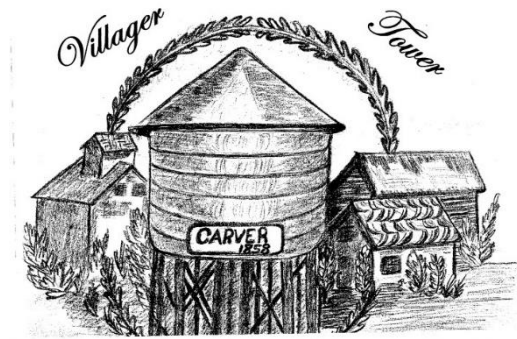




January / February 2024

Number Four Hundred Three



## Belated Condolences

First off, this editor apologizes for the oversight recently of not catching the loss of some of our beloved loved ones and friends locally. There is not an excuse good enough but understanding these situations does help and explains the lack of acknowledgements. It has not been possible to get my mail due to my own family crisis requiring my attention that these losses slipped through. I do not have direct access to my mail which means my access to local news is limited without the help of my other friends and readers throughout the community. And can't expect everyone to know who I know either. So my sincerest condolences to everyone for their losses and apologize profusely for not catching it earlier. Then there are those that I don't get told or see at all. Again, is why I ask for your help.



It has since been brought to my attention finally after my wonderful, kind neighbors brought much needed supplies for me to retrieve. Dale, Jodi and Shannon, my sincerest sympathies on your loss. I knew Mary from High School. Dale from friends from Carver. Jodi and Shannon went to school with my kids. So, there are not enough or any words that can offer you any real comfort, but know that we care and are with you.

In November, another high school friend passed. Grace Reif Kloos, another well-known character in so many ways. Josh went to school with my youngest. Doug was a businessman that we all knew well. Brenda, of course, who just retired from the city was Grace's sister. Grace was from a large family and grew up in what was known as Sandy Acres back in the day. Her parents knew my parents and their friends. Such sadness to have lost such a vibrant, caring, giving and compassionate soul. Goodbye Grace. Condolences to her family on their loss.

In December, Carver also lost another icon, Ruth Melchoir who was Jane Thon's sister. I know of the family more than each family member per say. I know how difficult this is for the family. So, again my apologies for missing this and honoring her properly but can't let people know when I don't know either.

Also in December, another familiar face to so many who was like a regular staple at Cooper's, like so many faces that have come and gone. Henry Roepke passed away. A happy, gentle, caring man who also knew my parents and have such fond memories of his congeniality. Sympathies to the family. The world will never be the same without his smile and helpfulness.

## Soggy Bottom

At the time of writing the event has not happened yet but by the time publication occurs, it will be over. How about those apples? Didn't have the information last month for the recipient of the fundraiser. This month, I do. At least one of them. In the past there has been more than one recipient.

As you know, I hope, the Carver Lions hosted their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Soggy Bottom Snow Golf Tourney in Riverside Park for 2024. The purpose of the event is to have fun, get out with friends, family, neighbors, etc. etc. and to raise money for local families in medical crisis. This is possible through hat sales, food and beverage sales, private donations and raffles, not to mention the registration fee.

The members of the Lions say, "Don't worry about the cold! We have a heated tent with tables and chairs and a bonfire to keep warm. You don't have to play to participate! Stop down for food and beverages and say hello to your friends and neighbors, and feel free to donate to a good cause."



The 2024 recipient is Zack Bonnema. He is a local firefighter and if I understood correctly, specifically the Chaska Fire Department and has been a fire fighter for almost fourteen years and currently is the Assistant Fire Chief. Zack is also a member of the Carver County Fire Academy. Trained fire fighters across the county and that includes Carver's own too. Then life dealt him a terrible blow, he was told he had cancer. He has undergone surgery. He is in Stage 3 and requires chemotherapy. He is at high risk even though the tumor and lymph nodes were removed since there is chance that cancer cells have hidden their creepy devious cells in one's body. Zach will be undergoing a six month chemo treatment with his wife, Barbie at his side cheering him on. They have two youngsters and Zack is only thirty-one years old. He has a long row ahead of him. Prayers are needed, support and lots of everything else that goes with this \*\*\*\*.

So, that's why the Soggy Bottom Golf Tourney is so important to everyone in the area. They take care of their own, or at least try. Thanks for all your hard work, time, dedication and service not only to all those making the event possible but to the firefighters who do their part and everyone else who does what is right.

However, on a sad note, here's some gossip that is more than likely factual but not thoroughly explanatory? Read at Carver Current site that Chuck Rupnow with Southwest News Media reported that the fifteenth year run of Soggy Bottom Gold Tourney will have at time of print been the last event for the Lions to host. One of the members stated that changes are happening at the park and the event was going to retired but that the Lions organization would be re-imagining the event. It was also stated that the time had come to

revamp the festivity.

The Carver Lions posted after the closure of their 2024 Soggy Bottom event proclaiming success once again for their finale. With the warm weather, it can be presumed and imagined just how much fun everyone had. Thanks were extended to all who helped, participated and donated! Check out the Lions Facebook posting. Great pictures. Good job everyone! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!





## Courtney's Message

Greetings!

As the days are gradually getting longer and we're headed toward what *may* be a historically mild winter, I have a handful of quick updates to share this month:

- Ice Rink – As of this writing, which is always a few days before it arrives in your inbox, the weather forecast is for at least a week's worth of days with temperatures above freezing. While that sounds lovely after last month's cold snap, it's not good news for the ice rink in Community Park. All that's to say our Public Services staff will do their best to maintain the ice surface for as long as possible. When in doubt, please check [CityOfCarver.com/414](http://CityOfCarver.com/414) for the current ice rink status.

- Removal of deteriorating skate park – After 20 years, the aging skate park in Community Park was removed last month due to the deterioration of wooden structural components which weren't repairable. While we contemplate next steps, there is a brand new, modern skate park in Ironwood Park, which is west of Carver Elementary School!

- We all make mistakes – There was an error in a story about the City of Carver in the print edition of the Jan. 18, 2024 Chaska Herald. The "Carver creates new 10-year, long-term plan" story incorrectly stated the City of Carver

plans to build a new fire station in 2025. That is wrong. We are, however, hoping to add an 820-square-foot addition to the fire station, which will allow us to keep the firefighters' turnout gear separate from the rest of the station to improve firefighter health and safety.

- Merriam Junction Trail – At our Work Session on *Tuesday* Feb. 20 (5:30 p.m. at City Hall) we will get our first look at Scott County's Merriam Junction Regional Trail project, which will include a bridge from the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to downtown Carver. While the bridge's construction phase will have a significant impact on downtown Carver, once it's open, the bridge and 2.4 miles of paved trail will be a tremendous amenity in our community!

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns about anything in this newsletter or about something that's going on in our community, please don't hesitate to reach out. I look forward to hearing from you!

Mayor Courtney Johnson

[CJohnson@CityOfCarver.com](mailto:CJohnson@CityOfCarver.com)

Cell: 612.702.7703

Facebook: [CarverMayorCourtney](#)

Instagram: [Carver Mayor Courtney](#)

## Miscellaneous

The council discussed at their meeting the amendments to their Employee Handbook requiring approval. A new section was reviewed involving the MN Governor's Omnibus Jobs Act. The law was effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

The council reviewed their annual 2024 organizational resolution appointments.

## 2024 Legislative Priorities

The council discussed the 2024 Legislative Priorities requiring their acceptance and adopt these priorities. Once the priorities are adopted they are forwarded and communicated to the representative and senator.

## Fund Balance Policy

The Finance Director discussed the purpose of a Fund Balance Policy establishing guidelines for said balance and management levels while meeting cash flow requirements. An amendment to the policy was created in 2016 as a "Special Capital Fund" with the intended usage for excess unassigned fund balance at the year-end audit year. The balance could be used for a one-time capital expense or special projects. The city's Strategic Plan placed emphasis on enhanced financial strength to include increased cash availability for capital purchases, increase city bond rating and stable tax rate changes. These priorities were addressed during the long term financial planning process when it was also determined upon revisions to the policy language would have a better grasp on hitting strategic targets outlined. The proposed amendments include clear definitions for balance classifications/procedures, types of funds, eliminate special capital fund and replace with new options for excess fund balance, and revise language. Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving the amendments to the fund balance policy.

## Carver Place

The Community Development Director discussed the Preliminary Plat for Carver Place giving an overview of the property history and timelines involved with the property. Recently the city and the Planning Commission members reviewed a version of the Community Development Agency's plan. Based on funding availability, the project has evolved and changed since the most recent review process. Presently the proposed project includes sixty units of general occupancy. The agency recently received awarded funding for Carver Oaks with forty three additional units for seniors to be reviewed in the future. A Public Hearing was held by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Preliminary and Final Plat for Carver Place.

## Purchasing Policy

The Finance Director discussed the amendments required for approval regarding the Purchasing Policy. Revisions to this policy have not been done since November of 2020. The policy purpose establishes a purchasing process outline to set financial thresholds for approval, define conflict of interest standards and to manage miscellaneous aspects. This amendment provides guidance to all staff directly involved in process, internal control oversight or financial transaction. Amendments include additional language on contracts, clarification of threshold language pertaining to small purchases, removal city clerk and addition of Finance Director for any required language, new employee requirements for credit card verbiage, additional employee training and development, and adding meals and refreshments which was removed from the employee handbook. Motion was made and carried with all ayes approving amendments to the purchasing policy.

## Fire Hydrants

The council discussed an ordinance prohibiting non-authorized fire hydrant usage with the City Attorney. Recently the council was made aware of an issue of increased non-authorized individuals drawing water from city owned fire hydrants. It was noted that typically it could occur with contractors and their employees requiring large amounts of water working in the vicinity. The practice is problematic simply involvement non-payment of treated water, damage to the hydrants and the high volumes of water detrimental to the city's public water supply. The council stated as well that it was well worth mention that the city provides a self-service water dispensary at the public works building for contractors use with the provision payment for water is received. Staff discussed concerns with the sheriff's department. It was established that an ordinance expressly prohibiting non-authorized usage would prove a better mechanism preventing the problem moving forward. A proposed ordinance was drafted consistent with adopted ordinances in other communities. The ordinance provides a clear prohibition of usage, disturbance, tampering, or retrieving water from hydrants without written permission. This will then give the sheriff's department enforcement ability. Adoption of said ordinance would then leave violators susceptible to criminal prosecution. Furthermore, if the ordinance were adopted, plans are to order bright yellow markers to be placed on city hydrants to inform individuals that hydrants are only for fire department and authorized city personnel usage and violators will be prosecuted.

"God has removed you from a table where you sit; in order to save you from a host who was serving you poison. Your loyalty had you blinded." Let that Sink in..... ~ Unknown.....Facebook/Instagram posting



## 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, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Carver Current

Have you checked out the Carver Current website? 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." There is all kinds of valuable information on this site too. 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 Baseball Softball Association

Up to date information can be found at [www.ccybsa.com](http://www.ccybsa.com)

Thanks are extended to Jim Mollman for his dedication, time and expertise to the Carver Baseball and Softball Association. Jim has retired. Interim President, was told is Grant Bassaamore. Welcome. Was also told that registration for the 2024 season will open February 1<sup>st</sup> for T-Ball, Baseball and Softball. Check their website for more information and updates.

Also, worth mentioning that for the 2024 season the Carver Baseball and Softball organization will be in charge of operating the Concession Stand during the Carver Black Sox home games. Be sure to sign up to help. I will just betcha' too that volunteers are needed for the upcoming season too.

The Carver Community Youth Baseball/Softball Association (CCYBSA) serves Carver, Minnesota and other surrounding communities enriching the lives of every child with the desire to play baseball, softball, and t-ball while providing a fun, safe, and enjoyable youth sport experience.



## Carver Black Sox

Have you checked out your local team? Check their website for additional information, [www.carverblacksox.com](http://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. [ 2023 ]



## 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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## Southwest Transit

Check their website for all other services provided. [ [www.swtransit.org](http://www.swtransit.org) ]

The SW Transit has added the MN Wild Service to their schedule which began on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Yea, yea, I know a day late and a dollar short, again! Check their webpage for detailed information. Summarization is: pickup at SW Station, Highway # 212 and Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie and dropped off at the Excel Energy Center. Return times thirty minutes after the end of the game. Board where bus dropped off. Reserve in advance.

Don't forget their other services offered, SW Prime, SW Perks, Prime MSP Airport, SW Prime Edge, Prime Essential and Prime MD.



"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."

— Albert Einstein

## Light and Seek Luminary Walk

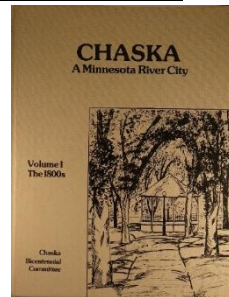
Missed announcement for the "Light and Seek 2024 Luminary Walk that happened on January 27<sup>th</sup> with their celebrating their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Luminary Walk at the Rapids Lake Visitor Center. Event was hosted by Funky Minds n visitor center staff. Ice lanterns were created by volunteers for their peaceful three hour hike. Information provided by Shelly Wyland Rudolff on Carver Life.



## "Chaska, A Minnesota River City"

Have you met Graham Johnson yet? He's the new reporter for SW News Media ( Chaska Herald ). He wrote an article about the third history book for Chaska coming out sometime early 2024, named "Chaska, A Minnesota River City, 1950 - 2000." There are/were two previous books, Volume I and Volume II. Graham said it has been in the works for the past twenty years. A project began by Mark Olson Remember him? Former Herald editor. According to Graham there are multiple authors but is being edited by the President of the Historical Society, Lisa Oberski. Anyone who is anybody from the past knows that Chaska and Carver intersect with one another on so many levels. The cost of the book is \$ 70, plus shipping unless you want to pick it up at the Historical Center in Chaska. And he thought it should be noted that the focus of the book is through eight chapters with each covering a central topic to include city government, historical events, small businesses, industry, Jonathan, education, high school sports and community life and leisure.

Anyone interested, can order their copy from the Chaska Historical Society at the Chaska History Center.



## Carver Lions

Don't forget the Lions are still collecting old eyeglasses or hearing aids. 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.

Oh yea, just so you know there are ongoing projects too, like Roadside Clean up; Blood Drive dates; and weekly Meat Raffles. And be sure to check out the picture of the Soggy Bottom 2024 commemorative winter hat....Did you get to go play, stop and participate in a beverage and rumor was that there was a bonfire too?

Other Carver Lions news includes the fact that they will be meeting twice a month through June on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Their summer schedule is one meeting during the month which is usually the third Wednesday through August. Then in September the members resume their regular scheduled meetings. Discussions are already occurring regarding their Annual Pork Chop dinner. Plans at this point are they are talking about the end of April. However, February is their usual Mid-Winter Convention held in Mankato.

This year's convention will be held on Friday the ninth through the 11<sup>th</sup> and is hosted by DG Christy Trutnau. Their agenda for the convention will include lots of fun activities and their usual business at hand with an opening ceremony and Celebration of Life.

Stay tuned for updates from your eager volunteers making Carver more fun and working hard always.



Sorry, not sorry.....

Devil made me do it....

He was just too 'you know what' cute to not share him/her!!!!!!

## 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 for February are the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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



Picture Compliments of Shelly Weyland Rudolf

## Funky Dove Boutique

Rebecca's bored guys! She wants, no needs you to stop in at Funky Dove right now and help her disperse some of her clothing items, along with the what not's and must have's along with all the other terrific gadgets, décor and have to have items to find their way to your house, not hers. So what do you say, hurry on in. If you haven't ever been there, boy are you missing out a real treat. She is open every weekend, Saturday and Sunday unless posted otherwise on Facebook where you will find her hours too. So go on, get over there in downtown Carver and not only meet the fantastic woman in the shop but go home with all the stuff you didn't know you had to have! Hey, you listening?

She also posted that her shop and her own jewelry creations were conceived and inspired by "HoPe" during that Covid ear. ( You now, that nasty time that turned the entire world upside down? ) Rebecca's shop, "The Funky Dove" is an eclectic peaceful bird with the nature to stay around "home."

Her jewelry she says, "Fly FreeLee" is about a bird that wants to be FREE and fly anywhere and everywhere. Both are birds of spirits in nature and soon I hope to fly again."

She read a poem that touched her and we are sharing. It was written by Emily Dickinson.

*"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, And Sings the tune without the words, And never stops at all. And sweetest in the gale is heard; And sore must be the storm; That could abash the little bird That kept so many warm. I've heard it in the chilliest land, And on the strangest sea; Yet never, in extremity, It asked a crumb of me."*

## Carver General

Carver General's 2024 sale dates are available and posted on their Facebook page. You know that each and every time you enter into the shop of Carver General to hear the door creak and the bell ring that you are for certain to have your socks knocked off with what the gals have found for you to take home with you when you leave. Right? There is never an under abundance of fresh merchandise from small too big to miniature. Guaranteed you won't leave disappointed either. Valentine's Day is right around the corner too. Bet they have all kinds of goodies that you have to have, need and maybe even gift? So what are you waiting for?

And hey, remember to check in next door too at the Good Junk Garage too. Usually open the third Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the month. Check out their Facebook pages too. They are right next door to Carver General on Third Street east in downtown Carver! Not a discount store you want to overlook or skip, by the way! Neither one of the shops, for that matter.

And oh yea, everyone's hours of operation are usually the third weekend, Thursday, Friday and Saturday the doors open at 10 AM and close at 5 PM, Sunday, open at noon until 4 PM. That goes for the Good Junk Garage too.

## Getaway Motor Café

So, what's happening, the news over at the corner of Broadway and Main Streets? They have been busy that's for sure. That is if you have been paying attention to their Instagram and Facebook pages. They were busily and happily celebrating their first anniversary! Visiting, chatting, creating, designing, marketing, hob knobbing and promoting their Airbnb giveaway. Heard it was a smashing success! Everyone and anyone came to celebrate with them. Also heard something about some kind of a monkey cocktail? What was or is that all about? You can just bet that there is always something going on at GMC and they have something up their sleeve for Valentine's Day, don't you think? It has to be super-duper fantastical in the works knowing these two characters. Don't you agree? Winter is certainly not deterring the food trucks or their patrons either! Also in the process of hiring baristas and bartenders for anyone interested! Be sure to check out their web page and Facebook page if you can: [www.getawaymotorcafe.com](http://www.getawaymotorcafe.com)

February 13<sup>th</sup> ( Tuesday/Mardi Gras Tuesday ) the Getaway Motor Café is hosting what they have named "Latte Art Throwdown at Getaway Motor Club. Highly recommended you reserve your spot or you'll maybe lose out? The event is from 4 PM until 10 PM, I'm told. The word is: "We're excited about getting the coffee community together! Get ready to see baristas from all over Minnesota showcasing their skills and passion for latte art. Whether you're a pro or coffee enthusiast, this event is not to be missed. Details: Whether you're attending OR competing, make sure to save a spot with an Eventbrite ticket. Space is limited!

Upon arrival, baristas can enter their name into a drawing for a spot in the competition. If your name is chosen, it's \$10 to compete. Please arrive with enough time, because we'll draw names and fill out the bracket at 4:30pm.

We'll be serving up NA drinks as well as beer, wine and our craft cocktails all evening. After the competition, prizes will be awarded, giveaways given, and the fun continues. Looking forward to seeing/meeting you all!"





## *Getaway Motor Café* ----continued:

Then on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 120 Broadway Street, Carver, Minnesota, again reservations are highly recommended. They are hosting a Valentine's Day Dinner from 4 PM until 10 PM. Nate and Terah invite you to bring your sweetheart to their Dinner catered by Sunny Days Comfort Food. Reservations are for ninety minutes. Come and enjoy their wine, beer and craft cocktails or one of their NA ( non-alcoholic) options. For more details visit their website. I'm hungry just reading their menu offered. How about you?

So, where do you need/want to be? At GMC ( Getaway Motor Café ) in Carver at the intersection of Broadway and Main. Anytime, you're welcome, at least when they are open that is. Hours also posted on their website. Hey guys?

Was that deliberate when you chose the name? Getaway Motor Café? Shortened for shorthand "GMC" or accidental?

Have to ask. I'm sure with your creativity and talent you can spin something with that too in your promotional creativity space? Good job guys and happy belated anniversary/birthday!!!!

## *Mizzy's Pizza*

Heard there was a field trip over to Mizzy's Pizza in Carver off of Dahlgren Road? According to their Facebook page, the owner, Jeff gave the kids a real treat teaching them how to toss dough and make their own pizzas. Pretty cool deal and field trip, don't you think? Mizzy's also celebrated their six month anniversary in January to celebrate their opening. I bet that was a hoot of an event huh? Did you go to celebrate with them? Shame on you, if you didn't. Their promotional creativity is off the charts and out of the world, as well. "Passionate About You" cocktail? Or how about "Love Is in the Drink" cocktail? Wow! Their reviews are raving, as well too. Ever heard of pizza fries? One of their ten year old customers said "Pizza fries are life!" Can't outdo that don't forget too, pull tabs are available at Mizzy's. Can't help but wonder just what they have planned for Superbowl Sunday? You have to know that they have something exceptional planned. Right? And they do, specials on food and drinks on SuperBowl Sunday! So, get on over there and check them out. Find out what else is happening at the pizza parlour. Happy six month anniversary Jeff, DeAnne and family, as well. Job well done!



## *Superbowl Sunday*

The 2024 LVIII Superbowl is here. The game will be broadcast on CBS and is being played at the Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas ( Paradise, Nevada ) on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> with kickoff scheduled to be at 6:30 PM ( Eastern Time. Playoffs were still ongoing at the time of this writing. Notation was made by internet Bing that the super bowl had been pushed out of its usual slot which is the first Sunday in February due to the additional game added to the NFL regular season. Non-sports people wouldn't know this, by the way, like this author. For sports fan, hope you enjoy the SuperBowl!



The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it."

~Terry Pratchett

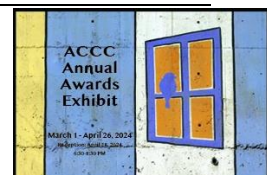
## *Soiree - Mardi Gras*

The event this year is being called Soiree - Mardi Gras being brought to you by the District # 112 Foundation. More information about this organization can be found on line at the District # 112 school's website: [www.district112.org](http://www.district112.org). The Soiree is about bringing the community together to support the foundation. This event will include an exclusive VIP Cocktail hour, gourmet plated dinner with decadent desserts, silent auction and casino-type games. Be sure to join them at Hazeltine Golf Course in Chaska on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Times you ask? 5:30 PM to 8 PM.



## *Arts Consortium*

Remember the Youth Art Show runs through February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Chaska Community Center. Interested in the Artist's Conversations held the third Monday of each month. Have to Call the Arts Consortium for more details and where they are meeting along with times. Don't forget too that classes are offered, teach a class and Music news along with Literary information is all occurring at the Arts Consortium circle. They can all be a part of your life, just call and ask for more information. Arts Consortium is featuring in March - ACCC Annual Awards Exhibit from March 1<sup>st</sup> through April 26<sup>th</sup>. A reception will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.



## *Schram's Vineyards*

The Schram's Vineyards are still hosting their Winter Wine Lodge festivities which is ongoing on Saturdays through February 17<sup>th</sup>, remember. Their Saturday Lodge events have weekly themes too. Check their website for more details and what else is happening there. They have special events, music, wine tasing and their shop, of course. [www.schramsvineyards.com](http://www.schramsvineyards.com)



Over at the vineyards they announced that quote, "Our first 4 Winter Wine Lodge themes have been so much fun! We have more in store for you with fun themes in the weeks ahead! Will this snow stick around? Snow or not, we'll be pouring wine, cozying up by the fire and embracing winter with great music and friends. Keep reading to learn more: Valentine's Day Flights and Tapas; Upcoming Winter Wine Lodge Events and two new wine releases, as well as other upcoming music, trivia and Galentine's events."

"I think the hardest part of losing someone, isn't having to say goodbye, but rather learning to live without them. Always trying to fill the voice, the emptiness that's left inside your heart when they go."

~SYLVIA Plath

## Community Highlights

February 2024

February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Carver Youth Baseball and Softball Registration Opens
February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Happy Birthday Terry! Chaska Fire Department Relief Association Fishing Tournament
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Darrel! Council Meeting
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Gloria!
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lions Meeting
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Bonnie! East Union Spaghetti Dinner 112 Foundation Soiree – Mardi Gras Hooked on Books Event Lunar New Year
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Adam and Tommy! SuperBowl Sunday Happy Birthday Justice! Guardian Angels Beef and Sausage Dinner Victoria Fire Department Fishing Contest
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Dahlgren Township Board Meeting School Board Work Session Carver Elementary PTO Meeting
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Renee! Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting Coffee and Connect Mardi Gras
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Maddie! Ash Wednesday
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Valentine's Day Planning Commission Happy Birthday Kimberly! Happy Anniversary Dwight and Janet!
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Katie! Carver Business Alliance Sweethearts Dance
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Bob!
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Bruce! No School
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	President's Day Council Meeting
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Happy Birthday Tom! Lions Meeting
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Happy Birthday Peggy!
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Happy Birthday Sandra!
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Birthday Faye!
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	School Board Meeting
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee and Connect Happy Birthday Skylar!
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	No School Spring into Action Carnival



## Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Let's think spring and warmth instead of cold. I know, there are winter enthusiasts out there who feel cheated. But personally, I want to concentrate on warmth versus frigid. Speaking of warmth and spring, starting February 8<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Mn Arboretum they will be hosting the Spring Flower Show from 9 AM until 4 PM daily. Opening night, February 8<sup>th</sup>, which is a Thursday, they will feature live music, gallery artists and a featured speaker, Shelley Beaumont. There is a special ticketed event, the Spring Flower Show Teas. Hurry, call and get your spot before they are all booked up. More information on their website under the caption of events. [www.arb.umn.edu](http://www.arb.umn.edu)

Into Fairy Gardens? Workshops are scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. There's more going on at the Arboretum. Check and see what catches your fancy.

"If the world were merely seductive, that would be easy. If it were merely Challenging, that would be no problem. But I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."  
— E.B. White

## Chaska Valley Family Theatre

The Chaska Valley Family Theater is in full gear with anticipation for the upcoming performance of Fiddler on the Roof. You can purchase tickets early too, you know. Their first performance will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Want to get more information? They are online: [www.cvft.org](http://www.cvft.org); email: [cvftmail@gmail.com](mailto:cvftmail@gmail.com)

They are also already preparing for their summer performance too, The Adams Family. Auditions haven't been announced yet but you can watch for updates.

Then there is their summer Dragonfly Theatre Arts Camp. Now is the time to start thinking about registration, if you are interested. Their 2023 camps were both sold out in 2023. The camps are slotted for July 10<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> and July 24<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Here's a fun fact for you from their Facebook page: "Fun fact of the day: in early production, the musical Fiddler on the Roof nearly missed a few interesting alternative titles such as "Where Papa Came From" and "The old Country." Those titles are fun, but what's even more fun is coming to see CVFT's Fiddler on the Roof."

Be sure to visit their website or follow them on Facebook. That's all for now folks!

## Strains of the Earth

January certainly came around fast for Strains of the Earth in Carver huh? They are or already have celebrated their first anniversary which occurred prior to this month's publication. According to their Facebook page and post, they talked about unbelievable surprises. Did you go and celebrate with them? The Carver store is already also announcing for plans in the shop. Stop in at 300 Broadway Street in Carver and see for yourself what's going on! Also there are classes being offered by Strains of the Earth with their first class taking place in Jordan which have already begun. So far classes are being held in February and March but check their website and their Facebook page for accurate and up to date information. More? Stop in and ask them.

Do you know their hours? Or that they have a website? That there is also a shop in Jordan? Actually, Jordan is the main home store, original store. Carver is what you would possibly identify as a subsidiary. I know, being a 'you know what'! Their hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 AM to 8 PM ( both stores ), Sundays though, Carver is 10 AM to 5 PM while Jordan is open until 6 PM. Locations? 300 Broadway Street, Carver, 415 Broadway Street South #140, Jordan.

Website: [www.strainsoftheearth.com](http://www.strainsoftheearth.com) or their Facebook page Happy Anniversary!

## City of Carver Announcements

Open Gym for 2024 is back and open. Where? At the Carver Elementary School located on 1717 Ironwood Drive, Carver. When? Every Sunday except February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Times? 2 PM to 5 PM It's free, began Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bring your own basketballs and equipment. Remember, children under 10 need to be accompanied by an adult.

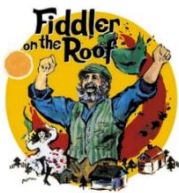
Commission openings, apply now. Interested in serving your community? The Heritage Preservation Commission has three open positions as does the Planning Commission. Interested? Contact the city or go to their webpage: [www.cityofcarver.com](http://www.cityofcarver.com)

The Ice Rink Status: Preparations are underway. As the temperatures drop then ice rink flooding will begin. Takes minimum of fourteen days below freezing temperatures to even begin to establish an ice rink. Talk to Mother Nature or God if you disagree. Dry humor there folks. Temporarily closed. See city's website for updates.

The Utilities Department is seeking a Public Services Technician III. Anyone interested apply with the city.

The Skate Park at Community Park is getting the equipment removed per the post on Facebook. The equipment is over twenty years old. With on-going maintenance concerns, the decision was made to remove it. The city will be discussing uses for the existing skate park space. In the interim, skate park equipment will be available in Ironwood Park.

"Reality continues to ruin my life." ~Bill Waterson



March 2024





## Trinity Lutheran Church

Submitted by: Trinity Lutheran Church

Join us for a series entitled "You Meant it for Evil, but God Meant it for Good" during Lent. We will have services each Wednesday beginning on February 14, Ash Wednesday, at 7 pm.

We also invite you to join us for our regular worship services at 10 am every Sunday or watch the sermons posted online at [trinitycarver.com](http://trinitycarver.com).

Please contact Pastor Jander with prayer requests or questions at: Office: 952-448-3628

Email: [office@trinitycarver.com](mailto:office@trinitycarver.com)

Website: [trinitycarver.com](http://trinitycarver.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchCarver](http://www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchCarver)



## West Union Lutheran Church

Were you aware that the West Union church has spots available to rent for community gardens? They start promoting for these plots in February and March. So, If you are interested in having fresh produce by your own hard work, blood, sweat and tears along with your gardening skills and having trouble finding or even reserving a spot, here's another alternative for you. Contact the West Union Church to find out who to talk to or make your reservation for that community garden spot. [www.westunionluthern.org](http://www.westunionluthern.org) Located at 15820 Market Avenue, Cologne; 952-466-5678; Pastor Adam or Darcy Akerman; or email them.



## East Union Lutheran Church

It's that time of the year again....The Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction is being prepared for. The date for the event is Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. Seating begins at 4 PM and will be serving until 6:30 PM. They will be serving up spaghetti with homemade sauce, salad, bread, beverage and dessert. Take-out is also available. There is something for everyone.



They are also holding again their Super Roll Sunday collecting toilet paper for their Annual Super Roll Sunday ending on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Food shelves cannot spend donated money on toilet paper. The only way to stock this item is by donations. So the East Union Congregation hold this event. Last year 1183 rolls were collected for the needy. Their goal this year to beat last year's count.

The church is also preparing their new Photo Directories. Pictures will be taken May 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. So plan on attending the church to get you photo taken for the church directory. The office also requests that you ensure that current addresses and phone numbers are updated. They are excited to create their new directories by the way. History preserved.

There is cart at the Parish Center to collect Food Shelf Donations by the way. You can also donate monetarily, if it is easier. There are an awful lot of needy people right now for so many reasons. Some are just not as fortunate as others.

Towel helpers are still needed to. They church plays an active role in the ECC Love Inc program. Volunteering consists of filling towel orders and driving towels to client's homes. Call the office for further information.

East and West Union churches are also preparing for the Lent season and worship services. The two churches are happy to announce that they will be pairing up with each sister church, East and West Union on Wednesday services. East Union will host their 6 PM Lent Dinner with Ash Wednesday Worship beginning at 7 PM on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The next worship service at East Union will be March 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. While over at West Union, Lent Dinner and Worship will be hosted on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and March 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Beef and Sausage Family Style

### Dinner

The Guardian Angels men's Club invite you all to come and enjoy their Beef and Sausage Family Style Dinner. The event was posted in Carver Life, by the way if you need to find more information. It's sit down deal too. Where? At the GA gym on Second Street in Chaska. Times? 11 AM to 1 PM. When? Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Take-out is available too. Please come and join them, they ask.



### Sticks Tavern

Did you know that you can order online from Sticks Tavern? Go to their Facebook page and get updates on their specials and all the events occurring too. Near as this author could tell: Trivia Night has returned to Sticks Tavern, every Thursday at 7 PM looks like.

Wednesday night Bingo Tuesday Music Bingo from 7 PM to 9 PM, if you are looking for something different. Also appears that they recently renovated. Sunday brunch buffet is happening at 9 AM until 1 PM with Bloody Mary bar (10 AM to 1 PM) Looks like you can also have lunch at Sticks Tavern. What are you waiting for? Get over to Sticks Tavern and have a good meal, a beverage of your choice and just get out of the house. What do you say? Stick's is willing able and ready to serve you and make your evening or day a relaxed time.

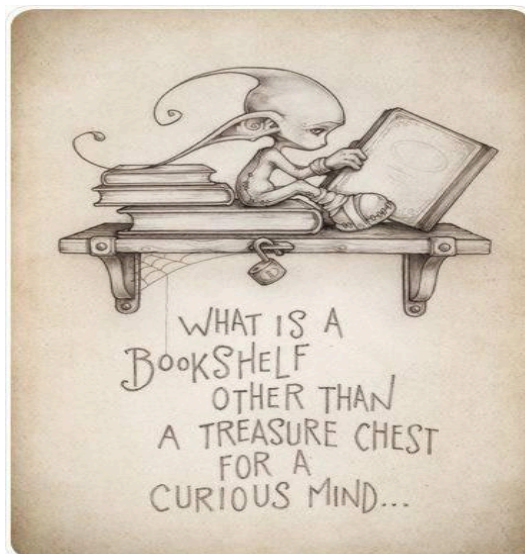
[www.stickstavern.com](http://www.stickstavern.com)



## Carver County Veteran

How sad and just had to share this article from the Southwest Publishing written by Helena Gunderson. The entire article can be found on the Carver Current site, for those interested in the entire article. It was not like the man was not known, it was more that family members were unknown. The article began with stating that an intimate ceremony had been held at Fort Snelling in honor of Rocky Bye, a veteran whose remains were unclaimed for nearly four years after passing. Such a disgrace for a veteran who served his country diligently. Normally, this editor does not discuss opinions but this particular article struck me and have to share. It's not that many veterans aren't given the proper respect and reverence earned, it's the way society is these days, desensitized and we need to get back to our roots of empathy and compassion like the people who went out of their way for this veteran. So many of the servicemen are lost in so many ways, distanced from relatives, dishonored, homeless, desperate, depressed and usually broke. Personally, I know too many veterans who are not/were not in a good place.

Mr Bye was a Vietnam Navy vet who volunteered at the Carver County Historical Society. It was due to the efforts of Stephen Walker, County Services Officer that a proper and fitting service was conducted and performed for Mr Bye. Take the time to read the article. Remember our veterans and thank them. Above all, give them the respect they deserve.



## *Gossip - Not Gossip*

Charity ice dives proceed without ice on the Lake Minnetonka. Charity Ice dives also referred to as Polar Plunges have been tradition in Excelsior since 1990 but in 2024 there was no ice. Imagine that? Only in Minnesota huh? And they say there's no relation to climate change huh? Did you know that there are 125 miles of shoreline on Lake Minnetonka?

Does Excelsior hold a fishing contest even? Anyone know?

Here's another fun fact for y'all. Raccoons do not hibernate in winter. They are active year-round. Bet you didn't know that either. However, on the coldest winter days they enter into a state called torpor. It when they slow their metabolism and sleep with their tails wrapped around the for warmth. Speaking of which, has anyone seen what Christian calls trash pandas or fur bandits?

Have you seen Meg & Cookies advertising/promoting/marketing her wares? She has to be busy making delicious cookies and has to have orders, right? Check it out on Carver Life/Facebook. She has Valentine's Day Pre-Sales going on right now with orders due by the 4<sup>th</sup> of February. She has cookie sticks packaged and ready. Or maybe you would be more interested in Conversation Hearts? She personalize too. Check it out.

Also on Carver Life was a posting that last issue was too late to bring to your attention. Heather Evens posted again for CPR For Life LLC classes in St Bonifacius and Norwood/Young America. Want to learn to save a life? She has class openings and willing to teach you. Larger flyer attached to end of newsletter. Check it out. You never know, you might make a world of difference to someone.

International Experience, Kayla Merkling is still seeking host families for exchange students. Be sure if you are interested to contact her. (postings on Carver Life through Facebook) or go to their website and that should get you all the pertinent information required.

Did some checking on local breweries to give you a list of them. Always feel sort of guilty putting the Schram's Vineyards announcements in the newsletter but they send me information is my excuse. But in all fairness, thought y'all might like to know of other breweries in the area and I am sure, no positive I have missed some. Feel free to correct or add or get in touch. In Belle Plaine, Oldenburg Brewing Company; Spring Park, Back Channel Brewery; Waconia Brewing Company, Waconia; ENKI Brewing, Victoria; Chanhassen, Hackamore Brewing; Delano, Lupine Brewing; Trove Brewing, Burnsville; Belle Plaine, U4icbrewing Inc; Chanhassen, Chanhassen Brewing Company; Badge Hill Brewing, Shakopee; Excelsior Brewing Company, Excelsior; and last but not least, Roets Brewing Company in Jordan. What you think? Did you know that there were this many in Carver County? Are there more? Does anyone really care?

Moving on:

Ms Erin Rathke has been named as the Interim Superintendent for the District # 122/Eastern Carver County Schools which began on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Dr Lisa Sayles-Adams had accepted the position of superintendent with Minneapolis Public Schools.

Request has also been issued for a superintendent search firm to oversee the process. The timeline looks to enter into a contract with a search firm in late January. Throughout the process, from developing a candidate profile through the final selection of the next superintendent, there will be many opportunities for community and stakeholder input.

David Brecht has also been named Interim Director of Finance and Operations. Mr Brecht began his career with Eastern Carver County Schools in 2005. Has served in the capacity of assistant and principal at the Chaska High School, worked in the office on a secondary program design prior to becoming student services administrator. His interim position began January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Michelle Imdieke from Sticks posted a thanks to Matt Udermann, County Commissioner, SouthWest Metro Chamber of Commerce and everyone who were interested enough to attend a meeting supporting a sign ordinance change for Carver County. Some of the townships hadn't discussed a potential change or were opposed to change. Small businesses and anyone interested in seeing change are asked to contact their township supervisors and county commissioners to express your opinion and hopefully support changes for small businesses throughout the county.

One of my newest sources relayed that the Post Office Corporate office is drafting a statement about the Carver Post Office. Other post office personnel are helping out in the Carver office. Hopefully more news, updates and personnel will be able to get back to their normal routines. Be patient with everyone. It's imperative to be understanding of conditions and situations out of people's control at times.

Here's some terrific gossip for ya', if you haven't already heard? Taste of Minnesota is back for the summer of 2024 per KSTP news anchors. Back at Nicollet Mall on July 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. It's said to be a two-day smorgasbord of food and fun to celebrate everything everyone loves about Minnesota. They advertise great music, fabulous food, family fun, surprises and a really, really great people watching event. Keep your eyes and ears open for updates and news about Taste of Minnesota.

The Zion Lutheran Church/Cologne is holding a Fish Fry. When? Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 PM to 8 PM. All you can eat Cod will be served with Au gratin potatoes, corn, fries, coleslaw and dessert. The cost is \$ 16 for eleven year old plus, kids five years old to ten is \$ 10 and kids four years old and younger eat free. Where? Physical address 14735 CR 153, Cologne. Every Friday? Don't know, have to ask them. Fish Frys should be popping up all over for Lent during February and March. Anyone interested in sharing places to go for Fish Frys? Submit what you want to share to [villagertower@carvercurrent.com](mailto:villagertower@carvercurrent.com) Time is running out too with this newsletters time line. After all, Lent is only for six weeks ( 40 day season ) and Easter is Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> this year. Lent begins February 14<sup>th</sup> and ends March 30<sup>th</sup>. Although, usually Fish Frys are typically held on Fridays, it's the where are they which is the sixty million dollar question. That's all I got...the rest is up to you.

Except found this interesting to share with y'all.....Lent is a season, the season for prayer, fasting and preparing for Easter being forty days long but there are really forty-six days between Ash Wednesday and the Easter. I know yea, like you really wanted to know that huh? Too late, you already read it.

Stumbled across this news bit accidentally. Anyone interested in PowWow's? The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community over in Prior Lake is hosting a Winter Wacipi on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> at Hocokata Ti, 2300 Tiwahe Circle in Shakopee. [ The Hocokata Ti is east on Valley View Road past the #83 intersection and south of # 42. ] The Wacipi is a traditional Native American gathering of a celebration of life, pride and honor. The Grand Entries will begin Saturday at 1 PM and go through 7 PM. Sunday's Grant Entry also begins at 1 PM. Tribes from across the United States and Canada are expected to perform. The Master of Ceremonies will be Redwing Thomas. For those interested and want more information, visit [www.smscwacipi.org/experience/2024-winterwacipi](http://www.smscwacipi.org/experience/2024-winterwacipi)

From Instagram: "My grandmother always said... Don't go where you're not invited. Don't talk about what you don't know. Don't interfere with things that are none of your business. Do not open the fridge in someone's else's house. Don't call after 10 PM. Don't go see someone at lunchtime. Don't enter other people's bedrooms without permission.

They were the rules of good manner and they still are, because manners never go out of fashion!"

Not being a sports fan, going to stick my neck out here and believe the headlines on the internet. The SuperBowl game is in a few weeks. Featuring the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco's 49ers. Why didn't this get put with the article? Simple answer: "it wouldn't fit after final layout"; plus not absolutely positive it's accurate. However what I do know is with all the hullabaloo regarding Taylor Swift fans is that her boyfriend is a football player for the Kansas City Chiefs for those who care or don't care. But supposedly, this is a big deal among her followers. Now that's what you call gossip.....what in the world is the fascination with society and having to know every single move of celebrities? Do they not get any privacy or respect their privacy? I mean, I'm an avid follower of some, but there should be boundaries. Right? ( And yes, for anyone paying attention, this is a nonsensical filler. Like anyone cares or even reads this????)





## Elections - 2024

For anyone interested or looking for politics and election information. The MN Presidential Primaries for the 2024 election year will be held Tuesday, March 5th with the General Election occurring on Tuesday, November 5th. March is also called Super Tuesday. July 15th through the 18th will be the GOP convention with the Democratic Convention being held in August starting the 19th and running through the 22nd. Iowa was the kickoff for caucuses for those interested in that fact.

During this presidential election year, 2024, the president and vice president will be elected. Additionally, all 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives and 34 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate will be contested to determine the membership of the 119th United States Congress. Thirteen state and territorial governorships and numerous other state and local elections will also be contested.

At the time of this print, New Hampshire will have already held their primary for 2024 election season. Also said to be a key test for Republicans. Did you know Democrats attempted to change the voting calendar so that South Carolina would be the first primary state? Due to this conflict, Joe Biden's name will not appear on the New Hampshire ballot. February 3rd, South Carolina will hold their primary. Not interested? Stop reading now. Nevada's primary being held February 6th. Here is an interesting fact. Nevan will hold a primary election but the contest will be essentially meaningless. Why? Because Nevada Republicans chose to award their presidential delegates through a caucus. Nikki Haley is the only GOP candidate participating. Nevada's Republican caucus will be February 8th to award its presidential delegates, the first nomination contest in western United States. Voters in South Carolina will choose their Republican candidate in Nikki Haley's home state holding their primary on February 24th. Michigan's primary will be February 27th where it is said that voters in the key swing states will cast their ballots in an open primary. This state could be a test for moderate swing voters. Super Tuesday, March 5th with primaries being held in Alabama, Arkansas, Alaska, California, Colorado, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont and Virginia. Heated competition will be seen regarding replacement of Diane Feinstein. March 12th primaries to be held in Georgia, Mississippi and Washington. While Republicans in Hawaii hold caucuses. March 19th primaries in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kansas and Ohio. Key Republican Senate seats in Arizona and Ohio. Key state, Wisconsin primaries to be held April 2nd. Republican National Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, again those dates are July 15th through 18th where Republicans will formally nominate the winner for the party's primary. Also, again, August 19th through the 22nd in Chicago, Illinois will be the hosting the Democratic National Convention where Democratic delegates and party officials will congregate to formally nominate Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Then to kick off the 2024 election season debates with the first Presidential Debate being held in San Marcos, Texas on September 16th; followed by a September 25th Vice-Presidential debate in Easton, Pennsylvania. Two more Presidential debates scheduled for October 1st in Petersburg, Virginia and the second on October 9th in Salt Lake City, Utah. Then all the election hoopla that everyone complains about will be all over on November 5th, Election Day. Polls will be open in all fifty states and the District of Columbia.

A lot of information to digest huh?

## Dahlgren Township

Starting out the new year thought it might be appropriate for all the newcomers to know who is who and where to go if needed. The Dahlgren Township Board meets the second Monday of each month. Their webpage is: [www.dahlgrentownship.com](http://www.dahlgrentownship.com) where you can find all kinds of interesting and necessary information if you reside in the township.

Board members are:

Chairman: Jeff Thompson...[jeff@dahlgrentownship.com](mailto:jeff@dahlgrentownship.com)  
Supervisors: Brian Gennrich...[brian@dahlgrentownship.com](mailto:brian@dahlgrentownship.com)  
Keith Koolman...[keith@dahlgrentownship.com](mailto:keith@dahlgrentownship.com)  
Treasurer: Doran Brahe...[doran@dahlgrentownship.com](mailto:doran@dahlgrentownship.com)  
Clerk: Mary Olson...[clerk@dahlgrentownship.com](mailto:clerk@dahlgrentownship.com)

"Fallacies do not cease to be fallacies because they become fashions"

~ GK Chesterson



## Minnesota Ice Castles and Ice Palaces

The Ice Castles in Maple Grove is said to be an awe-inspiring winter experience. There are said to be caverns, ice slides, frozen thrones and illuminated fountains. You can reserve a private experience too, called the Artic Alcove. (more information at [www.showclix.com](http://www.showclix.com), follow site to ice castles, then locations and walla you are get all the information you may require. Or maybe not? General admission is \$ 23 for adults. Dates and hours are weather dependent. Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Tickets are final sales, non-refundable, non-transferable. Changes possible twenty-four hours in advance. Buy tickets online in advance. Opened January 24<sup>th</sup> and the last day is February 19<sup>th</sup>. You can visit the ice castle Thursdays through Sundays.



Hear ye, hear ye! Also stumbled across what appears to also be another winter experience if you are interested in Delano where they are featuring and Ice Palace. Appears to have opened on January 25<sup>th</sup> after the stretch of warm weather. It also appears to be their second event held too. The Ice Palace is located at Delano's Central Park, 557 River Street North. There will be events, food and drinks to compliment the four hundred foot tall, ninety thousand square feet palace.

Also read, "Log home builders by trade, building with ice was a natural winter extension for the Youngstrom with their Norwegian lineage."

Open Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 5 PM to 9 PM; and Saturdays 2 PM to 9 PM. Calendar also said something about February 19<sup>th</sup>, Monday and a Royal Coronation, Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Scavenger Hunt, Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, Fireworks and Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> closing day. ([www.icepalaces.com/minnesota](http://www.icepalaces.com/minnesota)) for more information. Oops, looks like they closed possibly on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Do you suppose the warm stretch had something to do with this? Better luck next year maybe? We tried. Maybe just check their website or call to be sure? Or put it on the calendar for next winter?

## Fishing Tournament

The Chaska Fire Department Relief Association's Annual Fishing Tournament is scheduled to happen at the Fireman's Park (in Chaska)/Clayhole Lake on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, weather dependent, of course. Even if you don't fish or don't like to fish there is plenty for you to see and do and above all have fun. They are planning for bonfires, s'mores, door prizes, bucket raffles, a big cash raffle and so much more. At the Event Center food and beverages will be available. The Fishing Contest begins at 1 PM and runs until 3 PM, again on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The cash drawing will be at 3:30 PM. Tickets are available for \$ 20 from any Chaska Firefighter. Don't miss out on the fun and come see your friends, neighbors and thank your local firefighters for their service and dedication.



## Victoria Fire Department Fishing Tournament

Over in Victoria on Steiger Lake, the Victoria Fire Relief Association is getting all geared up for their Annual 35<sup>th</sup> Fishing Contest (weather permitting) from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. The fishing part is free. Raffle tickets are available and can be purchased in advance or from any Victoria Firefighter or at the event itself. You can park in the lower lot of ENKI Brewing or the city parking lot. Free bus shuttle service will be available at both parking sites along with Vic's and Floyd's. Di I mention prizes? Categories will include Largest Predator and Largest Pan Fish. First, second and third place in both categories.. Then there are the numerous raffle prizes to be awarded. Twenty in all. Good luck to everyone at their contests.



## "At the Age:

Most people use their phones to call or text people. I'm at the age where I use my phone to take pictures of labels I can't read and use my phone to ~enlarge the print so I can read it."

~ Instagram

## Sweethearts Dance

On Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> over at the Chaska Event Center there are plans for family and friends to participate in the Little Tots Sweetheart Dance. It has been designed for preschoolers and their parents.

Refreshments will be available. Space is limited.

Contact the Community Center for more information or to make reservations.



## Chaska Community Center Carnival

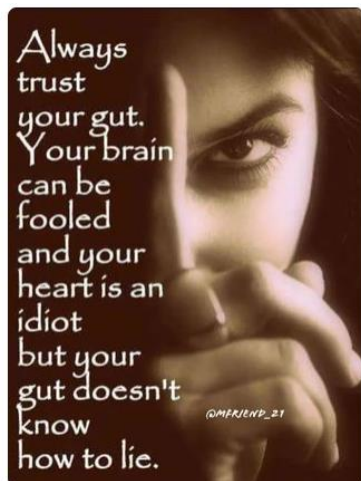
Little bit out into the future but next month will be too late for publication. So, here it goes. The Chaska Community Center on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> is hosting what they've named Spring into Action at the Chaska Community Center Carnival at 6:30 PM until 8 PM at of course, where else, the Chaska

Community Center. They are heralding all superheroes to assemble to kick off the new 2024 spring season. Boy, someone was doing their job with marketing eh? There are carnival games planned, inflatable jumpers and you know, so much more. All ages are welcome by the way. Grab Grandpa and Grandma and come have fun before it's too late!

## Snow Plow Drivers

This was posted on line and this author felt it warranted sharing with y'all.

"You get annoyed with them... you were supposed to be at your appointment 20 minutes ago and now you're stuck behind them. You complain about them... because you can do a better job, sitting in your warm house.. typing on a keyboard. You don't always appreciate them... because they knew they would have long days and even longer nights when they took the job. You don't always know them... but some of you call them names as you tailgate them and speed past them. But... I know him. He's a husband, he's a dad, he's a Grampie. He's a brother, a son and a friend. I know when I come up on one of these trucks... they are trying to clear the road for you- just as fast and as safely as they can. I appreciate them, because I've seen what they give up. The Christmas meal with their families, because Mother Nature doesn't really care about their Christmas ham. Watching their favorite show by the pellet stove at night... I've seen them go to bed early on a Saturday afternoon, because at 2 am on Sunday... they will be called out to work until the snow stops and the roads are cleared. I can hear them working, all day and all night, while I'm tucked in my bed. I know they are out there in every single winter storm warning and every wind advisory. They don't get snow days. You don't always appreciate them, but I do... because I couldn't do a better job.. and because I wouldn't want to do their job. So next time you fly past them and tailgate them.. know this, there is someone at home, praying for their safety and for yours. There is someone at home waiting for them to come through the door. There is someone at home who loves that plow truck driver."



## Comedy 80's Night

Ever heard of the YellowBrick Comedy? Me neither. However, saw a blurb from Kelichi Drew, Cici, Daryl and Randall inviting y'all to come and participate at the Chaska American Legion at 102 West Fourth Street, in Chaska on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM for the Comedy 80s Night' featuring the 80's Themed comedy show.

Their posting read: "Get ready to laugh ho parachute pants off at the most hilarious event of the year. ...for an unforgettable night of comedy."

Be "Prepared to be transported back in time to the totally tubular 80's, where big hair, neon colors, and shoulder pads reigned supreme! This event promises to be a blast from the past, filled with non-stop laughter and nostalgic vibes. Our talented lineup of comedians will have you rolling in the aisles with their hilarious jokes and witty one-liners. From outrageous impressions to side-splitting stories, they'll have you reminiscing about the decade that brought us iconic movies, unforgettable music, and unforgettable fashion choices."

They encourage you to "grab your leg warmers, dust off your cassette tapes, and come dressed in your finest 80's attire for a night of comedy that will leave you feeling like you've traveled back int time. Whether you were an 80's baby or just love that ers, this show is a must-see! Don't miss out on this gnarly event! Mark your calendars and secure your tickets now for the 80's Themed Comedy Show. It's going to be totally rad!"

They invite you to: "Come join us in the YellowBrick Underground Basement."



Your soulmate is not someone that comes in your life peacefully. It is someone who comes to make you question things, who changes your reality, someone who marks a before and after in your life. A person with whom you have an immediate connection the moment you meet, a connection so strong that you are drawn to them in a way you have never experienced before. As this connection develops over time, you experience a love so deep, strong, and complex you begin to doubt that you have ever truly loved anyone prior. Your soulmate understands and connects with you in every way on every level, which brings a sense of peace, calmness and happiness when you are around them

## "Happy Valentine's Day"



Jim Davis



## Bonus Page

There was a few added events after the final layout so am just including an extra page for y'all so you get it all before it's too late.

Here's a newsflash for everyone that also just came down the pipeline. It is with heavy and saddened heart to have to report this awful fact. So many of us 'oldies but goodies' have in some way shape or form interacted with the store in Chaska known as Cooper's. When I was a kid, they were still operating out of the store in downtown Chaska across from the city park and the legion. Jake and Lil also made a special point to visit us in Hawaii when 'he' was stationed there. I will never forget how kind and thoughtful they were. Anyway, Gary has been forced to make a life changing decision and close the store. As of March 2<sup>nd</sup> the infamous Cooper's Super Valu store will no longer be. He is forced to close the doors. Watch for the article upcoming in the Chaska Herald next week. Thanks for all the memories Sandy and Gary and everyone else in the family. It is a sad day! Here's a bonus flash for y'all too, Gary told a reliable source, Graham that a lot of merchandise will increasingly discounted as they move closer to closing date. Even if you don't buy anything, be sure to take a moment to at least say goodbye to Sandy, Gary and all the staff that has been so generous with serving the public and many customers that they consider almost like extended family. Another icon bites the dust in this crazy, messed up world and economy. Almost as though the 'little guy' doesn't have "a snowball in hell chance".

## Valentine Tot Time

"All you need is love and a whole lotta giggles and hugs." Come to Carver Village Hall on Wednesday morning, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM for one hour for their Tot Time Adventure planned for two to five year old! Valentine's Day Fun planned with Valentine's crafts, games and a snack. You can find more information on the city's website.

## Courtney Time

Hey in time to tell everyone for a change! Courtney Johnson, Carver's very own mayor is holding her first Mayor's Office Hours of 2024! Want to meet her in person, ask questions, submit your grief? Here's your chance. Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM until 11 AM in the Broadway Room on the first floor of city hall at 316 Broadway, Carver.

Courtney said, quote ( un quote ) "This is your opportunity to stop in and say "hi," give feedback, share ideas and ask your questions. This will be a casual open house-style meeting with no formal presentation, so please feel free to join me any time between 9 - 11 a.m.! All are welcome, so please feel free to share this invite with your Carver friends and neighbors.

While this opportunity is one of my quarterly Office Hours, I am always available to meet by appointment. If you can't make it, or if you'd like to schedule a meeting for a different date, please either reply to this email or call/text me at 612.702.7703." She is also looking forward to seeing you.



## District # 112 Extra Information

Tomorrow, that's right, hot off the press and still probably too late. Tomorrow, Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> and yes we are already into February and January is history. Depending on student's school attending, Chaska High School or Chanhassen High School at 6:30 PM ( time at each school respectively the same times ); will be High School Information Night until 8 PM per Jenny Stone who posted on Carver Life. She said it's an opportunity for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grader's and their families to: discuss the transition from

Middle School to High School, as well as key dates and experiences, learn about course offerings and registration processes. Along with the chance to explore and see classrooms and facilities. Also an opportunity to ask questions.

Do you know who Eric Songer is? He's a music teacher at the Chaska Middle School West campus. Melissa Hanson wrote in the school district's # 112 online post that Eric was recognized by the Country Music Association as a "Music Teacher of Excellence". She went on to say that ten teachers from Nashville, ten from Tennessee and ten teachers from throughout the country will be recognized September 19<sup>th</sup> in Nashville. Mr Songer also offers after school and summer courses. Congratulations to Eric! For more information go to the school's website.

"Your body can stand almost anything. It's your mind that you have to convince." ~ Aristotle

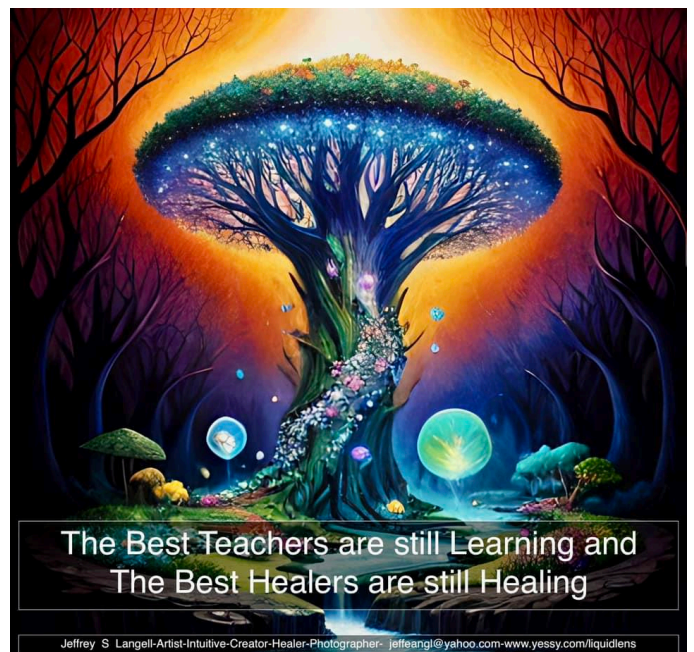
## Hooked on Books...and arts too!

The last "hot off the press newsflash" coming in at the last minute is "Hooked on Books...and arts too! Hosted by a partnership between Community Education Department, Eastern Carver County Schools Equity & Inclusion and the Carver County Library system which was also posted on the Carver Life site and the school's website. This event is an open house-style forum which is an enriching and fun experience being held at the Chanhassen High School.

Did you know that this event began in 2006 as a small event, few fun activities and a way to get out of the house to do something fun and different on a February morning? Turned into a robust community-wide celebration of literacy and the arts! Thought I also saw somewhere that it has been two years since the event was held. Gee, that wouldn't have been that "we won't mention its name" era?

"The event integrates literacy and the arts in an imaginative and innovative way. Memories are made for the participants, especially preschool through fifth grade students and their families. Heroes are made out of authors, illustrators, dancers, musicians, and artists, and inspiration takes place along the way."

Knew I read it somewhere and here it is. "After a two-year break, we are bringing the Hooked on Books community event back as we celebrate our 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary!" This year they welcome author, Jessie Taken Alive-Rencountre. She is a Hunkpapa Lakot from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Read about her on the school's website and about Hooked on Books. Even better, go to the Chanhassen High School on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM until noon and meet her and other authors and people of interest and have fun!



## Bountiful Basket School Snack Program Resumes

Bountiful Basket Food Shelf is once again providing healthy school snacks to all schools within the Eastern Carver County School District 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. Here what the counselors and teachers are saying about this program after just one month of the new school year:

A HUGE thank you to the District 112 Foundation for their generous financial support of this program! While they have provided funds for the majority of the program, we are hearing that the schools could use even more!

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:

Kirkland Chocolate Chip Chewy Granola Bars | Nature Valley Oats 'n Honey Granola Bars | Nature's Bakery Fig Bars | Motts Apple and Cinnamon Apple Sauce | Smartfood White Cheddar Pop Corn | Kind Bars | PopChips – any flavor | Cheddar Sun Chips | Fruit Cups in Light Syrup | Beef Jerky

Thank you for your consideration and support!



discount and budget-friendly prices. Fare For All accepts cash, credit, debit and EBT cards. For more information, [www.thefoodtroupmn.org](http://www.thefoodtroupmn.org). 2024 dates not posted at time of publication. Typically last Thursday of month.

February's date: February 22nd

Chaska's location is: Crown of Glory Lutheran Church at 1141 Cardinal Streets.

### Fare for All

Fare For All is a pop-up grocery store. A great way to save on quality, nutritious food. 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. A community supported event. Shop for quality, nutritious foods at



### 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

### 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, February 1st 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.



## Bountiful Basket Food Shelf's School Snack Program

Providing healthy snacks each month to all schools in District 112!

c



### FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUCIÓN DE ALIMENTOS GRATIS

ALL ARE WELCOME

TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS

DRIVE-THRU, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

MIENTRAS HAYA PROVISIONES

#### Chaska

2100 Stoughton Ave (Former Gedney Factory)

12 - 1 PM

January 18, February 15, March 21

#### Norwood Young America

City Hall: 310 Elm St. W

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

January 10, February 14, March 13

Want to volunteer? Sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DACA623A3F9C07-46410514-capagency#/>

Sponsored by CAP Agency, Carver County, City of Chaska, City of Norwood Young America, and St John's Lutheran Church



"Every pain gives a lesson and every lesson changes a person"

~ Abdul Haham



# HOOKED ON BOOKS

...and the Arts, too!

Join us for Free Family Fun including:

Making Sky Spirits Bluff Creek Elementary

When We Are Kind Carver Elementary

Planting a Seed Chanhassen Elementary

Water, Water Everywhere Clover Ridge Elementary

It's A Mitig! Family Learning Center

Paletero Man La Academia

Mama Do you Love Me? Victoria Elementary

Book Bingo Carver County Library

Ojibwe Shoulder Bag S.O.A.R. Students

Marlena Myles Coloring 112 Equity & Inclusion

Tails for Reading Carver County Library

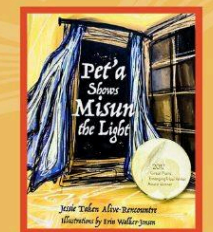
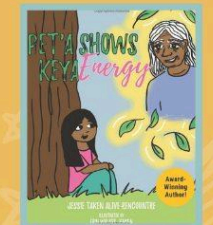
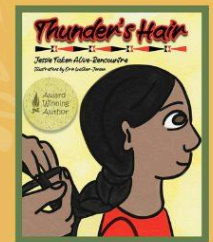
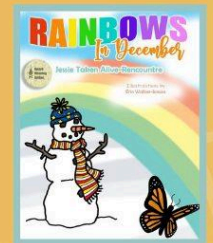
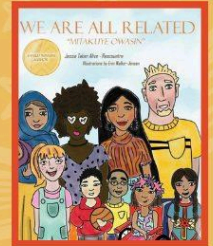
Native Ojibwe Games Nashke Native Games

Ojibwe Dakota Pop Up Museum ECCS Instructional Coaches

Saturday, Feb. 10

9 a.m.-12 noon

Chanhassen High School  
[eccs.mn/hooked](http://eccs.mn/hooked)



## Featured author

Jessie Taken Alive-Rencountre

## Performances by:

Jingle Dress Dancer: Star Downwind

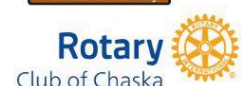
IPTF Ikidowin Acting Ensemble

Native Drummers: Chaske Henry, Robert Henry, Reuben Kitto Stately, Sean Smith

Chaska Valley Family Theater: Fiddler on the Roof

Student Dancers from Dance Warehouse

Ten Penny Tunes



**Hosted by East Union Lutheran Church**

# *Spaghetti Dinner* *and Silent Auction*

**Saturday, February 10, 2024**

**4:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Pricing**

**Adults \$10**

**Children (4-17) \$5**

Ages 3 and under Free

**Family (Household) \$25**



*Bring your family,  
friends and neighbors  
and support  
a great cause!*

**\*Take-out available**  
**Gluten free & vegetarian  
options available**

**East Union Lutheran Church**  
**15180 County Road 40**  
**Carver, MN 55315**

There will be something for everyone at this event. Baskets, gift certificates, and specialty items all up for bid. Dinner includes: spaghetti with homemade sauce, salad, bread, beverage, and homemade desserts.



# CPR For Life LLC

Instructor Trainer-CPR-AED-First Aid-BLS-Babysitting



**Heather Evans**



**Offering classes in  
St. Boni and NYA**

**To register or for more  
information email**

**[Info@CPRForLife.org](mailto:Info@CPRForLife.org)**

**or call (612) 888-2572**

**Starting at \$65.00**

The Local Nutrition  
4080 Tower Street Ste 1120  
St. Boni, MN 55375

**Tuesdays 5 pm to 7 pm**

**Thursdays 5 pm to 7 pm**

**Saturdays 1pm to 5:30 pm**

Church of Peace  
424 Franklin Street  
NYA, MN 55368

**Mondays 5 pm to 7 pm**

All classes offered during the week are Blended Learning. There is an online component emailed to you with your online learning that is to be completed prior to your in person skills session. Please take a screenshot of your completion form and have it ready. Classes held on Saturdays will be all full in class learning. Times for sessions are different please refer below.

**Blended Learning skills sessions:**

Adult and Pediatric FA/CPR/AED - 2hrs

Adult FA/CPR/AED - 1.5 hrs

Adult CPR/AED - 1.25 hrs

**Full in class learning:**

Adult and Pediatric FA/CR/AED - 4.5 hrs

Adult FA/CPR/AED - 3.5 hrs

Adult CPR/AED - 2 hrs

*"A Helping Hand Can Be A Saving Hand"*

# Food Resources in Carver County



Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Healthy Carver for a Lifetime

## FOOD SHELVES

Food shelves provide food and basic items.

### **Bountiful Basket Food Shelf**

1600 Bavaria Road, Chaska

(952) 556-0244

[www.bountifulbasketfoodshelf.org](http://www.bountifulbasketfoodshelf.org)

### **Friends for Life Food Shelf**

309 Lewis Ave South, Watertown

(952) 955-1980

### **People Reaching Out to People (PROP)**

14700 Martin Drive, Eden Prairie

(952) 937-9120

[www.propfood.org](http://www.propfood.org)

### **Southwest Carver County Food Shelf**

10 First Avenue NE, Norwood Young America

(952) 467-1870

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

### **Waconia United Food Shelf**

11 South Elm Street

(952) 442-3878

[www.waconiafoodshelf.org](http://www.waconiafoodshelf.org)

## **Abundance Food Program**

115 East 4th Street, Chaska

Abundance provides free food to people in need.

Food varies based on availability but may include prepared meals and fresh produce.

Contact His House Foundation at (612) 325-4693 for hours and additional information.

**CAP Agency Senior Nutrition** provides quality, nutritionally balanced meals for individuals who are disabled or 60 and older.

Participation is NOT based on income but financial assistance is available. To participate, contact the CAP Agency at (952) 402-9855.

**The Hunger Solutions Helpline** can help identify food resources in your area. 1-888-711-1151 and <https://www.hungersolutions.org/find-help/>

## **Free Food Distributions**

Free food distributions occur throughout the metro.

Find local events on Carver County's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CarverCounty>

**The WIC Program** provides nutritious foods and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, postpartum women, infants and children up to age 5. Call (952) 567-8229 or go to <https://www.capagency.org/education/women-infant-children-wic/>

**The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** helps supplement food and nutrition needs. Eligibility depends on household size and income. Apply online at <https://applymn.dhs.mn.gov> or call the CAP Agency at (952) 496-2125 for assistance. SNAP benefits can now be used online at Walmart and Amazon.

## **School Meals for Kids**

Districts are providing school meals at no cost for students for all or part of the year. Contact your child's school to learn more.

## **Transportation and Grocery Delivery**

**SW Prime** provides on-demand rides for residents of Chaska, Chanhassen, Carver and Victoria.

Financial assistance is available. Call 952-797-7463 or visit [www.swtransit.org/sw-prime/](http://www.swtransit.org/sw-prime/)

**SmartLink** offers free grocery delivery from any store with online shopping and curbside pickup for Carver County residents. Call (952) 496-8341 to set up a delivery.

Get Help Ordering Groceries Online from

**Gopher Grocery Assistance Program.** Call (612) 626-FOOD (3663) or visit [z.umn.edu/ggap](http://z.umn.edu/ggap).