



# City Voice

October 2012

City of Caro  
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## THE MANAGER'S CORNER BY BRENT D. MORGAN



### *Another Construction Project*

In 2010 it was Hooper Street, 2011 East Burnside Street and now West Sherman Street. The City of Caro is committed to reinvesting in its infrastructure and for three consecutive years we have leveraged tax dollars to make significant improvements.

The City has received a total of approximately \$1 million dollars in grant funding to make these improvements. Each of these projects have started in late summer and finished up in the Fall. When the construction is completed residents will see an improved delivery of water and sewer services, smoother roads to travel, safer sidewalks, and more parking. Unfortunately, construction can be messy and inconvenience to residents at times.

The West Sherman Street Project has a substantial completion date of November and our contractor and engineering firm are working diligently to meet this date. So if you decide to walk West Sherman Street to witness these improvements, we encourage you to use caution. It is important to remember that the large construction equipment is dangerous and operators are concentrating on the job at hand. Please do not approach the equipment and instruct children to stay away from the equipment.

Moreover, the roadway under construction is closed to thru traffic so resident need to adjust their daily routes accordingly and utilize the marked detours. Every effort has been made for residents of the project area to have access to their properties. However, there will be times when access will not be attainable due to extensive and deep utility construction that is required.

Once again we thank you for your patience during this construction project and do not hesitate to contact us if you

have any questions or concerns. You can be assured that the benefits of these projects will last much longer than the Fall construction seasons you have endured for the past three years.

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Gambles Hardware has a long history in Caro and our downtown location has been a hardgoods/hardware store since the late 1800's. It has had several different owners over the years and is now a Do it Best Hardware run by Jeremy, Jason and Hank Kuhne.

The store was

purchased in 2007 from Rex and Carrol Ellsworth who operated it the past 31 years. Since taking over, the whole store has been re-merchandised and the inventory has more than doubled. The Kuhnes' have opened a full line gun shop on the second floor.



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## THE CHANGE OF FALL BY DICK POULIOT, MAYOR



Hello:

I hope you had a great summer; it was one of the better ones for the water enthusiast or those who spent time on any of the many shore lines in our Thumb area...great for swimming, water skiing and boating, to say the least. On a personal note, I bought my first canoe from an online

action website and plan to do some canoeing on our Cass River yet this season. It was a very hot summer - some days better spent inside with the A/C running (as I mentioned to my family a couple of times, a little too many hot days for my choosing). It was also too dry for our agricultural folks whose efforts we are thankful for and an industry which we are very dependent on. Ironically, some places received too much rain - we went from one extreme to another. My thoughts are that most of us welcome the change of season, the cool, crisp air and bright sunny days.

I reflect on this season as Mother Nature's way of celebrating the end of summer parties and the start of fall colors and the comfortably warm afternoon temps. I feel that, as a society, we celebrate the season with harvest parties, Pumpkin Festival, and Halloween get-togethers with family and friends. I always enjoy apple and pumpkin pies and dunking for apples (especially when you could hold your sister's head under water). The other change that takes place is the time change (falling back) and the opportunity to make changes in eating and exercise habits (walking or riding bikes) and getting back to seeing folks who were away during the summer.

Speaking of change is one we now see on Sherman Street, where together local and State funds were used in a street/water line/sewer line project. If you get the chance, take a walk down Sherman after work and you'll see the improvements we are making with our resources. I have personally made the trip a few times and plan on making more - perhaps we will meet and get to talk. There are other changes you will soon see. We were able to order a new snowplow truck to replace the 26-year-old truck. At the upcoming council meeting of the 17th, the council is most likely to consider the purchase of a new police car to replace old vehicles. Accompanied with appropriate staff recommendations, these changes were considered in our spring budget sessions.

So as you can see, more than the season is changing. I hope that you will be able to get out and enjoy this celebrated season we look forward to and are so blessed with each year.

Best Regards,

Mayor Pouliot

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



The City of Caro will be conducting the General Election November 6 at the Caro Municipal Building, 317 S. State Street for city residents. The city residents who are in precinct 1 will vote in the fire hall and precinct 2 will vote in the council chambers. Polls open at 7 a.m.

and close at 8 p.m. The last date to register for this election is October 9. To view a sample ballot go to [www.tuscolacounty.org](http://www.tuscolacounty.org) and on the home page scroll to Sample Election Ballot (November 6, 2012) and click on "view". This will allow you to preview the ballot before the election.

The City of Caro will be mailing tax bills December 1, 2012. The City collects the taxes on the December bill for the following entities: Caro Area District Library, Caro Transit Authority, County Special Voted Millages, MCF Renovation, Caro School – debt, Caro School – operating and Tuscola Intermediate School. The December 1 taxes (known as the winter tax) are due February 28, 2013.

Check the City web at [www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net) to get the Trick or Treat date and hours. It will also be in the Tuscola County Advertiser.

If you have any questions, please call the Clerk/Treasurer at 989-673-7671.



## MAYOR EXCHANGE DAY WITH THE CITY OF VASSAR

The City of Caro would like to thank everyone who participated or donated to the Mayor Exchange Day held on July 3, 2012.



Left to Right—Vassar Council Member Nancy Wade, City of Caro Mayor Dick Pouliot, Vassar Council Member Ted Gamet



Left to Right—Vassar Council Member Ted Gamet, City of Caro Mayor Dick Pouliot, Caro Council Member Charlotte Kish, Vassar Council Member Nancy Wade, Caro Council Member Joe Greene

**Please Remember to Vote  
November 6, 2012**

## WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY CURTIS WELLS WWTP SUPERINTENDENT

Thank goodness cooler weather is here. It is my favorite time of the year. Our children are back in school (please watch for buses and children) and the fall colors are changing. Unfortunately we are still experiencing some illegal dumping of substances other than domestic raw sewage. We are asking for everyone's help in finding the persons responsible so please keep your eyes and ears tuned for anything out of the ordinary, and if you see or hear anything... call (911). The collapsed digester cover that was removed last year was finally demolished and hauled away. Also we just had almost 1 million gallons of beneficial biosolids land applied, as well as the primary digester cleaned and some minor repairs done. And finally the RV dump station will continue to be open until we start receiving freezing weather. Thank you again for your continued efforts to keep **YOUR** Caro Area Wastewater Treatment plant running smoothly.

## PUBLIC WORKS HIGHLIGHTS BY CHARLIE SUNDBLAD DPW SUPERINTENDENT

Well summer is just about over and that means that leaf season is soon to be upon us. The leaf pickup schedule will be in the paper, on the radio, on the sign at city hall and included at the end of this newsletter. You may want to keep the **NOTICE** for leaf pickup in a handy place to refer back to for dates and zones. When putting your leaves in the street **PLEASE** do not put grass clippings or sticks in the piles as this will plug the equipment.

The last day for brush pickup will be October 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember there is a brush policy regarding how much we will pickup. If you need a copy of the policy you can get one from city hall or on the city web site. If you have more than the allotted amount you can take it to the Luder Road dump.

We will be flushing hydrants the week of October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Sherman Street project has begun and is progressing fine. Also, now that school has started please look out for kids.

## CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



This week will mark the official start of the fall season in Michigan. With that comes the time for preparation for the coming winter.

This is a good time to check and change those smoke detector batteries. Also clean the detector by blowing out any dust inside the unit. Always test the detector before replacing it back in place.

With the upcoming cold weather and the start up of heating units, it's a good time to have them cleaned and inspected by a professional, to insure safe operation. All questions on installing wood or corn burners can be answered by contacting Building Codes at 672-3750.

October is fire prevention month. Have a plan of what to do in case of a fire. Go over the plan with all your family members to insure they all know what to do. The Fire Department can offer several pamphlets to help in being Fire Safe. Call or stop in to receive this free information.

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer. Installing a detector is greatly encouraged. The gas is colorless and odorless. A detector could provide your family the needed notice of such a potential threat.

Last, please note all in town burning ordinances for open burning, There is no burning of leaves. The City will pick up your leaves when put on the streets properly. Be safe and know the rules. Call the Fire Chief at 989-673-2002 for all your burning questions.

Thank you,  
Caro Fire Chief Randall Heckroth



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

Have a Safe and Happy  
New Year's

## SWEARING IN OF NEW FIREFIGHTERS



Fire Chief Randall Heckroth, Andrew Ritter,  
and City Clerk Karen Snider



Fire Chief Randall Heckroth, Jeremiah Stirling,  
and City Clerk Karen Snider

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Tim Sala is the owner of The Chirofit, a state of the art chiropractic clinic, providing massage therapy, cold laser therapy, whole body vibration therapy, spinal decompression, electrical muscle stimulation, ultra sound, custom orthotics

and much more. The office opened on June 4, 2012 at 604 S State Street, Caro MI and hours are Monday and Wednesday 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 2 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The phone number is 989-672-1095.

# CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF BRIAN NEWCOMB

# ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT BY JERRY THORP

School is back in session and that means children walking home from school. As a reminder to those parents that pick up their children from the high school, middle school or McComb school, if you are exiting the main driveway south of McComb school, it is a violation to turn left onto Hooper Street. You may go directly across Hooper via Gibbs street or turn right onto Hooper. The Caro Police Department will be enforcing this and appreciate your cooperation. The children and the crossing guards will be much safer. Also, please keep in mind that if you are traveling on State Street at Burnside, the children will be crossing there also. There has been an ongoing problem with motorists failing to yield to pedestrians. Please remember that Pedestrians have the right of way, always.

The Caro Police Department has requested the City Council create an ordinance regarding the use of fireworks. A new state law allows the possession and use of fireworks and also allows for fireworks on federal holidays, the day before federal holidays and the day after federal holidays. If enacted by the City Council, the proposed city ordinance would make the use or discharge of fireworks a violation on any other day unless you obtain a permit to do so.

There still appears to be some confusion with some city residents as to whether they should call the Caro Police Department directly or Tuscola Central Dispatch to request the police. ***If you need the Caro Police, we have a patrol 24/7. We may not be in the station, therefore, please call 989 673 8738 for non-emergencies and 911 for emergencies. Tuscola Dispatch will send a Caro car to you. If you wish, you may ask for a car to meet you at the station for police reports.***

The fall and winter holiday season is approaching and Caro Police wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season. We will see you at the Tuscola Pumpkin Parade and Car Show, October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.



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

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday

Fall is right around the corner!

The warm summer has generated an unusually large number of trees being removed, either by the City or property owners. Several questions were received at my desk about brush, branches, etc., and what the owners need to do for disposal of these items by the City.

The DPW will pick up piles of brush up to 4 ft wide, 4 ft high, and 6 ft long. All branches must be less than 4 inches in diameter, and placed by the curb with the cut end toward the street and neatly stacked. The City will NOT pick up whole trees or large amounts of brush. Pickup is done on the first Monday of each month, April through October.

As a reminder; some property owners are NOT mowing and controlling the weed growth in the area between the sidewalks and curb. This IS your responsibility and charges by our City contractors will be levied against the property with a \$20 administrative fee, if we have to mow it.

I thank all those property owners/residents who continue to maintain full compliance with several Ordinances that come under my responsibility to oversee, and makes my job a more pleasant existence on a daily basis.

Thank you!



## UPCOMING MEETINGS



Council	Oct 1 & 15	7:30 p.m.
	Nov 5 & 19	7:30 p.m.
	Dec 3 & 17	7:30 p.m.
Planning	Oct 9 & 23	7:00 p.m.
	Nov 13 & 27	7:00 p.m.
	Dec 11 & 18	7:00 p.m.
DDA	Oct 10	Noon
	Nov 14	Noon
	Dec 12	Noon
Historical	Oct 24	6:30 p.m.
	Nov 28	6:30 p.m.
	Dec	No Meeting
Parks & Rec	Oct 18	7:00 p.m.
	Nov 15	7:00 p.m.
	Dec 20	7:00 p.m.

## **CITY OF CARO BRUSH CHIPPING POLICY #06-001**

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

The City of Caro's Department of Public Works (DPW) chips brush on the first Monday of the month. Brush chipping season runs from the first Monday in April through the first Monday in October. All brush should be out for collection no later than 7:30 a.m. on pick up day.

#### **Brush Chipping**

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.

If your brush was not picked up today, it was because of one or more of the following. Please take note of the problem and correct it for the next pick up. **Thank you.**

- Your pile of brush was larger than 4x4x6. Only that amount was taken. Longer limbs and branches are preferred, but should not be longer than one man can reasonably lift.
- Your branches were not placed neatly at the curb with the cut edges toward the road.
- You had one or more stumps or roots that will not go through the chipper.
- You placed small, spindly trimmings or clippings that will not go through the chipper.
- You had one or more branches that were twisted and gnarled or had a large "V" fork in them and would not go through the chipper.

## **CITY OF CARO LEAF PICK UP POLICY #06-010**

### **A friendly reminder that residents should not put leaves into the gutters.**

The City of Caro's Department of Public Works (DPW) will be picking up leaves according to zones. Leaves will be picked up in the Fall only. Leaves will be picked up until snow is on the ground.

#### **Leaf Pick Up Preparation**

Residents should rake their leaves into curb. No other debris should be included in the piles such as rocks, grass clippings or sticks.

# NOTICE

The City of Caro leaf pickup schedule is as follows:  
 (Schedule and map available online at [carocity.net](http://carocity.net))

**ZONE 1** September 17th to September 21st  
**ZONE 2** September 24th to September 28th  
**ZONE 3** October 1st to October 5th

**ZONE 1** November 19th to November 23rd  
**ZONE 2** November 26th to November 30th

**ZONE 1** October 8th to October 12th  
**ZONE 2** October 15th to October 19th  
**ZONE 3** October 22nd to October 26th

**ZONE 3** December 3rd to December 7th

**ZONE 1** October 29th to November 2nd  
**ZONE 2** November 5th to November 9th  
**ZONE 3** November 12th to November 16th

