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November / December 2022

Number Three Hundred Eighty- Nine



2023 Fee Schedule

The Finance Director discussed with the council the 2023 Fee Schedule established for the upcoming year whereupon the council adopts an ordinance establishing fees after review and proposed changes to include rental feels, utility rates, license and permit fees. Restructuring rental fees was one of the topics reviewed in the past. The council reviewed the drafted schedule. The next step is to schedule a Public Hearing. Consideration is being given for adoption of the Fee Schedule by ordinance setting fees to take effect January 1st, 2023.

Panhandling Regulations
The council reviewed the memo from the city attorney relating to the city regulation of panhandling. The topic has become a complicated regulatory issue facing cities presently. Legal concerns arise in attempts to regulate. There are existing laws utilized to curtail what's labeled as unwanted behaviors associated with panhandling. Traditionally, panhandling is viewed as an act of requesting money for things of value from passersby's in a public place. Cities have the authority to reasonably regulate time, place and manner of activities but cannot run afoul of the Constitution. The primary argument utilized and challenged on the grounds they interfere with the First Amendment, one's right to free speech. Any ordinance aimed at addressing the issue requires careful drafting ensuring that it does not infringe on First Amendment rights. Should pursual of adopting an ordinance be chosen and similar to forms used in other community there is no guarantee it would survive legal challenge while at the same time other cities have successfully enforced similar ordinances without pushback.

Utilities Ordinance Amendment

The City Manager discussed the Utilities Ordinance Amendment concerning the methodologies utilized by cities determining local connection fees pertaining to receipt of sanitary sewer services from the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services. The city uses the Seer Availability Charge as a means to determine local municipal utilities connections charges. The proposed ordinance amendment provides alignment of the city's policy for charges involving outdoor dining areas by removing this issue from the local fee calculation. Additionally, the proposed language is also amended removing restrictions limiting the city's decision-making authority. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the ordinance amending the city code regarding municipal utilities connection

Right of Way Ordinance Amendment

The City Manager provided information for the proposed amendment to the Right of Way Ordinance. The amendment replaces the current process of the practice by the staff to perform tree limb maintenance. Staff would continue communicating plans performing tree limb maintenance in right of way. The tree limb trimming is for safety purposes. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the ordinance regarding tree limbs in the Right of

"Looking for something positive in each day, even if someday you have to look a little harder."

~Brian Ford

Mizzy's Pizza

The Community Development Director reviewed the Special Assessment Agreement with Mizzy's Pizza with the council relating to the municipal utilities' connection fees. The agreement allows the business to pay the fee over a period of ten years without percent interest. This agreement would also be recorded with the county to be attached with the property should ownership transfer in the future. Question was asked why the city is entering into the agreement at zero percent interest. The Sewer Availability Charge determination came back from the Met Council.

This was an unsettling determination of the opinion that the city was being cut short and setting a precedence. The topic of bankruptcy was addressed. If the property were to go into tax forfeiture, the assessments would be wiped out. Property would return to private ownership whereupon the city reassesses for the assessments previously levied. There is an inherent risk doing special assessments but also options under state law to reassess. City manager stated that her city typically charges the prime rate plus two percent to cover city's bonding costs. This project does not have any bonding costs; rather fees to be paid, therefore there is no revenue loss for extending. Statement was given that the fees could be an obstruction to proceed with the development, the project could not then move forward, the city would receive zero dollars in connection fees, therefore, the agreement was a means to close the gap for the development team. Since there is not any bonds, the interest rate is essentially null. The city is not borrowing money to fund anything for this project, therefore there are not any costs to the city. Question was asked if the city would be establishing a criteria for these types of assessments. The attorney pointed out that these policies are a good idea. The staff would consider the Long-Term Financial Plan when recommending criteria for the policy. The policy would also be useful for future businesses. These are policy decisions at the discretion of the council. Residents want amenities. In the past programs were created to provide discounted fees for housing. The challenge with this particular assessment agreement is the lack of criteria and the equity. In the future, the council may wish to explore establishing criteria for future projects. An amendment to the ordinance will be required. The attorney would draft said document. Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving the assessment agreement with Mizzy's Pizza.

Carver Creek Place

The City Attorney updated the council regarding the abandoned/ hazardous structure on Carver Creek Place. The process serve has been unable to locate the property owners and the skip tracing efforts have been unsuccessful.

State Statute provides an alternate method of service when property owners cannot be located. An order is required to be posted on the front door of the structure, and the order must be published in the City's newspaper for four consecutive weeks. Building Official Jorgenson has placed the order on the property. Service of the order is deemed effective. The next step is waiting for a response to the lawsuit. If there is no response, paperwork will be filed with the District Court to seek remedy of the situation which will potentially demolish the structure. Every necessary step to locate the property owners has been done. After the judge grants permission for demolition, the city will have the authority to hire a contractor. Any costs associated with the city's actions will then be assess to the property. The city manager stated that the quote to abate hazardous materials and demolish the building would be brought before the council for approval.

City Election Results

The City of Carver held a special meeting to certify the election results for 2022. The final decision by voter resulted in Mayor, fouryear term, Courtney Johnson elected. City councilors elected were for four-year term, two elected and they were Erik Perschmann and Laurie Sayre. Congratulations to the winners. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the resolution canvassing the returned of the elections.

Dahlgren Township Election Results

The Dahlgren Township Board canvassed the votes from the election with the following results. Jeff Thompson declared Supervisor for a four-year term and Mary Olson was declared elected Clerk for a four-year term. Congratulations.

Eastern Carver County School Board

The elected school board members for the Eastern Carver County
Schools are Tim Kline, Jennifer Stone, Ellie Krug and Joe Scott. Congratulations.

Flood Plain Ordinance

The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing relating to the Flood Plain Ordinance regarding proposed changes to the ordinance. The changes address update to the floodplain management requirements. The Public Hearing was opened and there were not any public comments received. Motion was made and carried with all ayes recommending approval that the City of Carver council adopt staff findings and amend the Flood Plain Ordinance as presented.

Certification of Delinguent Bills

The Finance Director discussed with the council the mater of Certification of Delinquent Bills. A motion was necessary adopting a resolution accepting and certifying the assessment roll for delinquent utility bills and city services bills for costs provided in response to public nuisance abatements. Recognizing financial impact related to Covid, disconnection activities associated with delinquent utility accounts had been suspended. Then the certification process began. The same process continued in 2022. Additionally, to delinquent utility bills, the city considered certification of delinquent city service bills. The staff has continued working to collect unpaid bills. A Public Hearing notice was forwarded to affected property owners. Proposed amounts will be certified to the Auditor of this year for collection with 2023 property taxes. Payments made after the given date on delinquent charged will be required to be made to the county Property Tax Department.

Tire Department Retirement Program

The City Manager presented information relating to the Carver Fire Relief's existing pension program pertaining to the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan and recommendations from the benefits analysis. The Fire Chief and Relief Association representatives were present at the meeting to answer related questions anyone had. Details were presented, reviewed, shared interest in proceeding with transitioning to the Statewide Volunteer Program through Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). The Carver Fire Relief Association will be holding a special board meeting to consider adoption of the resolution in support of the change to the SVF Plan. The council also giving consideration of adoption of enrolling in the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan through the Public Employees Retirement Association. The existing retirement program is operated by the Relief Association and managed with assistance of a third-party investor advisor. The Relief Association operates a pension fund, via a Special Fun serving as the mechanism to distribute retirement and other benefits. Operating a General Fund used to distribute funds as stipulated in the by-laws. This transition would remove the formal obligation to manage pension funds. The city acts as the primary decision maker and relies on the PERA and State Bord of Investment to appropriately and effectively manage and distribute the funds. For the transition to occur, both the city and the Fire Relief Board of Directions must adopt a resolution approving the enrollment and transition.

"Every day is a second chance"

Disclaimer

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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. 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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South West Transit

You heard about Southwest's newest offer right? Called SW Perks, it's a rewards program. Riders earn points for riding their express service,



along with SW Prime. The bus company has again partnered with the MN Landscape Arboretum to provide shuttle service from the East Creek Station in Chaska to the Arboretum on Friday, Saturday and Sundays for the Winter Lights show presented. The first bus departs at 4:45 PM running continuously throughout the night until 10 PM. Need more details? Visit their website and check it out. <u>www.swtransit.org</u>.

Be sure to check their other offerings, as well.

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 usually meet every third Friday but their December meeting has been cancelled.



Carver Lions

Your local Lions are busy with the Holiday season and their own families but always seem to find time for their community. The Lions never stop volunteering or thinking about others, you know. Their meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the City Hall. They are presently busy

preparing for the Senior Citizens Luncheon set to happen on December 14th at the Village Hall, but I am getting ahead of myself. Well, might as well finish now, huh? Reservations are required by December 3rd which is next Saturday. Call Sandy at 952-826-2655 and reserve your seat. Also see insert at the back for more information. Then there's Santa's scheduled arrival at the Village Hall next Saturday too. Insert also in the back for more details. The fun starts at 1 PM.

The Lions would also like to extend their thanks and appreciation to everyone for participating in their Brunch. It was considered a huge success thanks to everyone involved, including the hungry crowds! Hey, you also heard about the donation the Lions made to the Fire Department? They donated Jaws-of-Life! How cool is that huh? Thank you. Training it was said to be fun by the firefighters on Facebook Fully geared up and played Pickle Ball too. What would you do without them Carver Lions huh? Thanks.

They Carver Lions also extend Merry Christmas, Happy New Year cheers to all!

Trinity Lutheran Church

Submitted by Michelle:

Please join us for our weekly Advent worship services as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Emmanuel on Wednesdays at 7 pm, November 30 through



December 14. This Advent we will be looking at the Symbols of Salvation and how, from early in the Old Testament, Christ's coming was foretold.

Celebrate the birth of Jesus with us at our Christmas Eve service at 5:30 PM, Dec. 24^{th} and our Christmas Day service at 10:00 AM.

We also welcome you to attend our weekly Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 8:45 AM and our Worship Service at 10 AM.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 417 Oak Street, Carver, MN 55315

Office: 952.448.3628

Email: office@trinitycarver.com Website: www.trinitycarver.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchCarver

Chaska Valley Family Theatre

The Chaska Valley Family Theatre is preparing for the December presentation and performances of the Elf, The Musical. They will have their opening production on December 2nd through December 11th and tickets are available on their website, www.cvft.org.



Coming in spring 2023 is the presentation of Big Fish. Coming in the summer of 2023 is Matilda.

— Sever's Holiday Lights

Have you heard all the advertisement about Sever's? The holiday lights show has opened over on Highway # 169 towards Jordan or if you are coming from the other direction (south that is



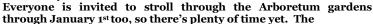
) then it is towards Shakopee. I know, very funny. It's open, the 2022 season for the Sever's Light Show. The property is all lit up with over 250,000 plus lights to create a magical display for the 'ooh's and ahs" of those who are uplifted to watch the twinkling, sparkling and mesmerizing little, big and tiny bulb not to mention the wide-eyed opening of the young and old who come and see. You can get tickets on line at www.seversfestivals.com.

"Holiday light display dances in time to the best songs of the season, and with festive food and drink vendors. It's pretty much guaranteed to be merry." They invite you to "pile into the car - this is one show everyone will want to see." It's open until January 1st.

MN Qandscape

*Grbore*tum

Then there's the light show over at the MN Landscape Arboretum you can't really miss either.



"Gardens are decked out in Winter Lights. Enjoy fresh air as you explore outdoor light displays, highlighting flowers, trees and the beauty of nature on a .75-mile walking route. See the new sixteenfoot weeping willow tree and walk through the giant apple, which pays tribute to our Horticultural Research Center's apple research. Stop by S'mores village to warm up near a fire and buy s'mores kits to roast marshmallows."

What a good way to impress that someone special? Or show that partner that you do pay attention to what they like and you don't. Or how about just because I knew you wanted to see thought process? Go on, buy those tickets and prepare for a special bonus with the one you love, or at least tell them you do. (The devil made me do it.)

you love, or at least tell them you do. (The devil made me do it.) Then you can also visit the "Oswald Visitor Center and Snyder Building which will also be decorated for the season. We're delighted to announce the return of our twenty-five-foot Poinsettia Tree, created using more than five hundred red, white and pink poinsettias. You might also hear holiday tunes from local performers from our live Music Series, offered on select nights." There are also special theme nights available along with photographers. Hey there will also be date nights for adults and a New Year's Eve celebration for all ages. Not too soon to start

planning before everyone is all full and reservations are full. Go on, risk it. One never knows what bonus or rewards you will achieve thinking about another. Call and get your tickets.

Glow Holiday Festival

Speaking of lights, want to venture further outside than Carver County boundaries? How about the Glow Holiday Festival? What? When? Where? It's at CHS Field, no



not Chaska High School, downtown St Paul. Tickets are on sale now. It opened this weekend and runs through, that's right, January 1st. You are invited to get up close and personal with their new expanded exhibits. Over a million lights, sElfie Plaza, Enchanted Forest, Bright Bikes, Tremendous Tree the GLOW Spectacular and more is what their website reads.

Check it out, <u>www.glowholiday.com</u>. They called it a winter wonderland and "The elves have a lot up their sleeves this year with new exhibits and, of course, tons of lights to make your holiday shiny & bright. See what else we have in store for you!"

Last year it was held at the state fairgrounds and was drive-thru. Also found on the internet that the first Festival was held in 2006 in the Dutch city of Eindhoven. Who would have known? Oh, our fascination with small, sparkly, twinkling lights huh?

Holidazzle

Holidazzle is back at Loring Park in Minneapolis too for 2022. It has officially opened and can be visited weekends through December 18th. What is Holidazzle you ask? It's a downtown Minneapolis holiday tradition creating a community gathering place and holiday destination for people of all ages to come together and celebrate winter. Holidazzle



focuses on featuring local people, places and products that showcase the local foods, art, active lifestyle, local entertainers and community groups tht make the city and region unique and special is what their website says. You go see it and be the judge. They have fireworks too. Visit their website for full details. There is something

for everyone. www.holidazzle.com

Christmas Tree Lightings

Carver had their 6th Annual Christmas tree lighting for the 2022 year. It was quaint, cozy and nice, in case you missed it.

Next weekend, yes, I'm pushing my luck here, Saturday, December 3rd over in Chanhassen, they will have their Christmas Tree lighting festivity for anyone interested. Didn't do lot of exploring of local areas. Sunday, December 4th over in Chaska as the

Firemen's Park will be Chaska's tree lighting event. Their fun is scheduled to begin at 6 PM and end at 7:30 PM. Santa is visiting inside the Event Center at 6:15 PM until 7:30 PM. Come and enjoy some cookies, hot cocoa and you can also create a holiday craft.

Holiday Concert

There has been a lot of talk about he Brueskes, a brother and sister duo. A concert is planned on Saturday, December 17th from 4 PM to 5 PM at the theater in the Chaska Convention Center presenting the Brueskes who will be offering a nostalgic Christmas show with classic songs and carols. The concert is said to combine light harmonies and lush piano tunes, along with an upright bass solos to tell stories of Christmas past. Rumor is that there will also be crafters at the show too.

Holiday Movie Night

How about a holiday movie night? Sound like fun? Come and see Happy Feet Two which will be playing at the Event Center in downtown Chaska on Sunday, December 18th at 4 PM until 6:30 PM. Popcorn will be available, along with water but you have to bring your own chairs or blankets. Sound like something you would be interested in?



"Leaders who refuse to listen eventually end up being surrounded by those who have nothing to say."

~Andy Stanley

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, December 8th through the 11th. Looking for that one of a kind special Christmas gift for that special person, heads up, stop over in Carver for the shop's venues of goodies. The perfect place to find that perfect gift, remember. Can't be duplicated.

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

Ripple Art Studio & Gallery - FB The Good Junk Garage – Facebook Temperance Arts &t Gifts – Facebook The Funky Dove – Facebook

Strive Nutrition - Carver - Facebook



Anyone recognize where this is from or what it was? Hint: 4th St East & Broadway

Funky Dove

Looking for that one of a kind, can't get anywhere else gift for that someone special? You are in luck, stop on over to the Funky Dove in Carver, right on Broadway Street. There are lots of gifts, novelties, unique and can't be bought anywhere else vibes. Not to mention the beautiful, charming and gregarious owner who will just brighten your day with her vivacious smile. Go, hurry, check her out, see what she has that you have to have and need. Go ahead, treat yourself and buy that beautiful jewelry to wrap for yourself to open Christmas morning. I dare you... There is a kid's corner with stocking stuffers, a small men's section, gifts for teens to grandmas too. There are 8 artists from Carver County with items for sale ranging from woodwork to crochet to gemstone wire wrapping to liquid art to handmade candles. The shop is very festive for Christmas & is full of fun & beautiful things! Open every weekend!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Carver General

You know where else you can find those unique, no one else can duplicate gifts? That's right, stop over at the Carver General on Third Street and don't forget to pop in next door too at the Good Junk Garage next door. I'll bet you can even complete your Christmas list all in one stop? How about it? Ann and Brenda are smiling, full of good cheer and ready to help you find that stubborn gift you just can't put your finger on!

SouthWest Metro

Holiday Market

Happy Holidays from all the small businesses in Carver!



Santa

Speaking of Christmas and then we think of Santa Claus. Remember he will be in Carver on Saturday, December 3rd. Friday on the second of December, he will be over at the Chaska Convention Center in the Brick City Banquet Room at 4:30 PM until 6"30 PM. Fee of \$ 10 per family will be necessary. Contact the center for more information, 952-227-7742. There will be crafts music and photo opportunities.

Carver Village Hall Events

Already covered the appearance of Santa and the Senior Citizens Luncheon, but there is more. Did you hear about Coffee, Cards and Conversation held at the Village Hall? You haven't. "Well get with the program girl." Thursday, December 8th come on over to the

hall, it's the second Thursday of the month from 1 PM until 3 PM. Play cards, talk and enjoy refreshments. Be sure to drop in for a fun afternoon. This will also be held January 12th, February 9th and March 9th. See ya' there!

Then there is the SouthWest Metro Holiday Market planned for Saturday, December 10th. Another chance to do some holiday shopping. Discover twenty vendors of local foods, arts and crafts in Carver. They said that they will have an excellent gift for everyone on your list. This is happening at 1 PM until 5 PM.

"The truth is, everyone is going to hurt you. You just got to find the ones worth suffering for."

~ BOB MARLEY-

HomeTown Holiday

Another tree lighting. This time it's over in the City Square in downtown Chaska at their HomeTown Holiday celebration. When? Saturday, December 3rd at 3 PM

until 5 PM. There will also be horse drawn carriage rides, holiday llamas, music, and yep, Santa is going to be there for the tree lighting at five. So much more at local shops. Also, over at the Historical Society, which opens at noon will be presenting historical information on the carriage rides. Over at the Leion the Auxiliary is having a silent auction, food, bake sale, gift card raffle and live music.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Villager Tower:



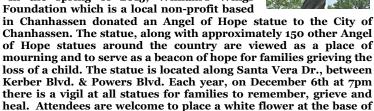
I am sending you all a hug as it's the perfect gift.
It's free!
One size fits all...and it can be easily returned.

Williams Wings

Tuesday, December 6th at 7 PM until 7:30 PM will be the 2nd Annual Angel of Hope vigil at 841 Santa Vera Drive in Chanhassen.

"In the spring of 2015, William's Wings Foundation which is a local non-profit based

the statue to remember a loved one.



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

William Douglas Luecke, the perfect blessing from God, was born June 10, 2011 to Todd and Misty Luecke of Chanhassen. William gained his heavenly wings on February 27, 2012 when he passed away peacefully in his sleep.

For additional, and ongoing information on the statue and foundation please visit the webpage or Facebook by searching William's Wings online. Contact can be made through email at info@williamswings.org."

Holiday Concert

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at the theather in the Chaska Convention Center presenting the Brueskes who will be offering a nostalgic Christmas show with classic songs and carols. The concert is said to combine light harmonies and lush piano tunes, along with an upright bass solos to tell stories of Christmas past. Rumor is that there will also be crafters at the show too.

East Union Qutheran Church

The East Union congregation is gathering to create angel and gnome ornaments at the Parish Center on December 3rd at 10 AM. Donation is requested to cover costs of material. Everyone is welcome to come and visit or create. Coffee will be on!

The Sundy School Christmas Program with the Sunday School Youths will be presenting their annual Christmas Program on December 18th during worship.

Everyone is invited home for the Holidays Christmas Worship. Will be celebrating Jesus' birth on December 24th at 4 PM and at 5:30 PM. Worship on Sunday will be at 10 AM on December 25th.

Heads up for the future. Silent Auction donations are in the forecast for the Spaghetti Dinner planned for February 11th, 2023.

West Union Gutheran Church

West Union Christmas Eve Worship will be at 4 PM and 8 PM. Christmas Day worship is scheduled to occur at 10 AM.





Carver Baseball Softball Hssociation

The Carver Baseball Softball Association has updates coming. Watch for news.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

Clover Ridge

For anyone who hasn't heard, it's kinda' a big deal. At least, I think it is. The Clover Ridge Elementary is representing Minnesota in Washington DC. For more, the Eastern Carver County Schools website has it posted with submissions to view if you are interested.

'Clover Ridge Elementary was selected to represent the State of Minnesota with the annul America celebrates

ornament program; an annual collaboration of the National Park Service, the US Department of Education and the National Park Foundation.

"Fourth and fifth-grade students had an opportunity outside of school to design ornaments that will represent Minnesota. Some chose state representation such as the state bird (Loon) and state flower (Lady Slipper), while others choose landmarks, such as the Stone Arch Bridge or the Spoon and Cherry Statue. From the submissions, eighteen ornaments from Clover Ridge were selected and will adorn one of the fifty-eight trees, one for each state or US Territory that surround the National Christmas Tree. The public park lies blocks away from the White House in Washington DC.

"The National Christmas Tree and the fifty-eight trees' ornaments will be on display from December 2nd through January 1st, 2023. Can't make it in person? Check out the President's Park Facebook page for photos of the ornaments! In partnership with National Park Foundation, CBS will broadcast the 2022 ceremony on Sunday, December 11th (7 - 8 PM) on CBS. The National Christmas Tree Lighting will also be available for the public at CBS.com beginning

December 12th."

December 3rd

Community Highlights December 1st

Happy 18th Birthday Chelsea! Santa – Carver Village Hall

December 4th **Happy Birthday Patty!** Happy Birthday Shayla! December 5th

Council Meeting School Board Meeting

December 6th **Angel of Hope Vigil Happy Birthday Tommy!** December 8th **Occasional Shops Sales**

December 9th Happy Birthday Katelyn! December 10th Happy Birthday John! **Happy Birthday Cody!**

Carver Elementary PTO Meeting December 12th **Dahlgren Township Board Meeting**

December 13th **Heritage Preservation Meeting Meet and Greet**

December 14th **Senior Citizens Luncheon** Happy Birthday Aletta!

December 15th **Planning Commission Meeting** Decembe4 17th Happy Anniversary Ken and Carol!

December 18th **Hanekkuh Begins** December 19th **Council Meeting** Happy Birthday Jim! December 21st First Day of Winter

Happy Birthday Destini! Happy Birthday Riley! December 22nd Winter Break - No School

December 24th **Christmas Eve** December 25th **Christmas Day** December 26th **Kwanzaa Begins**

Happy Birthday Mike! December 27th Happy Anniversary Norm and Sue! December 28th Happy Birthday Linda Rose! December 29th **Happy Birthday Miranda!**

Happy Birthday Sharon! New Year's Eve

December 31st Happy Birthday Stephanie!

"Dreams shed light on the dim places where reason itself has yet to voyage."

~ Iordan Peterson











December 2022

Schram Haus Brewery

You heard about the Holiday Market over at the Schram Haus Brewery on Sunday, December 4th starting at 1 PM until 4 PM. This is an annual Holiday Haus Market. There are plenty of local vendors scheduled to be at the brewery, Laketown Soaps, Flour Power Cookies, The Mischief Maker, The Enchanted Trunk, just to mention a few. Come and check it out. This is a free event but for just \$5 you can receive beer samplings and be entered in to the event's raffle!



Then be sure to go over and check out the brewery on Saturday, December 17th. "Everyone's favorite holiday event is back and better than ever!" Schram's Marketing Director says. Expect to see Carlson's Lovable Llama's, live performance by The Tuxedo Band at 6 PM until 9 PM, new beer release: 'Ye Old Ale', Sunny Days Food Truck at noon until 9 PM and don't forget plenty of craft beer.

2022 Sixth Annual Tree Lighting

By: Ricki Yvonne

Air is cool, smell of wood burning in the distance permeates the nostrils pungently. The sun is setting in the west and people are walking enjoying the unusual warmer November dusk. Some are hand in hand, some just strolling along, walking dogs, some embracing cherishing the affection they feel for one another. Kids racing around to burn off all that excess energy. The waters in the areas are calm and cold. Cars race by to reach their destinations where that is. Nature at its best. Calm, tranquil and relaxing.

Soon the crowds will gather for the 6th Annual Tree Lighting in the small, quaint, quiet, four-block long stretch of the small village. One wouldn't think it was any big deal but for some it is highlight to ring in that tradition conceived not so long ago about how neat it would be to begin this tradition for it to live on hopefully into the future and for a long time. What began as a small tree in the center of the Gazebo to a small tree planted just for this event to the left of the structure complimenting its charm and allure. Now onto a tree part of the ever growing expanding downtown small parcel of a park once bare and barren of purpose covered in weeds and long over grown grass. Now a gathering manicured space with beautiful huge tress providing shade, comfort, and sometimes a much-needed breeze. The wooden Gazebo as it's focal point to the back complete with benches to rest the weary bones and contemplate the sentiment radiating from it's beauty and quality. A restful, peaceful, quiet space for reflection. Usually a quiet, lonely empty space that people momentarily stop to admire but more often just to walk past and not absorb its richness of beauty or manifestations it has to offer, if only you take a moment to just take it in.

Soon, however, young, old, middle-aged, single, married and the presenters who organized this festive event begin to filter into the emptiness to fill it with life, celebrate, share and bring life to the small usually vacant area, if not to generate warmth, happiness and above all to kick-off the holiday season still again. The simple act of lighting the now small Christmas tree growing ever so tactfully planted not so long ago just for this festive occasion. The once dark, lonely bleak space that will soon be radiated with bright, colorful strands of lights. And not just on the little tree but all about the small block of trees, gazebo and the street lights bringing life to the darkness, warmth to the cold and a sense of belonging for so many reminding everyone of the joy of the season to greet, reflect, recall and celebrate. Music will fill the air, crackling of the small fire pit to roast s'more's for those attending, all to make it cozier, warmer and welcoming. Hot chocolate, coffee to be shared that someone took the time to prepare to ward off the cold, lonely hearts with warm cheer and happiness willing to share with total strangers. Smiles galore to be spread throughout. Those are free, you know, by the way, the smiles.

Seems loke no big deal but it really is. If you have never participated you have been cheated, you have cheated yourself of a very small portion of the giving that occurs so little these days. It's a big deal to those who took the time to plan, prepare and execute. It's a big deal to those who took the time to go down and participate in such a simple, delightful festivity. It's one of those things in life we either take for granted, ignore or rush past and miss all together and never truly understand the meaning of what it's like to belong.



