



### West Union Lutheran

#### Church

Little bird has been singing a tune to let everyone know that there's a new minister at West Union Church. He just arrived the little bird announced. He has come with company too. There's Kara, Nicholas and Jack and the newest addition the little bird said is Addison. Want to learn more, go to the West Unions church's website and check it out.

The congregation continues with their drive-in worship or Facebook Live at 9 AM on Sundays.

Oh, the little bird also wanted to tell you that plans are underway for a safe outdoor service Christmas Eve. Families will be socially distancing, hey those masks that are required, will help to keep the nose warm too.

Merry Christmas and God Bless.



### East Union Lutheran Church

The East Union congregation is also continuing their drive-in services at 9 AM in the parking lot. The Church Council have been putting their heads together and working on plans for a safe inside Christmas service too.

Christmas blessings and wishes are all extended to everyone.



### Trinity Lutheran Church

"O come let us adore him!" Please join us for our Christmas Eve worship service at 5:30 pm, Thursday, December 24 and our Christmas Day worship service at 9:30 am December 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 encourage 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; Website: trinitycarver.com; or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchCarver>



### Angel of Hope

Remember the Angel of Hope Vigil in Chanhassen? It's scheduled again this year for Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 7 PM until 7:30 PM. The statue is located at 841 Santa Vera Drive in Chanhassen. ( Between Powers Boulevard and Kerber Boulevard ).

For more information, you can visit the website: [williamswings.org/angel-hope/](http://williamswings.org/angel-hope/)

A brief reminder synopsis: The ...statue was an idea established by Todd and 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."

"Don't decrease the Goal, Increase the Effort." ~ Tom Coleman



### Carver Lions

Those Carver Lions' members never cease to amaze the community. Their hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Lighting was scaled way back due to the bloody virus still running rampant and wreaking havoc with everyone in the world. Enough already eh? Of course, revolting is not going to do any good now is it?" Well, there are at least a few children that express their thanks for the 'goody bags' put together with love and care. Gossip was that Santa got sick and couldn't come? I hope that virus didn't sneak up on him too. That would be simply disastrous on top of all the other misgivings going on, the Thanksgiving Day nose dive, the sports crushed and now even more stuff closed. Please say it isn't so that Santa succumbed to the bloody virus too? Regardless, so many events that were so carefully planned and oh, so, looking forward to had to be cancelled. There were a few hearty, brave souls that ventured to the downtown park area to partake in human interaction, a lot of dogs too. Always nice to see our four-legged pals too.

The event was not as successful as in the past, the "A" for effort goes to everyone involved. The tree was simply delightful. Hope the Strings of Connection alliance participants contribute their artwork too. Will get to that. Keep reading folks.

Did you know that the Lions Clubs have been offering people the opportunities to give something back to their communities since 1917? Can you imagine how many generations that has spanned? Keep up the good work guys and gals! It really is appreciated. The Carver Lions was chartered in 1973.

Be sure to come and support the local Lions. Come and join them, if only for an evening of learning. They meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month ( except Summer ). They meet usually at the Carver City Hall Community Room. Due to the Covid-19 thing, it's best to check for locations and options to join in. If you are interested and can, check out their webpage or their Facebook page. There are no December Lions meetings.

Oh yea, each and every Carver Lions Member wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### Schram Holiday Haus Market

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at noon until 4 PM at the Schram Haus everyone is invited to join them for some holiday shopping and beer. Featuring local artists, craftsman, designers and more!



### Miscellaneous

The council discussed the piece of property adjacent to the Gazebo Park currently privately owned but maintained by the city. Efforts are being made to secure the property by the city. The Planning Commission will be reviewing the matter to confirm consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. The city attorney and engineer are also working on agreements and the legal description.

The council held their canvassing meeting certifying the election results. The two council members elected for a four-year term were Joy McKnight and Kristy Mock. Congratulations.

"Life is full of fake people. Before you judge them. Make sure you are not one of them."

## Strings of Connection

Talk about a stroke of luck! Finally, was able to make a connection with the Funky Minds participants. So, their "strings of connection" work in mysterious ways.

"In a time when so many are apart, all are invited to join together in creating a community art installation here in Carver and beyond. Simple sticks wound with colorful yarn represent our unseen connections with one another and the natural world." Their latest project is called, "Strings of Connection". It's a community art project!

Gazebo Park in downtown Carver is the Home-Base. Add your work to the display at the park. Or, choose another visible place to display your creation.

Materials and directions can be found all over Carver. Look in locations such as Gazebo Park, Spring Creek, Olsen Park, Community Park, Bluffs Playground and along walking trails throughout Carver.

Directions:

1. Choose a clothespin with yarn from any material site in Carver
2. Collect a stick
3. Wind yarn around stick in a design
4. Hang stick in tree

A quick google search using search words ART and STICKS and STRING will provide great inspiration.

literature Connection: Children's books I AM ONE: A Book of Action by Susan Verde and The Invisible String and The Invisible Web books by Patrice Karst can be found in the Little Free Library at Gazebo Park. After reading, sign your first name inside the book and return to the same Little Free Library for the next family to borrow and enjoy.

Post a photo of your design: Twitter at @Communitystrings or on Carver Life Facebook.

(Funky Minds Nonprofit:

Gathering the gifts of Community)

They invite everyone and anyone to come and take a couple and create their own special ornament to hang on a tree in the community. You will also find material at the Community Park, Historic Boards by the downtown boat, trail by the train by Casey's and at Carver Crossing Apartments.

They have also stated and are excited to announce this art project and hope everyone and you everyone you know will participate. According to their instructions, there is more to follow. Their theme is that during these difficult times of the virus that we all understand the connections between nature, people, art, giving and sharing and how important all of these are to co-exist. Their instruction page can be found attached in the newsletter. They have plans for a Stage 2: Lights Shines in Community. Hopefully, we can keep up with these artistic creators to keep you informed.



## Downtown Chaska 5 for \$25

"This year, we are committed to providing safe, fun activities to help you and your family celebrate the holidays in Downtown Chaska. Join us downtown to shop (or pick-up!), dine (or take-out!), and enjoy the season and everything it has to offer! Downtown businesses are in this together to bring you a great season with festive deals and fun ways to celebrate while maintaining safety & social distances!

As you discover ways to celebrate the holidays in Downtown Chaska, spread the holiday spirit and join the 5 for \$25 pledge event! We are asking you to pledge to support 5 Downtown Chaska businesses by spending \$25 in each between Black Friday and February 28th. Be a part of helping your friends and neighbors from local businesses jump into the New Year through this small commitment. Pledge on our website, then share your purchases on social media using the hashtag #DTChaska5for25 for the chance to win fun prizes!

For more ways to support and celebrate our downtown, explore our site or visit [facebook.com/downtownchaska](https://facebook.com/downtownchaska)"

December 1<sup>st</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup> – Tree Stroll and Food Shelf Donation "this December, take a stroll around the Clayhole, view the holiday lights and snap a selfie by Chaska's Holiday Tree!

To spread holiday spirit, donate to the Bountiful Basket Food Shelf! The donation box will be near the tree all December long. Non-perishable foods, please."

Love Chaska Ornaments and Face Masks available while supplies last. To get your very own limited, one-of-a-kind shop downtown Chaska and get your limited edition free with a purchase, again, while supplies last. You can find a list of participating businesses by checking out [downtownchaska.com](https://downtownchaska.com).

Not only is Santa going to be available to have you picture taken with but Frosty is coming too! This event already started. Visit the City Square Park and see if you can catch these winter characters to get your picture taken with either of them ( or maybe both? ).

January plans: Mark your calendars if you are interested, the "Ice Gardens" will begin January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Fireman's park. There will be ten plus different Ice Sculptures to explore. ( take a selfie with them all ).



## Carver Current

Looking for what is going on locally? Check out [www.carvercurrent.com](http://www.carvercurrent.com) 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"

Ricki Yvonne Schultz  
14210 Jonathan  
Carver Parkway  
Carver MN 55315  
952 . 448 . 5126  
[villagertower@carvercurrent.com](mailto:villagertower@carvercurrent.com)



## Introductions

The city council welcomed a new administrative assistant on board at their November work session. Welcome Tedie Fahey. Two new firefighters joined the Carver Fire Department, DeeDee Deeken and Aaron Kemnitz. Congratulations.

## Recreation Partnership

The city manager reviewed the draft of the Memorandum of Understanding for the city's recreation partnership with the City of Chaska. The agreement primarily involves 'resident rate reciprocity' for the Chaska Community Center, Curling Center and Town Course. The agreement is for three years with an option to terminate.

## City Manager

The city council discussed the performance evaluation system for the city manager. Request had been submitted for an evaluation system to be utilized to conduct this performance review. There are a number of systems available. There was a collection of samples presented to the council for consideration. A revised system had been prepared along with the existing form for reference.

## 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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## Carver Black Sox

The Carver Black Sox wishing y'all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## Carver Community Youth

## Baseball / Softball Association

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!

"My only competition is the person I look in the mirror each morning. Aspire to inspire and the universe will take action. #riseup the world needs you to be the person you were born to be."  
~ Kevin Vanegas





## Fourth Annual Tree Lighting

The sun was shining, the temperatures were above normal and one would think it was typical day for a tree lighting ceremony? Wrong. The germs have been winning and taking us down a path of no return. It is a spoiler, thief, cruel, mean and downright ugly. It kept people away. A few ventured out to see the festivities only to be disappointed. Poor Santa was a no show, no hot chocolate, no apple cider and no chatting with old friends or making new. Only a few souls commiserating at distances. A young group of eager adolescents were busy trying to make things cheery being artistic, creative and making the most of the bad situation. The animals didn't mind. They were busy checking out their fellow mates and eager to bump noses. Then everything went dead. The virus was not going to claim any victims with no one to attach to. The streets were empty, the park empty and nightfall falling quickly. Slowly a couple cars come to park. For anyone paying attention, it was the sole group to plug the lights in unceremoniously to a very small group who had gathered. It was still warmer than usual, brisk but not as cold and brutal as in the past. Quiet and solemn time. Blink, all the lights flicked on and the hurrah was over as the few cameras took their photos. It was a plump, round and decorated enchanting tree blanketed finally with colorful bulbs for everyone to see, even though the



fanfare of the whole excitement was downplayed. It's a pretty display and it embraces the attempts and care bestowed upon the times that once were full of many people, children and laughter. A somber send off as the few people who did their job dispersed. The positive shall prevail. Perhaps 2021 will show us better times.

## Carver Shops

Occasional Shop dates are usually the third week of the month. 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? Be sure to check out the Carver General....they were open the first weekend of December and will be open in January 2021 for the new year with new exciting novelty things for your pleasure and shopping thrill not to mention the magnanimous personalities of the two ladies.

Happy Holidays to one and all!

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 Funky Dove – Facebook



## Sponsors



**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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## Chaska Valley Family Theatre



Visit their Facebook Page to see their favorite moments. Check out their website for updates.

“Did you know that this season is the 25th anniversary of Chaska Valley Family Theatre?”

Not exactly how we were hoping to celebrate... but we have moved our celebration here! [ Facebook ]

Over the next several weeks we will be highlighting some of our favorite moments in CVFT history and bringing some friendly faces back to talk about THEIR favorite moments.”

## 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 December 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Winter Wonderland Fun

### MN Landscape Arboretum

Remember the lights you can see at the Arboretum this winter during our inability to do what we normally do this time of the year. Check them out. Heard it's pretty fantastic! "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 going on 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)



### 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 is on through January 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can experience the event Sundays through Thursday starting at 5 PM and ending at 9 PM. Friday and Saturday's times are 5 PM 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

People certainly have become quite and innovative. 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 taking place every day until 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 finally found out more information.



### Christmas-in-Color

Another event is at ValleyFair happening until January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at \$30 per car. Sunday through Thursday times are 5:30 PM until 10 PM, Friday and Saturday nights are 5:30 PM – 10:30 PM. They will be closed 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

Don't forget 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 5th 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 5th, 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.

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!

### Holidazzle

"Holidazzle shared today the first of its 2020 virtual experience, The Holidazzle Show. [The Holidazzle Show presented by Comcast](http://www.holidazzle.com) will bring elements of Holidazzle to you and yours wherever you are, whenever you'd like. Four episodes of The Holidazzle Show presented by Comcast will be available on [Holidazzle.com](http://Holidazzle.com) with new episodes airing Friday, November 27 and the three following Thursdays: December 3, December 10, and December 17. The show will feature a visit from Santa, DIY holiday projects, entertainment, small business holiday gift ideas, local food spotlights, and more. The Holidazzle Show will complement Holidazzle's 2020 virtual experience providing online content including interactive social media challenges, past photos and videos, live craft demonstrations, and HoliTivities featuring free activities for all ages. "We are excited to bring the spirit of Holidazzle to you and yours this holiday season through our 2020 Holidazzle virtual experience," said Leah Wong, vice president of external relations, Minneapolis downtown council. "Wherever you are, you can enjoy the entertainment and activities you've come to expect each year at Holidazzle, and we look forward to being together again when we can safely return to an in-person celebration." "Holidazzle has been an important long-standing tradition in our community and we are thrilled this year's celebration will continue in a new way," said J.D. Keller, regional senior vice president, Comcast Twin Cities. "All of us at Comcast are proud to be the presenting sponsor of The Holidazzle Show and are excited our customers can seamlessly experience this free and festive destination on the X1 platform." Additional details will be announced throughout November. Other online content and activities include HoliTivities, Holiday cooking recipes, Minneapolis Craft Market virtual shopping experience featuring local makers, where to enjoy winter in the Minneapolis area, Virtual ice-skating lessons, Weekly social media challenge, Past Holidazzle photos and videos, and more. Visit [Holidazzle.com](http://Holidazzle.com) or follow Holidazzle on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to enjoy this year's virtual content. Holidazzle—which typically takes place in Loring Park—is moving online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and continued concerns around public gatherings. In addition to Holidazzle, the Minneapolis Winter Skate ice rink in Loring Park will take the season off to prioritize public health.



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*



## Heritage Preservation Commission

The city staff has been reviewing a new approach for the Heritage Preservation Commission. Work is being done to ensure that the commission is receiving the same support other commissions are in receipt of. This could include the implementation of a staff report. Also, there is reviewal of ordinances affecting projects. Consistency and messaging are the primary focuses for change. Additionally, applicants would be notified of an of an appeal process by the commission.

## Community Highlights December 2020

December 1<sup>st</sup> Happy 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday Chelsea!  
December 4<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Patti!  
Happy Birthday Shayla!  
December 6<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Tommy!  
December 7<sup>th</sup> School Board Meeting  
Council Meeting  
December 8<sup>th</sup> Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting  
Meet and Greet  
December 9<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Katelyn!  
December 10<sup>th</sup> Hannukah Begins  
Happy Birthday John!  
Happy Birthday Cody!  
December 14<sup>th</sup> Parks Commission Meeting  
Dahlgren Township Board Meeting  
Happy Birthday Aletta!  
December 17<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission Meeting  
Happy Anniversary Carol and Ken!  
December 18<sup>th</sup> Carver Business Alliance Meeting  
December 19<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Jim!  
December 21<sup>st</sup> First Day of Winter  
Council Meeting  
Happy Birthday Destini!  
Happy Birthday Riley!  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> Happy Birthday Sandy!  
December 23<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Break – No School  
December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve  
December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day  
December 26<sup>th</sup> Kwanzaa Begins  
Happy Birthday Mike!  
December 28<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Linda Rose!  
December 29<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Miranda!  
Happy Birthday Sharon!  
December 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve  
Happy Birthday Stephanie!



Never regret  
a day in your life:  
good days give happiness,  
bad days give experience,  
worst days give lessons,  
and best days  
give memories.

## Yes, Virginia



1897 New York Daily News

“Dear Editor, I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, “If you see it in The Sun, it’s so.” Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?  
Virginia O’Hanlon”

“Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men’s or children’s, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

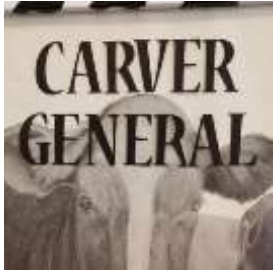
Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that’s no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby’s rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10 thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.”



Merry Christmas to everyone and thank you to everyone who supported the Villager Tower



# Carver General

## Special Announcement

The Carver General will be holding an earlier December Occasional Sale rather than the usual third weekend dates!

Looking for that special gift for your favorite person in your life? Then come on over to Carver this coming weekend To the Carver General and find that 'one and only' special gift.....Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> they will be open to receive you at 10 AM until 5 PM through Saturday. Couldn't get there those days, Sunday will be your last chance to come and get unique gift for that special individual or maybe even yourself, They are open at Noon and will close at 4 PM. Hurry! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!

See ya' in 2021





# STRINGS OF CONNECTION

## COMMUNITY ART INSTALLATION

In a time when so many of us are apart, you are invited to join together in creating a community art installation. Simple sticks wound with colorful yarn represent our unseen connections with one another and the natural world.

**WHO:** ALL are invited to participate. Families, youth groups, schools, faith communities, neighborhoods, senior centers, community organizations.

**WHERE:** Gazebo Park in downtown Carver is our home-base. Add your work to the display at the park. Or, choose another visible place to display your creation. *A tree in your yard. A tree in your neighborhood (Invite your neighbors to help, too!). Outside your business or faith community. Near a school or daycare or hospital. Here, there, and EVERYWHERE!*

**EXPAND:** Invite your organization to participate. Wind clothespins with string. Make the yarn clothespins available to others by clipping them to a tree. Provide simple directions.

**SEARCH WORDS:** NATURE and ART and STICKS  
A quick internet search reveals simple inspiration for more complex designs.

**CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CONNECTIONS:** Read the children's books *I AM ONE: A Book of Action* by Susan Verde and *The Invisible String* and *The Invisible Web*, books by Patrice Karst.

**HINTS:** While the Funky Minds crew enjoys the mindfulness of winding yarn by hand, a drill is a clever way to efficiently fill multitudes of clothespins.

**POST YOUR DESIGN:** Twitter at @communitystrings or on Carver Life Facebook.

When the temperature drops, watch for **STAGE TWO: LIGHT SHINES IN COMMUNITY!**



Funky Minds Nonprofit: Gathering the Gifts of Community

"Choose JOY" 1.2.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. CHOOSE A CLOTHESPIN WITH YARN.
2. COLLECT A STICK.
3. WIND YARN AROUND STICK IN A DESIGN.
4. HANG STICK IN TREE.



# Family Holiday Kit

Everything you need for a fun family holiday celebration!

This kit is filled with holiday crafts, activities, treats and more!

\$18/kit

Purchase at [chaskacommunitycenter.com](http://chaskacommunitycenter.com)

**KIT PICK UP:**

Thursday, December 3rd  
9:00am-11:00am at Carver City Hall  
316 Broadway Carver, MN 55315  
OR  
4:30pm-6:00pm at Chaska Community Center  
1661 Park Ridge Drive Chaska, MN 55318





## *Night Marauders - The Funky Dove - Third Time Is a Charm*

"Have you seen Raschevious?" Territory asked Rascal as he paced and was obviously quite concerned. "Last time I saw him he was down by the river cooling himself off from the fever?" Rascal informed him reluctantly.

"When?" Territory was ready to run and check on his friend.

"That was three days ago. The fever broke the Silver Fox told me." Rascal replied knowing how worried he'd been about his friend who they all thought was a goner over a month ago.

"I need him, we have a job to do."

"I don't think he's going to be much good for a while Territory." Rascal hinted shyly knowing he was going to get yelled at.

Sure enough, Territory was in his face screaming like a crazed rabid lunatic, "What do you mean awhile? We have a job to do. That new shop opened where the Old Carver Bait Shop was. We have to go there and soon."

Territory sat down rubbing his paws on his face in total despair.

"I'm sorry Territory, Raschevious didn't mean to get sick. He can hardly breathe and can't get three feet without collapsing Territory. He would much rather be with you planning your next rendezvous. You know that."

"What am I going to do?" Territory shook his head with his paws on each side of his jaw.

"We will figure it out."

"We have always had Raschevious to go with on every mission. Every single mission Rascal. I just don't know what to do without his help." Territory admitted.

"Of course, you do. You're the leader. You always know what to do. Raschevious will get better. The Silver Fox said we are lucky; it could have been much worse and we could have lost him. But he's coming around. Now we need to see that the rests and gets stronger."

Rascal didn't know if he was being any help or not, but he did his best trying to convince Territory that he hadn't lost his right-hand help or his best friend.

"How about I go and get Banded and Rhapsody and we can discuss your strategy and plan on going when you think it's best?" He encouraged.

"Oh, I don't know Rascal." He moaned despairingly.

"You'll see, it will work. We are all here for you Territory. We all know how you feel. We know the rules and we know your expectations. We can do it. You'll see. You tell us what to do and we'll do it, just like you say. I promise."

Territory peered at his little fluffy friend doubtful but very much aware of his sincerity and attempt to help.

"We won't let you down."

Lavender, Banded, Rhapsody, Rascal and Snaffu were all looking for Territory who had gone to talk the Silver Fox and Raschevious who was under his care and getting stronger each day.

"We've been looking for you Territory." Banded told him as he came trudging up the levee.

"Raschevious is getting better." Territory sank down among them. "He is back among the living."

"Territory," Rhapsody began hesitantly.

He looked up at her with her guilty look peering back at him. Snaffu nudged her.

"Tell him." He encouraged.

"Tell me what?"

"We went downtown this morning." She began apprehensively. "We talked with the Funky Dove owner Territory. Don't be mad."

"You talked with her?" Territory replied stunned.

"Yes, she even gave Snaffu a tour of the little shop around the table. We didn't touch anything. We didn't break anything."

"But we never let the humans see us." Territory gasped shocked.

"It was an accident. She invited us in. She is so nice Territory. She is a teacher and stuck here in the states." Rhapsody told him excitedly. "Her boyfriend and her things are all over in Thailand."

"She likes critters Territory." Snaffu added helpfully.

"I don't understand." Territory was bewildered.

"We went down to see if we could help you with your next mission. We were talking with that fat little red squirrel, Toddy, when Rebecca spotted us and said she'd heard about us." Banded explained.

"Yes, and then she invited the two of them in Territory." Lavender chimed into the conversation.

"So, this lady just opened the door and let you in?"

They all nodded.

"Oh, Territory it is so quaint, cozy, homey, welcoming and she is so nice. She explained that she had to find something to do she was bored half out of her wits and she needed a job and with all this Covid stuff going on she had to do something because she can't get back yet." Rhapsody rattled cheerfully.



"Yea, and she decided that this little shop was her ticket she needed; kind of her happy place and good therapy, inspirational until she can go home."

"The mayor for the city was even there for the ribbon cutting Territory." Rhapsody was elated and happy to relay their findings to him.

"She said that she has lots of lovely, creative one of a kind handmade items made of wood, metal, stones, ribbons, jewels, fabric & ceramics." Rascal informed him.

"She said that there are stocking hats and snowman that are for sale. That there is a variety of hats, but she only has one original chainsaw carved snowman." Snaffu relayed enthusiastically. "She also said that apparently snowmen are more difficult to carve because they are round." He was happy to relay that bit of information she had shared with him.

Territory was listening intently as they all shared their experience with the new shop owner who had moved into the four hundred square feet of tiny space that used to house the post office back in the day and they were all so excited that they couldn't help but feel that they had done all his work for him this time around. He really was lucky to be working with such a wonderful group of friends that came together when he was feeling he had lost his best friend.

"Territory, she had these wooden cards. You have to see them. They are the coolest thing you have ever seen. On the back side is a 'To & From engraved and there's even room for you to put a personal message." She rattled on thrilled to share, "Rebecca said that the cards were designed especially for the shop."

"You don't say."

She nodded.

"She is all decked out for Christmas too. She was adding new ornaments that were frosted glass bulbs, and an olive wood nativity set and enchanting woodland scenes also on frosted glass bulbs. You have to go see."

"You don't say." Territory responded thoughtfully.

"When can we go Territory?" Bandeet asked hesitantly.

"We'll see." Was all he would tell her.

That night Territory ventured downtown to check the store out a little closer all alone. He was still full of that warm, fuzzy feeling inside from the report his friends had brought back from their visit. It indeed was quite a novelty gift shop full of treasures. There were lots of interesting items he saw through the big picture window. With the entire street empty and everything closed, no one was paying attention to his presence on the sidewalk as he gawked through the big open window. There were creations made of wood, metal, stone, ribbons, jewels, fabric and ceramics.

The following night out of fear of hurting everyone's feelings, the entire clan went downtown to see Rebecca. She was just closing up as they watched and she chatted with her last customer locking the door behind her. When everyone left, they crept closer and didn't go inside but chatted outside for a short time before they went back to check and talk with Raschevious. He was feeling pretty badly not having been well enough to join them. So, they all went back to tell him what they saw.

"I'm sorry Territory." Raschevious apologized with heartfelt sorrow.

"I'm just happy you are going to be okay." Territory told him sitting down beside his friend.

"Better not sit too close, you might catch this." Raschevious scolded handing him the mask. "What you going to write Territory?" Raschevious asked curiously.

They all listened as he wrote and relayed his thoughts.

"I think we put that, let's see." He pondered for a few minutes.

"Well?"

"Like she said, "The Funky Dove is a small studio shop inspired by my love to make jewelry, along with talented friends and family who have joined to cocreate a lovely welcoming, uplifting space of artisan crafted decor, wreaths, soaps, candles, antiques & more." He wrote as he spoke, adding, "That the expandable gnomes you were in admiring are now gone. They found their loving home and the new owners couldn't bear the thought of leaving one behind according to Rebecca. The pair stayed together as should be."

They all listened never having been included when he actually wrote his reviews. They felt honored and extremely pleased that for once they had done something for him. Territory continued.

"So be sure to come to The Funky Dove on main street in downtown Carver at 221 Broadway Street. As Rebecca put so appropriately and elegantly, "The Dove has landed."