



CITY NEWS



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A Newsletter of the City of Dubuque

January/February 2009

City Launches New Website

The City of Dubuque has launched a new website to increase access to information and services and to improve communication with residents.

While the address is the same, www.cityofdubuque.org, almost everything else has changed. In addition to a completely new graphic appearance and navigation system with information categorized under easy-to-understand tabs, the website features a "Citizen Support Center" which allows site visitors to search a knowledgebase of more than 450 frequently asked questions (FAQs). If their question is not listed, they have the capability to ask their own question, which can then be added to the knowledgebase library.

The service request module of the Citizen Support Center allows residents to submit a service request to the City—such as reporting a streetlight out or requesting a pothole to be filled. This module then captures, routes, manages, searches and reports on all service requests submitted to the City. Both the resident and City staff have the

capability to access and track the service request and its status.

The online payment module of the Citizen Support Center allows residents the convenience of paying City utility bills and parking tickets online. The City currently offers two methods for electronic payment of your utility bill or parking fines payment; electronic check (electronic transfer of funds from a checking account) and credit card (Visa, Mastercard, and Discover). A four percent convenience fee is charged on each credit card transaction.

The site also offers live and archived streaming of video from Dubuque's government access channel, CityChannel 8. This technology allows anyone with a high-speed internet connection to view Dubuque City Council, Dubuque Zoning Advisory Commission, Dubuque County Supervisor meetings, and all CityChannel 8 programming on their computer. In addition to live streaming of the channel through a video player window, this service also archives meeting videos and most

programs. For additional convenience, the video player window includes the meeting agenda for City Council and Zoning Advisory Commission meetings with direct links to access discussion on specific agenda items within the archived meeting. Site visitors can also use an agenda keyword search to search for the issue they are interested in watching. Archived meetings are

generally available for viewing the morning after the meeting takes place.

Additional features of the new website include:

- a "Notify Me" e-mail subscription service for a variety of news and updates;
- an Online Job Application module with automatic notification of job postings;
- a searchable archive of agendas, minutes, newsletters, and news releases;
- automatic notification of City bid requests and requests for proposals;
- a detailed calendar of City events and meetings;
- a comprehensive City staff directory; and
- a "Document Center" that provides access to important City documents.
- Links to partner websites. ■

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THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

Dr. King Tribute Days in Dubuque

Each year, the Dubuque Human Rights Advisory Commission and Human Rights Department partner with faces & voices and the NAACP to help plan and promote the community's Dr. King Tribute Days. This year's events will begin on Sunday, Jan. 18, with the annual NAACP Dr. King Celebration and Awards Ceremony. The public is invited to gather in Jackson Park at 15th and Iowa Streets at 1 p.m. on Sunday and march to Prescott Elementary School, 1151 White Street. A program will follow at Prescott, including recognition of the student winners of this year's Dr. King Tribute Contest.

On Monday, Jan. 19, the public is also invited to attend the 17th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Birthday Breakfast at the Grand River Center, 500 Bell Street. Check-in will begin at 7:00 a.m. on January 19, with breakfast served beginning at 7:30 a.m. The cost to attend the breakfast is \$10 and pre-registration is required by Jan. 9. To pre-register, mail a check payable to "CFGD/faces/voices" to faces & voices, c/o Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, 700 Locust St., Dubuque, IA 52001. Limited funds are available for scholarships. If you need assistance contact Dubuque Human Rights Director Kelly Larson, 563-589-4190 or klarson@cityofdubuque.org.

This year's keynote speakers at the breakfast will be Claudette and Rev. Tim Bees. Claudette Bees is the Student Needs Facilitator and a

math teacher at Central Alternative High School, and Rev. Tim Bees is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Dubuque. Married since 1979,

Claudette and Tim will talk about how their lives have developed into an intentional, racially reconciling relationship. They believe this is an active process (not passive) with a daily, personal investment that is a lifetime practice. The goal of their discussion is for attendees to leave this annual celebration with a renewed commitment to live Dr. King's dream. ■



Sidewalk Snow/Ice 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.

Snow and ice should be removed immediately after the snow fall ends and no longer than 48 hours past the end of the snow event. 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 \$25 administrative fee.

Snow and ice removed from the sidewalk must not be disposed of in the City of Dubuque right-of-way, such as streets or alleys. Snow from sidewalks should be piled in the front yard, or in the park lawn area between the sidewalk and curb of the abutting property. Property owners on corner lots are asked to keep access ramps open so all citizens are able to use the sidewalks. Also, for your safety, please refrain from burying any fire hydrants which may be located in the park lawn area.

For more information regarding snow and/or ice removal on sidewalks, please visit the City website or contact the Engineering Department at 589-4270 or engineer@cityofdubuque.org. ■



CFL Recycling Locations

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) are among the most efficient light bulbs available. ENERGY STAR-qualified CFLs use 60 percent less electricity than regular bulbs and can save you up to \$45 over the seven-year average life of the CFL.

When your CFLs burn out, it is important that they are properly recycled. The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) has begun a program to recycle used CFLs at no charge. Bring your old, unbroken CFLs in sealed, zip-lock bags to one of the City's drop-off locations listed below during regular business hours.

- City Hall, 50 West 13th Street
- Keyline Transit, 2401 Central
- Municipal Services Center, 925 Kerper Ct.
- Leisure Services Office, 2200 Bunker Hill

For more info, call 588-7933 or visit www.dmaswa.org.

City Manager's Message

Michael C. Van Milligen

TRAIL GRANT

I am pleased to report that the Iowa Natural Resources Commission has approved the City of Dubuque's \$200,000 grant application for Phase 2 of the Iowa 32 (Northwest Arterial) Bike/Hike Trail. Dubuque's application was ranked fifth out of the nine large cities applying for Fiscal Year 2009 REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) grant funds from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The trail will begin at the intersection of John F. Kennedy Road with Iowa 32 (near Marshall Park and the Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens) and will extend westerly along the north side of Iowa 32 to the intersection of Plaza Drive (in Asbury Plaza) with Iowa 32. The estimated total cost for Phase 2 is \$203,256 and construction is planned for 2009.

FY2010 BUDGET PROCESS

I will present my budget transmittal message and the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 recommended budget document to the City Council at their regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, January 20**.

The budget process will continue 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 9
Tuesday, February 10
Tuesday, February 17
Thursday, February 19
Monday, February 23
Tuesday, March 3

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 and streamed and archived on the City website. For a detailed schedule of which departments will present at each hearing, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/budget or call 589-4322.

The City Council will hold the final public hearing to adopt the FY2010 Budget on **Monday, March 9**.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY COORDINATOR HIRED

I am happy to announce that the City has appointed Sheila Samuelson to the new City position of Sustainable Community Coordinator. She will be responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining the City's sustainability plan and programs.

Samuelson, an Iowa native, has a

bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of Iowa and an MBA from the Presidio School of Management. Her MBA studies have focused on environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable business models.

Her sustainability consulting experience includes work for the San Francisco Department of the Environment Green Business Certification Program and for Architecture for Humanity in San Francisco. Samuelson's professional experience includes work with the Green Purchasing Institute in Berkeley, Calif., where she helped local and regional governments adopt and implement green procurement policies and programs. She also worked for Century Farm Harvest Heat in Iowa City where she researched and wrote a non-fiction book on biomass as a local source of renewable fuel for heating homes and businesses. Samuelson was also a board member for The James Gang, the non-profit organization in Iowa City under which she founded and directed Earth Expo, a now-annual sustainability festival in Iowa City.

We look forward to the leadership she will provide to the Sustainable Dubuque initiative. ■

New Law Requires Dual Sensor Smoke Detectors

A new Iowa law that goes into effect April 1, 2009, will require all new residential construction to be equipped with dual sensor smoke detectors. This will apply to all homes, dormitories, and multi-unit residential buildings.

Dual-sensor detectors contain both a photoelectric sensor to detect slow, smoldering fires and an ionization sensor to detect rapidly spreading, flaming fires. These detectors should not be confused with the combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Most detectors in homes currently use ionization technology. The

new law does not require smoke detectors in existing homes to be replaced with dual-sensor detectors as long as they meet the manufacturer's recommendations for use, installation, and life expectancy. However, when it is time to replace smoke detectors in existing residences, the law requires that they are replaced with dual-sensor detectors.

"Homeowners and landlords need to take a look at their current smoke detectors to determine if they've reached their manufacturer's life expectancy, which can be found stamped on the actual detector. It's documented that after they

reach their 10-year date, they will not function well or at all," said City of Dubuque Fire Marshal Mark Ludescher. He also encourages homeowners and landlords to change their smoke detectors' batteries whenever they adjust their clocks for Daylight Saving Time.

To learn more about the new law, visit the State Fire Marshal's website at www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/index.shtml or call the Iowa State Fire Marshal Division at 515-725-6145, or contact the Dubuque Fire Department at 589-4160 or fire@cityofdubuque.org. ■

New Pet Licensing System Implemented

The City of Dubuque and Dubuque County have contracted with PetData, Inc., a pet licensing service that will handle all sales of dog and cat licenses to city of Dubuque and Dubuque County residents. This system will allow pet owners to renew their licenses annually, from the date of purchase, and provide an efficient and customer-friendly method for purchasing dog and cat licenses. Currently, dog licenses are sold from January through March, and cat licenses are sold from July through September. Outside of these dates, the renewal licenses become delinquent. With the new PetData system, renewals will be sent annually on a year-round basis to pet owners.

Online purchasing of licenses will also be available. License fees are \$12 for spayed/neutered dogs and cats and \$30 for non-neutered/non-spayed dogs and cats. Because of the new pet license sales process, renewal notices for 2009 may be delayed slightly. For more information, contact the Health Services Department at 589-4181 or www.cityofdubuque.org/health. ■

New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Dennis Boge
Emergency Communications

Kelli Buchenau
City Manager's Office: Public Info.

Kyle Burke
Fire Department

Patrick Devine
Public Works

Andrew Francois
Emergency Communications

Jason Lueken
Fire Department

Lisa Lugrain
Emergency Communications

Melissa Radtke
Airport

Jamie Schauer
Airport

Jacob Seegmiller
Airport

Susan York
City Manager's Office: Personnel

Retirements

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

Francis Marshall
Public Works

John Tippe
Transit

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

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

January

- 1 City Offices Closed. Refuse and recycling collection will be on Saturday, Jan. 3.
- 2 Leisure Services 2009 Winter/Spring brochures become available at City Hall, Carnegie-Stout Library and Leisure Services Office. Brochure and registration also available at www.cityofdubuque.org
- 4 Mines of Spain Program: Trade Silver-In Celebration of Dubuque's 175th Anniversary, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 4 Public Ice Skating, 3-5 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 5-16 City's Merry Mulch Christmas Tree Recycling Program and Yard Waste Collection. Call 589-4250 for details.
- 11 Public Ice Skating, 3-5 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 12 Harlem Globetrotters, 7 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 13 Iowa Special Olympics, Five Flags Arena
- 17 Bald Eagle Watch, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Grand River Center. FREE
- 17 Public Ice Skating, 9-11 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 18 Mines of Spain Program: Geodes: Iowa's State Rock, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 18 Public Ice Skating, 3-5 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 23-25 Iowa Winter Games, Five Flags Arena

February

- 3-4 Illinois Special Olympics, Five Flags Arena
- 8 Mines of Spain Program: Climate Change on the Arctic's Edge, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 14 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra: "Finlandia," 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Theater
- 15 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra: "Finlandia," 2 p.m., Five Flags Theater
- 15 Public Ice Skating, 3-5 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 19 Lipizzaner Stallions, 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 21 4 Guyz in Dinner Jackets, 8 p.m., Five Flags Theater
- 22 Mines of Spain Program: Fur Traders of the Upper Mississippi River, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 22 Playhouse Disney Live!, 1:30 p.m., Five Flags Theater

This calendar is subject to change.

- Leisure Services: 589-4263, cityofdubuque.org
- Five Flags: 589-4258, fiveflagscenter.com
- E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, Mines of Spain: 556-0620, minesofspain.org