



City Voice

October 2014

City of Caro
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Volume 8, Issue 4

SUMMER PROJECTS BY: DICK POULIOT, MAYOR



As I write this letter to you great people of Caro, I hope all is well, and you have enjoyed this very comfortable summer! But the days of a bowl of freshly picked blueberries and fresh, roasted sweet corn are now starting to fade and are being replaced with golden pumpkins and colored leaves. Ever since my early years, and even after I was married, I have

always had those “Summer Projects,” and I’m sure you have had them as well; they could be in the form of a milestone, issue, or physical project. As for me and my house it was all of the above for the summer of 2014. Let me explain and, at the same time, reflect. Both of the projects have been completed with satisfactory outcomes - one more so than the other, but both needed to be done. The first project was the liquidation of my Mom’s estate - hundreds of hours of cleaning, sorting, moving and pricing of thousands of items (a lifetime accumulation) and after a three-day sale it all was sold! Great, right? Well, seeing an empty sale area and empty house made me realize how quickly a lifetime’s worth of needed, special belongings can be sold and gone - the toy chest that was in our family for 50 years, Mom’s kitchenware, Dad’s tools that I watched him use since I was 5 years old - all sold and gone; a very solemn moment in my life. The second project was very challenging and very messy. We removed all the carpet on our first floor and then sanded and refinished the oak floors in our home. It was like we moved a saw mill into the house, even though the drum sander had a dust bag. It consumed about 40 hours of sanding, four different grits of sandpaper, 20 gallons of sawdust and then a day of cleaning to remove the dust. After everything was very clean, we applied three full coats of polyurethane with sheep wool pads. The floors now look like they have a layer of glass on them. It was a very satisfying project with great results that we are very happy with.

The City has also been busy with summer projects. Columbia Street is completed, and we are very satisfied with the work. My thanks go out to the Council, Staff and contractors involved. It has enhanced that area, (with more improvements being made). New water line mains have been installed on Adams and Gardner Streets. This work is very important for both the health and safety of the community. We will finish summer projects with the rebuilding of Adams, Gamble and Gardner Streets, along with skip patching street areas. Paving costs are estimated around 75k and water main work about 57k - most likely we will exceed that cost for additional work and repairs. Beith Park improvements are being researched and studied for proposals. We are very pleased these improvements to our town are being completed. This work is ONLY possible because of your support and good-faith backing of the taxpayer which describes you good people; so, enjoy and take pride in what we are doing together!

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Con't from page 1—Summer Projects

The last item I would like to share is a FUN one. I hope you had the whole family involved for the greater good of the whole area. “When not to Wenatchee.” We, the City, and the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival were challenged to compete against the City of Wenatchee in Washington State, that is noted as being the Apple capitol of the world because of apples produced and their Apple Blossom Festival. This is a city of about 32k population, so we had our work cut out for us. Here’s how we got involved. Us, along with Wenatchee and the nation, had the ability to go online and vote for your favorite blizzard flavor (which I’m sure was pumpkin pie) or the other one, called apple pie blizzard. You should be still able to, view the YouTube video https://youtube.com/watch?v=M_EsVxy6iHE and see the Pumpkin Festival Committee and area folks who are featured in the video. We had fun with this; take pride in your area, town and state and I hope you were able to vote. I apologize for the long letter, but it has been a busy summer full of projects and memories. So, get out there, make your world and the one around you a better one, and join the people who are involved in these projects.

Have a great fall.
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. Along with the projects throughout the community, one of the most anticipated events of the year is also quickly approaching.

The excitement for the 2014 Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival is beginning to rise and this year’s event will be kicking off on October 1st and will be in full swing all the way through the Grand Parade on Sunday October 5th. 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!

Along with the upcoming 2014 Pumpkin Festival, there are several projects just wrapping up. The top priority water

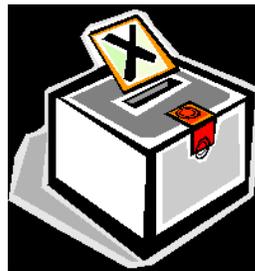
main improvements of East Adams Street and Gardner Street are complete and will allow us to move on to our next priority projects this next fiscal year. The crush and shape paving of West Gamble is also complete and will hopefully last for the next two decades.

Along with infrastructure work, one of the most important projects that was completed since the last newsletter was the adoption of the new 2014-2019 City of Caro Master Plan. The master plan is one of the most important tools for future decision making which includes neighborhood planning, economic development goals, long term zoning and planning policy and other applicable areas. During the master plan update, the planning commission, the City Council, and the general public were able to discuss and plan long term goals that will be ultimately included in the update which will help ensure that the small town character of Caro is preserved while also promoting smart growth and continued economic development.

Now with these several projects out of the way, we can begin to look upward and onward. One of the largest projects on the horizon is the reconstruction of North Almer Street which will take place in 2016. The project was approved for approximately \$325,000 of federal and MDOT Small Urban Task Force Funding. Over the next eighteen months, several more updates about this project will be included throughout our quarterly newsletter.

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



Yes, it’s that time again. Time to get out and vote. The General election will be held November 4, 2014. The City of Caro residents will vote at the Caro Municipal Building, 317 S. State, Caro, Michigan. Precinct one residents will vote in the fire hall training room and precinct two residents will vote in the council chambers. The polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. The last day to register to vote at this election is October 6.

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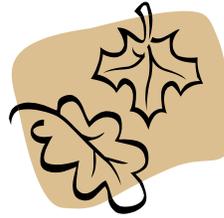
Con't from page 2— A Word from the Clerk

If you are an U.S. citizen and at least 18 years of age on Election Day you have a right to vote. However, you must be a registered voter. To become a registered voter, you must be a U.S. Citizen; at least 18 years old by Election Day, and be a resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying to register to vote. There are several options to register, including your city clerk's office or by visiting any Secretary of State office. It is important to remember that when you arrive at a polling place to vote, state law requires you to either show a picture ID or sign an affidavit attesting that you are not in possession of a picture ID. You can satisfy the ID requirement by showing a Michigan driver's license or state ID card. If you do not possess either document, you may show any current driver's license or ID card issued by another state, a federal or state government issued photo ID, a U.S. passport, a military ID card with a photo, a tribal ID card with a photo or a student ID with a photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education.

Absentee ballots are also available for all elections. The requirements to vote absentee ballot any one of the following: 1) unable to attend the poles without assistance; 2) age 60 or older; 3) expect to be absent from your city or township for the entire time the polls are open on Election Day; 4) are in jail awaiting arraignment or trial; 5) have been assigned to work as a precinct inspector in a precinct other than where you are registered; or 6) are unable to attend the polls because of religious beliefs. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming election, please contact our office at 673-7671 and we will be happy to get you the answers.

The City of Caro will also be mailing tax bills December 1, 2014. 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 the Tuscola Intermediate School.

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 and on the sign at city hall. The last day for brush pickup will be October 6th. 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. 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 hydrants the week of October 20th.

CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF NEWCOMB



Does it seem to everyone that we barely had a summer? It sure seems like it. It feels that it was yesterday that we were digging out of the latest snowfall. Here we are again as we enter early fall with colder than normal temperatures. The good news is that

football is in full swing. The bad news is that we are expecting a colder and snowier winter than normal according to the weather prognosticators.

With the fall comes our annual Tuscola County Pumpkin festival. This year the festivities begin the week of October 1st through the 5th. The classic car and motorcycle show will be held all day on Saturday, October 4th. The pumpkin parade itself will be Sunday, October 5th starting at 1:30 P.M. In between we will have pumpkin pie sales, the food court near the courthouse with free entertainment on Sherman Street. For a complete list of activities, you may pick up a schedule of events off of the Caro Chamber of Commerce website or the pumpkin fest website www.tuscolapumpkinfest.com.

With the festival and parade comes the crowds which

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**City offices will be closed on
Thursday November 27 &
Friday November 28, 2014**

**In observance of
Thanksgiving**

Con't from page 3—Caro Police Department

makes the parade a lot of fun, but creates a lot of impatience afterwards. The Caro Police ask that those that attend the parade exercise patience when they leave the City after the parade. Traffic will undoubtedly be backed up everywhere. Waiting to leave in your vehicle or just enjoying the City for an additional 10-15 minutes could make a world of difference in your stress level. Usually within 20-25 minutes after the parade ends, traffic is pretty much back to normal. If you anticipate having to leave prior to the end of the parade, its best to park on the north side of the City.

For any emergency before, during or after the parade, Caro PD will be stationary at main intersections as well as roving up and down the parade route. The festival committee will be wearing orange and will be available for you also. MMR will be in attendance as well as the State Police and Tuscola Sheriff Departments.

Have a fun autumn. Stay safe.

CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT 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 use.

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 fire stoves. All need to be cleaned and inspected before operating. This annual cleaning should include a chimney inspection and cleaning.

For questions regarding installation of any heating unit please call Building Codes at 989-672-3750.

October is fire prevention month. Have a plan for what to do in a 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 that Carbon Monoxide detectors are strongly recommended...Carbon Monoxide is an odorless and colorless silent killer.

Also please be aware of burning regulations for leaves within the City limits. No burning of leaves or any other yard refuses. There is 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.

SWEARING IN NEW FIREFIGHTER



City Clerk Karen Snider, Fire Chief Randall Heckroth and Matt Strasz (new firefighter)

WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY CURTIS WELLS, SUPT

It is hard to believe it is Fall again already. Maybe it was the really cold winter last year. At any rate it is here, the kids are back to school, and we are preparing for another cold winter here at your Caro WWTP.

We have reworked one of the older clarifiers at the plant after doing the first one last year. We have also replaced one of our lift stations floor that was in bad shape from the constant pulling of pumps, due to the woven rags that are being flushed into our system. Our sanitary sewer system is designed for toilet paper only. This is why I end most of my newsletter articles with this phrase....disposable does NOT mean Flushable.

Thank you for your continued support with this matter.

Curbside Yard Waste

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.

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.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT BACK ALLEY FIBERS



Back Alley Fibers is owned and operated by six ladies (Lisa Abbey, Mary Geer, Mary Gibbs, Sherry Le-Blanc-Richards, Tammy McCool, and Joanne Rasmussen) all who share a love of fiber arts. Back Alley Fibers aim is to make a success their endeavor by serving the knitters and crocheters of Caro and the surrounding area.

Back Alley Fibers is your source for yarns, knitting accessories, books, patterns and finished goods in Michigan's Thumb area. Back Alley Fibers was established in Caro in 2006, they are locally owned and operated business that showcases Michigan and USA products. Back Alley Fibers offers seasonal classes, weekly knitting groups, custom knitting and finishing.

You can visit their shop at 142 N State Street. Their hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m.—5 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m.—7 p.m., or Saturday from 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Back Alley Fibers can be reached at 989-672-2144.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council	Oct 6 & 20	7:30 p.m.
	Nov 3 & 17	7:30 p.m.
	Dec 1 & 15	7:30 p.m.
Planning	Oct 14	7:00 p.m.
	Nov 11	7:00 p.m.
	Dec 9	7:00 p.m.
DDA	Oct 8	Noon
	Nov 12	Noon
	Dec 10	Noon
Historical	Oct 22	6:30 p.m.
	Nov 19	6:30 p.m.
	Dec	No meeting
Parks & Rec	Oct 16	7:00 p.m.
	Nov 20	7:00 p.m.
	Dec 18	7:00 p.m.

**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
EDWARD JONES**



Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the types of investment options offered to the location of branch offices, is designed to cater to individual investors in the communities in which they live and work. The

firm's financial advisors work directly with clients to understand their personal goals-from college savings to retirement-and create long-term investment solutions that emphasize a well-balanced portfolio and a buy-and-hold strategy. Edward Jones embraces the importance of building long-term, face-to-face relationships with clients, helping them to understand and make sense of the investment options available today.

Barry W Cronin is the financial advisor in Caro, with his branch located at 451 North State Street, Suite 1. You can set up an appointment with him at 672-0142.



City offices will be closed on
Wednesday December 24, and
Thursday December 25, 2014

City offices will be closed on
Wednesday December 31, 2014
Thursday January 1, 2015

HOLIDAY GARBAGE SCHEDULE



Friday November 28, 2014

Friday December 26, 2014

Friday January 2, 2015

**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
PLANT IT! HYDRO**

Plant It! Hydro
Indoor & Hydroponic Grow Supplies
989-673-4769



Plant It! Hydro Indoor & Hydroponic Grow Supplies opened in September of 2013 at 418 West Frank Street. The business is owned and operated by Andrew Hiser. They offer indoor hydroponics supplies such as bulbs, hoods/reflectors, ballast, pots, soil, nutrients, cloning, hydro setups, air/water pumps, and hoses at a price their customers can afford. Plant It! Hydro stocks a range of hydroponic equipment to choose from.

Their hours of operation are Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m.— 6 p.m., Friday to Saturday from 11 a.m.— 5 p.m. Plant It! Hydro and Hydroponic Grow Supplies can be reached at 989-673-4769.

PLEASE CUT ON DOTTED LINE

If your contact information has changed on your Utility Account, please fill out the portion below and return to: City of Caro, 317 S. State Street, Caro, MI 48723. There are times we may recognize a possible concern such as high usage and try to reach our residents to let them know they may have a problem only to find the phone number has been changed.

Owner Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ Cell: _____

Contact In My Absence: _____ Phone: _____