



# City Voice

July 2019

City of Caro  
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Caro, Michigan 48723

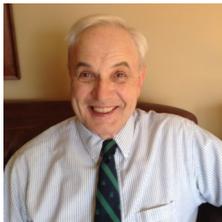
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Volume 13, Issue 3

## “A MINUTE WITH THE MAYOR”

### GO TAKE A HIKE!

BY: MAYOR JOE GREENE



*“See, when you drive home today, you've got a big windshield on the front of your car. And you've got a little bitty rearview mirror. And the reason the windshield is so large and the rearview mirror is so small is because what's happened in your past is not near as important as what's in your future.”*

.....Joel Osteen (American author and clergyman)

Driving a car is a lot like life. We must keep our eyes on the road and focus on the direction we are going. While constantly looking in the rear view mirror is not nearly as important as looking where we are headed, we do need to reflect on where we have been in order to see how we got where we are. We keep going, one stop after the other. One turn after the other. We make choices of speeding up, slowing down, swerving, missing an accident, and then we continue on our path.

I like using the gear selector on the car to describe life in our community:

Park - The gears are locked and prevent movement.

We all need to remember that life changes. People and businesses leave town for whatever reason. Life does not stand still for anyone or anything. We cannot become stagnant and just sit. Change is a good thing.

Neutral - A disengaged position of gears in which the engine is disconnected from the driven parts. It is in this gear that we can weigh pros and cons without being more attached to one side or another.

Reverse - To control the direction of moving backward. While looking back we can see how we got where we are going, we cannot focus totally on the past. We cannot go back to the way we were.

Drive - To operate and control the direction of moving forward. Moving Caro forward is and always has been my #1 goal. By doing this there will be change. Like going from a Village to a City and bringing in new businesses. Like repairing our sidewalks and streets. Like upgrading our parks and trail system. Like seeing that our money is invested in a way that

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will benefit the City. Like coordinating with other agencies and organizations to provide programs to the citizens. Like working diligently to keep the Caro Center project on target. This list goes on and on. Drive means progress.

Driving a car is a lot like life. Sometimes it is so darn easy. You get in, turn the key, head on down the road; arriving at your destination safe and sound. Other days, it's not so easy. When we hit a pot hole on the way, run out of gas, or get that flat; we are just being reminded, like driving, life is not predictable.

## **MANAGER'S MUSINGS**

**BY: MICHAEL SILVERMAN**



These past few months of spring have posed a difficult challenge with the State halting construction on the new mental health facility in Tuscola County. This obstacle has provided me the chance to witness the resiliency and strength of citizens in this

community to fight to keep the Caro Center where it belongs. Also, it has shown the many great collaborative efforts taking place between the City of Caro, Tuscola County, and the Caro Schools System. I am proud to be a resident of this great community.

During these spring months I have had the opportunity to witness some great events in Caro. There was the ribbon cutting at the Atwood Park Band Shell. The hard work by all the members of the community has led to the redevelopment of Atwood Park. We now have a brand new band shell to host musical events and a beautiful landscaping arrangement for citizens to enjoy when they visit the park. In particular, we would like to thank all the generous donors that contributed to this project. Also, I had the opportunity to attend my first Cars and Crafts Festival. Even though the weather was a little rough, I was glad to see all the folks out in the downtown area.

The City of Caro will be starting on some major projects this summer. The City recently was awarded \$900,000 from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation

to build a Farmers' Market in downtown. The City will have the potential to receive more funding from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation as the project progresses. This will be a large-scale Farmers' Market that will redevelop the downtown through the addition of a large pavilion, green space, food truck hook ups, and permanent restrooms. Also, the City will be moving towards starting the citizen engagement process for reviewing the first set of plans for redeveloping Bieth Park and the Fairgrounds. Our landscape architect and engineer have been working hard these past few months to develop a plan for Bieth Park and the Fairgrounds that will provide excellent recreational opportunities for children and families in the community. Finally, the City will be starting construction this summer for two entrance signs. We are excited to see the positive long-term impact these projects will provide for the community.

I hope all the Caro citizens have a great start to summer. If you ever have any questions always free to contact me on my phone at 989-673-7671 or e-mail me at [msilverman@carocity.net](mailto:msilverman@carocity.net)



**City offices will be closed on Thursday July 4, 2019 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 15	7:00 p.m.
	Sept 19	7:00 p.m.

## A WORD FROM THE CLERK BY: LAUREN ROWLEY

Happy Summer Caro Residents! School's out and summer weather in Michigan calls for camping, bonfires, boating and sunshine. This time of the year also signifies a few additional topics for the residents of the City of Caro to keep in mind:

**GARAGE SALES-** If you intend on selling some of your glorious treasures, please obtain a Garage Sale Permit at the City office. The charge is \$1.00.

**CONSTRUCTION-** I know, I know, it's a Michigan thing but did you know the Michigan Dept. of Transportation provides a handy tool to aid in your summer travel plans? Visit [www.michigan.gov/drive](http://www.michigan.gov/drive) to see their cool interactive map which shares useful information regarding up-to-date road projects, road closures, accidents and traffic alerts. There's even an app for your mobile device!

**SUMMER TAXES-** Property taxes will be mailed out in July, and are payable at the City office in person, by mail and online at [www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net). Don't forget, you may also drop payments in the secure after-hours drop box near our northeast entrance door for your convenience.

**ELECTIONS-** Alright, maybe it's not a hot summer topic but definitely worth noting due to the overwhelming number of changes November 2018's passing of Proposal 3 brought to the state and its voters. Election laws are changing and it is my duty to keep you informed, especially with the 2020 election cycle right around the corner. Come to the City offices to see the new voter information center filled with election updates, voter registration forms and other helpful resources. If you aren't already registered to vote, you can head to any of the Secretary of State branch offices or better yet, come see us at the city office and we will help to make that happen! If you are interested in working as an election inspector for the upcoming election cycle, we are always seeking additional workers at the City. Looking for more information on changing election laws, polling

locations, election results and registration? You can also visit [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)



For Upcoming Events, City Updates, Important City Notices and Information from in and around Caro, add/like us on Facebook!

**Have a Safe, Sunny and Enjoyable Summer!**

## PUBLIC WORKS HIGHLIGHTS BY: JEFF GRAHAM, DPW SUPERINTENDENT



Well, summer is upon us. We have several things going on with brush chipping to take place on July 15<sup>th</sup> and the brush dump on Weeden Road is open the first Saturday and third Saturday of each month through November.

The city also has Music in the Park again on Thursday evenings at Atwood Park with parking across the road behind Patriot Party Mart. We have also put in the porta johns for everyone's convenience. So, come down and look at the improvements at the park.

Just a reminder it is against city ordinance to blow grass into the street and also causes a hazard to motorcyclists. We would also appreciate if home owners could keep bushes/trees trimmed back around the touch pads so we can read water meters faster.



**Residents please try to have vehicles off the streets at night to allow for Street Sweeper.**

## WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY: CURTIS WELLS, SUPT



The staff at your Caro area Waste Water Treatment plant are doing some spring cleanup. The April showers have come a bit late. In the last 14 days we have had 3.5 inches of rain and some severe weather to go

along with it. Camping season is again upon us and the RV dump is available Monday-Friday from 7am to 3:30pm. Please remember to stop and register before dumping. Also a reminder for those doing their Spring cleaning, the Tuscola Recycling Center is available by appointment for household hazardous waste disposal. Summer is here so please be vigilant of the school age children out enjoying it. As always... disposable does not mean flushable. Thank you in advance for your continued attention to this matter. God Bless!

## 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.

- The Caro Fire Department is currently at full staff 25 members.
- Fire service contracts are with:  
The City of Caro, Almer Twp., Indianfields Twp., Wells Twp., Ellington Twp., and Juniata Twp.
- The department vehicles include:  
Engine 1, Engine 2/ with the "Jaws of Life" 105 Aerial Ladder/ with the "Jaws of Life" a 3500-gallon Tanker, 4x4 Grass Unit, 4x4 Utility vehicle, Recue unit, a 6x6 off road Ranger equipped with a pump, 85-gallon water tank & rescue board, also a portable air compressor, and an eight bottle Cascade air trailer. The department maintains a Fire Prevention trailer that is used throughout the County for Fire Safety events.

**Music in the Park**

*Come enjoy the musical performers at Atwood Park. Show begins at 6:30 p.m. and is free to everyone!*

**July 11 - Stix & Stone**  
**July 18 - Random**  
**July 25 - Tom & Jerry**  
**Aug. 1 - Indigo Moon**  
**Aug. 8 - John Ecken & Gary LeValley**  
**Aug. 15 - The Cronies**  
**Aug. 22 - Eclectic Junction & John Timko**  
**Aug. 29 - Sonas**

## 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](http://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.



## 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](http://www.carocity.net))*

## City of Caro Important Dates:

July 1 <sup>st</sup> :	7:30p.m. Council Meeting
July 2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Water/Sewer Bills due
July 4 <sup>th</sup> :	City Offices Closed
July 5 <sup>th</sup> :	Trash Collection due to Holiday
July 9 <sup>th</sup> :	7:00p.m. Planning Meeting
July 10 <sup>th</sup> :	12:00p.m. DDA Meeting
July 12 <sup>th</sup> :	10 Day Letters due
July 15 <sup>th</sup> :	Brush Chipping
July 15 <sup>th</sup> :	7:30p.m. Council Meeting
July 18 <sup>th</sup> :	7:00p.m. Parks & Rec. Meeting
July 21 <sup>st</sup> :	Tuscola County Fair Starts
July 23 <sup>rd</sup> :	7:00p.m. Planning Meeting
July 24 <sup>th</sup> :	6:30p.m. Historical Meeting
Aug. 1 <sup>st</sup> :	Water/Sewer Bills Mailed
Aug. 5 <sup>th</sup> :	7:30p.m. Council Meeting
Aug. 13 <sup>th</sup> :	7:00p.m. Planning Meeting
Aug. 14 <sup>th</sup> :	12:00p.m. DDA Meeting
Aug. 15 <sup>th</sup> :	7:00p.m. Parks & Rec. Meeting
Aug. 19 <sup>th</sup> :	7:30p.m. Council Meeting
Aug. 27 <sup>th</sup> :	First Day of School for Students
Aug. 27 <sup>th</sup> :	7:00p.m. Planning Meeting
Aug. 28 <sup>th</sup> :	6:30p.m. Historical Meeting
Aug. 30 <sup>th</sup> :	Water/Sewer Bills due
Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup> :	City Offices Closed
Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	7:30p.m. Council Meeting
Sept. 6 <sup>th</sup> :	Trash Collection due to Holiday
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup> :	7:00p.m. Planning Meeting
Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup> :	12:00p.m. DDA Meeting
Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> :	10 Day Letters due
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup> :	7:30p.m. Council Meeting
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> :	7:00p.m. Parks & Rec. Meeting
Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup> :	7:00p.m. Planning Meeting
Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup> :	6:30p.m. Historical Meeting

## 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-way's, or on electrical or utility poles. You may purchase your permits at City Hall, 317 South State Street.



**CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON  
SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2019 IN  
OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.**

The City of Caro is encouraging Tuscola County residents to send a strong message to Governor Gretchen Whitmer concerning her recent announcement in regard to the future of the Caro Center expansion.

**Please write letters to:  
Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909**

**Or contact Gov. Whitmer by phone by calling  
the Office of the Governor at 517-373-3400.**

**CITY OF CARO  
WATER/SEWER RATE INCREASES  
EFFECTIVE AUGUST 01, 2019**

**Inside City Water Rates**

<b>BASE FEE</b> 0 – 5,000 gallons of use	<b>\$ 22.00</b>
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	\$ 2.00/1,000 gallons used
10,000,001 + gallons of use	\$ 2.00/1,000 gallons used

**Outside City Water Rates**

<b>BASE FEE</b> 0 – 5,000 gallons of use	<b>\$ 44.00</b>
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	\$ 4.00/1,000 gallons used
10,000,001 + gallons of use	\$ 4.00/1,000 gallons used

**Metered Sewer Rates**

<b>BASE FEE</b>	<b>\$ 8.00</b>
Per 1,000 gallons of use:	\$ 11.40/1,000 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 2019 BILLING**

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