



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 Joe Greene
Bob Eschenbacher
Don Hall
Tisha Jones-Holubec
Jill White
Kory Batschke
Emily Campbell

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS:

JANUARY 4 & 17
FEBRUARY 7 & 21
MARCH 7 & 21

MEETINGS START AT
7:30 PM IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AT CITY HALL

CHANGE IS GOOD

You may have noticed that the City Voice newsletter has undergone some changes, including the name! We will provide you with more information and helpful insight into City of Caro happenings.

A Minute with the Mayor

Year after year, millions and millions of people make a New Year's resolution. There are usually recurring themes for these individuals: exercise more, lose weight, save money, get organized, quit smoking, learn a new skill, etc.

And year after year, despite the best of intentions, many of these resolutions go by the wayside. According to the Journal of Clinical Psychology, only 46% of people who made resolutions were successful in meeting their goals and complete their resolutions successfully.

Much like an individual makes a resolution, I would like to list resolutions or goals for the City of Caro.

For 2022, I would like to make resolutions to create more and/or update venues for activities for our citizens such as:

- Creating pickle ball courts
- Resurfacing the existing tennis courts
- Turning the Recycling Center into a Community Center
- Complete landscaping around the Splash Pad
- Provide bathrooms/changing area at Bieth Park
- Improving growth at the State Street Square Farmers Market

I would also like to see:

- Improving more City streets and sidewalks
- Continuing the cooperation between the City and the Caro Chamber of Commerce, the Caro Area Library, and Caro Community Schools to develop programs for the citizens of the area.

And, finally:

- Keeping my, as well as the entire Council's, eyes and ears open for new programs that can help our local businesses and industries. Not only for our established businesses, but we need to do all we can to attract new businesses and industries to the City.

I know that it will take time and effort to make these resolutions a reality. As they say, Rome was not built in a day. We need to all put forth our best effort to make these goals or resolutions a reality. It truly will take a Village!

If you have any questions, 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.

City Clerk

Cheers to a New Year!! City of Caro Clerk's Office hope that you had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. Once again 2021 was a challenging and eventful year for all of us. We have confidence that 2022 will be an exciting year for the City of Caro. Stay tuned.....

2022 will be a busy year for elections. Elections are scheduled for May 3, 2022 (Special Election), August 9, 2022 (Primary Election), and November 8, 2022 (General Election). More details on elections will be forthcoming in the next newsletter. To be continued....

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.

Have a wonderful new year! Stay safe and healthy!

WINTER TAX BILLS CITY TREASURER

Residents will receive a winter tax bill on or around December 1, 2021, and it will be due on February 28, 2022. Every resident will receive a tax bill, even if your mortgage company pays them on your behalf. Please keep this copy for your records. Any balance remaining on 2021 taxes will be turned over to the Tuscola County Treasurer's office on March 1, 2022. All payments on or after that date will be payable to: Tuscola County Treasurer, 125 W Lincoln St., Caro MI 48723. Their phone number is 989-673-3890. Please Note: When writing a check, it must be the exact amount due or a partial payment. We cannot accept an overpayment on taxes.



City Manager, Matt Lane presents to Planning Commission member Bernard (Bud) Kreh a Resolution Showing Appreciation for his Service on the Planning Commission.

Managers Corner

Greetings, Caro. I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and in good spirits.

I also hope you had a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

As you may know, the City of Caro has been working to complete the rehabilitation of West Lincoln Street throughout the summer and fall. We conducted preparatory infrastructure work in advance of the project and paused on a number of occasions due to special events, contractor scheduling delays and weather conditions. While I understand these reasons are of no comfort to those affected, this has been the reality of the project.

Another difficult reality is that the project could not be completed before the weather turned. As the contractors installed the first layer of asphalt and completed their quality control tests, it was determined that the soil conditions were not favorable, and the new road was not suitable to be finished. After consulting the contractor and our engineers, we have made the decision to leave the project unfinished over the winter and evaluate the soil conditions in the spring after it has had the chance to settle. At that time, we will determine the best course of action for completion.

As I reflect on the events of the past year, I am reminded that not everything goes as planned but that even when things go awry, we adjust and make the best of it. Resiliency has come to define my time in Caro thus far. We have done everything in our power to make positive impacts and even through upheaval, I believe we have been successful. City Hall has seen its fair share of turmoil over the last year. Through all of it, we have introduced a new professional staff at City Hall, increased our capacity to keep projects moving forward, focusing on organizational development and a renewed sense of tenacity and teamwork. We have been working to

build new relationships in the community, help build up our local economy, and create a development-friendly environment in the community.

We want you to be part of all of the progress we are making in Caro! The City is in the process of updating its Master Plan. Please keep an eye out for opportunities to participate! We will be doing a visioning session on Tuesday, February 1st at Midway Hall at the Fairgrounds.

We encourage you to follow us on Facebook: @CityOfCaro

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

Take care of yourselves and your families. Stay healthy and stay safe.



UTILITY BILL
payments

The City of Caro offers multiple ways to pay your utility bill. You are now able to pay in-person, online, over the phone 24 hours a day/7 days a week, and the locked drop box outside of city hall.

If you use an Online Bill Pay feature on your bank's website, you MUST allow 7-10 business days for your payment to reach us.

When you use this method of payment, a physical check is printed at a payment processing facility located out of state and it is mailed to us. It is NOT an electronic payment that is received by us immediately. The payment amount may be deducted from your bank account, but that does not mean that we have received the check.

**If you need to make a last minute payment, you can do so by phone:
PSN - Payment Service Network
1-877-885-7968**

Or, by using the link on the front page of the city website: www.carocity.net

Or, by using the "PSN Payments" App

Caro Police Department

The Caro Police Department wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The "Shop with a Hero" event was held at Walmart in Caro. A special thanks to Walmart vision center, which coordinates the event, along with Walmart asset protection and Walmart managers who were there to assist the children. This was organized by Caro police department Officers Ryan Avery and Robert Gaiser. Caro Police would like to thank those entities that donated so very generously to the event in money and time. 45 children and their families were helped with the shop with a hero event. A new addition to the money donated for the children to purchase gifts was a food basket for each family. Caro police department is grateful for the help in organizing the event. Amanda Berlin from Tuscola Central Dispatch was an integral part of organizing the T-shirt drive to raise money and to set up the program. The program hero's came from all over Tuscola County including most of the fire departments in the county, MMR, Tuscola Central Dispatchers, Tuscola Prosecutors office, Tuscola Child Advocacy Center, Department of Corrections, Tuscola Tech Center Law enforcement students, Caro Police, Michigan State Police -Caro post, Tuscola County Sheriff Department, Reese Police, Cass City Police, Vassar Police, Mayville Police, Akron Police, Michigan DNR and Kingston Police. Caro High School generously provided their choral group for the singing of Christmas carols during the event. Of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus were there as well. There were numerous community members who volunteered their time to help with the set up and gift wrapping. Thank you to all who donated of their time or gave a monetary donation to cover the cost of the event.

With winter weather here, please use caution while driving. Slowing down helps, and keep in mind not to use "cruise control" when roads are snow covered and slippery.



**Please Remember
there is **NO PARKING**
on any City street from 2 am - 5 am
beginning December 1st to March 31st.**

**This allows the snowplows the ability to
plow the entire street, curb to curb,
without any obstacles.**

**Any vehicle parked illegally
will be ticketed.**

Code Enforcement Department

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 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.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant



When clearing your sidewalks of snow, please take the time to clear the snow around any fire hydrant on your property or in your vicinity.

Caro Fire Department

The City of Caro Fire Department would like to announce that it is just 5 runs away from a record breaking 300 runs for the year 2021. The firefighters have been doing such a great job of answering this many calls, without being a full-time department. Recently we have had several technical rescue calls involving extrication, and even a school bus roll over.

Fortunately, this department has a City Council, City Manager, and Township Supervisors that believe in funding the department with what ever 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.

The firefighters also donate thousands of dollars back into the department each year, thru donations, with their annual Golf Outing event. A huge Thank you to all who have golfed and or sponsored the event.

Donations have also been received from The 100 Ladies, The Janks Foundation, POET, Walmart, and the Tuscola Community Grant Foundation, just to name a few. The department would like to thank the following businesses for their gracious donations towards the National Fire Pup Association. Donations are received and Fire Prevention items are purchased for this department to hand out throughout the

County on any event the firefighters attend. All in One Auto, Kelly & Co. Realty, Theron Atwood Sr., Cathy & Ralph Fisher, Elizabeth Zuercher, Arshad Aqil , Sity M. Giris MD, Daniel P. Block, Caro McDonalds LLC, Michigan Sugar, David Kolacz, The Oven, Caro Rotary Club, Tuscola County Medical Facility, Poet Biorefining, Brinkman Excavating, Law Office of Ransford & Crews, Wayne Sayers Agency, Thumb Meat Market, VanDeVelde & Matheson DDS.P.C., Caro Family Dentistry, Majestic Sky Link, Curtis Garber Chevrolet, Rebecca & Gary Mohr, Starbrite Restaurant & Coney Island, Caro Rental, St. Christopher Parish, Caro Packing, Dave's Glass, Osentoski Realty, Reinbold Organic Farms LLC. Total donations year to date for this program is approximately \$3,335.00

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 at all times
- No fires shall be lit under any type of tree or electrical power line

**Effective January 1, 2022
the new rubbish and trash rates for
City of Caro residents will increase
from
\$25.30 per billing cycle
to
\$26.04 per billing cycle**

**NEW RATES WILL BE REFLECTED ON THE
FEBRUARY 2022 BILLING**

State Street Square

It has been an amazing year here in Caro, MI. There have been so many new and exciting things happening. Winter is a wonderful time to reflect on all those things! The Caro Farmers Market opened with a bang the first weekend in June. Over 1,500 people were in attendance for the Grand Opening of the Caro Farmers Market. This proved to be just the beginning of the impact the newly developed site, known as State Street Square, would see in 2021!

The NEW Caro Farmers Market quickly became a bustling community hub. The space provides for a variety of local farms, small businesses, and community organizations to convene, offering their products and services directly to the public. In addition to our FREE "Kids Days", the market was involved in several other community events including The Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival and The Gingerbread Village Festival.

The Caro Farmers Market has also created space for City of Caro staff to relate directly with our community. In 2021 we conducted several public surveys to gain insight into the needs and wants of the community. To address the results, the City of Caro partnered with leading local organizations to combat food insecurity, public transportation, and economic development issues in our area. Through our collaborative work we have laid a strong foundation for change. Most notably our work with the Tuscola County Food Access Collaborative. The TFAC Annual Report will be presented at the Tuscola County Commissioners Meeting, January 24, 2022, at 8am.

For details on how to become involved in 2022, please follow the Caro Farmers Market on Facebook. We will be hosting several planning and volunteer scheduling meetings. Meetings will be posted on our Facebook page under "events". You are personally invited to contribute! Remember, it

takes a community to create lasting results. Your input and support are valuable. See you in the coming year!

Below you will find some data collected over the 2021 Caro Farmers Market Season:

- 92 vendors total
- 13,400 market visits*
- 1,642 Likes/Followers on social media
- 230,000 Social Media Post views*
- 1,640 volunteer hours*
- 36 Leading local organization partners/contributing event partners
- 42 FREE community events held at State Street Square
- 6 Private events (rentals) held at State Street Square
- \$1,237.00 total food assistance benefit dollars to local farms and food producers through SNAP, Senior Project Fresh, and WIC Project Fresh programs. (SNAP acceptance began the last month of market)
- \$62,700.00 into our local economy through vendor product/service sales*

*estimated



**PARKS &
RECREATION
FUNDRAISER**

Sponsor a chair for \$350.00 per chair at the Aqua Zone at Bieth Memorial Park!

For more information, please call Jill at 989-550-1784 or Tanya at 989-325-0336. You may also contact City Hall at 989-673-7671.

Lets Connect

At times, it might be necessary for the City of Caro to contact its residents. The reason for contact might be due to an unsigned check, question on where a payment is to be applied, or even to contact you due to unusually high usage on your upcoming utility bill.

If you have had any changes to your contact information, please fill out the following form. *If there is a change in ownership, you must provide a copy of the deed or property transfer affidavit.* You may either drop off this form in-person or the locked drop box at City Hall, via fax at 989-673-7310 or by email to jtrahan@carocity.net.

We appreciate everyone taking the time to make sure that we have the correct contact information for you.

NAME & ADDRESS TO BE CHANGED

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP-CODE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

SERVICE ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT THAN MAILING ADDRESS:

UTILITY BILLING ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____

PARCEL NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE OF OWNER: _____

Master Plan Update!



Come Help Us Set Goals for Caro's Future!
Master Plan Visioning Session
6:00 – 8:00pm
Tuesday, February 1st, 2022

All Caro residents, business owners, and stakeholders are invited to come and share ideas and take part in a SWOT Analysis to set goals for the future of Caro!

Before the meeting, please take a few minutes to complete our Community Survey by scanning

the QR Code or visiting this website: www.surveymonkey.com/r/carocommunitysurvey



Paper surveys are also available at Caro City Hall

Check www.carocity.net for additional updates and more information!