

A Message From The Council

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Eleanor Roosevelt could have been discussing the future of Norwood Young America with this quote. There were several great accomplishments in 2023, and many of those accomplishments set the stage for great things happening in 2024.

Highlights of 2023 and Looking Ahead to 2024:

Reconstruction of Merger Street was completed. For those of you who drive past the Post Office or the newly opened Copper Canyon, you will see a beautiful new road. The potholes of the past are gone and the Wilson Street crossing has been clarified. Luckily, the snow has held off long enough for this important project to be completed.

Coming in 2024 - Reconstruction of Railroad Street.

On December 10th, the Council held a public hearing on the Railroad Street Project for residents and businesses along this city thoroughfare. This reconstruction project will start in late summer of 2024.

Land was purchased for Tacoma West Industrial Park - Phase 2.

As a community, we are looking forward to expanding our current TWIP (Tacoma West Industrial Park) with another 60 acres just south of the original park. Although it took 15 years to fill the first park, it looks like that timeline will be significantly shorter for this new park. Several businesses have signed letters of intent or expressed interest in our new Industrial Park expansion.

Coming in 2024 - Infrastructure for the TWIP - Phase 2 Project.

Congratulations to city staff who wrote a TEDI grant in the amount of \$900,000 to help fund the infrastructure for this new Industrial Park. Adding roads and utilities infrastructure will be the focus for 2024.

Demolition of the outdated Old Town Building.

Last month, the original Old Town Building came down in Willkommen Park. This building, which was modeled after the original Main Street, was a beautiful backdrop for events and celebrations in the park. Unfortunately, costly updates were needed to extend the life of this building. After long debate, a reconstruction was recommended.

Coming in 2024 - the Reconstruction of the New Old Town Building.

This week the framing work was started and over the winter the inside work will be completed. The hope is that the new building will be ready for the Spring Baseball Season.

Completion of the Highway 212 Updates in Cologne.

This summer we again saw road construction along Highway 212. The updates to the shoulders and bridge near Cologne have now been completed.

Coming in 2024 - the start of the Highway 212 Four Lane Expansion to Norwood Young America will begin.

This five mile upgrade will include an overpass at Highway 51 in Bongards. The project will start in 2024 and be completed in 2026.

The holiday season is always full of opportunities to spend time with family and friends. Were you able to attend the Chamber of Commerce Holiday Extravaganza or bring your children or grandchildren to the West Carver Lion's Christmas Toyland Breakfast? Was your family able to pick up a tree from the NYA Lion's Lot near Carquest or drive through town enjoying the beautifully lit yards of your neighbors and our city parks? Whatever you choose to do with family and friends, we hope you take the time to put aside everything else and just enjoy the moment! *Aren't we lucky that Norwood Young America is more than just a place, it's that special place we claim as our home - a place where we can make beautiful memories with family and friends!*



Thank you to the CAP Agency and Carver Co Public Health for continuing the free food distributions in Norwood Young America serving all of western Carver County. The 170+ volunteers served over 20,000 citizens in 2023.

The 2024 food distributions will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 9:30am-10:30am starting on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.
(Photo credits to John P. Fahey)

2024 NYA Food Distributions
NYA City Hall Parking Lot
****Change in Monthly Dates!****
2nd Wednesday's of each month
9:30-10:30am



Truth in Taxation Overview

On Monday, December 11th, the Council held their annual Truth in Taxation public hearing. This was an opportunity for city staff to share information on the City's budget process and to answer any questions about property taxes.

There are four main components to a city's budget: General Fund, Capital Outlay/Equipment, Debt Service and Enterprise Funds. The General Fund covers most expenses of the city - public safety, streets, parks/trails, building/grounds, and operations. This fund is financed by local property taxes (66%), state aid (25%) and miscellaneous fees (9%). The Capital Outlay/Equipment Fund primarily covers the purchase of large equipment and is funded entirely through property taxes. Debt Service covers the debt incurred in the past from street and building projects and is funded entirely through property taxes. Enterprise Funds include everything connected with sanitary sewer and water - including chemicals and supplies, required testing, debt service payments, equipment purchases, maintenance, and operations. This fund is financed by monthly utility fees and connection fees for new development.

The city will levy \$3,681,320 for the 2024 budget. This is a 9.1% increase in property taxes. It will cover the following areas: General Government expenses (including public safety, streets, parks/trails, building/grounds, and operations) accounts for 53% of the property tax levy; Debt Service (including many past street and building projects) accounts for 23% of the property tax levy; and finally, Capital Outlay and Equipment accounts for 24% of the property tax levy. Bigger projects planned for 2024 include the Railroad Reconstruction Project, L7500 Snow plow, the OldTown Project (which has been levied in smaller amounts, saved over the past several years, and set to be completed by June 30, 2023), infrastructure for the Tacoma West Industrial Park Phase 2, Walking Track at Central Schools, encrypted radios for the NYAFD, West Carver Community Pool House improvements, and sealcoating/crack sealing/overlays for more street repairs.

Water & Sewer Fund Rates in 2024

The City of NYA Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds generate revenue through utility payments from residents and businesses and water and sewer hookup fees (about \$1,800,000 annually). The City of NYA Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds cover the costs of chemicals and supplies, required testing, debt service payments, equipment purchases, maintenance, and operations (about \$2,100,000 annually).

The City Council hired Abdo Solutions, the City's auditing firm, to conduct a utility rate study this past year. Abdo considers many variables when conducting their analysis, including predicted usage, operation costs, equipment purchases, debt payments, and inflation. Current utility rates will no longer cover expenses in the Water and Sewer Funds. At the November 28th City Council meeting, under the advisement of Abdo Solutions, the Council voted to increase water utility rates by 5% annually and sewer rates by 10% annually. This equates to an approximate increase of \$4.55 per month for the average consumer using 3,000 gallons. The Council has not increased utility rates since November 2014. The City cannot continue operating at a loss and still bring the residents and businesses the services required. With no rate increase for ten years, increases are vital to move the city out of a deficit in its enterprise funds and be proactive with essential upgrades and operations.

Welcome to Your New Business Home

The NYA Area Chamber of Commerce and NYA Economic Development Commission welcomed Creative Hair to their new location at 220 Elm Street W with a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, December 6th. Owner Jessica Degn and staff offer full salon services providing cuts, colors, perms and finishing services, in addition, extensions, lashes, esthetics, and product lines. For more information, visit creativehairnya.com or call 952-467-4005.



Working Together for a Better Tomorrow

The newly formed Norwood Young America Community Fund (NYACF) recently made a \$200 contribution to the Central Elementary School Raider Room at Central Elementary. The Raider Room began in 2018 when a group of teachers saw kids sitting in the lunchroom without a snack and took action to find a way to ensure all can have the basics needed to help them succeed in school. Since that humble start, the Raider Room has added clothes, shoes, boots coats, and school supplies to list of items available. The Raider Room will use the NYA Community Fund donation to buy shoes and winter boots.



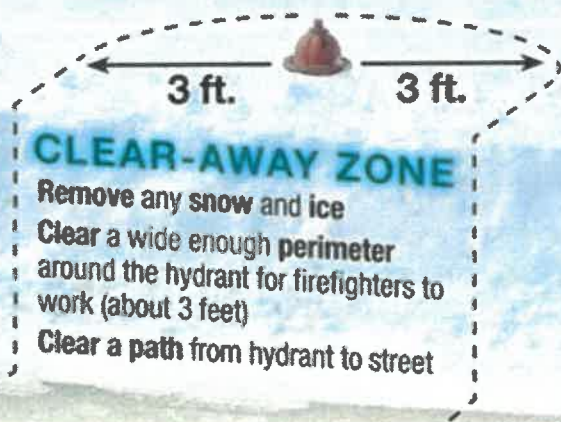
Pictured L to R: Lori Trocke (NYACF Board Member), Devon Ruberg, Ann Hendel, Lisa Heckert (all from the Raider Room), Dan Alsleben (NYACF Board Member)



Winter Weather Reminders

KEEP THEM CLEAR

If there's a fire hydrant near your house, do your part to keep it accessible this winter:



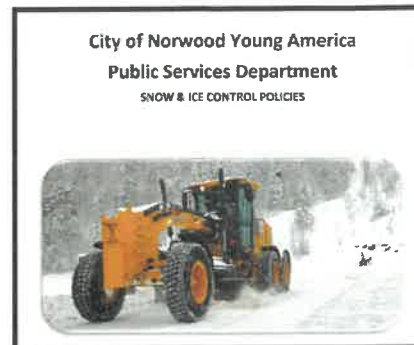
Avoid the "Second Shovel"

People can play a part in ensuring the ends of their driveways remain clear of snow even after their local snowplow comes through. Shoveling a "corner" of the right-of-way free of snow in the area several feet before the driveway will help keep that same snow from being pushed into the driveway in an icy, heavy pile. Clearing an area large enough to hold the snow coming off the plow may help reduce the "second shovel."



Snow and Ice Policy Handbook

Norwood Young America winter parking regulations are effective from November 1st –April 1st every year, regardless if there is a snowfall. To view the City's [Snow and Ice Policy Handbook](#), visit the City website at www.cityofnya.com.



Ticket & Towing

The City will once again be enforcing its ticketing and towing of vehicles that are in violation of parking on city streets during a snow event which is the accumulation of two (2) or more inches of falling or blowing snow. Vehicles parked on a city street during a snow event will be ticketed, and if not moved within four (4) hours, towed. All fines for tickets are to be paid with the Carver County Court Administrator's Office. Vehicles that are towed will be taken to Smith Oil and Food Mart in Norwood Young America. Prior to getting their vehicle back, the vehicle owner will be required to pay all towing fees, show proof of vehicle ownership, proof of vehicle insurance, and a valid driver's license. The vehicle will also need to have up-to-date license and registration.

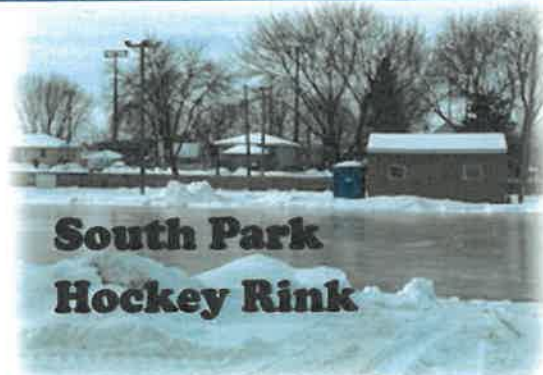
Designated Parking Areas

There are designated parking areas for residents who do not have off-street parking available during snow emergencies. Parking in the designated parking areas will be enforced from 2am-6am. The parking restrictions follow our city street parking ordinance as stated above (Ticket & Towing). The two designated parking areas within city limits are the north side of the Elm Street Municipal Parking Lot and the north side of Old City Hall/Food Shelf building. Watch for signs. The parking restrictions follow our city street parking ordinance as stated above (Ticket & Towing).

Sump Pump Reminders

Sump pumps may not be discharged into the storm sewers between November 1st and April 1st. Doing so results in dangerous ice conditions on the City streets. Should you need to discharge your sump pump during this time, please do so on your own property, away from City streets, alleys and sidewalks.

24 Hour Snow Removal Required for City Sidewalks



Unfortunately, the unseasonably warm weather will prolong the preparing of ice at the hockey and skating rink. City Staff will continue to monitor and flood when conditions are favorable. South Park is located at 321 South Street W. Other amenities include a free skate area, warming house, basketball court, and playground.

Family Friendly Winter Activities

Beautiful Baylor Regional Park is
right outside our back door!

10775 County Road 33, Norwood Young America

Did you know that Baylor Regional Park is a short 3 miles north on County Road 33 from Kwik Trip? For a little cold-weather fun, family entertainment and exercise, check out the groomed ski trails at Baylor Regional Park. Baylor has several miles of traditional groomed trails meandering through winter landscapes of woodland, prairies and along lakeshore. The trail system is groomed for traditional and skate skiing. For more information on Baylor or any of the other Regional Parks, call 952-466-5250 visit their website at CarverCountyParks.com.

Visit the Carver Co Parks website for ticket information on Baylor Park's upcoming "Candlelit Night at Baylor" on Jan 27th and Feb 17th. Showshoes, cross county skis, kicksleds, hayrides, candlelit trails, hot cocoa, cider, s'mores & more!



@baylorregionalpark

Christmas at the Farm



The Willkommen Heritage Center's display of Fall/Harvest on the Farm has evolved into Christmas on the Farm! The public is invited to come and explore the vintage Christmas pieces that represent Christmas celebrations from the past. Some of the items include a feather tree from the 1920's and an apple centerpiece from the 1930's purchased locally from Weinzerl Jewelers in Historic Young America.

Willkommen Heritage Center is open weekly! Thurs. - Sat. 10:00am - 2:00pm
102 Main Street E, NYA



With

Deputy Voigt

'Tis That Time of Year...

The holiday's are meant to be the time of the year for cherishing time with family and celebrating with friends. Unfortunately, it is also the time of year for bad people to take advantage of good people. Please use these simple tips as a friendly reminder when approached with situations that "just doesn't seem right."



- If you are taking a vacation over the winter or are lucky enough to be a "snowbird," make sure to have your mail forwarded or held until you get back. Also arrange for someone to shovel your driveway/walkway to make it look like someone is home, or even put timers on lights to insinuate you are home. Citizens are also welcome to call the Carver County Non-Emergency line at 952-361-1231 to request extra patrol in the neighborhood while you are gone.
- The IRS will **NEVER** call you for personal information. Do not give out personal information about your name, address, birthday, social security number, banking, or credit card info to anyone!
- If you receive a phone call from someone who says "Your grandchild (name) is in jail and needs help!" - it is NOT true. Do not say your grandchild's name during this conversation—the scammer will use this personal information to further the conversation! Hang up immediately and call your grandchild or family member directly to tell them about the phone call you received.
- If you do not recognize a phone number that is calling you, don't answer. Let it go to voicemail. If the caller has something important to say, they will leave a message and you can have the choice to call them back. If you do happen to answer and the caller asks, "Is this (your name)?" Do not acknowledge their question, rather simply ask, "May I ask who is calling?" Do not ever give out personal information unless you know it is a legitimate phone call.

Any sort of scam should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTD-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or visit ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

One more seasonal reminder—Please be aware that if it snows more than 2" a snow emergency goes into effect starting at 2:00am. All vehicles, trailers, and garbage cans **MUST** be removed from all city streets until the snow is cleared out curb-to-curb. Also, please slow down to allow extra driving time during snow events!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Deputy Jordan Voigt

NYA Happenings



Meet the New Staff

My name is Mitchell Thiesfeld, the new City Clerk/Treasurer-Finance Director. Previously, I worked with Abdo Solutions, a Public Accounting Firm, in both their Audit and Tax sectors. Some of my responsibilities for the City include assisting with the annual budget, along with coordinating the annual audit.

I have been a lifetime resident of Norwood Young America. I graduated from Mayer Lutheran High School along with Minnesota State University, Mankato with a bachelor's degree in Finance. In my free time, I enjoy all things sports related, spending time with friends and family, and helping others.

Some of my favorite things about working for the City of Norwood Young America so far have been being able to work alongside a great team. Everyone here has been super helpful and welcoming. I have also enjoyed every day being different from the last, and finding solutions within the job.

Holiday Extravaganza Success

The 2023 Holiday Extravaganza was held on Saturday, November 25th at the Willkommen Memorial Park and Pavilion. Families enjoyed taking pictures with Santa and his sleigh, the "Little Red Truck" display (Steve & Tammy Trebesch), and the festive holiday candy canes and lights in the park. Hot cocoa, cookies, and kids coloring activities were available inside the pavilion, while s'mores were offered outside. Local businesses and organizations displayed movie-themed holiday wreaths in the pavilion. Congratulations to the Willkommen Heritage Center on their beautiful wreath! Thank you to all businesses who supported this event with financial contributions, gift donations, and volunteers. A special thank you to the NYA Fire Department and Lano Equipment for helping with the haywagon rides and the Stiftungsfest Ambassadors for serving! Holiday Extravaganza is held in conjunction with Small Business Saturday and organized by the NYA Area Chamber of Commerce.

Lions Sharing the Holiday Spirit

Both the NYA West Carver Lions and the NYA Lions have been busy the last few weeks sharing their holiday spirit of trees, poinsettias, and gifts to the NYA community!

The NYA Lions opened their Christmas tree lot next to CarQuest on November 24th. Every year they sell out fast! All proceeds of the tree sales go back to the community.

The NYA West Carver Lions hosted the Christmas Toyland on Saturday, December 2nd at the Willkommen Memorial Park Pavilion. Lion Elves greeted all of the children (plus all the parents and grandparents!) with each child being presented with a bag breakfast, gift from Santa and toy from the Lions. A huge THANK YOU to the over 50 local businesses who support this free community event with their financial and gift donations! Another Thank You to the Stiftungsfest Ambassadors for their help for the morning!

Both Lions club's worked together to deliver over 150 beautiful poinsettias to the senior facilities in the NYA community.

If you are interested in learning more about the local Lions, visit: NYA Lions: @nyalions, nyalionsclub@gmail.com—Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm

NYA West Carver Lions: @westcarverlions, nyawestcarverlions@gmail.com—Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm



2023-24 Stiftungsfest Ambassadors helping at the annual Holiday Extravaganza on Nov 25th.



Elves of the NYA West Carver Lions served the children of the community at the Christmas Toyland event at Willkommen Memorial Pavilion on Dec 2nd with breakfast and a gift from Santa.



Mayor Lagergren purchased her holiday tree at the NYA Lions tree lot on Nov 24th.





more than a place, it's home.

Norwood Young America
310 Elm Street West - PO Box 59
Norwood Young America, MN 55368
952-467-1800

City Council

- Mayor Carol Lagergren
Mike McPadden
Alan Krueger
Charlie Storms

City Hall Staff

- City Administrator Andrea Aukrust
City Clerk-Finance Director Mitchell Thiesfeld
Community & Economic Dev Director Karen Hallquist
Accounting Clerk Erin Schurpp
Community & Economic Dev Admin Grace Ballow
Fire Chief Steve ZumBerge

After hours City emergency
City Hall Hours



@cityofnya
@cityofnyamn

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

*****ECRWSEDDM****

Postal Customer
NYA, MN 55397 and 55368

December

- Thurs, Dec 2: Senior Advisory Commission Mtg @ City Hall 9am
Wed, Dec 21: NYA Senior Center @ Pavilion 10-2pm
Mon, Dec 25: Christmas Day-City Hall Closed
Tues, Dec 26: Christmas Holiday Observed-City Hall Closed
Sun, Dec 31: New Year's Eve

January

- Mon, Jan 1: Happy New Year! City Hall Closed
Tues, Jan 2: Planning Commission Mtg 6pm City Hall
Wed, Jan 3: NYA Senior Center 10am-2pm Pavilion
Mon, Jan 8: City Council Mtg 6pm City Hall
Wed, Jan 10: MoveMindfully 8:30-9:30am Pavilion
Wed, Jan 10: EDC Mtg 6pm City Hall
Tues, Jan 16: Parks & Rec Mtg 5:30pm City Hall
Wed, Jan 17: NYA Senior Center 10am-2pm Pavilion
Thurs, Jan 18: Senior Advisory Commission Mtg 9am City Hall
Mon, Jan 22: Workshop/City Council Mtg 5pm City Hall
Wed, Jan 24: MoveMindfully 9:45am-10:15am Pavilion

Did you know....

Horse races were held on Norwood's main street in the 1880's. This soon caused many problems for the town Constable as gambling, drinking and fighting accompanied the races. "City Ordinance: Racing Horses on City Streets. Norwood City Ordinance #22. Horse Racing- excessive speed on the streets or leaving animals unhitched or unfastened is illegal." Aug.1, 1889 Weekly Valley Herald.

Local business owners, George J. Bradley and Henry Fabel Jr. decided it was time to build a real horse racing track. The 1898 Carver County Plat Book finds the half-mile track between Park Place and Lake Street in the Fabel Addition, now where NYA Legion Park is found. The George J. Bradley House still stands next to NYA Legion Park. We can imagine the cupola on top of the house had a great view of the races.

Trotters and pacing horses ran first on race day. The last races of the day were for quarter horses. There were no starting gates. The horses cantered under a wire strung above the track and were off!

The horse races in Norwood were great entertainment, however, were short lived. By the time the 1927 Carver County Plat Book was published, the half-mile race track was gone, replaced by a park and housing. We'd like to think one can still hear the hooves of the quarter horses pounding on the strait-a-way.

Information provided by the Willkommen Heritage Center.

Off The Rails Entertainment Presents: Stand Up Comedy. Join the NYA Lions for a 'ROARING' good time! Headliner: Mike Brody. Feature: Linda Aarons. Hosted by Dan Hammerkamp. Saturday January 13th 7:00PM. Willkommen Park Pavillion. 21 E Main St Norwood Young America, MN. Doors Open: 6:00pm Cash Bar 50/50 Raffle. Tickets: \$20 per person. Tickets Available at: Car Quest Auto Parts, Citizens State Bank, Good Time Liquors, Old National Bank, Pour House Pub, NYA Lions Members or at www.offtherailsent.com



Historical map of Norwood showing streets like Chicago, Milwaukee, and Liberty. A red circle highlights a 'RACE TRACK' area near 'Geo. J. Bradley' and 'Henry Fabel, Jr.'. Text includes 'THE VILLAGE OF NORWOOD', 'Scale 300 feet to one inch', '1898 Harms', and 'NYA Legion Park & West Carver Community Pool'.

