

City of Taylors Falls
 637 First Street
 Taylors Falls MN 55084
 651-465-5133
 tfclerk@frontiernet.net
 www.ci.taylors-falls.mn.us



FIRST CLASS
 US POSTAGE PAID
 TAYLORS
 FALLS, MN
 PERMIT 20

 How many pumpkins
 can you find?

To Contact the City
 465-5133

Dial these Extensions:

City Hall	1	Mayor	5
Public Works	2	EDC	6
Police Dept.	3	PRC	7
Fire Dept.	4		

(Mayor, EDC & PRC will be message only)

Happy Halloween

City Representatives



City Council
 Mayor - Mike Buchite - '10
 Council - Ross Rivard - '10
 Council - Zara Kinnunen - '10
 Council - Larry Julik-Heine - '12
 Council - John Tangen - '12

Planning Commission
 Chair - Joe Stein - '12
 Member - Diane Sander - '10
 Member - Irv Stolp - '11
 Member - Robyn Beck - '11
 Alternate - Lee Casperson
 Member - Ross Rivard
 Mike Buchite, Ex-officio

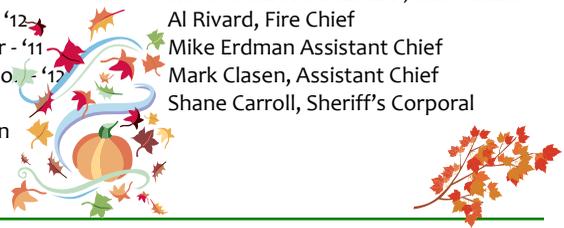
Park & Rec Commission
 Chair - Tana Havumaki - '10
 Member - Mary Murphy - '11
 Member - Leo Nelson - '12
 Member - Julie Moore - '12
 Alternate - Diane Nelson
 Member - Larry Julik-Heine
 Mike Buchite, Ex-officio

Heritage Preservation Commission
 Chair - Barbara Nelson - '10
 Member - Julie Hildebrand - '10
 Member - Joanne Frank - '11
 Member - Bill Scott - '11
 Member - Brian Pigott - '12
 Member - Open Position
 Alternate - Alyssa Auten
 Member - John Tangen
 Emeritus - John Larson
 Mike Buchite, Ex-officio

Economic Development Commission
 Chair - Ken Moore - '11
 Member - Beth Bantarri - '10
 Member - Open Position
 Member - Wade Vitalis - '12
 Member - Gerald Platzer - '11
 Member - Clarence Nelson - '12
 Alternate - John Coffey
 Member - Zara Kinnunen
 Mike Buchite, Ex-officio

Library Board Members
 President - Dr. Bill Young - '10
 Member - Deb Julik-Heine - '10
 Member - Leslie Johnson - '11
 Member - Barb Anderson - '12
 Member - Gerald Platzer - '12
 Librarian - Diane Dedon

City Staff
 Jo Everson, Clerk-Treasurer
 Larry Phillips, Zoning Admin-Coordinator
 Jack Kramer, Building Official
 Mike Kriz, PW Superintendent
 Bill Neska, PW Maintenance Worker
 William Neska, PW Seasonal Worker
 Kevin & Carol Schumann, Custodians
 Al Rivard, Fire Chief
 Mike Erdman Assistant Chief
 Mark Clasen, Assistant Chief
 Shane Carroll, Sheriff's Corporal



Tidbits from Taylors Falls

October 2010

City of Taylors Falls
 637 First Street
 Taylors Falls MN 55084
 651-465-5133
 tfclerk@frontiernet.net
 www.ci.taylors-falls.mn.us

TAYLORS FALLS ELECTIONS



The 2010 Election will be held on November 2nd. If you are not able to vote on the 2nd you may request an absentee ballot from the Chisago County Auditor's Office (213-8500). In order to vote, you must be a resident of TF for 20 days, be able to prove your residency, and be at least 18 years of age.

According to the headlines, the heat is on in Gubernatorial Election. They tell us that every vote counts! This year you will also have an opportunity to vote for three of your local government offices in Taylors Falls - the Mayor position and two Council Members. See the insert for information about each of the local candidates. Be informed and **V O T E !**

Inside this Issue:

TF Elections	1
Public Hearing on Budget	1
Mayor's Forum	2
Construction Update	2
City Updates Website	2
November Schedule of Events	3
BINGO Dates	3
Fall Leaf Events	3
Lighting Festival Events	4
Winter Reminders	5
Cold Weather Rule	5
Historical Society Meeting	5
2010 Christmas Ornament	5
Candidates for Mayor	6
Candidates for Council Members	7
Stumblin' Down Memory Lane	8
Potluck Dinner	9
Deer Hunt Management News	9
Public Works Reminders	9
Chisago Lakes Operating Levy	10
Quilt Show	10
Library News	10
TFFD Women's Auxiliary	11
2011 Animal Licenses	11
Questions that Haunt Me	11
City Representatives	12



PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2011 BUDGET

The City Council will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, December 13th at 7:05 pm** to take comments regarding the proposed 2011 budget. Council and Staff worked especially hard this year to fine tune the budget, and evidence of that was the fact the levy was reduced by 6.44%, which equates to a \$39,996 decrease. This is the fourth consecutive year the levy has been significantly reduced, and the seventh year that the actual tax rate has been reduced in Taylors Falls, with one minor increase in the eighth year. While not everyone saw an actual reduction in their property taxes for various reasons, the overall RATE was reduced from 102.381% in 2003 to 78.997% in 2011. This is a proud accomplishment for the City Council, Staff, and Departments. And remember, these reductions are in spite of the cuts in Local Government Aid handed down from the Legislature and the Governor. LGA cuts have totaled almost \$200,000 in 3 years! Just as you and your household may be seeing tough economic times, so does the City. No one is immune to the domino effect of today's economy.



MAYOR'S FORUM

You can tell that Fall has arrived, as our Valley is once again displaying it's spectacular colors and our City is packed with visitors. Our 2010 projects are nearing completion and everything should be completed before the snow flies.

Our Riverwalk has made it to Bench Street, with a trail that starts near First Street, winds its way past the St. Croix River, then back up the hill next to Second Street. The concrete is finally dry, so I recommend taking a stroll to check it out and enjoy your time outdoors.

The MnDot project is moving forward at a rapid rate, as the salt/sand storage walls are in place and construction of the addition will begin within days. Everything should be completed by Dec 1st, so MnDot can move into the new facility. Funding for the project was provided by the Chisago County HRA/EDA. Demolition and clean-up of the existing building on Bench St. will be done in the Spring of 2011. I still look forward to the day when this site has been cleaned up, has been sold and something great happens in this location.

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



OLD MEETS NEW IN TAYLORS FALLS

Combining history and today's newest technology, the City of Taylors Falls has created an audio/visual walking tour showcasing the downtown's historic charm and posted it on [YouTube!](#) Starting at the Community Center and ending at the Drive-In on Bench Street, the 45 minute three part tour encompasses the City origins, history, photos, paintings and commentary on individual 1870 William Corner Building buildings and Local Heritage Preservation Sites. The tour is intended to be viewed on YouTube with a smartphone, or at home on a computer. You can find the tour at YouTube by searching "[Taylors Falls Walking Tour.](#)" This was a true local project from the Taylors Falls historians, artists, editing, and tech support. The tour was funded through a \$6,700 Arts and Cultural Heritage grant. Special **Thank You** to Julie Hildebrandt, the Project Manager, Liz Valleen, Sound & Visual Editor, Josh Goldstein, Technical Consultant, Janey Beaver for her recording studio, local historians Bill Scott, Jack Liljenberg and Clarence Nelson, and Narrator Greg Marsten.



CITY UPDATES WEBSITE

www.ci.taylors-falls.mn.us

Much work has been done recently on the City's new website. There you will find Council Minutes and Meeting Agendas, Ordinances, information on businesses in the City, and valuable links to other sites on the internet. We even have various forms that can be obtained and completed on-line, including building permits, animal licensing applications, zoning applications, citizen complaint forms, and others. There is a section that allows you to "Contact Us." It is intended to help keep communication open between you & City Hall, and between you & the Council.



NEW TF WOMEN'S AUXILIARY



The Taylors Falls Fire Department would like to introduce the "TFFD Women's Auxiliary". The Women's Auxiliary will be hosting, as well as helping out, the Fire Department with fundraisers throughout the year. Stay tuned for events this upcoming year.

If you are interested in joining the Auxiliary, or have questions, you may contact us at tffdwa@gmail.com

It is good to dream, but it is better to dream and work. Faith is mighty, but action with faith is mightier.

QUESTIONS THAT HAUNT ME

- CAN YOU CRY UNDER WATER?
- HOW IMPORTANT DOES A PERSON HAVE TO BE BEFORE THEY ARE CONSIDERED ASSASSINATED INSTEAD OF JUST MURDERED?
- WHY DO YOU HAVE TO "PUT YOUR TWO CENTS IN"... BUT IT'S ONLY A "PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS"? WHERE'S THAT EXTRA PENNY GOING TO?
- ONCE YOU'RE IN HEAVEN, DO YOU GET STUCK WEARING THE CLOTHES YOU WERE BURIED IN FOR ETERNITY?
- WHY DOES A ROUND PIZZA COME IN A SQUARE BOX ?
- WHAT DISEASE DID CURED HAM ACTUALLY HAVE?
- HOW IS IT THAT WE PUT MAN ON THE MOON BEFORE WE FIGURED OUT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO PUT WHEELS ON LUGGAGE?
- WHY IS IT THAT PEOPLE SAY THEY "SLEPT LIKE A BABY" WHEN BABIES WAKE UP LIKE EVERY TWO HOURS?
- IF A DEAF PERSON HAS TO GO TO COURT, IS IT STILL CALLED A HEARING?
- WHY DO PEOPLE PAY TO GO UP TALL BUILDINGS AND THEN PUT MONEY IN BINOCULARS TO LOOK AT THINGS ON THE GROUND?
- WHY ARE YOU IN A MOVIE, BUT YOU'RE ON TV?
- WHY DO DOCTORS LEAVE THE ROOM WHILE YOU CHANGE? THEY'RE GOING TO SEE YOU NAKED ANYWAY.
- WHY IS "BRA" SINGULAR AND "PANTIES" PLURAL?
- WHY DO TOASTERS ALWAYS HAVE A SETTING THAT BURNS THE TOAST TO A HORRIBLE CRISP, WHICH NO DECENT HUMAN BEING WOULD EAT ?
- IF JIMMY CRACKS CORN AND NO ONE CARES, WHY IS THERE A STUPID SONG ABOUT HIM?
- CAN A HEARSE CARRYING A CORPSE DRIVE IN THE CARPOOL LANE ?
- IF THE PROFESSOR ON GILLIGAN'S ISLAND CAN MAKE A RADIO OUT OF A COCONUT, WHY CAN'T HE FIX A HOLE IN A BOAT?
- WHY DOES GOOFY STAND ERECT WHILE PLUTO REMAINS ON ALL FOURS? THEY'RE BOTH DOGS!
- IF WILE E. COYOTE HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY ALL THAT ACME CRAP, WHY DIDN'T HE JUST BUY DINNER?
- IF CORN OIL IS MADE FROM CORN, AND VEGETABLE OIL IS MADE FROM VEGETABLES, WHAT IS BABY OIL MADE FROM?
- IF ELECTRICITY COMES FROM ELECTRONS, DOES MORALITY COME FROM MORONS?
- DO THE ALPHABET SONG AND TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR HAVE THE SAME TUNE?
- WHY DID YOU JUST TRY SINGING THE TWO SONGS ABOVE?

2011 ANIMAL LICENSES



Animal License Tags for 2011 are here. Licenses are required for all cats & dogs 6 months or older must be renewed on a yearly basis (Jan 1st to Dec 31st). Please complete the enclosed application form, attach the required fee and return it to City Hall with a copy of your vaccination record. Licenses applied for after April 1st are subject to double the license fee. Kennel licenses are required for anyone who owns or keeps 3 or more dogs or cats. A Kennel License is a one time fee of \$50.00 in addition to the annual licensing fee.



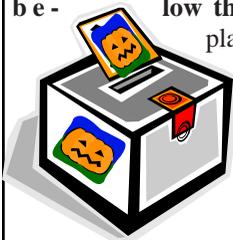
CHISAGO LAKES SCHOOL OPERATING LEVY



Voters in the Chisago Lakes School District will be asked to approve an Operating Levy for Chisago Lakes Area Schools on November 2, 2010. Two referendum questions will appear as part of the regular Election Day ballot on November 2nd and will contain information that explains to voters that the existing school operating levy is set to expire at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

Question 1 asks voters to extend the \$400.96 per pupil unit that will be expiring. Passing that question will not raise school taxes as it extends existing tax authority.

Question 2 for \$290.00 will keep the district from future deep cutting and will have new tax impact. The existing levy generates \$400.96 per pupil unit in the district. Even 9 years ago, that amount was below the state average for an operating levy. The current average operating referendum across the state is \$847.00 per pupil. **The total per pupil amount that the district is requesting is \$690.96 which is well below the state average.** Over 90% of school districts in the state have operating levies in place. In the past, operating levies were used for extra expenses but now for most districts, including Chisago Lakes, it keeps districts from making cuts in basic services.



If you have questions please contact the School District at 213-2000.
Vote on November 2nd at your regular polling place.



QUILT SHOW

The TF Historical Society is sponsoring a Quilt Show at the Folsom House on Oct 15, 16 & 17. Guests will be treated to a history of the St. Croix Valley told through quilts. Bev Proulx, quilt appraiser, will be offering appraisals (for a fee) on antique and present day quilts at the Town House School. Quilt appraisals will be by reservation only. Reservations can be made by calling Pins 'N Needles at 715-483-5728. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased from any TFHS Board Member or at Pins 'N Needles in SCF. For more information call Sandra Berg 651-465-0443.



LIBRARY NEWS

The days are getting shorter, the nights are getting longer. Time to have a good book to read. New books arrive often and many are on the New York Best-sellers List. Come in and check to see what we have on the shelves. Magazines and access to a high-speed computer are available. Hope to see you at the Library!



HOURS:
Wednesdays
2 pm - 5 pm
& 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Saturdays
9:30 am - 12:30 pm



Taylors Falls
November
Schedule of Events

Annual Artisans Show
November 13th & 14th
In the Memorial Community Center.
Celebrating 28 years of
excellent crafts, fine arts and live music.

Wassail Party Craft Fair
November 27th
Area crafters show beautiful
holiday gifts in the
Memorial Community Center and
1852 Town House.

Lighting Festival
November 26th, 27th, & 28th
Santa parade beginning at 6 p.m.,
with Santa Land, Christmas dogs,
stories read by Mrs. Santa,
Tractor drawn wagon rides,
Christmas houses, three craft fairs, special
performances, holiday booya, & more.

Christmas at the Folsom House
November 26, 27 & 28 & December 4 & 5
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 call 651.465.6635

B-I-N-G-O

at the
TF Memorial Community Center



FRIDAY, November 12th, sponsored by the
TF Lion's Club
6:30 pm TURKEY/HAM BINGO

SATURDAY, November 27th, sponsored by
the Lighting Festival Committee
6:30 pm CASH BINGO

Refreshments available.



FALL LEAF EVENTS

Each day you can take the excursion boat, rent a canoe, hike in MN Interstate State Park, visit the 1855 Folsom House (closed Tuesdays), walk in town, enjoy the shops, restaurants and mini golf while taking in the autumn colors!



*October 16, 2010 * Friends of TF*
Parks Oktoberfest - 11 am - 3 pm in
City Parking lot on Bench Street.
Brats & kraut, german potato salad,
chips, dessert & drink. **\$5.00**. Funds
to help pay for recreation programs.



26TH ANNUAL LIGHTING FESTIVAL - November 26th, 27th & 28th

The 2010 theme is "Taylors Falls the Christmas Card Village" and we invite each family house and downtown business to do outdoor holiday lighting, so that the town looks festive and inviting. Everyone looks forward to the Friday, 6 PM Santa Parade and grand lighting of the village. Why not get some lights of your own to wear and join in the fun. It's magical!

Judging of residential and commercial outdoor lighting will take place Friday evening, November 27th. You don't have to sign up. The judges, who are not from TF, drive every street in town and out a half mile on County Rd. 37, 20, and 16, north on Hwy. 95 and out Vista Road. Prizes for residential are: First \$75, Second \$50 and Third \$25.

There are **3 days** of activities: luminaria lining main street, Santaland, Mrs. Claus reads to the children, holiday booya, cloggers, three different craft/artisan fairs, Christmas at the 1855 Folsom House, the 1868 James Payne House decorated and open, performance of "A Christmas Quilt" by actors Marilyn Mays and Jim Walker, Ecumenical Choral Vespers, and MORE! The detailed schedule with map will be sent home with the school children and available on line starting November 1st. www.fallschamber.org and www.ci.taylors-falls.mn.us.

ROYAL LADY OF THE VILLAGE: Each year a women from the community is selected to be the Royal Lady. The criteria is: *She has made significant contributions to Taylors Falls and she has been active in promoting Taylors Falls above and beyond the ordinary.* You may submit a name and a statement of her qualifications directly to Barb Young, 465-6635 or wwymd@aol.com.

STREET ENTERTAINERS SOUGHT FOR FRIDAY EVENING: We are looking for singers, musicians, jugglers, story tellers and others to perform in the downtown area, by the Memorial Community Center, Folsom House and Payne House on Friday evening. Contact Barb Young.

ORNAMENT: This year we start a NEW series of limited edition, numbered ornaments. The 2010 ornament is the image on acrylic of the famous St. Croix River rock formation (Devil's Chair) the City has used on its stationery, has been used on lamp post banners and is a wall mural on Dr. Schmidt's building. They will be available in downtown shops starting November 1. Look for the announcement in the local newspapers.

PARADE: We're 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 roller skis, lighted hat marchers, your old car or tractor or pet done up with lights. Let Deb Julik-Heine know by Nov. 1st at 465-3004.

POT LUCK DINNER



POTLUCK

The Fall Community supper sponsored by the Taylors Falls Crime Watch Group will be at the First Baptist Church on Saturday, October 16th at 6:00 p.m. All Taylors Falls area residents are invited to attend. Please bring a dish to pass and enjoy a bounty of good eats!

ARCHERY DEER HUNT

The City is once again offering the City-wide archery hunt until 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 or on the City's web site
- Hunting must be from a minimum 10' raised platform
- No hunting within 100' of any neighboring structure
- Must provide a copy of MBRB sharpshooter qualification
- 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

More information about the hunt may be obtained on the City's web site or at City Hall during normal business hours.




FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM PW

 Please remember that there is no riding of snowmobiles allowed on City sidewalks or lawns. Snowmobiles are allowed very limited use unless it is to the gas station or to gain access to a trail.

 Don't forget to roll up your garden hoses so they don't freeze & remember to turn off your outside water spigots.

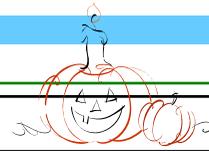
 There is NO dumping of leaves anywhere other than the compost site, which closes Nov 20th (weather permitting) & opens again the 2nd weekend in Jan to dispose of Christmas decorations.

 Burning is permitted in the City by obtaining a burning permit from City Hall. **DO NOT BURN TREATED WOOD**, it creates a chemical smoke that can be damaging to your lungs.

 City Ordinance prohibits the feeding of deer. It is often tempting to want to enjoy watching as they feed, but deer cause significant damage in TF. We have a higher ratio of deer in this area to begin with. Attracting more by feeding will only intensify the problem.

 Please be extra cautious now that school is back in session and the busses are on the road early in the morning. Yellow means CAUTION... Red means STOP! Watch for the children crossing the road!

 Fall hydrant flushing is underway. You may experience low water pressure & your water may be cloudy, rusty or have other noticeable discoloration for a short time. **♦♦ YOUR WATER IS STILL SAFE TO DRINK ♦♦**



STUMBLIN' DOWN MEMORY LANE

by Jack Liljenberg

Sunday, October 12, 1930, besides being a traditional "Columbus Day," was a somewhat noteworthy day in the history of Taylors Falls. That October Sunday of 80 years ago was when the first talking motion picture was shown in Taylors Falls. That first "talkie" shown here was the 1930 Paramount picture, "Shadow of the Law," that starred William Powell. On the previous Thursday, on October 9, 1930, the *Taylors Falls Journal* had made the following announcement:

"TALKIES" TO OPEN HERE NEXT SUNDAY EVENING

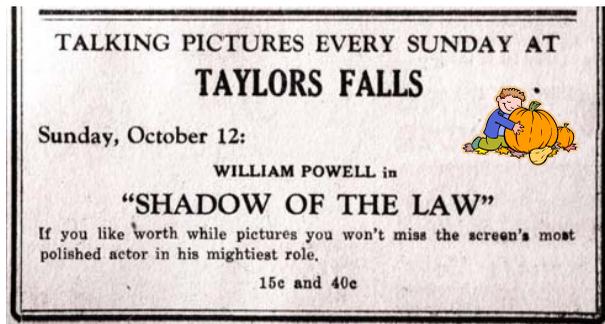
After considerable delay due to parts of the equipment being slow in arriving, the date has, at last, been set for the first showing of sound pictures in the Masonic hall at this place. The first picture to be shown is "Shadow of the Law," a dramatic story starring William Powell. It is a story of an innocent man's fight to clear himself before the law, the picture is filled with drama, action, suspense and heart-throbbing interest. It depicts a desperate struggle of one man against society. Admission has been set at 15 and 40 cents. The remodeling of the hall and installation of new seats will materially aid in the comfort of the patrons.

That issue of the *Taylors Falls Journal* also contained the accompanying ad, and that talkie was shown in what was then referred to as the Masonic Hall in which silent movies had previously been shown. That Masonic Hall was Taylors Falls' second Opera Hall/Knights of Pythias Hall that stood from 1903 to 1948 directly east across Bench/Main Street from the Taylors Falls Public Library.

The 1930 movie admission prices of 15¢ for children and 40¢ for adults, when adjusted for inflation, are about equal to \$1.98 and \$5.26 in 2010 dollars. In October 1930 the economic conditions were worse than they are now. Herbert Hoover was then the President of the United States, and the country was in its first full year of what later became known as the Great Depression that was then rapidly spreading outward to most other regions of the world.

Yet, in spite of the poor economic conditions, there was a good attendance at that first showing

of a talking picture in Taylors Falls. And, on the following Sunday, on October 19, the next talkie shown here was "Midnight Mystery." That movie starred Betty Compson and Lowell Sherman and was a mystery melodrama produced in 1930 by RKO Radio Pictures. The writer has not seen either "Shadow of the Law" or "Midnight Mystery" but would most likely enjoy both of them – along with popcorn aplenty!



WINTER REMINDERS

P
A
R
K
I
N
G

Winter parking regulations will take effect beginning Nov 1st ~ April 15th. There will be no parking of any cars, equipment or structures (including garbage cans & children's sporting equipment) on any street or alley between the hours of **2:00 a.m. & 6:00 a.m.** Parking is allowed during all other hours of the day **only** if it does not interfere with snow plowing. Violators may be ticketed & towed by order of the Chicago County Sheriff's Department.

S
I
D
E
W
A
L
K
S

Remember that all sidewalks must be shoveled clean of snow & ice within 24 hours after a snowfall subsides. If it is a 2-day snowstorm, the 24 hours begins at the end of the storm. The City reserves the right to hire someone to remove any snow or ice if it is not cleared after that time period. You should also take steps to eliminate slippery sidewalks by using sand and/or salt. If sidewalks are cleaned by the City, the property owner will be billed \$100.00.

COLD WEATHER RULE

Bills can pile up just like snow. The MN Cold Weather Rule is designed to protect people who may have trouble paying their utility bills during winter months. The Cold Weather Rule applies from October 15th through April 15th. The rule means that you are allowed an additional 10 days to pay your utility bill. If you'd like further information, please call City Hall.



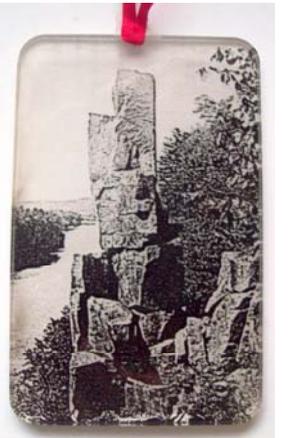
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

The TF Historical Society annual meeting is November 4th at 7:00pm at the Community Center. We hope to have Betty Crocker present the program! Plus vintage clothing on display. People are welcome to bring an article of clothing for the evening's display, with some explanation of the provenance.



2010 CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

The Lighting Festival Committee is excited to announce that this year we start a *NEW* series of limited edition, numbered ornaments. The 2010 ornament is acrylic with the image of the famous St. Croix River rock formation ~ the Devil's Chair. The City has used this image on its stationery for many years, and has been used on lamp post banners, and is a wall mural on Dr. Schmidt's building. They will be available in downtown shops starting November 1st. Many of you may recall the mysterious disappearance of this spectacular formation on April 12, 2005. To date it has not yet been determined if it was an act of God by simply "toppling" into the river, or if it was "assisted" by vandals.



YOUR CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

Sometimes it's hard to believe that I have served as the Mayor of Taylors Falls for the last eight years. While I have truly enjoyed it, it has not been without its share of challenges. But, the rewards have been greater than any of the challenges, and throughout, we continue to learn and grow.

As your Mayor I've had the privilege of working with a dedicated City Council and Staff. Together we have worked hard to reduce costs and cut spending, despite the fact that the State has reduced LGA every year. I continue to believe we will not fix our high tax problems by making cuts alone. What we need to do is increase our REVENUE BASE- and that is finally happening!

The City's dream of having a tax paying commercial property at the MnDOT Bench Street location is finally coming true after years of negotiations with MnDOT; although it will take some time to develop and sell the property.

We have also begun the process of annexing the Xcel Energy property and Lawrence Creek Substation into the City, and will see this additional property tax revenue in 2012.



Additionally, the City has purchased land from Xcel Energy, to be paid for using Xcel's own property tax money. This purchase provides us with land which can be used for future sewer pond expansion and the development of a business park.

I appreciate your trust in allowing me the opportunity to serve this community. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me. I've always said if I don't ask you for your vote, I don't deserve it. Please vote for me on November 2nd. Taylors Falls is one of the most beautiful places in the world and I will continue to work hard to keep it that way.

As always, I wish each of you good health and God's Blessings!

Mike Buchite



YOUR CANDIDATES FOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS (VOTE FOR 2) >>>>

Ross Rivard



I have been a lifelong resident of Taylors Falls. It has been my privilege to serve our community and make it stronger. I have been on the Planning Commission and City Council for many years because I am committed to our City. I have my own business, which gives me a strong background in city management. It also means that I have the ability to respond quickly to the needs of our community. In addition, I have been a volunteer firefighter for 32 years, serving our City.

I was one of the City negotiators with Xcel power, ensuring that Xcel would bury the power lines through Taylors Falls. Also, I was instrumental in bringing natural gas to the City. I am continually trying, as a member of the Council, to lower taxes, which the Council has successfully done for the past 6 years. ** I am asking for your vote in the upcoming election.**



Zara Kivi Kinnunen



I have been a Taylors Falls resident for 9 years, and I have been grateful to live here and work with the City. After being a resident just 2 years, I joined the Planning Commission, and served there for 3 years. I then ran for City Council, where I have had the honor to work for 4 years. I have also worked with the Heritage Preservation Commission, the Economic Development Commission, was a member of the Comprehensive Plan committee, and am currently the Liaison to the Chisago County Sheriff's Department. I am running again for Council because I care so much for this City. I enjoy the work as a Council Member for Taylors Falls, and I have skills to offer the Council here.

Our Council works very well together, and we continue to lower taxes, find the lowest bid for City work, and serve the citizens together. I have been able to save the City money by editing ordinances, legal documents, and grants. I have a degree in law and am college English teacher, and I have been happy to bring my background to our beautiful City.

I hope you will vote for me and allow me to continue to serve our community. Thank you very much!



Mary Jo Murphy

I have been living in Taylors Falls for 30 years. My service to the community has been on the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Lighting Festival, many fundraisers, City clean up, and a variety of other volunteer jobs. I believe with my experience in management, budgeting, technology, together with my enthusiasm, I can complement our existing City Council and further their vision for the City and residents of Taylors Falls. Having been a small business owner, I would like to see growth in this area, and find ways to attract more visitors to our community, while keeping our small town beauty and values.

