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NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Housing Study Underscores Regional Momentum as Construction Surpasses \$1 Billion Goal

The release of the [2025 Dubuque County Housing Needs Assessment](#) arrives at a moment of significant growth for the region. The study confirms continued demand for new housing, projecting a need for roughly 2,500 additional units by 2035 to support demographic change and workforce expansion. With an owner-occupied vacancy rate of just 0.6% and an overall vacancy rate of 5.3%, Dubuque County remains one of the tightest housing markets among its Iowa peers.

This housing outlook complements another major milestone: Dubuque County has surpassed [\\$1 billion in construction investment since July 2022](#), achieving a goal originally set for 2027 as part of Greater Dubuque Development's **YOU can be great here** campaign. The total reflects both residential and commercial development and highlights the region's strong business climate, growing population, and collaborative public-private investment.

Together, the data points reinforce a clear message — expanding housing supply and sustaining robust development remain critical to supporting the region’s economic vitality and long-term growth.

[Access the 2025 Dubuque County Housing Needs Assessment](#)

[Read the press release announcing the \\$1 billion construction milestone](#)

Business Services

YOUR BUSINESS can be great here.



Dave Lyons, (left) Strategic Initiatives Consultant for Greater Dubuque Development, facilitates convening of public / private partners to discuss housing challenges and opportunities.

Housing Development

Regional Housing Trust Fund Hosts Discussion on Workforce Housing

On November 17, the Greater Dubuque Housing Trust Fund and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque brought together more than 30 builders, developers, financial institutions, and City staff to discuss local housing challenges and opportunities.

The session focused on solutions to expand affordable workforce housing, including in-fill development on vacant or blighted lots. Using 14 City-owned lots as a case example, participants explored strategies to support new owner-occupied homes in the \$196,000 to \$275,000 range and identified ways to streamline pre-development processes and better leverage incentives. The Trust

Fund anticipates providing policy recommendations to the City of Dubuque and leading additional public-private collaborations in the months ahead.

[Read more on the Greater Dubuque Housing Trust Fund Lunch and Learn](#)



Interested in learning more about the Greater Dubuque Housing Trust Fund?

Contact Dave Lyons, Strategic Initiatives Consultant, at 563-557-9049 or davel@greaterdubuque.org



Regional Collaboration

Greater Dubuque Development Hosts Quarterly Dubuque County Mayors' Meeting

On Thursday, October 30, Greater Dubuque Development served as the host site for the quarterly Dubuque County Mayors' meeting, a gathering convened by the East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA). With City of Dubuque Mayor Brad Cavanagh serving as this quarter's host, mayors and governmental administrators from across the county met to discuss shared issues and upcoming priorities. The agenda included updates from ECIA leadership, a property tax roundtable, and time for open dialogue amongst the mayors in attendance.



Interested in learning more about our regional collaborations?

Contact Jason White, Vice President of Business Services, at 563-557-9049 or jasonw@greaterdubuque.org



Debi Durham, Director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority, offers remarks at the groundbreaking for the new Dubuque Museum of Art during her visit to Dubuque.

Powered by Partnerships

Iowa Economic Development Authority Director Debi Durham Meets with Regional Partners

On Wednesday, October 29, Greater Dubuque Development hosted Debi Durham, Director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority, for a discussion with local and regional economic development partners, elected officials, and organizational leaders. The conversation focused on recent legislative changes affecting Iowa's economic development incentive programs—including tools that have been restructured, strengthened, or scheduled to sunset—and what these updates mean for communities across the region. The meeting provided an opportunity for partners to engage directly with state leadership on upcoming priorities and ongoing collaboration in support of regional growth.



Interested in learning more about the Iowa Economic Development Authority?

Contact Jason White, Vice President of Business Services, at 563-557-9049 or jasonw@greaterdubuque.org

Workforce Solutions

YOUR GROWTH can be great here.



Scenes from our AccessDubuqueJobs.com Fall Career Fair where job seekers connected one-on-one with Workforce Investors such as Advanced Pump & Equipment, Inc. (left), Dupaco Community Credit Union (center), and the McCoy Group (right).

Recruitment Resources

AccessDubuqueJobs.com Fall Career Fair Builds Talent Pipelines

The AccessDubuqueJobs.com Fall Career Fair on Thursday, October 23—held as part of Greater Dubuque Development’s **YOU can be great here** Community of Colleges event series—welcomed more than 170 job seekers, including over 40 college students, to connect with 50+ regional employers. The event generated strong employer feedback and meaningful connections with talent at all career stages.

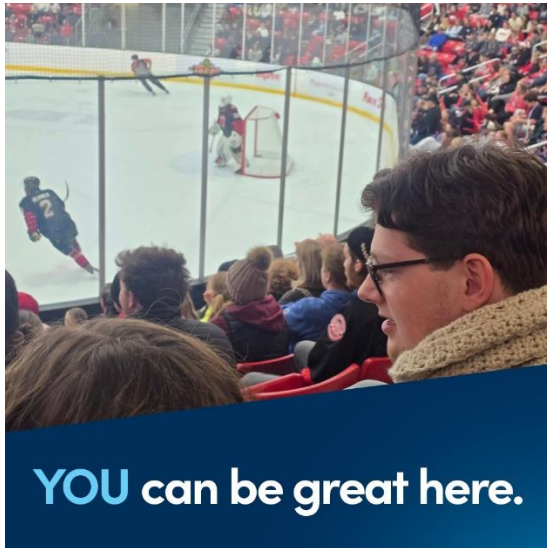
As we evaluate program effectiveness and navigate upcoming leadership transitions, the AccessDubuqueJobs.com Spring Career Fair, previously scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2026, has been canceled. A full review of our workforce programming is underway to ensure we continue delivering value to both employers and job seekers.

[Learn more about our October 23rd AccessDubuqueJobs.com Fall Career Fair](#)



Interested in learning more about our career fairs?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org



College Outreach

College Hockey Night Serves Up Another Win

More than 250 students from four regional campuses joined us on Friday, November 14 for College Hockey Night, part of our 2025-2026 **YOU can be great here** Community of Colleges event series. The evening offered students a fun introduction to Dubuque's sports culture and deepened connections to the Greater Dubuque region as a place to live, learn, work, and play after graduation.

[Learn more about our College Hockey Night and upcoming Community of Colleges events](#)



Interested in learning more about our YOU can be great here Community of Colleges event series?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org



Newcomer Services

Know a Newcomer? Tell Them About Distinctively Dubuque

As the Greater Dubuque region's premier welcome and orientation program, [Distinctively Dubuque](#) helps newcomers connect with the community, meet new people, and discover all that makes Dubuque a great place to live. Each five-week session introduces participants to local culture, recreation, and resources while building meaningful relationships with fellow newcomers.

Registration for all 2026 sessions is now available, meeting five consecutive Wednesday evenings from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at different venues around Dubuque:

January 28 – February 25, 2026

March 11 – April 8, 2026

August 19 – September 16, 2026

September 30 – October 28, 2026

The program is open to anyone who has moved to the Greater Dubuque region within the last five years. Each evening includes dinner, a new topic, and engaging presenters that call the Greater Dubuque region home. Thanks to the generous support of the City of Dubuque, Dubuque County, and the DRA, all sessions are offered at no cost to participants. If you or someone you know is new to Dubuque, now is the perfect time to sign up and get connected.

[Learn more and register online for Distinctively Dubuque](#)



Interested in learning more about Distinctively Dubuque?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org

AccessDubuqueJobs.com Update

YOUR SUPPORT can be great here.

Invest in AccessDubuqueJobs.com and receive unlimited access to the top regional jobs site, over 10,000 resumes, expert assistance from our Workforce Solutions team, and a suite of newcomer service tools. Your investment powers these services, supports our college engagement efforts, and fuels outreach to job seekers in our market and beyond.

New Investors

- Tricon Construction Group

Renewed Investors

- Advance Pump & Equipment, Inc.
- Area Residential Care
- Bimbo Bakeries USA
- Blackrock Fabrication

Renewed Investors, cont'd

- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Dubuque
- DigiFarm VBN
- Emmaus University
- GreenState Credit Union
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- M&M Sales Enterprises Inc. / Vanguard
- Michelin Manufacturing
- Northeast Iowa Community College
- Platinum Supplemental Insurance
- University of Wisconsin-Platteville



Interested in becoming a Workforce Solutions Investor?

Contact Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Recruitment & Retention, at 563-557-9049 or mandid@greaterdubuque.org



AccessDubuqueJobs.com is made possible through a partnership between TH Media and Greater Dubuque Development Corporation.

Community Information

YOUR LIFE can be great here.



Community News

Top Recognition for Grand River Center

The [Grand River Center](#) has been recognized as one of North America's Best Convention Centers in the 2026 EXHIBITOR Magazine Centers of Excellence Awards, honoring venues that set the standard for event service, innovation, and attendee experience.

[Learn more >](#)



Community News

Peosta Awarded \$50,000 REAP Grant

The City of Peosta has been awarded a \$50,000 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Grant to support development of the Cox Springs Road Trail Connection. Funds will help construct a trail link between Kelly Oaks Park and Burds Road at Seton Catholic School, increasing connections between learning and nature while expanding outdoor recreation opportunities.

[Learn more about REAP funding >](#)

Art on the River

Stillness in the Driftless

Call for Proposals



Community News

Art on the River Seeks Public Art Proposals

The City of Dubuque invites artists to submit sculpture proposals for the 2026–2027 Art on the River public art exhibit, held along the Mississippi Riverwalk in the Port of Dubuque. Applications are due Friday, January 16, 2026.

[Learn more and apply online >](#)



Partnership Spotlight

Dubuque County

Hear from Harley Pothoff, County Supervisor for Dubuque County, on how partnering with Greater Dubuque Development Corporation and others, is spurring transformative projects to take shape in the Greater Dubuque region.

Upcoming Events

YOUR NETWORK can be great here.

Friday, December 5, 2025

First Fridays: Trolley Edition

5:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Various Downtown Locations | Dubuque, IA

Dubuque's arts and culture scene is a major asset for residents, visitors, and employers alike—adding to the vibrant quality of life that helps the Greater Dubuque region attract and retain talent. On Friday, December 5, the First Fridays: Trolley Edition returns, offering free trolley service between downtown galleries and participating venues. Attendees can explore new exhibitions, support local artists, and experience the energy of Dubuque's creative community with free transportation. This is the second in a four-part Trolley Edition series, with additional rides planned for March and June 2026. Trolley stops include Central Avenue, Main Street, the Millwork District, and other key locations.

[Learn More >](#)

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Safety Conference

8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Northeast Iowa Community College | 8342 NICC Dr., Peosta, IA

Join industry professionals for a dynamic event designed to strengthen workplace safety knowledge and practices. Keynote speaker, Patrick Nelson, will share powerful insights and actionable strategies to help organizations eliminate complacency and ignite full engagement at all levels. Various breakout sessions will provide valuable insights into preventing workplace injuries and return to work, electrical and transportation safety and embracing psychological safety.

[Learn More >](#)

Third Tuesday of Each Month - Next Session December 16, 2025

12 Steps to Town Making: Transforming Ideas into Real Projects

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. | Virtual

Following the "Catalyzing Change: Small-Scale Development for Big Impact" events held in Dubuque in October, a free monthly workshop series is being offered to residents and stakeholders interested in transforming ideas into real projects in their neighborhoods and communities. Sessions will address topics essential to small-scale developers to complete a successful project. The series is especially relevant for small-scale developers, realtors, builders, and property owners. Workshops are conducted by Neighborhood Evolution and are free to attend. To learn more, contact the City of Dubuque Economic Development Department at 563-589-4393.

[Register Online >](#)

Upcoming Religious Holidays & Cultural Observances

November 27 | Thanksgiving Day

November 30-December 24 | Advent

December 8 | Bodhi Day

December 10 | Human Rights Day

December 12 | Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 14-22 | Hanukkah

December 15 | Bill of Rights Day

December 21 | Winter Solstice

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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