



CITY NEWS

a newsletter of the City of Dubuque



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Summer Safety: Private Pool Requirements

An all-too-frequent summer tragedy is the story of a young child who has wandered from home and is found floating in a neighbor's unprotected backyard pool. Death by drowning in pools has become such a common occurrence that many cities and counties have enacted ordinances requiring barriers or fencing around swimming pools. Dubuque is no exception and the City of Dubuque is reminding residents of their duty in helping to prevent pool-related injuries.



All pools over 18 inches deep must meet the following fencing requirements, even if they are exempt from a permit:

- Fencing must be not less than five feet in height, completely surrounding such pool, lot or premises, with no openings therein, other than doors or gates, larger than six inches in any dimension; provided

however, that if a picket or similar fence is erected, the horizontal dimension of the openings, other than gates or doors, shall not exceed four (4) inches.

- All gates or doors into the pool area shall be equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices designed to keep the gate or door securely closed and latched at all times when not in actual use.
- All fencing must be in place with gates when the pool is filled with water.

The Dubuque City Ordinance defines a "swimming pool" as any constructed or prefabricated pool over 18 inches in depth used for swimming, bathing, or wading. Unless the pool is a prefabricated pool less than 24 inches deep, residents must obtain a pool permit from the City of Dubuque Building Services Department.

The location of swimming pools is governed by the zoning ordinance of the city. For a complete copy of the Swimming Pool Ordinance, or more information, please call the City of Dubuque Building Services Department at 589-4150 or e-mail building@cityofdubuque.org. ■

Recreational Fire Guidelines

Recreational backyard fires are increasing in popularity. They can be safely and legally enjoyed by following the City's recreational fire ordinance:

- Burning is strictly limited to charcoal products or growing form wood, dried, split or sawn to lengths no greater than four feet.
- Physical containment (not to exceed 36 inches in diameter) must be used and adequate separation from combustibles and vegetation provided.
- No processed wood such as 2x4s, plywood, building materials, etc. may be burned. Burning of papers, rubbish, refuse, grass, leaves or brush is prohibited.

- Fires must be kept to a small size with flame height under five feet.
- Atmospheric conditions should be such that allow for smoke and gases to rise up and away, not toward neighboring homes. If smoke, gases and the fire become a nuisance, the fire must be extinguished.
- An adult attendant shall supervise the recreational fire until the fire has been extinguished.
- A hose or fire extinguisher must be readily available for use.

Violations of this ordinance should be directed to 589-4415. For more information, contact the Fire Department at 589-4160. ■

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THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

Intercultural Competency Q&A

What are the key terms?

Culture: The lens through which you see the world and the filter through which you *hear* the world.

Diversity: The fact of human difference that may make a difference in how we interact with one another, with communities, institutions, and with ourselves.

Intercultural Competence: Learning ways to work across cultural differences to achieve our workplace (and community) goals.

-- N. Abdul-Wahid, *One Ummah Consulting*

What are the stages of the Developmental Model of Intercultural Competency?

Denial: When people believe their own experience is the only valid one; consideration of other cultures is avoided; they isolate themselves from other cultures and deny there are differences.

Defense: A person recognizes that there are other cultures but sees his or her own culture as the only good one while others are denigrated, put down, or seen as a threat.

Minimization: When people believe there are other cultures that appear different from their own but emphasize commonality; they see a universal culture (usually one's own) and think that deep down all people are the same.

Acceptance: One recognizes and respects cultural difference.

Adaptation: When a person has the ability to shift perspectives in and out of another cultural worldview.

Integration: Occurs when one's experience of self, one's identity, is expanded to include other cultural worldviews.

What does all of this mean?

Each of us has the capacity to experience cultural difference in increasingly complex ways. For example, a wine connoisseur can tell the difference between a 1978 Merlot grown in Napa Valley and a 1979 Merlot grown in Texas. If you put the 1978 and 1979 Merlots in front of a beer drinker, the person will not be able to tell you the difference – they're both just red wines to that person.

We tend to experience interactions across cultural differences in much the same way. Why do some people think of every black person from Chicago as being the same? Why do some treat a Laotian American, born and raised in Dubuque, as if they are the same as a Laotian person born and raised in Laos? This happens because many people have limited experience with those cultural differences. Consequently, they miss the richness and wide range of diversity within those populations (as we do our own). We are able to grow our capacity to experience cultural difference in complex ways through self-awareness, other-culture awareness, and learning various intercultural competency skills.

"Change is inevitable. Transformation is optional."

- Juan C. Moreno

-- From the City of Dubuque Intercultural Competency Steering Team

Did You Know...

Surging 60 places on *Forbes* magazine's annual "Best Small Places for Business" list, Dubuque has moved into 15th place in the U.S.

Dubuque is the smallest city in the top 15 list and its climb represents the second biggest gain in the U.S. on *Forbes'* list of 179 small metro areas. In the same report, Dubuque's rank for job-growth led all other Iowa cities, according to the magazine's five-year, annualized figures. ■

Your Pet's "Duty" is Your Duty

Pet owners are reminded that they are required by City Code to immediately remove waste left by their pets on public or private property other than their own. Violation of this ordinance can result in a civil citation and fine of up to \$750 and court costs.

Pet waste contains a variety of organisms -- including bacteria and internal parasites -- which may be both communicable and harmful to humans, especially children. Fecal coliform bacteria, for example, can cause severe stomach illness and rashes. In addition, various diseases and parasitic infestations also can be spread between animals through uncollected waste.

Pet waste should be collected in a bag and that bag added to other trash for refuse collection. (Individual pet waste bags should not be loosely placed in trash cans.) Pet waste should **NOT** be composted, combined with yard waste, or dumped in the storm sewer.

For more information, call the City's Animal Control Officer at 589-4185. ■

CITY MANAGER'S COLUMN

by Michael C. Van Milligen

A kick-off event was held in mid-May for **Every Child Every Promise**, 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. America's Promise uses the "Five Promises" framework to shape their efforts and improve the odds for youth:

- Caring Adults
- Safe Places
- Healthy Start
- Effective Education
- Opportunities to Help Others

Local drivers behind the **Every Child Every Promise** process are the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and Mississippi Valley Promise. Steering committee members include: Cynthia Cechota, Chad Chandlee, Theresa Deutsch, Lynne Devaney, Eric Dregne, Nancy Dunkel, Shannon Gaherty, Rev. Ken Gibson, David Harris, Mary Moothart, Jan Powers, Karen Ridings, Jane Steele, Lori Thielen, and Nancy Van Milligen.

Mississippi Valley Promise is an umbrella agency (not a service provider) that connects people to resources and assists service providers in delivering the Five Promises to youth. They are the area catalyst that facilitates collaboration among youth-serving agencies. Collaboration helps eliminate duplication of services, promotes more efficient use of limited funds and builds a more efficient delivery system.

every child | every promise



The goals of the **Every Child Every Promise** process are to:

- Identify and prioritize the needs of youth 0-20 years old.
- Implement an intense marketing and public relations campaign to communicate the needs to the community.
- Identify and link agencies, schools, funders, and the community at large to help fill these needs efficiently and effectively.

- Develop a strategic plan for the community and create a "Growth Chart" which will keep the community focused, engaged and measuring/monitoring our progress.

Community conversations about **Every Child Every Promise** will be held throughout this summer. In October, a community-wide summit will be held to engage citizens, share the data from the community conversations, and create a Community Growth Chart showing where we are and where we need to be. A strategic plan will then be created and implemented over the next three years, uniting service providers to work together to build stronger youth programs and fulfill the Five Promises for all youth in Dubuque County.

I hope you will consider participating in this important process for your young people. For more information, please call the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque at 588-2700 or visit www.everychild-everypromise.org. ■

Towing Ordinance Revised

A revision to a City of Dubuque ordinance has reduced the number of unpaid parking tickets a vehicle is allowed to have without being towed and impounded. The ordinance goes into effect July 1, 2007, and vehicle owners with unpaid fines are encouraged to make payment before their vehicles are towed.

Beginning July 1, vehicles with three unpaid parking fines older than 30 days from the date issued will be towed and impounded until all fines are paid in full. In addition, owners of towed vehicles are responsible for all towing costs, which vary but are approximately

\$50, and any storage fees due to the towing company, if applicable. The ordinance currently allows for impoundment of vehicles with five or more tickets older than seven days from the date of issuance. This section of the ordinance remains in effect. The new ordinance does not replace this ordinance; it does add an additional way a vehicle can be impounded, that being three delinquent tickets older than 30 days. As of July 1, vehicles with five unpaid parking tickets less than 30 days old OR three or more unpaid parking tickets older than 30 days may be impounded.

Partial payments will not be accepted for unpaid fines once the vehicle is on the tow list. Vehicle owners may pay their fines at City Hall or the Parking Division Office located at 830 Bluff Street. For information, please contact the Parking Ticket cashier on the first floor of City Hall at 50 W. 13th Street, or call the Parking Ticket Information number at 589-4148.

Unpaid parking fine payments may also be mailed to: Finance Department – Parking Tickets, 50 W. 13th Street, Dubuque, Iowa 52001. Payment must indicate the license plate number of the vehicle(s). ■

City News Now "Greener"

As part of the City of Dubuque's "Green Community" initiative, this publication is now being printed on Green Seal certified paper, which is 30 percent post-consumer waste. By using this paper stock for one year, the following positive impact will be achieved:

- 5.8 trees conserved for future harvesting
- 33.6 pounds of waterborne waste eliminated
- 4,941.4 gallons of water flow conserved
- 5243 pounds of landfill material diverted
- 1,024.7 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions eliminated
- 8,146,080.8 BTUs of energy conserved

Source: Wausau Paper



New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Jerome Ben
Public Works

Meghan Borgwardt
Emergency Communications

Dane Cox
Police Department

Jodiann Doty
Parking Division

Nicholas Esch
Fire Department

Brandon Feddersen
Fire Department

Thomas Freund
Engineering

Timothy Griebel
Fire Department

Martin Koppes
Parking Division

Troy Kress
Engineering

Steven Ough
Transit Division

Jeremy Owings
Airport

Sue Paul
Parking Division

Abby Redmon
Police Department

Aric Yaw
Police Department

Retirements

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

Paula Gieseaman
Police

Contact Information

The City of Dubuque welcomes your comments and suggestions about your city government or news appearing in this newsletter. Please contact the City of Dubuque at:

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

For the most up-to-date news and announcements regarding the City of Dubuque, visit the official City of Dubuque website at www.cityofdubuque.org.

Editorial Information

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City News is inserted in the City of Dubuque utility bills six times per year. Articles that appear in *City News* may be reprinted with credit given to the City of Dubuque.

Calendar of Events

July

- 7 Nature Day for Kids: "Microscope 101," 10:30 a.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 8 Mines of Spain Recreation Area Program: North American Butterfly Count, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 14 Mainstream Mixed Martial Arts, 8 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 14 Nature Day for Kids: "Birding: Learn to identify and discover birds in the area," 10:30 a.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 21 Nature Day for Kids: "Reptiles: Oh My, Snakes, Turtles and More," 10:30 a.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 22 Mines of Spain Recreation Area Program: Clams & Turtles of the Area, 1 p.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 28 Nature Day for Kids: "Archeology I: Learn about what's underground," 10:30 a.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE

August

- 4 Nature Day for Kids: "Archeology II," 10:30 a.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 11 Nature Day for Kids: "Meet Smokey the Bear!," 10:30 a.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 18 Nature Day for Kids: "Amphibians: Wet and Slimy But Cool!," 10:30 a.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE
- 22 Mines of Spain Recreation Area Program: Prairies of the Mines of Spain, 1 p.m., Prairie Ridge Foot Trail. FREE
- 25 Nature Day for Kids: "Geology: Rocks of Ages," 10:30 a.m., E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. FREE

This calendar is subject to change. For more information on Five Flags events, call 589-4258 or visit www.fiveflagscenter.com. For more information on Mines of Spain Recreation Area events, call 556-0620 or visit www.minesofspain.org.