



Mayor's Message

Greetings!

It's April, we've (hopefully) made it through winter, and spring is just around the corner. In addition to the changing of the seasons, April brings Tax Day. With that, I want to address the topic of taxes and fees this month.

A little more than a year ago, Council debated potentially using Franchise Fees as a mechanism to finance street maintenance projects throughout the City. Franchise Fees are a method of collecting funds from utility companies who use city rights-of-way. These funds are typically passed directly through to all commercial businesses, tax-exempt properties, and residents. While not technically considered a "tax", Franchise Fees serve as a revenue source for cities and are collected from utility users, including cable, gas, and electric.

After thoroughly researching the issue and hearing feedback from residents, we ultimately decided against Franchise Fees. In eastern Carver County, **the City of Carver is the only community that doesn't have Franchise Fees.** Chaska, Chanhassen and Victoria all do and collect a combined estimated \$6M in Franchise Fees from residents and businesses annually.

In comparison, Carver's 2021 levy (our annual budget) is \$3.2M. Our tax rate is the fourth lowest in Carver County... behind Chanhassen, Chaska and Victoria, respectively, all of which use Franchise Fees.

What I'm getting at, is when folks compare taxes of other communities in eastern Carver County which appear to have "lower" property taxes, it really isn't an apples-to-apples comparison. This is because it doesn't take into account the Franchise Fees that each resident and business in other communities pay each month as part of their utility bills including gas, cable, and electric. A tax by any other name is still a tax.

ALL of that said, I recognize that when it comes to lowering taxes, there is *always* work to do. After working to decrease property taxes in the City of Carver 4% on average in 2021, I think we're headed in the right direction!

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

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Key Contacts

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 952-361-1231

Chaska Community Center
 952-448-5633



**Jonathan Carver Parkway/11
 IMPROVEMENTS**

STAY INFORMED. . .

Visit the project website and sign up for email or text updates:

www.co.carver.mn.us/jcpimprovements

**Don't Miss This Opportunity To Serve
 Your Community. . . Carver Fire is Hiring!**

Applications are due **April 30** and are available on the City's website at www.cityofcarver.com/jobs.



- Training provided
- Retirement benefits
- Must be 18 or older to apply
- Must live within 15 minutes of the Fire Station

For additional information, contact Mark Schmitz at mschmitz@cityofcarver.com.

**A Reminder from the Utility Billing
 Department**

Household sewer use, unlike water use, is not connected to a meter. The City establishes and charges an average sewer rate based on water usage for the months of January, February, and March. Most homeowners reduce water usage during these winter months, representing lower sewer charges on your bill throughout the year. This new calculation will be effective on your May bill.

For more information, visit the City's website at www.cityofcarver.com/160

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.



Fire Hydrant Flushing Will Begin In April

The hydrant flushing program is very important to the maintenance of the City's water distribution system. Each year, Public Service Technicians systematically open hydrants throughout the City to allow water to flow at a high velocity through the distribution mainlines. This operation serves the following purposes:

- Helps maintain the City's water clarity and quality
- Cleans iron and mineral deposits from the water mains
- Identifies malfunctions of the hydrant and related valves
- Ensures adequate water flow is available to fire fighters at the hydrants

Fire hydrant flushing may cause temporary inconveniences such as a reduction in pressure and aesthetic issues such as discoloration of the drinking water. Discolored water poses no threat to the public's health, but it will stain laundry and if consumed may have an unpleasant taste or odor. Residents should be certain all discolored water is out of their home's plumbing and hot water heater prior to laundering clothes or drinking.



If you experience discolored water after the hydrants in your neighborhood have been flushed, run the cold water at the tap closest to your water meter for several minutes to clear your lines.

Do Your Part – Pick Up Your Pet's Waste

- * No one wants to step in it
- * It carries disease
- * It is an environmental pollutant
- * It is not fertilizer



Carver Lions Annual Pork Chop Dinner – Friday, April 30, 4:00–8:00 p.m. Pick Up at Carver Community Hall (316 Broadway)

Take out drive through dinner: Order on 4th Street, pick up in front of City Hall. Limited indoor and outdoor seating (weather dependent).

Enjoy pork chops, cheesy hash brown potatoes, green beans, bread, and dessert. \$12 per meal, \$6 for kids 10 and younger.

Contact Dean at 952-221-2884 for more information.



Southern Valley Alliance – Sip Away for SVA – Friday, April 30, 7:00 p.m.

Join SVA and Schram Vineyards in Waconia for a FUNdraiser benefiting domestic violence victims. Everyone is invited to attend this virtual event, which will include a silent auction, a live streamed program, and a virtual wine and beer tasting – all in the comfort of your own home! For event tickets, the link to the silent auction items, and information about the live program, visit www.svamn.org.



City Wide Clean Up Day – Saturday, May 15, 7:00 a.m.

Curbside collection for City of Carver residents will be provided for items placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. in an area no more than 6 feet wide by 6 feet long by 4 feet high.

Materials accepted: kids toys, household items, disassembled furniture, carpet/carpet pads (rolled securely), mattresses and box springs, miscellaneous construction materials, and so on.



Materials NOT accepted: General recyclables (cans, plastic, glass, paper, cardboard), appliances (washers, dryers, water heaters, a/c, ranges, refrigerators, and so on), electronics (phones, computers, televisions, and so on), hazardous materials (paint, batteries, oil, tires, bulbs, and so on), concrete, bricks, shingles, brush, leaves, grass, any other organic materials, and items outside the 6 feet wide by 6 feet long by 4 feet high maximum collection area.

Visit www.cityofcarver.com for more information.

Carver Lions Shredding Event – Saturday, May 15 9:00–11:00 a.m. at Community Park (800 6th Street West)

The Carver Lions will be sponsoring a shredding event in coordination with the City Wide Clean Up Day. Drop off your shredding items (paper only) at Community Park. There is a two box limit per vehicle. This is a free event, but donations will be accepted.



Collect your paper waste for shredding!