



Caro Times

City of Caro

A newsletter from the 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



@carocity

Your Council:
Mayor Karen Snider
Bob Eschenbacher
Doreen Oedy
Charlotte Kish
Jill White
Pam Iseler
Emily Campbell

Meet the Mayor Karen J. Snider



Eight months have passed since I took over the role as Mayor and it has been a fabulous and challenging learning experience. So many exciting changes have taken place and many more to come. While there have been challenges, 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 entrepreneurs to move this city forward.

Many council members including myself have attended the Elected Officials Academy and found the classes to be helpful. Classes included understanding leadership roles and responsibilities, financial management, planning and zoning, priority budgeting, financial statements and utility rate settings were the main topics of these classes. Council members are striving to use this important training to best serve our community. Every day will continue to be a learning experience; however, we strongly believe that by working together, utilizing positive energy, and professionalism "WE" are moving our city in the right direction.

Fiscal responsibility is a priority for City Council and we worked diligently together with the city manager and department heads and adopted a fair and equitable budget which covers July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. The city is always searching for grants to offset costs to ensure the services to our community are in a sustainable manner. Council's goal is to provide revenue to maintain, grow and improve local infrastructure and community service.

HELP US HELP YOU

The City of Caro has received several complaints regarding stray and/or feral cats. This is a tough issue considering animal control and the animal shelter is a Tuscola County responsibility, which falls

under the Board of Commissioners. The city has absolutely no staff to capture these cats and even if we did we have no place to house them. It would be irresponsible on our part to create an ordinance knowing we are unable to enforce it.

Feral, stray and pet cats are all members of the same species. Stray cats and feral cats are also different from each other in relationship to their interactions with people. A socialized cat is one that enjoys the companionship with people and allows the human to touch them. They understand human sights, smells and sounds. They are used to being snuggled by people. A stray cat is a cat who lived indoors and enjoyed being around humans but has left or lost its home or was abandoned by their humans. Over time a stray cat becomes a feral cat if not returned to the human within a short period of time. A feral cat is an unsocialized outdoor cat who has either never had any physical contact with humans, or human contact has been diminished over a long period of time. Most feral cats are fearful of people and not likely to ever become a lap cat or indoor cat. The best way to determine what cat you are dealing with is that a stray cat may approach people, houses, porches or even cars. A feral cat will not approach and will likely seek hiding places to avoid people.

In most instances, no matter what type of cat you are dealing with, they are searching for food, water and/or shelter. If they find what they are looking for they will hang out there. Once you feed a cat they are likely to return in numbers.

If you have a family cat(s) please try to keep them on your property. Be conscious of other peoples' feelings. They may not like cats or your cats running around their property.

There are ways to repel cats: Citrus or lemon scents (orange or lemon peels), ammonia, vinegar, coffee grinds, pipe tobacco, mustard, citronella, eucalyptus, rosemary and thyme.

Trap-Neuter quickly stabilizes feral cat populations by ending a female cates productive cycle. Eliminates or minimizes nuisance behaviors such as roaming, spray/markings by a male, fighting and noisy mating encounters.

Michigan Legislature - Section 750.50b clearly states that killing or torturing animals in the first degree is a felony.

Please do not do any of the following:

- a. Use poisons or any toxic contaminations
- b. Shoot them, even with non-lethal ammunition or pellet guns
- c. Use any aggressive dogs or animals to harm them
- d. Use inhumane traps or glue traps
- e. Any other action that is killing or torturing an animal

Our City Manager has been meeting with Tuscola County officials and is working diligently to find solutions to help solve the number of cats running loose in our city. If you have recommendations on how to help solve this problem, please call Scott Czasak, City Manager at 989-673-7671 (ext. 5225).

I have an office at city hall and would like to meet with you if only to get acquainted and perhaps discuss what you would like to see for the future of the city. I would also like to hear any concerns or questions that you have not been able to get answers. All suggestions or constructive criticisms are welcome. We would also like to hear any positive comments that you wish to share. Appointments can be made by calling Mayor Karen Snider at 989-673-7671 and leaving a message with the city clerk or deputy clerk. If you prefer, I can be reached directly to schedule an appointment by calling 989-673-2627 and leaving a voice message or send me an email at kknider@carocity.net. I will respond as soon as available and am willing to set an appointment to meet with you in person.

Residential Trash Increase



Residential rubbish and trash pick up from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 will be \$26.84 every two months Residential rubbish and trash pick up from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024 will be \$37.72 every two months

City Manager Scott R. Czasak

As we reach the end of another Pure Michigan summer here in Caro, I hope all of the residents and businesses are ready for the change in seasons upcoming. I know here at City Hall we are getting ready for a busy fall and winter.

Since the last issue of the newsletter we have entered into a new budget year, my first as your City Manager, it was a great learning experience to get to know not only all the parts of how the City operates, but what priorities we have going forward. You will see a lot of activity at some of our municipal buildings as we make long overdue upgrades and repairs. On the docket is the demolition of the Old Police Building, installation of new garage doors at the Fire Hall to ensure timely use of equipment, repairs to the roof and parking lot at the DPW Facility, and repairs to City Hall.

Importantly, we are also spending money to make important repairs to the underlying infrastructure here in Caro, most notably, we are lining a number of our sewer system pipes to extend their lifespan and ensure smooth flow. Underground infrastructure might not be the thing we see every day to keep it in the forefront of our minds, but when it doesn't work, such as with a backup into a basement or a watermain break, the inconvenience is off the scale.

These are just some of the multitudes of issues which come across my desk, and this City has kept me busy at work since I came on board, but keeping busy is what I signed up for. If something I do improves the lives of our residents, even in a small indirect way, then that is the part of the job I find most satisfying. Lastly, I recently assumed the responsibilities as the Zoning Administrator from our Fire Chief, which means I am processing applications for fences, pools, accessory buildings, and all other Zoning related matters. Please note that if you are planning on one of these projects, or have any questions about zoning or land uses, to reach out to my office and I will help in any way I can.

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

Election year 2023 brought an August election, Tuscola County Jail Proposal. City of Caro had a 21.31% turn out of voters. City of Caro currently has 3,028 active voters. City of Caro mailed out 735 Absentee Voter Applications, 396 ballots were mailed, 376 ballots were received, and 370 voters have chosen to be on the permanent ballot mailing list. Total voters were 739. In Proposal 22-2, voters have the option to request to be on the permanent ballot mailing list. By choosing this option, the voter will receive a ballot for all elections without having to fill out an application. Voters will have another opportunity to select this option in the next few elections. On the horizon are the following elections for 2024: February 27, 2024 (Presidential Primary), May 7, 2024 (Special Election), August 6, 2024 (Primary Election), and November 5, 2024 (General Election). More information to come.

Recently Governor Whitmer has signed a bill to increase voter precinct size to 5,000 voters. Once this takes effect, the City of Caro will be reduced to one precinct. More information will be sent to voters soon.

Proposal 22-2 has implemented 9 days of early voting for all Federal and State elections. Tuscola County will be creating Early Voting Centers which will consist of more than one jurisdiction. The City of Caro will be participating in the Early Voting Centers. Be on the lookout for future information regarding this for the February 27, 2024 election.

I would like to give special thanks to my Deputy Clerk, Jana Brown, for all your continued hard work assisting me in elections and in the Clerk's

office. Also, a big thanks to my Election Inspectors. It takes a team. Kudos to all of you.

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

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

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

Hello from the Treasurer's office. I hope everyone had a great summer and looking forward to a great fall.

On June 5, 2023, the City Council approved the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The overall expenditure for the fiscal year is \$9,030,698. Included in the budget are:

1. New leased police vehicle
2. New leased vehicle for the fire chief
3. New leased vehicle for the medical first responders
4. Additional expenditures for elections due to the changes in the law related to the passing of Proposal 22-2
5. Making repairs and upgrades to many city owned buildings

6. Demolition of the Old Police Building which will eventually become a new city parking lot
7. Installation of 2 sand volleyball courts
8. Lining of sewer lines to extend the life of the lines
9. Repairs to streets around the city
10. Many more items.

As a reminder, summer property taxes are due September 15, 2023 without penalty. The City will still be collecting taxes at City Hall through February 28, 2024 with interest charges. December 1, 2023, the City of Caro will be mailing out winter property taxes that will be due February 28, 2024. After February 28, 2024, all unpaid summer and winter property taxes must be paid to Tuscola County Treasurer.

As another reminder all utility bills are due on the 4th of each odd month and if the 4th falls on a weekend it is due the next business day.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office at (989) 673-7671 or send email to mperry@carocity.net if you have questions.

Wastewater Treatment Department
David Dienes

Greetings residents of Caro. I hope this letter finds you all happy and healthy after a wonderful summer. I am happy to report things are going well at your Wastewater Treatment Plant. Despite a few hiccups, planning is underway for our plant upgrade. Engineers and city officials are in frequent contact working on the details. We're still awaiting word on funding for the project, but fingers and toes are crossed!

Recently, we've had some personnel turnover. Two operators have decided to pursue other opportunities since we last spoke. We have since filled both positions. I am excited to help mold the new employees into excellent operators and even better stewards of the city.

Operationally, your Wastewater Treatment Plant is running smoothly. We have had a few problems but thankfully staff have identified and corrected these issues before they became catastrophic. As always, we are working hard to run a Wastewater Treatment Plant you can be proud of.

To close, I offer you two reminders. The WWTP continues to have an RV dump site. This site is open from 7-3, Monday through Friday. This site is free to use. All we ask is that you only dump domestic waste. Finally, for the sake of our underground infrastructure, please only send water and toilet paper down your drains.

Have a lovely fall!

Yard Waste

Yard waste pickup will continue until Friday, November 24, 2023. Grass clippings, weeds, and greenery trimmings are accepted. Please place these items in either a can clearly marked with an "X" or "Yard Waste" or in biodegradable paper bags.

Department of Public Works
Tom Reese

With the leaves beginning to change colors, we start shifting into fall mode. While we may not be ready to shift from summer mode to fall mode, it is time to start thinking about fall yard cleanup. The city is divided up into three (3) Zones for leaf pickup. We will begin leaf pickup in Zone One (1) on Monday, October 9, 2023, and will continue through Friday, December 8, 2023, depending on the weather. There are to be no grass clippings or sticks are to be mixed into your leaves, as these will plug the machinery. Please place the leaves in neat piles in the street next to the curbing. A copy of the leaf pickup

schedule will be available in this newsletter, along with on the City of Caro website. The current zone will also be posted on Facebook and our LED sign.

Our last day for chipping will be on Monday, October 2, 2023. 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.

The Weeden Road dump is still open on the First and Third Saturdays of the month from 10 am until Noon. The dump will be closed for the season on Saturday November 18, 2023. The last day for Emterra to pick up yard waste at the curb is on Friday, November 24, 2023.

After all the fun fall activities of cider mills, pumpkin farms, cozy sweaters, and fires, comes the snow. Please remember that there is NO PARKING on any street in the City of Caro from 2 am to 5 am from December 1st through March 31st. There is also an ordinance against shoveling or blowing your snow into the street. If you see the City plowing the streets, please remember to give them consideration because they cannot always see you.

The City of Caro Department of Public Works employees would like to thank you for helping us by not placing items in the streets or storm drains that do not belong.



Caro Police Department
Brian Newcomb

The Caro Police Department has been very busy lately. It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. We were happy to be invited by the Caro State Police in raising funds for school supplies at Walmart where many citizens were very generous and donated school supplies and money for disadvantaged children. In all, approximately \$1,800 was raised in addition to the large amount of donated school supplies. Our hats are off to the State Police for organizing the effort and to the Caro Fire department who also participated and helped raise the generous donations.

We have had a wave of vehicle larcenies and break-ins in the last year. The Caro Police Department has been working each case in the City diligently and we have been confident that we were one break in the case from bringing the suspects to justice. I am happy to report that within the last 3 days, our officers in close conjunction with the Tuscola Prosecutors office, Michigan State Police, Caro Post, Tri-Cities post, State police K9 units and Emergency Support Team, Thumb Narcotics, Bay City DPS and Tuscola County Sheriff detectives have developed leads that led to four search warrants in Caro, Almer Township and Bay City resulting in the arrest of six persons and the recovery of stolen property from these crimes, including several handguns and rifles. Narcotics and Narcotics paraphernalia was also seized. Our thanks to all of our Law Enforcement partners in the combined effort. We are continuing with our investigation and are confident there will be more arrests and property recovered. We have recovered many personal identification cards, drivers licenses etc. If you have been the victim of a vehicle larceny, please contact the Caro Police department by email addressed to Chief Brian Newcomb at bnewcomb@carocity.net or the Michigan State Police Caro Post at 989-673-2158 or Tuscola County Sheriff Department, Detective Nitz at 989-673-8161.

Code Enforcement Department
Randy Heckroth

The Code Enforcement Officer would like to thank everyone for their efforts in keeping our city clean this past summer. Although there is still work to be done, it looks great.

Please check your yards for any items that may need to be stored inside for the winter months. Remember, anything left laying out will be there come spring and possibly damaged. Please check your house and garages for any type of structure damage that could become worse when ice and snow get into it. Check for any hole that critters may try to enter and stay warm.

Please ensure that your sidewalks are kept clean of any ice and snow. The ordinance states this should be accomplished no later than 10 a.m. of each day. Failure to do so may cause city workers to perform the task at the safety of our residents, and to insure a safe passage for your mail delivery.

Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries?
Cooking safety starts with YOU.



FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK™

Pay attention
to fire prevention.™

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS
OCTOBER 8 TO OCTOBER 14, 2023**

LEAF PICKUP SCHEDULE

Zone 1 - Oct 9 to Oct 13

Zone 1 - Oct 30 to Nov 2

Zone 1 - Nov 20 to Nov 24

Zone 2 - Oct 16 to Oct 20

Zone 2 - Nov 6 to Nov 10

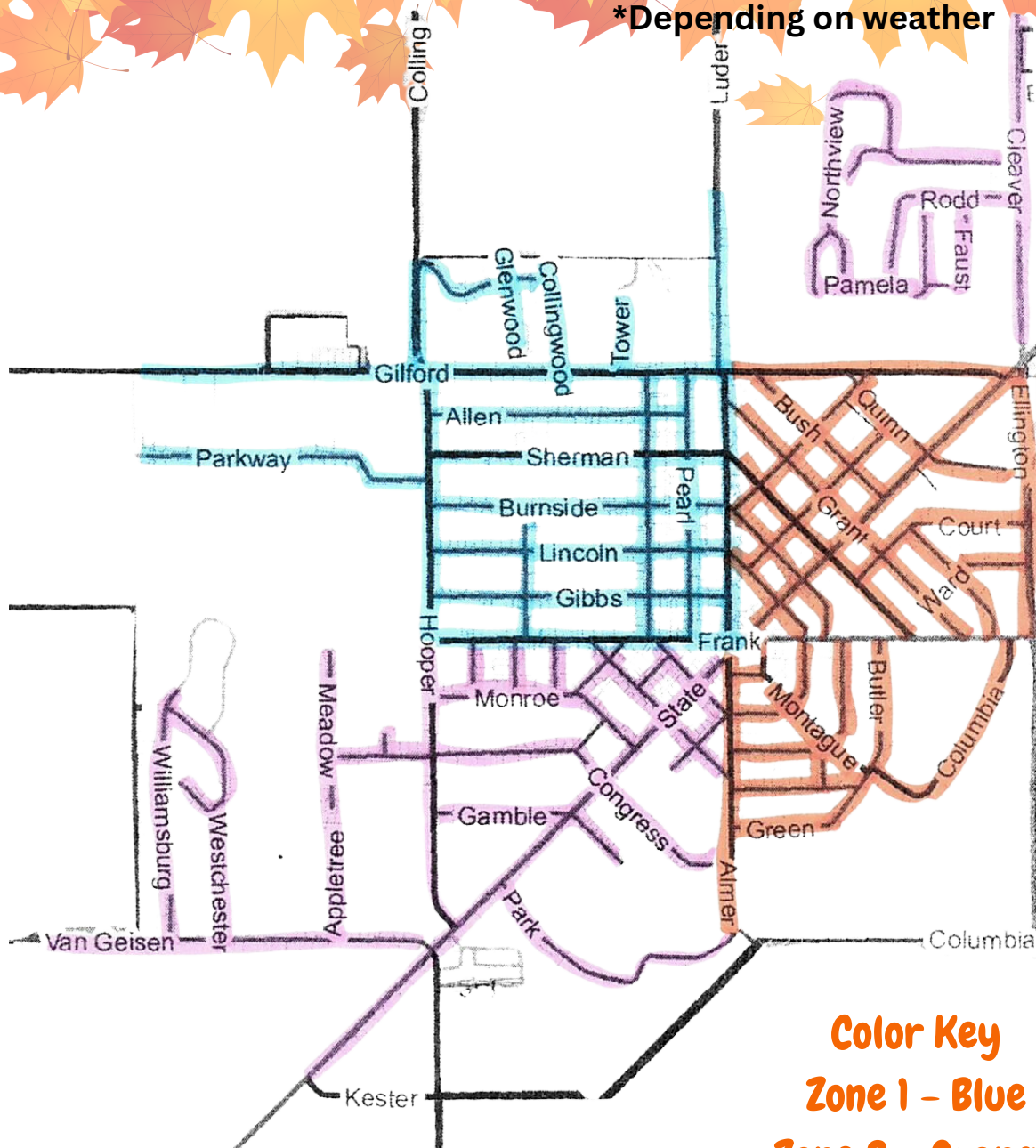
Zone 2 - Nov 27 to Dec 1

Zone 3 - Oct 23 to Oct 27

Zone 3 - Nov 13 to Nov 17

Zone 3 - Dec 4 to Dec 8

***Depending on weather**



Color Key

Zone 1 - Blue

Zone 2 - Orange

Zone 3 - Pink

Save THE Date

SEPTEMBER 4, 2023 - CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 - GARBAGE PICKUP

SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 - SUMMER 2023 TAXES DUE

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 2, 2023 - LAST BRUSH CHIPPING FOR THE SEASON

OCTOBER 2, 2023 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 9, 2023 - LEAF PICKUP BEGINS

OCTOBER 16, 2023 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 31, 2023 - HAPPY HALLOWEEN

NOVEMBER 6, 2023 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 10, 2023 - CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 18, 2023 - LAST DAY FOR WEEDEN ROAD

NOVEMBER 20, 2023 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 23 - 24, 2023 - CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 24, 2023 - LAST DAY FOR YARD WASTE PICKUP

NOVEMBER 24, 2023 - GARBAGE PICKUP DUE TO HOLIDAY

DECEMBER 1, 2023 NO PARKING ON CITY STREETS BEGINS

DECEMBER 1, 2023 - WINTER 2023 TAXES ARE MAILED

DECEMBER 4, 2023 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 18, 2023 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 22-25, 2023 - CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 29, 2023 - CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS

JANUARY 1, 2024 - CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS

JANUARY 8, 2024 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 15, 2024 - CLOSED FOR MLK DAY

JANUARY 16, 2024 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 5, 2024 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2023 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 28, 2024 - WINTER 2023 TAXES DUE



SERVE CARO

LIVING PROOF OF A LOVING GOD

OCTOBER 22, 2023

WORSHIP 9:30-10AM | WORKDAY 10AM-2/3PM
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Frankenmuth Bible Church is partnering with the city of Caro to be "living proof of a loving God" within the community as they complete dozens of work projects, such as cleaning up fence lines at the fairgrounds, finishing and repainting bridges and walkways at the park, and raking leaves at private residences.

If you are in need of any assistance with outdoor projects, please email connection@frankenmuthbible.com

📞 989.652.3535

📍 210 S. Main St., Frankenmuth

🌐 www.frankenmuthbible.com

