Dubuque Named A 2012 All-America City

Dubuque was recently named a 2012 All-America City by the National Civic League (NCL) based on an ambitious plan to ensure that more children are reading at grade level by the end of third grade. Dubuque was one of just 14 awardees chosen from a field of more than 100 entries.

The goal of Dubuque’s plan is to increase the numbers of students reading at grade level by the end of third grade and close the achievement gaps for minority students and students in poverty. The plan was submitted by a community coalition facilitated by Every Child/Every Promise, in strategic alignment with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. The coalition includes 22 local partners, including the City of Dubuque. The names of all the partners can all be found at www.dbqfoundation.org. Every Child/Every Promise is a high priority of the Dubuque City Council.

Dubuque’s plan makes the city a charter member in the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Communities Network, a national movement of local and state leaders, nonprofits, and foundations putting a stake in the ground on third-grade reading. That milestone marks the point when children shift from learning to read and begin reading to learn. Students who haven’t mastered reading by then are more likely to get stuck in a cycle of academic failure, drop out of school, and struggle throughout their lives.

“This is a tremendous honor for our community to be named an All-America City twice in just five years,” said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. “This award recognizes the role all citizens have in helping our children achieve reading skills, necessary skills all citizens need to be successful contributing members of this great city and nation. I encourage everyone to help us continue to meet this challenge by getting involved in Dubuque’s third-grade reading strategy.”

In addition to being named an All-America City, Dubuque was also named a Community Solutions PaceSetter by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading for its exemplary leadership and innovation in addressing the vexing challenges that keep many low-income students from learning to read proficiently. This honor recognizes places that are already developing community solutions to the challenges that can undermine early literacy, such as chronic absenteeism, summer learning loss and a lack of school readiness.

The Dubuque Third Grade Reading Coalition plans to expand or scale programs and implement innovative new approaches, integrate national programs into the community network, work to incorporate summer learning into the year-round curriculum and adapt promising practices from outside the community and scale best practices within the district to target the five percent of students who are chronically absent. Through these efforts, the coalition aims to raise the percentage of third-grade students reading at grade level from 86 percent to 90 percent or higher. §
The Jule Introduces “Nightrider” Service

Beginning in Fall 2012, the “Nightrider” transit route will operate Friday and Saturday evenings between 6 p.m. and 2:30 a.m. and is open to the general public. The Nightrider, developed with input from students from Clarke University, Loras College, and University of Dubuque, will provide service every 30 minutes from each campus to west-end and downtown shopping, dining and entertainment venues. This service will operate 40 weeks of the year based on the schools’ fall and spring class schedules. Clarke, Loras, UD and the Iowa DOT ICAAP grant program will provide partial funding for this route. In the 2012-2013 school year, college/university students can ride the Nightrider and all other Jule transit routes for free just by showing their school ID. For more information, please contact The Jule at 563-589-4197 or www.juletransit.org.

Dubuque’s Arts Industry Generates $47.2 Million in Annual Economic Activity

The nonprofit arts and culture industry in Dubuque generates $47.2 million in annual economic activity, supporting 1,530 full-time equivalent jobs and generating $5 million in local and state government revenues and $36.7 million in household income to local residents, according to the Arts & Economic Prosperity IV national economic impact study. The most comprehensive economic impact study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry ever conducted in the United States, Arts & Economic Prosperity IV was conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nation’s leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education. The City of Dubuque was one of 182 study regions that participated in the study.

According to the study, nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Dubuque spent $17.6 million during fiscal year 2010. This spending is far-reaching: organizations pay employees, purchase supplies, contract for services and acquire assets within their community. Those dollars, in turn, supported 577 jobs, generated $15.6 million in household income for local residents and $1.3 million in local and state government revenues.

In addition to spending by organizations, the nonprofit arts and culture industry in Dubuque leverages $29.6 million in event-related spending by its audiences. As a result of attending a cultural event, attendees often eat dinner in local restaurants, pay for parking, buy gifts and souvenirs, and pay a babysitter. What’s more, attendees from out of town often stay overnight in a local hotel. In Dubuque, these dollars support 953 full-time equivalent jobs, generated $21.1 million in household income for local residents and $3.7 million in local and state government revenues.

Complete study data and information can be found at www.cityofdubuque.org/artsmeanbusiness or by contacting Jan Stoffel, City of Dubuque Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator, at janstoff@cityofdubuque.org or 563-690-6064.

Dubuque Regional Airport News

The Dubuque Regional Airport will host an open house on Sunday, Sept. 9, from 7 a.m. to noon. This is in conjunction with the EAA Chapter 327 fly-in/drive-in breakfast, also from 7 a.m. - Noon. There will be static aircraft displays, informational booths, Tri-State Skydivers, the University of Iowa helicopter as well as airport equipment on display. For more information, contact the airport at 563-589-4128.

The Honor Flight of Greater Dubuque will have two honor flights taking WWII and Korean War Veterans from Dubuque to Washington D.C. on Sept. 24 and Sept. 25. These back-to-back flights allow tri-state area veterans a chance to visit the memorials in D.C. as well as observe the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery. For more information, please visit www.honorflightdbq.org.

Smart Plan for Sustainable Development Public Input Meeting Scheduled

The City of Dubuque, Dubuque County, and six small communities have formed a consortium to create the Dubuque County Regional Smart Plan for Sustainable Development. The consortium will host a public input meeting on Monday, Oct. 10, to gather implementation ideas for the Smart Plan. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. at the Dubuque County Emergency Responder Training Center, 14928 Public Safety Way, off Seippel Road. For more information, call Anna at 563-589-7827.
DUBUQUE WILL BE A BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN 2032!

July 2012 marked a record high level of employment for Dubuque County. For the first time ever, there were 58,000 people working in Dubuque County. This new achievement underscores the fact that Dubuque is one of just 26 metro areas (out of 363) that have completely recovered the jobs lost during the recession.

I recently read the results of a study entitled, “Where You’ll Want to Live in 2032.” It cited the findings of a Gallup analysis based on 480,000 interviews with U.S. adults conducted since the beginning of 2011 to predict a region’s future livability. It concluded that the best place to live in 2032 will have tackled unemployment, financial worry, healthcare costs, obesity, and education challenges. Furthermore, it stated, “It will be a place where residents are healthy, optimistic, employed in good jobs they love, and enthusiastic about their communities.”

The study found that the BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN 2032 is the West North Central region of the U.S., which includes IOWA, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. It concluded this region is poised for the brightest future.

The authors noted that the future livability of any community will be based on, among other things, its commitment to an entrepreneurial spirit, an informed and active citizenry, and a sense of shared commonwealth. Additionally, actions/initiatives directed by private and public partnerships with a united sense of purpose and promise can make a significant difference in the future livability of a community.

It is encouraging that Dubuque is part of the region identified as the most livable in the Gallup analysis. It acknowledges the progress made and foundations for success that have been laid in recent decades. Even more importantly, however, it indicates Dubuque is “on the right track.”

The core of the Sustainable Dubuque initiative is to make Dubuque a community “where you’ll want to live in 2032” and beyond. We define sustainability as a community’s ability to meet the environmental, economic, and social equity needs of today, without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It’s not just about our livability today, it’s about the livability of our children, our grandchildren, and future generations.

We need to continue to work to make Dubuque the #1 place in the #1 region!

Our commitment to our young people and their future was recently affirmed when the National Civic League named Dubuque an All-America City for the second time in just five years. Please read the cover article on this important initiative being led by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and think about how you can support it and other efforts to make Dubuque one of the best places to live in 20 years and beyond.

City Hires New Director of Housing & Community Development and Community Engagement Coordinator

Alvin Nash was named the City’s new housing and community development director, replacing David Harris after his retirement. Nash will manage Dubuque’s housing code inspection, rental housing licensing, federally assisted housing, housing rehabilitation, housing relocation, lead paint hazard reduction, community development/Community Development Block Grant, Family Self-Sufficiency, Green and Healthy Homes, Bridges Initiative, and home purchase programs.

Nash has 23 years of experience in construction, weatherization, and managing housing programs. He previously was president and CEO of Blue Ridge Housing Corporation, a nonprofit in Virginia that focuses on first-time home buyers, neighborhood revitalization, and consumer education. Nash was also president and CEO of CBSF Inc., where he provided consulting for housing and community development projects.

Nikola Pavelić was named the City’s community engagement coordinator, a new position developed to support residents involved in community and government, while catalyzing additional participation.

Pavelić received a master’s degree in adult learning and organizational leadership from Drake University in Des Moines.

His past experience includes non-profit work and efforts related to volunteer and community engagement. Most recently, Pavelić was director at CULTUREALL™, a nonprofit organization that teaches youth intercultural understanding and appreciation.

As community engagement coordinator, Pavelić will provide strategies, planning, facilitation, and development services to City management and departments, and create and implement a community engagement plan that includes effective communication and participation in local government and community building processes and supports an inclusive community.
Dubuque Awarded $9.4 Million for Watershed Project

The State Revolving Fund (SRF), a joint program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), recently awarded the City of Dubuque $9.4 million to convert 40 alleys and two parking lots to pervious pavement to improve water quality and augment the city’s stormwater management system and the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project. The funds will allow the City to install permeable interlocking concrete pavement in 40 alleys and two parking lots located in the Bee Branch Watershed.

New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

- **Germain Bailey**  
  Transit
- **George Nauman**  
  Engineering
- **Richard Schmitt**  
  Transit
- **Nicholas Connolly**  
  Engineering
- **Nikola Pavelić**  
  Human Rights
- **Phil Wagner**  
  Economic Development
- **Lisa Hunn**  
  Personnel
- **Jacqueline Ramirez**  
  Parking
- **Jennifer Welsh**  
  Emergency Comm.
- **Jodie Julson**  
  Emergency Comm.
- **Natalie Riniker**  
  City Manager
- **Alvin Nash**  
  Housing & Comm. Development
- **Matthew Runde**  
  Airport

Retirements

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

- **Mike Denman**  
  Leisure Services
- **Virginia Dougherty**  
  Engineering
- **Robert “Ken” Laubscher**  
  Fire
- **Mark Smith**  
  Airport
- **Kathy Sturm**  
  Finance
- **Darlene Unsen**  
  Parking