



## City Officials

### MAYOR

Keith Frana

### CITY COUNCIL

Larry Huinker

Dennis Kleve

Linus Sabelka

T.J. Schissel

Dave Zweibahmer



This year there will **NOT** be a Calmar Trail Days.

The Calmar Commercial Club will be helping with the NICC Fall Fest this year since it is their anniversary and they want to have a bigger event.

They will have the Haunted Run again in October.

### Police

Joe Ward, Police Chief

Lance Peters, Patrol Officer

101 S. Washington St.

563-562-3224 (non -emergency)

911 (emergency)

### Public Works

Junior Boyer, Superintendent

101 S. Washington ST.

319-361-2506 (cell)

### Water/Wastewater

Matt Bullerman, Superintendent

101 S. Washington St

319-361-2505 (cell)

### Public Library

Linda Crossland, Library Director

101 S. Washington St.

563-562-3010

Open 12-6 Mon.—Fri.

Saturday 10 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

### Calmar Swimming Pool

Annie Rude, Manager/operator

Hwy 24

562-380-0240 (Pool) (cell)

319-361-8532 (cell)



The City is accepting donations for our flower baskets/pots. These

flowers beautify our

town and the entrance to your business. We will plant, maintain and water. PLEASE consider donating to help with expenses! A donation of any amount will be accepted and sincerely appreciated. Your donation will be acknowledged in future newsletters.

Donations may be dropped off at the clerk's office or mailed to P.O. Box 268 Calmar.

## Spring Yard Clean Up

Burning of leaves is allowed from April 1st.—May 15th., between 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Do NOT burn on the blacktop or hard surface of any street. Do NOT burn in the alley or in the curb & gutters.

Branches, leaves and other yard waste is ALWAYS welcome at our yard waste site adjacent to the Calmar Sewer Plant on East South Street.



Calmar  
City Wide Garage  
Sales

April 23-25, 2015

Call the Calmar Courier to get your garage sale advertised and on the map!

## City of Calmar

101 S. Washington St., P.O. Box 268

Calmar, IA 52132

City Clerk: Michele Elsbernd

Phone: 563-562-3154 Fax: 563-562-3903 Cell: 319-361-2507

Email: calmarcc@calmaria.com Web site: www.calmaria.com

## INFORMATION FOR THE FUTURE

The City of Calmar has been meeting with the Iowa Department of Transportation to get the plans and specifications drawn up for the sidewalk and street project 2016. The DOT will be designing the project and preparing the design to be bid early 2016. The 2016 project is partially funded by the state bid, and partially by the city and property owners. The project will include: 1. Replacement of existing sidewalk along highways 150, 24 and 52 within the Calmar City Limits (in accordance with ADA standards). 2. Resurfacing of the Highways, including asphalt shoulders (within city limits). 3. Upgrading of needed storm drains. 4. Curb stop installation. 5. Replacement of needed water and sewer lines. 6. New conduit/wire for street lights. 7. Repair/upgrade solar and LED fixtures for street lights and signs. This project will take many months next spring/summer/fall to complete with the usual pilot cars, detours and contractors in the area.....BUT it sure will be GREAT when it is completed!

### From the Calmar Police Department

Police Chief Joe Ward reminds residents that now as the weather improves, walkers & bikers should **BE VISIBLE**. Wear your reflective clothing or clip-on lights for **YOUR SAFETY!** If you walk with your dog, remember to clean up behind the dog. We have provided pet clean up stations along the bike trail which provides a bag for your doggie “do”.

Also do **NOT** leave your car running or leave keys in your car unattended. Lock your home when you are not there. Better to be safe than **SORRY!**



### Calmar Fire & Rescue

The Department has made a change! They have decided to hold a **RAFFLE** rather than their annual dance.

Tickets, a stamped return envelope along with a letter of explanation have been sent to community members. They need continued community support. They are volunteers and contribute time and efforts in an emergency—it could be your emergency! Funds help maintain equipment and train volunteers.

In 2014 the department had over 1950 hours donated by their members.

All support is greatly appreciated!

### MOWING SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING



Calmar Code prohibits the discharge of your grass into the street.

Grass clippings can block storm sewer intakes. Calmar storm-intakes discharge to the west for the most part, and end up in the Lake Meyer watershed. This causes water quality problems at the lake. You can take your clippings to the compost site near the WW treatment plant but do **NOT** put them in plastic bags.

If we see grass clippings in the street you will receive a “friendly” reminder from our local law enforcement to correct the issue.

### CALMAR’S FREEDOM ROCK

The Freedom Rock is a large (approx. 60+ ton) boulder located in rural Iowa that is repainted every year with a different *Thank You* for our nation’s Veterans and to honor their service to our country. The artist, Ray "Bubba" Sorensen II, was inspired by the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, as well as, wanting to give Veterans a unique recognition on Memorial Day.

Sorensen paints The Freedom Rock on his own with the tremendous support of family and friends. Sorensen is not commissioned to paint the rock, but is able to do so each year with the generous help of donations.

While painting murals across the country, Sorensen had the idea of spreading the message of The Freedom Rock to other small communities across Iowa. The idea came in part came from the 99 county tours that both Sen. Grassley and journalist Kyle Munson took part in, and so the Freedom Rock Tour was born.

For the next few summers Sorensen and his family will travel the state of Iowa for the purpose of providing a smaller and unique model of the “Rock” to each county.

Calmar’s Freedom Rock is due to be painted in 2017. We have located a rock and it will be transported to Calmar shortly. The “Rock” has been donated. Calmar intends this rock to be a “Veteran” Memorial on one side and a “Fire, EMT, and Police” Memorial on the other. The City will be working with the Calmar American Legion to get the area prepared and designed.

### Calmar Little League Baseball and Softball

Is your child interested in playing softball/baseball with the Calmar Little League? Children who have completed kindergarten thru 7th grade are eligible to play. If you have a child interested contact Little League Committee member Renee Bullerman. Email: [reneelensing@hotmail.com](mailto:reneelensing@hotmail.com)



## Breakfast on the Farm



Join the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation for the 6th annual Breakfast on the Farm Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 8:30a.m.-noon at Iowa's Dairy Center, Calmar, Iowa. We'll serve up a great wholesome breakfast and provide guided tram tours of the nationally-recognized Dairy Center. The kids will enjoy the chance to meet some calves, plus families can visit several educational exhibits, milk a cow and see robots milk cows. Come join us to see how Iowa's Dairy Center is growing!

This year we will be serving up Dad's Belgian Waffles and sausage along with dairy products produced and processed right here in Northeast Iowa; donations are accepted the day of. We are also adding an additional tent this year to accommodate the growing crowd.

Iowa's Dairy Center is located just south of Calmar at 1527 Highway 150 South. Join us June 20 for Breakfast on the Farm!

### **Severe Weather Awareness** **In Calmar and Winneshiek County**

*The severe weather season is with us, We want to provide the following information on storm sirens. A continuous steady tone for three minutes indicates: The confirmed sighting of a funnel cloud or tornado-like winds (straight winds) or anticipated large hail that could 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 indicates to Winneshiek County that a threat of severe weather is imminent.*

*Did you know that sirens are only designed to be heard while you are outside? Many people rely on them as a warning system wherever they are but don't realize that they likely will not hear them indoors, especially at night. That is not their design.*



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

The City of Calmar, along with many many other cities in Iowa is faced with new EPA and DNR regulations for our sewer plant. Our current DNR permit was due to be renewed and all entities facing renewal will be forced to comply with the new regulations within 52 months of the issuance of a new permit.

This means that unless regulations are changed we will be forced to upgrade our wastewater treatment facility to comply with EPA and DNR regulations. The DNR also requires that upon issuance of the new permit we must comply with a schedule to make necessary improvements.

City Officials are hoping the regulations will be changed but are proceeding on the assumption that they won't. This will be a costly expense to the City of Calmar.

### **The City of Calmar will be FLUSHING HYDRANTS (weather permitting )**

**The week of April 20-24**

**You may experience variable water pressure  
and/or discolored water**



The City of Calmar is in the process of drilling a new well. Our back up well (under the water tower) is no longer usable as the casing has holes and is allowing infiltration. We will be setting the date for the bid letting on the project at the April City Council meeting. The bids will be opened prior to the May meeting so they can be approved and the contract signed at that time.

The well will be located west of North Street across the trail from the current well in land previously owned by the Calmar Development Corporation.

This project will start soon after the contract is approved with completion before November 1, 2015.

## POOL SEASON 2015

Although the pool is still covered in snow, I have faith that it IS there, waiting for us to wake it up for another safe and happy season in the warm sunshine! You will see new faces, as well as the familiar friendly faces of guards and

instructors who have been re-hired. We are all eager to serve Calmar and the surrounding communities by offering a full range of summer swimming programs for all ages. Dates, fees, and schedules for classes will be set up on the City Web Site,

[www.calmaria.com](http://www.calmaria.com). Registration for lessons will begin May 1. Lessons will begin on June 15. Feel free to contact me if you would like to consult, or have further question. If all goes well, our pool will open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2015

Annie Rude

Calmar Municipal Pool Manager and Operator



The City of Calmar strives to keep our residents informed. We try to do this in several ways. We have information on our city web site. If you haven't visited please do so at [www.calmaria.com](http://www.calmaria.com). All our local access announcements are available as a video on the home page of our web site. These are the same announcements that are on the local access station, so if you do not have Mediacom as a TV provider you can check the web site. Mediacom local access is 81 or 79.2 depending if you have a HD or digital signal.

The City of Calmar has several NEW items on their web site. There is a calendar feature that is listed as a menu item on the left side of the home page. We will be updating this calendar with all activities that we KNOW are happening in Calmar. To find out more about the activity click on the item to tell you more. To add something call or email us.

We also have added a Rental Property listing to the web site, also found in the menu listing on the left side of the home page. Almost daily we have requests for rental property available in the City of Calmar. Now we can tell them to go to our web site to view the listings. This information is only as good as the information we receive from the landlords. Please call or email to keep the listing current.

We also post notices at the Post Office, Bank, Kwik Star, Train Station and with use the local radio station KVIK when necessary. (this is for items such as flushing fire hydrants)

## Recipe Corner

### Rhubarb Custard Bars

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup cold butter

#### Filling

- 2 cups sugar
- 7 T. flour
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 5 cups finely chopped fresh rhubarb



#### Topping

- 2 Pkg (3 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 t. vanilla
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped

#### Directions

In a bowl combine flour and sugar, cut in butter until resembles coarse crumbs and press into a greased 9 x 13 pan, bake at 350 for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, for filling, combine sugar & flour in a bowl. Whisk in cream and eggs, stir in rhubarb. Pour over crust and bake at 350 for 40-45 minutes until custard is set. Cool. For topping beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until smooth; fold in whipped cream and spread over top, cover and chill. Cut into bars. Store in the refrigerator

## **Bicycle Safety Reminders**

With spring here, the Calmar Police Department would like to remind citizens to take the necessary bicycle safety precautions when riding. According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, more than 500,000 people are treated and 700 people are killed each year in the United States from bicycle-related injuries.



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommend the following precautions for bicyclists:

1. Protect your Head. Wear a helmet; the correct size helmet.
2. Make sure your bicycle is adjusted properly and ready to ride.
3. Always check brakes before riding.
4. Avoid biking at night
5. Stay alert. Always keep a lookout for obstacles in your path.
6. Ride on the right side in a straight predictable path. Always ride single file
7. Always be aware of the traffic around you.
8. Learn the rules of the road. **Obey traffic laws, including stopping at stop signs.**

## Calmar Depot Building 100 Years Old



University of Iowa | digital.lib.uiowa.edu/iahistory

Construction began on the current Calmar Railroad Depot Building in April of 1915 and it was completed and in use in the fall of 1915, so it has reached the 100-year mark. Since the 1800's, Calmar has been a hub of railroad activity, with many freight and passenger trains moving through town. Passenger trains ended here in the 1960's, but many still remember "taking the train" from Calmar to some destination.

In the 1920's, there were up to 18 passenger trains a day going through Calmar, and the old Pierce Hotel, across the street, was a busy place, cooking as many as 1,000 hamburgers a day in their restaurant.

In August of 1990, the City of Calmar took over ownership of the Depot Building, and the City Clerk's Office was housed there for many years. Many community members worked on the building, including refinishing and replacing flooring and adding some storm windows, with the thought of some day having a museum housed in it. In 1998, the canopy in front of the Depot was reconstructed by the Town. After the City Offices moved out, the Depot Building was only used periodically by the Lion's Club, Commercial Club, and other groups renting it. Most of the time it was not in use.

Now, the Prairie Farmer Recreational Trail begins right outside the Depot, and folks can enjoy sitting at tables decked with umbrellas in nice weather. There is a public restroom available, with an outside entrance and ADA approved. Inside the Depot building, there is a "tourist information" area, with info on not only Winneshiek County, but also neighboring counties and southern Minnesota. There is also a museum area, centerpiced by the Frana Opera House curtain that hangs there, thanks to Martin Timp, who provided it to the City for their use. Dennis Ohlert, former Calmarite who now lives in Decorah, is providing his expertise in this area. He has years of experience at the Porter House Museum in Decorah. There are things relating to the railroad in Calmar, Calmar businesses and schools, and some scrapbooks for browsing that cover the World War II time period and have all the news from this area. There are several books by local authors for sale.

Whistlestop Antiques is also housed in the building, with Mary and Tom Welch providing guidance for travelers or those that just want to see the old Depot. IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE MUSEUM AREA RELATED TO CALMAR OR THE RAILROAD, stop by and talk with Mary or contact her at 563 562-4077. You can also share a story with her about your memories of the railroad or using the train in Calmar.



### **CALMAR LION'S PARK SCHEDULE 2014**



May 24, 2015 Graduation Party  
June 21, 2015 Calmar Fireman's Picnic  
Jun 7, 2015 Private Party

**Calmar parks close at 10:00 P.M.**

City of Calmar

P.O. Box 268

Calmar, IA 52132

## Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 8:00 A.M.— Noon



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. The dumpster will be removed at 1:00 P.M.

**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 each.** Washing machines, clothes dryers, water heaters, furnaces, refrigerators, trash compactors, stoves, microwave ovens, freezers, humidifiers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, televisions, computer monitors, computers, printers (questions about other items call)

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. **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 2015" 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.*