



Mayor's Message

Greetings! Later this month we'll celebrate the first day of spring, but before then we'll no doubt get even more snow. Spring can't come soon enough as far as I'm concerned. While we're all waiting for spring to get here, I've got a few updates to share.



Community Gardens – Registration for Carver's

Community Gardens, which are located downtown behind Church by the River (109 Main Street East), is now open. We have both 4' x 8' beds and 4' x 4' accessible raised planter boxes. Both options are available to rent for the summer season for \$20 plus a \$20 refundable deposit.

Creekside Park Concept Plan – Last month the City Council was presented a revised concept plan for the future Creekside Park, which is located at the intersection of Jonathan Carver Parkway and Main Street West on the site of the former wastewater treatment plant. In 2019, the Parks Commission first considered a concept to redevelop the former wastewater treatment plant into a community park. The current plan includes a dog park, disc golf, pickleball courts, and trails. This month we're going to apply for an Outdoor Recreation Grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. If we're successful getting this grant, the first phase of the park will be financed with the grant money, along with Park Dedication funds, which are primarily paid by new developers when they build in Carver.

New business – Next Steps Learning Center is a childcare facility which provides care for infant, toddler, and preschool age children. Next Steps has a large indoor gym where their kiddos can be active indoors year-round. They're located at 1730 Monroe Drive, west of Kwik Trip.

Public Services and Fire Department Building Project – In 2014 and again in 2020, space studies were conducted to identify space and facility needs in the Fire and Public Services departments. The results of the most recent study show a need for an 820 square foot addition to the Fire Station to provide a separate space with its own ventilation system to store turnout gear for the fire department. Studies have shown that keeping the turnout gear in a separate space creates a safer situation for firefighters by reducing their exposure to chemicals, carcinogens, and diesel engine exhaust. The study also demonstrated a need for an additional 9,600 square feet in space for equipment and vehicles for the Public Services Department, which could be built behind the existing Public Services building at 801 Jonathan Carver Parkway.

...continued on Page 2



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Mayor's Message

...continued from Page 1

We're continuing to review preliminary project concepts for this project throughout the winter and will share a further developed project plan later this summer for community feedback. Stay tuned!

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

Mayor Courtney Johnson

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Upcoming Events

Sundays through April 2 – Open Gym
2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Carver Elementary
This is a free weekly event
Bring your own basketballs and equipment



March 9 – Coffee, Cards & Conversation
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Carver Village Hall, 316 Broadway
Free drop-in event for active older adults

March 11 – Carver Fire Community Outreach Event
9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Carver Fire Station
As you change your clocks and “spring ahead”, remember to check your batteries. The Carver Fire Department will be handing out FREE batteries and smoke alarm information.

March 30 – Carver on the Minnesota – History Presentation
7:00 p.m. at Carver Village Hall, 316 Broadway
Free event to learn about the history of southern Minnesota and the land along the Minnesota River. Presented by the Carver on the Minnesota group.

Carver Fire Is Hiring

The Carver Fire Department is accepting applications for paid On-Call Firefighters:

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



To apply, visit cityofcarver.com/jobs.aspx. Applications will be accepted at City Hall through April 3, 2023. Contact Captain Luke Swirtz at lswirtz@cityofcarver.com with any questions.

Creekside Park: The City is applying for the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant for Creekside Park, which is slated to be located at the corner of Jonathan Carver Parkway and Main Street West. The proposed concept plan includes a disc golf course, a dog park, pickleball courts, and a large trail system. If you have comments on Creekside Park, please reach out to Erin at esmith@cityofcarver.com.



Utility Bill Changes Explained

Monthly utility bills now include an additional chart intended to assist with understanding individual monthly water usage. Water is charged on a tiered rate structure, so the more water that is used, the higher the rate. In the example shown, 8,000 gallons of water were used, for a total usage charge of \$42.61. The current charges in each tiered category and the total water usage charge for the period are now shown in the chart on the monthly bills.

EXPLANATION OF WATER USAGE			
Water Rates		Usage (in 1,000s)	Amount
Tier 1: 1,000 – 5,000 gallons	\$4.67	5	\$23.35
Tier 2: 5,001 – 10,000 gallons	\$6.42	3	\$19.26
Tier 3: 10,001 + gallons	\$9.34	0	
Total Water Usage			\$42.61

The second change relates to the calculation of sewer charges. Currently, residents are charged sewer use (in thousand gallons) based on actual water consumption for the months of January, February, and March. For the remaining nine months of the year, residents are charged the *average* usage from January through March. The City will now be using water meter readings from November through April to calculate the summer months' sewer average, also called the **“summer sewer rate.”** During the warmer months of May through October, many residents are watering plants, turning on sprinklers, and using the bulk of extra water outdoors. This water will go into the ground instead of down the drains into the sewer system. The summer sewer rate is beneficial to the resident because the additional water usage and the sewer rate stay the same for those warmer months. During the winter months of November through April, the sewer usage will be based on the actual water usage. For more information, visit cityofcarver.com/369/Utility-Billing or contact Lynn Tschudi, Finance Director, at 952-448-8744.

February City Council Rundown

The City Council Rundown is intended as an informal summary of regular meeting highlights. For complete details on all agenda items, official meeting minutes, or to watch a video of the meeting, visit cityofcarver.com. To ask questions or share comments related to meeting actions, contact Brent Mareck, City Manager, at 448-8737 or email bmareck@cityofcarver.com.



Carver City Council

Timber Creek – Phase 3: The City Council approved the Final Plat for Phase 3 of Timber Creek, which is located west of Carver Elementary. Phase 3 adds 40 single family lots to the development.

Sanitary Sewer Ordinance: The Council adopted changes to the Sanitary Sewer Ordinance, adjusting the estimation process for sewer usage calculations.

Creekside Park: A concept was reviewed to redevelop the former wastewater treatment plant site, located at Jonathan Carver Parkway & Main St. W, into “Creekside Park.”

Fire Station / Public Services Building Project: The Council reviewed space study findings for the Fire Department and Public Services Department. The presentation also included the review of potential maintenance projects at the existing building at 801 Jonathan Carver Parkway, including roof work, roof top HVAC unit replacement, and upgraded salt storage facilities. A preliminary cost analysis anticipates the total project could cost \$4,600,000 (Public Services, Fire Station, and maintenance projects). The impact, using a conservative no growth tax base model, shows a \$124 tax increase on an average valued home of \$408,000 in the City of Carver. The City Council will consider hiring an architect at their March 6 meeting, to refine project scope and corresponding project costs by the end of this summer. Prior to the City Council considering approval of any project, the findings of the design development phase, including updated cost estimates, will be shared to communicate project details and seek feedback from the community.

Commercial Development: A concept plan for a commercial development project just east of Kwik Trip on Jonathan Carver Parkway was reviewed. Proposed by Hometown Bank, the concept plan shows a 4,100 square foot building located at the northwest corner of Jonathan Carver Parkway and Monroe Drive. The plan shows a shared space between Hometown Bank and an unnamed coffee shop user.

Private Infrastructure Policy: Staff presented the City Council with a draft policy that would affirm and clarify the City’s past practice of not accepting requests from neighborhoods to take over privately maintained infrastructure (private streets, lights, and so on) within the community.

Building Permit Review: Staff reviewed modifications to the City’s standard developer’s agreement that will assist in efforts to repair damaged sidewalks and ensure required landscaping is completed in conjunction with home construction.