



# Carver County

## 2022 MID-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

### CONNECT UP CARVER INITIATIVE

In late June, the Board of Commissioners approved a bid from Metronet in support of its CarverLink Fiber Network "Connect Up Carver" broadband internet initiative. With an anticipated completion in 2024 and other Federal and State programs in the works, Carver County would become the first Minnesota county with nearly 100% fiber internet access to every residential and business address.



### COVID-19 TESTING, VACCINES

Public Health continued its testing operation at Lake Waconia Event Center during the first few months of 2022. It also continues to offer vaccine doses and boosters to eligible residents, which now includes those six months and older.



### HIGHWAY 212 PROJECT CONTINUES

The Highway 212 project's first phase, from Carver to Cologne, remains on track for completion in September. The project's second phase, from Cologne to Norwood Young America, nears the final design phase with anticipated construction starting in spring 2024.

### MINNESOTA'S HEALTHIEST COUNTY

In the two most prominent healthiest county rankings, Carver County once again ranked first among all Minnesota counties and highly on the national scene. The University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute placed the County first in the state, as did the *US News* rankings. The latter releases national rankings as well, placing our County fifth overall!

# \$6M+

Allocation from Federal stimulus funds to support 219 incremental housing units through the Community Development Agency.

# 10+

Consecutive years named Minnesota's Healthiest county

# 3+

Number of graduates from the County's drug treatment court so far in 2022. Six participants entered the program in 2022, with two more graduates expected soon.

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### FIRST FIX-IT CLINIC A SUCCESS

Environmental Services hosted its first-ever "Fix-It" Clinic with great success. Volunteers helped attendees fix more than 400 pounds of items that may have otherwise ended up in local landfills. Items included vacuums, clothing, small engines, bicycles and even one Mickey Mouse lamp.



### AAA BOND RATING CONTINUES

The County's "AAA" bond rating from Standard and Poor's was reaffirmed in June. The rating comes from bonds reimbursed the County for its temporary use of cash reserves to acquire what is now the Steiner Kelting Mental Wellness facility in 2017.

### COMMUNITIES OF BELONGING LAUNCHED

Leveraging the work from the COVID-19 pandemic, Public Health started its "Communities of Belonging" program. It helps bring our communities together to talk about and plan ways in which everyone in the community can stay connected and feel like they belong.

### SHERIFF: A CRUCIAL CONVERSATION

The Sheriff's Office launched a new community initiative called "Crucial Conversations," aimed at ensuring all voices are heard and perspectives considered as the Sheriff's Office works together toward eliminating biases in its service delivery. This work included meeting with local leaders, as well as outreach events with key community groups.

### REDISTRICTING COMPLETED

The Board of Commissioners unanimously approved its 2022 Redistricting Plan, including the assignment of either two- or four-year terms for the four districts slated for the 2022 Ballot.

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION EVENTS CONTINUE

The County, through Public Health and in partnership with other local agencies and non-profits, continue hosting and sponsoring free food distribution events monthly in Chaska and Norwood Young America. The events serve more than 300 households each event.



# 21.1%

Median percentage increase in value of a residential property in the County for 2021.

# 3.4%

The poverty rate for Carver County, according to 2020 U.S. Census data. It's the lowest in the State of Minnesota.

# 17.4%

Population growth of Carver County from 2010 to 2020 census, making us the fastest growing county in Minnesota.