



City Voice

April 2016

City of Caro
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PUTTING A LITTLE SPRING IN OUR STEP!

BY: DICK POULIOT, MAYOR



It's that time of year again - Spring! Time to dust yourself off and end the time of low activity; even though, in the last month or two, some of us have shoveled too much snow. "Putting a little spring in your step" means you have a spring to your step when you walk energetically, or in a way that shows you're happy and confident. In Caro, we will be putting away the snow shovels and getting out the dirt shovels, as well as putting a little more spring in our step, as we have many exciting and substantial projects for this construction season.

Let me end the pleasantries, start with the details and get to work. At the time the last council meeting was conducted, we had already started the annual sidewalk special assessment program. This encompasses sidewalks on W. Grant St., Hamilton St., W. Washington St. and Millwood. Total project length is 6600 feet, resulting in 1.25 miles of defectless sidewalk with an estimated cost of \$80,000. The second project is the renovation of the tennis courts in Bieth Park. We are very happy to share this project with Caro Community Schools, benefitting the community overall. The project entails resurfacing, crack filling and repainting, along with other court work, for the total cost of \$25,000 to be shared with the schools.

This next project has been in the works for a number of years and we are very pleased to be at the point where it can be started in late spring or early summer. It is the completion of the Chippewa Landing Trail between East Frank and the current trail that will end along Columbia Street. The completion of this non-motorized railway will allow for a continuous loop of over one-mile in which walking and bicycling may be enjoyed with easy access by nearly every corner of the city via citywide sidewalks. The city was awarded a grant in the amount of \$3,000

from the Neal Sisters Foundation along with a \$10,000 grant from the Janks Fund of the Tuscola County Community Foundation. This project has been made possible through the help of donations and continuing support of multiple business neighbors, both in and throughout the community. The new section of trail will be roughly one-quarter mile in length and will feature natural landscape, trailhead marker and numerous amenities, including a new bench donated by the Caro Rotary Club.

The biggest, and most likely the most expensive project is the N. Almer St. reconstruction project between Gilford Road and W. Frank St., approximately 2350 feet long and 40 feet wide. Approximately 275 feet of 4-inch ductile iron water main will be replaced with eight-inch C909 plastic water main with tracer wire between Gilford Road and W. Grant St., including eight valves and valve boxes to be installed or replaced. Approximately five water service lines will be replaced from the new 8-inch water main to curb stops along with one standard fire hydrant. Also scheduled is the placement of six concrete manholes including a short length of storm sewer between the two grated curb drains. All nonconforming sidewalk ramps will be designed and converted to ADA-compliant ramps and grades. The existing roadbed and sub-base will be fully reconstructed while saving a

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portion of the existing water mains and water service lines. The existing sanitary sewer main and sewer leads to homes will be maintained as well. It is intended that the street will be detoured or closed during construction, however, local residents will maintain access to their homes. The overall project cost will be \$556,000 (\$324,600 to be funded by MDOT/Federal funding and \$231,400 to be City funded) resulting in 58% of the project being funded by outside sources!

There will also be several local street projects beginning late summer and continuing into the early fall of this year. Over the last three years the city has been able to repave and maintain miles of locally controlled streets, seeing almost a mile of new asphalt last year alone. Last year's work included the awarding utilization of the Michigan Department Environmental Quality (DEQ) Grant for the use of scrap tires within local asphalt mixes. The city has tested the mixture in several areas throughout the town and, so far, the results are promising. Last year's projects were, in part, financed through the scrap tire grant in which the city received \$55,000. For the upcoming year, the city has applied for the same program in the amount of \$200,000. Test results show that the asphalt mixture proves to be an equal or better product than the current 13a asphalt mixture. Along with comparable quality, the total cost is in line with the current asphalt mixture being utilized. With the DEQ Grant and the City's match, this will allow for nearly 4 miles of local streets to be paved, if awarded.

We are very happy and proud of the planning and work that the council and city staff have done. I plan on seeing you as I personally observe these projects. And, yes, we have a little spring in our step!



Left to right: Andrea Schroeder-President of MI Rural Water Association, Jared Olson-City Manager, Richard Pouliot-Mayor, Charlie Sundblad-DPW Supt, Joe Greene-Council, Steve Fletcher-Senior VP of National Rural Water Association

THE MANAGER'S CORNER BY JARED OLSON



Happy Spring! As the warm weather, sunshine, and new growth start filling the city, there are several upcoming projects that are very exciting but for this quick article, I would like to focus on the City of Caro and its municipal water system. With some of the recent reporting about

water quality and with the major water infrastructure issues now raised about safety and maintaining a strong and healthy system, we can say that the Caro water system is one that we can all be proud of. The Caro water system has met all local, state, and federal testing and reporting requirements for not only the past twelve months but for the past several years.

Over the last several decades it has taken a true team of hardworking and dedicated elected officials, staff, and most importantly, the Caro residents to be able to create and maintain the excellent water utility system we currently enjoy here in the City of Caro. The elected councils and the DPW employees over the last several decades have always placed strong and safe water delivery and infrastructure at the top of the priority list and it shows. In March of 2016 the City of Caro and its water system received one of the top state wide designations when the Michigan Rural Water Association awarded it the 2016 Water Utility of the Year.

The award is based on numerous system wide factors of which one is routinely meeting all water quality standards. Along with water quality, the system maintenance programs, system wide reliability, the overall efficiency and innovation is also considered. This is a true community award and one that everyone can be proud of.

In addition to the 2016 Water Utility of the Year designation, another very important part of the city's water system was recognized this year by the Michigan Rural Water Association. Our own DPW/Water Department Superintendent Mr. Charles Sundblad was awarded the 2016 Person of the Year designation.

Charlie has become a cornerstone of dedication, commitment, and unwavering service throughout the Caro community in both his work and that of his DPW employees. In his pursuit of strong public service, Charlie has openly and willingly gone above and beyond to assist

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our community and other neighboring communities, MDEQ representatives, and the general public as a whole in achieving stronger operations and better understanding of municipal water operations and the importance of providing a safe and reliable product to the end users.

The City of Caro is lucky to have the dedication and commitment of Charlie and the rest of the DPW employees who strive to provide the most efficient, safest, and strongest water system possible. Along with excellent staff and elected officials, the support of the community is unwavering and without that, nothing would be possible.



Pictured from left to right: Andrea Schroeder-President of MI Rural Water Association, Charlie Sundblad-DPW Superintendent, Steve Fletcher-Senior Vice-President of National Rural Water Association.

A WORD FROM THE CLERK BY KAREN J SNIDER, CMC

Two important election dates are coming up. August 2, 2016 is the State Primary. July 5, 2016 is the last day to register for the August primary. November 8, 2016 is the State General election. October 11, 2016 is the last day to register for the November election. The City Council election will be Tuesday, November 8, 2016. There is no primary for the City of Caro City Council positions. The Mayor term and three councilmember terms will be on the ballot. Petitions for the office must be filed no later than 4 p.m. on July 26, 2016. Also, candidates who wish to seek office at the November election must file an Affidavit of Identity with the nominating petition(s). Forms are available from the City Clerk and must be filed with the City Clerk, Caro Municipal Building, 317 S. State Street, Caro, MI 48723.

PUBLIC WORKS HIGHLIGHTS BY CHARLIE SUNDBLAD DPW SUPERINTENDENT



Now that spring has sprung, and everyone is out raking their yards, I would like to remind everyone that the City **does not allow raking or putting of grass clippings, dirt, etc. into the gutters.** As a reminder, Emterra Environmental will start yard waste pickup April 7. They will pick up grass clippings, trimmings from shrubs, trees and other greenery. Please remember to put yard waste in containers marked with an "X" or yard waste bags. Also, the chipping dates this year are Monday May 2, Monday July 18 and Monday October 3. If you need a copy of the brush policy you can pick one up at the Caro Municipal Building. Hydrant flushing will take place the week of April 18th. There will be a notice in the paper and on the radio. We are doing our best to keep up with the potholes. If you notice any that we may have missed, please call.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY CURTIS WELLS, SUPT

The Staff at your Caro Area Wastewater Treatment Plant, as well as you the residents, are glad to see Spring after a late season series of snow events. But truthfully that beats the heck out of the -25 degree temperatures the previous couple of winters.

A reminder that as soon as the snow and ice are gone from the area, the RV dump will again be open to the public for recreational campers to use at no charge.



Spring also motivates people to do some spring cleaning around the house. We would like to remind everyone that the drains are no place to pour your unwanted materials because this has a big negative effect on your treatment facility. If you have unwanted hazardous waste, our local Tuscola County Recycling Center normally has a Spring Household Hazardous Waste and Latex Paint collection during the spring. It is normally run by appointment only so please go to their website www.tuscolacounty.org/recycling/ for more details and dates. Again thank you in advance for your continued cooperation.

CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Caro Police Department has received news concerning the new Smart 911 program through Tuscola Central Dispatch. I encourage everyone to sign up for this program. I am including the news release for you to see.

Tuscola County Central Dispatch Enhances 9-1-1 Services With Smart911

Public Safety Officials Encourage Residents to Sign Up For the Free Service That Provides Emergency Responders With More Information to Save Time and Save Lives

Tuscola County. March 15, 2016 – Public safety officials in Tuscola County announced today that Smart911 is now available to all citizens. Smart911 is a free service that allows citizens to create a Safety Profile for their household that can include any information they may want 9-1-1 call takers and first responders to have in the event of an emergency, then if they need to dial 9-1-1 their Safety Profile will immediately display on the call taker's screen saving critical seconds and even minutes in response to the emergency.

“Smart911 is a great step forward in emergency response.” said Undersheriff Glen Skrent. “When you dial 9-1-1, you are not having your best day, and even the simplest of details can be difficult to communicate in a time of panic. Now we can approach the scene of an emergency more safely, as well as provide faster and more precise response.”

Smart911 allows citizens to create a Safety Profile at www.smart911.com for their household that includes any information they want 9-1-1 and response teams to have in the event of an emergency. When a citizen makes an emergency call, their Safety Profile is automatically displayed to the 9-1-1 call taker, allowing them to send the right response teams to the right location with the right information. Responders can be aware of many details they would not have known previously, and now fire crews can arrive at a house fire knowing how many people live in the home and the location of bedrooms, EMS can be advised of allergies or specific medical conditions and police can have the photo of a missing child in seconds rather than minutes or hours.

“Having the information that is available through a Safety Profile can greatly affect the way we respond to an

emergency,” said Akron Fire Chief Marv Hasso, “If we know exactly where we are going and who we are looking for in a house fire or at the scene of a vehicle accident, those details can help us assess and then respond to those citizens more efficiently.”

With Smart911, citizens can link both home and work addresses to mobile phones, which can be passed on to responders in the field for more a detailed, rapid response. Additional information including pets in the home, vehicle details in the event of an accident, and even emergency contacts can all be included in a Safety Profile. All information is optional and the citizen has the ability to choose what details they would like to include.

“The benefits of this information on a 9-1-1 call from a cell phone are immeasurable”, said 911 Director Sandra Nielsen. “Smart911 is also a national service, so your profile will travel with you, to any other location in Louisiana or in the US that supports Smart911.”

Smart911 is currently available in 40 states and more than 1,500 municipalities across the country, and has been credited with positively impacting emergency outcomes including a missing child in which the girls photo and physical description were immediately available to 9-1-1 and responders, as well as a heart attack victim where an address and medical notes allowed responders to be dispatched to his location quickly.

Citizens are encouraged to create their Safety Profile with Smart911 today to have their information immediately available to 9-1-1. Smart911 is private and secure, is only used for emergency responses, and only made available to the 9-1-1 system in the event of an emergency call.

Contact:
Sandra Nielsen, Director
Tuscola County Central Dispatch
[989-673-8738](tel:989-673-8738) x2
snielsen@tuscolacounty.org



THE CITY OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY MAY 30, 2016
IN OBSERVANCE OF
MEMORIAL DAY

CODE ENFORCEMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



Spring is finally arriving and with the melting snow comes the green lawns. It also uncovers forgotten items in the yard that accumulated from last fall and remained throughout the winter. This is just a friendly reminder that the City of Caro does enforce blight issues. Listed below are some of the things you need to address as the weather gets favorable for yard work.

- City ordinance does not allow any vehicle on a property, unless it has current plates and is in running order.
- Discarded junk, and or building construction material, in any manner, is not allowed. This would include pallets, construction boards, bricks, tires, motor parts, implements, appliances, unused project material, just to name a few.
- Structures such as houses, garages, sheds, etc. are also an enforceable blight if not kept in good shape.
- Lawn mowing is a requirement, and grass must not be allowed to exceed a height of over 8 inches. Included in the ordinance is the trimming and up keep of shrubs and trees.

The items mentioned are just some of the Cities' ordinances that are in place to help keep our City cleaned and beautiful, year round. Please contact my office for any questions and for a free copy of the ordinance, or you may go online to the City of Caro's website for a full listing.

In the event you should receive a notice from this office, please follow the instructions and please keep in mind, that it is never the intention of this office to insult any property owner for any situation that may be found on their property. It is my purpose to educate the residents of the City of Caro of the Blight Ordinances and work with them to help keep our City clean and blight free. The Blight Officer is aware that in some situations, the time set may not be sufficient to accomplish the task. It is imperative that you contact my office to acquire, if so allowed, an extension of time.

City residents are required to purchase garage sale permits at City Hall, 317 S. State Street. Permits are \$1.00 each. A permit is good for three (3) consecutive days. Signs MUST be placed on private property.

CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



Spring is close at hand, with the warmer weather we will feel the need for yard clean-up, that was left from our very cold winter.

Please note there are some rules to follow for the "Spring Clean-up." There is no open burning allowed within the city limits of Caro. All yard debris needs to be put into the proper container to be taken away. For residents outside the City, please call in for a burning permit. The message on the phone will clearly inform you of the rules. Michigan does not allow any burning of garbage or building construction materials. This also includes tires, etc. The only acceptable items to be burned are tree logs, branches and leaves. This is for out of city only. Please be safe whenever burning and have an enjoyable Michigan Spring!

For all fire related questions and burn permits please contact the Fire Chief at 989-673-2002.

CITY OF CARO NOTICE OF PROVISIONS OF THE WEED ORDINANCE



All owners, occupants or possessors of land in the City of Caro, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Ordinance No. 228 of the City of Caro all noxious, poisonous or injurious weeds, or other weeds, grass or brush exceeding a height of eight (8) inches upon any property in the City of Caro shall be cut down, destroyed or removed, as the case may be, to prevent growth in excess of eight (8) inches. In the event the owner or occupant, or any persons, agent, firm or corporation having control or management of any lots, place or parcel of land within the City of Caro shall fail, refuse or neglect to comply with the above mentioned ordinance, the City of Caro or its authorized representatives shall cause said noxious, poisonous or injurious weeds or other weeds, grass or brush exceeding a height of eight (8) inches to be cut down, destroyed or removed. A charge as determined by resolution of the City of Caro shall be assessed for cutting, destruction or removal of same and will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law. ***(Please note that the Noxious Weed Ordinance does not reflect the ordinance in its entirety. All City of Caro ordinances can be found on the web by going to www.carocity.net)***

CITY OF CARO EXCERPT FROM BRUSH CHIPPING POLICY

A friendly reminder on how to properly prepare your brush for chipping.

The City of Caro's Department of Public Works (DPW) will be chipping brush a total of three times during the brush season which runs from April through October. The brush chipping will be the first Monday in May, third Monday in July and first Monday in October. All brush should be out for collection no later than 7:30 a.m. on pick up day.

The DPW will pick up piles of brush up to four (4) feet wide and four (4) feet high by six (6) feet long. Brush is to be placed at the curbside no more than ten (10) days prior to the next pickup and it must contain branches less than 4 inches in diameter. When branches are placed at the curb, place the cut end toward the road edge and stack them neatly. The City will not pick up whole trees or large amounts of brush. You may want to consider a private contractor to remove trees or larger brush piles.

Chipping is for limbs and any small debris lying on the ground after pick up and is the responsibility of the homeowner.

Brush placed at the curbside before the ten (10) day period prior to pick up may be considered blight and will be handled as such. A ten (10) day blight notice will be mailed and if said brush remains on the curbside after the ten (10) day period, a private contractor will be hired by the city and the cost including a twenty dollar administrative fee will be invoiced back to the property owner. ***(Please note that the Brush Chipping Policy does not reflect the policy in its entirety. All City of Caro Policies can be found on the web by going to www.carocity.net)***



Pictured from left to right: Gary Koelzer, Mike Fader, Charlie Sundblad, DPW Superintendent, Randy Martin, and Bob McLeod

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT KRISTIN WEAVER INSURANCE AGENCY



The Kristin Weaver Insurance Agency located at 3 N. Almer Street brings Meemic Insurance to Caro! After more than seven years as the office manager at another Meemic agency, Kristin Weaver opened her own agency in the fall of 2015 to offer the educational community insurance coverage that is exceptional and second to none.

Kristin is a graduate of Davenport University with a degree in business administration and got her start in the insurance industry in 1999.

Whitney Kilbourn, licensed property and casualty agent, joined the agency and brings more than five years of customer service experience to the agency. Whitney is a graduate of Baker College and works alongside Kristin serving our local educators.



The agency offers many types of insurance including, Auto, Home, Boat, Umbrella, Motorcycle, RV, ATV, Life, Health and Disability Insurance through Meemic, Progressive, Safeco, Hagerty, Foremost, American Modern, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan, Assurity and AAA Life. Educators may apply for funding through the Meemic Foundation or join The Foundation Club by visiting kristinweaveragency.com. Stop by the office or call 989-530-4000 today and let Kristin & Whitney know how they can help you.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council	April 4 & 18	7:30 p.m.
	May 2 & 16	7:30 p.m.
	June 6 & 20	7:30 p.m.
Planning	April 12 & 26	7:00 p.m.
	May 10 & 24	7:00 p.m.
	June 14 & 28	7:00 p.m.
DDA	April 13	Noon
	May 11	Noon
	June 8	Noon
Historical	April 27	6:30 p.m.
	May 25	6:30 p.m.
	June 22	6:30 p.m.
Parks & Rec	April 21	7:00 p.m.
	May 19	7:00 p.m.
	June 16	7:00 p.m.



SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday, May 7, 2015
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

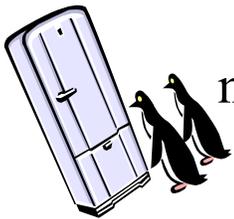
City of Caro Residents Only!

**Clean out the garage, attic, basement and yard.
Bring all of your junk to the fairgrounds
(next to the tennis courts)**



Tires

Tires without rims will be accepted
Limit 4 per household
(First 50 Passenger tires only)



Yard waste, branches up to 2' in diameter,
no longer than 4' in length can be dropped off

All appliances, refrigerators and freezers
(Freon **MUST** be removed)

For more information call the
City offices at 989-673-2226

