

News & Views

HAPPY

VALENTINES

DAY



SAVE THE DATE!

Durant Future Growth and Prosperity Meeting

Please save Tuesday, March 4th at the Durant Community Center.

Meet & Greet: 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Community Presentation: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM (approximately)

If you want to be in the know about what is going on in your community now and in the future, please consider attending.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Make a resolution to get involved!

Attend the next Durant Chamber of Commerce Meeting
Monday, February 10th at noon at the Community Center!



Holiday Closings For City Offices

Monday, February 17th for President's day. Garbage & recycling will follow the regular schedule with collection on Tuesday, February 18th.

Council Meetings in February

Monday, February 10th and February 24th at 6 p.m. at City Hall. Agendas and minutes for council meetings can be found on our website above.

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 January bills will be distributed on the morning of Thursday, Feb. 6, with payment due by noon on Friday, Feb. 7. 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.



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.

Spring into Summer

All New Looks!

Pop Up Shop

908 4th Street, Durant
(Kahl's Body Shop)

Friday, February 28th 3-7pm

Saturday, March 1st 9am-3pm

Sunday, March 2nd 9am-3pm

-DIY Furnishing- Antiques- Vintage-

-Repurposed Items- Crafts-

Our finds, your inspiration.

Shop set up and open by appointment until next show.

Will restyle and reopen in May.

We do the pick'n
you do the fix'n

First Choice Real Estate
115 W 4th St, P.O. BOX 754, Wilton, IA 52747
Website: fcreiowa.com Office: 563 732-2600

Sheila Budelier
REALTOR®

CALL/TEXT 563 210-9781
E-MAIL sbudelier11@gmail.com

"YOUR FIRST CHOICE IN REAL ESTATE!"
LICENCED IA - BROKER ASSOCIATE & IL- MANAGING BROKER

Stamps

Submitted by Mark Heuer

I collected stamps as a kid, along with coins and bugs. I had a red album with a stamp-covered paper slipcover. Inside were more pictures of stamps on the pages and the stamps I found or bought were stuck over these with pre-glued bits of folded paper called hinges. That album disappeared in the various moves of my life, but I can still see the edges of it sticking out from under a pile of other books on the lower shelf of a dark-stained end table in our family living room.

I first tried to use a stamp when I was five or so. I had a letter to send to my aunt in Chicago and knew it required a stamp, just no idea why. An envelope I found in the trash had a stamp stuck in one corner. I peeled it off very carefully, but when I told my mom I needed some tape for a stamp, that was the end of that project.

She explained that the wavy black lines on the stamp meant it had been used and the post office would send the letter back to me if I mailed it. Hmmm. Within ten years I gave up all those earlier collections in favor of James Bond novels.

When I buy stamps now, I only look at the new releases displayed on the post office bulletin board. At a former job I had to mail stacks of invoices, so a coil was the most efficient way to get the job done. On my own mail, I'll do anything to brighten up a plain envelope.

My latest stamp purchase featured hummingbirds, an amazing creature I've expressed interest in before. I went to the USPS website looking for information on the species of bird and origin of the design. Surprisingly, it can take several years to get a stamp from concept to the upper right corner of your envelope.

This small sheet of stamps was called Garden Delights. All of the pictures were of a female ruby-throated hummingbird hovering by either a zinnia, cigar flower, spotted touch-me-not or sunflower. They were designed by Greg Breeding from wildlife photographs taken by photographer Ben King and the stamp was released for sale in March of 2024.

Still in an inquisitive mood, I searched out how many times stamps had birds as subjects. It turned out to be way more than I expected. Worldwide, there have been over 40,000 bird stamps covering more than 4000 species. The first bird stamp in the U.S., an eagle with outspread wings, came out in 1869. In total the USPS has issued 411 stamps depicting a bird or birds. Our state bird, the eastern goldfinch, debuted on a stamp along with our state flower, the wild rose, in April of 1982. It's exciting to me that these stamps could travel across the country (or world) and become part of the collection of a budding philatelist!



Ambulance Update

Submitted by Dennis D. Frisch

They say if you want to catch up on the news of the day or learn something whether true or not you need to get out and listen to people talk. I was out the other day listening to a couple of elderly folks I'll just call Bill and Bob. They were talking about driving an ambulance. Bob said, "I saw the ambulance going out of town the other day. Lights on and sirens screaming, probably going to an accident. Looked like fun and I thought I could be an ambulance driver. Speeding along the road and getting other drivers out of my way when going to the scene or hospital."

Bill replied, "Bob, I don't think you have the right concept of what an ambulance driver is or does."

"What do you mean? You have seen ambulances going lights and sirens." exclaimed Bob.

Bill explained, "Sure I have, but I also know when they use them they have to follow the traffic laws as they apply to emergency vehicles and the policies the service has for them. Let me explain some to you. The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in charge determines whether lights and sirens are needed for transport to the hospital and dispatch lets them know if it is an emergency or non-emergency. When it is a non-emergent call they have to follow the rules of the road as anyone else. If it is an emergency they may use the lights and sirens but still have to drive responsibly. Most of the time they drive the posted speed limit although the Durant Volunteer Ambulance Service (DVAS) has a policy that they may drive 10 mph over the posted limit. The driver may drive slower if he/she does not feel comfortable at the higher speed. They cannot exceed posted limits when going through green lights or non-controlled intersections. They have to be able to make a controlled stop if necessary. If they approach a stop sign, red light, stopped school bus, or non-controlled railroad crossing they must come to a complete stop before proceeding. They cannot just blow through these intersections nor pass a stopped school bus. They have to stop at intersections when using the median turning lane or opposite traffic lane before proceeding.

They are only allowed to travel 20 mph when going the wrong way on a street and only for the shortest distance. DVAS and Iowa traffic laws do not recommend going the wrong way nor using an escort. You have to remember they are responsible for the safety of all the individuals in the ambulance."

Bob was really surprised. "Wow! Sure is more to driving the ambulance than putting the pedal to the metal."

Bill continued, "And these are only the highlights, as there are additional requirements to meet if you want to drive for the DVAS. These are a few. You have to have a valid driver's license, give permission for a background check, be or become cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certified, complete an Emergency Vehicle Operator's Course (EVOC) every 3 years, and receive all medical director's required immunizations, wear your seatbelt always, learn the quickest and alternate routes to the hospitals, refrain from using your cell phone unless it is hands free or you are stopped, and not consume food nor drink while driving. It is also required that you not imbibe alcohol 6 hours prior to beginning your shift."

Bob stated, "You sure know a lot about driving an ambulance."

Bill replied, "Yeah, years ago I drove for DVAS. What do you say we finish our coffee and go get our wives flowers and a box of chocolates for Valentine's Day?"

"Great idea, but I'd like to know more about the DVAS." exclaimed Bob.

"Maybe we can continue this conversation next month or if you want the information sooner talk to a member/driver of the DVAS or call 563-785-4540 and leave a message if no one answers." suggested Bill.

Have a Happy Valentines' Day!!!



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**

J.L.Shyer Legion Auxiliary

Submitted by Cassandra Nichols

The J.L.Shryer Unit 430 was called to order on January 17, 2025 at 7:10 PM by President Glenda Wulf with 7 members present. Beth Petersen provided the opening prayer. Cassandra Nichols read the minutes from the November meeting and Janet Hagen gave the treasurer's report.

The Unit has reserved a spot to sponsor one junior girl for Girls State to be held 6/15/25-6/20/25 at Drake University in Des Moines. This is a great opportunity to meet other junior girls from all over the State of Iowa and learn about the entire political process. Applications are available from the Unit or at the School. Lavonne Keppy is the chair for Girls State, and she can be contacted with any questions.

In membership, Beth Petersen reported that all but one membership has been renewed. In February, the Unit will host our annual blood drive. The Unit also discussed this year's merit scholarship. A motion was passed to provide one \$1000.00 scholarship to one student this May. More details will be coming .

At the conclusion of our meeting the charter was dropped for Betty Korthaus, Betty Olson, and Darlene Paustian.

Beth Petersen provided the closing prayer and motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lornal Pahl. Glenda Wulf adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

American Legion Auxiliary

Lt. Julius L. Shryer Unit No 430

Durant, Iowa

Resolutions of Respect for Betty Korthaus, Betty Olson, and Darlene Paustian.

We, the J.L. Shryer, Unit #430, at our regular meeting draped our charter for our loyal and devoted members Betty Korthaus, Betty Olson, and Darlene Paustian.

Be it resolved that this act is an expression of the sorrow that that is in our hearts as we mourn their deaths. Our unit has lost three members with kind and understanding hearts, who were always concerned and thoughtful of others.

Members who served the Auxiliary in many ways.

Be it further resolved that we shall remember their faithfulness,
their devotion and their willingness to serve.

Fall in Love with the Durant Iowa Food Pantry!

Love is in the Air! This Valentine's Day, we want to celebrate the love and admiration we have for all of you who support our mission of nourishing our neighbors in need.

The Durant Iowa Food Pantry is especially thankful to the unwavering support of our volunteers, donors, and community partners. You are the secret ingredient in our recipe for success, the warm embrace that keeps our shelves stocked, and the helping hand that ensures everyone has access to nutritious food.

Thanks to your generosity, we can continue to provide a lifeline to families and individuals facing food insecurity. Your kindness is the love story that keeps our community strong and vibrant.

Looking for ways to spread the love this Valentine's Day? Here are a few ideas:

- **Volunteer your time:** Share your skills and compassion by volunteering at the pantry. Every hour donated makes a world of difference.
- **Host a food drive:** Gather your friends, family, or colleagues and organize a food drive. It's a fantastic way to collect much-needed donations.
- **Donate financially:** A financial contribution, big or small, allows us to purchase essential food items and keep our shelves full.

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

Visit our website at defp.org to learn more about volunteer opportunities, food drive resources, and secure donation options.

Thank you for making a difference in our community!

Thank You from the Durant Community Chest (DCC)

THANK YOU, Durant Community! In 2024, we collected a little more than \$4,000 in donations. Your generosity helped fill the requests for the following LOCAL organizations: Durant Meal Services, Durant, IA Food Pantry, Tri-County Heritage & Genealogy Museum, Durant Wildcat Backpack Program, Durant Boy Scout Troop 153, Durant Post Prom, Durant Wrestling Association and Durant 7-12 Vocal Department. We are proud to help many LOCAL organizations! Again, thank you everyone for your support to the Durant community! Our donations were down in 2024, so let's make our 2025 campaign our BEST one yet! It will kick off this summer, more information to follow.

The DCC is a non-profit organization with local volunteers serving our community for more than 43 years. Each year, we collect donations from those living within our community and then apply those funds through local grants to area non-profit groups. Your charitable donations to DCC are tax exempt and your United Way contributions can be designated to DCC as well. We accept venmo at durantcommunitychest@gmail.com or by mail to P.O. Box 142 Durant, IA 52747.

