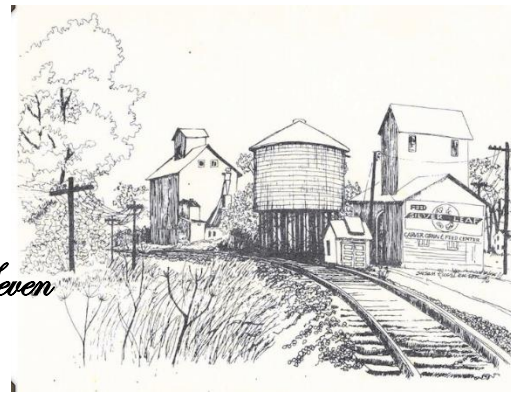


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## In Honorary Memory of John Lengen and Nancy Troth

### Courtney Johnson

Fall in Carver brings cooler temperatures, beautiful colors in the natural environment that surrounds us and shorter days. At the City of Carver this time of year is also an important part of our budget season. With that, I'd like to give you an update of the planning process for the 2023 General Fund Budget, and how it will impact you and your family.

Cutting straight to the chase, the news that everyone wants to hear is that the City of Carver's portion of your 2023 property tax is anticipated to decrease. Earlier this year Carver County sent out valuation statements for 2023, which showed an average value home in Carver increasing by approximately 21%. The anticipated tax decrease of 2% is reflected on a \$328,500 home in 2022, paying a City tax of \$1,553, compared to that same home having a value increase to \$410,800 in 2023, with an estimated City tax of \$1,524.

Now, for the details. At the Sept. 19 City Council meeting we set the Preliminary Levy for 2023 at \$3,851,980. This is a 6.9% increase over the 2022 Budget. The Preliminary Levy is a ceiling/"not to exceed" amount, and the budget *may* decrease between now and the Final Levy we'll approve in December. In the end, the City's tax rate is anticipated to drop by more than 10% from 48.40% to 37.12%, based on preliminary projections.

Here's the really good news - While the City of Carver's property taxes are anticipated to decrease for most property owners, several significant investments are included in the Preliminary 2023 General Fund Budget. Some of these items include continued funding of the Street Maintenance Plan, SouthWest Prime service and Carver's popular Spring Cleanup Day. In 2023 we'll also be piloting a couple of yard waste collection events and purchasing new protective equipment for the Carver Fire Department.

As we continue the process of finalizing the 2023 Budget, here are the next steps:

October/November - Residents will receive their preliminary property tax statements in the mail. This document will include information on your home's valuation increase and your proposed tax bill, based off of the Preliminary Levy.

Dec. 5 - The Truth in Taxation public hearing will take place during the City Council meeting, which will take place at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Residents are invited to comment on the proposed budget and their property taxes.

Dec. 19 - City Council will consider adoption of the 2023 Budget and Property Tax Levy during the City Council meeting, which will take place at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

But am acutely aware of the inflationary pressures and economic uncertainty many of us in Carver are facing. Because it takes that into consideration, I am happy with the Preliminary 2023 General Fund Budget. While it is lean, it will serve our community's needs.

If you'd like to check out all the details of the Preliminary 2023 General Fund Budget, it is available on [CityOfCarver.com](http://CityOfCarver.com). You'll find it in the 2023 Resident's Budget Guide.

If you have questions or comments about the Preliminary 2023 Budget or any other topic, please don't hesitate to reach out. As always, I look forward to hearing from you!

Mayor Courtney Johnson

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### Miscellaneous

Commissioner Fahey attended the council meeting to update the council on county updates. These updates included road construction projects. The Highway #212 Project involving the Dahlgren Township segment is expected to be completed in October. Construction for the section of Highway #212 from Cologne to Norwood Young America is scheduled to begin in 2024. The county board approved bid with MetroNet as the service provider for households and businesses using Carver County's CarverLink fiber infrastructure. Upon completion, Carver County will be the first county in Minnesota with 100% fiber access for nearly every resident and business. This construction has already begun. He also reviewed the Property Value increase and the market has been strong for several years making the County of Carver the fastest growing county in the state.

Two Carver resident athletes are at the peak of their game. Brodie Ziemer and Javon Moore committed to the University of MN. In three years, they will be playing for the MN Golden Gophers. Congratulations!

The council recognized two fire fighters for their Employee Service Recognition. They were Matthew McCoy and Nathan Dingler.

### Carver Current

You have seen the Carver Current website, haven't you? It's the perfect online 'go to' site for local information. Be sure to check it out; [www.carvercurrent](http://www.carvercurrent). An excellent source of information of city updates, local organization events, local news, school activities, sports results etc. Also, a great site for sharing essential information and events affecting local residents. The newsletter, the "Villager Tower" can also be found on this website, among other valuable information, history information, links, etc.

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#### "Villager Tower"

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## *Annual Budget*

The City Manager informed the council that the planning for the preliminary 2023 General Fund Budget took on its own unique set of challenges woven into the collective preparation, priority building and decision-making processes of one of the most significant policy decisions by the council. In the past, the city managed generational investments in local infrastructure such as the city hall, Jonathan Carver Parkway corridor and the water treatment plant. More recently the city has navigated through a pandemic seeking to plan and understand for impacts to local resources, delivery changes, and the instability of a job market. The 2023 budget is no different as the city collectively encounters record inflations, increased gas prices, along with the disruptions to the supply chain. The origin of these issues are widely being experienced globally, the impact to the local economy is significant with undoubtedly impacting individual households, as well. Economic factors provided by the county signifies a twenty-two-point five percent increase in housing values in the City of Carver. While the accumulation of housing value is beneficial to homeowners in the end, there is short-term effect influencing household budgets. Increases in values have now pushed the average home value upwards resulting in 2022 tax levy increases of city property taxes budget challenges.

Fortunately, the city is in the position to maximize this unique set of opportunities. The city's housing market has remained strong despite economic barriers resulting in recordbreaking new construction values carrying an additional tax capacity. Also resulting in new levy amounts generated. The city will be able to verify this impact upon receipt of updated taxable market value information from the county. The city also will be retiring debt service bonds that funded the construction of the Fire Station. This retired debt service enables the Debt Service levy to be reduced putting the city in a position to manage this resource bearing in mind the planned investment in a vehicle storage building in Public Services and dedicated self-contained breathing apparatus storage room at the Fire Stations. The 2023 budget process also marks the city's strategic initiative investment creating the position of a new Finance Director position. The city welcomed Lynn Tschudi as the new leader of the annual budget process as the Finance Director. Adding to the tremendous amount of value of the management financial systems was assisted with the help of Accountant, Cathy Elke and the Utility Billing Clerk, Brenda Efta. Continued feedback is anticipated and encouraged from council for budget process as new systems and communication methods are utilized. General Fund Revenues are expected to remain consistent with prior years. As with past years and exacerbated by the state of the economy, 'Building Permit' revenues are subject to volatility and require close monitoring. The first draft of the General Fund reveals a percentage increase to building permit revenues. Notification was received that the Local Government Aid would be reduced. Based on the funding formula, aid amount will likely decrease each year as the city continues to grow. Additionally, concurrent with former years, the contribution from the Special Capital Fund allocated as a tax levy impact mitigation strategy. The first draft of the General Fund Budget, including the Debt Service Levy and Street Maintenance Levy amounts signify a percentage increase overall over 2022. Staff will perform a tax sensitivity analysis upon receipt of the taxable market value information from the county. The tax impact analysis is a critical step in the budget process. Key budget initiatives include the Pavement Management Plan marking its second year of formal investment. The city made a strategic decision in 2020 to fund pavement restoration via property taxes as opposed to the implementation of franchise fees. This management plan is funded through an annual Street Maintenance Levy established in 2021 to specifically dedicate resources to fund the plan. The proposed 2023 street maintenance levy increases from an investment to an identified long-term financial plan. This resulted in leveraging State Aid Road Funds to complete a pavement restoration project on several streets within the city. The proposed budget funds allowed for the development of a local and customized Emergency Management Plan which with cooperation with the county utilizes a robust and voluminous County Emergency Plan.

Through facilitated and coordinated discussion with emergency management stakeholders the initiative would also develop a customized "CarverCentric" plan to manage, communicate and respond to emergency situations. This 2023 budget also maintains contracted service levels with the Sheriff's office. The budget displays an increase due to terms of a Collective Bargaining Agreement. As part of the 2023-2024 Strategic Plan the staff plans proposal of the development of a long-term staffing plan influenced through the process generated by the council and other stakeholder input regarding public safety expectations and goals of the community. Community Investment are also included in the 2023 budget to high impact community programs throughout the community. Regarding Employee Investments Full-time Employees, the 2023 budget does not propose any additional personnel positions. Pay increases are consistent with the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Capital investments project anticipated project budget source of funds justification for the Third Street Bridge Reconstruction Project, Special Capital Fund Full reconstruction of an over one hundred-year-old infrastructure will be by the city obtaining bridge bond funds. Additional project funding will allow the city to install flood protection systems on the bridge that are not eligible expenses under the bridge program. The Certified Levee Project funding monies Special Capital Fund Build contingency fund is projected to move forward and to leverage possible funding opportunities. Public Services/Fire Department Building Project Inter-Fund Loan is scheduled to be repaid by Project Funding. The Financial System Accounting Software in the 2023 General Fund Budget Improvements and upgrades to the systems software. General Fund Budget Maintenance of infrastructure, the plan marks an initiative to work towards cash purchases to mitigate future debt services connected with equipment certificates.

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## *Floodplain Ordinance*

The floodplain ordinance review information changes refer to establishing the regulatory flood protection elevations. Regulation requirements were reviewed. The Planning Commission will hold Public Hearing on the issue with the final version to be presented to the council.

The Planning Commission members reviewed and discussed the Floodplain Ordinance. The consulting city planner gave an overview regarding in early 2021 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) made changed to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) impacting the city's participation in Community Rating System (CRS) program. The CRS is a voluntary incentive program recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management practices exceeding minimum requirements. In CRS communities, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect flood risk resulting from the community's efforts. The staff has been working with Verisk who does the CRS ratings for FEMA. Verification of documents was conducted a process repeated approximately every five years. It was discovered that the city code did not adequately address the updates to the flood plain management requirements. Rules requiring the city to establish Regulatory Flood Protection elevations. The city is required to adopt and enforce regulations requiring a one-foot freeboard for all residential structures. Staff worked with the DNR and Verisk to determine the appropriate language for an ordinance amendment. The proposed amendment complies with FEMA requirements. Recommendation submitted was that the council adopt the amendment.

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## *Speed Limits*

The City Manager discussed the feedback pertaining to speed limit changes implemented within cities inclusive of what was changed, reasons and the scope of the changes. The council reviewed a list of cities with speed limits below 30 MPH, a peer city review and specific data from adjusted speed limits in particular cities. The topic was to be included in the next community survey for consideration for designs for future developments.

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## *Sixth Street West Reconstruction*

The Assistant City engineer reviewed the Sixth Street West Improvements project. One item in particular discussed was the Electrical Utility improvements where a motion to accept the Statement of Work Request Agreement with Xcel Energy for burying the existing overhead electrical utilities. Reconstruction of the street is underway. Burying the electrical utilities is a two-step process involving Xcel Energy and private electrician hired by the city.

The City Engineer updated the council on the Sixth Street West Reconstruction project. Completion is anticipated to occur November 2022. Final paving and striping expected to occur in the spring of 2023.

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**"If It's Meant to Be, It Will Be"**

~ J.M. Barrie

## *Alternative Claim Response*

The City Manager discussed the Alternate Claim Response issue which involved the water pressure problem. The attorney presented details for the proposed resolution authorizing reimbursement of claims relating to the topic.

The valve failure resulted in higher-than-normal pressure affecting a number of homes in the zone causing the pressure reducing valve to break open. Approximately thirty-two homes were affected by the failure. The city's insurance provided denied all the claims finding the city not liable for damages associated with the pressure surge event. Thereby resulting in an Alternative Claim Response presented to the council for consideration. The council reviewed the responses. Homeowner will re-submit their original paperwork and possible additional necessary information. Eligible cost determinations were made by whom was asked. The attorney responded that the homeowner's insurance provider would make that determination. The city would require reviewing the sub-mission along with their denial. Expectation was that the home-owner's insurance would cover the costs. Clause was also visible that the city would make an independent eligibility determination with regards to reimbursements. The city's determination to be made would include built-in discretion to ensure the expenses are eligible under the program's expenses. Homeowners would be notified and contacted by the city. The council discussed the effects of the issue on not only the homeowner's but the city council. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the resolution authorizing reimbursement of claims related to the water pressure event.

A resident attended the council meeting to express disappointment in the city's lack of communication or follow up regarding the water pressure surge problem. Frustration was aired regarding the response and short deadline for claims processes. There were also concerns expressed for future liability on the city's part. It was also brought to the council's attention that there were residents unaware of the reimbursement process. Also inquired about was the update on a current claim received after business hours. Appreciation was voiced for the resident's opinion and the steps to communicate to residents was reiterated. This feedback was the first heard regarding any communication on the topic. The city attorney also pointed out that the city was under no obligation to pay for the claims but that the council had chosen to do such regardless. Residents submitting a claim for reimbursement will be required to sign a waiver agreeing to no further reimbursements on the claim. It was pointed again, still again that there were residents unaware of this reimbursement process. The council would continue to work on any outstanding concerns and questions relating to the matter.

Council was asked whether or not they want to consider an extension of the Alternative Claim Response program deadline to September 30th versus the original August 31st deadline. Posting the information in the newsletter was also discussed. Agreement signing would be required by all residents requesting a claim reimbursement. Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving an extension to the Alternative Claim Response by thirty days to September 30th, 2022.

## *Trail Signage*

The Community Development Director discussed the item of trail signage and the Carver County SHIP Grant Agreement. Council action was necessary to enter into a grant agreement with the county for trail and wayfinding signage. The staff, former Park Commission members, and the county have all been working hard on developing trail mapping and wayfinding at a community scale level since 2020. The council had reviewed the proposal. The council was requested to review a refined trail map and sign design. The city was awarded grant dollars through the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) via the county. These funds cover the fabrication cost of twenty-seven signs. City mat is required which includes staff time and design, as well as labor installation costs. The project is anticipated to be completed this fall. Motion was made and carried with all ayes to enter into a grant agreement with Carver County for the trail and wayfinding signage.

## *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.

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## *Infrastructure Improvements Project*

The Assistant City Engineer discussed with the council the Infrastructure Improvements Project regarding the Plans and Specifications. Motion was needed for the approval of the Plans and Specifications. The American Rescue Plan (ARPA) in part provides aid to cities as a response to the pandemic. The City of Carver received said funding. The staff reviewed eligible uses for funds which included projects identified in the city's Long-Term Plan. With use approval the Fire Department purchased radios and pagers. Remaining funds were identified to include infrastructure improvements to the city's public utility infrastructure authorizing preparation of plans and specifications. A summary of the scope of improvements included the Spring Creek lift station generator and fiber improvements, Oak Street lift station generator replacement, and the final item for the intended use is the Public Services/Fire Department generator replacement by repurposing the generator previously salvaged. The next step in the process is to approve the plans and specifications along with authorizing advertisement of bids.

Further discussions were held with the council pertaining to the cover up of some of lift station generators with infrastructure improvements occurring using landscaping designs. The city manager suggested the use of local dollars due requirements involving the ARPS funds. Two other council members did not agree with the use of landscaping to hide generators. Access to the equipment was necessary for maintenance, plus they were not in residential areas. Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving the Plans and Specifications and order advertisement for bids for the 2022 Infrastructure Improvement Project.

The Assistant City Engineer discussed the infrastructure improvements projects with the council regarding adopting the resolution awarding the contract to the electric company for the project or reject bid and rebid in the spring of 2023. An overview was presented concerning the American Rescue Plan Act providing aid to the cities as response to the pandemic. These were reviewed eligible uses for said funds identified for projects in the city's Long-Term Plan.

## *Hartwell Drive and Ironwood Drive*

Planning Commission member discussed concerns with the intersection of Hartwell Drive and Ironwood Drive. The city manager added additional details about the intersection. Concerns were expressed regarding traffic in the area.

The Assistant City Engineer gave an update on the sightline concerns at the intersection of Ironwood Drive and Hartwell Drive. Adjustments will be made to the curb, crosswalk and stop sign location. Additionally, traffic review is scheduled to be conducted while school is in session. Also, an all-way stop and other controls are being considered for current and future needs.

## *Carver Square*

The consulting city planner discussed with the Planning Commission the item relating to the Carver Square Planned Commercial District Amendment request regarding Mizzy's Pizza site. The amendment allows for the construction of a restaurant on site.

The Community Development Director presented to the council the site plan review for Mizzy's Pizza regarding the proposal for an amendment to the Planned Commercial District Zoning Ordinance, along with the site plan. The proposed building size was reviewed along with the layout. Question was asked whether or not the proprietors would be seeking an application for a liquor license and the response received was yes. Inquiry was made concerning traffic safety in the parking lot and the response given that the Fire Department equipment layout would suffice for the layout. The Planning Commission recommended approval. The effects of the restaurant to the Chiropractic business were discussed. Employment opportunities were reviewed. It was anticipated that there would be about ninety positions which would for the most part be part-time but a great opportunity for the ages of fourteen to eighteen. Since the ball fields are frequently used this could be a good place to go to and satisfy the food requirement for the community. It is the proprietor's hope to be open and serving by the end of the year. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the ordinance amending the Freeway Commercial Planned District for development of Mizzy's Pizza. Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving the resolution approving the site plan for Mizzy's Pizza. Motion was made and carried with all ayes authorizing summary publication of the ordinance.



## *Preservation Ordinance*

The city Manager discussed the issue of the Preservation Ordinance. A motion was necessary by the council to adopt the Ordinance pertaining to the Heritage Preservation Commission. An amendment was proposed for review which incorporates recommendations from both the staff and preservation members. Additionally, it clarified code language, intended to accomplish staff and contractors have the authority to make inspections to determine compliance with HPC regulations, incorporate and clarify enforcement tools, provide a clearer outline of the process for receiving, reviewing and processing applications, reference the applicability of the sixty day rule, clarify the city's specific historic design standards, authorize the HPC ability to impose reasonable conditions and specify that building permits or other approvals are denied if a required certificate is not obtained. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the ordinance. There were not any public comments received during that Public Hearing. The Planning Commission recommended adoption of the ordinance. Pending ordinance adoption, the changes to the Preservation Ordinance will be included in the annual newsletter mailed to owners of properties in the Historic District. The Community Development Director discussed the Carver Square motion adoption for the Ordinance amending the Freeway Commercial Planned Commercial District for the development of Mizzy's Pizza. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on the proposed amendment with no public comment received. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the ordinance amendment and site plan.

During the Planning Commission meeting, question was asked regarding how a property owner is notified that their property is within the Historic District. The City Manager stated that the city maintains a map of the historic district, a plaque on the property, as well as an annual mailer is forwarded to all properties within the historic district outlining the obligations concerning exterior work completed. The city manager also clarified that the ordinance regulates exterior alterations. Motion was made and carried with all ayes recommendation approval of the ordinance amending the Preservation regulations.

Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the ordinance regarding the Heritage Preservation Commission. Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving the resolution authorizing summary publication of the ordinance regarding the Heritage Preservation Commission.

## *Timber Creek*

The Community Development Director discussed with the Planning Commission the development identified as Timber Creek Phase II. Applicant requests review of Phase Two Final Plat. Property is located south of Meridian Fields and west of Copper Hills, roughly one hundred sixty-one acres recently annexed to the City of Carver. Request has been submitted for phase two of their final plat adding an additional sixty-eight single family homes to the inventory in Timber Creek. This phase connects to the Copper Hills neighborhood. An additional two phase of the project are anticipated to be scheduled to be reviewed by the Planning Commission and City Council in the future.

The Community Development Director presented the Final Plat for Timber Creek Second Addition which includes sixty-eight single family lots. Two additional phases are anticipated to be brought before the council in the future for approval. Discussion was held regarding proactively notifying home buyers regarding to improvements on lots. There could exploration of adding signage indicating future development and/or a road extension anticipated. Motion was made and carried approving the resolution approving the Final Plat for Timber Creek 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition.

Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving the Development Agreement for Timber Creek 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition subject to changes.

## *County Road # 40*

The council reviewed the discussion involving the turn back of County Road # 40 from the county. In general, the city needs to decide if it wants the county to do the road improvement project and then turn the road over to the City of Carver or if the city wants the money that the county would be required to pay for the project. The next step in the process is to finalize the agreement and terms acceptable to both the city and the county. The topic will be revisited in the future.

## *Long Term Financial Plan*

The Finance Director reviewed the item identified as the Long-Term Financial Plan and an impact review. The city maintains a Long-Term Financial Plan updated annually with future capital needs, growth assumptions and operational projections. The plan identifies the financial impact of these factors and how they affect the tax rate, utility rates and the city's ability to invest in capital improvements. The importance of updating the plan is for the ability to add additional year of data and keep assumptions accurate for rate and revenue changes. There is the Capital Improvement Plan review and Capital Equipment review and assessment. The city needs to adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan and the Finance Director will present the final draft to the council for adoption.

## *General Fund Budget*

The Finance Director reviewed the General Fund Budget draft for 2023 with the council at a work session. The staff presented the preliminary budget with total operating expenses and an overall preliminary levy increase. The staff had also made some adjustments to the budget and debt service levy as directed. The drafted proposal also reflected a change from a composite rate to an actual rate calculation determining employee cost share for health insurance. Efforts will be continued by staff to refine the budget accordingly.

The Finance Director discussed the 2023 Preliminary Tax Levy with the council and the resolution to certify the levy. The certification of the preliminary tax levy is required by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. The council has conducted a series of budget meetings discussing the expenditure options guide the amount of tax levy necessary to fund operations. Upon acceptance of certification, it cannot be increased. Presently it is not adopting rather setting the maximum amount. A Truth-in-Taxation Hearing will be held in December to provide an opportunity for residents and other stakeholders comments. Final action on the 2023 tax levy and budget would be held later in December. In the interim the staff will review, revise and present additional budget estimates.

## *Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program*

The Assistant City Engineer discussed the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program requiring the holding of Public Hearing were discussed with the council. As part of the overall National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System permit program, the city is permitted by the MPCA to discharge storm water. Part of that permit required is to develop, implement and enforce the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program. Public participation is required, and the city is required annually to provide input. The city has chosen to schedule a Public Hearing to provide an overview of the program and the opportunity for residents to give oral or written comments.

## *Domestic Violence Awareness*

The Community Engagement Coordinator with Southern Valley Alliance presented information and statistics pertaining to domestic violence services provided by Southern Valley Alliance. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Information was shared on how to show support for awareness. The council was also informed that the Southern Valley alliance will be moving their offices from Belle Plaine to Shakopee allowing them a more centralized home base between the communities served.

## *Ironwood Park Improvement Project*

The City Engineer presented an update on the Ironwood Park Improvement Project informing them that substantial grading has been completed, and municipal utilities have been installed. The skatepark construction is underway with the shelter construction anticipated to begin shortly. Completion is expected in the spring of 2023.

## *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. October 21<sup>st</sup> is the next scheduled meeting.

## *MetroNet*

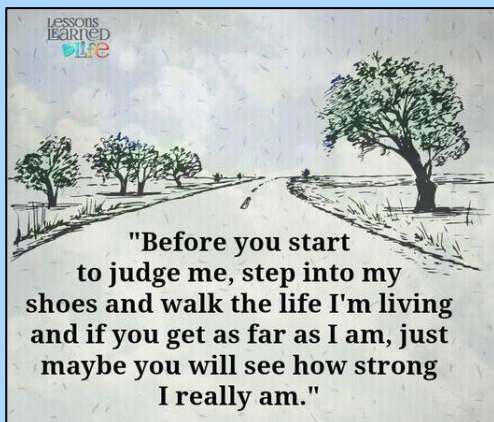
The City Manager told the council that MetroNet is performing private utility work and are responsible for initiating communications with the private sector. It was his opinion that due to the appearances of the mailings; they are interpreted as junk mail. Additionally, homeowners have invested significant funds establishing presentable lawns causing some distress from digging within easements. The City Manager has been working with residents for resolutions in certain cases. The staff is also working to develop a system to manage items such as code compliance questions and issues that arise. Goals in sight is to keep issues in the correct department, follow up with residents and documentation, as well as tracking the analysis to help identify trends. This would help to determine actions and changes.

## *Cannabis*

Resident approached the council requesting that the city enact rules and regulations regarding public consumption of cannabis products. The council discussed the issue of regulating cannabis. The city attorney stated that a limited number of cities have adopted ordinances regarding possession by minors. He also stated that there is minimal regulation by state law regarding these products. He anticipates in the future that there will be legislation to regulate the topic. The difficulty is enforcing the rules due to the form of edibles and beverages. Items are only sold to individuals over the age of twenty-one, however there is no law regulating possession by minors. Establishing rules was discussed and the mayor favored such action. The remainder of the council's preference was to wait for State Legislation established regulations.

## *Energy Assistance Program*

The City Clerk discussed the Energy Assistance Program. A motion was required to approve the Department of Commerce's Energy Assistance Program Agreement with Scott, Carver and Dakota Cap Agency for the Water Assistance Program. Originally it was announced that applications would be accepted for a new Water Assistance Program assisting customers facing water or wastewater disconnection or past due bills. Federal funds were authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act responding to hardships caused by the pandemic. Payments were made directly to water suppliers on behalf of eligible residential customers to ensure continuity of service. The city participated in the program until funds ran out. Awareness of at least one resident receiving funds were brought to light. The SCD Cap Agency determines eligibility, and the staff is unaware of the total number of applicants. Since the city is already set up to receive and advertise the program, staff requested continued participation for another year consisting of dates included October 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 through September 30<sup>th</sup> of 2023. Applications for the 2022 – 2023 Energy Assistance would be mailed by the SCD Cap Agency to household previously who received assistance. Households who had not previously applied could request or print applications from the city's website. Notification should also be stated that crisis grants are significantly lower than previous seasons and income eligibility requirements were raised. Applications would be approved based on current income guidelines, not previous eligibility. The City Attorney reviewed the agreement and had no issues with the document.



## *Certificate of Appropriateness*

The City Manager discussed with the council the Certificate of Appropriateness Appeal Hearing issue involving the Heritage Preservation Commission decision regarding request. Following a hearing and discussion the council needs to adopt a motion directing the staff to prepare a resolution to either uphold or overturn the Heritage Preservation Commission's decision regarding the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness by resident for exterior changes to residence on Broadway.

"As a matter of public policy, the City has declared by ordinance that 'the preservation, protection, perpetuation, promotion and use of areas, places, buildings, structures, lands, districts and other objects having a special historical, community or aesthetic interest or value is a public necessity and is required in the interest of health, prosperity, safety and welfare in the community. To this end, the heritage preservation commission is created and charged with the stewardship of Carver's heritage.'" This policy language works in concert with a City Council-appointed Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) to regulate and oversee the nearly 100 structures on the National Register of Historic Places and located in Carver's Historic District. One of most important responsibilities of the HPC is to review applications for Certificates of Appropriateness (COA). An approved COA is required for a property owner to move forward with changes or improvements to the exterior of any structure located within the Historic District."

It is one of the most important responsibilities of the commission which is to review applications. An approved certificate is necessary and required for a property owner to move forward with improvements to an exterior of any structure located within the Historic District. While reviewing applications the board is required by ordinance to apply the city's approved Historic Design Guidelines along with the guidelines from the US Department of Interior.

These decisions are subject to an appeal process requesting the council to review the commission's decision. Applicant is exercising those rights who had applied for replacement of ten exterior facing wooden windows with vinyl windows. The request was denied based on the Design Guidelines with an outlined criteria required along with information how to appeal the said decision. A written request was received by the homeowner appealing the commission's decision. Applicant was then provided with date, time and location of the hearing and instructed to articulate reason for appealing.

An Appeal Hearing and Criteria involves the staff introduction of agenda item, brief background. Applicant will then be heard regarding application and purpose of appeal. Questions of the applicant by the council. Applicant has opportunity to address the council and answer any questions. Discussion of the application and decision rendered whether to uphold or overturn the Commission's decision in light of the city's standards. Resolution to be drafted and accepted by motion.

Recommendation was submitted that the commission's denial be upheld based on Residential Design Standards applied to the Historic District. It is understood that these standards provide some level of discretion rather than expressly prohibiting modern windows materials entirely, the standards provide that said materials are "strongly discouraged."

## *South West Transit*

Be sure to check out the SouthWest Transit website for information on Fall Services Changes and information regarding fare increases for SWPrime and more information.



SouthWest Transit is offering the MN Gophers Express for all 2022 Home Games through November 19th. Return times are twenty minutes after the end of the game and you will board where the bus dropped you off. You can use the service from the Chaska East Creek Station, or SW Village Station in Chanhassen or even Eden Prairie SW Station. See the website for times and more details.



There is also the MN Vikings Express service from the same stations listed above to catch a ride to the games. That service began in September and will run through December 18<sup>th</sup>.

There will not be any service on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> ( Thanksgiving ) with the Patriots team or on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> against the Giants team. Again, after the game, board where the bus dropped off and the return time is twenty minutes after end of game.

There will be Twins Express service for October if needed.

## 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 and up to date information. Be sure to support our local shops too. The upcoming Occasional Shop dates are Thursday, October dates are the 20<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The perfect spot to find that unique, one-of-a-kind treasure. Stop in and check the shops out. There are also lots of home businesses that are not advertised here but if you dig, you can find them. Check out Carver Life on Facebook and find the troves of treasures online.

### The Shops of Carver:

Carver Creamery – NOW OPEN – updates on Facebook

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

The Good Junk Garage – Facebook

Temperance Arts & Gifts – Facebook

The Funky Dove – Facebook

Strive Nutrition – Carver - Facebook



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## Funky Dove

Bet you can't guess who is all set up and ready for fall? Well, maybe you can. That's right, it's the Funky Dove in big ole' downtown Carver. Stop on in and say hello to her. You will be surprised; I guarantee you in more ways than one. She also says, "Steamboat Days was fun...Thanks to all who stopped by."

Found this very interesting. Rebecca wrote:

"As most of you can imagine it's not been easy to stir up business in a small town.

My shop is also a little "different" than most, so not everyone gets "it" either or knows about it. It's totally fine too, I can't please everyone.

I've always felt a little "different" though & like I didn't really belong, which is why I left Chaska when I was 17 to be an exchange student to get out of this town. I went as far as I could go where people would still understand me (speak

English) & I ended up in Tasmania, Australia.

It was & is one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen. That's when I got a taste of independence & travelling & never looked back.

Not until the pandemic stuck me back here. What penance did I need to serve I wondered??

So much water in between then & now-but this weekend I had 4 customer visits that gave me a sort of validation I needed as to why I'm here.

This is my Monday Motivation to keep going when I was questioning my call...

### The 4 Customer Visits:

1. The Local Native: Brought all of their long-lost relatives to the shop after finding them through "Ancestry-like" channels. They bought presents for each other & mementos to take with them to where they live to commemorate their reunion & kinship & visit to Carver. I'm glad I had the rose Quartz rocks, the rainbows, the native style earrings, the sage, the barnwood Minnesota's & such for them to buy. I was honored to be part of their story & I really appreciated/needed the business from strangers of a like-heart.

2. The appreciative customer: Bought a few items and said, "Thank you for being here". Those words touched me!

Thank you, customer, for appreciating my presence.

### 3. The Rabbi:

Liked to tell stories, but also had a receiving ear to hear mine. I had stories for all of the items he purchased which he appreciated. He carefully looked over the shop. He happened to like the spiral centric items I had. He was also very thoughtful, in that, he said he didn't know Who was going to receive the items he bought for gifts but, that he kept a little storage of gifts for people.

He must have known it was the last 15 minutes of my weekend & my day was very slow in Sales. He could sense the good vibes & was interested in my shop. Both that & the sale made me happy. He will also leave Carver with goodies from the shop to bring "love" & "thoughtfulness" & pass it on.

4. Family: I can't forget Family. This shop has brought my mom & I closer as she is my biggest silent supporter. As well as her partner. Also, for my 4 nieces who love to visit the shop. It's fun to see their excitement & enthusiasm. I'm happy to offer them the shop for their birthdays. I've been away from them most all of their lives so the past 2 years have brought me closer to them again.

On the other side you realize who in your family actually supports your dreams too. Thanks to my aunts .

You see my shop serves the Carver community, but it also travels.

The Sales support my livelihood & my Carver County artists, as well as artists abroad I've supported in the shop.

When customers/people find a little loving treasures with a good meaning they keep it with them or pass it on.

I hope when they look back that they have that good vibe from their visit to my shop & Carver.

I am aware that "things" don't replace memories or make you a better person but they can be tokens of that memory or feeling when the moment has passed. And a little jewelry, clothes, lotion, crystal or candle might give you that little extra comfort or boost of self-love, cozy confidence you need.

Thank you to ALL of my customers, every visit is valued & I appreciate your business & aim to serve you as best as I know how.

Moving forward I need to spread the Word about my shop- I've been going to farmers markets & making more posts, offering Sales but the best thing YOU can do to help is

Spread the Word

As one customer put it, "If you haven't been to the Funky Dove, I would encourage you check it out. I try to get there often the stock is constantly changing. It is my "go to" place for unique gifts. And the owner, Becky is super friendly and interesting to talk to. Please check it out and support a small business!"

Also, on that note, there are new crystals, air plants in natural cactus bark holders, succulent and pretty new planters available at the shop. Be sure to stop in and check out the inventory of uniqueness. Rebecca has also been busy making lots of jewelry. One of kind pieces, can't be found anywhere else and you can bet no two are alike. You can follow her jewelry story on Instagram: Fly.Fee.Lee.Jewelry

"Fall vibes keep on coming as the leaves turn and pumpkins grow." See you at Funky Dove.



## Carver General

As fall descends upon us and we dread the colder, frigid temps, get on over to the Carver General and see what the girls have found for your treasure trove this month. You know you can find that vintage treasure at Carver General at 109 Third Street East. Their October dates are the 20<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> and they are eager to greet you. Do you think they might have some hot apple cider?



## Carver Creamery

The season is winding down and soon they will be closing for the season. So while you still can, go get that ice cream and good company before another season comes to a final close. Be sure to check their Facebook page for alerts.

## Carver Lions

Your local Lions are busy with new projects and community needs. The Lions resume their fall meeting schedule of twice a month. They meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at the City Hall. They are also getting ready for their Annual Trunk or Treat event. See separate article regarding the plans. Steamboat Days thanks to everyone was once again a huge success. Thank you to everyone for all you did.



## Southwest Metro Fall Market

The Southwest Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with ENKI Brewing to present their SouthWest Metro Fall Market event on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> starting at noon until 4 PM. Wondering where this is? It is happening outside in the lower parking lot at ENKI Brewing at 1495 Stieger Lake Lane in Victoria. You are invited to come celebrate the joys of the Fall Season. Discover vendors of local foods, arts and crafts. Looking for seasonally inspired shopping events and have fun at the same time? Then this is where you want to head. While you are busily promenading through the market area you can also enjoy a fresh ENKI beer. To cap off your day, enjoy some of their delicious food. Inclement weather, events will be moved indoors as a backup. Mark your calendar and come join in and meet new people, see old friends? Just to get out before winter blankets us in? See you there?



## West Union Lutheran Church

Heads up everyone, mark your calendars, Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 2 PM at West Union Lutheran Church they will be holding their Annual Country Market. There will be all the fall décor for sale like pumpkins, gourds and the like, along with crafts, bake sale items and vendor sales.



## Chaska Valley Family Theatre

The Chaska Valley Family Theatre announcing that they held auditions for "Elf the Musical". "Thank you to everyone that came out to audition for the CVFT's Elf Thus Musical!!!! We were blown away by all the talent and had a delightful time seeing the ugly Christmas sweaters making a September appearance! Congratulations to our cast! Chaska Valley Family Theater is so excited to bring some SparklejoylyTwinkle to your Holidays – tickets on sale soon!!!"



The musical itself is slotted for performances in the first part of December and rehearsals are scheduled to begin in early October.



"Breaking News: Common sense is now an endangered species. Stupidity has taken over the world and unfortunately there is no known cure."

## Arts Consortium

October has plans for an Inspiration Exhibit scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> through November 4<sup>th</sup> featuring artwork showcasing what inspires the artists. The Arts Consortium is proud to present the Inspiration Exhibit featuring artwork of any medium that showcases objects, people or things that inspire you. It can be something that inspired daily, or the artistry or hope to inspire others. They are hoping you will share what inspiration inspires you or means to you. There is an Artists' Reception planned for the 20<sup>th</sup> of October from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Gallery.



Intro to Writing – 101 will be held on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Chanhassen Library in the Longfellow Room. "Have you ever thought about taking a stance in writing? Is there a story inside you but you don't know the first thing about how to get it onto paper? Start here with Intro to Writing 101, a beginner's course to the basic principles of plot, structure, fleshing out characters and world building. We'll explore simple steps to get your creation started through pop-culture analysis and a writing prompt exercise. You'll also get a writing prompt book to take home to continue your journey outside class.

In Literary News: Something Wicked, Spooky flash fiction event scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup> from 7 PM until 8:30 PM. "Hey writers, get your Halloween juices flowing." Joint them around a metaphorical campfire and read poems and scary stories in honor of All Hallows Eve. The theme is something wicked, a celebration of the dark, eerie and macabre, through the written word. Need more information, contact [somethingwickedreading@gmail.com](mailto:somethingwickedreading@gmail.com). The event will happen in the Brick City Banquet Room.

Beginning Stained Glass class will be held over a four-week period at the Arts Consortium on Thursdays at 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM starting October 27<sup>th</sup> through November 17<sup>th</sup>. Learn and create. Learn all of the steps to create a beautiful stained-glass piece of art using the copper foil technique. Each week the instructor will go step-by-step through the process and guide through all the aspects involved in making a unique stained-glass creation. One project throughout the four weeks.

## Sever's Fall Festival

It's officially fall! "With corn on the cob, warm apple cider and other smile-worthy festival favorites, Sever's is the perfect place to celebrate crisp fall weekends. From our giant slide and jumping pillows to our pumpkin blasters and corn pits," Let's not forget the famous Maze. "you're in for a treat all season long. Get the dates you want and save \$\$ when you order your tickets online."



Sever's Festival runs Saturdays and Sundays opening September 17<sup>th</sup> and running through October 30<sup>th</sup>, plus MEA weekend: October 20<sup>th</sup> thru 23<sup>rd</sup>. Their hours are 10 AM to 7 PM. For ticket prices and you can, check their website: [www.seversfestival.com](http://www.seversfestival.com) If you have time check out their website anyway, lots and lots of interesting information about the festival and the family and fun.

Also, don't forget that the Sever's also host the Holiday Lights which is scheduled to open November 24<sup>th</sup> this year. They also offer Corporate and Private Events along with birthday parties. So be sure to add this to your 'Bucket List' and check out their website for more information.



In my life I have lived,  
I have loved, I have lost,  
I have missed, I have hurt,  
I have trusted, I have made  
mistakes, but most of all,  
**I have learned.**

## "Tricks and Treats"

Valleyfair "Tricks and Treats" is ready for the fall fun. Looking for a more family friendly Halloween venue experience. This year they are hoping to perpetuate "All the fun and no fright." This experience has been described as "our all-new, over-the-top, larger-than-life, gotta-be-there Halloween event packed with fun and family-friendly eeriness. From little goblins to grown-up ghouls, everyone will find ghastly great things to do for Halloween. Plus, we've got skeleTONS of delicious seasonal treats, drinks and, of course, candy!"

The park will be split into two paths to explore: the Land of Tricks and the Land of Treats with so much to see and so much to do. Land of Tricks a "slimy, spooky and strange" experience. Also described as sinister or strange with Ickyville and Spooky Spires. While the other path of Land of Treats offers a more "uniquely sweet" affect to include Everfall and Sweet Tooth Acres.

"If that's not fang-tastic enough, our most popular rides are open during the Halloween event to deliver the amazing thrills and chills found only at Valleyfair." You will also find Halloween-themed games, entertainment, food and activities. Next month will expand on "Tricks and Treats" details.

"Tricks and Treats" debut has already started and runs through October 30<sup>th</sup> on weekends. Octobers hours are noon to 9 PM. Need to verify or check out more information, naturally, visit their website: [www.valleyfair.com](http://www.valleyfair.com)



## ScreamTown

According to their website, it appears that they are still **HIRING – Monsters.....Monsters Wanted**. For more information about ScreamTown, visit their website and get all the information you need to apply, visit, purchase tickets: [www.screamtown.com](http://www.screamtown.com)

There are seven massive haunted houses. They are open weekends. Their opening date is scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Friday and Saturday hours are 7 PM to 11 PM; Sunday's hours are 7 PM to 10 PM.

Outdoor shoes are recommended. Theatrical fog is used if you have respiratory issues. This event is not recommended for Moms-to-be. If you aren't feeling well or have a fever, please schedule your visit when you feel better. It is however, recommended for teens and adults, but not suitable for young children.

You may be asking yourself the following question. The personnel at ScreamTown have the answer for you.

### "WHY VISIT SCREAMTOWN?"

Scream Town is one of the best Halloween Haunted Attractions in the Minneapolis St. Paul Twin Cities area. At \$30-\$36 (general admission), it is quite possibly the best Haunted House value in MN. We think about YOU and your enjoyment before we think about our profit. Our attractions are built with quality and the best possible scares in mind and are actually scary. Our Minnesota location in the southwest metro of Chaska is unbelievable! We didn't end up here by accident. Scream Town is located just perfectly outside the suburb atmosphere on a dead end not far from Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, Savage, Lakeville, Minnetonka, and Shakopee, and FEELS like you are in the middle of nowhere. Tucked deep in a Valley, you are guaranteed to get a great Scare. Just the drive onto the property is a trail of terror. We hire actors that are crazy about Halloween, haunted houses, corn mazes, and scaring the pants off people. We work year-round on each maze, to make this event is something guests will talk about for years. We love what we do and hope you'll join us. Scream Town has it all, the best Haunted House, Haunted Corn Maze, and sister event – Haunted Hayride. Be sure to check out our sister event the Abandoned Hayride. One of the newest and most unique MN Hayrides you will ever experience in Minnesota or throughout the Minneapolis area."

"I remember the old days...  
When "Snap, Crackle and Pop"  
were sounds that came from my  
cereal, not my body!"



## Abandoned Hayride

Also still **HIRING – Monsters – Monsters Wanted**. For more information, their website is: [www.theabandonedhayride.com](http://www.theabandonedhayride.com)

The Abandoned Hayride Personnel wish to warn you that "Due to intense Fear, you are required to sign a waiver."

Be sure to check their website for hours, times vary from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 30<sup>th</sup>, although their site indicates "official open times is always dusk/dark." Appropriate footwear is recommended.

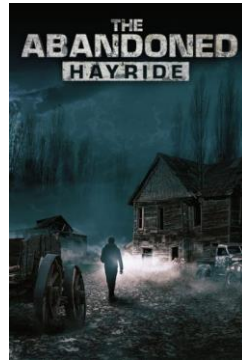
Hayride only, mask required. This event is not handicap accessible due to the terrain, but it is recommended for teens and adults, but not suitable for young children.

### "THE ABANDONED HAYRIDE"

Nowhere in Minnesota or the country will you experience a haunted hayride like this. Revolutionary! A completely immersive experience, and you will literally be Abandoned. MN newest haunted hayride and haunted house. Unlike any other hayride you've ever been on. Totally new, totally different, actually scary.

"NEW FOR 2022 – NEW SETS – NEW SCARES – NEW SCENES – AND SO MUCH MORE!"

Prepare for the Hayride reinvented! Like no other hayride in the country with all new surprises around every corner for 2022. New sets, scenes, effects and scares! After being totally Abandoned in the woods, you'll have to venture on foot through Forsaken, a maze of complete darkness and monsters that lurk where you least expect it. You'll then be Exiled, where only you and one other person, if you choose, have to find your way out or be Exiled forever!



## Carver Lions Annual Trunk or Treats

You are all invited to come and join the Carver Lions for fun, games, and prizes. There will be Llamas, bounce houses, Princess Photos, hot dogs, cookies, candy and Hot Chocolate. Come and meet the Carver Fire Department Firefighters, The Carver County Sheriff's Mounted Posse and Dive Teams members. Anyone business interested in participating is welcome and contact Kim Whaley for more information. You can reach Kim via email, [Kimberlywhaley14@gmail.com](mailto:Kimberlywhaley14@gmail.com).

Trunk or Treats is scheduled to be held on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The fun will begin at 1 PM until 3 PM. So be sure to head on downtown and join in on all the fun! Start your Halloween journey at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Broadway at the Post Office and work our way down Broadway all the way to Lisa's Place and see how much fun you can have.

## Carver Fire Department & Public Works Open House

Looking for something fun to do with the kids? Or you have never experienced the Carver Fire Department/Public Works Open House? Well, guess what? Here's your chance to do just that. Carver Fire Department and the Public Works personnel have been hard at work putting together the best ever Open House event for you to come and experience. Come and meet your local firefighters and Public Workers staff on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM until 8 PM at the Fire Station on 801 Jonathan Carver Parkway in Carver. ( across from the Community Park ) They have been cooking up chili to have free chili and hot dogs or if you prefer a Chili Dog. There will be all kinds of fun things going on. Come and see the Fire Trucks, get the kids a ride on it, check out the facility, and get Community Safety Information all while talking with personnel. They are eager to see you.



"Life is not  
COMPETITION.  
Life is about helping and inspiring others,  
so we can reach our potential."

~ Kim Chase





## Community Calendar

October 2022



- October 1<sup>st</sup> Happy Birthday Denny!  
Happy Birthday Coreen!
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> Happy Birthday Tim!  
Happy Birthday Todd!
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting
- October 4<sup>th</sup> Fire Department & Public Works Open House  
Yim Kippur
- October 5<sup>th</sup> Lions Meeting
- October 7<sup>th</sup> Happy Anniversary Kerri and Guy!  
Happy Birthday Megan!  
Happy Birthday Joy!
- October 8<sup>th</sup> West Union Annual Country Market  
Happy Birthday Sarah!  
Happy Birthday Laurie!  
Happy Birthday Carol!  
Happy Birthday Sarah!
- October 10<sup>th</sup> Dahlgren Township Board Meeting  
School Board Work Session  
Carver Elementary PTO Meeting  
Clover Ridge PTO Meeting  
Indigenous Peoples Day  
Happy Birthday Christopher!
- October 11<sup>th</sup> Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting  
Meet and Greet  
Happy Birthday Ryan!  
Happy Anniversary Stephen and Tiu!  
Happy Birthday Beth!
- October 12<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Donnie!
- October 14<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Sonjia!
- October 15<sup>th</sup> SW Metro Chamber Fall Market  
Happy Birthday Andrea!  
Happy Birthday Oliver!
- October 17<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting
- October 18<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Tim!
- October 19<sup>th</sup> Lions Meeting  
Happy Birthday Annette!  
Happy Birthday Linda Rose!
- October 20<sup>th</sup> MEA Weekend  
Occasional Shops Sale Weekend  
Planning Commission Meeting  
Business Alliance Meeting
- October 21<sup>st</sup> Happy Birthday Larry!
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> Happy Birthday Stephen!  
Happy Birthday Brandon!
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> Trunk or Treats
- October 24<sup>th</sup> No School  
School Board Meeting  
Meet and Greet
- October 25<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Melissa!
- October 26<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Carl!  
Happy Birthday Kate!
- October 31<sup>st</sup> Halloween  
Happy Birthday Phil!



## Trinity Lutheran Church

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church, Carver.  
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class are back in full swing. Options are available for preschoolers through adults at 8:45 am every Sunday for the 2022-2023 school year.

A Six Week Women's Bible Study starts on Monday, Oct. 3, 7 PM-8:30 PM In this study, we will walk through some of the promises God made with His people to understand the big picture of His unfailing love for us. It's not too late to come and join the discussion this fall! Sign up information is on our website ( [Trinitycarver.com](http://Trinitycarver.com) ) and Facebook page (Trinity Lutheran Church Carver, MN). Confirmation instruction is also beginning on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7 PM. Please contact Pastor Jander if you are interested in learning more or in registering for classes: [PastorDJander@gmail.com](mailto:PastorDJander@gmail.com).

We are pleased to announce a special celebration happening on Sunday, Oct. 2. We will recognize members of our congregation who have reached the age of "80 plus." Everyone is invited to the worship service and the potluck meal that follows to honor and celebrate how God has blessed these servants with long life, and how He has named and claimed them as His own.

Please see our church website at [Trinitycarver.com](http://Trinitycarver.com) for more information about Trinity Lutheran Church.

## MN Landscape

### Arboretum

Fall season quickly approaching. The MN Landscape Arboretum is chucked full of fall activities with a hint of Halloween, harvest and autumn events. Be sure to check their website for more information: [www.arb.umn.edu](http://www.arb.umn.edu)



AppleHouse through October 31<sup>st</sup> is kicking off the apple season at the birthplace of the Honeycrisp at the Arboretum. ( 7485 Rolling Acres Road, Victoria ). You can purchase locally grown apples, pumpkins, gourds, squash, apple pies, apple cider and gourmet food items from 10 AM to 6 PM daily. Tuesdays through Sundays, you are invited to check out North Star Donuts, offering slushies, hot beverages and their signature apple cider mini donuts.

Scarecrows in the Gardens event is at Dahlberg Terrace and Scarecrow Hill and already in progress until October 31<sup>st</sup>. This popular event adds a festive note to the arboretum's autumn displays.

You will find the pumpkin display officially starting October 1<sup>st</sup> and through October 31<sup>st</sup> at the Oswald Center and surrounding terraces. Mid-September pumpkins begin popping up in the Arboretum gardens and around the Scarecrows in the garden display. You are invited to come and check out the pumpkin tree featuring hundreds of pumpkins, gourds and squash grown at the Arboretum's Horticultural Research Center. This year's tree features Cucurbita in a spectrum of color, arranged to create a rainbow.

Can't forget there is the Full Moon Hike October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM to get the full Hunter's Moon glow. Park at the Sensory Garden parking lot where you roast a marshmallow by the fire then hike the Three-Mile Walk to explore the moonlit gardens. A self-guided full moon ritual too, allow your psyche to turn inward and recharge at the Sculpture Garden. Come on fellas, what a great way to melt her heart huh? It is after all called the Hunters Moon. Isn't that what the masculine persona is, the hunter? You are on the prowl after all. All kidding aside, a great opportunity ladies and gentlemen.

## Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity Lutheran Church would like to say thank you to everyone who joined them over Steamboat Days. They wish to let you know how thankful they all are to be a part of the community and hope all of you will always remember that they are there for you as well. The Llamas were a great hit again this year, as you can see by the photos. The posting is on Facebook's Carver Life page.



## City of Carver Candidates

### Matt Herrmann, Candidate for Mayoral Position

Reached out to Matt Herrmann who is also running for the Mayoral position on the City of Carver Council but at the time of publication have not heard back but found platform on Facebook page through Carver Life group. At the risk of liability am forwarding onto the residents the contents from that posting.

Matt is a successful business owner and has a family. He has resided in Carver for over twenty-two years. It is his opinion that he has seen Carver grow at a fast past over the years. He also is of the opinion that as the city continues its growth, it will be important to solicit both, industrial and commercial businesses to thrive and contribute to the tax base. He states that he believes that "it is also imperative that we continue to have election integrity and transparency which will also be a part of my focus."

He further states:

"When it comes to other people's money in the form of taxes, I am fiscally responsible and will exercise restraint in spending. Should the need arise in the event of another pandemic, we need to protect our business's livelihood front and foremost. We will need to execute a common-sense plan for Carver and people's individual freedoms.

If you would like to know more about me ... email Ramertt@comcast.net."



### Courtney Johnson, Incumbent Mayor

Courtney is running for re-election for the position of Mayor.

Below is her statement why she is running:

"Experienced, engaged leadership for the City of Carver. Over the past four years I've also lobbied on behalf of the City of Carver in a variety of ways, including finding funding partners for the Levee Improvement Project, a \$12M endeavor which will modernize the levee along the Minnesota River to continue to protect the City of Carver from floods for generations to come. To date my work has resulted in \$2.75M allotted to this project from both Federal funding and grants from both the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District.

These are just two examples of the impact I've made as Mayor, but there is still more work to be done. I've seen firsthand the difference I can make in this community by listening to our residents and taking action on their behalf. In my second term as Mayor, I'll continue to work tirelessly to ensure we build upon the momentum, successes and positive change I've worked so hard to bring to the City of Carver during my first term.

Every month in my Carver Connections newsletter column I close by saying "...please don't hesitate to reach out. I look forward to hearing from you," followed by my contact information. I mean this. As I'm seeking a second term as Mayor, I continue to mean it. If you have ideas, questions or if there's something important to you that you want to let me know about, please don't hesitate to reach out.

I know that I am the best suited and hardest working candidate for Mayor of Carver. I'd be honored to have your vote on Nov. 8, 2022.

Thank you for your consideration.

Courtney Johnson

Cell: 612-702-7703

Courtney4Mayor@gmail.com

Facebook.com/CarverMayorCourtney

Instagram.com/Carver\_Mayor\_Courtney"

### Erik Perschmann, Candidate for Council Position

At the time of publication, Mr Perschmann had not responded.

"I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE FOR CITY COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 8TH - THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION -

The City of Carver is fortunate to have dedicated and talented city leaders and staff. They are the reason we have a community to be proud of. You can participate too. There is often an open seat for you make Carver a better community. Go to <https://www.cityofcarver.com/247/Commissions>

To do the work that ensures the City of Carver is able to meet the demands of a growing community today, preserving and improving the quality of life that defines Carver, protecting the gem we have in our historic downtown, and laying the groundwork for the new residents and families that wish to make Carver their home."



### Glen Henry, Incumbent for Council Position

At the time of publication, did not hear back from Mr Henry. However, here is some basic information regarding council member Henry.

"Glen Henry is a long-time resident of Carver. Glen has been married to Heide for 23 years and has a Stepdaughter, Stephanie, and Grandson, Javon. Glen graduated from Chaska High School in 1980 and Mankato State University in 1986. He was a self-employed art dealer for 16 years, telemarketer for 11 years, and now a self-employed carpenter for the past three years. Glen's hobbies include hunting, fishing, canoeing, camping, training gun dogs, household projects, woodworking, and just about any sport."

### Laurie Sayre, Incumbent for Council Position

Laurie stated, "I'm excited to announce that I'm seeking councilmember reelection. I'll continue to

work for the residents of Carver in pursuing better street conditions and, as the budget allows, advocate for new parks and trails.

Thank you, Laurie Sayre"

Further background information as follows:

"Laurie Sayre is a lifelong resident of Carver County. She and her husband, Chad, chose the City of Carver to start and raise a family. They have two daughters.... Plus a dog, the adored golden retriever named Trigger, who is occasionally seen visiting the local libraries as an active volunteer for a child literacy program.

Laurie was appointed to the Planning Commission, where she served from 2016 to 2018. She was elected to the Carver City Council in 2018.

After obtaining her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychological Sciences from the University of Minnesota, Laurie has spent her career working in a number of project management and business analyst roles. She currently works as a business analyst at





Optum, a UnitedHealth Group company in Minnesota. Laurie's other interests include reading, scrapbooking, visiting with friends and family, and cheering her daughters on in softball and lacrosse.”

In other political candidacies news. Please check out the candidates running in your districts, municipalities because your vote does matter. Try to learn what you can about your candidates. Yes, I know not everyone has computers or computer access. The libraries do. Bet you know someone too who could help you. Go to the Carver County Government Center website, [www.co.carver.mn.us](http://www.co.carver.mn.us). Under caption services, click on *elections* and go to *sample ballots* for a list of candidates, follow the instructions and your sample ballot will be presented. Some candidates have links to their platforms. There is the Federal, State County offices, Sheriff, Attorney, Soil and Water Conservation office and Town offices. There's also the list of judges up for election. And oh yea, Aaron Burkhardt and John Fahey are running for Carver County Commissioner for District # 5 which is us locally. Be informed, vote. Democracy depends on us.

In other area elections is the obviously high contested seats in the Eastern Carver County School District School Board seats and candidates. The candidates vying for School Board seats are:

Dean Waymire  
Jennifer Stone  
Ellie Krug  
Charles E Lawler

Rachel Berg Scherer  
Mary Schoen  
Greg Petrie  
Danta Hughes

Tim Klein  
Makizal M Johnson  
Svetlana Kalesnikova  
Joe Scott

*John Lenzen*

“Carver Lions

Rest in peace John Lenzen. John was a Charter member of our Carver Lions Club and our first Club President. Thank you for serving our community.”

*John Lenzen*  
*May 23, 1943 – September 17, 2022*



“The City of Carver wishes to recognize the remarkable service of John Lenzen, former Mayor of the City of Carver. John served as Mayor from 1969 to 1972, while also serving twenty-one years on the Carver Fire Department. John modeled the very highest commitment to community service and spirit and his contributions have made the City of Carver a better place!”

“John Charles Lenzen

May 23, 1943 - September 17, 2022

John Charles Lenzen, age 79, of Chaska, MN, died peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Saturday, September 17, 2022 at his home.

Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2022, 11:00 AM at St. John's Lutheran Church, 4th and Oak Street, Chaska, MN, with Pastor Greg Snow officiating. The visitation will be on Friday, September 23, 2022, 4-8 PM at \*\*St. John's Lutheran Church\*\* Chaska, MN, and also one hour prior to the service at church. The inurnment will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery, Carver, MN. Honorary pallbearers will be Kenny Lebens, Jack Maertens, Todd Groskreutz, Jim Soller, Jim Dauwalter, Dan Lallak and Doug Lallak; also the Lenzen Golf Team. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. John's Lutheran School – playground fund.

John was born May 23, 1943 in Shakopee, MN, the youngest of 10 children to Ernst and Anna (Buckentine) Lenzen. He was baptized and confirmed at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Carver, and graduated from Chaska High School in 1961. John began his career in the automotive industry at the Lenzen Mobil Station, working his way on to Dauwalter Motors, Fleck Chevrolet Buick, Nelson Lenzen and in 1978 was proprietor of Lenzen Chevrolet Buick in Chaska. John was very active in his community and was a very integral member of many organizations. He was a 57 year member of the Chaska American Legion, Charter President of the Carver Lions, a 21 year member of the Carver Fire Department and its Second Alarm, former Mayor of Carver, MN, was on the finance board of Trinity Lutheran Church, President of Heartland Chevrolet Dealers, a member of the Klein Bank Board, the 100 club, the All for One Committee, and a very active member of St. John's – volunteering his time graciously and freely. He loved his family, hunting, fishing, spending time at his cabin on Big Sandy Lake in McGregor, MN, wintering in Texas and Arizona, and was a member of Dahlgren Golf Course. He was preceded in death by his parents, and siblings, Ernest, Annie Schlegelmilch, Lilian Stacey, Alvina Petroske, Joanne Drew, Eleanor Stauffenecker and Marion Deis.

Survivors include his loving wife, Ruth of Chaska; children, Jeff (Kirsten) Lenzen of Chaska, ( their children, Keenan, Ellianna and Tray), Jill (Scott) McGlothlin of Chaska (their children, Madison and Bennett), Natalie (Luke) Phillips of Virginia, Nicole Lenzen and special friend, Mason Kulics of Chaska; friend and past wife, Janice Wolff Lenzen; siblings, Donald (Carol) Lenzen of Florida, Donna Kloos of Chaska; many nieces and nephews, other relatives and many friends.”





FIRE DEPARTMENT  
& PUBLIC SERVICES

# OPEN HOUSE

04 OCTOBER 5:00-8:00 PM

Fire Truck Rides

**FREE Chili & Hot Dogs**

Community Safety Information

Meet your local firefighters & public workers

Join us!

Carver Fire Station

801 Jonathan Carver Parkway







# COUNTRY MARKET

**WEST UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**FOOD • CRAFTS • FALL DECOR**

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**SATURDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 9 AM - 2 PM**

**BREAKFAST:** MARY'S FAMOUS CINNAMON ROLLS & BREAKFAST BURRITOS

**LUNCH:** Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Corn

PUMPKINS & GOURDS | CORN STALKS | LOCAL VENDORS | ARTISTS CRAFTS  
HOMEMADE SALSA, JAM, & WINE | BAKE SALE! (A CHURCH BAKE SALE IS THE BEST KIND)  
BOUNCE HOUSE OBSTACLE COURSE | ICE CREAM



## **PRIZE DRAWING TICKETS \$5**

Choose your  
own adventure

- 7 night vacation stay in the U.S.
- By The Yard Gift Certificate
- \$100 Balance Life Gift Certificate

- Christmas Quilt
- Artisanal Crafted Table
- Cash Drawing



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**A MINISTRY FUNDRAISER OF WEST UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**15820 MARKET AVE, COLOGNE**



OCT  
23



# HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

**\*SPONSORED BY THE CARVER LIONS\***

**Downtown Carver, Sunday  
October 23rd from 1pm-3pm**

We are looking for businesses to participate in the annual Carver Lions Trunk or Treat! Please join us! Bring a vehicle (decorate it if you choose), dress up, have fun, and hand out treats to all of our little Trick or Treaters! We welcome all businesses to sign up. The generous donations from our community are what have made this event so much fun from year to year!

**JOIN US FOR FUN, GAMES AND PRIZES!**

*LLAMA'S - BOUNCE HOUSES - PRINCESS PHOTOS - HOT DOGS - COOKIES -  
HOT CHOCOLATE - GAMES - PRIZES - CANDY - CARVER FIRE DEPARTMENT -  
CARVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S MOUNTED POSSE AND DIVE TEAMS*

\*Email Kim if you'd like to join us or make a donation: [Kimberlywhaley14@gmail.com](mailto:Kimberlywhaley14@gmail.com)



## Night Marauders - River Wild Learning Center

"Territory," Rascal called as he came running down the path of the river bottoms. Raschevious, Bandee and Lavender all looked up to see the plump, fluffy raccoon approaching briskly.

"What's up Rascal?" Territory looked up asking.

"There's a group of kids with a lady coming over the dyke this way." He replied dropping down to catch his breath.

"Must be the new learning center teacher, Jessica." Territory stated smugly.

"Huh?" Lavender perked up.

"Yea well there's about seven kids and her coming this way." Rascal urgently said.

"She opened a preschool next to the gazebo in town." Territory astutely announced, continuing, "Named River Wild Learning Center."

"You know?" Raschevious questioned.

"Of course." Territory smirked.

"And you didn't share?" Raschevious spurned offended.

"Was waiting for the official notice." He lazily pronounced getting up to stretch. "Guess it's official now, isn't it?"

They all looked at him confused.

"Let's go get introduced?" Territory mused starting to waddle in the direction of the little intruders.

"Won't we scare the children?" Lavender asked puzzled.

"No, they are out exploring. We aren't going to go scaring them or even probably be seen. Just watch and listen on the sidelines." Territory deciphered interested in the situation.

He had heard that this Jessica was quite talented. She had taught school, ran a daycare and now was venturing into her own business of teaching children a non-traditional means of learning. She was licensed and obviously open for enrollment now. The last time they discussed her latest challenge he was quite impressed with her talents. She had told him that she couldn't wait to connect the children with nature, exploring and instill wonder, curiosity and joy to them in the learning aspect of teaching them. The was open to two and half year-olds to eleven for daily learning experiences or before and after school aged children.

The furry critters stealthily moved down the path until they heard Ms Jessica talking to the kids and they scurried into the bushes unseen and listened.

She told them, "We love adding new adventures. As we venture out and you encourage each other and look out for one another."

The little faces were looking all around at the trees, tall grass, gophers skittering away, looked up to see an eagle soaring high above. Their relationships were being bonded caring for one another and looking out for each other.

They continued walking as she told them, "Did you know that being in nature has so many health benefits?"

"Why is that Ms Jessica?" The little three-foot sandy blonde-haired boy asked her excitedly.

"Well let me tell you Billy, there is the physical activity and the less chance of germs when outdoors because you build a more robust immune system, you learn coordination, balance and are more agile learning to walk on uneven ground. You learn to concentrate and you focus on what there is to be seen." She explained.

The group headed down further the path of the river bottoms.

She asked them, "Did you know that children develop from the top down and inside out?"

"How's that?" The little bright eyed little girl with brown hair asked.

"Because it means that before your little fingers and hands are ready for writing, your shoulders and arms need to be fully developed and strengthened first." She told them concisely, "Like lifting heavy rocks and tossing them builds strong arms and shoulders along with the muscles inside. Digging in the sand builds strong hands and you feel the connections to what you touch."

She smiled at them inquisitively and proudly seeing their little minds processing the words.

She continued, "Even when you are playing, you are learning."

The group walked a little further exploring the terrain and the textures of the things around them.

"Today is one of our magical days that is made of for just you." She encouraged them.

"What's that?" The little boy with long black hair asked pointing to the scat and animal tracks.

"That's the droppings of the animals that live here after their stomach's digested the food that they ate?"

"Do you know what kind of animal?" Another little girl asked curling her nose up.

"Well, it could be from a coyote, a dog, cat, raccoon, squirrel, skunk, muskrat. I'm not sure." She didn't look too closely as she spoke.

"Look there's water here."

"It's called a creek." She pointed out.

"Can we throw rocks in it?"



She nodded. The rest of their outdoor exploration included racing leaves down the creek, watched minnows swimming, heard wood peckers nearby, chased butterflies, watched a red and gray squirrel stashing acorns and black walnuts in a hole in the trees. It was exhilarating to watch the wonder and discovery through their little eyes.

Later Territory, Raschevious, Rascal and Bandeet made their way into town to watch and listen to new teacher with the little ones at the small structure alongside the park where they heard her sharing stories, they journaled their adventures and sorted out their newfound rocks, leaves discarded treasures of plastic, glass and the like to make necklaces and chased rainbows formed through the prism of the crystals. They were happy, carefree, and learning all at the same time. They heard her tell a prospective parent, "I believe children need time and space to wonder, discover and experiment with new ideas. Sometimes the best learning happens when others just observe them quietly."

Another potential client stopped and they heard her tell them, "Like one of the Science author, Sandi Schwartz says, 'Studies show that when children have free play outdoors, they become better problem solvers and their creativity is enhanced. The outdoors challenges the mind constantly think in new ways'."

Still another comment dispersed was, "At River Wild, I strive to meet each child exactly where they are at and make learning a natural, everyday occurrence. So natural that the children don't even realize they are learning."

Another question was tossed out, "Why should your learning center be chosen?"

"It is our belief that following the research in brain development that children learn best through play and active engagement with their environment and peers. Nature helps to develop social, emotional skills and learning something joyful. This is a lifelong benefit. We believe in building a solid foundation for learning that academic skills are based upon. The belief that educating the whole person and meeting children just exactly where they are." She designated seriously.

"What makes River Wild Different then?" Came another question.

"Because I believe and love to follow the research on building brains and bodies to get children ready not just for kindergarten but for life. Build strong, nurturing relationships that help strengthen learning, curiosity and joy!" adding, "One of my favorite sayings is that "Before you ever put a pencil in a child's hands, those hands should dig, climb, press, pull, squish, twist and pinch in a wide array of environments and with a variety of materials."