



Winter 2013

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Reclaiming our community

by William Cline, City Manager

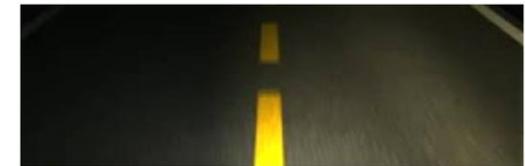
The City of Carterville is facing a transition in the coming years that may well determine both our individuality and the ultimate destiny of our town. For many years, as you all know, we have faced a steady decline in both infrastructure and reputation. As our surrounding communities such as our sister city Webb City have enjoyed financial growth and a better day-to-day life, we have struggled to simply maintain. Many of our citizens have an unshakable loyalty to Carterville that was born of family history and some have just seen the town for what it once was and what it could be again. As an outsider, I have served as your Chief of Police for the past eight years and I am honored to now serve as your City Manager. And as an outsider, I travel to Carterville each day with my own unexplainable loyalty and drive for creating a better community. Now I am not naïve, I have witnessed the issues our people have faced in the past with previous administration and I know many are undecided about the current one. Many of you who will read this newsletter today will find a couple pieces of news to be excited about and just as many to question or disagree with. Others may simply doubt the sincerity of anything that comes from the city government. Many years of patching potholes, band-aiding repairs on our water system and a once complaint ridden police department can easily cause you to lose faith in us. All I can do is remind you that those

neighbors you share these burdens with are your mayor, your Councilmen, and even many of the employees. Even those who commute to the city, such as me, want nothing more than to work for a community that we can be proud of. I watch every day as larger communities receive numerous grants any one of which total more than our yearly budget. I see the local growth from annexation wrapping tightly around our town on every side. So now is the time we ask ourselves, employees and citizens alike, where do we see Carterville in five or ten years? Will we be another small neighborhood in Webb City or Joplin or will we be not just Carterville, but an even better Carterville? We have a community worth fighting for and we deserve to have pride in our individuality! This task is going to fall to us and us alone. The City of Carterville is going to have to make its own destiny without the help of others. I pledge to do my best to see the growth of our community and I urge you to be involved in our town's future. In this newsletter, you will find information regarding how to communicate better with the city from social media to council meetings. The citizens should never feel as though we do what we do in spite of them, but we should do it for them and with them.



Water system upgrades

Exciting new improvements are planned for the city's water system as well as some changes to the reading and billing department.



Road improvements

Learn about the progress so far and what is in store for the city's street project.



Storm system updates

New measures are being put in place to protect the citizens of Carterville.

Crater-ville no more



Our city has for many years dealt with both poor roads and lack of communication with the citizens. Unfortunately, with our busy lives, only a handful of citizens attended the town hall meetings early this year and even fewer attend monthly council meetings, so I will do my best to fill you in here. The citizens of Carterville, fed up with their roads and the legacy of being known as "crater-ville", came out in support of a street bond issue to address this. We informed the people that with the right equipment, we could improve nearly all of the roadways in town for the price of hiring an independent company to do a fraction of them. The plan was to utilize as little as a fourth of the full \$800,000 to purchase equipment and the remaining funds would purchase our materials. This was promised to be a 5-year plan and would benefit the most citizens possible.

Many citizens have been asking, where are we going on the street project? When can I expect to have my street paved? What has been accomplished so far? These are all great questions and I am happy to update you as

well as lay out the process we face. Our citizens voted in the street bond in April this year and after the tedious task of processing the paperwork and cashing in the first half of the bond, we finally had funding in mid June to begin. The first half of our bonds (\$400,000) was to be utilized to acquire all of the needed equipment to perform the work and to begin the process of grading and prepping our roads. The issue we knew we could not plan for was the time it would take to get the needed equipment. This process took our Public Works and Council about three months due to following bid procedures and trying to find the best price to stretch our funds farther. So now, we fast-forward to September and we are where we need to be to start the work.....sadly, then

comes fall rain and winters cold. Our workers have been working furiously to prep as many roads as possible before the cold sets in and the materials are impossible to get. This is where we are today and we ask for your patience until we truly light this fuse in the spring and begin laying roads. If you live on one of the many roads that have been graded and oiled, please know that this is both for eliminating the potholes and to have that street ready to go when Spring arrives.

DRIVE SAFE.....WORKERS AHEAD

PW Director Mike Smith – 417-673-1341

Water meter upgrades planned



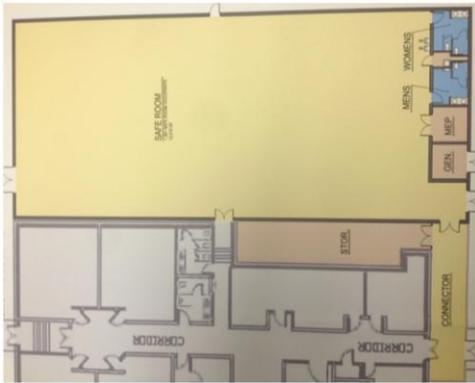
Over the next year, the city will begin the process of transitioning the 800+ water meters in town to radio read RG3 meters. Many of our existing meters have been in the ground for well over their expected life and we have an opportunity to upgrade rather than just replacing them with our current model. On average, our public works stands to decrease the time it takes to read meters by 80% or more allowing this time to be dedicated to the city's roads. In addition to timesavings, this transition promises to eliminate inaccurate readings and the need for several pages of rereads to verify usage before billing. The cost for this project will not be incurred by the citizens and will actually benefit the taxpayers by better utilizing our time. Funding for this project will come from the remaining funds, which

helped us build our sewer lift station several years ago. These funds are regulated and are only allowed to be used for larger sewer or water upgrades. Once installed, our public works department will simply assign one worker to drive each block in town on reading day. The module in his vehicle will gather data from each meter and it will be transferred to billing. This software will also allow us to know wirelessly if any usual events are occurring to help the resident save money. For instance, if the system notes that a steady flow has occurred for several hours, it is most likely a leak. This will give us the opportunity to contact you even before you know you have a leak. Finally, this new program will offer the resident data such as average usage graphs based on month and even time of day if they request it.

SAFE ROOM PROJECT



This is an aerial view of the proposed safe room location at our school. It will be connected to the school, but will also offer exterior doors for the public.



Safe room interior layout

The shelter will accommodate nearly 1400 people and has restroom facilities and a backup power generator.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR YOU'RE UTILITIES

In addition to preparedness for the safety of the people, we are currently working with the Missouri Office of Administration to obtain a generator for the water tower. We have been working with the state surplus to ensure that power outages will no longer be an issue when it comes to getting water to residents.

Several years ago when we installed our new sewage lift station, we included just such a generator in the original plans. Residents no longer need to worry about sewage backups and floods when we have power outages. Both this generator as well as the one planned for the water tower will kick on automatically when power goes out.



Emergency Management

As some of you may already know this past storm season, we were faced with a potentially disastrous issue. The city has relied for many years on two tornado sirens and the local church basement as shelter from the storm. This year we lost both the local church shelter as well as one of our warning sirens. The only consolation was that this occurred right at the tail end of the tornado season. In addition to these issues, it was brought to my attention that both of our sirens lacked any kind of battery backup. As you have probably experienced, when a tornado is on the way the electric will usually go out first. This left us with a real dilemma, replacing our downed siren with no funds to pay for it and getting battery backup at the same time. I was pointed in the direction of the Mayor of Fidelity Missouri who had just recently updated their sirens and had not yet decided what he would do with their old one. He had a true understanding for small communities with small budgets and we hoped for a good deal. To our surprise, they donated the siren at no cost and we even received a more than reasonable price for relocation and installation. This siren, although a few years older, is in great working order and is actually over 20 years newer than our old one. In addition, this model came with a battery backup and is now operational at the city's water tower. While we do still have one siren with no backup, the goal is to install an entirely new system in the next few years with the aid of USDA funding.

Although the status of a shelter for the people has not yet improved, we are equally excited about what is to come. Many of you have heard about the funding obtained by Webb City to equip their schools with large

safe rooms. What many may not know is that Cartersville will not be forgotten in this project. For several months, we at city hall had heard rumor that the Cartersville Elementary may be included in this venture, but it was just that, rumor. I had a chance to sit down a few months ago with Dr. Rossetti who informed me that Webb City had indeed included us in the proposal, but our school had yet to be approved by FEMA. I waited patiently over the next couple of weeks for an answer and then it came. The Cartersville Elementary is to be home to one of the new 12,200 square foot safe rooms. This facility will house nearly 1400 people and will be equipped with electronic locks to open when the warning is issued for our area. While there is no exact date as to when it will be open, the project is said to go from start to finish in the next couple of years.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

The City of Carterville has made a few changes in regards to the employees in every department. We are confident in these new assignments and are eager to see the city run more efficient than ever before.

First off, we have adopted the City Manager form of government. This change has shown to increase growth, wealth, and efficiency for towns that have adopted it. This position has been filled by William Cline who has served as the city's Police Chief for the past 8 years. Although Chief Cline will retain his title as Chief and perform dual roles, he has appointed Deputy Chief Redden as the primary authority over the police department.

City Clerk, Debbie Cornell as well as the City Manager are among 70 officials in the state who are in the process of becoming Certified Municipal Officials through the Municipal Governance Institute. The Institute's goal is to provide a training program focused on the most vital topics municipal officials and staff need for success. Established under the direction of MML's board of directors, the program recently received an education award from the Missouri Society of Association Executives.

Finally, Public Works Director Mike Smith has promoted Carze Brown to the position of Assistant Director. With over 8 years in management, Carze promises to benefit the team in many ways and is a true asset to the city.

Community Parks and Recreation News

After several years, numerous donations, and countless volunteer hours we are at a point where we can finally say, "We have a city park". There are so many people we would like to thank, but frankly, this newsletter just is not long enough to thank them all. I would like to say thank you to the citizen park board for all of the festival planning and fundraising they have done these past few years. I would also like to thank our own Public Works crew for the long hours they put into constructing our park. Last but not least, I want to give a special thank you to both Judy Martin and Debbie Cable. These women have both given their all to helping our city become a better place to live and we are sad to see them retire from our park board, they will be missed. While we will never truly be done improving on our park, which was phase I, we are now at a point where we can direct our attention to other ideas to improve the recreational potential in our city. In phase II, we are hoping to obtain an even larger area without any cost to the city. I have been working on some possible property donations and the usage potential would be endless. I have been considering such ideas as walking trails, baseball/soccer fields, fishing ponds and more. We hope to acquire enough land to grow our annual festival and with any luck bring an annual carnival back to town.



New plans for community outreach

We are pleased to announce that we have now established a City of Carterville, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. This nine member, citizen board will meet monthly to create and organize new ways to bring more recreational opportunities to our community. The board will handle both the betterment of the city park and the annual festival we have begun, but more importantly, we are thinking of new ways to help our citizens. During our first meeting, we have already discussed ideas such as periodic gatherings at the park for chili feeds, hot



dogs cookouts, and a city sponsored Easter egg hunt. In addition, we are looking at programs to help our neighbors in need. Some suggestions were coats and food baskets for those in need around wintertime.

We are very excited to announce our first annual Christmas tree lighting and visit from Santa this year in Carterville.

This will be a free event on Thursday, December 12 from 6pm-8pm and we will provide the hot chocolate and candy canes for the kids (or coffee for mom and dad). We will have our tree lighting ceremony plus Christmas caroling and a visit from Saint Nick. Do not forget to bring your camera...

On behalf of the City of Carterville, and myself I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Keep in touch

In closing, I would like to remind you again, how important it is for us to get feedback from our citizens. This is the first of what I hope to be many more newsletters to come and my goal is to build a stronger relationship between the city and those we serve. I am planning to have a quarterly newsletter for everyone and in the future, I am going to try to have our local businesses distribute them.

In the next few weeks, I will be trying to completely makeover the image of our city website (www.cartervillemo.com) and we have started posting on face book to allow us to inform you of public works issues such as road closures. ([Facebook/City of Carterville MO](https://www.facebook.com/CityofCartervilleMO)). If at any time you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for the city, please give me a call here at City Hall.

At your Service



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