



# City Voice

July 2013

City of Caro  
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## **“TO OUR RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF CARO” BY DICK POULIOT, MAYOR**



DON'T Look a Gift Horse in the Mouth. But, in this case, we will...we must!

As a young boy growing up on a farm just north of Caro given an old pair of my older brother's hand-me-down shoes, my Mom said to me, "Richard, don't look a gift horse in the mouth." When I asked her what she meant by that, she explained it to me.

However, in the case of the

Indianfields Township plan to abandon the cemetery to the City of Caro one has to ask the question, "Why is the horse blind, crippled, and half-starved when the barn is full of hay or, in this case, money?" Please let me explain what we are talking about here. Indianfields Township has filed a petition with the State Boundary Commission to annex into the City THEIR cemetery. The following is the exact language in the petition: 'The annexation is requested so that this public cemetery is located in the City of Caro, and so that the City of Caro may thereafter own, operate and control that cemetery as provided by MCL 117.14.'

The ironic aspect of this petition is that this Township wants a portion of its Township put into the City, which is contrary to the vast majority of petitions filed with the SBC, and the Township's purpose isn't to foster intergovernmental growth and cooperation, but to relieve itself of a mismanaged asset to the detriment of the residents of Caro.

Well, one of the many problems with the concept of using State law MCL 177.14 is that the law is used for the purpose of guiding the Village in and through incorporation 2 1/2 years ago, not as in something

equated to the law of child abandonment! This was never part of the past village, or present City nor was there any joint agreements or talks of the City taking over operations and none currently as in present day. However, the township passed a motion to file a petition, and then filed the petition with the State Boundary Commission for the purpose of "back-dooring", and abandoning and eliminating their responsibility of the township's PUBLIC TRUST as the cemetery is! REALLY? The people of what was then the Village and now the City have acted, agreed, and by a ratio of more than 2-to-1 in a referendum (as guided by State Law) have spoken to operate as a City and move forward. Anything else is affront and regressive to their will.

The City's residents have many choices when it comes to cemetery services, and we do not feel that we should use our taxpayers' money to supplement one particular cemetery. When a person thinks of cemeteries, the thoughts that come to mind are usually along the lines of strain emotions, honor, and peace - NOT coldness and covertness. However, in regard to what the Township did, it is described by the latter, not former. Cemeteries are where folks have cried their last tears with loved ones and clung on tightly to hands of trust. That's what a cemetery is supposed to be, "A public trust of the loved ones entombed there" and a place of perpetuity along with the funds that those vulnerable people and the families paid for that trust remain intact, not partitioned for township profit in any way.

Thank you for your attention. I will keep you apprised.

Mayor Pouliot

## THE MANAGER'S CORNER BY JARED OLSON



Finally, a stubborn spring has left and summer has begun. With the warm weather and sunshine filling the city, there are various events 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 help from the Chamber of Commerce will be operating both Thursday nights and Saturday mornings this year. The new addition of the Thursday night farmers market will operate alongside the weekly Thursday night Music in the Park events which, like last year, will be held at Atwood Park.

Along with the beginning of summer, comes the start of citywide street and sidewalk work. The Sherman Street reconstruction project was wrapped up during the first week of June and is open and fully operational. Please take note that the parking along Sherman Street has been adjusted and that the only parking allowed on the street is in the designated parking lane off of the side of the eastbound lane. Along with finishing the Sherman Street project, the City of Caro was able to capture \$375,000.00 of state infrastructure funding which helped to enable the upcoming reconstruction of Columbia Street. The Columbia Street project is in the early design stages currently with beginning of actual construction set to begin in the spring of 2014.

Along with the reconstruction of Columbia Street, 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 a top priority along with leveraging as much outside grant funding as possible.

Even though I have met many of you during my first six months on the job as your Manager, I still have many to meet and I look forward to doing just that. 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

June is always an unusually busy month for the City Clerk/Treasurer and her staff. The Fiscal Year 2013/14 budget was adopted by Council on June 3, 2013 and the year-end budget amendments have been officially wrapped up. Staff is in the process of closing out the fiscal year-end records and preparing for the upcoming audit which is done on an annual basis. The audit begins in July and is a very important process for the City of Caro. An independent accounting firm reviews the financial statements of the governmental activities and records for the past fiscal year and presents their results based upon the information provided. The financial statements present a short-term view of how the taxpayers' resources were spent during the year and how much is available for future spending. The financial report is intended to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers and investors with a general overview of the City's finances and to show the City's accountability for the money it receives. The audit is done in accordance with the *Government Auditing Standards*. The budgets and audits are available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

City residents will be receiving their summer tax bills in the mail any day now. The summer bill contains the State Education Tax, County Operating and City Operating millage. The City collects all taxes and returns the monies collected to those entities with the exception of the City Operating Millage which is 16.1643 mills.

The City of Caro will be having a non-partisan election on Tuesday, November 5, 2013. The Mayor and three councilpersons seats will be up for election. The Mayor's term is for two years and a councilpersons term is for four years. Election petitions and Affidavit of Identity can be obtained at the City Clerk's Office, 317 S. State Street or at the office of the County Clerk, 440 N. State Street. Pursuant to the City of Caro Charter the petition must contain 15 valid signatures of registered electors. Nominating petition and Affidavit of Identity must be filed no later than 4:00 p.m. on August 13 with the City Clerk. The last day to register for the election is October 7. To run for public office, you must be a resident of the city for a minimum of one year and shall be a registered elector of the city on the last day for filing nominating petitions. For more information regarding the responsibilities of a mayor or councilperson, you can go to the city website at [www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net) and click on City Charter. Remember to vote!!

## WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY CURTIS WELLS, SUPT



It is once again summer. The kids are out of school and out and about so please be vigilant. The staff at your Caro area Wastewater Treatment plant would like everyone to have a safe and enjoyable 4<sup>th</sup> of July

weekend. As a reminder the RV dump is open 7am-3:30pm Monday through Friday and closed on holidays.

We would also like to let everyone know that we had our biosolids beneficially land applied in May, in the amount of 443,000 gallons. This is used by farmers on their land for fertilizer. And as always, thank you in advance for remembering that disposable doesn't mean flushable.

## CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



Summer

After all the rain is past, summer is finally here. Soon fireworks will be in the air. They are beautiful and a sign of our freedom in this country.

But with all things pertaining to fire they come with risks and dangers. Always use common sense when lighting off any fireworks. Keep children and anyone who is not performing the demonstration back out of harm's way. They are sometimes unpredictable on where they will land. Always be conscious of wind direction and dry ground conditions.

There are some rules to follow, some can be considered launched in an unsafe manner, a nuisance and even a noise problem after certain hours of the day. Keep in mind you can be held liable for any damages, and or injuries caused by your fireworks.

Be safe this Fourth of July and light up the sky in honor of our Freedom. Please do not hesitate to call the Fire Station at 989-673-2002 for any questions.

## PUBLIC WORKS HIGHLIGHTS BY CHARLIE SUNDBLAD DPW SUPERINTENDENT



Summer is off to a good start with the weather. The West Sherman Street project is now completed.

We are continuing the videoing of the sewers throughout the town. This will help us with solving some issues of inflow and infiltration. Inflow is water that comes from sump pumps, downspouts and infiltration 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 everything that we do. We may take a little longer than before but we will get there. We are providing the same services with less staff so please be patient.



## Outdoor Family Movie Nights!!

July 12 and August 9

Activities begin at 8:00 p.m.

Movie will start at dark

Trudeau Square

(Next to the new Intermission Deli location)

July 12th - Hotel Transylvania

August 9th - Brave

**FREE ADMISSION—FREE POPCORN**

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets,  
snacks and drinks

Presented by  
Majestic Sky Link, LLC  
and  
Caro Parks & Recreation

# CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT



Now that warmer weather arrived, we will anticipate more local cyclists, runners and walkers hitting the streets and bike trails in an effort to shed winter baggage and blues.

We encourage motorists to use caution and share the road with

cyclists as they travel around the community.

Please remember by Michigan law, bicyclists are allowed to use the road. By law, bicyclists have the same rights and duties as other vehicle drivers. When passing cyclists, common sense and standard traffic law says that “drivers shall pass at a safe distance.” Squeezing past is simply unsafe and illegal!

Be sure to use special care around young cyclists and pedestrians. Young bicyclists are frequently unpredictable and present a special challenge for drivers. Approach such cyclists at a safe speed and leave extra distance between your vehicle and the cyclist for safety.

Young cyclists and pedestrians often emerge unexpectedly from behind parked cars or from driveways and side streets. They may be around a curve or over a hill, so please slow down and expect to see people cycling and walking.

## Tips for Drivers

Drivers are reminded to turn on vehicle headlights at dusk and be vigilant in looking out for cyclists and pedestrians. Additionally, drivers should:

- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.
- Slow down and obey the posted speed limit.
- Yield to pedestrians and cyclists when turning.
- Look before opening your door.
- Be careful when passing stopped vehicles.
- Allow three feet when passing bicyclists.

## Tips for Cyclists

When travelling on city streets, cyclists should follow the same rules of the road as motorized vehicles. This means stopping at stop signs; obeying traffic signals and lane markings; and using hand signals to let others know your intention to stop or turn. Furthermore, cyclists are advised to be aware of their surroundings:

- Don't wear headphones; you need to be able to hear if a car is approaching.

- Slow down and check for oncoming traffic before entering any street or intersection.
- Do your best to anticipate hazards and adjust your position in traffic accordingly.
- Be predictable: ride with the flow of traffic, on the right, and in a straight line – not in and out of parked cars on the side of the street.

And stay visible by riding where drivers are looking (i.e., do not pass on the right). Bicyclist should be particularly mindful of their visibility to other vehicles in the evening, especially when biking during rush hour or later. Legally, cyclists must have a front white light and a red rear reflector and/or a rear red light.

## Tips for Walkers and Runners

Whether you're going for an afternoon stroll, commuting to work on foot, or getting some exercise, walking and running are great activities. However, it's important to pay attention. When walking or exercising, especially in the early morning or at dusk or dark, pedestrians should keep the following tips in mind:

- Caro Police encourages walkers to use signaled crosswalks when possible. Use extreme caution when crossing at intersections without signals.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Never run between cars into the street.
- Wear clothing that allows drivers and people to see you. That means no dark clothes after dark or early in the morning.
- Exercising outdoors at dusk or at night can be dangerous without some type of reflective device on your clothing. Many athletic shoes have reflective qualities built in, but also consider a vest complete with reflective tape.

Runners are also reminded to ALWAYS carry identification with them when they go out. If carrying a license seems too inconvenient, please consider purchasing an identification bracelet or tag for your shoe. New products designed especially for runners, bikers and other athletes have recently come on the market. A simple internet search for “identification bracelet” will provide numerous results.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY MEMBER**



City Clerk Karen Snider, Ross Downing, DDA  
Board Member

**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT  
TUSCOLA COUNTY ADVERTISER**



The Tuscola County *Advertiser* editor is Bill Petzold. Mr. Petzold looks forward to maintaining the Advertiser's commitment to fairness, accuracy and impartiality. He desires to work with the Caro and Tuscola County business community to help promote businesses and recognize individuals who make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. Mr. Petzold wants to see reporters and photographers get more active at community events.

Mr. Petzold was born and raised in Vassar, graduated from Vassar High School and Western Michigan University in 2001 with a BA in English. He loves creative writing, arts and music.

He may be contacted at 989-673-3181.

 **Atwood Music in The Park** 

**July 11**  
6:30 p.m. Tom & Jerry Show  
7:30 p.m. Tom & Jerry Show

**July 18**  
6:30 p.m. To be announced  
7:30 p.m. To be announced

**July 25**  
6:30 p.m. Tom Krause  
7:30 p.m. SouthBound

**August 1**  
6:30 p.m. Random Band  
7:30 p.m. Random Band

**August 8**  
6:30 p.m. Matt Walhl  
7:30 p.m. Matt Walhl

**August 15**  
6:30 p.m. Tom & Jerry Show  
7:30 p.m. Tom & Jerry Show

**August 22**  
6:30 p.m. Tom Krause  
7:30 p.m. SouthBound

**August 29**  
6:30 p.m. Polka Riot Band  
7:30 p.m. Polka Riot Band



CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED  
ON THURSDAY JULY 4, 2013

IN OBSERVANCE OF  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Council	July 1 & 15	7:30 p.m.
	Aug 5 & 19	7:30 p.m.
	Sept 3 & 16	7:30 p.m.
Planning	July 9 & 23	7:00 p.m.
	Aug 13 & 27	7:00 p.m.
	Sept 10 & 24	7:00 p.m.
DDA	July 10	Noon
	Aug 14	Noon
	Sept 11	Noon
Historical	July 24	6:30 p.m.
	Aug 28	6:30 p.m.
	Sept 25	6:30 p.m.
Parks & Rec	July 18	7:00 p.m.
	Aug 22	7:00 p.m.
	Sept 19	7:00 p.m.