



Caro Times

A 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



@carocity

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

Meet the Mayor Karen J. Snider



When I got up this morning and looked out the window I did not know if it was going to be Spring, Summer or Winter. I think mother nature is playing with my mind.

With Spring coming to an end and Summer around the corner, it is an excellent time to get involved in "your" community. There is always a need for volunteers to help make improvements to make things better. The Parks and Recreation committee, churches, civic organizations, and others can always use volunteer help. Volunteers are needed for pulling weeds, painting playground equipment, working in flower gardens, raking and many other tasks that would make such a difference. You just need to "GET INVOLVED". We have a family friendly city in which Caro people do care and "YOU" can help make our community better. We appreciate any amount of time you can give even if it is 30 minutes.

Time is going by very quickly and every day will continue to be a learning experience for all of us council members. We strongly believe that by working together, utilizing positive energy and professionalism "WE" are moving our city in the right direction.

The council has been dealing with a lot of controversial issues and unfortunately, we can't always please every resident of our community. It is the council's job to determine if the city council is the proper venue to deal with the issue presented. We listen to facts and review data to determine what the outcome should be. When we spend money, it is important for us to remember that we are looking at all residents and not just a few.

The City of Caro has so much to offer our residents and we want to make Caro a place in which you are proud to live. With the weather changing you will have the opportunity to use all the parks, splash pad, shuffleboard court, pavilions, walking trails, Music in the Park, visits to

the Caro Roadhouse Museum, Caro District Library, Noble Boulder Gardens, Memorial Gardens, Botanical Gardens, Farmer's Market, and many others.

Fiscal responsibility is a priority for the City Council, and we will be working very diligently together with the City Manager and department heads to adopt a fair and equitable budget which covers July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The city is always searching for grants to offset costs to ensure the services to our community are in a sustainable manner. The council's goal is to provide revenue to maintain, grow and improve local infrastructure and community services.

It is truly my pleasure to serve you as your City Mayor. 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 to. All suggestions or constructive criticisms are welcome. We would also like to hear any positive comments that you wish to share. Appointments may 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 989-672-2627 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

City Clerk
Rita Papp

The City of Caro Clerk's Office has been busy preparing for the upcoming changes for all future Michigan Elections. My newsletter will highlight all the new changes and pertinent information that every voter should know. As always, I am available for questions via email, phone and/or in person. This information will be posted on our website and Facebook page for reference.

Due to the passing of Proposal 22-2 in the November 2022 Election, Michigan elections will look different. Here are explanations of each voting method:

1. Absentee

- Any registered voter can vote with an absentee ballot. There are 2 steps to this process: 1 - Submit a ballot application (unless you have previously submitted a permanent ballot application). 2 - Return your voted ballot by mail, absentee ballot drop box or in person during clerk's office hours. Absentee Ballots Due: 8:00 p.m. Election Day

2. Permanent Absentee

- Voters who want to automatically be mailed a ballot for all future elections may sign up for the Permanent Absentee Voter Ballot List anytime at www.Mi.gov/Vote or when submitting an Absentee Voter Ballot Application.

3. In Person - Election Day

- Voters will have the option to vote in person on Election Day from the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the City of Caro Municipal Building.

Permanent Absentee Ballot List Voters (voters who receive ballots automatically)

All Permanent Ballot List voters will receive a Presidential Primary Ballot Selection Form in the mail. Ballot preference must be selected and returned to the clerk's office by February 7, 2024. If you do not return your Presidential Primary Ballot Selection Form, you will receive a ballot with proposals only.

Absentee Voter Ballot Application List Voters (voters not currently on the Permanent Ballot List)

All Absentee Voter Ballot Application List voters will receive an Absentee Voter Ballot Application in the mail. Election dates, ballot preference, and option to be placed on the Permanent Ballot List shall be selected and returned to the clerk's office in a timely manner.

****NEW** Absentee Voter Ballot Processing Election Day**

Absentee voters may bring in their ballot on election day and run it through the tabulator.

Register to Vote Options (or Updating Address):

- Those who have a valid Michigan Driver's License or State ID, can register at www.MI.gov/Vote.
- Register by mail: Applications are available on the City of Caro website, www.carocity.net.
- Register in person at the Clerk's office.

Voter Registration Deadlines:

- Online or by mail up to 15 days before election.
- In person at the Clerk's office: Through election day (proof of residency required during last 14 days before election day)

2024 Elections

Special Election - May 7, 2024 (no 9 days early voting)

Primary Election - August 6, 2024

General Election - November 5, 2024

Precinct Change & Polling Location

The City of Caro no longer has 2 precincts. All voters in the City of Caro are now in Precinct 1. Those voters affected should have received a new voter ID card from the Clerk's office. Polling location for Precinct 1 will be the City of Caro Fire Hall Training Room, 317 S. State St., Caro, MI 48723. Please enter the building on the east side and follow the appropriate signage.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact me at 989-673-7671 Ext. 5223 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 Manager
Scott R. Czasak**

The snow has melted and the tell-tale signs of Spring have sprung here in Caro, and as your City Manager it is my pleasure to update you on some of the goings on here in town!

As you read this, the team at City Hall is developing the budget for the next fiscal year starting in July. A number of projects are on my whiteboard being prioritized for inclusion in the budget. I would encourage all who are interested in what we will be doing to keep an active interest in the budget process and provide feedback as City Council evaluates the budget proposal. The staff here put a lot of time and effort into the budget, and we do all this work with the mindset of doing what we can with what we have to improve the City of Caro.

I would also like to welcome a new member of the team, our new City Treasurer Tammy Ries. As soon as she started, she dove right into the job, and I am pleased to see her making rapid progress in her new position. Coming to the position during budget season is not the easiest transition, but she has handled it with poise and grace while continuing to learn.

We have a number of events coming up to celebrate summer here in Caro, from the summer kick-off at Bieth Park, to the Music in the Park series at Atwood Park, and a new event, the first Fire Department Open House. The Open House will allow residents to see the new ladder truck and the other fire fighting equipment while interacting with some of our firefighters in a family friendly environment. Keep an eye on the City of Caro-Government Facebook page for continual updates.

At the end of the day, the most important part of my job is to listen to the input of the residents and businesses here in Caro. If you have ideas, issues, or just want to provide your feedback, I am always happy to listen. Please feel free to send me an email at sczasak@carocity.net or call my office at 989-673-7671 x. 5225. It is truly an honor to be your City Manager and I look forward to continuing to serve the City of Caro!

POOL READS

Planning to fill your pool for the summer? Look no further than the City of Caro for hassle-free pool reading services! Here's what you need to know:

- **Scheduling:** Call us at 989-673-2226 to schedule your pool reading appointment with just a 24-hour notice.
- **Cost:** Enjoy our affordable pool filling service for just \$30.
- **Duration:** Pool filling cannot exceed 48 hours. Please note, we do not offer pool filling services on holidays.
- **Sewer Usage:** You won't be charged for the sewer usage portion of your water bill during pool filling.

Remember, while we're here for your pool filling needs, the Caro Department of Public Works and the Caro Fire Department do not fill privately owned swimming pools.

City Treasurer Tammy Ries

Hello Caro. I am Tammy Ries, and I am the new City Treasurer. I am happy to be back in Caro after spending the last fifteen years in metro Detroit. I look forward to being involved in this wonderful community and serving the best interests of its citizens.



Left to Right - Tammy Ries, new City Treasurer, Scott R. Czasak- Manager, Karen Snider-Mayor, and Jana Brown - Deputy Clerk administering the Oath of Office.

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 (6th), third Monday in July (15th), third Monday in August (19th), and first Monday in October (7th). 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.

Our Community Cleanup will be on Saturday, May 4, 2024 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!

Lawn Clipping Disposal

When grass clippings end up on the road, they're like slippery patches. If a car or bike drives over them, it can skid out of control, causing accidents. Plus, bits of debris can hit people or smash into car windows. Let's keep roads safe by blowing grass clippings away from them. It's an easy way to prevent accidents and protect everyone.

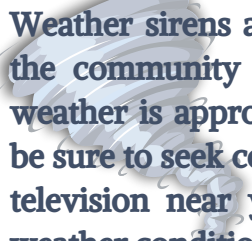
Caro Fire Department
Randall Heckroth

With spring right around the corner, and yard clean up near--please be mindful of the burning laws in the State of Michigan and within the City limits of Caro.

For burn permits outside the Caro City limits, please contact the fire station at 989-673-2002. You will hear a message concerning the rules and regulations for the State of Michigan. Permits are valid for 30 days. Anyone that would like to have a camp fire within the City limits, in an approved container, please leave your name and number. The Fire Chief will contact you, with specific rules for within the City limits. Please remember that the state only allows the burning of tree branches and logs. No garbage, and no lumber of any type, anywhere in the state.

Please contact the Fire Chief or a Firefighter for all your fire safety related questions.

Siren Testing



Weather sirens are strategically placed throughout the community so that they are heard if severe weather is approaching. If the sirens are activated, be sure to seek cover and if possible have a radio or television near your shelter to listen for current weather conditions.

Caro Fire Department activates the cities weather sirens, testing them on the first Wednesday of April through October at 10 am. The siren sounds, first for severe weather and the second for citizens' security.

When the sirens activate, they will sound for 3 minutes. When there is a real threat, the sirens sound at the moment the NWS issues the warning and the sirens sound for 2 minutes, then 8 minutes later they are set off again. This continues every 10 minutes until the warning expires set by the NWS.

Caro Police Department
Brian Newcomb

Welcome to Spring. We were fortunate to have had a mild winter (unless you're a snowmobiler or skier) Regardless, Easter has come and gone and we move on to yard work and nicer weather. With the nicer weather, we will have motorcycles emerging onto the roadways and Caro Police ask all motorists to be safe and courteous to fellow travelers.

Unfortunately, we will have to contend with a very inconvenient road closure in Caro for the summer. M24 at the bridge crossing the Cass River will be totally closed for approximately 3 months beginning on June 10th. The detour as I understand it will be via Chambers road between M46 and M81. I realize this will cause some confusion and frustration with travel in and around Caro. With some patience and forethought, we will get through it. With prior planning, and a few extra minutes travel time, there are many ways around the closure. Please plan ahead and make every effort to avoid the traffic congestion that is bound to happen.

Thank you and enjoy the nice weather

Wastewater Treatment Department
David Dienes

Hello residents of Caro! I hope this newsletter finds you happy, healthy, and fulfilled in life. Not only are we experiencing the seasonal change but City Administration and Staff and in the final stages of planning a major upgrade to your Wastewater Treatment Plant. While we won't be making many process changes or have any fancy, high tech gadgets to show you, the overall safety, efficiency, and reliability of the plant will improve tremendously!

upcoming events

May

April 27, 2024 - Spring Clean up at Bieth Park
May 4, 2024 - Community clean-up at Fairgrounds
May 4, 2024 - Weeden road dump 10 am to noon
May 4, 2024 - Food trucks on the 4th State Street Square 4 pm - 7 pm
May 6, 2024 - Citywide Brush chipping
May 6, 2024 - Utility bills due
May 6, 2024 - City Council Meeting 6:30 pm
May 7, 2024 - Special Election - no 9 days early voting
May 8, 2024 - DDA meeting 12 pm (noon)
May 11, 2024 - Modern Momma's Market State Street Square 10 am - 4 pm
May 14, 2024 - Planning Commission Meeting 7 pm
May 18, 2024 - Weeden road dump 10 am to noon
May 21, 2024 - Parks and Recreation Meeting 5:30 pm
May 20, 2024 - City Council meeting 6:30 pm
May 21, 2024 - Summer Kick-Off at Bieth Park 5 pm - 7 pm
May 25, 2024 - Memorial Market State Street Square 10 am - 4 pm
May 27, 2024 - Memorial Day - City Offices closed
May 28, 2024 - Planning Commission meeting 7 pm
May 30, 2024 - Caro Fire Department Open House from 5 pm - 7 pm

June

June 1, 2024 - Farmers Market State Street Square 9 am - 2 pm
June 1, 2024 - Weeden road dump 10 am to noon
June 3, 2024 - Utility bills mailed
June 3, 2024 - City Council meeting 6:30 pm
June 11, 2024 Planning Commission meeting 7 pm
June 12, 2024 - DDA meeting 12 pm (noon)
June 15, 2024 - Weeden road dump 10 am to noon
June 17, 2024 - City council meeting 6:30 pm
June 18, 2024 - Parks and recreation meeting 5:30 pm
June 25, 2024 - Planning Commission meeting 7 pm

July

July 1, 2024 - City Council meeting 6:30 pm
July 4, 2024 - 4th of July - City Offices closed
July 5, 2024 - Utility bills due
July 6, 2024 - Weeden road dump 10 am to noon
July 9, 2024 - Planning Commission meeting 7 pm
July 10, 2024 - DDA meeting 12 pm (noon)
July 15, 2024 - Citywide brush chipping
July 15, 2024 - City Council Meeting 6:30 pm
July 16, 2024 Parks and Recreation meeting 5:30 pm
July 20, 2024 Weeden road dump 10 am to noon
July 23, 2024 - Planning Commission meeting 7 pm

CONGRATULATIONS

The City of Caro Department of Public Works, led by Tom Reese and his incredible team Don Doyle, Mike Fader, Evean Gunsell, Gary Koelzer, Tyler Little and Nick McGuire, for being honored as the Special/Civic Recipient at the 54th annual Citizen of the Year dinner hosted by the Caro Chamber of Commerce on April 13, 2024!

Their dedication, hard work, and selfless contributions to the community of Caro truly exemplify the spirit of service and excellence. Thank you for all that you do to make Caro a better place for everyone. Your commitment to enhancing our city and your outstanding excellence serve as an inspiration to us all.

Tom wanted to share this message: "Thank you to Don, Mike, Evean, Gary, Tyler, and Nick for their invaluable contributions. Your dedication and hard work are truly appreciated. Additionally, a big thank you to our City Manager Scott, Jennifer, Terry at City Hall, for their continuous support and guidance. We would also like to thank the Caro City Council. Together, we make a formidable team, driving positive change in our community. Thank you all for your unwavering commitment to the betterment of the City of Caro."



Left to Right - Karen Snider-Mayor, Scott R. Czasak- Manager, Tyler Little, Gary Koelzer, Evean Gunsell, Don Doyle, Tom Reese -DPW Superintendent.
Not Pictured Mike Fader and Nick McGuire

Save the Date



Prepare for the most exciting event in town - the Fire Department Open House on Thursday, May 30, 2024 from 5 pm to 7 pm! Explore the brand-new ladder truck, experiment with impressive fire-fighting tools, and meet our courageous firefighters in an entertaining atmosphere perfect for all ages. Keep an eye out for more thrilling news on the City of Caro-Government Facebook page!

Road Work

The planned maintaining traffic plan is to close M-24 at the Cass River and detour all traffic and pedestrians from June 10, 2024 to August 24th, 2024. The detour route will be Frank Street to M-81 (State Street) to Chambers Road to M-46. There will also be lane closures using traffic regulators for a few days in September to complete the epoxy overlay work.



City of Caro residents can bring items to Bieth Park on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 8 am to 1 pm, by the tennis courts.

Acceptable items are:

- Tires without rims for the first 50 passenger tires only**
- Yard waste - branches up to 2" in diameter and no longer than 4' in length**
- Appliances and furniture**
- Carpet in 4' secured rolls**
- NO liquids, paint or household chemicals**
- Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers**
MUST have the Freon removed

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