



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
Joe Greene, Mayor

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

THERE IS NO "I" IN TEAM!



We've all heard how it's important to be a team player, but what does it really mean? First and foremost, it means working for the good of the team, rather than your own individual goals. Teamwork involves thinking of others, not just yourself. The idiom of there is no "I" in team plays in both the literal sense (that the letter "I" is not in the word team) and the figurative (team members should not focus on "I", meaning that they should not be individualistic).

(989) 673-2226



To have a great team, there is no definitive or strict recipe for success. A combination of leadership, communication among members and access to resources all contribute to a collaboration, but it all boils down to having people who understand each other and work well together. Not every team needs to have one superstar member. Having the right mix of trust, ambition, and encouragement among the team members is vital. I believe we have that in Caro. We have Team Caro players from not only the community, but from within the Council, Administration, Council Committees such as Parks and Recreation to Planning, and from each and every department within the City government framework.

www.carocity.net

Your Council:

- Mayor Joe Greene
- Bob Eschenbacher
- Don Hall
- Tisha Jones-Holubec
- Jill White
- Pam Isler
- Emily Campbell

Every few years, the Council has brought in consultants to work on the Caro Master Plan. Meetings are held for both Council and community-wide input. Again, asking for teamwork to get this job done. We have been thrilled with the outcome of these meetings and hope the Plan would help move us forward. Then we have the habit of going back to our day-to-day and the Plan seems to be put on a shelf. I would like to see this latest Master Plan brought down off that shelf and that we could become a Redevelopment Ready Community.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS:

OCTOBER 3 & 17
NOVEMBER 10 & 21
DECEMBER 5 & 19

What would a Redevelopment Ready Committee (RRC) designation mean to Caro? It would mean that the State of Michigan would recognize Caro for its planning and zoning policies. It would remove barriers to businesses wanting to come to Caro and help those that are already here. We could work with the State to identify developers willing to come to our Community. Caro's

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

updated Master Plan and becoming a RRC would show where there are gaps in what is wanted and what is needed in our Community.

To be competitive, Caro must be ready for development. This involves planning for new investment, as well as continued reinvestment, identifying assets and opportunities and focusing on our established resources. Redevelopment Ready Communities attract and retain businesses, offer superior customer service, and have a streamlined development approval process.

We need to work together to help fill up the vacant storefronts in the City limits, while retaining the businesses we already have. There is promise with the addition of merchants like Marshall's and Aldi, new eateries like Los Padres, and businesses like Larsen Graphics putting down stakes in Caro, but we need to also support the many small businesses that already exist in the Community. I would like to personally meet with small business owners to see if the City can do anything to assist them and take these comments back to the Team.

I like to think of the entire City of Caro as a team. There are numerous organizations, service clubs, business people, volunteers, and citizens who have said that Caro is truly coming into its own. There are so many great things going on and we need to continue in that positive direction. We all need to look at what has happened and what needs to be done for the good of the community and team.

If you have any questions or would like to become an active member of Team Caro, please do not hesitate to contact me. Call City Hall at 989-673-7671. Message me on Facebook at Mayor Joe Greene. Or email me at jgreene@carocity.net.

Promote the Positive.....Go Team Caro!!

Interim Managers Corner Lauren Amella

The City of Caro has seen its share of turnover at City Hall in the past several years. Most recently, City Manager Matthew Lane resigned after two years of faithful service. In early August the City Council appointed me to serve as Interim City Manager until the position is filled on a permanent basis. While continuing to fulfill the duties of Director of Development, and taking on the additional responsibilities of Interim, I can say that I have gained a true appreciation for the staff, the City Council, and the other governing committees and commissions. I have witnessed the teamwork it takes to run the city through challenging times, and I have seen the barriers we face as a community that is yearning to progress!

Through this period of transition, I find hope for an even better future! At our core we've acknowledged the importance of tenacity, while realizing the need to cultivate a more welcoming and positive environment. We have a legacy rooted in resiliency, but ever reaching toward unity and community wellbeing. My hope is that by putting service and transparency at the forefront of everything we do, we will strengthen relationships, welcome new development and create a more sustainable Caro!

We want you to be part of the progress we are making! The City of Caro is currently in the process of recreating its guiding document: the Master Plan. Please stay connected as we come together for the last public input session this Fall.

We encourage you to follow us on Facebook: [@CityOfCaro](https://www.facebook.com/CityOfCaro)

If you have any questions, comments or concerns feel free to contact me at manager@carocity.net or by calling 989-673-7671.

City Clerk
Rita Papp

City of Caro will be conducting the General Election on November 8, 2022. Absentee Voter Ballot Applications have been mailed to our current list of permanent AV voters back on June 2, 2022, for this election. We sent a second batch of applications to those individuals who did not respond to the first mailing on September 9, 2022.

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 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.

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.

I'm excited to share that we will be getting a new LED sign for the parking lot. It will be another great avenue to share information with our residents.

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

I would like to wish everyone a great fall season and hope that you are enjoying the fall colors and cooler temperatures.

Summer property taxes were due September 15th without interest. The City will still be collecting taxes at City Hall through February 28th, 2023, with interest charges. December 1st, 2022, the City of Caro will be mailing out winter property taxes that will be due February 28th, 2023. After February 28th, 2023, all unpaid summer and winter property taxes must be paid to the Tuscola County Treasurer.

At the June 20, 2022, Council meeting it was approved to amend Ordinance, Art. III - Water Service Div. 3 - Rates, Charges, and Billing Procedure, Subdivision I. General, Sec. 38-178 - Billing Periods to reflect that all utility bills are due on the 4th of the odd month. The reason for the amendment was to provide a set due date for our residents to assist in knowing the exact date in which the bills are due instead of having a changing due date.

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

Department of Public Works
Tom Reese

Greetings from your new DPW Superintendent, Tom Reese. I have been with the City of Caro for 15 years and I am pleased to serve you in a managerial capacity. I started working with the city at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and transferred to the Department of Public Works where I have been working on many of the projects that have been done in the city and am looking forward to working on many more in the future.

Leaf pickup season will be upon us soon. This year we are excited that we have a new leaf pickup truck. The leaf pickup schedule will be in the paper, on the LED sign at City Hall and included in this newsletter. Please be mindful that when placing leaves in the streets, please DO NOT put grass clippings or sticks in the piles of leaves, as this will plug the machine.

The last day for brush chipping will be October 3, 2022. Please have brush out the day before, piles to be picked up can be no larger than six (6) feet wide and four (4) feet high by six (6) feet long. 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. If you have more than the allotted amount you can take it to our Weeden Road Dump that is open from 10 am to Noon on the first and third Saturdays of the month. For more information you may visit our website or pick up a copy of the brush chipping policy city hall.

If you have any questions, please free to reach out to me at 989-673-2571. Happy Fall!

Caro Fire Department
Randy Heckroth

The hot summer days are now behind us, it is time to rake the leaves and do a final mowing of our lawns to prepare them for another cold winter that is fast approaching. With the recent storms and winds there may be a lot of branches to get rid of please read the following to ensure you have them removed in the proper safe manner.

Please contact the city DPW manager for times and dates for leaf and branch pickup. There will be some rules to follow to ensure they are placed out to the curb properly. Please be mindful

of the burning laws in the State of Michigan and local laws within the city limits of Caro. For burn permits outside the Caro city limits please contact the fire station at 989-673-2226 you will hear a message regarding the rules and regulations for the State of Michigan and our fire coverage area. Permits are valid for 30 days. Anyone that would like to have a campfire within the city limits in an approved container please leave your name and number the Fire Chief will contact you with specific rules for fires within the city limits. Please remember that the State of Michigan only allows the burning of tree branches and logs no garbage and no lumber of any type anywhere in the state is allowed. Please contact the Fire Chief or a firefighter for all your fire safety related questions.

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
- No fires shall be had under and type of tree or electrical power line



1 Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. 	2 Test smoke alarms monthly. Replace batteries at least once a year. 	
3 Have a family fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year. 	4 If there's a fire in your home, get out, dial 911 and don't go back inside. 	
5 Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach. 	6 Use flashlights during power outages, not candles. 	7 Never leave a burning candle unattended. 
8 Turn off space heaters when you leave the room and don't leave them unattended. 	9 Only use smoking materials outside. 	10 Keep flammable items away from anything that can get hot, such as space heaters. 

Caro Police Department
Brian Newcomb

Happy Autumn from the Caro Police Department.

We had a busy summer. Hopefully yours was a safe. The wind turbine travel through Caro is coming to an end after almost 2 ½ months. Initially we were told that the process would take 17 days. That was on July 12th.... In any event, I can't thank the Caro Police Officers, Caro Firefighters and Caro DPW enough who have worked tirelessly to make the process work seamlessly with many hours of overtime. Without their efforts, this process would have tied up traffic monumentally. Caro PD appreciates our citizens having patience and understanding concerning their efforts to help us keep the downtown clear of parking during this process.

We continue to be inundated with Identity Theft calls and queries about how to avoid identity theft. I thought this was a good time to revisit this issue. This is a reprint from my newsletter of October 2015. As we approach the winter holiday months, its worth repeating. I hope it helps.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR IDENTITY IS STOLEN?

First of all, what is identity theft? Identity theft happens when someone steals your personal information and uses it without your permission. It is a serious crime that can wreak havoc with your finances, credit history, and reputation- and it can take time, money and patience to resolve.

There are a number of agencies that deal with this and have publications to educate the public on how to deal with identity theft and its aftermath. Among those agencies are The federal trade commission FTC, the nation's consumer protection agency is a good place to start. Their publication and helpful guideline can be obtained online at WWW.FTC.GOV/IDTHEFT. Or contact the federal trade commission hotline at 1-877-438-4338.

So, what to do?

- Place an initial fraud alert with one of three credit companies who keep nationwide records of credit history for everyone.

Equifax 1-800-525-6285
Experian 1-888-397 3742
TransUnion 1-800-680-7289

When you contact them, ask that they put an initial fraud alert on your credit report.

- You will need to provide proof of your identity
- An initial fraud alert can make it harder for an identity thief to open more accounts in your name. The alert will cause businesses to verify your identity before it issues credit in your name. The initial alert stays on your report for 90 days.

2. Order your credit report by requesting them from any one of these organizations listed above.

3. Update your files.

- Keep records of the dates you made calls or sent letters.
- Keep copies of letters and communications in your files.

4. Make a police report with the agency that handles calls for your home area.

- For anyone living in Tuscola County dial 989 673 8738 (this is a non-emergency number. For emergencies dial 911) for Tuscola Central Dispatch and ask for the police to contact you to report a suspected Identity theft.

5. Contact your credit card company or debit card provider (bank, credit union etc.) to close the affected accounts.

6. Consider requesting a credit freeze. This means that potential creditors cannot obtain your credit report and makes it less likely that an identity thief can open a new account in your name.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY PERSONAL INFORMATION?

- Do not give out personal information-unless you initiated the contact.
- Be cautious with your mail. Incoming or outgoing mail should never sit in your mailbox for an extended amount of time.
- Read your health insurance plan statements; make sure claims paid match the care you received
- Shred or burn documents with personal and financial information. This includes pre-approved credit card offers and magazines you obtain with your name on them. For magazines, tear off you name and address prior to recycling.

- Review each of your 3 credit reports once a year.
- Protect your Social Security and Medicare cards and numbers
- Limit the pre-printed information on your personal checks
- Don't use Public Wi-Fi for sensitive or financial transactions.

For further questions or if you need to comment you may contact me, Chief Brian Newcomb at b.newcomb@caropolice.org or 989 233 6565.

Code Enforcement Department Randy Heckroth

The Code Enforcement Officer would like to thank everyone for their cooperation this last summer in helping keep our city clean. Although there is still work to be done, it is looking great.

Just to let everyone know the Zoning Administrator is now doing all residential zoning for fences, accessory buildings and pools. A permit is required for all, and for sheds and pools a building permit will be needed. Please stop into the office or call to get any needed information.

City Right Of Way - please keep all signs and other objects from being placed between the sidewalk and curb. This also means no parking there.

Please insure all yards are clean with no items laying around for the winter snow that will arrive soon. Come spring it will reveal the same clean lawn as left from the fall before.

For questions regarding any code or zoning issue, please contact my office at 989-673-1373.

State Street Square Lauren Amella

Fall is finally here, and we have so much to be thankful for!

The colors are beginning to change, and temperatures are dropping as we near the close of the 2022 Caro Farmers Market Season! Our focus this season has been improving access to healthy, locally grown food, encouraging food safety practices, creating more community partnerships, and engaging youth! Throughout the 2022 market season we have established partnerships with several community organizations, including Caro Area District Library, Thumb Behavioral Health Services, Great Start Tuscola, TISD Literacy, PBS Delta, NEMSCA, Hope Rocks, MSU Extension, Tuscola Recycling, Caro Youth Soccer, and so many more! We can attribute much of our success this season to these groups! Which offered FREE fun and educational activities to our patrons at our Tuesday Market Kids Club and at our Market Family Fun Days! A special thank you to the Michigan Farmers Market Association for funding our food safety activities through the food safety grant they offered this year!

We have had so much fun together this season, and we aren't done yet! The Caro Farmers Market still has a few events up its sleeve! On Saturday, October 8th the market will be extending its hours to 10am-4pm for our 2nd Annual Harvest Day Celebration, held in conjunction with the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival! We have over 40 vendors, live music, FREE kids crafts, food trucks, a pumpkin patch and much more! We are also planning to host our 2nd Annual Market Trunk or Treat on our last market day Saturday, October 29th. We will be open from 9-2pm. Trunk or treating is from 11-1pm. Prizes will be awarded for the Costume Contest and the Best Trunk Award will be presented at 1:30pm! If you are interested in event sponsorship opportunities, or a trunk space to represent your business/organization please contact me directly at lamella@carocity.net or call (989)673-7671 x7

To continue the fun please make sure to mark your calendar for our upcoming Fall Craft Fair on November 12th, and Candy Cane Lane Market December 3rd!



- Monday, October 3, 2022 - last brush chipping for 2022
- Tuesday, November 8, 2022 - General Election
- Wednesday, November 10, 2022 - reschedule City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 11, 2022 - Veterans Day - All city offices closed
- Thursday November 24 and Friday November 25, 2022 Thanksgiving- All city offices closed
- Last day for Weeden Road Dump - Saturday, November 19, 2022
- Rubbish and trash pick up on Friday, November 25, 2022
- Last day for yard waste pick up - Friday, November 25, 2022
- NO PARKING on any city street from 2 a.m. through 5 a.m., December 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023
- Friday, December 23 and Monday December 26, 2022 - Christmas - All city offices closed
- Friday, December 30, 2022 and Monday, January 2, 2023 - New Years Holiday - All city offices closed
- NO CHANGE to rubbish and trash pickup due to the Christmas or New Year Holiday

City of Caro Leaf Pickup Schedule

Zone 1 - October 10 - 14

Zone 2 - October 17 - 21

Zone 3 - October 24-28

Zone 1 - October 31 to November 4

Zone 2 - November 7 - 11

Zone 3 - November 14 -18

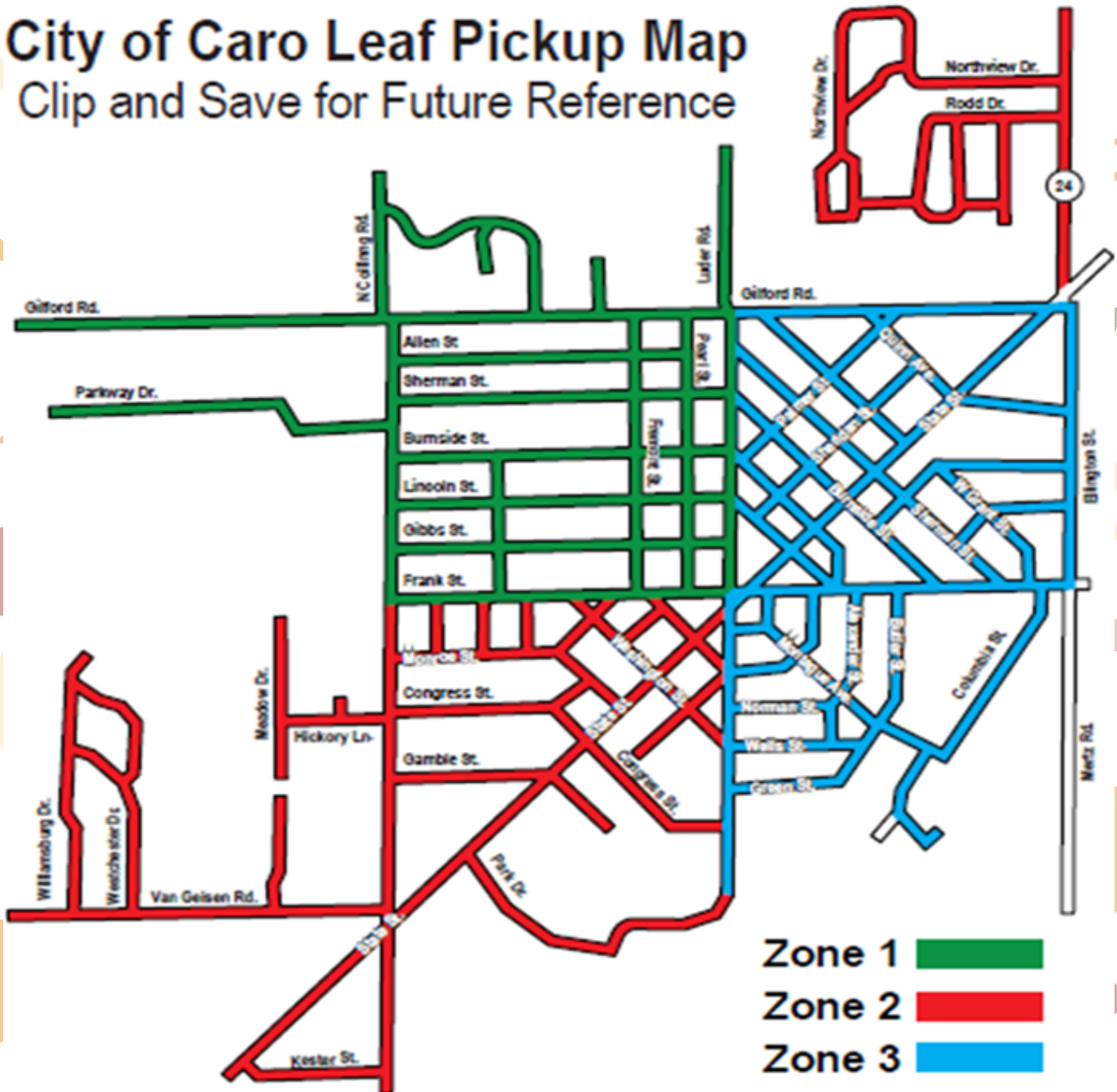
Zone 1 - November 21 -25

Zone 2 - November 28 - December 2

Zone 3 - December 5 - 9

Please note that the pickup schedule for December may change depending on the weather.

City of Caro Leaf Pickup Map Clip and Save for Future Reference



PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK
SAVE THE DATE
SECTION FOR IMPORTANT
EVENTS WITHIN THE
CITY OF CARO.