



CITY NEWS

a newsletter of the City of Dubuque



Volume 4, Issue 1

January/February 2007

Dubuque Powers into U.S. Top 25 for Job Growth

Greater Dubuque's job growth rate has muscled the region into the 22nd highest spot in the United States—just ahead of Dallas, Texas, and Orlando, Florida. The rankings reflect the actual job growth rates of 387 U.S. cities between 2005 and the present.

According to information from Economy.Com, a division of Moody's, **the list is dominated by high-growth areas like Las Vegas, Austin, and Phoenix. Dubuque is the only Midwest city listed in the Top 25 rankings.**

The new information from Moody's/Economy.Com validates previous information from Iowa Workforce Development (IWD). According to IWD, Dubuque continues to rank number one and has surpassed all other Iowa

metro areas for job growth during both the past year and three-year periods.

From October 2005 to October 2006, Dubuque created 8.1 percent of Iowa's total jobs. In that same one-year period, Dubuque's job growth rate of 3.8 percent is more than double Des Moines' rate of 1.5 percent.

A three-year comparison, October 2003 to October 2006, also shows Dubuque ranked number one among Iowa's metros with a 7.4 percent job growth rate.

The Top 25 in the United States:

1. Prescott, AZ
2. St. George, UT
3. Yuma, AZ
4. Laredo, TX
5. Las Vegas, NV
6. Midland, TX

7. Cape Coral, FL
8. Morgantown, WV
9. McAllen, TX
10. Florence, SC
11. Naples, FL
12. Boise, ID
13. Phoenix, AZ
14. Coeur d'Alene, ID
15. Bend, OR
16. Reno, NV
17. Ft. Lauderdale, FL
18. Port St. Lucie, FL
19. Casper, WY
20. Brownsville, TX
21. Austin, TX
- 22. Dubuque, IA**
23. Orlando, FL
24. Dallas, TX
25. Las Cruces, NM
115. Des Moines, IA
158. Sioux City, IA
209. Ames, IA
233. Iowa City, IA
255. Davenport, IA
257. Waterloo, IA
308. Cedar Rapids, IA ■

Dubuque Named an 'Iowa Great Place'

The Iowa Great Places Citizen Advisory Board recently named Dubuque as one of its "Iowa Great Places." The announcement followed site visits to the 12 finalists of the 35 applicants for this distinction. Dubuque joins Adams County, Fairfield, Guttenberg, Jackson County, and Mason City as 2006 Iowa Great Places.

Dubuque's Great Places application featured the top 10 ideas identified through the Envision 2010 community visioning process conducted by the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and funded by the Dubuque

Racing Association. They include: America's River Phase II, Bilingual Education Curriculum, Community-wide Wireless, Community Health Center, Indoor/Outdoor Performing Arts Center, Integrated Walking/Biking/Hiking Trail System, Library Services Expansion, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Passenger Train Service, and Warehouse District Revitalization.



The application requested \$900,000 in State funds to leverage more than \$11 million in local matching funds and identified State agencies as potential partners for each of the projects. Funding decisions have not yet been finalized. ■

IN THIS ISSUE

2

Parking Violations & Snow Routes
Sidewalk Snow Removal
Rentals & Returns

3

City Manager's Column
Budget Public Hearing Schedule

4

Comprehensive Plan Update
New Faces & Retirements
Calendar of Events



Parking Violations & Snow Routes

Almost all City of Dubuque **parking violations carry an initial fine of \$15 and increase to \$20 if not paid within 30 calendar days.** Exceptions include: expired parking meter (\$7 initial fine, \$12 if not paid within 30 days), fire lane violations (\$50), disabled parking violations (\$100), and **violations of the City's snow route restricted parking policy (\$30 initial fine, \$35 if not paid within 30 days).**

The snow route parking policy affects almost 34 miles of Dubuque's most heavily traveled streets. The policy was implemented to prevent parked cars from keeping City crews from plowing from "curb to curb."

The snow route parking policy allows crews to plow the streets more effectively, improve driving conditions, and provide better on-street parking.

After snowfalls of three or more inches, when declared, the program requires "odd/even" parking along the designated snow routes. When in effect, parking is prohibited



For a listing of city streets designated as snow routes, visit the Public Works section of the City website at www.cityofdubuque.org. For additional information, contact the Public Works Department at 589-4250 or e-mail: publicworks@cityofdubuque.org. ■

Rentals & Returns

Comiskey Park Building Rentals
The multipurpose recreation building located in Comiskey Park is available for rent on Friday evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings. The facility is tobacco free and alcoholic beverages are not permitted. Contact the Leisure Services Department at 589-4263 for details.

Park Pavilion & Pool Rentals
The Leisure Services Department will accept requests for renting park pavilions and swimming

pool party rentals for the 2007 season beginning on Wednesday, January 3. Call 589-4263 for more information.

Library Adds West Side Return Boxes

The Carnegie-Stout Public Library has opened material return boxes on the west side of Dubuque. A book drop and audio-visual drop, located in the main drive of Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School on Radford Road, will be serviced daily.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

The City of Dubuque is reminding property owners of their responsibility to keep the public sidewalk abutting their property clear from snow and/or ice accumulations, as specified in the City's Code of Ordinances.

If the snow and/or ice is not promptly removed by the property owner, and the City deems it necessary to have snow and/or ice immediately removed, the City will contract for the work and assess the abutting property owner for the cost of removal. At the end of the winter season, this cost will be given to the County Treasurer to be collected in the same manner as taxes, plus a 15 percent administrative fee.

For more information regarding snow and/or ice removal on sidewalks, please contact the Engineering Department at 589-4270. ■

Merry Mulch Program

The City's "Merry Mulch" Program recycles natural Christmas tree into beneficial compost. This curbside collection service will begin on Saturday, December 30, and end on Friday, January 12. Residents should set out their trees (maximum of eight feet high) next to their refuse on their normal collection day. The tree must have either one yellow single-use City Yard Waste Sticker or Brush-Tie or a green Garbage Sticker attached. Call Public Works at 589-4250 for more information. ■

CITY MANAGER'S COLUMN

by Michael C. Van Milligen

On September 23, 2006, the following headline appeared in the *Telegraph Herald*: "Dubuque puts focus on diversity – training for city workers aims to make community more inclusive." The article explained that the City has entered into a multi-year commitment to evaluate the level of intercultural competence of our employees, provide employees with additional training, and create a team of trainers who can continue this work in the future. I'd like to explain what intercultural competence is and elaborate on what this work involves and why it should be taken very seriously by everyone who cares about the future of our community.

Generally speaking, intercultural competence training is education that helps people develop the ability to understand and interact more effectively with people who are different from themselves. Sometimes we hear "diversity" and we think about the color of someone's skin. When we talk about intercultural competence, we are talking about difference and being able to work effectively with each other despite cultural

differences that may flow from race or ethnicity. But we are also talking about having City staff and co-workers who are provided information that will help them as they welcome people who move here or visit from a different region of the country. We are talking about having City streets and buildings that are accessible to an aging population. We are talking about planning functions in a way that is accommodating to people's various religious beliefs. We are talking about enhancing a workplace and a community that is comfortable and meets people's needs.

In order to accomplish these things, we must develop a better understanding of what is important to the wide variety of people the City serves. This process is designed to help us to see the differences among people rather than assume that everyone is "just like us." Once we are able to see those differences, we are better able to respond in a way that meets people's needs. This is not an easy task, nor is it one that the public should expect to be accomplished overnight. As our consultant has reminded us, this

work is a marathon, not a sprint.

Our ability to succeed in this work will have a very real impact on the future of our community. In 1983, Dubuque was losing its people. Today, Dubuque is in the midst of an economic renaissance, as mentioned on the front page of this publication. If we hope to sustain this growth, we need to be able to adapt to the changes that growth brings. Ultimately, how people feel they are received in this community, whether as neighbors, employees, or visitors, has an impact on whether or not they choose to remain or return. And whether or not our workforce and tourists choose to remain or return has a huge impact on our continued economic growth and vitality as a community.

In short, our work around intercultural competence touches everything we do as a city government because it is about how we deliver each of our specific services to the public. It is also about our role as a partner in the growth and success of the greater community. ■

Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Public Hearing Schedule

The public is invited to attend and provide input at these public hearings as City staff from each department and division present FY 2008 budget information to the City Council.

Monday, January 15

Library Budget document presentation to City Council at Council Meeting

Thursday, February 15

Human Rights Department, Finance Department, Legal Services, City Manager, City Council, City Clerk

Thursday, February 22

Water, Water Pollution Control, Public Works, Engineering

Monday, February 26

Civic Center Division, Recreation Division, Park Division, Information Services, Cable TV

Tuesday, February 27

Economic Development, Parking Division, Transit Division, Planning Services, Housing & Community Development

Thursday, March 1

Airport, Library, Health Services, Purchase of Services

Thursday, March 8

Emergency Communications Center, Emergency Management, Fire, Police, Building Services

Monday, March 12

Public Hearing to Adopt FY 2008 Budget

All budget hearings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the Third-Floor Auditorium of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library. ■

Comprehensive Plan Update Continues

Open House for revised Goals and Objectives and Future Land Use
Map: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., January 17, Carnegie-Stout Public Library Rotunda Room

Public Hearing for revised Goals and Objectives and Future Land Use
Map at Long Range Planning Advisory Commission Meeting: 7 p.m.,
January 17, Carnegie-Stout Public Library Auditorium

Dog Licenses Due

City of Dubuque dog licenses are due January 1, 2007. The cost is \$10 for spayed/neutered dogs or \$25 for non-spayed/non-neutered dogs. After March 31, 2007, there is an additional \$10 delinquent fee. All dogs must have a current rabies vaccination in order to purchase a license. Licenses may be purchased at the City Clerk's Office, 50 West 13th Street. ■

New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Brandi L. Baumhover
Finance Department

Kerry Jo Bradley
Finance Department

Paul A. Dement
Public Works

Corey J. Firzlaff
Parking Division

Robert P. Hartman
Transit Division

Danielle M. Kutsch
Emergency Communications

Marlon V. McNatt
Airport

Connor W. Moore
Library

Kenneth J. Steuer
Transit Division

Retirements

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

Thomas Parker
Police Department

Charles Hartman
Building Services

Contact Information

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

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

For the most up-to-date news and announcements regarding the City of Dubuque, visit the official City of Dubuque website at www.cityofdubuque.org.

Editorial Information

Editor: Randy Gehl,
Public Information Officer,
City Manager's Office, City Hall

City News is inserted in the City of Dubuque utility bills six times per year. Articles that appear in *City News* may be reprinted with credit given to the City of Dubuque.

Calendar of Events

January

1-2 City Offices Closed. Recycling & Solid Waste will be collected on Saturday, December 30.
6 Dubuque Thunderbirds vs. Chicago Force, 7:05 p.m., Five Flags Arena
7 Dubuque Thunderbirds vs. Michigan Ice Dogs, 2:05 p.m., Five Flags Arena
13 Bald Eagle Watch, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Grand River Center. FREE
14 Mines of Spain Recreation Area Program: Amphibians & Reptiles, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
19-21, **26-28** Fly-By-Night Productions presents "Humble Boy," 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays, Bijou Room, Five Flags
20-21 Dubuque Thunderbirds vs. St. Louis Jr. Blues, 7:05 p.m. on Saturday and 2:05 p.m. on Sunday, Five Flags Arena
26-27 Dubuque Thunderbirds vs. Grand Rapids Jr. Owls, 7:05 p.m. on Saturday and 2:05 p.m. on Sunday, Five Flags Arena
28 Mines of Spain Recreation Area Program: History of the Mines of Spain, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE

February

10-11 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra - Classics III "Viennese Dreams," 8 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Five Flags Theater
11 Mines of Spain Recreation Area Program: Bird Banding & Bird Identification, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
16 Dubuque Thunderbirds vs. Quad City Express, 7:05 p.m., Five Flags Arena
17 Dubuque Thunderbirds vs. Flint Jr. Generals, 7:05 p.m., Five Flags Arena
24 Dubuque Thunderbirds vs. Peoria Mustangs, 7:05 p.m., Five Flags Arena
25 Mines of Spain Recreation Area Program: Predators of Paraguay, 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.