



Mayor's Message

What a year the past few weeks have been. COVID-19 has quickly become a global pandemic, affecting all of us in Carver.

The City of Carver has taken a leadership role with our planning and response to COVID. We have a continuity of operations plan in place to maintain essential services including fire, police, water, sanitary sewer, flood protection, and, dare I say in April, snow plowing. My goal is for residents of Carver to not see any differences in how these core services are delivered throughout this public health crisis.



The City of Carver's website (CityOfCarver.com), Facebook page (facebook.com/CityOfCarverMn) and Twitter account (@CityOfCarver) will continue to be the best sources for all the latest news about COVID, AND everything else that's going on in the City of Carver.

Please give yourself, and others, grace as we collaborate to work through uncertainty. Enjoy time with your families. Check in on your neighbors. Get creative in maintaining and nurturing relationships, even through the challenges of social distancing. Practice random acts of kindness.

And please, take care of yourselves. We'll get through this together!

Mayor Courtney Johnson

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Although City of Carver buildings are closed through April 30...
our team is still working everyday to meet your needs
using a new approach!

- ✓ Building Inspections by Video.
- ✓ Pay Your Utility Bill On-line.
- ✓ Call in with Questions on Your Utility Bill.
- ✓ Watch City Council Meetings Live or On-Demand.
- ✓ Sign-up for Construction Updates and City News.
- ✓ Call in to Report a Maintenance Concern.





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**Think Twice Before Flushing
 Anything But Toilet Paper**

Communities have been reaching out to one another discussing the issues of sewer backups and sewage pump repairs. Not just locally, but nationally this has become a concern. The common denominator has been the so-called "flushable" wipes, which really are not flushable.



The problem is two-ply:

First, a brief explanation of basic sewer systems: Once a toilet is flushed, the contents do not just go away. The contents travel many miles through a complex network of underground pipes and are often pumped multiple times to reach their final destination, a waste water treatment facility. This network was designed for toilet paper only. These "flushable" wipes, as well as paper towels, napkins, tissues, and hygiene products, combine with hair and grease to make clumps that will not flow through pipes and cannot be pumped, thus creating higher costs for maintenance and repairs.

Secondly, a brief explanation of the design and chemistry of the "flushable" wipes versus toilet paper: Wipes are very durable and are designed to take on tough jobs. They are made of millions of woven fibers that do not break down and do not fall apart, thus making them great for cleaning but not for sewer systems. Toilet paper is biodegradable and is designed to break apart in water.

Baby wipes and other non-flushable hygiene products must be disposed of in the trashcan – never flushed down the toilet. Even "flushable" wipes can block the sewer and cause backup into homes. These actions could potentially cause premature major repairs to sewer pumps within our sanitary sewer system, costing tens of thousands of dollars to tax payers.

Thank you for helping protect the infrastructure in our community!

**A Reminder From The Utility Billing Department –
 Monthly Sewer Charge Re-Calculated**

Each spring, sewer usage is adjusted to the average water usage from January, February, and March of the current year. This new calculation will be effective on your May 1, 2020, bill.

The Street Sweeper Will Be Coming To Your Neighborhood

Spring is here and street sweeping operations have begun. Please have all vehicles off the streets when the sweeper is in your neighborhood. The sweeper has a difficult time cleaning all the debris from the street when maneuvering around parked vehicles.



Street sweeping is one of the most cost-effective ways used to remove sediment, metals, petroleum products, trash, and vegetation that accumulate on streets, construction sites, and parking lots. If these toxins are not removed, they will make their way into the storm drains and into our streams and waterways. Keeping the storm drains clear not only helps to mitigate water pollution, but also reduces the likelihood of flooding during heavy rain. Check the City's website (www.cityofcarver.com) for dates, times, and locations of when the street sweeper will be in your neighborhood.

By Jim Weygand, Carver resident

I want to tell Carver residents and neighbors about the group Carver on the Minnesota (COTM). Carver on the Minnesota began back in the 1970s, long before I moved to town, and its basic goal has been to celebrate the history of Carver and promote the City. From its early days, COTM has helped preserve some of Carver's historic buildings, the most notable today is the Church By The River that has for years served as the City's Council Chambers and a city meeting space. The Church, which was restored by the Carver Lions, was owned and kept from destruction by COTM until being donated to the City. COTM also started the Steamboat Days celebration.



In more recent days, COTM has been a partner in bringing the steamboat down by the levee to town along with COTM's carved steamboat captain. If you have seen the kiosks with pictures and history of the City around town, these are the result of a partnership between the City and COTM. COTM has also begun the annual Christmas Tree Lighting at Gazebo Park along with the holiday decorations in Gazebo Park. COTM's dream goal would be to replace the pavilion that was destroyed in the 1920s by a tornado. The pavilion was in Riverside Park and with the flooding issues in the Park, that location might not make sense but the Pavilion would be a great addition to the community.

We would like to find like-minded individuals who believe in promoting Carver and remembering its history. We need people willing to help with our events and fund raising activities such as: selling root beer floats at Steamboat Days, conducting presentations on the region's history, and decorating Gazebo Park for the holidays. For more information about Carver on the Minnesota, please send an email to jimweygand@aol.com.

2020 Community Survey

The Morris Leatherman Company

The Morris Leatherman Company may be calling you beginning the week of April 13 to participate in a survey to rate services in the City of Carver.

400 randomly selected residents will be called, we ask that you please participate if contacted!



Rate Changes Beginning in April

The City is anticipating and planning for the construction of a fifth well and an additional water treatment facility in 2021. The recently completed long-term financial plan determined increases are necessary to generate a positive cash flow to finance future system improvements and growth of these services. In addition to increasing rates, the long-term financial plan addresses the need to increase the Water Access Charge for new housing developments by \$603 in 2020 from \$7,547 to \$8,150.

Water Rates per 1,000 Gallons

1,000 to 5,000	\$4.00
5,001 to 10,000	\$5.50
10,001 +	\$8.00
Base Fee	\$10.00

New Water Rates per 1,000 Gallons

1,000 to 5,000	\$4.32
5,001 to 10,000	\$5.94
10,001 +	\$8.64
Base Fee	\$10.80



Sanitary Sewer Rates

Sanitary Sewer Rates will go from **\$6.96 to \$7.24 per 1,000 gallons**. Sanitary sewer usage during the months of January, February, and March are averaged, with the average usage in these months applied over the remaining twelve months to save homeowners from being billed sanitary sewer charges for lawn sprinkling and other outdoor water uses.

Storm Water Rates

Residential Storm Water rates will go from **\$9.26 to \$9.54 per month**. Storm water fees are used to construct and maintain roadside catch basins, construct and maintain underground piping, maintain storm water ponds, perform street sweeping operations, and so on.