

Volume 96969696 I

August / September 2023

Number Three Hundred Ninety-Eight



Mayor Courtney's Message

In Carver summer isn't over until after Steamboat Days so even though school is resuming, we've still got a few more days to enjoy the season. Here are my updates for September:

2024 Budget – Speaking of the changing seasons, with the exception of a few months at the beginning of the year, it's almost always Budget Season in Carver. Later this month City staff, City Council and I will be working to put the finishing touches on our Preliminary 2024 Budget and Tax Levy, which is required to be set by end of the month. This is also known as the "not to exceed" number which will be the basis for the property tax statements you'll receive in your mailbox later this fall. For detailed information on the preliminary 2024 Budget or submit a comment or question, please visit the 2024 Resident's Budget Guide at www.cityofcarver.com.

Thefts from Vehicles - The Carver County Sheriff's Department has reported, and more than a handful of our neighbors unfortunately have experienced, trespassing issues and thefts from unlocked vehicles in the last month. The good news is this easily prevented. The Sheriff's Department recommends removing or hiding all valuables from your vehicle,

locking the doors on your vehicles, home and garage, and turning on your exterior lights. If you see any suspicious activity, please don't hesitate to call 9-1-1.

Joy McKnight - Last month Joy McKnight resigned from her role as a Council Member due to time constraints. Joy had served on City Council since 2019 and before that she was on the Planning Commission since 2000. Joy always came to meetings prepared and asked smart and thoughtful questions. Joy's work on behalf of the City was selfless and I never doubted she had the best interests of the City of Carver in mind. I wish her all the best!

Cannabis Ordinance - In July Carver adopted an ordinance making the use of cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower potency edibles and/or hemp derived consumer products in a public place like parks and sidewalks in the City of Carver a petty misdemeanor. This is similar to the restrictions on "open containers" of alcohol. The City of Carver also adopted an interim ordinance prohibiting the operation of cannabis businesses in Carver through Jan. 1, 2025 which will allow the City time to study local regulation of these businesses in Carver.

Finally, on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 9 – 11 a.m. I'll be holding my quarterly Mayor's Office Hours in Council Chambers at City Hall. If you're downtown Saturday morning for any of the Steamboat Days events, please stop by and say "hi." If it doesn't work for you to attend my office hours, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, comments or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you!

Mayor Courtney Johnson
CJohnson@CityOfCarver.com
Cell: 612.702.7703
Facebook: CarverMayorCourtney
Instagram: Carver_Mayor_Courtney

Ten Year Staffing Plan

Council was introduced at a work session to the concept of a Ten Year Staffing Plan by the City Manager for the purpose of familiarizing the council with financial impacts and plan elements of said topic.

Zoning Ordinance Updates

The Community Development Director updated the council at the work session on the ongoing Zoning Ordinance update progress of the Planning Commission board. Items carried over from the Work Session: 4. Zoning Ordinance Update Erin Smith, Community Development Director Community Development Director Smith provided an update on the zoning ordinance update discussion that began during this evening's Work Session. The Planning Commission has done some work on revisions to the zoning code regarding lot standards and zone regulations, straight zoning versus use of Planned Residential Developments (PRDs), and accessory dwelling units.

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.

© 2023 RYS CREATIONS

Hawthorne Ridge Trail

The council discussed the item regarding Sixth Street West to the Hawthorn Ridge Trail Connection with the Community Development Director who provided details on the rustic trail system throughout the development.

The topic of the Zoning Ordinance updates was discussed further at the council regular meeting. The Planning Commission has been reviewing revisions relating to lot standards, zone regulations, straight zoning versus the Planned Residential developments and accessory dwelling units. Direction from the council was requested.

Creekside Park

The Community Development Director updated the council on the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant for the Creekside Park. The city was awarded grant funds from the DNR's Outdoor Recreation Grant Program. The council plans to begin developing preliminary construction plans to include dog park areas, pickleball courts, trails, parking lot and other park amenities. Tentative construction dates would be 2024 or 2025. The future Creekside park is located at the former wastewater treatment plant site at the intersection of Jonathan Carver Parkway and Main Street West.

*"The soul always know what to do to heal itself.
The challenge is silencing the mind."*

~ Carolyn Myss

Cannabis

The City Attorney discussed with the council the Interim Ordinance regarding Cannabis Business. After holding required Public Hearing the actions recommended following are a motion adopting an interim ordinance authorizing a study and imposing moratorium on the operation of business of cannabis within the City of Carver, and the publication of interim ordinance. Past information was discussed again to refresh past talks regarding authorization of eventual establishment of cannabis businesses in the state. Statutes within the act allows local government units studies to be conducted for the purpose of considering adoption or amendments of reasonable restrictions to adopt an interim ordinance applicable to its jurisdiction for the purpose of protecting the planning process and the health, safety and welfare of all of its constituents. Recommendation submitted was for the city to adopt an interim ordinance prohibiting the operation of cannabis businesses within the city until January 1st, 2025.

The provision allows the city to review anticipated model regulations which the Act contemplates will be prepared by the State Office of Cannabis Management. The City Attorney drafted a corresponding resolution authorizing summary publication. Prior to adoption of the interim ordinance a Public Hearing is required to be held.

The City Council adopted an interim ordinance prohibiting the operation of cannabis businesses in the city. The interim ordinance remains in place until January of 2025. During which time the city will pursue studying local regulation, licensing and zoning of said businesses.

The council continued discussions on the interim ordinance providing the government units a planning tool and time to prepare to manage the cannabis issue going forward. Councilmember inquired about what the city was waiting for if the Office of Cannabis Management had been put into place. The City Attorney clarified that this organization exists on paper only thus far and has to established yet including the rules and regulations. The City Attorney clarified that no one can sell stronger cannabis product until a license is secured from the State of Minnesota which likely will not happen until 2025. An interim ordinance allows preparation time. Motion was made and carried with four ayes and one nay adopting an interim ordinance authorizing study and imposing a moratorium on the operation of cannabis business within the city. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the resolution authorizing publication of the interim ordinance.

Miscellaneous

A resident attended the council meeting requesting additional speed limit signs along Mt Hope Road specifically addressing traffic turning off of Chaska Boulevard. The council and the sheriff's department is aware of the situation with patrolling increased in the area. The addition of speed limit signs would be researched by the staff.

The City Manager gave an update on items being followed up with to include the 2024 Well House Rehabilitation (Wells 1 and 3); 2023 Plans and Specifications; former County Road #40 Task Force; Grant Funding Opportunities; Collective Bargaining Agreement; Negotiations; Park and Pedestrian Underpass Security; Kirche Hill Drive; Community Park Parking; sign requests; 2024 Employee Pay Scale Adjustment; "Open Range"; Pay System; Local Emergency Operations Plan; City Offices/Operations Closed; and Utility Billing Clerk's Retirement.

Mayor Courtney Johnson was appointed to the League of Minnesota Cities Board for a three year term. Congratulations were extended to the mayor.

The Deputy Clerk discussed the motion approving a Temporary On-Sale Liquor license for the Carver Lions pertaining to their 50th Anniversary Celebration planned for October 18th. The event will be held in the Village Hall at the Carver City Hall. As per required, upon approval license is required to be approved by the Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division.

The City Manager discussed the topic relating to Digital Sped Sign Installation Criteria Concept. The council supported this proposed concept. The item would be managed through the budgeting and construction process rather than by an official city policy.

"It's not easy being my wife's arm candy. But here I am nailing it"
~ Unknown

Recreational Cannabis Ordinance

Question was asked of the council for their opinions regarding the creation of an ordinance regulating smoking marijuana on the streets. The City Attorney stated that an ordinance provision makes it a petty misdemeanor which is a code violation resulting in a fine. The item was discussed and will be pursued in the future.

The city adopted an ordinance which makes the use of the cannabis flower, products, lower-potency edibles or hemp-derived consumer production in a "public place" a petty misdemeanor.

The City Attorney discussed the City Code Amendment regarding Cannabis/Hemp Use in public. An ordinance amending city code to prohibit the use of cannabis and hemp products in public places is required. Authorizing publication of the said ordinance would also be required. The recently adopted statewide legislation legalizing recreational cannabis authorizes cities to adopt an ordinance deeming it a petty misdemeanor to use cannabis or help derived consumer products in public. It is legal to possess and use these products and without such an ordinance they could also be used in public places if not separately prohibited by another existing law similar to the Clean Indoor Air Act. The item had been addressed and preparations for defining public place was thought about in advance. The different levels of fines were discussed. Amounts of fines discussed reflected the same fines allocated for liquor violations. If the council expressed interest in alternative fine amounts, it was feasible. Fines are subject to state-mandated court fees and surcharges. The proposed ordinance was reviewed by the sheriff's office and the county attorney's office.

Clarification regarding establishments possessing on-sale licenses legally selling THC beverages can do so legally and contents can be consumed on site only exempt from public ordinance. Consumer cannot walk down to park to consume just as you can't have open alcohol container off site. Question was asked if the ordinance was clear enough to separate allowing the sale and consumption on establishments to not allow consumption in public. The attorney indicated it was as far as the city could go with regard to a public place and the ordinance provides clarification for law enforcement. Motion was made and carried with roll call vote of all ayes adopting an ordinance amending city code to prohibit the use of cannabis or hemp products in public places. Motion was made and carried with roll call vote of all ayes adopting the resolution authorizing publication of the ordinance.

Outdoor Sidewalk Café Ordinance

The council discussed and reviewed information at a work session meeting regarding the changes to the Outdoor Sidewalk Café Ordinance being reviewed. The required Public Hearing is scheduled for the Planning Commission Board to hold. After the Public Hearing the council will consider final adoption of the ordinance.

The purpose of the Sidewalk Café is to allow eligible businesses the opportunity to expand utilizing the city's public right of way. Due to the requirements being subject to interpretation and updated ordinance was recommended.

Those changes include updating the definition; adding a purpose for allowing the outdoor sidewalk cafe and identify license requirement where allowed; clarifying required information; reviewal process and conditions for approval; identifying the criteria and performance requirements in the approval process; and detailing the inspection and enforcement criteria. In addition to these updates to the ordinance, that the regulations be put under the Zoning section. The next step in the updating process is to schedule a Public Hearing by the Planning Commission for the purpose of public input and Planning Commission recommendations. Following the Public Hearing the council will then consider final adoption

The City Clerk reviewed the topic regarding the adoption of the Sidewalk Café Ordinance amending chapters with the council along with adoption of the authorization for summary publication. An overview of past discussions occurred.

The current ordinance is listed in the zoning code and should be in the business section along with some requirements was the reason for the proposed changes and updates. The proposed changes were reviewed by the council and upon further feedback, not to allow "vaping" was also added to the amended proposal. The City Attorney however recommended the word, "smoking" clarifying the use of electronic delivery devices. The Planning Commission held the required Public hearing for the zoning changes and recommended approval.

Certified Levee Project

The Project Engineer and Assistant City Engineer presented an update on the Certified Levee Improvement Project. This presentation included updates relating the background and status, funding, delivery schedule and the work plan, communications plan and the next steps to pursue.

The council adopted a resolution participating in funding from the MN Flood Hazard Mitigation Program.

The City Engineer discussed the DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Program Grant Funding. A resolution required approval for funding assistance. The application had been filed in connection with the concept plan to certify the city's flood levee. The funds will be utilized to conduct survey work, soil borings and additional engineering work required to move forward. Receipt of all funds allows for the project to move forward with design and phased construction project. Construction phasing is dependent upon possible receipt of additional funding also applied for the Fiscal Year of 2024. Receipt of additional funding is dependent upon adoption of the resolution for the amendment of the DNR grant agreement to incorporate additional funding. Resolution requires identifying a source of funds ability to be used to satisfy the city's total local match requirement based on the 2020 census. Based on discussion with the state, the city's match requirement will met for the levee system.

Motion was made and carried with roll call vote of all ayes adopting a local government resolution for flood hazard mitigation grant funding assistance.

Equipment Purchase

The Public Services Director discussed the purchase of a Bobcat for the department and the city. This equipment would be utilized year round. Allocated funds were budgeted from the General Fund Capital Improvement Plan for the requested purchase. The funds allocated were discussed along with the purchase of a Kubota with excess funds carried over from the previous year and is currently unavailable due to supply chain limitations. This reallocation of funds would be planned for the 2024 budget.

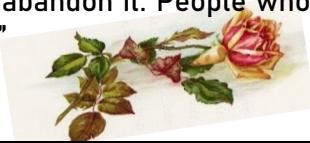
Hometown Bank

The Community Development Director discussed with the council the resolution relating to approval of the Preliminary and Final Plat for the Hometown Bank. Approval and authorization execution of the Developer's Agreement for the Carver Commons Third Addition was also requiring approval. The Concept Plan had been reviewed by the council formerly. The bank layout is consistent with their other facilities but slightly smaller. The site includes outdoor patio space for coffee users and trail access from Monroe Drive. Adjacent streets will be privately owned and maintained. A Public Hearing was held by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the project.

Applicants for the Hometown Bank proposal attended the Planning Commission meeting to answer questions. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing. There were not any public comments received. Planning Commission members had numerous questions and comments. The anticipated opening date was for next spring. Motion was made and carried with all ayes recommending approval of Preliminary Plat and Final Plat for Hometown Bank.

The Community Development Director discussed land use approvals regarding the Hometown Bank project. Traffic items were discussed further. Trail easements were talked about. Concern was expressed regarding the topography of the trail. The Community Development Director indicated that when the land north of the site is begun to be developed, it will allow another trail connection to help. Motion was made and carried with all ayes with roll call vote adopting the resolution approving the Preliminary and Final plat for Hometown Bank. Motion was made and carried with all ayes with roll call vote approving and authorizing the execution of the Developer's Agreement for the Carver Commons Third Addition subject changes.

"Once you start working on something, don't be afraid of failure and don't abandon it. People who work sincerely are the happiest."



~ Chanakya

Employee Pay Scale

The Finance Director discussed with the council the Employee Pay Scale requiring action from the council to a percentage adjustment to the Employee Pay Scale. As part of the collective bargaining agreement the city annually reviews the pay scale. Adjustments are required based on the results of calculation using the consumer price index.

The City uses an "Open Range Pay Scale System" determining and managing employee pay. The open range system allows the City to determine pay based on market conditions, budget, and the local economy as indicators for the City to determine and negotiate employee pay. The pay scale establishes a pay range for each pay grade. Pay grades are determined for each position based on the responsibilities, experience, and education required for the position. Motion was made and carried with roll call vote of all ayes approving the percentage adjustment to the Employee Pay Scale effective January 1st, 2024.

Zoning Ordinance

The Community Development Director presented information on the drafted ordinance adoption pertaining to the topic of chickens. The acceptable location standards were being required. After adoption of the ordinance known coops would be required to register and meet the requirements collectively adopted by the Planning Commission and council. Code requirements and ordinances in other cities was discussed. Since it is an updated ordinance a Public Hearing would be required. Fencing stipulations could be added. A coop would be considered an accessory structure. Question was asked if enough room was available on small lot. Presently, two accessory structures are allowed if setbacks are met. Smaller lots might not meet those setbacks. There was also discussions regarding Home Owner's Associations adopting their own rules. A new zoning code could specify minimum lot size to house chickens limited smaller lots from having close to residential properties. Registration fees, selling restrictions and setting guidelines should be established were all discussed.

Speeding

Several residents attended the council meeting regarding speeding occurring in their development. Option inquired about included flashing speed sign, speed bumps, more stop signs, speed limit change. The neighborhood is suspected to be utilized as a detour, plus expressed concern of speeding with the number of children in the neighborhood. The council was aware of the issue, received several complaints and have discussed the issue with the sheriff's department. Patrolling and enforcement of speed will be continued to be pursued. The City Engineer is working on the placement of a radar tracker to measure the speed and volumes of traffic. When data is available, it will be reviewed. In the meantime, the residents asked to contact the sheriff's office.

Steamboat Days

The council discussed the closure of specific streets during the annual heritage celebration event held in downtown Carver. The City of Carver has celebrated its heritage for over fifty years with the Steamboat Days Festival which is a great community get together. The celebration includes food vendors, water fights, live music, sidewalk vendors, fireworks, a parade and more. The city authorized the closing of Broadway from 4th Street to the levee, Third Street from Jorgenson to Oak Streets, Main Street from Jorgenson to Oak Streets on Friday and Saturday, September 8th and 9th. Sunday, September 20th for the parade route the closure of Broadway from 6th Street to 4th Street.

The council reviewed the motion approving aa Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Carver Lions during Steamboat Days. Their tent will be located in downtown at Third Street West. Motion was also reviewed for a temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the softball tournament at the Community Park on Sixth Street for the Carver Lions was also reviewed. Upon council approval the licenses will need to be approved by the Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division at the MN Department of Public safety.

"A positive attitude is something everyone can work on, and everyone can learn how to employ it."

~ Unknown

Classification and Compensation Study

The City Manager presented the Strategic Plan to the council at a work session. The City Manager discussed with the council the Classification and Compensation Study requiring approving on a proposal from Abdo to conduct a study. This study includes examination of responsibilities, associated pay and work performed by positions within an organization. The exercise creates opportunities for expectation alignment, career path progression, and tests and analyzes the pay structure for positions. A study was done in 2013 and a small update in 2019. An initiative to conduct a new classification and compensation study was identified in the most recent Strategic Plan. Additionally, a study necessary was also identified as an Action Plan follow-up to an employee satisfaction survey conducted in 2022. Abdo was selected to assist with a new study including introduction and project orientation; comprehensive job description review; position classification evaluation; labor market employers criteria and selection; market benefit and compensation analysis; classification and compensation system and compliance testing; final documents and system presentation; and implementation and system and administration training/support. The proposal all employees in every department. This timing puts the council in a position to review study results in advance of the 2025 budget process.

The City Manager reviewed the topic of the 'Peer City Cohort' review with an overview. This topic will be part of the upcoming Classification and Compensation Study.

2024 Utility Improvement Projects

The City Engineer discussed with the council authorization for preparation of plans and specifications pertaining to the 2024 Utility Improvement projects. A complex water distribution system is operated and owed by the city providing reliable water supply to residents and businesses in the city. As the city continues to grow and system components age, it is critical to properly maintain the system minimizing the risk of failure which could impact system reliability. These facts have been recognized and the city has identified several improvement projects in its long-term financial plan. Several improvements to the water system are planned programs for the upcoming year. The summary of the scope of these projects were discussed at their meeting. The next step is to final plans and specifications. The proposed outline of the schedule was also reviewed. This project is programmed in the 2024 Capital Improvement Plan. Motion was made and carried with all ayes authorizing the preparation of Plans and Specifications for the 2024 Utility Improvements Project.

The council authorized the City Engineer to prepare plans for the 2024 Utilities Project. The plans primarily involve several electric and technology control upgrades to the water collection and distribution system for the city.

2024 General Fund Budget

The City Manager discussed the General Fund Budget with the council. The council reviewed the first draft of the 2024 General Fund Budget. A drafted budget and tax impact analysis will be done and reviewed in the future. The annual budget along with corresponding property tax levy accounts are one of the most significant policy decisions by the council. Due to the growth the necessity for successful management of this growth, service levels and effectively plan and be responsible as stewards of public tax dollars it is imperative to be successful. Identifying, planning, and prioritizing needs with respect to the overall property tax impact is the central focus of every budget process by the city. Although the budget identifies the needs and priorities, the property tax levy indicates how much of the need will be funded through property tax revenue. The overall property tax levy is separated into three categories: General Levy, Debt Service Levy, and the Street Maintenance Levy. The City Manager reviewed the percentage increase for total levy increase also indicated in the proposed 2024 Budget. The tax impact analysis will be provided once it is updated with the taxable market value information. The total levy cannot independently predict tax impact, especially in a rapidly growing community. The calculation of taxable market value and total tax levy, along with fiscal disparity data, will ultimately provide the City Council with the best line of sight to the budget's tax impact. Similar to 2023, the City is anticipating significant growth in taxable market value, as new construction values increased for residential along with the commercial/industrial facets. Overall market values for existing properties are more stable. The market value increase does continue to drive up the average value home. The key budget initiatives were discussed in length.

Ten-year Vehicle and Equipment Plan

The council reviewed the presentation relating to the ten-year vehicle and equipment plan drafted for their review. The Process involves completing and identifying vehicle and equipment needs; consultation and coordination to develop plan; and present draft plan to refine and adjust. The following step would be to present financial impacts to the equipment plan, as well as all plan elements with council review and direction on the draft plan components. Finally, the council reviews, considers and adopts the final ten-year Vehicle and Equipment Plan.

The council also reviewed the presentation regarding a ten-year building and facility maintenance drafted plan with many of the same steps as was followed with the vehicle and equipment drafted plan.

Bluff Ordinance Review

The Community Development Director provided an overview to the council for the purpose of discussing the opportunity to remove verbiage for the intent and function ability of the current Bluff Ordinance.

Compensation

The City Manager discussed with the council the topic of compensation. An adoption of an ordinance amending the city code regarding council salaries was on the table for discussion, along the resolution authorizing publication.

Compensation for the offices of the mayor and city councilors was discussed. This compensation is set by ordinances and changes to the code only become effective after the next year's general election which this year would be November. The pay levels in peer cities was considered in several future compensation scenarios. The last amended pay schedule occurred in 2017. Pay increase amounts were reviewed, along with the salary amounts in other cities.

Ironwood Park

The Public Services Director discussed with the council the installation of an irrigation system in Ironwood park. Approval of a proposal for this system to be installed was discussed at the request of the Public Services Department.

Currently, water needs to be transported resulting in staff time and inconsistent irrigation schedule. Originally, irrigation was planned but was removed as a cost saving measure. Installation of system with fund availability will establish a healthy turf growth.

Council Member Resignation

The City Attorney addressed the issue regarding council vacancy. The steps outlined to be taken to address the resignation of Council member, Joy McKnight's resignation is straightforward with procedures. The council needs to adopt resolution accepting the resignation and declaring the vacancy. The vacancy is not scheduled to expire until the end of 2024. The statute provides that the vacancy "shall be filled by council appointment until an election is held." There is no special election required. An appointed individual can serve until qualification of a successor elected during the 2024 regular election. The next step the council should discuss is the process to follow appointing an individual to fill the vacancy. The only qualification required is that the appointee must be qualified to be elected. Another consideration is that if the council has a candidate in mind, the appoint could be made at any time. However, the council does have the option to seek individuals interested in filling the vacancy. The council formally declared the vacancy. Advertising for the vacancy and collection of applications will be the next step pursued.

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, September 15th.

"Literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it."

~ C. S. Lewis

Sidewalk Signs

Have you seen the sidewalk signs to raise awareness about the Carver's levee project? There is/was an article in the Southwest news Media by Chuck Rupnow. Near the sidewalk of Gazebo Park in downtown Carver the City of Carver placed a decal-like sign about the city's levee project. You can scan a QR code to take you to the website for more information. The project is an effort to make necessary improvements to the levee that protects downtown properties from the MN River floodwaters. This new signage is an effort and one of the methods that the city officials are utilizing to keep the community informed of the project's status. The City Mayor's statement, "This is going to be a pretty significant construction plan for our downtown area and the signs with the QR code is a way of letting folks know about it — giving them the resources so they can be educated and learn more about it if they are so intent." The website includes documents, history and other information relating to the ongoing project.



Carver Fire Department

"The Carver Fire Department was started in the late 1800's as a volunteer department. It remains a paid on-call organization with 32 firefighters, responding to over 160 calls a year. The Department is proud of the community it serves: City of Carver, Dahlgren Township, and San Francisco Township." Fire Chief: Cally Trimbo; Deputy Chief, Tim Walsh; Assistant Chief, Corey Trebiatowski; and Fire Marshal, Toni Dauwalter



Fire Station History

"The fire station, completed in 2005, is located at 801 Jonathan Carver Parkway. The original station was located at 108 Fourth Street East, Old Carver Fire Hall. Built about 1880, it served as the Carver Fire Hall and was used to store fire fighting vehicles and equipment. In the 1880's the Carver Fire Department had regular monthly meetings.

By 1894 the volunteer Carver Fire Department had one horse-drawn hook and ladder wagon and one hose cart. Now the department serves its community with: Three Engines, One Rescue Truck, One Tanker, One Brush Utility, One Command Vehicle, and One Boat."

Where would we be without these firefighters? Be sure to thank them for their service when you see one of them. Article compliments of the City of Carver.

Carver Gateway

Gateway to Carver formerly known as County Road # 40 visioning is what the City of Carver describes the road presently. The city recently took ownership of the county road. A task force is working on developing concepts for the intersections in the corridor as well as a pedestrian access throughout the corridor. An open house is planned for Tuesday, October 3rd at the Carver Fire Station. You are invited to stop in to ask questions or get information. More information is available on the city's website.

www.cityofcarver.com



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.

© 2023 RYS CREATIONS

"Villager Tower"

Ricki Yvonne Schultz
14210 Jonathan
Carver Parkway
Carver MN 55315
952 . 448 . 5126
villagertower@carvercurrent.com



Carver Lions

Ready for SteamBoat Days Celebration? What do you suppose those Lion's have been busy doing? You know, don't you. They are preparing for the best ever festival in Carver, right?

The Carver Lions Club is a chartered club which is also a part of the Lions international. Carver was chartered in 1973. Starting in September, the organization will resume two meetings per month again which is the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and join in on all the fun.



The Steamboat Days Committee announced their 2023 Parade Grand Marshall who is Tim Shanahan. Congrats. It was stated that thanks were extended to Mr. Shanahan for him tirelessly serving the community and often in the background without recognition. He has a humble nature and a forever smile, it was said and he makes a huge difference. His willingness to help whenever asked, filling in wherever needed last minute and the committee is honored to honor Mr. Shanahan this year. Found information on Facebook by the way. The Lions named him as a "utility player" and a giving community volunteer. So, with that being said, here's your 2023 Grand Marshall for the Steamboat Days Festival.

The Lions installed a Memorial Bench at the Lions Park in memory of Lee Ostlie. Plans are also in the works to plant a tree beside the bench in memory of Doug Dauwalter. Did you know that the Lions participate in a plastic bag recycling program to help with these benches. Perhaps if you have extra and don't know where to dispose of them, you can find a Lion and either give them to them or find out where to take them. If you do, let me know and I will add it for others to donate to the Lions. Plans are being discussed for more dedications to charter members who have passed on.

The Carver Lions extended a big thank you to the Carver Fire Department firefighters who gave the Lion's Exchange Students a tour of the fire station. The students got to try on the fire gear and learned about the equipment from the firefighters. Lunch was provided to the group by Lion's Cathy, Heidi, Kim and Thad. They were also thanked for all their hard work. Want to know more about the Exchange Program? I didn't know this, so thanks to their continued giving to society.

Lion's Student Exchange Program: "Students from all over the world come to Minnesota arriving on July 1st and leaving on July 31st. Each student stays with a Lion host and their family. They attend one week of camp with other exchange students at the end of July, going around the state to see various places like the Mall of America, a St Paul Saints game and more. Lion Stephanie and her family hosted David from Denmark this year and had a blast."



In conclusion: "Meet Carver Lion Durk Peterson Durk joined the Lions club because his wife Deidre was a member. Durk served as president of the club 2 years ago. His favorite project is the annual brunch because it brings in community members for fellowship and awesome food.

Durk is currently the head of the membership committee and assists with the promotional table at our events. Durk's passion is to welcome more new members to the Carver Lions club and give them opportunities to serve the community of Carver."

Carver Baseball Softball Association

Up to date information can be found at www.ccybsa.com
Carver Baseball/Softball Association



*"A Leader is one who knows the way,
Goes the way,
And shows the way."*

~ John C Maxwell



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 your local businesses. Carver Shops Occasional dates quickly approaching, Thursday, September 14th through the 17th.

Some Shops in Carver:

Carver Creamery – 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 & 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

What is that in the picture posted? If you want to know, you have to stop in at the Funky Dove in downtown Carver and ask Rebecca. Speaking of the Funky Dove, have you been there to check out all the wonderful items available throughout the shop. She also has “new stacks of gemstones with new stones, new colors and sizes for all your moods.” Hurry and get in to check it out. Have you seen the reusable market bags she has? They fold up nicely to store and tuck away when you are not using them. They are great for use at the farmer markets, art celebrations, craft sales or traveling. They are 100% cotton with ethnic woven designs from Thailand. Be sure to ask Rebecca about them and have her show you where she has them in her shop. Fall hours are now Friday 12 PM to 5 PM, Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM and finally, Sunday, 12 PM – 4 PM. Bet soon you will see some summer items for sale?

Carver General

Spring, summer, fall or winter you know at Carver General you will be constantly surprised by not only what theme the gals have dreamt up but the items available in the shop. Like their neighbor, they have items that you won't find anywhere else. You also wouldn't have ever dreamt what some times could be transpired into with a little artistic creativity. They have everything from outdoor to indoor things that you didn't or couldn't have imagined you had to have. There's yard and garden décor, cement statuary, windmills, patio furniture, plant stands, wagons, wheelbarrows, garden carts to vintage furniture and unique home décor to be had here. If not available, I bet the gals can find it or even something better? They won't be open during SteamBoat Days but they will be filling up every corner for the weekend of September 14th through the 17th. See you there.

Remember, stop over at the Good Junk Garage. Store is stocked with so many things that you won't find anywhere else according to the owner of Good Junk Garage. Have you seen his outdoor corral?

Getaway Motor Café

Know where the place to be is? That's right, it's Getaway Motor Café in Carver. Heard it is the talk of everyone and burning up the wires and is the place to be. Certainly not a quiet corner.

Between Facebook and Instagram and Carver Life, it's on fire. What is Getaway Motor Café? I read it's a craft coffee and cocktail hangout located in historic downtown Carver with a huge variety of food trucks visiting the locale. The drinks and food are of quality descriptions. There's lodging too.

Carver Creamery

During that hot spell did you get to go to the Carver Creamery for their Zoreo? It was fudge-like Zanzibar ® chocolate ice cream swirled with gooey marshmallow, Oreos and bittersweet chocolate chunks. Did you try or did you miss the Caramel Apple Pie? It is spicy cinnamon ice cream mixed with chunks of real apples, crispy cinnamon shortbread pieces and a thick caramel ripple. Or how about Praline Peacan? Party Animal? Halley's Comet? Are you on your way to the ice cream shop? It is still another one of those downtown Carver spots you have to get to enjoy the company, staff and delicious ice cream. Disappointment and withdrawals are going to be abound when winter refuses to allow this luxury, don't you think? Remember if you are in Cologne and have that sudden urge 'I have to have ice cream', they have the ice cream food truck, Shep's Creamery.

Mizzy's Pizza

Have you been or tried Mizzy's Pizza in either Belle Plaine or Carver? Officially opened July 12th of 2023. What's the difference? Think the menu in Carver is different. Belle Plaine's focus is on delivery and carry-out while Carver is a restaurant style business. It was Jeff's dream to have and own a “a sit down option with a bar”. Well, Jeff Misgen got his dream. It's in Carver and heard it is doing very, very well. The reviews and raves are circulating wildly on social media and they are all good. They have added music to their venue. Visit their Facebook page for up to date and more information about what is going on there.

Also, Mizzy's holding music events into fall on weekends. These events are posted on their Facebook page. Hey everyone, Mizzy's is also seeking to hire more staff. Looking for a bartender, assistant manager, as well as other staff for evening and weekend shifts. (Must be over 16 years old)



Carver Black Sox

Have you checked out your local team? Check their website for additional information, www.carverblacksox.com.

The Carver Black Sox website stated that "Muller Double sends Carver to State". So Congratulations are sent to the local team on their great sportsmanship. Want to know more, go to their website.

"Down 3-2, with the bases loaded and two outs in the top of the ninth, the Black Sox Matt Muller hit a double down the left field line, scoring Bailey Melz and Brandt Puzak giving Carver a 4-3 lead they wouldn't relinquish. Melz left the tying run for the Mayer Blazers stranded at second base by striking out the final hitter. The win sent the Carver Black Sox to the 100th Minnesota Amateur Baseball State Tournament beginning August 18th and running through Labor Day.

The Region 7C tournament marks 8 consecutive years that Carver has qualified for the tournament and the 6th appearance in the last 7 years in the MBA State Tournament."



East Union Church

The East Union Lutheran Church announced that Bountiful Basket's generosity filled their shelves with three-hundred-ninety four pounds of food thanks to the incredible gifts from our neighbors. They also shared that their first blood drive hosted with the Red Cross saved over one hundred lives. Way to go everyone! Food Shelf Donations are being accepted in the Parish Center for local food shelves. A Grocery Cart is in the center. Prefer to do this monetarily, you can do that too, just note "Food Shelf" on the check or envelope and submit it to the church or in the offering plate. Thanks are extended in advance. Towel helpers are still needed in the Towel Ministry Department as part of ECC Love Inc. You can contact adeckerchaska@gmail.com if you are interested in helping in any way. And finally to wrap up the church's announcements in one area is they are seeking donations for their Nursery Room. A new flat screen TV (36" 40"), DVD compatible, DVD player, and appropriate children's DVD's are requested. The nursery is also looking for gently used children's toys. Donations can be dropped off at the Sunday School rooms.

East Union Sunday school starts on September 24th. Request submitted to complete registration form and email it to the church office at eastunionlc@gmail.com if you are interested in having children join the program. Help is always welcomed too. So if interested in helping with the Sunday School Program, let the office know or talk to Mel.

Don't forget to come and join us for Rally Sunday which will be held September 17th! A potluck is planned. Fellowship and games are on the itinerary after worship, also. By the way, there will be an outdoor worship with blessing of pets and backpacks. See flyer inserted.



West Union Church

The West Union Church is holding a Free Donation Event on Sunday, September 10th. Drop off, pick up, swap, shop is the theme and the purpose. Come and check it out. The event is from 8 AM to 5 PM.

The congregation is preparing for their Country Market Fest scheduled for October 7th so you can mark your calendars early. More information coming in the next issue.



Carver Fire Relief Association Golf Tournament

Grab your golfing partner and get that foursome put together for the Annual Carver Relief Association Golf Tournament scheduled for Friday, September 29th at Dahlgreen Golf Club. Check in will be at 11 AM and tee time at noon. Dinner will follow. Need or want more information?

www.carver-fire-golf-tournament-2023.perfectgolfevent.com You can also email with any questions at carverfirerelief@cityofcarver.com.



"Someday is not a day of the week."

~ Denise Brennan-Nelson

Trinity Lutheran Church

Submitted by: Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity Lutheran Church will again be hosting Carlson's Loveable Llamas on the outside lawn (417 Oak Street) lower lot for the community to enjoy during Carver's Steamboat Days weekend. Llamas, from Carlson's Lovable Llamas, will be available for a firsthand experience on Saturday, September 9th from 10 AM- 2 PM. Word has it from last year that this was a huge hit. Come and get your hand-on llama experience with the gentle loving creatures and take a picture, selfie? The Llamas will be ready to be posted on their very own llamagramaccount on Saturday, September 9th at 10 AM until 2 PM. (Just in case: the llamagramaccount is fictitious, so you know. It's that nasty dry sense of humor rearing its ugly head again.)

There will also be their annual bazaar inside from 10 AM - 4 PM on Saturday the 9th and 11 AM-12:30 PM on Sunday the 10th from 11 AM to noon. The annual bazaar is hosted by the Trinity Women Serving Christ. Here you will find baked goods, canned goods, garden produce, plants, embroidered artistic items as well as hand sewn art pieces, crafts, antiques, gifts, gently used books and household items. Don't miss out.

You are invited to come and enjoy Carver's Steamboat Days with us in worship, fellowship, and shopping at Trinity Lutheran Church (417 Oak Street). Worship Service will be held on Sunday, September 10th from 10 AM to 11 AM. Then you can go right out and see those luscious llamas or shop and then go see them. Your choice. But don't miss this. You will regret it.

Eastern Carver County Schools

School for the 2023- 2024 school year will begin September 5th. But y'all already knew that didn't you? Welcome back to school kids?

How many kids are looking forward to the start of school? Better question is how many parents are relieved and glad school is resuming but afraid to say it out loud to anyone? Yes, there are those who are glad and others who are very sad. Then there are the first time kindergartner's with a whole range of mixed emotions for parents and life marches on, they say. Sometimes this author wonders who it is really more traumatic for but that's a subject for another time and a different place.

Preliminary Bus Information compliments of the school districts website:

"Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, Eastern Carver County Schools has replaced the transportation app MyStop with Ride 360, a web-based application for families to access their children's bus stop information and live bus GPS information. Ride 360 graphically displays the school bus location and the estimated time of arrival to a specific student's bus stop."



Scan the QR Code for Steamboat Days details!



or visit

carversteamboatdays.info



Community Highlights

September 2023

September 4 th	Labor Day
September 5 th	First day of School Council Meeting
September 6 th	Lions Meeting
September 7 th	Happy Anniversary Howie and Terri!
September 8 th	through 10 th SteamBoat Days And 9 th Jordan Heimatfest
September 9 th	Happy Birthday Jeff!
September 10 th	Grandparents Day Happy Birthday Crystal! Happy Birthday Lori!
September 11 th	Dahlgren Township Board Meeting School Board Work Session Carver Elementary PTO Meeting Patriot Day
September 12 th	Happy Birthday Hannah! Heritage Preservation Meeting Meet and Greet
September 14 th	Happy Birthday Dwight! through 17 th Occasional Shop Weekend WeCab 2 nd Annual Car Show Happy Birthday Caroline!
September 15 th	Business Alliance Meeting Through 17 th Excelsior Apple Day Rosh Hashanah Begins Happy Birthday Sandy! Happy Birthday Terri! Happy Anniversary Andy and Katie!
September 16 th	Nickle Dickle Day Sever's Fall Festival Opens
September 18 th	Council Meeting
September 19 th	Chamber of Commerce 15 th Classic Golf Tournament Happy Birthday Tony!
September 20 th	Lions Meeting
September 21 st	Planning Commission Meeting UN International Day of Peace Happy Birthday MOM! Happy Birthday Hooker!
September 22 nd	through 24 th Art Wander Tour Latin Music and Food Festival Happy Birthday Missy!
September 23 rd	Autumn Begins Happy Birthday Bonnie! Happy Birthday Mike! Happy Anniversary Sonja and Jim! Happy Birthday Evelyn!
September 24 th	Yom Kipper Happy Birthday Molly!
September 25 th	School Board Meeting
September 26 th	Meet and Greet Family Day Happy Anniversary Barb and Darrel! Happy Anniversary Shawn and Phil!
September 27 th	Happy Birthday Darren!
September 28 th	Carver Elementary Family Picnic and Bingo Night Happy Birthday Janet! Happy Birthday Cassandra!
September 29 th	Fire Relief Association Golf Tournament Happy Birthday Brandon! National Coffee Day
September 30 th	Happy Birthday Richard! Happy Birthday Lee!



Southwest Metro Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 15th Annual Classic Golf tournament. This is a prime fundraiser for the organization. Proceeds support valuable chamber programs. Chamber members have a well-deserved reputation for their vision in building a thriving community with abundant opportunities. They are compassionate with foresight and have met challenges in need for progressive legislation, better infrastructure and assisting the youth toward higher education. You are invited to come and join them in their venture for networking and some golf at the same time. Registration is slotted for 10:30 AM to noon. Shotgun start to be at noon. Dinner buffet and a raffle to follow. The golf tournament will be held at the Chaska Town Course on Tuesday, September 19th.

Southwest Transit

Did you know?

In 1986, the SouthWest Minneapolis suburbs of Chaska, Chanhassen, and Eden Prairie chose to opt out of the Metropolitan Transit Commission transit system in accordance with Minnesota State Statutes. Under a joint powers agreement between the three cities, they created their own transit system, SouthWest Metro Transit.

Now known as SouthWest Transit, we continue to be the public transit agency for Chaska, Chanhassen and Eden Prairie, as well as Carver. We currently offer service to and from Downtown Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota, Normandale Community College and Best Buy Headquarters.

In addition to our regular route service, we also offer a number of seasonal services, including State Fair, Twins Express, Vikings Express, Gophers Express, select concerts, and more.

At SouthWest Transit, we believe transportation is about more than just moving people from place to place. It's an opportunity to make life better and to transform perspectives.

Minnesota Gophers Express service will be offered for all home games in 2023 from August 31st through November 25th. Check their website for the times and pick up times and places, as well as fares. Return times are twenty minutes after the end of the game. Drop off and return location is: 25th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 6th Street.

Also returning for 2023 is the MN Vikings Express Service. This service is to all home regular season games, September 11th through January 15th service. More information on their website.

Check their website for all other services provided.

[www.swtransit.org]

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, September 28th is the next available open date.



Bountiful Basket / Cologne

Have you heard? Compliments of the Chaska Herald for the information being shared with you. The Bountiful Basket Food Shelf opened their Cologne site. It is to help those in need who live in Cologne, Hancock, Benton, San Francisco and Dahlgren townships residents. The new site is at the St Bernard Catholic School site on 300 East Church Street. They will open every Thursday from 3:30 PM until 6:30 PM and on Fridays, 10 AM to 2 PM. Depending on demand hours are subject to change, just so you know. Mi CASA will also be providing a bilingual English/Spanish interpreter on Fridays. You can also schedule an appointment by calling (952) 988-2802. Another contact if you have access to a computer at: www.bountifulbasketfoodshelf.org/Cologne.



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– Wednesday– 9 AM – 3:30 PM - Thursday/Friday– 9 a.m. – 12:30 PM - 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month - 9 AM – Noon



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.

The next pop-up Pantry is scheduled to be at Grace Church (9301 Eden Prairie Road) in Eden Prairie on Thursday, September 7th 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.



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.

Their last shows in September will be Wednesday, September 13th at 5 until 8 PM and September 30th. 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 July featured American, Ford, Mopar, GM, Pontiac, etc. The British will be inclusive of MG, Mini, Aston, Jag, McLaren in August 26th. Wrapping up the season this year will be German, Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, and the VW on September 30th. 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."



Victoria Classic Car Night

Discover Classic Car Night 2023 in Victoria is the place to be before it is all over. This event is organized by the Victoria Business Association. They invite you to come and see the classic cars from all over the metro area in 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. Last chance, until 2024... due to the extreme heat, their August night was rescheduled to September 6th.

Carver Announcements

The Fire Station and Public Services space needs. City staff was directed to further develop and refine an assessment of space needs for the two departments. The Fire Department scope involves a new climate-controlled space for firefighters turn-out gear. The Public Services seeks additional demands for vehicle and equipment storage. The staff will be working on this issue for the council to review by the end of the year.



New Utility Billing Software and Payment Vendor Programs have been launched for the city. The city has implemented their new utility billing software and payment vendor with the August bills. Some residents received emails. Making payments using the city's old vendor requires needing to register on Invoice Cloud. If bank account direct pay was used, it will continue. August bills mailed, as a courtesy the due date was extended. For more information, go to the city's website and visit, "Utility Billing webpage."

Applicants being sought for open positions in the city. An Administrative Assistant to perform general administration and customer service support for all departments. Full-time position. Also seeking a Utilities and Finance Technician. Also there is an opening for a Public Services Utilities Superintendent. Visit www.cityofcarver.com/jobs for complete job descriptions and/or an application for employment.

ACT United for Kids 5K Run/Walk at Steamboat Days – joint A.C.T. during Steamboat days on Saturday, September 9th to warm up with Chaska Parks and Rec starting at 8:45 AM until 9:45 AM. 5K Walk/Run to begin at 9 AM. Kids Fun Run begins at 10 AM. Events start at the Carver Station on Harwell Drive. Registration and Program Details available at www.actunited.org/events

Heritage Preservation Award is accepting nominations for their annual Carver Heritage Preservation Award. This award recognizes a project that exemplifies practices in the preservation and restoration of a structure within the city's Carver Historic District. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, September 8th. More information available on the city's website. You will also find a form to nominate a property on the website.

"A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again and again."

~ Maya Angelou

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

Always something to see, do, learn and participate in at the arboretum. There is yoga, music, classes, story time, and so much more. Be sure to go to their website for all the details.

September 15th, Friday, you might be interested in the 3rd Annual Glass Pumpkin Patch. Here is where you will find gorgeous displays of glass pumpkins and glass garden art made by twelve award-winning professional glass artists. There will be glass blowing demonstrations too.

Saturday, September 16th begins the famous arboretum's Scarecrows in the Garden event through Thursday, October 31st. The popular Scarecrows in the garden are back adding a festive note to autumn displays on Dahlberg Terrace and Scarecrow hill where you can expect artistry at its finest.

Saturday, September 23rd beginning at 10 AM until 4 PM is Apple Fest. You are invited to the inaugural AppleFest featuring a variety of family-friendly activities highlighting apples. They will be celebrating the apple industry and the U of MN's rich history of apple research with apple bingo and trivia with local Arboretum celebrities, orchard tours, apple tasting, lawn games, music by Traveled Ground, and apple-themed concessions.

For more detailed information in what you might find interesting and you have a computer, because realistically not everyone does and it annoys some people when they hear .com, website, etc. Anyway, got off track there. Visit their website, if you can, www.arb.mn.edu. Scroll over to events, tap and you can go to events or the calendar for more information. Can't do all the work for you, now can we?

Chaska Historical Society

You have heard about the Chaska Historical Society right? They have some great fall events planned that they would like to share with y'all. First of all, they are located at 112 Fourth Street West in Chaska and yes, presently it is a little tricky getting there but where there is a will, there is a way, right? So let's share their exciting news and invitation.

September 15th and again the 23rd, they will be hosting a free, family friendly, Old Time Medicine Show Reenactment at 1 PM at the History Center. The show will feature Susan Hynes as Violet McNeal, a St Paul medicine show entrepreneur from the early 1900's.

Fall Fun: Did you know that the historical society offers an annual ghost tour? For \$15 dollars per person you can go on a walking tour and meet all the Chaska and other ghosts residing in the darker world only for those who believe in spirits. When you ask? They offer their tours on October 6th, 7th, 13th and 14th beginning at 6:30 PM. This is a family friendly walking tour featuring homes and businesses throughout downtown Chaska. Weather is not taken into account, tours still proceed. Ooooh how eerie huh? Adds to the mystical sphere of the spirit, don't you think?

If you would like more details or to sign up you can visit, www.chaskahistory.org. For other historical interest feel free to stop in at the center to explore more history. Also, there is an exhibit now identified as "Will you live to be 100? A Retrospective on Health and Wellness in Chaska." Interested, call 952.448.6077 or email historical@chaskahistory.org for more information or to schedule a group visit time. And this information is compliments of the Chaska Herald/Southwest Publishing staff. Have to give credit where credit is due, you know.

Schram Haus Brewery

Be sure to check their website for all their other news, music events, etc: www.schramhausbrewery.com

What's coming the Schram Haus Brewery? It's Oktoberfest and they said it's the biggest party of the year and it's back. They invite you to head up the bluff to celebrate their Annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 23rd. The fun will begin at noon and go until 10 PM. Come and find a full day of great music, awesome food trucks, fun competitions, German-inspired costumes and it just wouldn't be an event without their amazing Oktoberfest beer.



Celebration of Philanthropy



SW Publishing Staff

The Carver County Community Foundation hosting the inaugural Philanthropy Dinner

SW Publishing Staff

The Community Foundation for Carver County will be holding its inaugural Celebration of Philanthropy dinner on September 20th at the Island View Golf Club in Waconia from 5:30 PM to 8 PM.

"Community members and key businesses who have ties to our community are invited to attend. The event will feature and celebrate individuals and organizations. Gary and Sandy Cooper of Chaska, Roger Storms of Cologne and WM Mueller & Sons of Hamburg will be awarded for their philanthropic efforts.

"I am honored to sponsor the CFCC Inaugural Celebration Dinner and excited about the philanthropic momentum in Carver County. It will be a great night celebrating not only local philanthropy, but exceptional individuals and businesses who have lived it out well. They are a testimony of the kind of impact you have when you truly care about your community," said Aaron Larson, founder of WaterRock Financial, in a press release. "I believe that loving your neighbor as yourself is the greatest way to create community, and inspiring intentional generosity is my way to help our community flourish. I hope all who attend will be fueled with passion for finding their own way to help elevate community, in Carver County and beyond." Cory Hepola, two-time Emmy award winning TV anchor and documentarian, will be the keynote speaker for this year's event."

For more information and to register, visit www.communitygiving.org/event/cfcc-celebration-of-philanthropy-dinner/#details.

2nd Annual WeCab Car Show

To Give. To Drive. To Ride.



844.743.3932/wecab.org

Fundraiser

Thank you to Schram Haus Brewery! [Schram Haus Brewery](http://www.schramhausbrewery.com) in Chaska, MN who is hosting this year's 2nd Annual WeCab Car Show Fundraiser event. Schram is also donating 10 % of sales to WeCab on this day. What could be better than supporting local music AND local charity?! Come on out and share the love with the Wastrels an atmospheric rock band from Minneapolis. We will also have DJ XV who will keep us entertained throughout the night.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, September 14th beginning at 5 PM until 8 PM. There will be a Silent Auction. Live music and a car show. The Car Show, Silent Auction and DJ will open at fundraiser at 5 PM. The silent auction will be closed at 7 PM and then the live band, Wastrels will entertain the participants.

What is WeCab? A community are busing service and a non-profit organization. They are here to make transportation available and easier for those living in the Westonka and Carver County Communities. They need help with volunteer drivers and of course, monetary funds. Who doesn't huh? They are a necessary pinnacle service required for those who don't have the ability or means to get where they need to. United we stand, divided we fall is the cliché that comes to mind. Think about it. What would you do if you needed help? Or you can't be there for those loved ones who you need to help. These organizations fill those voids but they don't operate free either. [www.wecab.org]

Latin Music and Food

Fest

You are invited to come and celebrate Hispanic Heritage month in Chaska the Firemen's Park in Chaska on September 22nd starting at 5 PM until 11 PM. There will be dancing, dining, beverages, fireworks and of course, fun, lots of fun in a family-friendly environment. This event is also free to the public. The headlining act will be Alma Andina who combines traditional instruments from South America with Latin rhythms such as Cumbia, Salsa, Latin Folk, Guarjira, Batucada, Latin Rock, Reggae and other danceable styles. Laying music in the twin cities for more than ten years. With a diverse line up of members from Chile, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the USA, Alma Andina brings a mix of musical flavors and invites the community to feel unified and represented by the beautiful and always evolving diversity. Come and check it out.



Schram Vineyards

Schram Vineyards has all kinds of events going on in September over in Waconia. To get all the details and all the information, visit their website: www.schramvineyards.com. Starting out their month is their 2nd Annual Grape Stomp on September 4th beginning at 11AM until 6 PM. There will be live music and food truck on site, as well.

There's all kinds of activities in between but highlighted some of the events. The next one was the Wine and Cheese Tasting which you can partake in on September 2nd, 7th, 16th and 30th. Check their website for more details, times and other information.

Then comes their Schampagne Tasting event to be held on September 9th and 23rd where they say you will awaken your taste buds and start your morning with bubbles. Need to RSVP for these events. The plan on exploring sparkling wines made by Schram Vineyards and AxeBrige Wine Co. Invited to stay for some bites of food.

Don't forget the Barrel Tasting schedule or the Vine to Wine tours or even the Winemakers dinner and so much more.

Chaska Valley Family Theatre

The Chaska Valley Family Theatre is holding auditions in September if you are interested in participating in the upcoming "A Christmas Carol" production. Their upcoming performance in December 2023 of "A Christmas Carol" is in the works. Performances will be December 1st thru the 10th. Auditions will be held September 11th, 12th and 14th. Auditions are open; family involvement is encouraged, productions may have specific age or gender requirements, the auditions are first-come, first served basis, and bring your calendar.



Arts Consortium

www.artsofcarvercounty.org
Reminder: Capturing the Moment exhibit is going on until October 6th. This exhibit showcases the patience and spontaneity necessary capturing that moment in time. Sentimentality, creativity, playfulness, majestic are just a few examples. Photography can be all that and more. Be sure to stop at Arts Consortium to experience the artistry.



The 2023 Studio Tour for Art Wander, Edge of the Big Woods is coming in Waconia, Mayer, Chaska, Watertown, Chanhassen, Carver and Cologne. When? Friday, September 22nd, starting at 1 PM until 6 PM. Saturday, September 23rd starting at 9 AM until 5 PM and then finally, Sunday, September 24th with a start of 11 AM until 4 PM. For more information, visit their website: www.artwander.com

The Arts Consortium sponsors the annual event Edge of the Big Woods rt Wander Studio Tour throughout the county. This is a self-guided tour of seventeen art studios to view the unique work of over forty artists. These artists share their talents welcoming visitors to their homes and studios to demonstrate their techniques art work to share and inspire.

Minnesota Renaissance Festival

For all of those interested in the Renaissance Festival. Their festivities have begun. Parking is different this year in case you plan on going. Be sure to visit their website for information on parking rules and changes. The event is on every weekend through October 1st inclusive of Labor Day and Festival Friday. Each weekend has a theme too. You can find that information on their website too or past issues of the Villager Tower. This is an event one should visit at least once. Be sure to go to their website and explore everything they have to offer before you choose the weekend to go. [www.renaissancefest.com]



"But I think, maybe, there is some validity in accepting that a part of you went with the person who died, and a part of them stayed with you."
~ Jane Wells

Jordan Heimatfest

Ah yes the Jordan Heimatfest conflicts with the Carver SteamBoat Days festival. Jordan begins their grand festival festivities on Friday night with the famous Classic Car Cruise registration beginning at 4:30 PM, Friday night, September 8th. From there they celebrate into Saturday until the fireworks are their finale. (Yep, coinciding with Carver ...darnit huh! That's what I say.) There is fun for everyone, there's food, beverages, beer, car cruise, street dance, a medallion hunt too, fun run, entertainment, contests and vendors.

Their website says too that they strive to improve the annual event each year and invite you come "Come home to celebrate." What is Heimatfest about anyway? They celebrate their German Heritage. Did you know it started out as being named "Hub Valley Days" and in 1985 the name was changed to Heimatfest and became a larger community focused celebration. Did you also know that Heimatfest means homeland festival? Well, if you are so inclined to sneak over to our neighbor across the river, the car cruise and parade are held in historic downtown Jordan. The remainder of the festivities are held in Lagoon Park featuring the waterfall, the Mill Pond and the shaded park grounds.

Guardian Angels Festival

You are invited to come over to Chaska at 215 Second Street West on Saturday, September 30th and check out the fun taking place there. Guardian Angels Church is hosting their annual Fall Festival. You can have hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, and authentic Latino food, along with beer, wine and other beverages.

They are also featuring their 25th annual Car/Truck Show beginning at 12:30 PM until 3:30 PM. You will also find a raffle to participate in, kids games, watch Latino folk dance exhibition, take part in the silent auction, buy crafts and hear the DJ or participate in Karaoke if you want. You can also pray at mass if you so choose.

29th Annual Waconia Nickle

Dickle Day

Ever been up to Waconia for Nickle Dickle Day? If you haven't, this year the event is taking place on Saturday, September 16th. There are all kinds of runs occurring for all ages if you are interested in participating in that. Also, Volleyball and Flag Football are on the itinerary. Oh, don't forget the duck races or the 3 on 3 basketball tournament. You can also stroll the arts and crafts fair, library book sale and don't miss the Car/Truck Show. Great food is available too. There's a Kid Zone, contests, games, shopping, music and of course lots of fun!

Cologne Lions Fall Bingo

Accidentally stumbled across this event occurring up in Cologne and believe hosted by the Cologne Lions and possibly Bountiful Basket/Cologne. It's Cologne's Lions Fall Bingo. Happening on Friday, September 29th at the Cologne Community Center with food being offered at 5 PM. Then Bingo is slated to start at 6:30 PM. If interested, now that you know about it. If not, well then you aren't. But someone is.



Excelsior Apple Day

Excelsior is preparing for their annual Excelsior Apple Day scheduled to happen Friday, September 15th weekend and end on Sunday, the 17th. You can walk the famous Excelsior Water Street to see and buy crafts, art, food and all the usual items you will find at celebrations like these. They kick-off at 5 PM with a flag raising on the 15th. There will be artists, food vendors, sales, fun and other activities to discover and explore in Excelsior. There is also their famous baking and eating apple pie contest. For more information you can visit their website at: www.excelsiorlakeminnetonkachamber.com

"Grief is the price we pay for love." — Queen Elizabeth II



Sever's Fall Festival

Yep, it's that time of the year again! The Sever's Fall Festival opens for the season Saturday, September 16th. For all the information you need, want and should have can be found at www.seversfestivals.com

Did you know that the event was established back in 1997? They are now located off of Highway #169 going south to Jordan from Highway #41. Their physical address is 3121 150th Street West, Shakopee MN. They are the Midwest's original fall festival and home of the favorite corn maze. Don't forget that they also feature the holiday lights show which is scheduled to open November 23rd.

Sever's offers not only the famous corn maze which I don't believe has officially been named yet. They have a contest if memory serves this writer right that each year the maze is named. Along with the maze they offer attractions and activities of all sorts. Check their website for the list of all their attractions. There are live shows consisting of a Wildlife Show, Pig Races, Kid's Dance and Magic shows. Looks like they have added apples to their foray from last year. Their site reads, "Apples are one of the best (and certainly most delicious) things about fall in Minnesota. We grow our apples chemical-free on our farm in Chaska and sell them on-site at the Fall Festival so they're easy to take home and enjoy. We carry all of the varieties noted below (subject to seasonal availability, of course)." The available listed apples were: Honeycrisp, Sweetango, Snowsweet, and Zestar by the way.

They have two food courts with a wide variety of unique vendors to have all your cravings covered. "From apple fritters and fresh roasted corn to Mexican street food and wood-fired pizza, it's festival food like you've never tasted before." That what they say. Found their vendors names interesting but will let you go to their website to find those.

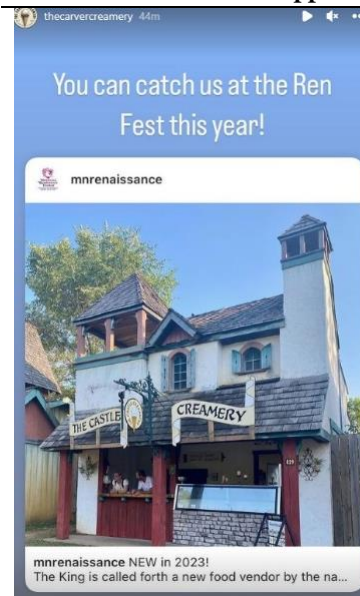
There are a north and south food courts.

Their pre-season ticket discounts end August 31st and not sure newsletter will get out in time, but trying. You are invited to "Plan your trip to the Midwest's favorite fall festival and score a deal on the cheapest tickets of the season!" The fall festival event is open on Saturdays and Sundays. They are also open on what they call "Bonus Dates" which are MEA long weekend which includes Thursday and Friday, October 19th and 20th. Their hours of operation are 10 AM to 7 PM. Remember this event opens, September 16th and runs through October 29th of this year.

Steamboat Days

2023 Steamboat Days info in case you are looking...email - steamboating@yahoo.com or on line at www.carversteamboatdays.info. The dates for this year are September 8th through the 10th, events listed on line at their website.

"Steamboat Days used to sell buttons to help fund the event. History: It used to be called Steamboat Jubilee, and this event has been happening for over half a century!"



Look who is at the Renaissance!

The Carver Creamery!

The Castle Creamery is the name at the Renaissance...naturally!

Thought that was rather cool....how about you?

August Gossip - Not Gossip

The local Farmer's Markets all throughout the local area are due to be closing their season this month.

Hope the insert flyer helped everyone.

West Union Church is preparing for their Country Market Fest in October.

Prince Rogers Nelson Memorial Highway marker by Paisley Park in Chanhassen has been installed and it's official that a seven mile stretch has been dedicated and named after Prince. Claim to Fame.

Ed, the St Bernard was rescued by the river by Good Samaritans. Good job. Everyone has had to have heard about this by now?

Carver County veteran's Service Officer has been installed and his name is Steve Walker.

Have you heard that the Shutterfly facility in Shakopee is closing by next year? How sad and unfortunate. Their corporate headquarters are in Redwood City, California.

US Representative Tom Emmer opened an office in Chaska at the Hazeltine building on Hazeltine Boulevard.

Eastern Carver County School District has sixty plus new teachers in the school district.

Had heard East Union Elementary School was bought but now for the life of me, forgot who bought the property,

Healing Hands Vet Hospital is the name of the newest business headed to reside on Dahlgren Road in Carver. Dr Carissa Haverly is the veterinarian and word around town is a tentative opening of October first. Check out her website:

www.healinghandsvethospital.com

Progress continues to be made in Shakopee on the Southern Valley Alliance new building. This non-profit has served survivors of domestic violence in both, Scott and Carver Counties for the last forty years out of their Belle Plaine location.

An array of services include legal and court advocacy, referral services, transitional housing, support groups and community engagement not to mention protection for the victims. Completion of the new facility is expected by the end of 2023.

Anyone interested in editing the newsletter monthly? Guess, I have lost my editing guy, his life has become way too busy and I understand that but I need someone to correct my overlooked mistakes? Anyone out there interested? Email me at

villagertower@carvercurrent.com

Announcement: beaches in Carver County will be closed after labor day.

Hometown Bank: Mayor Courtney Johnson was thrilled to join in on the groundbreaking ceremony held for the future of the Hometown Bank and Mocha Monkey businesses in the same facility. The business is anticipated to be coming in the spring of 2024 and located east of Kwik Trip.

In case you are interested in venturing out of Carver County? Head over to Marine St Croix for their marine Fall Festival where you will see demonstrations on weaving, wood-carving and more led by artist instructors who teach heritage skill classes. The festival is Saturday, September 16th. For more information: www.marinemillsfolkschool.org.

Or if you are into Yoga, there is a River Valley Yoga Festival with a weekend filled with forest bathing, sound healing and plenty of yoga on an 80 acre historic farm outside of Stillwater. For more information, visit www.rivervalleyyogafestival.com

September 23rd and 24th in Foreston MN at the Triple T Alpaca is hosting their National Alpaca Open Farm Days. They are ranked Second in the Nation for new breeding farm. For more information: www.tripletalpaca.com

That's it everyone. The Night Marauders are stuck in the bottoms. No vehicle to get anywhere which makes no sense but hopefully soon they might be able to traverse around.

"Crying is a way your eyes speak when your mouth can't explain how broken your heart is." ~ Prakhar Sahay



ANNOUNCEMENT – CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

The City of Carver is accepting applications to fill a vacancy for the position of Council Member on the Carver City Council for a term that runs through December 31, 2024.

To be eligible, you must reside in the City of Carver, be an eligible Minnesota voter, and be 21 years of age or older.

To apply, please submit a cover letter with your name, home address, contact information, and a statement of interest and qualifications to Brent Mareck, City Manager, either via email at bmareck@cityofcarver.com or by mail to Carver City Hall, PO Box 147, Carver, MN 55315.

*Application materials are due on
Wednesday, September 13 at 4:30 pm.*

In-person interviews will be conducted the evening of Wednesday, September 27, beginning at 6:30 pm, at City Hall.



Recipe for Preserving Children

- 1 Large Grassy Field
- 6 Children
- 3 Small Dogs
- Flowers
- Narrow Strip of book with Pebbles
- Hot Sun
- Deep Blue Sky



Mix the children with the dogs and empty into field, stirring continuously.

Sprinkle the field with flowers, pour the book gently over the pebbles.

Cover all with a deep blue sky and bake in hot sun. when Children are well browned they may be removed.

Will be found right for setting away to cool in bathtub.



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
12590 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 7th Street Northeast

1st and 3rd 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

SATURDAY SEPT 9TH

2023 A.C.T. UNITED FOR KIDS!

5K RUN WALK

THE 5K IS BACK FOR STEAMBOAT DAYS! JOIN US FOR OUR 1ST "5K FOR KIDS" PROCEEDS WILL HELP FUND ONLINE YOUTH SAFETY PROGRAMS FOR THE LOCAL NON PROFIT A.C.T. UNITED. THEN STAY FOR MORE FUN AT STEAMBOAT DAYS!

CARVER, MN STEAMBOAT DAYS

START AT SW TRANSIT STATION, CARVER MN

8:45 & 9:45 WARM UP
WITH CHASKA PARK AND REC

9AM 5K WALK/RUN

10AM KIDS FUN RUN

TOP TIME AWARDS AND SWAG BAGS!

\$30 EARLY BIRD ENDS 7/31

REGISTER TODAY!

WWW.ACTUNITED.ORG/EVENTS

WANT TO BE A SPONSOR
OR VOLUNTEER?

CONTACT TONI AT:
TONI@ACTUNITED.ORG



September 8-10, 2023 Downtown Carver

2023 STEAMBOAT PRESENTING SPONSORS



WRISTBAND SALES
YOU MUST BE 21+ TO DRINK, WITH VALID WRISTBAND. WRISTBANDS SOLD DURING THE EVENT AT THE CARVER LIONS BEER TENT, LISA'S PLACE, HARVEY'S, DOG HOUSE & GETAWAY CAFE. WRISTBANDS \$5 - THIS HELPS FUND OUR EVENT AND MAKE IT POSSIBLE. THANK YOU!



EVENT LINE-UP

FRIDAY NIGHT

Lions Beer Tent Opens 4:00pm
Food Vendors 5:00pm
Medallion Hunt (check Lions FB for clues)
1st Clue posts at 5:30pm
Fire Department Water Fights 5:30pm
Main Stage - Good For Gary
7:30pm - 11:00pm

SATURDAY

Food Vendors / Lions Beer Tent
18+ Wooden Bat Softball Tournament
ACT United 5K Run/Walk
Car Show 9:00am (Sponsored by Carver Auto)
MN Marketplace 10:00am - 5:00pm
Bean Bag Contest 11:30am
Church By The River - Historic Building Tour
1:00pm - 5:00pm
Kids Cupcake Walk @ River Wild Env
Learning Center 1:00pm - 1:30pm
Zoomobile @ The Gazebo 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Live Music under the Lions Beer Tent
- Bruce Bednarchuk 1:00pm - 3:00pm
- Matt McAllister 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Live Music Main Stage
- Ragtown 5:00pm
FIREWORKS 8:15pm
Live Music Main Stage
- Johnny Holm Band 8:30pm - Midnight

SUNDAY

Food Vendors / Lions Beer Tent
Parade 1:00pm

THERE'S MORE

City-wide Garage Sales, Thurs, Fri, Sat.
Kids Play Place, Friday & Saturday
Saturday Night Shuttles, 5pm-11pm

www.carversteamboatdays.info



Rally Sunday

September 17
Worship, 9 a.m.
Celebration, 10 a.m.

**Join us as we kick-off the fall
with food, fellowship, and fun!**

Potluck • Bounce House • Games
Bingo • Backpack Blessing • Prizes

East Union
LUTHERAN CHURCH



CARVER FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL
GOLF**

TOURNAMENT

**\$400 FOR
A TEAM
OF FOUR**



**FRIDAY
SEPT
29**

REGISTER HERE



**DAHLGREEN GOLF CLUB
6940 DAHLGREN ROAD
CHASKA, MN 55318**

**CHECK-IN AT 11:00AM
TEE OFF AT 12:00PM**

DINNER TO FOLLOW



22 GAMES FOR JUST \$12!

COLOGNE LIONS

FALL BINGO

Friday, September 29, 2023

**5:00 p.m. - Food Service 6:30 p.m. - Bingo Begins
Food . Purse Raffle . Meat Raffles . Cash Bar**

Play the 23rd game FREE when you bring a minimum of 5
non-perishable food items or \$5 cash to be donated to
Bountiful Basket Food Shelf of Cologne.

Combination of meat and cash prizes. Game 23 - \$500 jackpot.

Cologne Community Center, 1211 Village Pkwy., Cologne, MN 55322

Visit [Facebook.com/CologneLions](https://www.facebook.com/CologneLions) or
[colognelions.com](https://www.colognelions.com) for event updates.

Save the date!

Saturday
September

30th

**GUARDIAN ANGELS
FALL FESTIVAL**

