

Our Community Values

- CITIZENSHIP
- RESPONSIBILITY
- RESPECT
- GENEROSITY
- ENVIRONMENTALISM
- HUMAN WORTH & DIGNITY
- INTEGRITY
- LEARNING

CHASKA TODAY

VOTE

Mayoral Race

Remember to vote for Mayor during the upcoming special election on **Tuesday, Jan. 19!** There are four candidates running to fill the seat. They are: Doug Williams, Robert (Bob) Snyder, Mark Windschitl, and Jay Rohe.

A home for the ages: the Nobel-Sell Home

The Nobel-Sell House and lot at 301 East Third Street have been a part of Chaska from the speculative pre-state period in Minnesota up to the present time. It is considered the oldest brick house in Chaska. The home is situated on Lot 6, Block 30, and on the same block as St. John's Lutheran Church in downtown Chaska.

Lot 6, Block 30 is Platted
The first recorded owner of Lot 6, Block 30 was Judge Andrew Chatfield. He received deed to the lot in January 1856. Judge Chatfield was a justice for the Third Judicial District of the County Courts for the County of Carver in the Territory of Minnesota. Judge Chatfield came to St. Paul in May 1853. He was sent under a commission from then President Pierce to become an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Minnesota Territory. Minnesota became a state in 1858.

Judge Chatfield sold the lot and some other pieces of land to James Ackerman in March 1856. The land record states deeding of the land was part of "An Act for the Relief of the Citizens of Towns Upon the Lands of the United States Under Certain Circumstances, passed on March 3, 1855." It is not clear who Mr. Ackerman was or if he ever actually lived on the lot. There were no census entries for a James Ackerman in Chaska during this time period, but, there was an 1860 census entry for a 39-year-old, Prussian-born saloon keeper by the name of James Ackerman in the nearby river town of San Francisco.

Jacob Ackerman held deed to Lot 6, Block 30 from March 1856 until he transferred the deed to the young family of James Delamater from Shakopee in October 1861. Mr. Delamater transferred the deed to Sarah Ellsworth just before Christmas in 1861. There is no indication whether Mr. Ackerman or Mr. Delamater ever actually resided in the home. Mr. Ackerman's interest in the property may have been part of an investment as his name does not appear in the dwelling house building bond.

Sarah Ellsworth transferred the deed to



her father, Ezekiel Ellsworth, in June 1864. Ezekiel Ellsworth transferred the deed to Lyman Nobel in February 1865.

The House is Built
The Carver County land records contain a series of bond entries pertaining to building a dwelling house on Lot 6, Block 30. The first bond entry was between the Shaska Company and John Humpel on Oct. 23, 1857. As part of the bond, it stated Mr. Humpel, of Chaska, "... shall on or before the expiration of one year build or cause to be built a good substantial dwelling house of the value of five hundred dollars..." Mr. Humpel transferred his bond rights to Ezekiel Ellsworth on April 21, 1858. The Shaska Company extended the bond obligation to build the dwelling for one year on Oct. 19, 1858. Ezekiel Ellsworth transferred the bond to Lyman W. Nobel on July 15, 1859.

It is presumed the home was built by Lyman Nobel, since he was the last person holding the bond to build the dwelling house. Unfortunately, this was



Similar styles:
Nobel-Sell home Samuel B. Strait home

so long ago that it is difficult to locate documents confirming Lyman Nobel, in fact, did build the home. You need to use other information, like Lyman Nobel held himself out as a brick mason when the 1870 and 1880 census taker came to his home. Another piece might be a comparison of his work on other homes during the same time period. In this case, Lyman Nobel is believed to have built the nearby Samuel B. Strait home in the proposed town site of St. Lawrence in Scott County in 1857. When you look at both homes, there are clearly a number of style similarities.

Lyman Nobel married Sarah Ellsworth in January 1868. When the census taker came to their home in 1870, he found

Lyman, 38, his wife Sarah, 28, their son Gaylord, 1, his mother Almira, 60, and Mary, age 27. Lyman Nobel was elected constable in 1878. When the 1880 census taker came to their home in 1880 he found an even larger group. The 1880 group included Lyman, 49, Sarah, 39, their son Harvey, 5, their son Lyman, 2, his mother Almira, 70, his sister Laura Baily, 30, her 3-year-old daughter, and his brother-in-law F.J. Lee, 41. Their son Gaylord died in 1876. By 1882, only three of their five children were living, namely Harvey, Burt, and Ella. The Nobels moved to Minneapolis in 1883. Sarah Nobel passed away in 1915. Lyman Nobel passed way in Minneapolis in 1921.

The Home is Sold to Two Sisters
Lyman Nobel sold the property to Mrs. Katherine Ebelacher and her widowed sister Mrs. Maria (Plocher) Wassermann in September 1883. They moved to the United States and Dayton, Ohio from Germany in 1846.

Maria was the widow of Michael Wassermann. The Wassermanns settled in Laketown Township near Chaska in 1852. They sold their 160-acre farm and moved to Chaska in 1861. Unfortunately, Michael Wassermann and another gentleman died when some scaffolding gave way underneath them at a construction site in May 1867. The newspaper reported that they were at work 24 feet above the ground, and at the time, engaged in raising timber for the roof of the new "German Singing and Turning Hall" when the scaffolding gave way. Michael's wife Maria and their young daughter Mary survived him. Maria never remarried.

The 1880 census taker found Mary Wassermann, age 55, residing with her sister Catherine Eberlacher, 50, and her three daughters, Rosa, 13, Katie, 12, and Christina, 10. Ms. Eberlacher was keeping house and Ms. Wassermann was a nurse.

In January 1891, they placed a "Lot and House For Sale" advertisement in The Weekly Valley Herald.

In November 1894, The Weekly Valley Herald had side-by-side articles about the sale of the home. One wrote of its purchase by John Sutheimer. The other announced Mrs. Wassermann had left for Oregon to be near her daughter.

Mary Wassermann died in Oregon in 1912. Her obituary stated that "her heart often yearned for Chaska, which after all had remained the dearest spot on earth for her." She was brought back to Chaska for burial. Her funeral was held at the Chaska Moravian Church.



Mrs. Wassermann, who left for Oregon last Monday as noted elsewhere in these columns, was one of the old pioneers of this county, and is endeared to all of our settlers on account of her womanly virtues and true Christian traits of character. She was always first and foremost to help the sick and needy, and in her removal from our midst—perhaps forever—she carries with her the love, respect and best wishes of all for a long life of rest and happiness with her daughter, her only child, in far off Oregon. Farewell! and may a kind Providence deal gently with you is our sincere wish.

to be continued

City budget sets to maintain services, kick-start road repairs

At the Dec. 7 meeting of the Chaska City Council, consideration was given to the final numbers for both the 2010 tax levy, and the proposed 2010 general fund budget.

As in past years, the Dec. 7 Council meeting was the Truth in Taxation public forum for comment on the proposed tax levy and budget. At the Dec. 21 Council meeting, formal adoption of the tax levy, general fund, and enterprise fund budgets were considered. The Council adopted the preliminary levy on Aug. 31. State statute requires this to be set by Sept. 15, so as to allow the County ample time to send out preliminary tax statements to property owners.

Challenges with Revenues
The downturn in the economy has created significant issues for the City. These have come from a lack of growth in taxable market values in the community, significant reductions in building activities, and the unallotment of Local Government Aid from the State.

These issues have all created several holes in the revenue streams that support City services.

At the beginning of 2009, Chaska moved to cut approximately \$300,000 of expenses from its General Fund, with the elimination of three positions in the Community Development/Building Inspections Department, reduction of street maintenance activities, and the deference of approximately \$90,000 in other expenses.

For 2010, the changes in taxable market growth, building activity, and reduction of Local Government Aid (LGA) created close to \$800,000 in revenue issues to address, compared to the original five-year forecast estimates.

The proposed budget will include both reductions in expenditures and deferment of expenses to address fiscal realities.

The taxable market value in the City for 2010 increased by only .3 percent. Most of this growth came from an increase in market value of new commercial construction. Building permit activity is expected to remain relatively low in 2010, at just over \$400,000. This compares to over \$1 million in building permit activity just five years ago.

From a Local Government Aid perspective, in 2009 the City of Chaska was expected to receive \$363,000 in LGA. At the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009 the state unallocated approximately \$260,000, which caused another hole in the revenue stream.

When putting together the proposed 2010 General Fund Budget, the City focused on achieving three primary objectives. These include:

- Maintaining our existing service levels;
- Fully funding the levy needs of our street reconstruction program; and
- Developing a five-year plan to allow the City to discontinue drawing from General Fund reserves.

For 2010, no change is proposed in personnel or service levels. From an operational perspective, this allows the City to keep the tax levy very similar to that of 2009.

One item discussed at the adoption of the preliminary levy was the need to fund our Street Reconstruction Program, something that has been delayed for several years due to a lack of revenues to support the debt service of the plan. While the program originally started with

the reconstruction of First Street, the program has not continued to move forward because of the impacts our General Fund has experienced over the last several years due to a loss of revenue. In order to get the program restarted, the plan needs to be funded for the first five years with \$250,000 a year coming from the General Fund. This is something that has not been funded over the last several years.

With the Council feeling that the Street Reconstruction Program is an important need because of the aging infrastructure, a decision was made during establishment of the preliminary levy to institute a special levy for approximately \$250,000, which would cover these new expenses and allow the Street Reconstruction Program to move forward. The Council would consider using the special levy authority the state gave this year to recoup the loss of LGA and Market Value Homestead Credits to fund this need in 2010.

If this special levy were instituted, the impact of the levy on a \$200,000 house would be approximately \$28 annually, moving it from \$416 to \$444. While this would be a change in our overall tax rate, the City would still be within the lowest 10 percent of the 102 metro cities for tax levy per capita. This tax rate would also be the lowest in Carver County. Although this increase in tax rate would do nothing to change our current City operations, it would work to directly allow us to move forward with street reconstruction in 2010.

Questions about the proposed 2010 annual budget or the process used should be directed to City Administrator Matt Podhradsky at 952-448-9200.

Let's go fishing!

The city of Chaska is working with area civic organizations and volunteers to establish a Let's Go Fishing chapter in Chaska.

Let's Go Fishing was started in 2002 to offer fishing and boating opportunities to senior citizens. Today there are over 24 LGF chapters in the state of Minnesota. Active older adults are thrilled to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and water sports while meeting new friends. Approximately 11,000 AOA's were accommodated in 2009.

The program is dependent on volunteers for its operations, with over 1,000 volunteers involved in taking AOA's on the water in 2009. In recent years LGF has expanded its programming to include children through its intergenerational efforts. The mission of Let's Go Fishing is to enrich the lives of AOA's through fishing and boating activities. A primary emphasis is to build memories and friendship at no cost to the participants. By keeping AOA's

active and involved in the community through activities, including fishing, LGF strives to help aging individuals lead a happier and healthier lifestyle.

Two meetings have been scheduled for Chaska-area individuals to learn more about the program. For Let's Go Fishing to be successful in the Chaska area requires volunteers to assist at both the organizational and operational levels in addition to sponsors who will assist with both the start-up cost and annual operational budget. The informational meetings are scheduled at the CCC Lodge for Thursday, Jan. 7, at either 10 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. with light refreshments and snacks being served. Joe Holm, executive director of Let's Go Fishing, will be at the meeting. For more information on Let's Go Fishing in Chaska, or if you are interested in possibly participating but unable to attend the meetings, please contact Tom Redman at 952-227-7745 or tredman@chaskamn.com



Informational Meetings:
Thurs., Jan. 7
10 a.m. or
6:30 p.m.

The Land Trust expands county wide

Do you dream of Homeownership in Carver County? Tired of your daily commute to work?

The CDA can help! We are currently taking applications for home buyers wishing to buy Community Land Trust Homes throughout Carver County.

If your household income is at or below \$67,000, you now have the opportunity to make homeownership a reality.

*Ask about the extended first time home-buyer tax credits.

Call today for additional information.
952-448-7715, Ext. 2782

First Time Home Buyer Seminars

Become a successful homeowner today.

Attend a home buyer education seminar offered by the Carver County CDA. Learn about budgeting, overcoming the barriers of home ownership, the steps to finding a home and working with a lender. "HomeStretch" is HUD and MHFA certified! The certificate you earn is necessary for some special "down-payment assistance" loan programs.

Please contact us today for additional details, class schedules and registration.
952-448-7715

Chaska Parks and Recreation
(952) 448-5633



chaskacommunitycenter.com

P R E S C H O O L

Chaska Community Center
TREKS AND TRAILS
Preschool

The Minnesota licensed preschool program at the Chaska Community Center is in its third successful year. Join the fun and learning in this one-of-a-kind program. Weekly lessons include fitness class, music class, Spanish, cognitive growth, fine and gross motor skills, pre-kindergarten readiness, social skills, and more.
Public registration for the 2010-2011 school year opens Jan. 19, 2010
Classes fill up quickly...go to chaskacommunitycenter.com for more information on our program, or call 952-448-2009 ext. 1.

3-year-olds
Children must be 3 by Sept. 1 of the school year.
Days: Tuesday and Thursdays
Time: 9 to 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 to 3 p.m.
Cost: \$112/month for CCC Members
\$147/month for NonMembers

4-and 5-year-olds
Children must be 4 by Sept. 1 of school year.
Days: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
Time: 9 to 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 to 3 p.m.
Cost: \$147/month for CCC Members
\$187/month for NonMembers



Kindermusik
CLASSES

New session beginning early February.
Go to chaskacommunitycenter.com to register today.



ABRAKADOODLE ART CLASS
Winter session

This special art class just for toddlers and their caregivers. Most projects are framed. This session includes a lesson where kids will use fun shapes to make a picture, resistance painting lesson, a special valentine lesson and more. Come join us for some art-rageous fun!

Date: Wednesdays Jan. 27 to Feb. 17
Time: 10 to 10:45 a.m.
Cost: \$55 Member; \$68 Nonmember



YOUTH

LEARN TO SKATE

The Winter Session starts Jan. 4.
This program includes the following lessons: Beginner, Basic Skills, Hockey, Adult and Figure Skating. Sign up today online or at the CCC Front Desk.



LEARN TO SWIM

Winter Session: Jan. 4 - Feb. 27
Our caring and dedicated instructors have been trained in the American Red Cross curriculum. You and your child will enjoy developing swimming and water safety skills in our positive learning environment. Day, evening and weekend classes are available. For more information about our Learn-to-Swim program, including level placement, call the Aquatics Coordinator at (952) 227-7746. Registration now open ... Sign up today!

CLAY PLAY

Ages 5-11
This is a great time of year to make various clay projects that reflect the season. We will make small pots and sculptures and glaze them each day. Wear old clothes... we get messy! Instructor: Kathleen Theship-Rosales
Date: Saturdays, Jan. 9-23
Time: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Cost: \$48 Member; \$52 Nonmember



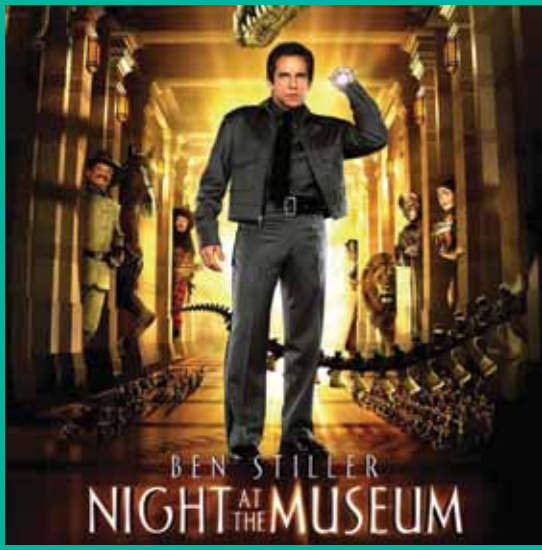
AMERICAN IDOL PARTY-- NO SCHOOL DAY ACTIVITY!

Ages 5-12
Be a pop star and come dressed in your funkiest fashion! Your once upon a star "Idol" makeover will include: a rainbow glitter hair up-do, sparkly fingernails, and dazzling eye jewels. Also, choose your favorite sugar glitter tattoo. After a jewelry beading craft, we'll end with music. Bring your singing voice/partner if you want to sing on our microphone. You'll feel like a pop star at this party.
Date: Friday, Jan. 29
Time: 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Cost: \$17 Member; \$22 Nonmember

TEENS

JANUARY MOVIE!
"NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM"

Ages 11 to 15
Join us for a free movie and refreshments with your friends after school. We will be in the CCC Community Room, so we can lay back and enjoy popcorn and drinks while we watch "Night at the Museum" (PG). A newly recruited night security guard at the Museum of Natural History discovers that an ancient curse causes the animals and exhibits on display to come to life and wreak havoc.
Date: Thursday, Jan. 28 **Time:** 2:30 p.m. to movie's end
Place: Community Room **Cost:** FREE



Adults

POTTERY WORKSHOP

This class will offer you the opportunity to work on the wheel and/or hand-build projects. It is a good beginner class or refresher course for anyone interested in ceramics. Cost includes clay, glazes, firing and instructor. This class is structured for adults.
Instructor: Kathleen Theship-Rosales
Date: Tuesdays, Jan. 19 to Feb. 23
Time: 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Cost: \$136 Members; \$160 Nonmembers



AOA Active Older Adults 55+

OLD FLANNEL SHIRT SOUP LUNCH

Everybody has one...that comfy flannel shirt that keeps your cozy warm in the chilly months. Put on your favorite flannel (shirt, pants, or PJ's) and join us at The Lodge. This special Brick City Brewers is a cure for a case of January cabin fever. Enjoy musical entertainment by Homemade and Hand Picked; then warm your belly with hot soup, buns, and dessert. Prizes awarded for best flannel attire. Registration and payment deadline is Friday, Jan. 22.
Date: Wednesday, Jan. 27
Time: 10 to 12 noon
Place: The Lodge
Cost: \$5 per person



INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM GRANDPARENTS & ME

Calling grandmas, grandpas and kids of all ages! Spend the afternoon together at the Chaska Community Center. Following a performance by Dazzling Dave, national yo-yo master, participate in family activities including crafts and snacks. Pre-register online at chaskacommunitycenter.com or at the CCC front desk.
Date: Sunday, Jan. 31
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: CCC
Cost: \$4 per person



DISCOVER WELLNESS SERIES BY DR. JEFF MAY THE OBESITY EPIDEMIC

According to Time magazine, this could be the first generation that doesn't outlive its parents. Join Dr. May with Total Health Advantage in his discussion about obesity, and learn about ways to live your life to the fullest.
Date: Wednesday, Jan. 13
Time: 10 to 10:45 a.m.
Place: The Lodge
Cost: FREE



STEPPING INTO THE PAST: SKYROCK FARM, MEDINA, AND MORE

The day will include a trip to Skyrock Farm in Hamel, Minn. to see and learn about the antique band organ and carousel collection of Bill Nunn. Next up will be the Medina Entertainment Center for a lunch buffet and music in The Grand Ballroom. Registration and payment deadline is Monday, Jan. 4.
Date: Tuesday, Jan. 12
Time: 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Place: The Lodge
Cost: \$37 Member; \$39 Nonmember
(includes lunch and transportation)

AOA HEALTH & WELLNESS THYROID HEALTH

Dr. John Peitersen, MD, with Lakeview Clinics located in Waconia and Chaska, will give you a better understanding of thyroid conditions and diseases. He will provide information on thyroid function, hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism and thyroid cancer. Dr. Peitersen is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Medical School and specializes in internal medicine.
Date: Wednesday, Jan. 6
Time: 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.
Place: The Lodge
Cost: FREE

T.O.P.S. INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Losing weight can be difficult to do on your own. Join us at this informational meeting in The Lodge.
Date: Thursday, Jan. 28
Time: 11:15 a.m.
Place: The Lodge