

April 2024

Calumet News...

Spring was here... and now a touch of winter has returned. But we know it's temporary. It must be, after the winter we've had...right? As always, at this time of the year, please slow down and be a bit more watchful when driving. The weather is warming up and the daylight lasts longer, so kids are out and about, sometimes playing on streets that are more dry, rather than on wet grass and muddy dirt. Also, when spring arrives, it's time to do our annual "spring cleaning things" around town. With that in mind, here are a few reminders to help keep our great little city clean, neat, safe, and great for families!

1. **HYDRANT FLUSHING...**will take place, probably in late May. Please make sure the city guys...Bob & Bill...have access to the hydrants in your area and your cars are safely moved. After a nearby hydrant has been flushed, there may be some discoloration so please let your water run until it clears. When the time is nearer, we'll post notices at the village hall & post office
2. **DOGS...**Please be courteous by keeping pets out of the playground areas in town so they remain free and clear of animal "droppings". Also, if you walk your dogs on the bike trail or around town, or even have them tied up and doing their thing in your yard, please be considerate of others by making sure you "scoop the poop"...and dispose of it in your home trash. .And speaking of pets, **all dogs in Calumet are required to be licensed**. Licenses are free from the city clerk, with proof of vaccinations and are good for the life of the vaccinations...health and safety are most important! We also have a leash law which states dogs, if outside, are to be kenneled or on a leash. There have been **MANY** complaints recently about the number and frequency of barking dogs in town. Please be considerate of others in your neighborhood by doing all you can to control the barking. I know of folks who have resorted to buying a "bark" collar for their dogs and report that they work well. If all else fails and a nearby dog owner doesn't listen to reason, a 9-1-1 call to the sheriff's department is your next best remedy. 5 minutes of steady barking is all that is allowed. Anything more than that and you're at risk of being paid a visit by an officer. And always – always – always, quiet time is between 10pm and 7 am. If you have dogs at your residence, please be respectful of your neighbors...they will appreciate it. Many of us are dog lovers, but not lovers of barking dogs. Thank you!
3. **BAGS...**Three years ago, we started a new "**Bagging Program**" in Calumet...and this year we will continue the program. It works like this. Yard waste (leaves, twigs, small branches, grass clippings, etc.) is put, by the homeowner, into large, heavy duty, environmentally-friendly yard clean-up bags. The city workers then pick up the bags, which have been placed by your curb for easy pick up and dispose of them. Each Calumet household can get 5 free bags from the city clerk or library; after that the cost is \$1 per bag. If you have questions, April in the clerk's office has the answers! FYI: similar bags are also sold at Menards and in other local stores. They work just as well and naturally; you can buy them there for less than a buck a bag.
4. **BLIGHT...**Please do whatever is necessary to keep your property looking decent. The city and the Nashwauk Police Department will be doing regular blight checks this spring and throughout the year, so if you happen to get a notice or get paid a visit, please do what you must do to take care of the problem. Unlicensed and non-operable vehicles are always a big issue this time of the

year. Remember, if vehicles on your property are unlicensed and/or non-running, they are considered blight and will be treated as such. Unmowed grass and piles of trash in your yard or around your house are also attention getters. It's easy to stay on the "good side" of the blight ordinance, with a little effort.

5. **BURN PILE...**Our city burn/yard waste pile is for brush, yard waste, and scrap wood or lumber, to be used by Calumet residents **ONLY**. No dumping of any other kind is allowed. If you see someone breaking the rules, please report them to one of the city employees, the city clerk, or to the sheriff's department. Thank you to everyone for your help in allowing this convenience to remain open. It truly is one of the small-town benefits of living in Calumet.
6. **SEWER...**The next item is my usual reminder about flushing bad things down your toilet or putting them in sewer drains. Our lift station pumps recently had to be pulled and cleaned, yet again. **This is a reminder for everyone that "FLUSHABLE" wipes and "DISPOSABLE" diapers and undergarments and feminine supplies are just that...DISPOSABLE...but only in the trash, not in our sewers! The only things that should be flushed are bodily fluids or wastes and the associated toilet paper.**
7. **FIREWORKS...**I'm sure everyone is aware that most exploding or airborne fireworks are illegal in the state of Minnesota. That means they're also illegal in Calumet. Recently, there seems to be an over-abundance of misuse by residents or visitors in our city. In addition to many folks who do not do well with the extra explosions, there are also family pets who don't handle them well. Please be considerate of others. Enjoy your fireworks someplace other than in town.
8. **FIRE PITS...**Having and enjoying a backyard fire pit in town is not illegal and is actually one of the benefits of "living small"; burning trash or garbage in that firepit is, however, against state law. Like the above mention about fireworks, please be considerate of others in your area and obey the law. Waste Management or the local landfills/transfer stations are a much better option for getting rid of your garbage, and believe me, everyone will be happier about it!
9. **YOUR SEWER AND WATER BILL...**is now \$90 a month and has been since January 1st, 2024. We had to raise the rates entering the new year to cover the shortfall in our utility budget. If you've been underpaying, please take care of your balance in the clerk's office, Thank you.
10. **CONSTRUCTION...**If you're still with me, I've saved some of the best news until now. Some of you are probably aware that Gary Street in Calumet is actually County Road 84. North of Highway 169, it runs up to 2nd Avenue, then east to Morgan Street, then south again to the highway. A couple years ago, Itasca County told us they wanted to update the route through Calumet. It has taken some time, along with extensive engineering, but work should start on the project in early June. It will entail new sewer and water infrastructure under Gary Street, new sidewalks, new lighting, and new pavement on the street. All this doesn't come cheap. The city portion of the bill is nearly a half million dollars, and the county portion is more than that. We have secured a grant from IRRR to help with the cost and are busy looking for more financial help. The project should be completed by the end of summer and with due diligence, good planning, and a bit of luck, should not be an unbearable tax burden on any of us. Fingers are crossed that the weather cooperates and all goes according to plan!

LIBRARY EVENTS

1. The annual “**Tea at Two**” fundraiser is happening on **Saturday, Aprils 6th at 2PM**. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for kids to attend the party.
2. **April 29th...May Day Cookies**. Come and have some fun and decorate May Day flower cookies! Decorate 12 cookies to bring home...and so much more! Register at <https://homebakedontherange.com/.../may-day-cookie...> or talk to Melanie for more info.
3. May 17th & 18th...Greenway Community Sales from Calumet to Coleraine. Call Melanie to sign up.
4. May 20th at noon...Authors in Conversation: Jess Lourey, Kristi Belcamino, and Sarah Stonich.

You can get more information about any of these events, along with others, by calling Melanie at 247-3108 or visiting the library to get your questions answered. Please leave a message if no one answers.

Here's another advance reminder: The 3rd Annual **Kids and Cars in the Park** is coming up on Saturday, August 24th from 9am until the end. Stand by...more information will be forthcoming!.

Our city council meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the council chambers located in the Calumet Village Hall. Please feel free to attend. The meeting this month will be on April 16th at 2PM. The monthly meetings are the best opportunity to have a conversation with all 5 councilmembers. (Well, actually 4 this month because we are presently short one. Thank you to retired councilor John Vaudrin for the time and energy you put into serving everyone in Calumet. It was appreciated!)

And that's all for this month. I know the newsletter is a little more lengthy than usual, but it seemed like there was a lot of information to pass along. Remember, as I always say, whether you're a homeowner, landlord, renter, or snowbird... " Please show your pride of Calumet – we all live here!" ...and have a great spring and summer!

PS If you are reading this newsletter and you're a landlord in Calumet, would you please see that your renters either get a copy or are aware of everything we've mentioned? We do not have mailing addresses for everyone who is renting; landlords (property owners) are our connection and are ultimately responsible for seeing that our ordinances and rules are understood and followed. If you need more copies, April in the city clerk's office can help you out. Thank you for your cooperation.