



City Voice

July 2018

City of Caro
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“A MINUTE WITH THE MAYOR”

GO TAKE A HIKE!

BY: MAYOR JOE GREENE



Paths and trails, used for walking or cycling, are an important part of recreation and tourism in a community. Trails provide links between parks, natural resources, recreational areas and other destinations in and around a community. Trails contribute to the overall quality of life in the community. Connecting parks and recreational areas with trails creates a walkable environment in the community, provides free family-time fun, and can lead to a healthier lifestyle of the community’s residents.

With over 60,000 miles of trails in the National trail system, there is no lack of opportunity to take a hike. Michigan has over 987 trails that range from 0.75 to 875 miles in length. The City of Caro and the surrounding area offers numerous trails for our residents to enjoy.

While taking a leisurely stroll or pedal through the City, there are several opportunities for walkers to stop for a break. Noble Boulder Garden, (behind Chemical Bank), Memorial Garden (at the corner of M-24 and M-81), Botanical Gardens (on Hooper across from McLaren-Caro Region), and Atwood Park (on the corner of State and Bush Streets) all offer a quiet place to rest before you continue on your walk.

Although primarily used for educational purposes, the Caro High School is a great place to walk during inclement weather. One loop from the pool down the main hall to the front doors and back is ¼ mile. The school is open in the evening for walking.

While technically not hiking trails, the walk through Bieth Park and the Fairgrounds is paved and shady. Take time to let the children play on the playscapes, picnic, play a game of disc golf, and then walk with them down the road near the buildings that house the animals and displays during the Tuscola County Fair.

Chippewa Landing Park Trail is a one+ mile paved trail that runs through the park and crosses the Cass River in two locations. The trail follows a pathway and boardwalk along M-24, passes through the park, then re-crosses the Cass on a pedestrian bridge. While at Chippewa Landing, you can have a picnic, go fishing, let the children play on the playground, launch a canoe or kayak, or just take a break and enjoy the scenery.

Soon, the Chippewa Loop will be connected to the 45 acre Caro Exchange Club Forest. The Exchange Club, in partnership with the City, maintains and manages the forest and provides opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing, outdoor recreation, and environmental education.

Indianfields Township Park, located west of Caro, offers excellent opportunities for natural resource-based recreation with access to the Cass River. The park includes 100 acres of hiking trails, picnic sites, playground, ball fields, fishing, and a butterfly and herb garden.

The Darbee Farm Park is located in Almer Township off M-81. The park provides many features for every age; enjoyable playgrounds, walking trails, picnic areas,

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ball field, and pavilions, with a restful country setting.

Tuscola County also has one county park. Vanderbilt County Park and Campground is an 18-acre park along the shores of Saginaw Bay. Hikers may use the nature trail, which accesses Lake Huron, as well as the playground and picnic area or camp at one of 32 campsites.

Hiking can burn between 400-550 calories per hour. Be sure to wear good shoes, take a snack, keep hydrated, and bring a friend. Get out there and enjoy the fresh air, scenery, and get a little exercise to boot! Go take a hike!! Please be sure to follow the City of Caro and Mayor Joe Greene on Facebook and on the City's website (www.carocity.net). As always, feel free to contact me at jgreene@carocity.net, message me on my Facebook page, or call City Hall at 673-7671 to set up an appointment. If you ever have any questions or concerns related to the City of Caro, please do not hesitate to contact me to let me know!

**MANAGER'S MUSINGS
BY: TOM STRIFFLER**



I am happy to be able to help fill in as Interim City Manager this summer, while the City Council completes the search for a permanent City Manager. It has been a very busy summer already and there is much ahead.

We are happy to greet Jeff Graham as our new DPW Superintendent effective June 11. Jeff comes to us from Bridgeport Township with several years experience in both water and sewer systems. He will be overseeing the streets and water systems here in Caro as well as general DPW issues. Jeff is quickly getting acclimated to Caro and we look forward to him combining his expertise with the experience of our staff to serve our citizens well.

We have completed repaving several streets this summer already thanks to the assistance of a grant for using reclaimed tires. The Luder Road Bridge has been rehabbed and was completed on time. A big thank you to everyone who put up with the detour.

This year's sidewalk projects are wrapping up. While it takes a lot of work to keep them in shape, WE ALL need

to appreciate how walkable Caro is compared to many communities. Get out and walk somewhere in town, that you have not been to lately. Many of our homeowners have made improvements and their yards are beautiful this time of year.

The City has recently been approved to put a pedestrian crossing from Chippewa Landing Park over toward the Exchange Club Forest. This street level crossing will allow citizens and visitors access between the two trails with a signed crossing. Watch for this to happen by the end of the year.

The improved and expanded parking lot between Burnside and Lincoln in the downtown area is beautiful and is being utilized. By fall you should see some enhanced landscaping and lighting there as well. The DDA and the City continue to work on a façade improvement project and "Redevelopment Ready Community" program that should help capture state tax dollars and use them here at "home."



City offices will be closed
on Wednesday
July 4, 2018
in observance of
Independence Day.

| <u>UPCOMING MEETINGS</u> | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Council | July 2 & 16 Aug 13 & 20 Sept 4 & 17 | 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. |
| Planning | July 10 & 24 Aug 14 & 28 Sept 11 & 25 | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. |
| DDA | July 11 Aug 8 Sept 12 | Noon Noon Noon |
| Historical | July Aug 22 Sept 26 | No Meeting 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. |
| Parks & Rec | July 19 Aug 16 Sept 20 | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. |

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

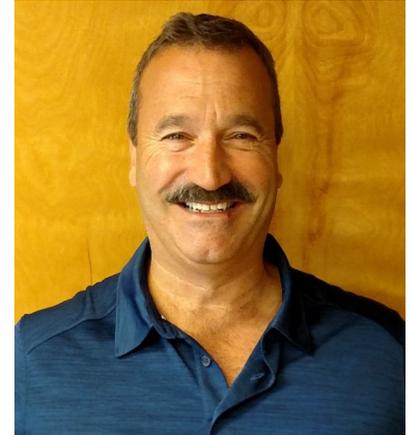


The City of Caro is experiencing many changes which includes new voting equipment and software updates for the Qualified Voters File (QVF). This links the State of Michigan with the local municipality sharing voter information.

Two important dates to place on your calendar are August 7, 2018 which is the State Primary election and November 6, 2018, the State General election. The last day to register for the primary is July 9 and the General is October 9. There will be three parties appearing on the ballot in August, the Republican, Democratic and Libertarian. Another change you will see is that the voter will no longer connect the arrow. You will now completely darken the oval opposite to each choice shown. For the August Primary, you may vote in one party section only. You cannot split your ticket. Also, the ballot will be printed on both sides. If you do not want to use the paper ballot, try our new ballot marking station. You just touch the screen to make your choices and when done you print your ballot. The ballot is run through the tabulator and you are done voting.

The City of Caro has several seats up for election in November. The Mayor (two-year term); three Council member seats (four-year term) and a partial term which ends November, 2020. Anyone who wishes to run for any of the vacant seats can pick up their petitions, Affidavit of Identity and Statement of Organization at the City Clerk's office or County Clerks. There will also be an instruction sheet attached.

THE CITY OF CARO WELCOMES JEFFREY GRAHAM, DPW SUPERINTENDENT



Jeff Graham came on board June 11, 2018. Jeff comes to us with several years' experience in vehicle maintenance, buildings and grounds, parks and water as well as

leadership skills. He also holds licenses not only in the water department but also the wastewater treatment area. He can be reached by calling 989-673-2571.



Go Green... COMING IN EARLY JULY Pay your City of Caro utility bills and taxes online!

The City of Caro is going electronic in early July. You can help save natural resources when you pay electronically. Enjoy these new services!

- Pay from your checking or savings account (\$1 convenience fee applies)
- Pay by credit or debit card (2.75% [+50¢ if under \$100] convenience fee applies)
- Pay immediately, schedule a payment or set up recurring payments
- Print receipts, view payment history
- View balance due online and on the mobile app

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT
BY: CURTIS WELLS, SUPT**



The staff at your Caro area Waste Water Treatment Plant are happy to serve the residents of Caro and would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer season. Camping season is upon us and that being

said, the RV dump is open. As a reminder, please stop after pulling into the facility to register. Also, please be vigilant of all our children who are out of school and enjoying their summer. As always please remember... disposable does not mean flushable. Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter. God Bless!

**CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT
BY: CHIEF BRIAN NEWCOMB**



The Caro Police department continues to be busy responding to the community. School is out and we want to remind everyone to stay safe in their summer travels. We just assisted the Akron-Fairgrove Police with a family notification of a fatal car crash. These are extremely

emotional and difficult circumstances for the surviving family members as well as the police officers that are placed in the difficult position of having to notify family. This particular crash was caused by a driver running a stop sign. The victim in this case was not at fault. The frustrating part is just that...Not at fault, but still taken from loved ones and family.

The driver that caused the crash will have to live with his actions. I want to appeal to everyone to stay alert when driving. Blind intersections can be especially hazardous, and in this case was a contributing factor to the crash. Even though you may have the right of way, if you can't see if another car is approaching the intersection, please slow down in case the vehicle that's supposed to stop, doesn't. Please don't assume that the other driver is going to drive safely. In my 40 years of police work and specifically being an accident investigator, I can tell you that most of Tuscola County fatal crashes occur from failing to stop at stop signs.

This all reminds me of a campaign that the Michigan Officer of Highway and Safety Planning used to run years ago. The message was about defensive driving. The slogan was "he was right....dead right".

On a bright note, I want to recognize the dispatchers, police officers, MMR response for a save that occurred last week. The Caro Police department responded to a report of a single vehicle traffic crash on Van Giesen west of M-81. A man had suffered cardiac arrest and had crashed. Tuscola County Deputies Sgt. Mike Matlin, with his college intern Ryan Hull, Deputy Coleman, Officer Brian Ducolon from Caro PD all took turns performing CPR on the man who was saved by their actions and is recovering at Bay McClaren hospital. Dispatchers Stacie Gilberg and Brandon Bertram assisted from their end. A collective effort turned from tragedy to success by the first responder's actions.

A special tribute to all involved and thank you.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

FREE ADMISSION FOR EVERYONE



Come enjoy the talents of musical performers at Atwood Park (downtown) every Thursday, July through August. Show begins at 6:30 p.m. and are free to everyone!

July 5 - Lamrocks & Sunshiners

July 12- Riptide

July 19- Josh Ramssey Band

July 26 - Tom & Jerry Show

Aug 2 - Dixieland Band

Aug 9 - Matt Wahl

Aug 16 - Eclectic Junction—Ray Bates & John Timko

Aug 23 - Sonas

Aug 30 - Sunshine String Band



CODE ENFORCEMENT BY: CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



Well, spring has come and gone and summer is finally here. Please take the time to review your property for items that need to be dealt with. Any structure repairs including falling down fences, should be addressed to insure a weather tight seal.

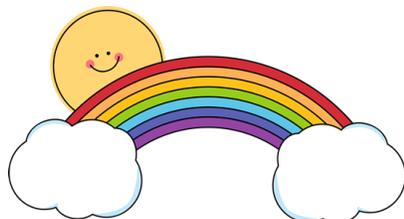
Zoning permits can be acquired from this office as well. Permits are required for any type of building construction, which includes fences and pools. With each permit you will receive a copy of the city ordinance to follow through with your project, to insure a valid completion.

Please feel free to meet with me at my office for a copy of any ordinance, or you may go online to www.carocity.net for a complete version.

In the event you should receive a notice from this office please follow the instructions, please keep in mind that it is never the intention of this office to insult any property owner for any situation that may be found on their property. It is my purpose to educate the residents of the City of Caro of the code ordinances, and work with them to help keep our city clean and blight free. The Code Enforcement Officer is aware that in some situations, the time set may not be sufficient to accomplish the task. It is therefore imperative that you contact my office to acquire; if so allowed, an extension of time.

Flower Show: Poppies and Petunias and Pollinators, Oh My!

The Caro Garden Club, Inc. invites you to click your ruby slippers and attend its flower show Saturday, July 14, 2018. A beautiful array of floral designs and horticultural exhibits will reflect a Wizard of Oz theme and will be open free to the public from noon to 4 p.m. Just follow the yellow brick road to St. Christopher Parish Center, 910 West Frank Street (at the corner of Frank and Hooper streets) in Caro, Michigan. For more information, contact: Linda Mason, 989-325-1261 (cell), timeflies1213@gmail.com or Sue Nearing, 989-823-3607 (home), bookwoman72@yahoo.com.



CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT BY: CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



With summer in full force here in Michigan, everyone will be enjoying the great outdoors. There will be grilling, family picnics, fireworks, parades and even campfires. Listed here are some suggestions to keep your summer safe and fun.

- Fireworks - Always use them under adult supervision, and follow local rules for discharge times and types. Remember noise ordinances are in affect at all times. Try to gather all discharged containers and insure they are wetted down.
- Campfires - Again, use only with adult supervision. Only tree logs are allowed anywhere in the state and always extinguish the fire when everyone is done. For campfires within the City of Caro, you can only burn in an approved, manufactured unit with a screen lid.
- Please be courteous when burning so as not to put a nuisance on your neighbors from your smoke.
- Please check your smoke detectors before the Fourth of July.
- For burn permits for brush piles and leaves, please call 989-673-2002 and listen to the message. Leave your name, contact number, and address. Permits are free and are valid for thirty-days.

A special thanks to all business owners that contributed to this years Fire Pup program. We have raised over \$2,500.00 that will be used to order fire prevention merchandise, which will be distributed throughout the county.

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.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: MCLAREN CARO REGION

Caro Community Hospital was acquired by McLaren Healthcare Corporation as of January 1, 2018. While the hospital was purchased wholly by McLaren, we retained our full Board of Trustees and Leadership/Management Team. McLaren added one board member, Mark O'Halla who is McLaren's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Caro Community Hospital's new name has become McLaren Caro Region (MCR).

The primary service areas of MCR are Caro, Vassar and Mayville with secondary service areas of Kingston, Akron, Fairgrove and parts of Unionville. MCR added Caro Quick Care in June 2017. This walk-in Urgent Care style clinic offers after hour's availability to see ill patients Monday-Friday 2pm-10pm and Saturday/Sunday from 10am-6pm.

MCR has paired with Renue Physical Therapy for an expanded patient experience that no other Physical Therapy company can provide in Caro. These services include a full range of Occupational Therapy as well as treatment of Pelvic Floor Dysfunction for both men and women. This highly successful treatment for urinary incontinence has MCR as the only facility in Michigan's Thumb treating this medical issue! An added newer area of the hospital and Rehabilitation Services is the enhanced Occupational Medicine Department. This department provides: pre-employment drug screens, post injury drug screens, post injury medical treatment and follow up, state of the art mobile hearing testing and Fit Testing for those requiring masks and breathing apparatuses.

Additionally, MCR has joined in a partnership with Senior Life Solutions to provide outpatient services to individuals suffering from one or more of the following: Loneliness, Grief and Loss, Depression, Anxiety, Crying, Decreased Energy, Low Self-Confidence and Life Transitions. The services offered include psychiatric evaluation, group therapy, individual therapy, family therapy, medication evaluation, psychiatric medication management, resource development and discharge planning! Treatment is individualized and usually starts with three treatment days each week for about four hours each day.

MCR's former Wellness Wednesdays have transformed into a new, even bigger and better service to our community as the new Whole Health Wednesday. With a physician's order, MCR offers cash payment deeply discounted specific laboratory testing, low dose lung CT cancer screening and full body fat analysis for those working on their personal health. Please contact MCR for additional information on any of the services mentioned or if you have any questions regarding our services offered!

CITY OF CARO EXCERPT FROM 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.

In addition, the City dump located at Weeden Road, Caro, MI will be opened from 10 a.m. to noon the first and third Saturday beginning the first Saturday in April until the last Saturday of November. In case of damage caused by a storm, the DPW Superintendent may open the dump to allow residents to clean up brush caused by such storm as staffing allows.

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.

Caro City residents may take tree limbs, brush, and stones to the Emterra Environmental USA Landfill at 4151 South McMillan Road, Bad Axe, MI 48413, 989-658-2594.

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

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 Brush Chipping Policy does not reflect the policy in its entirety. All City of Caro Policies can be found on the web by going to www.carocity.net)

**CITY OF CARO
WATER/SEWER RATE INCREASES
EFFECTIVE AUGUST 01, 2018**

Inside City Water Rates

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| BASE FEE 0 – 5,000 gallons of use | \$ 22.00 |
| 5,001 – 100,000 gallons of use | \$ 2.23/1,000 gallons used |
| 100,001 – 250,000 gallons of use | \$ 2.20/1,000 gallons used |
| 250,001 – 10,000,000 gallons of use | \$ 1.86/1,000 gallons used |
| 10,000,001 + gallons of use | \$ 1.48/1,000 gallons used |

Outside City Water Rates

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| BASE FEE 0 – 5,000 gallons of use | \$ 44.00 |
| 5,001 – 100,000 gallons of use | \$ 4.46/1,000 gallons used |
| 100,001 – 250,000 gallons of use | \$ 4.40/1,000 gallons used |
| 250,001 – 10,000,000 gallons of use | \$ 3.72/1,000 gallons used |
| 10,000,001 + gallons of use | \$ 2.96/1,000 gallons used |

Metered Sewer Rates

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| BASE FEE | \$ 8.00 |
| Per 1,000 gallons of use: | \$ 10.40/1,000 gallons of water used |

(Example 7,000 gallons water consumption = \$8.00 + \$72.80= \$80.80 in addition to water cost)

**NEW RATES WILL BE REFLECTED ON
THE OCTOBER 2018 BILLING**

**The City of Caro Council will review the water and sewer rates annually. **