



# CITY OF CALMAR

## October 2006 Newsletter



City of Calmar Website

Visit the City's website:  
[www.calmaria.com](http://www.calmaria.com)

Get up-to-date information:  
agendas; minutes, and the  
Calmar City Code online!

Cities email address:  
[calmarcc@mchsi.com](mailto:calmarcc@mchsi.com)

### Elected City Officials:

**Mayor: George Willis**  
P.O. Box 207  
562-3288

**Mayor Pro-tem: John Patrick**  
P.O. Box 147  
562-3270

### Council Members:

**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



### 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 are 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 Council meeting. Council Meeting minutes are published in a timely fashion as required by law in the Calmar Courier and are posted on the City's website: [www.calmaria.com](http://www.calmaria.com).



**"IOWA ONE CALL"**  
**Remember to Call Before You Dig!**  
**The toll free phone number is 1-800-292-8989.**



### **"Burning within City Limits"**



#### **Just a reminder**

Burning of leaves shall be allowed from April 1<sup>st</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup> and from September 15<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup>, providing that such burning shall only occur during the specified months between the hours of eight o'clock (8:00) a.m. and six o'clock (6:00) p.m., and further provided that an adult is present at all times to supervise the burning. No burning shall be allowed on

the blacktop or paved surface of any street or alley or in curbs and gutters within the City limits.

### **"Nuisance Abatement"**

#### DEFINITION OF NUISANCE.

Whatever is injurious to health, indecent, or unreasonably offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property so as essentially to interfere unreasonably with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property is a nuisance.

"Please help us keep Calmar clean."



#### Display your house numbers

You must have street address numbers displayed on your business or residence. Actual numbers must be a minimum of three inches high, posted on the front of the building or structure and visible from the roadway. Many of our emergency services are located outside of the City of Calmar and their personnel are not familiar with the business or residence locations. They need a house number clearly displayed to find you quickly. It could be a matter of life or death to you in a future emergency.



#### Garbage Pickup

If you have a problem with your garbage service, **DO NOT call City Hall. You need to call Malcom Enterprises direct at: Malcom Enterprise (800-892-6239) 563-379-1626 or 563-382-4497**



#### Snow Removal Policy:

**136.03 REMOVAL OF SNOW, ICE AND ACCUMULATIONS.** It is the responsibility of the abutting property owners to remove snow, ice and accumulations promptly from sidewalks. If a property owner does not remove snow, ice or accumulations within a reasonable time, not to exceed twenty-four (24) hours following the cessation of snow fall or the forming of ice, the City may do so and assess the costs against the property owner for collection in the same manner as a property tax.

**69.11 SNOW EMERGENCY.** Whenever the City experiences a snow fall which accumulates to a depth of three inches or more, a snow emergency shall automatically be in effect and all procedures prescribed by this chapter shall be observed by all persons. The street superintendent shall utilize at his discretion all available communications media in the community to give notice to the public that a snow emergency is in effect, but failure of a person to receive such notice shall not constitute a defense to any prosecution for violation of the rules, regulations and procedures prescribed by this chapter where a snow accumulation of three inches or more has occurred.

1. While a snow emergency is in effect, curbside parking of motor vehicles shall be permitted only as follows:

A. All vehicles shall be parked on the side of the street where buildings bear even numbers, until such time as the snow has been removed or plowed from the opposite side of the street where buildings bear odd numbers, until such time as the snow has been removed or plowed from the opposite side of the street.

B. All uptown parking must be in the North lot until the South lot is cleared, then vehicles must be moved to the South lot.

C. Such plan of alternate parking shall supersede all posted parking restriction signs until the completion of snow removal from both sides of any given street within the City limits, after which regularly established parking regulations shall resume and shall be observed by all persons.

2. Removing Violators from the Street. In case any motor vehicle is found parked on any street or alley or parking lot in the City in violation of established or snow emergency restrictions, the Police Department or Street department or anyone under their direction is authorized to move such vehicle and to tow such vehicle to a designated impounding area at the owner's expense. When such vehicle is reclaimed by its owner, there shall be assessed, in addition to any court-

imposed fine and costs, a reasonable fee for towing and storage. Neither the City nor its employees or agents designated to move vehicles in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall be responsible for any damage to such vehicle occasioned by such moving, towing or storage.

3. Interference with Snow Removal. Any vehicle parked or standing on any street or alley or parking lot in violation of any provision of this chapter so as to interfere with prompt and orderly snow removal is declared to be a nuisance, and in addition to being subject to removal and impounding, may be ticketed for illegal parking, and its owner, upon conviction, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of \$25.00.

4. Reclaiming Impounded Vehicles. Any person who removes an impounded vehicle from any police-designated impounding area without first paying all fines, cost, towing and storage charges, is guilty of a misdemeanor.



**Prairie Farmer Bike Trail**  
**Winneshiek County, Howard County, the cities of Calmar, Ridgeway and Cresco are all working together to obtain funding to "PAVE THE WAY". Several grants have been obtained for a large portion of the project but the City of Calmar will still have to fund or partially fund the portion of the trail within the Calmar City limits. We will also need to provide a "trail head" or "Kiosk" near the Calmar Depot. Fundraising is ongoing for this project and all donations will be accepted. How about having a garage sale or bake sale with proceeds going to the Trail Project? We would also be interested in someone (business or family) funding the trail head project and naming the park after the donor. We need the cooperation of everyone to keep this project going and to make progress to get the trail to Lake Meyer and the road to Lake Meyer hard surfaced.**

**CALMAR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION**



Calmar Historical Preservation meets monthly. This group is trying to make decisions regarding our depot. This building is in a prime location and could be an important part of our "trail head" All input is welcome. Ideas for the building include a museum with railroad and Calmar memorabilia maybe combined with a Coffee shop. Much of the items needed for the museum would have to be on loan from area residents that would be willing to have us display their items.

If you are interested in coming to the meetings or have something that could be loaned for the display contact Jenny Peterson at 562-3444 There will be a fundraiser for Historic Preservation in conjunction with the Calmar Courier's Anniversary celebration on October 26<sup>th</sup> watch for details in the Courier.



Your yard waste site is available for grass clippings, leaves, tree limbs, walnuts, apples etc. We are requesting that you keep the grass clippings separate from the tree branches and from the walnuts, apples etc. Your co-operation is appreciated and will enable us to keep this site open and available to Calmar residents.

We have chipped all our tree branches. FREE MULCH IS AVAILABLE AT THE

# YARD WASTE SITE



## A word from Mayor Willis



I have been told that we are not being fair and we're not treating everyone the same. I would like to comment to this. It is quite the opposite, I am working very hard to make sure that everyone is treated the same and that all of the laws, ordinances and resolutions are applied and followed the same all of the time. The problem is that some of these ordinances and resolutions were not followed. Now that we are trying to insure that they are, some of the folks think that we are not being fair. Just because it has been this way for quite some time does not make it right. It is much easier for me to follow these ordinances and resolutions than to try and get around them. This also helps me make sure that things are done the same way all of the time. If there are issues that concern you and you would like them addressed then please feel free to attend the council meetings that are held the 1<sup>st</sup>. Monday of every month and we'll see what we can do. The first 15 minutes prior to the meeting, the floor is opened up for discussion. If there is something that needs the councils attention then have Michele add you to our agenda.

One last thing, I am going to be locked up November 7<sup>th</sup>. at 4:00 P.M. in Decorah and my bail is set at \$1200.00. My bail will be donated to MD to send 2 kids to MDA camp. If I can raise this bail before my lock up I will not have to go to jail. However you can also donate to keep me in there longer. You can do this on line ,

at the City Clerk's office or give me a call at 562-3288. ANY ASSISTANCE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.



## Police Chief Ronald Werner



While writing this article I was reminded that I have been with the Calmar/Ossian Police Department for 8 months now. WOW, just like summer, time has flown by. For the most part I feel there has been progress for the better in many of the areas that the Police Department is involved with. The Police Department has been busy with many community events throughout the summer and will be participating in several school and community programs in the upcoming year. The programs will consist of safety programs, drug awareness and proper community conduct.

The Police Department is now a contact agency with the Governor's Traffic Safety Council. What this means is we will receive grant funds for conducting traffic enforcement program. Yes, during these programs there will be a saturated effort to enforce motor vehicle laws.

The Police Department has seen numerous changes in the last 8 months with community involvement and department administrative policies. I know change is not popular for many; however, change is a necessary evil which must be looked on as a positive not a negative. As Police Chief and a sworn officer of the state it is my responsibility to uphold ALL the state and local laws. This idea is not popular with many, especially coming from the way laws were enforced in the communities. But it is a proven fact that unbiased and professional law enforcement has positive results in the community as a whole. As Police Chief I have seen many changes since I have been employed with the Police Department. I have viewed these changes with a positive attitude which has made the task of bringing professional law enforcement to the communities less taxing. There will be more changes in the future related to law enforcement. I ask that the communities and people keep a positive attitude toward them and look at

the whole picture and have vision that change is exciting and great things are happening in both communities.



## HALLOWEEN Beggar's Night

Mayor Willis has declared that Halloween will be observed in CALMAR, Iowa on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. From 5:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Please indicate you would like to receive visitors by leaving your porch light on.

**THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL BE DISTRIBUTING FREE HALLOWEEN TREAT BAGS TO STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

**THEY CAN ALSO BE PICKED UP AT THE CLERK'S OFFICE**



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- City Hall.....562-3154
- Street Department.....562-3349
- Library.....562-3010
- Fire Dept. Mtg. Room.....562-3575
- Police Department.....562-3224
- Sheriff Department...800-632-5976
- Water/SewerDepartment.562-3150
- Swimming Pool..... 562-3148
- To report fire, accident, or emergency.....911



We want to thank Emily Hoffert for her continued help to get this newsletter out to the residents!