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NEWS RELEASE

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Analog Test of CityChannel Dubuque Starts Tomorrow

DUBUQUE, Iowa – In an attempt to determine how many local cable subscribers are not able to view digital television signals, the City of Dubuque and Mediacom will replace CityChannel Dubuque programming on analog channel 8 with a special recorded announcement for one week.

From Wednesday, July 22, to Tuesday, July 28, local cable subscribers tuning to analog channel 8 will see a short announcement asking them to call the City Cable TV Division. Cable TV staff will help them determine if they have access to digital television signals. Regular CityChannel Dubuque programming will continue as normal on its digital channel (85.2) and on the City website (www.cityofdubuque.org/media).

CityChannel Dubuque is the only public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access channel on the Dubuque system that exists in both analog and digital forms. This test will only affect local cable subscribers who connect the cable directly into an analog television and do not use a Mediacom converter box or digital adapter.

Local cable subscribers who connect the cable directly into an analog television will not be able to see CityChannel Dubuque during this test. They will only see the special announcement. Cable subscribers who connect the cable directly into a digital television will be able to see the special announcement on channel 8 and CityChannel

Dubuque on channel 85.2. Any subscriber using a Mediacom converter box or digital adapter will automatically see the digital version of CityChannel Dubuque when they tune to channel 8.

Cable TV Coordinator Craig Nowack said analog television eventually will be a thing of the past. "The federal government required broadcast television stations to end analog transmissions in 2009," said Nowack. "In 2012, Mediacom began transitioning away from analog channels and now has only a small number of them on their cable system in Dubuque." Nowack said Mediacom has plans in place to eliminate all analog channels on some of their other cable systems and may eventually do the same here in Dubuque.

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