



# City Voice

July 2014

City of Caro  
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Caro, Michigan 48723

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## ON A GOOD DAY BY: DICK POULIOT, MAYOR



Hello again. Summer is here, and as I write this we are enjoying the 80's...Forget those thirty-five days of below zero temperatures we had last winter; we are having a good day. In speaking of a "day," on the average workday in the City of Caro employees work 140-150 hours in a 24 hour period to provide services such as police protection, fire protection, water service (about 800k gallons per day), sewer treatment (about 1 million gallons per day), billing and receiving payments and administration duties, while at the same time maintaining around 40 miles of streets, lawn mowing, garbage pickup, brush chipping (as scheduled), tree trimming (as required), water main repairs, crossing guards as well as recreation programs. This all happens with about five less full time employees (compared to about 5 years ago) on what we consider to be a good day....

I'm excited to bring you updates on our various issues. Columbia Street project is a little behind schedule with the spring rains that we received, but we are still looking at completion around June 30<sup>th</sup>. The council has approved water main replacement for the block of Adams Street and Gardner Street. This is coupled with street rehabilitation on Adams Street, Gamble Street, and Gardner Street. Expected action at the June 16 council meeting includes bids being approved. The estimated cost for the paving project is around 75K and water line work is about 57K. Other projects that we are excited about are park projects (Beith Park). The council approved a 30K match monies to develop playground improvements, we have local civic groups that are planning to provide match monies to achieve greater improvements. We appreciate this joint effort and will keep you apprised of progress.

The last issues I'm glad to bring you an update on, and what was a good day for the city, is the Indianfields township attempt to annex their township cemetery into the city. I have written four letters now in the process of keeping you informed and letters of history and background that were sent to the State Boundary Commission. Please let me recap the timeline and events in this process as follows: On 05/10/2013 SBC received annexation petition request from township. Then on 10/03/13 SBC staff found petition legally sufficient, and on 10/09/13 commissioners supported finding and approved a public input hearing in Caro for 12/04/13. Input was received and recorded over a thirty-day period, and then another thirty day rebuttal after public input. Effectively, on 01/04/2014, all input was done, and the boundary staff reviewed all information and scheduled the adjudicative hearing for 06/11/14 for the commissioners to review, consider, and ask additional questions from involved parties, which they did. Mr. Andy Mulder (city attorney), Mike Henry (pro tem), Joe Greene, and myself attended. Mr. Mulder and I were questioned about the history of division of assets and past discussion in court referring to the cemetery, along with other information. Then after much discussion the State Boundary Commissioners voted 4-1 to DENY Indianfields township's petition for annexation, which could then result in the city owning the cemetery. It's very sad and very disappointing that the tax payers of the city and township have effectively paid twice to decide the cemetery question, once through the division of assets and once through the township's misguided attempt to annex their cemetery into the city to try to force city residents to pay for their operations. Moving forward in the process is the approval of the SBC minutes, then about thirty to forty days after, the director of LARA signs minutes, which starts a thirty-day appeal clock. The city can only hope that this has been resolved and no more taxpayer's dollars will

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be wasted for township people or the stakeholders of Caro. I would like to thank the city council, staff, and Mr. Andy Mulder, legal counsel, who were all very effective in bringing about this positive result.

To the great people of Caro: thanks and enjoy your summer. It has started to be a very busy one, and a good one... Mayor Pouliot

## THE MANAGER'S CORNER BY JARED OLSON



Happy Summer! With the warm weather and sunshine filling the city, there are several changes and activities beginning throughout our community. One of the most popular summer events to start back up is the Caro Farmers Market which in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce will

be operating every Saturday morning throughout the summer and is located along the courthouse lawn. Along with the farmers markets, our Thursday night Music in the Park events will be held at Atwood Park and will be sponsored in part by the City of Caro, the Caro Chamber of Commerce, and for 2014, a Janks Foundation grant from the Tuscola County Community Foundation.

Along with summer, come some exciting street projects throughout the community. Last fall the City of Caro was able to capture \$375,000.00 of state infrastructure funding which helped to enable the now nearly complete reconstruction of Columbia Street. The newly reworked Columbia Street should be a big change for the neighborhood and we truly appreciate the patience and cooperativeness of the property owners affected by the construction throughout the last few months. As the Columbia Street Project finishes up, we will be reworking West Gamble Street from Hooper to M-81 along with replacing top priority water lines along Adams and Gardner Streets. In addition to the street work, the City of Caro will be taking on sidewalk replacement projects along with smaller scale street work over the summer and into this coming fall. The maintenance of infrastructure within the community has been and will continue to be top priorities including leveraging as much outside grant funding in

order to accomplish as much as possible.

Another topic that often arises during the summer months is the continued enforcement of the numerous citywide blight ordinances. One of the most distinct changes that has been made in the blight enforcement office is the limiting of the brush chipping from a monthly program to only three times throughout the year. With limited DPW manpower, the city council has set the revised brush chipping policy as a way to continue the brush chipping services, although limited, instead of eliminating it all together. The result is that we at city hall will continue to educate and inform as many residents as possible of the changes. On a similar note, the City has continued to utilize and enforce our current noxious weed ordinance which becomes enforceable when weeds and grass reach a height of eight inches or higher. The entireties of the Caro blight ordinances ranging from trash can regulations to blighted buildings are available at both City Hall and on our website at [www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net).

As with most summers, I am sure that it will seem both too short and too hot, but with that said, I maintain an open door policy here at City Hall and welcome you to call me or stop in with any issues or questions that you may have.

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



Thanks to all our residents and guests for any inconvenience during the process of putting a face lift on the inside of City Hall. It has been a much needed project and it is amazing to see the end results. Most offices and hallways have been painted, new carpet and flooring installed and lights and ceiling switched out. The city switched to T-8 lighting which will save approximately 25% on energy bills per year. We hope you will visit us and check out the changes.

Also, remember to mark your calendar for August 5, 2014. It is the Primary Election and will be conducted at the Caro Municipal Building, 317 S. State Street for city residents. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. through 8 p.m. Qualified voters standing in line at 8 p.m. will be permitted to vote. Every Michigan voter who offers to vote in the polls must comply with Michigan's voter identification requirement by showing picture identification or signing an affidavit. Voters can satisfy the identification requirement by showing a Michigan driver's license or a Michigan personal identification

card. Voters who do not possess either document may show any of the following forms of picture identification as long as they are current: Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state; Federal or state government-issued photo identification; U. S. passport; military identification card with photo; student identification with a photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education; or tribal identification card with photo. Voters who do not bring picture identification to the polls or do not have picture identification can vote like any other voter by signing an affidavit.

Important dates to remember are:  
 July 7, 2014 – Last day to register for August primary  
 August 5, 2014 – State Primary Election  
 October 6, 2014 – Last day to register for November General Election  
 November 4, 2014 – State General Election

## WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY CURTIS WELLS, SUPT



The staff at your Caro area Waste water Treatment Plant would like to remind everyone that school is out! This means that children will be running about so be vigilant, keep watch for them, and help keep them safe.

The City also has several projects going around town so please be aware and courteous in these areas because we are all just trying to do our jobs.

Also a reminder that the RV dump at the waste water plant is open for use Monday through Friday 7am – 3:30pm. And as I have said before please also remember that disposable does not mean flushable. Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation.



CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED  
 ON FRIDAY JULY 4, 2014

IN OBSERVANCE OF  
 INDEPENDENCE DAY

## PUBLIC WORKS HIGHLIGHTS BY CHARLIE SUNDBLAD DPW SUPERINTENDENT



Summer is off to a good start with the weather. The Columbia Street project is moving along well. This summer we will be upgrading some water main on Gardner and E. Adams Street. Also, we will be repaving W. Gamble Streets. We are continuing the videoing of the sewers throughout the town. This will help us with solving some issues of inflow and infiltration which is ground water that seeps in through cracked piping in the sewer system.

Remember that the City does not allow raking or putting of grass clippings in the street gutters. Please put them in a container marked with an "X" and the garbage company will take them. Also, please remember that when you see someone working in the roadway to please take extra caution when driving around them. We at the DPW are doing our best to keep up with all of everything that we do. We may take a little longer than before but we will get there.

**CARO GARDEN CLUB**

INVITES THE PUBLIC FREE OF CHARGE

To the Small Standard Flower Show



**"ALL THE WORLD'S A GARDEN"**

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2014  
 12:00- 4:00 P.M.

CARO AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY  
 840 West Frank Street  
 Caro, MI

*Join us for a wonderful taste of summer and nature's bounty and beauty*

## CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



Summer is close at hand, with the warmer days comes the risk of severe weather. All fire departments in the county will be doing tests of their sirens. These tests are set up thru the County Emergency Services department. The sirens will be set off at ten o'clock on the first

Wednesday of every month thru the summer. The test will include three minutes of siren blasting, followed by three short blasts for the all clear. In the event of an actual tornado or threatening situation that could produce a tornado, the sirens will blast for the three minutes. This is not the time to look outside; it means get to safe cover immediately.

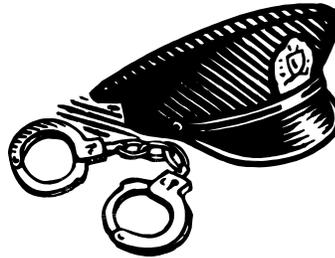
Spring and summer is also a good time to do yard work and sit around a camp fire. Please keep in mind there are laws and local ordinances regarding burning in and around the City limits. Burning of brush or leaves in the city limits is not permitted. Only "camp fire" designated above ground fire units with screened lid, burning only tree logs are permitted. No fire unit shall be lit and left unattended, nor shall it be located any closer than ten foot from any structure, and it cannot be under a tree or power line. The intent is for camp fire only, not burning yard waste. The Fire Chief, or acting incident commander, can at any time make a determination to have the fire put out if deemed unsafe or a nuisance to nearby neighbors. Outside city limits you are allowed to burn brush only. Garbage and building construction material are not allowed to be burned anytime, anywhere, in the State of Michigan.

"Fireworks:" we all have questions on what is legal. Fireworks are beautiful and can portray a sign of our freedom, but keep in mind when setting off any type there are risks and possible penalties if not done in a safe, legal manner. One thing to keep in mind is to be considerate of your neighbors. They may not share your enthusiasm about having things explode in the air, and at all hours of the day or night. Common safety should be adhered to every time you light off a firework. Keep everyone back; check wind direction and possible landing areas of burning debris. There are noise and nuisance laws that are in effect, that could incur fines and penalties. In the event the Fire Department is called to respond to a firework related incident, you may be entitled to pay for that run.

I've included in this newsletter three major concerns for this time of year, please read it carefully. If you have any questions regarding any fire issue, please call me at the station, 989-673-2002.

Have a great enjoyable Michigan Summer!

## CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF NEWCOMB



As we move into Spring and Summer, we do so with the memory of the winter of 13-14 and it's ferocity. I can't remember a winter so cold with so much snow that lasted for so long. As it gets warmer, out will come the motorcycles, bicycles, mopeds and pedestrians. The

Caro Police Department urges you to keep watch when driving so we don't have any injuries or tragic events this summer. With summer, we also have citizens who want to set off fireworks. Keep in mind, that under Caro City ordinance, it is a misdemeanor to use fireworks except the day before, day of and day after a national holiday, such as the fourth of July. If you choose to use fireworks outside of the law, the police department will take appropriate action. Also, please keep your neighbors in mind when you play radio's in your home and in your vehicle. Excessive noise is also a violation, not to mention annoying and disrespectful of your neighbors.

The Caro police department extends wishes for all of you to have a safe and fun filled summer.

## HANGING BANNERS

The City Council recently revised the policy for hanging banners in the city. The city contracts to a private company to hang the banners and, therefore; the fee schedule has been changed to reflect the amount the city pays to hang the banner(s).

1 Banner	\$180.00
2 Banners	\$360.00

The city does not charge any additional fees except the amount they pay to the contractor.

The full policy can be accessed on the city webpage at [www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net); under policies or by contacting city hall at 989-673-2226.

## Curbside Yard Waste

It is defined as grass clippings, trimmings from shrubs and trees, and other greenery from general yard maintenance. It will be collected as a separate waste stream from the refuse and garbage. Residents must use biodegradable paper sacks or plastic bins with attachable covers. All bins must be marked as YARD WASTE or have a large "X" on container. It cannot exceed fifty pounds.

## BRUSH 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. All piles of brush 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. This helps to speed up the chipping process. 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.

Caro City residents may take tree limbs, brush, stones and cement to the Luder Road land fill during the hours of operation, which at the present time are Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The dump will be closed during the winter months.

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

## DENNIS GILKEY RETIRES FROM DDA



Chairman Mike Bauerschmidt presents a clock to Dennis Gilkey for his 20 plus years of dedicated service on the Downtown Development Authority board. Dennis was extremely involved with the annual Better Business Awards and the creation of the downtown tax capture (TIFA) for the betterment of the downtown area.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council	July 7 & 21	7:30 p.m.
	Aug 4 & 18	7:30 p.m.
	Sept 2 & 15	7:30 p.m.
Planning	July 8	7:00 p.m.
	Aug 12	7:00 p.m.
	Sept 9	7:00 p.m.
DDA	July 9	Noon
	Aug 13	Noon
	Sept 10	Noon
Historical	July 23	6:30 p.m.
	Aug 27	6:30 p.m.
	Sept 24	6:30 p.m.
Parks & Rec	July 17	7:00 p.m.
	Aug 21	7:00 p.m.
	Sept 18	7:00 p.m.