



City Voice

July 2015

City of Caro
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WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR BY: DICK POULIOT, MAYOR



It is good to see and talk with you again. Does it seem possible to you that we are working our way through June and looking and making plans for the 4th?

Just the other day, while talking with my Mom, she said something to me that I noted and spent some time pondering. What she said was this, “We are living in a crazy world with a

lot of crazy and dangerous things going on, but we are lucky to live in a small, safe community”. Whenever someone mentions “community”, it piques my attention and interest for obvious reasons. Mom has been a lifelong resident of the Thumb and a resident of the Caro area for sixty plus years. She lives and enjoys her life with family, friends, and neighbors.

One example of good neighbors (that I will never forget) was when I was about twelve. It was the month of September. Upon arriving home on the bus from school, I saw three or four combines in my Dad’s field threshing beans. Normally, only one combine was used. What had happened was that Dad pulled 30 acres of beans, laying loose in neat rows. Strong, heavy winds came up and blew the rows of beans into huge piles that had to be pulled apart in order to be fed into the combine. Nearly one dozen neighbors came from miles around to help; that was normal practice in those days which made an impression on me back then and still does to this day - the example of neighbors working together for the good.

My wife, Teri, and I were talking just the other day about the homes next to us and across the street from us that have been sold and changed owners. We have witnessed “a changing of the guard” in reference to our neighbors and neighborhood. No longer are we “the new kids on the block” (sigh). The things we have taken away from this are how we were accepted, helped and encouraged as we raised our children in our neighborhood. I still have

thoughts of one major example of my family being the recipients of love and care from a good neighbor. I was working on a Saturday a few miles out of town (this was before cell phones). Teri and our children were home. My wife was working in the kitchen, and our daughter, Annalisa, was moving around in her walker. Teri took her eyes off of Annalisa for a minute. Our daughter managed to open the basement door, walking herself forward down 13 steps until the walker flipped forward, lodging her between the water heater and the last step. To this day, Teri can recall the sound of the walker hitting every step on the way down. Frightened and scared out of her mind, my wife ran down and grabbed Annalisa to take her to the hospital. On the way to the hospital, she stopped at our neighbor’s house across the street (Bill and Tammy McCool) to drop off our son, Nelson, and told Tammy where I was working. Tammy dropped what she was doing and drove out to tell me what had happened. What a blessing it was and still is to have a neighbor who cares enough to respond in great times of needs and personal crisis. My thanks and heartfelt sincerity goes out to the McCools to this day. Thank you, Tammy and Bill, for being the good neighbor. There is a good ending to the story. Annalisa was examined and found to be completely fine without as much as a scratch or bruise.

As mayor with council and staff, we watch a number of things in our town, community and neighborhoods to help
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promote a strong, safe and pleasant town in which to live. Homes are going to sell and, in that, neighbors change. We have the choice to be “the good neighbor” in the care for our homes, the sensitivity to our neighbors’ interests, needs, and wellbeing. Treat your neighbor with the respect and the understanding you would want to receive from them. This summer, share chitchat, a cold drink or, even better, a cookout if you can to build a better and safer neighborhood.

In closing, I’m going to share with you just a few facts and figures in regard to your city’s business. First, public hearings have taken place to complete and pass the budget for 2015-16. Some of the highlights are \$400,000 being spent on streets and infrastructure, \$150,000 for the expenditure to replace vacuum truck (that helps maintain storm sewers and helps with water line repairs). In the future, we have committed \$400,000 (fund balance or current savings) to future projects, the first of which will be the remodeling of our current municipal building to a new public safety building that will continue to house current activities with the addition of the police department; they will all be at the same site. The current police station has major structural problems with the floors and foundation settling. We also are setting aside \$700,000 from the fund balance for two major street projects to take place within the next three to four years. We are planning on rebuilding West Frank from Almer to Hooper Street and North Almer from Frank to Gilford Street.

Hoping to see you neighbors at the building of the playscape at Bieth Park, Music in the Park, or, eventually, at the Pumpkin Festival.

Until then, all the best regards.
Your Mayor

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



Happy Summer! As the warm weather, sunshine, and new growth start filling the city, there are several upcoming projects that that are very exciting. This upcoming summer and fall are to be filled with street construction, water main work, and citywide

upgrades to ensure a strong future.

One of the most exciting and what will end up being one

of the most noticeable projects will be numerous local street rehabilitation projects. Caro was fortunate enough to receive a \$55,000 grant from the DEQ to utilize a scrap tire mixture into our local asphalt work which will add over half a mile of street work to the fall projects. The grant will not only help with improving the infrastructure throughout the city but also helps deal with the pollution and waste of tires within our environment. On top of our street paving grant, the city council approved over three hundred thousand dollars to go towards local street rehabilitation projects. Overall, by mid-fall, there should be miles of newly rehabbed streets throughout the City of Caro. Along with the paving, there are also several areas of town that will be receiving upgraded water mains including South Kinyon, Atwood and West Bush Street between Palmer and Sheridan. 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.

Along with helping reduce pollution through the scrap tire grant that the city was awarded, there are two other environmentally friendly projects that we are undertaking throughout the city. The first is the replacement of all 220 overhead street lights throughout the city. We have partnered with DTE to upgrade the traditional high pressure sodium and other existing street lights to comparable LED’s that will use significantly less power while delivering the same coverage. Along with upgrading all the traditional streetlights, the city has already begun changing out all the exterior lights at all of our municipal facilities. These two projects are expected to be completed throughout July and August and should cause almost no interruptions or street closures. When complete, not only will the LED fixtures use significantly less power but the pay back on the upfront costs will be paid back in just over three years of usage and from that point forward, our overall annual power bill will be reduced by roughly \$20,000.

These projects are not only helping maintain and build a strong community, but in many cases, will allow for an improved environment too. As always, I maintain an open door policy at City Hall and welcome you to call me or stop in with any issues or questions that you may have.

Thinking about filling your pool?



If you have a fairly large pool, you may want to contact the water department at 673-2226 to get a meter read before and after filling your pool. There is a \$15.00 fee for each read but you will not get charged on the sewer usage for the amount of water used to fill your pool.

A WORD FROM THE CLERK BY KAREN J SNIDER, CMC

This is the beginning of a new fiscal year for the City of Caro and I am pleased to announce that the City of Caro ended its' last fiscal year with a very positive note. For the first time in a long time, revenues came in over budget and expenditures came in under budget. The City has been extremely conservative with their spending for the past several years and it has come back to reward us with a good year.

There will not be an election in August for the City of Caro. It is good having a break since we have conducted two already in 2015. The 2016 Presidential Primary will be held March 8, 2016.

Staff was honored to work with Kayliegh Culbert, a 6th grade student from Caro Middle School this past year who was doing community service for her social studies class. Kayliegh put in several hours of assisting office staff with different projects.

CARO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT VOLUNTEERS AT CITY HALL



Kayliegh Culbert, Student and Karen Snider—
City Clerk

BIETH PARK PLAYScape



The Bieth Park Playscape was completed and installed with the help of numerous grants and donations including the Tuscola County Community Foundation, the William and Ruth Janks Fund, the Don List Fund, the Future Youth Involvement Fund, The Neal Sisters Foundation, The Steven and Kathryn Bandstra Foundation, the Caro Rotary Club, Chemical Bank, Michigan Sugar Company, Poet Biorefining, Dick and Jan Fullmer, Ransford Collon Funeral Home, Tom Striffler and family, Tom and Barbara Doran, Anderson Tuckey Bernhardt and Doran, P.C. , Joe and Beth Greene and Family, Pro-Build of Caro, The Caro Knights of Columbus, the Tuscola County Fair Board, The Caro Gleaner Arbor, the Kiwanis Club of the Caro Area, John and Shari Macnowski, Mission 1-Caro Crossfit along with Dick, Francis, and Paul Laethem in memory of George Bieth.

THINK FIRE SAFETY BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



It's the start of summer, and with that there will be a lot of outdoor activities that we all will be taking part in. Fireworks, backyard camp fires, and yard clean up just to mention a few. Be safe with all you do. Do not let children play unattended with

fireworks or around any fire. Always have an adult present. Please call whenever you decide to burn, this will keep you informed of conditions that may not be suitable for fires.

With summer also comes the possibility for bad weather. Be prepared, and listen close to radio and TV announcements regarding any dangerous conditions. During and after a bad storm, power lines may be down in your area. Note that a power line on your neighbors fence may electrify anything it comes in contact with, including your fence. Please inspect the area before allowing any one to go out after a storm. Watch carefully for lines lying in the grass. All Fire Departments in the County will be doing siren tests the first Wednesday of each month at approximately 10 a.m.

When calling for a burn permit, please be advised that the answering machine message is designed only for out of City limits, in the Townships in which the Caro Fire Department is contracted in. For any questions regarding in town burning, please leave your name and number, for a call back from the Fire Chief. For all fire related questions and burn permits please contact the Fire Chief at 989-673-2002.

SWEARING IN NEW FIREFIGHTER



Fire Chief Randall Heckroth, Calvin Keilitz (firefighter) and City Clerk Karen Snider

CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF NEWCOMB



The officers of the Caro Police Department wishes everyone a happy and safe summer. With that in mind, we would like to remind everyone that as we roll into summer, there is always the possibility of summer storms, tornado's etc.

I recently was asked about notification systems for City of Caro residents. With the summer approaching, there are several ways to obtain weather alerts in the Caro/ Tuscola county area. The NIXLE alert system also allows the Caro Police Department to send community notices, disaster alerts, road blockages, etc. to the community members that sign up for this service through www.nixle.com. The service is free. Another service available locally is the alert system through the Tuscola County Advertiser. It is available to anyone by logging into www.tuscolatoday.com. At the top of the page, select "alerts" and sign up. You will receive alerts by cell phone/text and email. Additional weather alerts can be obtained free of charge through www.accuweather.com. This will also send weather alerts to your email.

There have been questions about a former alert system called "code red". The City of Caro does not contract with nor subscribe to code red. Therefore we do not have the ability to utilize the code red system to generate local notifications. This is now done through Nixle. I believe that code red does forward alerts nationally that are generated by the national weather service. If you have further questions, please submit an email to me, Chief Newcomb at b.newcomb@caropolice.org.

Also with any natural disaster, individual preparedness is encouraged. There is a program through FEMA that helps individuals with preparing for the unexpected. The program is **Do 1 Thing**, emergency preparedness for individuals.

Do 1 Thing is a web-based twelve month preparedness program that focuses on a different area of emergency preparedness each month, and provides a range of preparedness options for each topic. Every month has a low or no-cost option to become better prepared. We give you a choice of three things you can do, then you choose one. To become better prepared in the event of an unexpected disaster, just look up www.do1thing.com/individuals and either work from the website or download their PDF month to month preparation schedule. This is a must if you want to make sure you are prepared for summer...

SWEARING IN NEW PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER



Antoine LaPratt part-time police officer and Karen Snider—City Clerk

COMING SOON!
A new look to our City Website
www.carocity.net

WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY CURTIS WELLS, SUPT



The staff at your Caro Area Wastewater Treatment Plant would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Summer. Thank goodness those -25 degree days are behind us.

Camping season is upon us and the RV dump is open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for those who wish to utilize it. Please remember to stop after pulling into our facility to register before proceeding to the dump area.

Please also keep aware of the children who are out of school and out running around. And last but never least please remember....disposable does not mean flushable....anything other than toilet paper should be put in the trash. Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation.

ROADHOUSE MUSEUM BY GAIL LESOSKI



The Caro Historical Commission has just completed our first event of the 2015 season. It was a highly successful tribute to the veterans of the Vietnam War and the events of the 60s. We had a steady stream of

visitors and were able to spend individual time with each one to answer questions and discuss their experiences. Guests came from nearly every town in Tuscola County to view the displays and connect with other vets. One gentleman, in full uniform and wearing all of his medals, had a caregiver from Heritage Hill bring him and a lady friend to the event to make sure our Vietnam vets know that they are honored by vets of the Korean War and WWII. It was a very special moment for us all.

In addition, The Caro Roadhouse Museum has begun collaboration with the Frankenmuth Military and Space Heroes Museum, which is mutually beneficial, by allowing us to display items from their collections of military memorabilia, giving them increased exposure to towns outside Frankenmuth, and providing you with an opportunity to get a little taste of what their museum has to offer. Keep in mind that they are always looking for more items to add to their displays and can provide respectful treatment of your military collections. Anything from the Spanish-American War and WWI to the current time is welcome, and they could especially use items from the Vietnam Era.

Our next event will be coming soon, June 27 and 28, the weekend of the County-Wide



Museum Consortium Open House, when several of the museums around Tuscola County will be open for a FREE weekend of entertainment and education. Our

contribution to this enjoyable weekend will be "Carocopia". Please, look through your collections at home to see if you have items from businesses or celebrations in Caro's past with "Caro" engraved or printed on them. We would love the opportunity to

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borrow them from you to share with the public during this open house. You can contact us by leaving a message at the Caro City Hall (989-673-2226) or email Pat at: pfrazer@tuscolaisd.org, and we will be in touch with you.

Also, keep in mind our annual Patriots' Day event in September, honoring our Fire, Police, and Rescue professionals, plus a display related to our flag, followed by the History of Girl Scouting during Pumpkin Festival. As always, any items you loan us for these events will be returned to you at the end of the event.

THE CARO GARDEN CLUB



The Caro Garden Club has been serving our community since 1930. Our objective is to stimulate the knowledge and care of our environment,

encouraging love of gardening, contributing to our community's beautification (we regularly care for four (4) Caro community gardens), and to develop the artistic use of all flowers, herbs, and vegetables, while aiding in the conservation of soil and water, native trees and plants. We aggressively support the preservation of birds, butterflies and bees, and promote a helpful spirit of community fellowship.

We have nine (9) monthly presentations scheduled for the July 2015-June 2016 time period, which is listed below. A meal is served at 12 noon and the program's presentation follows.

Wednesday, July 29, 2015
"The Art of Gardening Design"
Sheryl Piche, Advertising & Design Instructor
Tuscola Technology Center

Wednesday, August 26, 2015
"With high school students & conservation office specialist will present techniques and results of water testing"
Sue Nearing, Advanced Master Gardener & CGC Member

Wednesday, September 30, 2015
"How the Michigan State Garden Club fund 4-H projects in Belize, Central America" – A power point presentation
Kit Gunn, World Gardening Chairman, Michigan Garden Club

Wednesday, October 29, 2015
"A history and modern day of a Spice Trail from China to America"
Diana Bondy, CGC & past Master Gardener

Wednesday November 18, 2015
"Pumpkins & Squash...our American heritage..."
Charlene Holloway, CGC member

Wednesday, January 27, 2016
"Saving Seeds"
Melissa Armstrong, Assistant Librarian & Seed Specialist

Wednesday, March 30, 2016
"A Beed by Any Other Name"
Linda Mason, Advanced Master Gardener & CGC Member

Wednesday April 27, 2016
"Gardens of Coordinated Color from throughout the USA"
A power point presentation
Terry Klein, Composition Photographer, Teka Pix

Wednesday, June 29, 2016
"Frogs" and "More Frogs"
Lori Weingartz and Sarah Weingartz
Mother/Teacher Caro Elementary School
Daughter/Student/Naturalist

Prospective members are asked to call 48 hours in advance of the program date, to determine the location of the presentation and to ensure an appropriate amount of lunch is prepared. Please call:

- MariAnn Saenen – 386-872-1536
- Sue Nearing – 989-823-3607
- Diana Bondy – 989-683-2123
- Kathy Sauber - 989-673-7691
- Peter Diller – 989-672-0714

We welcome your call.

Caro Garden Club



MUSIC IN THE PARKS 2015 ATWOOD PARK SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Musical Group
June 4, 2015	6:30 p.m.	High School Jazz Band
	7:30 p.m.	The Sun Shiners
June 11, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Finnigan - Tom Krause
	7:30 p.m.	Finnigan - Tom Krause
June 18, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Tom & Jerry Show
	7:30 p.m.	Tom & Jerry Show
June 25, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Random Band - Mike Sattelberg
	7:30 p.m.	Random Band - Mike Sattlelerg
July 2, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Dixie Hwy Band
	7:30 p.m.	Dixie Hwy Band
July 9, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Sunshine String Band
	7:30 p.m.	Sunshine String Band
July 16, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Generations
	7:30 p.m.	Mike Schmuck
July 23, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Bob & Teresa Lamrock
	7:30 p.m.	Bob & Teresa Lamrock
July 30, 2015	6:30 p.m.	The Sun Shiners
	7:30 p.m.	John Timko
Aug 6, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Wayne LaPratt
	7:30 p.m.	Wayne LaPratt
Aug 13, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Matt Wahl
	7:30 p.m.	Dark & Starbright
Aug 20, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Tom & Jerry Show
	7:30 p.m.	Tom & Jerry Show
Aug 27, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Random Band - Mike Sattelberg
	7:30 p.m.	Random Band - Mike Sattelberg



LUDER ROAD LANDFILL

The Caro City residents may take tree limbs, brush, stones and clean concrete to the Luder Road landfill on Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be a \$5.00 per axle fee for stone and/or concrete. The dump is located approximately 5 miles north on Luder Road on the left side of the road.

PUBLIC WORKS HIGHLIGHTS BY CHARLIE SUNDBLAD DPW SUPERINTENDENT

Summer is off to a good start with the weather. This summer we will be upgrading some watermain on S. Kinyon, Atwood and W. Bush Streets. Also, we will be repaving several streets throughout the city. 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 everything that we do. We may take a little longer than before but we will get there.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council	July 6 & 20	7:30 p.m.
	Aug 3 & 17	7:30 p.m.
	Sept 8 & 21	7:30 p.m.
Planning	July 14	7:00 p.m.
	Aug 11	7:00 p.m.
	Sept 15	7:00 p.m.
DDA	July 8	Noon
	Aug 12	Noon
	Sept 9	Noon
Historical	July 22	6:30 p.m.
	Aug 26	6:30 p.m.
	Sept 23	6:30 p.m.
Parks & Rec	July 16	7:00 p.m.
	Aug 20	7:00 p.m.
	Sept 17	7:00 p.m.