



CITY NEWS



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A Newsletter of the City of Dubuque

November/December 2007

2008 Marks Dubuque's 175th Anniversary

Dubuque, Iowa's oldest city, will celebrate its 175th anniversary in 2008 and a \$25,000 grant program has been created to encourage community-wide commemoration of the milestone.

The anniversary marks 175 years since the Black Hawk Purchase Treaty went into effect on June 1, 1833, and opened to pioneers a strip of Native American land 50 miles wide on the western bank of the Mississippi River. This treaty legally permitted miners to "settle" in the area now known as Dubuque.

While the official settlement of the area, later to be known as Dubuque, occurred in 1833, other non-Native Americans were in the area long before that date. Julien Dubuque, the city's namesake, received permission from the Mesquakie tribe to mine lead in the area now known as the Mines of Spain in 1788. He died in 1810, 23 years before white pioneers could legally settle the area. The town of Dubuque was incorporated on April 3, 1837. Iowa was organized as a territory in 1838 and did not become a state until 1846.

During the summer of 2007, the Dubuque City Council accepted applications and appointed an 18-member 175th Anniversary Celebration Coordinating Committee to facilitate broad-based community involvement, coordinate a calendar of events, and develop a funding process and award funds from a \$33,000 budget to assist with events. The committee is chaired by Mayor Roy D. Buol. In their initial meetings, the committee's discussions have included:



- A desire to encourage existing festivals and special events to incorporate the city's 175th anniversary into their 2008 events.
- Sponsoring one "Official Event of the 175th Anniversary Celebration."
- The development of a 175th anniversary calendar of "sanctioned" events designed to educate, commemorate, and celebrate the occasion.
- The creation of a special website (www.dubuque175.org) to serve as a central location to publicize events related to the 175th anniversary and be a digital depository for photos, stories, and oral histories.

The committee has developed a special grant program to encourage community organizations and groups to develop a wide variety of projects, contests, events, and displays to commemorate the anniversary. The goal of the program is to generate a wide variety of creative ideas from a diverse group of community organizations which will encourage citizens to become involved in the year-long celebration. Priority funding will be given to projects

that have broad community impact and historical significance.

Grant applicants should categorize their project as educational, commemorative, and/or celebratory and could request no less than \$200 and no more than \$5,000. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- essay contests,
- oral history projects,
- visual arts projects (photography, video, sculpture, paintings, etc.),
- photo and video documentaries,
- special publications,
- historic tours, and
- special concerts.

The deadline for grant applications is December 15, 2007. The committee will review the applications and announce awards in early January 2008. For a grant application, or for more information, visit www.dubuque175.org or call 589-4151. ■

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THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

Historic Federal Building

Mayor Roy D. Buol and the Dubuque City Council held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 17 to mark the completion of the City's renovation project at the Historic Federal Building, formerly known as the U.S. Post Office Building, at 350 W. 6th Street. The building still houses the Post Office, but now includes Dubuque's City Council Chambers on the second floor and the City's Housing and Community Development Department on the third floor. Read the City Manager's Message on page three for more information. ■



Municipal Election on November 6

The election for one at-large position and the second and fourth ward representatives on the Dubuque City Council will be held on **Tuesday, Nov. 6**. Poll hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Absentee ballots are available at the Dubuque County Courthouse and online at www.dubuquecounty.org, under the "Elections" link.

Proposed Bluffland Zoning Regulations

The Zoning Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing on proposed bluffland zoning regulations on **Tuesday, Nov. 13**, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at the Historic Federal Building. ■

Intercultural Competence Tip: Six Steps to Speaking Up

Sometimes we see or hear something we think is disrespectful or biased, but we are not sure how to respond. Here are six tips, adapted from www.tolerance.org, to help you speak up:

1) Ask an open-ended question and engage the person in conversation: "why do you say that?" or "how did you develop that belief?"
2) Identify the behavior that you find objectionable, but do not label the person. Pointing out the stereotype rather than calling someone a racist will get you further: "I hear you saying that you think everyone who is African-American does not want to work. Is that really what you think?"

- 3) Appeal to the person's better instincts and higher principles: "I've always felt you were a fair person and it shocks me to hear you say something that sounds so sexist."
- 4) Set limits: "I don't like it when you refer to people you disagree with as 'retards.' Please do not use that language when I'm around."
- 5) Find an ally and be an ally: seek out like-minded people and support one another.
- 6) Be vigilant: change happens slowly, so keep speaking up.

And remember, assume good intent while helping the person see that intent does not always equal impact. ■

-- *The City of Dubuque
Intercultural Competency Team*

Leisure Services

Facility Rentals

The Bunker Hill Golf Course clubhouse is available for party rentals and meetings during the off season. A full-service bar is available with seating in excess of 100. Additionally, the multipurpose recreation building at Comiskey Park can be rented on Friday evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings. The facility is smoke-free and alcoholic beverages are not allowed. Contact the Leisure Services Department at 589-4263 to make a reservation.

Weekend Open Gym

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 from early November through the winter months. Children in grades three through six will have activities such as basketball, kickball, dodgeball, cageball, etc. Grade seven through adult will have open basketball play. No fee or advance registration required.

Fridays: Prescott School, grade 6 through high school/adult

Saturdays: Audubon, Lincoln and Prescott Elementary schools, grade three through high school/adult

Sundays: Prescott school, grade three through high school/adult

Check the Recreation section of the City of Dubuque web site at www.cityofdubuque.org for specific age group times and dates or contact Leisure Services at 589-4263. ■

CITY MANAGER'S COLUMN

by Michael C. Van Milligen

Historic Federal Building

As part of the City of Dubuque's commitment to its downtown and historic preservation, the City acquired the Historic Federal Building, formerly known as the U.S. Post Office Building, for \$1.00 on July 1, 2006.

This magnificent structure is on the National Register of Historic Places and was acquired as "Historic Surplus Property" through the General Services Administration. As a condition of the acquisition, the City agreed to serve as the "custodian" of the structure, maintain its historical significance, and adhere to the National Park Service's guidelines for historic structures. A "Program of Preservation and Utilization" was developed and submitted to the National Park Service. This agreement established the rules under which the building can be renovated. All modifications to the building are governed by the Department of the Interior's Standards for Preservation.

The City's \$3.1 million renovation of the building, the goals of

which were to maintain the architectural excellence of the building while also making it useful, safe, and accessible, included:

- Conversion and restoration of the second-floor courtroom to the City Council Chambers.
- Conversion of the second-floor jury deliberation rooms to a small meeting room and a remote broadcast studio for CityChannel 8.
- The former Social Security Administration offices on the third floor were remodeled and are now the City's Housing and Community Development Department offices.
- Partial restoration and exterior painting of the building's historically significant steel windows.
- New landscaping, monumental signs (one with LED messages), exterior period lighting, and decorative sidewalks.
- Significant networking and data infrastructure improvements, including a connection to the City's fiber-optic network.
- Other items included: ADA improvements to upgrade

accessibility to the building's public spaces, and the addition of a "green roof" to the second floor light well.

The City's investment in this important structure in the heart of our downtown has created a facility of which the community can be proud. I encourage you to attend a City Council meeting or visit our Housing and Community Development Department to see the results of this project.

Milken Institute Ranking

The Dubuque area continues to outperform major U.S. cities. The prestigious Milken Institute recently released its latest list of **"Best Performing Cities,"** with Dubuque outperforming 386 other U.S. cities for job growth. The report shows Dubuque's one-year job growth rate (March 2006 – March 2007) ranked 11th nation-wide. The report separately analyzes the top 200 large and 179 small metros nationwide. Dubuque's 5.26 percent job growth rate moves Dubuque to **8th nationally among small cities and 11th among all U.S. metros.**

■

Library Adds VOD Service and Sunday Hours

The Carnegie-Stout Public Library recently added a unique video-on-demand service. With a library card and broadband Internet, you can now access over 500 videos including classic movies, independent movies, lifestyle programming such as Antiques Roadshow, America's Test Kitchen, Rick Steves' Europe, Today's Homeowner, health, documentaries, literature programs and more. There are never any holds on the videos and programs you want to see because the

Library offers simultaneous access. New shows are added weekly and popular movies are coming soon. For more information, call 589-4224, option 4.

The Carnegie-Stout Public Library is now open Sundays through May 18, 2008. Regular hours are: Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Library materials may be returned to the 24-hour book and audio/

video drop boxes located at the Library's front entrance, the 24-hour curbside book and audio/video returns located along Bluff Street, and Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School, 2001 Radford Road. For more information, visit the Library's web site at www.dubuque.lib.ia.us. ■



New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Lisa Barton
Housing & Community Development

Diane Boardman
Parking Division

Richard Bogosian
Parking Division

Teanna Cardin
Library

Mary Jean Cashdollar
Airport

Joel Cross
Police

Kyle Cross
Police

Angela Daniel
Housing & Community Development

Gray Dale
Library

Clement Davis
Public Works

Bruce Deutsch
Police

Neil Dolphin
Police

Terry Drees
Emergency Communications

William Gansen
Water Department

Charles Gau
Engineering

June Hancock
Parking Division

Frederick Hedley
Transit Division

Steven Jochum
Transit Division

Brandon Jones
Water Pollution Control

Eric Jones
Police

Nancy Koester
Police

Kathleen Pisarik
Library

Thomas Pride
Police

Claire Spyris
Library

Gary Valentine
Public Works

Jeffrey Welp
Transit Division

Jessica Young
Emergency Communications

Retirements

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

Margaret Bies
Police Department

Daniel Callahan
Water Pollution Control

Kathy Lamb
Housing & Community Development

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.



Calendar

November

6 Election Day

10-11 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra presents "Classics II: Beethoven & Brahms," 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Five Flags Theater

13 Complimentary "Holiday Tag" distribution begins for solid waste collection subscribers. Call Public Works at 589-4250 for more information.

20-21 Vee Corporation & the Five Flags Center present: Sesame Street LIVE! "When Elmo Grows Up," 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday and 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Five Flags Arena

21 Leaf rake out appointments end. Call Public Works at 589-4250 for more information.

22-23 Thanksgiving Holiday -- City offices closed. Refuse and recycling collection will be on Saturday, Nov. 24.

24 Yard waste collection and food scrap recycling ends.

30 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra presents "Holiday Pops," 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Five Flags Theater

December

1-2 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra presents "Holiday Pops," 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday, Five Flags Theater

8 Iowa's Own Pianist Jim McDonough presents "Holiday Grande 2007," 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Theater

14 "Holiday Tag" distribution ends.

14-16 "The Nutcracker," performed by the Dubuque City Youth Ballet, 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Five Flags Theater

24-25 Christmas Holiday -- City offices closed. Refuse and recycling collection will be on Saturday, Dec. 22.

This calendar is subject to change. For more information on Five Flags events, call 589-4258 or visit www.fiveflagscenter.com.