

MID-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

2024



We're halfway through 2024 and have seen countless accomplishments and celebrations. As we continue to plan for several more major milestones in the months to come, let's take a look at a few of our accomplishments over the past six months.

CARVERLINK TO BUILD OUT FIBER INTERNET IN RURAL LOCATIONS

On May 20, CarverLink implemented amendments to its 2022 Connect Up Carver project with Metronet. This will expand on the existing project, utilizing \$2.5 million in County funds to construct an additional 80+ miles of rural fiber, making fiber available to all remaining rural locations throughout the County that do not currently have access to fiber internet. The amendments also initiated construction of fiber in the City of Chanhassen and the City of Victoria.

The Connect Up Carver Expansion project brings Carver County closer to its goal of becoming the first county in the State of Minnesota with a population over 10,000 and the first Twin Cities Metro County to have high speed wired broadband service available to anyone within the County that desires it. The overall Connect Up Carver Expansion and city fiber build project is estimated at \$14.3 million. The rural build fiber is planned for completion by June 30, 2025 and the city fiber build in Chanhassen and Victoria are planned for completion by June 30, 2026.

COUNTY BOARD AWARDS CONTRACT FOR 212 HIGHWAY PROJECT

During the June 18 meeting, the board awarded the contract for the Highway 212 project to Mathiowetz Construction Company. The County opened bids on June 11, and recommended Mathiowetz Construction Company of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota as the lowest bidder with a total cost of \$58,740,616.04 - 6.7% under the engineers estimate.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Highway 212 project will include safety improvements and expanding the highway from two to four lanes from County Road 33 in Norwood Young America to County Road 36 in Cologne. The County is the lead agency on the project but has entered into a cooperative agreement with MnDOT, whose staff will perform construction administration and inspection work for the project. Construction is anticipated to begin in July 2024 and be substantially complete by the fall of 2026. Highway 212 closures are not anticipated; however, some traffic restrictions may occur. The County has received over \$58 million in project funding from state and federal agencies.



CHASKA LIBRARY CELEBRATES 101ST BIRTHDAY

On February 7, over 120 community members gathered at the Chaska Library to celebrate its 101st birthday. Speakers included Chaska Mayor Mark Windschitl, Carver Mayor Courtney Johnson, Commissioner Gayle Degler, Commissioner Matt Udermann, Library Board President Gwen Kuhrt, Library Director Jodi Edstrom, and Chaska Library Manager Kevin Spencer.






ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MOVES TO NEW CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

After using the Minnesota County Attorney Practice System (MCAPS) for over 30 years as the main case management system, the County Attorney's Office moved to a new program in late 2023 named PbK. The new system is more integrative, efficient, and effective. With this switch, the County expects to save significant money based on the efficiencies of this new program. Over 40 of the 87 Minnesota counties have made the switch to PbK, and the Attorney's Office is fully operational with the new system.

COUNTY COMPLETES COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

The County recently completed its 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA). Conducted every five years, the assessment provides critical information that sets priorities and develops effective strategies to improve the health of all residents. With the support and guidance from a broad range of community partners and a diverse group of dedicated residents, professionals, and community leaders, the data collected through this assessment is a valuable planning resource for county agencies and organizations. The final report will be published in July.

The report primarily focuses on:

-  Declining health
-  Mental health and affordability
-  The County's changing population

RECONSTRUCTION OF BAYLOR PARK BOARDWALK NOW UNDERWAY



Reconstruction on the Baylor Regional Park boardwalk is now underway. The boardwalk was taken out of service in 2021 due to deteriorated conditions, causing structural and safety concerns. The boardwalk has long been a signature feature of the park allowing access through the cattail marsh with a view of a variety of aquatic wildlife and a number of bird species. The walkway also provides convenient access from the campground to the picnic shelters, beach facilities, and the Eagle Lake Observatory. The project is anticipated to finish mid-summer of 2024.

254

Veterans that the County transported the first six months of the year

12

Consecutive Years as the Healthiest County in Minnesota

37%

increase in digital checkouts throughout the County Library System