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JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Solid Foundations. Greater Future.

A Message from Our President & CEO

What a night at the Field of Dreams—Greater Dubuque Development’s first annual meeting outside the city of Dubuque and the first non-baseball event at the new Ballpark. Thanks to General Manager Tyler Daugherty and the contractors keeping this remarkable project on schedule, the Event Center was ready—and so were you, representing one of our largest crowds ever.

The foundations were built during Rick Dickinson’s 30 years of leadership and strengthened by Board Chair Zach Keeling, who guided us through a once-in-a-generation transition and the search that led me to this role. Zach leaves this organization stronger than he found it. The greater future begins with Jordan Fullan of HODGE, our 2026–2027 Chair—bringing energy, high standards, and a builder’s mindset. My gratitude also to outgoing board members David Becker, Dean Wilgenbusch, Mike Portzen Jr., Antonio Mouzon, State Representative Jennifer Smith, and Brian Rakestraw for their service and counsel. And thank you to our Greater Dubuque Development team for taking the field every day in service of our business clients, communities, and partnerships.

We celebrated what those foundations made possible—a construction goal surpassed two years early, median household income above \$80,000, and a county that continues to grow. Then we set ambitious goals: grow our population

beyond 100,000, launch a true population attraction strategy, expand business-ready land, strengthen the amenities that attract people here, and deepen connectivity across our tri-state region with our valued partners in Wisconsin and Illinois. Achieving them will take all of us, which is why we're gathering momentum toward our next capital campaign. It isn't simply about funding our work; it's about raising our ambitions. We invite your ideas as the campaign takes shape.

Missed the evening? The recording is on our [Facebook page](#), and our [2025-2026 Annual Report](#) is full of the stories behind the numbers—proof that **YOU can be great here**.

The foundations are solid. The future is greater. Together, we'll write what's next. Let's go!



With gratitude,

Jason White

President & CEO

jasonw@greaterdubuque.org | 563-557-9049

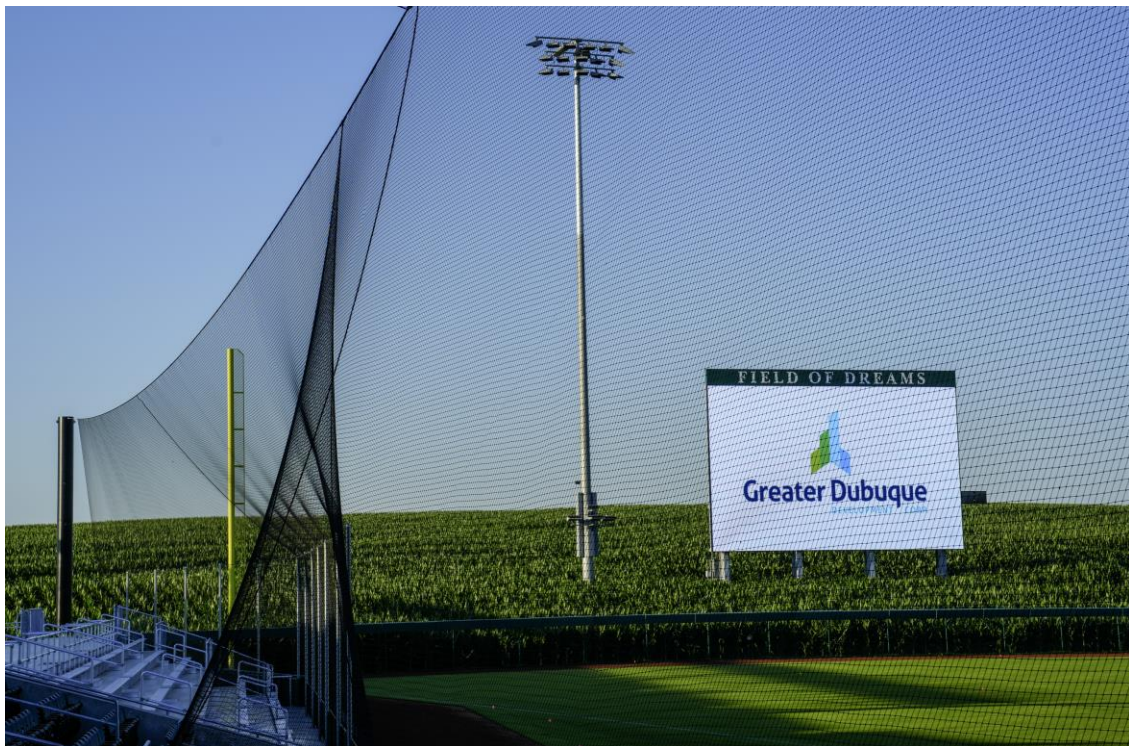


Scenes from our 2025–2026 Annual Meeting: Outgoing Board Chair Zach Keeling receives a recognition plaque from President & CEO Jason White (left); Jason addresses the crowd of over 230 attendees (center); and Jason welcomes Jordan Fullan of HODGE as the 2026–2027 Board Chair (right).

A Historic Night at the Field of Dreams

Over 230 investors, partners, board members, and community leaders gathered July 14, 2026, at the Field of Dreams' new This is Iowa Ballpark - Event Center in Dyersville for Greater Dubuque Development's 2025–2026 Annual Meeting.

The evening celebrated a year of progress and transition, recognized outgoing Board Chair Zach Keeling, welcomed Jordan Fullan of HODGE as 2026–2027 Board Chair, and looked ahead to the ambitious priorities shaping Greater Dubuque's future.



[Read the full Annual Meeting recap and download our 2025-2026 Annual Report](#)

Business Support & Attraction

YOUR BUSINESS can be great here.



From left: Nic Hockenberry participates in an Iowa Workforce Alliance meeting hosted by Greater Dubuque Development in May; the Greater Dubuque Development team gathers during the 2026 Annual Meeting at the Field of Dreams; and Mandi Dolson speaks with a high school student at the 2026 Skilled Trades Expo hosted by Dubuque Area Labor-Management Council at Portzen Construction.

New Leadership Roles Strengthen Regional and Workforce Development

Greater Dubuque Development has announced new leadership roles for Nic Hockenberry and Mandi Dolson, aligning the organization's staff structure with the priorities of its five-year strategic plan. As Director of Regional Development, Nic will advance regional collaboration and long-term growth initiatives, while Mandi, as Director of Workforce Solutions, will provide comprehensive workforce support to employers and partners throughout the region.

Learn more about their new roles and what it means for the Greater Dubuque region



FY 2025-2026 InfoAction Dashboard Available for Download

As part of our commitment to data-driven decision making, Greater Dubuque Development has released the FY 2025–2026 InfoAction Dashboard, an annual summary of insights gathered from the 252 business visits we conducted over the past 12 months.

The dashboard offers a snapshot of what CEOs, business owners, and top managers are saying about the Greater Dubuque region, from perceptions of community assets and public services to emerging priorities for competitiveness. By comparing results year-over-year, we identify key trends and takeaways to inform decision making and support collaboration across the public and private sectors.

[Download the FY 2025-2026 InfoAction Dashboard](#)

New Iowa Property Tax Law Brings Changes to TIF

Iowa's new property tax law changes how Tax Increment Financing can be used to support housing and business development projects. With most TIF provisions taking effect January 1, 2027, communities and developers have a limited window to evaluate projects under the current and new frameworks.

Learn what has changed, what remains uncertain, and what the new law could mean for your next project.

[Read the full TIF update](#)



Representatives from Greater Dubuque Development, the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Dubuque, the Dubuque Regional Airport, ECIA, and area businesses and organizations gather during the 2026 DC Fly-In.

Greater Dubuque Takes Workforce Priorities to Washington

Greater Dubuque Development joined business and community leaders from across the region for the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce's annual DC Fly-In, June 9–11, 2026 in Washington D.C. Representing the region's employers, investors, and partners, Nic Hockenberry, Director of Regional Development, advocated for expanded legal pathways to help address pressing workforce needs.

[Read more about the delegation's federal priorities and meetings in Washington](#)



From left: Construction progresses at the Rider on Main site; a rendering depicts the completed mixed-use development; and project partners celebrate during the June 24, 2026, groundbreaking. Photos courtesy of Gronen.

Rider on Main Moves Forward in Downtown Dubuque

Construction is underway on Rider on Main, a mixed-use development from Gronen and Kilbourne Group that will bring new housing and street-level commercial space to the corner of Fifth and Main streets. The project represents another significant private investment in the continued revitalization of downtown Dubuque.

[Learn more about Rider on Main and the vision behind the project](#)

Population Growth

YOUR FUTURE can be great here.



Greater Dubuque Development's Nic Hockenberry and Jason White join Mayor Brad Cavanagh and representatives from Community of Colleges institutions in the Greater Dubuque region following the reading and signing of the 2026 Community of Colleges Week proclamation at the July 20 Dubuque City Council meeting.

Community of Colleges Week Celebrates Regional Higher Education

At Greater Dubuque Development's request, Mayor Brad Cavanagh read and signed a proclamation during the Monday, July 20, 2026, Dubuque City Council meeting designating August 3–7, 2026, as Community of Colleges Week. The week recognizes the collective impact of the 10 colleges and universities serving the Greater Dubuque region.

Celebrated alongside Dubuque College Visit Week, Community of Colleges Week highlights the important role our higher education institutions and their students, faculty, and staff play in strengthening the region's workforce, economy, neighborhoods, and quality of life. The annual proclamation is part of Greater Dubuque Development's Welcome Student Campaign in collaboration with the City of Dubuque, which welcomes new and returning students to Dubuque each August and September.

[**Read the full 2026 Community of Colleges Week proclamation**](#)



FY 2025-2026 HR Action Dashboard Available for Download

In addition to our InfoAction program, our more than 30 HR Action interviews a year provide data and perspective from HR managers across the Greater Dubuque region. The insights collected from those interviews over the last 12-months are now available as our FY 2025-2026 HR Action Dashboard.

[Download the FY 2025-2026 HR Action Dashboard](#)



Employer Vanpool Pilot Addresses Transportation Barriers

Transportation remains a top concern for many regional employers. The Regional Transit Authority continues to partner with Enterprise on a Vanpool Program that provides shared commuter vans for groups of employees, with up to \$600 per month in local subsidy support available.

This flexible model can expand access to jobs, improve attendance, and reduce turnover tied to commute challenges. Enterprise supplies and manages the vehicle, including insurance, maintenance, and roadside assistance, while participants share the ride and rotate driving responsibilities.

For more information about the RTA/Enterprise Vanpool Program, contact Nic Hockenberry, Director of Regional Development, at nicolash@greaterdubuque.org or 563-557-9049.

[Learn more about how the RTA/Enterprise vanpool can support your team](#)

Tiberius Mocanu and Kaitlyn Neises Mocanu, pictured with their children and dog, Mountain, at the Dubuque Farmers Market, chose to make Dubuque home after returning to the area in 2024. Through community connections, newcomer resources, and career opportunities, the family found a place where they could build their future. Both connected with their current employers through AccessDubuqueJobs.com.



Finding Home in Dubuque

When Tiberius Mocanu and Kaitlyn Neises Mocanu returned to the Dubuque area in 2024, they weren't planning to stay. But as their children thrived, community connections grew, and new career opportunities emerged, a temporary visit gradually became something more.

Featured in Greater Dubuque Development's 2025–2026 Annual Report, their story demonstrates how newcomer resources, personal connections, and access to opportunity can help a family find their place in the Greater Dubuque region.

[Read Tiberius and Kaitlyn's story](#)

Community Information

YOUR LIFE can be great here.

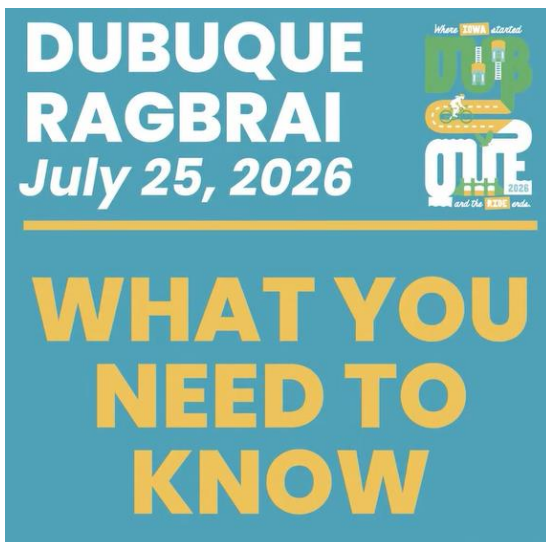


Dubuque Data Center Ordinance Input Sought

Share Your Input on a Potential Data Center Ordinance for Dubuque

The City of Dubuque is seeking public input as it develops a potential ordinance governing future data centers. Residents and stakeholders can complete the survey by Wednesday, August 5, or participate in an in-person public input session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27, at the Grand River Center.

[Learn more & take the survey >](#)



Prepare for RAGBRAI's July 25 Arrival

RAGBRAI arrives in Dubuque on Saturday, July 25. Residents and businesses are encouraged to review information about road closures, parking restrictions, camping, and event timing to prepare for the riders and visitors coming to the community. Planning ahead will help everyone navigate the day and enjoy this major community event.

[View information for locals >](#)



Youth Climate Action Microgrants Available

The City of Dubuque is accepting applications for microgrants of up to \$5,000 to support youth-led projects addressing local climate challenges. Projects must be led by at least two young people ages 15–24 in partnership with a sponsor organization. Applications are due Friday, October 9, 2026.

[Learn more and apply >](#)

Upcoming Evnts

YOUR NETWORK can be great here.

Monday, July 27, 2026

Data Center Ordinance Input Session

5:30 p.m. Doors Open, 6:00 p.m. Session Begins

Grand River Center | 500 Bell St, Dubuque, IA

The City of Dubuque will host a public input session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2026, at the Grand River Center to gather feedback on a potential ordinance governing future data centers. Residents and stakeholders may also complete the City's survey through Wednesday, August 5, 2026. Feedback from the session and survey will be presented to the Dubuque City Council at an August public work session and used to inform a draft ordinance for further consideration and community review. No formal proposal for a data center within Dubuque city limits has been presented to the City at this time.

[Learn more and RSVP for the July 27th input session >](#)

Wednesdays, September 30 - October 28, 2026

Wednesdays, January 17 - February 24, 2027

Wednesdays, March 10 - April 7, 2027

Wednesdays, August 18 - September 15, 2027

Wednesdays, September 29 - October 27, 2027

Distinctively Dubuque Newcomer Program

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Various Locations | Dubuque, IA

Distinctively Dubuque is a five-night course taught by high-energy presenters with in-depth knowledge of the Greater Dubuque region. This course is designed for individuals who are new to the area within the last five years. Thanks to our generous sponsors of the DRA, City of Dubuque and Dubuque County Board of Supervisors, Distinctively Dubuque is offered free of charge. Online registration is now available for remaining 2026 sessions and all 2027 dates. For more information, contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Solutions for Greater Dubuque Development at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org.

[Learn more about Distinctively Dubuque >](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2026

AccessDubuqueJobs.com Career Fair

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Grand River Center | 500 Bell St, Dubuque, IA

The date is set for our next AccessDubuqueJobs.com Career Fair! Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 22, 2026. This career fair is scheduled from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Grand River Center in the Port of Dubuque and will be open to the public with targeted outreach to regional higher ed institutions as part of our 2026-2027 **YOU can be great here** Community of Colleges event series. Registration for the AccessDubuqueJobs.com Career Fair will be announced when available.

YOU can be great here Campaign

Our sights are set on 5 goals through 2027.

Grow our regional workforce to over 64,000 jobs.

Support median household income to reach \$76,000.

Encourage and facilitate \$1 billion of new construction.

Reduce regional poverty by 5%.

Reach a population of 105,000 in the Greater Dubuque region.

[View Progress](#)

View past issues of the newsletter [here](#).



YOU can be great here.

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