



# CITY NEWS



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A Newsletter of the City of Dubuque

May/June 2008

## The Winter of 2007-2008: We Made it Through!

By Michael Van Milligen, City Manager

The winter of 2007-2008 will be remembered for many years to come. It was a long one and it made the arrival of spring all the more rejuvenating.

I want to personally thank the residents of Dubuque for their patience in dealing with the record-breaking snowfall and icy conditions of the past winter. In addition to frequent and substantial snowstorms, the six ice storms we received created especially challenging conditions for the City's street maintenance crews. I



realize that street conditions were less than optimal for some residents and I appreciate your patience as City staff did their best to keep up with what Mother Nature dished out.



(Dec. 26 - Jan. 4). These employees sacrificed time with their families over the holidays to allow others to be able to get where they needed to go. Many people may not realize that most of these employees are unable to take vacations from November to April every year due to their snow and ice control responsibilities.

### 2007-2008 Winter Stats

#### Records Broken

Total Snowfall: 76.2"  
(Previous record: 75.7" in 1961-62)

February Snowfall: 32.5"  
(Previous record: 25.1" in 1975)

Monthly Precipitation (rain and ice): 4.61" in December  
(Previous record: 4.14" in 1982)

#### Additional Factoids:

Average annual salt usage: 6,831 tons  
2007-08 salt usage: 12,211 tons,  
Record: 12,503 tons in 2000-01

Days of school cancelled: 9

Days of measurable snow: 40

Days of snow, sleet or rain:  
December = 16  
January = 17  
February = 21  
54 days out of 91 days!

I also want to express my gratitude for the commitment and performance of the City employees who are responsible for snow and ice control, particularly our Public Works employees. These crews are responsible for clearing 307 miles of city streets after each snow event and I am proud of the effort they put forth over the past winter.

Under the direction of Public Works Director Don Vogt and Streets and Sewer Maintenance Supervisor John Klosterman, the City's plow drivers, equipment operators, and support staff rose to the occasion throughout the snowiest winter on record.

Public Works staff worked nearly 11,000 hours of overtime from Nov. 1 through April 1! Opposite shift crews worked 77 12-hour days, including 25 consecutive days in December (Dec. 1-24), had Christmas Day off, and then worked 10 more consecutive days of 12 hour shifts

As the memories of winter fade into spring days, I hope you have a great summer and find time to enjoy the many festivals and activities Dubuque offers. I certainly know that the City employees are ready for spring. ■

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THE CITY OF  
**DUBUQUE**  
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

## Curbside Food Scrap Recycling

For just 50 cents per month, you can recycle your food scraps and compostable paper through co-collection with Dubuque's yard waste collection program, the first such program in Iowa! Subscribers receive a 12-gallon GreenCart for use on your regular weekly collection day and a 2-gallon "kitchen catcher" for in-house collection. The GreenCarts will be collected through the last full week in November. This program diverts material from our landfill and produces beneficial compost. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 589-4250 or e-mail [publicworks@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:publicworks@cityofdubuque.org). ■



## Healthy Swimming Pools

During the 2007 swimming pool season there was a cryptosporidium (crypto) outbreak in Dubuque County that impacted Flora and Sutton Swimming Pool operations. There were similar outbreaks in Iowa, and nationally, that created challenges for public pools that may have been infected by a pool patron who transmitted the parasite. Crypto symptoms include diarrhea, nausea, abdominal cramping that may last as long as a couple of weeks and the infected individual probably was infected by swimming in a river, pond or untreated backyard pool. Public pools are not the source of this parasite, which is chlorine resistant, but may become infected because of an ill patron coming to the pool.

The crypto parasite can be killed by a process called hyper chlorination, which is a 14-hour minimum procedure, but prevents pool usage during this time because of the elevated chlorine levels. During this upcoming summer, Flora and Sutton Pools will perform the hyper chlorination process every two weeks as a precautionary procedure.

In addition, Flora and Sutton water playground wading pools will have an ultraviolet (UV) light

disinfection system as part of the pool recirculation system. This completely contained UV system will kill the crypto parasite and others such as giardia, as the pool water flows through the unit every two hours.

Even with this equipment upgrade and change in procedures, the City is asking pool patrons to assist staff in combating the spread of this parasite by following these guidelines:

- shower before swimming;
- wash hands after visiting the restroom or changing diapers;
- diapers must be changed in the locker rooms, not poolside;
- take children on bathroom breaks and change diapers often;
- individuals with diarrhea, abdominal/stomach cramps or nausea should not visit the pools; and
- do not swallow pool water – the crypto parasite must be ingested to be spread.

These changes in operational and pool patron procedures will help prevent recreation water illnesses from occurring in public pools this summer. ■

## Backyard Pool Safety Requirements

To help prevent drownings and other swimming pool injuries, the City of Dubuque has an ordinance which requires barriers or fencing around private swimming pools.

The ordinance defines a "swimming pool" as any constructed or prefabricated pool over 18 inches in depth used for swimming, bathing, or wading. Unless the pool is a prefabricated pool less than 24 inches deep, residents must obtain a pool permit from the City of Dubuque Building Services Department.

All pools over 18 inches deep must meet the following fencing requirements, even if they are exempt from a permit:

- Fencing must be at least five feet high, completely surrounding the pool, lot or premises, with no openings larger than six inches in any dimension other than doors or gates. However, if a picket or similar fence is erected, the horizontal dimension of the openings, other than gates or doors, shall not exceed four inches.

- All gates or doors into the pool area shall be equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices designed to keep the gate or door securely closed and latched at all times when not in actual use.
- All fencing must be in place with gates when the pool is filled with water.

The location of swimming pools is also governed by the zoning ordinance of the city. For more information, please call the City of Dubuque Building Services Department at 589-4150 or e-mail [building@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:building@cityofdubuque.org). ■

# Northwest Airlines Returns to Airport

The Dubuque Regional Airport Commission, airport management and City of Dubuque are pleased to announce that Northwest Airlines will begin providing two, daily, non-stop flights from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Dubuque on June 20, 2008.

"We're really happy to offer this service to our passengers," said Dubuque Regional Airport

Manager Robert Grierson. "With the City of Dubuque, Dubuque County, Dubuque Chamber, and the business community all placing air service as a top priority, it's a pleasure to have Northwest back after a five year hiatus."



Northwest Airlines is one of the world's largest airlines with hubs at Detroit, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Memphis, Tokyo and Amsterdam, and approximately 1,400 daily departures. Northwest is a member

of SkyTeam, an airline alliance that offers customers one of the world's most extensive global networks. Northwest and its travel partners

serve more than 1,000 cities in excess of 160 countries on six continents.

For more information, contact the Dubuque Regional Airport at 589-4128 or visit [www.flydbq.com](http://www.flydbq.com). ■



## Celebration Scheduled

Dubuque's 175th Anniversary Celebration will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight on **Saturday, May 31**, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on **Sunday, June 1**, at the Alliant Amphitheater in the Port of Dubuque. Music, food, and fun are being planned for all ages with Saturday night's event being more adult-oriented with bands, food and beverages while Sunday's events are more family oriented with the inclusion of kids activities. Admission is free for both days. For more information on this and other anniversary-related events, visit [www.dubuque175.org](http://www.dubuque175.org). ■



**June 13 - 15, 2008**

Mark your calendar for three fun-filled days of activities at the Port of Dubuque!

Musical entertainment will include country music superstar Kellie Pickler (Friday evening) and the ever-popular Little Big Town (Saturday evening). Attendees will also enjoy food, Dock Dogs, children's activities, a Nintendo Wii tournament, arm wrestling, motocross racing, monster truck rides and more!

Free admission to festival grounds all weekend. (Does NOT include concert area or beer garden.) Concert tickets are available through Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 866.448.7849), the Five Flags Box Office, or on-site at the festival. ■

## Pay As You Throw: Sustainable Refuse Options

Dubuque's "Pay As You Throw" refuse collection choices are designed to give customers more control over the cost of their solid waste management through a financial incentive to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Initiated in 2002, this award-winning program helps our community waste less, recycle more, conserve energy and combat global climate change.

The base monthly fee of \$9.89 covers the cost of the weekly collection of one 35-gallon rigid container or one 35-gallon trash bag and all recycling bins.

Some customers may need other options for additional refuse disposal:

- The most popular option is to use a \$1.20 green garbage sticker for an occasional excess refuse item, bag or container.
- Another option is to subscribe to a second 35-gallon container (green decal) through Utility Billing at 589-4144 for an extra \$5.00 per month.
- A third option is to subscribe to a blue decal for your oversize container of up to 50-gallons to both store and roll out trash bags for weekly setout. Cost: \$11.89 per month. Crews will not lift and dump these oversize containers, but will pick out up to three large trash bags contained inside - each weighing up to 40 pounds. No loose trash is allowed. Subscribe through Utility Billing by calling 589-4144.
- Customers may also subscribe to City-owned wheeled carts. The 64-gallon carts may contain up to 224 pounds of refuse for \$18.50 per month. The 96-gallon carts may contain up to 335 pounds for \$27.00 per month. These carts are lifted and emptied mechanically and have been most popular at rental properties. They can be more cost effective and also improve the aesthetics and sanitation of the neighborhood. For further information or a subscription, call the Public Works Department at 589-4250. ■

## Free Rides to Recreation & Library Activities

KeyLine Transit is again offering FREE bus transportation this summer to Recreation Division and Carnegie-Stout Public Library activities. The "Free Way to Fun City" allows season swim pass tag holders (purchased at the Leisure Services Department) a free bus ride when traveling directly to or from Flora and Sutton Pools. Individuals registering for any Recreation Division or Library program may request a "Free Way to Fun City" identification card which allows children to ride the KeyLine bus to the program site at no cost. For additional information, call KeyLine at 589-4196. ■



## New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

**Jonathon Beers**  
Police Department

**Helena Calvert**  
Emergency Communications

**Chad Crabill**  
Police Department

**Mary Downs**  
Police Department

**Kevin Hirsch**  
Housing & Community Dev.

**Eric Kremer**  
Water Pollution Control

**Brian Pregler**  
Police Department

**Ryan Scherrman**  
Police Department

**Cory Tuegel**  
Police Department

**Richard Zeller**  
Housing & Community Dev.

## Retirements

Congratulations to this employee who recently retired from the City of Dubuque:

**Duane Tracy**  
Parking Division

### Contact Information

The City of Dubuque welcomes comments and suggestions about your city government or news appearing in this newsletter. Please contact:

City Manager's Office  
50 W. 13th Street  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-4864  
(563) 589-4110 phone  
(563) 589-4149 fax  
ctymgr@cityofdubuque.org

### Editorial Information

Editor: Randy Gehl, Public Info. Officer  
City News is inserted in the City of Dubuque utility bills six times per year. For the most up-to-date City news and events, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org).



## Calendar

### May

1      Swim Passes are available for purchase from Leisure Services  
3      Dubuque Symphony Orchestra Concert "Broadway Favorites," 7:30 PM, Five Flags Theater  
8      Musical Comedians Comedy Tour, 8 PM, Five Flags Theater  
10     Nature Day for Kids: All About Spring, 10:30 AM - Noon, EB Lyons Center. FREE  
10-11   Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey present "The Greatest Show on Earth," 11:30 AM, 2:30 PM, & 7 PM on Saturday & 11:30 AM and 3:30 PM on Sunday, Five Flags Arena  
17     All the Way Home: The Tri-State Veterans Conference, 9 AM - 4 PM, Five Flags Arena  
17     Nature Day for Kids: Archeology, 10:30 AM - Noon, EB Lyons Center. FREE  
24     Flora and Sutton Pools open.  
24     Nature Day for Kids: BIRDS!, 10:30 AM - Noon, EB Lyons Center. FREE  
30     Greg Brown Concert, 7:30 PM, Five Flags Theater  
30-31   Fly-By-Night Productions presents "Bright Ideas," 8 PM, Five Flags Bijou Room  
31     Nature Day for Kids: Scavenger Hunt, 10:30 AM - Noon, EB Lyons Center. FREE  
31     175th Anniversary Celebration, 7 PM - midnight, Alliant Amphitheater, Port of Dubuque. FREE

### June

1      175th Anniversary Celebration, 11 AM - 5 PM, Alliant Amphitheater, Port of Dubuque. FREE  
1      X-Treme Dance, 4 PM, Five Flags Theater  
1, 6-8   Fly-By-Night Productions presents "Bright Ideas," 8 PM on Friday & Saturday, 2 PM on Sundays, Five Flags Bijou Room  
7      Nature Day for Kids: Reptile Romp, 10:30 AM - Noon, EB Lyons Center. FREE  
13-15   America's River Festival, Port of Dubuque  
14     Corn Cob Nationals Wrestling Tourn., doors open at 9 AM, Five Flags Arena  
14     Nature Day for Kids: Father/Child Program - Creek Stompin', 10:30 AM - Noon, E.B. Lyons Center. FREE  
21     American Breweriana Swap Meet, 10 AM - 2:30 PM, Five Flags Arena  
21     Nature Day for Kids: It's Finally Summer!, 10:30 AM - Noon, EB Lyons Center. FREE  
28     Nature Day for Kids: Habitat, habitat, a forest is a habitat!, 10:30 AM - Noon, EB Lyons Center. FREE

*This calendar is subject to change.*

- Five Flags: 589-4258, [fiveflagscenter.com](http://fiveflagscenter.com)
- E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, Mines of Spain: 556-0620, [minesofspain.org](http://minesofspain.org)