

CITY OFFICIALS

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COMMUNITY
LINK

DECEMBER 2005



CITY OF
CHATFIELD

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Since the City provides a fairly broad array of services, one of the best ways to understand how the City spends its tax dollars is to take a somewhat categorical view of those services.

In 2006, of all non-utility fund expenditures, 28% of the City of Chatfield's budget will be spent on Public Safety, like police, fire & ambulance. Another 28% of the budget will be spent on Public Works, like streets, sidewalks & parks while 20% will be spent on General Governmental functions, 10% on Debt Service, 9% on Culture & Recreation and 6% on Planning & Development. Like most cities in Minnesota, public safety, public works and general services make up the major share of the city budget.

The money that funds the City comes from two main sources, property taxes and local government aid (LGA). LGA will provide

\$680,000 in 2006 and the property tax will provide \$863,000. LGA is a critical part of funding any small rural city in Minnesota.

The 2006 tax levy will actually be about \$57,000 higher than the 2005 levy. Fortunately, though, the amount of new construction in our community will allow the city tax rate to stay about the same as it is now, even with that levy increase. New development can certainly cause a demand for new services but it also provides new tax revenue. An increase in value will be the main reason for any increase in city tax on properties in 2006.

The City's Truth In Taxation hearing will be held on December 5th, where the budget and levy issues will be discussed in more detail (property value issues are discussed in May).

DECEMBER 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 5 Planning & Zoning @ 7:00 pm
- 12 City Council @ 7:00 pm
- 19 Heritage Preservation Commission @ 6:30 pm
- 22 Economic Development Authority @ 5:30 pm

JANUARY 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- 3 Planning & Zoning @ 7:00 pm
- 9 City Council @ 7:00 pm
- 16 Heritage Preservation Commission @ 6:30 pm
- 23 City Council @ 7:00 pm
- 26 Economic Development Authority @ 5:30 pm

THE UTILITY BILL

...A FUEL SURCHARGE ON GARBAGE COLLECTION

The utility bill that is enclosed with this newsletter includes a new charge, called a "fuel surcharge". This was recently requested by the garbage hauler because diesel fuel costs are so much higher than anyone anticipated when the basic hauling contract was put in place a few years ago. The most standard way of dealing with this kind of cost is to impose a fuel surcharge that fluctuates with the price of fuel.

The way this will work is that a fuel surcharge will be imposed whenever the average price of diesel fuel exceeds \$1.50 per gallon in the Midwest. City staff will retrieve information from the United States Department of Energy each month. The higher the price rises above \$1.50, the higher the surcharge will be. As prices start to settle down toward the base rate of \$1.50 per gallon, the surcharge will also decrease. For this month, the average price of diesel fuel is \$2.85 per gallon, which causes the surcharge to be \$.61 per household. Next month, it will be re-calculated.



CITY OF CHATFIELD

21 Second Street SE
Chatfield, MN 55923

Phone: 507-867-3810
Fax: 507-867-9093
www.ci.chatfield.mn.us

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

WINTER PARKING

The City of Chatfield has ordinances that govern on-street parking in the winter to ensure that our snow plowing crews are able to clear snow off city streets as safely and efficiently as possible.

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 the snow.

If it is snowing or is about to snow, do not park on the street until the street is plowed from curb to curb.

Parking is strictly prohibited in the downtown area during snow removal. Snow removal is in process when the snow has been banked in the center of the streets to allow for pick up and removal. *Vehicles parked which interfere with the snow removal process*

ess will be towed.



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

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.

SNOWPLOWING

Snow plowing—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.



Make way for the snowplow.
Clean streets are safe streets.

Sanding—Streets are sanded in the following order:

- 1) Intersections where City streets adjoin County and State highways, schools and 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 deemed by Public Works and Police to be hazardous.

Snow Removal—The snow removal process, which is when all snow in the downtown area is plowed and banked into the middle of the downtown streets for collection and removal.

Children and Snow- PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN! Remember it is dangerous for children to build snow forts or sliding hills along any City street. The snowplow operators cannot see little children playing in or on top of snow banks and cannot stop quickly during the plowing operation. Remind kids to play safely when snowplows are out.

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

THANK YOU!!!

The City of Chatfield acknowledges and is grateful for the generosity of the Alice Manahan estate, which distributed \$100,000 to the City for use by The Chatfield Public Library and \$50,000 for use by The Chatfield Ambulance Service.

SIDEWALKS

Every property owner or occupant of a lot in the city having sidewalks, in front of or on the side of the lot, is responsible for keeping the sidewalks free from snow and ice. Snow and ice needs to be cleared from the sidewalks within 24 hours of falling. **Please respect the safety and convenience of your fellow residents and keep the sidewalks clear.** Snow should not be shoveled, plowed or blown onto a public street.

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.

SNOWMOBILES

It is that time of the year to get those snowmobiles ready for the upcoming season. Remember while in town you must:

- Drive on the right side of the roadway.
- Bring the snowmobile to a complete stop at every intersection, before crossing a street, whether or not it has a stop sign.
- Obey the posted speed limits. Ride in a direct route to and from the trail.
- Must have permission to operate on someone else's private property.
- Unless on a designated trail, stay out of City parks, as snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Remember to be respectful and courteous to others.

Also, if you are going to use alcohol remember that the new .08 applies to snowmobiles. Please don't drink and drive.



CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY

December 3rd - Chatfield City Park

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Arrival of Santa 4:45

Join Santa for cookies and Kapper's Big Red Barn Milk

Dinner served by R-4 Meats sponsored by Chatfield VFW

Lighting of the trees 5:00 pm

Decorated by our youth groups / churches and businesses

Join in the Caroling in the band shell 5:00 pm

Greenlee Horse Drawn Hayrides starting at 5:00 pm running every 1/2 hour from 5:00—7:00 pm

Bernard's Bus tour of Chatfield lights running every 1/2 hour 5:00—7:00 pm

Join in the GRAND FINALE...

Moonlight Shopping 7:00—9:00 pm

Chatfield Commercial Club invites you to join them for Holiday Shopping and Christmas specials in our Downtown Businesses.

Our heart filled THANK YOU to all that have made this event possible and a special Thank You to the Tim Gossman family for the donation of the beautiful trees and the Chatfield City crew for all of their help.

Please join us for a Wonderful Evening of Holiday fun and surprises
Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

