



City Voice

January 2013

City of Caro
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THE MANAGER'S CORNER BY THOMAS STRIFFLER



Interim very Interim,

I am glad to be able to help out serving as interim manager while the council selects a replacement for Brent Morgan who recently moved to Milford. Let me assure you this is very much a temporary position. I do not wish to continue

as City Manager and did not apply for the job.

Meanwhile there are still many things happening in the City of Caro to continue to keep Caro a great place to live. We are working on a couple of grant opportunities that would bring in state and/or federal dollars to help pave some side streets in the downtown area and to demolish an old unused building in the fairgrounds. While we must compete with other communities for these grants, we hope to get them awarded to Caro. We have recently placed an order with a local dealer for a new police vehicle that will replace two (2) older model cars.

We have also begun working with our employees to reduce health care insurance costs. All of your City employees pay at least 20% of the healthcare insurance costs, and as most of you know, those costs have been going up. So we are working together to find good coverage at a lower cost to both the employees and the City.

Through retirements, attrition and death, our DPW staff and part time police staff have become severely reduced. As a result, we have hired (or are in the process) a new DPW employee and a part time police officer. We ask that the citizens be patient with our staff as they try to get streets plowed and patrolled with less staff and while new people are trained. Your council and management is trying to be very sensitive to controlling costs and using tax dollars wisely, but this may require the citizens to be more understanding when it comes to timeliness of service response.

Finally, as a former council person and mayor, I'd like to ask you to give a warm welcome to your new City Manager when he or she begins here in Caro. It is a tough time to be in local government because the citizens deserve the best service possible; while local property tax revenue and state shared revenue continues to drop. Your new manager will find a great city to lead with great employees, let's show him or her that we have great community minded citizens here too!



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GREETINGS BY DICK POULIOT, MAYOR



Happy New Year!

Yes, it is 2013! We are all that much older. Here's hoping that all is well and prosperous with you folks! By this time, all of us are winding down from what I hope was a Great and Blessed Christmas, and the start of a wonderful New Year! Your city council and staff have been busy with a number of tasks

throughout the past year and are starting the New Year with much work ahead of us.

I would like to give you a short synopsis of the council activities throughout the past year. January - passed and established code codification (with link on cities website); February started with hiring new fire chief, Randy Heckroth; March - the city entered into our second Parks and Recreation agreement with Cass City; April - the city submitted its documents with the State for compliance with the Governor's EVIP (Economic Vitality Incentive Program) to compete for a share of revenue sharing that was eliminated; May - The council awarded its first chemical grouting contract to make repairs to sewer lines on Congress Street, without digging up the street, or rebuilding it. Then the establishment of disc golf at the fairgrounds; June saw the completion of budget setting task (please see below for a portion of the city's audit report).

The City of Caro's staff, administration and council have been working together on this foundation one brick at a time over the last 30 years. Over the last three years, we have reduced the city's workforce by five (5) full time equivalents and one (1) part-time. This was done without layoffs and equates to an approximate 18% reduction in the city's workforce. Employees have also had to begin paying 20% of their healthcare insurance.

In essence, all of this equates to compounded reduction of expenses over the years, an increase in effectiveness and efficiencies in city services or, to be put in layman's terms, doing more with less. At the same time, we are constantly looking for grants and other opportunities to improve infrastructure and enhance citizens' quality of life.

The City of Caro 2012-2013 Budget in regard to revenues takes into account a decrease of property tax revenues

of approximately 4%, or about \$58,000, and an anticipated reduction of statutory revenue sharing of an additional \$10,000. The City of Caro will remain committed to performing capital improvement. We are reconstructing part of West Sherman Street, including new water lines and improved storm and sanitary sewers, with the help of MDOT Small Urban Task Force funding. Lift station #10 in the sewer system is getting a complete upgrade. We also have budgeted to purchase a new snow plow/dump truck to replace an over 20-year old truck and the purchase of a police car to replace two aging cruisers.

This audit is an extremely important tool for the city and provides for the future financial paths that are to be taken. I thank you in advance for taking the time to review the audit to gain a better understanding of Caro's financial condition.

As I have relayed before in past newsletters, the city continues to provide the same level of services with less revenue and monies. It was, and is, a huge challenge for all.

July found the council working to approve documents relating to the Sherman Street project; August - amending noise ordinances to recognize the changes in State law regarding fireworks; September - the council approved the purchase of a new snowplow truck (even though we don't have much snow at this point) and the start of the Sherman Street project; October - approved rehabilitation of lift station 10, and also the appointment of Interim Manager, Tom Striffler (thank you, Tom). Then we started the process of Manager Search with Voorhees and Associates; November - the council approved the purchase of a new police vehicle; December - the council has reviewed resumes of 33 candidates and has decided to interview the top six on the 15th, so stay tuned.

It has been a very productive year, and we are looking forward to another Happy New Year. ...



City offices will be closed on
Monday December 24, and
Tuesday December 25, 2012

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday

A WORD FROM THE CLERK BY KAREN J SNIDER, CMC



HAPPY HOLIDAYS! By the time you receive this newsletter you should be wrapping up the holiday season and ready to welcome in the New Year. The adrenalin is still flowing from all the expectations we have put onto ourselves at this time of year. We need to slow down, enjoy a hot cup of chocolate and put in a good movie. The hardest thing for most people to do after such a busy time is "RELAX". There are dishes in the sink, or dirty clothes in the hamper or maybe boxes lying on the floor from presents. You may be anticipating taking down lights or shoveling snow from your walk. So, unless you know something I don't, those things will still be there after the movie is over....so, relax and enjoy it.

Just a reminder, your winter taxes are due by February 28, 2013 to avoid penalty and interest charges. Any unpaid summer and winter taxes will be turned over to the Tuscola County Treasurer's Office for collection on March 1, 2013.

It has been a busy 2012 year for Administration and support staff. This has been the first time ever that the City of Caro conducted four elections in one year with overwhelming turnouts. For any of you never involved in the election process, it takes numerous hours of preparation, education and work to conduct an election. Administrative staff not only collects taxes for the City of Caro millage levied, but also for other entities such as the County operating and special millages, State Education tax, Medical Care Facility, Caro District Library, Caro Transit Authority, Caro Community Schools and Tuscola Intermediate School District. The monies collected for the other entities are reconciled and sent to them. These tasks are done in addition to regular job assignments such as utility billing, paying invoices, payroll, receipting money, government reports, newsletter composition and mailing, website and many more.

From Administration and support staff, we would like to thank you for allowing us to be of service to each and every one of you.



City offices will be closed on
Monday December 31, 2012 and
Tuesday January 1, 2013

Have a Safe and Happy
New Year's

WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY CURTIS WELLS WWTP SUPERINTENDENT

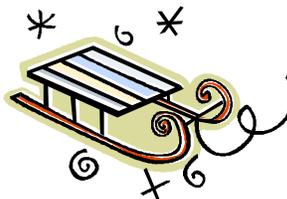


We are at the start of another year. We at your Caro area waste water treatment plant hope that everyone had a great, blessed, and Merry Christmas and will have a more prosperous new year.

As a normal practice at this time of year the RV dump is now closed until spring. We started our lift station #10 rehabilitation back in November and hopefully by now it is complete and on line. We should have by this time, had another beneficial land application of our biosolids to one of our local farmers.

We would also like to thank everyone in advance for their cooperation for keeping your system free from illegal dumping and understanding that disposable does NOT mean flushable.

PUBLIC WORKS HIGHLIGHTS BY CHARLIE SUNDBLAD DPW SUPERINTENDENT



Winter will be soon upon us and that means that we should remember to drive carefully. Remember that there is no parking on any city street from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. during the months of December through

March. Also, there is an ordinance against shoveling or blowing your snow into the street. Remember to protect yourself when it gets cool outside, and to have fun skiing, sledding, or riding snowmobiles. When the city crew is plowing please remember to give them consideration because they cannot always see you. Leaf pickup has ended for the year. We will have a week in the spring that we will pick up leaves.

CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF BRIAN NEWCOMB

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



The Caro Police Department hopes everyone has had an enjoyable holiday season. The Caro Gingerbread festival has come and gone. It was a success with lots of our citizens taking part and enjoying the festivities. The police department has been busy and will log a record high in police reports taken. This is in light of the fact that the department has fewer numbers of officers than at any other time in recent years.

Sadly, we lost one of our long time Patrolman, Officer Phil Millerov who passed away unexpectedly this fall. He will be missed by all of us. It was very gratifying to have so many citizens and first responders at the funeral. I know it meant a lot to the Millerov family. It has been a tough holiday season for them and we ask that the Millerov family be kept in your thoughts.

There have not been a lot of legal changes recently, however one law was passed in August that allows a Concealed Pistol License Holder to own and carry a EMD device, commonly known as a taser or stun gun. There are a number of requirements attached including the training of a CPL holder to use and carry a taser, to be performed by the selling dealer. For further information, please check www.michigan.gov/msp for these new laws under MCL 750.224a(2)(b).

Another law change was enacted is MCL 750.479c, effective as of July 2012 which prohibits a person who is informed by a peace officer that the officer is conducting a criminal investigation from knowingly and willfully concealing by trick or scheme, or device, any material fact relating to that criminal investigation or making a false statement to the officer, knowing the statement to be false or misleading in relation to the facts of the investigation or issuing a written document knowing it to be false. The penalty would depend on the severity of the crime being investigated as to whether it would be a misdemeanor or felony.



The Chris Barrios Agency opened its doors on September 1st of this year. Chris and his licensed insurance professionals, Silena Rogers, Amanda Light and David Barrios were recognized by the Saginaw and Bay City Area Field Office region as September Agency of the Month.

Chris' office is in the former Team One Credit Union building located at 1230 Cleaver Road here in Caro. His office location allows him to provide convenient, hassle free customer parking, and his extended office hours meet the needs of many working people in our community. His office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Chris is a graduate of North Branch Area Schools and participated in the Thumb Meet of Champions and MHSAA track and field state competitions. He received a BS in Kinesiology, and minor in coaching from Saginaw Valley State University, where he was a four year letterman and received GLIAC "All Conference" track and field recognition. Chris has one son, Rodney Christopher and he currently resides in Cass City.

In addition to offering basic Auto, Home, Life and Health insurance coverage, Chris is licensed to offer a variety of banking services, including auto loans, credit cards, IRA's and mutual funds. Stop by our office, or give us a call to set up a free **Discount Double Check** appointment. Our office phone is 989-672-FARM (3276). We look forward to meeting the insurance and financial needs of customers in Caro and surrounding area.



CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



Winter is finally making its presence known. With the cold temps comes a lot of safety issues, that everyone needs to address.

Please check all smoke, and carbon monoxide detectors, to insure the units are clean, and in working order with new batteries.

Have all your heating appliances checked by a licensed contractor to insure they are clean and functioning properly. This includes a good chimney cleaning.

Also the Fire Department encourages that you have an escape plan, and make sure everyone in your house knows it. An emergency kit is also a wise thing to have.

Please visit the following websites for helpful information for this www.fema.gov and www.ready.gov

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT SHEARDY'S A-1 RENTAL & CONCRETE



Herbert (Herb) Sheardy is the owner of Sheardy's A-1 Rental & Concrete located at 1251 W Caro

Road and has been serving the greater Thumb of Michigan in some capacity for the past 50 years.

A-1 Rental and Concrete has a large variety of products for all your rental needs. When you rent from A-1, you will discover a well maintained inventory of a wide range of items. They have equipment rental, skid steers, aerial lifts and more. A-1 Rental also has party and event items - tents, tables, chairs, concession equipment, dunk tank, just to list a few. Sheardy's A-1 Rental & Concrete has everything to make your event or job special.

You may contact A-1 Rental & Concrete at 989-673-6138 or online at www.a1rentalonline.com.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT PRO-TECH COMPUTING



John Walker is the owner of Pro-Tech Computing. Pro-Tech Computing was established in 2002 and has maintained a top notch business

standing for the past 10 years in the entire Thumb area. Some of the services Pro-Tech Computing offers are: computing services, virus removal and prevention, advanced spyware removal, networking and wireless, on-site services, home and businesses, next day services, data backup and recovery.

Pro-Tech Computing is located at 116 E Frank Street, next to the Strand Theatre in Caro. The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – noon and closed on Sunday. Their phone number is 989-670-0063.



City offices will be closed
Friday March 29, 2013
in observance of
Good Friday

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council	Jan 7 & 21	7:30 p.m.
	Feb 4 & 18	7:30 p.m.
	March 4 & 18	7:30 p.m.
Planning	Jan 8 & 22	7:00 p.m.
	Feb 12 & 26	7:00 p.m.
	March 12 & 26	7:00 p.m.
DDA	Jan 9	Noon
	Feb 13	Noon
	March 13	Noon
Historical	Jan 23	6:30 p.m.
	Feb 27	6:30 p.m.
	March 27	6:30 p.m.
Parks & Rec	Jan 17	7:00 p.m.
	Feb 21	7:00 p.m.
	March 21	7:00 p.m.