

January 2025 | Volume 23, Issue 1

News & Views

New Year
NEW
DREAMS

**Make a resolution to get involved.
Attend the next Durant Chamber of Commerce Meeting
Monday, January 13 at noon at the Community Center!**

Holiday Closings For City Offices

City offices will be closed Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's Day. Garbage & recycling collection will follow the regular schedule with pickup on Tuesday, December 31st.

Council Meetings in January

Monday, January 13th

Monday, January 27th

6:00 pm at City Hall

Agendas and minutes for council meetings can be found on our website at www.cityofdurantiowa.com

Christmas Tree Disposal

Oveson Refuse & Recycle will not be picking up REAL Christmas trees. ARTIFICIAL Christmas trees will require a bulk sticker for \$6.00 and can be set out on any regular garbage day (Tuesday).

Board Member Needed

Thanks to all the community members that volunteer each year for the City of Durant boards and committees! We appreciate your service. This year we have a vacancy on the Tree Board. If anyone is interested, please call City Hall at 563-785-4451 by January 23, 2025.

Snow Emergency

A snow emergency may be declared when two or more inches of snow are forecast. However, additional factors such as ice, wind and/or rain can also dictate the declaration of a snow emergency. Notifications of snow emergencies shall be made by the City through local TV news channels, City Facebook page, City website, and Alert Iowa. During a snow emergency, no vehicle shall be parked in or on any part of a public street or right-of-way of a public street during snow removal operations. Drivers are encouraged to find alternate parking spots before the first snow event. Please make every attempt to park off the paved section of streets. Please remove snow & ice from sidewalks within 48 hours of a snow event.

The complete snow removal ordinance (69.11 & 69.12) & sidewalk regulations (136.03) can be found on our city website www.cityofdurantiowa.com.

**Please remember you will only be notified of snow and other emergencies if you signed up at Alert Iowa or Cedar County Emergency Management.

Phone Numbers

If you have had a change in your phone number, please let City Hall know so we may update your account. Many of our residents no longer have a land line and have strictly gone to using their cell phone. It is important that we have a working phone number on your account to keep you informed about water main breaks, high water bills due to leaks, and other water issues. Thank you!

Go Green Earn A \$5 Credit By Signing Up For E-Bills

Due to rising postage fees, the City of Durant and Durant Municipal Electric are offering a one-time \$5 credit on your utility bill to anyone signing up for emailed bills.

Utility billing E-bills (emailed bills) offer you these exciting advantages:

- Go paperless (Go Green!)
- Eliminate the risk of your bill being lost or damaged in the mail
- Receive your utility bills earlier than via traditional mail
- Increase the level of privacy compared to postcard bills delivered via traditional mail

Sign up today by stopping at City Hall and Durant Municipal Electric to fill out the E-bills application. You must stop at both locations to sign up, as each entity has its own form.

Automatic Bank Payments (Ach)

The City of Durant offers payment of your utility bill through automatic bank payments. We require the customer to fill out an "Authorization for Direct Payments" form (found on our website www.cityofdurantiowa.com or available at City Hall) and return it to City Hall by the 5th of the month that you authorize the city to start the automatic withdrawal. This can be set up for any bank or credit union. A statement bill will still be mailed or emailed to the customer and automatic payment will occur on the 20th of the month or if the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday, the first banking business day following the 20th.

Utility Reminders

Shutoff notices for delinquent December bills will be distributed on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 7, with payment due by noon on Wednesday, Jan. 8. Remember a \$25 fee is applied to your account if you receive a shutoff notice.



Monthly Energy Savings Tip

Help Combat High Heating Bills

Run your ceiling fans in-reverse, this circulates air within a room helping disperse the hot air throughout the room rather than gathering on the ceiling. Make sure if you have a fireplace that the flue damper is closed on your fireplace when not in use so that the warm air doesn't escape.

Receive a one-time \$5 bill credit per account when signing up for email billing.

Reminder DMEP offers E-billing, ACH options, or you can pay online at <https://ubi.gworks.com/durantmunicipalelectric/>

Call Before you Dig

Prior to starting an outdoor digging project call Iowa One Call at 811 or 1-800-292-8989 (it's the law). Iowa One Call is a free service that will notify utilities to come mark the location of underground lines. You must call 48 hours in advance of digging (not counting weekends or holidays).

Notice to Our Customers

Durant Municipal Electric Plant does its best to see that you are satisfied with your utility service. However, if you have any questions or complaints regarding your utility service, you may contact a utility representative at DMEP 601 4th St Durant IA 52747, 563-785-6213. A representative will try to assist you with your problem. If your complaint is related to service disconnection, safety, or renewable energy, and we do not resolve it, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling toll-free 877-565-4450; by mailing 1375 E Court, Rm 69, Des Moines IA 50319; or by emailing customer@iub.iowa.gov.

PS  Add A "PS"
To Help A Neighbor

You can help your neighbors this winter through *Project Share* -- an ongoing program directed by Durant Municipal Electric to assist needy families with wintertime heating bills.

Under *Project Share*, you can donate any amount you are able through your regular monthly utility bill or by making a direct donation to Project Share. Those qualifying for help are carefully identified by an area social service agency. These funds will then be distributed to neighbors in need for wintertime energy costs.

Call us today for more information on *Project Share* -- or fill out and return the coupon provided with your donation! You will be helping to keep someone in Algona a little warmer this winter!

Durant Municipal Electric
PO Box 138
Durant IA 52747
563-785-6213



I'd like to help a neighbor in need with a tax-deductible contribution to Project Share

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

- I will contribute \$ _____ per month to Project Share. I understand this amount will be billed to me monthly.
- I have enclosed a \$ _____ donation to Project Share.

From the Shelves of the Durant Library

Welcome to 2025! This year, we challenge you to read 25 books. (They don't have to be library books, but you know, of course, that you can get them here if you want.) Keep track of your progress all year, then submit your tracker for a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

The Durant branch, and all Scott County Library System branches, will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1. All branches also will be closed on Monday, Jan. 20 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Our story times, at 10 a.m. Thursdays, are geared for ages 6 and under with a caregiver. This month's dates are Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

On Monday, Jan. 6 at 3:30 p.m., all ages can come see Sound Waves With Sarah, the Cedar County Conservation naturalist. Yes, you read right -- SEE sound! Using salt, sand, or rice, you can view the fascinating patterns that different sounds make.

The Adult Book Club will discuss "Happy Place" by Emily Henry at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15. It's about an ex-couple who fake a relationship while on

vacation with friends. All adults are welcome; call 563-570-0797 for details.

You can start a Prairie in a Cup on Friday, Jan. 24 at 5 p.m. with naturalist Sarah Subbert. All ages are invited to gather seedlings of your choice in a cup, then take your mini-prairie home to plant in the spring. Everything is supplied, and it's free. Don't be shy -- come get these plants!

The Scott County Library System's online resources are always available at scottcountylibrary.org. The library is in the City Hall building at 402 6th Street. Regular hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2 to 7 p.m., and Thursday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. If you have questions, or are looking for something good to read, watch, or listen to, drop by or call 563-285-4794, option 1 whenever we're open. When the Durant branch is closed, you can call the Eldridge information staff at the same number by choosing option 0.

Durant American Legion Auxiliary

The J.L. Shryer Unit 430 was called to order on December 20, 2024 at 7:05 PM by President Glenda Wulf with 7 members present. Polly Geurink gave the opening prayer and Cassandra Nichols read the minutes from the November meeting.

Cassandra Nichols reported that one spot has been reserved for the unit to sponsor one junior for Girls State. Glenda Wulf will be making calls for volunteers for the fish fry on January 11th. A motion was also passed to send a donation to the Veterans Outreach Center in Davenport.

Polly Geurink gave the closing prayer and Glenda Wulf adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm. Afterward, the Auxiliary joined the Legion for our annual Christmas meal and gift exchange. Our next meeting will be on January 17, 2025 at 7 PM.

Cedar County Senior Dining

Senior Dining at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is for everyone 60 years young or older and their spouse regardless of age. Enjoy a nutritious meal while socializing. Reservations are required by calling Fay Wulf at 785-4525 or 563-320-4570.

January Menu (All served with milk.)

- 1/2 Salisbury Steak, Mashed Pots/Gravy, Carrots, Tropical Fruit, Oatmeal Cookie
- 1/9 Scalloped Chicken, Gravy, Mixed Vegetables, Applesauce Jello, Chocolate Pudding
- 1/16 Roast Beef, Mashed Pots/Gravy, Green Beans, Fruited Jello, Dinner Roll
- 1/23 Parmesan Chicken, Spaghetti Noodles, Mixed Vegetables, Oranges & Pineapple, Brownie
- 1/30 Hamloaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Chateau Vegetables, Fruited Jello, Dinner Roll

HACAP Fresh & Free Produce

Everyone 60 years and older are welcome to take advantage of HACAP's fresh and free produce distribution on Thursday, Jan. 16, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Dining meal site.

Senior Foot Health Clinic

Durant Community Center • Thurs., Jan. 9, 9 - 11:30 a.m.

- Please bring your own basin and towel to the clinic.
- If you have diabetes you MUST have an order from your doctor.
- A \$10 donation is requested at the time of service.

Walcott American Legion Roast Beef Supper Friday, Jan. 24, Serving 5 to 8 pm

Donation of \$13 Children's Chicken Nugget Meal - \$4

Desserts & Raffle. Meals available for dining in or carry out. For further information, call Commander Jim Farmer @ 563-299-6326

Support the Tradition - Sign up Today

Lt. J.L. Shryer American Legion Post 430 Holiday Home American Flag Display

For \$35 per year, the members of Lt. J. L. Shryer American Legion Post 430 in Durant will post a 3' X 5' American flag in the front yard of your home or business on the following special holidays:

**Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day,
Labor Day, and Veterans Day.**

A flag holder will be placed in your yard at ground level at your selected location. Iowa One Call will be contacted for location of utilities prior to installing the flag holders. On each listed holiday, members or Post 430 will place a flag in your yard for your holiday flag display. The Lt. J.L. Shryer Post will be responsible for any repairs or replacement if the flag were to become soiled or damaged. You may sign up for this program at anytime during the year and the cost will be pro-rated by \$7 per holiday.

Your donation will provide support to Veterans, the community, and The American Legion youth programs such as the Oratorical Contest, Cub Scouts, Boys State and college scholarships. Please fill out the following information and return it at your convenience.

**Make checks payable to: The American Legion Post 430.
Return to: Kyle Huesmann, 23265 5th Ave, Stockton, IA 52769
Please contact Kyle with any questions at (563) 343-9416.**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Underground Sprinklers? Yes _____ No _____

Underground Dog Fence? Yes _____ No _____

Renewal **New**

Durant Volunteer Ambulance Service

Submitted by Dennis D. Frisch, Durant Volunteer Ambulance Service, member

Yahoo, it's a new year! Sure hope you welcomed 2025 in without having a doozy of a headache the next day. The end of the old year and the beginning of the new year allows us to reflect on the past year and make resolutions that we hope to accomplish in the new year even though we know very well in the back of our minds we will probably not be successful.

Let's see what the ambulance service can reflect on this past year. Some of the highs and lows are listed per month.

January - We held our annual holiday party to celebrate the new year. Unfortunately, we had 2 of our volunteer drivers leave the service.

February - Orville Randolph, a long time emergency medical responder, resigned. We participated in the Durant Career Fair.

March - There was a change in the way emergency services would be dispatched. The closest ambulance service would respond rather than the ambulance that served that territory.

April - We participated in operation prom to show the school students that bad choices may lead to bad consequences. Another of our volunteer drivers left the service.

May - We were introduced to the 'Iowa First Aid Project' which was being piloted by several counties in the state. This project would allow selected individuals in the county to respond to certain emergencies without being state certified. Another volunteer driver left the service.

June - We participated in the emergency vehicle showcase where people could go through the ambulance to see what equipment we carried and to talk to some of our personnel. We added a volunteer driver to our roster.

July - We participated in the Walcott Days parade. We were unable to participate in the BIX 7 race due to being short staffed.

August - This is parade month and we participated in the Durant Firemen's parade and the Wilton Founder's Day parade. Although we were invited to other parades we could not attend due to our short staff.

September - We celebrated our 50th anniversary by having an Open House. The nemesis of ambulance service personnel, back injuries, struck 2 of our crew members. Both will be unable to respond to calls for several months with one having to resign from the service. Another crew person will be out for 2 - 3 months due to an injury.

October - Daytime staffing became more difficult with the temporary loss of the crew members last month. Ideas are being considered to shore up the ranks.

November - Several members attended the Iowa Emergency Medical Services Association conference in Des Moines to get continuing education hours for their recertification. Six members of the community completed driver and/or member applications.

December - The individuals accepted to be drivers/members are completing our orientation process and will be beginning their probationary time.

The other side of the coin is the making of resolutions. These are a few of ours for the new year:

1) We shall believe the I-80 driver who called 911 at 2:00 A. M. and claims someone is injured as he saw them drive into the ditch even though he did not stop to help them nor did he see them drive out of the ditch and continue their journey on I-80.

2) We shall believe the patient who was found lying along I-80 after not receiving a ride for more than an hour while hiking across Iowa in 10 degree Fahrenheit weather who is cold, tired, and hungry but states he has chest pain radiating to his left shoulder and arm, neck, and jaw. Almost forgot, he states he has pain in both legs.

3) We shall believe the patient who has been unresponsive due to a street medication he consumed and is now coherent and says, "I'll be good". I still have a rib that occasionally reminds me that he may not have been telling the truth.

4) We shall believe the patient who has his arms handcuffed behind his back because he just finished fighting with law enforcement and states, "If you remove the handcuffs I will behave on the way to the hospital."

5) We shall believe the patient who has difficulty walking, slurred speech, bloodshot eyes, and parked his car on its side in the ditch when he tells us, "I only had 2 beers."

6) We will continue with our best effort to respond to all calls we receive.

7) We will continue the best quality comfort and care we can provide to the individuals living, visiting, or passing through our community and the surrounding area we serve.

You may be able to tell we are having issues with staffing and as the saying goes, "things always get worse before they get better". We lost some very good people from our service this past year but recently have added some enthusiastic community people to fill those voids. If you would like to join these people and can find time in your busy schedule to help us, contact a member/driver or call the office (563-785-4540) and leave a message to request an application. We wish everyone a happy, healthy, safe, prosperous, and successful new year.

Museum Moments

In 1920, Dr. Thomas Jacobs, M.D. bought a property located at present day 500 Block of 5th Street. He opened an office and enlarged the building so it could serve as a hospital. The hospital's operating room, located on the north side of the building featured a huge window. The window was a source of extra light. The hospital remained open until 1933, with Ella Claussen R.N., as Superintendent.

In 1936, J.S. Bradford opened a rooming house in this building. Nellie Ehlert operated the building as a tourist home in 1938. Wm Lohse purchased the building in 1944 and remodeled it into an apartment building.

Elmer Langmann purchased the property in 1946, Emil Bannister in 1950 and C. Wayne and Velma Garvin in 1959. Other owners include George Frick and Durant Children's Group. Casey's General Store razed the building and an adjacent property to build their current business location.

TriCounty Heritage & Genealogy Museum is currently conducting a Donation Campaign to financially support our activities. Donations maybe sent to P.O Box 845, Durant, IA. Open hours are Saturday 9 to noon only, January through March.



THE DURANT HOSPITAL

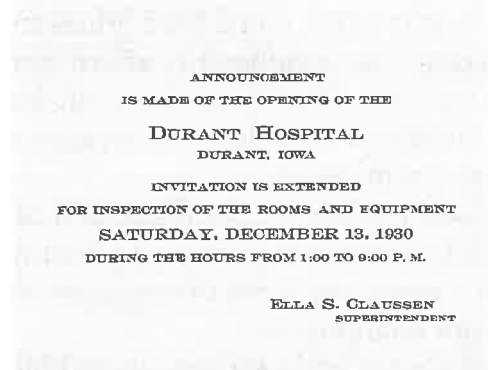
Phone 134

Hospital will pay toll charges on important calls.

Ella S. Claussen R. N., Superintendent.

DURANT

IOWA



A Year of Growth and Gratitude

As we reflect on 2024, we at the Durant Iowa Food Pantry are filled with gratitude for the incredible support of our community. Your generosity has allowed us to not only meet the growing needs of our neighbors but also expand our services to better serve our community. Together, we've accomplished so much! Your donations and volunteer hours have enabled us to:

- Distribute over 53,555 pounds of food year-to-date to our tri-county community as of mid-December 2024
- Launch our first Summer Meal Kit Program for Kids
- Add frozen Senior Meal options
- Introduce our first Community Produce Stand
- Move into a larger space to better serve our community with better accessibility
- Install Blessing Boxes in Durant (Laundromat) and Stockton (Post Office lobby)

These achievements would not have been possible without your kindness and compassion.

We understand that rising food prices and other economic challenges can make it difficult to afford essential groceries. Visiting a food pantry can help alleviate these burdens and provide peace of mind. We invite you to explore our services and learn how we can assist you and your family.

To our local businesses, churches, and organizations: We encourage you to consider partnering with us by hosting a food drive. By choosing one month a year to dedicate to our cause, you can make a significant impact on our community.

Thank you once again for your incredible support. We look forward to continuing to serve our community alongside you in the years to come.

Learn More & Get Involved

For more information about the Durant Iowa Food Pantry or how you can help:

- **Business Hours:** We're open the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 4-7 PM and every Saturday from 10 AM-1 PM. Visits are limited to once per week.
- **Location:** 807 3rd Street, PO Box 895 Durant, Iowa 52747 (in the garage space)
- **Contact:** (563) 260 5322 (call or text) or durantfoodpantry@gmail.com
- **Volunteer or Donate:** Visit our website at www.difp.org

Thank you for making a difference in our community!

Durant-Wilton Food Pantry

The Durant Wilton Food Pantry serves individuals and families living in the



Durant and Wilton School districts. The pantry will be open to serve individuals and families on January 7 and January 21. Hours on both Tuesday's are 9 - 11 am and 6 - 7 pm. The pantry is located at 408 Cedar Street in Wilton.

Those in need of immediate assistance outside of these hours, can contact Jon at 563-732-2461 to arrange for assistance at another time.

Individuals that wish to support the pantry with donations can also contact Jon. Financial donations are always helpful and can be mailed to PO Box 473, Wilton, IA 52778-0473.

