

PERSPECTIVES

Contributions welcome to editor@chaska Herald.com, 952-345-6574

Rules to protect lakes and rivers

Minnesotans value lakes and rivers. No less in Carver County.

With 35 lakes and 365 miles of streams, Carver County has a wealth of good fishing spots, beaches, wildlife habitats and boating opportunities.

Carver County is also one of the fastest growing counties in Minnesota. As we grow, we build roads, houses, playgrounds, businesses, schools and other structures.

All are necessary, but the change on our land from natural to developed affects our lakes and rivers.



Madeline
SEVELAND

LAND AND WATER SERVICES

TREATMENT HELPS

To reduce pollutants from impervious surfaces, water rules have been created. Water rules are standards developers follow when designing and constructing developments to treat stormwater runoff.

The rules require actions like preventing erosion of bare soil on construction sites and building rain gardens and stormwater ponds to capture and filter pollutants from runoff.

Both new development and redevelopment must meet the standards. The standards address water quality, how much runoff can flow off the site (volume control) and how fast it will flow off the site (rate control).

For much of Carver County, the Carver County Water Management Organization is the agency responsible for enforcing the water rules. The organization first adopted water rules in 2001 and has continued to update and improve them.

The organization's mission is to protect, preserve and manage both surface water and groundwater.

The water rules help meet that mission by reducing the effects of growing impervious surfaces and their pollutants and by keeping lakes, rivers and our communities safe and healthy.

Madeline Seveland is an education coordinator with Carver County Water Management. She can be reached at mseveland@co.carver.mn.us.

CHANGES IN LAND

Development adds hard surfaces, known as impervious surfaces, to the land. These include driveways, roofs, streets, and parking lots.

Impervious surfaces don't let rainwater soak into the ground, so the water runs off. This is called stormwater runoff. Often, that runoff flows into the nearest storm drain, which then drains to a nearby lake, river or pond.

Also, pollutants accumulate on impervious surfaces and when the next rain comes they are washed away into lakes and rivers. Unlike the wastewater from our home sinks and bathrooms, stormwater runoff does not go to a wastewater treatment facility.

Pollutants found on these surfaces affect the water differently. Leaves and grass clippings can cause algae blooms in lakes, salt from winter makes it hard for freshwater fish to survive, pet waste adds unhealthy bacteria and pathogens, dirt clouds the water and makes it muddy, and oil and other chemicals makes the water unhealthy and dangerous for fish and other aquatic life.

Studies show even small percentages of impervious surface affect lakes and streams. An area with only 10 percent impervious surfaces is already affecting streams. As the percentage nears 25 percent, many streams are unable to support life.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

LETTERS

POLITICS

Stand united for fairness

I want to thank Carver County, the Senate District 47 DFL and, most importantly, all of my volunteers and supporters for their incredible commitment and sacrifice for our campaign. The recount is complete and it demonstrated that our democratic process is strong and robust.

Although the ultimate result did not go our way, I am very proud of the positive issues-based campaign we ran. We erased a 2:1 historical vote deficit in six months. We deeply engaged the people in the district and won the city of Chaska by 500 votes!

I'm humbled by those that stood by my campaign and am truly inspired by their efforts and motivation. We accept the result of this very close election and wish representative-elect Greg Boe the best.

Now it's time for us to move forward with courage and conviction to hold our elected officials, at all

levels, accountable to representing the values we believe.

It's time for Minnesotans to stand united for fairness, and against all forms of injustice.

**Donzel Leggett
Chaska**

HISTORY

Many volunteers deserve thanks

I want to thank the Herald for the wonderful article on the reprinted "Chaska: A Minnesota River City, Prehistory to 1950." ("Chaska chronicles," Dec. 6.)

Alex Chhith did a great job emphasizing the shared historical and entertaining nature of the volume.

I also want to mention that the incredible index was primarily the work of Marilyn (Savelkoul) Gahm, whose experience with index-construction and knowledge of her hometown of Chaska allowed her to create such a useful tool.

I also need to mention that Tracy D. Swanson's expertise and research skills enabled us to clarify

many individuals and locations for today's readers.

All the volunteers who worked on the project, as well as Deb Frymet, who created the new format, deserve our thanks for a great contribution to preserving Chaska's rich history.

Thank you!

**Lisa Oberski
President
Chaska Historical Society**

REMEMBRANCE

Don't forget Newtown shootings

Dec. 14 is the anniversary of the Newtown school shootings that killed 20 kindergartners and first-graders, along with six educators.

It was a day that changed the lives of families forever.

It was a day that changed their community and shook the foundation of our country, but even so, little change has occurred to prevent mentally ill people

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CHASKA HERALD

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ASK A DEPUTY

Dispatchers play vital role

BY DEPUTY STEVE DASCHER

Chances are that when you see a fire truck, ambulance or squad car responding to an emergency with flashing lights and sirens, it is doing so with the guidance and expertise of a 911 dispatcher, after having received a 911 phone call from someone in need.

For many of us, the use of dialing 911 to report emergencies has been available for almost as long as we can remember. According to the Federal Communications Commission, over 98 percent of locations in the U.S. and Canada have 911 coverage.

Using 911 will connect a caller to an emergency dispatch office where well-trained dispatchers will obtain the information critical to sending out the appropriate emergency resources. 911 is also used in the Philippines, but places like Bangladesh, Singapore and the United Kingdom use the emergency number of 999, whereas Australia relies on 000.

It was in 1968 when the FCC and AT&T worked together to establish the beginnings of the current 911 system as we know it. Five years later, the White House's Office of Telecommunications issued a policy for the implementation of 911 as the sole means of reporting emergencies nationwide.

Locally, the Carver County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) staffs and operates the 911 Center — also referred to as the Public Safety Answering Point — for all residents of Carver County. The 911 Center is located in the lower level of the Sheriff's Office at the Carver County Government Center in Chaska.

Currently in the CCSO 911 Center, there are 15 full-time dispatchers, a warrant specialist, a radio system administrator, two emergency communications supervisors and a communications services manager.

Like many of the deputies in the Sheriff's Office, most dispatchers work 12-hour shifts. The dispatchers handle all county related calls, in addition to those involving the Chaska Police



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Carver County Sheriff's Office 911 Center is located in Chaska.

Question?

Do you have a question regarding the Carver County Sheriff's Office? Email editor@chaska Herald.com and we'll pass it along.

Department. In 2017, Carver County Dispatchers handled a total of 90,690 incoming phone calls, of which 25,100 were 911 related. On average, that's 247 incoming phone calls per day.

Dispatchers play a vital role in getting the right emergency services to the right place in a timely fashion. When a 911 call arrives, it is up to the dispatcher, through extensive training, to collect the most pertinent information quickly and efficiently, and then, with a complex state-of-the-art computer aided dispatching software and a multi-channel radio system, send out the appropriate resources.

Dispatchers must process law enforcement, fire, and medical related calls, all while remaining calm and obtaining necessary information from callers who are often hysterical in traumatic incidents.

When our dispatchers are not answering incoming phone calls or assisting emergency personnel, they still have many tasks to complete. Dispatchers spend time entering all types of data into various computer systems. They process and enter bench warrant and stolen property information into a national criminal justice computer

system, assist officers from countless other agencies in and outside of Minnesota in locating Carver County-related information for its investigations, and much more. Dispatchers might also be the ones giving callers medical instructions for delivering a baby or aiding a heart attack victim prior to any arrivals of police or ambulances.

Dispatching takes a special type of person, with the proper training, to be effective in their roles. Dispatchers must be expert multi-taskers, and do so calmly. A dispatcher is literally the lifeline for police, fire departments and medical services when they are responding to emergencies.

Dispatchers must be thorough in asking the proper questions in each type of emergency in order to keep responding personnel from entering a dangerous situation. With the right information, first responders can keep from arriving "blind" to the scene of an emergency where numerous types of life-threatening risks might be present. It's critical that emergency personnel have as much information as possible, often in extremely high-stress situations, and dispatchers are the critical link in insuring this.

Talk to any paramedic, law enforcement officer or firefighter, and each will likely tell you their jobs are made tremendously easier by the assistance of a dispatcher.

Steve Dascher is a Carver County Sheriff's Office deputy.

communities.

On Dec. 16 St. John's Lutheran Church in Chaska rings its bells 26 times to demonstrate that we won't forget. Maybe next year all churches in our community can ring their bells 26 times around 9 a.m. Dec. 16.

I hope that on that day, every year, we remember those little ones, those innocent, afraid and defenseless little ones that knew there was an

animal, a deranged animal among them and they could do nothing about it.

We shouldn't forget that image and I hope the simple action of taking two minutes and ringing our church bells tell them we haven't forgotten and we will always remember those little ones and their protectors that lost their lives in such a horrific way.

Bob Roepke
Chaska



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Carp from the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed are tossed in the bed of a pickup.

Netting carp for cleaner water

It's been a busy few months in the Six Mile Creek chain of lakes, where the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and its partners have been hard at work reducing the number of common carp that are in the system. It's the first phase of one of the metro's largest habitat restoration projects, funded by a \$567,000 grant from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

The focus of the restoration is the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed, which is the headwaters of Lake Minnetonka and includes five impaired lakes and Halsted Bay, Lake Minnetonka's most degraded bay.

We are focusing on invasive common carp first because of the damage they cause and the availability of proven, cost-effective management strategies to control their numbers. Common carp uproot plants and stir up lake bottoms, which degrades habitat and releases nutrients that feed algae blooms. Reducing their numbers in lakes helps protect water quality and improves habitat for game fish and waterfowl.

The carp management plan is based on data from a three-year study by the University of Minnesota's Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. The research team assessed the number of carp in the Six Mile Creek chain of lakes, identified their spawning locations and determined their migration patterns. The findings helped shape a management strategy that includes removing adult carp, installing carp barriers and aerating lakes to ensure the winter survival of bluegill sunfish (which feed on carp eggs).

So far, our staff have been working to remove adult carp using baited box-net traps. This was very successful on East and West Au-



Sherry
WHITE

MCWD

burn and Stieger lakes, with 13,234 pounds removed so far. We did not net as many carp on Wassermann Lake, which indicates the carp population there is near the target number. That's likely due to a temporary barrier that is stopping carp from entering from the lake's outlet.

Now that the weather is turning colder, carp are starting to move to deeper water. In order to track their movements, staff have been electrofishing on lakes, implanting radio tags into the carp that are caught and releasing them back into lakes. The radio-tagged carp will aid our carp removal efforts this winter. Overall, our goal is to remove 872,000 pounds of fish across 12 lakes, so we're already making great progress.

We have also made progress on installing carp barriers, which block carp access to spawning locations. We currently have three temporary barriers up: one at Highland Road east of Mud Lake, one north of Crown College Pond, and one north

of Wassermann Lake. If all goes as expected, permanent barriers should be installed this winter before carp start migrating in the spring.

Managing carp is just the first strategy in a multi-pronged 10-year effort to improve water quality in the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed. We are focusing on this area because of the unique opportunity to protect and improve water quality while the land use is changing. We are working with a multi-jurisdictional partnership made up of the Minnesota DNR, Carver and Hennepin Counties; Laketown Township; the cities of Minnetrista, St. Bonifacius, Victoria and Waconia; and Three Rivers Park District to coordinate our goals early so that changes on the land are planned in a way to also benefit water quality.

This type of proactive collaboration is innovative in the world of land use and water planning, and we hope it will serve as an example of how partnership and early coordination can create thriving communities that protect ecological integrity.

To learn more about the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed, visit our website at minnehahacreek.org/six-mile.

Sherry White is president of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers. The district office is at 12201 Minnetonka Blvd. No. 218, Minnetonka.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A swan swims in Six Mile Creek.

LETTERS

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from owning assault rifles. That's another emotionally challenging discussion, but for this moment what is so important is for those parents and that community to know that there are communities of people that will never forget and always will care, and hopefully we are one of those