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Number Four Hundred One



Mayor Courtney's Message

Greetings:-

The older I get the quicker time flies, and this year is no different. I'm not sure how we got to December so quickly, but here we are. In a month that's traditionally VERY busy, I have a few quick updates I'd like to share, so here goes!

Later this month we will finalize the City's 2024 General Fund Budget and Utility Rates for next year. Some important dates in this process include:

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. Also at this meeting, Council and I will be considering the 2024 Fee Schedule for approval, which includes Utility Rates.

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.

If you're interested in participating in any of our City Council meetings or Work Sessions, they're always open meetings, so you are welcome to attend in person. Additionally, both the Council meetings and Work Sessions are always broadcast live on CityOfCarver.com. Residents can also participate virtually in City Council meetings via Zoom. The Zoom information and meeting agendas are posted on CityOfCarver.com. If you scroll all the way to the bottom of the page, you'll find "Watch City Meetings & View Agendas & Packets" under the "Quick Links" tab.

Also related to City finances, last month Council and I got our first look at the City's inaugural 10 Year Long Term Financial Plan. It is important to note the Long Term Financial Plan shouldn't be confused with the City's annual general fund budget, which is what property taxes are determined from. Instead, the Long Term Financial Plan is based on certain assumptions that reflect a snapshot in time. Actual factors will vary and those variances will impact the plan. I encourage you to check it out and let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns!

Next, I want to thank and congratulate Brenda Efta on her recent retirement. Brenda started as Carver's utility Billing Clerk in May of 2001 and retired at the end of November. We celebrated Brenda by making Nov. 30, 2023 Brenda Efta Day. During her 22 ½ years working in Carver Brenda earned a reputation for being loyal, kind and trustworthy and she will be missed.

Finally, the City of Carver recently started a new Instagram account. You can find us @CityOfCarverMN. If you're on the 'gram, please check us out and give us a follow!

While on the topic of social media, I'd like to point out that THE BEST ways to reach out if you have a question or concern are through the City's official channels. Those include the "Report a Concern" button on www.CityOfCarver.com, calling 952-448-5353, using the contact information that's listed in this newsletter for City Council and myself and through the @CityOfCarverMN channels on both Facebook and Instagram. The city does not monitor community or neighborhood Facebook pages and groups because they're private.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. I look forward to hearing from you. Happy holidays!

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John von Walter

Everyone has had to have heard by now about the new history book published for Carver right? And how many of you Carverites know John and Kathy? They used to live in the old Hebeisen house on Fourth. That's right, that huge beautiful house that they so avidly kept up and brought so much care, love and tenderness to not only the exterior but to any who touched their lives. If you didn't get to know either of them, you lost out on a tremendous experience. Enough accolades about the von Walter's. Ever since I met John, he has had an undying passion to learn about Carver and document every historical detail he found. This author, personally has repeatedly sought his knowledge.

Well, everyone, all his hard work, research, digging and his love for your town has resulted in a fabulous hard cover book, "Historic Carver On the Minnesota River." He has followed in the footsteps of our other beloved historian, Lucie Hartley. Thanks John. The Chaska Herald had a nice write-up on the work John put into this book, its availability and where to get it.

The picture posted here is compliments of Chuck Rupnow from the SW Publishing Media. The article is also posted on the Carver Current webpage if you didn't get a chance to read it. Otherwise, more books will be available for purchase at the Carver County Historical Society in Waconia where more are on the way. Books were also donated to the libraries in Carver County, public high schools, several local, state and national historical societies and archives.

Congratulations John! Job well done. Yes, this author has gotten her very own copy and already been reading and relishing the wealth of information! Thank you for being my friend and dedicating yourself to such an achievement. Feels good don't it?



School Zone Speed Limit

The Assistant City Engineer discussed the topic of School Zone Speed Limit establishment on Ironwood Drive for the Carver Elementary School with the council. Logistics were previewed of streets, accesses and school site. An existing school zone is in place on Jonathan Carver Parkway. Given the increase of residential development along with additional roadway connections the city has identified the need to establish a school zone speed for the school on Ironwood Drive. A goal of creating a safer environment for pedestrians warrants the proposal of speed limit zones. Implementation requires the installation of new signage indicating starting and ending point of the school zone. Four new signs were proposed.

Kirche Hill Drive Parking Restrictions

The Assistant City Engineer also discussed with the council the parking restrictions proposed for Kirche Hill Drive. A review was requested of Kirche Hill Drive from 6th Street West to High Street with the purpose of roadway navigability during seasonal event parking and recommend proposed on-street parking required restrictions. These recommendations were based on roadway navigability for emergency service vehicles for emergency response times and remedy associated safety hazards. Results were compiled with the aid of the Public Services and Fire Department staff. The council reviewed the findings and recommendations. Significant event parking seasonally occurs due to the proximity of the Community Park. It is difficult for the Fire Department to navigate through the area with cars parked on both sides due to the curvature of the road. A recommendation was submitted to install 'No Parking' posting on the north side of the street from High Street to 6th Street West being applicable seasonally from April 15th through September 15th. These dates being the peak time for the Community Park usage. If council supports these findings and concept, a mailed notification will be forwarded to residents alerting property owners of the change.

Chaska Parks and Recreation Agreement

The City Manager discussed the Recreation Partnership agreement with the council. The council discussed the matter regarding renewing a contract for recreations facilities and services with the City of Chaska. The agreement primarily consists of "resident rate reciprocity" for the Chaska Community Center, Curling Center and Town Course. This allows Carver residents to pay for memberships, programs, green fees, recreation activities and so forth as the same rates by residents of the City of Chaska. Additionally, recreation staff from Chaska plan and implement various recreation events and programs in the City of Carver. The one change to the proposed contract relates to the creation of a sounder methodology determining fees under the partnership. Moving forward, the city staff anticipates a systemic change to the partnership in connection with proposed recreational facility improvements being considered. The four-year term aligns with the necessity to reconstruct the partnership once improvements are made by the City of Chaska. The city council over the upcoming years may consider forgoing this partnership to consider planning and investing in a separate recreational facility and related staff within the City of Carver.

Miscellaneous

The introduction of new employees was conducted at the council's work session. The two new employees were present and introduced. Finance and Utilities Technician, Christine Dammann and Eric Menth, Public Services Utilities Superintendent were recently hired by the City.

The Regional Sheriff's Office Coverage – Pilot Program updates were relayed by the City Manager and Mike Wollin, Commander from the Sheriff's Office. The Commander provided update on the pilot program with shared coverage between the Cities of Carver and Victoria. The regional coverage project has been in place for three months at that meeting. Statistical data will continue to be collected and shared after the pilot program has been in place for six months and longer.

The mayor at a meeting recognized the service of the Utility Billing Clerk, Brenda Efta who retired recently after twenty-two and half years serving the residents of Carver and the City personnel. Congratulations Brenda and lots of luck in whatever future endeavors you pursue.

Carver Creek Place

The Public Hearing for the Special Assessment Hearing were held by the council. The City Attorney provided background information relating to the assessment costs incurred for the abatement of a hazardous structure located on Carver Creek Place. The property owner explained to the council the background information relating to his building process, experience in the construction industry and the circumstances preventing completion of the construction. Further stating that everything he owned had been stored in the structure and that he lost everything when the city razed the structure. He also requested that the city not charge him for the demolition costs. Question was asked whether or not the property owner's option of selling the property. It is still owned by the property owner. The outstanding assessments would be required to be made prior to or at the time of the sale. The assessment is payable in a single installment. The city has the option to assess over a longer period of time. If the property tax is not paid through the tax process, the county will go through tax forfeiture proceedings which could take several years. After that proceeding, when the parcel goes back through private sale, the city may get paid at that time if there is enough money to make that payment. The City Attorney relayed that the owner would not want to allow the property to go into tax forfeiture, given that there is a value to the property. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the resolution to adopt assessment relating to the costs associated with the razing of a hazardous structure located on Carver Creek Place.

Fire Department Manual

The City Manager reviewed the Fire Department's Standard Operating Procedures Manual to approve amendments relating to officer appointments. This manual serves a dual purpose as an employee handbook and general duties manual for the department. A comprehensive effort to rewrite and reformat the manual is underway so that the manual is two separate and distinct documents separating handbook provisions and general duty instructions. The efforts will continue into 2024 which led the Fire Chief to request clarification on officer appointment provisions in the present manual. The existing process was discussed at length and reviewed.

Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving the amendments to the Fire Department's standard operating procedures manual relating to officer appointments. Further discussion was held regarding the process of appointments relating to other city handbooks with the main objective on the terms and appointment process. The City Manager explained that the change bring the process more in line with other appointments withing the city. As stated in the proposal, the City Manager would appoint all officers with consideration of the Fire Chief's recommendations for each position. Officers would need to re-interview during each application process. Clarification was requested on the terms and appointments with to include annual reviews. Annual reviews should be consistent in all handbooks and would be included. Some wording was amended holding a motion approving amendments to the Fire Department's Procedures Manual relating to officer appointments adding annual reviews and was carried with all ayes.

Utility Improvements Project

The Assistant City Engineer discussed with the council the plans and specifications for the Utility Improvements Project. The city owns and operates a complex water distribution system. With the growth, the system components age. It is critical to property maintain the system in order to prevent component failures that would impact the systems reliability. This fact is recognized the necessity by the council with several utility improvements within its long term financial plan. Several improvements are on the plans schedule which include backup generators at two well sites, complete electrical and controls rehabilitation within the wellhouse, convert SCADA communications, HVAC replacement, paint and hook up the pressure reducing valve control panel inside. At another well and the water tower 2 site an automatic transfer switch is required, SCADA controller replacement, and convert SCADA communications. The next step in the process is to approve the plans and specifications, and authorize advertisement for bid. The council discussed the project schedule. The installation timing results in the capital outlay for the work to be realized in 2025. The long term financial plan will be adjusted in 2025 as required during account revisions for cost.

"So many books, so little time."

~ Frank Zappa

Animal Ordinance

The City Attorney discussed the Ordinance Prohibiting Wild and Exotic Animals. The ordinance amending the topic was reviewed along with adoption of the resolution authorizing publication. The staff recently reviewed the city codes to determine whether there was language prohibiting possession of non-domesticated animals in city limits.

During this review it was established that the verbiage was non-existent in the code. The proposed ordinance expressly prohibits possessing, harboring or keeping any animal or species prohibited by state or federal law and any other non-domesticated animal or species. There was a non-exhaustive list of prohibited animals. Non-domesticated animals are considered inherently dangerous when kept in captivity, allowing a health and safety concern. The city as the authority to 'regulate the keeping of animals' within the city limits. Numerous communities have imposed similar prohibitions. Adoption of the ordinance gives the city options for code enforcement for violating the code which could include criminal prosecution and or civil injunctive relief as authorized by law. Motion was made and carried with all ayes adopting the ordinance amending city codes prohibiting certain wild and exotic animals. Motion was made and carried with all ayes authorizing publication of said ordinance. Motion was made and carried with all ayes reconsidering the wild and exotic ordinance, also adopting ordinance amending ordinance prohibiting certain wild and exotic animals with the exception of eliminating section regarding display in commercial pet store kept for sale.

Corridor Study

The City Engineer discussed with the council the Former County Road # 40 Corridor Study. The city approved a turnback agreement with the county thereby providing ownership and management responsibilities to the city.

The city has regulatory, capital planning, and creative control over the road as a local roadway. With that being said the city needs to determine the vision of the former road requiring planning and budgeting accordingly. A study was completed. This study focused on four core objective topics being Safety and Function Aesthetics and Placemaking, and walking and biking operations. A community task form was formed. During a series of meetings, a vision for this corridor was developed and the council reviewed the presentation. A series of open house meetings were also held.

The corridor study adoption was discussed by the City Engineer. Council member questioned discussions regarding the intersection of County Road # 40 and #61. The City of Chaska is considering changes but this does involve the same project. Design details were reviewed and discussed at length by the council. The council was in approval of the downtown concept in the study. Motion was made and carried with all four ayes and one nay approving the corridor study future vision and improvement planning.

The Assistant City Engineer and the council discussed at length the Main Street West – Old Carver Road formerly identified as County Road # 40, along with the LRIP and Regional Solicitation Grant Programs. The council reviewed adoption of the resolution supporting the pursuit of the Local Road Improvement Program funding from MnDOT for said road. Also to adopt the resolution supporting the pursuit of the Regional Solicitation program funding from the Metropolitan Council for the same road discussed. Recap of the issue was reviewed. Funds for improvements from the Department of Transportation were gone over as well as funding from the Met Council. Receipt of such funds would allow the city to fund a long-term sustainable reconstruction effort for the said corridor versus performing minimum maintenance efforts. The proposed project seeks addressing major components for full depth bituminous pavement reclamation from Mount Hope road to County Road # 61, intersection improvements and pedestrian enhancements at two key intersection in the downtown area, sidewalk extension along Mt Hope Road, pedestrian and bicycle mobility improvements, and new trail extension along Main Street West to downtown from Jonathan Carver Parkway. The anticipated overall project schedule was reviewed along with financial expectations.

"If you can't do anything about it, then let it go. Don't be a prisoner of things you can't change."

~ Tony Gaskins

Long Term Financial Plan

The Finance Director discussed the Long Term Financial Plan with the council. This long term plan is updated annual with future capital needs, growth assumptions, and operational projections. This long term plan identifies the financial impact of these factors and how they affect the tax rate, utility rates and the city's ability to invest in capital improvements. The intention of this plan is to be a guide for the city making decision. Recently this long term plan was extended out with a five year and ten year perspective picture allowing to envision a bigger picture of revenue and growth needed for future capital projects planned which is a large part of the plan.

Fee Schedule

The City Clerk reviewed and provided information on the proposed fee schedule changes for the upcoming year, 2024. Each year the city adopts an ordinance establishing the fee schedule reviewed by staff with proposed changes.

The submitted changes were reviewed by the council along with a proposed fee schedule for 2024.

Delinquent Bills

The Finance Director discussed the Certification of Delinquent utility bills and the council held a Public Hearing on the matter. Certification of unpaid utility bills allows the city to save time and resources, along with avoiding amplified customer conflict associated with shutting off services on delinquent accounts. In addition to delinquent utility bills, the city also certifies delinquent services bills for costs responding to public nuisance abatements. Staff works throughout the year to collect delinquent bills while some remain unpaid. After due notification and publication, if the assessment roll is adopted then the proposed amounts are certified with the county auditor for collection with the 2024 property taxes. Payments made by residents on delinquent bills after November 30th are directed to the county property tax department.

SouthWest Transit

The new CEO of SouthWest Transit was introduced to the council at their work session meeting. The City Manager introduced the new CEO, Erik Hanson while also providing some history and background information on the Carver Station and Southwest Transit. Mr Hanson provided an overview of Carver ridership by service type for the year through October.

Great River Greening

The City Manager provided updates on the creek stabilization project currently occurring. Great River Greening was doing tree removal in the area of former County Road #40 and County Road 11 intersection. Significant replanting and restoration will be done in this area at a later time. The tentative future plans are for a park in the area. The Great River Greening Project information is available on the city's website. Questions can also be directed to the Community Development Director.

The Community Development Direction discussed the Great River Greening Grant agreement pertaining to the Riverside Park with the council. The council discussed entering into a grant agreement with the organization for Riverside Park. The staff partnered with Great River Greening to complete a grant application to the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund for a rehabilitation project in Riverside Park. The grant was successful securing funds. This project includes turf conversion to prairie and native plantings throughout the park. The grant spans several years beginning with site preparation and planting, then two years of established maintenance. The grant would run through 2026. There is an opportunity for a community planting event.

Street Maintenance

The Assistant City Engineer discussed authorization of preparations for Plans and Specifications with the council regarding 2024 Street Maintenance projects. Currently approximately Southwest twenty-seven miles is the tally for local streets within the city. As growth continues and new streets are added, older ones age. It is the council's opinion that a systematic approach to street maintenance is necessary. The council discussed the 2024 plans and adjustments required to these plans. The next step in the process is the drafting of final plans and specifications for these projects. That schedule was also reviewed and discussed by the council.

Water Treatment Facility

The Assistant City Engineer discussed the change order necessary for the Water Treatment Facility Improvements project. The project includes new construction at the existing treatment facility site. Additionally, substantial upgrades and reconfigurations were made to the existing facility to complement the overall facility expansion. A problem was also discovered. The next revision of the Long-term Financial plan process starts in the summer of 2024 and will be adjusted to show this capital expense in relation to the ten-year plan.

Carver Business Alliance

The Carver Business Alliance is a collaboration of business owners, community leaders, and local officials working together to promote, enhance, and create opportunities for commerce in the City of Carver. Business roundtable discussions are held, and City of Carver updates are provided at each meeting." They usually meet every third Friday at city hall. May's meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 15th.

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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Animal Ordinance

Lot of publicity as of late regarding wild and exotic animals as pets. The Southwest News Media did an article on the topic. The City of Carver also reviewed the topic taking on the issue of banning wild and exotic animals as pets in the city limits. As has other local cities the city council also agreed to not allow these wild undomesticated animals to be kept as pets in city limits. It will be in effect upon publication in the newspapers. The city attorney explained that the ordinance came about when the city staff was reviewing city codes for updating. The city's new ordinance has a non-exhaustive list of animals that will not be allowed to be kept as pets. It was also explained that these rules are put into place to protect citizens and emergency response teams who are required to enter residences for services to be provided. Violations will be subject to prosecution.



Carver Baseball Softball Association

Up to date information can be found at www.ccybsa.com



Carver Black Sox

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

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



Bloodmobile

American Red Cross Blood Drive is coming to Carver on Tuesday, December 12th at noon until 6 PM at the Community Room in the Village Hall sponsored/hosted by the Carver Lions. There is a link on their Facebook page for you to sign up to donate.



Also, on Thursday, the 28th of December at Schram's Brewery Haus in Chaska will also be holding another Blood Drive too. Giving blood is a valuable gift for those in need.

Disclaimer

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

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Glow Holiday Festival

Heard of the Glow Holiday Festival? Advertising has announced that the event is returning, has returned, to CHS Field in downtown St Paul and has already started its events. The festival shines brightly through December 31st. Open evenings from 5 PM until 9 PM. You can sign up to be alerted of all the events occurring. It is also said to be Minnesota's brightest holiday tradition, a must see winter time attraction at CHS Field. Heard Santa and his sleigh are also there. For more information: www.glowholiday.com



Downtown Holidazzle

The 2023 Holidazzle has been cancelled for 2023. The staff stated that they are hibernating for this season. They are however, discussing and planning for next year's event.



"Minni Dazzle"

In light of the news of the cancellation of Holidazzle, the KSTP news anchor announced that fans were disappointed with the announcement of the cancellation of the Holidazzle festivities. The Fulton Beer Taproom announced that they will host an event and are calling it "Minni Dazzle."

It was further stated that the taproom has partnered with the Mpls Downtown Council for nearly a decade helping to create a community gathering space and winter celebration in the heart of the city for holiday enthusiasts. The brewery personnel are proud and excited to offer their North Loop taproom for a MINNI Dazzle. There will be Holidazzle artists, vendors and entertainers. The Minni Dazzle events are scheduled for Thursday, December 14th at 5 PM until 9 PM and then on Friday, the 15th at 2 PM until 7 PM. On Saturday the 16th and Sunday the 17th the times for events will be 1 PM until 5 PM. Might want to double check times by visiting their website: www.fultonbeer.com

Southwest Transit

Check their website for all other services provided. [www.swtransit.org]

The SW Transit offices are happy to announce that again this year there will be transportation via SW Transit to the MN Arboretum Winter Lights program. A shuttle is being provided from the East Creek Station in Chaska to the Arboretum on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Bus will depart at 4:45 PM and run continuously throughout the evening until 10 PM.

The Minnesota Vikings Express is running through January 15th with service from East Creek Station, Chaska, SW Village, Chanhassen and Eden Prairie's SW Station pick up and drop offs. Don't forget their other services offered, SW Prime, SW Perks, Prime MSP Airport, SW Prime Edge, Prime Essential and Prime MD.



Schram Vineyards

Closer to home.....

Schram's Vineyards are holding a Nashville Christmas event. Unfortunately by publication time the event apparently sold out. Won't waste anyone's times telling you the highlights only to make matters worse. It is being held on multiple dates starting Sunday the 17th, then Monday and Tuesday. They do however, encourage you signing up on the waiting list, if you are really interested in attending. For more information, see their webpage: www.schramvineyards.com



There are lots of activities going on at the vineyards. Check them out. On Friday, December 22nd the vineyards are planning an 'Old Fashioned Christmas' event. You are invited to join them to enjoy music drinks and food. The music will be provided by Tyler Herwig. The fun will begin at 4 PM and go until 9 PM at 8785 Airport Road in Waconia.

"It's not a matter of choice. It is a matter of choice. It it's not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."

~ William Jennings Bryan

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 December 7th through the 10th.

Some Shops in Carver:

Carver Creamery – updates on Facebook - 2023 season

Closed for season

Carver General – Facebook - Occasional Shop Dates

Old Carver Fishing Bait and Tackle - Facebook

Ripple Art Studio & Gallery – www.rippleartstudio.com

Ripple Art Studio & Gallery - FB

The Good Junk Garage – Facebook

Temperance Arts & Gifts – Facebook

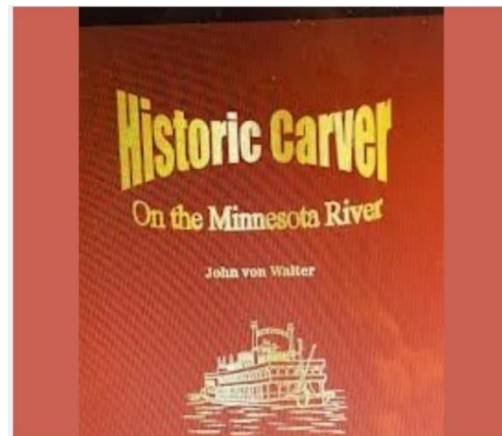
The Funky Dove – Facebook

Strive Nutrition – Carver - Facebook

Getaway Motor Café – Facebook / Instagram

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

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## Funky Dove Boutique

Stop in and meet 'Gnome Modena' at the Funky Dove in downtown Carver as soon as you can. You don't know what you are missing until you meet the store owner! See the Christmas tree up too! Check her Facebook page for hours.

Missed that date with printing to wish Funky Dove a Happy Third Anniversary. So, Here's a belated Happy Anniversary Funky Dove!!!! And you do realize that our illustrious, charming, breath of fresh air, always smiling Rebecca has been at the shop next to the hair salon for now three years with her unique hand selected items for sale?

The Funky Dove is all decked out for Christmas too. Another boutique of a different nature for those last minute, hard to find, one of a kind gifts! That's right, you won't find anything like her products anywhere else. That's what makes her shop so unique and wonderful. As you realize the moment your foot touches inside that door and is greeted by the smiling charmer of an owner.

New to her inventory she says are "Gemme Wands" along with brand new Gemme necklaces. Rebecca says, "Hover over the wands and feel their magical vibes. See if you are drawn to their energy for yourself or as a gift." The base is driftwood with conduit copper unwrapping a variety of gemstones styles, shapes and themes. Each wand handcrafted with love and named individually, along with a pamphlet describing the stones.

She has winter hats, shawls to cuddle up in, flannel jackets, shirts, sweatshirts, gloves, and scarves, everything one needs to keep warm this winter. There are pillows, home décor, lip balms, jewelry galore along with new merchandise. The list goes on and on. So, stop by and keep our Rebecca in town, would ya'? Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Carver General

Holiday galore is the theme for Carver General in Carver this seasonal time It's like going shopping back in the day. Wouldn't you agree? They have all kinds of holiday décor imaginable. Brenda and Ann are also in the festive mood. You can come check it all out on Thursday, December 7th opening at 10 AM until 5 PM and get those last minute, hard to find gifts for just those special people in your life or on Friday, same times, or even Saturday. Sunday from noon to 4 PM is your last chance. It's all over folks if you miss this window of opportunity. The ladies will be gearing up for the New Year. You'll have missed your chance, so hurry, mark those calendars and finish that gift list.

Also, Ann and Brenda wish you all a Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Be sure to drop by next door too at the Good Junk Garage. Store is also stocked with so many things that you won't find anywhere else according to the owner of Good Junk Garage.

## Getaway Motor Café

Getaway Motor Café posted fall cocktails were being introduced. Thos author is quite certain that by the time publication happens, that fact will be obsolete and they will be working on their winter special cocktails?! One tries.

Always something unique happening on the corner of Broadway and West Main street. Did you or were you lucky enough to catch their Café Comedy Show? Last time I checked, December was still quiet on their upcoming events calendar. Their patio season is winding down for the winter, but knowing Nate, he will come up with some newfangled way to enjoy it and not get everyone frozen in the process, right Nate? They have plenty of events in store for y'all. Keep an eye out for their unique ticketed events! Facebook page is a great way to see exactly what they are up to.

Everyone saw that nice write up in the Chaska Herald about the Getaway Motor Café didn't you? Great article! Great job guys! Getaway Motor Café has certainly gotten noticed, don't you agree?

## Mizzy's Pizza

What's going on over at Mizzy's Pizza you ask? Well, you need to just go on over there to Dahlgren Road and check it out. Heard the food "is to die for," not to mention their cocktails. They are real sports fans and that in itself would lead to some interesting company and conversation, You can order out or dine in, whichever you prefer. Heard through the grapevine that there is always something going on. So, got stop in, you won't be sorry. Check their Facebook page for updates, as well as their web page for their menu! Just betcha' Santa is checking it out too.....

Happy Holidays!!

DeAnne added that they still have room to hire 18+ staff fulltime and they also have part time opportunities available too. So, if you are in need of work, go over and talk to the owners!





## County's Roadside Ordinance

Not sure if this issue got resolved or not. Caught my attention when researching to inform everyone of local businesses to patronize such as Stick's Tavern. Everyone has probably already read all about this controversy too. Does anyone know if it got resolved? Maybe it's good to keep the issue upfront and talked about huh? Warrants another reminder of the importance of our local businesses.

An article was written in the SW Publishing paper (Chaska Herald) about the issue. Seems Stick's Tavern is promoting year round service for the locals which was brought the attention to the sign not located on the golf course property. It was placed on private property with the land owner's permission too. The county's sign ordinance prohibits off-premises signage. Wouldn't you know? The paper stated that the guidelines were to balance its competing interests. It was created to "provide adequate means of expression and to promote economic viability, enhance traffic safety, while protecting the County and its citizens from a proliferation of signs... that would adversely impact upon the aesthetics of the County."

Naturally, there is far more to the story. According to the article the commissioners representing this area were not interested or perhaps unable to fight the system. Another business owner experienced a similar problematic scenario with their business and to date, it appears unresolved too. The two businessowners question the county's commitment in supporting local businesses due to their lack of resolution to the issue. The county's response was according to the article, "Supporting small, local businesses while also preserving rural and agricultural character is of great importance." "The county supports the economic development and growth of the county, they still need to enforce the zoning code." There were two commissioners expressed support and the sign ordinance was discussed at a board work session. The only light at the end of this tunnel at this point of the publication of the article was that the board of commissioners were to revisit the issue, and ongoing discussions into the future.

The purpose of this article was not to reignite feuds but rather assist in finding a resolution along with bringing attention to the businesses out there that can use word of mouth marketing, not to mention patronizing the businesses. Honestly, it was the first time this author was able to put a business name to the custom meat business.

Support our locals everyone. Please!

## The Humanity Alliance

Ever heard of them? Someone on Facebook asked about where you help with meals that wasn't Feed my Children but knew it was a local organization. Obviously, that piqued this author's interest and looked it up. The Humanity Alliance is a non-profit in Victoria. Their webpage says that they prepare and deliver over six thousand meals every Friday to ensure that their neighbors have access to fresh-prepared, nutritious meals over the weekend. In 2023 alone they have shown their community support and accomplishments with 81 tons of fresh ingredients rescued, 10,000 hours volunteer hours, and 235,825 meals prepared and delivered.

"We're on track to prepare and deliver 315,825 meals by the end of the year.

We need the continued strength, support and generosity of our community to meet the need for 80,000 more meals for our neighbors in 2023.

Our average meal cost is around \$2.00 each... help us make 80,000 more meals possible."

"Hunger waits for no one.

Homelessness waits for no one.

Let's move at a speed that matches the need."

There's a lot more information on their website:

[www.humanityalliance.org](http://www.humanityalliance.org) Check it out.



"Right now I am trying to be in a place of calm, a place where I can chill out and then handle the chaos of life better. You don't just get it overnight, you have to work at it, it's a daily struggle."

~Jackee Harry



## Carver Lions

You do know and remember that any old eyeglasses or hearing aids are still being collected by the Carver Lions right? You can drop them off at Harvey's Bar and Grill, the Post Office, Carver Ridge Senior Living building or at Lenzen Chevrolet dealership in Chaska.

And of course you all have heard about the Annual Carver Village Christmas celebration planned for Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 PM until 3 PM? Santa is scheduled to arrive at 1:30 PM See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information.

Don't forget about the Senior Citizens Luncheon on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Village Hall. Social hour is set to begin at 11:30 AM with lunch being served at noon. Also reservations are required. Flyer is also attached for more information.

Lion's will be meeting in December on the first and third Wednesday of the month, the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>. However, on the 20<sup>th</sup> they will be holding their Club Holiday Party. They deserve that, don't you agree?!

They also announced their thanks to everyone who attended their annual brunch and volunteers. There were eighty-three veterans who came to share in the meal! The Chaska Lions also came over to Carver to help with the event! There was a huge shout out given to them for their help!

On their Facebook page the Lions also shared that the District Governor Chrity Trutnau updated them on what is happening in the district with a theme of "Spread Your Wings," along with showing off her four colored butterfly broach signifying each of her kids. Two members were inducted into the club by the District Governor, along with presenting several awards. Some prospective members joined in at their meeting. The month of December will keep our busy bees and beavers quite busy with their events scheduled then. There is the Carver Village Christmas, the Blood Drive and the Senior Luncheon not to mention their own personal lives. Yes, they do have lives outside the organization. And then there is their annual party scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> of December at the Village Hall.

A huge shout out, congratulations and thank you's are extended to these folks for all their hard work and dedication, not to mention their love for their community!

## SW Metro Chamber

The Annual Giving Tree at SW Metro Chamber of Commerce has a mission which is to engage their members with non-profits in Carver County. They want to bring awareness of needs. Their goal is to be able to give over fifteen hundred gifts to continue supporting families in need all year round. The Giving Tree goes through December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Giving Trees will be delivered to participating businesses the week of Thanksgiving. Donations and Giving Trees will be picked up or dropped at the Chamber office the week of Christmas. There are thirty businesses in Carver, Chanhassen, Chaska and Victoria. Need to know more? Contact the Chamber or visit their website: [www.swmetrochamber.com](http://www.swmetrochamber.com)

William's Wings is holding their annual Angel of Hope Vigil on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at 841 Santa Vera Drive in Chanhassen. For more information on Williams Wings, visit their web page or on Facebook. [www.williamswings.org/angel-hope](http://www.williamswings.org/angel-hope)

The Chamber is also sponsoring the "Light Up Victoria" event on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 PM until 7 PM. Come and enjoy caroling, hayrides, apple cider, Santa and performances at Bayfront Plaza. They are lighting up the downtown Victoria area with holiday cheer! There will be free winter activities, community performances as they turn on their holiday lights for the first time of the season to be conducted by the Mayor. Get your picture taken with Santa, young and old. Holiday treats too.

## Girl Scout Holiday Boutique

Hey everyone, head on over to the Chaska Legion on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> if you can and see what Santa's helpers ( the Girl Scouts ) have going on to help out parents, kids and that shopping holiday list you have. Flyer attached. Word is: "Bring your children and they can shop for Christmas gifts for all of their loved ones." The little Santa Helpers "Will help your child shop so parents don't see what they are getting for Christmas."



## Community Highlights

December 2023

December is National Fruitcake Month in US

December 1<sup>st</sup>



Chaska Community Center – Santa

Happy Birthday Chelsea!

World Aids Day

National Christmas Lights Day

Day with Art Day

Carver Village Christmas

Fireman's Park – Tree Lighting

Council Meeting

School Board Meeting

Happy Birthday Patty!

Happy Birthday Shayla!

National Cookie Day

Lions Meeting

Happy Birthday Tommy!

St Nicholas Day

Carver Shops Sales Weekend

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Happy Birthday Kately!

National Llama Day

Happy Birthday John!

Happy Birthday Cody!

Human Rights Day

Dahlgren Township Board Meeting

Carver Elementary PTO Meeting

Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting

Bloodmobile – Carver Village Hall

SW Metro Chamber Coffee and Connect

Gingerbread House Day

Village Hall Senior Luncheon

Happy Birthday Aletta!

Business Alliance Meeting

Hanukkah

National Cupcake Day

National Chocolate Covered

Anything Day

Underdog Day

Happy Anniversary Ken and Carol!

National Maple Syrup Day

Council Meeting

Happy Birthday Jim!

National Ice Cream Day

Lions Meeting – Club Holiday Party

Go Caroling Day

Winter Solstice

District # 112 – Winter Break

Through January 2<sup>nd</sup> – No School

Planning Commission Meeting

Happy Birthday Destini!

Happy Birthday Riley!

Happy Birthday Sandy!

Christmas Eve

East Union Candlelight Service

Christmas Day

Happy Birthday Mike!

Kwanza Begins

National Candy Cane Day

Happy Anniversary Norm and Sue!

Blood Drive – Schram's Brewery Haus

Happy Birthday Linda Rose!

Happy Birthday Miranda!

Happy Birthday Sharon!

New Year's Eve

Happy Birthday Stephanie!

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

December 3<sup>rd</sup>

December 4<sup>th</sup>

December 6<sup>th</sup>

December 7<sup>th</sup>

December 9<sup>th</sup>

December 10<sup>th</sup>

December 11<sup>th</sup>

December 12<sup>th</sup>

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December 22<sup>nd</sup>

December 24<sup>th</sup>

December 25<sup>th</sup>

December 26<sup>th</sup>

December 27<sup>th</sup>

December 28<sup>th</sup>

December 29<sup>th</sup>

December 31<sup>st</sup>



## West Union Church

Over and down the road at West Union Church, their Sunday School Christmas Program will be performed by the Sunday School Children hosting their Annual Christmas Program on December 10th at their 9 AM worship. Everyone is welcome to stay for the potluck during Fellowship. Again, please bring a dish to share. They too are looking forward to the fellowship with others and welcome everyone.

West Union is holding their Traveler's Christmas Worship on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.



## Minnesota Landscape

### Arboretum



What's happening at the arboretum? Check out their website and see all the things going on there. [www.arb.umn.edu](http://www.arb.umn.edu)  
The Winter Lights display is up and running just waiting for you to come and see and enjoy.

December 1st and 2nd hosting their Auxiliary Holiday Sale, 9 AM until 4 PM, I believe is the correct times. Also, occurring at the same time is the MN Herb Society Winter Sale. Saturday and Sunday, December 9th you will find the December Gift Market, 10 AM to 4 PM. Don't forget the Apple House Holiday Boutique which is open until December 20th. Or the Winter Music Series through December 23rd. Want to spend New Year's Eve at the arboretum? Get your reservations made. They are having a New Year's Eve Party at Winter Lights on Sunday, December 31st starting at 4:30 PM until 10 PM. A magical walk through the Winter Lights display, games and live music. There will be countdown celebrations on the hour at 5, 6 and 7 PM, again at 8, 9 and 10 PM.

So what's all the fuss about the Winter Lights? First off, look at this gorgeous lit pumpkin here? That's just one of the displays you can see. Southwest Publishing by Robb Jeffies had a nice write up about the display. The picture is his credit too. Anyway, he says, "It is the holiday light season, and nobody does it quite like the Arb." It's become an annual tradition for the arboretum. Did you know that there is a S'mores Village? See what you are missing by not going and checking it at least once.

The display is weekends, Friday through Sunday and their last night as above is on New Year's Eve Party. The arb invites you to come stroll through the gardens that are all decked out in lights. Enjoy the fresh air, explore the outdoor light displays which highlight the flowers, the trees and the beauty of nature itself. It's a one-mile self-guided walking route. ( You don't even realize you have walked a mile.)

New this year, they said is the color-changing tunnel, a Winter Village on Scarecrow Hill and a field of sunflowers.

They also revealed that there are more lights than ever. Come and revisit the Weeping Willow in a news space, walk through a giant apple ( maybe the picture is an apple, not a pumpkin? Sure looks like a pumpkin? What do you think? ) You can purchase s'mores kits and roast them over an open fire at the S'mores Village. There's also shuttles from the East Creek Transit Station in Chaska.



### Arts Consortium

And what's going on over at the Arts Consortium of Carver County you ask?

The ACCC Annual Holiday Gift Show in the gift shop is still occurring through December 23<sup>rd</sup> with a reception scheduled on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 PM.

Also, still happening is the Member's Show that will be premiering through January 12<sup>th</sup>. Their reception will also be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December. Members are invited to share their talents with the community and each other.

Coming in January, the Youth Art Show which will be celebrating young artists. Artist Conversations hold their gatherings the third Monday of each month. They usually meet from 4 PM until 6 PM. You will have to contact them to learn where they are meeting, if you are interested. Call Abigail at 952.3890.7924 or Liya at 612.867.9278 for more information.

Hard copies of their latest music CD's are available in the gift shop. A digital copy can be purchased on line. The ACCC presents the "Songwriters and Musicians of Carver County Vol IX" now as well.

For more information, go to their website: [www.artsofcarvercounty.org](http://www.artsofcarvercounty.org)



"Be what you expect of yourself, not what others expect of you."

~ unknown



## Schram Haus Brewery

Over in Chaska at the Schram Haus Brewery they are also busy with all kinds of different fun to share with you. On Thursday, December 3rd they will be holding what they are calling Schram Haus Holiday Market. They said their popular vendor market has expanded this year. They have a new tent and more vendors. They invite you to come shop for local crafts, artists and local small businesses. There are great holiday gifts available for that special person in your life or persons whichever is the case. Be sure to stop in and check it out.



On Saturday, December 16th, they are featuring Christmas at the Haus. There will be Christmas Llamas from 2 PM until 5 PM. Music will be provided by the Tuxedo Band at 6 PM until 9 PM. There will be beer, beverages, food and good cheer all day long to celebrate the holiday season.

Don't forget their Blood Drive scheduled on Thursday, December 28th.

They also want to share their news about their 'New Winter Tent'. They are taking their Haus experience to the next level this winter by adding a heated tent to their facility they said. "This cozy addition will be perfect for events, bag leagues and even private gatherings. If you are as thrilled as they are and would like to reserve this fantastic space for your upcoming winter event, get in touch with us." They are more than eager to share and welcome your winter gatherings by making it warm, inviting and unforgettable they said.

Schram's Brewery Haus has just announced too and added some more December events for y'all to come and check out. First on the 5th of December the event is called, "Board and Brush At the Brewery". This workshop is with a local business and begins at 6 PM until 8 PM on Tuesday the fifth. They say just bring your creativity and willingness to learn. Board and Brush from Chanhassen will bring their studio to the brewery with materials and instructions. Buy a ticket and come check it out.

Then on Saturday, the 9th of December, they will be holding their Beer Club Ugly Sweater Party from 3 PM to 6 PM, get this, in the Schnitzelbank Lounge. That in itself sounds interesting, don't you think? There will also be live music with Tyler Herwig at 6 PM until 9 PM.

Then finally on Wednesday the 13th of December at 6 PM the brewery will be hosting Beer and Cheese Tasting Class with the Grater Good. "Christine Leonard, local dairy farmer and cheese connoisseur is back for the ultimate beer and cheese tasting class! Christine will be bringing a variety of local artisan cheeses to pair with a flight of our beers while presenting on how cheeses are made and the background of the cheesemakers. An educational, fun, and tasty night out!"

## East Union Lutheran Church

The Sunday School Christmas Program at East Union is being hosted by the Sunday School Children who will be performing on Sunday, December 17th at their 9 AM Worship service. Everyone is welcome to stay for the Pot Luck during Fellowship. Just please bring a dish to share. They are looking forward to this.

Their Christmas Even Worship is planned for December 24th. They will celebrate Advent 4 on the morning of Christmas Eve at 9 AM and then will be holding Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4 PM and 5:30 PM.

Don't forget that their Towel Ministry plays an active role in partnership with Love Inc. Towel helpers are still needed. Volunteering consists of filling towel orders and driving the to the client's home. Training will be given. Talk to Ann Decker if you are interested or contact the church office. Towel collections are still needed, as well. They can be dropped off at the church office, as well.



## Chaska Valley Family Theatre

A Christmas Carol performances are scheduled for December 1st - 10th at the Chanhassen High School. Check their website for exact dates and times and to purchase your tickets. [www.cvft.org](http://www.cvft.org)

You do remember that: "A Christmas Carol is a spectacular adaptation of Charles Dickens' most well-known story. Proving its staying power with a decade-long run at the Theatre at Madison Square Garden, A Christmas Carol, is an ideal choice for any theatre hoping to create a holiday tradition."

We aren't done guys. Coming up in March of 2024 the theatre plans on performing Fiddler on the Roof. Then the summer of 2024 is also scheduling to present The Addams Family. Watch if you are interested in an acting career for auditions. However, auditions for Fiddler on the Roof are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday December 4th and 5th. You can sign up now, but you have to do it fast. Check their Facebook page for details. The auditions are taking place at Pioneer Ridge Middle School both nights at 6 PM until 9 PM. Hurry! Performances are booked for March 1st - 16th, 2024.

Don't forget their summer camp registration for Dragonfly Theater Camp either. All this information can be found for more details on their website or on Facebook.

## Chaska Community Center

Do you know what's going on over at the Chaska Community Center? Don't forget about the Lodge for those over 55. Lots of events and things for them to get involved in. They are on Facebook too. Sunday, December 1st, at 4:30 PM and 5:30 PM for ten bucks and with required pre-registration, you can see Santa who's coming to visit at the Community Center in Chaska. There will be pictures, crafts and music. 1 registration is valid for up to six people.

Then on Sunday the 3rd of December down at Fireman's Park will be the Tree Lighting Celebration at 5:30 to 7:30 PM. The fifty foot tree was sponsored by the Chaska 100 Club. Santa will be there too to visit with and you can sip hot cocoa, savor a s'more, and create a holiday craft. There will also be caroling by the Chaska High School Chamber Singers. Then on Wednesday, December 27th at the center will be the New Year Zumba Glow Party. That is happening at 5:30 PM to 7 PM at the Fitness Studio in the Community Center. It was said to always be a fun event. You are encouraged to wear white and neon colors to glint, glimmer, sparkle or shimmer your way into the new year!

## Sever's Holiday Lights

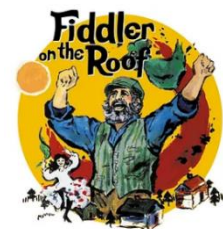
They're open. The lights are on for you. All you need to do is go on line, buy your tickets and go see them. Where? At Sever's Holiday Lights is where. They're all geared up to take your breath away with their 2023 light show at 3121 150th Street West in Shakopee. ( off of Highway # 169 south towards Jordan ) Start a family holiday tradition. They have massive holiday light display that dance in sync with the best songs of the season with festive food and drink vendors too. They don't think that you will be disappointed at all. Tickets have to be purchased on line folks. The course is about a half mile long. Recommended to drive through and then park in the observation lot to take in the full program. You can also drive through as many times as you choose. They also anticipate that most evenings are sellouts so purchase tickets on line ahead of time. They are open seven days a week through Monday, January 1st, 2024.

Hours to come and enjoy the brilliant show is Sunday through Thursday at 5 PM until 9 PM; Friday and Saturday hours will be 5 PM until 10 PM. The week of Sunday, December 18th through Thursday, December 22nd, the hours will be 5 PM until 10 PM.

Have a large group expect corporate discounts. You are asked to please inquire for details by emailing us at [seversholidaylights@gmail.com](mailto:seversholidaylights@gmail.com). For more information, [www.seversfestivals.com](http://www.seversfestivals.com)

Recommendation for the least busiest time is considered Mondays through Thursdays. Typically weekends are the busiest. You are also asked to please remain in your vehicle once in the drive-through course. You are invited by the staff at Sever's to come and "Make your holiday really sparkle."

"If you don't stick to your values when they are being tested, they're not values: they're hobbies."



March 2024



~ Jon Stewart



## 2023 Mase Legacy

### Award

Ever heard of the MASE Legacy Award? Me neither.

According to the District # 112's website, the following was highlighted and since we all are in Carver County, some with students in the school system, thought it was only appropriate to highlight for you.

"The Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) has named Dr. Laura Pingry-Kile, Specialized Education Services Director of Eastern Carver County Schools, recipient of the 2023 Legacy Award. Dr. Pingry-Kile will be honored for her commitment to encouraging, developing, and mentoring leaders who reflect the MASE mission at a statewide recognition ceremony during the 2023 MASE Fall Leadership Conference, October 22-24, 2023, at Madden's on Gull Lake." Dr Pingry-Kile has been in the field of education and administration for 29 years. It further stated that currently she serves as the Specialized Education Services Director for Eastern Carver County Schools and Adjunct Professor for Administrative Programs at the University of Minnesota.

To read more about her, go to the school's webpage. Congratulations to Dr Pingry-Kile on winning the 2023 MASE Legacy Award. PS: MASE stands for MN Administration for Special Education. The purpose of the award is to recognize members for his or her commitment to encouraging, developing, and mentoring leaders who reflect the MASE mission.

Some more Eastern Carver County School News to share with you: Did you know that the middle school students of Eastern Carver County school district went to Washington DC over MEA Break? What an experience, as well as memorable for them. The eighth graders from the three middle schools traveled to Washington DC, posing outside the capital building. The Chaska Middle School East students got to visit the US Marine Corps Memorial.

### Trinity Lutheran Church

Submitted by: Trinity Lutheran Church  
Please join us for our weekly Advent worship services as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Emmanuel on Wednesdays at 7 pm, December 6th through December 20th, the congregation will be holding Advent services as they will look closer at inviting Jesus to be our guest and what living in daily discipleship means.

Celebrate the birth of Jesus with us at our Christmas Eve service at 5:30 PM on December 24th and our Christmas Day Service at 9:30 AM on the 25th. We also welcome you to attend our weekly Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 8:45 AM. and worship service at 10 AM.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 417 Oak Street, Carver, MN 55315  
Office: 952.448.3628  
Email: office@trinitycarver.com  
Website: www.trinitycarver.com  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchCarver

### South West Metro Holiday Market

Hey everyone, here's a last minute announcement that might interest you. Sunday, December 10th starting at 1 PM until 5 PM at City Hall in Carver is a SouthWest Metro Holiday Market going to take place. You will find local vendors, arts and crafts and lots of fun company. See y'all there.



### Woolly Worms

Do you know what Woolly Worms are? Did you know that they really predict winter weather? A Woolly bear caterpillar is also called a Woolly worm. They have a reputation for being able to forecast the coming winter weather. If their rusty band is wide, it will be a mild winter. The more black there is, the more severe the winter. They are not worms at all. They are the larva of the Isabella Tiger Moth. Where did this come from?? The Duluth News, the Almanac, Wikipedia and Facebook, Thought it was worth sharing.



### Sticks Tavern

Can't forget about Sticks Tavern in Dahlgren Township at the Dahlgren Golf Course, now can we? For full information and complete details, check their website. ([www.stickstavernmn.com](http://www.stickstavernmn.com)) They are closed on Mondays.



Wanna' have brunch with Santa? On Sunday, December 17th over at Stick's Tavern plans are being made with the big jolly guy in the Red Suit to dine with guests. They are offering their weekly all-you-can-eat buffet with breakfast delights and some lunch items, plus desserts and coffee. Santa and his reindeer are looking to stop by at 10:30 AM and maybe stay till noon until he's off to his next destination. Added are extra fun for kids. The buffet starts at 9 AM and you can get your fill until 1 PM. Also, you can build you own Bloody Mary's but at an additional cost of course. Sunday morning Mimosa's are also available. Come on over.

Also thought I saw on their Facebook page something to the effect of an all-you-can-eat Fish Fry every Friday? Check out their Facebook page and their web page for all the up to date information and fun they are offering! [www.stickstavernmn.com](http://www.stickstavernmn.com)  
Their physical address, in case you need that too, is 6940 Dahlgren Road, Chaska ( off of Highway # 212 going west towards Cologne )  
Phone: 952.448.1676. Also saw posted that they are open year round!

### Facebook

Along those same lines of sharing, thought it was also interesting to check into the origins of Facebook. Did you know that it initially was launched in 2004? Of course, we have all heard of Mark Zuckerberg. But did you know that originally it was called FaceMash in 2003? Or that originally its purpose was for other Harvard students to connect with other students as a social networking service? The name changed in August of 2005 to Facebook. In 2006 it became available to the public. It was reported in December of 2006 that there were six million monthly active users of the service. And that in April of 2023 there were 2.989 billion active users. Interesting huh?



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## *Gossip - Not Gossip*

Anyone aware that Chick-fil-a in Chanhassen had been closed due to construction and remodeling? This author wasn't aware and their chicken sandwiches are the best but then I haven't been able to get far either. I know, no excuse. Well, rumor is that they have reopened! Yay!

If you haven't ever experienced Bentleyville in Duluth, you should add it to your bucket list. This year, 2023 is their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and word is that it is absolutely spectacular with additions. The event wraps up on December 26<sup>th</sup>. It is well worth the trip.

Children of Tomorrow's Meghan and her family have just welcomed a new baby girl into the world. Congratulations Meghan.

St Nicholas Catholic Church will be holding their Feast of St Nicholas Mass and statue dedication on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 AM. There is a new St Nicholas statue for the garden and will be blessed. A volunteer appreciation lunch will follow at the Parish Center. RSVP's are necessary and required. PS: the Prayer Garden is open year round. The congregation is also still celebrating Donut Sundays on the third Sunday after mass.

Guardian Angels Catholic Church over in Chaska has a Christmas ( bilingual ) Mass scheduled for Christmas Eve at 9 AM and 10 AM. Christmas Eve Mass of the Nativity scheduled to be held at 4 PM; and Christmas Eve Mass, 10 PM. Christmas Day Mass services will be at 9 AM and then again at 11 AM in Spanish.

The Toy Drives are on everyone. Think about all the children who are not as fortunate as others and will not experience the joy of receiving a gift because their parents are too busy making sure that they are warm, fed, and clothed, along with all the other basics necessary in childrearing, leaving no extra for fun for holidays. The Carver Ridge Living is holding their Holiday Toy Drive so you know. For more information, contact them.

The Chaska Baseball Association is also advertising their 2023 Chaska Santa Toy Drive. They will be collecting items until December 13<sup>th</sup> with distribution on the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>. Check their Facebook page for more information.

The Family Learning Center in Chaska has their Winter Wishes that they are promoting. You will find more information on Facebook at Carver Life or maybe check with the school district for more information.

Betcha' Love Inc of Carver County has information too.

Then there is the promotion by the Chaska Laundry Center I believe also affiliated with the Chaska Santa Toy Drive. Word is too that you can go directly to Amazon and have items shipped directly too.

"Seek and you shall find" is the cliché.

Still some more gossip for you and how about that big tadoo with reopening celebration held in November regarding the reopening of Highway #41 in downtown Chaska. That had to be a big deal with the inconvenience that project caused for everyone. Chaska Herald had a cute write up about it. How the small things, sometimes big things, mean so much to the human race.

If you are an up north type of person, here's a tid bit for you. It's called the Dark Sky Festival being held on December 7<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>. Where you ask? Up north, of course. Did you know that Cook County is home to one of the darkest skies in the world? Every year, explorers, adventurers, artist and photographers from around the globe travel to Cook County to experience the northern lights and the night sky, they ask you. Seems there is a Fifth Annual Dark Sky Festival occurring. If you're interested, check it out.

Have you heard about Brew d'Etat? Well, rumor is that it's a brewery moving into the former Roets Brewery in downtown Jordan. Keith Coooper and head brewer, Jeremy Waug are the co-owners. They had been housed in Burnsville prior with their eye on Jordan for opening their new brewery. Just thought you might like to know.

Here's another bit of information you may have forgotten. Don't have time to get to the local libraries, the question was asked. Don't forget about the Carver Express Library. Express Libraries are sits you can pick up and drop off library materials. It's located inside the SouthWest Transit Station on Hartwell Drive in Carver. Their hours are Monday through Friday, 5:30 AM until 11:30 PM and on Saturday and Sundays at 8:30 AM until 9:30 PM. If you want too, you can have materials sent to an Express Library. Select the location upon ordering. Remember though, items picked up at an Express Library can be returned at any library location too. Happy Reading everyone! Oh the world of imagination. There is nothing like it.

From Facebook: "It's that time of year again when your friendly local mail carrier will be working long days every day including Sundays and deep into the night. We gladly deliver holiday cheer directly to your mailbox during "our season."

Help us deliver our appointed rounds and then return to our families safely. Keep your porch light on so we can see the steps and you can see us. If there is snow, make sure we have a path for delivery. Please don't block the mailbox with your car or any other obstacles. Remember to remove snow from the area around your mailbox so we can drive in, service your mailbox, and pull away safely. If you can make sure your house address is visible so we can deliver correctly. Thanks for keeping us safe while we deliver! PS...it's not just us that will be out delivering in the dark. UPS, FedEx, DHL, and Amazon are out there, too. "

Another Facebook posting: "Spread the Holiday Glow"

"This Christmas, Bill's Painting is embracing the true spirit of the season by giving back to our community!

"Lighting up Lives: A Gift of Joy for a Family in Need. This year, we're thrilled to announce our initiative to donate a complete Christmas light installation to a deserving family facing challenging circumstances. Nominate a family: We invite you to help ups find the perfect family! Nominate someone who could use a little extra cheer this holiday season. Share their story, and let's come together to make their home shine with the magic of Christmas lights."

Follow the instructions on his Facebook page to nominate a family. It was posted November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Also, just so you know in advance, Harvey's Bar and Grill's holiday hours are on Sunday, Christmas eve regular hours with full menu choices. Kitchen opening at 8 AM and closing at 8 PM. Will be closed on Monday, Christmas Day. New Year's Eve's plans on Sunday will broadcasting the Vikings Game. Then will be Karaoke to be followed up with a DJ and open until 1 AM. Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 will be the celebrating of Customer Appreciation Party. Bar will be open at 10 AM. Free appetizers and drink specials. Kitchen will be closed.

That's all I got folks. Except to say to all you dedicated readers, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, along with thank you for your support and reading all about your community. Don't party too hardy and have a good time. Think about others and stop long enough to appreciate what you have.

Hey, how's that Home Town Bank construction coming anyway everyone?

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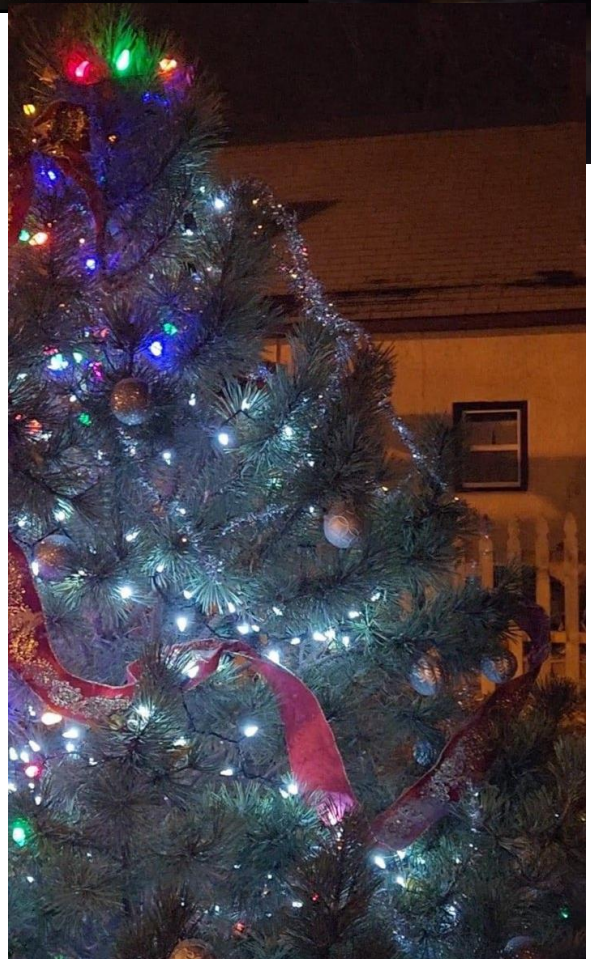


## *Seventh Annual Tree Lighting*

The 2023 Seventh Annual Carver Tree Lighting at Gazebo Park in Downtown Carver, Minnesota happened on November 25<sup>th</sup>.



In case you missed it 🥰 - here's the final countdown from tree lighting. Let the Carver Christmas season begin!





## *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. Cancelled for December.



## *Bountiful Basket / Cologne*

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



## *Bountiful Basket*

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

### Hours

Monday – Wednesday – 9 AM – 3:30 PM

Thursday/Friday – 9 a.m. – 12:30 PM

1st & 3rd Saturday of each month only - 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](http://www.rubyspantry.org).

The next pop-up Pantry is scheduled to be at Grace Church ( 9301 Eden Prairie Road ) in Eden Prairie on Thursday, December 7th at 5 PM until 6:30 PM. Held the first Thursday of the month, registration begins at 5 PM. Food bundles available at 5 PM.



**Free Food Distribution:** All are welcome, while supplies last. Old Gedney Factory in Chaska at 2100 Stoughton Ave. Next events?

December 21st. Sponsored by CAP Agency and the City of Chaska.

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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.



Carver Village Christmas

**Carver Village Hall
Downtown Carver Saturday,
December 2, 2023
1:00pm - 3:00pm**

**Santa arrives by fire truck at 1:30pm
Treats, Crafts, & Coloring Contest
Bring your camera to take pictures with Santa.**

***Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation.**

Sponsored by the Carver Lions & the Carver Fire Department

Girl Scout Holiday Boutique

Saturday, December 2

10:00am to 1pm

Chaska American Legion:

102 W 4th St, Chaska, MN 55318

Join us for our annual Girl Scout Holiday Boutique where all items are handmade by local Girl Scouts! Items are individually wrapped and priced **under \$5** so kids can afford to buy gifts for family members, friends, teachers or coaches!

Girl Scouts will serve as Santa's Helpers to guide children as they shop, wrap and label their gifts to keep them a secret from loved ones until they are opened during family celebrations!



Sponsored by



Southwest Metro Holiday Market

Sunday December 10th - 1pm – 5pm

City Hall – 316 Broadway St, Carver

Discover local vendors with foods, arts, and crafts!



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## Merry Christmas

and

## Happy New Year







# **CARVER SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCHEON**

**DECEMBER 13, 2023**

**Carver Village Hall  
316 Broadway, Carver, MN**

Seniors (65+) are invited to the Annual Senior Luncheon  
Sponsored by the Carver Lions

Social: 11:30 a.m. Lunch served at Noon.

Reservations required.  
Deadline: Saturday, December 9  
Contact Sandy McGraw: 952-856-2655

