



City Voice

April 2014

City of Caro
317 S. State St.
Caro, Michigan 48723

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Volume 8, Issue 2

POSITIVES FROM NEGATIVES BY: DICK POULIOT, MAYOR



Hello:

I'm writing this letter on one of many cold and snowy March days in Caro. Hopefully, you will be reading it on a warmer spring day in April. There, I happily said, "Spring," even though spring is a bit of a challenge to see it from this perspective. This winter has been harsh and severe and trying on

our City's staff, equipment, and budgets; but, all three areas have proven themselves to be up to the task before them and the operation, thanks to you all!

Now what are the positives from the negatives? It is not a math equation. What I'm talking about is the benefits of a cold, snowy winter. Let me share a few facts from a climate scientist. In early March, close to 92% of the Great Lakes were covered in ice, which greatly decreases water evaporation off the lakes. They are now projecting that all of Michigan's lakes will be rising between 15 and 19 inches which helps shipping, the recreation industry, and protecting shorelines and wetlands.

The extreme cold temperatures (there were 34 days in Caro that were below zero) help control and kill pests and slow the migration of invasive species. This is a positive factor in controlling the emerald ash borer. Some reports indicate that as much as 50% of borers are killed at -20 degrees. The estimates are that close to 50 million ash trees have been lost to the borer in the Upper Midwest. In the City, over a hundred ash trees, and counting, have been lost. The colder temperatures result in more insects being killed by natural means that will also benefit our local organic industry. We read in the bible of the "treasures of the snow" or storehouse. You ask, "How could that be?" Let me explain. Scientists tell us that snow picks up nitrogen as it falls through the atmosphere then slowly releases it as it melts. Because of the snow cover, our lawns will be greener this

Spring, saving on seed and fertilizer; however, I'm thinking that may result in much more mowing. So, there were positives from the negatives, if you will.

The City updates that we are working on include the new stewardship agreement with the Exchange Club who care for and oversee the use of the exchange forest on the corner of M24 and Gun Club Road. Council has approved the final draft that is ready to be signed. Thank you to all involved in this work. The City and staff are also standing by to hear the results of our request for grants to make upgrades in our firefighting equipment. We will inform you of the results as soon as they are received.

The beginning of the Columbia Street project is just weeks away (a sure sign of spring). This major project includes complete street rebuilding, storm and sanitary sewer work as well as new curbing the length of the project. This project will cost \$730,237.00; the City portion is \$355,237.00. These monies are in the water and sewer funds as well as the street fund. The balance of the project, \$375,000.00, will be funded by Michigan Department of Transportation.

The last update is in regard to the township cemetery issue. Briefs and public input have been received and posted online at: http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-35299_10575_17394_17565-175114--,00.html Scroll down to "Docket #13-AP-1 Tuscola County," then click on the posting of your choice. The City is currently waiting for an adjudicative hearing (a process of making a decision based on facts and input received). We think this may convene sometime in June. You will be apprised of the outcome of the hearing.

In closing, keep the faith. Winter is ending, the warm spring rain and sun are coming, trees will be planted, and lawns will be green again. Please enjoy... and my best to you for now.

Best regards,
Mayor Pouliot

THE MANAGER'S CORNER BY JARED OLSON



I hope we can all breathe a sigh of relief with some of the fluttering signs of spring that Mother Nature has been sending our way. This winter has certainly been one for the record books for both the arctic temperatures and massive snowfalls. However, the warming sunshine and blooming flowers throughout the city continue to give hope for the warm days and green grass that are on the horizon.

Not only does the spring season bring April rain showers and May flowers, it also brings street projects. The spring thaw will see the beginning of the complete reconstruction of almost the entirety of Columbia Street. Some may have noticed already that various utility work has already been completed with much more left to go. The project itself is slated to begin the first week of May and will commence through the better part of June. If all goes as planned, the street will be ready for traffic before July.

During the Columbia Street project, there will be several traffic changes throughout the area with a detour commencing on Butler Street for the majority of the construction schedule. We ask for your cooperation and understanding while we improve the city's infrastructure.

Along with the Columbia Street project, there will be numerous smaller projects throughout the community from utility upgrades and patchwork to small and medium sized asphalt work. One of the major issues that will undoubtedly arise from the intense winter that we have experienced will be potholes throughout the city streets. To report potholes or other major street issues, please contact City Hall at 989-673-2226 or always feel free to stop in.

On top of the street projects scheduled, the spring will bring the fast growth of grass throughout the city. I would like to take this chance to remind everyone about Caro's Noxious Weed Ordinance which will go into effect as soon as the mother nature begins the growing season. The current height requirement within the noxious weed ordinance is eight inches but if you have additional

questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at City Hall.

As always, I maintain an open door policy here at City Hall and welcome you to address any issues or questions that you may have.

A WORD FROM THE CLERK BY KAREN J SNIDER, CMC

Are you ready to put the cold weather behind us and enjoy summer? If so, you are probably thinking about filling your pool. Remember that 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; however you will not get charged for the sewer usage consumption which is based on gallons of water used to fill your pool. This could result in a substantial savings.

I would like to remind City residents that summer tax bills will be coming out July first and will be due September 15. After that time, penalties and interest will be added. The summer bill contains the following: County allocated tax, the City of Caro operating tax and the State Education tax. The bill gets paid to the City of Caro until March 1, 2015.

If you own a residence or business in the City of Caro, please make sure the City Municipal office has current contact information on our utility billing system. There are times that someone from the city may need to contact you, such as a water issue, and without this information, we can't be of assistance.

Important Election news: Mark your calendars – August 5, 2014 State Primary and November 4, 2014 General Election. The last day to register for the August primary is July 7, 2014 and last day to register for the November general election is October 6, 2014.



City offices will be closed
Friday April 18, 2014
in observance of
Good Friday

WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY CURTIS WELLS, SUPT

We are proud to serve the residents of Caro at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. I'm sure we were all wondering if spring would actually come, but here it is. This usually brings us all into the mind set of spring cleaning. When the spring cleaning bug hits you please do not contemplate pouring your hazardous waste down ANY drain. This is not beneficial for the environment or your Wastewater Treatment Plant. Please make an appointment with the Tuscola County Recycling Center. Below is their flyer.

Tuscola County Recycling Facility Household Hazardous Waste and Latex Paint Collection

Saturday
May 17, 2014

Please call for
an appointment



PLEASE CALL 989-672-1673
FOR AN APPOINTMENT
COLLECTION HELD AT:
1123 MERTZ ROAD CARO, MI

Acceptable items:

Toxic (poisonous), flammable, caustic (causes burns), or chemically reactive products, latex paint, oil-based paint, drain cleaners, pool chemicals, pesticides, herbicides and mercury

Unacceptable items:

Ammunition/explosives, biohazards (syringes), prescription medications, smoke detectors

*** No items accepted without an appointment.**

***Tuscola County residents only—
NO businesses**

*** Please no recycling items during this collection**

*** Containers cannot be returned.**

*** Collection time is 9:00 am until 12:00**

PUBLIC WORKS HIGHLIGHTS BY CHARLIE SUNDBLAD DPW SUPERINTENDENT



It is not news that this has been an extremely unusual winter, causing more than normal potholes. The DPW crew is doing their best to keep up with the potholes. If you notice any that appear to have been missed, please call City Hall and give them the location (673-2226). Emterra Environmental will also begin yard waste pickup. Remember to put it in biodegradable bags or make sure your container has an "X" on it to clearly identify it as yard waste. The City does not allow raking or putting grass clippings, dirt, etc. into the gutters. The DPW is also looking at flushing hydrants sometime in April. There will be a notice in the paper and on the LED sign in front of City Hall.

The DPW will be chipping brush 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 the pickup day. If you are in need of the brush chipping policy, you can call city hall or it is on the city website at www.carocity.net. Residents of the City of Caro 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 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Luder Road dump normally opens towards the end of April.

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.

CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



Spring is on the way. It's hard to believe after such a cold hard winter but it's true, the green grass will soon start to appear along with all the mess that was hidden beneath the snow.

Please keep in mind there are ways to dispose of all the branches and debris left laying around. The City offers garbage pickup, and there is a dump located on Luder Road. Burning of brush or leaves in the city limits is not permitted. Only "campfire" designated above ground fire pits with a screened lid, burning only tree logs are permitted. No fire pit shall be lit and left unattended, nor shall it be located any closer than ten feet from any structure. The intent is for a campfire only, not burning yard waste.

Outside the city limits you are allowed to burn brush only. Garbage and building construction material are not allowed to be burned at any time.

All fire must be kept to a moderate size. All must be attended while burning. Please call for a burn permit before lighting the fire. Always watch the smoke, it should not interfere with traffic nor cause any nuisance to anyone else in the area. Any one burning can be held liable for any and all cost associated with the fire, whether legal or not.

If you have any questions regarding proper, safe, legal burning, and for a burning permit please call me at the station 989-673-2002.



City Manager, Jared Olson and Gerard Schniers

Gerard retired February 14, 2014 with 36 years of service with the City. Gerard was employed with the Department of Public Works.

Curbside Yard Waste

Pick up begins April 3. 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.

CARO GARDEN CLUB BY: MARIANN SAENEN



The members of the **Caro Garden Club**, like all Michiganders, have been waiting (im)patiently and have started getting ready for spring. The Caro Club has been a treasured part of our community since 1930 and over the years has been active in the process of making our town a pleasant and beautiful place to live. Club projects are the planting and maintenance of the *Memorial Garden* at the corner of M24 and M81, the *Botanical Garden* at the corner of Hooper and Sherman Streets across from Caro Community Hospital, the *Kids and Butterfly Garden* on M24 at Kids Club Day Care Center and the *Noble Boulder Garden* at the corner of Frank and Lincoln Street. The Caro Garden Club always welcomes guests or new members to attend their monthly meetings which are an opportunity to socialize; to stimulate the knowledge and love for gardening among amateurs; to aid in conservation of soil, native plants, and promote community spirit. For more information check their website at "www.carogardenclub.org".

The community is encouraged and welcome to attend a special "*Flower Show*" sponsored by the Caro Garden Club. The theme of the Flower Show is "*Explore the World through Gardening*". The date is **Saturday, July 19th**, from **12:00 to 4:00 pm** at the **Caro Regional Library Community Room** on Frank Street. There is **no cost**, so mark your calendars, and plan to come on out and *enjoy a specialty display of flowers* and meet the members of the Caro Garden Club in person.

CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF NEWCOMB

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

There are a couple of things that we all should be aware of as this extremely tough winter turns into spring. With the heavy amount of snow, combined with the deep frost, there will inevitably be flooding issues on the roadways. This will cause some inconvenience for some drivers and will be a hazard to all drivers. Please be careful as we head into the warmer weather.

Also, there will be an unusual amount of potholes created by the extreme cold weather we have endured this winter. This is hazardous and can lead to damage to your vehicle if you are not careful. The Caro DPW has already been out and is trying to stay ahead of the potholes and doing a good job. I'm guessing that the local tire stores are already replacing or repairing a lot of tires and wheels.

Medical Marijuana continues to be an issue in the news. Some states, such as Colorado have made possession legal. As this issue continues to be argued back and forth by the legislature in Michigan, changes will undoubtedly occur. For the time being, the law remains the same for those that have legal Medical Marijuana cards.

Motorcycles will begin to appear as it gets warmer. Please be aware of them and as the signs say, "look twice, save a life". I am a motorcyclist and I try to drive as if I'm invisible. Mainly because to most people driving cars and trucks, you are. I anticipate and expect that someone will make a left turn going one direction as I am heading in another. I anticipate that as I drive my motorcycle, that someone is going to pull out of a driveway or fail to stop at a stop sign as if I don't exist. Most motorcyclists understand this. Please drive defensively.

Last but not least, I would like to recognize Officer Mike Mitin and Officer Steve Repkie who will be receiving awards for their actions on a couple of cases over the last year. Officer Mitin will be receiving the Caro Police Departments highest award, the Medal of Honor for his role in an ambush and shootout that occurred last July 4th, where the suspect had killed his wife and laid in wait for Officer Mitin and responding Deputies and his attempt to kill them also. Officer Mitin returned fire and along with a Deputy, managed to prevent further bloodshed. Officer Repkie, while on patrol, spotted what he discovered to be a chimney fire in a home in Caro. He called for the fire department and then evacuated the family who had been asleep and had no idea their house was on fire. He will be recognized for his actions.

Please have a happy and safe spring.

SHELSON NATURAL HEALTH, LLC



Shelson Natural Health, owned and operated by Dr. Matthew J. Shelson, N.D., D. PSc opened their doors this last fall at 21 N. Almer Street, Caro, MI. Dr. Shelson provides a holistic and naturopathic approach to medicine. Dr. Shelson will take the time to

consult with each patient so they know what to expect, observe to determine the core issue of their illness, make recommendations and then take the time to educate the patient. Their office hours are Monday 12-7, Tuesday 9-7, Thursday 12-7, and Friday 9-4. You can contact Shelson Natural Health, LLC at 989-672-2600.



City offices will be closed
Monday May 26, 2014
in observance of
Memorial Day

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council	April 7 & 21	7:30 p.m.
	May 5 & 19	7:30 p.m.
	June 2 & 16	7:30 p.m.
Planning	April 8	7:00 p.m.
	May 13	7:00 p.m.
	June 10	7:00 p.m.
DDA	April 9	Noon
	May 14	Noon
	June 11	Noon
Historical	April 23	6:30 p.m.
	May 28	6:30 p.m.
	June 25	6:30 p.m.
Parks & Rec	April 17	7:00 p.m.
	May 15	7:00 p.m.
	June 19	7:00 p.m.