



City Hall

The city manager informed the council of the request received for room assignments and names for conference rooms per project specifications and so that signs could be made. The staff had reviewed and prepared room assignments for submission to the firm. However, the council's feedback was requested. Room layout was also reviewed by the council. Some of the names discussed were Broadway Conference Room, River Conference Room, Council Chambers, Village Hall, and Gazebo Conference Room.

The city manager discussed accepting a proposal regarding Audio Visual Equipment necessary for the City Hall Project. This proposal would include the equipment and installation for the council chambers, conference rooms and the community room. A budget had been established for technology-based improvements.

Levee Certification Study

The city manager reviewed the history of the city's efforts in obtaining levee certification. The council discussed the issue. The WSB and Associates representative stated that it was foreseen that there was not any reason why the city's levee could not be certified. Question was asked if the firm acted as the construction management general, they would typically handle the project from the beginning to the end as consistency was important to follow through the entire process. Certification benefits would remove flood insurance restrictions, allow property value investment and increase property tax base. Motion was made and carried with all ayes accepting the proposal from WSB and Associates to conduct certified levee study.

Municipal Utilities

Question was asked regarding municipal utilities requirements and timeframe for connections. The city manager would research the issue with the attorney.

2017 Street Improvement and Utilities

The city engineer discussed with the council the authorization of a change order to the 2017 Street Improvements and Utilities Project. The change order involved providing compensation for curb and gutter additions and modifications within the project limits, along with additional milling and paving. The curb and gutter work was a staff decision deemed necessary to complete the intended project and eliminate potential additional work in the future upon completion. Additional milling and paving for intersections of Ash, Hickory and Jorgenson Streets abutting Main Street. The original contract did not include the paving to Main Street at the intersections. Decision was made to conduct the additional work to compete the project as a whole. The additional costs associated with the change order would be reflected in the project budget.

Carver Black Sox

The Parks Commission has been informed that the Carver Black Sox will be hosting the 2019 Regional Tournament in Carver for 2019. Additionally, the Parks Commission will be requested to make necessary improvements prior to the tournament.

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

~William Arthur Ward

Jonathan Carver Parkway Corridor Study

The city manager discussed the issue of the Jonathan Carver Parkway Corridor Study. A motion would be necessary to adopt an amendment to the joint powers agreement with the county for completion of the study. The city had identified the need to conduct a long-range planning effort for the County Road # 11/Jonathan Carver Parkway corridor during the goal setting and strategic planning session. The corridor is expected to encounter significant development and traffic demands over the next several decades. The city had contacted the county to promote the notion in order to proactively plan for these demands. The study uses a combination of analytics, input and direction from policy personnel to plan for future intersection development, lane configurations and other design elements along with the county road and the Jonathan Carver Parkway. The city and the county entered into a joint powers agreement to complete the corridor study. The county contracted with WSB and Associates to complete the corridor study. The city has been asked to consider an amendment to the agreement to accommodate a modified scope of work for the study relating to the regional traffic model. Representative from WSB and Associates at a future meeting will discuss additional details on the scope change. The proposed amendment increases the city's share of cost and extends the final payment for the study to the county by one year.

2018 Election Results

City of Carver

The city council met to canvas the returns from the election. The city of vote was on one Mayor and two Council Member positions, each for a term of four years. The returns were examined by the Election Judges, approved and filed in the Office of the City Clerk. The results of the election, Courtney Johnson, Mayor, Council Glen Henry and Laurie Sayre. Congratulations.

Dahlgren Township

2018 General Election results for Dahlgren Township:

Supervisor B;

ff Thompson was declared elected Supervisor B for a term of four years to fill the spot of Rich Buetow whose term expires. Mary Olson was declared elected Clerk for a term of four years. Congratulations.

Eastern Carver County School District

The School Board Election results elected Lisa Anderson, Fred Berg, Tom Klein and Jennifer Stone.

For more election results, consult the Chaska Herald or the county's website, <https://www.co.carver.mn.us>

Park Dedication Introductions

The Parks Commission members and the city planner reviewed the current Parks Dedication Policy and the projects included in the policy. With the creation of the list, the next step would be to prioritize and schedule timeframes to the vision foreseen for the projects time lines. With that step completed then the calculations would be made in the new policy reflecting suggestions submitted for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

"Blame is the projection of guilt"

~ Deepak Chopra

Carver Ridge Comprehensive Plan Amendment

The city planner discussed the Carver Ridge Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The council discussed the resolution for a text amendment to the 2030 Comprehensive Plan for the Carver Ridge Senior Living Facility. The amendment allowed the project to develop at the proposed density proposed by Trident. The Metropolitan Council requested a greater level of detail in the resolution in order to move forward with the text amendment. The proposed change takes the allowable maximum density of high-density residential district.

The city planner discussed the motion to approve the resolution entering into a purchase agreement with the sale of the Sixth Street property. The planner recapped the past history of the cities acquiring the property with the intent for redevelopment of the site. The Planning Commission, the council and the staff have been working with Trident Development on the Carver Ridge project redeveloping the site as a senior living facility. Currently the Carver Ridge project is being reviewed by the Planning Commission and the council pertaining to the Preliminary and Final Plats.

Furthermore, with the purchase of the property the city had to conduct a Phase II Environmental Study with the seller responsible for costs relating to remediation costs. Several grants had been awarded. Completed remediation work is currently being reviewed by the MN Pollution Control Agency.

The city planner reviewed the Carver Ridge senior housing development with the Parks Commission members. Recommendation had been submitted accepting money in lieu of land for park dedication for this particular project. The commission members made a motion with all ayes to accept money in lieu of land for the park dedication for the senior housing project.

The Planning Commission members reviewed rezoning, conditional use permit, Preliminary and Final Plats for the Carver Ridge project. Request was made for a Public Hearing on the issues. Previously the board had reviewed the concept plan, the Comprehensive Plan Amendment and review of the land use related to the tax increment financing then referred to as Carver Ridge. The Fire Marshall determined that confusion would be associated with the facility and the name due to the neighborhood north of the property named Carver Ridge. Carver Ridge was proposed as a senior living facility with assisted living and memory care units. The facility would also include meal service, programmed activities, transportation for residents, beauty salon, community room, wellness center and outdoor patios. The facility would be managed by Tealwood.

The proposal had been zoned as agricultural use and is a redevelopment project. Conditional use permits were in place allowing operation that were not compatible with the underlying zoning district of Agriculture. Request was submitted to rezone to residential allowing the property to develop at a high-density use. Density ranges are not prescribed in the city code, but in the Comprehensive Plan. The proposed project meets both the density intent of the district, as well as the specific high-density range in the Comprehensive Plan. This project offsets low density development recently occurred. The Carver Ridge project is unique in the density and use of the property not meeting all standard lot regulations outlined in our residential chapters typically used for development of single-family homes. The proposal for Carver Ridge requested rezoning to R-3 with a planned Residential District allowing for deviation on the strict development details in the adopted zoning districts.

A Conditional Use permit allows exception from the typical zoning code to allow for the project. The proposed use ensures meeting expectations of adjacent property owners, as well as the city. The project requested review and approval of both the Preliminary Plat and the Final Plat simultaneously. This is a common practice. The Comprehensive Plan Amendment had been previously reviewed by the Planning Commission. The amendment was being reviewed by the Metropolitan Council.

The council discussed the Trident Development – Housing Tax Increment District and Development Agreement. An overview of the proposed development agreement relating to the Tax Increment Financing District was reviewed. The developer's agreement would be between the city of Carver and Carver ALF Partners, LLC who would be the developer for the development of the property located off of Sixth Street. Applicant requested tax increment financing assistance on a 'pay-as-you-go' basis which the developer would incur the costs upfront with the construction of the project, to be reimbursed over time with available annual revenues from the completed development. The developer anticipates construction commencement in late 2018 with the completion in late 2019.

The proposed development agreement terms have been drafted. The council reviewed the terms. The city will not have any obligation to make additional payments, the developer is only eligible to be repaid from increment generated by the district. The agreement obligates the developer to begin the project no later than June 1st, 2019, barring unavoidable delays and complete the project by December 31st, 2020. Also, in addition to the Tax Increment Financing assistance, the site has been purchased from the city and the developer will bear all costs associated with the demolition of the existing building, soil correction and cleanup of hazardous materials on the site. The city has the option of adopting a resolution authorizing execution of the agreement.

Commerce Drive

The city planner discussed with the council the Innovative Business Development Infrastructure Application. The council was required to adopt a resolution authorizing required execution agreement relating to the DEED infrastructure for Commerce Drive. It had been identified through development review of the Lakeview site that construction of a street would benefit several properties in the area and potentially spur development. Application had been submitted for an Innovative Business Development Infrastructure Application to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for costs of construction for Commerce Drive. The financing was discussed



For Sale: Snowblower

For Sale: Good condition, almost new
new4 cycle, 18" Width Toro Snowblower
\$ 150 / negotiable

Contact the "Villager Tower"
for more information.
villagertower@carvercurrent.com



Carver Current

Familiar with the website www.carvercurrent.com? You might want to check it out. It's an excellent source of information of city updates, local organization events, local news, school activities, sports results etc. This is a great site for sharing important information and events affecting local residents. The newsletter, the "Villager Tower" can also be found on this website.

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Information contained in this newsletter is for information only. The unapproved minutes were referenced to comprise the contents of this newsletter. Websites on the internet are also referenced. Full details can be located on the City of Carver and Dahlgren Township websites.

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Lakeview Industries

The city planner recapped the information for Lakeview Industries. The company has operated out of the Chaska facility for over thirty years assembling flexible components. The firm is seeking to relocate and have identified Carver property. The facility to be constructed would also include space for future expansion identified as Phase II of the project, Phase III would involve construction of a second building. Initial anticipation of providing ninety-five job positions at the Carver facility and possibly increase this number to one hundred twenty employees after two years. The positions would include manufacturing, administrative and product development.

The request presented to the council is rezoning property from agriculture to industrial for development. The default zoning as agricultural was in place at the time of annexation. Rezoning application requires review of the zoning and land use regulations. Reviewal of these through the land use specifies determination of request. The adopted Comprehensive Plan also coincides with the land use guidance. The Lakeview proposal is consistent with the requirements. The Lakeview property creates the opportunity for additional development of commercial, industrial and retail uses.

The City of Carver will be now required to construct a road running along the east property line of the Lakeview site. Properties north of Mills Fleet Farm have been identified to be a challenge. A new city street will allow access to several surrounding property owners if development in the future were to occur. Application has been submitted for grant funding to assist with road construction costs. The construction of this road identified as Commerce Drive will occur simultaneously with the Lakeview project with construction completion anticipated in 2019.

Utilities are available in Levi Griffin Road and have the capacity for the proposed project. Park dedication will be required for development of the Lakeview site. The project meets and exceeds the city's landscape requirements.

An exhibit of the Lakeview project had been prepared by the city as it relates to the existing homes on Creekridge Lane. "The site consists of rolling terrain and the topography provides natural screening. It is not anticipated residents on Creekridge Lane will see the Lakeview building once constructed. Site construction will include a drainage swale adding additional topographic change between the building and existing residents."

There will be increased traffic impact with the development at the Lakeview site. It is anticipated that there will be two runs each day of truck traffic servicing the site. The design of the roads was anticipated and has the capacity. Turn lanes will be added along Levi Griffin to access the site safely.

Tax Increment Financing has been applied for as an economic development tool. To determine the projects impact, an Environmental Assessment Worksheet was completed. This allows the city a more complete view of business and their environmental impact to the community. The required permits Lakeview holds to operate, the construction permits obtained have all been reviewed by the city, local, state and federal agencies determined minimal environmental impact. "The Findings of Fact, Conclusion and Record of Decision document outlines mitigation of environmental impacts that are anticipated on the site and the required mitigation of the impacts."

The Planning Commission had taken action on three recommendations relating to Lakeview, recommended approval of the Preliminary Plat, recommended approval of rezoning and approved a resolution determining the proposed development program modification and the Tax Increment Financing plan were in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan and development of the community. Then the Planning Commission held the required Public Hearing. The Planning Commission discussed the final plat for Lakeview Industries with the city planner. The Planning Commission made the motion and carried with all ayes recommending approval of the Lakeview Industries Final Plat.

The council reviewed the Final Plat for Lakeview Industries and reviewed the motion adopting the resolution terminating the Conditional Use Permit. The Conditional Use Permit had been issued by the county prior to annexation permitting construction and access to the water tower. The property has been annexed and the city acquired land use control. The county and the city worked on a resolution terminating the conditional permit.

The city engineer discussed the Lakeview Industries Infrastructure Improvements, the resolution ordering the preparation of report on improvement and schedule a Public Hearing. Project identification constructing an improvement north of the Dauwalter Road and Levi Griffin Road intersection was addressed. Construction of a public roadway, storm sewer, sanitary sewer and watermain infrastructure will be required. The next step is to hold an Improvement Hearing, receive the feasibility study and order the improvements. The council discussed the financial aspects of the project.

Public Hearing

The city planner discussed the proposed revisions for fees charged relating to land use issues with the Planning Commission members. The proposed fees were relayed. Annually the city reviews various fees and staff recommendation changes are initiated. Details were requested regarding park dedication fees. Any time property is platted then park dedication fees are required. This rule applies to residential, commercial and industrial lots. Park dedication fees can only be utilized for new parks or full addition to an existing park. Trails usually are part of development with the developer responsible for that aspect, along with park dedication fees. In lieu of park dedication fees, land can be designated. Question was asked why there was not an increase in the Park Dedication Fee. The response was because work is being done on the Parks Master Plan with anticipation that updates to that ordinance and the Parks Master Plan will occur within the near future likely reflecting changes. Question was then asked if that fee would also not be implemented until the following year. Response was that there is option to amending the fee schedule throughout the year. The Public Hearing was opened but there were not any comments received. Motion was made and carried with all ayes recommending approval of the Land Use Fee presented for the 2019 Fee Schedule.

Utilities Certification

The council reviewed the resolution adopting certification roll for delinquent utilities. Throughout the year, staff attempts to collect charges for municipal utilities and fees. Unpaid amounts at the end of the year are scheduled for a Public Hearing for the assessment of delinquent utilities, certified and submitted to the county.

2019 Improvement Project

The city manager provided background information to the council on the 2019 Improvement Project proposal. A Public Hearing has been scheduled for December. Mailings will be forwarded to affected residents, and two Open Houses are to be scheduled in December, as well. Information will also be available on the city's website.

The council reviewed resolution calling hearing on improvement for the 2019 Infrastructure Improvements Project. The city has identified the project for the City's Capital Improvement Plan. The project includes improvements at Kirche Hill Drive, Diedrich Drive, Carver Ridge Drive, "Old" Elm Drive, and Spring Creek Drive. Additionally, alley paving between 3rd and 4th Streets and Broadway and the levee. The authorization for a Feasibility Study was previously approved. Financial aspects of the project were reviewed. More detailed information will be evaluated and prepared as part of the Feasibility Study. An appraiser has been chosen to conduct a Special Benefits Analysis.

2019 Enterprise Fund Budgets

The city manager and the public services director had reviewed the drafted 2019 Enterprise Fund Budget. The council briefly discussed the issue at their work session.

"Wise sayings often fall on barren ground, but a kind word is never thrown away."

~ Arthur Helps

Design Carver

The city planner reviewed Design Carver (2040 Comprehensive Plan) with the Park Commission members. The process and the timing of the parks and trails were discussed. The future vision was reviewed. Suggestions were divided by large, medium and small projects.

The city council and the planning commission members continue work on the 2040 Comprehensive Plan branded as Design Carver. The staff anticipates a full draft of Design Carver to be completed in January of 219. The joint members previously discussed the types of parks desired in the community. The compilation will be used for both development of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Design Carver) and the Parks Master Plan Update. The following discussed items were divided into three sections, Tier One included, theme park – Farming/History, large pavilion/event space, mega playground, Ironwood Park expansion, championship level baseball field, swimming pool/beach, community center, downtown plaza, amphitheater; Tier Two, Splash pad, natural playground, senior focused park, large scale landscaping/rose garden, boat rentals, access to river; and Tier Three, frisbee golf, dog park, community gardens, park with fire pits, pickleball, fitness areas and farmer's market area. The list is not finalized.

At a joint meeting between the council and the planning commission members, the results of the Design Carver survey were discussed. The survey supported the Future Land Use Map. Discussion was also held regarding the majority desiring more commercial and sit-down restaurant options and how the Design Carver Plan can assist in facilitating developments. Discussion was also held on responses to wanting to live in Carver.

Parks and Trails map was presented at the joint meeting. Work will continue on the parks by the Parks Commission. A final draft will be expected in the future. A drafted housing section and requirements are necessary to be included to the for approval from the Metropolitan Council. Format and content feedback on an Open House were also briefly discussed.

Flood Plain Ordinance

The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing regarding the Flood Plain Ordinance. The city participates in the National Flood Insurance Program through the Federal Emergency Management Association.

"The National Flood Insurance Program aims to reduce the impact of flooding on private and public structures. It does so by providing affordable insurance to property owners, renters and businesses and by encouraging communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations. These efforts help mitigate the effects of flooding on new and improved structures. Overall, the program reduces the socio-economic impact of disasters by promoting the purchase and retention of general risk insurance, but also of flood insurance, specifically."

The Planning Commission reviewed the drafted ordinance regarding the Flood Plain Ordinance. The staff had worked with the DNR ensuring compliance. A Public Hearing was presently required on the drafted ordinance.



Carver Community Youth Baseball / Softball Association

Submitted by: Jane Thon

CCYBSA has been busy working on programs for 2019. Registrations will be open on January 7th, 2019. We will have a combination of In-house community programs and Travel programs in both, Softball and Baseball and we will also have T-Ball.

We will have an Informational Night, January 3rd at Carver Place (113 3rd Street/Carver) for parents to come and ask question as to where they can/should register their child.

If we have anyone in the community who would be interested in becoming a part of the CCYBSA Program, we are looking for that person that would work with our T-Ball Program. We will have a stipend for your service. If interested in being this person, please send an e-mail to: ccybsa.reg@gmail.com

Have a Safe Holiday Season
CCYBSA Board

Hawthorne Ridge

Previously, the Planning Commission board had reviewed the concept plan and Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Hawthorne Ridge. The proposal includes eighty-one single family home sites proposed by D.R. Horton. This would be the developer's second project within the city. The majority of this site is steep slopes with mature trees which will be preserved through development and ultimately owned by the city for conservation and public use. The staff is aware of the unique characteristics on the property and will continue working with the developer throughout the development process.

The Planning Commission and the council were supportive of both the concept plan and the comprehensive plan amendment previously presented. The amendment's purpose was to reguide the property from a mix of medium and low density to strictly low density. Notation was made that the proposed density is lower than the general target due to development constraints on the property. Monitoring development densities will continue to ensure compliance with the Metropolitan Council's overall plan.

The Planning Commission reviewed rezoning. Hawthorne Ridge proposes rezoning from agriculture to residential. The project does not require a Planned Residential District overly district and will be developed using straight zoning. Each lot will be required to meet the specifications listed accordingly. Previous use was a llama farm. The rezoning request had been anticipated by the Comprehensive Plan through the amendment. The Preliminary Plat provided detailed information relating to site layout, easements, accesses, utilities, draining plans and grading plans. Three previously constructed streets will provide access to Hawthorne Ridge. The development will include a trail through rear yards of the property and will tie into the existing driveway that will be a trail. The driveway will not be improved to a typical trail section but will allow for public access. Utility extension required will be at the cost of the developer capable of accommodating the additional constructed units.

A private park is proposed in the Hawthorne Ridge development that will be owned and maintained by a Home Owners Association. The private park does not constitute the park dedication fees required for the development. Park dedication funds received from the project will be utilized for new parks throughout the community.

The League of MN Cities worked with city personnel discussing property and the liability of the city with owning a significant portion of the property for conservation of the site and unique features that currently exist. Both government units concluded that the preservation of the site will be borne by the city. This includes the Cheese Caves on the property. Presently it is anticipated that the rail bed running through the property will be preserved as a natural trail accessible to the public.

The site possesses a heavy tree canopy that will be preserved through the project and owned by the city. The staff did not require a complete tree survey due to existing conditions and limited amount of clearing that will take place relating to construction of the development. A full survey would be both cost and time prohibitive due to the mass of trees on the property. Less than ten percent of the canopy will be impacted by the development.

Recommendation was submitted by the staff to schedule required Public Hearing for the project. The city was also advised of water runoff during heavy rainfalls under the old railroad bed. Question was raised whether the old existing culvert was as old as the rail bed (1872) being inadequate, partially and/or possibly completely blocked. Water travels underground to the south side of Sixth Street and into Spring Creek. During heavy rains, it has been noted that a virtual lake behind the rail road bed is caused by back up. This issue is being scrutinized and observed.

Carver Black Sox

Black Sox wishing everyone a Merry Christmas/Holiday season and blessed New Year!



Carver Lions

Don't forget December 1st, at the Carver Fire Station Santa will arrive and the fun starts at noon until 2 PM.
Lions meeting in January on the 2nd and 16th at Carver Place, They are busy with planning for the Soggy Bottom Golf in January.

The Lions wish you a Happy Holidays!

Council Vacancy

The city manager discussed with the council the impending city council vacancy. Council action was required to declare an impending vacancy on the Carver City Council and accept letters of interest for the position through the 21st of December. Further discussion included that with the election of Mayor Elect Courtney Johnson, a vacancy would be created for the remainder of her term as council member running through January 4th, 2021. The council discussed the similar scenario occurring when Mayor Elect Webb was elected in 2014. The proposed schedule of actions was discussed. The end result being an appointment of an individual by January 22nd, 2019 tentatively. The council also reviewed the attorney's input on the topic.

The city announced the vacancy and is accepting applications for the vacancy on the city council. Mayor Elect Johnson's current term expires on January 4th, 2021. Monday, January 7th, 2019 Mayor Elect Johnson will take an "Oath of Office" for the position of Mayor creating a vacancy for the remainder of her term. The vacancy will be filled through an application, interview and appointment process by the city council. The qualifications for city council include being a City of Carver voter, and be 21 years of age or older upon the date of taking office. "Interested in applying for the vacant City Council position must submit a letter of interest and statement of qualifications by no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, December 21, 2018. Applications can be sent by mail or e-mail to: Mail: CITY OF CARVER E-mail: , c/o City Council Vacancy, PO BOX 147, Carver, MN 55315"

"The City Council will interview all applicants meeting minimum position requirements on Tuesday, January 15, 2019. This will be the only available date provided for applicants to interview for the City Council position. The selected applicant will be appointed by the Carver City Council on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, and take the "Oath of Office" on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, during the regular City Council meeting. Questions regarding the position may be directed to Brent Mareck, City Manager, at (952) 448-8737 or by e-mail at bmareck@cityofcarver.com."

Fare For All

Need or looking for a way to stretch those grocery dollars and help others at the same time? Fare For All is held at the Crown of Glory Lutheran Church in Chaska. Fare for All Express sells packages of fruits, vegetables and frozen meats. For more information, their website is www.fareforall.org or you can call 763.450.3880 or 1.800.582.4291. A program that makes food that makes cents. Everyone is welcome. The more people who participate, the more savings are passed on to customers. They provide produce pack, mini meat pack, combo pack, mega meat pack and hot buys. The current upcoming dates are December 20th on Thursday and from 4 PM to 6 PM.

Roots Return

"Browse, Order Ahead & Pickup
WELCOME! Farm stand is closed for the season. THANK YOU CUSTOMERS!! Accessible parking lot available during the season. Weekly availability is listed here, and our [Facebook](#) page. We offer fresh, frozen & dried products of the farm. All seeds or starts are organic, heirloom, or open-pollinated varieties. All organic (or better) methods are used with only natural nutrients derived from bone meal, blood meal, and continual cover crops for healthy soil. The farm is MN Ag Water Quality certified, was awarded Carver County's soil & water conservation district conservationist of the year, and transferred 10% of our main field into Pollinator CRP / pollinator habitat.

ORDER AHEAD STEPS => 1) CHOOSE 2) PAY 3) PICK UP

Items are ready on your chosen day. If pickup days don't show when adding to your cart, its past time allowed to harvest & process the order. The same items are available at the stand until sold out. If item reads SOLD OUT, it indicates currently unavailable for pre-purchase, or will be harvested soon. Delivery is being considered for customers in 55315 & 55318 zip codes starting 2019.

Questions or ordering GIFT CERTIFICATES?
rootsreturn@gmail.com.

PLANNED FOR 2019 = Strawberries, Raspberries, Elderberries, Red & Black Currants, Blueberries, Cherries, Plums (tentative Apples and Grapes), Garlic, Basil, Squash, Pumpkins, Dried Beans."



Love INC

By Love INC of Eastern Carver County
Love INC Towel Ministry from East Union Church. Ann says "Thank you" to all who have been so generous with their towel ministry! Currently they need bath towel sets. New towels are preferred. Cash donations also accepted to buy towels.



CHRISTMAS BASKETS:

This event is hosted by St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Westwood Community Church, and Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church. Deliveries will be made on Saturday, December 15th. An adult MUST be home to receive the delivery between 10 am – 1 pm on December 15th.

Perishable foods will be delivered and we will NOT be leaving them on doorsteps or making alternate arrangements for pickup. If you are not home, you WILL NOT receive your basket and we will not hold it for you.

If you are available the two dates listed above and are a CURRENT Love INC client residing within Carver, Chaska, Chanhassen, or Victoria, please click below to register for Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas baskets if you would like to receive them.

Go to Love INC's website and follow the prompts to sign up for these baskets. www.loveincecc.org



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Love INC is partnering with St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Mt. Olivet Lutheran West Church, and Westwood Community Church to pack and bring complete Christmas dinner

baskets to 100+ local families in need on Saturday, December 15th. This is a family-friendly event and is a great opportunity to share the joy of Christmas with families who may not otherwise enjoy the holiday season.

In addition to volunteering, please consider making a financial gift to Love INC in support of the Christmas Food Packs. This year, Love INC will distribute 100 Christmas food baskets at a cost of more than \$5000 total. Each basket costs roughly \$50 but provides relief and hope that goes far beyond its monetary value. To make a donation, contact Love INC and follow their instructions on their website: www.loveincecc.org.

Also, for more information or to register, please click on the church where you'd like to volunteer.

St. Nicholas Catholic Church – Carver
Westwood Community Church – Chanhassen
Mt. Olivet Lutheran West Church – information will be posted on the Mt. Olivet Lutheran website soon!

Unable to volunteer but still want to help?
Please consider making a financial gift to Love INC in support of the Christmas Food Packs. This year, Love INC will distribute 100+ Christmas baskets.

Coat Drive

Love INC is working with local churches, organizations, and families to collect new or gently used winter wear items, all sizes and ages (infant to adult), to support the Winter Wear Ministry.

The following items were requested:

Winter coats (please no spring jackets or hooded sweatshirts)
Heavy winter gloves and mittens (please no stretchy non-waterproof gloves as these do not keep hands warm or dry)
Snow pants
Snow boots/winter boots
Toboggan hats
Scarves

Winter wear will be made available to Love INC clients throughout the winter season. Contact Love INC for more information about needing any of these items.



Bountiful Basket Food Shelf

Contents provided from Bountiful Basket Food Shelf
Website: www.bountifulbasketfoodshelf.org
"Eliminating hunger for people in need, across Eastern Carver County, one family at a time."

DID YOU KNOW...

During everyone's life there is a period when we need help. For many this help comes in the form of food assistance to get them through their time of need.

Hours of operation:

Monday: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Wednesday: 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Thursday: Closed

Friday: 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Saturdays: (1st & 3rd only) 9:00 am to Noon

If you would like more information on Bountiful Basket or you would like for us to assist you in food drives, we would very much like to hear from you by stopping for a visit or by calling us at:

952-556-0244 - www.bountifulbasketfoodshelf.org

Volunteer

Opportunities to help in 2018

Many volunteer opportunities exist to help with the Bountiful Basket food shelf. It is our intent to accommodate your interest in assisting in a timely and efficient manner. The Bountiful Basket presently has 2 volunteer coordinators; John Myhr (food/warehouse), and Jeri Glander (front desk/office). In order for you to volunteer we do require you to fill out the appropriate application and to be interviewed as necessary for the volunteer position you will be working at. The Bountiful Basket Food Shelf of Eastern Carver County is 100% volunteer managed and operated. We would very much appreciate your help. Please call us at 952-556-0244 or obtain a form online.

Chaska Valley Family Theatre

"Scrooge The Musical" opens November 30th at the Chaska Valley Family Theater. Check their website for more details at www.cvft.org.

Show times are:

November 30th 7:00pm,

December 1st 2:00pm, December 1st 7:00pm, December 2nd 2:00pm, December 7th 7:00pm, December 8th 2:00pm December 8th 7:00pm, and December 9th 2:00pm.

The music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse and based on the original 1970's screenplay. "Like the 1970s film, the musical closely follows the plot of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, in which the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge undergoes a profound experience of redemption over the course of a Christmas Eve night, after being visited by the ghost of his former partner Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future."

"Godspell"

Audition are completed. Rehearsals will start the week of December 17th, 2019. **Please note: There will be two Saturday retreats required on 1/12 and 1/26.

This production of Godspell will focus on the development of a community, inclusive of all people from different walks of life and beliefs. Showtimes are scheduled to begin February 23rd through March 4th.

The Chaska Valley Family Theatre has Season Tickets available now. Check out their website for more information. www.cvft.org



Eastern Carver County Schools

By: Brett Johnson

For the second year in a row, Eastern Carver County Schools' Finance Department received the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). The district is one of three in the state of Minnesota to receive this honor. The award recognizes easy-to-read and accurate budget documents that clearly communicate the district's goals and objectives, and build credibility and trust with the community. District finance documents, including the 2018-2019 budget, are always posted online for our community to access. In addition, the district has received seven consecutive awards (2011-2017) for excellent, comprehensive financial reporting by ASBO. These honors reflect the districts commitment to transparency and accuracy in budgeting and accounting.

Also, mark your calendars for the "Hooked on Books" event. The event is scheduled for Saturday, February 2nd, 2019. More information to follow.

Carver Elementary

The PTO at the Carver Elementary School (1717 Ironwood Drive, Carver) meets on the second Monday of each month at 9 AM.

Reminder, on December 13th, 2 Hour Late Start and Winter Break will begin December 24th through January 1st, 2019.

Carver Elementary is celebrating School Spirit Days. December 14th's theme is Decades, December 21st's theme, Dress Comfy and Cozy and January 11th's theme is Dress Tacky Tourist, Hawaii/Beach.

The PTO will be sponsoring three events during the 2018 - 2019 school year. The first sponsored event is Family Game Night on January 25th. Their second event will be March 11th, Creativity Showcase and an Ice Cream Social and Fun Run in May on the 23rd.

East Union Elementary

In October, the students celebrated with Fall Harvest Day, Unity Day, Hero's Day at East Union Elementary and Breakfast Buddies.

A reading tutor is being sought for East Union school through the MN Reading and Math Corps. Minnesota Reading Corps: "Changing the World, one reader at a time."

They are the sister program with MN Math Corps and are hiring a reading tutor to be placed in school. Their focus and secret to their success revolves around tutors trained to help PreK and elementary students build literacy skills that really work. You can find more information at their websites: www.minnesotareadingcorps.org and www.minnesotamathcorps.org.

East Union Lutheran Church

The East Union Lutheran Church's Sunday School Christmas Program and Potluck is coming up. It is scheduled for Sunday, December 16th at 9 AM. The Sunday School Youth will be putting on their annual program, "A Super Christmas" followed by a potluck.

The Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction is coming up soon, the 10th of in February at 4 PM. Volunteers are needed. Help is also needed to organize the event. Volunteers are asked to sign up.

East Union Church's Christmas services are scheduled for December 24th at 4 PM and 6 PM.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and God Bless from East Union Church!



West Union Lutheran Church

The West Union Church's schedule is as follows:

Christmas Program - December 16th at 9 AM, annual smorgasbord following worship

Christmas Services - December 24th at 4 PM & 9 PM

God Bless, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year wishes to all!



South West Chamber of Commerce

The Southwest Chamber of Commerce can be referenced for further information. (www.swmetrochamber.com)



Reminder: The Carver Business Meet & Greet will be on Tuesday, Dec. 11 from 8:00-9:00am at the new Fourfold Studios (104 6th St. W.-Carver). Coffee will be available and this business networking event is open to chamber members and non-members. The next Meet and Greet will be January 8th, 2019. Holiday wishes extended to everyone.

Local Chamber December Events

Chaska's Hometown Holiday is happening on December 1st, Saturday at the Chaska City Square Park. The fun begins at 1 PM until 5 PM. You are invited to joint as everyone celebrates the holidays with horse drawn carriage rides around historic downtown Chaska. Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Reindeer will be available for that perfect holiday photo, as Creation-Station to make some winter art, holiday music, caroling, a live Nativity, bonfires and finally the City Square Tree Lighting at 5 PM.

Chaska downtown businesses have plenty of shopping, eating and drinking planned with special deals and bargains kicking off your holiday shopping for this year.



Thursday, December 6th, Beers with B.E.E.R.S. event at Bowlero in Eden Prairie starts at 4:30 and ends at 6:30 PM. You are invited to join in the fun at this year's B.E.E.R.S (Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Richfield and Southwest Chambers) Program. The event enables you to network and create connections with members from five different chambers while you sample micro-brewed beers from local breweries! The "Best Chamber Beer" Award will be crowned at the event which will be on tap at Bowlero for one year. Members: \$20 / Non-Members: \$ 30. Admission includes a beer sampling, complimentary.

Angel of Hope

From this event, on your way back stop at Chanhassen for the Angel of Hope Vigil, starting at 7 PM and finished by 7:30 PM. William's Wings will host the 2nd Annual Angel of Hope Vigil on



December 6th.

"In the spring of 2015, William's Wings Foundation which is a local non-profit based in Chanhassen donated An Angel of Hope statue to the City of Chanhassen. The statue, along with approximately 150 other Angel of Hope statues around the country are viewed as a place of mourning and to serve as a beacon of hope for families grieving the loss of a child. The statue is located along Santa Vera Dr., between Kerber Blvd. & Powers Blvd. Each year, on December 6th at 7pm there is a vigil at all statues for families to remember, grieve and heal. Attendees are welcome to place a white flower at the base of the statue to remember a loved one.

William's Wings Foundation was established in 2013 by Todd & Misty Luecke of Chanhassen as a way to honor their son, William and establish a means to help other grieving families. The primary goal for the foundation is to provide hope, healing, help, and hopefully smiles again to all families grieving the loss of a child.

William Douglas Luecke, the perfect blessing from God, was born June 10, 2011 to Todd and Misty Luecke of Chanhassen. William gained his heavenly wings on February 27, 2012 when he passed away peacefully in his sleep. For additional, and ongoing information on the statue and foundation please visit the webpage or Facebook by searching William's Wings online. Contact can be made through email at info@williamswings.org.

"The Angel of Hope statue was an idea established by Todd & Misty Luecke as a way to remember their son, and to provide a place for others in the area to find solace while mourning the loss of a child. The statue was the principal project when starting William's Wings Foundation. The statue is located at 841 Santa Vera Dr. in Chanhassen, MN. The location is just north of downtown along Santa Vera Drive, between Powers Blvd. and Kerber Blvd.

Website: www.williamswings.org/angel-hope/



Winter Wonderland Wine Tasting

To complete your evening, stop at the Granery Event Center at the Chaska Mill at 500 North Pine Street in Chaska. The event opens at 7 PM and is done at 9 PM. Lake Life Chiropractic invites you to joint them for a holiday part to remember.

"With wine from Dolce Vita and food from Pangea Cafe's L&L Catering, this is sure to be a delicious evening- perfect for a girl's night out, date night, or just an excuse to beat the wintery doldrums. For just \$5 you will get to enjoy 4 sips and small tastes, along with appetizers, music, opportunities to win door prizes, and a magical night to start your holiday season right!

All proceeds benefit Launch Ministry, a faith-based non-profit organization established to expose young adults to opportunities that will promote healthy, productive transitions into adulthood.

If you are a patient at Lake Life Chiropractic, we request that you BRING A GUEST with you and give the gift of health to them! We look forward to celebrating the past year of healing with you along with connecting to your community!"

The Nutcracker Ballet

Be sure to check this out, The Nutcracker Ballet, (website: www.mnballettheatre.org). Interested in attending this chamber hosted event? More information can also be found on the chamber's website. The MN Ballet Theatre presents the seventeenth annual classical ballet production at the Eden Prairie High School Performing Arts Center located t 17185 Valley View Road in Eden Prairie on Friday, December 14th, 15th and 16th. For more information, showtimes, tickets etc you can contact the MN Ballet Theatre at 612.501.9208.



Soggy Bottom Golf

The Carver Lions are in the planning stages for the 10th Annual Soggy Bottom Golf Tournament. The event usually occurs the last Saturday in January which in 2019 would be the 26th.

Suggestion is to bring one golf club, hockey stick, or whatever else you would like to hit a tennis ball with. Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the park. Watch www.carverlions.org for more information.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead

Carver Flowers

By: Annette Hentz

Carver Flowers is having its Holiday Open House & Shopping Night on Thursday, Dec 6 through 8 pm. All Christmas merchandise will be 20% off. Bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share to receive 30% off.

We will be closed Sunday, December 23rd – Tuesday, January 1st to spend holiday time with family, reopening with normal business hours (10AM-5PM) on Wednesday, January 2. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



The Carver Shops

Carver Shopping Days for December start on Thursday, December 6th and are open until Sunday the 9th. Formal January dates have not been announced yet. The January tentative scheduled dates are January 17th through the 20th. Be sure to check each and every shop out. Also, be sure to check their websites and Facebook pages for their hours and times. Don't forget about Iris Valley in Jordan. Also, an excellent shop to visit for your holiday shopping. There are many occasional shops in Chaska and surrounding cities. Happy Holidays!

The Shops of Carver include:

All Things Fabulous – [Facebook](#)

Be You By Alison Boutique – [Facebook](#)

Carver Flowers – [Website](#) / [Pinterest](#) / [Facebook](#)

Fourfold Studios – [Website](#)

Mustard Moon – [Facebook](#)

Ripple Art Studio & Gallery – [Facebook](#) / [Website](#)

Rosehips and Willow – [Website](#) / [Facebook](#)

Sweeter Times – [Facebook](#)

Temperance Arts & Gifts – [Facebook](#)

The Good Junk Garage – [Facebook](#)

Excelsior Ice Castle

Just brief mention on the topic of the Ice Castle scheduled to be built at the Commons in Excelsior as it has been well covered by everyone else. Referenced the South West media news for information shared now. It was reported that the castle will likely open, weather permitting, after Christmas or the first week of January.



The representative for the ice castle organization stated her opinion that “it’s a really unique setting against Lake Minnetonka and with all the shops downtown on the Main Street. There’s a lot that this town has to offer, and the location is ideal being against the lake.” She went onto to say, “the new site allows for a different castle design compared to past years, adding it will enable our team to be creative in their design to enhance the guest experience. That’s really something that’s important to us, providing a very magical setting for the castle.” For more information, go to their website: www.icecastles.com/excelsior

The Ice Castles will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3 – 9 PM, Fridays from 3 PM to 10 PM, Saturdays from noon to 10 PM and Sundays from 3 to 9 PM.

MN Landscape Arboretum -

Making Spirits Bright

Once again, another event that already kicked off their festive winter experience at the MN Landscape Arboretum and already widely advertised. Visit their website: www.arboretum.umn.edu for more detailed information. Will only give highlights and hope you find time to visit one or our very own local treasures and repeat visits. This event is running through January 6th, 2019. They feature special events. This includes Winter Lights on December 25, 27, 31st and January 1st. There are Indoor



Displays, the Great Hall has a 24' Tall Poinsettia Tree, there are fourteen outdoor displays, Holiday Market on the 14th and 15th of December, Holiday Music and Auxiliary sale. Santa will be on site on the 1st of December, the 8th and also on the 15th. There is a going to be a special pet session with Santa, as well. That will be on the 9th of December.

“Progress is man’s ability to complicate simplicity”

~ Thor Heyerdahl

Holidazzle

The Holidazzle event has already kicked off their 2018 seasonal event at the Loring Park area. There is so much more information on their website, along with their full schedule at www.holidazzle.com. This editor highlighted some events. Be sure to check their site if you are interested in finding out more or plan on attending.

The event started November 23rd and runs through December 23rd in downtown Minneapolis and is a Minneapolis’ premier, free to attend holiday celebration! Thursday the events begin at 5 PM until 9 PM, Fridays, 5 – 10 PM, Saturdays, 11 AM – 10 PM and Sundays 11 AM – 7 PM. Holidazzle has delighted residents and visitors for years. You can enjoy food, drinks, holiday shopping and activities for all ages! There is a skating rink that is open daily, dedicated movie nights, firework displays, interactive art installments, Santa Claus and more waiting for you.



On Tuesday, December 11th, at 6:30 PM – 9 PM at 2301 37th Place Northeast, the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train returns! The train is not ride able but there are plenty of activities including caroling and a concert from a car on the train when it arrives. The festivities begin about 6:30 PM and the train is scheduled to arrive at about 7:55 PM.

At the American Swedish Institute on Friday, December 21st at 5 PM – 9 PM is the scheduled Winter Solstice Celebration. This is a moment when the earth’s tilt causes the shortest day and longest night of the year. The institute celebrates this powerful seasonal juncture with fun, festivity and performance during extended hours. The FIKA Café will serve a special festival menu with small plates and warm glogg which is a Swedish mulled wine, the Museum Store and Jul Shop will also be open late for your last-minute gift needs!

Thursday, November 29th through Sunday, December 9th the 5th Annual North Pole Express will begin their trips at the St Paul Union Station featuring elves, singing, dancing and a visit from Santa! You can learn more on their website: www.uniondepot.com



St Paul Winter Carnival

Who said Minnesotans don’t know how to have fun in the cold? The 2019 133rd St Paul Winter Carnival in downtown St Paul at Rice Park, Landmark Center and the MN State Fairgrounds is scheduled to officially open for free events open to the public on January 24th through February 3rd. Some events have already occurred. And it is this editor’s understanding from a little icon in the computer that the 2019 Button Unveiling will occur on December 1st. For all the details and all the fun, please visit their website at: www.wintercarnival.com



The carnival has been entertaining the public since 1886 bringing family-friendly events and community pride to St Paul and the Twin Cities metro areas. “Through city-wide special events, fun activities and more, the St Paul Festival and Heritage Foundation celebrates winter like only Minnesotans can! The Winter Carnival is brought to you in partnership with Explore Minnesota.”

There are parades, coronation, securian financial winter run, Vulcans Snow Park, Vulcans, signature events, treasure hunt, a new kids and family day, Saintly City Cat Show, and so much more. Again, visit their website for all the details, times, dates, places, etc. We show everyone like no one else can, how Minnesota has fun and stays warm.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Advent worship services will be held at 7 PM on December 5th, 12th and 19th.

The Kids Christmas Program will take place during the December 9th worship. Following the service, there will be a Congregational Pot Luck.

Christmas services are scheduled for worship on Xmas eve at 3 PM and Xmas day at 9:30 AM.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

St Nicholas Catholic Church

Submitted by: St Nicholas Church

You are invited to join us in celebration of our 150th Anniversary! Celebrations begin with Archbishop Bernard Hebda presiding at the 4 PM Mass December 1, followed by an open house reception and historic memorabilia display in the Parish Center - all are welcome! There will also be a 7 PM Mass this day.



The celebration continues 8 AM to noon December 2 with a pancake breakfast. Enjoy pancakes, french toast, and delicious sausage with a secret recipe made exclusively for us by Cooper's Foods! Adults \$9, Kids (ages 6-12) \$5, Kids (under 5) Free - Take out is available

On Wednesday, December 5 we'll celebrate St. Nicholas Feast Day with a 6 PM Mass.

Christmas Mass times are as follows:

Christmas Eve: 4 PM English and 6 PM Spanish
Christmas Day: 9:15 AM English

All information and updates can be found on our website at www.stnicholascarver.org

St Nicholas Church wishes everyone a Blessed Holidays Season.

Community Highlights

January 2019

January 1 st	New Year's Day
January 2 nd	Lions Meeting
January 3 rd	Happy Anniversary Stan and Bonnie!
January 5 th	Happy Anniversary Daniel and Rebecca!
January 7 th	Council Meeting Fire Department Drill Night CCYBSA Registrations Open Happy Birthday Leon!
January 8 th	Carver Meet and Greet Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting Carver on the Minnesota Meeting
January 10 th	Carver Elementary PTO Meeting Dahlgren Township Meeting Happy Birthday Jerad!
January 14 th	East Union Elementary PTO Meeting School Board Organizational Work Shop Meeting Parks Commission Meeting Dahlgren Township Board Meeting Fire Department Officer's Meeting
January 16 th	Lions Meeting
January 17 th	through the 20 th - The Shops of Carver
January 17 th	Planning Commission Meeting Happy Birthday David!
January 18 th	Carver Business Alliance Meeting Happy Birthday Eric!
January 19 th	Happy Birthday Kay!
January 20 th	Happy Birthday Abby! Happy Birthday Jim!
January 21 st Birthday	Martin Luther King's No School
January 22 nd	Fire Department Drill Night Council Meeting
January 24 th	St Paul Winter Carnival Kicks Off Happy Birthday Troy! Happy Birthday Mike!
January 25 th	Happy Birthday Ethen!
January 26 th	Soggy Bottom Golf Happy Birthday Rich!
January 27 th	Happy Birthday Paul! Happy Birthday Henry! Happy Birthday Tiui!
January 28 th	School Board Meeting Fire Department Meeting Night
January 29 th	Happy Birthday Shawn!
January 31 st	Happy Birthday Trish!



December Fun Facts



Although December can be awfully cold, don't believe it is the coldest of the winter months. As hearty Minnesotans though we should be able to handle it huh? December is the last month of the calendar year being the twelfth and final month of the Gregorian calendar and the first month of winter. The Latin name is derived from Decima, the middle Goddess of the Three Fates who personifies the present. Did you know that the Roman calendar based on a 304-day year's inventor was Romulus, twin brother of Remus, the same Romulus and Remus who founded Rome around 800 BC.

The Winter Solstice, also known as Midwinter happens around the 21st or 22nd of December each year in the Northern Hemisphere. This occurs on the shortest day or the longest night of the year referenced as astronomically marking the beginning or middle of a hemisphere's winter. Winter Solstice also means Sun set still in winter. Events of the solstice vary from culture to culture. The solstice may have remained a special moment of the annual cycle of the year since the stone age.

There is a special event for each day of the month, but am only highlighting some of them. December 1st is World's Aids Day, December 2nd is Coats for Kids' Day, the 3rd is International Day of the Disabled Person, the 5th, Walt Disney was born, the patron saint to children, St Nicholas is celebrated on the 6th, on the 7th of December in 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked killing more than 2,300 Americans, the 10th the Nobel Prizes are awarded, in 1903, on the 17th the Wright Brothers' first aero plane flight occurred, "Silent Night" was first sung in 1818 on the 24th, the 25th is Christmas Day and Sir Isaac Newton was born in 1642, the 27th is National Chocolate Day, the bowling ball was invented on the 29th in 1862, on the 30th in 1903 the first powered flight by Orville Wright was completed. These standout dates were on the 14th of December in 1791, the Bill of Rights was passed and in 1967 on December 3rd the first heart transplant was completed. Some strange dates celebrated daily include: Global Orgasm Day, Handwashing awareness week, Roof over your head day, Santa's List Day, Bathtub Party Day, Mitten tree day, Christmas card day, wear brown shoes day, blue jeans day, put on your own shoes day, National regifting day, flake appreciation day, Mudd Day, BaHumbug Day, Crossword puzzle day, National Whiner's Day, card playing day, gone-ta-pott day, Tick Tock Day, Festival of Enormous Changes at the Last Minute Day, make up your mind day, no interruptions day, National Candy Cane Day, and national dice day. Here are some movable December holidays worth mentioning, Human Right Day and Human Right Week, Lover's Fair, Festival of Trees, Apple Pie Day, Army and Navy Union Day, California Kiwi fruit day, and Underdog day.

Here's something interesting too, each day of the month all during December has food observations. Some of them are as follows: National eat a red apple day, fritters day, ice cream bar day, cookie day, brownie day, pastry day, lager day, noodle-ring day, ambrosia day, gingerbread house day, cocoa day, lemon cupcake day, chocolate covered anything day, maple syrup day, fried shrimp day, sangria day, hamburger day, date nut bread day, egg nog day, pumpkin pie day, coffee percolator day, fruit cake day, chocolate candy day, chocolate day, and Champagne Day.

Then you have your monthly highlights, these include, Universal Human Rights Month, National Read a New Book Month, National Stress-Free Family Holiday Month, National Fruit Cake, and Egg Nog Month, World AIDS Month, Bingo Birthday Month, Safe Toys and Gift Month, Love your Neighbor Month, Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, Hug-a-week for the hearing-impaired Month, and International Calendar Awareness Month.

Then there is the National week of events. Some highlights are Cookie Cutter Week, Lager Bear Week, Deaf Heritage, Aplastic Anemia Awareness, National Handwashing Awareness, You're doing a good job, Lipstick Week, International Language Week, and Kwanzaa.

And finally, the top December topics are Traditional Holiday Recipes and Christmas Traditions.

***Information gathered for fun facts are from the following:
Popculturemadness.com, Wikipedia, Gone-ta-pott.com.

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Hope that everyone enjoyed the series of Monthly Fun Facts throughout this past year. December, obviously, completes the year's fun facts. Hope everyone learned something or at least smiled at some of the silliness discovered through the year. Thank you.

## *Did you Know?*

In 1776, on January 1<sup>st</sup> during the American Revolution that George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America?

January 1, 1863 - The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union.

January 1, 1892 - Ellis Island in New York Harbor opened. Over 20 million new arrivals to America were processed until its closing in 1954.

\*\*\*\*[www.historyplace.com](http://www.historyplace.com) ( more interesting January and other month facts

## *Khrystelle's Adventures*

Written by: Ricki Yvonne

## *Land of Lost*

Khrystelle closed her eyes to nap to never wake again.

The little white bear with the purple scarf and white snowflakes stood in complete awe at the scene before her. She had taken her first step in her new journey to search for Mother in the Land of the Lost.

The scene before her was absolutely stunningly spectacular that it would take your breath away. The lush green meadows dotted with splendid colorful flowers. The water so blue in the creeks and rivers, that it matched the sky. Off in the distance was the picturesque snowcapped mountains that would make one gasp at its majestic beauty.

Suddenly before her was an array of small critters to welcome her. There was a small grey squirrel, a brown bunny, a pair of racoons and a red fox.

In unison, they all chimed, "Welcome Khrystelle at our home."

At first the little white bear with the purple scarf and white snowflakes was too startled to speak, unable to speak really which was a real rarity for the little bear to be at a loss for words,

Then the huge oak tree covered with kinds of varieties of butterflies spoke eloquently and with fierce authority,

"Follow your heart to your destination of the one you seek with no fear. No one here will ever harm you, they will only help."

"I need to find Mother." The little white bear with the purple scarf and white snowflakes stammered finally.

"Seek and you shall find." The feisty squirrel chirped in excitement.

"She's waiting for you." The fawn that approached the group said with assurance peering off into the northly direction.

"Where?" The little bear asked very confused.

"Follow us, we'll lead the way." The birds that landed pronounced.

There were so many varieties of birds, among them were cardinals, robins, blue jays and even chickadees.

They all took to flight encouraging the little bear to take her first steps on this newest journey.

As the troupe began moving northward, the little bear took in every single detail of the beauty surrounding her.

Her senses very much aware of the beauty, feelings and smells all about her easing all discomfort and dissention.

"How unfortunate her imagination had to end with such confusion." The old wise tortoise solemnly proclaimed.

"What do you mean Mr Tortoise?" Asked the bunny perplexed.

"She has no idea that Mother has passed away and gone to heaven."

He relayed carefully, "That little white bear with the purple scarf and white snowflakes life ended as she knew it with that death."

"What happens now?" The bunny asked knowing the answer.

"A new journey into another dimension." The old wise tortoise announced turning to walk away from the gathering below the old oak tree.

© 2018 RYS Creations

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\*\*Thank you to all who enjoyed or didn't and allowed this writer the indulgence creating the story of Khrystelle's Adventures throughout the 2018 year. It is the author's hope, that learned lessons were absorbed to make the world a little better place and to escape the real world realities with some imagination and creativity.\*\*



Bashful Heart Bear hails an Announcement Proclamation! Aa HUGE shout out to Chris who stepped in to help out editing the Villager Tower for 2018 in John's absence while he is recuperating. Without these two gentlemen's help, you would not see such a polished nor crisp newsletter. Terrific job guys! Huge, Humungous THANKS!!!!

*Love A-Lot Bear, Good Luck Bear and Cheer Bear*

*Would like to share their caroling with you all this Holiday Season*

*Wishing you all a "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year"*

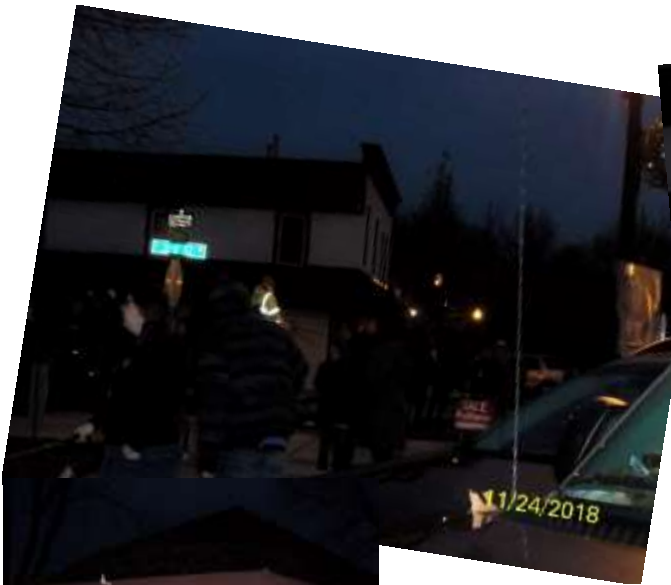


*And the "Villager Tower" editor too.*



*Carver Gazebo Tree Lighting Ceremony*

*November 24<sup>th</sup> 2018*





**St. Nicholas Catholic Church**  
*Celebrating 150 Years*  
**Carver, Minnesota**



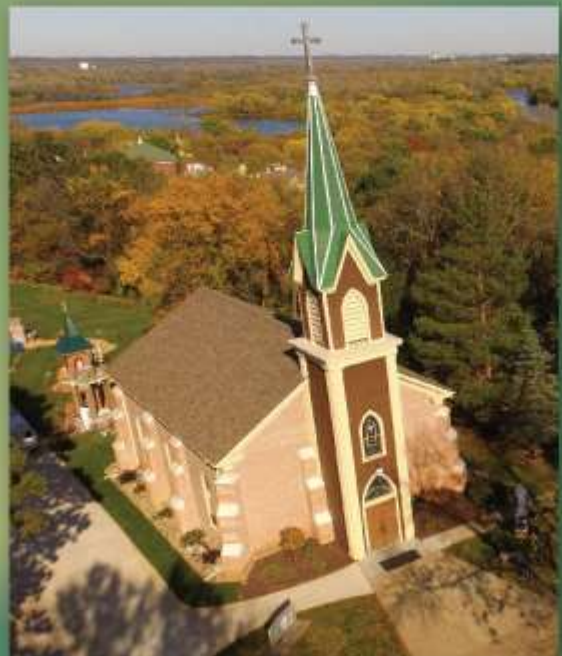
St. Nicholas Catholic Church 1870

**Saturday, December 1**

- 4 PM Mass with Archbishop Hebda
- 5-7 PM Reception in the Parish Center with hors d'oeuvres, Church History Display, Religious Items and Bake Sale
- 7 PM Mass

**Sunday, December 2**

- Pancake Breakfast 8 AM - Noon  
Pancakes, French Toast &  
Homemade Sausage Breakfast  
(Parish Center)
- Religious Item and Bake Sale
- 9:15 am Mass in English
- 10:30 AM Mass in Spanish

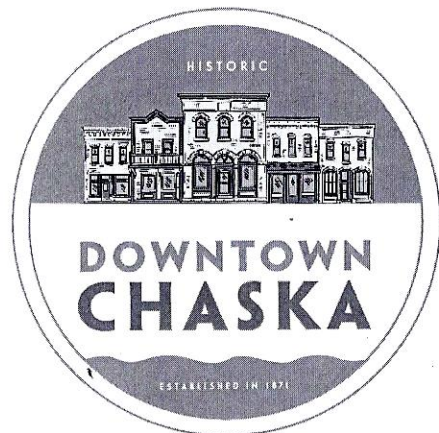


St. Nicholas Catholic Church Today  
Stands Tall on the 412 West Fourth  
Street Hill



Saturday, December 1st

# Hometown HOLIDAY



Celebrate the holidays in  
historic downtown Chaska!

Visit Chaska's historic downtown Saturday December 1st for a fun filled day sure to get you in the holiday spirit. There is plenty to do throughout the day with activities for the whole family beginning at 1:00 in City Square Park.

**Don't miss out on the start of the Holiday Shopping Season  
Saturday November 24th for Small Business Saturday.**

Come support our local businesses - Shop Small!

Free Gift Wrapping at Coldwell Banker Burnett!

Body Expressions Consignment Clothing 10% off of total purchase

The Granary Event Center at The Chaska Mill:

Come shop over 10 local vendors from 9-3

Stop in and register to win a Fitness First Holiday Gift Package between 11/24 and 12/1. Pick up a gift card for a FREE strength training appointment. New clients only.

Gifts for yourself and your loved ones at: Urbina Patina, Sixth & Elm, Carver Junk Co., Linda's Cellar, Shop 501 & Company, Birchwood & Pine, Lynn Laumann Photography and more!

Food and Drink to keep you going at Dunn Bros, Red Bench Bakery, Patron, La Hermosa, Cy's Bar & Grill, Cuzzey's, American Legion and Crooked Pint!

## CITY SQUARE PARK

\*\*\* 1:00 - 5:00pm \*\*\*

Join Santa, the elf and the reindeer for treats, pictures and Christmas list sharing! Stay for the horse drawn wagon rides, bonfires, carolers, creation station, tree lighting, music and live Nativity! Plus, visit other downtown businesses for more fun, games, sales and specials!

## CHASKA HISTORY CENTER (112 West 4th Street)

\*\*\* 11am - 5pm \*\*\*

Visit the many great exhibits along with great Christmas present ideas!

## CHASKA LIBRARY (City Hall Plaza)

\*\*\* 11am - 3pm \*\*\*

Warm beverages and cookies by the fireplace

1:00 - 2:30: Winter Craft Make and Take Drop in to do a make and take winter craft! Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

## HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES

\*\*\* 1pm - 5pm \*\*\*

Walnut Street at City Square Park - Free tour of historic downtown boarding every 15 minutes. What a wonderful way to see the city!

## TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY CITY SQUARE PARK

\*\*\* 4:30pm - 5pm \*\*\*

Join the animals from the St Johns live Nativity plus carolers, treats to eat, bonfires and the tree lighting with coloring contest winners. Visit and take your picture with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the reindeer plus the live nativity animals.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH (300 East 4th Street)

\*\*\* Live Nativity 3:00pm \*\*\*

\*\*\* Caroling 5:00pm, Live Nativity 5:30pm \*\*\*

Enjoy the road to Bethlehem as we carol from City Square Park to St. Johns with a stop to Auburn Manor. Enjoy an outdoor performance of the live nativity at 3:00 & 5:30pm.

*Holiday Cheer and  
great shopping at*

Urban Patina, Sixth & Elm, Birchwood and Pine,  
Shop 501 & Company, Linda's Cellar and more!

Visit [DowntownChaska.com](http://DowntownChaska.com)  
for more information.

**Fitness First of MN, Inc.** Stop in and register to win a Fitness First Holiday Gift Package between 11/24 and 12/1. Pick up a gift card for a FREE strength training appointment. \* New clients only.

## Auburn Auxiliary Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale

(Auburn Homes 501 N. Oak St.) 10:00 am - 2:00 pm: Variety of gifts, holiday decorations, jewelry, scarves and much more! Check out Grandma's Attic! Free hot cider and coffee.

## Moravian Church (115 East 4th Street)

10:00am - 1:00pm. Girl Scout Holiday Boutique Shop reasonably priced handmade gifts. Chaperoned help for young children wishing to shop for family and friends! 2:00pm - 5:00pm: Comfort Station Folks can use the restrooms, warm up, or enjoy refreshments.

**Linda's Cellar** discounts thru out store and holiday refreshments.

**Sugar Creek Chiropractic** Open House 11 am - 4:00 pm, Santa noon- 3:00 pm - free photo opportunities for families with our Santa!! Free Crafts for kids of ALL sizes! Free Snacks & hot drinks. Plenty of shopping opportunities for the parents and crafts for the kids.

**Dolce Vita Wine Shop** Free Wine Tasting starting at Noon. 1:00 - 5:00pm

**American Legion Auxiliary** \*\*10:00am - 4:00pm\*\* with Silent Auction until 8:00pm with host a Holiday Market which includes vendors, a bake sale, and a silent auction. The proceeds from this event help fund many of the ways we give back to the community throughout the year.

**Carver Junk Co.** Lots of Holiday Cheer.

**Body Expressions Consignment Clothing** Treats and 20% off Jewelry

**Lynn Laumann Photography** Hot Cocoa and a warm Bonfire

**Bee Well Massage** 10% off massage gift certificates through December 24 available in person on those dates and online through my website. [www.beewellmassage.net](http://www.beewellmassage.net).

**The Travel Boutique** will be open from 12pm to 6pm on December 1. We will have drawing for a \$250 travel certificate - good for booking travel with us in 2019. We will also be selling "The Gift of Travel" - holiday gift cards of any denomination - customized and beautifully boxed for putting under the Christmas tree or giving during the holidays.

**Simon's Building** Open House 12-5



We look forward to seeing you!





# Sponsors



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 Carver Community Youth  
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*Where the ball game begins*

Find us on line at: [www.cityofcarver.com](http://www.cityofcarver.com)

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 Alison Turner, Fashion Retailer

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 Thank you for being a part of our shop! Be you! Alison

