

CALMAR NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2005

August 2005

City Clerk's Office	562-3154	Police Department	562-3224 or 800-632-5976
Street Department	562-3349	Water/ Sewer Dept.	562-3150
Library	562-3010	Swimming Pool	562-3148
Fire Dept. Mtg. Room	562-3575	To report FIRE etc.	911

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CALMAR WEB SITE
www.calmaria.com.

EMAIL ADDRESS:
calmarcc@mchsi.com

LIBRARY NEWS

The addition to the Calmar Public Library is progressing nicely with finishing work to be completed soon.

An open house will be held possibly in October to allow residents to tour this new children's area.

If you wish to make a donation to this project, contact the library or any board member

CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor

Joe McCasland
 P.O. Box 21
 562-3403

Council Persons

- Alan Shindelar
 P. O. Box 203
 562-3373
- Tim Vondersitt
 P. O. Box 193
 562-3956
- Karen Kleve
 P.O. Box 94
 562-3841
- Dave Zweibahmer
 P.O. Box 389
 562-3141
- John Patrick
 P.O. Box 147
 562-3270

GARBAGE SERVICE

Malcolm Enterprises Inc. hauls garbage in the City of Calmar. Their phone number is 800-892-6239. If you have a problem with your garbage pick up, please call them direct at the above number 1

WATER TREATMENT PROJECT

The water treatment plant is under construction, the brick has been laid, the rafters set and the roof is on.

Work on the inside and landscaping will proceed with completion before October 1st.

Upon completion of this project we will finally begin using water from the new well.

The water from both wells will be blended and treated as needed and pumped to the

CURB SIDE RECYCLING



Shimek Roll-off & Recycling is making available curb side recycling to Calmar residents. The bins are available for a nominal fee and recyclables will be picked up on Thursday of each week. This service is not billed on the city water bills. If you are interested you can call for more information.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
IOWA ONE CALL
800-292-8989

SOME REMINDERS

All buildings and homes are to have house numbers.!



(if you have questions call the clerk's office for more information)



Trees are to be trimmed over the sidewalk and street, this is the property owner's responsibility.

15' over the street and 8' over the sidewalk

Residents are reminded that they SHOULD NOT blow grass clippings into the street when you mow.

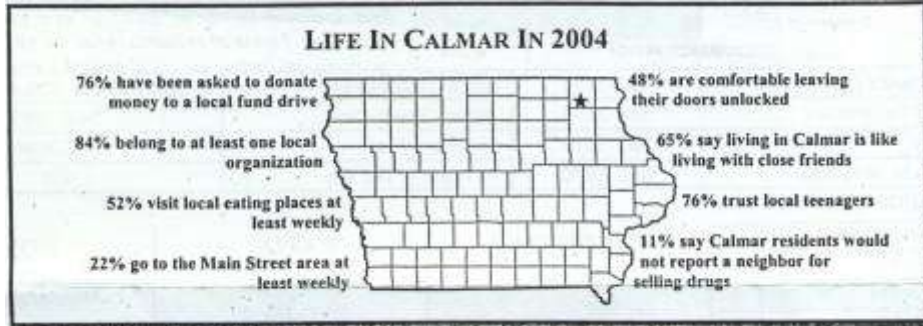
SIDEWALKS

Have you noticed white paint on your sidewalks?

The city done a sidewalk inspection and all areas of concern are marked with white paint. This indicate an unsafe condition exists and that repair or replacement is needed. Sidewalks are the abutting property owners responsibility to maintain.

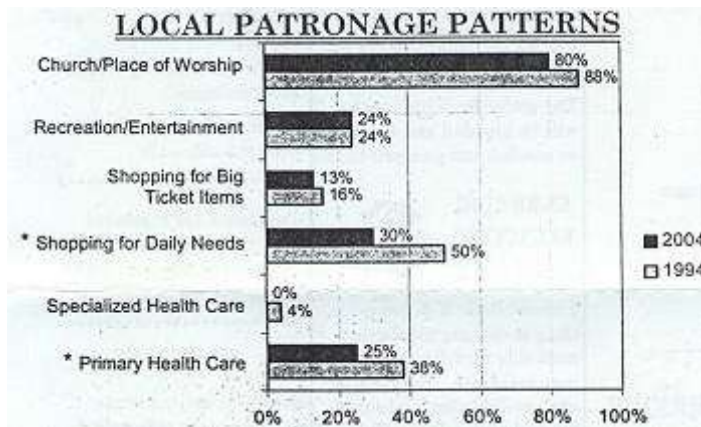
A DECADE OF CHANGE IN CALMAR

In February 2004, the Rural Development Initiative Project at Iowa State University conducted a survey designed to look at changes in the social conditions in Iowa's rural towns. The survey was mailed to nearly 15,000 households in 99 towns, one of which was Calmar. Ten years ago, residents of these same 99 communities were asked to complete a similar survey. The households for both surveys were selected randomly from local telephone directories (150 households per community). In 1994, 106 Calmar residents responded to the survey, and 104 responded in 2004.



Some of the information received from this survey is published in this newsletter for your information. "Everybody knows everybody" is often cited as a feature of small towns. In 2004, 62 percent of residents reported knowing the names of half or more of the people in Calmar, compared to 67 percent in 1994. Similarly, 50 percent indicated that half or more of their friends live in Calmar, compared to 49 percent in 1994. Fifteen percent of residents in 2004 and 17 percent in 1994 said that half or more of their adult relatives and in-laws live in Calmar. Fifty eight percent of residents reported participating in a local improvement project during the last year and 39 percent described themselves as "somewhat or "very" active in local community activities and events. This is essentially the same percentage as in 1994.

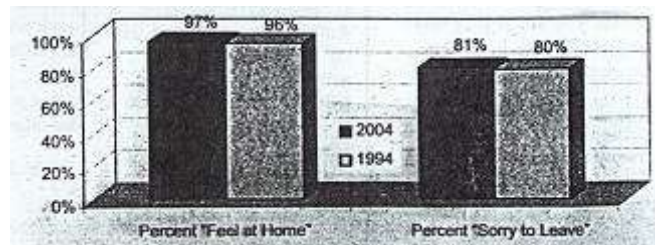
A complete copy of this survey is available for the asking at the Calmar City Clerk's office.

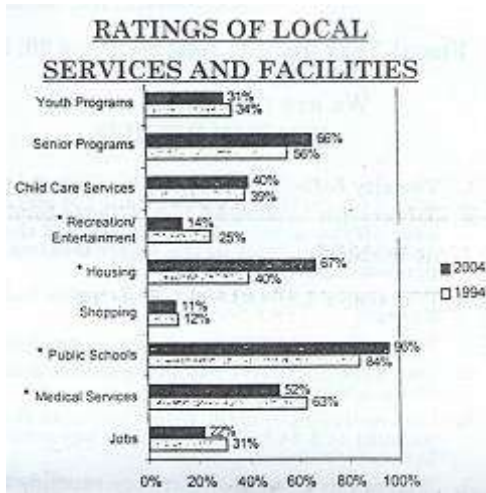


For a variety of reasons, many residents of Iowa's smaller towns rely on neighboring cities for services. Results from this survey suggest that Calmar residents followed this pattern in 1994 and 2004.

COMMUNITY ATTACHMENT

How attached are Calmar residents to their community? Almost everyone reported that they feel at home in Calmar both in 1994 and 2004. Eight of ten in both 1994 and 2004 indicated that they would be sorry to leave if they had to move away from Calmar.



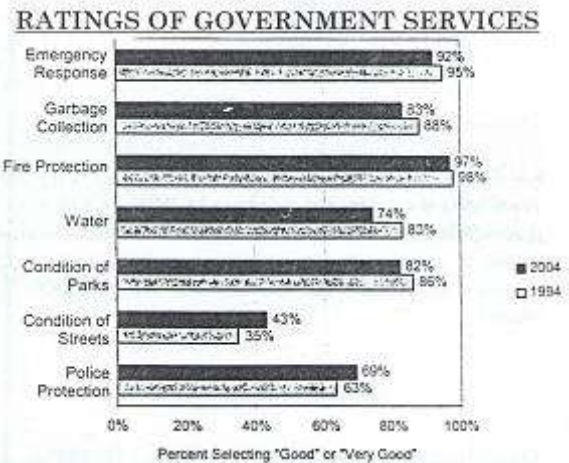


Nine local services were listed on the questionnaire along with instructions to rate each as “very good,” “good,” “fair,” “poor,” or “not available.”

The graph on the left shows the percentage of residents who rated each service as “good,” or “very good” in 1994 and 2004. Almost all residents rated the public schools positively and half or ore rated medical services, housing, and senior programs favorable in 2004. These services also received the highest ratings in 1994.

Jobs, shopping, and recreations received the lowest ratings in both periods, with fewer than one in three residents indicating the services were good or very good. Assessments for housing and public schools improved while those for recreation and medical services declined over the decade. Ratings for other services were unchanged over the past decade.

Respondents were asked to provide ratings for seven services normally provided by local governments. The graph shows the percentage of residents rating each service as “good” or “very good: f for 2004 and 1994. Generally, Calmar residents reported being satisfied with local government services. More than seven in ten rated emergency response, garbage collection, fire protection, water and parks favorably in both years. About two thirds of Calmar residents indicated that police protection was good or very good in 1994 and 2004. There were no significant changes in the assessments of Calmar government services in the ten years between surveys.



POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Calmar Police Department has a “new look”. The 2000 Ford Crown Victoria police car has been replaced with a 2005 Ford Explorer. The vehicle is in service with lights and siren but at this time isn’t yet marked with the Calmar Police Department markings.

THE CITY IS OFFERING THE 2000 CROWN VICTORIA FOR SALE, VEHICLE CAN BE SEEN AT THE DEPOT AND BIDS CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITYCLERK.

The Calmar Fire Department has replaced their old worn out pagers with new models. These were purchased with money remaining in the fire department budget for the last fiscal year.

AUTO PAY OF CITY UTILITY BILL

Did you know that you can have your utility bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account?

All we need is a signed authorization from you along with your bank account number and the bank routing number.

The bills are deducted on the last bank working day before the due date.

This service is provided by Security State Bank at no cost to the city or the customer. The bill can be deducted from any bank checking or savings account.

AUDIT OF CITY FINANCES

As a result of our participation in the State Revolving Loan Program for funding our Sewer Project, the city was required to be audited.

Results of this audit are available at the office of the city clerk.

The audit report is also posted on the web site of the State Auditors Office at <http://auditor.iowa.gov/index.html>. On the home page you go to Audit Reports and then to Audits by CPA and fill in the city information.

OUTSIDE METERS FOR WATERING



After some consideration, the city council has amended the ordinance and changed the fee for an outside meter to \$ 15.00 YEARLY instead of monthly.

These meters are installed on your outside faucet and removed for the winter months and reinstalled in the spring.

If you are interested in an outside meter, call the clerk's office.

OPEN BURNING

Open burning is **RESTRICTED**. Burning of leaves is allowed from April 1st thru May 15th and from September 15th thru November 15th. ONLY and then between 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.



No burning on the blacktop or paved surface of any street or alley or in curbs and gutters within the City limits.

**Fiscal Year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005
has just come to a close.**

**We are providing a brief
YEAR IN REVIEW**

1. The city collected \$ 216,661 in property taxes.
2. Tif receipts totaled \$ 247,012, these funds paid off the debt on North street and the balance paid for some of the water treatment project expenses.
3. We received \$ 93,043 in Local Option Sales Taxes
4. We received \$ 87,968 in road use funding
5. Our library received funding from the county in the amount of \$ 13,014.
6. We received payment from Ossian in the amount of \$ 24,000 for our 28 E agreement for law enforcement.
7. We took in \$ 74,088 in garbage receipts and paid the hauler \$ 73,073. Difference is penalties which we retain.
8. Street lighting cost the city \$ 10,483.
9. Library services expenses were \$ 44,478 and recreation and park expenses were \$ 46,024.
10. Mayor & Council expenses totaled \$ 4,859.
11. Expenses to run the water & sewer system totaled \$ 201,249, not including debt.
12. We received \$ 4,444 in franchise tax receipts
13. We received interest income of \$ 5900.00
14. We received bank franchise tax of \$ 3,836 which we will no longer received as a result of legislation.
15. We received \$ 4,608 in federal flood assistance and \$ 799 in state flood assistance.
16. Recreation receipts were \$ 12,406
17. Miscellaneous receipts were \$ 22,436, this includes reimbursement, sale of property, rent, permit fees and other misc.
18. Insurance cost the city \$ 24,600 for all city buildings and equipment.
19. We paid \$ 111,840 in debt that does not include the sewer debt.
20. \$ 136,366 was spent on street related activities, this includes fuel and utilities.
21. Fire department expenses totaled \$ 14,117, this included expenses for new pagers.
22. Police Department operations expenses were \$ 100,527 for the year.
23. Debt for water and sewer was \$ 139,773
24. Payroll was \$ 197,418
25. Our debt limitation is \$ 1,915,019.
26. Our property valuations are \$ 38,300,372.
27. Beginning general fund balance on July 1, 2004 was \$ 256,928 and ending balance on June 30, 2005 was \$ 287,246.
28. Beginning fund balance (all funds) on July 1, 2004 was \$ 696,431 and ending balance (all funds) on June 30, 2005 was \$ 834,974.