



Mayor's Message

Greetings!

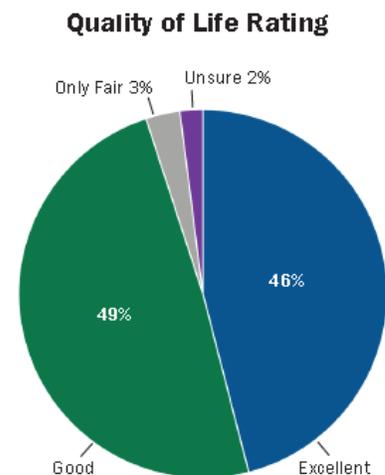
In the spirit of year end lists, I'd like to take a look back at 2020 and share ten stories that, in my opinion, were some of the most noteworthy in the City of Carver.



10. No on Franchise Fees: Last February, following several months of discussion and listening sessions with residents, City Council voted unanimously to not use franchise fees, a monthly fee to utility providers, including cable, electric, and gas, which would have been passed along to residents as a source of funding for future street maintenance.

9. Community Service: The teachers and staff at Carver Elementary received the 2020 Greg Osterdyk Community Service Award for their selfless service to our community, however, they're not the only great examples of outstanding service to our community. Others include Funky Minds and their Carver Helpers initiative, participants in the holiday Shop with a Hero event at Fleet Farm, those who helped with a mobile food distribution in September, and volunteers on our City commissions and the Carver Lions.

8. Our First Community Survey: In April, we conducted Carver's first Community Survey. The telephone survey asked 400 Carver residents their thoughts and opinions on a variety of topics from the quality of life in Carver to their satisfaction level with City services. The information we received from this survey will be used to guide City Council and City staff as we embark on a number of new and ongoing projects and initiatives in Carver.



7. Recreation: At a time when we needed it most, the City's new outdoor recreation amenities, including a trail in the Hawthorne Ridge development and pickle ball courts in Community Park, were welcome additions for folks who wanted to be active outside. I'm also proud of the work we've done to extend the recreation agreement with the City of Chaska, which will allow Carver residents to use their facilities, including the Community Center, Par 30 Golf Course, and the Curling Center for resident rates.

6. New Construction: New home construction continues to be strong in Carver, with a record year for new homes built in the community. This fall the City also received preliminary plans for Timber Creek, which is located west of Carver Elementary, and is the largest neighborhood we've ever had in Carver, with 349 proposed homes.

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Key Contacts

Carver County Sheriff's Dispatch
 952-361-1231

Chaska Community Center
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Commission Applicants Wanted

Volunteers are needed to serve on the following Commissions:

Heritage Preservation Commission – 3 Open Positions

Reviews and advises on municipal heritage preservation matters. Charged with the stewardship of the City of Carver's heritage.

Parks Commission – 3 Open Positions

Advises on recreation areas, facilities, services, and programs. Concerned with the overall management of the parks and trails system.

Planning Commission – 1 Open Position

Makes recommendations on land use policies and laws. Makes final decisions on certain kinds of development and use permits.

*Volunteers
 Needed...
 Apply Now!*

These positions will be filled through an interview and appointment process undertaken by the City Council. In order to be considered for the position, residents should submit a letter of interest no later than Friday, January 15, 2021, at www.cityofcarver.com/Commission-Application.

Please contact Vicky Sons-Eiden at vsonseiden@cityofcarver.com with any questions.

Coming in 2021 – Community Gardens

We are excited to announce that community gardens are coming to Carver! The gardens will be located at the historic Church by the River (109 Main Street East) and plans are underway for the gardens to be available for the 2021 growing season!

Funding for this project will be provided through a Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) Grant Agreement, which will be administered through Carver County Public Health.

Visit the City's website at cityofcarver.com/community-gardens for more information!



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5. CARES Act Funding: The funding we received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act has not only served to reimburse our COVID-related expenses, but also allows us to purchase Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) for the Fire Department, and software for building inspections and plan review, which will allow us to keep our staff as safe as possible during the pandemic.

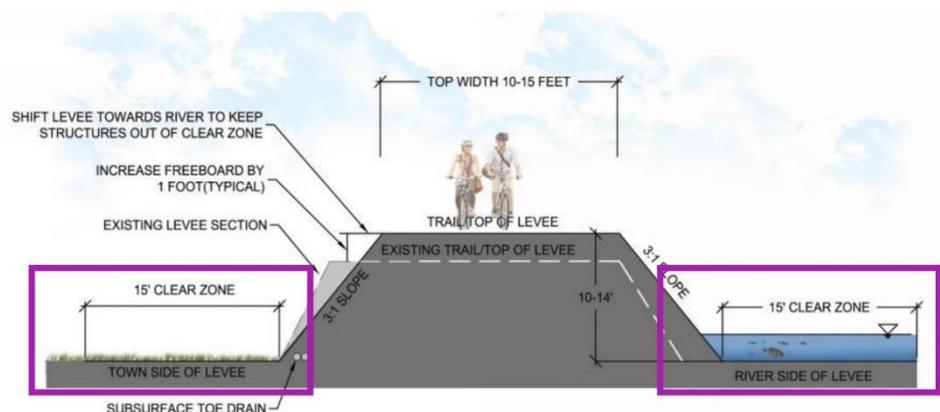
4. Pivoting: The work that was done by City staff to react and respond swiftly to the COVID-19 pandemic was phenomenal. Everyone, including the folks at City Hall, our Public Services professionals, and our firefighters had to change the way they did their jobs. The response to keep them and members of the public safe has been phenomenal.

3. Welcome New Businesses: The Carver Creamery, Carver Ridge, Charlie Mack Salon, The Funky Dove, Kwik Trip, Old Carver Fishing, and Red Oak Relocation all are really great additions to our growing business community!

2. Lower Taxes: The tax rate for Carver's budget year 2021 is down 4.21%, which means most residents will see a reduction in the City of Carver's portion of their 2021 property taxes. While we can always do better in this area, I think it's a start in the right direction!

1. Minnesota River Levee: The City received a \$150,000 Flood Mitigation Grant from the DNR and \$100,000 from the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District for the Levee Improvement Project.

Along with the City's match, we'll have \$300,000 to start work on this very important infrastructure project, which is more progress on the project than ever has been made on this long-standing priority.



With that, I'm eager to close the book on 2020 and look ahead to 2021 with lots of enthusiasm. This year we have a bunch of projects both big (the Jonathan Carver Parkway Improvement Project and Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project) and small (community gardens) to look forward to. I'm excited to see what 2021 will hold for the City of Carver!

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

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Stay tuned...Carver Lions Soggy Bottom Golf Tournament Details Coming Soon!

Each year, the Carver Lions host a snow golf tourney, with proceeds benefiting local families and individuals experiencing medical setbacks and other hardships. Details regarding the 2021 Soggy Bottom Snow Golf Event, normally held in late January, will be released soon. Check the Carver Lions and City Facebook, Twitter, and website accounts for more details in the coming weeks.



Greg Osterdyk Community Service Award

The recipients of the 2020 Greg Osterdyk Community Service Award are the teachers and staff at Carver Elementary. The Mayor and City Council, along with Lori Osterdyk, presented June Johnson and Carver Elementary School with the award at the December 21 City Council meeting. Congratulations to everyone at Carver Elementary!

Carver is a GreenStep City!

You may have noticed the new GreenStep City signs as you enter Carver. The City joined the GreenStep Cities program, which is a voluntary challenge that helps cities achieve sustainability and quality of life goals through best practices and resource sharing. Carver joins 140 other Minnesota communities that participate in the program. The program helps promote things like efficient lighting, building redevelopment, natural resource conservation, and including parks and trails in new development.



● Attention Carver Residents

Carver County is experiencing an increase in mail theft crimes. To avoid becoming a victim, please make sure you:

- Get the mail from your mailbox daily.
- If you are expecting packages, retrieve them soon after delivery.
- Deposit mail close to pickup time.
- If you have to mail checks or sensitive information, mail these items directly from the Post Office and not your personal mailbox.
- Do not send cash in the mail.



**Report any suspicious activity to the Carver County Sheriff's Office at
952-361-1231 or 911**