



CITY NEWS

a newsletter of the City of Dubuque



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Dubuque Named an All-America City

Dubuque was one of 10 communities to earn the 2007 All-America City (AAC) award title, the oldest and most prestigious civic recognition competition in the nation. Communities from all over the country participated in the two-day event, which was held in Anaheim, California, in early June.

The winning communities are (listed alphabetically by state, not ranked):

- Flowing Wells, Arizona
- Santa Rosa, California
- Sierra Madre, California
- Hollywood, Florida
- Polk County, Florida
- **Dubuque, Iowa**
- Lewiston, Maine
- Barnstable, Massachusetts
- Clinton, North Carolina
- Hickory, North Carolina

"Dubuque is honored and elated to be named an All-America City," said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. "We are very proud to accept this prestigious award on behalf of the many remarkable volunteers, agencies and organizations that put service above self to turn challenges into opportunities for community growth and progress. This award, simply stated, pays tribute to the spirit of collaboration and tradition of partnerships that have become the hallmark of Dubuque's vision and success."

"These All-America cities symbolize the spirit of grassroots democracy and community problem solving," said Gloria Rubio-Cortés, president and CEO of National Civic League, the Denver-based nonprofit organization that awards communities for outstanding civic accomplishments. "Their award-winning efforts addressed some of

the most difficult challenges facing communities today."

The 2007 AAC winners tackled tough community issues such as healthcare, environmental protection, demographic change, economic development, promotion of the arts, innovations in parks and recreation programs, cultural diversity, education, neighborhood revitalization, youth involvement in local decision-making and public safety.

After an extensive application/screening process, each finalist community sent a delegation of civic activists to present three examples of collaborative community problem solving. A "jury" of experts on local government and community affairs selected the ten winners based on their stories of positive community change. The winners were selected in part for their ability to engage a broad cross section of the community, including youth, business leaders, elected officials, city staff and nonprofit groups in civic dialogues leading to tangible results.

The AAC award application process itself presents a unique opportunity for communities to evaluate themselves and foster new community partnerships. Dubuque's application featured the three components: the redevelopment of the riverfront, the revitalization of Dubuque's downtown, and the creation of the Crescent Community Health Center. A 37-member delegation of community leaders of all ages traveled to Anaheim and represented Dubuque in the competition in June.

Now in its 58th year, All-America City award winners are nationally recognized and realize significant economic impacts and increased civic engagement.

Dubuque



Dubuque organizations and businesses are encouraged to use the AAC logo in promoting the community. This highly visible "stamp of approval" is widely recognized as evidence of a community of caring and dedicated individuals.

Additional information about the award and competition process, including a documentary video featuring the Dubuque AAC delegation, visit the City of Dubuque website at www.cityofdubuque.org. For more information, call 589-4151. ■

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THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

If We Work Together, Dubuque CAN Be Proudly Accessible!

By Kelly Larson, Human Rights Director

When you hear someone mention the construction requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), what is your reaction? Are you a business owner who fears you will be forced to do something that will cost you more money than you can afford? Are you a contractor who is not quite sure what is required to be accessible? Are you a consumer who is frustrated about the existence of continued barriers after more than fifteen years of the ADA being law?

Despite individual frustrations, I believe most of us can see the value in continuing our efforts toward the guarantee of equal access and inclusion for people with disabilities. More than ever, we are living longer. We have the option of a variety of devices that help us remain employed and active despite physical limitations. Most of us will have someone in our family with a disability, whether temporary or permanent, at some point in our lives. In making improved compliance with the ADA a top priority, the City Council has essentially asked all of us to make our best efforts towards this guarantee for our community and for our families.

Our best efforts will require a combination of education, cooperation, and enforcement. First, for businesses whose buildings are already in existence, education on reasonable, practical, cost-effective accessibility improvements is necessary. To this end, the City has

enlisted the assistance of a newly formed collaborative group in town called Proudly Accessible Dubuque. The Proudly Accessible Dubuque initiative will be kicked-off on September 19, 2007, at the quarterly meeting of the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce. Proudly Accessible Dubuque will unveil a video showing why Good Access is Good Business, launch the Proudly Accessible Dubuque web site, and announce the Proudly Accessible Dubuque Business Award for businesses whose buildings meet certain minimum standards. The luncheon speaker will be Michele Ohmes, ADA Coordinator for Kansas City, MO, and national disability speaker and consultant. Ms. Ohmes also will facilitate two interactive forums with area business owners to help them identify practical solutions to common accessibility barriers in existing buildings.

**Proudly
ACCESSIBLE
Dubuque**

Second, for buildings in the construction or renovation phase, it makes practical sense to enforce building requirements as early as possible rather than engage in expensive corrections after the fact. Consequently, the City is increasing staff training and coordination around issues of accessibility in hopes of better identifying and

correcting errors early in the construction process. These efforts, however, are going to require the cooperation of everyone involved. Those designing buildings need to make their best efforts to create plans that are models of accessibility. Those constructing buildings need to be aware that changes on site may make perfect sense to address one problem while at the same time creating even more problems from an accessibility standpoint. Business owners need to make it clear to all involved that full accessibility of their building takes precedence. The earlier in the planning stages that everyone involved is making accessibility a priority, the lower the likelihood the City will have to resort to enforcement later in the process in order to achieve compliance.

Finally, enforcement must remain an option. Currently, residents can file a complaint with the Human Rights Department if they are concerned about the accessibility of a business that is open to the public. In addition, the City will soon be adding an inspector in the Building Services Department whose role will be to assist businesses in identifying and removing barriers to accessibility, and enforcing that removal where necessary.

It will take a lot of effort and cooperation to become Proudly Accessible Dubuque, but we can do it. And when we do, it will be one more demonstration that Dubuque truly is an All America City. ■

1-888-No-Littr Hotline

- roadway);
- Obtain information on how to adopt a roadway, park, river, lake or other public area; and
- Obtain more information on how you can help Keep Iowa Beautiful.

Why should you report littering?

- Cleanup costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

• Litter usually ends up in our rivers and streams.

• Litter diminishes the beauty of Iowa and our quality of life.

• It is a crime.

For further information, visit www.keepiowabeautiful.com or call 588-7933. ■

CITY MANAGER'S COLUMN

by Michael C. Van Milligen

As the front page article details, something very special happened to Dubuque on June 8, 2007. The National Civic League selected Dubuque as an **All-America City**. My personal congratulations to Assistant City Manager Cindy Steinhauser on her leadership throughout the application and competition process. I also want to think the other City staff, City Council members, and community members who assisted with the application and were members of the delegation that represented Dubuque in Anaheim. This is truly a *community* award and one of which we should all be very proud. Thank you for making Dubuque an All-America City!

Dubuque will serve as the host community for this year's **Iowa League of Cities (ILC) Annual Conference and Exhibit**, September 26-28, 2007. Approximately 600 city and county officials from across the state are expected to attend this event which will be held at the Grand River Center.

In addition to attending conference sessions and mobile workshops, attendees and their families will be visiting Dubuque attractions and businesses during their stay. We are extremely proud to showcase our community for this event and I hope you will make our guests feel welcome should you have the opportunity to do so.

The City of Dubuque and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund will sponsor a special event preceding the ILC conference. **"Growing Sustainable Communities: Leading the Way to Global Climate Solutions"** will feature nationally renowned speakers Rocky Anderson, mayor of Salt Lake City, and Edward Mazria, internationally recognized architect and senior fellow of the Design Futures Council. This presentation will offer insight on creating local and regional policies to promote sustainability within communities. It will also explore how planning, building, and zoning codes can

be integrated into sustainability strategies including green design initiatives through architecture and public spaces.

Many ILC conference attendees are expected to arrive in Dubuque early to participate in this conference and elected officials and community leaders from the tri-state region have been invited. Space is limited, but members of the public are invited to attend as well. Please refer to the information below for details.

City Water Receives Honorable Mention

Dubuque's municipal water placed in the top 15 selection in the preliminary round of The U.S. Conference of Mayors' 2007 City Water Taste Test Competition. The top 15 cities were recognized with the status of Honorable Mention in competing for the "Best Tasting City Water in America." The competition this year included water samples from 93 cities. The preliminary round of judging used the criteria of taste, aroma, and clarity, to narrow down the competing cities to 15. Dubuque's water was chosen by the judges in the top 15 selection but was not named one of five finalists following the second round of judging. ■

Financial Reporting Excellence Award

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has awarded the City of Dubuque 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. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This is the 19th consecutive year the City of Dubuque has received this recognition. ■

Leisure Services Announcements

- August 26: Flora Pool final day of operation
- August 27: Flora Pool Doggy Dip
- August 27: Fall Leisure Services program brochures available
- Now Available: Winter Basketball and Volleyball Registration information available at the Leisure Services Department, 589-4263

New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Lisa Barton
Housing & Community Development
Diane Boardman
Parking Division
Cori Burbach
City Manager's Office
Teanna Cardin
Library
Angela Daniel
Housing & Community Development
William Gansen
Water Department

Charles Gau
Engineering Department
Frederick Hedley
Transit Division
Steven Jochum
Transit Division
Lisa Latham
Airport
Gary Valentine
Public Works

Retirements

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

Daniel Avenarius
Police Department
Pat Coyle
Water Pollution Control

Bob Ervolino
Water Department
Peggy Dickson
Airport

Contact Information

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

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Editorial Information

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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.

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

Calendar of Events

September

3 Labor Day -- City offices closed. Refuse and recycling collection will be on Saturday, Sept. 8.
8 Iowa State Irish Feis, doors open at 8 a.m., Five Flags Arena
26 "Growing Sustainable Communities," 10 a.m., Grand River Center. See page 3 for details.
28-30 Fly By Night Productions presents "Spinning Into Butter," 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays, Bijou Room, Five Flags Center

October

3-4 Vee Corporation presents My Little Pony LIVE! "The World's Biggest Tea Party," 7 p.m., Five Flags Arena
5-7 Fly By Night Productions presents "Spinning Into Butter," 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays, Bijou Room, Five Flags Center
6 Alpine 5K and 10K Races, E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. Call 556-1234 for information.
6-7 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra presents Classics I, 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Five Flags Theater
27 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra presents "Family Halloween Concert," 1 p.m., Five Flags Theater
28 Five Flags Center presents the high-flying Broadway musical "Peter Pan" 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Theater
31 Dubuque Trick-or-Treating, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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 Recreation Area events, call 556-0620 or visit www.minesofspain.org.