



# CITY NEWS



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A Newsletter of the City of Dubuque

May/June 2009

## Art on the River

Spring is a great time to get outdoors and enjoy the beauty of our great city. Don't miss the opportunity to experience the magnificent Mississippi Riverwalk and the 2008 Art on the River – an exhibit of ten works of sculpture on display in the Port of Dubuque. The 2008 exhibit will run through June 30, 2009.

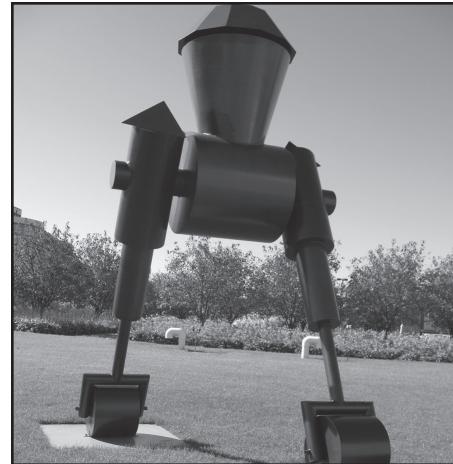
A public sculpture display, Art on the River is an arts initiative by the City of Dubuque and the Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission. Each year, a jury selects new artwork from proposals submitted by a variety of artists. The artwork is for sale and with the sale of a piece at the end of the exhibit, the City retains 25 percent of the purchase price to be reinvested in Art on the River. Since 2006, Art on the River has exhibited 26 works of sculpture. Four of the sculptures have been sold and remain in our community.

The current exhibit was selected from a record 69 submissions. It

includes works of sculpture by acclaimed artists from around the country. Visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/artontheriver](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/artontheriver) for a map of the sculpture locations, photos, and details of each piece (including sales prices), past exhibits, applications for the 2009 exhibit, videos, and much more!

Start your tour in front of the Grand River Center to see "Tin Man" by sculptor Andy Arvanetes of Colleyville, Texas. Tin Man is a 13-foot tall, painted, steel sculpture illustrating the artist's personal fascination with all things mechanical.

The bright red "Hairdo," is a whimsical piece which looks like a big flip hairdo. Eight more interesting works pepper the landscape in the Port of Dubuque. Some of these works have previously been on display at the PierWalk International Sculpture Exhibition at Chicago's Navy Pier and the Sarasota, Fla., Season of Sculpture International Invitational Exhibit.



Proposals for the 2009 exhibit will be accepted until April 22, 2009. The new exhibits will be installed in mid-July with the opening celebration scheduled for July 16.

For information on purchasing a sculpture, or additional information on the program, please contact Jerelyn O'Connor in the City Manager's Office at (563) 589-4110 or visit our website at [www.cityofdubuque.org/artontheriver](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/artontheriver). ■

## City of Dubuque Prescott School Partnership Raffle

The City of Dubuque Prescott School Partnership Committee is raffling off a framed print of City Hall to raise money for the students of Prescott School to be used for school activities.

The print, courtesy of the Center of Dubuque History-Loras College, was taken circa 1912 and was framed in an original City Hall ceiling tile by City of Dubuque Custodian



John Thill. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20 and can be purchased

on the first floor at City Hall, 50 W. 13th St., from Jean Noel in Building Services or from Kathy Sturm in the Finance Department.

The print will be exhibited at City Expo on Tuesday, April 14, at Five Flags, as well as other area events before being raffled off at Dubuquefest on Sunday, May 17. For more information, contact Kathy Sturm at 589-4131. ■

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

## Neighbors Work Together to Improve the Community

Dust off the cobwebs, get some fresh air, and get reacquainted with your neighbors. Several of our City's neighborhood associations have events planned this spring to make our neighborhoods better places to live. In partnership with the City's neighborhood grant program, the following activities are planned.

### **Saturday, April 25**

The Downtown Neighborhood Council, Dubuque Main Street Ltd., and the Boys and Girls Club will host the annual downtown clean-up day. Volunteers are welcome to join the group starting at 8 a.m. at the Boys and Girls Club at 1299 Locust Street. The event will end with a cook-out in the Boys and Girls Club parking lot.

### **Thursday, April 30**

The North End Neighborhood Association, in cooperation with Audubon School, will hold their Annual Neighborhood Resource Fair from 6-7:30 p.m. at Audubon School Gym. Approximately 30 organizations will share information on health, recreation, civic, and educational opportunities. Join the North End neighbors for a fun and informative evening, munch on a turkey and dressing sandwich, get your face painted, and learn more about the resources available for you and your family in your community.

### **Saturday, May 2**

The Hilltop-Ivy League neighborhood will gather at Lincoln School at 9 a.m. for their annual neighborhood clean-up.

### **Saturday, May 9**

Historic Bluffs Neighborhood Association will hold their annual neighborhood clean-up on May 9 starting at 9 a.m.

### **Saturday, May 16**

Both the Valley View and Washington Neighborhoods will gather on Saturday morning for their spring neighborhood clean-up/beautification event. Washington Neighborhood members will meet at 8 a.m. at Immanuel Congregational Church. Grab a rake and join the fun.

Watch for further details or call Jerelyn O'Connor, Neighborhood Development Specialist, at 589-4110 for additional information. ■

## **America's River Festival 2009**

This year's America's River Festival will be held June 12 - 14 at the Port of Dubuque. The musical line-up for the festival includes Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Blue Oyster Cult, and many more. Visit [www.dubuquechamber.com/americanasriver](http://www.dubuquechamber.com/americanasriver) for details, or call 557-9200.

## **Northwest Airlines Now Owned by Delta**

In October 2008, Delta Air Lines, Inc. and Northwest Airlines, Inc. merged, creating a global airline with service to nearly all of the world's major travel markets. What does this mean to Dubuque Regional Airport customers? Customers are now able to book their airline tickets either on [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com) or [www.nwa.com](http://www.nwa.com). The Northwest ticket counter

in the Dubuque airport has already been converted to Delta and starting in April, the planes will be painted to reflect the new name. The flight schedule will remain the same, with two daily flights through the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport to anywhere in the world. If you booked your flight with Delta, you'll fly into

## **Miller Riverview Park Reservations**

Reservations for the 2009 camping season are currently underway for Miller Riverview Park.

Please note that a new camping reservation policy is in effect for the 2009 season. *Campers are limited to five (5) camping sites per person or party calling in the reservation.*

For camping reservations, call Miller Riverview Park at 589-4238 or make reservations at the campground in person.

For more information, contact the Leisure Services department at 589-4263 or visit the City's website at [www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org). ■

## **Leisure Services Summer Program Registration**

Registration for Leisure Services Department summer programs is currently in progress. You can register:

- online at <http://dbqparkrec.reware.com>,
- in person at the Leisure Services office at 2200 Bunker Hill Rd., Dubuque, IA 52001,
- mail the registration form to the address above, or
- fax the form to 589-4391.

the Delta terminal; if you booked with Northwest, you'll fly into the Northwest terminal. Frequent flyer miles earned on either carrier can now be used on Delta. For additional information, contact the Dubuque Regional Airport at 563-589-4128, Delta Airlines at [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com) or visit the website at [www.flydbq.com](http://www.flydbq.com). ■

# City Manager's Message

Michael C. Van Milligen

The City Council approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010) budget in early March. As we do each year, City staff developed a recommended budget based on the goals and priorities identified by the City Council in September. The budget was also developed based on the City Council's budget guidelines to not increase the property tax burden on the average homeowner and to decrease property taxes for commercial and industrial property taxpayers. An additional budget guideline from the City Council was to increase the City cash reserves by \$1 million to be better prepared should the national economic downturn begin to have a greater impact on the local economy. Here are the highlights of the FY2010 budget:

## PROPERTY TAX

The property tax rate for FY2010 is \$9.86 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. This is a 1.1% rate decrease from last year and will be a 0% increase (\$0) in property taxes for the average homeowner. The average commercial property taxpayer will see a 0.85% (\$30.22) decrease. The average industrial property taxpayer will see a 1.12% (\$66.73) decrease.

Dubuque's residential City property tax rate (\$9.86) is **the lowest** in Iowa, as compared to the FY2009 rate for the other cities with a population over 50,000. The highest rate (Sioux City - \$18.71) is 89.76% higher than Dubuque's rate, and the average (\$16.02) is 62.44% higher than Dubuque.

From an historical perspective, the

FY1987 City portion of the property tax rate was \$14.58, 31% higher than the FY2010 rate!

## WATER

Dubuque's water rate will increase 5% for FY2010 to \$17.28 per 800 cubic feet (approx. 5,984 gallons). In spite of this increase, Dubuque maintains **the lowest** water rate in the state among the other seven comparable large cities. The highest rate (West Des Moines - \$27.53) is approximately 59% higher than Dubuque's, and the average (\$22.16) is approximately 28% higher than Dubuque.

## REFUSE

Our solid waste/refuse collection fee increased 2.4% for FY2010 to \$10.60 for the basic subscription (one 35-gallon can or bag). Dubuque's rate is **the lowest** among Iowa's 10 largest cities. The highest-rate (Ames - \$21.50) is 103% higher than Dubuque's and the average (\$14.39) is 36% higher.

## SEWER

Dubuque's sewer rate will increase 5% for FY2010 to \$18.96 per 800 cubic feet (approx. 5,984 gallons). Our rate is **the second-lowest** among Iowa's 10 largest cities. The highest rate (Iowa City - \$36.08) is approximately 90% higher than Dubuque's, and the average (\$24.12) is approximately 27.2% higher than Dubuque.

## STORMWATER

While it had been previously projected that the stormwater utility fee would rise to \$5.00 for FY2010, it will remain \$4.00 per single-family unit (SFU) for FY2010, unchanged

from FY2009. The topography of Dubuque and the close proximity to the Mississippi River provides unique stormwater management issues that are more expensive to deal with than in other communities. Our rate for FY2010 remains the third-highest in the state, behind West Des Moines (\$4.25) and Des Moines (\$7.44)

As you can see, Dubuque is very competitive among the ten cities in Iowa with populations over 50,000. The City's mission is to deliver excellent municipal services that support urban living, plan for the community's future, and facilitate access to critical human services which result in financially sound government and citizens getting value for their tax dollar. City staff are committed to this mission and fulfilling the City Council's vision statement for Dubuque in 2024:

*The City of Dubuque is a progressive, sustainable city with a strong diversified economy and expanding global connections; the Dubuque community is an inclusive community celebrating culture and heritage and has actively preserved our Masterpiece on the Mississippi; Dubuque citizens experience healthy living and active retirement through quality, livable neighborhoods and an abundance of fun things to do and they are engaged in the community, achieving goals through partnerships; and Dubuque City government is financially sound and providing services with citizens getting value for their tax dollars.*

## Farmers' Market to Make 164th Return

The 2009 Farmers' Market opens May 2 and runs through October 31. Held on Saturdays from 7 a.m. until noon around City Hall at the corner of Central and West 13th Street, the Farmers' Market features vendors of homegrown produce and plants, baked goods, and handmade arts and crafts. Special events and

entertainment are also planned throughout the season. In an effort to reduce the use of plastic bags, feel free to bring your own reusable bag. For more information, or those interested in becoming vendors, contact Laura at Dubuque Main Street at 588-4400. ■



Find answers, ask a question or make a request online!

- Click on the **"How Do I?"** link on the homepage. New users will need to create an account.
- Select **"Find Answers"** if you'd like to search our knowledgebase of FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions). You may choose a category, sub-category, or search by keyword.
- If you don't find the answer you're looking for, you may also choose **"Ask a Question"** where you can type a question and choose a category or sub-category to route it to the appropriate department.
- You can also **"Make a Service Request"** and request items ranging from a food scrap pick-up appointment to reporting a stray animal. Choose the request by category or keyword. There are over 200 service requests available.

## Homemade Household Cleaner

Making your own household cleaners is safer than relying on harsh, toxic commercial cleaners.



Try this easy recipe for an all-purpose cleaner: Mix 2 cups hot water, 2 oz. liquid castile soap and 5-10 drops essential oil (available at local wellness centers and health food stores) in a spray bottle. Spray on any surface that needs cleaning.

## New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

**Andre Lessears**  
City Manager's Office

**Pam McCarron**  
Engineering

## Retirements

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

**Ronald Schwartz**  
Fire

**Frederick Walke**  
Fire

**Ronald Ruden**  
Fire

### 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  
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](http://www.cityofdubuque.org).



## Calendar

### May

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 1     | Swim Passes are available for purchase from Leisure Services  |
| 2     | City parks officially open  |
| 2     | Dubuque Symphony Orchestra: "Beatles Classical Mystery Tour," 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Arena                           |
| 2     | Nature Day for Kids: Food Webs, 10:30 a.m. - Noon, E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE                             |
| 9     | Nature Day for Kids: All About Spring - Mother/Child event, 10:30 a.m. - Noon, E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE |
| 15-17 | Dance Studio 5-6-7-8, 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Theater   |
| 16    | Nature Day for Kids: Bird Brains!, 10:30 a.m. - Noon, E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE                          |
| 23    | Nature Day for Kids: Creatures of the Goo, 10:30 a.m. - Noon, E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE                  |
| 30    | Sutton and Flora pools officially open  |
| 30    | Nature Day for Kids: Archeology Adventures, 10:30 a.m. - Noon, E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE                 |

### June

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 5-7   | Fly-by-Night Productions Presents "The Bad Seed," Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m., Bijou Room, Five Flags |
| 6     | Nature Day for Kids: Swift Swimmers, Nature Day for Kids, Horseshoe Bluff Interpretive Area Parking Lot. FREE              |
| 6     | Corn Cob Nationals Wrestling Tournament, Five Flags Arena, doors open at 9 a.m.  |
| 12-14 | America's River Festival, Port of Dubuque  |
| 12-14 | Fly-by-Night Productions Presents "The Bad Seed," Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m., Bijou Room, Five Flags |
| 13    | Nature Day for Kids: Mammals of the Sky, 10:30 a.m. - Noon, E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE                           |
| 14    | X-Treme Dance, 6 p.m., Five Flags Theater  |
| 20    | Nature Day for Kids: Orienteering - Father/Child Event, 10:30 a.m. - Noon, Meet at the picnic area. FREE                   |
| 27    | Nature Day for Kids: "Geology," 10:30 a.m. - Noon, Horseshoe Bluff Interpretive Area Parking Lot. FREE                     |

*This calendar is subject to change.*

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