



City Voice

October 2019

City of Caro
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“THE MAYOR’S MINUTES” TAKE PRIDE!

BY:
MAYOR JOE GREENE



Village or City? City or Village? After much debate and hard work by the Village-to-City Committee, this decision was made ten years ago, and the Village of Caro became the City of Caro. On the outside, that change isn't really apparent, but within, it changed everything. In the United States, an incorporated city is a legally defined governmental entity. The City of Caro now has powers delegated by the state and county and the local laws, regulations, and policies are created and approved by the voters of the city and their representatives. A city can provide local government services to its citizens. In many places in the U.S., a town, village, community, or neighborhood is simply an unincorporated community with no governmental powers. County or township governments typically provide services to these unincorporated communities. This ten-year anniversary is something for all of us to be proud of.

Speaking of being proud, we need to be proud of the state of our city. Blight is becoming an issue in Caro. When most of us think of blight, we think of metropolitan areas where buildings are abandoned or in severe disrepair and are crumbling. The issues in Caro are more along the lines of overgrown lawns or weeds, unlicensed vehicles, trash in yards, homes needing paint, garbage cans left out for days on end, etc. Conditions such as these cause a negative impact on a community. The message the Council and I recently heard from a group of concerned citizens was loud and clear: “If you own property in the city, you should maintain the property!” Neglected and

blighted houses, properties, and commercial buildings are an eyesore in any neighborhood, and they can no longer be tolerated in the City of Caro. The Council and I are currently working on updating Ordinances that will toughen the penalties on those violating the Blight Ordinances. How can the average citizen help with the blight issue? Keep your property neat and well maintained. Look around...ask your neighbor if they need help doing the same. If all else fails, contact Caro's Blight Officer Randy Heckroth at city hall (989) 673-7671 or rheckroth@carocity.net to report sighted blight.

Other areas of pride in the community for me are upcoming projects in the city. New and replacement sidewalks are going in. Several streets are set to be repaved. The new Farmers' Market is being worked on. New walking/biking trails projects are in the works. A Master Concept has been developed to make the Bieth Park and Fairgrounds area a destination for citizens and visitors alike. Thank you to those who provided input and review on this project.

Happy 10th Birthday Caro. Here's to many, many more!!

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**MANAGER’S MUSINGS
BY: MICHAEL SILVERMAN**



The City of Caro has been working with Tuscola County and our residents on advocating to start construction again on the new state mental health facility in Tuscola County. Recently a Caro Center Rally was held at the State Capitol Building. This

rally highlighted the excellent leadership in our community and the willingness of many residents to continue to fight for the Caro Center.

During these summer months, I have had the opportunity to witness multiple business openings. In September, I attended the grand openings of the O’Reilly Auto Parts and Gordmans. Besides these new businesses coming to the City of Caro, there have been numerous exciting community events that I have participated in. The highlight of the summer festivities was participating in the Exchange Club Trail Walk. It was a great chance to explore the beautiful Exchange Club Trails and spend time with some excellent citizens.

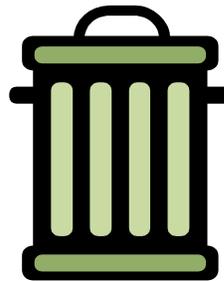
The City of Caro has continued to move ahead on some major projects this summer. Van Geisen has had significant construction taking place on adding a new sidewalk to the area. This new sidewalk will connect Van Geisen Road to M-81. Also, another project that has been taking place on M-81 has been the construction of an entrance sign. Having this entrance sign will serve as an excellent opportunity to market our city to visitors. Also, the city is continuing to make progress on both the Farmers’ Market and planning for the Fairgrounds/Bieth Park improvements. Both of these projects will offer great opportunities to our residents once they are completed.

I hope all the Caro citizens have a great start to the fall season. If you ever have any questions always feel free to contact me on my phone at 989-673-7671 or e-mail me at msilverman@carocity.net.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council	Oct 7 & 21	7:30 p.m.
	Nov 4 & 18	7:30 p.m.
	Dec 2 & 16	7:30 p.m.
Planning	Oct 8 & 22	7:00 p.m.
	Nov 12 & 26	7:00 p.m.
	Dec 10	7:00 p.m.
DDA	Oct 9	Noon
	Nov 13	Noon
	Dec 11	Noon
Historical	Oct 23	6:30 p.m.
	Nov 13	6:30 p.m.
	Dec	No Meeting
Parks & Rec	Oct 17	7:00 p.m.
	Nov 21	7:00 p.m.
	Dec 19	7:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY GARBAGE SCHEDULE



Friday November 29, 2019

**Last day for Yard Waste
Pick up Friday Nov 29,
2019**

Friday December 27, 2019



**City offices will be closed on
Thursday November 28 &
Friday November 29, 2019**

**In observance of
Thanksgiving**



**City offices will be closed on
Tuesday December 24, and
Wednesday December 25, 2019**

**City offices will be closed on
Tuesday December 31, 2019 and
Wednesday January 1, 2020**

NOTICE 2019

The City of Caro's leaf pickup schedule is as follows:

Zone 1: October 7 to
October 11

Zone 2: October 14 to
October 19

Zone 3: October 21 to
October 25

Zone 1: October 28 to
November 1

Zone 2: November 4 to
November 8

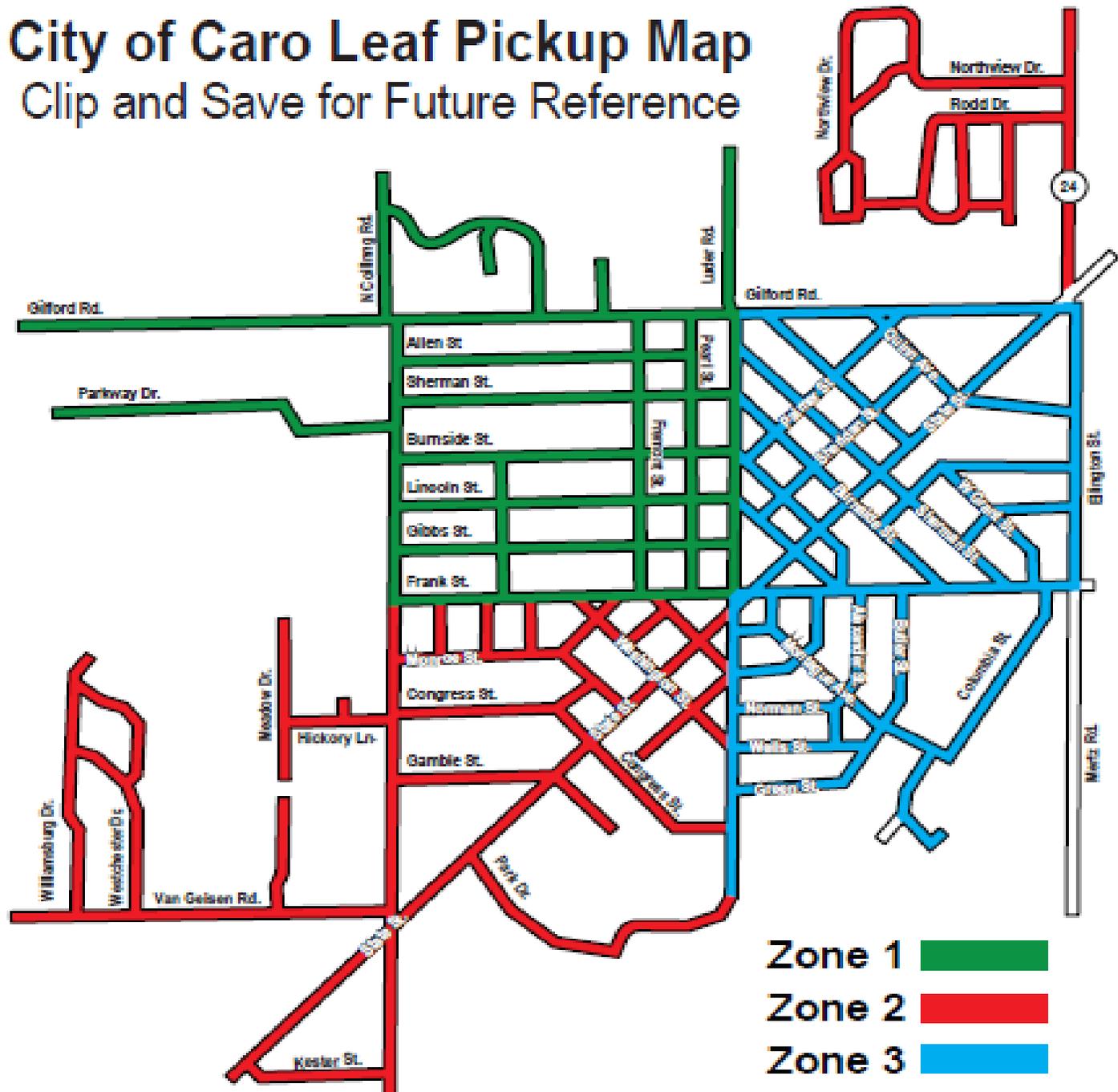
Zone 3: November 11 to
November 15

Zone 1: November 18 to
November 22

Zone 2: November 25 to
November 29

Zone 3: December 2 to
December 6

City of Caro Leaf Pickup Map Clip and Save for Future Reference



**A WORD FROM THE CLERK
BY: SARA SAVAGE**



There have been many staff changes at city hall recently. I am happy to be named as the Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Caro as of August 2019. I have been with the city for a couple of years now, first as the Utility Billing Clerk and previously as the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. I look forward to continuing to serve the City of Caro. I would like to welcome Alexis Schultz to the position of Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, prior to accepting this position she worked as the Utility Billing Clerk. Also, I would like to welcome back Jennifer Trahan to our team as the Utility Billing Clerk. Jennifer previously worked with the city and we are happy to welcome her back.

We are already getting ready for a big election year in 2020. Our first election will be the Presidential Primary on March 10, 2020. Its is never to early to make sure that you are registered to vote! If you want to check to see if you are registered, visit www.Michigan.gov/vote. There you will find information about registering to vote and voting, voting equipment, polling place locations and much more. You are also welcome to stop into our office to register or ask any questions. With the passing of Proposal 18-3 in November 2018 there have been a lot of changes, one being that any registered voter is allowed an absentee voter ballot for any reason. If you would like to be added to our permanent absentee voter list to be sent an absentee voter ballot application prior to any election please call or stop into our office.

It is also that time of year for taxes again. Summer property taxes were due September 16th without penalty. We will be accepting them at city hall through February 28, 2020 with interest charges. December 1st the City of Caro will be mailing out winter property tax bills that will due on February 28, 2020. After February 28, 2020 unpaid summer and winter property taxes must be paid to the Tuscola County Treasurer. For upcoming events, city updates, important city notices and information from in and around Caro, add/like us on Facebook!



Sara Savage being sworn in by Jodi Fetting, Tuscola County Clerk.



Alexis Schultz being sworn in by Sara Savage, Clerk/Treasurer.

**PUBLIC WORKS HIGHLIGHTS
BY: JEFF GRAHAM
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 available at city hall and on the sign at city hall. The last day for brush pickup will be October

7th starting at 7:30 am, so please have brush out the day before. There is also 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 website. If you have more than the allotted amount, you can take it to the Weeden Rd. dump. It is open 10 am to 12 pm the first and third Saturdays of the month, and ending the third Saturday in November. 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 14th. The first week of leaf pick up starts with Zone 1, followed by Zone 2 the next week and Zone 3 the following week and then starting back over 1, 2, 3 Zones. Just a reminder to get all backflow testing complete before closing those lawn sprinklers for winter. The city requires them to be tested every three years. I will be sending a letter to those residents who have them. All the businesses with back flow preventer are required to be tested yearly. Any questions, feel free to call 989-673-2571.

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



Its hard to believe that summer is almost gone. The Tuscola County Pumpkin festival will be in full swing the first weekend in October. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and it will be warm. Caro High School will have its football homecoming game and parade

on Friday, September 27th. The parade begins at 5:30 PM and will travel from Quinn and M81 to Frank Street and then to the high school. Traffic will be stopped on M81 for approximately 10-15 minutes. Each intersection will have Caro High School students stopping traffic until the floats and band pass. Please be patient, after all this only happens once a year. We want to make sure everyone stays safe. The City of Caro will be celebrating its 10th Village to City Anniversary the same day. The festivities start at 4PM and will continue until 8PM. It will be held at Bieth Park near the fairgrounds. Among the activities will be a moon bounce, kids games, a snack food truck, hot dogs, cotton candy, music, big trucks, face painting, disc golf and shuffleboard. Please stop by and enjoy the fun. For motorcyclists, the season is winding down. Please be aware of the deer as they will be moving through fall. Other than that, Caro PD wishes you a safe fall season.



Police Officer Timothy Danks being sworn in by Sara Savage, Clerk/Treasurer.

**CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT
BY: CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH**



The hot summer days are now behind us. It is time to rake the leaves, and do a final mowing of our lawns to prepare them for another cold winter that is fast approaching. With recent winds there may be a lot of branches to get rid of. Please read closely to insure you have them

removed in the proper safe manner.

Please contact the City DPW Superintendent for times and dates for leaf and branch pickup. There are specific rules in which to follow to insure they are removed. If you are a city resident, you are not able to burn these items. Only domestic camp fires are allowed, in a proper burn unit. Please contact my office for regulations regarding 'Burning within the city limits of Caro'. For burn permits for brush piles, and LEAVES (OUTSIDE the city limits) please call 989-673-2002 please listen to the MESSAGE, leave your name, contact number, and address, permits are free, and are valid for thirty-days.

And of course-----Please check your smoke detectors, Michigan law requires every residence to have at least one.

A special thanks to all business owners that contributed to this years Fire pup program, we have raised over \$2500.00 that will be used to order fire prevention merchandise, all will be distributed throughout the county. Please see the January newsletter for a full list of all donors.

Fire run totals for the last three months, for the Caro Fire Dept.:

May 2019	22 runs
June 2019	18 runs
July 2019	26 runs
August 2019	23 runs

Totaling 89 runs in 123 days

For any questions regarding any fire laws and rules, please contact the Fire Chief at 989-673-2002.

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



The staff at your Caro area wastewater treatment plant hopes that everyone had a great and safe summer. Please be vigilant because our children are now back in school and crossing the roads. As a reminder, the RV dump will only be open until the snow flies. We just had our biosolids beneficially land applied to an area farmer. In closing...please remember that disposable does not mean flushable. God Bless!

**CODE ENFORCEMENT
BY: CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH**

The Code Enforcement Officer would like to thank everyone for their cooperation this last summer in helping keep our city clean. Although there is still work to be done, it is looking great.



With the upcoming leaf raking season fast approaching, please watch for dates and time when the city will be collecting them.

Just to let everyone know the Zoning Administrator is now doing all residential zoning for fences, accessory buildings and pools. A permit is required for all, and for sheds and pools a building permit will be needed. Please stop into the office or call to get any needed information. Listed are some of the main concerns for this office this last summer.

- Lawns - all lawns should be cut as to not exceed 8 inches.
- Vehicles - all must be in running order and have legal plates.
- Pools - please follow the ordinance for safety, major liability for the home owner if not followed correctly. Main concern is unsecured access to a pool by young children.
- City Right Of Way - please keep all signs and other objects from being placed between the sidewalk and curb. This also means no parking there.

Please insure all yards are clean with no items laying around for the winter snow that will arrive soon. Come spring it will reveal the same clean lawn as left from the fall before.

For questions regarding any code or zoning issue, please contact my office at 989-673-1373.