

Volume XXX

September / October 2023

Number Three Hundred Ninety-Nine



In Loving Memory of Karen Brinkhaus and Dick Kohn



Mayor Courtney's Message Greetings-

As the seasons change in Carver, City Council, City staff and I are in the midst of budget season, which takes place annually from May - December. With the new 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, which I shared the details in my July update, this is the first budget created using those guidelines to direct the decisions we're making for the 2024 Budget.

Specifically, we are working to incorporate long-range planning and enhanced financial strength as pillars of the 2024 Budget. In order to reduce Carver's reliance on debt, we are working toward funding capital improvements and investments versus bonding for them, which is essentially taking out a loan to finance City purchases and projects.

Highlights of the 2024 budget include: a community survey to review trends and adjust to evolving community expectations, street maintenance budget for improvements to city streets, a new employee in the Public Services department, reconstruction of the tennis and basketball courts in Lions Park to include pickleball courts, spring cleanup day, bi-annual organic waste collection events, recreation partnership with Chaska, Sheriff's Office Patrol contract,

employee pay and benefits and more!

At the Sept. 18 City Council meeting the Preliminary Levy for 2024 was set at \$4,381,674. This is a 13.75% increase over the City of Carver's 2023 Budget. The Preliminary Levy is a ceiling or "not to exceed" amount, and the budget may decrease between now and the Final Levy we'll approve in December. With the preliminary 2024 budget, the City's tax rate is anticipated to increase to 39.72% from 37.43% in 2023. The tax impact on Carver's average valued home (which is now \$428,500) will be an increase of \$165 in City taxes annually.

The remaining dates and deadlines for the final 2024 Budget, are as follows:

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

Dec. 4 - The Truth in Taxation public hearing will take place at 7 p.m. at City Hall during our City Council meeting. Residents are invited to comment on the proposed budget and their property taxes.

Dec. 18 - City Council will consider adoption of the 2024 Budget and Property Tax Levy during the City Council meeting, which will take place at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

When talking about the budged and taxes, we often compare ourselves to neighboring communities. With that, I think it's important to get into the weeds a bit and talk about Franchise Fees.

Franchise Fees are a method of collecting funds from utility companies, including gas, electric and cable television, for the ability to use the City's right-of-way. Because utility companies pass along franchise fees to their users (residents and businesses), the fee is often considered to be another form of taxation. The City of Carver DOES NOT charge utility providers Franchise fees. In fact, we're one of just three communities in Carver County which does not use franchise fees as a source of revenue.

If you have questions or comments about the Preliminary 2024 Budget or any other topic, please don't hesitate to reach out. As always, I look forward to hearing from you!

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

General Fund Budget Drak

At the council's work session meeting the Finance Director presented the council with the 2024 budget numbers for the preliminary drafted budget for the General Fund. The preliminary levy increase was a result the General, det service and street maintenance. The tax impact had not been available previously but since the market value information from the county became available. Adjustments had been put into place decreasing the amounts from the first draft, resulting in a levy increase from 2023 and a city tax rate. The overall impact to the average value also results in increases to the city taxes for 2024. Part of this impact is due to the Homestead Market Exclusion calculation on how property taxes are calculated for homes valued over four hundred thousand dollars.

The Finance Director presented the council with the second General Fund Budget Draft at a work session meeting. The council reviewed a resolution setting he preliminary tax levy which will be considered councilmember presented them with the award. Separate article

Council	Vacancy
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The City Attorney discussed the necessary steps required to address the city council vacancy following the resignation of Councilmember Joy McKnight. The council reviewed the resolution formally declaring the vacancy. The next step was for the council to determine the process filling the position. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the resolution declaring council vacancy. The council decided to proceed with an application process to be advertised. Interviews were scheduled to be held and then the council would make the appointment for the replacement. The final step would be for the appointee to take the Oath of Office at the council's October work session meeting.

Edith Ann Award

Edith Anne Award for Property Excellence was presented to Jim and Becky Helbling at 1914 Fulton Road. The mayor and

for adoption.	can be found in contents of the newsletter.
"Time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time."	"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to
~ Marthe Troly-Curtin	change them yourself." ~ Andy Warhol

Miscellaneous

The council reviewed information presented regarding the ten year drafted Vehicles and Equipment Plan. The final plan will be reviewed in the future for consideration and adoption.

Council also reviewed the ten year Building and Facilities Plan draft. Questions and additional feedback was presented. This plan will also be reviewed again in the future for further review, consideration and adoption.

Dr Carissa from Healing Hands is looking forward to a soft launch followed up with a full-service clinic soon the council was told.

The council reviewed a drafted ten year Streets Plan with the City Engineer which also included information regarding parking lots and trail pavement management plan.

Hometown Bank groundbreaking was held with the mayor in attendance. Opening anticipated for May or June of 2024.

Back to School Bash had been successfully held at the Community Park. The Eastern Carver County Middle School garage bands performed. Food trucks and skateboard demonstrations were held. The event was well attended and everyone had a lot of fun, it was reported. The event was held in partnership with the Chaska Parks and Recreation personnel.

The council discussed multiple ten -year plan implementations at a work session to include Streets, Parking Lots and Trail Management Plan, Utilities Infrastructure Plan and Park Plans.

Fire Department

Councilmember reported that the Carver Fire Department had a great relationship with neighboring communities allowing for opportunities to purchase used vehicles from other departments. A fire board meeting was also attended by a councilmember and it was her opinion that it is commendable that the department seeks cost savings. Also an appreciation for their relationship and faith that the townships show to the Carver Fire Department which also includes the purchasing of necessary vehicles. The department made the decision to cancel the water fights scheduled for Steamboat Days in order to pay their respects to the passing of a Belle Plaine firefighter. The department will be showcasing the fire extinguisher simulator and other demonstrations relating to the department.

Weed Ordinance

The Community Development Director discussed the adoption of the Weed Ordinance involving weeds, grass and other vegetation. State Legislature now requires municipalities allowing property owners and renters to install and maintain managed natural landscapes. Proposed ordinance changes aligns with compliance with the adopted state law. Changes include removal of gender reference, height restriction application to natural landscapes, and clarification that landscapes are not horticulturally out of place. The proposed changes do not alter the city's ability to abate nuisances relating to long grass or weeds.

Classification and Compensation Study

The Finance Director discussed approval of funding for the classification and compensation study out of the Special Capital Fund. Approval had been given for the proposal to conduct the study. The staff worked to decrease the 2024 general fun operating budget by identifying discretionary expenses. It was the staff's recommendation utilizing the Special Capital fund portion. The remaining portion to be utilized payment from the Water Fund.

South West Transit Hyreement

The Community Development Director discussed the SouthWest Transit agreement. The council reviewed the proposal to enter into an agreement with SouthWest Transit for fixed bus service. The proposed contract continues service from the Carver Station to downtown Minneapolis and the U of MN. Contracted services began in 2014 with a proposal for the contract to continue through 2025. The Carver Station and services from SouthWest is funded on an 80/20 split which includes funding from the Met Council and the city. Met Council funding is from their Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grant. Grant costs cover include service, utilities, and maintenance of the facility. The staff will continue to monitor grant dollars and provide updates on remaining available funds. The proposed agreement is unrelated to SouthWest Prime.

Delegated Contract Process

The Čity Engineer discussed the Delegated Contract Process Agreement between MnDOT and the City of Carver. The agreement is necessary to allow MnDot to act as the city's agent in accepting federal funding for construction projects financed by the Federal Highway Administration. The standard agreement is updated periodically as well as recommended to be executed at this time. Presently there is not any projects the city is receiving, however this agreement would allow funds to be transferred to the city should the city be awarded federal funding in the future.

Preliminary Tax Levy

The Finance Director discussed the 2024 Preliminary Tax Levy adopting the resolution certifying the 2024 preliminary tax levy. The city must certify a preliminary tax levy by the end of September. Preparations for the certification involved the council conducting a series of budget meetings to discuss various expenditure options related to the General Fund which for the most part guide the amount of tax levy necessary to fund operations. Once certified, it cannot be increased. Adoption of the budget would not be at this meeting, rather setting the maximum amount for the 2024 tax levy. A truth-in-taxation hearing related to the preliminary tax levy in order to provide an opportunity for residents and other interested individuals. Action will follow in December on the 2024 tax levy and budget.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

The Assistant City Engineer discussed zoning code changes for the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program.

The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing to provide a recommendation to the council. This program is part of the overall National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System permit program. All of the requirements were reviewed. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency periodically updates the permit which incorporates new rules. After the permit is updated, cities must apply for permit reissuance. The permit reissuance had been obtained by the city. As part of the reissuance, the city must update the city code to comply with the new rules.

Timber Creek

The Community Development Director discussed the Timber Creek Phase III Final Plat with the Planning Commission. The applicant requested reviewal of Phase Four Final Plat consisting of roughly sixteen acres. Streets, access and sidewalks access into Phase III will be via Ironwood rive and via Monroe Drive. The sidewalks will be extended throughout phase two tying into the city's larger system. Utilities will be constructed from the city's existing system. Forecast for this development has been affirmed to withstand utility capacity for the proposed homes. The expansion of the Ironwood Park was included as part of the Phase 1 of Timber Creek. A trail system along the Timber Creek ravine system is being field fit by development team members and city staff which will coincide into the city's larger trail system once complete.

Code Update

The Community Development Director discussed briefly with Planning Commission members the code update.

Reviewal of proposed changes to the residential zoning districts was one topic proposed. The major changes include removal of residential unsewered zoning district, reduction in lot sizes, the addition of accessory dwelling units as a permitted use and chickens as a permitted use. Lots of feedback is requested. The members reviewed the current adopted version, redline version and a clean version of the proposed changes.

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.

"Scars have the strange power to remind us that our past is real." ~ Cormac McCarthy

Carver Fire Department





The Carver Fire Department is

preparing for their Open House to be held on Tuesday, October 3rd at 5 PM until 7:30 PM. Come to 801 Jonathan Carver Parkway Fire Station to meet the firefighters and the public services personnel, go on a fire truck ride, enjoy food, learn important fire safety information. There will also be a bounce house. Sign a snowplow.

A sidebar note to this topic...Over the past few years the Fire Department traditional fall open house has evolved into including the Public Services Department too. Along with fun, games and displays, the two departments began to take advantage of the community event which draws quite an attendance.

Did you know too that starting on October 8th thru the 14th is Fire Prevention week? This week is dedicated to helping people become more aware of their fire safety. The National Fire Protection Association sponsors the event to raise awareness about safety and prevention. The campaign's goal is educate everyone about simple yet important actions.

Fire prevention is a shared responsibility.

Carver Business Illiance

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, October 20th.

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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Carver Lions

Your local Carver Lions did it again! They pulled off a successful coordination and fantastic city wide community event, Steamboat Days! Thanks each and every Carver Lion for all their hard, blood, sweat and tears and endless hours for your community. Job well done, still again! There are n the Lions Facebook page of Steamboat Days if

pictures posted on the Lions Facebook page of Steamboat Days, if you are interested.

At their August meeting they welcomed a new member. You can read all about it on their Facebook page. Also the Lions thank everyone for all their hard work at the Red Cross Blood Drive. Fifty-eight pints of blood were collected. Their next event Trunks or Treats and their November Brunch scheduled for Sunday, November 12th. More details to follow.

Interested in becoming a Lion? The Lions hold their meetings the third Wednesday of each month. Social starts at 6 PM with a catered dinner at 6:30 PM (cost) and then the meeting begins at 7 PM for Activity General Membership Meeting, speakers and general business. The current President is Bob. Come and check them out.

On October 18th, the Lions will be celebrating their 50th anniversary party with club member's from Carver, guests from other Lion's clubs and several spouses of past members. There will be a dinner and recognition night at Village Hall. Congratulations to each and every member and thanks for all that they do.

Carver Black Sox

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



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

"If a Cluttered desk is a sign of a Cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?"

~ Laurence J. Peter

News Flash - Market Bucks

Have you heard for future reference? Since most of the Farmer's Markets are now done for the 2023 season, but the Chanhassen and Chaska Farmers' Markets received approval to



partner with Market Bucks which is a program allowing SNAP dollars to be used to purchase items at the local farmer's markets. Market Bucks helps low-income individuals and families participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to access fresh, healthy and local foods.

Farmers markets are a great place to find fresh fruits, vegetables and other foods for the entire family to enjoy. "Visit Minnesota Grown from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for information about locally grown foods and to find local Minnesota farmers and markets."

"Market Bucks for SNAP/EBT Recipients

SNAP, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is a federal food assistance program. Recipients of SNAP can double their SNAP/EBT purchases at participating farmers' markets through the Market Bucks program. Spend \$10 at the market on your EBT card and get \$10 free every time you shop! Find participating locations here."

Did you know that there are more Community Gardens in Carver County? There are many communities who offer

community garden plots for a small rental fee. Planting a community garden plot allows residents to choose what foods they grow, teach children where food comes from, and participate in physical activity. Carver Community Gardens, Carver MN, Norwood Young America Community Garden, Olson Community Garden, Chanhassen, Waconia Community Garden, Watertown Community Garden and West Union Church Community Gardens. The 2023 season obviously has ended but for future reference next year. This information might come in handy. For more information or to mark this information, you can go to the Carver County website and find more details and phone numbers. Visit: www.carvercountymn.gov or www.hungersolutions.org/programs/

West Union Church

Don't miss out on West Union's Lutheran Church's Country Market Fest at 15820 Market Avenue, Cologne.

What will you find? Well let's see, the fun will start at 9 AM until 2 PM where you will find food, fun, baked goods, fall items for sales. Live music, dynamic live music performance we are assured bound to inspire. Kid Fest is also planned where you will find a bounce house, obstacle course, thrilling games, endless fun and laughter. Then there is the country indulgence with the ultimate country bake sale with simply irresistible treats. Oh yea, there's a raffle planned too. Breakfast burritos are on the menu, as well as burgers and sweet corn. Then there's the harvest market with handmade crafts, farmer's market produce, canned good, authentic flavors and exquisite craftsmanship. You really don't want to miss this, do you?"



"I like nonsense, it wakes up the brain Cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living, it's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope." ~ Dr Seuss

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, and November is bonus month, two dates available to shop. Those dates are November 3rd and 4th and then again November 16th through the 19th. Don't forget October though, those dates are October 19th through the 22nd.

Some Shops in Carver:

Carver Creamery - updates on Facebook - 2023 season Closing soon if not already 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 Boutique 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?

It's that time of the year everyone. Even Funky Dove Boutique is preparing for the gnomes, ghouls, ghosts and witches and all that comes with the autumn season. "It's that witchy time of the year, maybe a bit early for some, but for the people who like, really like Halloween and decorate, they are already at it!" Rebecca said, adding, "The boutique ha bits-and-bobs of Halloween goodies to delight or embellish. A witchy girly gnome and her sign next to her "My best ghoulfriends are witches" and antique oval tin box Made it Brazil."

She also has extends her thanks to Penny who added homemade touches to the shop with new dish towels. Perennial soaps have landed at the boutique for your pleasure. They are handmade in Racine, Wisconsin. Luscious smelling. Check her Facebook page for more information.

Rebecca is also of the opinion that it's officially candle season here in Minnesota. But then again, she says, candle time is anytime. So nice though, when temps drop to see that flame, the little bit of warmth that generates that cozy vibe. Available in the shop is the new candle by Starseed Cottage which just made its debut. There's just a hint of Amaretto that makes it a very unique blend. Come and check it out.

Just have to share this comment with you all: Rebecca said, and for more go to her Facebook page and check out the pictures. "had an interesting customer in yesterday. As if she just came out of a Time Machine. A character out of the 1894 she mentioned. The historic building that houses the shop has a plaque outside from 1875, so this lady fit the era of the settlers of Carver. I thought she was dressed a little....different but then I've had a lot of style of people in my shop."



Carver General

What do you suppose those two frugal gals have in store for autumn? You can bet it is unique, fantastic, vintage and stunning, if not imaginative. The gals stated in their Facebook post that they have shopped and shopped...till they dropped? That wouldn't surprise this author if that wasn't the case. They are dedicated and if anyone has checked out their shop, you can just bet that they were super busy mot only shopping but reimagining the otherwise discarded scrap, junk. What's that cliché? What is one's man's junk is another's treasure? Be sure to stop by the weekend of October 19th thru the 22nd and find you very own personal treasure to take home. Hey, heads up, they will be double

dipping in November. They will be open November 3rd and 4th and then again the weekend of the 16th through the 19th in November. Visit their Facebook page for more.

And don't forget to drop on by next door 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

At the www.getawaymotorcafe.com website there is a calendar with events that you can check out. Nathan and Terah also said, "We have plenty of patio weather left! With rotating food trucks, live music and our cocktail menu, our patio is the place to be in Carver. Keep an eye out for unique ticketed events too!" Be sure to check their Facebook page. They have both said too, "One of the best things about opening Getaway is the many cool people we have met!"

They would also like you to know that their Fall Specialty Drinks are here. They bid their summer specialty drinks "Farewell". Introducing their Fall Specialties are the Pumpkin Harvester which is an espresso with steamed local whole mile, fresh pumpkin pie sauce, garnished with star anise and pumpkin pie spice. No? Then try the Spiced Shaken Matcha which is their Sweet Rishi matcha powder, cold milk & ginger-cardamom syrup, shaken with ice and garnished with a cinnamon stick (available hot, or try our ginger-cardamom syrup in a latte!) Still not what you looking for? How about The Johnny Apple Crumble is Vermont apple cider gently stirred with white chocolate, topped with steamed oat milk, and garnished with cinnamon and apple pie crumble. Or maybe try their new Pumpkin Pie Cold Foam, great with our Cold Brew and Nitro Cold Brew!

It is the coolest place in Carver to be lately. You never know who you will run into.

Oh, and another tid bit for you: Happy Hour every Thursday and \$ 2 off alcohol, 4:30- 6:30 PM.



Carver Creamery

Hurry and get your ice cream before the 2023 season ends! Chris and Kailan announced that there are only a few more weeks of being open for this season. You are more than encouraged to stop in and get your ice cream fix before the doors close for the season. Mint Avalanche is a mint lover's paradise! Fresh mint ice creamed loaded with Andes® Candies and Grasshopper® cookies spun off with a chocolate fudge swirl. Good grief can taste it now and too far away to even satisfy that visual.



The Carver Creamery fall hours are Monday through Thursday 4 PM to 8:30 PM, Friday, 4 PM – 9 PM, Saturday 12 PM to 9 PM and Sunday, 12 PM – 8:30 PM. Remember hurry before you can't have their delicious ice cream until next season.

Did you also know that they feature premium ice cream from the Chocolate Shoppe? They feature twenty four seasonal flavors rotating with new flavors throughout the summer. Homemade waffle cones and specialty chocolate-dipped cones are available. They also have shakes, malts, floats and sundaes. You can also purchase favorite flavors by the pint.

The Carver Creamery has announced that their last day for the 2023 season will be October 5th but, if they sell out all their ice cream before, well, you know what that means?

Mizzy's Pizza

"The NFL Ticket is at Mizzy's, along with plenty of cold beer! "Join us inside or on the patio, all views are great!" Did you know that Jeff and Deann are huge Viking fans? A little bird informed this editor that they were, so you know. So, if you are looking to share your own enthusiasm with someone, then head on down to Mizzy's. Betcha' the Vikings fans, if on tv, will be partying hardy there.

Mizzy's is still seeking employees too and hiring! They are hiring delivery drivers and inside staff. Seeking 18+. Apply on their website: www.mizzyspizza.com

Weekend music on the patio is still happening yet too. Check their facebook page for who is playing and any pertinent information. Not to mention the rave reviews being received for their delicious food! Great job guys!



Trinity Lutheran Church

All are welcome at Trinity Lutheran Church, Carver. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study are back in full swing. Classes are offered to students and adults at 8:45 am every Sunday for the 2023-2024 school year.



Confirmation instruction is also beginning on Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7 pm. Please contact Pastor Jander if you are interested in learning more or in registering for classes (952-448-3628).

We are pleased to announce a special celebration happening on Sunday, Oct. 1. We will recognize members of our congregation who have reached the age of "80 plus." Everyone is invited to the special worship service and the potluck meal that follows to honor and celebrate how God has blessed these servants with long life.

Please see our church website at Trinitycarver.com for more information about Trinity Lutheran Church.

The llamas were once again a huge hit again at Trinity Lutheran Church. Make sure to got to Carver Life and review all the cool pictures. Thanks to everyone for all their work and coming.





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

2023 Edith-Anne Award

For those interested in the Edith-Anne Award winners compliments of Carver Current and SW Publishing for providing the information. Becky and Jim Helbling in the newest development to Carver in Copper Hills are the 2023 Edith-Anne Award for Property Excellence.

The man of the house stated that he only digs the holes and carries the bag of mulch. He credits his wife, Becky for the results. Their yard features a variety of plants, trees, flowers and a lush green lawn. Becky's favorite is the outdoor scenery on the patio. Jim labeled the landscaping efforts as "Becky's high-level hobby." Congratulations to the Heblings'.

The Edith-Anne Award for Property Excellence is an award designed to recognize residents who go above and beyond to maintain property. The award honors Edith Herman and Anne Neils who were both instrumental in the creation of Carver-On-the-Minnesota vision in the 1960's. Carver-On-the-Minnesota's mission was to stop the wasteful deterioration of a typical 19th Century river town.



Community	Highlights	October 2023
October 1st	International Coffee Day	A CONTRACT
	Happy Birthday Denny!	
	Happy Birthday Corie!	
October 2 nd	Council Meeting	
	Happy Birthday Tim!	
	Happy Birthday Todd!	
October 3 rd	Gateway to Carver Open He	
	Fire Department/Public Se	rvices Open House
October 4 th	Lions Meeting	<u>د</u>
October 7 th	Music Fest	_ ~~~
	West Union Church Countr	
	Happy Anniversary Kari ar	nd Guy!
	Happy Birthday Megan!	
0 · 1 · 0/	Happy Birthday Joy!	
October 8 th	Happy Birthday Sarah!	Martin
October 9 th	School Board Work Session	
	Carver Elementary PTO Me	
	Dahlgren Township Board	Meeting
	Indigenous Day Happy Birthday Linda!	
	Happy Birthday Laurie!	
	Happy Birthday Carol!	
	Happy Birthday Sarah!	
October 10 th	Heritage Preservation Mee	ting
000000110	Meet and Greet – Coffee No	
	Clover Ridge – Culver's Nig	
October 11th	Happy Birthday Ryan!	
	Happy Anniversary Steve a	nd Tiu!
	Happy Birthday Beth!	and and
October 12th	Happy Birthday Donnie!	
October 13th	Special Person's Day	EOM
	Schram's Vineyard Bonfire	Prant ?
	Happy Birthday Sonjia!	
October 14 th	National Dessert Day	
October 15 th	Happy Birthday Andrea!	
0.1.4	Happy Birthday Oliver!	an sum from
October 16 th	Council Meeting	
O at a h an d Oth	Boss's Day	CAPTER COL
October 18th	50 th Anniversary Celebrati	on – Lions
October 10th	Happy Birthday Tim! through October 20 th -MEA	No Sebool
October 19 th	Through 22 nd Occasional S	
	Happy Birthday Annette!	hops weekend
	Happy Anniversary Linda	Rose and Ken!
October 20th	Carver Business Alliance M	lecting
October 21st	Happy Birthday Larry!	
October 22nd	Carver Trunks and Treats	
	Happy Birthday Steve!	
	Happy Birthday Brandon!	
October 23rd	No School – Conferences	
	School Board Meeting	
October 24th	SW Chamber Coffee and Co	onnect 🔬 🔓
	United Nations Day	ALC: NOT ALL AND A
October 25th	Happy Birthday Melissa!	Ville Chill
October 26th	Happy Birthday Carl!	
	Happy Birthday Kate!	
October 27 th	Carver Elementary - PTO	SA MANTERS
0.1	Celebration from Fundrais	
October 28 th	Halloween Jamboree Even	
October 29 th	East Union Church Trunk of	or Treats Event
October 31st	Halloween	
	Happy Birthday Phil!	



Oktoberfest

Thursday, October 12th at City Hall, Carver, the city invites you to come and celebrate Oktoberfest, specifically directed to active older adults (55 +). Come and have a hot dog or bratwurst, join in with polka

dancing with fun live music by Chuck Thiel. The event is scheduled for 4:30 PM to 6 PM for \$ 12 per person. Sponsored by the Cities of Chaska and Carver, as well as Carver Ridge Senior Living. Register at

the Carver Ridge Senior Living. <u>www.chaskaparkandrec.com</u> or call 952.448.2023.



Happy Halloween!!!!!!!

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]

Battle of the Badges

Thanks to the Carver Quarterly, there is showdown between the Chaska Police and Chaska Fire personnel in the Battle of the Badges. What? According to the staff at Carver Quarterly; this is not an ordinary competition. They are not just cleaning streets, they are cleaning up the community. Read on. The two departments have adopted a highway, first off, known as "Chaska Public



Safety" after a brand-new facility. The game is said to be on starting October 2nd. Both teams will be racing to collect donations for Bountiful Basket. Each dollar will equal one pound of food for the food shelf! The stakes are high and the goal is simple. "Help our community thrive. This is a good cause. The losing team may have to foot the bill for pizza, but in the end, everyone will win simply due to the fact that they will be making a huge difference in the community. Who is your money on? The police or Fire? The battle is on. Couldn't Carver organizations do something similar?

Carver Announcements

The city council adopted the 2024 Preliminary Tax Levy which establishes a "not to exceed" levy amount. The preliminary tax levy amount may be lowered but not raised prior to adoption of the 2024 budget. Residents have the opportunity to address the council on the proposed budget and



levy during the Truth-in-Taxation meeting scheduled for December 4th at 7 PM at the City Hall.

The council also reviewed the drafted Long-Term Financial Planning drafting a ten-year financial and capital plans I relating to staffing, street maintenance, facility maintenance, vehicles and equipment, parks improvements and utilities infrastructure improvements.

During the month of October you might see Public Services staff inspecting the ponds in Carver neighborhoods. This inspection is an annual pond inspection required by the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit. They will be checking for illicit discharge, trash, erosion and nonfunctioning control structures. These inspections are also documented and may require future work for necessary maintenance.

The city staff also would like to announce that all park shelter restrooms will be close for the season on October 15th. The staff also thanks you for a great season!

"Push yourself because no one else is going to do it for you." ~ Unknown

Hctive Older Hdults



Fall Hours:

M–W 8:00am-3:30pm, Th 8:00am-8:00pm F 8:00am-12:00pm Most activities take place at The Lodge, located in the Chaska Community Center. There is no fee to use The Lodge. For further questions or additional information on Active Older Adult (AOA) programs, contact Joan Seedorf, Recreation Supervisor, at: jseedorf@chaskamn.gov, or call (952)227-7760.

Ongoing	atimition i	- the	Ladas
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Games	Mah Jongg	Billiards/Pool
Book Club	Day Trips	Discussions

Stay Connected!

A majority of The Lodge communication has gone digital-electronic! The most up-to-date schedule of AOA/Lodge programs will be released month to month. Copies available in The Lodge and at the CCC front desk. Visit www.chaskamn.gov/687 for more info!

The Lodge is on Facebook!

For current Lodge information, request to join the Chaska Lodge Facebook Group. Must have your own personal Facebook account.

AOA TRIPS/TOURS [OVER 55]

Chaska History Center Exhibit: Will You Live to be 100? Wednesday Aug 23 10:45pm-12:15pm Free - Bus Departure from The Lodge

Paddleford Lunch & Lock Boat Cruise - Waitlist only

Friday, Sep 8 9:15am-3:30pm Standard charge: \$82.00 Bus Departure from The Lodge

Feed My Starving Children - Senior Packing Event Monday, Sep 11 1:15pm-4:15pm Free - Bus Departure from The Lodge

Treasure Island Casino

Tuesday, Sep 26 \$30.00 w/\$20 slot play & \$5 food coupon Bus Departure from The Lodge

8:30am-4:30pm

Travel Showcase with Landmark Tours

Wednesday, Oct 11 10:00am-11:00am Free - Presentation at The Lodge

Ghost Tour by Chaska History Center

Wednesday, Oct 18 12:45pm-2:15pm Standard charge: \$6.00 Bus Departure from The Lodge

10



Happening at the Landscape Arboretum is the Auxiliary Harvest Sale on Friday, October 6th, 9 AM through Sunday, the 8th ending at 3 PM. The Arboretum Auxiliary Harvest Sale offers up



And as always, there is always something going on at the arboretum. Visit: www.arb.umn.edu for all the details and information. The Apple House is open Friday, October 6th, through October 31st. Don't miss the Scarecrows in the Garden also all through October. There is the Full Moon hike scheduled for Saturday, October 28th. If interested, make note on the calendar for the Apple House Holiday Boutique November 6th through December 20th.

high-quality, fresh bulbs are shipped from the Netherlands.

You don't want to miss the pumpkin display at the arboretum. It began in September when pumpkins began popping up in the garden displays. Marvel at the huge variety of colors, shapes, sizes and textures. You can buy arboretum-grown pumpkins, squash ad gourds for your seasonal displays or autumn meals, by the way. The pumpkin display is on view October 1st through the end of the end of the month at 9 AM until 6 PM.

Don't forget to see the popular Scarecrows in the Gardens which adds such a festive note to the autumn displays at the arboretum on the Dahlberg Terrace and Scarecrow Hill.

Chaska Cares Music Festival

At the Chaska Athletic Park the event called Chaska Cares Music Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 7th at 1 PM until 10 PM. Where is the Athletic Park, you ask. There are some who don't know. It's west of Highway # 41 and off of Chaska Boulevard. The physical address is: 725 West First Street. This festival is filled with folksy,



bluesy, soulful Americana vibes. They hope to raise funds for a Miracle League field and universal playground that will allow children of all abilities to play. For more information or tickets: Visit <u>www.chaskacaresmusicfest.com</u>

"Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood." ~ Thomas Carlyle

To register, visit chaskaparksandrec.com

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 tht 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. Ocooh 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, <u>www.chaskahistory.org</u>. 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 <u>historical@chaskahistory.org</u> 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.

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

A sidebar note: The Open House for Carver Gateway will be held at the same time as the Fire Department/Public Services Open house with a table for the County Road # 40 project with information relating to the topic. The times for this will be 5 PM to 7 PM.



Chaska Valley Family Theatre

Auditions are done. Now comes rehearsals to present the theatre's upcoming event, "A *Christmas Carol*". Music is by Alan Menken,



lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, book by Mike Ockrent and Lynn Ahrens. Performances are scheduled for December 1st through the 10th. The Director for this performance is Anna Olson, Music Director, Casey Barker, and Choreographer, Kate McCall. Sidebar note: *A Christmas Carol* was originally presented by Radio City Entertainment at the Theatre at Madison Square Garden, just so you know. Bah Humbug!

Ebenezer Scrooge is a prosperous curmudgeon who believes personal wealth is far more valuable than the happiness and comfort of others. With an infuriated "Bah! Humbug!" Scrooge summates his feelings of Christmas tidings and charitable giving, but he's forced to face his selfish ways when three ghosts on Christmas Eve lead him through his Past, Present, & Future. Thanks to their guidance, Scrooge recognizes his faults and greets Christmas morning with a cheerful "Happy Christmas" before spending the day reconnecting and sharing love with those that mean the most to him. Join CVFT this holiday season as we bring Alan Menken's spectacular score and Dickens' most beloved tale to life on the Chanhassen High School stage.

JJ Foundation - *Sutum* on the the Bluff Bluff Fun for the whole family

Ever heard of the JJ Foundation? The Justin Kukowski Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides support to local MN family who are burdened with monetary, emotional and other anxiety stress associated with the cancer disease and treatments. Information was seen on Carver Life and wanted to share even further with residents and those who care. For more information, visit their website: www.jjfoundation.org

Here are some details from their site though: "Justin was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2005. Athletic, fun-living 25-year-old man, he left his mark on those who knew him and on many other cancer patients to come after him.

During the course of surgery and treatments, he endured much physical pain and intense side effects. Through it all Justin was resolute in experiencing things with his family, maintaining strong bonds with his friends, and participating within his community; making the most of every opportunity at hand.

Today, the Justin Kukowski Foundation dedicates it's every effort to honoring Justin's loving spirit, working within our community to provide the support & opportunities to our friends & neighbors as they face life's most difficult challenges."

The foundations' mission provides support to local families by relieving the burdens associated with treatments.

They serve Carver County and surrounding areas. They work with families affected by these burdens. Provide financial support and other services. One hundred percent of donations are distributed locally. Members of the board are all volunteers. Many of Justin's family and friends are active participants within the board or in the foundation events. Donations are welcomed too.

In Carver at 16315 Jonathan Carver Parkway, Carver, at Sun Meadow Farm is a fundraiser planned for their Fifth Annual Autumn on the Bluff fundraiser on Saturday, October 7th from 3 PM until 9 PM. Proceeds benefit the foundation. You will find Wine Tasting, Food Trucks and Craft Beer at the event. You are invited to come and enjoy the "best of Minnesota outdoors from the Carver Highland Bluffs overlooking the MN River Valley at the absolute peak of fall color." Flyer included at the end of the newsletter. There is wine tasting hosted by Dolce Vita, local beer, music by Traveled Ground, food trucks, games and plenty of family fun! Come join them for a good cause. RSVP and get more information on line at their website: again; <u>www.justinkukowskifoundation.org</u> or Facebook Autumn on the Bluff.

Wine Woman Networking

Also being celebrated is the Wine, Woman Networking event happening on Tuesday, October 10th at Engel and Volkers Lake Minnetonka at 700 Lake Street East, Suite 200 in Wayzata. The event begins at 40 PM until 6 PM.

For more information, contact Tamy at 612-386-6775. Invitation is extended to come and sip on delicious wine, connect with amazing women and expand your professional network. The event is an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals, exchange ideas, and build valuable relationships.

SW Metro Chamber Gala

The Southwest Metro Chamber of Commerce is hosting their annual Chamber Gala at the Chaska Event Center on Thursday, November 2nd. The event will begin at 5 PM and the fun will continue until 8 PM.

There will also be a Silent Auction. For more information, visit the chamber's website: <u>www.swmetrovhamber.com</u> The physical address for the event center is 3210 Chaska Boulevard, Chaska.

The Annual Celebration Gala hosted by the chamber which is a nonprofit organization that supports and helps to strengthen our member businesses and stimulate regional prosperity. The Annual Gala offers a great way to connect with a range of business leaders while enjoying a fun event! Come as you are! No formal wear required. Wear your company log, business casual or dress up. The choice is yours.

Waconia Scarecrow Tour

Did you know about this? I didn't. Cool and sounds like fun. A map/ballot is attached at the end of the newsletter for all those interested in checking this event out. The Scarecrow Tour in Waconia is an annual event with over forty scarecrows displayed throughout the town to enjoy. The event is scheduled for October 12th through the 23rd. If you go, check off on your ballot your favorite and drop off at participating businesses. It's a self-guided event staged outdoors. Waconia businesses create these wonderful artsy displays just for the community to enjoy outside their shops. It is also a terrific way to



showcase Waconia business and organizations to explore Waconia.

Schram Vineyards Bonfire

The Annual Harvest Bonfire is happening at Schram's Vineyards in Waconia, 8785 Airport Road on Friday, October 13th. The annual event celebrates their newest Bonfire wine release. Schram's asks you, "what better way is there to celebrate their annual bonfire wine release in fall than by lighting up the biggest bonfire in the area? Dance under the



stars? Enjoy good food and drink delicious, artisan wines? Tent concert also scheduled. As before, you can expect host food trucks, opening music, campfires, s'mores and so much more! Won't you come and join them? Again, that is Friday, October 13th with the fun beginning at 5 PM and ends at 10 PM.

Trunks or Treats

The Carver Lions are sponsoring the local Trunks and Treats event in downtown Carver again this year. Get the kiddos all dressed up and ready to head on down to downtown for those treats packed away in the trunks with their names on the treats. The event is scheduled for Sunday, October 22nd.



Fun to begin at 1 PM until 3 PM. Don't miss it!



Hets Consortium "Capturing the Moment" exhibit concludes on October 6th. The upcoming exhibit will be "Life in Abstraction" which will be show-

upcoming exhibit will be "Life in Abstraction" which will be showcased October 11th through November 24th. A reception will be held on October 26th at 6"30 PM -l 8:30 PM.

Artists Conversations gathering, you will need to contact the arts gallery for up to date information. Upcoming classes include Fused Glass, October 7th, and Paint Your Pet, October 11th. In November through December the class offered is Beginner Stained Glass classes. December is Gnome Ornaments, Paint Pour Project and Fused Heart Pendants.

For more information, visit their website: <u>www.artsofcarvercounty.org</u>

"We close our eyes to kiss, to laugh, and to dream. Through the unseen it is what we feel what is real." ~Roxana Jones



Hugust Gossip - Not Gossip

Most of the local Farmer's Markets throughout the local area are done for the season. However, New Prague is listed to have their end in October along with On the Farm in Waconia.

Heard there's Wine Wednesdays being held over at the Minnetonka Orchards on Wednesday, October 25th (last one) starting at 5 PM until 9 PM. That's at 6530 County Road 26, Minnetrista. Live music with Reese Glover. You're invited to come and watch the sun set while sipping Easton Cider and Everly Farms Wine. Also partake in gourmet wood-fired pizza.

Some events going on around locally throughout October that you will find are: Rivertown Fall Festival over in Stillwater on the 7th and 8th. Over in Winona on the 12th and 14th is the Sandbar Storytelling Festival. At the state fairgrounds on the 14th you will find the Twin Cities Book Festival. Are you a Beatles fan and willing to drive to the Rochester Mayor Civic Center? The Fab Four performs the Beatles' Rubber Soul. A Haunting We Will Go is happening on October 28th in Owatonna. Oktoberfest is happening in New Ulm October 6th and 7th, and then again October 13th and 14th.



Tricks and Treats at Valleyfair Fridays, Saturday and Sundays through October 29th. "Valleyfair's Tricks and Treats is a gotta-be-there Halloween event packed with fun and family-friendly eeriness. From little goblins to grown-up ghouls, everyone will find ghastly great things to do for Halloween.

Harvey's announces compliments of Carver Quarterly that BANGO is back every Sunday . You are invited to join them at 2 PM until 4 PM for Sunday, Funday vibes!

Mark your calendars too for the Harvey's Halloween Bash and costume contest with Mix It DJ at 8:30 PM to 12:30 AM on October 28th.

Remember too, Sticks Tavern over at Dahgreen Golf Course. They have Bingo Wednesdays, Music Tuesdays, and Trivia Thursdays. They are closed on Mondays. Tues through Thursday, open from 10 AM to 10 PM; Friday and Saturday hours are 10 AM to midnight and Sunday 10 AM to 8 PM. Visit their website for more information: www.stickstavernmn.com



Did you know there's another author in Carver? And he has more than one book too. Joe was born in Minneapolis but lives in Carver. Joe Egan released his first fiction novel recently. There was a book release party held in Minneapolis. This book title is "Losing Lee". Look him up on line.

"As far back as I can remember," Joe said, "I always wanted to be a writer. Growing up I wrote stories about stuffed animals, created a student newspaper ...and forged a lifelong bond between a trinity of hands, pen and paper." Boy can this author relate to that. Check him out guys!

Did you know that October 1st is World Communion Sunday? A Christian observance that celebrates the unity of all CHRISTIANS around the world!

Did you know or are you a Tolkien – Lord of the Rings fan? Every year since 1978, September 22nd has been proclaimed Hobbit Day. If you are not a Tolkien fan, skip this article. Otherwise, if you are interested the information was retrieved from Wikipedia and yes, this author is a Lord of the Rings, Tolkien fan. The day of September 22nd called Hobbit Day is in reference to the birthdays of Bilbo and Frodo Baggins, two fictional characters in J.R.R. Tolkien's books, identified as The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings. "According to the fictional setting, Bilbo was born in the year of 2890 and Frodo in the year of 2968 in the Third Age (1290 and 1368 respectively in Shire-Reckoning."

"The American Tolkien Society first proclaimed Hobbit Day and Tolkien Week in 1978. It defines Hobbit Day as September 22, and Tolkien Week as the calendar week containing that day. The society acknowledges that Hobbit Day pre-dates their designation ."

"Some Tolkien fans celebrate by emulating the hobbits' parties with food, fireworks, dancing, and much merriment Others simply go barefoot in honor of the hobbits, who don't wear shoes Some schools and libraries use this as an opportunity to pique interest in Tolkien's work by putting up displays and hosting events."

How about did you know that International Coffee Day celebrates not only coffee but recognizes millions of people throughout the world who work hard to not only create but serve coffee?

Then there is the day to raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly and to appreciate their contributions to Society called international Day of Older Persons!

Did you know that September was National Senior month?



Some days or afternoons we aren't here at all, and lately I've been here just about all the time, except when I'm someplace else, but I should be here then, too. You would think this person has nothing better to do than to look up trivia. Well, you are wrong. Pick and choose what humans should be reminded of and intuition dictates what sudden thought occurs like did you know that there is a day for International Day of Non-Violence which happens to be October 2nd and involves promoting non-violence through education and public awareness. Then there is Men Girl's Day, National Boyfriend Day, National Taco Day, World Animal Day, World Teacher's Day, German American day, Manufacturing Day, Name your Car Day, even a no bra day, (wow), and so many more goofy things but then again not. Just thought you should know.





Karen Brinkhaus

Most people from Carver who would have known Karen are probably gone but there are those who are still around to recall those days, just like this author. I had the pleasure of working with Karen when she was the City Clerk for Carver. I cherish many of the earlier memories of acquaintances upon first moving to town so long ago. Karen was a very special person and quite a character if you were lucky enough to interacted with her. It was an honor to be a part of her world at that point in time. I learned a lot from her. So in honor of her memory, thought it was only fitting to share. For those who were not lucky enough to be a part of that era, you have been cheated of a special moment in her time line. For all of those who remember Karen, honor her with a kind thought and a memory to brighten your day because sharing a moment with Karen was a highlight to say the least.

"Karen Catherine Brinkhaus

April 30, 1937 - September 11, 2023

Karen Catherine (Kinney) Brinkhaus, 86, of Shakopee, died September 11, 2023 at Rivers of Life Memory Care Facility in Savage. A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, an architect when few women were, Karen was a voracious reader, loved animals, nurtured a beautiful, abundant garden, and had a lifelong love of knowledge, nature and adventure. Engaged in the community, she was thoughtful, generous and kind.

Karen was born April 30, 1937 in Hastings, MN, to Milo and Leona (White) Kinney. The oldest of three children, she graduated from Hastings High School in 1954 and with a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota School of Architecture and Engineering in 1958. She treasured her friendships with high school classmates, meeting every month for lunch.

She and Donald Brinkhaus married on August 8, 1959, at Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Hastings and raised three loving daughters--Camille, Linda, and Pamela.

During her career, she was City Clerk of Carver, MN, an urban planner with the Jonathan Association, and worked in the architectural planning division, Planmark, of Super Valu for 18 years. In her retirement, she enjoyed quilting, knitting, crocheting, gardening, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, son-in-law Don Slathar, and brother-in-law Terry Merritt.

Survivors include: her husband, Donald; daughters, Camille (Tim) Connelly of Marana, AZ and Chaska, MN, Linda (Bob) Wick of Lakeville, Pamela Brinkhaus of St. Lawrence Township; two grandchildren, Emily Wick (Pedro Lopez), Ross (Lexi) Wick; greatgrandson Raylen Wick; her siblings, Karyl Kinney of Mahtomedi, Ken (Laura) Kinney of Marine on St. Croix, and many other relatives and friends.

Karen's funeral will be held Monday, September 18, at St. Mary of the Purification Catholic Church in Marystown (15850 Marystown Road, Shakopee) with visitation at 10 a.m. and a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m., Father Michael Becker presiding. The casketbearers will be Tim Connelly, Bob Wick, Ross Wick, Pedro Lopez, Chris Brinkhaus and Jeff Brinkhaus. A luncheon in the church hall will follow the Mass, with burial at 2 PM at Guardian Angels Catholic Cemetery in Chaska.

The family would like to express their immeasurable gratitude to the extraordinary staff at Rivers of Life and Brighton Hospice, who provided compassionate and exceptional care for Karen during her last days. Words cannot express our thanks."

The Geason of Halloween in 2023

Now for all you Halloween lovers/fanatics, let's get down to business and update you on Halloween events/activities going on locally, shall we?



TITTI



Screamtown

Let's begin with Screamtown which is off of Highway # 212 going west to Cologne. You knew that right? For far more details, visit their website: www.screamtown.com

First question is: Why visit Screamtown? Mat says it one of the top Halloween Haunted attractions in the country and the twin cities area. This even is an exceptional value with seven massive haunted attractions. He also wants you to know that their scarer-actors are passionate not just about Halloween and haunted houses, but actually also scaring people.

He also wants you to know that his teams work year round to ensure that visitors have an experience that they will remember for years. He also wants you to know that you should visit their sister site, the Abandoned hayride which is also one of the most unique Haunted Hayrides in Minnesota. We'll get to that. First though, want to share this.

New in 2022 – Psycho-Delic Circus. Clowns went psychotic and the circus is in town. Zombie Apocalypse CDC is in lockdown. All new Cannibal Cabin. Trapped Possession is a touch attraction. There's more, these were just a few. Also, you are invited to come for Nightly Happy Hour, 5:20 PM – 7:20 PM

Happy Hour, 5:30 \overline{PM} – 7:30 PM. Ticket prices are on their website along with dates and times. Opened in September and is already underway and will close October 29th. Be sure to check their website for ALL the information.

Abandoned Hayride

The Abandoned Hayride is said to be the most terrifying hayride experience in Minnesota. Is that possible? An experience that leaves you screaming for your life, they said. You are prompted to get ready to be transported to a world of horror and suspense where every twist and turn leaves you on the edge of your seat. There is said to be immersive illusions and spine-chilling scenes leaving you to believe you are in a nightmare. (No thanks guys). You're told, "Buckle up, hold on tight, and prepare to be horrified!" The website also states that the hayride has been reinvented.

"After being totally abandoned in the woods, you'll have to venture on foot through Forsaken, a maze of complete darkness and monsters that lurk where you least expect it. You'll then be Exiled, where only you ad on other person, if you choose, have to find your way out or be Exiled forever!" You are warned too, due to the intense fear and terror, you must sign a waiver.

So if you are interested, they are also already open for the season and close October 29th and they also invite you to participate in their Happy Hour. Visit their website for ALL information you need to know before going, <u>www.abandonedhayride.com</u>

Trail of Terror – Phantom's Feast

Their Phantom's Feast consists of dinner and ghost stories held on the ground of the MN Renaissance Festival. The host is Jim Cunningham. This includes meal, and beverages during the meal and a Phantoms mug. The Phantom's Feast is the perfect event to get into the Halloween spirt. Also the event is for 17 years old and older. Cash bar will be open an hour before show time. A ghost hunt will follow each show. Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7 PM while Sunday's show starts at 6 PM. Their Phantom's Feast opens

October 13th through October 15th. The following week will be Thursday, October 19th through the 22^{nd} and the last chance to partake in the feast will be Wednesday, October 25^{th} through the 29^{th} .



Valley Fair Tricks and Treats

Tricks and treats has already also begun at Valleyfair and will run through October 29th. Valleyfair says Tricks and Treats is a gotta-be-there event packed with fun and family-friendly eeriness. There are little goblins to grown-up ghouls. Valleyfair says that there is ghastly great things to do and skeleTons of delicious seasonal treats, drinks and candy. You are dared to explore the Land of Tricks where it's promised to be playfully spooky and gross and weird. There are charming boulevards of the Land of Treats full of fall nostalgia. The Land of Tricks offers two realms with everything slimy, sinister and strange. Ickyville and Spooky Spires are found here the Treat in shades the universe buffet in general called and Everet here the strange.



ORCHARD

BOOZE BASH

found here too. The Land of Treats includes two uniquely festive areas called Everfall and Sweet Tooth Acres. Most of the popular rides are open during this event

too, in case you were wondering. A rather drastic opposite of the two sites above. For more information, www.valleyfair.com



Boo Bash

Boo Bash at the Minnetonka Orchard was an accidental find if you are interested. Another calmer Halloween event for the entire family filled with fun. This is one day only, October 29th beginning at noon and ending at 5 PM. The orchard is at 6530 County Road 26 in Minnetrista. The Boo Bash is complete with trick-or-treating, bouncy house, DJ, kids' dance, games and prizes, pumpkin decorating, kids' costume contest and spooky fun for the whole family. When you come you can access other things at the orchard. For more information: www.minnetonkaorchard.com

Booze Bash

For the adults at the Minnetonka Orchard there is also an event titled Booze Bash. This event is scheduled for Saturday, October 28th at 6 PM to 10 PM at the same address as in

the Boo Bash article. Come and enjoy a lively DJ, food stations and a cash bar to keep the spirits high. There is a costume party this year. This event is for adults twenty-one years of age and older only. Free admission.



Halloween, Jamboree

For some humans this is holiday that is not only their favorite but can't wait for it to come around. For others, it's 'eye' can live without. But obviously it is one of the most celebrated, loved, and costumed event of the year. This year at the Chaska Community Center is the Halloween Jamboree that preparations are underway. The fun will begin at 4 PM and won't end until 6 PM. This event is kid-friendly, Halloween-themed crafts, ghostly games and a haunted house for a small fee. Then of course, there is the DJ dance booth too. Just head over to 1661 Park Ridge Drive in Chaska.



Another Halloween event over in Chaska is being hosted by the Chaska Historical Society with ghost tours throughout the historic, haunted downtown, so they say. Information and picture provided by SW Publishing, specifically Ms Audra Grigus.

"A house on the 500 block of North Pine Street in Downtown Chaska went all out for Halloween in 2022 with a massive spider web on the house, little monsters in the trees and yard and pumpkins all along the front porch." Wonder what the owners have in mind for 2023 huh? Guess, one would have to go to town and see.

"The friendly ghosts of Downtown Chaska, and allegedly one curmudgeonly one, will be highlighted in the Chaska Historical Society's first ever Hauntings and History tour on October 6th, 7th, 13th and 14th.

Tour guides Connie Jacobs and Julie Wiese with the historical society will lead groups of 15 people around downtown just before dusk and share some family-friendly—but still spooky—tales.

Jacobs anticipates the tours to last around an hour and a half. While the walk is under a mile, she wants to leave plenty of time for questions and for people to take it all in.

"We have eight sites total, one of the houses I call the most haunted house in Chaska," Jacobs said, while not revealing the location of this house to Southwest News Media.

The tour will start at the Chaska History Center and up Pine Street, across Second Street, up Oak Street, across Third Street and then north on Walnut Street. Jacobs and Wiese have walked through the route and assure attendees that the sidewalks are in good condition. She approximates that there are 16-20 different ghosts and their stories that will be mentioned during the tours.

Wiese and Jacobs talked to business owners and residents, as well as hearing stories through the grapevine, to collect the stories that they tell on their tours. Then the two spend time digging into the history of a home or business building to try and figure out who may be haunting it."

Degler Farm

Looking for a new amazing experience? Head on over to Chanhassen to the Degler Farm at 9111 Audubon Road. (<u>www.deglerfarm.business.site</u>) Fridays, open at 3:30 PM until sunset (6 PM), Saturday, 10 AM until sunset (6 PM), and Sundays 1 PM until 6 PM. Just beyond the barn you will find a three acre corn maze. A new design created each year for the event.



Approximately five years ago, "the family opened the Degler farm up on the weekends in the fall. That year, they offered hayrides, a corn pit, pumpkins for sale and a corn maze which was less than an acre. "It was a big hit," Todd said."

The Degler's teaching professions "led the Deglers to look at what their farm's future could be. The family wanted the farm to be a place to educate the public about production agriculture while having a lot of fun at the same time. The farm has always been a place that welcomes visitors. While the dairy was still operating, the Degler's hosted school groups for 35 years. The students had the opportunity to tour a working dairy and better understand the work that goes into milk production."

"The family works together to bring their dream of opening an agritourism destination to fruition. Gayle, Lois, Wade, Todd, Ellen and families can be seen at the farm throughout the fall season. Sister, Beth lives in Wisconsin.

In 2020, people were looking for something to do outside, close to home. Degler Farm was the perfect fit. "What really propelled this was Covid," Todd said. That year he used his engineering skills to make a trebuchet to catapult pumpkins. The trebuchet was a big hit and taught visitors principles of physics in addition to its being just plain fun to watch.



"The views and smells are free. You pay for what you want to do," Todd said. That includes the slide, hayride, pumpkins and corn maze. "We greet people when coming in, pay when you go," Todd said. "Education has always been really close to my family," Todd said. The 25-minute hayride around the farm allows Gayle to drive the tractor

while also sharing the farm's history and the history of agriculture in Carver County. There's old machinery located in the Deglers' woods; Gayle explains to visitors how those relics aided farmers in planting and harvesting. "We compare and contrast our farm with other farming techniques," Todd said.

Todd has a sawmill outside of the barn where he cuts a large piece of wood for projects around the farm, such as the top of the benches on the hay wagon. He also sells lumber. Near the sawmill are The University of Minnesota honeybee boxes, which have been at the farm for six to seven years. "They (U of M) were looking for places in the metro," Todd said. The bees are another talking point in the hayride, explaining that a farm is a great place for bees to inhabit as there are plenty of pollinating options."



Sever's Fall Festival

Sever's fall festival is officially open for the 2023 season. Weekends are packed full of fun staring at 10 AM until 7 PM, Open MEA weekend too. For more information, visit www.seversfestivals.com

Where? 3121 150th Street West, Shakopee. Apples are available too for purchase. You will find pumpkins, corn maze, obviously, petting zoo, pig races, face painting, live shows, corn pits, zip lines and pumpkin blasters to name a few things. They are open until October 29th.

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, October 26th 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 Franciso 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 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 get them through their time of to need. Hours

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





Bountiful Basket Food Shelf's School Snack Program Providing 400 healthy snacks each month to all schools in District 112!

Bountiful Basket Food Shelf is once again partnering with the Eastern Carver County School District to provide healthy snacks to kids in need. While all kids are now eligible for free breakfasts and lunches this school year, kids still need additional food assistance and energy throughout the day. All snacks will be distributed discreetly through school counselors, social workers, nurses, etc.

A HUGE thank you to the District 112 Foundation for their generous financial support of this program!

How can you help? ... Host a School Snack Drive!

In addition to the amazing financial support we received from the District 112 Foundation, we also need our communities' continued support via school snack drives! Additional snacks collected from the community will be distributed at all schools and at both Bountiful Basket Food Shelf locations (Chaska & Cologne). Please consider hosting a School Snack Drive to ensure all kids can perform at their peak levels! Snack should be "smart snack certified" including items such as:









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.



The next pop-up Pantry is scheduled to be at Grace Church (9301 Eden Prairie Road) in Eden Prairie on Thursday, Octo ber 5th 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.

Free Food Distribution: All are welcome, while supplies last. Old Gedney Factory in Chaska at 2100 Stoughton Ave. Next events? Oct. 19. Sponsored by CAP Agency and the City of Chaska.

Minnesota Free School Meals bill was signed into law. This provides all students in our district one breakfast and one lunch each school day at no charge. A la carte items including snacks, beverages, and second entrees, are available to purchase in our elementary, middle and high schools. Students who wish to purchase a la carte items must have a positive balance in their Nutrition Services account.

Application for Educational Benefits (Free & reduced priced meals):

Your student may qualify for educational benefits. Qualifying for educational benefits may grant your student access to reduced or waived school-based fees including:

• technology insurance • athletics and activity • community education class • field trips • Parking

Additionally, it may qualify your family for discounts in the community such as:

50% off Southwest Transit

Discounted internet service through the Affordable Connectivity Program

- Free membership to the Children's Museum
- Summer P-EBT benefits

Educational benefit data also qualifies our school district for additional funding that is critical to support the needs of students.



What do you see?





BOUNTIFUL BASKET

Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta

Canned Chicken & Tuna

Canned Pineapple &

Mandarin Oranges

Cereal

Hearty Soups

Mac & Cheese

 Ramen Noodles Cooking Oil

CURRENT NEEDS - October 2023



BATTLE OF THE BADGES

Chaska Police and Chaska Fire have teamed up and Adopted-a-Highway which will be labeled "Chaska Public Safety" after our upcoming, new Public Safety Facility that will house both of our departments.

In addition to picking up trash we are going to do a friendly competition between Police and Fire. Whichever department has the most, WEIGHT in donations/\$1donation=1#food dropped off at **Bountiful Basket from**

October 2nd to October 9th before 3:30 pm is the winner! The losing team (really no one loses as we collect a bunch of food for the community) has to pay for the pizza after our clean-up session. 😁 POLICE or FIRE?? Who's it going to be?

Ketchup & Mustard

 Birthday Bags (includes a birthday gift bag, cake mix, fras birthday plates & napkins, and a small toy)

Toilet Paper

Canned Corn & Carrots

• Diapers - size 3, 4, 5 & 6!!!

Feminine Hygiene Products

 Dish & Laundry Soap Thanksgiving Items







CARVER FIRE & CARVER PUBLIC SERVICES FIRE DEPT.



Fire Truck Rides · Bounce House · Sign a Snowplow Free Chili, Hot Dogs, and More! Community Safety Information

Meet your Local Firefighters & Public Services Crew

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Carver Fire Station 801 Jonathan Carver Parkway

ANNUAL AUTUMN ON THE BLUFF

When

Oct 07, 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM CDT

Where

Sun Meadow Farm (Solseng Farm), 16315 Jonathan Carver Pkwy, Carver, MN 55315, USA





Proceeds Benefiting

The Justin Kukowski Foundation

WINE TASTING 👾 FOOD TRUCKS 👾 CRAFT BEER

Come enjoy the best of Minnesota outdoors from the Carver Highland Bluffs, over looking the Minnesota River Valley, at the absolute peak of fall color. Included is a beautiful wine tasting, hosted by Dolce Vita, local beer, music by Traveled Ground, food trucks, games, and plenty of family fun!

Saturday, October 7th 3:00pm - 9:00pm

Solseng Farm 16315 Jonathan Carver Parkway Carver, MN 55315

RSVP and more information: www.justinkukowskifoundation.org

Autumn on the Bluff





15TH ANNUAL aconia Scarecrow Tour **OCTOBER 13-23 2022**

Official ballot and suggested driving order



	Entry
All Seasons Garment Care	The Bride of FrankenSTAIN - 712 B Vista Boule-
& Tailoring	vard
Shred with Shannon	Fitness for everybody & every BODY
	- 37 East Main St
Gilbert Legal, PLLC	Humpty Dumpty - Have a Great Fall!
	- 16 W Main St
The Stash	Autumn Angel - 34 W Main St
Elite Nutrition	Crash Landing - 36 West Main St
Shape It Up Fitness	Scarecrow - 44 W Main St
Iron Tap	Buzzed Lightyear - 140 W Main
Waconia Brewing Company	Cheers Gnome - 255 W Main St
Edward Jones-Dale Copeman	Scareboo - 121 W Main, Suite 116
Melchert Hubert Sjodin, PLLP	Alice in Lawyer Land – 121 W Main St, Suite 200
Waconia Living Magazine	Smiles for Miles - 24 S Olive St
Old National Bank	The Upside Down - 53 W Main St
Waconia Patriot	4-H makes the BOO-st even better - 8 S Elm St
	Created by Pleasant Valley 4H
Trinity Waconia	Jesus loves you s'more than you know
	- 601 E 2nd St
Waconia Moravian Church	In All Things Love - 209 E 2nd St
Managia Managia Ladar #220	Created by Moravian Youth
Waconia Masonic Lodge #326	This is the Jedi Master way 136 S Elm St
St. Joseph Catholic Community	Robo-Joe - 41 E First Street, Waconia
Infinity Diamond Jewelers	Mr. & Mrs. Infinity - 32 W 1st St.
Infinity Diamond Jewelers Emagine Waconia Theatre	Mr. & Mrs. Infinity - 32 W 1st St. Spider-Man - 101 W 1st St
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Emagine Waconia Theatre	Spider-Man - 101 W 1st St Barry the Barista: Christ and Coffee - because coffee gets me started and Christ keeps me goin'!
Emagine Waconia Theatre Freshwater Community Church	Spider-Man - 101 W 1st St Barry the Barista: Christ and Coffee - because coffee gets me started and Christ keeps me goin'! - 138 W 1st St
Emagine Waconia Theatre Freshwater Community Church Paws Inn Pet Essentials	Spider-Man - 101 W 1st St Barry the Barista: Christ and Coffee - because coffee gets me started and Christ keeps me goin'! - 138 W 1st St Super Hero Pets Unleashed - 120 S Vine St
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Emagine Waconia Theatre Freshwater Community Church Paws Inn Pet Essentials Southview Elementary	Spider-Man - 101 W 1st St Barry the Barista: Christ and Coffee - because coffee gets me started and Christ keeps me goin'! - 138 W 1st St Super Hero Pets Unleashed - 120 S Vine St The Minion and Gru - 225 W 4th St
Emagine Waconia Theatre Freshwater Community Church Paws Inn Pet Essentials Southview Elementary Bayview Elementary	Spider-Man - 101 W 1st St Barry the Barista: Christ and Coffee - because coffee gets me started and Christ keeps me goin'! - 138 W 1st St Super Hero Pets Unleashed - 120 S Vine St The Minion and Gru - 225 W 4th St BAYVIEW is Jawsome - 24 S Walnut St

Location	Entry
Rebound Orthotics & Prosthetics	The Very Hungry Caterpillar - 584 S Cherry Dr
Nate Matousek State Farm	Talk to me, Gourd - 568 Cherry Dr
SouthPoint Financial Credit Union	Uncle Pennybags - 502 Cherry Dr
Waconia Middle School	Germ Buster: Made it Through 22, Follow Me to 23 -
	1400 Community Dr
Waconia High School	MOANa-Lisa - 1650 Community Dr
	Created by WHS Art Club
Philp Family Dentistry	King Kandy - 9366 Oak Ave
SunnyDays Therapy	A Sunny Day - 9346 Oak Ave
Sota Shine	Viktor - 740 Marketplace Drive
Mackenthun's Fine Foods	Minnesota Scaregrown - 851 Marketplace Dr
HomeTown Bank	HTB Wildcat Super Fans - 641 Marketplace Dr
Waconia Early Childhood	Pete the Cat Rocks ECFE - 520 Industrial Blvd
Family Education	
Hoxie Homes & Remodeling	You can huff and puff but you won't blow our house
	down! - 364 Industrial Blvd
HearingLife	HEARman the Super EAR-O - 542 S Elm St
Everson's Hardware Hank	We are Family - 121 E Hwy 5
Laketown Elementary	Giddyup into Laketown Elementary - 960 Airport Rd
Island View Golf Club	Putting on the Green—7795 Laketown Pkwy

Circle your Favorifel Visit all the scarecrows and enter to win prizes!

Name _____

City _____ Phone _____

E-mail

Drop completed ballot with your vote at any participating business or the Waconia Chamber office at 209 S Vine Street by 10/24/22. Thanks for participating!

- * YOU'RE INVITED *-

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

OKTOBERFES,

ACTIVE OLDER BOOK

BRAT OR HOT DOG - POLKA DANCING - FUN LIVE MUSIC BY CHUCK THIEL

> THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 4:30-6:00PM \$12 PER PERSON CARVER VILLAGE HALL

SPONSORED BY THE CITIES OF CHASKA AND CARVER AND CARVER RIDGE SENIOR LIVING

REGISTER AT WWW.CHASKAPARKSANDREC.COM OR CALL 952-448-2023

FREE!

OCT

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT *SPONSORED BY THE CARVER LIONS*

Downtown Carver, Sunday October 22nd from 1pm-3pm

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

year to year!

JOIN US FOR FUN, GAMES AND PRIZES!

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

*Email Kim if you'd like to join us or make a donation: Kimberlywhaley14@gmail.com

Trunk or Treat

Join us for an afternoon of fun! We will have crafts, games, hav rides, food and of course trunk or treating!! Don't forget to tell your friends too! Make sure you dress up in your favorite costume!

Food & Drinks

Hotdog, Chips and fruit will be served, along with spooky drinks

Saturday, October 28th 4:00-6:00pm

East Union Lutheran Church 15180 County Rd 40 Carver, MN 55315

Night Marauders - Mizzy's Pizza

"Where we going Territory?" Rascal asked eagerly.

"We are going to go and check out the new pizza place." Territory replied secretively.

"Mizzy's at the Carver Square across from the daycare and next door to the dental office?" "You been there?" Territory asked somewhat surprised.

Pausing and avoiding his question, he asked instead, "How come?"

Not really listening closely, Territory asked, "How come what?"

"What made you decide to go and check them out now?" Rascal inquired slyly.

"Check who out?" Raschevious questioned approaching with Rhapsody, Lavendar and Bandeet. "Mizzy's Pizza." Rascal blurted quickly.

"Yum. Yum. Yummy." Rhapsody excitedly clamored just thinking about the delicacy in her tastebuds. "When we going?" Lavendar queried zealously, "Can I go too?"

"DeAnne ok'd it Lavendar." Territory affirmed happily.

"And the customers won't be afraid that I'm a skunk?" She asked apprehensively.

"Don't be silly Lavendar. If four raccoons don't scare them away, a little puffy adorable skunk isn't either." Bandeet reassured her affectionately.

The others all laughed at how funny, if not ridiculous the entire scenario was to begin with. "When are we going?" Raschevious inquired keenly licking his chops just thinking about all the delicious food that they would be depositing onto their palates. Territory announced demonstratively, "Lunch time tomorrow."

The group of Night Marauders were anxious, excited and eager for their new adventure making their way over and up Jonathan Carver Parkway through Mueller's Gravel Pit, past the cemetery, fire station and finally arriving at the Carver Square complex. They stood beneath the large sign at the entrance and looked around at the surrounding area to take it all in. It had been such a long winter and none of them had been able to meander about to explore at all. So this trip was a real special treat for them all, not to mention their anticipation of having a delicious hot meal for a change to devour and savor. As they entered the restaurant, over to their right was a large cozy, welcoming dining room with ample seating. They admired the beautiful wood topped tables. Enough room too for a party if wanted. To their left was a bar surrounded by windows and seating all along the bar area for patrons to enjoy a beer, or wine or soda or even an alcoholic beverage. It was here too where people could watch the television for sports events. Since Jeff and DeAnne are both such adamant Vikings fans, sports were prevalent for viewing on the tv. Directly behind the bar were interior and exterior access to the outdoor patio with ample seating too and three large screen tv's to enjoy Viking games. There was also a stage area for their weekend music venues.

DeAnne approached her invited guests to seat them on the patio.

"Welcome." She greeted with a warm welcoming smile.

Rascal suddenly developed shyness hiding behind Territory admiring their pretty hostess.

"Thank you for letting us come and taste your food we've heard so many raving about." Rhapsody politely declared.

"Everyone is welcome here." She told them as they sat down.

The patio had a roof overhead but open and half walls surrounding the perimeter, Lavender noted as she

looked around nervously but they were the only patrons in the patio area. "Is it true?" Bandeet couldn't help but blurt out, "That you have another shop in Belle Plaine?" "It is." She answered, "This is the sit down restaurant here in Carver. Belle Plaine is more delivery and carry out." She explained.

"How long have you and your husband been doing this?" Territory asked staunchly.

"About nineteen years." She replied proudly, "Jeff's dream was to have a sit down restaurant with a bar." "Looks like you both have achieved just that." Raschevious designated looking around fascinated with the decor. "I think we have too." She proudly affirmed.

She set the menus down in front of the eager, anxious furry bunch and winked at Lavender as she set the last one down.

"What would you like to drink?" She asked them favorably.

"Can we have Sparkling Rose Territory?" Rascal rambunctiously inquired pulling on Territory's coat of fur. "Rascal!" Rhapsody scolded seeing the owner smirking delightfully.

'Only if you sit still and behave." Territory intensely reprimanded.

Rascal sat back and straightened up to be mature and quiet.

Only one serving of the Rose each please?" Territory stiffly remarked looking at the menu to examine all the contents. "Certainly." She responded, turned and walked back inside. "She's awfully pretty." Raschevious commented quietly. "She sure is." Rascal confirmed gingerly, squirming nervously.

Territory looked up to see a man returning with their hostess, DeAnne. Introductions were made.

"You have a full menu offering." Territory expressed impressed with everything he was seeing. "We do, we offer appetizers, sandwiches, pasta entrees and desserts along with a wide variety of pizzas." Jeff informed them knowledgeably.

Territory listened intently to what the tall man was saying.

"Our biggest advantage is that we are independent, we pivot on a dime. We make our own recipes." He proceeded to tell them, "Our lasagna is made in-house. We offer quality food, not frozen, not pre-made and certainly not fast food." Jeff informed them quite smugly, adding, "Recently we added Detroit Deep Dish to our menu which requires a different baking process than the traditional." He looked at all of the faces anticipating his next words as he continued, "You will never see two pizzas come out of our oven looking exactly the same."

Territory nodded understanding exactly what the man was telling them.

DeAnne added, "Then you put some extra love on that and it really means pour some love into what you're making. Make it with intention. Make it beautiful." She smiled at them and winked at Lavender to say, "I bet you would enjoy the Vegetarian Pizza."

Lavender nodded looking over the ingredients and agreeing whole-heartedly.

"But no onion." Lavender blurted, "The cauliflower crust sounds divine, sauce, vegan cheese, but no onion, tomato, green peppers, spinach, mushrooms and artichoke hearts." She licked her mouth hungrily.

"No onions for any of you." Jeff smirked, "I checked what you prefer and can't have." "Thank you. You really are looking to please your clientele." Territory designated comfortably. "So what would you like to try to satisfy that hunger growling inside?" Jeff asked looking from one to the other.

They all picked up their menus to make their choices.

"While you are all deciding, I am going to go back to bring you some special treats while DeAnne gets the rest of your orders." Jeff announced and bid adieu.

DeAnne helped them decide what they were craving. Finally Territory selected Jeff's Sweetlander pizza. Raschevious chose Mizzy's Caribbean, Rascal went with Kenzie's Bacon Cheeseburger, and Bandeet picked the Philly Cheesesteak pizza. Rhapsody elected to break from the pizza and requested a Philly Cheesesteak Hoagie instead. While they waited for their cuisine to be prepared to perfection, Jeff sent out a variety of appetizers for them to feast upon. The overflowing platter arrived with cheese curd squares, pretzel bites, Quinn's cheesesticks, garlic parm bites, chicken tenders and garlic toast. The marauders felt like they were royalty. This was a new experience for them.

While they devoured their morsels they learned talking with DeAnne some more intimate personal details. They learned that their business was started in 2004. Jeff's nickname was Mizzy since he was a youngster. Their shop name reflects their pride in their business and their children, along with family that has helped them throughout the years by working with and for them. They also discovered that the couple had eight children who have enjoyed and are proud of earning the privilege of their favorites bearing menu items had been named after them. They also were

told that it was anticipated to ultimately employ at least sixty people and mostly part-time to meet their needs especially deliveries for the business. They also learned the reason the pair chose the Carver area was due to the growth occurring. They have been accepted and business has been extremely rewarding she told the crew.

The Night Marauders were so full by the time they finished that none of them were sure that they would be able to make the trek back home to the river bottoms. They were more than stuffed. But oh, how they enjoyed their delicious delights and the visit with both DeAnne and Jeff. They were invited to return any time.

Territory recommended that if you haven't visited the pizza parlour, you best get on over there. He and his comrades gave it ten stars and if you can't stop in, you can order it to be delivered. The night marauders were certain that they were going to make this a weekly routine. It was that good.

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