

Volume 96969696 I

June / July 2023

Number Three Hundred Ninety-Six



Alba Quinn

Mayor Courtney's Message

Greetings!

As I mentioned in my February update, earlier this spring City staff, Council and I started the work on our Strategic Plan. The results of this biennial exercise serve as the roadmap for our work.

We started off by refreshing the City's mission statement to "With a foundation of community, integrity and stewardship we are committed to serving current and future residents, businesses and organizations in the City of Carver." Additionally, our values are pulled directly from the mission statement and focus on:

Community - We are committed to efforts that foster housing choice, promote business development and encourage a sense of pride and spirit in the City of Carver.

Integrity - We are committed to delivering services and managing public processes that are high-quality, transparent, ethical, respectful and demonstrate accountability to residents and businesses in the City of Carver.

Stewardship - We are committed to investing, sustaining and planning for community assets and resources that best meet the needs of current and future residents and businesses in the City of Carver.

The approach we took to crafting the Strategic Plan was a bit different than the other times I've participated in this exercise. Not only does this Plan cover a longer time period, but it's also more strategic and metric-based, versus being purely tactical.

The five areas of greatest importance to the City of Carver make up the Plan's strategic priorities. They are:

Enhanced Financial Strength – a financially responsible organization.

Improved Operations – an organization that delivers results.

Responsive Development – development that meets community needs.

Stable Infrastructure Systems – safe, reliable infrastructure.

Focused Communications – a transparent, responsive government.

Under each strategic priority are desired outcomes, key outcome indicators and performance targets which describe expected results and information on how the results will be measured. Additionally, there are a number strategic initiatives under each strategic priority, which are designed to help us reach the desired outcomes of our Strategic Plan.

There are numerous additional details to the 2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan. So many, in fact, that it's hard to summarize it all here. Because of that, I encourage you to read the full plan. Paper copies are available at City Hall and you can access the online version here: <https://www.cityofcarver.com/340/Strategic-Action-Plan>

As you will see, the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan contains a number of very specific metric-based goals. Many of these goals are what I'd refer to as "stretch" goals - They won't be easy to accomplish, but we have processes in place to measure our progress against on these big hairy audacious goals.

We started our work on the Strategic Plan in February and officially approved by Council last month. It was a time and labor intensive process, but I'm really happy with the finished product!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the Strategic Plan or any other topic, as always, please don't hesitate to reach out. I look forward to hearing from you!

Mayor Courtney Johnson

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2024 Long Term Financial Plan

The Finance Director discussed with the council the Long Term Financial Plan kick-off at a work session meeting. The purpose of the plan was to refresh the 2023 plan and continue guidance moving forward. Questions reviewed included if there should be additional issues not previously discussed; the biggest challenge of the current plan; and any additional comments to be shared with the staff. The 2024 work plan outline involved a new vendor, Northland Securities, going from a five year to a ten year plan, review existing plan regarding Capital Assets/Improvements and review operating components.

Public Services Equipment Certificate

The Public Services Director discussed at a work session with the council the Public Services Equipment Certificate. He reviewed equipment needs, equipment functions and justification, as well as the financial impact. The inventory of equipment was reviewed along with issues with some of the equipment. Plow routes were looked at along with equipment lead times, Long Term Plan and equipment certificate costs and financing were also assessed.

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."

— Mark Twain

Large Events Ordinance

The City Attorney discussed at a work session the updated drafted ordinance pertaining to regulating large events. A discussion along providing additional direction with the staff were discussed, as well. Large events held in the city require expenditure of significant public resources such as special services, road closures, parking accommodations and insurance coverage costs. There is also the impact of overall health, safety and welfare of the community both positively and negatively. Therefore delegating the necessity for an ordinance regulating large events as a priority in the city's Strategic Plan. After much discussion and adjustments, adding, subtracting and seeking hypothetical event scenarios, the presentation of the updated draft was presented for further review and discussion. Recommendation consensus was to move forward with finalization for adoption of the ordinance. The final version of the ordinance relating large event was presented to the council for consideration of adoption. Motion was made and carried with four ayes and one nay approving the ordinance created for the city code pertaining to large event permitting. Motion was made and carried approving the resolution authorizing summary publication of the said ordinance with four ayes and one nay.

"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."

— Oscar Wilde

County Road # 40 Corridor Planning

The City Manager discussed the County Road # 40 Corridor Planning topic with the council at a work session with previous discussion for the purpose of reviewal. A process for forming a Task Force, the objectives and Proposes Study Schedule were all discussed.

Miscellaneous

The infrastructure trunk service area was updated by the Community Development Director. Information will continue to be circulated with other governmental factions.

Trail System Mapping and Signage upgrades were discussed with the council at a council meeting regarding the city's receipt of a Statewide Health Improvement Grant. The money would be utilized to install signs highlighting the city's trail system. These signs would also include a QR code that links to the city's website and a full trail map with details. There are six trial loops identified. Maps are also available at the city hall. Information would be included in the city's newsletter and on social media sites.

The council discussed the fireworks display contract for Steamboat Days. The city needed to approve the execution of the contract. The fireworks show is one of the highlights for the event and traditionally occurs in Riverside Park on Saturday evening of the weekend event. This year the event will occur on Saturday, September 9th. The event will be produced and performed under the direct supervision of Spark1 Inc.

An event called Yard and Garden Organic Waste Event was recently organized held by the Public Services group. It was relayed to the council that eighty-nine vehicles participated in the event.

Levee Project

The federal grant agreement for the certified levee project was discussed at a council meeting with the Assistant City Engineer. The grant received was a lot of money but still not enough to start a construction project at this point. Application has already been submitted for 2024 federal funds. This money will be available to the city until 2030. Motion was made and carried with all ayes authorizing execution of the FY 2022 Community Project Funding Grant Agreement with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Levy Improvement Project.

Oak Street Lift Station

The Public Services Director updated the council at the council meeting regarding issues of mechanical failures. New pumps were required to replace faulty ones. A lengthy discussion was held on the issue, the pumps, services, alerts, etc. Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving quotes to MN Pump Works for specified repairs.

Solicitation Ordinance

The City Attorney discussed the amendments to the ordinance pertaining to regulating Peddlers, Solicitors, Transient Merchants and Mobile Food Units. Most cities impose regulations on solicitations by individuals. For general consensus it is prudent to regulate these activities and the city to express statutory authority while at the same time must be reasonable and cannot violate protected rights. The city's current ordinance imposes very few regulations on these businesses, along with lacking some critical necessary language for ample enforcement. Currently regulation of mobile food units require a permit. The proposed ordinance incorporates important code updates and standards for the regulation of peddlers, solicitors and transient merchants. The drafted ordinance had been discussed previously to great lengths. Presentation of the finalized ordinance for consideration was forwarded to the council along with authorization resolution for publication. Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving the ordinance amending city code regarding peddlers, solicitors, transient merchants and mobile food units. Motion was made and carried approving the resolution authorizing summary publication of the said ordinance.

"If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals."

— J.K. Rowling

Municipal State Aid Street System

The Assistant City Engineer recapped previous conversations relating to the Mutual State Aid Street System revision issue. As part of system maintenance, annual reviews are completed by the city engineer to certify current street mileage and then revise routes within the system as needed to optimize needs and funding. The system revision currently proposed is the addition of County Road # 40 turnback route to the city's MSA system which was currently executed with the county. Upon receipt of final approvals from the Commissioner of Transportation after submittal of the final signed resolution for system revision. Then the city engineer will include this route in the 2023 State Aid needs calculation. The route will additionally be reflected in the 2024 State Aid funding allocations. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the resolution establishing the Municipal State Aid Streets in the City of Carver.

Emergency Response Plan

The Public Utilities Emergency Response plan concept was the result of the water pressure issues experienced previously. Debriefing identified the necessity for stronger protocols for responses for these types of issues. The staff put together a plan for the city to review.

Annual Water Report

The Strategic Plan included the development of a Water Guide. This guide includes frequently asked questions, billing information, meter reading, conservation tips and more. The guide was put before the council for their review. Feedback from the council will be incorporated into an updated version.

Sheriff's Office

Work with the Carver County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) will continue with identification of ways filling current areas of gaps pertaining to law enforcement coverage. Part of this will include looking into sharing options with other cities.

Cross-Department Teams Strategy

Finance, Parks, Public Utilities, Public Services & Engineering, Leadership, Training, Planning and Development, Safety, Support Services, and Sunshine Squad. Rather than individual departments meetings, the City is moving toward some cross-department meetings. The Parks team recently met and will be discussing park related issues affecting other departments, as well. The Parks Team discussed the maintenance expectations of Riverside Park. The focus was on landscape areas within the city.

Mizzy's Pizza

The Community Development Director discussed the grant application relating to Mizzy's Pizza. The council was to review a resolution regarding authorizing application to the Carver County Community Development Agency for Mizzy's Pizza. The grant program identified as the Community Growth Partnership Initiative for projects within the county. The city is required to be the applicant to the CDA act as a conduit for the grant funds to the business. The city needed to authorize this action.

Decorative Railing

The City Manager discussed with the council the topic of decorative railing at US 212 and Jonathan Carver Parkway bridge site. Previously this idea had been looked at and the initially MnDOT rejected the city's request. After a combination of additional meetings, and design revisions led to MnDOT issuing a permit for the improvement. The logo and lettering which will be black meets MnDOT's specifications to be visible from eastbound US 212 and Jonathan Carver Parkway. Fabrication and installation of the railing anticipated to take twelve to fourteen weeks. The railing would be paid for with the Special Capital Funds.

City Hall

The council reviewed the city hall hours and decision was made for seasonal hours which will start on June 12th of 2023 where the City Hall hours will be Monday through Thursday from 7 AM until 4:30 PM. Friday hours will be 7 AM until 11 AM.

Cannabis Legalization

The City Attorney discussed the recommended interim ordinance. The Governor signed the cannabis legalization bill into law in May of 2023. This law legalizes recreational cannabis and marks a major turning point for the state in treatment of marijuana. The city reviewed two memorandums circulated summarizing key provision in the law for cities. One memo related to immediate changes to state law. The second memo, much lengthier summarized the remainder of the new law and its impact. There are still many questions and uncertainties pertaining to the new law and how it will ultimately be implemented. The state has done significant legwork and rulemaking before licenses for cannabis businesses can be issued. It is the city attorney's intention to present a brief presentation for immediate relevant information for the city, along with the city's ability under the law to adopt an interim ordinance for the city to establish reasonable regulations for said businesses before they open for business.

The City Attorney provided an overview of the cannabis legalization bill and the next steps for the city. As part of local control, a city conducting and/or authorizing a study may adopt an interim ordinance to "regulate, restrict, or prohibit the operation of a cannabis business within the jurisdiction or a portion thereof until January 1st, 2025." This interim ordinance will be reviewed again in the future for consideration of adoption. The discussion involving the Cannabis Licensing topic was carried over to the regular meeting from the work session in order to discuss a second interim ordinance regarding edibles which was a split opinion of two pro and two con. The City Manager clarified a two-two split would result in a fail. The issue could be discussed again in the future under council requests.

Strategic Plan

The council reviewed the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan consisting of five strategic priorities with the greatest importance to the City of Carver over the next three years. "Associated with each priority is a set of desired outcomes, key outcome indicators, and performance targets, describing expected results and how the results will be measured. The plan also includes strategic initiatives that will be undertaken to achieve the targeted outcomes." The planning effort started with an examination of operating environment. A set of priorities, key outcomes, performance targets, and identified concepts for draft vision, mission and values statements were developed. Based on said priorities, the management team identified strategic initiatives and developed action plan. The five strategic priorities include enhanced financial strength, improved operations, responsive development, stable infrastructure systems and focused communications. The Planning Commission also discussed the issue at their meeting.

To read the entire pamphlet, www.cityofcarver.com, in search box type in Strategic Plan.

Council reviewed and discussed the Strategic Plan verbiage. Comment was submitted that the Strategic Plan was different from anything the city had done in the past with bold goals in place. The plan was a good representation of all the work efforts put into it and a great collaborative effort. Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

Code Update

The Planning Commission members also reviewed the Code update regarding chickens at their meeting with the Community Development Director. It was brought to the city's attention that several residents throughout the city have backyard chickens. Currently, these are only permitted in the Residential Unsewered District. Although, the city is supportive the various governmental units are working towards permitting chickens in residential districts and establishing guidelines as well as a permitting process. Neighboring community handling of designated item are presently being researched to include in the future ordinance of the City of Carver.

The council touched on the topic of the updating the ordinance regarding chickens in city limits. The topic will be pursued in the future for adoption of an updated ordinance.

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Hometown Bank

The Planning Commission members discussed the Hometown Bank platting submitted. A Preliminary and Final plat review were reviewed. Discussed site is located at the corner of Highway #212 and Jonathan Carver Parkway. Presently the land uses and zoning relays location as existing land use Comprehensive Plan as current zoning property in question as vacant commercial freeway commons, north, vacant commercial freeway commons, south, city outlot commercial freeway commons, east, Jonathan Carver Parkway/Spring Creek Residential, west, Kwik Trip Commercial Freeway commons. The site was anticipated to develop with several commercial users. The proposed project would be Hometown Bank and Mocha Monkey with a drive-thru for both users. Additional businesses are anticipated to develop on remaining undeveloped areas of the larger site. The Planning Commission and the county have the ability to review both Preliminary and Final Plat concurrently. Other commercial projects were reviewed by the Planning Commission. This project has been evaluated and examined by the Fire Department, Engineering, the Public Services, Planning and Administration, along with staff who have all found the plan to conform with the city's Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Code, and Strategic Plan. The site is zoned Freeway Commercial which is permitted in this district. Applicant is not requesting a Planned Commercial District. The project meets required setbacks of the underlying zoning district.

Sidewalk Café Ordinance

The council discussed the Sidewalk Café Ordinance pertaining to proposed changes. The purpose of the ordinance was to allow eligible businesses the opportunity to expand and utilize the public right-of-way adjacent to businesses. The current ordinance is listed in the zoning code and should be in the business section along with some requirements are subject to interpretation, an updated ordinance has been recommended to clarify existing definitions and requirements. The changes include moving to appropriate section in city codes, update the definition of Outdoor Sidewalk Café, adding purpose for allowance of outdoor café, identify license requirements, clarify required information on the application, reviewal process and the conditions of the approval. Along with identifying the criteria and performance requirements utilized in the approval process and lastly, detailing the inspection and enforcement criteria. A Public Hearing would be required before the Planning Commission because it involves changing the city's zoning regulations.

The council discussed the drafting of a Sidewalk Café Ordinance update. A drafted update will be presented in the future for further discussion. The update will clarify the requirements. Seasonal hours will be one of the topics reviewed.

Zoning Ordinance

The city reviewed presentation involving the discussion held regarding the zoning ordinance updates. The City of Carver's housing goals involve housing choices, ability to reside in the city, safe housing at every price point and allow individual affordable housing costs and the opportunity to local economy is the ultimate goal of elected officials in the government. The Planning Commission discussed reduction of lot minimums across districts, as well as reduction in side setbacks. Also discussed were the use of Planned Residential Districts and city requirements in the city code. They also examined the opportunity of duplexes throughout residential districts. Another topic was different projects, alley loaded development, project design and accessory dwelling units.

The board reviewed how zoning supports the goals sought. Issues were assessed in the presentation. The formula utilized: zoning code plus Comprehensive Plan equals development projects. It had been deciphered the Residential2 is the city's most common zoning district. Planned Residential Developments are often utilized, the housing stock is similar and the market appeared strong. Planned Residential Development and Planned Commercial Development codes allow for flexibility with project specifics; joint planning efforts by developers and city staff ultimately serves specific ordinance for specific projects. Typical requests are deviations from setbacks and lot size, density requirements, unique environmental conditions. The Planned Residential Development code requires revision. The locations of the Planned Residential Developments and Planned Commercial Developments were also reviewed in their presentation.

Certified Levee

The council reviewed the presentation involving the updates on information pertaining to the levee in the city which began decades ago. However, the most recent activity involves updating maintenance on the present levee which began its journey exploring the feasibility of certification that began before 2021. Since that point multiple activities have occurred. For a more detailed reference of those items, reference the city's website minutes for June 26th, Regular Meeting under caption, Certified Levee Presentation or the you can just go to projects and line item 'Levee Certification' for more information and history. To date, funding assistance is available to the city. Most recent activity involves revision of the work plan and a project delivery schedule based on recent funding. The presentation also covered funding upgrades, grants, additional funding sources, cost estimates and current funding summary. Project schedule and work plan was reviewed. Continued communications avenues and proposed next steps were also examined.

Brookeview Trail

The City Manager updated the council on the Brookeview Trail connection, along with the Community Development Director. A potential nature based trail from the private street, Brookeview Court down to Snake Trail. After walking the trail, it was determined that the best option would be a stair system incorporated into the hill making the trail connection. Presently, funding would not be available but could be a future project consideration. Park dedication funds for this trail had not been collected.

Hawthorne Ridge Trail

The Community Development Director discussed the 6th Street trail extension identified as Hawthorne Ridge. Council approval was required to award and approve for the extension of the trail from 6th Street to the Hawthorne Ridge Trail system. This was identified as a priority as reconstruction work began on Sixth Street into the rustic trail system connection. Based on state aid specifications, a portion of the trail connection from the intersection of Lylewood Parkway east towards downtown leaving a gap entering into the Hawthorne site. Therefore this gap connection was not completed and rustic in nature consistent with the existing trail system on site. Currently, the completed work dead ends the trail at that location which would convert to the rustic section. Anticipated funding for this portion had been included in project budgets. Two proposals were received for the construction of this project. The proposed trail connection would complete one of the six trail connections to be completed by 2026 in the city's stable infrastructure systems in the Strategic Plan.

Disclaimer

Any and all information used to comprise the information in the 'Villager Tower' for informing the public is by utilizing the unapproved minutes posted on the City of Carver's website. Dahlgren Township information is secured from their website. Information for events, festivities, and so forth are also found on the internet to share with the public. It is the public's responsibility to verify information by visiting sites to get all and up to date information.

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Chaska Valley Family Theatre

The Dragonfly Theatre Arts Camp all sold out for this year. So mark your calendars for next year. The camp welcomes young actors from 8 - 14 back for their 18th summer of theatrical fun. The six day camp explores different aspects of musical theater from auditions, set and prop design, dance, singing and performance. This year the performance will be Finding Nemo Jr. For more information, <https://www.cvft.org/dragonfly>

Matilda performances to be held at the Chaska High School on Friday, June 23rd at 7 PM; Saturday, the 24th at 2 PM and 7 PM, Sunday, June 25th at 2 PM. Then again on Friday, Friday at 7 PM on the 30th, Saturday July 1st at 2 PM and 7 PM and the last performance will be held on Sunday, July 2nd at 2 PM. Check their website for more details and tickets.

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

— H. Jackson Brown Jr., P.S. I Love You

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 at city hall. May's meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 21st.


Carver Current

Looking for local information? Go to Carver Current website to get information you didn't know you needed. It is also where you will find the local newsletter relating to the City of Carver, "Villager Tower." You can also post information on this website. You can find links too at Carver Current. Just another way to stay in touch and know what is happening locally in the Carver area.

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"Villager Tower"

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Summer School

Eastern Carver County Schools offers summer learning opportunities for students in grades K-8 and high school credit recovery. For more information, speak with the principal at your child's school, or contact Maggie Rasmussen

at RasmussenM@district112.org.
Summer Explorers (current grades K-4)
Monday-Thursday, June 19 - July 27 (no class on July 3-4)

8:30 am - 2 pm
Clover Ridge Elementary School
Summer Bridge (current grade 5)
Monday-Thursday, June 19 - July 27 (no class on July 3-4)

8:45 am - 12:30 pm
Chanhassen High School
Summer Middle School (current grades 6 & 7)
Monday-Thursday, June 19 - July 27 (no class on July 3-4)

8:45 am - 12:30 pm
Chanhassen High School
Summer Transitions (current grade 8)
Monday-Thursday, June 19 - July 27 (no class on July 3-4)

8:45 am - 12:30 pm
Chanhassen High School



Carver Lions

Summers tend to be a quieter external view of those terrific people who make up the Carver Lions. Behind the scenes, however, they are like those queen bees in the hive busier than ever, just not visible to the public eye.

They meet once a month during the summer months, doesn't mean by any means that they are idle. Don't be fooled. They just held elections for new officers. The new president for the 2023 - 2024 year is Bob MacMullan, Dean Nelson, is the 1st Vice President, Treasurer, Cathy Elke, Secretary, Nate Lindall, Tail Twister, Heidi Henry and Lion Tamer, Deidre Peterson. Congratulations. The annual Youth Exchange picnic is scheduled for July 28th from noon until 3 PM at the Community Park Shelter. The Fire Department might make an appearance to have students check out their gear.

The Lion's next meeting will be the second Wednesday of the month. They are also busy with plans and preparations for the annual SteamBoat Days.

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."

~ Mae West

Carver Shops

There was a time when the Carver era had multiple Occasional Shops dotted throughout Carver. That landscape seems to have shifted to Chaska, Waconia areas presently. There are lots of them all over and lots that no longer exist or you need to be on that circuit to follow. However, Carver still has two. Let's keep them here huh? Other types of small businesses have popped up all over town though, some downtown, some on the outskirts, some more modern, some more traditional, some quaint but all are unique in their own right. Not to mention all the businesses run out of private residences throughout the entire area. Be sure to support the local shops. Carver Shops Occasional dates quickly approaching, Thursday, July 20th through the 23rd are the dates for July.

Some of the Shops you will find in Carver:

Carver Creamery – updates on Facebook - OPEN for 2023 SEASON!

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 & Gifts – Facebook

The Funky Dove – Facebook

Strive Nutrition – Carver - Facebook

Getaway Motor Café – Facebook / Instagram

Strains of the Earth – 300 Broadway Street, Carver / Facebook



Funky Dove

Just too many terrific pictures of items available at Funky Art to print them all. What does that mean? It means, you just have to stop in downtown and check out the Funky Dove, is what that means. There are just terrific unique, one of a kind items to show you all at once.

She's there weekends! Not only will you get a taste of unique items, but a good dose of cheer, positivity and beautiful smiles!

A local army veteran makes lovely coasters, pendants, cars and wall art. We call it "the cosmos Cosmic Art." A. Taylor'dHues made the items pictured here.

Also, Funky Dove is announcing that she is hosting jewelry classes. The classes began with learning how to make a stretchy bracelet. There is a large range of authentic gemstones beads and charms available to choose from. An hour of fun, learning and creating to get you started on making more.

Watch her Facebook page for the next scheduled class. Message her if you are interested in joining. Max of 5 per class.

Ever heard of a crystal conduit? You will find them at the Funky Dove. These elements aid in bringing gemstone energy and vibrations to either yourself or someone else or even a space. The elements are of driftwood, copper and gemstone crystals which all contribute to the magic, if you don't believe in magic. It's there; even for the non-believers. Trust her! Cheri is the creator of these which can be found in the shop. Each wand is uniquely different and includes a pamphlet telling which gemstones were used and their healing properties. They also make nice gift bag gifts by the way! We dare you to come and pick one up and see if you can feel the energy.

Carver General

Did you know that summer is Ann and Brenda's favorite time of the year? Summertime sales are happening at the Carver General. Hurry and get on over there and check out what the girls have for you this round. As always, you will be simply amazed at the treasures you will find here. Their July sale dates are Thursday the 20th through Sunday the 23rd. Those hours again would be Thursday through Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday's hours noon to 4 PM. Don't let the road construction in Chaska deter you! Short detour through downtown Chaska or stay higher up on Highway # 212.

Don't forget when you stop to say high to the girls, you check next door at the Good Junk Garage and see what he has. He refers to his items as 'Junk Bonanza' or simply 'junk'. He has some pretty neat junk too! Check his Facebook page.



Did you know?

Carver, Minnesota is located on the Minnesota River, about 30 miles southwest of Minneapolis. For many years it was a stop for the Hastings and Dakota Railway. In 1867 the Hastings and Dakota Railway was incorporated with the goal of railroad transportation across the Rocky Mountains and continuing on to the Pacific Ocean.

Getaway Motor Cafe

Nate and Terah want you all to know that they are now serving breakfast and lunch. Well, not them personally, but their staff is. They are happy to announce their brand new, locally grown, from-scratch, organic menu! Go to their Facebook page for more information.

They are making the most of summer with their new patio, hot breakfast and lunch menu. Also, they want you to know that they have new iced and blended drinks, cocktails, wines and MN beers are on their way too. The wi-fi works on the patio too. Weekends you will find, fun, food trucks and live music not to mention Happy Hour. Their summer hours are Monday through Wednesday, 7 AM to 2 PM, Thursday and Friday open at 7 AM and the doors closing at 11 PM. Saturday you can enjoy all the delights starting at 8 AM until 11 PM. Even Sunday they will be open from 8 AM until 4 PM. "It's the hottest spot in town to be, I'm told. Next to the Carver Creamery."



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## Carver Creamery

Have you been downtown to the Carver Creamery? What's keeping you? It's officially summertime per Chris and Kailan. They constantly have new flavors along with the old favorite standby's. Their latest rage is My Coconut Romance. They advised that you come and get your scoop before it was gone. What's in this you ask? Chocolate coconut ice cream folded with Coconut Dream Cookie and gooey caramel. Not to your liking?, then try their Carrot Cake-Spiced. No? Party Animal? Or maybe Rhubarb Crumble? Their summer hours are Noon until 9 PM.





## Carver Black Sox

Have you checked out your local team? If you haven't, they are playing Brownston on Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Check their website for additional details, [www.carverblacksox.com](http://www.carverblacksox.com). Home games at Woody Swanson Field on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>. They will be in Hamburg on Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> the Black Sox are playing Cologne, Green Isle will be the opposing team on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> of July. Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> you will find them playing in Brownston and Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> the Winsted team. Then on Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of July they will be back at Woody Swanson Field playing Plato. Playoffs are scheduled to begin on Tuesday July 25<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>, Friday 28<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>.



## Trinity Lutheran Church

Submitted by: Trinity Lutheran Church  
Trinity Lutheran Church in Carver invites you, the community, for a special "Worship in the Park" event followed by a potluck picnic on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. The worship service begins at 10 am at Lions Park in Carver on Mount Hope Road. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets, plates, utensils, and beverages. Everyone is welcome. We hope that you would also join us for our usual summer worship services on Sundays at 9 am. See what's happening in our church on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchCarver> or listen to audio recordings of our sermons online at [trinitycarver.com](http://trinitycarver.com). Pastor Jander would enjoy meeting you. Please feel free to contact us anytime:  
Office: Trinity Lutheran Church, 417 Oak Street, Carver  
Phone: 952-448-3628  
Email: [office@trinitycarver.com](mailto:office@trinitycarver.com)



## Carver Baseball Softball Association

Up to date information can be found at [www.ccybsa.com](http://www.ccybsa.com)  
Winding down their 2023 season, the Nine/Ten Year Old Tournaments were held in June. And then the younger players finished their season right after. The 2023 season was in its final stretch for the organization this year Don't forget, the organization is still operating the Concessions for the Black Sox home games. Consider volunteering for the group next summer. See y'all next year for the 2024 season. Be sure to thank Jim and all the other volunteers for all they have done for your kids playing. Great job to the kids too!



## Southwest Transit

Posted on their website is that the East Creek Station will be closed in June for improvements. Be sure to check their website for information, other regular services and don't forget about their summer adventures, concert series or twins express features for the summer.  
[www.swtransit.org](http://www.swtransit.org)



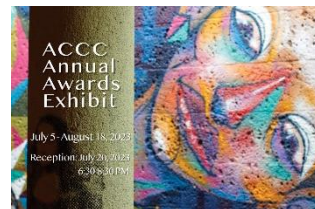
## News Flash

Free Pop-up Produce Market will be at the Chaska Middle School, Door # 14, 140 Engler Boulevard, Chaska, at 4 PM – 5:30 PM on Wednesdays all summer through August. Choose from a variety of product, dry goods, dairy and more food options each week. Open to all students and families. No registration necessary, no personal information required. You can find more information at [www.findfoodcarvercounty.org](http://www.findfoodcarvercounty.org). Volunteers welcomed. Sponsored by: A Better Society, Bountiful Basket Food Shelf, Carver County Public Health, Eastern Carver Country School District and MICASA. Additional links:  
To volunteer, visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c4aafab28a6f94-chaska1#/>  
To contribute financially, visit: <https://bountifulbasketfoodshelf.kindful.com/>  
To visit the Find Food Carver County Facebook page, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/findfoodcarvercounty>



## Arts Consortium

The Arts Consortium has a new Executive Director, Kathy Oliphant. For more information, visit their website [[www.artsofcarvercounty.org](http://www.artsofcarvercounty.org)] and look for their June newsletter.



**ART STOCK:** The artists are looking forward to this year's 12th Annual ArtStock Festival to be held at Parley Lake Winery the weekend of July 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be two booths, the Literary Group and the Gift Shop promoting the ACCC. If interested, volunteers are needed. The festival times are Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM to 5 PM. This is a major source of income for the ACCC, so they would really appreciate your help in making this a successful event for them. There is a possibility of a free glass of wine, if you are interested. See you there?

**ART IN THE PARK:** Artist opportunities, event scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup>. Now Open! Applications for Art in the Park will be accepted until July 21<sup>st</sup>. Vendor online registration can be found on [zapplication](https://www.zapplication.org/event-info.php?ID=11298): <https://www.zapplication.org/event-info.php?ID=11298>

Remember due by July 21<sup>st</sup>!

**ARTIST CONVERSION:** If interested, you have to contact Abigail at [AbigailBlytheArt@gmail.com](mailto:AbigailBlytheArt@gmail.com); couldn't find a July date or place.

Share your expertise and article passion with others....have a class that you would love to teach for the ACCC? All that is required is to focus on the art and the teaching, they will take care of the rest. Submit your ideas to [classes@artsofcarvercounty.org](mailto:classes@artsofcarvercounty.org).

**RIVER CITY DAYS:** Want to sell your book? Here is your opportunity at River City Days in Chaska. This year the event will be held at the Lions Park due to road construction in downtown Chaska. The Literary Committee had two booths reserved offering space for authors and writers to have space for sales of their published works. If you are interested, you can sign up at [literary@artsofcarvercounty.org](mailto:literary@artsofcarvercounty.org) with 'River City Days in the subject line.' The booths are available Friday and Saturday. Authors are responsible for personal sales, no commission fee. Please confirm your interest as soon as possible as the spots fill up quick! They will let you know the times available.

**SECOND ANNUAL ACCC AWARDS EXHIBIT:** The 2nd Annual Awards Exhibit begins July 5<sup>th</sup>. "This is a juried show where we will be presenting awards and cash prizes." First prize is the title of "ACCC Artist of the Year."

To submit, you will need to complete the intake form. Submission required before July 4<sup>th</sup>. You are asked to also include a statement pertaining to your artwork to be included in the exhibit. Your thought process, intention, motivation and the like which will add a meaningful dimension to the exhibit. You will also be asked if you wish to have your art in the art to travel to the libraries program.

There will also be an Artist Reception and Awards Ceremony on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Arts Center. Artist are requested to be present at this reception. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will also be served.

In August there will be a call for artist for the "Capturing the Moment Exhibit" which will be coming in August and September! The Arts Consortium artists also extend their appreciation to all artists sharing their creativity with others!

## Carver County Parks Program

According to the 2023 Program Guide, [[www.carvercountyparks.com](http://www.carvercountyparks.com)] on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> has a Minnewashta Mud Run, a featured event.

Summer Day Camps include Minnewashta Adventure Camp at the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park for youngsters age 8 – 12 on July 25<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM to 3 PM.

Archery Camp for 8 – 14 year olds on July 5 – 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 11:30 AM at Chaska Veterans Park, then on July 11 – 13 at 9 AM to 11:30 AM at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park and again on the July 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.

Intro to Fishing Camp for 7 year olds to 12 year olds on July 21<sup>st</sup> at Cedar Point Park in Waconia from 9 AM to 12 PM. Then there is Paddle Camp, 10 – 15 year olds at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park from 12:30 PM to 3 PM on July 11 – 13<sup>th</sup>. Stand up Paddle Board for 8 year olds to 15 year olds at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park on July 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 11:30 AM and then at 12:30 PM to 2 PM and again on July 28<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM to 2:30 PM.

Adult Specialty Programs and Family Programs are also available and you will find that information in their guide.



## Community Highlights

July 2<sup>nd</sup> National "I Forgot Day"  
 July 3<sup>rd</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup> City offices closed  
 Disobedience Day  
 July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day  
 July 5<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Doug!  
 July 6<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Mitch!  
 Happy Birthday John!  
 July 8<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Hunter!  
 Happy Anniversary Joe and Allina!  
 July 9<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Dan!  
 July 10<sup>th</sup> Dahlgren Township Meeting  
 July 11<sup>th</sup> Heritage Preservation Meeting  
 Meet and Greet  
 East Union Church Blood Drive  
 Happy Birthday Gerorgianna!  
 International Town Criers Day  
 July 12<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Maria!  
 July 13<sup>th</sup> through 7/15 – Fire and Ice  
 Happy Birthday David!  
 July 14<sup>th</sup> through 7/16 – BBQ Days  
 Happy Birthday Paul!  
 July 15<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Kris!  
 July 17<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting  
 World Emoji Day  
 Happy Birthday Doug!  
 School Board Meeting  
 July 18<sup>th</sup> Lions Meeting  
 July 19<sup>th</sup> through 7/23<sup>rd</sup> – Excelsior Crazy Days  
 through 23<sup>rd</sup> – Occasion Shop Weekend  
 Victoria Truck Rodeo  
 Planning Commission  
 July 21<sup>st</sup> Business Alliance Meeting  
 July 22<sup>nd</sup> Spooner's Day  
 Happy Birthday Becky!  
 July 23<sup>rd</sup> National Day of the Cowboy  
 Happy Anniversary Doug and Aletta!  
 July 24<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Charity!  
 Happy First Birthday Johnny!  
 July 25<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday Jannell!  
 Happy Birthday Kallie!  
 July 26<sup>th</sup> through 7/30 – Scott County Fair  
 Happy Birthday Bonnie!  
 July 27<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup> – Cologne Glad Days  
 Take your House Plant for a Walk Day  
 Happy Anniversary Tony and Jane!  
 July 28<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup> – River City Days  
 July 29<sup>th</sup> Happy Anniversary Dan and Carol!

July 2023



## Fare for All

Fare For All is a pop-up grocery store. They sell packs of fresh produce and frozen meat at up to 40% off of retail prices. Everyone and anyone can shop at Fare for All across thirty plus sites in the twin cities. Shop for quality, nutritious foods at discount and budget-friendly prices. Chaska's location is: Crown of Glory Lutheran Church at 1141 Cardinal Streets. Thursday, July 27th is the next available open date.



## Bountiful Basket

Bountiful Basket Food Shelf serves Carver, Chanhassen, Chaska, Victoria, and surrounding area, helping people with hunger relief. During everyone's life there is a period when we need help. For many this help comes in the form of food assistance to get them through their time of need.



Hours  
 Monday – 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
 Tuesday – 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday – 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
 Thursday/Friday – 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month – 9 a.m. – Noon

A new food program has been scheduled on the first and third Thursdays through July from 4 to 7 p.m. that will cater primarily to the Latino community with culturally specific food and Spanish speaking volunteers on site to assist. This program is made possible by Mi Casa, His House, the Sennah Foundation and the Bountiful Basket Food Shelf.

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

~ Mahatma Ghandi

## Ruby's Pantry

Have you ever heard of Ruby's Pantry? Ruby's Pantry distributes food at Pop-Up Pantry locations across Minnesota and Wisconsin. There is no income or residency requirements. For \$25 donation you can receive an abundance of groceries. They gather various food overages, surpluses, and bumper crops into generous food bundles. For more information, [www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org).

The next pop-up Pantry is scheduled to be at Grace Church ( 9301 Eden Prairie Road ) in Eden Prairie on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM until 6:30 PM. Held the first Thursday of the month, registration begins at 5 PM. Food bundles available at 5 PM.



## East Union / West Union

### Lutheran Churches

Submitted by: East and Union Churches  
 The East Union and West Union congregations extends invitation to participate in Sunday services, too.

Red Cross Blood Drive – The East Union congregation would also like to proudly announce that a Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the Parish Center. Please consider coming and donating blood. Would you like to save a life? How about 3 lives? Join us and the Red Cross on Tuesday, July 11th from 1 PM - 7 PM in the Parish Center to do just that by giving blood! Sign-up on the Red Cross's website:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=eulc>

If you've never given blood before, have no fear! The donation process is painless and once you've given you'll receive a couple snacks as a tasty reward! We're looking forward to hosting the Red Cross as together we save lives!

Vacation Bible School begins on Monday, July 31st. East Union and West Union are joining together again this year to give you more.

How does a fun-filled day with music, crafts, food and meeting new friends as we learn about the love of Jesus sound to you? We're excited to invite you to this year's Vacation Bible School on Monday, July 31st from 9 AM – 4 PM at West Union. We're planning a full-day event that will wrap up with music and dinner. We're excited to have you join us as we learn more about Jesus' love for each of us!

"Prayer Quest: Journeying through the Lord's Prayer for Everyday Life" is designed to ignite the hearts and minds of children, this transformative experience equips them with practical tools to apply the power of the Lord's Prayer in their daily lives.

Join us for an unforgettable journey of faith, fun, and personal growth. Register now and let your child's Prayer Quest begin!

We are also looking for volunteers to help for the day. Go to the website to sign up. More information and Registration: [https://westunionlutheran.org/vacation\\_bible\\_school](https://westunionlutheran.org/vacation_bible_school)

Hope to see you at VBS!

## Cars and Caves - 2023

The Chanhassen AutoPlex home of Cars and Caves car shows continues their 2023 season.. AutoPlex as a reminder is the first one of its kind private garage condo community in Chanhassen. Their summer schedule is posted on line.

[www.chanhassenautoplex.com](http://www.chanhassenautoplex.com).

Their shows are held the last Saturday of the month until September. They also announced that they have new hours and invite you to come and see. Their hours, by the way are 9 AM to 1 PM. April was an open show. June's feature was the Italian; Ferrari, Maserati, Fiat, Lambo and the likes. Moving right along to July 29<sup>th</sup>, will be American, Ford, Mopar, GM, Pontiac, etc. The British will be inclusive of MG, Mini, Aston, Jag, McLaren on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Wrapping up the season this year will be German, Audi, BMW, Mercedes. Porsche, and the VW on September 30<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to come and "Check out some of the garages at the next show or look at them at our virtual car show. Cars and Caves invite all exotic, classic, and collector car owners to drive in and show their cars. Don't miss the best monthly car show in Minneapolis/St. Paul area."



"Don't walk in front of me... I may not follow

Don't walk behind me... I may not lead

Walk beside me... just be my friend"

—Albert Camus



## Victoria Classic Car Night

Discover Classic Car Night 2023 has returned. The event is organized by the Victoria Business Association. They invite you to come and see the draw to classic cars from all over the metro area to downtown Victoria. The event is held the second and fourth Wednesday of summer months. Come and learn about the show pieces from their proud owners and meet other enthusiasts. There is also live music at the Charlson Thun Community Bandstand from 6 PM to 8 PM. Don't forget the downtown restaurants offering food and beverages. Those dates being Wednesdays, July 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The times for the shows are 5 PM to 8 PM.



## Canterbury Park

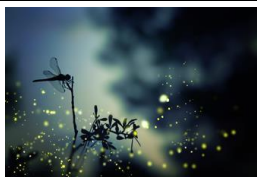
Did you know that Canterbury Park has a whole line up of events for the 2023 summer over in Shakopee? For a full list and more details of their summer events and you have computer access then visit their website and go to events, [www.canterburypark.com](http://www.canterburypark.com).



Some events include Saturday Night Racing, Pepsi Family Day Sunday, Wednesday Night Racing, Basset Hound Races, Heritage Fire, Taste of Canterbury, tours, fireworks, Unicorn and Llama Races. Concerts at Canterbury, Coffee, Chocolate and Cupcake Festival, and so much more. Check it out.

## FireFly Viewing Nights

In case you missed the FireFly Viewing at the Arboretum, your last chance to participate in this event is Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 PM until 10:30 PM. Come and "experience the magic of summer nights at the Arb with hundreds of fireflies flashing through the sky! Marvel at the wonder of these glowing, winged beetles and learn about these special creatures from local Master Naturalists. July 1<sup>st</sup> weekend will feature Owls." The July 6<sup>th</sup> weekend will be featuring frogs. You are asked to register.



## Music in the Gardens at the Arboretum

Live music will be on the venue all summer with the return of "Music in the Gardens." The event has been held for more than twenty years. Artists will entertain guests on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons at either the Ordway Picnic Shelter or Trex Deck overlooking Green Heron Pond. Performances are scheduled at 6 PM - 7:30 PM on Thursdays and 1:30 PM to 3 PM on Sundays. Be sure to reserve your ticket (s).

July 2<sup>nd</sup> / Sunday The Grit pickers (Old Time String Band)  
July 6<sup>th</sup> / Thursday Flutes of the Spirit (Classical, Traditional, Movie, old and new songs)

July 9<sup>th</sup> / Sunday Bluemood (Blues, Latin, Jazz)  
July 13<sup>th</sup> / Thursday Jazz on the Prairie (Big Band Ensemble)  
July 16<sup>th</sup> / Sunday Capri Big Band (Jazz)  
July 20<sup>th</sup> / Thursday Westwind Big Band (Jazz Ensemble)  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> / Sunday Crosstown Community Band (Traditional, Contemporary)

July 27<sup>th</sup> / Thursday Harmonic Relief (Pop, Swing, Broadway and Vocal Jazz)

July 30<sup>th</sup> / Sunday MN Mandolin Orchestra (Mandolin Music)

## Puppets in the Park

Puppets in the Park event is happening in Victoria, August 2nd at 6:30 PM until 7:15 PM at the Charlson Thun Community Bandstand. You are invited to come and join them in a night of fun. Along with a Storywalk that is sponsored by the Victoria Library that will be set up along the trail behind the library and hosting a free-play chalk program from 4 PM to 6 PM before Puppets in the Park.

A La Carte: In a Fool's Kitchen is a comic battle between a clown, French Chef, and a wily lobster set to live accordion music. This playfully interactive comedy features clowning, puppetry, music, and a few unruly vegetables. The show is meant for families and children over the age of 4 years.



"A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you."

~ Elbert Hubbard

## Summer Concert Series



Tuesdays Kids Entertainment concerts at Fireman's Park in Chaska will be:

7/11 - 6 PM - 7 PM - the Brazillions \*

7/25 - 6 PM - 7 PM - Auntie Dallas and Uncle Siama \*

\* "StoryWalk from the Chaska Library - 5-6 pm. Enjoy a self-guided StoryWalk® by taking a stroll to read a story. Pages from a picture book are posted along a walking path! Please note: StoryWalk® events will be cancelled in case of inclement weather. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

Wednesday Concerts at Fireman's Park in Chaska all starting at 6 PM and closing at 8 PM include:

7/12 - Skarlett Woods

7/19 - Kashimana (Kash)

7/26 - Traveled Ground (Bark in the Park Event)

- Performance will take place during the Downtown Chaska Farmer's Market

BARK IN THE PARK Wednesday, July 26 | 5:45-8:00 pm | Pet Parade-5:45-6:15 pm | Veterans and Firemen's Park Browse through pet-supply vendors and rescue resources, lead your pup through an obstacle course, or grab a bite to eat. Traveled Ground will perform, so bring your lawn chair and stay for the show. Parade participants may come as a Unit (up to 6 people), create a float or come dressed in a favorite costume, play an instrument, decorate their bikes, or bring the family pet (leashed/caged). \$5/unit. Visit our Community Events page for more information, or to register [www.chaskamn.gov/649/Community-Events](http://www.chaskamn.gov/649/Community-Events) or call (952) 227-7742.

Friday Night Concerts at Ironwood Park, Carver will be:

July 21st - 7 - 8:30 PM Vinnie Rose

August 4th - 7 - 8:30 PM Sawyers Dream

August 18th - 7 - 8:30 PM Solid Gold

Over in Victoria, you will also find entertainment at the Charlson Thun Community Bandstand. [1730 Steiger Lake Lane/Victoria] These concerts were organized by the City of Victoria's Parks and Recreation Department. Their lineup features fun for all ages. You are invited to come and join in; bring a lawn chair or a blanket and find a spot on the hill overlooking the stage and be prepared to be entertained. Stay tuned for August's concert features. The times are 6 PM until 8 PM and guess what, they are free.

July 12\* - Bambi Alexandra and The Dark Horse Blues Band Bambi Alexandra is an Americana singer and songwriter with deep roots in the Blues, Folk, and Country. She has developed her own style, which is both soulful and downhome. She has performed all over the Upper Mid-West, from festival stages to VFW's, hotels to honky-tonks.

\* Also happening in town is the Victoria's Classic Car Night.

July 19 - Wondercure

Wondercure is a classic rock band composed of six musicians from surrounding area.

July 26\* - New Primitives

The New Primitives play a mixture of different genres, Reggae/, R&B, Afro Cuban, World Music, deep Funk and American Rock and Roll. Sometimes all played at the same time. New Primitive live shows are legendary, big fun, hypnotic, dance filled events where the music is designed to bring the performers and the audiences into greater focus and deep into the groove, all day or night long! Prim's bring a unique vibe unmatched by any of their contemporaries!

Lunch Time Tunes

The City of Victoria's Parks and Recreation Department organized and is hosting the Lunch Time Tunes at the Charlson Thun Community Bandstand. During each event there will also be a StoryWalk offered by the Victoria Library. These tunes will be at noon until 12:45 PM on Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

"I believe that everything happens for a reason. People change so that you can learn to let go, things go wrong so that you appreciate them when they're right, you believe lies so you eventually learn to trust no one but yourself, and sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together."

~ Marilyn Monroe



## Landscape Arboretum

Did you know that the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum has an Osprey Cam? It was up and running as of April this year. Be sure to check it out: [www.arb.umn.edu/osprey-cam](http://www.arb.umn.edu/osprey-cam)



Always something to see, do, learn and participate in at the arboretum. There is yoga, music, classes, story time, and so much more. Some highlighted events are the Taste and Toast Event and Family Fun at the Farm. Be sure to go to their website for all the details.

Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> is Family Fun at the Farm [without all the chores]. The fun will start at 10 AM and go until 4 PM. For a hands on learning experience, come and see what is growing at MN farms, food gardens, crop plots and orchards. You can meet, talk with and learn about growers and producers work, taste samples, explore, play games and experience a tour of the farm.

The Taste and Toast is another highlight for their summer events to be held on July 26<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to come and join them for an after-hours celebration of fresh, local cuisine, regional wine and beer. Live music will set the stage for tastings from local and regional chefs, restaurants and farmers, along with samplings of MN wineries, breweries and the Arboretum's very own Horticultural Research Center. The event will be held at 6 PM until 9 PM and will be the biggest party of the summer in the arboretums very own stunning gardens.

## Schram Haus Brewery

The staff over at the Schram Haus Brewery would like to invite you to come and spend the weekend with them on July 4<sup>th</sup>! They have lots of events and fun planned for everyone. Friday, the 30<sup>th</sup> is featuring Reds, Whites and Brews along with live music featuring Thomas Sticha at 6 PM until 9 PM. Saturday, the first of July from noon until 10 PM, and on Social Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> open from noon until 7 PM with Beer Floats. Mondays hours are 1 PM to 9 PM. Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> will have all-day Happy Hour, BOGO All Taps and Trivia Mafia at 6 PM until 8 PM. The doors will open at 11 AM and close at 6 PM.

Don't forget BOGO on all Taps, Tuesdays, 4 PM to 9 PM, every Tuesday. Stop in for this great deal. Beer Club Giveaway – win a Schnitzelbank membership. Join our beer club anytime between June 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup> for a chance to win a lifetime membership! Drawing will be held at our beer club picnic on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and you must be present to win! Check out their website for more details!



## Schram Vineyards - Tenth Anniversary

The Schram Vineyards always have something going on at the vineyard! The Schram Tasting Room kitchen is open every day with wine and beer friendly bites to eat. Featured food trucks on most Friday nights and Saturdays from mid-April through October. There is always a food menu available from their kitchen.

The Schram Vineyards at 8785 Airport Road in Waconia also would like to invite you to come and help them celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The entire month is packed full of fun events. They are highlighting a Community Appreciation Cookout on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> to help them celebrate their ten years of crafting and sharing their artisan wines and beers. The entire week is packed with their hosting daily events and special to thank their supporters and valued guests and to share in the excitement of being voted MN's Best Winery in 2022!

Their Community Appreciation Cookout dinner will feature your choice of meat along with sides to include in-house roasted corn on the cob. A vegetarian salad option will also be available. Plates are \$10 each, available day of, to give us an estimated count of expected guests prior purchases would be appreciated. Food will be available until run out or the close of the day. The winery will remain open to general guests throughout the event which is scheduled for 5 PM to 8 PM.

Also, just an FYI, on Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> they will be hosting a special Wine Blending Workshop. Their custom wine blending workshops allow working side by side with their winemaker to create your very own red blend. In this win-centric workshop, sample your way through various red varietals and learn about the variations of barrel aging, qualities of different grapes and how they interact with one another. The workshop starts at 6 PM and ends at 8 PM.

## 2023 Summer Events

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July

For fireworks depends on preferences. There are the usual spots, Chaska, Chanhassen, Shakopee, Waconia, Excelsior, and Valleyfair. Eden Prairie at Round Lake have music, food, and fireworks. The events begin at 3 PM at the park. There is Prior Lake too and so many more.

This year Canterbury will be hosting the Kwik-Trip Fireworks on Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Then there is Chanhassen that makes an entire weekend event out of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. For detailed information go to the City of Chanhassen website, departments and then community events. [www.chanhassen.mn.gov](http://www.chanhassen.mn.gov)

Chan's celebrations begin on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup> of July on Tuesday. It's a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. This year is their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and they have pulled out all the stops this year. Commemorative merchandise, parade, business expo, MN Twins' Baseball Clinic, carnival, Kiddie Parade, water wars, Medicine Show, llama experience, music, food, beer garden, class car show and much more with a finale of fireworks at Lake Ann.

### Fire and Ice

"Chaska's Premier Summer Festival

Eat, drink, and play the day away! Fire and Ice Festival and Bonspiel is open to the public and free to attend.

The event is hosted by Chaska's Parks and Recreation Department at Firemen's Park and Chaska Curling and Event Center on Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy two days of live music, food and beverages purchase, family-friendly activities, and fireworks."

Bonspiel – July 13<sup>th</sup> – July 16<sup>th</sup>

Festival attendees are welcome to cheer on and watch curlers compete in the Fire and Ice Bonspiel inside at the event center! There are forty-eight teams.

Some of the events you will find to participate in will be the bean bag tournament, food, music, fun in the park, inflatable bouncers, face painting, games and fireworks both Friday night and Saturday night.

### BBQ Days

That's right, it's that time of the year again. The festivals, fairs, city events, etc. BBQ Days in Belle Plaine is known for their fantastic fireworks displays. The event will be happening Friday, July

14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> at the Union Square Park in Belle Plaine. The parade will be Saturday with their theme this year: Christmas in July. The BBQ Bull Run is scheduled and then there is the Royalty for Miss Belle Plaine. This year, there is a Bean Bag Tournament. Fireworks Sunday night.

### Excelsior Crazy Days

Be sure to head over or up to Excelsior for their Crazy Days hosted by the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Chamber on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. You are invited to come for the best sidewalk tents sales of the summer. Water Street will be filled with shopping deals, both inside and outside. Then there are the delicious specials in the restaurants.

### Victoria Truck Rodeo

Come and explore the big trucks and machinery. Where? The Victoria Recreation Center (8475 Kochia Lane, Victoria) on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM until 8 PM. Discover Victoria's Public Works, Fire Department and local partners in safety, along with jumping in the bounce house and maybe grab some food (for purchase). Victoria's very first fire truck is anticipated to be on display. That would be a 1929 Chevrolet Fire Truck. Carver County's Sheriff's squad car, water patrol's rescue boat, lawn mowers, street sweeper, tractor, skid, loader, vac trailer and so much more. There will be collector cards at this year's Truck Rodeo and maybe, you could also win the grand prize of a ride to school in a fire truck.

"Friendship ... is born at the moment when one man says to another "What! You too? I thought that no one but myself."

~ C.S. Lewis



## Scott County Fair

Starting to wind down the month, it has been said that the Scott County Fair is the five best days of summer and the place to be. Starting Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> daily through Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> where you will find food, music, vendors, grandstand events, carnival, draft horse shoes, ranch rodeo, Miracle of Birth Center, classic car and tractor show, robotics, barns with animals and so much more.



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Cologne Glad Days

For full details and times visit [www.colognegladdays.com](http://www.colognegladdays.com). The annual hometown festival known as 22<sup>nd</sup> Cologne Glad Days officially begins on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> and runs through Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. What will you find going on? Well,

there is a wood bat tournament, market and Crafts sales, food trucks, beer

and wine tasting, car racing, music, Baked Bean contest, BBQ Rib contest, Timber Works Lumberjack Show, pedal pull, bounce houses, History Hayride, Paw Bunyan Dogwalk, tractor cruise and so much more to have fun, see, eat, participate in and have fun.

## River City Days

Chaska's River City Days showcased by volunteers is preparing for their event that will be held this year at the Lions Park due to the downtown construction. The event will be Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup>. The Chaska Library will be hosting the book sale during the weekend of River City Days. The event will kick off with the Chaska Middle School Marching Band. There will be a Kids Zone, family activities, craft fair, cultured events, fashion show, Chaska business participation, music, food and lots of fun is planned. For more detailed information visit their website, [www.chaskarivercitydays.org](http://www.chaskarivercitydays.org).



## July Gossip - Not Gossip

Canterbury's Summer Jam is not happening this year. Said it was due to construction. They have an entirely different venue this year.

2023 Steamboat Days info in case you are looking...email - [steamboating@yahoo.com](mailto:steamboating@yahoo.com) or on line at [www.carversteamboatdays.info](http://www.carversteamboatdays.info). The dates for this year are September 8<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup> and they have events listed on line at their website.

FYI: July full buck moon which occurs on Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. It reaches peak illumination at 7:39 AM ( EDT ), rising above the horizon after sunrise, but it will still be spectacular in the night sky. Plus, it's the biggest and brightest supermoon of the year. Another highlight of the July sky is the "Summer Triangle."

Did you know that July was an important time for the Space Race of the 60's? The first mission with a crew to the moon was the Appollo 11 Mission launched on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1969.

Carver Life - Mizzy's Pizza is moving right along with construction. It was said that the patio furniture had arrived. They are anticipating to open soon. They were taking applications I also heard.



## Chaska Fireman's Park

Compliments of Mark Olson, Former Chaska Herald Editor from 2008

Thought you all might find this interesting since with all the construction in downtown Chaska has displaced so many events and we keep being referenced to the Fireman's park which for many of "us" old-timers, the memories of the Clayhole/Fireman's Park are overflowing with good and bad memories.

"Sweat, passion, and a healthy dose of TNT. These are the elements that gave birth to Firemen's Park, in downtown Chaska. A few weeks ago, a group of firefighters addressed the Chaska City Council about preserving the park. The council was hashing out redevelopment plans, for the northwest corner of highways 212 and 41. One of the big questions was what part of the project, if any, should sit on Firemen's Park. The firefighters were vehemently opposed to encroaching on the park, which sits just north of the redevelopment site (now the site of Ohnsorg's Truck Body Manufacturing, Chaska Farm and Garden and Randy's Auto).

To understand why Chaska firefighters are so passionate about the topic requires a trip to 1952 in the Chaska way-back machine.

### The Jungle

Booming at the turn of the century, by the 1950s Chaska's brick industry had gone bust. At the time, the park was referred to as "the jungle," and bore deteriorating remains of what had been one of Chaska's principal brickyards.

The site included a couple "beehive kilns," so called because they were circular, with a cone-shaped top. The kilns were used to fire and harden clay, mined from a nearby clayhole.

Vines now grew over the kilns; weeds and trash covered the land; and water filled the nearby clay hole.

Firefighters held an annual picnic at the Valley Ballroom. However, with the Minnesota River flooding of the early 1950s, they moved their festivities to Carver. Willis Neutgens, a Norwood Young America resident and former Chaska firefighter, said that the incident pushed firefighters to create their own park. Leonard "Dick" Lano, recalled that then-Fire Chief Ben "Butch" Kochs, who owned a filling station next to the clay hole (on a site which now serves as the park's parking lot) was tired of looking at the mess. Kochs called a department meeting and suggested it as a project. The firemen received permission from property owners Charles and Christian Klein, Chaska bankers/industrialists, to clear the land and use it as a park from who owned the property. So on weekends, firefighters (there were about 20) began volunteering "hours and hours and hours" of time on the park, Lano recalled.

"A lot of work went into that sucker," Neutgens said.

Using pickaxes and shovels, they took down the 25-foot-diameter, foot-thick beehive kilns. Originally the firefighters only planned to clean up the westerly part of the park, but needed a place to put the bricks. So they received permission from the Kleins to drag the brick rubble to the eastern part of the park, "which was low and soggy," recalled Lano, who spearheaded the project as fire chief after Kochs was killed in a car accident. To build the beach, city crews hauled in tons of sand and firefighters used a fire truck to blow the sand into the lake, until they had a beach, Lano said. Local grocer Jake Cooper donated money for playground equipment. In 1955, to pay for park improvements such as the picnic shelter, the department began its annual fishing contest on Lake Bavaria. The contest was moved to Firemen's Lake a couple years later.

There's one park construction incident that retired firefighters recall with great relish. Firefighters had been attempting to topple a 75-foot-high smokestack by chiseling a hole in the north side. However, the stack wouldn't move.

"The weekend we were to take it down was the highlight of the community. Everyone was going to watch us remove it, but were curious about what system would be used to accomplish it," Lano recalled. "That Friday evening I received a call from what seemed to be a local pub, as noise and laughter could be heard in the background. I was told to come to the park because there was something to see."

What Lano found was that a firefighter and three other members of the community (in the bar all afternoon drinking) had taken the situation into their own hands, using dynamite to tear down the tower. "That went down with a bang, all right," Neutgens recalled. By varying accounts, the flying bricks from the explosion had knocked out windows on the Ohnsorg building, a nearby brick house (now Ernst & Associates Landscaping Architects building), and even Cy's Liquors (now Kelley's Bar) across the street.





Chaska Fireman's Park continued –

Lano recalled that “People were so happy to see the work progressing on the park, that we never got a bill for the broken windows.”

“I was coming down there when I heard the boom. And I thought, ‘Oh my God they blew it already,’ And all there was, was dust and dirt and bricks flying and everything else when I got there,” recalled former firefighter Tom Jensen, in an interview a few years ago.

“The city had to make the repairs to the roof, begrudgingly. But later on, after we thought about it, we all got a good laugh, because only in Chaska could somebody do something like that,” Jensen said. “But it certainly was not funny at the time.”

The firefighters worked closely with Charles H. Klein on the project. “Every Sunday morning Mr. C.H. Klein would invite me to his home to discuss the project and ask me what equipment would be needed,” Lano recalled.

The pair sat on the front porch of Klein’s mansion (now Peacock Inn Bed and Breakfast), facing City Square Park.

Klein would offer the use of equipment such as dump trucks and bulldozers. Klein also brought in dirt from his other defunct clay hole (where Cooper’s County Market now sits) and used it to cover the brick rubble.

Klein was a tall, heavy-set man, who always wore a suit and tie and Lano always addressed him as “Mr. Klein.” Sometimes, even the *Herald* used a courtesy title when referring to Klein.

In the field of banking, Klein could be “very intimidating,” Lano said. However, “he was a different person when it came to this (project).”

Klein asked Lano what the park would be named. “Klein Bros. Firemen’s Park,” Lano replied. “He just jumped off the chair he was so happy.”

“He liked what we were doing, and he wanted it to continue,” Lano said. When the fire department faced problems, he’d tell Lano, “You’ve got to finish.”

Initially, the city leased the land from the Kleins for the park. In late 1961, shortly after Charles Klein’s death, the land was donated to the city of Chaska as a public park. (Christian Klein died in spring 1962.) Lano later moved to Norwood Young America, and stepped down from the department in 1962. However, the park is still a source of pride. “I look at it, and I’m so proud. I say to myself, ‘I was part of this,’” Lano said. “It would be a shame to do anything to this.”

Meanwhile, the City Council gave a developer a year to market the corner site to determine commercial interest, and asked that the development minimizes encroachment on Firemen’s Park.

“I’m sure 90 percent of the people in Chaska right now don’t know the start of it, because we’re really getting old now,” Lano said. “It’s a story that needs to be told.”

Firemen’s Park timeline

1951: Idea for park is formed.

July 1952: Firefighters begin work.

June 19, 1955: Park officially opens.

January 1957: Firefighters hold first ice fishing contest on Lake Bavaria – moves to Firemen’s Lake two years later.

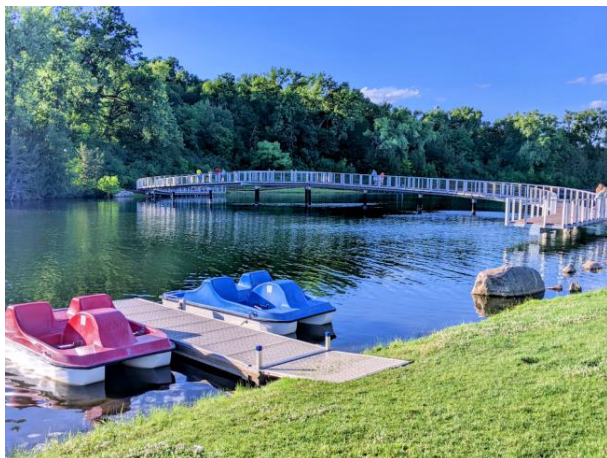
September 1960: Firefighters develop two baseball diamonds

September 1961: Charles H. Klein dies.

December 1961: Park deeded to city of Chaska.

May 1962: Christian P. Klein dies.

August 1962: Chaska Lions add a “Texas size” 20-foot long brick barbeque pit.



# Farmer's Markets

## Tuesdays

Carver 6/20 – 9/26  
1607 Hartwell Drive

3 PM - 6 PM

No Market on 7/4 or 9/19

Minnetonka 6/6 – 9/26  
Ridgedale Commons  
12990 Ridgedale Drive

3 PM – 7 PM



## Wednesdays

Chaska  
6/21 – 9/20  
Fireman's Park  
3210 Chaska Boulevard

6/21 – 8/9 5 PM – 8 PM  
8/16 – 9/20 4 PM – 7 PM

No Market on 7/5

Bongard's 6/7 – 9/27

St John's United Church  
12984 County Road 51  
Norwood/Young America

3 PM – 6 PM

Shakopee 6/21 – 6/28  
7/12 – 7/19 – 7/26  
8/02 – 08/09

Lewis Street Parking Lot

9 AM – 1 PM

Mayer June – August  
Mayer Lutheran High School  
306 7<sup>th</sup> Street Northeast

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays

4 PM – 7 PM

Delano - Wednesdays

## Thursdays

Victoria 6/22 – 9/28

Enki Brewing Parking Lot  
1495 Steiger Lake Lane

3 PM – 6 PM

Excelsior May - October

301 Couty Road # 19

2 PM – 6 PM

Glencoe - Thursdays



## Fridays



Watertown - Fridays

## Saturdays

Chanhassen 6/03 – 9/30  
City Center Park Plaza  
7700 Market Boulevard

9 AM – 1 PM

New Prague May – October  
Community Baptist Church  
500 CR 37

9 AM – 12 PM



Mound – Saturdays  
Hopkins – Saturdays  
Buffalo – Saturdays



Open until October / DAILY

Waconia At The Farm  
8880 State Highway 5

Monday through Saturday

10 AM – 4 PM

Sunday 11 AM – 4 PM