



City Voice

January 2015

City of Caro
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THE SOUNDS OF THE CITY BY: DICK POULIOT, MAYOR



The time is now for another special conversation with you great folks of Caro. Soon, and in some cases too soon, we will be writing “2015” on letters and documents. Yes, time marches on! I trust that things are well with you and family and that you are having a blessed Christmas Season along with the coming New Year! This letter is titled, “The

Sounds of the City”. My schedule and habits have resulted in being an early riser which allows me to hear normal sounds of Caro in the wee hours of the morning. This gives me indication of normal activities of our community, for example the sound of normal traffic flow, the sound of industrial operations, and school functions (Caro’s band playing), and children playing later in the day. Among the sounds are the sounds of the festivals we are so proud to host, church bells and chimes, neighbors caring for their homes and property, wild geese overhead, and agricultural folks working in the distance. We are very fortunate to live in a community with diversity, and yet are able to enjoy the serenity. In the last few years we have been very fortunate to be able to hear the sound of construction projects in Caro regardless of the “economic down turn in Michigan”. Ten major projects have been completed, an average of one per year for the past ten years! When we consider what the City has lost in revenue (between lower SEV and state revenue cuts) it totals to close to a million dollars - it has been pretty remarkable! There will be NO slow down for the near future and perhaps in some regards, the pace will quicken! Let us share the very exciting and good news.

2013-14 Columbia Street completion grant \$375,000, full street reconstruction project cost \$700,000 (under budget)

2015-16 Scrap Tire Grant of \$111,000 matches with local monies for a total of \$222,000 for several local streets’ construction along with water main replacement. This project is exciting to me because it recycles old ground up tires that are mixed with the new asphalt pavement.

2016-17 North Almer Street (from Frank to Gilford) grants of \$327,000 total cost around \$1 million full reconstruction, includes water, sewer, street, and curb. Funding from Small Urban task force, local streets, and sewer and water funds.

2017-18 West Frank Street grant of \$375,000 total cost around \$1 million. Full street reconstruction which will include water, sewer, street, curb and gutter work. Funding for this project will come from Small Urban Task Force, local streets, and water and sewer funds.

2017 Rehabilitation of “Luder Road Bridge” grant \$200,000 total cost \$275,000 funds are MDOT bridge safety program and the balance from local monies.

The estimated cost of all of the projects is approximately \$3.2 million with outside funding amounting to close to

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\$1.4 million dollars. This means that for the above-listed projects alone state and federal dollars will cover approximately 44 cents of every dollar spent in Caro. This is possible because of the good faith of the residents and taxpayers of this great City who have provided the local match for the projects.

I am hoping that our conversation has been good, informative and engaging and that we will have the opportunity to talk in detail about these issues in the spring. Until then, take care and stay safe.

Your Mayor, Dick Pouliot

**THE MANAGER'S CORNER
BY JARED OLSON**



Whether we like it or not, it is hard to believe that we are now closing the door on 2014 and opening a new one with 2015. The snow started off in hurry this fall but hopefully we can escape this winter without the arctic vortex and major snowstorms of last year. Fingers crossed.

As we brace for the upcoming months of cold and snow, there are already several projects in line for the upcoming spring and summer. One of which I am personally very excited about is the new playground that is being planned for Bieth Park this upcoming spring.

Before we go into the project, we can address one of the most usual questions. Where is Bieth Park? The park is located directly adjacent to the fair grounds and includes the current basketball courts, shuffleboard courts, and numerous other recreational activities. The park itself was donated to the city in 1957 by the Bieth family and for decades contained a staple of the community, the village pool.

The current Bieth Park has seen numerous changes over the last fifty years and will undoubtedly see many more in the coming future. One of the top priorities coming up is a new all-inclusive playscape that is planned to be installed in the late spring of 2015. In conjunction with the Caro Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council, we have begun a sizeable adventure in creating a cornerstone playground for the residents of the Caro community.

The City Council challenged the Parks committee to create a

plan to not only utilize tax dollars but to seek out grants and other funding sources in order to create as big of improvement as possible. As of the writing of this newsletter the current funding has reached over \$60,000 with grants coming from the Tuscola County Community Foundation Janks Fund, the Future Youth Involvement Fund, the Neal Sisters Foundation, and other local business donations. The council has also earmarked \$30,000 for the improvement. Even with the early successes of raising funds for the project, over the next several months even more fundraising and grants will be sought. The current fundraising goal for the project is \$100,000 so we are roughly 60% to totally funding the project.

The proposed playscape itself will include numerous activity stations, climbing challenges, and elevated play activities and will also be fully ADA compliant and accessible. Not only will it comply with all ADA standards but the goal is to go above and beyond the basic requirements to create a truly all inclusive playscape in order to include everyone within the community.

Hopefully your New Year's resolutions are successful and that the winter isn't too harsh on everyone. If you would like more information on the Bieth Park Playscape, please do not hesitate to call us at City Hall, or as always, please feel free to stop in!

**A WORD FROM THE CLERK
BY KAREN J SNIDER, CMC**

Administrative staff hopes you had a wonderful holiday season. It's a busy time of year and we are wrapping up all the odds and ends from 2014 and opening our new year with enthusiasm for the exciting things to come for the City of Caro.

As a reminder, winter taxes are due by March 2, 2015 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 3, 2015.

The City of Caro will be conducting a special election on February 24, 2015 at the Caro Municipal Building. There will be two special Tuscola County millages on the ballot, as well as a school bond proposal. Polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Remember to VOTE.

Administration and support staff would like to thank the residents for allowing us to be of service to each and every one of you and we look forward to the 2015 year.

CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF NEWCOMB



Happy Holidays from the Caro Police Department...It is our hope that all of you have a safe holiday season. With that said, it is winter and with winter comes snow which leads to hazardous driving conditions. For Caro City residents or those that visit during the winter months, this is a reminder that parking overnight on Caro Streets is prohibited. The streets need to remain clear for snow removal. Please refer to the City of Caro website at www.carocity.net, click on "Government". The drop down menu shows Code of Ordinances. Select "Part II- Code of Ordinances", Chapter 36-Traffic and Vehicles, Sec 36-49 Winter Parking Limited.

Winter parking limited.

No person shall park any vehicle upon any street between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. during the months of December, January, February, and March of each year.

One of the recent health topics concerns the EBOLA virus. This is in every day news articles. This is also a topic of conversation and planning with those law enforcement, fire and medical first responders nationwide. As a matter of keeping you informed, here are some facts that most citizens are not aware of. Hopefully this will prevent you from becoming overly concerned. At the current time, the procedures being implemented by the International, Federal, State and local levels have been created to prevent any outbreak of this virus in the United States. For instance, if for any reason a U.S. citizen or foreign visitor is traveling from a Country such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, or other country where there has been an outbreak of Ebola, and a flight originates from that country and is bound for the United States, it is diverted to one of 5 airports nationwide. The persons from that flight are immediately screened for signs or symptoms of the Ebola virus. Their destination within the US is then documented and the State and Local health departments notified. Those persons are then monitored for a period of 21 days and if they are symptom free, they then go about their normal lives. If not, there are designated "Tier One" medical centers/hospitals that have been designated to care and treat those with symptoms. For those travelers that are arriving every day within the US are screened through a series of questions as to their recent travels to determine if they are a risk in any way. What does this mean for you as a citizen of Caro or Tuscola County. It is a reassurance that plans are in place to protect you and your neighbors. Emergency planners involving medical, fire and police

have set up a plan to best protect the citizens within their respective areas. The Tuscola Health Department is aware of and will continue to stay on top of any developments concerning this virus.

For additional information, you can access the State of Michigan web site at www.michigan.gov/ebola or the Center for Disease Control (CDC) at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola.

SWEARING IN NEW POLICE OFFICERS



Jared Olson—City Manager, Ryan North, Alexander Jobes and Karen Snider—City Clerk

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 FIRE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



The official start of winter is December 21st. So now is a good time to plan ahead for those cold nights, and slippery roads that we will be facing soon.

Here are some helpful items to remember to do:

- Check the smoke detector batteries.
- Have your chimneys cleaned.
- Insure all candles are handled in a safe manner, and extinguished before leaving the house or going to bed. Candles still hold a spot within the top two reasons for house fires.
- Talk to your family about an escape route in the event of a fire.
- Establish a meeting place in the front yard somewhere.
- Have your heating units inspected.
- Carry a flashlight and blanket in your vehicle.
- Let someone know where you are going and possible time of arrival.
- Watch the weather forecast, and determine if you do have to go out.
- And never hesitate to call 911, we are more than happy to come and investigate even if you think there is a problem.

Please be safe, and have an enjoyable Holiday Season. For all fire related question, please contact the Fire Chief at 989-673-2002.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT CARO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Henry “Hank” Knier, Secretary of the Caro Board of Education, and Mike Joslyn, Caro Schools Superintendent, made a presentation to the City Council on December 1st as the “Business Spotlight”. Mr. Knier stated that the Caro Community School District is a true business with 293 employees and an average monthly payroll of approximately \$800,000 with many employees living in the city and supporting our community. He went on to highlight how our school is educating students with many different educational levels. We are able to “cultivate excellence” in our students by offering basic educational programs in addition to programs such as Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, Special Education, Alternative Education and a 4 year old Great Start Readiness Program. Our ultimate hope is that all graduates of Caro Community Schools will be productive members of society and hopefully, many of them will stay here in Caro and continue to support our great community.

Mr. Joslyn explained how the school is funded. Along with State Aid of \$7,251 per student, the school asks for community support through additional millage. The Board of Education is asking for community support of a bond election with a 2.6 mill increase on February 24, 2015. This is desperately needed to help update and maintain current infrastructure while focusing on areas such as Safety, Technology, Efficiency and Community. This bond, if passed, will generate \$12.5 million dollars and would be levied for 15 years. The existing levy of 4.1 mills is set to expire in 10 years.

More information can be accessed at the Caro Schools website: www.carok12.mi.us. Also, if you would like a presentation in regards to the bond with any groups you are involved with, please contact Mike Joslyn at mjoslyn@carok12.org.



ROADHOUSE MUSEUM BY GAIL LESOSKI



If you have not yet visited the Caro Roadhouse Museum, be sure to put it on your “to do” list in 2015. The museum belongs to the City of Caro and is overseen by a commission of seven people who meet monthly to plan events and discuss matters of importance to maintaining the historical value of our city and the surrounding area. We are located across from the entrance to the Tuscola County Fairgrounds at the intersection of Almer and Congress Streets. The Caro Roadhouse Museum is open for scheduled events several weekends each year, including our annual Salute to Soldiers, usually, planned for the weekend of Armed Forces Day in May, the Honoring Hometown Heroes event in September, and our holiday open house during Gingerbread Festival in December. Many other weekend events have highlighted delightful collections belonging to area residents and spotlighted local civic organizations. Our most recent show demonstrated the talent of our local seamstresses in a beautiful display of quilts from the past and present.

Because we are YOUR hometown museum, we encourage residents to contact us if they have collections to display or ideas for upcoming events at the museum. Remember that history is constantly developing, and what’s new today will become tomorrow’s history. For this reason, and because we have limited storage space, we don’t maintain a regular display of items in the museum; rather we change with each event and depend on the residents of the city of Caro and its surrounding townships to loan us their collectibles for a special weekend where others of the community are able to enjoy the items they have collected over the years. With the start of the 2015 year, it is time for you to look around your home and see what you have that you might enjoy sharing with other members of your community.

Please, contact the Caro Historical Commission through the Caro City Hall if you have a collection to loan to us for a show or items you would like to donate to our permanent collection for future display. We welcome your ideas and look forward to hearing from you.

Winter is a beautiful season but with it comes the danger of slipping and falling.



Please remember to keep your sidewalks and walks to your mailbox clear of ice and snow. The mail delivery people must be able to get to your mailbox to deliver your mail.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY CURTIS WELLS, SUPT



The staff at your Caro area Wastewater Treatment Plant hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and Christmas and are prepared for a prosperous New Year! We just had our beneficial biosolids land applied to a lucky farmer who received a little over 700,000 gallons of the liquid gold. Our renewal permit for

this facility should be in effect February 1st 2015..... Yes it has been 2 ½ years waiting. A friendly reminder that our RV dump will be closed for the season when the roads become icy and snow covered. And last but not least please remember that your disposable products do not mean flushable. Thank you!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council	Jan 5 & 19	7:30 p.m.
	Feb 2 & 16	7:30 p.m.
	Mar 2 & 16	7:30 p.m.
Planning	Jan 13	7:00 p.m.
	Feb 10	7:00 p.m.
	Mar 10	7:00 p.m.
DDA	Jan 14	Noon
	Feb 11	Noon
	Mar 11	Noon
Historical	Jan 28	6:30 p.m.
	Feb 25	6:30 p.m.
	Mar 25	6:30 p.m.
Parks & Rec	Jan 15	7:00 p.m.
	Feb 19	7:00 p.m.
	Mar 19	7:00 p.m.