

Carlos Gazette

Fall 2017



SPARKLING
ICE COME SEE SANTA!!
SANTA DAYS

Friday, December 8, 5:30pm - 7:00pm
CARLOS TOWN HALL

CRAFTS • COLORING CONTEST • PICTURES WITH SANTA
COOKIES & BEVERAGES • HOTDOGS & CHIPS

BRING YOUR LETTERS TO SANTA!
THERE WILL BE A BOX FOR YOUR LETTERS AT THE TOWN HALL!

Everyone Welcome!
By Carlos Commercial Club
HELPERS: LIBERTY LIVEWIRES 4-H CLUB
**FREE WILL OFFERING DONATED TO
CARLOS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

ICE ICE ICE ICE ICE ICE ICE ICE ICE ICE ICE ICE

A Christmas to Believe in!

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS), 16 North Douglas Avenue, in Carlos is having a Christmas program on December 17th at 10 AM. The Sunday school is presenting a play and all are welcome to attend.

The play is called "A Christmas to Believe In!". It is an original Christmas story about a non-believer and the true meaning of that fateful day.

With the help of angels, Mary and Joseph along with other characters sees what it truly means in the end.

All are welcome to join to see this one of a kind story with a twist.

Snow season will soon be upon us...

At the November council meeting, discussion took place regarding concern for snow removal on Main avenue sidewalks in the City of Carlos during the winter months.

The Carlos City code (ordinances) address snow covered sidewalks from a public safety viewpoint. The property owner whose real estate abuts the sidewalk is the responsible party to remove the ice and snow on a timely basis.

Section 801.04 considers snow and ice to be public nuisances if not removed from public sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall or rainfall resulting in ice.

City officials may enforce addressing nuisances such as snow and ice covered sidewalks with a citation and/or order to remove the snow or ice hazard. If the snow/ice is not removed, the City may order it removed and the bill sent to the adjacent property owner. If the bill is unpaid, it can be added to subsequent year's real estate taxes along with interest and a \$50 administrative fee for processing.

Let's be community minded and do the best we can to remove snow from sidewalks in front of our homes and businesses.

Everyone is welcome at any council meeting so feel free to attend the December council meeting December 14 to express your opinion regarding this and any other topic.

City News

Firemen's Field

Work has been taking place all summer on the new third base dugout being built. Work has ended for the winter. The project will be completed in spring. The work is being paid for with a grant from the Minnesota Twins and matching funds from the City. During 2018 plans are being laid to develop two youth fields south of Firemen's Field. Fencing will be erected to insure balls do not interfere with homeowners in the area.

Carlos Fire Department (CFD)

Welcome to Kyle Peterson, Olivia Niblett and Andrew Schmitz new members to the CFD!

Also, the CFD will be selling "Old Number 2" fire truck as they purchased a used truck for \$25,000 in July from the City of New London.

During the summer, the CFD was successful in obtaining a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management) grant for \$53,000+ to purchase a Fill Station and compressor to fill SCBA tanks, a Thermal Imaging Camera and Rapid Intervention pack.

Deputy Clerk

Many cities and townships name a Deputy Clerk so that upon the Clerk's absence or demise business may continue to be conducted. John Rolf, Carlos Clerk recently appointed Karen Grundei as Deputy Clerk for the City of Carlos. You may know her or have seen her as she is also the City of Carlos Head Election Judge. Welcome Karen!

Carlos First Responders

Join us in welcoming two new members of the Carlos First Responders. Adam Pitcher and Stanley Niblett recently expressed their interest in joining the Carlos First Responders. Everyone working together is what makes a community. Thank you Adam and Stanley.

2018 Real Estate Taxes

Based on favorable trends for City income and expenses over the past two years the City council voted to leave the tax levy for the upcoming year unchanged for the second year in a row. So what does that mean? The City of Carlos will not increase nor decrease taxes on real estate collected for the calendar year 2018. Your real estate tax bill on your home or business may change however, due to a change in value, Douglas county tax rate changes and/or District 206 tax rate changes.

Water Rates/Waste water rates

NO changes are projected for 2018.

Truth-in-Taxation meeting 6:30 pm Dec 14th

As the population of the City of Carlos crept over 500 (currently 502), the City is required to hold a public meeting each year where the public can ask questions about the income & expenses of the City and next year's budget. After the meeting, the council adopts their FINAL 2018 budget at the regular monthly council meeting.

December Council Meeting December 14, 7 pm

Tentative Agenda for the December Council as follows:

City of Carlos Regular Council Meeting

City Hall, Carlos, Minnesota

Thursday, December 14, 2017 7:00 PM

1. Call Regular council meeting to Order @ 7:00 pm at City Hall
2. Pledge of Allegiance @ 7 pm
3. Roll Call
4. Approve minutes of November 14, 2017 regular meeting.
5. Ordinances to be read – City Fee Schedule
6. Petitions from the public, requests from the public, and correspondence
7. Reports of officers, boards and committees
 - a. Treasurer's report & Claims Approval- Transfers, Exceptions
 - b. Engineer Report
 - c. City Public Works Report
 - d. Police Report

- e. Clerk's report
- f. Fire Department Report
- g. First Responders Report
- h. Ball Park Report

8. Unfinished Business

- a. Maintenance and cleaning of Firemen's field
- b. Boundary Adjustment update
- c. Funding, process and renovation for 2nd Street between Douglas Avenue and Main Avenue

9. New Business

- a. Snow/Ice Covered Sidewalks
- b. Order 2017 Audit Clifton, Allen, Larson (We have one more year under contract.)
- c. Review water tower inspection report
- d. Review and Approve 2018 City Budgets
- e. Approve council member payroll

10. Miscellaneous

11. **At 8:30 pm or at the close of end of the regular council** – Council will close the regular meeting to develop counteroffer strategy for contract negotiations with Union I.U.O.E. Local #70 wage proposal.

12. **Adjournment (Agenda subject to change before the meeting.)**

October Police Report from Ralph Bradley

Chief Bradley worked 56 hours in October and early November. He conducted 19 traffic stops. Five calls for service were received. They included one medical emergency, an open building, serving a warrant, dog complaint and a stolen vehicle. Chief Bradley was also involved in a 100+ mph chase through Douglas and Todd Counties. The suspect who was driving a stolen vehicle eventually was apprehended and brought to justice. If you are going on vacation this winter and want Chief Bradley to do a house check, call City Hall at 852-3000.

Building Permits

By Lynn Timm

- Building permits are required for most projects. Reroofing, residing and window replacement permits are a fixed amount. Other permit fees are based upon project valuation.
- Permit forms can be downloaded from the City website and submitted to the City office. Generally within a week, the permits are complete and ready to be paid and picked up at the City Office. If you should have any questions, please contact Lynn Timm at 320-852-7079

St. Nicholas Church Events

Thursday, December 7th

"The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary"
Mass @ 6:30 PM

Sunday, December 10th

After 8:30 AM Mass will be our Christmas Program and St. Nick will be joining us again & Bishop Kettler will be here as well, with brunch to follow. Come out to meet the Bishop and enjoy a great program along with food and conversation.

December 13 6:30 pm

Reconciliation Service/Inter-generational Night

Sunday, December 24th @ 8:30 AM (Not Christmas Eve Mass)

Monday, December 25th @ 8:30 AM
Christmas Mass

Sunday, December 31st @ 8:30 AM
(Not New Year's Eve Mass)

Monday, January 1st @ 8:30 AM New Year's Mass

Wednesday, February 14th @ 7PM
Ash Wednesday mass service

Roof Repair

We are currently trying to raise funds to replace the roof on our Parish house/Offices. If you would like to help us by making a donation, please contact Beth at the parish office (320) 852-7041, It is considered a taxable donation and you will receive a receipt. Blessings for any help and donations you may be able to offer.

Little Free Library

It is located on the North side of the grocery store. Women United, an affinity group of Douglas County United Way, has sponsored. Their mission is to help local children become educated, empowered and elevated by focusing on childhood literacy.

Keep your Car off the Street this Winter

We don't have snow emergencies and odd/even street snow plowing, but when it snows more than an inch or two, Jeff Gunderson will be driving the plow up and down the street. It works much better if there are no cars, vehicles or garbage cans in the street. While some accommodation can be made, don't be surprised if you get up in the morning and your car is plowed in if you leave it in the street overnight.

Working together everyone gains.

Paying your Utility Bill

The City accepts payment in five different ways for the monthly utility bills, licenses and building permits. We accept credit cards online for payment of Water/Wastewater bills.

US mail to PO Box 276 also works.

The office is open three days a week to pay in person.

We also have a door slot which many of you insert your monthly payment. We would like to remind you however, that we would prefer that **NO CASH SHOULD EVER BE LEFT IN THE DOOR SLOT AT CITY HALL.** If you want to pay your bill with cash, you must come in to the office during office hours.

The last method which is becoming the most popular is to pay via automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank checking or savings account. The service is free. Each month the list of residents who pay this way grows. It also reduces the cost of operation for the city as it is less labor intensive and guarantees accuracy. Thanks for your cooperation.

Bookmobile hours

Wednesdays, Dec 13, 27. January 10, 24.

February 7, 21. March 7, 21

Carlos School1:45 pm - 2:10 pm

Read your child, grandchild or great-grandchild a book!

Have Trouble Using a Regular Telephone?

Minnesota Department of Human Services has telephones available that can help **AT NO CHARGE.** Call 1-800-456-7589 (voice) or 1-866-488-3829 (TTY) and ask for an application for the TED program or visit mn.gov/dhs/ted-program/ on the net.

Leaky Roof? Old Furnace? Poor Windows or Doors? Need Insulation?

The Douglas County HRA has Grants available for Home Repairs! If you live in Douglas County and own your home, you may qualify for grants or a low interest loans to make repairs to your home.

Eligible Improvements may include Health and Safety Issues, Energy Efficiency, Electrical/Plumbing/Heating repairs or replacements, structural, wells/sewer repairs or replacements, and more.

Grants are available from several sources such as Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Rural

Development, and Department of Employment and Economic Development.
Contact: Douglas County HRA, Call Emajean;
1224 N. Nokomis, Box 965
Alexandria, MN 56308
(320)-762-3848



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

These programs are equal opportunity programs.
Discrimination is prohibited by federal law.

Carlos Happy Helpers Can Recycling

Unfortunately, we need to remind everyone that the trailer parked in front of the Aagard building across from City Hall is to be used **ONLY** for aluminum cans. Not for any other kind of refuse. Please keep trash out of the bin so that these young folks can continue this fine service to the community.

Sunday Church Services in Carlos

St. Nicholas Catholic Church,
9473 Co Rd 3 NE
Mass: 8:30 am Sunday and Wednesday

Trinity Lutheran Church, LCMS, Carlos
Christmas Eve Service
December 24th 4:00 pm
Worship service: 10:00 am
Sunday School: 8:45 am

Visitors always welcome!

Street Light Out?

If you notice a street light that is burned out or functioning improperly call City Hall @ 852-3000 and it will be reported to Otter Tail Power Company for replacement promptly.

Senior Citizen Group

Seniors meet at 11:30 A.M. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Herby's. Call Herby's at 852-7170 by Tuesday of that week to make reservations. Come and meet your neighbors, find out what's new in your neighborhood. Enjoy the fun, fellowship and camaraderie. Everyone is welcome. (We won't check your age!)

Energy Assistance Available

This is a program that is designed to assist income eligible households with the cost of energy/heating their homes during the fall and winter heating season.

- Assistance amounts are determined by the number of people that live in the home, the type of fuel used, the cost for the previous year, and the income the household has received in three (3) previous months to when application is submitted.
- The program is available to homeowners and renters.
- Eligible households for Energy Assistance are also eligible for the Weatherization Program upon request.
- To be eligible, applicants must be vulnerable to increases in home heating energy costs.
- Any Minnesota resident may apply for the program.
- Applications are available by mail, or from offices located in Alexandria, Moorhead, or Elbow Lake.
- Call 1-800-492-4805 for help

Carlos Events Center

Did you know you can rent the Carlos Events Center for as little as \$50.00? Available to rent for ANY occasion! Round table seating for up to 200 people. Questions? Call 320.852.6958, email: carloeventscenter@outlook.com, on the web: www.carlostownhall.com or on FB: www.facebook.com/carloeventscenter

Carlos Lions in Action

Recently, Carlos Lions sponsored an open forum to discuss Charitable Gambling in Minnesota. Nine legislators were invited along with representatives from charitable gambling organizations across west central Minnesota.

Taxes and fees charged by the State of Minnesota approach 50% of net proceeds. Many small communities count on these funds for community improvement, their fire department and first responders and other civic investments. Almost 90 people attended the forum. Write your Minnesota senator and representative (Bill Ingebrigtsen and Mary Franson) to let them know the taxes and fees are too high. A big thank you goes out to Tom Toenjes for organizing this worthwhile event.