

CITYnews

Outdoor Warning Sirens - *Not just for tornadoes anymore*

On March 1, 2010, the Dubuque City Council was the first city in the Dubuque area to adopt new guidelines for activation of outdoor warning sirens as recommended by the National Weather Service (NWS) and local public safety officials.

Five fatalities have been recorded since 1995 in the 36-county coverage area of the Davenport office of the NWS. Of the five, only one fatality was a direct result of a tornado. The remaining four fatalities occurred during severe thunderstorms with high winds. Research has shown that wind speeds of 70 MPH will cause full-grown trees to blow over or be uprooted. This research is the basis for the change in the siren activation policy.



Emergency personnel and dispatchers will now activate outdoor warning sirens for severe thunderstorms that contain wind speeds greater than 70 MPH and/or hail larger than golf balls. According to Dubuque County Emergency Management Director Tom Berger, "Conditions where 70 MPH winds are present could cause full-sized trees to blow over, and that's a life-threatening situation."

Dubuque residents may recall June 19, 2009, when a storm with wind gusts of nearly 80 MPH blew trees over throughout the city.

Watches vs. Warnings

Thunderstorm Watch

A weather hazard is possible.

Thunderstorm Warning

A weather hazard is imminent or occurring. A warning requires hail at least 1 inch in diameter or winds of at least 58 MPH.

Another change in policy is that sirens may be repeated during the duration of the storm while the threat remains. Therefore, residents may hear the sirens multiple times for the same storm.

Berger reminds residents the outdoor warning sirens are intended for people outdoors and, unless you live in close proximity to a siren, you may not hear the sirens inside your residence or business.

He encourages everyone to have a weather radio to receive warnings and information when indoors.

It is important for residents to realize that if local officials sound the sirens, you should seek shelter immediately indoors, and tune into local media and your weather radios for further information.

Local media will provide information about the situation and people need to monitor the conditions before resuming outside activities. An "All Clear" siren tone has not been used for decades and will **not** be used to let citizens know the threat has passed.

The sirens are not just for hazardous weather and can be used for other emergencies, such as hazardous material spills.

The sirens are tested monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact the emergency management agency at 589-4170.

What is a Weather Radio?

A weather radio broadcasts continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. They broadcast official Weather Service

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warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In the event of bad weather or other emergencies, a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasts this "All Hazards" radio network, making it a single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, weather radios also broadcast warning and post-event information for all types of hazards, including natural (such as tornadoes or floods), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 telephone outages).

Weather radios can be purchased at many retail outlets, including electronics, department, sporting goods, and boat and marine accessory stores, or online. §

THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

Intercultural Competency Annual Report Available

The City of Dubuque's Intercultural Competency Steering Team's 2009 Annual Report is now available. The report highlights the Steering Team's accomplishments and ongoing developments of the City's intercultural competency initiative.

In 2006, the City embarked on a three-year contract with One Ummah Consulting as part of its efforts to achieve diversity goals that include promoting community understanding and education, encouraging a more diverse workforce, identifying tools residents can use to resolve conflict, and supporting a community that values all residents. Partnering with community organizations and basing their efforts on measurable data and national best practices, City staff has completed an analysis of the values and views of the current City organization and has formed a Steering Committee, Training Committee, Tips Subcommittee, and Website Subcommittee to continue to provide training and ongoing development assistance to employees.

The Intercultural Competency Steering Team's report can be viewed online at www.cityofdubuque.org/diversedubuque. For more information, or to obtain a paper copy of the report, contact Training and Workforce Development Coordinator Andre Lessears at 563-690-6126 or alessear@cityofdubuque.org. §

Mayor Delivers Annual State of the City Address

Mayor Roy D. Buol delivered the 2010 State of the City address on Monday, March 22, at the Historic Federal Building. The event was sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Telegraph Herald. To watch a video of the address, click on the "Video" link on www.cityofdubuque.org. To download the text version of the address, click on the "State of the City Address" link on the Mayor and City Council page on the City's website. §

Public Notice - Police Department Accreditation

The Dubuque Police Department is scheduled for an on-site assessment as part of a program to achieve re-accreditation by verifying it meets professional standards. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will administer the on-site assessment and the program requires agencies to comply with internationally accepted, state-of-the-art standards of professionalism in four primary areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations, and support services.



As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on Monday, April 19, from 6 - 8:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library. Agency employees and the public are also invited to offer comments by calling 563-587-3820 on Monday, April 19, from 2 - 4 p.m. Comments will be taken by the assessment team.

If you receive this publication after April 19 and wish to submit written comments about the Dubuque Police Department's ability to comply with the standards for accreditation, you may send them to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc. (CALEA), 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, VA, 22030-2215 or submit them online at www.calea.org. PLEASE NOTE: The deadline to submit comments is May 1, 2010.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the public information session are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA standards. A copy of the Standards is available through Corporal Eastvedt in the Dubuque Police Department Planning and Research Office, 563-589-7889 or seastvedt@cityofdubuque.org. §

LEISURE SERVICES news & events

Summer 2010 Leisure Programs Registration begins April 14 - The brochures will be mailed to parents of public school elementary children and also distributed via Holy Family Schools elementary classrooms. They are also available at the Leisure Services Department, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, City Hall, Five Flags Center and online at www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation.

Most summer programs will begin on Monday, June 14, although a few activities will begin during the month of May. Sutton and Flora Park swimming pools will open for the season on Saturday, May 29, with swimming pool season passes available for purchase at the Leisure Services Department beginning on Monday, May 3.

North Grandview Pet Park User Fee - Effective Saturday, May 1, a user fee will be charged for use of the Pet Park on North Grandview Avenue.

A \$1.00 daily usage fee via a self-registration station will be required for use of the park.

Annual passes will also be available for purchase at the Leisure Services Department, City Hall, or online at www.cityofdubuque.org/parks. Annual passes are \$25.00 for City of Dubuque residents and \$35.00 for non-residents.



For additional details, schedules, and a complete listing of activities, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation or call Leisure Services at 589-4263. §



A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

SAFE COMMUNITY TASK FORCE UPDATE

In October, the Mayor and City Council appointed 25 citizens to serve on the newly established Safe Community Task Force (SCTF). The group has been meeting monthly since its inception and four volunteer subcommittees were formed to help identify issues and develop opportunities or recommendations for the SCTF.

In February, the SCTF made recommendations to the City Council to:

- Reduce the time between rental inspections for problem properties;
- Disallow property owners to receive city, state, or federal funding unless their properties are in compliance or the owner is actively working towards compliance;
- Conduct an expanded crime study to include: comparisons with like communities; longitudinal study of changes in crime rates; multivariate study of arrest records; comparison of actual crime profile in Dubuque with public perception; contextualizing research findings within current criminology and policy literature; and evidence-based recommendations for effective policy and programming related to crime prevention and community safety within the discussion section of the research report.
- Allow the SCTF to act as conduit for accurate information to the public, specifically by: conveying crime statistics compiled to the general public; and documenting and investigating the effectiveness of existing and new efforts to curtail criminal activity in Dubuque, such as Community Oriented Policing, Territory Accountability Design, and the designation of a dedicated police officer for Section 8 housing investigations.
- Create ways to encourage people to light up their own property and

surrounding public property;

- Install surveillance cameras in high crime areas in public places;
- Install 911 emergency kiosks;
- Reduce the time allotted for correcting property violations from the current two years; and
- Encourage development of planned communities through mixed-use zoning.

In March, the City Council approved the SCTF's recommendation to hire a facilitator to provide not only meeting facilitation but consulting expertise in the areas of concern to our community. Urban Strategies, of St. Louis, has extensive experience in developing stronger, safer communities which faced problems similar to those of Dubuque. Their experience should significantly assist the task force in its process, not only in working with the committees and task force, but also in identifying methods that they've seen to be successful in addressing safety concerns in other cities. I will continue to provide updates as the task force continues their important work.

NEW LEISURE SERVICES MANAGER NAMED

I am pleased to announce that Marie Ware has been appointed as Dubuque's new leisure services manager. She will begin in early May and replaces Gil Spence who retired in December 2009 after 35 years with the City. Marie has the skills, abilities, and creativity to build on the fine traditions of our leisure services department.

Marie will be responsible for overseeing the management of the City's parks, recreation and civic center divisions and the Multicultural Family Center. She will manage a flexible program of activities for all segments, social groups and age and interest levels within the community as well as direct the development and

maintenance of park and playground areas, structures and facilities to serve the interests of the community.

Marie has nearly 25 years of professional experience in parks and recreation and non-profit management. She was most recently interim executive director of the Mahaska County YMCA in Oskaloosa, Iowa. For the past three years, she was the owner/facilitator of Future Endeavors, which provided customized services for non-profits, churches, government, and businesses. From 1999 to 2006, Ware served as the executive director of the Mahaska Community Recreation Foundation in Oskaloosa. She spent nine years as a member of the Coralville, Iowa, Parks and Recreation Department including five years as recreation director and four as parks and recreation director. Previously, Ware served as the recreation superintendent for the Indianola, Iowa, Parks and Recreation Department, after one year as summer recreation coordinator there.

She earned a master's degree in public administration and bachelor's degree in leisure studies from Iowa State University and is a certified park and recreation professional (CPRP) by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Ware is an active member of the NRPA and has held leadership positions, including president, with the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) and the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation. She received the NRPA American Park and Recreation Society's Young Professional Award and the IPRA's Richard J. Slattery Award and Young Professional Award.



Marie Ware

I would like to thank the more than 50 people who were involved in the selection process for this important position, including City commission members, representatives of various community groups and organizations, and City staff from several departments. I would also like to thank Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas for serving as acting leisure services manager during the interim period following Gil Spence's retirement. §

Rain Barrel Sale

The City of Dubuque and its partners are organizing a rain barrel sale to be held Saturday, May 15, at the Downtown Farmers' Market. Rain barrels collect water from your downspout and have many benefits:



- Rainwater, including pollutants it picks up along the way, is kept from storm drains and waterways.
- Untreated rainwater can be used for watering your indoor and outdoor plants.
- Collecting rainwater may reduce your water bill.

For more information, or to order a rain barrel, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/rainbarrels or call 563-690-6038. Pre-orders are highly encouraged. §

Downtown Farmers' Market Opens May 1

The 2010 Farmers' Market opens May 1 and runs through October 30. Held on Saturdays from 7 a.m. until noon and stretching from the area around City Hall at Iowa and 13th Streets down Iowa to 11th 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 Dubuque Main Street at 588-4400. §



New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Jason Fuerstenberg
Fire

Marie Ware
Leisure Services

Douglas Hughes
Public Works

Larry Hoppman
Parking

Retirements

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

Stephen Slattery
Water Pollution Control

Iowa's TakeAway™ Prescription Drug Disposal First in Nation

The *TakeAway* Environmental Return System allows consumers to safely dispose of unused or expired medications through the convenience of drop-off boxes at their community pharmacies. Dubuque county sites are Hartig Drug Stores, Hy-Vee Pharmacies, Mercy Family Pharmacies, and Shopko. Acceptable materials include unused or expired prescription medicines and over-the-counter medications, including pills, tablets, capsules, ointments, creams, lotions, powders, inhalers, nebulizer solutions, and liquid medicines in bottles less than 4 ounces.

To learn more about the *TakeAway* program and to find a participating pharmacy near you, visit www.iarx.org/takeaway. §

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

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.

CALENDAR

May

1	City parks officially open
1	Dubuque Symphony Orchestra: "Arena Pops ABBAMANIA," 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Arena
3	City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
3	Swim Passes are available for purchase from Leisure Services
10	Human Rights Commission Meeting, 4:15 p.m., Conference Room II, City Hall Annex, 1300 Main St.
13	Transit Board of Trustees, 4:15 p.m., Municipal Services Center Conference Room, 925 Kerper Ct.
13	Safe Community Task Force, 6:00 p.m., Community Room, Prescott Elementary
17	City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
18	Housing Code Appeals Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
24	Airport Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
25	Housing Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
27	Library Board of Trustees Meeting, 4 p.m., Carnegie-Stout Public Library auditorium
29	Sutton and Flora pools officially open
30	City offices closed for Memorial Day

June

5-7	Fly-by-Night Productions presents "Naomi is an Ocean in Nigeria," Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m., Bijou Room, Five Flags
6	City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
10	Transit Board of Trustees, 4:15 p.m., Municipal Services Center Conference Room, 925 Kerper Ct.
11-13	Fly-by-Night Productions presents "Naomi is an Ocean in Nigeria," Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m., Bijou Room, Five Flags
12	Safe Community Task Force, 9:00 a.m., Location TBA
14	Human Rights Commission Meeting, 4:15 p.m., Conference Room II, City Hall Annex, 1300 Main St.
15	Housing Code Appeals Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
21	City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
22	Housing Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
24	Library Board of Trustees Meeting, 4 p.m., Carnegie-Stout Public Library auditorium,
28	Airport Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center

This calendar is subject to change.

- Boards & Commissions: 589-4120, cityofdubuque.org
- Leisure Services: 589-4263, cityofdubuque.org
- Five Flags: 589-4258, fiveflagscenter.com