



Caro Times

City of Caro

A quarterly 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

Your Council:

Mayor Karen Snider
Bob Eschenbacher
Don Hall
Charlotte Kish
Jill White
Pam Isler
Emily Campbell

Upcoming Council Meetings:

January 3 & 17
February 6 & 20
March 6 & 20

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

Meet the Mayor Karen J. Snider

I am Karen Snider, the newly elected Mayor for the City of Caro, and am honored to serve the community where I was born, raised and continue to reside. Although I may be new to the position of Mayor, I certainly am not new to Caro or our city government. I spent over 17 years as the Clerk/Treasurer and on two occasions I proudly served as City Acting Manager. I have had the privilege of working for three mayors who provided me so much valuable knowledge. My goal is to use that knowledge going forward to help our council and community grow. It is the beginning of a new year with many exciting changes in the City of Caro. Some have already taken place, and more are to come.

The City of Caro presently has so much to offer, and by working together we can display positive energy, professionalism and move the community forward.

I have been in this position less than two months, have had the pleasure of attending the grand openings of both Marshalls and Aldi's stores, and joined the ceremonies that welcomed these two new businesses to the City of Caro. I recently became a member of the Caro Rotary Club and am enjoying the interaction and fellowship. There are so many great individuals in different leadership positions and small business owners in the city. The annual "Shop with a Hero" event, which was held at Walmart in Caro and organized by the Caro Police Department, was the best volunteer project I have ever been involved on. So many agencies, heroes and volunteers were present, and it was certainly a wonderful experience. In addition to having fun working with everyone, it leaves a warm, loving feeling in your heart knowing you helped so many children and families. I also attended some of the Caro Chamber of Commerce Gingerbread Village events, including the arrival of Santa Claus in Trudeau Square and the Community Tree Lighting and Caroling. It was great seeing so many residents and out of town visitors participating in these festive activities.

Another fantastic change which recently took place was the hiring of our new City Manager (Scott Czasak). Mr. Czasak wasted no time jumping in and getting his feet wet. He is ready to take on his tasks of running the day-to-day operations of the city. Please join the council and staff with welcoming Mr. Czasak to our wonderful city.

If you have any questions or concerns for me as Mayor, I can be reached by calling 989-673-7671 and leaving a message or you can email me at kksnider@carocity.net.

City Manager Scott R. Czasak



Greetings residents of Caro.

My name is Scott R. Czasak, and I am the new City Manager here in town. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve, and I hope to do so for a long time to come! I come to Caro by

way of Escanaba where I was the Executive Director of the DDA and originally from Macomb County. I have spent a great deal of time in the Thumb in my life and I am excited to become part of the community.

Since I started in early December I hit the ground running, meeting with local service organizations, business owners, members of the community, and others. As I write this, I have just had my first council meeting as the City Manager and I am already working with the dedicated staff in the city offices about how to do what we can going forward to provide the best possible service to the community, at the most economical cost to our taxpayers. One thing I can assure you, is that I will always keep in mind every dollar I spend is yours, and I should treat it as such.

Looking forward, I am already starting to fill my calendar with meetings, events, and other ways to get out and interact with as much of the community as possible. While it is your Caro City Council which hired me, and who I am accountable to, I also know I am accountable to you. As such, I feel it is my duty to not just be someone behind a desk, but someone who is always accessible to the community I serve.

My door is always open to discuss any issues or ideas you may have. I know enough to know I do not know it all, and you know the community you have lived in, whether it has been a week, a year, or a decade or more. My job is to listen, and while I might not always be able to give you the answer you want, I will do my best to give you an answer.

If you ever need to reach out to me, please do so by either stopping by the office, emailing me at sczasak@carocity.net, or by calling me at 989-673-7671 x. 5225. It is my pleasure to be here to serve you, and if you see me around town feel free to say hello, I am not hard to find being 6'4" tall!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

City Clerk Rita Papp

Cheers to a New Year!! City of Caro Clerk's Office hope that you had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

City of Caro welcomes our New City Manager, Scott Czasak, City Mayor Elect Karen Snider, and City Council Member Elect Charlotte Kish. The Clerk's office is looking forward to working with all these individuals to "Promote the Positive" in the City of Caro.

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

Now that the holiday season is wrapping up and new year resolutions are being set for 2023, I wish everyone a prosperous new year.

Winter tax bills were mailed out on December 1, 2022, if you have not received yours yet, please stop by City Hall and we can reprint it for you.

Winter and summer property taxes are collected at City Hall through February 28, 2023, then starting on March 1, 2023, they would have to be paid at the County Treasurer's Office. There is a drop box outside City Hall which property tax payments can be put in.

Property tax assessments will be mailed out during February 2023. The March Board of Review will meet to hear property owners on the 3rd Monday in March which is March 20, 2023.

Business owners with personal property please read the information below:

1. If you have personal property valued less than \$80,000 you need to complete Michigan Treasury Form 5076 (if you have not already) to be exempt from personal property taxes. This is a one-time filing requirement. The form is due to the City of Caro no later than February 20th.
2. To claim an exemption for personal property valued at \$80,000 or more but less than \$180,000, Michigan Treasury Form 5076 along with Form 632 Personal Property Statement MUST be filed ANNUALLY with the City of Caro where the personal property is located no later than February 20th each year.



Department of Public Works Tom Reese

The staff at the DPW hope you had an enjoyable holiday season. It has been a slow start to winter with snow and ice, but I would like to remind everyone that there is no parking on any city street from 2-5 am through March.

Along with the State of Michigan, the City of Caro has an ordinance that does not allow shoveling, plowing, or blowing of your snow into the streets. Please be considerate when you see any city, local or state plowing trucks on the roads giving them much needed space and remembering that they might not be able to see you.

Bad Stuff Happens in the Bathroom

It is not always pleasant to talk about what happens in the bathroom. But when we do talk about what is being flushed or poured down the drains, we are working together to ensure that there is no excessive wear and tear on the pumps and other wastewater treatment equipment.

Please do not flush items like, feminine hygiene products, diapers, paper (other than toilet paper) or adult/baby wipes. Do not pour items like grease, food scraps, or paint down the drains. When these items go down the drains, they do not dissolve in water and create blockages in sewer lines and the pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The City of Caro Wastewater Treatment Plant would like to thank you for being aware of what cannot be flushed or poured down the drains.

Caro Fire Department Randy Heckroth

The City of Caro Fire Department will soon be offering Medical First Responders to assist MMR with Priority One medical calls. Approximately half the department has enrolled in the training. We forecast that sometime in late January we will be able to offer this level of community service to all our primary service areas. This will include all the City of Caro, all sections of Indianfields Township, a section of Wells Township, Ellington Township, Juniata Township and Almer Township.

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 Fire Fighters are then able respond to such calls with the best available equipment, thus providing the best response anyone could offer.

Another project that is due to be finished in 2022 will be the activation of our new Emergency Response trailer. The trailer will deliver to a scene equipment for Water rescue, Grain Bin rescue, and mass casualty rescue. It will also include a command post in the front equipped with radios, computers and other equipment used for missing persons and any type of a natural disaster, such as a tornado.

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



City offices will be closed
Monday, January 16,
2023
in observance of Martin
Luther King, Jr. Day

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 and type of tree or electrical power line



Winter is a beautiful time of the year. With falling snow, comes the dangers of slipping and falling. Please remember, it is the responsibility of homeowners to keep your sidewalks and walkways clear of snow and ice.

Also consider, keeping the area around the fire hydrants clean of snow and ice. In case of an emergency, this will help the firefighters access the hydrant.

Caro Police Department Brian Newcomb

The 2022 "Shop with a Hero" event was held Tuesday, December 6th and was a great success. The event is hosted and organized by Caro Police Department's Officer Robert Gaiser, and Ryan Avery along with Tuscola County Dispatcher Amanda Berlin and Marie Thane from Caro Walmart. The success of this event is a result of the many hours of hard work by Officers Gaiser and Avery. This year Caro Police Department was able to raise enough money to impact over 40 needy children from across Tuscola County. The amount of money donated by generous community groups allowed for an increase per child to spend \$150 up from \$100 in previous years. Additionally, the Eastern Michigan Food bank and Ellington Nazarene Church were able to secure food baskets to donate to each child.

The Shop with a Hero event is a wonderful opportunity for First responders from throughout Tuscola County to give their time to children in need.

A special Thank you from Caro Police Department to all of the people and groups that volunteered to help set up for the event and give of their time to help wrap the gifts for the children. Additionally, Santa and Mrs. Claus as well as Caro High School Choir singing Christmas Carols made the evening special. We even had a couch donated for use to sit with Santa. This was generously provided by Caro Continental Rental. Tuscola area School administrators and counselors were instrumental in assisting us in selecting the children to participate in Shop with a Hero.

Hero participants has grown to include Police Officers, Fire Fighters, MMR paramedics, Tuscola Dispatchers, Michigan Department of Corrections, Tuscola Prosecutors office, Court Personnel, Child Advocacy Center, Tuscola Behavioral Health, Tuscola Tech Center Law Enforcement program, Caro Alternative

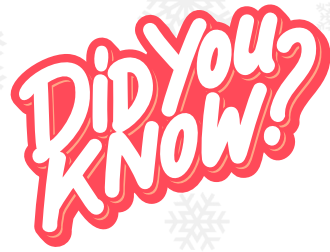
Education, Caro High School National Honor Society. This year for the first time we had a group of United State Marine Corp present as well. This event is a special time for first responders to show their community spirit and to share their time with the children in shopping with them and showing that we all care. Caro PD is so very grateful for all of the donations and generosity received for this wonderful event. Clearly without those donations, the event would not be possible. Thank you for the direct support and generosity of Caro Walmart. Their management and volunteer employees give generously of their time and efforts in the coordination of this event.

The Caro Police Department would like to recognize Chief Randall Heckroth of the Caro Fire Department for making his fire hall available to provide a space to have all the participants of this year's Hero event to come together and enjoy pizza and drinks supplied by Caro Pizza Hut. It was a nice way to end the night's festivities after all the hard work. To all of our Community Partners, First Responders, members of our extended Hero network along with the many generous volunteers, the Caro Police Department Thanks each and every one of you. Thanks again for making the Christmas Holidays a memorable time for the Children. Seeing the smiles on their faces is thanks enough for us.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you,



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 holes that critters may try to enter to stay warm.

Please be aware that there is an ordinance that does not allow any parking on the streets during the months of December, January, February, and March. This will allow the City DPW workers a chance to insure proper snow removal from the streets. A reminder that no one should park across or on a sidewalk, this is a safety issue. Parking there may force a person to walk around and onto a street were vehicles are in motion, causing an unsafe act. There is no parking on the city right of way, which is between the curb of the street and the sidewalk.

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

**Please remember:
No Parking on
any city street from
2 am - 5 am
December 1 - March 31**

A Smart911 Safety Profile delivers critical caller data with incoming 9-1-1 calls. It helps 9-1-1 call takers make faster and better decisions, shortens response times, and helps save lives.

Residents sign up for Smart911 and enter information they want 9-1-1 to receive in case of an emergency. Information can include family member data, photos, medical conditions, disabilities, mobility limitations, exact addresses, even pets. Data is automatically validated against user's phone number(s) and citizen provided data is kept fresh through a patented aging process.

When a person calls 9-1-1, their data automatically displays on the 9-1-1 call taker's workstation, providing additional information that helps to dispatch the best response to the right location. Data can be easily pushed to responding Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS to help them respond more quickly and effectively.

To sign up go to smart911.com to set up your account.

**Effective January 1, 2023,
the new rubbish and trash rates
for City of Caro
residents will increase from
\$26.04 per billing cycle
to
\$26.84 per billing cycle
NEW RATES WILL BE REFLECTED
ON THE FEBRUARY 2023 BILLING**

State Street Square Cultivate Community Lauren Amella

There are so many reasons to celebrate this Holiday Season!

Here at the City of Caro, we are excited to welcome the newest members of our team! It is definitely time to celebrate! We have a new Mayor, Karen Snider, a new City Manager, Scott Czasak, and a new City Council member, Charlotte Kish.

In addition to celebrating, the winter season is a time of reflection. The City of Caro is a wonderful place to call home, and it is such an honor to contribute to the success of projects that positively impact the quality of life for our residents! The 2022 year has had its up and downs, but we have managed to stay on track and complete some very important projects. I can't possibly list them all but some of my favorites are listed below.

- We extended our season, and hosted two new Spring market events in downtown Caro.
- We created the Market Kids Club which was partially funded by a Food Safety Grant for the Michigan Farmers Market Association. Several community organizations provided no cost educational and recreational activities to local children and their families.
- Parks & Recreation hosted our 1st Annual Summer Kick off at Bieth Park!
- We coordinated with the Caro Chamber of Commerce to compliment preexisting events such as Cars & Crafts, and Gingerbread Village.
- The DDA continued to support Music in the Park and held our 2nd Annual "Encore@Atwood" Series!
- The State Street Square pavilion was home to several community impact events including Tuscola Relay for Life, FREE Caro Area District Library family events, and GST MIWORKS Resource Fair

- We wrapped up the Farmer Market season with 3 very successful events: Harvest Day, trunk or Treat and The Festive Food Truck Rally/ Candy Cane Lane Farm & Arts Market!

- We continued our work with the Tuscola Food Access Collaborative. The group's efforts, spearheaded by MSUE, were recognized with a USDA grant award of \$840,000.00! Stay tuned for details on how this project impacts our regional and local food system.

We have so many more fantastic things planned. Make sure to get involved in making your city great! Join us for any of our public meetings to learn more about what is happening in and around Caro.

Have questions? Want to host an event, or get involved? I am here to help!



The City of Caro warmly welcomes our new City Manager, Scott Czasak. Please join us in welcoming him to the City of Caro.



*Head over to
Chippewa Landing
for sledding!*