



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

Newsletter Fall 2012



If you lived in Calmar, you'd be home now!



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME ENDS ON**

**Sunday, November 4,
2012, 2:00am.**

Thanks

to the following for their donations toward
our flower baskets

Calmar Mfg. Co. Inc.

Northeast Iowa Spray Foam

Joe & Connie McCasland

(monies given to Joe & Connie noting their 50th.
Anniversary donated to the flower fund)



General Election

Will be Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Be sure to VOTE!

Calmar City Officials

<u>Mayor</u>	<u>Mayor Pro-Tem</u>	
Corey Meyer	Larry Huinker	Dave Zweibahmer
P.O. Box 101	702 W. Clark St.	P.O. Box 125
562-3254	562-3963	562-3625
Linus Sabelka	Isaac Phillips	Dennis Kleve
P.O. Box 101	P.O. Box 591	P.O. Box 94
562-3254	562-4857	562-3841

One more time I would like to bring up the subject of street paving in town as another portion of our streetscape has been paved with blacktopping. Though the latest paving project was funded a little bit differently than usual; do we as a city have the commitment from its residents to upgrade our street system in the future or are we to lament about their current state for the next twenty years? We as a city are open for the people's thoughts and ideas on the subject.

Finally, check us out on the World Wide Web @ <http://www.calmaria.com> were the city does now feature all its upcoming events via a slide presentation no matter your connection to cable or satellite and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/cityofcalmar>



RECIPE CORNER

APPLE UPSIDE-DOWN CAKE



Preheat oven to 350, lightly grease a 9" round cake pan at least 2" deep, line with parchment and grease parchment (and up the sides)

Slice the top, including the stem, off one apple. Peel another apple and slice rest into 1/4 thick wedges. Place the apple top, stem side down in the idle of the pan and overlap the rest of the apple wedges in a ring around it.

Prepare Topping: 4 T butter; 3/4 c brown sugar (firmly packed), 2 T. boiled cider or thawed apple juice concentrate; 1/4 t. cinnamon; 1/2 cup light corn syrup. Heat butter, sugar, cider/apple juice, cinnamon and corn syrup over low heat stirring til sugar is dissolved. Pour 1/2 c of syrup mixture into prepared pan and set the rest aside.

Make the Cake: 3/4 c. vegetable oil, 1 cup brown sugar (firmly packed), 2 T boiled cider or thawed apple juice concentrate, 2 large eggs, 1 1/2 t. cinnamon, 1/4 t ginger, 1/8 t cloves, 1/2 t salt, 1 t. backing soda, 1 1/2 cups flour, 1 large apple (peeled & finely chopped), 3/4 cup chopped pecans or walnuts (optional). Beat oil, brown sugar, cider/juice, eggs, spices and salt together for 2 minutes at med. Speed, mix flour with soda and stir into batter. Add chopped apple and nuts and mix until just blended. Drop scoops of batter atop the apples in the pan, gently spreading to cover. Bake for 50-55 min or til tester near center comes out clean. Remove and run a thin spatula around the edge to loosen and cool for 5 minutes before you turn out onto a serving plate. Scrape out any sauce that remains and spread over cake. Reheat rest of reserved topping if someone wants more over their piece of cake. Serve with whipped cream if desired.

Police Joe Ward, Police Chief 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)
<u>Other Numbers of Interest</u> Alliant Energy 1-800-255-4268 Black Hills 1-888-890-5554 Mediacom 1-800-332-0245 Centurylink 1-800-507-0776	



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Hello fellow Calmarites! Fall is slowly creeping upon us if we like it or not, though the thermometer says it is not so quite yet. I would like to welcome all of the NICC students that are now a part of our community; it is my hope that we are welcoming to all and we may remind you of your beloved hometown wherever that may be. Also, an especially thunderous thanks to all the folks that attended and most importantly those who were instrumental in celebration of Fall Fest at NICC. My time in the dunk tank was fun and reassured me to the fact we should have some very good softball and baseball teams to come.

Our Calmar Visioning process has meet several more milestones in the progression to the transformation of our outward appearance to all. The open house that was held at the train depot was a rave success; featuring the landscape architects renditions of suggestions from community members of possible transformations to our downtown streetscape, trails that will provide safe passage to points within the city limits for all ages and an aggressive marketing/labeling of our town. Community members had the opportunity to vote on and critique these display boards that surely have enhanced the excitement of making our town a better place for all.

Recently the city has paid down a large portion of our city debt that was associated with our sewer system with CD's that had matured. With such low rates of return being presented from renewal of the CD's, in dialogue with council members we have come to the prudent decision of paying off this debt instead of the minimal amount of return to the city. Also, the city is in the process of refinancing our remaining debt that will show a net savings of roughly \$100,000.00 and subtract 2 years from our current note.

Take note for all that fall brings leaves and other yard debris, please use the available yard waste site that way we can recycle some of this materials for earth healthy compost; and save our city crews time and effort to clean up streets/storm sewers of unnecessary debris.

Also, take the time and support our local schools and district's many upcoming activities and events. Our local student body seems to be excelling again in many of the sports and fine arts; bringing a positive light to our community and the people that reside in it.



PLEASE be a considerate neighbor, and a good citizen—do not rake or blow your leaves into the street. They'll just blow into your neighbor's yards and/or clog up the storm water drains.



BURNING of yard waste IS allowed



You can burn from September 15th. thru November 15th. ONLY and 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 & gutters. Before you burn, check the wind speed and direction and be considerate of your neighbors.

Trees overhanging the street need to be trimmed to a height no less than 15' above the surface of the street and 8' above the sidewalks. The best time to trim is in the fall when trees are dormant. Questions call the clerk's office



The yard waste site is available for grass clippings, leaves, tree limbs, walnuts, apples etc. Please note that there are separate places for the tree limbs and the items that can be composted. We will be chipping the branches at our site later this fall. Mulch will be available free for the taking at that time.



Money Saving Tips

Your screen saver is a computer program and when it pops up, your computer isn't saving any electricity. It's actually gobbling energy just as if you were working on it. Rather than have your screen saver appear after 5 or 10 minutes of idle time, allow your computer to go to sleep instead.

You also might have heard that turning a computer on and off wastes more energy than just leaving it on, it's not true. There is a small surge of electricity every time you switch a computer on, but it doesn't compare to the amount flowing through it over an extended period. For energy savings, turn off the monitor if you'll be away from your computer for more than 20 minutes. When you'll be away for more than two hours, turn off the computer itself.

Buying a new computer? Opt for a laptop. It consumes only 15 watts of electricity while a desktop uses nearly 130. Even when peripherals like scanners and printers, aren't in use, a current of electricity, called a "phantom load" is flowing through them. Rather than let energy and money go to waste, plug your computer accessories into a "smart" power strip that senses when appliances aren't in use and shuts the power off completely.

Use table and floor lamps with compact fluorescent lights, rather than unnecessary overhead lights, to illuminate your workspace. With task lighting, you'll brighten essential work areas and save energy.



The Calmar Dodge Charger Police Vehicle

was entered into a Vehicle Design contest thru the Law & Order Magazine.

The vehicle took 1st place out of 16 in its category.

CALMAR SEWER DEBT & STATE REVOLVING LOAN

The City of Calmar is currently in the process of re-financing our State Revolving Loan. The interest rate on this loan is 3%, the current going interest rate is considerable lower.

In an effort to save Calmar citizens some money we will refinance this debt at the current going rate which is approximately 1.7%. The public hearing will be on September 17th at a Special Meeting to be held at 7:00 at the Calmar Fire Station. On this date the council will consider the General Obligation bond purchase agreement (this locks in the interest rates).

This transaction will save the city at least \$ 100,000 and the cost of re-finance. We will also be paying off an additional \$300,000 of this debt with funds that have been held in CD's and our Sewer Sinking Fund. We have determined that due to the low interest rates, it would be in the cities best interest to pay down this debt. This combination of re-finance and paying off additional funds on our note will change the final payment date on this debt from 2024 to 2021.

TOILETS AND DRAINS:

Do Not Use As Garbage Cans

Do not put rags, grease, toxic, poisonous, or objectionable materials, garbage, or any hazardous materials down the drain! Flushing these materials is harmful to the environment. When substances go down the drain that do not belong there, consumers like you ultimately have to pay the extra cost to repair sewers and pumps and to keep the treatment facility working properly. Blocked sewer flow can even cause sewer backups in your own home or business!

"DOLLAR\$ ON YOUR DOOR\$STEP"

for WINNESHIEK COUNTY"



WANT \$OME FUND\$ TO FIX UP YOUR HOME?

You may be eligible for funding assistance for repairs!

The Northeast Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund is accepting applications for housing rehabilitation/improvement projects. Applicants can be low-moderate income homeowners, non-profit organizations or for-profit organizations to promote and create affordable housing activities.

For more information contact Upper Explorer land at 563-864-7551 and ask for Cyndi at ext. 120, or Sarah at ext. 101, or you can get an application online at www.uerpc.org, Housing programs, Regional Housing Trust Fund.

WATER METERS AND METER READING INFORMATION

Your water meter is located INSIDE your home, and will look similar to this picture.



The City reads your water meter remotely, usually around the 15th. of each month. The yellow device you see attached to the meter is called a ERT. The ERT transmits your meter reading to a laptop computer as we drive by your home or through your neighborhood.

FACT: It takes less than an hour to read all the water meters in Calmar.

Time for a Tune-Up

It's fall home maintenance time—have you added a furnace tune-up to your to-do list? An annual inspection can boost energy efficiency, prolong the lifespan of your furnace and help safeguard your family from harmful carbon monoxide.

Make sure your duct work is intact and that all seams are taped. See that the vents and registers are clean and not covered by furniture and rugs.

Replace or clean your furnace filters regularly. Filters trap dust, mold spores, pet dander and other pollutants that circulate through your home. They also help your furnace run more efficiently, extending the life of your system and saving you money on energy bills.

OTHER TIPS!

Lift the tank lid on your toilet to find the "manufactured by" date stamped on the underside. Toilets made before 1994 can use up to 8 gallons of water with every flush; toilets made after 1994 use a maximum of 1.6 gallons. Replace older toilets with new low-flow models to save water.

For every 10 degrees you lower the thermostat on your water heater, you can save three to five percent in water heating costs. By wrapping your tank water heater with a blanket of a least R-8 insulating value can reduce standby heat loss and cut water-heating costs by up to an additional 9 percent.

A one-drip-per-second drippy faucet can waste thousands of gallons of water annually. If the faucet is leaking hot water, this could cost you \$ 35.00 a month in water-heating expenses. While you're fixing leaks, take time to install faucet aerators as well. These inexpensive, easy-to-install gadgets combine air with water to restrict water flow without affecting water pressure.

Calmar Fire Department Soup Supper Fundraiser

October 7, 2012

3:30—6:30 P.M.

Calmar Fire Station

Serving: Chicken Noodle Soup & Chili

Free will donation



FIRE TRUCK PARADE OF LIGHTS

October 7, 2012 & 7:00 P.M.

Main Street—Calmar

The equipment that powers the Calmar Local Access Station has been upgraded. People with Mediacom Cable, can access these announcements on Channel 81 or 79.2. Anyone with internet access can view these announcements on the City of Calmar's web site: www.calmaria.com. Click on the local announcement video in the middle of the home page.



To place an announcement, birthday, anniversary, birth, or any other event call the clerk's office at 562-3154 or email calmarcc@calmaria.com.

CITY NEWS QUICKIES



- If you notice a street light not working properly, call 1-800-Alliant or go online to alliantenergy.com and click on; <customer service; <contact information: <storm and outage center and under this heading click on <street light outage. Fill in the required information and select <submit. Or you can call the City Clerk at 562-3154 and she can take care of it for you.
- If you are moving, contact the clerk's office. We NEED to know your forwarding address and WHEN you will be moving.
- Remember to call Iowa One Call at least 48 hours before digging. Their number is 1-800-292-8989, or you can dial 811.
- If you are planning a building project, be sure to contact the city clerk's office to see if a building permit is required.
- Help keep an eye on your neighborhood. Report any suspicious activity, damage, or thefts to the Calmar Police Department.
- Your pets should not be allowed to run free off of your property. Also when walking your pets off of your property be sure to clean up after them.



CITY WIDE FALL GARAGE SALES

September 27-29, 2012