

December 2008

Do you know what the significance of December 13th is? Did you know that this is the Swedish festival of lights that helps to brighten up the long winter nights in December? This day also celebrates the life of the real Saint Lucia, who was known for her kindness and love.

Does anyone remember what is happening on Sunday, December 14th? Continuing their anniversary celebrations the church will be celebrating this Swedish tradition of St Lucia Festival at their Sunday 10 AM service, along with their Christmas Program and dinner.

So who is this St Lucia you ask? Why are we talking about St Lucia? Glad you asked. You knew this was coming. Stop groaning. Obviously, we reside in a community full of Swedes! Yes, we have other origins sprinkled throughout, but we are concentrating on the Swedish heritage in this particular instance.

Where were we? Oh yes, the celebration tradition, Saint Lucia of Italy in Sweden, who is honored annually on the 13th of December. The total darkness of the Lucia early morning is broken by the glow of the Lucia figure dressed in a flowing gown of white, afire with a wreath of candles upon her head. Sankta Lucia, as she is known in Swedish is a creation of goodness and light. Also stated that she serves as a symbol of hope and peace for the Christmas season. She is a shining angel illuminating the way to the Christmas season.

The Lucia celebration originates in the Middle Ages. December 13th was the longest night of the year. The St Lucia legend is a white clad maiden, wearing a crown of burning candles appeared on the shores of Sweden's largest lake bringing food to the starving villages during a time of famine.

Another excerpt explains that St Lucia Day is a holiday dedicated to the saint celebrating it as a festival of lights. Christmas begins in Sweden with the St Lucia ceremony. St Lucia also marks Advent and the beginning of the Christmas season in Scandinavia. Hanukkah is not the only festival of lights celebrated in this season. Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Italy and Croatia celebrate the festival of lights. (Somehow one must ponder that most of the world does also with Christmas lights. No one ever actually said there was a connection to St Lucia celebration of lights. What do you think?)

Tradition has it that the Lucia procession takes place in Swedish homes. One source states that the eldest daughter, (another source says the youngest daughter) possesses the honour of being Lucia. She and her siblings roused the family with their singing. Then the family gathered together with saffron buns at breakfast.

While another source spoke of St Lucia as chosen maiden would not only wake her own family, but also go from one farm to the next carrying a torch to light her way, bringing baked goods, stopping to visit at each house and returning home by the break of day. Did you know that in Norway and Sweden it is still a custom for a young lady dressed in a white dress representing St Lucia to bring a tray of saffron buns and steaming coffee to wake the family?

There are special foods for Lucia's Day. One is spicy gingerbread biscuit called Lussekatter. The other was mentioned above, saffron buns. Also served is a mulled wine called 'Glogg'. Common holiday foods may also include Swedish meatballs, lutefisk, flat bread and various sweet breads.

I will also betcha' that there is a whole bunch of people that were not aware that the Gustavus Adolphus college participates in the St Lucia celebration. Didn't realize that it was such a significant celebration did ya'?



The Gustavus Adolphus College will celebrate its 67th Annual Festival on the 6th of December. As part of their celebration, one sophomore and four classmates will be selected to serve as St Lucia and the Lucia Court. Didn't know that did you? (Honestly, neither did I.) These young ladies will be chosen based on academic achievements, spiritual leadership and service to the college and others as part of the tradition dating back to 1941. The annual celebration commemorates St Lucia's courage.

The annual celebration at the college features early morning caroling by St Lucia and her court, a service crowning St Lucia in Christ Chapel and a traditional Swedish smorgasbord, also featuring a musician. The public is welcome and invited to the free 10 AM chapel service.

To truly appreciate the full significance of the celebration one needs to understand the solar planet. Not only does this holiday tradition play an important role in the lives of the people throughout Sweden, but also many of the holidays are focused around religious tradition Sweden has sunshine almost twenty four hours a day during the lightest time of the year. But, in December, it is dark for most of the day! Then everyone lights candles. On December 13th each year on St Lucia Day, very early in the morning, every school in the country is illuminated by candlelight. There is a slow graceful procession, singing traditional songs with all the maidens. They truly physically brought light with them.

So there you have it! It is not too difficult to appreciate why this community chose to celebrate their anniversary closing of the year with the celebration of St Lucia to display their deeply rooted pride in their heritage. I hope that I have been able to clearly show the importance of this celebration and tradition.

Written by: Ricki Yvonne Schultz

Sources: Internet Encyclopedia
Swedish Customs
Gustavus Adolphus website

Carver / Louisville Road

The council opened a Public Hearing to discuss the vacation of the Carver / Louisville Road at the request of the MN Valley Trust. The city attorney explained that there are city owned parcels which will be conveyed to the Trust and that the trust owns all the land surrounding these parcels and the road. The council reviewed these parcels on a map presented at the meeting. MN Valley Trust representative clarified that there was also some park land owned by the trust that would be part of the land exchange for the two small city owned parcels. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the resolution authorizing the vacation of the Carver and Louisville Road.

Former Lane Utility Improvements

The council held an Assessment Hearing regarding utility improvements for Former Lane. The informational letter and assessment roll were reviewed by the city engineer. Questions were discussed regarding the proposed assessments. Motion was made and carried with all ayes continuing the Public Hearing.

The city engineer provided a slide presentation on the utility improvements. The process utilized to reach the assessment amount was explained by the engineer. There was a discussion on the final amounts. The Public Hearing was closed.

The council discussed the five options presented for assessments to property owners. Motion was made and carried with four ayes and one nay adopting the resolution accepting the assessments for the Former Lane Utility Improvements with Option #3.

Forner Lane / Bade Lane

The Fire Chief returned to the council after researching an alternative for addressing properties on Forner Lane. The Fire Chief was not able to find a solution to the readdressing issue even after attempting multiple strategies or conversations with the city planner, city engineer or emergency services. These addresses are assigned, not picked. The Fire Chief quoted the fire code for assigning addresses and presented final recommendations for final addressing of homes on Forner/Bade Lanes. A resident presented his alternative addressing proposal for the area. The Fire Chief's reaction and explanation was that the numbers begin high and decline which does not work with the cad/emergency numbering system. Statement was made that it seemed that Emergency Services directs the addressing numbering system. Motion was made and denied approving signage for Forner Lane. Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving the Fire Chief's recommendation for addressing Forner Lane, except to change the last two addresses to Forner Lane.

Lyle Wood Glen

The city was informed by the city attorney that the lender has secured the development for the development. There is a Title Insurance issue being worked on for resolution. Preservation of the buildings is precedent. The attorney requested allowing him to monitor the situation. This issue will be monitored and followed up on.

St Nicholas Celebration

Submitted by: St Nicholas Church

Happy 140th Anniversary St. Nicholas Church!

Light a few candles. Have some wine. Help us celebrate 140 years of Catholic faith and community. Join new, longstanding and prospective St. Nicholas Church parishioners and community members alike in lively celebrations commemorating the 140th Anniversary of St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 412 4th Street West in Carver.

Events begin with a December 4th, 6-8 PM. Wine Tasting Event at Dolce Vita Wine Shop in Chaska. Advance tickets available through St. Nicholas Church for \$10, \$15 at the door. Special masses at St. Nicholas Church throughout the weekend include: Saturday, December 6th, 9:30 AM Mass with Archbishop John C. Nienstedt. Refreshments will follow in St. Nicholas Parish Center. Our regular Saturday, December 6th, 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM Mass and Sunday, December 7th, 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses will be full of surprises, treats and memories both young and old will enjoy. Plus savor our famous Pancake and Sausage Breakfast Sunday, December 7th. Eat some cakes, visit with your neighbors, and meet St. Nicholas' new pastor, Father Thomas Joseph and view long lost treasures from Carver and St. Nicholas.

Stop by one, some or all these celebrations. Watch for announcements about monthly 140th Anniversary events, culminating in a community dinner on May 30th, 2009!

It's time. Enliven your faith, check out why St. Nicholas has people talking and celebrate 140 years of our little, but growing Church on the hill!

For more information and directions, please contact St. Nicholas Church at 952-448-2345.

Extra Notations - St. Nicholas

At the wine event it has been proclaimed that there will viewing of St. John's Bible, the first handwritten Bible in 500 years. That should be quite interesting in itself. What a conversation piece! The committee also requests your help for information on the grave relocations from the old cemetery next to the gravel pit to the new resting place near the church. Research has divulged that sometime after 1939 about twelve to eighteen gravesites were moved. The most prominent being Henry Zanger who died in 1872 and is recorded as being the first adult in the old cemetery also known as the Riesgraf Cemetery and is also the oldest marked grave in the new churchyard as well. The new cemetery was surveyed in 1942, so it is not known if graves were move prior to survey. So, if you have any information to fill in the blanks, the church would be very grateful for your help.

You mean the world to someone.
You are special and unique.

"Story of Christmas"

St Nicholas Church will be presenting its 2008 Christmas Program with performances from children from first grade through ninth grade, titled "Story of Christmas". There will be two performances. The first will be on Saturday, the 13th of December after the 4 PM Mass at 4:45 PM. Cookies, bars, punch, and coffee will be served following the program. The second performance is scheduled for December 17th at 6:30 PM.

Tentative Agenda

City of Carver Council

Monday Evening 6:30 PM

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Call to Order | 9) City Engineer Report |
| 2) Pledge of Allegiance | 10) City Attorney Report |
| 3) Approve Agenda | 11) Administrator Report |
| 4) Petitions and Requests | 12) Liaison Reports |
| 5) Consent Agenda | 13) Other Business |
| 6) Municipal Utilities Report | 14) Adjourn |
| 7) Building Inspector Report | |
| 8) City Planner Report | |

Positive Connections

School Bus Drivers wanted. Positive Connections is accepting applications for School Bus Drivers for Chaska School District #112. Current licensed drivers welcomed. Classroom and behind the wheel training provided by experienced Driver Trainers. Offering competitive wages and a comprehensive benefit package. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 952.361.0899.

Santa

It's that time of year! Santa is comin' to town. Checkin' that list, checking it twice kids! He'll be at the Village Hall in Carver, Saturday, December 6th at noon until 3 PM to hear what's on that 'Wish List'. This year, everyone has a 'wish list' that's bigger than we all like to admit. The fire truck will be bringing Santa in. The reindeer are resting. Milk and holiday cookies will be served. Holiday craft projects; a coloring contest and face painting. Also raffling off a fresh green wreath and family fun gift basket. Please bring a donation for our area food bank, your support is greatly appreciated. This event is sponsored by: the Carver Fire Department, Carver Lions, Carver Business Group and Funky Minds.

Carver Elections

The city administrator stated that the Carver Elections were a record for the city, with a record turnout. Of all of the registered voters, 97.8% voted at the General Election. The election judges and the city staff, along with the city clerk were all thanked for their time and efforts. He further stated Carver experienced their first recount in recent memory.

In the end, Carrie Newhouse was the confirmed choice for the city council and her term will begin in January 2009. Mike Webb will also begin his 11th year on the city council. Congratulations to all the candidates.

Electoral College

After much thought, and hearing all the discussions, questions, opinions, and controversy, along with the misunderstanding of how the system works, I concluded to find a simple straight explanation for anyone to understand the elusive noun that makes so many of us feel that our vote doesn't really count, because it really, really does.

"While the electoral college may sound like some mysterious star chamber, this voting system is actually fairly straightforward. The candidate who receives the most votes in your state wins all of that state's electoral votes. How many electoral votes does your state have? Just add the number of senators to the number of representatives. Larger states like California (54) and Florida (25) have more electoral votes and thus receive added attention from candidates. "In order to win the election, a candidate must receive 270 electoral votes out of a possible 538. The number 270 is simply the lowest majority possible - but it's the number to watch on election night, as the votes are being tallied."

Park and Recreation Board Announcements

The Community Park Warming House – Opens December 15th (weather permitting). Check the city's website for updates. Saturday and Sundays from 4 PM to 5 PM, leisure skating only, no sticks or rucks allowed.

Weekdays 5 PM – 9 PM

Saturdays 11 AM – 9 PM

Sundays 12 PM – 8 PM

Letters to Santa

Kids mail in your letters to Santa Claus! Let Santa know what a good girl or boy you have been this year. Letters can be mailed to: *Santa Claus*, % City of Carver, Box #147, Carver, MN 55315. Letters must be postmarked by December 13th, to receive a reply before the holidays.

Hot Time (Ages 1 – 5)

Carver Gymnasium – Last Friday of the month, January through April at 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM.

Youth Open Gym

Carver Gymnasium – Wednesdays at 3:30 PM

Harvey's Announcement

Harvey's wants to make sure that you are aware of the DJ scheduled to perform Saturday night at 9PM until 2 AM the 29th of November. Be sure to stop in and see B-Dub at Harvey's.

Sammy's Announcement

Remember on Saturday night there are live bands playing for your enjoyment. Sammy's would also like to announce that on the 13th of December there will be a Cribbage Tournament starting at noon. Then on the 20th of December there will be a Pool Tournament. (Bar adds – money per player)

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL

Harvey's, Lisa's and Sammy's HideOut !!!!!

Bloodmobile

April 21st at the Carver Village Hall, the Bloodmobile will be in town. Anyone wishing to donate blood call Joan Rein for an appointment at 952.448.2459 or you can go online (www.givebloodgivelife.org) and register. The Bloodmobile will be available from Noon until 6 PM for anyone wishing to donate. Thank you in advance.

There comes a point in your life when you realize who matters, who never did, who won't anymore....and who always will. So don't worry about people from your past, there's a reason why they didn't make it to your future. Be sure to tell all of those you care about! 'Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle!'

Anonymous

Carver Lions

The Carver lions are once again happy to report a successful turnout for the Pancake Breakfast. They want to take this opportunity to say thanks to everyone, workers, guests and participants.

The Lions also want to remind you that if you are interested to learn more about what they are about, be sure to come to their meetings either on the first or third Wednesday evening of the month. They would be more than happy to share their goals with those interested. The Lions also wish to extend "Season's Greetings to all!"

"Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" from the Carver Business Group, and Carver Youth Baseball/Softball Association.

Disclaimer

The 'unapproved' minutes of the council and the township have been referenced for the purposes of reporting news in the "Villager Tower" and creating the contents of this newsletter for the purpose of informing residents in the City of Carver and the townships surrounding the city.

Carver Fire Department Highlights and Community

Calendar

December 2008

- December 1st - Happy Birthday Chelsea!
Council Meeting
- December 2nd - Drill Night
Carver Business Group Meeting
- December 4th - Happy Birthday Patti!
Happy Birthday Shayla!
St Nicolas Wine Testing Event
- December 6th - Happy 16th Birthday Tommy!
HERE COMES SANTA!
St Nicholas Church Celebration- 140th Anniversary
City of Carver Strategic Planning Meeting
- December 7th - St Nicholas Church 140th Celebration
– Pancake Breakfast
- December 8th - Park and Recreation Board Meeting
Dahlgren Township Board Meeting
- December 9th - Happy Birthday Katelyn!
- December 10th - Happy Birthday John!
Happy Birthday Cody!
- December 10th - Fifth Annual Senior Luncheon
- December 11th - School Board Meeting
- December 13th - St Lucia Day
- December 14th - St Lucia Service – East Union Lutheran Church
Happy Birthday Aletta!
- December 15th - Drill Night
Council Meeting
- December 16th - Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting
- December 17th - Planning Commission Meeting
Happy Anniversary Carol & Ken!
- December 19th - Happy Birthday Jim!
- December 21st - First Day of Winter
- December 22nd - First Day of Hanukkah
Red Cross Bloodmobile
Happy Birthday Sandra!
- December 24th - Christmas Eve
Happy Birthday Stan!
- December 25th - Christmas Day
- December 26th - First Day of Kwanzaa
- December 29th - Happy Birthday Miranda!
Happy Birthday Sharon!
- December 31st - New Year's Eve
Happy Birthday Stephanie!

Christmas Morning – Julotta Service

Submitted by: Kathy Coleman

The East Union Church is also celebrating another Swedish tradition event at their celebrations. The congregation has planned a Julotta service at 7 AM on Christmas morning. What? I heard that. 'Otta' means 'early'; in Swedish, and 'Jul', is 'Christmas'. One of the most treasured services of the church year in Sweden was the early morning Christmas Day service known as 'Julotta'. At 5 AM families gathered for worship and the Swedish service. In the early days and when country roads were not plowed, horse drawn sleigh was the means of transportation. With heated bricks and warm blankets everyone snuggled down in the wagon box and off to church. Sleigh bells could be heard tinkling around the countryside as they made their way to the early service.

The Julotta Service is an old Swedish tradition. The East Union Church is reviving the celebration this their 150th Christmas. In 1939 two Julotta services were held. The earlier in Swedish and the second in English. From 1940 to 1949, the Julotta service was in English and then gave way to the modern candlelight Christmas Eve Service. This year's Julotta service will primarily be in English, but they will have readings in Swedish. The Spargo family and others will provide Swedish music. Swedish coffee and pastries will be served in the Parish Center following the service. The public is welcome.

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

From: Villager Tower

Senior Luncheon

The Carver Lions will be hosting the FIFTH Annual Senior Luncheon on December 10th at 11:30 AM downstairs of the Village Hall. The Lions are hosting a luncheon for Seniors (65 and over) in the Carver area at the Carver Village Hall.

In the past, invitations were sent, but not this year. This is your invitation to the Senior Luncheon. Lunch will be served from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. From 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM there will be time to socialize, have drawings for prizes and play some cards or dominoes, if you wish to stay to participate in that fun.

You must call for reservations, so we know that you will be there. Make your RESERVATIONS by December 5th, 2008. Please call Lee Ostlie at 952.448.4743. If you need a ride to the Luncheon, please tell Lee when you make your reservation.

MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Don't have enough to do? Looking for good reading material? Visit the website of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge ([www.fws.gov/midwest/MN Valley/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MN%20Valley/index.html)) Quite an interesting website. At the website of the US Fish and Wildlife Service - MN Valley NWR (National Wildlife Refuge) and WMD (Water Management District) you will find information on current events, recreational opportunities, educational program, volunteer opportunities, wildlife and habitat management efforts and more. Check it out.

RYS Creations

RYS Creations will be conducting business as an administrative assistant doing the work that managers choose not to do, nor have the expenditures to hire a full-time office person, but need the administrative paperwork completed 'Administrative Assistants replaced 'secretaries'. Along with this title change came job responsibility changes, as well. Many companies are beginning to outsource this work, saving money.

Thus is the introduction to the concept to those futuristic-minded management personnel who require to have their office work completed, but don't have enough work to justify a part or full-time individual. Or you have special needs, need the expertise of an administrative assistant? Give me a call at 952 . 448 . 5126. I have different packages, different programs, set up to coincide with your specific needs at reasonable costs. I have more than thirty seven years' experience in the office environment and am very good at what I do. Give me a call and we'll get your office work in order, save you money and time.

Trouble composing letters, memos, reports? Want someone to calculate employee timecards? Looking for an individual to straighten out your filing needs? Many of those time consuming tasks can be done cost effectively and save you time. Need a plan created, need a project researched, need a business plan or card? Give me a call and we'll talk. Incidentally, I am also a public notary. So in case on a weekend, or maybe an evening, you have a legal document you need to get notarized. The banks, businesses are all closed. Can't wait. Need it now. I can help you out with that too in the evening or on the weekend. Look forward to hearing from you. References are also available.

Holidazzle and Macy's 8th Floor Events

The Holidazzle Parade began Friday, the day after Thanksgiving and will be dazzling the crowds every Thursday through Sunday nights until December 21st on the Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis. It's a must, 'at least once' experience you should check out.

At Macy's 8th Floor Auditorium it's the 46th Annual Display. This display began early in November and will be open until the 31st of December during store hours. The theme of this year's display is "A Day in the Life of An Elf at Macy's Santaland."

Each event is free. (Just in case you didn't know that). Think positive, the glass is half full. The kids will enjoy it and it won't cost you an arm and leg to check these events out.

Did You Know

John von Walter

...that in 1882 Carver had three doctors, one lawyer, a real estate and loan office, a flour mill, a grain elevator, six general stores, a carding and feed mill, two drug stores, two brick yards, two hardware stores, two lumber yards, one grocery, one brewery, two watch makers, two carriage makers, one photographer, two harness makers, one tailor, one veterinary surgeon, two boot and shoe-makers, one milliner, one bakery, five saloons, and two hotels.

Christmas Services

Each year passes and each year we are supposedly becoming older, wiser and more mature. Supposed to learn from past mistakes, is another proclamation made. Well, there is definitely truth to these statements. Each year, we are scrambling in this household to find the times of Christmas services. This year, I am telling everyone the times of Xmas eve and Xmas day services for the Catholic and Lutheran denominations locally. Then that way, I have it written down and will have a source to reference instead of trying to find a human being to answer the age old question at the last minute. So you see, we do get wiser each year. There is hope. Now that you have had your laugh for the day, just remember when you are asked what time is service at such and such church, you will remember where you read that information.

St Nicholas Catholic Church, Carver, Xmas Eve: 4 PM and 10:30 PM, Christmas Day, 8 AM & 10 AM

Guardian Angels Catholic Church, Chaska, Xmas Eve: 4PM (Children's Mass), 8 PM (Bilingual Latino Mass) and 11PM (Midnight Mass), Christmas Day, 8 AM and 10 AM Masses

Trinity Lutheran Church, Carver, Xmas Eve: 7 PM Service, Xmas Day , 9:30 AM Service and New Year's Eve service 7 PM

St John's Lutheran Church, Chaska, Xmas Eve: 3 & 5 PM and 10 PM Services, Xmas Day service, 9:30 AM

East Union Lutheran Church, East Union, Xmas Eve, 4 & 10:30 PM service, Christmas Day, Special Swedish Julotta Service at 7 AM

West Union Lutheran Church, West Union, Xmas Eve: 4 & 9 PM Services, no service listed for Christmas Day

Trails

The Park and Recreation Board Supervisor discussed the need to name the trails. The names discussed in the past were Parkway Trail Snake Trail, Sixth Street Trail and Mt Hope Trail. The waterway along Sixth Street was reviewed. The board recommended acceptance of the trail names Parkway, Snake and Mt Hope trails and to name the Sixth Street Trail at a later date.

Carver County Health Partnership

Two representatives from the Carver County Health Partnership addressed the council regarding a partnership between Ridgeview Medical Center, Carver County, and several organizations interested in making Carver County healthy. Communities in the county are being contacted requesting financial support of their goal. Their goal is to make Carver County the healthiest county in the United States. The city was asked for an amount of money to support this cause for 2009. The council informed them that they would get back to them.

Park Signage

Thanks were extended to organizations who made the park signs possible throughout the community. The new park signs were paid for entirely by donations made to the Park and Recreation Department by local organizations. Bluff Park sign thanks to Chanhassen-Chaska United Soccer Club; Community Park sign thanks to Carver Community Youth Baseball and Softball Association; the Depot Park, Gazebo Park, and RiverSide Park signs are all thanks to the Downtown Women's Business Group. The Park and Recreation Department Board members sincerely appreciate their help for making these new additions possible. THANKS!

Did You Know

John von Walter

....that on the night of November 29, 1900 burglars entered the rear of the A. L. Skoog and Brothers general store in Carver and stole \$100 in goods, including shoes. Discovered the next morning, postal notices were issued by Carver County Sheriff August Johnson. Later several pairs of the missing shoes were discovered in the rooms of a suspect arrested in Minneapolis. In December 1932 the Skoog building was being leased out as the Wetter Store, operated by Gerald R. and Lucille Wetter, when it suffered \$10,000 in damage from a fire. The following year the Wetter family moved to Foley, Minnesota and went into the creamery and butter making business, and for many years the building sat vacant and boarded up before being torn down. The home of A. L. Skoog, the owner of the general store building, survives today at the corner of Third Street East and Oak Street.

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Carver Lions



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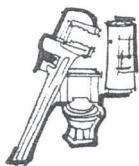
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