



RiverBoat Captain

I trust that everyone had a wonderful holiday! It certainly is hopeful that each and every one did have a good holiday season. I know that I did. Welcome to our twenty second year of publication. Member prior to the holiday bustle and hustle we wrote the article about the RiverBoat Captain carving?

Well guess what, Debbie Hartley called me with the requested information from our last issue request. Our RiverBoat Captain was the result of an elm tree that had to be cut down because it had the dreaded 'dutch elm' disease. The 1981-1984 SteamBoat Committee comprised of Bev Swanson, Monica Giese, Chris Anderson, Phyllis and Arlan Pauly and Pat Chalupsky who were the inspirational ensemble to create our RiverBoat Captain. He was called the "SteamBoat Captain" when the carving was begun at the 1985 SteamBoat Days by Kathleen Reitan. Kathleen at that time was from Minneapolis. In 1986, the sanding was completed. Debbie has the original newspaper clipping with the information. Thanks Debbie for coming forth with the information.

Obituaries

The "Villager Tower" received a call from a Carver resident who was quite upset that an obituary had not been written for her mother upon her death. I sincerely apologize to anyone who feels slighted. It is not the intention of this newsletter to deliberately overlook anyone. I need to be given pertinent information to share with every-one. So, if there is something that someone wants to have shared, please call me and we'll see that it gets printed. I can't print what I don't know. You can call and leave a message at 952) 448-5126 or send the information to 14210 County Road #40, Carver MN 55315. If someone would like a memorial submitted for a loved one, I would also print that for you. PS there is not a charge for this either. It is a civic service supplied to residents locally. Your businesses support the newsletter by sponsoring it monthly. So in turn, please be sure to patronize local businesses who give you the "Villager Tower".

Church-By-The-River Rental

Request was made to the council regarding rental policies pertaining to the Church-By-the River building and/or the Village Hall basement. There is a group interested in using the building for their Christian Fellowship Meetings. A policy has not been developed for the church site yet. The staff was directed to draft policy for rental of the building. It was also noted that the pews are stationary, and the table is very heavy, making it difficult to move.

The council reviewed proposed policy pertaining to the rental of the Church-By-The-River. Fees for rental were talked about. The staff was directed to revise the policy for further discussion. It was suggested that use of the church for wedding ceremonies should be encouraged.

The council reviewed the presented rental policy for the Church-By-The-River. Posting of the maximum capacity was questioned. The building inspector would calculate the maximum occupancy by building code definitions. The council requested same comparisons for the city hall's capacity. Motion was made and carried approving the Church-By-The-River's rental policy adding occupancy capacity.

The building inspector had calculated that the maximum capacity for the church would be eighty.

Tentative Agenda

Monday Evening 6:30 PM

Church-By-The-River

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approve Agenda
- 3) Petitions from Residents
- 4) Consent Agenda
- 5) Public Safety
- 6) Public Works Report
- 7) City Engineer/Planner Reports
- 8) Administrative Reports
- 9) Liaison Reports
- 10) Other Business
- 11) Adjourn



Comprehensive Plan

The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing regarding the proposed amendment to the Parks and Recreation segment of the Comprehensive Plan. The Park and Recreation Board requested additions, deletions, corrections, and suggestions so that the proposed amendment submitted for council approval will be accurate and up to date. The Planning Commission reviewed the document extensively. The City Planner will draft wording recommendations and the like for the Park and Recreation Board to finalize the proposed amendment prior to submission to the council.

The Park and Recreation Board approved the drafted portion of the Comprehensive Plan involving inclusion on map for the Snake Road, trail from Overlook Park to Highway #40, trail from County Road #40 to County Road #147, trail from the street in the Orrin Thompson Development to Overlook Park and a trail around the Community Park. A Public Hearing was scheduled for the Comprehensive Plan amendments at the Planning Commission meeting.

Council member questioned the city planners notation regarding Tollefson Development with the Comprehensive Plan processes. The attorney explained the statement "Working through development of a planning process that will fit the Alternative Urban Area Wide Review with the Comprehensive Plan process."

Skating Rinks

The skating rinks are ready for the freezing temperatures so everyone can enjoy skating. There are ice rinks at the Community Park and the Lions Park. So when the cold moves in, maybe then everyone can grab their skates quick before it warms up again. The board also discussed the necessity of lighting.

The Park and Recreation Board was told that both ice-skating rinks are open. However, hockey is presently prohibited until guidelines are met for insurance reasons regarding liability factors. Free skating is permissible.



Highway #312 Proposal

The council reviewed and discussed the MN DOT proposal for the highway #312 project in Carver. MN DOT is proceeding with a separate project design pertaining to highway #212 - #312 - and County Road #147 intersection. Meanwhile also continuing the scheduled design for Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, Chaska and Carver terrain. The city's engineer explained that the intention of the transportation department is to construct the #212/#312/#147 intersection at the same time as the scheduled design project.

The city engineer presented two details for the project for the council to review. Lisa Freese from MN DOT explained that because of the construction at County Road #147 there was justification for reanalysis of the intersection of #212 and #147 when designing the proposed #312 project. The connection of Bade Lane to the existing #212 had been eliminated; reconnecting Bade Lane to Mt Hope Road via Forner Lane.

Another MN DOT representative presented an overview of the project. There was mention of some problems with properties enroute that may be of national historic importance. Statement was made that County Road #147 would go over Highway #212. Drainage issues were talked about, as well as stop lights and plans for the existing east/west Highway #212.

Mr Chiglo, project manager for Highway #212 project was introduced. He stated that the old highway would have a cul-de-sac for access to some existing homes. A Highway #212 layout proposal from MN DOT would be presented to the council. The city would then have approximately thirty days to discuss, approve and/or deny the layout. Then the City of Carver will hold a Public Hearing (presently scheduled for January 20th 2004) regarding the proposed layout. Within ninety days the city is required to respond to MN DOT regarding what they approve.

A Public Hearing was scheduled for consideration of municipal consent for the proposed new Highway #212. Discussions would include layouts, grades and cost sharing.

Highway Intersection

The council held a meeting for the purpose of discussing the County Road #147 and Highway #212 intersection at the northwest corner of the city limits. A MN DOT (Department of Transportation) representative presented an overview of the project which has been presently funded. The DOT has been working on the design. In November the DOT presented the city with compressed diamond design re-requesting the approval of the city. At this time DOT is working on environmental clearance, requesting input from residents and officials. The goal is to have final plans delivered to the city by the beginning of February. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin the end of 2005.

Another MN DOT representative with the title of Project Manager explained the 'Compressed Diamond' interchange. There was a discussion pertaining to walkway and whether or not this walkway should be on the east or west side of the road. The city's Comprehensive Plan places the trail on the east side of County Road #147. However, MN DOT placed it on the west side. The project manager talked about concerns voiced relating to the traffic volume. She explained the DOT's formula for prediction of volume and anticipated growth. These numbers and formulas are all speculative figures based on statistics and estimates.

The mayor expressed concern regarding the cost share of the trail. Council member expressed question pertaining to the design of the cul-de-sac ending of Highway #212. Couldn't another road be constructed like the west side of County Road #147? Explanation was given that the properties on the west side accessed Hwy #212, and this would be an alternate access to the right of way. The east side of County Road #147 is a different scenario. Another council member expressed gratitude for the state redrawing the plan and it was their opinion that the new design was fantastic.

The county engineer confirmed the walkway on the east side of County Road #147 with the state constructing a bridge crossing the sidewalk on the west side. This is an issue requiring discussion and decisions immediately. [Reference the "Chaska Herald" issue dated January 15th for a map and more lengthy article written by Bob Siegel. The 'Herald' can be purchased at most local businesses in Chaska, or if you have a computer, you could access the "Herald" on line.]

DownTown Improvements

The council held a Public Hearing for the assessments regarding the DownTown Improvements. The engineer explained the total expenses, Carver County's contribution for the work on County Road #40 and Tax Increment Funds utilized to cover project costs. Input from the audience was requested concerning the project. The only comment concerned cost of assessment. Motion was made and carried adopting the resolution for assessments of the DownTown Improvements Project.

Carver Ridge

A formal resolution adopting the assessment roll for the Carver Ridge area lift station improvement project was necessary. Motion was made and carried adopting the resolution for the assessment concerning the Carver Ridge Area Lift Station Improvement Project.

Heritage Development

The council was presented with amended resolution pertaining to the type of road designed for Heritage Development. Motion was made and carried adopting resolution approving the preliminary plat of TownHome, and Single-Family lots and the Right-Of-Way on thirty eight acres for the Heritage Development.

The Park and Recreation Board reviewed the proposed trail presented for the Heritage Development. The Park and Recreation Board needs to decide if the trail is wanted; the location and the width of the trail. There was discussion regarding the slope of the trail specifically pertaining to the maintenance of it. A suggestion was submitted that during winter months the trail should be temporarily closed. Snow and ice make maintenance virtually impossible and this is not an uncommon practice. The board recommended by motion approving a six foot wide trail, up against the curb on the east side of the Heritage Development.

DownTown Business Banners

The use of advertising banners by the down town businesses was discussed by the council. One business owner informed the council that banners are part of the businesses and are necessary, as well as an economical way to advertise. Options presented involve limiting size and quantities of signs. One council member was of the opinion that there had not been enough complaints to justify any proposed action concerning banners. The bar owners are scheduled to meet with the inspector to discussion options and the banners. The banners are an economical advertising means and draw attention to businesses. These banners are done professionally and are not displeasing to the eye. The inspector stated that maybe the ordinance need some fine tuning.

Truth-N-Taxation

The Public Hearing was held for Truth In Taxation. One resident stated that he had been told that the taxes would go down. His assessed value rose 17% and the city portion of taxes increased \$25. It was this citizens' opinion that the taxes were too high.

It's a Girl Grandpa!

Bob Schilz is Grandpa! His daughter Rachel presented him with a beautiful granddaughter on December 9th 2003. The proud dad is Greg Meuffels. And of course, Katelyn has two proud aunts, Michele and Sarah. Katelyn Marie was born on December 9th at 8:30 PM, weighing in at 7 lbs 13 ozs and 21" long in St Francis in Shakopee. Grandma Colleen lives in Chaska and is just as tickled with her new granddaughter and we can't forget the other grandparents Betty and Jerry. Congratulations everyone and welcome Katelyn.

"A room without a book is like a body without a soul"

Municipal Utilities

The city's financial consultant reviewed the financial status of the city pertaining to the municipal utilities accounts. The council discussed connection charges and user fees for operation and maintenance of utilities. Suggestion was submitted that expansion costs and operation and maintenance accounts should be separate. Suggestion was made that a minimum balance be maintained in the water fund. There was a discussion relating to increasing water rates. The financial consultant explained that the water fund possessed a healthy balance. However, a small increase was in order to maintain this balance with increasing costs. There had not been an increase for two years. Therefore, she suggested a one percent increase at this time. One council member opposed this increase. The consultant also recommended an increase of five percent in the water connection charges. This increase was also opposed by one council member. The administrator requested a fees resolution be presented to the council to incorporate the proposed increase into the resolution.

The council discussed the sewer fund. The consultant explained that this fund is operating at a deficit and has been for several years. The Operation and Maintenance Fund has received transferred funds from the water fund in the past. She recommended a fifteen percent increase in rates to cover operation and maintenance sewer costs. The possibility of connecting to the metropolitan system was briefly discussed. A fifteen percent increase was not feasible at this time, so a five percent increase was the compromise at this point. The majority of the council agreed with the suggested five percent increase. One council member favored a three percent increase.

The main street lift station was brought up. The consultant explained that options included a conservative increase in sewer connection charges or postponement until more data was gathered. Consensus had been to wait for additional data. The general consensus was not to increase the sewer connection charges at this time.

The engineer presented a brief overview of the municipal utilities future needs. The discussion centered around a third well. The proposed site was Lions Park. This third well would be necessary by the summer of 2005. The engineer also briefly reviewed the Comprehensive Plan. The placement of the new water tower was discussed, but the Comprehensive Plan needs to be completed to decide the location of the infrastructure.

The Public utilities superintendent reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan projections and proposed budgets with the council. He told the council that the downtown lift station needs to be enlarged soon. The new construction is putting a lot of stress on the present lift station. He also told the council that the manholes are in bad shape, as well as expensive to replace. He was directed to draft proposal for repair and replacement of manholes. The council would like this work done as soon as possible.

The council was reminded of the issue for construction of Well #3. The city experienced large water demands in the year 2003 due to weather conditions. If one of the two existing wells were to be out of service, the city would not be able to meet the higher summer demands. Having a third well available as a back up for use during higher volume days was recommended, as has having three wells been a part of the city's current water system capital plan.

The engineer told the council that the well is proposed to be constructed at the Lions Park near the existing Well Number #1 pump house. This location was chosen to allow the city to take advantage of the existing pump house and the raw water main which will help to reduce project costs. Motion was made and carried directing the staff to prepare plans and specifications for Well #3 and pumping facility improvements.

The council discussed the sewer capacity at the wastewater treatment plant and/or connecting to the Met Council line. These determinations will have to be made while the Comprehensive Plan is being updated.

Motion was made and carried adopting the resolution accepting the offer of the MN Public Facilities Authority to purchase General Obligation Water Revenue Note of 2004 providing for its issuance and authorizing execution of a project Loan and Bond purchase agreement.

Ag Preserve Program

The council was reminded that a citizen had requested retainage of property in the Ag Preserve Program. Keeping this property in the Ag Preserve Program for an additional eight years would not have any adverse effect on the city. Motion was made and carried adopting the resolution granting approval for renewal of the land in the Agricultural Preservation Program.

The city planner informed the council that upon further study of the Ag Preserve request, the property does not meet two of the four conditions required for the Ag Preserve Program. Motion was made and carried rescinding the resolution placing the property in the Ag Preserve Program.

Fire Station/Public Works Facility

The Fire Chief reminded the council that in order to keep costs down on the new facility, painting the interior of the building had been eliminated from the bidding package. The council was told of money set aside for the old fire station. Question was asked if this money could be used for the new facility. Motion was made and carried directing the staff to obtain an updated bid for painting the interior of the new fire station.

The council discussed the removal of the phone system from the bidding process to save money. A committee had been formed to review quotes for the phone system. One company achieved requirements and offered the best warranty. Recommendation was submitted to the council to approve Nova for the work. Motion was made and carried accepting the Nova Communications quote for Data Cable and the Phone System at the Fire Station/Public Works Facility.

One of the firefighters for the city approached the council to inform them of the awarding of a FEMA grant for computers, exercise equipment, etc for the new fire station. This grant was a ten percent matching grant requiring a contribution from the city. Motion was made and carried authorizing spending matching share for the grant for the Fire Department. Congratulations to the fire fighter who took the time to work on the FEMA grant application and succeeding at receiving the grant.

Subdivision Regulations Revisions

The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing to review the proposed revisions pertaining to the Subdivision Regulations concerning deadlines and application processes for Preliminary and Final Plats submitted for approval. The City Planner explained that the proposed amendment changes the deadline for recording final plats from ninety days to six months. The ninety day requirement had been extremely difficult to achieve. There is a significant amount of work required to be completed between approval of the final plat to recording. This included drafting and executing a Developer's Agreement, reviewal by the County Surveyor, compliance with conditions of resolution approved and financial securities. The Planning Commission motioned to amend the Subdivision Regulations in the City Code for recording final plats from ninety days to six months. The council adopted ordinance amendment regarding final plat deadlines by motion.

Fire Department Officers

The Fire Department held their 2004 elections for officers. In case you might need this information for future reference, the new officers are:

Fire Chief - Jerry Dauwalter
First Assistant Chief - Phil Clay
Second Assistant Chief - Robert (Mel) Nelson
First Captain - Dave Diethelm
Second Captain - Scott King
Training Officer - Dan Meyer
Fire Marshall - Phil Clay
Safety Officer - Mike Ruegemer
Member - at-large - Randy Clay

Congratulations!

RiverSide Park

The Park and Recreation Board talked about the upkeep in RiverSide Park. There was particular interest involving the cutting of brush and growth maintenance in general. The 'definition' of 'maintenance' for this area needed clarification. It was the Park and Recreation Board's opinion that recommendation be submitted to maintain the park area involving brush and general growth.

Park Dedication Fees

The Park and Recreation Board was of the opinion that the Park Dedication Fees Policy should be updated. Request needs to be submitted to the council for policy review. The Park and Recreation Board would like to review this policy and submit input for the Comprehensive Plan.

Trails

The Park and Recreation Board reviewed other trails requiring their attention. They discussed the plan for the trail around the perimeter of the Community Park. They decided the best width for the trail, then proceeded with discussion about the surface of the trail and whether or not they should construct the trail or take bids for it. The board discussed requesting the administrator to apply for grant monies for a trail from Sixth Street to Gilfillan along County Road #147 and for a trail from Lions Park.

Recreational Partnership

The Park and Recreational Board reviewed information updating proposed 'recreational partnership' with the City of Chaska Community Center. Carver resident input had been positive. Financial obligations were a concern. The possibility of a one year trial term was being reviewed. Hopes were that an agreement could be reached as soon as possible.

Negotiations are in progress between the Chaska Recreation Center and the City of Carver. The Park and Recreation Board made a motion accepting a financial obligation on a one year trial basis for a "Recreational Partnership" between the Chaska Recreation Center and the City of Carver for "resident rates" for Carver residents.

2004 Project Summary

The Park and Recreation Board reviewed their 2004 project list considered to be undertaken throughout the year. Request was submitted to prioritize these projects providing a timeline and a better understanding of allocation of funds for these projects.

"Every Path has some Puddles"

2-Prime Amphitheater

Proposal

The city has received a copy of the drafted environmental statement for the Q-Prime Amphitheater Proposal. A Public Information Meeting was scheduled to discuss and review how this facility would affect the City of Carver.

The Environmental Impact Statement draft for the proposed amphitheater to be built in Louisville and Sand Creek Townships in Scott County was distributed at the meeting for public comments. One citizen pointed out that a change noted in the draft was the turning of the amphitheater to face Carver. Comment was made that this statement makes no mention or studies of how many decibels or how loud the sound from the amphitheater will be. State laws are not designed to deal with this type of situation and Carver residents will be exposed to the sounds of the music. And it will be heard. Question was asked about how far the promoters of the amphitheater have to go to see what area will be affected by the noise.

One citizen reviewed statistics on noise levels. It was his opinion that a study be done. A study had been done for the amphitheater in Bloomington. Another citizen pointed out that sounds can be heard from motorcycles, the Scott County Fair and the Threshers Show in Jordan in the bluff area of Carver. The mayor pointed out that the statement reported no traffic impacts for Carver.

One individual pointed out that this issue has been brought to the counties and cities attention for the past three years. Another individual has expressed opposition for four and half years. The issue has been quite silent for some time. It was pointed out that Carver residents WILL hear the sound. The question remains if that sound exceeds state standards, and that depends on which faction you listen to. The traffic issue will be compared to the Renaissance Festival traffic.

Question was asked if this was a county or city issue. The group was told that the Cities of Chaska and Chanhassen and the county of Carver have all passed resolutions opposing this amphitheater. Comment was made that it was doubtful that the state standard would be surpassed in the City of Carver, but none the less, the people in Carver will hear this amphitheater. One council member interjected that it was their opinion that the state standards should be included in the Environmental Impact Statement, along with traffic issues.

The Q-Prime representative stated that the drafted Environmental Impact Study was a Scott County requirement and it was his opinion that the draft was not a good draft done by Scott County's engineers consultants. The mayor would like to have input on how much this will impact the City of Carver. Motion was made and carried directing the city planner to submit to Scott County the city's concerns regarding the noise and traffic impacts.

Did you know...that some of Carver's earliest dwellings are today incorporated in some of Carver's garages and outbuildings.

Snow Parking Ordinance

The council was apprised of problems regarding tagging violators during previous snow storm. The city has in place an ordinance to deal with snowplowing after a two inch snowfall. Third Street parking presents extenuating circumstances during these times since there are residents who do not have off street parking available. Notation was made that when two vehicles park across from one another, emergency vehicles cannot pass. Suggestion was submitted that parking be allowed on one side of the street during snow events. When plowed, move the vehicles to the opposite side allowing plowing of the entire street. Question was asked about implementing odd/even parking and would this theory work? The council requested that the staff coordinate efforts with residents on this particular street to resolve snow emergency parking issues. The mayor pointed out that there are also other areas also affected by no off street parking availability. Interested individuals for working out the Third Street Snow Parking issues were directed to contact Mr Ray Williams.

Dahlgren Township

The Dahlgren Township Board talked about a road agreement that should be looked into. The board also discussed trees on the right-of-way of roads. There was also a discussion pertaining to items at the end of the driveway that the snowplow hits. Warning signs would cause a lot less damage to the plows. The board discussed the authority of limiting all terrain vehicles in road ditches. Drafting a resolution relating to posting property was briefly talked about. Suggestion was submitted to talk about this issue at the annual meeting.

The board also discussed the law concerning prohibiting plowing, shoveling, blowing or depositing any snow on public roads. This violation is punishable by law. The clerk was directed to place ads in the local papers to alert township residents.

Carver Bluffs

A report was submitted to the council regarding statement that the Preliminary Plat application previously filed for this development has run out of time and an extension is being requested. During the course of the review, discovery was made that the development did not have appropriate Comprehensive Plan guidance or zoning. Furthermore, the developer has been revising plans from original submissions. At this time, the Preliminary Plat will be expiring. In order to allow sufficient time for Planning Commission review of this development; an extension has been requested. The city attorney and the city planner both recommend approval of the extension. Motion was made and carried approving extending the sixty day time limit another sixty days for Carver Bluffs West as allowed by state statute.

The Park and Recreation Board reviewed preliminary plat of Carver Bluffs West subdivision. Sidewalks and trails were discussed. Many issues require the input of the city engineer prior to decisions. The Park and Recreation Board will follow up on this issue at a later date.

Storm Sewer Utility

The staff had been directed to review the issue of establishing a storm water utility at the meeting. The engineer reported to the council that the city is experiencing storm water management challenges. These include storm sewer system upgrades; erosion and sediment control; maintenance cost increases; NPDES Phase 2 Storm Water Permit issues. These activities require significant city expenditure which continue to increase requiring appropriate financing. The city can equitably distribute storm water management costs without increasing property taxes or assessments by creating a storm water utility. An ordinance and a public hearing would be necessary to establish a storm water utility to implement a fee. The council discussed the cost of storm water maintenance and the NPDES permits and how much of a fee would be placed on utility bills. A council member inquired about how much the fee had generated thus far. This information will be discussed at a future meeting. The attorney stated that the surface water management plan requires completion which is part of the storm sewer utility management. Motion was made directing the staff to draft a storm water utility ordinance and a fee to be presented at the scheduled Public Hearing in February.

Drug Laboratory Sites

The city reviewed the city ordinance addition concerning health risks primarily attributable to drug laboratory sites. The city attorney's memo stated that various cities throughout the state have experienced extremely disturbing issues with methamphetamine laboratories. It has been very difficult for the police to effectively monitor, control suspected sites and clean up the toxicity at these sites without an effective ordinance in place. Motion was made and carried adopting the ordinance amending present ordinance to add reducing health risk exposure at clandestine drug lab sites and chemical dump sites.

Depot Park

The Park and Recreation Board continues their research on the purchase of a caboose for Depot Park. The board reviewed additional presented information regarding the acquisition of a caboose. A grant may be available for such a project. The city planner would do more research on this possibility. A board member also had information pertaining to possible donation of a caboose to the city. Further research will be pursued.

YellowStone Raccoons

The YellowStone Raccoons 4-H Club will be meeting January 20th at Sherrie Murphey's home. So watch for upcoming news about what the 4-Hers are doing this year in the next issue.

Did you know... that Union Sgt Andrew Mattson died in Carver of disease contracted while he was a prisoner of the Confederates during the Civil War.

Third Annual Outdoor Christmas Decoration Contest

The Carver Lions held their Third Annual Outdoor Christmas Decoration Contest in December of 2003. Congratulations to the winners who are Dan and Jeannine Barclay, Jim and Joan Rein and Harlan & Donna Thaumert. Great job people!

If anyone was paying any attention at all, there were many, many homes decorated not only in Carver, but outside of the city limits as well. They also deserve mention. There were some on County Road #40, Mt Carmel Road, Halsey Avenue, Carver Highlands, County Road #50, and last but not least there were two homes on Joyce Road that were decorated. The one resembled a ginger bread house. Next year, if you get the chance and these people decorate again, be sure to drive around and check them all out. It's well worth your time. Everyone did a fantastic job. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done!

You know, it is not always about winning. I can talk smart, yes, our home was one on County Road #40 that has decorated tractors, equipment and the like....our daughters do all, and I mean all the decorating of the house! We get lots and lots and lots of compliments and comments! Thank you everyone! Then there is the neighbor up the road who we really compete with. She has people that come to her door to tell her how nice it looks and how they appreciate the decorations! That's what it's really about, getting people to get out and really appreciate the season and take the kids to see the lights and bring a smile to someone's face. AGAIN thanks to everyone for the compliments and see y'all next year if the girls continue tradition. Wonder what their theme will be next year, you can bet it will involve tractors. Even Marsha had a 'wannabe'. Congratulations EVERYONE! You are all winners!

Carver Youth

Softball/Baseball Association

Watch for sign up information to be coming possibly the end of January, early part of February. You can find more information in the City of Carver's newsletter, the 'Chaska Herald', schools, other local papers and bulletin boards.

Spring will be here soon and then softball, baseball all begin. Bet the kids can't wait, especially ball players who really like to play softball and baseball.

Did you know... that the second newspaper established in Carver County was the *Carver County Democrat*, founded in 1858 and located in Carver. The first newspaper was a German-language newspaper printed for a year in 1857, and the third was the *Chaska Herald*, established in 1860.

.... That the Hastings and Dakota Division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St Paul Railroad was completed to Carver in 1872 & extended beyond through Dahlgren, Benton and Young America to Glencoe in 1873.

Carver Lions

The Carver Lions are making plans and working on details for two events in spring. They are working on scheduling a Pancake Breakfast and a Pork Dinner. So watch the newsletter and the Carver newsletter for upcoming details to these two events.

Remember the SteamBoat Raffle Quilt named "Windows by the River"? Then it became the hot topic of a calendar. Well, guess what the latest tid bit about this quilt is? Presently, the quilt is being professionally framed and preserved funded by the Carver Lions after John Lenzen purchased the quilt from the winner. Isn't that fantastic? The Lions plan on donating it to the City of Carver to be hung in the Church-By-The-River. Way to go! Far too COOL for words!

Also, those busy Carver Lions never sit still for a moment. They have been out delivering fruit baskets to the *Senior Citizens* over the holiday season. Auburn Manor received a donation from the Carver Lions. And these Lions purchased an antique desk which originally was in the Feed Mill building that the Carver Depot is located presently. This desk has been put in the Church-By-The-River. The Lions were also involved with the Carver Village Christmas Event, which was very successful and lots and lots of fun. I have it on good authority that Santa was "awesome". This event will be repeated I'm sure.

New members are always welcomed. If interested you can come to the meeting and check them out. The Lions meet the first and third Wednesday of the month. They have recently acquired four more new members. They are Brent Dovre, David Huybers, Tim Jones and Daryl Ziegler.

OBJECTS & ART MUSTARD MOON

Occasional Sales
Antiques Original Art
Home Comforts Vintage Finds

2004 SALE DATES

Jan 22,23,24	Feb 19,20,21
Mar 18,19,20	April 15,16,17
May 20,21,22	June 17,18,19
July 15,16,17	Aug 19,20,21

All the above sales are:

Thur 10-5 Fri 10-5 Sat 10-3

Sept 10,11	Fri 10-5 & Sat 10-3
Sept 24,25,26	Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5
	Sun 11-3

Oct 14,15,16	Nov 11,12,13	Dec 2,3,4
Thur 10-5	Fri 10-5	Sat 10-3

113 3RD STREET
CARVER MN 55315
612-508-3529 OR 952-292-8479

Fire Department Highlights and Community Calendar

January 2004

January 7th - Happy Birthday Leon!
 January 17th - Happy Birthday David!
 January 18th - Happy Birthday Eric!
 January 19th - Martin Luther King, Jr Day
 January 20th - Yellowstone Raccoons 4-H Meeting
 - Dahlgren TownShip Meeting
 January 26th - Happy Birthday Rich!
 January 27th - Happy Birthday Paul!
 Happy Birthday Patty!
 Happy Birthday Paul!
 January 29th - Happy Birthday Shawn!
 January 24th - Happy Birthday Troy!
 January 27th - Planning Commission Meeting
 January 29th - Fire Department Meeting Night



February 2004

February 1st - FD Pancake Breakfast
 February 2nd - Council Meeting
 - Ground Hog Day
 February 5th - Drill Night
 - Heritage Preservation Meeting
 February 8th - East Union Church 'Silent Auction & Spaghetti Dinner
 February 9th - Park & Recreation Board Meeting
 - Dahlgren TownShip Board Meeting
 February 12th - Lincoln's Birthday
 February 14th - Valentine's Day
 February 15th - Happy Birthday Katie!
 - Happy Birthday Kim!
 February 16th - Drill Night
 - Council Meeting
 - President's Day
 February 18th - Happy Birthday Mervia!
 February 22nd - Washington's Birthday
 - Happy Birthday Sandra!
 February 25th - Ash Wednesday
 February 26th - Fire Department Meeting Night
 February 27th - Happy Birthday Dad!



Happy Valentine's Day

East Union Lutheran Church Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction

Looking for something good to eat?
 Why don't you stop in at the East Union Parish Center for
 Some good food. They are serving salad, spaghetti, bread
 and dessert from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

All the proceeds from the dinner will be going to the East
 Union Youth Group.



Did you know...

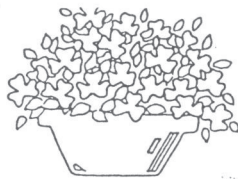
...that a large part of Carver County, including the City of Carver,
 was once located in Hennepin County in the territory of Minnesota?

...that by 1857 five school districts were established in Carver
 County, with a total of 184 students. These districts were Carver,
 Chaska, Benton, Chanhassen and Groveland. These district drew a
 total of \$784 in school tax, far less than the average Carver
 County home and business alone pay today.


...that in the 1850's the prevailing investment epidemic for inves-
 tors was to speculate in potential town sites and their develop-
 ment. Carver and Chaska are examples of such speculation that
 saw success. The neighboring towns Louisville and San Francisco
 are examples of town investing that failed.



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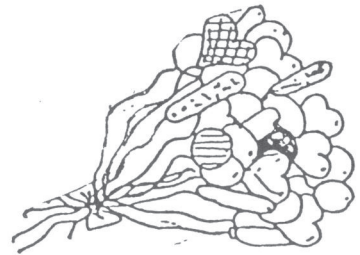

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