

# CITYnews

VOL. 8 ISSUE 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

## Water Meter Replacement Project Underway

Over the next 24 months, each of the 22,500 water meters in the City of Dubuque will be replaced. The new meters will greatly increase metering accuracy and efficiency and feature automated meter reading (AMR) abilities, eliminating the need to manually read 22,500 meters every month -- saving more than \$144,000 per year.

The meter replacement project also will include the installation of an unmeasured flow reducer (UFR), manufactured locally by A.Y. McDonald Manufacturing. The UFR allows measurement of flows below 1/4 gallon per minute - such as leaks and drips - that have been previously unmeasurable, even by new meters. Dubuque will be

the first city in Iowa to install UFRs. Pilot studies have shown an average increase of five to 10 percent of measured water for each UFR installed. A pilot study of 35 locations in a Tennessee city showed an average improvement in unaccounted for water of more than nine percent.



*Water meters with a UFR Meter Coupling allows low volumes of water usage, previously unmeasured by the water meter, to be measured by batching the usage.*

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The new system will allow consumers to identify waste and consider corrective measures which will translate into smarter water use and increased energy savings for residents. Reduction in water use will also reduce the use of both energy and chemicals in treating and delivering water. According to national research, 30 percent of households have water leaks (faucet, toilet, etc.). As part of the water meter replacement project, the City is also creating a grant program for costs associated with repairing leaks identified by the new system. The City will budget \$10,000 annually in matching funds to fix leaks and reduce costs for water customers.

As part of the City of Dubuque's Smarter City partnership with IBM, IBM's technology will interface with the City's system to process water consumption data and give City staff near real-time visibility into the overall city water consumption. IBM Research

*- continued on page 2-*

## Dubuque<sup>2</sup>

making sustainability sustainable

Water seems to be everywhere, so why would we have to worry about conserving it? Less than three percent of the Earth's water supply is fresh water; however, it is necessary for almost all aspects of our lives. We need it to drink, wash dishes, bathe, irrigate crops and much more.

- The average household's water usage can be reduced by 14 percent by following a few simple steps.\* This can amount to big savings in your pocketbook and for the environment.  
\* Environmental Protection Agency Figure
- One simple but effective step is to stop those leaks! Check your toilet for leaks by putting food coloring in the tank and check a few hours later to see if any of it leaked into the toilet bowl.

- Also, try capturing the water wasted while waiting for the faucet to heat up or cool down in a pitcher. You can then use it to water your plants around the house or in your yard.

By making a few simple changes, you can reduce water waste and save money on your next water bill.

The Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce and Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, with funding support from Mystique Casino, have partnered to create Dubuque<sup>2</sup>, a public/private partnership to shape our community's future. Dubuque<sup>2</sup> is the city's newest community led initiative to increase long-lasting sustainability efforts, opportunities, and create community wide behavior change.

Visit [www.dubuque2.org](http://www.dubuque2.org) or call 588-2700 for more information. §

THE CITY OF  
**DUBUQUE**  
*Masterpiece on the Mississippi*

also plans to build new service systems integration, data management, and analytic technologies that will create new insights for consumers which will translate into better water utilization and energy savings. A volunteer pilot group of approximately 250 water customers will be selected for this enhanced metering study. Additional information will be provided to eligible customers in the geographically defined pilot study area.

The actual replacement of meters is scheduled to begin in January 2010 and will require access to basements of homes and businesses where 99 percent of the meters are located. Customers will be contacted in advance to schedule appointments for replacement/installation. This project is being coordinated by the Water Department and Finance/Utility Billing Department. For additional information, contact Bob Green, Water Department Manager, at 589-4291 or by email at [bgreen@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:bgreen@cityofdubuque.org), or Ken TeKippe, Finance Director, at 589-4133 or by email at [ktekippe@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:ktekippe@cityofdubuque.org).

## Accessible Apartments Available for Rent



*Step by Step, a non-profit organization incorporated to serve and empower people with disabilities by assisting in the development of self-sustaining projects, recently completed an accessible housing apartment building at 759 Bluff Street. Seven apartments, currently available for rent, were completely renovated with accessibility features such as roll-in showers and roll-under counters. The project, funded in part by the City of Dubuque, will provide affordable housing for individuals who are mobility impaired and income eligible.*



*For renting information, please call 557-7010.*

## 2010 Census Information

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. The 2010 Census will help communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services
- Determine the number of seats Iowa has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

# United States® Census 2010

Census forms will arrive in every resident's mailbox beginning mid-March 2010. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including the IRS, FBI, CIA or any other government agency. All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty

for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both.

A Telephone Questionnaire Assistance Center at 1-866-872-6868 will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week from February 25, 2010 through July 31, 2010.

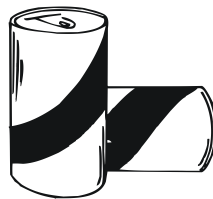
Additional information on Census 2010 is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). For local information, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/census](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/census) or contact Planning Services at 589-4210 or [planning@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:planning@cityofdubuque.org).



### Attention Snowbirds!

The Post Office will not forward 2010 Census questionnaires, so you'll receive one at both addresses. If Dubuque is your "usual" address, be sure to fill out your form when you return to Dubuque in the Spring!

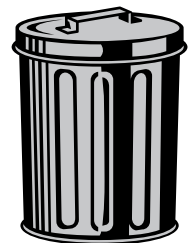
## A Reminder from Public Works



Scavenging aluminum cans from recycling bins is illegal. All materials set out for curbside recycling are contracted to a processor. Most materials, like aluminum cans, are part of a revenue formula that helps reduce the program cost to all city utility customers. If this type of theft is observed, please report it to the police at 589-4415.

## Winter Set-Out Tips

- Do not use white plastic bags in the winter. They blend in with snow and get missed by crews.
- Use a lid and keep the inside of your can clean and dry so the contents won't freeze to the can.
- Place smaller bags inside the can at the top.
- Make sure your containers are easily accessible for crew collection.



Through April 1, 2010, the City will offer "by appointment only" collection for yard waste and food scraps on Thursdays, with exception during the Merry Mulch program on January 4-15, at which time no reservation is required. Normal fees apply. Citizens must submit a pickup request by phone or through the City's website by 3 p.m. on the preceding Wednesday. To request a collection, call 589-4250 or visit [www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org) and select the "Service Request" link.



# A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

## FY2010 BUDGET PROCESS

I will soon present my budget transmittal message and the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 recommended budget document to the City Council. The budget process will continue as City staff from each department and division present budget information to the City Council at a series of public meetings. The public is invited to attend and provide input at the following public hearings:

- Monday, February 8
- Wednesday, February 10
- Thursday, February 11
- Tuesday, February 16
- Wednesday, February 24
- Tuesday, March 2

The City Council will hold the final public hearing to adopt the FY2011 Budget on Tuesday, March 9. All budget hearings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the Historic Federal Building at 350 W. 6th Street. These meetings are also aired live on CityChannel 8 on the Mediacom cable

system and streamed live and archived on the City website at [www.cityofdubuque.org/media](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/media). For a detailed schedule of which departments will present at each hearing, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/budget](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/budget) or call 589-4322.

## SAFE COMMUNITY TASK FORCE UPDATE

Dubuque's Safe Community Task Force has been meeting regularly since they were appointed by the City Council in early October. The group has discussed what they hope to accomplish and created four subcommittees: 1) neighborhood engagement/social capital, 2) enforcement, 3) management of physical environment, and 4) research and facts. Four to five task force members will serve on each subcommittee and additional volunteers are being sought.

- The purpose of the neighborhood engagement/social capital subcommittee involves several issues: identification of neighborhood leaders;

correction of any misperceptions that may exist; including young people; and fostering understanding of new and existing cultures.

- The enforcement subcommittee will explore several issues including: curfew, code enforcement, gang activity, reference checks, police presence, and trespassing.
- The management of physical environment subcommittee plans to review issues including: zoning, promotion of home ownership, neighborhood appearances, incentives to public service, redevelopment incentives, and neighborhood beautification.
- The research and facts subcommittee is tasked with gathering information on several issues including: current programming, accurate crime statistics, researching any myths that may exist, addressing stereotypes, and historical research.

With the addition of subcommittee members, there will be nearly 75 community members working together to discuss and address this important issue. I will continue to provide updates as their work continues. §

## Sidewalk Snow/Ice Removal Guidelines for Property Owners

According to City Code, Dubuque property owners are responsible for snow and ice removal on sidewalks in front of homes and/or businesses.

- Remove snow and ice immediately after the snow fall ends and no longer than 48 hours after the snow event.
- Pile snow in front yard or in the park lawn (area between the sidewalk and curb)--not on adjacent property or in the street, alley, or sidewalk.
- Clear entire width of sidewalk, from edge to edge, and keep access ramps on corner lots open.
- Don't bury fire hydrants; expose the hydrant if it is not visible.

- To confidentially report a public sidewalk property needing snow/ice removal, call 589-4270, submit a service request through the City website ([www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org)) or email [engineer@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:engineer@cityofdubuque.org).
- Report unsafe conditions on rental property to the landlord and/or the property management company. Alternatively, the City's Housing Department can provide confidential assistance by calling 589-4231 or emailing [housing@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:housing@cityofdubuque.org).
- The City provides a one-time courtesy notice to the property owner. If the accumulation is not



removed, the City will assess the property owner for the cost of removal (an hourly fee plus any salt/material costs), plus a \$25 administrative fee. Additional complaints on that same property will immediately be completed by the City and those costs will be billed to the property owner; all unpaid balances will be given to the County Treasurer at the end of the winter season for collection in the same manner as taxes.

For additional information on the City's snow/ice removal policy, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/engineering](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/engineering) or call 589-4270. §

# Earned Income Tax Credit for Working People

Looking for a little extra cash? You could be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). File your taxes and see if you qualify. You could receive up to \$5,657! Need help filing your taxes? No problem. There will be free tax preparation sites all over Dubuque. An EITC Awareness Day will be held on Friday, January 29, at the Multicultural Family Center at 1157 Central Avenue.

For more information on the EITC or free tax preparation sites, contact Becky Jenkins at Operation: New View at 556-5130 x14 or [bjenkins@operationnewview.org](mailto:bjenkins@operationnewview.org).



# CALENDAR

## January

1	City Offices Closed. Refuse and recycling collection will be on Saturday, Jan. 2.
3	Public Ice Skating, 3-5 p.m., Five Flags Arena
4-15	City's Merry Mulch Christmas Tree Recycling Program and Yard Waste Collection. Call 589-4250 for details.
8-9	Championship Bull Ride, Five Flags Arena, TBA.
11-12	Iowa Special Olympics Winter Games, Five Flags Arena (all-day event)
18	Public Ice Skating, 2-4 p.m., Five Flags Arena
24	Public Ice Skating, 3-5 p.m., Five Flags Arena
29-31	Iowa Winter Games, Five Flags Arena (all-day event)
29-30	Fly-By-Night Productions presents "Miss Witherspoon," 8 p.m., Five Flags Bijou Room
31	Fly-By-Night Productions presents "Miss Witherspoon," 2 p.m., Five Flags Bijou Room

## February

2-4	Illinois Special Olympics, Five Flags Arena (all-day event)
5-6	Fly-By-Night Productions presents: "Miss Witherspoon," 8 p.m., Five Flags Bijou Room
7	Fly-By-Night Productions presents: "Miss Witherspoon," 2 p.m., Five Flags Bijou Room
7	Public Ice Skating, 3-5 p.m., Five Flags Arena
11	"Cats," 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Arena
12	Public Ice Skating, 9-11 p.m., Five Flags Arena
13	Dubuque Symphony Orchestra Presents: Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto, 7:30 p.m., Five Flags Theater
14	Dubuque Symphony Orchestra Presents: Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto, 2:00 p.m., Five Flags Theater
15	Public Ice Skating, 2-4 p.m., Five Flags Arena
19	Playhouse Disney Live!, 7 p.m., Five Flags Arena
21	Public Ice Skating, 3-5 p.m., Five Flags Arena

This calendar is subject to change.

- Leisure Services: 589-4263, [www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org)
- Five Flags: 589-4258, [www.fiveflagscenter.com](http://www.fiveflagscenter.com)



The Dubuque Regional Airport received official notice of its **19th consecutive year** of perfect compliance with Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 139. FAR Part 139 governs safety standards for airfield operations, safety, and maintenance at airports served by commercial airlines. That means the airport meets or exceeds all federally mandated standards, rules, and policies which promote safety. §

## New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

**Will Hoyer**  
City Manager's Office

**Kenneth Offerman**  
Water Pollution Control

**Martha Sacchini**  
Library

**Tami Lansing**  
Finance

**David Peterson**  
Library

**Mark Weitz**  
Fire

**Jesse McDowell**  
Library

**Duane Richter**  
Engineering

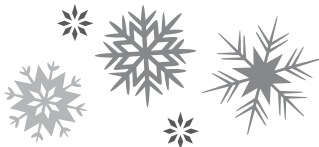
**Allison Weydert**  
Library

## Retirements

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

**Gil Spence**  
Leisure Services

**Michael Elliot**  
Fire



### 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](mailto: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](http://www.cityofdubuque.org).

## LEISURE SERVICES news & events

*Winter/Spring 2010 Leisure Programs brochures* Available Monday, Jan. 4. View the brochure and register online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation). Request a hard copy by calling 589-4263.

**New Program** 3-on-3 adult basketball league will begin play on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at Roosevelt Middle School for a seven-week season. Entry fee is \$50 per team and is due on Jan. 15. Games will be played half-court and teams will self-officiate.

**New Program** Adult co-ed volleyball mini league will begin play on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at Washington Middle School for a seven-week season. Entry fee is \$95 per team and is due on Jan. 21. Matches will be self-officiated.

*16th Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament*  
March 19-20: Modern & Women's divisions  
March 26-27: Classic & Masters divisions.

A variety of volleyball and basketball open gyms are available for all ages. For additional details and schedules, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation) or call Leisure Services at 589-4263. §