ 6:30 pm
- Mon Oct 23rd- City Council @ 7:00 pm
- Thu Oct 26th— Economic Development Authority @ 5:30 pm

## NOVEMBER 2006

- Mon Nov 6th— Planning & Zoning @ 7:00 pm
- Mon Nov 13th— City Council @ 7:00 pm
- Mon Nov 20th- Heritage Preservation Commission @ 6:30 pm
- Mon Nov 27th- City Council @ 7:00 pm
- TBD— Economic Development Authority @ 5:30 pm