

# CITYnews

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## ENERGY STAR Rated Appliances

Appliances older than 10 years are higher in energy consumption which drives up your utility bill. When it's time to upgrade your appliances, there are financial incentives to help you do it – if you purchase a product that qualifies for the ENERGY STAR. (See [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).)



When shopping for a new appliance, electronics, or even a new home, look for the blue and white ENERGY STAR label. This

label means that the product meets standards for high energy efficiency and performs as well or better than standard products, which in turn, saves you money!

Look for the ENERGY STAR the next time you are in the market for the following products: clothes washers, refrigerators and freezers, air conditioners, furnaces and programmable thermostats, water heaters, home insulation, roof products, windows, doors and skylights, computers, monitors and printers, and lighting. §

## 2009 Dubuque Area Weatherization Challenge

*Warm your hearts, by warming the homes of your neighbors*

On Saturday, October 24, volunteer weatherization teams will spread out across the Dubuque community in a one-day blitz to perform energy-saving measures on the homes of their elderly, disabled, and low-income neighbors. The goal of this third annual event is to provide over 100 homes with simple weatherization measures such as caulking, weatherstripping, window plastic, door sweeps and other insulating techniques. Dubuque is a viable, livable, and equitable community and



one of the 11 of the City of Dubuque's Sustainable Principles developed by citizens wanting to preserve and protect their community for future generations is "smart energy use." The 2009 Dubuque Area Weatherization Challenge seeks to help residents reach this goal by reducing their home energy consumption, saving money on winter heating bills, and providing educational materials on how to lower home energy costs.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerators are at least 15% more efficient than the minimum federal efficiency standard.

Because ENERGY STAR products use less energy, a typical household can save over one-third of their typical energy costs each year. To make the deal even sweeter, many products qualify for financial incentives to help cover the upfront costs:

- You can receive tax credits of up to \$1500 for the purchase of qualified products for home improvement. Visit [www.energystar.gov/taxcredits](http://www.energystar.gov/taxcredits) for more details.
- Utilities like Alliant Energy offer direct cash rebates for products such as appliances and light bulbs. (Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) and click on "Rebate Finder".)

Volunteer City staff have participated in the Weatherization Challenge for the past two years and individuals and organizations also seeking to volunteer may register by calling 556-5130 or visiting [www.thonline.com/weatherization](http://www.thonline.com/weatherization). Each team will consist of six volunteers who will weatherize two homes. All volunteers will meet at 8 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church for breakfast and training before heading out to their assigned home and will report back to Westminster Presbyterian Church after their homes have been completed.

Weatherization supplies, materials, or cash may be donated. For more information, call Tom Stovall at Operation: New View CAA at 556-5130 x32. §

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

# Leaf Collection Information

The City provides weekly collection of leaves and yard waste through November 28, 2009. Containers may not exceed 35 gallons in capacity and a yellow single-use sticker must be looped through a handle on rigid containers or applied flat on paper yard waste bags. The stickers can be purchased at local grocery, hardware or discount stores, and City Hall. Plastic bags will not be collected. Leaf burning and raking or blowing your leaves into the street or storm sewer are prohibited and subject to fines.

Another option is the free Leaf Exchange program where citizens who need leaves for mulch or compost are put in touch with citizens that are looking to dispose of leaves. Additionally, citizens may schedule a Leaf Rake-Out for a \$15 fee. For information or to schedule these services, call 589-4250.

Year around, the Dubuque Metropolitan Landfill will accept yard waste for processing into compost. Weight-based fees will be charged at the entrance gate with a minimum fee of \$8.00 per vehicle. For information, call 557-1838.

There are free "Leaves Only" drop-offs at the Arboretum and Splendid Valley Nursery. Mulch mowing and backyard composting are economical and beneficial uses for leaves. §

## LEISURE SERVICES news&events



Registration information and forms will be available on Monday, Aug. 11, for our 2009-2010 adult basketball and volleyball leagues. Basketball registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 17; the fee is \$548 per team. Volleyball registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 24; the fee is \$195 per team.

Looking for a place to host your golf outing? Consider Bunker Hill Golf Course – we offer a beautiful central location, competitive golf rates and a clubhouse that can seat in excess of 100 people.

***Our 2009 Fall Leisure Programs brochure will be available on August 24th. View it online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation) or call 589-4263 for more information.***

## Dubuque Surpasses \$1 Million Mark in Arts Funding

The City of Dubuque has provided more than one million dollars in funding for the arts since the establishment of the City's arts and cultural affairs advisory commission in 2004. This announcement coincides with the selection of recipient organizations for the City's annual arts and culture funding programs.

The City has invested \$1,130,000 through three programs established by the Dubuque City Council. In all, \$800,000 has been awarded to area arts and cultural organizations through the Operating Support Grant Program and \$210,000 through the Special Projects Grant Program, with an additional \$120,000 to fund the Art on the River.

Operating support is provided to established 501(c)(3) arts and culture organizations located in the City of Dubuque that primarily serve Dubuque residents with year-round arts and culture events, programs and services, and that can demonstrate a record of programmatic and administrative stability. The Special Projects Grant Program was designed to encourage the development of new or expanded arts and cultural programs in the Dubuque community. View the organizations that were selected by the commission and approved by the City Council at [www.cityofdubuque.org/arts&culture](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/arts&culture).

For additional information, please contact Jan Stoffel, arts and cultural affairs coordinator for the City of Dubuque, at 563-690-6064 or [janstoff@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:janstoff@cityofdubuque.org). More information about all of the funding programs can be found at [www.cityofdubuque.org/arts&culture](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/arts&culture). §

## Airport Open House and Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfast

The Dubuque Regional Airport and the Dubuque EEA Chapter 327 are sponsoring Dubuque Airport Expo on Sunday, Sept. 13.

There will be a fly-in/drive-in breakfast from 7 a.m.



- 12 p.m. and an airport open house from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, contact Karin Spisak at 589-4237 or [kspisak@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:kspisak@cityofdubuque.org). §

## Assisting Disconnected Youth Using Economic Recovery Funds

Dubuque is one of just twelve cities in the country selected to receive technical assistance for reengaging disconnected youth using resources from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Disconnected youth are high school dropouts aged 16-24 who are unemployed, transitioning from foster care or are former juvenile offenders. These youth are more likely to become involved in the juvenile or criminal justice systems. The initiative will help city leaders utilize funding to enhance employment and job creation for disconnected youth. Specifically, Dubuque plans to use the assistance to develop a data collection system to assess the scale, trends and dynamics of disconnected youth in our community. The City of Dubuque will serve as the lead on the project. §



# A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

As this newsletter goes to press in early August, the City of Dubuque is initiating a major sanitary sewer improvement project to eliminate bypass pumping of untreated wastewater into the North Fork of Catfish Creek during significant rain events. This phased project will require temporary closures of some major Dubuque thoroughfares (John F. Kennedy Road and Pennsylvania Avenue), but the result will be a major improvement in the City's sewer infrastructure.

Because of inflow of rain and infiltration of groundwater into the City's sanitary storm sewer system, for many years, the City has been forced to make the calculated decision to pump wastewater from the sanitary sewer into the North Fork Catfish Creek to prevent wastewater from backing up into homes, prevent private property damage, and the acute health risk associated with wastewater in basements. So the choice has been to either pump wastewater into the creek or let it back up into homes. Unhappy with these two choices, the City of Dubuque spent the last decade proactively seeking out and eliminating the inflow of rain and infiltration of groundwater. Efforts included:

- home/building inspections to check for illegal connections to the sewer system;

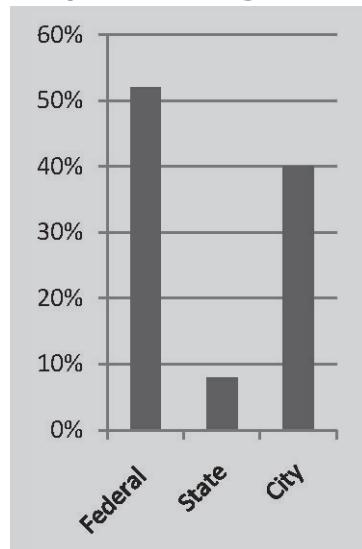
- permanent and temporary flow monitoring;
- smoke and dye testing in homes and businesses to identify defects and cross-connections;
- systematic inspection and rehabilitation/replacement of brick manholes;
- routinely televising sewers to identify defects;
- sewer flushing and cleaning as necessary; and
- reconstruction and rehabilitation (lining) of deficient sewers.

These efforts have reduced rainwater and groundwater from entering the sanitary sewer, reduced wastewater treatment costs, and reduced the instances of bypass pumping. Unfortunately, they did not eliminate bypass pumping, thus the need for the North Fork Catfish Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project.

The North Fork Catfish Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project consists of replacing the existing 12-inch diameter clay sanitary sewer with a 24-inch diameter ductile iron sewer. This \$2.7 million project is being funded in part with contributions from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State of Iowa Department of Homeland Security

and Emergency Management through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

## Project Funding



The City's \$54 million upgrade of the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) is also underway and is currently in the design stages. Construction will begin in 2010 and is expected to take 2-3 years. This will have storage capacity for rain events that may overload the City's sanitary sewer system through infiltration and inflow.

Both projects are part of the City Council's five-year goal to make Dubuque a Sustainable City. They are also part of the City's Comprehensive Plan, updated in 2008, to address the physical environment, economic environment, and social environment through 14 elements, including environmental quality. §

## Dubuque's City Flag Represents the Past, Present and Future

The City of Dubuque flag represents the past, present, and future. Its three colors of blue, green, and yellow are each representative of the City's unique history and landscape. The blue signifies the waters of the Mississippi River and its importance to Dubuque's history. The green symbolizes Dubuque's present scenic beauty, and yellow represents Dubuque's bright future. The three colors are unified with the official seal of the City of Dubuque containing the words, "La Petite Nuit," meaning, "the little night." This was the Mesquakie Indians'

name for Julien Dubuque, founder of the city, and was used in the original



registration of the 1788 agreement in which they gave Dubuque permission to

mine lead on the banks of the Mississippi. The flag was designed in 1967 by Maureen E. Frommelt and was selected as the winning design in a City-wide competition. It was officially adopted as the City of Dubuque Flag on July 3, 1967.

Dubuque City Flags are available for purchase from the City of Dubuque. They measure 3'x 5' and cost \$51.24. To purchase a flag, contact Kathy Sturm at 589-4131 or [ksturm@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:ksturm@cityofdubuque.org). §

# FASTfacts

access to your City - 24/7

Receive tips and information about energy savings and other sustainable topics by joining the **Sustainable Dubuque Notify Me** list. Here's how: 1) Visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme) 2) Enter your email address at the top of the page 3) Scroll down to check the box labeled "Sustainable Dubuque Updates" 4) Scroll all the way to the bottom of the page and click "Subscribe."

## Free Home Energy Audits

Did you know that local utilities offer free home energy audits to help you find ways to use less energy and lower your bill?



Alliant Energy will send a certified auditor to your home to identify ways for you to reduce your energy usage, give you estimates on how much the upgrades will cost, and tell you how much you can expect to save. The auditor may even install some energy-savings measures on the spot at no cost. If your primary source of heat is electric, visit [www.alliantenergy.com](http://www.alliantenergy.com) or call 866-255-4268 for free home energy audits or for more information.

Black Hills Energy provides free residential audits to check insulation levels, air infiltration levels, equipment conditions and behavioral factors that influence energy consumption. The auditors will also install or show you how to install low-cost measures, at no cost to you! If your primary source of heat is natural gas, visit [www.BHEhowto.com](http://www.BHEhowto.com) or call 888-567-0799 to sign up. A representative will be at Farmers' Market on Saturday, Aug. 29, to sign citizens up in person. §

## Retirements

Congratulations to the following employee who recently retired from the City of Dubuque:

**Jim Kean**  
Leisure Services

## 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  
[cymgr@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:cymgr@cityofdubuque.org)



## Editorial Information

City News is published by the Public Information Office and 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).

## New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

**Jesse Bernhardt**  
Water

**Tara Nelson**  
Recreation:  
Multicultural Family Center

**Gina Noel**  
City Manager's Office:  
Personnel

## Give Us Your Opinion!

What do you think of the new look of City News? Let us know by e-mailing [publicinfo@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:publicinfo@cityofdubuque.org), or calling 589-4110.

## CALENDAR

### September

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 7     | City offices closed. Refuse and recycling collection will be Saturday, Sept. 5. Please set containers out before 6 a.m. |
| 8     | Book discussion for adults, "The Rope Walk" by Carrie Brown, 7 p.m., Carnegie-Stout Public Library                      |
| 12    | Gaither Vocal Band Reunited Tour 2009, 6 p.m., Five Flags Arena, Tickets \$39.50, \$29.50                               |
| 13    | Airport Open House and Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfast, 7 a.m.-12 p.m. (breakfast), 7 a.m.-3 p.m. (open house)                |
| 13    | Carnegie-Stout Public Library open on Sundays, 1 p.m.-5 p.m., until Memorial Day  |
| 25-27 | Fly-By-Night Productions presents, "All My Sons," Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m., Five Flags Bijou Room                  |

### October

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 2-4 | Fly-By-Night Productions presents, "All My Sons," Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m., Five Flags Bijou Room  |
| 12  | Scheduled Leaf Rake-Outs start Oct. 12 and end Nov. 25 (weather permitting) for a minimum fee of \$15.00. Call 589-4250 to schedule an appointment. |
| 17  | Dubuque Symphony Orchestra: "Grieg Piano Concerto," 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Theater   |
| 18  | Dubuque Symphony Orchestra: "Grieg Piano Concerto," 2:00 p.m., Five Flags Theater   |

*This calendar is subject to change.*

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

## City of Dubuque Trivia

**Q: What was the former name of the Five Flags Civic Center?**

Submit your answer at [www.cityofdubuque.org/trivia](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/trivia). Watch for the answer in the next issue of City News.

Last issue's question:

**Q: What was the occupation of Richard Louis Murphy, for whom Louis Murphy park is named?**

**A:** Newspaper Editor/Senator