



# City Voice

April 2012

City of Caro  
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Caro, Michigan 48723

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## THE MANAGER'S CORNER BY BRENT D. MORGAN



### *Sherman Street & Utility Reconstruction Project*

The City of Caro is undertaking a construction project to improve the roadway and utilities on West Sherman Street from Hooper Street to the west edge of Almer Street. This project includes sanitary sewer improvements, water system improvements, and street re-construction. This project has been on the project list with the Michigan Department of Transportation Small Urban Task Force for approximately 3 years and is scheduled to be funded in 2012.

Once again the City is leveraging your tax dollars to make approximately \$1 million dollars in improvements. The project is being funded through a variety of City funding sources and the Small Urban Task Force grant is in the amount of \$337,000. In a nutshell, the project involves upgrading a 1.5 inch water main to 8 inches, upgrading to an 8 inch sewer main and replacing 3 manholes, and removing and reconstructing the existing pavement and base materials.

This project is scheduled to start construction in early September with a substantial completion date of November. West Sherman Street will be closed to thru traffic during the construction and residents may need to adjust their routes depending where the work is being completed during the project. You can be assured every effort will be made for West Sherman Street residents to access their homes during this time of construction. The City will be having a public meeting regarding the project as we get closer to the start date and additional information will be forwarded to those West Sherman Street residents within the project area.

Please use caution when traveling or walking through this

construction zone when it gets underway. 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. Flags and paint markings will be installed along the project area. The flags and paint markings will identify the location of the private utility facilities. Residents are asked not to remove the flags or paint markings from the right-of-way areas as their locations are integral to the safety of construction workers as well as the residents throughout the project area.

On behalf of the City of Caro we thank you in advance for your patience throughout this upcoming construction project. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any questions or concerns. We look forward to a successful project.



City offices will be closed  
Friday April 6, 2012  
in observance of  
Good Friday

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



Stepping outside this afternoon and getting hit with 70 degree weather made me want a swimming pool. It reminded me of the residents who own pools and I thought it would be a good time to remind our residents of the

Residential Swimming Pool Filling Policy. Pools should be filled from household water source or by contacting a private water hauler. If residents choose to use their household source and do not wish to be charged both the water and sewer rates, please call the City office at 673-2226 and order a special meter read before and after filling the pool. There is a charge for the reads; however this will prevent you from paying the sewer rates on the consumption. The entire policy can be viewed on our website by going to [www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net). Go to Departments, Administration and scroll down to policies.

The City of Caro will be conducting the Caro Community Schools special election on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 for all residents within the School District except for Indianfields Township residents. The election will take place at the Caro Municipal Building, 317 S. State Street, Caro, MI. The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. The special election will be a millage proposal to create a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings and all other purposes authorized by law.

I would also like to remind all residents in the City of Caro to make sure your contact information is current on our utility billing system. It is important that we have your latest phone number in case there is an issue and we need to contact you.

For our residents who may not be able to make it into City Hall to pay their utility payments in person, please note that we have a drop box at the North end of our building. The drop box is checked daily and please do not place cash into the box. We would also like to remind our customers who are using 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Payment Services, please remember to make payments payable to the "City of Caro" and include your account number on your payments.

### **WALKERS AND RUNNERS**

Please wear proper clothing while walking and running so vehicles can recognize you easily.



### **City of Caro Council**

Standing L to R: Joe Greene, Mayor Dick Pouliot, Gordon Taggett, Rick Lipan, Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Henry  
Sitting L to R: Amanda Langmaid, Charlotte Kish

### **A HEARTY HELLO BY DICK POULIOT, MAYOR**

Governance as a whole? Please let me explain. Throughout the twenty plus years of service to the community of Caro, I have been fortunate enough to work with a number of governing bodies. This experience has lent itself to my learning a great deal about the strengths and weaknesses of individuals. As mayor and Council Chair, I must know my weaknesses and utilize the Council's strengths for the good of the community.

Governance is coming to a consensus of the governed. This is where you, the public, play an important role..by letting us, the governing body, know your thoughts and ideals.

Your council members are: Mike Henry, Mayor T, the Finance chair, DDA Liaison; Joe Greene, Personal Chair; Char Kish, Historical Liaison; Amanda Langmaid, Parks and Recreation Liaison; Rick Lipan, Fairboard Liaison; and Gordon Taggett, Planning Commission Liaison.

This governing body works as a team to bring about decisions and policies for the community. The best outcome for the community comes about when all of us, governing body and community, work as a team. Not only does this come about through your volunteering and providing input at council meetings, but through your thoughts and comments on any given matter at public meetings - this is how we have governance as a whole!

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I quote Abraham Lincoln: "With public trust we can do anything... Without it we can do nothing."  
Let us, together, do the "anything" and have NO part of the "nothing."

One example, and most current of the public trust, is the "West Sherman Street Reconstruction Project," estimated at \$1 million. This project was voted on and approved by the council for much needed upgrades to water services, as well as streets. Monies will come from taxes you have paid as well as from monies from services for which you have paid. We will be asking for public input on this project in the future... hope to see you there! Further in this newsletter, you will be reading about more in-depth details about this exciting project from City Manager, Brent Morgan, and Charlie Sundblad.

Until next time, enjoy your spring...go for a walk...better yet, take a friend.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To the Caro Police Department for completing L.I.E.N and MCOLES audits.

## GARAGE SALE PERMITS



It's that time of year when we begin to think of all of the things we need to clean out of our closets, basements, and yes the garage! With this also comes garage sale time. Please be advised that city residents are required to purchase

garage (yard, porch, rummage, basement, estate, etc.) sale permits. Permits are \$1.00 each and you must have one permit for each sign you are placing on your property. A garage sale cannot last more than three (3) consecutive days. Only two (2) garage sales are permitted per residence per year. Please remember your signs MUST be placed on private property; they are not allowed in the right-of-ways, or on electrical or utility poles. You may purchase your permits at City Hall, 317 South State Street.



City offices will be closed  
Monday May 28, 2012  
in observance of  
Memorial Day

## WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY CURTIS WELLS WWTP SUPERINTENDENT



To all City residents: Your Caro area Waste Water Treatment Plant had an issue since our last newsletter. Someone has been dumping a substance other than domestic sewage down our sewer system. This is NOT acceptable and is a direct violation of our sewer use ordinance. It almost wiped out our treatment bacteria. We have traced it back to an area of the community. Anyone caught will be subject to section 10 of our ordinance.

### Section 10 Violations, Penalties

- A. Any person found to be violating any provision of this ordinance except section 9, shall be served by the City Council with written notice, the nature of the violation and providing a reasonable time limit or the satisfactorily correction thereof. The offender shall, within the period of time stated in such notice, permanently cease all violations.
- B. Any person who shall continue any violation beyond the time limit provided for in section 10A, shall be fined in an amount not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) and not more than Five Hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each violation. Each day in which any such violation shall continue shall be deemed a separate offense.
- C. Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall become liable to the City for any expenses, loss, fines, penalties, or damage occasioned the City by reason of such violation.
- D. Any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained, or who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required under this ordinance shall be fined upon conviction as prescribed in by statute.

For all the residents who comply with the City ordinance, we would like to say thank you and ask for your continued adherence as well as ask for your vigilance in helping to protect YOUR Caro Area Waste Water Treatment Plant.

## PUBLIC WORKS HIGHLIGHTS BY CHARLIE SUNDBLAD DPW SUPERINTENDENT



Now that spring has sprung, and everyone is out raking their yards I would like to remind everyone that the City does not allow raking or putting of grass clippings, dirt, etc. into the gutters. As a reminder, in April, Richfield Entities will start yard waste

pickup. Remember to put yard waste in containers marked with an “X” or yard waste bags. Also, in April we will start chipping brush. Remember that we only do it on the first Monday of the month and ends the first Monday of October. If you need a copy of the brush policy you can pick one up at the Municipal Building. Hydrant flushing will take place the week of April 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be a notice in the paper and on the radio. We are doing our best to keep up with the potholes, if you notice any that we may have missed please call.

In late August, early September of this year we will be doing infrastructure improvements to W. Sherman Street from Hooper Street to N. Almer Street. The work will entail milling of asphalt, curb work, new handicap ramps, and water and sewer. The water main work is to upgrade the size of the main to 8” from the existing 1.5” and 4”. Also, to install new 1” service leads to the shut offs of the homes and the installation of new hydrants. These upgrades were identified in our water reliability study and will help in the Cities’ ISO rating. There will also be some sewer main improvements in the project. Such as three new manholes and approximately 400 feet of piping. The anticipated completion date of the project is mid November. Any questions regarding the project please feel free to call me at 989-673-2571.

## CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF BRIAN NEWCOMB



I think I can speak for a majority of Caro citizens when I say that I am very grateful and happy to have enjoyed such a mild winter. Spring is around the corner. The members of the Caro Police Department hope that everyone had a safe winter and will

continue to enjoy a welcome spring season. As stated on the city of Caro website, the Caro police department no longer has a secretary or assigned personnel inside the police station. This is due to budgetary issues. We do

have an Officer Monday through Thursday, 8 A.M. to 12 Noon unless he has been called out to handle a police complaint. My purpose in restating this is that there are still a large group of Caro citizens that call the Caro Police station directly to report a crime or problem. **If you wish to report a crime, Please call 911 for emergencies or 673 8738 for non-emergencies.** We have Officers on patrol 24/7, and Tuscola Central Dispatch will send them to handle your complaint. If you need a police report or need the Officer to respond to the police station, Central dispatch will send the officer for that, also.

There has been a change in the law concerning Graduated Licensing for Level 2 Drivers: These drivers **shall not operate a motor vehicle between 10 pm and 5 am, except:**

- When driving to or from or in the course of employment;
- While driving to or from an authorized activity, \* or
- When accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, or a licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian

**Shall not operate a motor vehicle with more than one passenger who is less than 21 years of age, except:**

- When the additional passengers are immediate family members;
- When driving to or from or in the course of employment;
- While going to or from an authorized activity;\* or
- When accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, or a licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian

**Authorized activity means any of the following:**

- A school or a school-sanctioned event or activity. School refers to a public or private school, including a home school.
- A sporting event or activity, or extracurricular event or activity, that is not school-sanctioned but is part of an official sports league or association, or an official extracurricular club, or that is paid for as a service offered by a business specializing in those events, or activities, or training for those events or activities.
- A class or program of vocational instruction offered by a college, community college, nonprofit association, unit of government, or by a business specializing in vocational training.
- An event or activity sponsored by a religious organization that is tax-exempt under federal law.
- Transporting an individual in need of immediate emergency care or personal protection to a health care professional, hospital, police station, domestic violence shelter, or public safety location.

## CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



With all of the severe weather occurring in our country it is appropriate to review the procedures for severe weather warning for the City and surrounding areas. We strongly encourage people to become aware and informed about severe weather that may happen in our area. There are many ways to be informed about what is going on. With all of the cell phones and apps out there today, all you need to do is access it and you have information at your fingertips.

The local television stations all do a good job of informing people of impending storms. We suggest taking note of the weather conditions when you begin your day. Pay particular attention when they say there is a potential for severe weather. Keep an eye to the sky and ear to the cell phone.

We have a system of **outdoor warning sirens**. These sirens are designed to warn people who are outside of approaching tornadoes. They are not designed to warn you if you are inside with the doors and windows shut. We urge people to have radios, televisions, cell phones or a weather radio in their homes. These devices all received up to date, accurate weather information. Take advantage of them. Siren testing will begin on April 4 at 9:00 a.m. and continue every Wednesday. Remember, this is only a TEST.

If you become aware of an approaching tornado or severe thunderstorms, go to the basement of your home. If no basement, then get to the lowest point in your home near an inside wall.

We encourage families to have an emergency plan and emergency kit. The time to develop a plan is not when the storm is approaching. Do it now, develop that plan and practice it with your family. Ask yourselves what you are going to do in a given situation. For further information on how to develop your plan and put together your emergency kit, go to [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) Simply follow the links to access the information you want.

Remember, we all must do our part to ensure the safety of ourselves, our families, our neighbors and our

community. We ask you to partner with us so that we can all become safer and better prepared.

With Tornado season upon us, we would like to remind everyone of the procedure for tornado watches and warnings. A tornado watch is issued when conditions are right for the formation of tornadoes. When a tornado is actually sighted, either by trained spotters or on the National Weather Service Radar, a tornado warning is issued. When the tornado warning is issued, the tornado sirens are activated. **The warning signal is one continuous 3 minute blast on the sirens. People need to take cover. When the all clear is given, there will be 3 short blasts on the sirens.** We urge everyone to be vigilant and aware of what is happening. Have an eye to the sky and ear to the television or radio. It is a good idea to have a N.O.A.A. weather radio to be able to receive the latest watches and warnings for your area. As always if you have any questions, please call the fire department business line at 673-2002 for further information.

## ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT BY JERRY THORP



The signs of spring are here. Trees and bushes are budding, the geese are flying north, the robins are back; but I have a hard time convincing myself that winter is over!

During our winter we had strong winds that may have caused branches and brush to fall that will need to be attended to. Starting with the first Monday in April, the City will be chipping brush. Chipping will be on the first Monday of the month through the first Monday in October. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to make sure the material to be chipped is at curb. 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.

Other “eyesore” problems that may have developed over the winter with homes, sheds and outbuildings will be addressed from the office of Ordinance Enforcement and written notices for restoration, repair,

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painting and/or residing will be addressed as soon as the weather permits.

With summer on its way, campers, boats and trailers are being removed from storage for use. It is important to remember that if you are storing these items in your yard they will need to be parked on a hard-surface. Please plan now for those areas need to be brought into compliance with the City of Caro Ordinance.

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please feel free to stop in or call with any questions. I am available on Tuesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 989-673-1373.

**Luder Rd Dump**

Opens April 14

Hours of Operation:

Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Wednesday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Tree limbs, brush, stones  
and cement may be disposed of

**Curbside Yard Waste**

Pick up begins April 2. 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.

**Lost and Found**

Found in the parking lot of the Municipal Building was a bracelet. If you have lost a bracelet, please come to the Municipal Building located at 317 South State Street, Caro MI 48723 to identify the bracelet and claim it.

**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**



Steve Erickson is the Tuscola County EDC Director and has purchased the building previously known as Jack's Toyland and is located at 142 N. State Street, Caro. He is living above the store at this time. Numerous improvements have been made to the interior of the building. Mr. Erickson's son opened a sign business on the first floor. His son is designing all types of signs including paper, banners, rope, plastic, light up, vinyl, graphics, and wood signs. Mr. Erickson is waiting for approval of a franchise to introduce another business into the store.

* * * * *	<b><u>UPCOMING MEETINGS</u></b>	* * * * *
* * * * *	Council	* * * * *
* * * * *	April 2 & 16	7:30 p.m.
* * * * *	May 7 & 21	7:30 p.m.
* * * * *	June 4 & 18	7:30 p.m.
* * * * *	Planning	* * * * *
* * * * *	April 10 & 24	7:00 p.m.
* * * * *	May 8 & 22	7:00 p.m.
* * * * *	June 12 & 26	7:00 p.m.
* * * * *	DDA	* * * * *
* * * * *	April 11	Noon
* * * * *	May 9	Noon
* * * * *	June 13	Noon
* * * * *	Historical	* * * * *
* * * * *	April 25	6:30 p.m.
* * * * *	May 23	6:30 p.m.
* * * * *	June 27	6:30 p.m.
* * * * *	Parks & Rec	* * * * *
* * * * *	April 19	7:00 p.m.
* * * * *	May 17	7:00 p.m.
* * * * *	June 21	7:00 p.m.
* * * * *		* * * * *



# SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday May 5, 2012  
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**City of Caro Residents Only!**

**Clean out the garage, attic, basement and yard.  
Bring all of your junk to the fairgrounds  
(next to the tennis courts)**

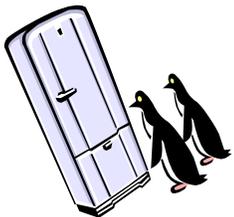


## **Tires**

(First 100 Passenger tires only)



Yard waste, branches up to 2' in diameter,  
no longer than 4' in length can be dropped off



All appliances, refrigerators and freezers  
(Freon does **NOT** need to be removed)

For more information call the  
City offices at 989-673-2226

