



# Caro Times

**City of Caro**

A quarterly newsletter from the City of Caro

317 S State St  
Caro MI 48723

---

## A Minute with the Mayor

---

City Hall is open  
8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Monday-Friday



(989) 673-2226



[www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net)

### Your Council:

Mayor Joe Greene  
Bob Eschenbacher  
Don Hall  
Tisha Jones-Holubec  
Jill White  
Kory Batschke  
Emily Campbell

If you live in Michigan, you get why so many people experience so-called spring fever. You know what I mean.....that feeling of excitement and happiness when the first warm sunny days arrive, the snow melts, the grass gets green, the trees are budding and we can finally be outside without the parkas, hats and gloves. During those long winter months of what seems to be constant darkness, cold, and snow; we all look forward to spring. Flowers are shooting up bringing life into the black rough soil. The good sunny weather will finally be here. Spring is associated with renewal, new beginnings and growth. What other season can be better for making new plans, new hopes, and changes than spring?

With the coming of Spring comes plans for projects once weather permits. Street projects throughout the city will be completed. Sidewalks will continue to be repaired. Trees will be planted throughout the city. Landscaping will be done around the Splash Pad at Bieth Park (new Adirondack chairs will be placed in that area as they are ordered by donors from the community) and new bathroom facilities are being constructed. Benches and improvements will be done to the Bark Park at Chippewa.

Another Easter Egg Hunt should have taken place in Bieth Park with the Easter Bunny bringing in thousands of eggs and treats, as well as bringing smiles to the faces of hundreds of children. I am hoping for more events such as Movies in the Park, another City-Wide Picnic, and Music in the Park will continue to provide entertainment and opportunities for the community to get together. I am also looking forward to another successful season at the Caro Farmers' Market.

A reminder that Spring cleaning needs to be done throughout the city. We all need to work together to get our properties up-to-snuff. We must take pride in our community and that pride should start at our own front doors. We all need to talk with our neighbors and ask if they would like a helping hand with spring clean-up. You are not alone in this, the city has a few buildings of their own that will need to be addressed, also.

I would like to continue to thank Caro Community Schools, Caro Chamber of Commerce, the Caro Area District Library, Caro Garden Club, Caro

**UPCOMING  
COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

**APRIL 4 & 18  
MAY 2 & 16  
JUNE 6 & 20**

**MEETINGS START AT  
6:30 PM IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
AT CITY HALL**

Shuffleboard Club, and the Caro Baseball/Softball Federation for all the youth and adult programs that they have in the community and the city will continue to assist with their projects, as is possible. I would also like to thank all of you that participated in the Master Plan meetings that were held for the City Master Plan and the Park and Recreation Master Plan. Your input was greatly appreciated.

Please be sure to follow the City of Caro and Mayor Joe Greene on Facebook and on the city webpage. As always, feel free to contact me at [jgreene@carocity.net](mailto:jgreene@carocity.net), message me on Facebook, or call City Hall at 673-7671 to arrange an appointment. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know!

Happy Spring! Be sure to take time from your spring cleaning to get out to use and enjoy the city parks and trails!!

---

## Managers Corner

---

Greetings, Caro. I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and in good spirits. I have been your City Manager for over two years and I am proud of the progress Caro has made with capital projects, the professional development of the City organization and strengthening of our community partnerships.

We have been focusing a lot on operating as a team and working together to serve the community every day and one of the ways we have been operationalizing that is the concept of Freudenfreude.

I am sure you are thinking, "Freuda..what?" Let me explain.

You might be familiar with the German term Schadenfreude, which is "satisfaction or pleasure felt at someone else's misfortune," according to dictionary.com. Freudenfreude, on the other hand, is the exact opposite. It is defined in a May 14, 2018 editorial in the World Journal of

Psychiatry and Mental Health Research as "the lovely enjoyment of another person's success." The last few years in our society has seen a great deal of grief, misery and, in my opinion, Schadenfreude. We want to do our part to change that and, as with any meaningful change in our limited sphere of influence, it starts with us doing the right things in the right ways.

My goal is to help lead our organization and our City with an eye towards empathy and common purpose. Our actions, our policies, our strategic vision for the future are



reflections of our commitment to serve one another with honesty, integrity and good, selfless intentions. Forward progress is not a zero-sum game. The success of one member is the success of our entire team and we celebrate those who accomplish their personal and professional goals as if they were our own. We take pride in our work, in our progress and in our community. I challenge you all to practice Freudenfreude over Schadenfreude in your daily lives. Celebrate the successes of your families, friends, neighbors and even strangers. You will be amazed at how a little positivity, acceptance and empathy can change your own view of the world.

I have this hope for our entire county. The success of our neighbors is our success, and our success is theirs. If we work together in partnership to maintain forward progress, our region can escape the false narrative of the zero-sum game and move onward and upward together.

We encourage you to follow us on Facebook: @CityOfCaro

If you have any questions, comments or concerns feel free to contact me at [mlane@carocity.net](mailto:mlane@carocity.net) or 989-673-7671.

Take care of yourselves and your families. Stay healthy and stay safe. Practice Freudenfreude.

---

## City Clerk

---

Spring has arrived! April showers bring May flowers!

City of Caro will be conducting an election on May 3, 2022. Absentee Voter Ballot Applications have been mailed to our current list of permanent AV voters on March 4, 2022. If you are on that list, you should have received one by the time of this publication. Absent Voter Ballot Applications are available in the City Clerk's office, printable form online: [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/AVApp\\_535884\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/AVApp_535884_7.pdf) or online request at: <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/AVApplication>. Please contact the City Clerk's office with any questions.

Polling locations will remain the same at the City of Caro. Precinct 1 will be in the Fire Hall Training Room and Precinct 2 will be in the Council Chambers. Polling hours are 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. PPE (personal protection equipment) will be readily available although it is not mandatory at this time.

We encourage you to register to vote if you haven't already. If you have moved, make sure to update your address at the Secretary of State to keep your voter registration file up to date. All voter registration forms are available in the City Clerk's office.

Are you interested in becoming involved in the City of Caro? We are always looking for Caro Citizens to serve on one of our committees. Please refer to our website for any vacancies. [www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net)

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact city hall at 989-673-7671 or contact me at [rpapp@carocity.net](mailto:rpapp@carocity.net). Also, please check the city's website at [www.carocity.net](http://www.carocity.net) and follow the City of Caro on Facebook for up-to-date information.

Happy Spring!

---

## City Treasurer

---

As much as I enjoy the winter season and the beautiful white snow, I am just as excited to start preparing for spring weather and the warmer temperatures.

As we prepare for spring weather at City Hall we are preparing for our new fiscal year and completing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. One of the changes for the fiscal year is the adoption of Ready-To-Serve (RTS) utility billing. On October 4, 2021, the City Council adopted a Resolution Setting Wastewater and Drinking Water Rates for the fiscal year 2022 - 2023. The new rates will go into effect on June 1, 2022. As part of the resolution, it was resolved that the City of Caro will switch to a Ready-To-Serve (RTS) utility billing. The drinking water and wastewater bill is divided into two categories: fixed (called "readiness to serve") and variable costs (called "usage"). The fixed portion of the rate is used to cover fixed cost associate with maintaining the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants. The usage portion of the rate is used to cover the variable costs of providing the services to our customers. Usage is billed per 1,000 gallons of water and wastewater during a 2-month period. The ready-to-serve fee is determined by the meter size of the home or business. Within the next couple of months, the utility bill department will be mailing letters to each customer with an estimate of the effects of the new ready-to-service utility billing system will have on each customer's bill on a 2 month and annual basis.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at City Hall at 989- 673-7671.



City offices will be closed on Monday, May 30, 2022 in observance of Memorial Day

---

## Caro Police Department

---

Spring is coming and the weather is improving. With warmer weather, motorcycles will be out and about. Please be aware of that and drive safely and accordingly. With the warmer weather, we all need a reminder on dealing with weather related issues and how to prepare and keep our families safe. Here are some helpful reminders.

Lightning is a leading cause of injury and death from weather-related hazards. Although most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms.

Thunderstorms are dangerous storms that include lightning and can create or cause:

- Powerful winds over 50 mph
- Hail
- Flash flooding and/or tornadoes

### Prepare for Thunderstorms & Lightning

Know Your Risk. Know your area's risk for thunderstorms. In most places they can occur year-round and at any hour. Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

Strengthen Your Home. Cut down or trim trees that may be in danger of falling on your home. Consider buying surge protectors, lightning rods or a lightning protection system to protect your home, appliances and electronic devices.

### Make an Emergency Plan

Create an emergency plan so that you and your family know what to do, where to go and what you will need to protect yourselves from the effects of a thunderstorm. Identify sturdy buildings close to where you live, work, study and play.

### Stay Safe During Thunderstorms & Lightning

If you are under a thunderstorm warning:

- When thunder roars, go indoors! Move from outdoors into a building or car.
- Pay attention to alerts and warnings.
- Avoid using electronic devices connected to an electrical outlet.
- Avoid running water.
- Turn Around. Don't Drown! Do not drive through flooded roadways. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

### Stay Safe After Thunderstorms & Lightning

- Pay attention to authorities and weather forecasts for information on whether it is safe to go outside and instructions regarding potential flash flooding.
- Watch for fallen power lines and trees. Report them immediately.

Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air that extend from a thunderstorm to the ground. Tornadoes can destroy buildings, flip cars, and create deadly flying debris.

A tornado can:

- Happen anytime and anywhere.
- Bring intense winds, over 200 miles per hour.
- Look like funnels.

If you are under a tornado or severe weather warning:

- Go to NOAA Weather Radio and your local news or official social media accounts for updated emergency information. Follow the instructions of state and local officials.
- Go to a safe shelter immediately, such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar or a small interior room on the lowest level of a sturdy building.
- Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.
- Do not go under an overpass or bridge. You're safer in a low, flat location.
- Watch out for flying debris that can cause injury or death.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- If you can't stay at home, make plans to go to a public shelter.

## Preparing for a Tornado

- Know your area's tornado risk. In the U.S., the Midwest and the Southeast have a greater risk for tornadoes.
- Know the signs of a tornado, including a rotating funnel-shaped cloud, an approaching cloud of debris, or a loud roar like a freight train.
- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and NOAA Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts. If your community has sirens, then become familiar with the warning tone.
- Pay attention to weather reports. Meteorologists can predict when conditions might be right for a tornado.
- Identify and practice going to a safe shelter such as a safe room built using FEMA criteria or a storm shelter built to ICC 500 standards. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room or basement on the lowest level of a sturdy building.
- Plan for your pet. They are an important member of your family, so they need to be included in your family's emergency plan.
- Prepare for long-term stay at home or sheltering in place by gathering emergency supplies, cleaning supplies, non-perishable foods, water, medical supplies and medication.

## Staying Safe During a Tornado

- Immediately go to a safe location that you have identified.
- Pay attention to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.
- Protect yourself by covering your head or neck with your arms and putting materials such as furniture and blankets around or on top of you.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle if you are in a car. If you are in a car or outdoors and cannot get to a building, cover your head and neck with your arms and cover your body with a coat or blanket, if possible.

## Staying Safe After a Tornado

Save your phone calls for emergencies and use text messaging or social media to communicate with family and friends.

- Pay attention to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, and local authorities for updated information.
- Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you are sick and need medical attention. Wait for further care instructions and continue to shelter in place.
- Wear appropriate gear during clean-up such as thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves, use appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning mold or other debris.

---

## Caro Fire Department

---

The City of Caro Fire Department would like to announce it had a record breaking 308 runs for 2021. Our team of dedicated firefighters were nonstop in helping our community.

Fortunately, this department has a City Council, City Manager, and Township Supervisors that believe in funding the department with what ever it takes for tools, equipment, and training. The firefighters are then able respond to such calls with the best available equipment, thus providing the best response anyone could offer.

Projects for the year 2022, include a water rescue boat, blowup Fire Prevention house and a command trailer, along with plans to up grade our aging Aerial Ladder.

The department would like to thank the following businesses and citizens for their gracious donations towards the National Fire Pup Association. Donations are received and Fire Prevention items are purchased for this department to hand out thru out the County on any event the firefighters attend.

Reinbold Organic Farms LLC , All In One Auto, Kelly & Co. Realty, Theron Atwood Sr., Cathy & Ralph Fisher, White Chiropractic Health Care PLLC., Heritage Hills Assisted Living, Loyal Order of the Moose, Elizabeth Zuercher, Arshad Aqil,

Sity M. Girgis MD, Daniel P. Block, McDonalds of Caro, Michigan Sugar Co. Caro, David Kolacz, The Oven, Caro Rotary Club, Poet Biorefining LLC., Brinkman Excavating LLC., Law Office of Ransford & Crews, Wayne Sayers Agency, Thumb Meat Market, VanDeVelde & Matheson DDS,P.C.[Caro Family Dentist], Majestic Sky Link LLC., Curtis Garber Chevrolet, Rebecca and Gary Mohr, Starbrite Restaurant & Coney, Caro Rental, St. Christopher Parish, Caro Packing LLC., Dave's Glass, Osentoski Realty,

Total amount donated in 2021 \$3410.00

Always check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, State laws and City ordinances mandate the use of smoke detectors in every residential household.

Please call 989-673-2226 to receive your free burn permit, valid for 30-days

- Please leave your name, contact #, and the address where you will be burning
- Permits are valid for out of City residence only, if you reside within the city limits of Caro, please leave your name and number. The Fire Chief will contact you, to give instructions for allowable fires within the city.
- The State of Michigan only allows tree limbs and natural logs to be burnt
- No garbage [even if in a container] may be burnt at any time
- It is illegal to burn tires, pallets, or any type of construction material
- All fires must be in attendance of a capable adult at all times
- No fires shall be lit under any type of tree or electrical power line



*Special Spring Leaf Pickup  
April 18-22, 2022*

*Residents should rake their leaves into curb. No other debris should be included in the piles such as rocks, grass clippings or sticks.*

## Brush Chipping

The brush chipping will be the first Monday in May, third Monday in July, third Monday in August, and first Monday in October.

The DPW will pick up piles of brush up to six (6) 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.

---

## Code Enforcement Department

---

With Spring coming soon, please check your property for items that had been covered in snow. Please make sure everything is cleaned up and ready for the first mowing.

Please keep up the good work that makes our city the best it can be.

The Zoning Administrator would like to remind everyone that zoning permits are required for the following - all fences, pools and any type of structure needs to have a zone permit and a possible building permit. Please contact this office to receive an application. Zoning permits are only \$25.00.

New Ordinance that is now being enforced, All structures, regardless of size, and mobility are required to have a valid zoning permit. Please note that any structure that consists of a vinyl covering [example-canopy structures] are not allowed within the city limits.

In the event you do receive a notice, please do not ignore it. Please call if you have any questions or need an extension.

Please be safe and enjoy the Michigan Spring.

---

## State Street Square

---

We are busy gearing up for another amazing market season in downtown Caro! Over 13,000 people attended the weekly event in 2021. We are anticipating even more success in 2022!

Our mission is to cultivate community, and to create equitable access to nutritious locally produced food. The response to our work has been overwhelming! With all the support we have had, we are adding NEW events, more vendors, and expanding our "Market Kids" club program! We have also extended our hours to better serve our community! Our NEW hours are Saturdays: June- October, 9am-2pm and Tuesdays: June- August, 4pm-8pm!

The Caro Farmers Market is excited to share our upcoming spring events-

The Spring Fling Farm and Arts Fair:

Saturday, April 16th, 10am-4pm

Join over 30 vendors, as we bring in the season! Celebrate Spring with only the best handmade, homemade, and homegrown items. Visit the FREE "Market Kids" craft table, enjoy a visit with the Easter Bunny and the Spring Chicken, hunt for hidden eggs, and shop your favorite farm and arts booths!

Modern Momma's Market:

Saturday, May 7th, 10am-4pm

All women are special, and mothers are no exception! The Caro Farmers Market invites you to celebrate the uniqueness of each woman. We have brought together a variety of local businesses and crafters that cater to you and your momma! Join us and enjoy shopping, lunch, live music, free activities, and more! Make sure you RSVP on our Facebook event to learn more!

Cars and Crafts Farm and Arts Market:

Saturday, June 4th, 9am-5pm

The Market is celebrating its season opener with a bang! We have joined forces with the Caro Chamber of Commerce for one of the best events in downtown! The 2-day event boasts fair food, an evening car cruise, a huge party,

FREE KIDS ZONE, 30+ farm and arts vendors (Saturday only) and so much more! There is still room to register your vehicle, and to become a vendor, or to sign up to volunteer!

Get involved!! Contact The Caro Chamber of Commerce Director, Stacy Windham at 989-673-5211 or Lauren Amellal at 989-673-2226 ext. 5229

As you can see, the Caro Farmers Market @ State Street Square has become a foundation in our community. It is your support that has fueled our efforts and encouraged us to expand. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you throughout the season!

If you would like to receive our Market Newsletter, please email [lamellal@carocity.net](mailto:lamellal@carocity.net).

## COMMUNITY cleanup

Have you done your spring cleaning and have more trash or larger items than you know what to do with? City of Caro residents can Bring them to Bieth Park on Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 8 am to 1 pm, by the tennis courts.

Acceptable items are:

- Tires without rims (first 50 passenger tires only)
- Yard waste - branches up to 2" in diameter and no longer than 4' in length
- Appliances and furniture
- Refrigerator and freezers MUST have the Freon removed.

For more information, please contact city offices at 989-673-2226

# Yard WASTE

Yard waste pickup will begin April 7th. Yard waste will be picked up every week. Please place curbside by 6 am on Thursday's.

Place yard waste in brown yard waste bags or plastic 30-gallon containers clearly marked "X" facing the street. Branches are to be no more than two (2) inches in diameter, no longer than four (4) feet in length and must be bundled. Bundles and containers must weigh less than 50 pounds.

NO tree stumps or trunks are accepted.  
NO yard waste will be accepted in plastic bags.

