



# City Voice

April 2015

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

(989) 673-2226  
(989) 673-7310 (Fax)  
Web Page: [www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net)

Volume 9, Issue 2

## MORE THAN JUST THE WEATHER IS ABOUT TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

BY: DICK POULIOT, MAYOR



It's great to be able to talk with you again; and, yes, as I write this letter, Old Man Winter is losing his proverbial grip! It was another great year to either develop or have a winter sport. The ice fishermen, snowmobilers, hunters, and enthusiasts had a wonderful winter. For all of you other folks, I'm sorry it was a long, cold and rough stretch (I'm glad that I wasn't the Mayor of Boston - that was just plain ugly)!

My letter references that the folks in Caro and the greater area are experiencing development and seeing major improvements. We are about to write a new chapter in our lives and community. One of the first items I would like to talk about is the \$101,000.00 purchase of new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA's), for our Caro Fire Department. They have been working with 17-year-old equipment that had a life expectancy of 15 years that has served us longer because of the great care and expertise (in house) – thanks guys. This purchase will improve public safety for fire fighters as well as greater lifesaving capability for the entire fire district.

The next major improvement is a \$75,000.00 playground improvement project to be completed by community volunteers this spring. It is going to be an all-inclusive playscape including several ADA activities. This will be a great enhancement to Bieth Park that already has picnic areas, horseshoe pits, basketball, and disk golf. The Ad Hoc Committee of Parks and Recreation has been working on the project with Tom Striffler lending a hand with community involvement from major groups and businesses. If you would like to help or donate money please contact City Manager, Jared Olson.

The next turn for the better is improvement in our community's walkability. From the City and DDA, there will be \$130,000.00 plus investment into sidewalk building and replacement starting this spring. This includes the areas of sidewalk connecting Hooper and Main Streets and back to Gilford Road. I would like to thank the DDA as well as private landowners, Marc and Linda Chambers; Brentwood Graphics; and Kan Rock Tire who have cooperated enabling completion of this project. If you would like a sidewalk replaced and would like to be a part of the next sidewalk assessment, please contact City DPW or City Hall. In staying with the theme of mobility, i.e., drivability, we are very excited that the City's letter of interest has moved to the next step in the Scrap Tire Paving grant. This is a dollar for dollar grant for a maximum of \$111,000.00 that would allow repavement of nearly one mile of city streets. We will keep you informed. Water line replacement will be continued. Because of the nature of the work, repavement and water line replacement will be done hand in hand as one can't replace water lines without digging up the street requiring new pavement. Undersized water lines on S. Kinyon, Atwood, and West Bush Streets will be replaced with 8-inch main lines. These types of projects are unique because we will see and drive on new streets as well as have the added benefit of better water service for our public good.

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These are just some of the improvements that will take place this coming summer with your already paid tax dollars. It is a special honor to be a part of such a community that has the good faith backing of such a great group of stakeholders - we couldn't do any of this without your help and trust. I also want to continue to recognize all of the hard and steadfast work done by our City employees. With their guidance and commitment we are able to make Caro a better place. As you see, many things will be changing for the better.

The last comment that I would like to make is, hats off to the school and its supporter's efforts to make additional improvements in their campus and our community. Caro is certainly doing all it can for the overall improvement of many.

Aren't we blessed to be a part of so many improvements and the start of a new chapter in the history of Caro! See you at Cars and Crafts or Farmers' Market or downtown. Until then...

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



With the incoming spring, several projects throughout our community will begin. One of the most exciting projects that is on the horizon for this summer will be an LED street light upgrade that will be completed in partnership with DTE. The City of Caro will see all 220

traditional overhead streetlights throughout town replaced with significantly more energy efficient LED heads. The project is currently scheduled to begin in July of this summer and will take approximately three weeks to complete from start to finish.

The entire light conversion will be done by labor donated by DTE. The labor donation cost by DTE is currently estimated at over \$11,000 dollars and will include an additional direct Energy Efficiency Rebate of \$9,000. When the upgrades are completed and the new lights brought online, the overall annual operating savings will be nearly \$14,000. The cities portion of the project will be the cost of purchasing the hardware and light fixtures at approximately \$62,000 which will be paid back in just over three year's time. Not only will the LED upgrade be

extremely cost effective in the long run but it will also help to keep our streets well lit and our community safe at night.

Along with the streetlight 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 cold this 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.

Along with street projects, I would like to take this chance to remind everyone about Caro's Noxious Weed Ordinance which will go into effect as soon as 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**



There will be a statewide ballot proposal on the May 5, 2015 Special Election Ballot. It is a proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees. To view the entire sample ballot for the City of Caro, go to the Tuscola County website at [www.tuscolacounty.org](http://www.tuscolacounty.org) and click on Election Information on the right side of the screen. Click on the tab that says May 5, 2015 election, view ballot and scroll down to page 29.

The last day to register for the May 5 election is April 6. The election for the City of Caro will be held at the Caro Municipal Building with Precinct 1 being held in the fire hall and Precinct 2 in the Council chambers.

The summer 2015 tax bills will be mailed July 1, 2015 and the last day to pay without interest is September 15.

## CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH

Spring is close at hand, and with warmer weather we will feel the need for yard clean up, that was left from our very cold winter. Please note there are some rules to follow for the “Spring Cleanup.” There is no open burning allowed within the city limits of Caro. All yard debris needs to be put into the proper container and taken away. For out of city residents please call for a burning permit. The message on the phone will clearly inform you of the rules. Michigan does not allow any burning of garbage, and no building construction material. This also includes tires, etc. The only acceptable items to be burned are: tree logs, branches and leaves. This is for out of city only. Please be safe whenever burning and have an enjoyable Michigan Spring.

For all fire related questions and burn permits please contact the Fire Chief at 989-673-2002.

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## WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY CURTIS WELLS, SUPT

The staff at your Caro area Wastewater Treatment Plant hope that everyone made it through the winter and the harsh temperatures for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. Luckily Spring is upon us and it will get warmer.



Warmer weather gets us all motivated to do some spring cleaning. We would like to remind everyone that the drains are no place to pour our materials we do not want anymore, because this has a big negative effect on your Caro Wastewater Treatment Plant and its resident bacteria that make our process

work. Our local Tuscola County Recycling Center has a spring Household Hazardous Waste and Latex Paint Collection during the Spring. This is run by appointment only. Please go to their website [www.tuscolacounty.org/recycling/](http://www.tuscolacounty.org/recycling/) for more information and dates. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

## 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, Emterra will start yard waste pickup.

Remember to put yard waste in containers marked with an “X” or yard waste bags. Also, the chipping dates this year are Monday May 4, Monday July 20 and Monday October 5. 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 20<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 August of this year we will be doing infrastructure improvements on W. Bush Street from Sheridan Street to Palmer Street, S. Kinyon Street from Monroe Street to W. Frank Street, and Atwood Street from Monroe Street to W. Frank Street. The work will entail upgrading of the water mains on these streets and milling and repaving of asphalt. 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. Any questions regarding the project please feel free to call me at 989-673-2571.

## 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, our basements, and yes the garage! With this also comes garage sale time.

Please be advised city residents are required to purchase garage sale permits. Permits are \$1.00 each and you must have one permit for each sign you are placing and they are good for three (3) consecutive days. 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 POLICE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF NEWCOMB

Spring is in the air and the snow is melting. Hopefully, it stays that way.

There has been a lot of press coverage lately over every use of force situation country wide. This has created an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion over the police community. No matter which side of the issues you personally stand on, I came across this article in a law officers magazine which is addressed to police officers, but is pertinent to everyone and bears repeating here.

### “Helping people understand the hardships of police work is a tough task”

It is a bad time to be a police officer, my friends. We have the normal day to day stresses we always face: having a job that requires each one of us to wear body armor and carry an assortment of weapons to give the opportunity to make it to the end of our shift. Having to know statutory law for our jurisdiction, state case law, federal case law and our agency’s policy and procedures so we don’t get fired, sued or sent to prison for everything we do. Having to decide in a millisecond if we need to be a psychologist, a sociologist, a martial artist or a gun fighter and knowing whatever decision we make will be couch-coached to the end of time. We also have a job that requires us to work weekends and holidays and weird times of day and night and miss our families and our kids’ activities. Add to this the stress we face from the good people in society who get angry when the law won’t let us go further. **Victim:** My car got broken into and my phone was stolen and is inside that house because this app says so... **Cop:** Yes, Ma’am, we would love to help you but that app isn’t a judge and we can’t kick down doors and seize property without a judge’s signature. Yes, we know your stuff will be gone by the time we get a warrant....

Or, there are the people who are in a public park and want us to show up and forcibly remove the homeless because they are scary and they stink. The final word we get from citizens in both of those cases and a hundred others with a hundred other concerns is: “you cops just don’t care, you never do anything”. Now, add to that all the “Hands up, don’t shoot” people, and the “I can’t breathe” folks. Most of those people have no idea what happened during either of those instances, but that won’t stop them from getting in our faces and shouting about how we are bad people. Believe me, when I tell you, I wish cops never had to use force of any kind. We use force when things have not worked out and all too often we get banged up in the process. The problem with the whole Garner deal (New York) is what it represents. On the one hand you have a guy who likes to sell “untaxed” smokes for a living. I agree that

no one should die over that, or for selling just about anything else (as long as it’s legal). That isn’t the point or the problem. Those smokes are enough of a problem that cops are specifically assigned to deal with them, and just so we are clear, “untaxed” means stolen or unlawfully brought in from another state. Some people seem to think those cops should have just walked away when Garner refused arrest. These are people who clearly don’t realize that at the end of the day, we are only here because society has decided we need a line in the sand and cops stand on that line. Every use of force happens because someone made the same decision Garner made. (Not to comply with the officers directions). If we walk away from him, we need to walk away from all of them and I don’t think anyone believes we are ready for a society without a line in the sand. Each day we wake up, a thankless job becomes more thankless. So, what do we do about it? Simple! As always, we treat everyone with dignity and respect and, as always, we have a backup plan if need be. Next, we spread the word. Many people are still on our side and we must give them permission to voice what they know to be true: we are the good guys and our thankless job isn’t easy and often isn’t even fun. We need to make these people understand that split second decisions are hard to make and even harder when they involve freedom or life and death. After giving them the words and the permission to use them we may stop the hate and turn things around.



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.

## ROADHOUSE MUSEUM BY GAIL LESOSKI

The Caro Historical Commission is looking forward to another enjoyable and educational season of events at the Caro Roadhouse Museum. As always, we attempt to keep everything “old”, new, for you by providing continuously changing displays that cover a wide variety of interests.

The 2015 roster begins with our May 16 and 17 “Salute to Soldiers”, this year honoring Vietnam Vets, in conjunction with the National 50<sup>th</sup> Year Commemoration of the Vietnam War. We have timed this to occur on the weekend of Armed Forces Day. We invite local Vietnam Vets and their families to contact us, so that we can include their collections and photos in the display. The Frankenmuth Military and Space Heroes Museum is expected to collaborate with us by loaning a few of their relics from the Vietnam War to us for this event.

The next event will be the weekend of June 27 and 28, when we are open for the annual County-Wide Museum Consortium Open House. This is always a well-attended show, with many of the museums in Tuscola County providing an opportunity for history-lovers to cruise the Thumb and enjoy a free weekend of entertainment. Our theme this year is “Carocopia”, A Display of Caro Memorabilia. We look forward to sharing our collections of Caro-related items and ask that you help to fill-out the display with items of your own.

Later in the season, we will have our annual Patriots’ Day event in September. During Pumpkin Festival in October, you will see a display about the history of Girl Scouting, and Gingerbread Festival will find us “dolling up” the museum with a display of antique and collectible dolls, plus, an assortment of decorated Christmas trees. You can look forward to more information about these events as they draw nearer. Remember, you can always go to our Facebook page: Caro Roadhouse Museum and become our “friend” to keep up on events at the museum. Open houses at the museum are, also, advertised on the sign at Caro City Hall during the week of the event.

If you have items you would like to share with the public for either the Salute to Vietnam Vets or Carocopia, please, contact us by leaving a message at the Caro City Hall, 989-673-2226, or call 989-673-5389, and we will be in touch with you. Remember,

as always, the items you loan us for display will be returned to you at the end of the event. Your help and ideas are so very important to us. We hope you can join us for some of these events.



THE CITY OFFICES  
WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MONDAY MAY 25, 2015  
IN OBSERVANCE OF  
MEMORIAL DAY

**Yard waste pick up  
begins April 2nd  
grass clippings, trimmings  
from shrubs, trees,  
and other greenery**  
**Must use biodegradable paper sacks or  
plastic bins with attachable covers**  
**Bins must have a large “X” on container**

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council	April 6 & 20	7:30 p.m.
	May 4 & 18	7:30 p.m.
	June 1 & 15	7:30 p.m.
Planning	April 14	7:00 p.m.
	May 12	7:00 p.m.
	June 9	7:00 p.m.
DDA	April 8	Noon
	May 13	Noon
	June 10	Noon
Historical	April 22	6:30 p.m.
	May 27	6:30 p.m.
	June 24	6:30 p.m.
Parks & Rec	April 16	7:00 p.m.
	May 21	7:00 p.m.
	June 18	7:00 p.m.

## CITY OF CARO NOTICE OF PROVISIONS OF THE WEED ORDINANCE



All owners, occupants or possessors of land in the City of Caro, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Ordinance No. 228 of the City of Caro all noxious, poisonous or injurious weeds, or other weeds, grass or brush exceeding a height of eight (8) inches upon any property in the City of Caro shall be cut down, destroyed or removed, as the case may be, to prevent growth in excess of eight (8) inches. In the event the owner or occupant, or any persons, agent, firm or corporation having control or management of any lots, place or parcel of land within the City of Caro shall fail, refuse or neglect to comply with the above mentioned ordinance, the City of Caro or its authorized representatives shall cause said noxious, poisonous or injurious weeds or other weeds, grass or brush exceeding a height of eight (8) inches to be cut down, destroyed or removed. A charge as determined by resolution of the City of Caro shall be assessed for cutting, destruction or removal of same and will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law.

## CITY OF CARO BRUSH CHIPPING POLICY



**A friendly reminder on how to properly prepare your brush for 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. Brush is to be placed at the curbside no more than ten (10) days prior to the next pickup and it 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. 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.

Chipping is for limbs and any small debris lying on the ground after pick up is the responsibility of the homeowner.

If your brush was not picked up today, it was because of one or more of the following. Please take note of the problem and correct it for the next pick up. **Thank you.**

- Your pile of brush was larger than 4x4x6. Only that amount was taken. Longer limbs and branches are preferred, but should not be longer than one man can reasonably lift.
- Your branches were not placed neatly at the curb with the cut edges toward the road.
- You had one or more stumps or roots that will not go through the chipper or you placed small, spindly trimmings or chippings that will not go through the chipper.
- You had one or more branches that were twisted and gnarled or had a large "V" fork in them and would not go through the chipper.

Brush placed at the curbside before the ten (10) day period prior to pick up may be considered blight and will be handled as such. A ten (10) day blight notice will be mailed and if said brush remains on the curbside after the ten (10) day period, a private contractor will be hired by the city and the cost including a twenty dollar administrative fee will be invoiced back to the property owner.

### PLEASE NOTE:

That the Noxious Weed and Brush Chipping Policy does not reflect the policies in their entirety. All City of Caro Policies can be found on the web by going to [www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net) on the home page click on Departments, Administration then scroll down to the bottom to Policies to view them in their entirety.



# SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday May 9, 2015  
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

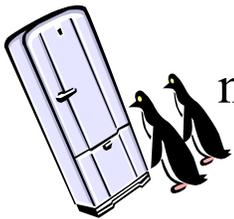
**City of Caro Residents Only!**

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



## **Tires**

Tires without rims will be accepted  
Limit 8 per household  
(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

