



# City Voice

October 2015

City of Caro  
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Caro, Michigan 48723

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Volume 9, Issue 4

## BEING THE RECIPIENT OF GRATITUDE WHILE FEELING ASHAMED BY: DICK POULIOT, MAYOR



I have always felt that I have been a public servant while at the same time serving the community. I have experienced and participated in some very rewarding service projects in the 20 some years that I have been on the City Council.

There is one, however, that is very current that I would like to share with you at this time. I also feel that our newsletter offers a time to talk and allows me to share community events, projects and other noteworthy information to help the community as a whole. On that note, I will share information about a program that I was very impressed with and that serves our community well. In addition, it explains the title of this article.

I experienced strange emotions while working with this program to a point that it reminded me of a quote out of the poem, "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe. " Let my heart be still a moment and this mystery explore". I am talking about the program, "Spoonfuls of Plenty". There are some great people involved in this program, including Shelly Schulz, Nutrition Manager; Julie Pearson, Cook; Sandra Gould, Leader; Jamie Reinke, Director. These people, along with a number of community organizations, churches and individuals (approximately 71 total) help to feed our hungry neighbors. "Spoonfuls of Plenty" is designed to provide a good home-style meal to those who may be struggling to stretch their food budget. "Spoonfuls of Plenty" began a little over five years ago this past July and since then has served over 20,000 meals to friends and neighbors in our community. Volunteer help and donations are accepted at each meal to help sponsor meals. If you are interested in sponsoring a meal for \$250.00 or volunteering, contact Jamie at 989-553-4034 or [Jamier@HDC-Caro.org](mailto:Jamier@HDC-Caro.org).

When I volunteered for "Spoonfuls of Plenty", I served food on the line and had the opportunity to meet and greet many people and converse with them. Approximately 90 some folks were served that evening. Many (and I mean many) thanked us for the food and the service as they left for the evening. The experience was very rewarding and unique in receiving their **gratitude**, while feeling **ashamed** that I hadn't participated in such a great program prior to that evening. Personally, I am determined to return and serve again. I'm sharing this with you so that you might also have the same great experience.

In closing, there are a number of ongoing City projects as this letter is typed, of which I plan to give a much more detailed report on in the next newsletter. The most recent service project that was another great and rewarding experience was the building of the Playscape at Bieth Park. This project brought together many individuals and many different contributions and resulted in a positive outcome. This is a great tribute to the quality of the individuals and a great reflection on the positive energy of this community. Let's look at a few numbers in reference to the playscape. Currently, the total amount donated is \$56,400 from 24 separate entities including two benches and a welcome donor recognition sign that the Gleaners will be putting up. The total project cost, including

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those items, is \$107,200.00 with close to 53% of that amount being donations. A total of 49 volunteers showed up and actually helped build the playscape and repaint the recreation barn.

In a number of ways, this summer has been different for me. I have been blessed and fortunate to have experienced and participated in great volunteer programs. It is my hope that, as a community, we find and participate in volunteer programs. Enjoy the warm of fall and all its aspects. Hope to see you downtown or at the Pumpkin Festival.

As always, best and warm regards!  
Mayor Pouliot

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



As the summer begins to fade to fall, several projects and events within Caro are wrapping up and some are just beginning.

This fall looks to be a very busy one with the 2015 Pumpkin Festival that will be starting up and there will

be numerous other activities going on throughout town. One of the most obvious projects began in August with the DPW who began several water main upgrade projects throughout the city to help maintain strong infrastructure while also providing the best service possible.

The city also received a street paving grant from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for \$55,000 to help pave several of our local streets utilizing a recycled tire mixture within the asphalt. The tire grant, when coupled with the already budgeted local street paving budget, will culminate in over a mile of newly paved streets throughout town. This fall will no doubt be a busy one.

The current streets that will be paved this fall include Atwood Street, S. Kinyon Street, Northview Drive between Cleaver Road and Mary Jane Court, along with Parkway Drive from Hooper Street through the double curve of Parkway. They will also include the mill and paving of W. Burnside Street from State to Almer Street, West Bush Street between Palmer and Sherman,

Sheridan Street between Grant and the railroad crossing, along with a resurfacing of Kester Drive. All property owners throughout these projects will be notified before the pavement work begins but questions can be directed to myself here at city hall.

Along with the recycled tire grant, Caro has also undertaken another green initiative in partnership with DTE in order to upgrade all of the traditional high pressure sodium streetlights throughout town to new LED's. DTE began the replacement of the current lights in the middle of September and will finish the project by November 30<sup>th</sup>. The LED upgrade will allow for a significant drop in annual usage charges along with a significant decrease in the energy footprint throughout the entire city.

Not only are numerous city projects being undertaken throughout the community but the excitement for the 2015 Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival is beginning to ramp up and this year's event will be kicking off on October 1<sup>st</sup> and will be in full swing all the way through the Grand Parade on Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>. This year's Pumpkin Festival will include several new events and activities aimed at people of all age groups so if you get a chance, come down and explore everything that the festival has to offer!

This fall looks to be a busy one loaded with community events and city projects. 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**

There are a very special group of individuals that do a great job and no one ever knows, so I would like to take this opportunity to let our community know who they are. The "Election Inspectors". Anyone who has ever worked an election can tell you that it takes concentration, patience and a person willing to put in a long day. It is an individual that is willing to learn election laws and computer programs. The City of Caro local Election Commission would like to thank the following individuals for their service working our elections: Chair Person Sue Roller, Chair Person Sue Ellen Greenlee, Carol Striffler, Linda Bates, Suzanne Reed, Marci LaValley, Diana Mattlin, Diane Romain, and Carol Sundblad. Also, a big thanks to my Deputy Clerk who works by my side from sunup to sundown and beyond to make sure the job gets done.

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The Presidential Primary is March 8, 2016. We received word that updates have been done to some of the forms including the Application to Vote, absentee applications and ballot marking instructions. More information will be provided in the January edition of the newsletter.

There is no better time than now to make sure you are registered to vote. Registering is fast and easy. Also, it is essential if you have made changes to your information such as recently moved to a different location, changed your name or had your voting rights restored to get this information updated. You can make the changes when you update the address on your driver's license or ID card. This can be done at the Secretary of State branch office or going online at Michigan voter registration/change address form, complete the form and mail it as directed. You can also make the changes by contacting our office at 989-673-7671; however, if you go directly through the Secretary of State it goes into the Qualified Voters File at the State at the same time the change is made on your driver's license or ID card. The Secretary of State's website address is [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

The City of Caro is looking for Election Inspectors to assist with elections. Must be willing to attend trainings. For more information, please contact Karen Snider, Clerk at 989-673-7671.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT  
BY CURTIS WELLS, SUPT**

Your staff at your Caro area Waste water treatment plant hopes everyone had a wonderful summer, and would like to remind everyone that school is back in session and to keep our eyes open for the children crossing the streets.



The rainfall this summer has been continuous and we have not had many weeks that we did not have to mow twice to keep up. We are in the process of having all of our exterior lights changed over to LED's to save long term energy costs. We have also had our upper mezzanine section of the building redone to prevent water from coming into the building, and it looks and performs as expected. Lastly we have a contract to have a containment wall built around our chemical area to stop the corrosion in our ditch VFD's and components that will save us money and frustration.

Thank you again in advance for your continued cooperation wastewater treatment plant running smoothly by being vigilant of the things that are flushed down our drains.

**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 sign at city hall, and in this newsletter. The last day for brush pickup will be October 5<sup>th</sup>. Remember there is a brush policy regarding how much the

DPW workers will pick up. If you need a copy of the policy you can get one from city hall or on the city website at [www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net). If you have more than the allotted amount you can take it to the Luder Road dump. When putting your leaves in the street PLEASE do not put grass clippings or sticks in the piles as this will plug the equipment.

We will be flushing the hydrants the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**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

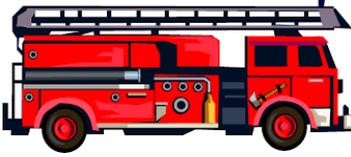
October. The brush chipping will be the first Monday in May, third Monday in July and first Monday in October. All brush should be out for collection no later than 7:30 a.m. on pick up day.

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.

## THINK FIRE SAFETY BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



The official start of the fall season will soon be here. With that comes the time for winter preparation.

This is a good time to check your smoke detectors. Change the batteries and blow out any accumulated dust in the unit, and always test it before putting it back in the case.

With the cold weather soon approaching us, we will all be starting up our heating units. This can range from gas furnaces, wood burners and even corn burning stoves. All need to be cleaned and inspected before operating. This annual cleaning should include a chimney inspection and cleaning. For any questions regarding the installation of any heating units please call Building Codes at 989-672-3750.

October is fire prevention month. Have a plan for what to do in case of an emergency. Go over the plan with your whole family to insure they know the plan. The Fire Department can offer many pamphlets to help in making a plan to fit your family's needs.

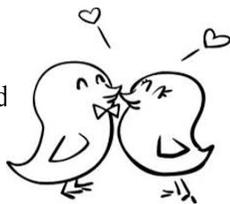
While checking and installing smoke detectors, please keep in mind the carbon monoxide detectors are strongly recommended. Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless silent killer.

Also be aware of the burning regulations for leaves within the City limits. No burning of leaves or any other yard refuse. There is a scheduled pick up for the leaves.

Be safe and know the rules, for all fire related questions please contact the Fire Chief at 989-673-2002. Thank you and enjoy our Michigan autumn season!

### CONGRATULATIONS

To Jared Olson, our City Manager and his wife Paula. They were married on September 19, 2015



City offices will be closed on  
Thursday November 26 &  
Friday November 27, 2015

In observance of  
Thanksgiving

## CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF NEWCOMB

### Identity Theft Are You Prepared?

Happy Autumn from the Caro Police Department. We had a busy summer. Hopefully yours was safe. We

continue to be inundated with Identity Theft calls and queries about how to avoid I.D. theft. I thought this was a good time to revisit this issue.

#### WHAT TO DO IF YOUR IDENTITY IS STOLEN?

First of all, what is identity theft? Identity theft happens when someone steals your personal information and uses it without your permission. It is a serious crime that can wreak havoc with your finances, credit history, and reputation- and it can take time, money and patience to resolve.

There are a number of agencies that deal with this and have publications to educate the public on how to deal with ID theft and its aftermath. Among those agencies are **The federal trade commission FTC**, the nation's consumer protection agency is a good place to start. Their publication and helpful guideline can be obtained online at [WWW.FTC.GOV/IDTHEFT](http://WWW.FTC.GOV/IDTHEFT). Or contact the federal trade commission hotline at 1-877-438-4338.

So, what to do?

1. Place an initial fraud alert with one of three credit companies who keep nationwide records of credit history for everyone.
  - a. Equifax 1-800-525-6285
  - b. Experian 1-888-397 3742
  - c. TransUnion 1-800-680-7289

When you contact them, ask that they put an **initial fraud alert** on your credit report.

- You will need to provide proof of your identity
- An initial fraud alert can make it harder for an identity thief to open more accounts in your name. The alert will cause businesses to verify your identity before it issues credit in your name. The initial alert stays on your report for 90 days.

2. Order your credit report by requesting them from any one of these organizations listed above.

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3. Update your files.
  - a. Keep records of the dates you made calls or sent letters.
  - b. Keep copies of letters and communications in your files.
4. Make a police report with the agency that handles calls for your home area.
  - a. For anyone living in Tuscola County dial **989 673 8738** (*this is a non-emergency number. For emergencies dial 911*) for Tuscola Central Dispatch and ask for the police to contact you to report a suspected Identity theft.
5. Contact your credit card company or debit card provider (bank, credit union etc.) to close the affected accounts.
6. Consider requesting a credit freeze. This means that potential creditors cannot obtain your credit report and makes it less likely that an identity thief can open a new account in your name.

**HOW CAN I PROTECT MY PERSONAL INFORMATION?**

- Do not give out personal information-unless you initiated the contact.
- Be cautious with your mail. Incoming or outgoing mail should never sit in your mailbox for an extended amount of time.
- Read your health insurance plan statements; make sure claims paid match the care you received
- Shred or burn documents with personal and financial information. This includes pre-approved credit card offers and magazines you obtain with your name on them. For magazines, tear off you name and address prior to recycling.
- Review each of your 3 credit reports once a year.
- Protect your Social Security and Medicare cards and numbers
- Limit the pre-printed information on your personal checks
- Don't use **Public** Wi-Fi for sensitive or financial transactions.

For further questions or if you need to comment you may contact me, Chief Brian Newcomb at [b.newcomb@caropolice.org](mailto:b.newcomb@caropolice.org) or 989 233 6565.

**THE SCOOP ON POOP**



The City has recently been getting complaints of dog owners not doing their baggie thing for their pet's poop when the dogs decide to relieve themselves in our community green spaces and sidewalks. It is important to remember that many people use our parks and walkways and for pet owners to knowingly ignore their responsibility to clean up after their pets is irresponsible. Hopefully this practice of letting others worry about your pets poop will be self-correcting. Of course if necessary the City can take a more aggressive approach to the problem, but we are hoping for pet owners to correct the problem on their own. So please scoop the poop so others can enjoy our green spaces too.

**HOLIDAY GARBAGE SCHEDULE**



**Friday November 27, 2015**

**Thursday December 24, 2015**

**Thursday December 31, 2016**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Council	Oct 5 & 19	7:30 p.m.
	Nov 2 & 16	7:30 p.m.
	Dec 7 & 21	7:30 p.m.
Planning	Oct 13	7:00 p.m.
	Nov 10	7:00 p.m.
	Dec 8	7:00 p.m.
DDA	Oct 14	Noon
	Nov 11	Noon
	Dec 9	Noon
Historical	Oct 28	6:30 p.m.
	Nov 18	6:30 p.m.
	Dec	No Meeting
Parks & Rec	Oct 15	7:00 p.m.
	Nov 19	7:00 p.m.
	Dec 17	7:00 p.m.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



It's been a great summer here in the City of Caro. There has been a lot of clean up from residents throughout our town, and it shows. It looks terrific. Even after several storms, everyone pitched in to do their part to get the yards and streets back in order. A couple of reminders to see us through to the winter months would be to adhere to the brush and leaf pick up rules. A copy can be picked up at City Hall, or you may choose to visit our website at [www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net).

Another item of interest is the storage of pallets on personal property. This is a blight issue, and is an unsightly one to your neighbors. If you are storing pallets for a project, please remember to keep them inside. If you do receive a letter from this office, please call immediately to discuss available options.

It is never the intent of this office to insult any homeowner of a blight issue that may be found on their property. It is however, my job through education to keep this city clean and blight free. With all of us working together we will be the envy of other towns. If you see me out and about, please feel free to stop and chat and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



City offices will be closed on  
Thursday December 24, and  
Friday December 25, 2015

City offices will be closed on  
Thursday December 31, 2015  
Friday January 1, 2016

The City of Caro is looking for Election Inspectors to assist with elections. Must be willing to attend trainings.

For more information, please contact Karen Snider, Clerk at 989-673-7671.

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Welcome to Christines Arts & Antiques!! Located at 302 S. State Street, half way between the Strand Theater &

McDonalds in downtown Caro.

Owned and operated by Christine Scourtes & Gary Jagodzinski of Mayville, we have a wide selection of vintage and one of a kind items, artwork, antiques, furniture and crafts as well as a bargain basement which has new and used resale items in our clean and friendly store.

Christines also has a tea room, a place to come and relax with friends over a cup of tea or coffee while enjoying the history and beauty of our Victorian home. We have over 6100 square feet with a wide variety of vintage items and are sure to have something for everybody!

Christines is also featuring the artwork of local artist Mary (Ashcroft) Seehagen who does original water color paintings and hand painted china. Also, Brad Spencer who masters in ironwork and woodworking.

We have room available for anybody interested in securing space to sell your vintage items and also take

consignments for larger items as well as buying estates and antiques. Contact Christine at 810-689-6894 for more information or to learn more about our space availability!!!



Our hours of operation are Wednesday through Sunday 10:00am to 5:00pm. We would like to thank the entire community for the wonderful turnout and complements at our Grand Opening August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and look forward to meeting many more of you in the weeks to come!

# NOTICE

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

- |               |                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Zone 1</b> | <b>October 12th to October 16th</b>   |
| <b>Zone 2</b> | <b>October 19th to October 23th</b>   |
| <b>Zone 3</b> | <b>October 26th to October 30th</b>   |
| <br>          |                                       |
| <b>Zone 1</b> | <b>November 2nd to November 6th</b>   |
| <b>Zone 2</b> | <b>November 9th to November 13th</b>  |
| <b>Zone 3</b> | <b>November 16th to November 20th</b> |
| <br>          |                                       |
| <b>Zone 1</b> | <b>November 23th to November 27th</b> |
| <b>Zone 2</b> | <b>November 30th to December 4th</b>  |
| <b>Zone 3</b> | <b>December 7th to December 11th</b>  |

