

## Purpose, connectedness, and celebration build community

Waconia is an incredible community. Over the past couple of weeks there have been multiple events where the community has come together for a purpose, to support one another, and build connectedness. Whether it be bringing people together to financially support the work of our non-profit hospital or organizing a cancer benefit, the community rallies together with purpose.

The community also unites in times of celebration. As we approach Independence Day, we gather with family and friends outdoors for barbeques and watch the 4th of July fireworks display. When funding was tight this year due to increased prices, community members came forward in a big way to ensure a great show!

Other displays of community have been shown this week through the building and assembly of the Inclusive Playground in Waterford Park. This is yet another example of the community coming together to make a meaningful project a reality.

Last, conversations around continuing to build a community of belonging have been organized and led by Carver County Public Health. As our community continues to grow, we want new members of the community to also feel welcomed and connected. If you're interested in learning more about this initiative or to get involved, please reach out and I'll get you connected.

Finally, we've seen several new businesses open and join the Chamber over the past year. Please make it a point to stop in to introduce yourself, patronize their business, share your positive experiences with others, and welcome them to this remarkable community.

Sincerely, *Christine*