



Dubuque
All-America City
CITY NEWS
2007



Volume 6, Issue 2

A Newsletter of the City of Dubuque

March/April 2008

Resnick and Voetberg Join City Council

Two new City Council members were sworn into office in January after being elected in November. **David Resnick** is Dubuque's new at-large City Council representative and **Dirk Voetberg** is the new fourth ward representative.

Councilman Resnick, of 375 Alpine Street, is a native Iowan and has resided in Dubuque since 1984.

Since 1993, he has been on the Fine Arts faculty of Clarke College in Dubuque. During his tenure, David has held many leadership positions at the college and has been selected as a presenter for the Mackin-Mailander Lecture Series.



David Resnick

Councilman Resnick holds a master of music education degree from Northern Illinois University and a permanent professional teaching certificate from the State of Iowa. He has been involved in a broad spectrum of community organizations including the Dubuque Arts Council, Dubuque Chamber of Commerce, the Langworthy Neighborhood Association, and the Grand Opera House. He is also a member of many professional and musical performance organizations. Councilman Resnick and his wife, Mimi, have four children.

Councilman Voetberg, of 779 University Avenue, previously served three terms on the City Council from 1987-1999. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Iowa and an

MBA in finance and international business from the University of Chicago. He became president and CEO of Shepherd Incorporated in Dubuque in 2003 after serving as the firm's chief operating officer from 2000-2003. Prior to joining Shepherd, Voetberg was dean of continuing education at the University of Dubuque from 1997-2000 and a business faculty member at Clarke College from 1987-1997.

His civic affiliations include leadership positions with the Key City Rotary Club, Dubuque Chorale, St. Mark's Community Center, Iowa League of Cities, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, National League of Cities, Dubuque Racing Commission, Dubuque Long-Range Planning Commission, Four Mounds Foundation, Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, Operation: New View, and the Dubuque Human Rights Commission.

Second Ward City Councilwoman **Karla Braig** was reelected in November and was also sworn into office in January. Additionally, At-Large Councilman **Ric Jones** was sworn in as Mayor Pro-Tem, a position which rotates among members of the City Council every eight months.

For more information on the City Council, including a ward map, visit the City website at www.cityofdubuque.org. ■



Dirk Voetberg



DUBUQUE CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR: Roy D. Buol
(563) 588-4265
rdbuol@cityofdubuque.org

AT-LARGE: Ric W. Jones
(563) 556-3490
rjones@cityofdubuque.org

AT-LARGE: David T. Resnick
(563) 582-9217
dresnick@cityofdubuque.org

FIRST WARD: Kevin J. Lynch
(563) 582-6382
klynch@cityofdubuque.org

SECOND WARD: Karla A. Braig
(563) 582-0595
kbraig@cityofdubuque.org

THIRD WARD: Joyce E. Connors
(563) 582-3843
jconnors@cityofdubuque.org

FOURTH WARD: Dirk N. Voetberg
(563) 556-5252
dvoetberg@cityofdubuque.org

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THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

Dubuque Named One of the Nation's Best Communities for Young People

America's Promise Alliance (the Alliance), the nation's largest alliance dedicated to children and youth, in partnership with Capital One, recently announced that Dubuque has once again been named a winner of its 2008 "100 Best Communities for Young People" (100 Best) competition.

This competition recognizes the 100 outstanding communities across America—large and small, rural and urban—that are the best places for young people to live and grow up. More than 300 communities in all 50 states applied for the honor this year. The 100 winning communities span 37 states.

Dubuque was selected as one of the 100 Best in large part because of its Every Child Every Promise Initiative, which represents the collaborative efforts of Dubuque's numerous youth-serving agencies. Every Child Every Promise is a county-wide community engagement and education process for all citizens. It is fashioned after America's Promise, a national model for community involvement for children. The mission of Every Child Every Promise is to improve outcomes for our community's youth by concentrating the community's focus on the

fulfillment of the Five Promises: Caring Adults, Safe Places, Healthy Start, Effective Education, and Opportunities to Help Others. Local drivers behind the Every Child Every Promise process are the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and Mississippi Valley Promise.



"Dubuque is elated and honored to receive this national distinction for the second consecutive year," said **Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol**. "It affirms the great strides being made by so many of our organizations, agencies, and individuals - many of whom volunteer their time in order to make important differences in the lives of our young people."

Mississippi Valley Promise Executive Director Mary Moothart coordinated Dubuque's application

to the America's Promise Alliance and noted that 39 individuals from 22 Dubuque organizations contributed to the application. "This award is well-deserved recognition of the efforts of many different entities in our community which include agencies and organizations, schools, city government, and faith communities to provide a community of promise and opportunity for young people," said Moothart. "My hope is that our community sees this award not only as a recognition of our efforts for young people so far, but as call to action to continue to work together so that we can provide opportunities for all the young people in our community."

"The prosperity of every community and this country depends on how well we care for our children and youth," said Marguerite W. Kondracke, president and CEO, America's Promise Alliance, "Although no place is perfect, when we have communities that make young people a priority and are working to make sure they stay in school and have all the resources necessary to lead healthy, productive lives, we must recognize them and by extension inspire other cities and towns to follow their lead." ■

Recycling Changes

Dubuque residents can now recycle even more materials through the City's curbside collection program. You can now recycle plastics coded **1-5 and 7** as well as clean metal, such as pots, pans, stainless steel, copper, brass, and aluminum. Common items that can now be recycled include yogurt cups, microwave trays, and plastic flower pots. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 589-4250 or e-mail publicworks@cityofdubuque.org. ■

Tax Break for Working People

The earned income tax credit (EITC) is the federal government's largest program benefiting working families, but as many as 20% of eligible families do not claim the credit. That means hundreds of thousands of dollars are not finding their way into the pockets of Dubuque working families and individuals who have earned that money. If your family earned less than \$39,783 in 2007 (or \$37,783 if you are not married), you may qualify for the EITC when you file your tax return. The credit could give you up to \$4,716!



The City of Dubuque has joined efforts with others in the community to connect working families with information on the EITC and local free tax preparation services with the goal of strengthening working families and bringing more federal dollars into the local economy. Free help is available at community tax preparation sites. Free tax preparation is also available for income-qualified individuals and families. For additional information, call Information and Referral at 557-8331 or 211. ■

CITY MANAGER'S COLUMN

by Michael C. Van Milligen

The City of Dubuque is strongly committed to its neighborhoods and the overall Neighborhood Reinvestment Strategy, a concentrated effort to revitalize Dubuque's neighborhoods.

We have seen many improvements in the Washington Neighborhood, thanks to the commitment of many neighbors and business partners, and the implementation of the City's revitalization plan for that area that began in 2005. However, much work remains.

Throughout the past fall, a task force of City staff from several departments met regularly to develop recommendations to address issues in several downtown Dubuque neighborhoods.

The major issues of concern cited by residents included:

- A perceived need for a greater degree of public safety for residents and personal accountability from tenants and landlords.
- The condition and appearance of housing in some areas is a source of complaint.
- The Washington Neighborhood – with 70 percent of the housing

units renter-occupied – suffers from instability caused by transience.

- Many neighborhood residents do not find access to employment and educational opportunity.
- Young children need more supported after-school activities, and families need advocates to access services and realize their potential.

In December, I submitted the task force's recommended responses to these issues to the City Council and they approved the plan. It consists of a combination of current initiatives focused on an increase of law enforcement and code enforcement to address immediate concerns as well as long-term initiatives.

The plan includes the addition of 15 sworn police officer positions over the next 5 years, with five positions to be added in the current fiscal year. One of the new police positions is a Section 8 Housing Investigator at the rank of Corporal which will be housed in the Housing and Community Development Department and assigned to the Community-Oriented Policing Unit.

An additional Rental Housing Inspector position will also be added to the Housing and Community Development Department this fiscal year to bring the non-Section 8 rental housing units inspection cycle down from seven years to under five years between inspections.

Other aspects of the plan seek to increase homeownership, improve rental properties through housing code amendments, modification of the crime property ordinance, additional lighting, and improvements to public infrastructure in neighborhoods.

These are just a few of the initiatives being planned to improve our downtown neighborhoods. While enforcement is a key element in neighborhood revitalization, development of human capital is a longer-term solution to improving quality of life. In this regard, the City will be focusing on the Every Child Every Promise Initiative and Project HOPE, an initiative to assist our less-advantaged citizens to access the ladder of economic opportunity that leads out of poverty. ■



Plan Now for Summer Fun with Leisure Services Activities



Pool Rentals

The Dubuque Leisure Services Department is now taking reservations for pool rentals for the 2008 summer season! You can reserve Flora Pool for either Friday or Saturday nights from 7-9 p.m. for \$275, or Sutton Pool for either Saturday or Sunday nights from 7-9 p.m. for \$200. Rentals include swimming areas, water slides, water playgrounds, and lifeguards.

If you're looking for the perfect place for a child's birthday party, you may also reserve just the water

playgrounds from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturdays or Sundays for \$80.

Open Swim at Hempstead Pool

Recreational swimming for the family is available every Sunday afternoon from 1- 4 p.m., with adult lap swim/water walking from 4 - 5 p.m.

Bunker Hill Golf Course

Call now to reserve dates for golf outings for the 2008 season!

Adult Softball Leagues

Registration materials are now available for summer leagues that

play at McAleece and Veterans Memorial Park. Registration deadline is March 14.

Adult Volleyball Leagues

Registration materials are now available for summer hardcourt leagues that play at Flora Park. Registration deadline is April 7.

For more information on rentals or other Leisure Services activities, call the Leisure Services Department at 589-4263 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org. On-line registration is available at: <http://dbqparkrec.recware.com>. ■

City Expo Set For Tuesday, April 8

This year's City Expo will be held on Tuesday, April 8, from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Five Flags Civic Center. The theme for this year's event is "City Expo 2008: An All-America City Celebrates 175 Years." City departments and division displays will reflect this theme through information, images, documents, equipment, and other objects that show how City services and programs have changed throughout Dubuque's history. For more information on anniversary-related events, visit www.dubuque175.org. ■



New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Gary Blosch
Building Services

Jacquelyn Brody
Airport

Steven Dougherty
Transit

Kendra Durham-McCarthy
Housing & Community Dev.

Kimberly Glaser
Housing & Community Dev.

Michael Mason
Airport

Michael Nevers
Police

William O'Brien
Water Pollution Control

David Resnick
City Council

Steven Schilling
Recreation

Alex Scott
Police

Jesse Slaght
Airport

Mark Stelken
Water

Jon Thill
Building Services

Jacqueline Vanek
Water

Dirk Voetberg
City Council

Retirements

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

Judy Reichmann
Leisure Services - Park

Rodney Schmitt
Water Pollution Control

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.

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Calendar

March

- 1 "Arthur Live," 2:30 & 6:30 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 1-2 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra presents Classics IV: Tchaikovsky's "Pathetique," 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday, Five Flags Theater
- 4 "Intro to Bike Mechanics" Class, 7-9 p.m. Call 589-4263
- 6-8 Lifeguarding Class for ages 15 and up. Contact Leisure Services.
- 7 Tony Kenny's Ireland, 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Theater
- 7 Registration deadline for Leisure Services Alumni Basketball Tournament
- 8 CSPL Lollipops & Music: Music Men Chorus, 10-10:30 a.m. FREE
- 9 Mines of Spain Program: Bird Banding, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 9 WWE Road to Wrestlemania, 7 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 14 Phil Coulter and the Irish Pops Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Theater
- 14-16 Alumni Basketball Tournament: Women & Modern Divisions
- 14-18 Central States Hockey League Hurster Cup, Five Flags Arena
- 18 "Intro to Bike Mechanics" class, 7-9 p.m. Call 589-4263
- 28-30 Alumni Basketball Tournament: Classic & Master's Divisions
- 30 Mines of Spain Program: History of the Mines of Spain, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE

April

- 5-6 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra presents Classics V: Beethoven's 9th Symphony," 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday, Five Flags Theater
- 8 City Expo 2008, 5-8 p.m., Five Flags Center. FREE
- 9 CSPL Flick for Kids: "The Astronaut Farmer," 2 p.m. FREE
- 9 CSPL Reading with Rover, 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE
- 12 CSPL Lollipops & Music: Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Company, 10-10:30 a.m. FREE

This calendar is subject to change.

- Carnegie-Stout Public Library (CSPL): 589-4225, www.dubuque.lib.ia.us
- Five Flags: 589-4258, fiveflagscenter.com
- Mines of Spain: 556-0620, minesofspain.org