

MAYOR'S FORUM



After four meetings, our City Council has approved the preliminary 2010 budget. Although a challenging task, I am always grateful for the amount of time and effort given by each Council member and our City staff. We face difficult times with a reduction in Local Government Aid (LGA) from our State of \$65,000, which is about 10% of our City budget. I am thankful that we paid off the Fire Hall last year and that our last Tanker truck payment will be made this year. Solving our budget challenges means finding new revenue and making necessary reductions. Remember “anyone can make cuts” but it takes “creativity to bring in new revenue dollars” and we will continue to work hard to do so.

In my last forum I said I was sure that Xcel Energy would work diligently with us to make sure that issues are done in a way that benefits our Scenic & Historic River Valley. Thanks to our Steering Committee, under grounding on the West side of County Road 20 near Cherry Hill Park, re-vegetation of the corridor and under grounding to the dam will happen as laid out in the original settlement agreement.

I am always available for questions, concerns or comments. Don't hesitate in calling or stopping me on the street when you see me!

As always, I wish each of you Good Health and God's Blessings.



MEETING SCHEDULES

City Council - 2nd & 4th Mondays (Oct. 12 & 26, Nov. 9 & 23, & Dec. 14 & 28)

Planning Commission - 1st Mondays (Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7)

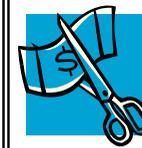
Economic Development Commission - 3rd Thursdays (Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17)

Park & Recreation Commission - 3rd Wednesdays (Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16)

Heritage Preservation Commission - 2nd Tuesdays (Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8)

COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CALL CITY HALL TO CONFIRM DATES & TIMES.

Don't forget to set your clocks back on November 1st.



In an effort to reduce costs the City Council may decide to close City Hall on Fridays. Until the Council acts on this change City Hall will remain open 5 days/week.

★ **The Fall Community P-O-T-L-O-C-K** ★
 supper sponsored by the Taylors Falls Crime Watch Group will be in the basement of the First Baptist Church on Saturday, October 17th at 6:00 p.m. All area residents are invited to attend. Please bring a dish to pass and enjoy a bounty of good eats!

The City is once again offering the City-wide archery hunt from September 19 through December 31st. The following conditions must be met:

- * *The hunter must be 18 years of older*
- * *Hunting will be allowed on privately owned properties BY WRITTEN PERMISSION ONLY - forms available at City Hall, on our website or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope*
- * *Hunting must be from a minimum 10' raised platform*
- * *No hunting within 100' of any neighboring structure*
- * *Must provide a copy of MBRB proficiency test*
- * *Must provide copy of MN Archery License*
- * *Deer cannot be eviscerated within City limits*
- * *All hunters assume liability, the property owner does not*
- * *All deer must be registered at a licensed DNR site AND at City Hall*
- * *Pay the \$5.00 administrative fee per hunter*

More information about the hunt may be obtained by contacting Jayna at City Hall at 465-5133 ext. 22 during normal business hours or by visiting our website at www.ci.taylors-falls.mn.us.

ARCHERY DEER HUNT



Ways to save on water usage:

- * Use a broom instead of a hose - Reach for a broom instead of the hose to clean the driveway and you'll save eight to ten gallons a minute.
- * Only run a full load of dishes - Scrape rather than rinse dishes before loading the dishwasher; wash only full loads.
- * Don't run the faucet when brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your face - the average citizen wastes 2 gallons daily on oral hygiene.
- * Remove frozen foods from the freezer before you're ready to use them so you won't have to use running water to hasten thawing.
- * Don't turn the shower on until you're ready to get in.
- * Morning is the best time to water most lawns - before 10:00 a.m. - avoid watering when it is windy or in the heat of the day.



TRUTH & TAXATION

The State is no longer requiring City's to conduct a Truth & Taxation Hearing. However, the Council must hold a general public hearing to allow the public to speak when the budget and levy will be discussed. This hearing date is December 14, 2009.

STUMBLIN' DOWN MEMORY LANE

by Jack Liljenberg

Now that the fall harvest time has again arrived, the writer is reminded of the Baier family's 1860's orchard that used to stand a short distance north of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

For about 135 years the Baier orchard stood where is now the Taylors Falls Townhomes development on the west side of Chestnut Street. The construction of that housing development was approved in 1997 but the last of the buildings [the southernmost ones] were not completed until several years later. The Baier orchard dated back to the era of the Civil War and was planted by/for a local shoemaker, Anton Baier and his wife, Clara. An 1872 local newspaper item noted the Baier orchard then had about 200 plum trees and 100 apple trees.



Anton Baier was born in the Württemberg region of southwestern Germany on March 9, 1832, and he emigrated [alone?] to the U.S.A. in 1850. On March 10, 1857 Anton married Miss Clarinda "Clara" Courtright at Hudson, Wisconsin. Clara was reportedly born in New York City on March 2, 1838 but her parents were then residents of Ohio. Clara's parents had nine children and about 1859 they moved to western Wisconsin where Clara's father worked for many years as a logging camp cook.

After their marriage in 1857, Anton and Clara Baier settled in Taylors Falls where Anton had recently established himself as Taylors Falls' first shoemaker. Over the next several decades Anton conducted his boot and shoe business in a succession of small buildings at several downtown locations.

Anton and Clara originally lived in a tiny, circa 1857 house that was presumably built for them and stood a short distance south of where is now the downtown entrance to the Minnesota Interstate State Park. The Baiers sold their circa 1857 house in 1865. That house was moved elsewhere in 1918 but that's another story. The Baiers' second and much larger, circa 1861 home still stands at 613 Chestnut Street, next door south of the Taylors Falls Townhomes development.

Anton and Clara were both short in stature and dark-haired, and they had nine children - eight girls and one boy [Anton, Jr.]. Two of the Baier girls died in infancy. All of the other seven Baier children eventually married and moved away. Most of the Baier children and their families later resided in Oregon. Anton and Clara divorced sometime in the 1890s and they, too, eventually moved to Oregon. Clara left Taylors Falls for North Saint Paul in May 1893 and moved to Oregon at some later date. Anton remained in Taylors Falls for another fourteen years, until he left for Oregon in October 1907.

The circa 1861 Baier house and its adjacent orchard were sold out of the Baier family in May 1893. The writer does not know where in town Anton resided during the 1893 to 1907 period but the 1900 census indicates he was then living alone. He may have lived in his boot and shoe shop downtown. In March 1908 the local newspaper erroneously reported that Anton had died in Oregon but actually he did not die until September 20, 1915. Clara passed away nineteen months later, on April 20, 1917. Both Anton and Clara died in Portland, Oregon and are buried in the River View Cemetery in Portland.

Plum jam, apple pie and hot apple cider are just a few of the things that remind the writer of the Baier orchard that withstood what Mother Nature offered it for 130-some years. What an awesome sight it was when the orchard was in its brief but splendid springtime bloom! It's a simple, unpretentious but decidedly pleasant memory that well-deserves its place along Taylors Falls' Memory Lane.

WELCOME PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT!

August 24th, 2009 Mike Kriz began his appointment as Public Works Superintendent with the City. Mike was hired as the result of a reorganization of the Public Works Department, which included the decision to hire a Public Works Superintendent who would supervise all aspects of the Public Works Maintenance Worker rather than have two equal Public Works employees being supervised by the Public Works Council Liaisons. Mike brings with him over 20 years in the field with previous experience in Taylors Falls from 2000 to 2002 as the Public Works Supervisor! When you see Mike take a moment to welcome him to our City and if a problem should arise, don't hesitate to give him a call!



THANK YOU



The City would like to extend a sincere THANK YOU to the Women's Civic League for donating towards the landscaping plants at the Community Center & to the Friends of Taylors Falls Parks for their donation towards improving parks within the City.

The City has received several compliments on the hanging baskets in the downtown area. They were purchased from Old Town Market in Hugo MN! Would you consider purchasing a basket for next year? Call City Hall and let us know ASAP. If there is enough interest we will place the pre-paid order in January for next Spring delivery.



INFO FROM PUBLIC WORKS

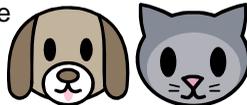
- * Late September through October:
 - *Hydrant flushing on Fridays from 9 a.m. until noon
 - *Cleaning of sanitary sewers Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until noon
- * Compost Site:
 - *Compost Site is open for leaves and brush through November
- * Wood Chips:
 - *The City has wood chips available at the lower level entrance near the Public Works building - take all you want - you load!
- * Are you ready for snow/ice?
 - *Check your shovels, blowers, scrapers and chippers
 - *Sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours after a snowfall. All sidewalks in violation will be cleared by the City and owner billed accordingly (this will be your only warning!)
 - *Beginning Nov 1st through Apr 1st there will be no parking on any street or alley between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. Violators may be ticketed & towed by order of the Chisago County Sheriff's Department.

ANIMAL LICENSES

Animal License Tags will soon be in. Licenses are required for all cats & dogs 6 months or older & must be renewed on an annual basis (Jan 1st to Dec 31st). Application forms are available at City Hall - **Please bring a copy of your current vaccination record information to license your pet.**

LICENSES APPLIED FOR AFTER APRIL 1ST ARE SUBJECT TO DOUBLE THE LICENSE FEE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Kennel licenses (\$50 one time fee) are required for anyone owning or boarding 3 or more dogs or cats.



PARKING PERMITS

Parking permits that were issued in 2009 will expire on December 31st. Please contact City Hall for renewals. There is no charge for the permit, but you must park in the designated lot on First Street. Without a permit you risk receiving a citation from the Chisago County Sheriff's Department. Permits are NOT issued to park in the Marmon Parkway (Bench Street Parking Lot) for more than the 3-hour limit. This rule applies to every business owner as well



as their employees. Regardless of the time of year, this lot is designated for visitor or patron parking only. Help your business by allowing the public to park!

ZONING/BUILDING PERMITS & LICENSED DUMPSTER COMPANY'S

Will you be working on any fall projects and do they require a building or zoning permit? These are questions that can be answered by Larry Phillips, our Zoning Administrator-Coordinator by calling 651-465-5133 ext. 24. How much will a building permit cost? This can be answered by calling Jack Kramer, the Building Inspector at 651-351-5051. If your project requires a dumpster there are six (6) companies that have licenses with the City to haul refuse. They currently include:



- * Croix Valley Pick-up (651-257-6316)
- * SRC, Inc. (651-462-5298)
- * Waste Management (800-640-5571)
- * All-Ways Hauling, Inc. (651-982-1475)
- * Chisago Lakes Sanitation (651-257-4763)
- * Shafer Storage/Roll-off (651-271-5153)



Don't forget to call before you dig. Call GOPHER STATE One-Call Locates at 800-252-1666.

Taylors Falls Public Library



Come visit the Library next to Coffee Talk and get some great reading materials. We have lots of entertaining books, magazines, and a high-speed internet accessible computer available for you. Did you know that the Library is on the National Register of Historic Places? Take a few minutes, check us out and what the Library has to offer, where you're only a stranger once. Hope to see you at the Library.

Winter Hours ~ Wednesdays 2-5 pm and 6:30-8 pm & Saturdays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm



XCEL TRANSMISSION LINE UPDATE

In 2000 Xcel Energy (a.k.a. Northern States Power), Dairyland Power Cooperative, and the Cities of St. Croix Falls and Taylors Falls entered into a Settlement Agreement that established a specific configuration of the transmission line upgrade through the two cities.

The line in Taylors Falls will be installed per the Agreement. This means the 161 kV transmission line will be buried from a point just west of Chestnut Street to the west bank of the St. Croix River. The transmission line west of Chestnut Street will be built above ground.

Xcel Energy has begun construction on segments of the line in Taylors Falls. The most noticeable areas are between Chestnut Street and State Highway 95 where a concrete duct is being built, and west of town, north of First Street, where excavation is taking place in preparation for a substation. This winter Xcel Energy plans to continue burial of the concrete duct east of State Highway 95 and build the new overhead line west of Chestnut Street. They expect to have the project completed by 2011.



While there is temporary visual impacts such as vegetation removal, burial of the line will be a great improvement to what currently exist. The measures taken by both cities and many dedicated individuals to get the line buried in the valley will be a benefit to all those who visit the St. Croix River Valley.



FISH FOR FREE IN MOST MINNESOTA STATE PARKS



Starting July 1, 2009, Minnesota residents can fish without a fishing license in most Minnesota state parks. A Minnesota resident may fish in a state park without a fishing license when:



- * the body of water *does not* require a trout stamp
- * fishing from shore or wading in water within the MN state park
- * fishing from a boat or a float on a designated lake within a MN state park

Please check www.dnr.state.mn.us for details.

ELECTRONIC AUTO PAYMENTS

The City is considering setting up electronic auto payments that would allow you to pay your water/sewer bills on-line through your bank. As a customer you would need to provide information such as:

- * Customer Bank Name
- * Customer Bank Routing
- * Customer Bank Account Number
- * Customer Acct is Checking or Savings

We would like your input on whether this is something you think would be beneficial as a resident. It would mean no more writing checks! Give staff a call at 465-5133 with your thoughts on this proposal.

~ HELPFUL HINTS ~

- *Use a damp rag dipped in baking soda to remove crayon from walls.
- *Permanent marker on appliances/counter tops? Use rubbing alcohol on a paper towel.
- *For icy door steps in freezing temperatures get warm water and put Dawn dishwashing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won't re-freeze.
- *Spray a bit of perfume on a cold light bulb in any room to create a lovely light scent.
- *Candles will last longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.

COMMISSION NEWS

PARK & REC ~ The Park and Recreation Commission has two in-City parks that are being developed. Many of you have noticed the pavilion being constructed at the Cherry Hill Park site. The first group of trees and shrubs have been purchased and are being planted this month. The park will be completed in phases, with other trees, shrubs and plantings along with a trail, are to be completed as funds are available. Plans also include benches and tables. The Park should be ready for use by next summer.

A tot lot - the Pump House Playground is scheduled to open by late fall or early spring at the corner of West and Maple Streets. Equipment suitable for children ages 2 through 5 is being purchased from a local firm with Public Works assisting with site grading.

The PRC has purchased a sign for the overlook, incorporating the winning design of an eagle, fish and the St. Croix River, submitted in 2008 by TF 2nd grade student.



Finally, the PRC wishes to thank the public for your outstanding support of the Wannigan Days Bingo, which raised money to help purchase the tot-lot equipment. The turn-out was so large that they needed to squeeze in extra tables. A big thank you to the Lion's Club for their sponsorship and a special thanks to Jo Everson for another great evening of B-I-N-G-O calling.

HPC ~ The Heritage Preservation Commission has acquired valuable reference materials for the public to review. The set of U.S. Department of the Interior bulletins cover solutions from many historic projects and should be extremely helpful with any restoration or maintenance project that a person owning a historic home may be considering. The bulletins are available at City Hall during normal business hours.

PC ~ The Planning Commission recently reviewed and recommended approval from the City Council to issue a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to Valley Christian School to operate at the First Baptist Church, located at 661B West Street. The school will operate from 8:20 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. For more information on the school call the school office at 651-465-3333 or you can access additional information through their website at: www.valley-christian.org

Swedish Immigrant Trail ~ The goal of the trail is to build and maintain a 20 mile multi-use, hard surface trail that provides a safe route for recreation and alternative transportation, while interpreting and celebrating the Swedish immigrant history of Chisago County. The trail will connect our communities providing safer places for bicyclists, pedestrians and skaters and improve health and fitness and help preserve the environment.

★ Chamber of Commerce Schedule of Events

LEAF SPECTACULAR

September 25 - October 11

★ Guided Tours 1-4:30 p.m. (closed Tuesdays)

★ Excursion Boat Cruises & Dinner Cruises

★ Alpine Slides & Go-Karts

★ Walks in the Village

★ Hikes in MN Interstate State Park

★ Shop the downtown stores

ANNUAL ARTISANS SHOW

November 13, 14 & 15

In the TF Memorial Community Center.

Celebrating 29 years of

excellent crafts, fine arts and live music.

WASSAIL PARTY CRAFT FAIR

November 27, 28 & 29

Area crafters show beautiful

holiday gifts in the

TF Memorial Community Center and

1852 Town House.

CHRISTMAS at the FOLSOM HOUSE

November 27, 28 & 29 & December 4, 5, & 6

Eight rooms of the 1855 Folsom family home

in the Angel Hill Historic District are enhanced for

the holidays by unique decorators around the

theme. Live music and caroling!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

regarding these events please contact

Barb Young at 465-6635

★ Lighting Festival Activities ★

Plans are well underway for the 25th Annual Lighting Festival, three days of family fun, starting with the Santa Parade at 6 PM on Friday the 27th.

The theme is "Sharing simple pleasures under the Stars". It's a great theme for decorating and it be-

comes a new emphasis for each of us to be a "star" in some way during the weekend. The detailed schedules will be published in the local newspapers and sent home with the elementary school children closer to the event. For now you should know:

★ We invite you to do outdoor lighting. With the new LED lights, the usage cost is minimal & you can save the lights from year to year. Judging of residential and commercial outdoor lighting will take place Friday evening the 27th. You don't have to sign up. The judges, who are not from here, drive every street in TF & out a 1/2 mile on County Rd. 37, 20, & 16, north on Hwy. 95 & out Vista Road.

★ The Friday parade is always looking for creative units incorporating lights. Would your business, organization or family like to participate? Use your imagination...perhaps a snow shovel drill team, a giant snowman, skiers on those roller skis, lighted hat marchers, your old car or tractor done up with lights. Let Deb Julik-Heine know at 465-3004.

ORNAMENT

The 2009 limited edition, numbered star ornament will go on sale November 1st in many downtown stores and shops. It is a whimsical wire and bead star, just right to hang on your tree, display in a window or wear as an earring. Look for the announcements in the local newspaper. If you'd like to be on this creative committee, please join the Lighting Festival Committee on Monday, September 21 at 7 p.m. at Coffee Talk. They try to keep meetings to an hour in length. Call Barb Young at 465-6635 for additional information.

