



CITY NEWS



Volume 6, Issue 1

A Newsletter of the City of Dubuque

January/February 2008

Human Rights - Accessibility

There is a new organization in Dubuque called Proudly Accessible Dubuque. Its purpose is:

- To build awareness and educate the public regarding accessibility;
- To clear up misconceptions surrounding accessibility;
- To encourage businesses to comply with current accessibility laws; and
- To encourage people with disabilities and their supporters to communicate with local businesses.



The idea for Proudly Accessible Dubuque started a few years ago at the Dubuque Human Rights Commission. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) called for changes in both new AND existing buildings. We need to get the word out explaining how, why and when these changes need to happen. It is also part of the Dubuque City Council's 2007-2009 Management Agenda.

The first task of the group is to educate about related laws. Two sets of laws cover new construction, the ADA requirements and Building Code. Building Code deals primarily with new construction and alterations, leaving existing buildings alone, or "grandfathered in."

The ADA has rules for both new and existing facilities. ADA does make a clear distinction between new construction and existing facilities.

The ADA's rules for new construction and renovations are very specific. However, rules for existing facilities are more flexible. ADA says existing businesses need to make "readily achievable" changes to remove their "accessibility barriers."

Proudly Accessible Dubuque helps translate "ADA-speak" into common sense language, showing businesses reasonable, practical, cost-effective solutions to comply with ADA. Many solutions are as simple as putting up a sign, changing a doorknob, building a ramp, or adding a grab bar. Even here in Dubuque, the land of hills and history, a little creativity can overcome accessibility challenges. When situations call for larger solutions, there is more help. First, if the cost of the solution is more than \$250, tax credits may be applicable -- up to 50 percent in most cases. Second, a business could use a Proudly Accessible Dubuque Community Loan. These are five-year, six percent loans made possible by Premier Bank. Third, in 2008, Proudly Accessible Dubuque will work to partner and sponsor various grants to help businesses with their accessibility improvements.

Creating more welcoming, more inclusive places is the right thing to do. It is also good business! In Dubuque County alone, there are nearly 7,000 working-age adults who have a disability. If a business wants to target a market, consider that over one in five Americans, approximately 54 million people, have a disability making it the largest minority group in the nation.

Proudly Accessible Dubuque's website (www.ProudlyAccessibleDubuque.com) has sections for businesses and the

disabled community. A Proudly Accessible Dubuque business will have a special listing on our website, use of our logo in their advertising, and a Proudly Accessible Dubuque window cling for display. Regular media events featuring Proudly Accessible Dubuque businesses are planned to thank the group's partners, the City of Dubuque, the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, Dubuque Main Street, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, and Premier Bank.

Everyday we have opportunities to make our community more welcoming and accessible to all of our citizens and visitors. Proudly Accessible Dubuque is here to help make Dubuque more accessible because access is everything.

For more information, contact Katrina Wilberding, human rights commissioner and volunteer executive director of Proudly Accessible Dubuque, at 563-580-7357. ■

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THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

Leisure Services January – February Activities

Teen Basketball/Youth Open Gym for grades 6-10 will be played at Washington Middle School on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:15 p.m. Admission is \$1 per person; bring your own basketball.

Family Volleyball will be played at Roosevelt Middle School on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:15 p.m. Admission is \$1 per person; bring your own volleyball.

Baby Boomer Basketball will be played at Washington Middle School on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Admission is \$1 per person; bring your own basketball.

Family Basketball will be played at Roosevelt Middle School on Friday evenings from 7:15-9:30 p.m. Admission is \$1 per person; bring your own basketball.

Uptown Recreation Program & Weekend Open Gyms

Get the family out of the house and participate at one of the selected elementary school gymnasiums that will be available for use by Dubuque citizens through the end of March. Times are available for children's activities from third grade thru high school as well as time periods for adults. No fee or advance registration is required.

The open gym schedule includes Friday, Saturday, and Sunday hours at Audobon, Lincoln, and Prescott Schools. Please check the Recreation Division section of www.cityofdubuque.org for a detailed list of times and activities or call 589-4263 during business hours.

Pavilion reservations and private pool parties for the 2008 season will begin on Wednesday, January 2, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. Payment is required at the time the reservation is made.

The Leisure Services Winter/Spring 2008 brochure will be released on Wednesday, January 2. View our brochure and register online at <http://dbqparkrec.recware.com>. ■

City Awarded Trail Grant

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has awarded the City of Dubuque \$200,000 for the construction of the Trolley Line Trail in Eagle Point Park.

The 10-foot wide, paved, off-road, bike/hike trail will follow the old trolley roadbed, using the existing grade of the abandoned trolley line from Shiras Avenue north of the Ham House museum site to the turnaround on the main entrance road to the park. The trail will provide an off-road alternative to the main entrance road into the park and will not be as steep as the main entrance road.

The estimated cost for the Trolley Line Trail is \$200,000 and construction is planned for 2008. ■

Winter Farmers' Market

**Saturdays, 9 a.m. to Noon,
November 3 - April 26
1044 Iowa Street**

Support our local sustainability by purchasing locally grown produce and meats, baked goods, and more...



Don't you wish they could be back

more than just

Home for the holidays?

Do you have friends or family that you'd like to have **home for more than just the holidays?** Tell them to visit AccessDubuqueJobs.com to view current career opportunities and to request information on the Greater Dubuque area!

Access Dubuque
jobs.com

ACCESSDUBUQUEJOBS.COM IS
THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORT OF:

Greater Dubuque

TH

It's a good read!

IOWA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

DUBUQUE
MEDIA COMMUNITY

Help Keep Dubuque Clean & Green!

A new local organization has been formed for people interested in helping keep Dubuque "clean and green." The Keep Dubuque County Clean & Green (KDCCG) citizens group is an affiliate of Keep Iowa Beautiful. The group is focusing on litter and illegal dumping prevention and enforcement, waste reduction, and community beautification in the urban and rural areas of Dubuque county. KDCCG is made up of representatives from several city and county agencies and civic groups, as well as individuals interested in community improvement and environmental stewardship. The group meets on a monthly basis and is currently developing a detailed, multi-year action plan.

For more information on Keep Dubuque County Clean and Green, call the DMASWA Education Office at 588-7933. Related information is also available at www.keepiowabeautiful.com.

What can you do to prevent littering and illegal dumping? KDCCG offers these suggestions:

1. Don't do it. Set a good example for others, especially children.
2. Place a litterbag in your car.
3. Securely fasten trashcan lids. Don't overfill your cans or place loose trash in open containers.
4. Tie-up loose papers, put them in paper grocery bags, or weigh them down with cans or bottles before setting your recycling bin at the curb for pickup.
5. At a business, regularly ensure dumpsters are closed.
6. Volunteer to pick up litter along a roadside, street, waterway, or in a park or playground.
7. Report illegal dumping in the city of Dubuque by calling 589-4345.
8. Report illegal dumping or littering from vehicles you see anywhere in Iowa by calling the toll-free 1-888-NO-LITTR hotline.
9. Get the word out by telling others you are offended by littering.
10. Volunteer to help organize or participate in a community cleanup.



CITY MANAGER'S COLUMN

by Michael C. Van Milligen

I am pleased to report that the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the City of Dubuque the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the City's budget for the second consecutive year. A Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation was presented to Budget Director Jennifer Larson.

Earlier this year, the GFOA awarded the City a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the City's comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006. This certificate was presented to Finance Director Ken TeKippe and is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This is the 19th consecutive year Dubuque has received this recognition.

As we work on the recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009), I encourage you to attend a public hearing (see schedule below), or visit the City website (www.cityofdubuque.org) to learn more about the process. ■

Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Public Hearing Schedule

The City Manager will present his budget transmittal message and the FY 2009 recommended budget document to the City Council at their regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, January 22**.

The budget process continues as City staff from each City department and division present budget information to the City Council at a series of public hearings.

The public is invited to attend and provide input at the following public hearings:

Monday, February 11
Wednesday, February 13
Saturday, February 23
Tuesday, March 4
Wednesday, March 5

All budget hearings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the Historic Federal

Building at 350 W. 6th Street. These meetings are also aired live on CityChannel 8 on the Mediacom cable system.

The City Council will hold a final public hearing to adopt the FY 2009 Budget on **Thursday, March 13**.

For a detailed schedule of which departments will present at each hearing, visit www.cityofdubuque.org or call 589-4322. ■

Fair Housing is Your Right!

Fair housing means that no one should be taking your race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or the fact that children will live with you into account in deciding whether to rent or sell you a home. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in exercising your housing rights, contact the Dubuque Human Rights Commission at 589-4190 or 589-4193 (TTY).



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Erin Brady
Library

Rebecca Nyheim
Library

Thomas Chase
Airport

Michelle Oberhoffer
Library

Andrew Finke
Water Pollution Control

Tierra Person
Library

Stacie Hoppman
Library

Patrick Sullivan
Library

Richard Kapparos
Emergency Communications

Dawn Young
Police Department

Christian Kloft
Public Works

Emily Weiland
City Manager's Office

Richard Lewitzke
Transit Division

Ricardo Woods
Transit Division

Retirements

Congratulations to these employees who recently retired from the City of Dubuque:

William Davis
Police

Patricia Ostrander
Finance

Joseph Hallahan
Water

Contact Information

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

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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.

THE CITY OF
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Masterpiece on the Mississippi

Calendar

January

1 City offices closed. Refuse and recycling collection will be on Saturday, Dec. 29

4-5 Championship Bull Riding, 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Arena

7-18 City's Merry Mulch Christmas Tree Recycling Program and Yard Waste Collection. Call 589-4250 for details.

11 Nick Lullo presents: "Laugh Tour 2008!" 8 p.m., Five Flags Theater

13 Mines of Spain Program: Dream Catchers, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE

15-16 Iowa Special Olympics, Five Flags Arena (all-day event)

18-20, **25-27** Fly-By-Night Productions presents "Lobster Alice," 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays, Five Flags Bijou Room

19 Bald Eagle Watch Day, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Grand River Center. FREE

26-27 Iowa Winter Games (all-day event)

27 Mines of Spain Program: Paddlefish of the Upper Mississippi River, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE

February

2-3 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra presents "Classics III: Mendelssohn & Ellington," 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday, Five Flags Theater

9 American Trust/Wendy's Men's Basketball Classic (all-day event)

10 Mines of Spain Program: Walleye Tracking, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE

24 Mines of Spain Program: Indians of the Upper Mississippi River, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE

This calendar is subject to change. For more information on Five Flags events, call 589-4258 or visit www.fiveflagscenter.com. For more information on Mines of Spain events, call 556-0620 or visit www.minesofspain.org



www.dubuque175.org