



Caro Times

A quarterly newsletter from the City of Caro

City of Caro

317 S State St
Caro MI 48723

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



(989) 673-2226



www.carocity.net

Your Council:

Mayor Karen Snider
Bob Eschenbacher
Vacant
Charlotte Kish
Jill White
Pam Iseler
Emily Campbell

Upcoming Council Meetings:

April 3 & 17
May 1 & 15
June 5 & 19

Meetings start at 6:30
pm in the council
chambers at city hall

Meet the Mayor Karen J. Snider



Four months have passed since I took over the role as Mayor, but it seems like yesterday. So many exciting things have taken place with many more to come. It has been an interesting challenge and I will continue to honor my goal, which is to use my knowledge and experience that I acquired over the many years of working with the public and so many mentors which I will forever be thankful. Every day will continue to be a

learning experience; however, I strongly believe that by working together, utilizing positive energy and professionalism WE "are moving our community forward." Change can be difficult sometimes; however, it does not have to overwhelm us. If a decision is made that you may disagree with, remember that the next five decisions may light up your life. Our Council has the same goal at heart and that is to move forward in the most productive way possible to meet the needs of the community and making our community a better place to live.

In the past four months, I have had the privilege of attending eight ribbon cuttings for either new or relocated businesses to our community. It is fantastic seeing businesses going into buildings that had empty space or new buildings going up.

Fiscal responsibility is a priority for Council, and we will be working diligently together with the City Manager to adopt a fair and equitable budget which covers July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. A public hearing will be held prior to adoption. Budgeting is one of most important things local government does. We levy and collect taxes in accordance with law. The budgeting process involves allocating limited financial resources to support the delivery of key public services which includes public safety (police and fire), roads, sidewalks, parks, economic development and so forth. Economic development directly effects our tax base. We are fortunate to have received state constitutional revenue sharing which is a portion of Michigan's 6% sales tax collection of approximately \$510,900 for 2022-2023 budget year and \$103,682 of marijuana tax revenue. The city is also responsible for maintaining a wastewater treatment plant and water system which includes several wells, arsenic plant and our water tower. Water and sewer are considered enterprise funds which are funds collected from your utility bills and used only for water and sewer expenses. The city is always searching for

grants to offset costs to ensure the services to our community are in a sustainable manner.

Councils' goal is to provide revenue to maintain, grow and improve local infrastructure and community services.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, Mayor Karen Snider, by calling 989-673-7671 and leaving a message with the City Clerk or Deputy Clerk. I can also be reached at ksnider@carocity.net. I will return your message and am willing to set an appointment to discuss your concerns in person.

City Manager
Scott R. Czasak

Happy Spring to the residents of Caro!

My first three months on the job as your City Manager have been a whirlwind of meetings, projects, events and so forth. It has been tremendous to get to know this community better and am very happy I landed here for the foreseeable future. On a personal note, I am very pleased that I finally moved into my home here in the Caro area and am no longer making a 3 hour round trip every day!

We have so many great things we are working on here in City Hall to improve the services we provide for the city. If you have seen our last few Council meetings you will know we are making a major upgrade to both our wastewater system and to our water system thanks to opportunities for state funding which have presented themselves. Making these upgrades and staying on top of maintaining these systems will ensure a long and stable life for the systems and do our best to avoid disruptions in service.

It is also budget season here in the office, and I cannot be more pleased with the effort put in by everyone here to get a budget together to present to Council which invests where we need investing, doesn't overspend, and ensures we stay on a solid financial footing. As I write this, there is a bit of uncertainty in the financial

world, but rest assured we keep a firm eye on your money to ensure it is invested wisely and safely to ensure we always have what we need here in Caro.

As the snow melts and thoughts turn to making things green again I encourage you to take a moment to do what you can in your corner of Caro to make our community the best it can be. You never know how a small gesture will go a long way, especially if all of us take a moment or two to do our part. Keep an eye on the city Facebook page and website for all the news and notes from City Hall.

If you ever need to speak to me about an issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office either by email at sczasak@carocity.net or by phone at 989-673-7671 x. 5225. If you would like to see me in person, I would be happy to do so, I am always interested in hearing feedback from the residents of Caro!

City Clerk
Rita Papp

April showers bring
May flowers! Happy Spring!!



Election year 2023 potentially brings an August & November election. Both elections may be county wide proposals. More information will be forthcoming.

Changes are coming with the passing of Proposal 22-2 "Promote the Vote" in November 2022. Some of the highlights on this proposal: Require clerk to count military or overseas ballot within 6 days of the election, State funded prepaid postage to return an absentee voter application and ballot and establish a registered voter's right to vote in Statewide and Federal elections in-person at an early voting site for nine consecutive days and other changes to the Absentee Voter Ballot Application. Feel free to contact the Clerk's office for more information.

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.

City Clerk's office is always looking for Election Inspectors. If you would like to serve in this capacity, please contact my 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

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

City Treasurer Michele Perry



What a crazy sort of winter we had. Even though I love the snow, I am ready for some spring flowers and warmer weather.

We have been busy working on the upcoming budget for the Fiscal Year of 2023/2024. So much preparation goes into preparing the budget for the City of Caro and I am thankful that I have been entrusted to work on pulling the budget together, with the City Manager and all the department heads.

When I think of warmer weather, I think of lounging by the pool. Did you know that the City of Caro offers pool readings? Contact City Hall Utility Billing at (989) 673-2226 to schedule a pool meter read. A DPW employee will read the meter before you fill your pool and again after you are done (no longer than 48 hours in between reads). Water usage during the pool read will not be charged the sewer usage fee. There is a \$15 fee for each read (\$30 fee total for two reads), so depending on the size of your pool it could be a cost savings. For more

information, please check out the full Swimming Pool Filling Policy on our website at www.carocity.net/policies along with other administrative policies.

Another option that the City of Caro offers for it's residents, is a second meter for their home. You may purchase a second meter for \$145.00, along with the cost of having the meter installed. If you use water outside for a pool, garden, or irrigation system the benefits of a second meter are that you pay for your water use only and not sewer use.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have at 989-673-7671 or email me at mperry@carocity.net

Department of Public Works Tom Reese

Spring is in the air!! In April, the Department of Public Works will be out jetting sanitary sewer for maintenance. In May we will start chipping brush remember that chipping is done on the first Monday in May (1st), third Monday in July (17th), third Monday in August (21st), and first Monday in October (2nd). 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.

In addition, the City dump located on Weeden Road will be opened from 10 a.m. to 12 noon the first and third Saturday starting in April and ending the last Saturday in November. Emterra will start their yard pickup also on April 7, 2023. If you need a copy of the brush policy, you can pick one up at the Municipal Building.

This spring the City of Caro will be doing two weeks of leaf pickup schedule to kick off the spring season. The schedule will be from April 17 through April 28, 2023. Please, DO NOT have grass clippings, sticks, branches, small rocks mixed in with the leaves as these will clog the machine.

Our Community Cleanup will be on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 8 am to 1 pm, by the tennis courts at Bieth Park. Further information is available in this newsletter.

From everyone at the Department of Public Works, have a great spring!

Caro Fire Department Randy Heckroth

The City of Caro Fire Department would like to thank our team of dedicated firefighters that are nonstop in helping our community. Fortunately, this department has a City Council, City Manager, and Township Supervisors that believe in funding the department with whatever 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.

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 number, 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.

Caro Police Department Brian Newcomb

Spring is always an anticipated season after a difficult and icy winter. I personally prefer autumn as it does not involve piles of mud, however green trees, lawns and flowers make up the difference. As the temperature rises, I celebrate the slow demise of each snowflake. I typically think of gardening, boating, fishing, golf, and of course, baseball. Any outdoor activity will work. All Michiganders feel the crunch of having to be cooped up inside for months at a time. It always amazes me that in November, as winter approaches, a temperature of 55 degrees seems freezing after 70's and 80's. In contrast, as May approaches, 55 degrees seems very warm. Sunshine under blue skies and 55 degrees is fantastic and a welcome introduction to summer.

As we enter the spring and summer months, motorcycles will appear, bicycles are everywhere, skateboarders as well. Walking and outdoor exercise is a daily occurrence. So is impatience. Unfortunately, this is the downside of wonderful weather. Everybody is in a hurry, and they can't explain why. Sometimes it just that MDOT needs to fix and repair roadways and it seems it's always on the road we want to take. Our patience escapes us. The truth, however, is that if we are traveling at 70 mph for 140 miles will take us 2 hours. Due to the inconvenience of road construction which seems unbearable to all of us, if we are forced by circumstance to reduce our speed to 60 mph for the same distance of 140 miles would only cause a delay of about 20 minutes. So if we were really only stuck in a construction zone for 10 miles at 45 mph, we would be delayed by a few minutes for an overall trip of 140 miles. I hope all of us keeps this in mind and we try to be patient and safe in our Spring and Summer travels.

Wastewater Treatment Department David Dienes

Hello residents of Caro. The staff here at the wastewater treatment plant would like to wish you all a Happy Spring!

My name is David Dienes, and I am your new Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Services. I am beyond excited to serve the City of Caro in this position. I bring with me more than 15 years of experience in the operation of wastewater treatment plants, with the last 5 coming as a Shift Supervisor for the City of Bay City. As your Superintendent, I will strive to lead our WWTP staff in producing the highest quality effluent at an economical cost. Nothing would make me happier than having a wastewater treatment plant our residents can be proud of.

While the staff here at the wastewater plant work hard to ensure our effluent is safe to discharge to the Cass River, it is you, the user of our system who is our most valuable asset. While many of us forget what is going down the drains or flushed down the toilet within seconds, just a touch of thoughtfulness goes a long way in helping WWTP staff perform their jobs. Please ensure the only things going down your drains are water, bodily waste, and toilet paper. Many companies will lead you to believe they produce a flushable wipe. This is simply not true. There is no such thing as a flushable wipe.

I'm extremely happy to be serving the residents of Caro. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me and I will do my best to address them. I can be reached at 989-673-2840.

SPECIAL CITYWIDE LEAF PICKUP

There will be a citywide leaf pickup
April 17 through April 28, 2023

Residents should rake their leaves to the curb.
No rocks, grass clippings or sticks should
be included in the piles.

It's a Toilet, Not a Trash Can!

Never flush the following items (or put down the garbage disposal or drain). Toss them in the trash instead.

- Baby/Facial/Cleaning Wipes
- Tampons
- Sanitary Napkins
- Medication
- Hair
- Dental Floss
- Cotton Swabs/Balls
- Bandages
- Rags and Towels
- Rubber Items (like latex gloves)
- Fat, Cooking Oil, Grease



- Clothing Labels
- Candy/Food Wrappers
- Syringes
- Cigarette Butts
- Disposable Toilet Brushes
- Kitty Litter
- Aquarium Gravel
- Plastic Items
- Diapers
- Fruit Stickers
- Paper Towels

Only Flush the 3 P's - Pee, Poop and (toilet) Paper

Code Enforcement Department Randy Heckroth



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. I would like to

thank everyone who puts in the hard work of keeping our city looking the best that 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.

There is a 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 from this office, please do not ignore it. If you have any questions or concerns about the notice, please call and I will be more than willing to help you with it.

State Street Square
Cultivate Community
Lauren Amellal

As the weather starts to warm up, and the days get longer I encourage you to get out and explore all that Caro has to offer! There are several new businesses opening, the Caro Farmers Market is kicking off Spring, and the Caro parks are beginning to come alive!

Upcoming Events in Caro:

Monday, April 3rd, 2023, 12pm-1:30pm
Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick off!
@ State Street Square
Presentations, Pinwheels and Lunch.
Hosted by Great Start Tuscola.

Saturday, April 8th, 2023, 10am-4pm
The 2nd Annual Spring Fling Farm & Arts Fair
@ State Street Square
Bring in Spring with over 30 local vendors,
Giveaways, Live Music and fresh food from
Farm 2 U food truck!

Monday, April 10th, 2023, 11am-2pm
SAFEbuilt Community Meet & Greet
@ State Street Square
Meet the local SAFEbuilt team and enjoy
refreshments provided by Farm 2 U food truck,
sponsored by SAFEbuilt.

Saturday, April 22nd, 2023, 9am-1pm
Annual Spring Clean Up @ Bieth Park
Bring your rake, gloves, and garden tools!
Join the City of Caro Parks & Recreation, The
Tuscola County Fair board, and Michigan State
University Extension as we
prepare the Park for the season ahead.
Refreshments are provided!

Saturday, May 6th, 2023, 10-4pm
The 2nd Annual Modern Mama's Market
@ State Street Square
Celebrate with a fun day of shopping!
Enjoy over 30 local vendors, Live Music, and
Delicious fresh food from Farm 2 U food truck!

Thursday, May 25th, 2023, 5-7pm
2nd Annual Summer Kick off @ Bieth Park
Join the Caro Parks & Recreation Committee and
several
other community organizations as we kick off
Summer
with Free activities, Live Music and Food trucks!

Saturday, June 3rd, 2023, 9-2pm
Caro Farmers Market 3rd Annual Grand
Opening
@ State Street Square
Enjoy all the Market has to offer!!
This year we will feature over 40 local vendors,
Live Music, Giveaways, FREE activities,
and Holy Guacamole LLC. authentic Mexican
food truck!

Monday, June 10th, 2023, 11am-12:30pm
Animal Encounter
@ State Street Square
Learn about and interact with a variety of
creatures,
hosted by the Caro Area District Library.

We are now accepting vendor applications for
Caro Farmers Market and reservations for State
Street Square rentals. Forms can be found on the
City of Caro website.
Please email Lauren Amellal:
lamellal@carocity.net or call: (989)673-7671 ext. 7
for more information!



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.

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 6, 2023 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

City Offices will be
closed on Monday,
May 29, 2023.
In observance of
Memorial Day.



Yard Waste Schedule

Yard waste is picked up weekly and should be **placed curbside by 6 a.m. beginning on Thursday, April 6, 2023**. All yard waste should be free of trash, litter or other materials for collection. Items must be in a container with an "X" or "Yard Waste" or biodegradable paper sacks.



What will be collected:

Grass clippings

Leaves

Small clippings

Limbs - no larger than 4 inches in diameter and no longer than 4 feet

Sticks/brush generated from routine landscape maintenance of residential properties.

No tree removal debris will be collected.