



### *Eastern Carver County Schools*

The School superintendent attended the council meeting to introduce herself and to update the council on the district's Back to School Plans, policies and procedures regarding the details for in-person, online, and hybrid learning practices being done throughout the district. Following the guidelines is the most effective support system throughout the community and homes.

### *Property Excellence*

The Edith-Anne Award for 2020 has been decided. The Misgen Family have proven to go above and beyond maintaining their property. Award recipients display pride in their community. Congratulations to Jeff and Deanne. Reference article in contents for more information.

### *Preliminary Tax Levy*

The city manager discussed the information relating to the 2021 Preliminary Tax Levy. The levy must be certified to the county by said dates. The council conducted a series of budget meetings discussing various expenditure options regarding the General Fund in preparation of the preliminary tax levy certification. Upon certification, it cannot be increased, however it can be decreased. A Truth-in-Taxation Hearing is scheduled to be held on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The hearing opts the residents and opportunity to comment. The council takes its final actions on the tax levy and budget at their second monthly meeting. During the interim the staff will continue to review, revise and present additional estimates to the council. The council had also requested two scenarios prepared for review of the levy involving funding for breathing apparatuses for the firefighters. Question was asked regarding whether or not State Aid program had also been taken into consideration while equating numbers for budgeting for street projects. The response was given that funding would not be available until 2022. The city engineer has been working on street presentation identifying funding for a future meeting. This would allow the city the opportunity to develop a strategy maximizing the use of those funds however that option would not be available until 2022. The criteria for funding was reviewed. Those funds would make a significant impact on street reparations but would not cover all streets within the city. It is anticipated that the Old Carver Road will be requiring extensive funds in the future. Negotiating with the county on the roads condition will be negotiable when the city is ready to maintain that road. Opinion was given that the city should plan for street maintenance funding. Another opinion was expressed that the city perhaps that state funding option was not a stable or an absolute option to count on. It possibly would be wiser to save funds for that purpose in the future, as well street maintenance plan. Decision had been made that funds needed to be set aside for street maintenance during the discussion relating to franchise fees. Motion was made and carried with four ayes and one nay certifying the 2021 Preliminary Tax Levy for the said amount adopting the resolution.

*Love does not begin and end the way we seem to think it does.  
Love is a battle; love is a war; love is growing up.*

*~ James Baldwin*

### *Water Treatment Plant Expansion*

The Plans and specifications were presented to the council by the city engineer pertaining to the water treatment plant expansion project. Currently the water system meets current and future average demand, but the system is at near capacity level which is critical reviewing the system's capacity. It is also critical that the city proceed with improvements to the water system. The project has been included in the City's Capital Improvement Plan to expand the system. Proposed financing would be by the sale of bonds. The city funds would be utilized to service the bond debt. The approved preliminary budget includes monies for drilling wells, construction of raw water mains and the water treatment plant expansion. A post-bid project budget would be reviewed upon receipt of bids. This project is ready for authorization to begin the bidding process. Question was asked when payment would be due if the bonds were sold in March. The city manager stated that the city would levy in the case of the general fund bonds for the year 2022. The city may be afforded some flexibility with the enterprise or utility functions based on fund balance. This would be clearly identified in early 2021. There are not any land acquisitions required for construction of the wells, however there is some concern regarding the depths of one well construction. This issue is being studied. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the resolution approving the plans and specifications and ordering advertisements for bids for the water system expansion.

### *Parks Master Plan*

The Community Development Director reviewed with the council the information relating to the Parks Master Plan amendment. Due to the Jonathan Carver Parkway reconstruction project an increased pedestrian safety issue has been identified adding to the project scope of the plan. The amendment would add language relating to the rectangular rapids flash beacon placed in the project area with allocation of park dedication monies. The beacon would be included in the trail system allowing for greater connectivity. Opinion was expressed stating a preference for an underpass or a foot bridge over the intersection instead of a beacon, however supported the option of allocated funds being utilized for the safety identified. The mayor stated that the proposed solution was the most financially responsible option. The city engineer weighed in with the dynamics of the demand versus the cost. A roundabout is tentatively considered for the location thereby a beacon option was more realistic and cost effective since speeds would already be reduced. Motion was made and carried with all four ayes and one nay adopting the resolution approving the Parks Master Plan amendment.

### *Fee Schedule*

The city clerk presented the proposed changes for the 2021 Fee Schedule. The council was asked to review and comment. Each fall, the staff reviews the fees and submits change recommendations. This year, however the council is only asked for review and feedback. The council reviewed various items. The summarization involved deletion of non-applicable fees, change and add miscellaneous fees for various items. The council will review the item for acceptance of the drafted 2021 Fee Schedule.

*"Life is not about having everything. It's about finding meaning in everything."*

*~ Unknown*

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## *Cares Act*

The Community Development Direction presented an update regarding the Cares Act funding programs available for the City of Carver. Eight businesses and one resident were beneficiaries of the act. Continuance of working with the Community Development Agency involving the residential programs. The question was asked regarding the criteria for the residential program. The criteria and options were reviewed. Unused funds would be sent back to the city the city manager informed the council. Cares Act funding would be discussed in October of this year pertaining to different reimbursement options. WeCab requested fund allocations. This might be something the council might want to review and consider. It was an option supported by some councilors.

The city manager reported that he and the fire chief were working with a vendor to provide new air filter system and an individual regulator for the department. This new equipment would limit the firefighter's exposure to the Covid virus. The city would then move forward with reimbursement for the full replacement of the Self-contained breathing apparatus equipment using the Cares Act funding, alleviating a future budget expense in the future.

The community development director presently is working with a vendor to upgrade the software system involving building inspections and permits. The software being reviewed would allow remote access for applying for permits alleviating the necessity of physical contact by coming into city hall. Utilizing the Cares Act funding for the program would eliminate the need to use public safety funds with payroll reimbursement.

## *Strategic Plan*

The city manager gave an update regarding the action plan for the Strategic Plan. The manager announced that the Lower MN Watershed District preliminary committed to contribute money to the city's certified levee project. Staff would begin working with them establishing and ongoing partnership. The third-party vendor of Abdo, Eick and Myers is working on creative and interactive ways for reporting financial information. Long-term plan progress is evident which includes utilizing technology and infrastructure priorities. The plan will be presented in the future for council feedback. The completed Community Survey was a success. Communications support concepts are complete. This will specifically be utilized with construction updates. Updates will be forthcoming regarding identification of website vendors. Tentative plans for launching the new site are for January of 2021. Jonathan Carver Parkway, Community Park, and the US Fish and Wildlife areas are being reviewed for historic kiosks, trail signage and maps are all being reviewed. Key trails are being identified, as well as promoted through additional signage. Grants for the kiosks were inquired about. If feasible will be done if applicable or available. Comment was submitted regarding linking the trail maps with the county's trail map and they should be linked. The Jonathan Carver Parkway improvements were approved. The Public Services department reviewed costs relating to uniform street signs. The issue is currently on hold; however, the design is ready. Consistent amenities have been identified for developments and city projects.

The city manager requested direction for format for future Strategic Planning Session. Format discussion was the main idea formulated. The city manager would explore possible outlines and scenarios.

Councilor updated on the Carver Business Alliance meeting. Lakeview Industries and Kwik Trip participated. Kwik-Trip ribbon cutting ceremony was put on the councilor's calendars. New businesses were discussed.

## *RiverSide Park*

The public services director presented recommendations involving RiverSide Park establishing guidelines for closures and re-opening of the park during flood events. The guidelines would set expectations for not only the staff but for residents. It was presented to close the park when the levels reach twenty-two feet only to reopen when it recedes to twenty-one feet. It would thereby give time for dry out and staff clean up time. The city manager pointed out that these recommendations were guidelines. The council was in agreement to the proposed guidelines.

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## *Website ReDesign*

The Deputy Clerk updated the council on the Website Redesign. Approval had been given for a new website from Civic Plus. The staff met on a regular basis formulating ideas. Presently, this new website is being created. Civic Plus hosted a meeting to learn the city's vision for the site. Based on the information formulated from that hosted event, a Mood Board and Layout proposal were conceived and presented. [ for those of us who are computer illiterate: ( I had to look it up too so don't feel too bad ) "Mood boards for web design focus on specific sets of elements to help communicate how the website's content and overall user interface would be impacted." ] The Mood Board and Layout are essentially the starting blocks to develop the website. Work continues and revisions made throughout the review process. Final approval expected mid-November. Content preparation and updates are currently the plan of action. The staff is reviewing and updating content on the current site prior to content migration. ( Sounds like the geese flying south eh? ) Seriously, December the plan is for the Website Reveal Meeting. This will be the final content report and an overall update on the content migration presentation. This meeting will provide a completed production site with approved design and website content. January will consist of the Website Launch Confirmation and Training then the Website Acceptance and Launch.

Apologize for the improv'...I need human interaction just like everyone else!!! Oh, come on admit it. You are all just as stir crazy.

## *2021 Enterprise Fund Budget*

The city manager discussed the 2021 Enterprise Fund Budgets with the council. The next step involved the update to the city's Long-Term Financial Plan which is in the process of being presented to the council. This plan effectively functions as the city's Capital Plan. It identifies significant infrastructure, equipment and staffing needs for the next five years. Currently the staff is working on the annual Fee Schedule adoption process which includes setting the utility and connection fees. The Enterprise Fund Budgets are scheduled to be considered for adoption.

## *Zoning Ordinance*

The community development director presented information regarding the Zoning Code Review process. The presentation, goals, process and roles and responsibilities for the Planning Commission and the City Council were reviewed. The bulk of the drafting of the Zoning Codes will be done within the next six to nine months for potential adoption. Question was asked how the historic district would be addressed. Additional requirements pertain to these properties and would be noted in the codes.

## *American Promise*

A citizen approached the city council on behalf of the American Promise. The organization is advocating the need of the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Request is being submitted that local city councils and county boards pass a resolution supporting the passage of a MN State Resolution calling for the US Congress to pass an amendment to provide that: Corporations re not natural persons and only natural persons are endowed with Constitutional rights and Federal, State and local governments shall have the power to regulate contributions and expenditures for elections and campaigns, and to require public disclosure of the sources of the contributions and expenditures. Question was asked if donations from unions were being reviewed. They were included and considered. It was explained that it is not a law to change fundraising but it is a constitutional amendment to override Citizens United. They are requesting a constitutional amendment to allow State and Federal governments to control spending and fundraising.

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## *Disclaimer*

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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**"Everything in the world may be endured except continual prosperity."**

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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## *Delinquent Utilities*

The council discussed scheduling a public hearing regarding certification of delinquent utilities. The council discussed recognizing the financial impact on the community directly related to the Covid-19 federal, state and local emergency declarations. The City of Carver had suspended disconnection activities and late payment penalties related to utility accounts for the months of April through September of 2020. Continued efforts to collect were done. Unpaid accounts remain to date. The city is being asked to initiate a process to assess or certify past due amounts to the property tax. A courtesy letter was forwarded. The required Public Hearing is legally required. Notifications were forwarded. As in the past, consideration of delinquent utility assessments over a three-month billing period. There are expected to be more accounts this year. If the certification is adopted, they will be certified to the county auditor.

## *The Meadows at Spring Creek*

The city engineer discussed the amendment to the Developer's Agreement and Builder's Agreement involving the Meadows at Spring Creek. As part of the Developer's Agreement for the area the developer was required to construct the boulevard tree plantings. Due to the coordination and timing for construction between the developer and the home builder and in order to optimize the likelihood of success of plantings; it was determined that the boulevard tree planting should be constructed by the home builder. The council reviewed the addendum request releasing the developer and an agreement transferring the responsibility to the home builder.

## *River Bluff Estates - 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition*

The city engineer discussed with the council the amended developer's agreement and Escrow Pledge and Payment Agreement for River Bluffs Estates - 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition. The developer was required to place wearing course pavement on the streets and trails. An escrow and payment pledge had been established to secure placement of pavement. A condition of the agreement included a warranty bond. As a result of an extended duration spanning over five years the development to be completed. As a result of the extended duration the base course pavement aged and deteriorated to the degree that a negated correction was necessitated. The negotiated terms were reviewed. It was the engineer's opinion that the negotiated terms of full pavement replacement eliminated the need for warranty bond or retainage on the new placed pavement. The council reviewed the amended agreements. The developer was responsible for all project costs.

## *Carver Fire Department*

The council was requested to approve the purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Carver Fire Department personnel. These devices were one of the most critical safety items a firefighter could utilize. It provides respiratory protection during fires, hazardous materials incidents, gas leaks, carbon monoxide incidents and various other emergency events. Studies continue to show that fire fighters are up to two times more susceptible to be diagnosed with cancer than the general population. With these increased diagnoses proper respiratory protection is crucial for the health and safety of those individuals. Relating to the Covid pandemic, these devices further protect the firefighters and the public. This item has been identified as eligible for CARES funding. The units are scheduled to arrive sometime in November.

## *St Nicholas Catholic Church*

Masses are still currently suspended at St. Nicholas due to Covid-19, check [www.stnicholascarver.org](http://www.stnicholascarver.org) for ongoing updates and announcements.

## *Carver Black Sox*

The 2020 season marked the 4th consecutive appearance in the Minnesota State Amateur Baseball Tournament and the second time that Carver advanced to the final weekend and the Sweet Sixteen.



*"Vision is the true creative rhythm."*

*~Robert Delaunay*

## *Trinity Lutheran Church*

We believe that the church is not a building but people joined together by God through faith. Our vision and prayer is to see our town awakened to and transformed by the love of Jesus.

We invite you to our Thanksgiving Eve worship service which will be at 7 pm, Wednesday, November 25.

Join us for physical-distanced worship services at 10 am every Sunday. People with compromised immune systems, at risk for infection, or simply not ready to come to worship are encouraged to worship with us at home by listening to recordings of the sermons which are posted on our website. We would love to pray for you. Please contact us with prayer requests or questions at: Office: 952-448-3628; mail: [triluthsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:triluthsecretary@gmail.com); Website: [trinitycarver.com](http://trinitycarver.com); or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchCarver>



## *Still More Covid Casualties*

The 2020 Holidazzle will be held virtually this year due to the pandemic. Imagine that? Surprised? Not really, in October, the organizers posted that the annual holiday celebration will be held virtually. "Instead of bundling up to head out to Loring Park, those looking for holiday cheer can head on line for holiday-themed activities and interactive engagement. A schedule of events will be released in November." Loring Park ice rink is also closed for this winter season.

For more information: [www.holidazzle.com](http://www.holidazzle.com)

Ice Castles' will not be returning to Minnesota this season either in 2020. "Ice Castles hopes to return to Minnesota again in January 2022, if the situation permits."

St Paul Winter Carnival appears to be moving forward with their schedules as far as this editor could tell. Beware, like everything else in 2020, things could change. The dates found are January 28<sup>th</sup> through February 7<sup>th</sup>. For more information and have computer access, [www.wtercarnival.com](http://www.wtercarnival.com)

## *MN Landscape Arboretum*

However, there re still things going on despite.

"The show must go on: The Arboretum's winter lights show is returning for the fourth year with some socially-distanced twists.

Winter in Bloom Winter Lights outdoor walking tour will open on Nov. 19 and continue through Jan. 3. While most indoor displays won't be returning, outdoor highlights include a 22-foot tent of lights and a three-dimensional walk-through apple to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the University's first apple introduction.

Masks will be required indoors and recommended outdoors, one-way paths must be followed and tickets have been significantly limited." For more information, [www.arbwinter.umn.edu](http://www.arbwinter.umn.edu) or [www.arb.umn.edu](http://www.arb.umn.edu)



## *Carver Current*

Looking for what is going on locally? Check out [www.carvercurrent](http://www.carvercurrent) Well worth checking. An excellent source of information of city updates, local organization events, local news, school activities, sports results etc. Also, a great site for sharing important information and events affecting local residents. The newsletter, the "Villager Tower" can also be found on this website, among other valuable information.

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### *"Villager Tower"*

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## Carver Shops

Occasional Shop dates for November are November 19<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Check websites and Facebook pages for updates on each shop's availability. In these trying times, don't forget our local shops too and that they are experiencing stressful times too. A kind word might be refreshing if you can't buy anything too. Let's stick together and be kind. Not to mention it's shopping time for Christmas. What better gift for that special companion or friends but as homemade or renewed choice from our very own shops?

### The Shops of Carver:

Carver Creamery – Open for Business - The Carver Creamery FB  
Carver General – Facebook - Occasional Shop Dates  
Old Carver Fishing Bait and Tackle - Facebook  
Ripple Art Studio & Gallery – [www.rippleartstudio.com](http://www.rippleartstudio.com)  
Ripple Art Studio & Gallery - FB  
Strange Birds - [facebook.com/strangebirdsmn/](https://www.facebook.com/strangebirdsmn/)Website  
The Good Junk Garage – Facebook  
204 Studio - photography – Website  
SomeWhat Crafty - Facebook  
Temperance Arts & Gifts – Facebook  
The Carver Creamery – Facebook



## Carver Village Christmas

It's that time of the year again and already. Where did the time go even though we were all cooped up social distancing and learning how to breathe through masks? And we still are not in the clear? Let's get outside and enjoy Christmas anyway huh? I know, safely, but human contact, finally. We are social creatures by nature. Aren't we? This coming from an anti-social introvert? But hey, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony is going to happen! Isn't that great? The event is sponsored by the Lions, the Fire Department and Carver on the Minnesota. Not to mention all those behind the scenes non credited people. Even Santa is coming this time. And by the fire truck to boot. The reindeer sick too? Oh no... can't be. Tell me it isn't so. Pleeeeeeassse! Ah, the kids can't sit on Santa's lap either. \$%%&&&@#@# Bloody germs...who let them in anyway? Wasn't me? Was it you? Well, I certainly hope you are happy with yourself. Shame on you. The fun is to begin at 2:30 PM. Wonder who picked that time? All the fun is over at 5:30PM? No, I am reading that wrong. The fire truck and Santa are leaving at 5:30 PM. Got ya' Sorry. The fun is actually over at 6 PM. But that's only if everyone leaves.

Some might hang around to chat? Some might be playing? Me, I have to go home and listen to mockery. Never mind, I will keep those comments to myself. Hey, apple cider and hot chocolate. Darn, they don't mix well so can't have both. Have to pick one or the other, I guess. Doesn't matter, humans are there, human interaction. You know, somebody out there better be smiling. I know I am not a comedian, but I'm trying hard here to get your attention and go down to the Gazebo Park in downtown Carver. You know that downtown is a stretch. An entire two blocks does not constitute a downtown. You know awhile back, there used to be only ... never mind. You don't want to hear the reminiscing of an old fool when we got into all kinds of trouble in downtown Carver. When you asked when I so rudely interrupted? Why, it's Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanksgiving weekend. Kids are out of school ( again ). They need to be entertained. They still haven't worn off the energy from the last lockdown in March. Seems like eons ago doesn't it? See the insert below for more interesting information. I can't wait. Can you? Hey do you think that new ice cream shoppe will open special? Wonder if the Night Marauders are hanging around too? Kristy you seen them around town? Hanging out in the Gazebo maybe? No. Wonder where those rascals took off to? Gotta' go'. Later. See you there, Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> starts at 2:30 PM.

## Carver Village Christmas and Tree Lighting Ceremony

Saturday, November 28, 2020

Gazebo Park, 307 Broadway, Downtown Carver

2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. with Tree Lighting Ceremony at 5:45 p.m.

Santa will arrive by fire truck and will be available from 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. for socially distanced photos. Children will receive a bag of goodies to take home. Apple cider and hot chocolate provided.

Please bring an item to donate to the local food shelf.

Sponsored by the Carver Lions, the Carver Fire Department, and Carver on the Minnesota. For any questions, please contact Jim at [jimwevgand@aol.com](mailto:jimwevgand@aol.com) or Cathy at [elkcatmar@gmail.com](mailto:elkcatmar@gmail.com).

In September, Carver on the Minnesota donated and planted a new evergreen tree in Gazebo Park. This tree will be the new focal point for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Don't miss the first lighting of the beautiful new addition to Gazebo Park!



## Sponsor

**CCYBSA**  
Carver Community Youth  
Baseball Softball Association  
*Where the ball game begins*  
Find us on line at: [www.cityofcarver.com](http://www.cityofcarver.com)  
Questions? Email us at: [ccybsa.reg@gmail.com](mailto:ccybsa.reg@gmail.com)



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MASTER PLUMBER  
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[bpmechanical@hotmail.com](mailto:bpmechanical@hotmail.com)  
302 RIESORAF RD  
CARVER MN 55315

## Carver Lions

The Carver Lions members were busy working on revamping the Carver Lions park shelter. Spiffy job done too. See the results on their Facebook page. Be sure to check in with them and see what you can do to help them and your community. The Lions meet the first and third Wednesday of the month at City Hall. Currently the Lions are working with other organizations to bring you the Carver Village Christmas. Good job everyone.



## Carver Business Alliance

Carver Business Alliance "The Carver Business Alliance is a collaboration of business owners, community leaders, and local officials working together to promote, enhance, and create opportunities for commerce in the City of Carver. Business roundtable discussions are held and City of Carver updates are provided at each meeting." They meet every third Friday of the month at 8 AM at the Carver Village Hall. Anyone owning a business in Carver is welcome. The next scheduled meetings is November 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Community Calendar November 2020

November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Daylight Savings Ends ( Fall Back ) All Saint's Day Happy Birthday Judy!	
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Council Meeting	
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Election Day Happy Birthday Deb!	
November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Lions Meeting Happy Anniversary Russell and Jackie!	
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	No School	
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parks Commission Meeting Dahlgren Town Board Meeting East Union – PTO Meeting School Board Meeting	
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting Meet and Greet	
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Veteran's Day	
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Bob!	
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Zac!	
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Council Meeting	
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lions Meeting	
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Commission Meeting	
	Occasional Shops Weekend	
Sales		
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	Business Alliance Meeting	
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Happy Birthday Tin! Happy Birthday Allison! Happy Birthday Marvin!	
November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Happy Anniversary Deb and Loren!	
November 24 <sup>th</sup>	through November 30 <sup>th</sup> - No School Thanksgiving Break	
November 25 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Doug!	
November 26 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Day	
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Rachel! Happy Birthday Michael!	
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Ken!	
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Taylor!	



## Deja Vu

Here we are October, November 2020 and California is burning again. Remember Cheryl? Annette's daughter?



She lost her house in the San Bernardino fires? It was Carver Flowers' owner, Annette's daughter, Cheryl? Some of you were kind enough to contribute to her recovery. It's funny how things get reported and then forgotten and you never hear the end results or how their lives turned out. Thought it would be nice to check in and find out about Cher and see how she was doing and update y'all. Humor me. There's a kidnapped woman in Europe that I never was able to find out if they ever found her. So it is important to reflect back on others and check in. Reminds us how much we take for granted and how easily we forget how damn good we have it sometimes, don't you think? How's that go, "You don't know what you got until it's gone." Boy if that ain't the truth too many of us learn too late.

Cheryl struggled with a lot of bad memories on that beautiful spot overlooking her spectacular view. She not only lost her home; she had her dreams robbed from her and crushed like so many others. She had to forfeit her fire-prone Little Mountain, her friends, her neighbors, but most of all her dream. Talk about total devastation, huh? Forced to retreat and submit to Mother Nature's wrath. On the bright side, everyone says, when one door closes, another opens. Let's hope her new adventure and her new dreams are even better than her dreams she lost. Oh, and her dogs, Ducky and Silver, are doing just fine.

But now, Cher worries about her brother, Steve and his dog, Tucker a year later, fifty-five miles southwest of where her life was shattered. He is in the new Silverado Fire area. Let's hope and pray history doesn't repeat itself. After all, how much is one mom supposed to endure? I know, a lot. Hang in there mom. Lots of luck, Cher and Annette, hope your son fares well. Everyone will be pulling for you and your family!

## Stick's Tavern



Did you know that Stick's Tavern is doing Free Curbside Pickup? Did you even know that Stick's Tavern existed? They are at Dahlgren Golf Club and a family owned restaurant. Check the website: [www.stickstavernmn.com](http://www.stickstavernmn.com)

"Stick's Gastropub/American Diner Faire style menu is created using only high quality, fresh, locally sourced ingredients from MN farms and producers at a fair price. Stick's combines a fantastic view of Dahlgren Golf Course with a family friendly diner atmosphere and a full service bar.

Following state mandates, Stick's has expanded the dining area to ensure seating and safety while following current COVID-19 guidelines. You can feel safe dining within or you can order for curbside pickup through the Swipecy app. Reservations are not required, please stop in and see us, we have plenty of seating and look forward to your visit. [Follow us on Facebook for Specials and Events.](#)"

Their hours posted on line are that they are closed Monday and Tuesday. Wednesdays and Thursdays they are open at 3 PM and close at 10 PM. Fridays hours: 3 PM – 11 PM, Saturday, 9 AM – 11 PM and Sunday, 9 AM – 7 PM. Check them out. Last I heard and knew, it was really good and if you aren't comfortable with dining in, they'll give you curbside delivery. Oh who would have ever thought we would have restaurant drive thru pick up huh? They need to survive too.

"Isn't it the moment of most profound doubt that gives birth to new certainties? Perhaps hopelessness is the very soil that nourishes human hope; perhaps one could never find sense in life without first experiencing its absurdity.

~ Vaclav Havel

## Happy Thanksgiving



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## *Winter Travel Tips*

By: Charles Possert, Carver County Deputy

Winter is coming and it's time to start thinking about winter travel safety. Although this winter may be a little different in the midst of a pandemic, travel and vehicle safety still apply. Here are a few ideas and tips to make your winter travel as safe as possible.

### **Prepare Your Car**

Take a few minutes and put together a winter emergency kit for each vehicle in your household. These kits are useful year-round and a great gift idea. The kits should contain:

cell phone, portable charger, and extra batteries, blankets – wool blankets are ideal, a spare hat and gloves

food and water (nonperishable items such as canned nuts or fruit)

booster cables, flares, tire pump, and a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction)

small shovel, tow cables, compass and maps, flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries

first-aid kit, plastic bags (for sanitation)

tool kit – crescent wrench, pliers, multi-tool, screwdrivers, duct tape, etc.; brightly colored cloth – for signaling

While a winter emergency kit is useful, it's far better to avoid finding yourself in a position where you need to use it. Spend a few minutes going over your vehicle to ensure it is in top mechanical shape going into winter. Winter wreaks havoc on mechanical systems especially batteries and heating and cooling systems. Make sure to check:

**Battery** – check for corrosion, ensure terminals are tight, have a qualified mechanic load test your battery if you have any doubt. Most auto parts stores have testing equipment on hand and will do a battery check-up free of charge.

**Cooling System** – ensure the radiator and overflow bottle are full of the appropriate coolant. For only a few dollars you can buy a device called a hydrometer which tells you at what temperature your coolant stops protecting your engine. Ideally your coolant should protect down to -34F.

**Belts/Hoses** - check all hoses and belts for signs of cracking and wear.

**Tires** – check tire pressure and ensure you have sufficient tread depth. Consider replacing your tires if you have less than 5/32' of tread depth remaining. Winter specific tread patterns are available and very effective.

**Washer Fluid** – fill your washer fluid bottle with a winter appropriate fluid. A clean and defrosted windshield can help prevent trouble on the road.

### **Prepare Yourself**

Check the weather before you travel. Share your travel plans and the route you intend to take with someone who can check up on you if you are overdue at your destination. Bring along a sufficient supply of any medications you or your travel companions may require. Stay home if there is any doubt.

Before you depart, ensure the vehicle is full of fuel and avoid going below a half tank. By maintaining a half tank of fuel, you have reserve fuel which can be used to operate the engine and stay warm until help arrives.

Changing our driving behavior is also an important aspect of winter safety.

In poor road conditions, increase your following distance to give more time to react. Try to stay 8-10 seconds behind the vehicle ahead.

Accelerate and decelerate slowly and by smooth application of the brake or accelerator.

Avoid stopping on hills; Slow down! Always use your seat belt. Do not use cruise control on slippery roads

Don't closely follow snow plows and pass them with care

### **React in an Emergency**

If you find yourself in a winter emergency, consider the following safety tips:

Stay in your vehicle – this is especially important if you have gone off the roadway. Chances are if the roadway is so bad you lost control, someone else will also. If another motorist loses control, you are far safer seat belted into the protective steel body of your vehicle. Don't try to walk to help in a storm. It is easy to lose sight of your vehicle and become disoriented. Emergency personnel will find you more quickly if you stay with your vehicle.

Run your vehicles engine and heat for 10 minutes out of every hour. If your vehicle is surrounded in snow, ensure the tail pipe is free of obstruction to avoid carbon monoxide buildup inside the vehicle. When the car is running, turn on the interior lights. Avoid using vehicle systems that use electricity when the vehicle is not running to prevent a dead battery. When the heat is running, crack a window for air exchange.

Tie a brightly colored cloth to your vehicle antennae, utility rack, upturned windshield wiper, or any other available high point.

Insulate yourself with blankets and any additional clothing items in the vehicle. Huddle with other people for warmth.

Stay awake and moving. Move your arms and legs to keep blood flowing. Activity will help keep you warm.

The old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is apropos when speaking about winter travel safety. Consider discussing these safety tips with friends and family. Encourage your loved ones to take steps in advance to ensure a safe and trouble-free winter season.

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## *Southwest Chamber of Commerce*

By: Darren Noble

Support Local, Shop Local Online Silent Auction

Starts on Friday, November 13th at 5pm and ends on Monday, November 16th at 10am

The SouthWest Metro Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization that supports and helps to strengthen our member businesses and stimulate regional prosperity.

This year we are having a Support Local, Shop Local Online Silent Auction! Funds raised from this Online Silent Auction goes to help support valuable chamber programs and community events throughout the year, as well as, our Education Scholarship Foundation.

We appreciate your continued support as we strive to continue to represent the business owners and employees in the Southwest Region.

### **Annual Mayor's Luncheon**

Join the SW Chamber for our monthly membership luncheon as we welcome our local Mayors from Carver, Chanhassen, Chaska and Victoria. It's always an interesting event hearing about the year gone by and what's ahead for our four fabulous cities.

### **SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE**

\$250 Includes marketing prior to and at the event, 5 mins to talk about your business, 2 luncheon tickets & table at the Luncheon!

\$40 Members/ \$50 Non-Members

Seating is limited, walk-ins not guaranteed.

Time: 11:30am-1:00pm

\*Please email me directly of any dietary requirements\*

[Kelly@swmetrochamber.com](mailto:Kelly@swmetrochamber.com)

Register online with the SouthWest Metro Chamber of Commerce at [www.swmetrochamber.com](http://www.swmetrochamber.com) or call the Chamber office at 952-474-3233

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## Property Excellence

The Edith-Anne Award for 2020 has been decided. The Misgen Family have proven to go above and beyond maintaining their property. Award recipients display pride in their community. Congratulations to Jeff and Deanne.

Still another casualty of the Blood Virus! The procedures of choosing the recipient for the Property Excellence, Edith-Anne Award is still another victim. Typically presented by the City Council. The procedure required alterations and was presented to the Misgen family in early September.

The care and upkeep, not to mention maintenance of the yard is a family affair. Mom and dad and their seven children do the yard thing. The kids help out with projects and they created a fairy garden along the house that their son maintains. Guess what? With the you know what, guess what this family had to do? Get creative and find alternate ways to entertain their kids. The silver lining in the story is that they not only had more family time at home this past spring, they were able to spend lots of time on the yard and property which was an excellent distraction and look what they won? The coveted Edith-Ann Award.

They not only get to display the Property Excellence yard sign but they also received a plaque. The yard sign is displayed for a year along with those bragging rights. There were three nominations received for the Misgen family. There is a beautiful pond in their backyard along with plantings surrounding the rest of the house. They reside in Woodview Circle. Congratulations mom and dad and kids.



## Sever's Holiday Lights

A magical drive-through display of 1,000,000 plus lights synchronized to festive music in Shakopee. Sever's Holiday Lights Season will be from November 26<sup>th</sup> through January 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can experience the event Sundays through Thursday stating at 5 PM and ending at 9 PM. Friday and Saturday's times are 5PM until 10 PM.

For more information, [www.seversholidaylights.com](http://www.seversholidaylights.com). Sever's is also a Proud Partner of Toys for Tots!



## MN State Fairgrounds

Look what I found! People certainly have become creative in these times of alternates and innovation. Tired of everyting cancelled? Things are popping up all over the place. The MN State fairgrounds via KSTP news on line posted the following.

"'Tis the season: The centerpiece of a drive-thru holiday lights festival at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds is being installed Thursday.

According to GLOW Holiday Festival organizers, the 100-foot Christmas tree will be in place by Thursday afternoon.

The festival is set to take place every day from Nov. 19 through Jan. 3 and features about a dozen different displays with over a million lights, according to organizers. In addition to the 100-foot tree, there will be icicle and art installations and a gingerbread house, among other attractions.

Visitors will also have the chance to purchase some popular Minnesota State Fair food items after driving through the different displays.

Entry to the drive-thru holiday lights festival is timed in 15-minute increments and a complete trip through the festival is estimated to take about 40 minutes.

Tickets can be purchased for \$46 per vehicle"

It was a little tricky on the internet, but if you are persistent and able, [www.universe.com/users/glow-holiday-festival-QW1V2Y](http://www.universe.com/users/glow-holiday-festival-QW1V2Y). Then went to search for MN Great Get Together and fin ally found out more information.



## Christmas-in-Color

Last but not least, the other event I found occurring is at ValleyFair and if I understand their calendar correct I believe the dates are November 26<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at \$ 30 per car. Sunday through Thursday times are 5<sup>30</sup> PM until 10 PM, Friday and Saturday nights are 5:30 PM – 1030 PM. They will be closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

So load everyone up and get acquainted with a different way to experience 2020 in these strange bloody virus times of alternatives. There is a drive-thru of Christmas-in-Color being scheduled at Valleyfair, Drive-thru acres of perfectly synchronized holiday music.



## DownTown Shakopee

### Holiday Fest

Thanks to Ms Grotewold from the Main Street Director of the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce was also able to find some more holiday fun for y'all to explore if you are interested in this new strange environment we exist in during 2020 and sounds like might be extended into 2021.

Shakopee's innovative alternative for this year is to implement a Winter Farmer's Market, creating a holiday shopping experience for the community members and visitors that normally come to our Holiday Fest. Providing additional opportunities to the creative artisans who have been greatly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This winter market will be holiday themed, and vendors will specialize in gifts and personalized hand-made items. The Winter Farmer's Market is scheduled for Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – 4 PM.

There are also plans for "Socially Distanced Photos with Santa" happening down the street, inside River City Center. Photos with Santa will be on the same day, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, from 12pm-4pm. Additionally, there will be some fun sponsorship booths with activities and goodies, as well as a hot chocolate/cider booth provided by our downtown Café, Sit & Sip.

An entire street allowing for a safely distanced market, and walking between activities is planned. Of course, we will be implementing tactics to be safe and responsible in this current climate, as well as following all Covid regulations and guidelines. We will be providing communal sanitizer stations and outdoor heaters (fire pits). Masks will be required by all vendors and shoppers.

Sunday, downtown businesses will be promoting their own "gift grab bags" within their locations.

You can stop into the stores and locations in downtown and around the community to pick up goody bags filled with holiday treats and activities. There will also be coupons and promotions included for the adults as well!



*Life isn't about waiting for  
the storm to pass.....  
...it is learning to dance in  
the rain*

