



September / October 2021

Number Three Hundred Seventy - Six



Dedicated in Memory of Merritt Henry, Pete Sterbonio, Bev Reed, Darla Wulf and John Giere

Announcement

It is time to remind everyone, I cannot print what I am not told, please remember that small detail. When I see or am told of the passing of a loved one in the area I have always attempted to acknowledge. Carver has grown so much since the earlier times when everyone knew everyone in the small community of then six hundred growing to eight hundred and it was the core city full of people who if you didn't know them personally, chances were your parents or grandparents did. Those were the days. So, I apologize to each and every one who feels that I do not recognize their passing of a loved one. There are so many people I don't know anymore. The city has grown, even the township has grown with new neighbors. (I don't even know half of my neighbors to be honest. Isn't that terrible?) So please, if there is anyone who wishes an acknowledgement of a loved one passing to the spirit world, contact me. I don't charge to print the information, even when I probably should. So, if there is someone out there that would like their loved one mentioned, send an email to villagertower@carvercurrent.com. I will see that it gets honorable mention. The same applies to news, events, or submissions you would like to share. Articles however are editor's discretion whether or not they should be printed.



Long Term Financial Plan

The city manager discussed the Long-Term Financial Plan, Part Two; financial impact 2022 draft enterprise fund budgets with the council. The long-term plan identifies future capital equipment infrastructure projects, staffing, operations and maintenance requirements. The plan assesses the financial impact of identified requirements, along with corresponding tax or utility rate impact these investments have in the General, Municipal Utilities, Storm Water, and Park Dedication Funds. Additionally, the revised plan outlines expenditures of the American Recovery Act funding. Part one consists of Capital Plan Review for capital equipment involving review and assessment of all capital equipment; Infrastructure verification of needs and priorities for future projects; Hiring verification needs and priorities; and the Future needs which provide the council with updated needs analysis for 2022 through 2026 consistent with future years being added to the plan. Part two involves the Financial Impact Review involving review of the existing and future rate schedules in the Utility Rate Impact; along with the Tax Rate Impact for adequate funding of projects and operations. It would provide the council with the opportunity to affirm or amend project planning and tax rate impacts. Finally, the Fund Balance Impact review of direct overall impact to all city fund balances, reserve amounts, cash balances and planning for impending debt services.

Pavement Management Plan

The city manager and assistant city engineer discussed with the topic of the pavement management plan with the council at their meeting with a comprehensive overview of street conditions. Identified were maintenance requirements for the street system, along with integrating the financing model for the plan elements. A lot of dedicated time was given to create the city's first ever plan. Several funding and impact scenarios were studied. A specific plan details were requested for annual budgeting for a five-year plan from 2022 through 2026. Also requested in the specific detail involved integrating seal coating work as a standard maintenance practice. An inter-fund loan would be used to mitigate the temporary negative fund balance in the Street Maintenance Fund.

Jonathan Carver Parkway Update

The assistant city engineer presented the council with Jonathan Carver Parkway project updates. Stage two of the project has been completed and the road is open to through traffic. Construction however continues on the road caution while traveling through is advised still. There are not any planned detours, the majority of the trail work has been completed providing access to the school. Roadway and utility work continued to be done, along with permanent restoration and landscaping work continuing.

Municipal Utilities

The assistant city engineer presented updated information to the city council at a work session regarding the new well construction. Discovery was made while drilling the well that there is the ability and feasibility of drilling a second well on the same site. The two wells would be located approximately twenty feet apart with different aquifers. An additional well on the same site eliminates the need for additional site improvements, well house and additional watermain piping to a second site. This will result in a substantial savings for the city.

The Preserve

The Community Development Director discussed the land use application presenting the preliminary plat plans for The Preserve. The plan has sixty-six residential units, wetland trail and sidewalk system. An extension of Monroe Drive will be constructed on both the Timber Creek and The Preserve properties. The noise study conducted determined that the developer is required to construct berming, provide landscaping and use construction materials mitigating noise levels. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the development. There were also township residents in attendance. Questions were asked regarding specifically access to the property. There will not be a direct access to Highway # 212. Access will only be by existing or future city streets. The concept plan and annexation were reviewed by the city council. The builder was identified as Brandt Anderson. Home price ranges were reviewed. Home types were two story, split levels and ramblers. The frontage road services two exceptions of the project and properties. When the two properties join into the city the frontage road would cease to exist. Name identification for roads/streets was inquired about. Names were proposed and it is still open for discussion. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the resolution approving the preliminary plat for The Preserve.

Disclaimer

Information in this newsletter is for information only and is comprised from the unapproved minutes were referenced for 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.

American Rescue Plan Act

The city manager presented information to the council regarding the American Rescue Plan Act which provides aid to cities responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. The amount to be received by the city was shared with the council. The primary uses for the funds were reviewed. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the resolution accepting the MN Rescue Plan Act fund and establishing an intended use budget while removing the second whereas from the resolution.

License Agreement

The city manager gave an overview pertaining the city entering into a license agreement with WM Mueller & Sons regarding parking at the Fire Department property. In conjunction with the Jonathan Carver Parkway Improvement Project, a storm water pip was installed on the south side of the Fire Department parking lot. This construction created an opportunity for the city to create additional parking for the Fire Department personnel on the south side of the structure. The adjacent property owner, WM Mueller and Sons was contacted regarding interest in allowing the city to utilize a small portion of property for parking. A drafted license agreement was drawn up for the use of the property.

Energy Assistance Program

The city clerk informed the council of the Energy Assistance Program available to residents. A motion was necessary to approve the Department of Commerce's Energy Assistance Program Agreement between the city and the SCD Cap Agency for the Water Assistance Program and authorize staff to participate. The purpose of the program was to assist customers facing water or wastewater disconnections or past due municipal utilities bills. Federal funds were authorized by the American Rescue Act to assist Minnesota residents in response to hardships brought on by the pandemic. The program is also able to make payments directly to the water suppliers. The city attorney approved the document.

Funky Dove

The Funky Dove in downtown Carver has an announcement to proclaim. The shop, Funky Dove is expanding its merchandise! Now available are lotions, clothes, candles, essential oils, crystals and more barnwood décor creations. Some more newer items for your viewing pleasure are cool acrylic coasters of different designs, book art, wooden bowls by a Chaska artist, candles, harvest, fall and Halloween crafts and items. For those of you looking for Carver flavor and be right up with the social climbers, Rebecca now has Carver's very own "Real Housewives of Carver" mugs. That's right. Carver has its very own staple to mark the era. Hurry, supplies limited (for now). Coming soon are "Real Housewives of Carver County". So, for those of you who are not official Carver residents, you can get in on the action too with Carver County claim to fame of



'Real Housewives'. Is this patented? I don't know, it's just another spin off anyway. Hurry before someone else nabs your mug. Colors are varying too. Along with those mugs are Carver, Chaska zip code mugs to purchase too. Another tad bit for you. Stop and get your fingers on what's called the "Happy Stone" craze too. They are polished stones that have markings of



varying types inside. The official explanation, "Citrine is known as the "happy stone". It attracts wealth, abundance and joy. Ideal for manifesting dreams and goals." Boy I sure needed one of them and now have my very own. Be sure to come by to say 'hi' and check out the newest inventory. Rebecca is excited to share with you. The positivity and delight alone is worth the dropping by to talk with shop owner. She has lots and lots to offer you.

Remember the cliché? There is a light at the end of the tunnel? Newsflash! It's just been announced that:

Due to current cutbacks, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off!!!



Music News

Music News/New Song Collective
The Chaska Community Center Theater is presenting 'the new Song Collective' on October 7th and December 9th. This is a gathering of song-writers and musicians performing original music. You are invited to join them for some amazing local talent.



Visual Art News

The Arts Consortium is hosting their very popular Members show which opened on September 22nd and continues through December 29th. Celebrating local artists and their amazing talents in all areas of art. Carver County is home to a great number of creative and inspiring photographers, painters, writers, poets, sculptors, potters, jewelers and glass artists.... it's hard to name them all. Come and appreciate their work throughout the fall and winter holidays. There is an Artist's Reception scheduled on Thursday, October 7th starting at 6:30 PM until 8:20 PM at the Community Center Gallery and Community Center Theatre. The public is invited to come join them and meet the artists.



Bad Moon Rising

In Literary News, Bad Moon Rising is planned to get the Halloween vibes going for the prose and poetry event. Writers will be offering readings centered around spooky stories, paranormal experiences as well as just plain weird happenings. Readings will be limited to five minutes per author. The public and the spirit world are all invited to participate on October 12th starting at 7 PM until 8:30 PM at the Chaska Community Center



Other literary news: Did you know that authors and writers have their very own holiday? That's right, November 1st is National Author's Day and the start of National Novel Writing Month. At the Community Center the staff is celebrating each and every type of author, writer on Tuesday, November 2nd at the center. A reception will be hosting the event acknowledging the creative talents. If you have further questions or want more information, contact the Literary Committee at literary@artofcarvercountry.org. For everyone who doesn't have computers and yes, there are those out there in the world who are not as lucky as others to own a computer, much less have fund to pay for internet service. For all those wonderful people, you can call 952. 443.3200.

Trinity Lutheran Church

News from Trinity Lutheran Church up on Oak Street is that beginning on October 3rd will be the first session of Sunday School and Adult Bible Study which will be offered at 8:45 AM on the first and third Sundays each month for the 2021-2022 school year. Sunday School will be available for students in first through 5th grade, Middle School and High School. Their Adult Bible Study will be: 'Who is God and Why it Matters'. They will be exploring what Jesus means when he talks about withholding forgiveness, what 'the means of grace' are and why they are important, as well as other biblical questions you might have. Come and join in on the discussions this fall! Also, students in 7th and 8th grades will begin Confirmation instructions on Wednesday, October 6th from 5:30 PM to 7 PM. Please contact Paster Jander if you are interested in learning more at 512.639.5019. Worship services are at 10 AM every Sunday and everyone is welcome.



Carver Black Sox

The Carver Black Sox 2021 season has been completed. The team is looking forward to next year's season. Their 2021 season ended with the team playing second round in the State Tournament in Chaska. Congratulations to the team. They team is also diligently working on details and the timing for restarting their Bingo fundraiser this fall. Hopefully, the guys can pull it off and we'll be there to let you know the details as they get them out to the public.



"People who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."

- Rob Siltanen

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 meeting is October 15th.

Eastern Carver County Schools

"You can learn more about the 2021 Referendum. The Eastern Carver County School Board unanimously approved putting an operating referendum in front of voters in the November 2, 2021 election. Learn more about the November 2, 2021 referendum, voting information, and your property tax impact at eccsvote.org.

The operating levy is a strategic investment in sustaining and building the district's high quality educational and programming activities into the future.

Referendum Early Voting Now Open

Early voting begins September 17 for the 2021 referendum. You can vote early in person at the Carver County Government Center at 600 E. 4th Street in Chaska or by mail. To vote by mail, request an absentee ballot using their form. Voting instructions will be included with the ballot.

Learn more about the 2021 Referendum at eccsvote.org."



South West Transit

It's that time of the season again, football. The MN Vikings are back for another season. If you are interested in seeing the home games but don't want to drive downtown to fight traffic and parking. SouthWest Transit has just the ticket for you. You can ride the bus to the games. For more information, go to their website and see the schedule and pick up locations, as well as the times. Thirty minutes after the end of the game, you just board the bus where you were dropped off. The tickets are five dollars, round trip (less than it costs to put gas in your vehicle). But it's cash only. Children five and under ride free with an adult.

Also new is the Grocery Getter Service through SW Prime. SouthWest Transit is making that a little easier to get some of the essential items at the grocery store. The "Grocery Getter" will provide \$ 2 rides (one way) on SW Prim to and from select grocery stores in the SW Primer service area (Shakopee and 494 Corridor not included.). Available Monday through Saturday between 9 AM and 12 PM to the following locations: Cub Foods, Lund's & Byerly's, Target, Wal-Mart, Aldi, Costco, Coopers, Kowalski's, CVS and Walgreens. Rides must be booked over the phone. "This is not your mom's wood-grain station wagon!" Call today, 952.97.7463 to reserve your seat. Note: Passengers must keep all groceries/bags in control while on the bus.

South West Metro Chamber

Annual Gala

That's right, the Chamber is preparing for their annual Gala, Chamber Royal. The event will be held at the Hazeltine National Golf Club on November 5th, Friday, at 5 PM until 9 PM. The Chamber is a non-profit organization supporting and helping to strengthen their member businesses and stimulate regional prosperity. The Annual Gala offers a great way to connect with business leaders while enjoying a fun event. Nor formal wear required. The continued support is appreciated. The chamber strives to continue to represent the business owners and employees in the southwest region.



Scarecrows in the Garden

Also remember at the Arboretum is the Scarecrows in the Garden event that began in September and is running through October 31st. If you are an early bird, you can arrive at 8 AM, for those who are not early risers, the gates close for this event at 7 PM daily. You are invited to visit their annual display of scarecrows on the Dahlberg Terrace and Scarecrow Hill. Take a selfie with one of the creations and then vote for your favorite. Bachman's created six new scarecrows standing out among the scarecrows created by the arboretum staff.



Season of Trees

The public is invited to join the arboretum staff for their finale of the Arboretum's Season of Trees with our Noble Trees Mara Pelecis with an ongoing exhibition on October 24th from noon until 3 PM. See the tree stories that she has collected locally and from abroad. This is an Open House event and be sure to register. The Arb the Tree Gnome Scavenger Hunt winners will be announced following the presentation.



Fire and Ice Festival

Another event returning in 2021 is the Chaska Community Festival and Bonspiel identified as Fire and Ice Festival. The event is hosted by the Chaska Parks and Recreation Department. It's a three-day festival starting October 15th through the 17th at Chaska Fireman's Park. There are family-friendly activities, three days of curling competitions, live music, food and beverages along with fireworks. This year a special milestone will be acknowledged. The Chaska Fire Department will be honored for their one hundred fifty years of service to the community. There will be an antique fire truck show, water hose fights, a bag pipe parade and a formal ceremony scheduled. There is the curling event going on, as well. Forty-eight teams will be competing at the curling center. Canada is being represented by a Thunder Bay, Ontario team. Johnny Holm Band will be filling the air with their fantastic music Saturday night starting at 7 PM and playing until 9:30 PM. Can't get enough of that band now, can you?



Carver Current

Know about the Carver Current website? Good source for finding and posting local information for the area. Check out www.carvercurrent.com well worth checking out. 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. © RYS Creations 2021



Chaska Valley Family

Theatre

The staff at the Chaska Valley Family Theatre extend their thank you's to all the talented performers who auditioned for the upcoming Disney's Newsies production. Tickets for this production will go on sale October 1st. Also a heads up, the theatre will be holding auditions on Friday, November 5th at the Chaska Community Center at 6 PM until 9 PM and on Saturday, November 6th at 10 AM until 2 PM. These auditions will be for the upcoming production named, "Bright Star". The is also the requirement that participants are fully vaccinated. Walk-in auditions are not accepted at this time, you must sign up and schedule to sign-up for a time slot. More news to follow in the near future.



Happy Halloween

"The starting point of all achievement is desire."

~ Napoleon Hill

Carver Lions

The Carver Lions meat raffles have been resumed, check their Facebook page for more information. The Lions are once again meeting the first and third Wednesday's of the month. Come and join them. They are working on the Trunk or Treat event scheduled to happen on Sunday, October 2th at 1 PM until 3 PM.



Kim says: "Bring all the kiddos for a SPOOKTACULAR time! It's our annual Carver Lions Trunk or Treat festivities! Bring a vehicle (decorate it if you choose), dress up, have fun, and hand out of candy to the little Trick or Treaters! We welcome all organizations to sign up for this great event. The Carver Lions are working on details, but we are hoping to include emergency vehicles, bounce house, Llamas, games, hot cocoa & more. Contact Lion Kim Whaley at: kimberlywhaley14@gmail.com for more information."

St Nicholas Catholic Church

St Nicholas Catholic Church announced it is resuming their scheduled Masses. Services will be held Sundays at 10 AM. Weekday masses will be Fridays at 6 PM.



Sever's Fall Festival

The staff at Sever's invite you to "Continue the tradition or start a new one". For far more detailed information go to their website www.seversfestival.com. Sever's is the home to the Midwest's first and largest corn maze. They also have expanded their festival to fall lights and holiday lights. Invitation is extended to come for the massive corn maze, join in for the jumping pillows, the giant slide, the corn pit, and tire mountain. There are also live shows, along with food and drink. Can visit this corn maze through October 31st. They will also be open MEA Weekend, Thursday, October 21st (10 AM – 6 PM) and Friday, the 22nd (10 AM – 8 PM). The times for other open days will be Fridays open at 1 PM until 8 PM, Saturdays, 10 AM to 8 PM and Sundays 10 AM – 6 PM.



Jack-O-Lantern Trail of Fun

It's that time of the year again, autumn, harvest season, fall, Halloween all fall into this category of the time of the year. Where did the year go huh? The Trail of Fun Pumpkin Carving Contest will be in full gear. That is if the drought didn't shortchange us on a bumper crop of pumpkins. The annual event is looking for residents to carve pumpkins for the Trail of Fun event. There are prizes for the best pumpkin too. Register on line. Call 952.227.7742 for more information.



The Jack-O-Lantern Trail of Fun is held at the Chaska Athletic Park on Friday, October 22nd. There is a hayride that takes everyone down the MN River Bluff regional trail. Along the way there are spooky decorations. Other activities include Kidsdance DJ, Home Depot kids' workshop, games, food trucks, community pumpkin carving contest, climbing wall and more. The entrance fee is \$ 2 per person (cash only at the gate). The hayride is \$ 1 per person, registration is already happening and advanced registration is required. The hayrides will start at 5 PM and run every twenty minutes until 8 PM. To reserve your hayride fun, you can either stop at the Chaska Community front desk or call 952.448.5633.

Halloween Jamboree

Bring the kids to the Chaska Community Center on Saturday, October 30th at 4 PM until 6 PM for Halloween fun. It's the Cente's Halloween Jamboree. There will be spooky crafts, cookie decorating, ghostly games, haunted house, photobooth and a DJ dance for the kids. Come join the group for tricks and treats at the Community Center. Costumes are encouraged.



"Self-control is strength. Calmness is mastery. You have to get to a point where your mood doesn't shift based on the insignificant actions of someone else. Don't allow others to control the direction of your life. Don't allow your emotions to overpower your intelligence."

~ Unknown Author

Community Highlights

October 2021

- October 1st Renaissance – Festival Friday
Opening Screamtown & Abandoned Hayride
Happy Birthday Denny!
Happy Birthday Coreen!
- October 2nd Oktoberfest – City of Cologne
ValleyScare Opens
Happy Birthday Tim!
Happy Birthday Todd!
Council Meeting
Late Start for Schools
Happy Anniversary Kari and Guy!
Happy Birthday Megan!
Happy Birthday Joy!
Happy Birthday Sarah!
ScreamTown & Abandoned Hayride Weekend
- October 9th Happy Birthday Linda!
Happy Birthday Laurie!
Happy Birthday Carol!
Happy Birthday Sarah!
Parks Commission Meeting
School Board Work Session
Dahlgren Township Board Meeting
Indigenous People Day
Happy Birthday Ryan!
Happy Anniversary Steve and Tiu!
Happy Birthday Beth!
- October 12th Heritage Preservation Meeting
Happy Birthday Donnie!
- October 13th Happy Birthday Sonjia!
October 15th through 17th – Fire and Ice Festival
Business Alliance Meeting
Happy Birthday Andrea!
Happy Birthday Oliver!
Trail of Terror – Phantom's Feast Weekend
ScreamTown & Abandoned Hayride Weekend
Council Meeting
Happy Birthday Tim!
- October 18th Happy Birthday Annette!
- October 19th Happy Anniversary Linda and Ken!
Planning Commission
Occasional Shops Weekend
Happy Birthday Larry!
Trail of Terror – Phantom's Feast Weekend
ScreamTown & Abandoned Hayride Weekend
- October 21st & 22nd MEA Break
October 22nd Jack-O- Lantern Trail of Fun
Happy Birthday Steve!
Happy Birthday Brandon!
- October 24th Trunk or Treat
October 25th School Board Meeting
No School
Happy Birthday Melissa!
Happy Birthday Carl!
Happy Birthday Kate!
Trail of Terror – Phantom's Feast Weekend
- October 26th ScreamTown & Abandoned Hayride Weekend
- October 28th Halloween Jamboree
- October 29th Halloween
October 30th Halloween
October 31st Halloween
Happy Birthday Phil!



"Before you act, listen. Before you react, think. Before you spend, earn. Before you criticize, wait. Before you pray, forgive. Before you quit, try."

– Ernest Hemingway

Carver Shops

Occasional Shop dates are normally held the third week of the month. Check websites and Facebook pages for updates on each shop's availability. Support our local shops too. October's Occasional Shop dates are October 21st through the 24th.

The Shops of Carver:

Carver Creamery – NOW OPEN - The Carver Creamery - FB
Carver General – Facebook - Occasional Shop Dates
Old Carver Fishing Bait and Tackle - Facebook
Ripple Art Studio & Gallery – www.rippleartstudio.com
Ripple Art Studio & Gallery - FB
Strange Birds - [facebook.com/strangebirdsmn/](https://www.facebook.com/strangebirdsmn/)Website
The Good Junk Garage – Facebook
Temperance Arts & Gifts – Facebook
The Funky Dove – Facebook



Screamtown

Tickets are available for purchase to Screamtown. Can't really do justice to all that you are looking for at this haunted site, so if you can, go to their website and thoroughly check it out, www.Screamtown.com. Friday and Sundays tend to be less crowded. Ticket booth closes at 10 PM and the attractions close at 11 PM. Sunday the ticket booth closes at 9 PM and the attractions are finished at 10 PM. Tickets are timed entry. They are flexible, do their best to get you inside.



The Abandoned Hayride

Again, check their website for the finer details and the full impact of what you are looking for.

www.theabandonedhayride.com This location is a progressive experience made up of four haunts. First there is the hayride, a journey of terror like non other in the country. Then you are dropped off in the woods where you will enter Forsaken, a maze of complete darkness and monsters that lurk where you least expect it. This site is 100% outdoors and Covid friendly. Timed ticketed and spaced groups, so you know. Masks are strongly encouraged and appreciated. (Masks required during Hayride only)

Trail of Terror - Phantom's Feast

The public relations marketing personnel informed this writer that the Phantom's Feast will be the only event celebrated this year at the Trail of Terror. Check out their website for more details, trailofterrors.com. The Phantom's Feast includes a meal, wine or beer, along with the feast itself. A collectable mug is a gift for the participants.



Valley Scare

ValleyScare is back this year, as well with new attractions. Reservations will be required folks. Attractions will include the "Halloween Haunt". This will include five mazes and four 'scare zones'. One performer is the weird tricks purveyor known as "Freak Show Florida" who among other things 'swallows swords' and 'becomes a human pin cushion'. Other acts to be expected will be the Due Artis acrobatic performance and hula hoop performer, Authentically Ashleigh. The Halloween Haunt is not recommended for children under thirteen. It will run from Saturday through October 30th on select nights.

Fear is waiting for you.

On the other hand, the Great Pumpkin Fest attraction is appropriate for all ages. It will feature Snoopy, along with other Peanuts characters. There will be trick-or-treating, a parade, corn maze, crafts and other activities. The Pumpkin Fest will begin October 2nd through the 31st of October on Saturdays and Sundays.

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

Downtown Carver

Sunday, October 24, 1 pm – 3 pm

Bring all the kiddos to the Halloween Trunk or Treat event, sponsored by the Carver Lions. Local businesses, organizations, and individuals will offer Trunk or Treat goodies for the kids, and the Lions will provide treat bags, pop up party rentals, emergency vehicles, hotdogs, drinks, and a SPOOKTACULAR TIME!

The Lions are looking for businesses, organizations, and individuals to participate in the festivities...bring a vehicle (decorate it if you choose), dress up, have fun, and hand out treats to the little Trick or Treaters!

The generous donations from our community have made this event so much fun from year to year! All organizations and businesses are welcome to sign up.

*email Kim to sign up or to make a donation: kimberlywhaley14@gmail.com



Territory's Unfortunate Demise

"Territory, wake up." Raschevious kept shaking the raccoon vigorously and fearfully, calling his name repeatedly, "Territory."

Territory didn't move or even stir. The troupe was worried sick that he was gone. He'd been unconscious for hours now as they vigilantly sat by trying to revive the lump of fur.

"What's wrong with him Raschevious?" Bandeet asked terrified.

"Territory." Raschevious called again beginning to panic even more his tone reflecting his anxiety and fear. They all saw Rascal was rushing up the levee with pail full of water sloshing over the upper rim. Lavender and Rhapsody were not far behind him. Word had spread quickly throughout the small community of critters that something was terribly wrong with Territory. He had been observed just over the ledge of the levee, described as a dirty protrusion of stench. Rascal was the first to discover the heap of fur lifeless and had run to retrieve Raschevious. Then Rascal scurried to where he had heard Territory had been last spotted the previous night. "We need to give him lots of water, lots and lots of water." Rascal breathlessly proclaimed and anxiously as he knelt down beside their fearless leader to turn the heap of their beloved Territory so he could follow the instructions he had been given.

"Why?" Bandeet asked curiously.

"Cuz' Lisa said so." Rascal announced with absolute certainty as he began to carefully dribble the water into Territory's mouth as quickly as he could.

"Who's Lisa?" Lavender asked perplexed.

"That nice owner of Lisa's Place." He replied quickly continuing to pour water into Territory.

They all looked at the smaller raccoon mystified.

"She saw me and asked if I had seen a big huge, fat raccoon around." He explained, "She said that one of the customers the night before was feeding this huge raccoon all kinds of food and then they caught him and poured a whole bottle of whiskey into him and were having so much fun laughing and watching the poor thing wobble and weave." Rascal continuing pouring the pour the water into Territory's mouth.

"Then what?" Rhapsody asked terrified.

"She said that the fireworks began and everyone forgot about the critter who she said crawled away but made such a mess and she was really worried about it."

"Why didn't she stop them?" Bandeet asked.

"What could she do?" Rascal whined.

"Told them to stop. Didn't she know it was Territory?"

"Really Bandeet?" Raschevious scolded. "How would anyone really know? It's not like we carry name tags or let the humans see us. We are under the cover of night and do everything we can to stay out of sight."

"Then what was he doing down there?" Rhapsody huffed angrily.

"He wanted to see how the event was going because last year they had to cancel remember?" Raschevious stated now angry with himself for not having accompanied his best friend.

Afterall, he reasoned with himself in his mind, he could have prevented this.

"What if he dies?" Lavender whimpered.

"He's not going to." Raschevious gruffly declared.

Rascal was still pouring the water down Territory's mouth who was now starting to respond some, appearing to show signs of life still.

"What was he thinking? Going down there all alone?" Bandeet sniffed wiping her nose.

"Did this Lisa say anything else?" Lavender asked.

"She hoped he was alright. She said to give him lots and lots of water to flush his system out." Rascal informed them. "She was really concerned. She said she has seen him before and he never bothered anyone. She was really sorry she hadn't done something. She said she really liked him."

Raschevious peered at him suspiciously. The rest stared astonished.

"She said she's seen all of us, even you Lavender. She said you were cute."

"She called a skunk cute?" Raschevious scoffed.

"Well, she is Raschevious." Rhapsody reprimanded sternly.

"I suppose." He relented apologetically.

"Tell her you're sorry."

"Sorry." He grumbled.

"What are we going to do if Territory doesn't come out of this stupor?" Bandeet asked apprehensively.

"He will." Raschevious designated rigidly, "Territory, wake up. Come on buddy. Let's go down and check out the parade line up and see if we can find some food. Come on Territory. Snap out of this."

"I don't want any food." Territory moaned stirring some finally.

"More water, Rascal." Rhapsody encouraged.

Rascal poured some water slowly into his mouth again. Suddenly Territory jumped up and ran a ways from the group to extradite all the poison from within. They all stared at him belching violently, shocked, worried and fearful. He came back towards the group and took the water bottle from Rascal and deposited the remainder of the water into his now filthy, stinky fur coat.

"More water?" Territory breathed out beginning to slowly show signs of being alive again.

Rascal ran for the huge pail of water, bringing it to Territory who immediately began to refresh himself with more water internally and externally as they all watched in horror. He looked more like a drowned rat than the luxurious, elegant and distinguished raccoon he always presented himself to be.

"How can humans enjoy that stuff?" Territory grumbled beginning to assemble himself and recoup his thoughts.

"What happened?" Rhapsody asked skittishly.

"Doesn't matter." He growled angry with himself for allowing himself not only to be caught but to be humiliated publicly.

Suddenly Territory scampered a ways way from them again and returned to drink still more water. Raschevious was watching his friend cautiously.

"See, this is why I tell you we have to stay away from humans." He menacingly stated recalling the perpetrator of his present demise.

"Why did you go downtown alone?" Bandeet asked still again.

"To see and hear that Johnny Holm Band." He informed her glaring accusatory at Raschevious.

"Alone?" She sharply asked.

"A certain someone didn't want to cover my back." Territory looked directly at his silent friend hanging his head shamefully now.

"I would have gone." Rascal indicated cheerfully.

"I know you would have, that's why I didn't ask you."

They were all awkwardly silent for a few minutes while Territory, Rascal and Raschevious all glared at one another antagonistically.

Lavender broke the silence, asking extremely apprehensively, "So, Territory, how was the band then?"

"They were good until that neanderthal grabbed me." He scowled.

"How did you escape?" Rhapsody asked even more hesitantly.

"When the fireworks began and the crowd began to get thicker, I crawled away and hid under the clothing bin until everyone was finally gone." Territory recounted, "The I mustered enough strength to get behind the church and then from there worked my way up the levee to here." He rubbed his head inconsolably realizing his head hurt now too.

"I'm sorry Territory." Raschevious finally spoke feeling unworthy and contemptable.

"Maybe it was for the best." Territory relented realizing how undeserving Raschevious was reacting.

"The fireworks were awesome Territory." Rascal excitedly informed him, "I watched from over there. They were magnificent, huge, pretty, colorful, loud and just spectacular."

"At least someone got some enjoyment out of the night." Territory groaned disappointed he missed his favorite event still again for another.

"I was downtown earlier in the day Territory. I stayed out of sight." Rhapsody informed him, "There were lots and lots of people, kids, the car show, a western thing, food." And she excitedly relayed, "And there were llamas up at the church over there." She pointed to where she had scampered the day before under intense cover.

"No one saw you?"

"I was very, very careful and stayed as close to the perimeters hidden under cover the whole time." She conveyed proudly. "Everyone was having so much fun, laughing, smiling, talking to one another and the kids playing that no one paid attention or even noticed." She relayed smugly.

Then Territory and the others listened to her account of the things she had witnessed on her sole adventure, along with all the food she had successfully snarfed up, as well.

"The water fights were a little trickier to watch and stay out of sight, so I came back to the bottoms to stay out of sight." She concluded her soiree of adventure.

"Are you up for the parade Territory?" Lavender asked sheepishly.

"I think we should all stay out of sight." He grumbled even more disappointed, if not completely disenchanted at this point.

"Can't we hide up here on the levee and watch?" Rascal asked hesitantly.

"I suppose we could." Territory groaned wanting to salvage some of his experience of the event this year. "But people will be standing in the way for us to witness anything worthwhile."

"What if we went closer to the park and stayed under the cover of the trees?" Rhapsody suggested.

"Are they going down that way or out of town the other way?"