

City of Calmar Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2011



Calmar City Officials

Joe McCasland, Mayor
Larry Huinker, Mayor pro-tem
Isaac Phillips, City Council
Corey Meyer, City Council
Dennis Kleve, City Council
Luther Anderson, City Council



Trail Arch picture compliments of Tina Hageman



M. & St. P. R. R. Passenger Depot and Hotel, Calmar, Iowa.



Police

Joe Ward, Police
Lance Peters, Patrol Officer
101 S. Washington St.
563-562-3224 (non-emergency)
911 (emergency)

Public Library

Linda Crossland, Library Director
101 S. Washington St.
563-562-3010
Open 12-6 Mon.—Fri.
Saturday 10 A.M.—1 P.M.

Public Works

Junior Boyer, Superintendent
101 S. Washington St.
563-562-3349
319-361-2506 (cell)

Water/Wastewater

Matt Bullerman, Superintendent
101 St. Washington St.
563-562-3150
319-361-2505 (cell)

Calmar Swimming Pool

Annie Rude, Manager
Hwy 24
562-563-3148
319-361-8532 (cell)

City Clerk

Michele Elsbernd
101 S. Washington St.
P.O. Box 268
563-562-3154
563-562-3903 (fax)
319-361-2507 (cell)
calmarcc@calmaria.com (email)
Calmaria.com (web site)

NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS

The City of Calmar is preparing for the upcoming winter season (yes, we are talking about snow, sleet, ice and all those other fun things). A few reminders from the City:



Removal of Snow, Ice and Accumulations.

It is the responsibility of the abutting property owners to remove snow, ice and accumulations promptly from sidewalks within 24-hours after such accumulations occur. Should your sidewalk not be cleaned you will be notified and given one warning, either by door posting or a visit or call from the police department. If the accumulations still haven't been taken care of then the City may do so and assess the cost against the property owner for collection in the same manner as property tax. With everyone's cooperation, our sidewalks will be safe for families, friends and visitors.

Dumping of Snow. Remember, it is unlawful for any person to throw or push snow or ice from private property onto any street or alley OR the property of your neighbor.

A Snow Emergency is when snow fall accumulates to 3" or more. At this time vehicles shall park on the even side of the street until snow is removed then move vehicles to the odd side of the street. Vehicles are to park in the North lot uptown until the south lot is cleared then move the vehicles to the south lot. The fine for violations is \$ 25.00. SNOW REMOVAL is always a challenge. We strive to remove snow and ice safely and as quickly as possible. PLEASE HELP BY FOLLOWING THE RULES.

MORE WINTER SNOW REMINDERS

MAILBOXES, METERS AND FIRE HYDRANTS...As a courtesy we encourage residents to clear snow from the area immediately in front of your mailboxes. (where applicable)

We also ask that residents please help keep snow from piling up around fire hydrants. This is an important safety measure in case a fire occurs and the Fire Department needs to make a connection to a hydrant.

Be considerate of your gas and electric meter reader and clear a path to your meters.

Check your chimney for possible blockages, replace your furnace filters and be sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors work.

Snowmobiles are only to be operated on streets that have NOT been plowed OR on such streets designated as the SNOWMOBILE route OR during an emergency when snow upon the roadway renders travel by conventional motor vehicles impractical.



Let's All "EXERCISE"!!!

You know, with the holidays coming and those wonderful dinners with all those lovely calories, we will probably make a resolution to Exercise!.

WELL, the inside water shut-off valve for your house, which should be located near the water meter, also needs to be "exercised". All you need to do is turn it off and on to make sure it works. TRUST us, if you ever have a water emergency and you need to get that water shut off in a hurry, you will be glad you did! If it is leaking or you cannot get it to turn, contact your favorite plumber.

A few Fall Reminders....

Now is the time to trim you trees over the street and sidewalk. The owner or agent of the abutting property shall keep the trees on or overhanging the street and sidewalk trimmed so that the branches will be at least 15 feet above the surface of the street and 8 feet above the surface of the sidewalk. If you have any questions contact city hall. Remember as trees accumulate snow and ice they will hang lower over the street and could be in the way of truck and school bus traffic.

Open burning of landscape (yard waste) is scheduled from September 15th. Thru November 15th ONLY. All leaves and yard waste can always be taken to our yard waste dump site.

Just in case you didn't know....

In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, an armistice was signed and World War I was over. November 11, 1919 was set aside as Armistice Day to remember the sacrifices men and women made during World War I, and it became a federal holiday in 1938. In 1953, Congress passed a bill honoring America's veterans by renaming the federal holiday to Veterans Day. In 1968 the Uniforms Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) made an attempt to move Veterans Day to the fourth Monday of October. The bill took effect in 1971. However, this caused a lot of confusion as many states disagreed with this decision and continued to hold Veterans Day activities on November 11th. In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which stated that Veterans Day would again be observed on November 11th. from 1978 onwards. Veterans Day is still observed on November 11.



Our sincerest thanks to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, past and present, who have given selflessly and sacrificed so much for us.

Recipe Corner



MALLOW SWEET POTATO BAKE

Ingredients:

6 large sweet potatoes
3 T. butter
1 can (8 oz) unsweetened crushed pineapple, undrained
1/2 cup dried cranberries, divided
1/3 cup orange juice
3/4 t. salt
2/3 cup miniature marshmallows
1/3 cup chopped pecans

Directions: Scrub and pierce sweet potatoes, bake at 400 degrees for 45-55 minutes until tender. Cut potatoes in half; scoop out pulp and place in large bowl. Stir in butter until melted, stir in pineapple, 1/4 cup cranberries, orange juice and salt. Transfer to a 11X17 baking dish coated with cooking spray. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Uncover; sprinkle with marshmallows, pecans and remaining cranberries and bake for 8-10 minutes or til marshmallows are puffed and lightly browned.

PEANUT BUTTER CHOCOLATE DESSERT

Ingredients:

20 chocolate cream filled sandwich cookies, divided
2 T. butter, softened
1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup peanut butter
1-1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar, divided
1 carton (16 oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed, divided
15 miniature peanut butter cups, chopped
1 cup cold milk

1 pkg. (3.9oz) instant chocolate fudge pudding mix.

Directions: Crush 16 cookies; toss with butter and press into ungreased 9" square dish; set aside. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, peanut butter and 1 cup confectioner's sugar til smooth. Fold in of the whipped topping. Spread over crust. Sprinkle with peanut butter cups. In another bowl, beat the milk, pudding and rest of sugar on low for 2 minutes. Let stand til soft set. Fold in remaining cool whip. Spread over peanut butter cups. Crush remaining cookies. Sprinkle over top. Cover & chill.





4 ENERGY SAVING PROJECTS UNDER \$30

Replace your furnace filter monthly. Your furnace works harder to pass air through a dirty furnace filter than a clean one, meaning it uses more energy and costs you more money.

Replace the old incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescents (CFLs) or LED bulbs. LEDs use at least 75 percent less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting. Use table and floor lamps with compact fluorescent lights, rather than unnecessary overhead lights, to illuminate your workspace.

Wrap your water heater in a blanket. Touch the outside of your water heater, if it feels warm, your tank may not be properly insulated and you could benefit from an inexpensive insulating blanket

Plug in a “smart” power strip. Leaving your appliances plugged into a conventional power strip or directly into the wall allows them to draw “phantom” power even if the appliance is off. A “smart” power strip completely cuts off energy to appliances when they’re not in use.



ALSO

Replace worn weather stripping around all doors and windows. Caulk around gaps in windows and door glass. Install storm doors if you do not have them.

Have your heating system checked by a certified professional. Install a programmable thermostat to regulate temperature more efficiently.

Have your chimney and fireplace checked and cleaned. Replace loose-fitting fireplace dampers, which allow warm air to escape.

OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

Clean gutters and make sure the downspouts point away from your house.

Trim tree limbs that are touching or hanging over your house.

Replace any missing or damaged roof shingles

Make sure flashing around the chimney and vent pipes is sealed tightly.



Stay Warm Safely

A leading cause of fires during the winter months is heating equipment, not to mention some of the creative methods seen that people use to heat their homes. A high percentage of these fires and their associated injuries and deaths involve portable and fixed space heaters, fireplaces, and chimneys. As the colder weather surrounds us, please learn more about your home heating equipment and their proper use

Portable Heaters—

These devices heat quickly and can easily ignite anything combustible close to it.

Consider automatic shut-off or tip over protection when shopping for one.

Keep it at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.

Do NOT use household extension cords and only use on a flat surface.

Baseboard Heaters—

Though very efficient, they are still a potential ignition source and common sense should be applied.

Keep objects away. Check periodically for items that may have fallen on/near it.

Do not let electrical cords drape across heaters

Do not block the flow of heat from a baseboard heater with furniture

Fireplaces & Woodstoves -

Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned before each heating season due to creosote build-up.

Always use a fire screen to contain sparks and embers

Only burn dry/seasoned hardwoods

Never burn rubbish/thrash

Keep flammable materials a safe distance away and never leave unattended

Clean ashes when cool, and do not attempt to carry hot/burning material through the house

Kerosene heaters and charcoal grills -

Kerosene heaters and charcoal grills should never be used for indoor heating

Continued.....

Garages or other recommended areas of use should be well ventilated due to the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning

Do NOT use fuel powered heating devices indoors unless UL approved for indoor use (sealed oil type).

REMEMBER, if a fire does happen at your home, a working smoke alarm can save your life. Have one installed on every level of your home and outside every sleeping room. A Carbon Monoxide detector is also a good investment. Test batteries monthly and change them once a year. Have an escape plan and know at least two ways out of your home. Once out, STAY OUT.

**VANDALISM**

We have had some vandalism at the City Park. We are asking for our citizens help to apprehend those people. If you see anything suspicious in the area of the park we would appreciate it if you would report to the Calmar Police Department or call the clerk's office. Cleaning up the area after this happens is expensive in time and materials. The city is considering installing surveillance cameras in the area.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SOUTH WINNESHIK FOOTBALL TEAM

A WORD OF WARNING REGARDING GEL FUEL FIRE POTS

If you own a gel fuel fire pot, you should re-think having one. Gel Fuel fire pots have caused serious burn injury and death from explosion due to refueling while the product is burning or is hot. A Consumer Product Safety Commission recall accounts for 65 incidents, 34 victims were hospitalized for 2nd and 3rd degree burns, and 2 resulted in death. You can see the recall by searching for Gel Fuel Fire Pot recall or go to this website: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11315.html>. So if you have a gel fuel flame pot we recommend you stop using it and discard it.

**DEPARTMENT NEWS**

The City of Calmar has authorized the purchase of a Taser for the Calmar Police Department. The Taser has arrived and Chief Ward and Officer Peters will be trained to become certified to use this new device.

Chief Ward and Officer Peters conducted Halloween Safety training at area grade schools and child care centers recently. They talk to the kids regarding how to trick-or-treat safely, they present them with a Halloween Coloring book and a Treat Bag compliments of the City and the Calmar Police Department. As thanks the kids present them with some of their nicely colored pictures.



ELECTION DAY— —NOVEMBER 8, 2011

Be sure to VOTE

Polling site is the Calmar Lutheran Church- lower level
Noon to 8:00 P.M.

The Mayor and 3 council seats are open.

One of the council seats will need to be elected by a write-in. vote.

LIBRARY NEWS!



With the arrival of fall, the library has begun to transition from the busyness of summer with all its activities, into a little slower pace and some rather quiet days occasionally.

We have decorated with traditional fall themes and colors to go along with the spectacular colors outside. We had a successful summer reading program and lots of excitement with Nicole Schroeder returning from UNI to assist with the program. She was very busy decorating and preparing for the sessions we held during late July and early August. The library took on a whole new look as we explored all seven continents from this year's theme, "One World, Many Stories". We still have some of the decorations up in the library until late November when we will decorate for Christmas.

The library recently purchased a new computer for the Circulation Desk as the old one finally wore out after nearly 7 years. Now it is much more efficient and certainly faster to meet the needs of the library.

Preschool Story Hour is set to resume in about one week after a 2 month hiatus. Three- year old story hour will be on Wednesdays from 10-11 and four -year old story hour will be on Thursday mornings from 10-11. Children should have turned 3 or 4, depending upon the appropriate age group, by September 15th in order to be eligible to attend. Transportation can be provided by the library from local daycare providers, if needed.

Come in and browse our newest titles in all formats from adult, young, adult and elementary fiction and non-fiction to audio books on CDs and DVDs. An remember, e-books and audiobooks on CDs are now available to download from NEIBORS (Northeast Iowa Bridge to On-line Resource Sharing). IN order to download e-books and audio books, library patrons will need to connect to the website: <http://neibors.lib.overdrive.com>, select Calmar Public Library, then enter their library patron number to browse the selections available.

The library now has a new webpage, which is being updated as time permits. Check it out at www.calmarlibrary.com.

Just a reminder the library will be closed on Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving. Normal hours will resume on Saturday, November 26th. HAVE A PLEASANT FALL!

**City of Calmar
P.O. Box 268
Calmar, IA 52132**