

April 2009



The Calmar Strategic Planning Summary is included in this Newsletter.

The complete plan is on the City of Calmar web site [www.calmaria.com](http://www.calmaria.com) in the middle of the page, there is a link to a PDF file.

# Fire Department Updates Equipment

This past year the fire department has made great strides in updating their equipment. They have purchased a "new to them" but used equipment van. Other items include a Polaris Ranger 6 X 6 that carries 118 gallons of water and a pump for fighting grass fires.



This 6 X 6 will also be used for rescues where vehicles can't go.



A trailer was also purchased to haul the Ranger. The department also has a new larger boat and trailer to replace one that was borrowed. Also purchased were 10 sets of wild land gear with boots for fighting grass fires. Four new SCBA's ( self contained breathing apparatus) were purchased and plans are to purchase three more. This new equipment was purchased with the help of several grants, city support and the fundraising efforts of the fire department members.

*City of Calmar*

**Spring 2009 Newsletter**

### Inside this Issue

Leaf Burning	2
City Wide Garage Sale	2
City Web Site	2
Severe Weather/Sirens	2
Nuisances	2
Police Dept. News	2
Spring Clean Up	3
Utility Bills	3
Walkers & Bikers	3
Pool Information	3
Call Before you Dig	4
Census 2010	4
Calling 911 from Cell Phone	4
City of Calmar Directory	4
Strategic Planning Survey	5
Strategic Planning Survey	6
Pets	7
Council Meetings	7
Permits	7
Library News	7
Water leak information	7

## Calmar Firemans Dance Back Home Boys



INWOOD BALLROOM – SPILLVILLE  
Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 8:00 – 12:00

Show Your Support!

Our Yard Waste site has been relocated. We NO LONGER

**Important  
NOTICE  
Regarding our  
Yard Waste Site**

accept yard waste at the city shop site on Lewis Street. The new location is on South Street, the best way to get there is on Jefferson heading South until it ends then take a left and you will see the sign. It is near the entrance to the Wastewater treatment facility. The site on South Street will be available at all times. If the site is abused and items discarded there that are not yard waste the site will be locked and only available by appointment or at a set time and it will be monitored.

City of Calmar  
101 S. Washington St., P.O. Box 268  
Calmar, IA 52132  
Phone 563-562-3154 Fax 563-562-3903  
Email [calmarcc@mchsi.com](mailto:calmarcc@mchsi.com) [www.calmaria.com](http://www.calmaria.com)



## Burning of Leaves

As you do your spring yard clean up, remember you **CAN** burn from April 1<sup>st</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>. you can burn leaves between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. No burning on the blacktop or hard surface of any street or alley or in curb and gutters.

## CALMAR CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES



Are scheduled for May 2, 2009.

Call the Calmar Courier to get your Garage Sale on the map.

## Have you visited our Website?



[www.calmaria.com](http://www.calmaria.com)



Our agenda, council minutes, newsletters and city code are all available on our web site.

There is a news section and calendar with upcoming events and much much more.

Check it out!

## Severe Weather Season is here!



Since tornado weather is with us, we want to provide the following information on storm/tornado sirens. A continuous steady tone for three minutes indicates: The confirmed sighting of a funnel cloud or tornado-like winds (straight winds) that are known to cause major damage or create a threat to the general public. Take shelter immediately and listen to radio and television stations for further updates and advice.

**Winneshiek County DOES NOT sound an all clear. Sirens are sounded when the National Weather Service in La Crosse, Wisconsin or local spotters have indicated to Winneshiek County that a threat of severe weather is imminent.**



The City of Calmar has installed two new revolving sirens. One has been placed at the Calmar Lion's Park and the other replaced an old outdated siren west of the Post Office. The siren by the post office is sounded daily at Noon for a short period of time. These sirens are storm sirens/emergency sirens and will only sound (other than the noon whistle) when bad weather or an emergency occurs. It is felt that with these two new sirens and the ones at the West lift station and the NICC campus that Calmar residents should all be able to hear one of the sirens anywhere in town.

**SPRING CLEANING and NUISANCE ABATEMENT:** With Spring here, people may have "Spring Cleaning" in mind. This includes those chores that have been put off because of winter weather. The City of Calmar has a Nuisance Ordinance. Nuisances are any or all of the following: refuse, garbage, rubbish, ashes, scrap lumber, building materials abandoned or unattended appliances, the old jalopy or tractor in the yard that needs a little "tinkering". Any junk motor vehicle, junk machinery, unlicensed motor vehicle, additionally any vehicle or machine that becomes a habitat for mice, rats etc. Any vehicle lacking wheels, engine, etc and has missing parts and is inoperable. This is not limited to front yards, back yards, by the garage etc.

So, clean up your yard and avoid any legal problems that would cost you time and money.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS



Police Officer Dawn Wagner graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on April 3, 2009. Dawn is now working regular shifts under the guidance of Police Chief Joe Ward. Please welcome Dawn to the Calmar/Ossian Police Department.

The Calmar Police Department plans to have a **BICYCLE REGISTRATION DAY and BICYCLE RODEO.** The department would issue tags with a number that is kept on file at the department. This registration would make it easier to find the owner of a lost or stolen bicycle. The Rodeo will be a "fun" activity planned in conjunction with the registration. Watch the newspaper for details.

# SPRING CLEAN UP 2009

**Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 8:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.**

Let us help you cleanup your property! The City of Calmar will sponsor a City-Wide Spring-Clean Up Day. This year we will have a large roll off dumpster at the City Shop site. The site will be monitored by city personnel. Only items from residential homes in Calmar will be accepted.

**During Spring Cleanup the following items can be brought to the dumpster with no cost to the homeowner:**

- 1) Furniture and household items without limit. **(Excludes TV's, computer equipment, and major appliances)**
- 2) Minor home remodeling debris, provided it is bagged, boxed or bundled, is no longer than 4 feet in length and that each bag, box or bundle does not weigh more than 50 pounds
- 3) Paint cans containing **dry paint** with the lid removed.

**The following items can be brought to the city shop site for disposal for a fee of \$ 20.00.** The city will also pick up items for people unable to haul these items to the city shop site, we will pick them up at the curb of your residence. To have these items picked up call the city clerk at 562-3154 to make arrangements.

Washing machines, clothes dryers, water heaters, furnaces, refrigerators, trash compactors, stoves, microwave ovens, freezers, humidifiers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, televisions, computer monitors, computers, printers

**The following items will not be accepted:** vehicle tires, hazardous waste materials such as liquid paint, solvents, pesticides or herbicides.

The City of Calmar reserves the right to reject any items brought to the site for disposal.

To make "SPRING CLEANUP 2009" a successful community-wide program, everyone must cooperate and follow the simple guidelines listed above. If you have any questions please feel free to contact City Hall at 562-3154.



Payment of City of Calmar utility bills can be received with Direct Payment Authorization.

Direct Payment Authorization will help you in several ways:

It saves time and postage

Your payment is always on time and no late charges

It is easy to sign up for and easy to cancel

Contact City Hall to sign up for Direct Payment or for more information.



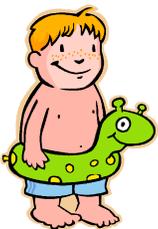
## Walkers & Bikers ... PLEASE be VISIBLE!

The Calmar Police Department and the City of Calmar are asking residents to PLEASE wear some type of reflective clothing or lighting when walking or biking at night. If you walk/bike on the city streets or the bike/walking trail it is ALWAYS a good idea to be visible to others. There are not enough street lights to make you visible at all times.



All it takes is for a driver to glance away for a second to have disaster occur. Reflective vests and flashing clip-on lights are available for purchase and we recommend that you purchase and wear them for YOUR SAFETY!

## Calmar Swimming Pool Information 2009



Anne Rude will again be the pool manager this year. Much of the previous staff will also be returning. The pool drain covers will be replaced before the pool opens. These are anti-entrapment drain covers that are compliant with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

**Pool phone number is 562-3148.**

**Anne can be reached at 319-361-8532**

Opening dates and lessons have not yet been finalized. **Watch the Calmar Courier for more information as we get closer to the "Pool Season".** Contact Anne if you have any special concerns or requests



## IT IS THE SEASON — CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



Whether you own your home, rent it, or are contracting an excavating job, you need to call before you dig. There is no charge for getting underground lines located. Iowa Legislature has enacted statewide legislation. “Underground Facilities Information”, Chapter 480 of 21995 Code of Iowa, which went into effect January 1, 1993, making it state law to call before you dig.

With one easy phone call the underground electric, sewer, water, gas, telephone and cable television lines will be located before digging. Please call at least 48 business hours in advance, because locates are not guaranteed clearance without at least a 48-hour notice. If you fail to call before you dig, total liability for any damages will be yours.

The toll free phone number is 1-800-292-8989

## United States Census 2010 One year from Now

Taken every 10 years, the census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress, and the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. Census data will directly affect how more than \$ 3 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place.

The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. The 2010 Census form is the shortest questionnaire in history, the 2010 form asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home

Census questionnaires will be delivered to a street address, in the case of Calmar and any other city that receives mail at the post office, all forms sent to a post office box will be returned to the Census bureau and a census worker will be sent to canvass those addresses. This makes it all the more important for us to make sure we are counted. Road Use tax money is only one tax distributed by population and the loss or gain of residents would greatly affect our allocation of funds. **Census is coming in 2010, BE COUNTED!**

## CALLING 911 WITH A CELL PHONE



It seems that more and more people are turning to cell phones as a replacement to their traditional phone line. In light of that, there are some very important facts about calling 911 from a cell phone that you should be aware of and also explain to your

children.

When you make a call on a cell phone you are sending signals through the air. Consequently, a cell tower that picks up the signal may be near, but the call may be received in another city or county. This can complicate matters for 911 purposes, in those cases, dispatchers do not immediately receive as specific information to direct emergency response personnel where to find the caller. Calling 911 with a cell phone may take a little extra time to connect.

The following information should be communicated to the dispatcher in the event you are using a cell phone. 1) What city you are calling from; 2) The type of emergency; and 3) You cell phone number, in case the call gets disconnected the dispatcher can then call you back. Also, do not hang up; stay on the line unless the dispatcher directs you otherwise.

## CITY OF CALMAR DIRECTORY

### City Council

Mayor Joe McCasland	P.O. Box 21	562-3403
Mayor Pro-tem Larry Huinker	702 W. Clark St.	562-3963
Council Member Luther Andeson	P.O. Box 125	562-3625
Council Member Corey Meyer	P.O. Box 101	562-3254
Council Member Isaac Phillips	P.O. Box 591	562-4857
Council Member Dave Zweibahmer	P.O. Box 389	562-3141

### City Phone Numbers

City Hall	562-3154
Street Department	562-3349
City Library	562-3010
Fire Dept. Mtg. Room	562-3575
Police Department	562-3224
Swimming Pool	562-3148
Water/Wastewater Dept.	562-3150
To report Emergency	911

# March 20, 2009 - Summary of the Calmar Area Strategic Plan for the Future

Prepared for the Calmar Development Corporation

The full report can be found online at [www.calmaria.com](http://www.calmaria.com). Or for further information, contact John Heying at [jheying@ssbank.net](mailto:jheying@ssbank.net) or Jim Buchheit at [jwbuchheit@yahoo.com](mailto:jwbuchheit@yahoo.com).

**The Planning Process:** The Calmar Development Corporation initiated this Strategic Planning Process for the Calmar Area in order to identify common goals and invite participation from the community. In January a survey was sent out to every business and household in Calmar to invite input and with an invitation to the planning meetings. At the first meeting on February 4 the community was led in an Asset Mapping exercise by consultants Luther Snow and Carolyn Corbin to identify individual and regional resources. At the March 5 meeting workgroups reported on the ideas they have developed and chairs and a steering committee were identified for going forward.

**Immediate Opportunities:** Several projects are poised for successful immediate completion including the Prairie Farmer Trail-Head workgroup led by chair, Don Schroeder. Other potential short term projects exist in each workgroup including downtown beautification and the Train Depot.

**Big picture opportunities** have also emerged such as the opportunity to renovate the historic Train Depot and to develop a Regional Wellness Center. The steering committee sees potential to align the goals of NICC with those of Calmar and the South Winneshiek area to create a center for Regional Wellness.

The workgroups are committed to: 1) an appreciation of existing assets and resources, 2) building on existing affinities and partnering with neighbors in the South Winneshiek area, and 3) acting like a network instead of a top-down organization. "My gain is your gain is our gain."

Meetings will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. Meetings held at the NICC cafeteria. The next meeting will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of April, April 28. Everyone who is interested in the future of the area is invited to attend.

## Vision for the Future – Strategic Workgroups

**Trail Head Project**, Co-Chairs: Don Schroeder, Ron Bullerman. Don Schroeder led a large workgroup towards a vision for completing the Prairie Farmer Trailhead this spring. The group plans a community effort to landscape and develop the Trailhead in time for the Bike Trail opening in partnership with surrounding communities. The workgroup has partnered with a volunteer landscape architect who designed a master plan for the trailhead and Jeff Heying who designed drawings of the trailhead arch. There is a great deal of support to complete this project including volun

teer Eagle Scouts who will assist with the work. The trailhead has applied for a grant from Winneshiek County Foundation. Materials such as paver stones are in storage ready to be laid in place.

**A Regional Wellness & Community Center** - Co-chairs: Liang Chee Wee, Tami Brincks, Jenny Johnson. Liang Chee Wee, Provost for NICC, reported on the vision for a Regional Wellness-Community Center. A Center is desired as a means to create a healthier community of body, mind, and spirit; a safe place for young people to

gather after school, for families to spend quality time, for senior citizens to plan activities, and most importantly a place for community people to build and strengthen relationships. The vision includes making this a regional center for surrounding communities such as Spillville, Fort Atkinson, and Ossian. The Steering committee will invite area communities and rural residents to participate in the visioning and planning for this Regional Wellness Center in order to create a center that provides for the desires of the South Winneshiek Region. The Steering committee plans to research the Wellness Centers in surrounding communities of Waukon, Cresco, and New Hampton to learn from their building experiences. The workgroup has identified potential sources for funding of the project.

#### **Retail Incubator** –Chair Jim Buchheit

Jim Buchheit reported on the plans to partner with Calmar Development Corporation to attract essential retail to the community. Over the last year Calmar lost a full time plumber and floral shop. These are among the opportunities for new businesses in Calmar. The Calmar Development Corporation will act as an incubator by assisting new businesses. New business may receive reduced rent for a period or a low interest loan from Calmar Development. The Calmar Development Corporation ties new businesses to mentors and resources to get started in the business.

#### **Depot Museum** - Chair: Janelle Pavlovec

Luther Anderson reported on the vision for enhancing the Depot Museum. The vision for the Depot Museum is to build on its central location and iconic quality of the historic structure. The Museum will attract visitors interested in the history of the railroads, using Calmar's position as a key depot to showcase changes in trains and culture over time. Anderson explained that the Depot can serve as a visitor informational center as well a center for community activities. Activities may include a bike swap, a sports trade show, a bike safety check, a community walk/run, lawn chair night, and dances.

#### **Downtown Beautification** - Chair: Ron Bullerman

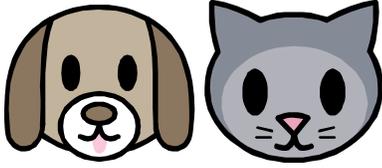
Ron Bullerman reported on some ideas for downtown beautification. The State DOT will be repaving Highway 24 through town in the next year or two. As the highway is paved through town this opens opportunities to complete other works while the road is under construction. Sidewalk repair, attractive lighting, and other beautification activities will help Calmar put its best face forward for the many vehicles that travel through its major intersection every day.

**Grocery Store and Farmers Market** – Co-chairs: John Heying, LaVerne Anderson, John Heying organized this workgroup. Ron Bullerman reported for the group. The group researched startup costs for a small grocery. The research shows that startup costs for even a small grocery pose an economic barrier for attracting a new grocery. The workgroup will continue to look for options and identifies this as a longer range project. As an interim approach, the workgroup is looking at ways to expand the Farmers Market to accommodate more vendors by finding a more spacious location.

#### **Trail to Lake Meyer** – Chair: Jim Buchheit.

This has been a long range plan by many in Calmar to extend a walking/biking trail from Calmar to Lake Meyer County Park only one mile south of Calmar. This destination point is a hidden treasure in the county offering boating, fishing, camping, hiking trails and a nature interpretive center. The workgroup will continue to meet with the Winneshiek County Supervisors to request paving of the gravel road from Hwy 24 to Lake Meyer. Other long range plans include connecting the Prairie Farmer Trail to a regional trail system.

**PETS:** You love your pets but your neighbors may not; you need to be a responsible pet owner.



Both cats and dogs need to be either in a fenced area or on a leash when they are outside. It is unlawful for any pet owner to allow the pet to be a nuisance by destroying the property of others by digging, biting, chewing or tearing or by frequent and habitual barking or howling. Pet owners who walk pets on private or public property are responsible for providing for the disposal of solid waste material by immediate removal of the waste created by the pet.

Both cats and dogs need to be either in a fenced area or on a leash when they are outside. It is unlawful for any pet owner to allow the pet to be a nuisance by destroying the property of others by digging, biting, chewing or tearing or by frequent and habitual barking or howling. Pet owners who walk pets on private or public property are responsible for providing for the disposal of solid waste material by immediate removal of the waste created by the pet.

## Calmar Library News

Librarian Linda Crossland is in the process of designing a web site for the Calmar Public Library. The site will be [www.calmar.lib.ia.us](http://www.calmar.lib.ia.us)

The Calmar Library will again host their **SUMMER READING PROGRAM**. The theme for the program this year is "Be Creative at Your Library". It will be held on Tuesdays & Thursdays beginning July 21st. — August 13th.



Watch for more information or check the library web site, newspaper or cable TV.

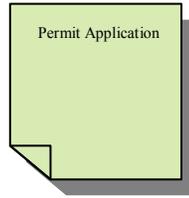
Pre-school story hour is discontinued through the summer, the last one will be May 20th.

**Library Hours: M-F 12 Noon—6:00 P.M.**

**Sat. 10 A.M.—1:00 P.M.**

**The library is looking for someone to do the Summer Reading Program. 3 hours, twice a week for 6 weeks. Volunteer or paid position. Call 562-3010 and ask for Linda if this would work for you!**

Permits are required for:



■ Building a garage, addition, fence, house, deck, patio, porch, etc.

■ Sidewalk work

■ New installation of water/sewer

(if in doubt if you need a permit call us)

## City Council Meetings:

*Council Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, except Monday holidays, the meeting will then be held on the following Tuesday. The City welcomes anyone to attend.*

*The printed agenda of upcoming meetings is posted the Friday before the meeting at the Post Office and the window of the Clerk's office. It is also available on the web site.*

*If you wish to be placed on the agenda for a Council Meeting, please call City Hall, 562-3154 no later than 12:00 p.m. the Thursday before the Monday meeting.*

*Council Minutes are published in a timely fashion in the Calmar Courier and posted on the cities website*

The following table shows how much water can go through a meter depending on the size of the leak

Leak Size	Gallons Per Day	Gallons per Month
A dripping leak consumes	15 gallons	450 gallons
A 1/32 inch leak consumes	264 gallons	7,920 gallons
A 1/16 inch leak consumes	943 gallons	28,300 gallons
A 1/8 inch leak consumes	3,806 gallons	114,200 gallons
A 1/4 inch leak consumes	15,226 gallons	456,800 gallons
A 1/2 inch leak consumes	60,900 gallons	1,827,000 gallons