

# CITYnews

VOL. 8 ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL 2010



## Census 2010: It's In Our Hands

### Counting Everyone Once — and Only Once — and In the Right Place

In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress.

The census also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local,

state, and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the 2010 Census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about our public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services, and much more, right here in Dubuque.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

## IN THIS ISSUE

**| 2 |** Water Meter Project Update  
Arts Grant Applications  
Dog & Cat License Renewals  
Yard Waste Collection Resumes  
Leisure Services News

**| 3 |** City Manager's Message

**| 4 |** Incentives for Home Buyers  
New Faces & Retirements  
City Expo 2010 on April 13  
Home Improvement Projects  
Calendar

law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential.

For more information, visit the 2010 Census web site at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov), or our local web site at [www.cityofdubuque.org/census](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/census). §

*"Just like we can't survive without roads and bridges, the country doesn't function well without an updated census to distribute funds to areas that most need them and to support community decisions about their own future."*

— Robert M. Groves, Director of the United States Census Bureau

## United States® Census 2010

### What you need to know

#### March 2010

Census forms are mailed or delivered to households. The form contains 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to fill out. The census DOES NOT ask about the legal status of respondents or their Social Security numbers.

#### April 1, 2010

National Census Day—use this day as a point of reference for sending your completed forms back in the mail.

#### April - July 2010

Census takers visit households that did not return a form by mail.

#### December 2010

By law, the Census Bureau delivers population information to the President for review and determining the number of Congressional representatives.

### Reaching an Increasingly Diverse Population

The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. To help ensure the nation's increasingly diverse population can answer the questionnaire accurately and completely, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Additionally, questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Russian will be available on request.

### 10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. 2010 Census questionnaires are required by

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

# Water Meter Replacement Project Update

Water meter replacements began in early February as implementation of the City's Water Meter Replacement Project started. The meters will be installed by geographic territories over the next 18 months. Each water customer will receive a notification letter when it is time for them to schedule an installation appointment.

Installation appointments will be scheduled in two-hour "windows" of time. Installers will require access to the water meter inside the home or business. Each installation will take approximately 60 minutes. Water service will be interrupted at each location while the meter is replaced, but customers can use water as soon as the install is completed. There is no charge for installation and this system does not increase the cost of water service. It features Automatic Meter Reading (AMR), which is designed to help control costs by increasing meter reading accuracy and efficiency.

As part of this project, the City will soon convert monthly billing units for water and sewer consumption from cubic feet to gallons. This change will provide more information to customers on their usage patterns.

A website with additional project details is available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/watermeters](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/watermeters). §

## Pet License Renewals

Since the City now contracts with PetData, pet licenses are renewed annually on the date of first purchase of a license for a particular dog or cat. PetData will send a renewal notice approximately one month before it expires. Not all of your dogs or cats may have the same renewal dates, so you'll need to keep track of this. You may purchase licenses on-line with a credit and/or debit card as long as the rabies vaccination is up-to-date and the correct information is in the database, or you may mail the license renewal payment in with the renewal form sent to you. For more information, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/petlicensing](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/petlicensing) or contact the Health Services Department at 589-4181. §

## Apply Now for Arts Grants

Since 2005, the City of Dubuque has provided over \$1 million in support of Dubuque arts and cultural groups through the Special Projects Grants and also Operating Support Grants. Applications for a new cycle of funding are now available. Visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/grants](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/grants) for applications and to see past recipients and their projects. For more information call the Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator at 690-6064 or email [janstoff@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:janstoff@cityofdubuque.org). §

## 3<sup>rd</sup> annual GROWING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

**sustainability:**  
a tool for community and economic development

conference workshops will focus on the following sustainability principles:

regional economy

healthy local food

community knowledge

green buildings

Spend the day exploring how your community can grow and prosper using sustainability principles. Learn from industry professionals, attend workshops, share ideas, and enjoy a lunch of local/fair trade food.

**Tuesday, March 9 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Grand River Center | Port of Dubuque**

Cost is \$20 per person, which features a local food/fair trade lunch. To register and for more information, visit [www.sustainabledubuque.org](http://www.sustainabledubuque.org), or call 589.4110.

Registration is required by March 1, 2010. A limited number of student scholarships waiving the registration fee are also available.

**keynote speaker:**

Richard Swett –  
CEO, Climate Prosperity  
Enterprise Solutions

## Yard Waste Collection Resumes April 5

Seasonal yard waste and food scrap collection for current subscribers starts Monday, April 5. For more information, call Public Works at 589-4250 or visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/publicworks](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/publicworks).

## LEISURE SERVICES news & events

**Open Gyms** - Grades 3-5 (includes games, basketball, kickball, dodgeball, crafts, and more), grades 6-8, and high school through adults (open gyms) held at Prescott, Audubon, and Lincoln, on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through March 28. Call Leisure Services or check the website for details.

**Youth Basketball Open Gym** - Grades 6-10 held on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:15 at Washington through March 22. \$1 per person, bring your own basketball.

**Adult Volleyball Open Gyms** - Monday evenings from 7:00-9:15 at Roosevelt through March 15. \$1 per person, bring your own volleyball.

**Family Basketball Open Gyms** - Friday evenings from 7:15-9:30 at Roosevelt through March 26. \$1 per person, bring your own basketball.

**American Red Cross Lifeguarding Class** - Ages 15 and over. March 11-13. Includes certifications for Lifeguarding, First-Aid, and CPR for the Professional Rescuer. Cost is \$90.00 and class size is limited. Contact Leisure Services for times.

For additional details, schedules, and a complete listing of activities, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation) or call Leisure Services at 589-4263. §



# A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

— Michael C. Van Milligen

## NEW POLICE CHIEF NAMED

At their Feb. 1, 2010, meeting, the Dubuque City Council approved my recommendation to make Dubuque Police Captain Mark Dalsing the next chief of police for the City of Dubuque. He replaces former Police Chief Kim Wadding who retired in June 2009.

Chief Dalsing has the attitude, work ethic, knowledge, and leadership qualities that will continue to make the Dubuque Police Department one of the finest in the country. It was an honor for me to recommend him as the next Dubuque Chief of Police.

Chief Dalsing is a 20-year veteran of the Dubuque Police Department and holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He



Mark Dalsing

joined the department in September of 1989 and was one of the original officers assigned to Dubuque's community-oriented policing (COP) unit. Dalsing was promoted to corporal in 1999, lieutenant in 2003, and was named captain of the criminal investigation unit in 2006.

Dalsing has also worked in the patrol, investigations, narcotics, and intelligence units and has served as a field training officer and in the department's honor guard. He has participated in the department's tactical team and several research teams and served as the department's accreditation manager. He has also served on the Dubuque Police Protection Association Board and is a member of the Iowa State Police Officers Association and the Midwest Gang

Investigators Association. He is currently a member of the City's intercultural competency steering committee and has represented the City of Dubuque with numerous partner agencies including the Riverview Center, Dubuque County Sheriff's Office, Dubuque County Attorney's Office, the FBI, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

I look forward to working with Chief Dalsing. I would also like to thank Assistant Chief Terry Tobin for his service as Acting Police Chief while the search was conducted. The community owes him a debt of gratitude for how well he performed in that position, and I personally am eternally grateful to him.

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO SECTION 8 PROGRAM

As part of the Fiscal Year 2011 budget process, I am recommending some improvements to Dubuque's Section 8 program:

**1. Reduce Dubuque from 1,060 Section 8 housing vouchers to 900 vouchers.** Currently, the federal government funds three case workers for Dubuque's 1,060 Section 8 vouchers. This caseload of 354 cases per worker does not allow staff to appropriately manage their caseload. Other components of the system are also grossly understaffed for this many vouchers.

To implement this reduction, I will recommend to the Housing Commission that new applications be limited to Dubuque residents only. Applicants would get preference points for following criteria: being a Dubuque resident, aging out of foster care, or receiving residential support services.

The City of Dubuque will need to provide financial resources to accomplish this reduction because the federal government provides administrative funds to the City based on the number of Section 8

vouchers the City issues. This reduction would result in a decrease of \$99,840 in federal funds annually.

## 2. The addition of a Second Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator position.

The City currently has one Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator to help people break the cycle of poverty and move off of Section 8 by providing access to needed programs and services. She currently handles 45 cases and the "Bridges Out of Poverty" and "Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' by World" programs. With approximately 40 percent of the Section 8 program participants handicapped and elderly, that leaves hundreds of others who are in need of these services. A second employee would allow the number of Family Self-Sufficiency Program participants to reach 100 and allow the other programs to expand. Current federal rules provide that if the City handles these additional cases through January 2012, federal funding will then begin funding this additional position.

## 3. Expansion of the "Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-by World" Program.

Additional classes and program participants will be allowed. This program helps people by addressing the 11 resources needed to get ahead, including financial, mental, physical, relational, language, motivation, emotional, spiritual, social, the hidden rules and integrity.

These changes, if approved by the City Council, would create additional administrative benefits, including:

- additional time for investigation of compliance issues,
- increased frequency of inspection of non-Section 8 rentals,
- increased program oversight by the Assisted Housing Supervisor, and
- a reduced caseload for the program's one intake coordinator, and the Police Department Section 8 investigator.

Some might ask, "why not wait for further study of the Section 8 program being done by the Safe Community Task Force?" In fact, that study might identify other changes for the program, but these recommendations deal with management of the program. The City simply does not have the resources needed to manage 1,060 vouchers and I feel these changes will improve the program. Further changes or reductions will be considered. §

# Incentives for Home Buyers

Take advantage of great financial incentives including federal tax credits, downpayment assistance, and low-interest mortgages when you purchase a home in the Washington Neighborhood.

- Down Payment Assistance: \$5,000 five-year forgivable loan and 20% of purchase price (up to \$10,000) loan\* at 0% interest.
- Federal \$8,000 first-time homebuyer and \$6,500 repeat homebuyer tax credits.
- Iowa Finance Authority offers down payment and closing cost assistance up to \$2,500.



All are encouraged to inquire and apply. For more information, contact the City of Dubuque Housing and Community Development Department at 589-4239 or visit the website at [www.cityofdubuque.org/washingtonneighborhood](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/washingtonneighborhood).

## New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

**Amy Wilhelm**  
Library

**Joseph Fleckenstein**  
Parks

**Clark Egdorf**  
Police

**Nicholas Jobgen**  
Police

**Jeff McQuillen**  
Police

## Retirements

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

**Dennis HackbARTH**  
Building Services

**Mary (Molly) Weis**  
Recreation

**Paul Behnke**  
Public Works

**Gary Schroeder**  
Parks

**Pat Kutsch**  
Fire

## City Expo 2010: Everyone Counts!

The 2010 City Expo will be held on Tuesday, April 13, from 5-8 p.m. at Five Flags Arena.

### 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  
[cymgr@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:cymgr@cityofdubuque.org)



### Editorial Information

City News is published by the Public Information Office and 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).

## Home Improvement Projects

When thinking of home improvement projects for the spring, don't forget the permit!

Projects such as wood decks, patio covers, porches (repairs and replacements), roofing, siding, additions, garages, carports, sheds larger than 200 square feet, interior remodeling involving drywall, moving/building walls and replacement of windows all need a building permit.

For more information, please contact the Building Services Department at (563) 589-4150 or by email at [building@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:building@cityofdubuque.org).

## CALENDAR

### March

- 6 "Taste of the World" Multicultural Family Center Fundraiser, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Prescott Elem. School (Use Neighborhood Resource Center entrance.)
- 7 Public Ice Skating, 3-5 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 8 Human Rights Commission Mtg., 4:15 p.m., Conf. Rm. II, City Hall Annex
- 9 Public Hearing to Adopt the FY2011 Budget, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg. Growing Sustainable Communities Conference, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Grand River Center, \$20. Call 589-4110 to register.
- 11 Public Ice Skating, 2-4 p.m., Five Flags Arena Safe Community Task Force Mtg., 6:30 p.m., Prescott Elem. Community Resource Room
- 13 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra Presents: "Mozart Requiem," 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Theater
- 14 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra Presents: "Mozart Requiem" 2 p.m., Five Flags Theater
- 14 Public Ice Skating, 3-5 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 16 Housing Code Appeals Board Mtg., 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 22 Airport Commission Mtg., 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center, Airport
- 23 Housing Commission Mtg., 4 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 25 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees Mtg., 4 p.m., Library Auditorium

### April

- 2, 3 AMP Live Presents: Thunderslam Monster Truck Spectacular, 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 5 Weekly collection of yard waste and food scrap collection resumes.
- 10 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra Presents: "Tchaikovsky Romeo and Juliet Fantasy," 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Theater
- 11 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra Presents: "Tchaikovsky Romeo and Juliet Fantasy," 2:00 p.m., Five Flags Theater
- 12 Human Rights Commission Mtg., 4:15 p.m., Conference Room II, City Hall Annex, 1300 Main St.
- 13 City Expo, 5-8 p.m., Five Flags Arena, FREE
- 20 Housing Code Appeals Board Mtg., 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 22 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees Mtg., 4 p.m., Library Auditorium
- 26 Airport Commission Mtg., 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center, Airport
- 27 Housing Commission Mtg., 4 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 28 Investment Oversight Advisory Commission Mtg., 3 p.m., Conf. Rm. A, City Hall

*This calendar is subject to change.*

- Boards & Commissions: 589-4120, [cityofdubuque.org](http://cityofdubuque.org)
- Leisure Services: 589-4263, [cityofdubuque.org](http://cityofdubuque.org)
- Five Flags: 589-4258, [fiveflagscenter.com](http://fiveflagscenter.com)