

# News & Views



## Phone Scams

*Iowa Department of Justice*

While there are legitimate telemarketers who call Iowans, there are criminals who use the phone to steal. They'll say anything to get your guard down, turn the pressure up or even scare you, and try take your money.

If someone you don't know calls and tries to sell you something you had not planned to buy--particularly if they're asking you to act now--say no. If the caller you don't know pressures you to provide personal information, like financial information or your Social Security number, or claims you must pay a government agency or utility service immediately, it's likely a scam.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) operates the National Do Not Call Registry to stop unwanted telemarketing calls. You can register your home or cell phone number at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov), or call, toll-free 1-888-382-1222.



## News and Views

News and Views is a free monthly publication serving the City of Durant and its surrounding community. The mission of News and Views is to be a line of communication between the organizations in the community and its residents. It is supported solely by the generous advertisers & the Durant Chamber of Commerce.

Do you have news from your club or organization you would like published in our next News and Views? Please submit your articles by the 23rd of the month preceding the month it is published.

Articles written may be edited or reduced by the Editor as space provides. Articles must be dropped off, mailed, or e-mailed to:

**Sidney Randolph, Editor**  
709 9th Street Durant, IA 52747  
(563) 886-4699  
[sid.ann.ran@gmail.com](mailto:sid.ann.ran@gmail.com)

## Holiday Closings for City Offices

City offices will be closed Monday, February 16th for Presidents Day. Garbage & recycling collection will follow the regular schedule with pickup on Tuesday, February 17th.

## Council Meeting in February

Monday, Feb. 9th and 23rd at 6 p.m. at City Hall. Agendas and minutes for council meetings can be found on our website above.

## News Faces At City Hall

We are excited to welcome two new faces to city hall. Amanda West, the new community center director is working part time at city hall in the mornings. Lisa Van Den Berghe-Rees, the new deputy clerk, will be starting Monday, February 9th. She comes to us from Winfield Iowa with ten years of experience as a deputy clerk. Please give Amanda & Lisa a warm welcome and stop by to introduce yourself as they settle in.

## Utility Reminders

Shutoff notices for delinquent December bills will be distributed on the morning of Thursday, January 8th, with payment due by noon on Friday, January 9th. Remember a \$25 fee is applied to your account if you receive a shutoff notice.



## Phone Numbers

If you have had a change in your phone number, please let City Hall know so we may update your account. 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!

## 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](http://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.**

## Automatic Bank Payments (ACH)

The City of Durant offers payment of your utility bills through automatic bank payments. We require the customer to fill out an "Authorization for Direct Payments" form (found on our website [www.cityofdurantiowa.com](http://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.

## 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.

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.

# Liberty Insurance Agency, established 1965

What started as a brilliant idea to secure unique coverage for unique crops, tomatoes, has grown into a full-service independent insurance agency taking care of their community. For over 60 years Liberty Insurance has learned what it means to be a true partner in the small but vibrant community of Durant, Iowa. Even though you may think things look and feel different in the office, we can assure you that we feel the importance of carrying on the legacy of trust, resilience and service that we have been chosen to move forward. Let me explain...

Unlike large national firms, Liberty's early competitive advantage was its commitment to individualized service. Long before the advent of internet quotes or automated customer service portals, clients came into the office on Fifth Street to sit across from an agent who knew their name, their family's story, and often their entire insurance history.

Over time, this emphasis on building relationships rather than simply selling policies became a core principle for the agency. Word-of-mouth referrals strengthened its client base, and Liberty became known not just for the products it sold, but for the guidance and advocacy it provided when clients needed it most.

For nearly 4 decades your agent, Tim Reimers, has been here to listen, quote, issue coverage, and just sit with a cup of coffee and talk. He was a unique agent that could stand alone and talk to you about your Home, Auto, Farm, Crop, Medicare and life coverage. I say 'Unique' because not many agents can do what Tim did so gracefully for so many years. But as time marches on there comes a time for change. Change can be tough to work through; we all know this. One major change is the milestone of Retirement. Congratulations to Tim and his staff for all the years of service to the Durant community and on a well-deserved ride into the Iowa sunset. Cheers, Tim!

The best laid plans are laid with good intentions, right? Liberty Insurance Agency knows this, and they set the plan into action over two years ago. And this is where I come into the equation. My name is Tom Kellenberger, and I am a third-generation insurance agent from Davenport, IA. I own a similar independent agency and am starting my 28th year in the insurance business. In 2019 I hitched my agency to a growing platform, First MainStreet, to help support my agency with additional markets, back-room accounting, IT support, marketing, etc. It allows us small agencies to focus on our clients, coverages, and relationships, and it prevents us from getting lost in the utility bills and payroll, for example.

We maintain ownership, autonomy, relationships and community presence. The collaboration is a Win/Win for everyone involved. Liberty Insurance jumped on this same platform in 2023. All this was done to help make the transition into the next phase as seamless as possible. Our homework had been completed, our research done and our hiring in place. Unfortunately, things don't always work the way we want. We are asking the community to understand this and to know we do care. We are holding the Liberty Insurance torch high as we move forward in a new, modern era of insurance. As the industry changes, so must the agency and those working for you in Durant and the surrounding communities.

Today, Liberty Insurance continues to service clients with the same personal attention that marked its early years. While faces have changed and industry has become increasingly specialized and digital, the agency's core value remains unchanged: personalized service grounded in deep local knowledge.

As Liberty Insurance Agency moves into its sixth decade, we have made a promise to community members to carry the agency forward. And this means being available to you, answering your questions and supporting Durant. One way we have done this is through our Local Love program. This is where we support worthy events or non-profits and donate money. Last year we paid out \$3,500 and we plan on doing the same this year as well.

Please stop in and say 'HI', we'd love to introduce ourselves to you and help you with your insurance coverage.

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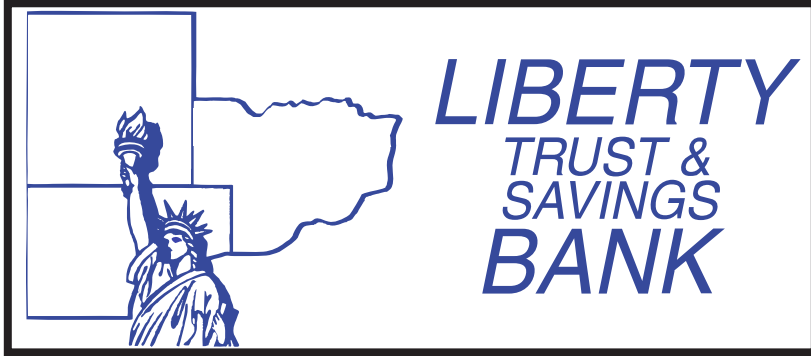


# Museum Moments

Submitted by Mary Erickson

In 1905, Julius Lage drove the streets of Durant in the town's very first automobile—a Stanley Steamer—as pictured. The Iowa law of 1904 provided that if a car approached a horse and buggy on the road, the car must stop if the buggy driver held up his hand. The motorist also was required to give assistance to the other driver. This meant getting out of the car and leading the horse past the vehicle.

The TriCounty Heritage & Genealogy Museum is open on Saturday 9am to noon. For more information, please call 563-320-5809 and leave a message.



**Durant Municipal Electric Plant** 601 4th St | PO Box 138 | 563-785-6213

## Monthly Energy Savings Tip

Tips to seal up your home to help keep your home at a consistent temperature, this helps your furnace not have to work overtime.

1. Be sure all attic doors/hatches are sealed tightly to not allow in drafts
2. Check weather stripping\* on all doors and windows, rolling up blankets or towels can help combat some drafts if weather stripping is damaged
3. Check weather stripping\* on garage doors if attached to the house

\*If weather stripping is damaged be sure to replace it as soon as possible to limit the outside air coming into the home.



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 [EdmundsGovPay.com/dmep](http://EdmundsGovPay.com/dmep)



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# Make Exercise Simple —and Sustainable

Submitted by Kelly Waack, PT, DPT

Regular exercise is one of the most effective ways to improve overall health. It supports strength, heart health, mood, sleep, and energy—and it doesn't require long workouts or expensive equipment. Even short, consistent movement can have a lasting impact.

The real challenge isn't starting an exercise routine—it's sticking with it. Small steps are key. Beginning with short sessions and gradually building over time makes exercise more manageable and sustainable.

Incorporating movement into daily routines can also help. Simple actions throughout the day add up and reduce the pressure of setting aside extra time. Choosing activities you enjoy further increases consistency, especially when exercising with others.

For those dealing with pain, injury, or uncertainty, physical therapists can help create safe, personalized exercise plans. As movement experts, we guide proper form and progression to build strength and confidence.

The most effective exercise plan is the one you'll maintain. Focus on consistency, start small, and prioritize progress over perfection.

Contact Rock Valley Physical Therapy in Wilton today to schedule an appointment and meet our newest team members, Jake Hillard, OT, Payton Timmerman, OTA, and Elleann Kohl, PT, DPT.

## Durant Chamber Members

A.R.B. Roofing Co.	Durant Iron & Metal	Liberty Trust & Savings Bank	Salon 360
Bentley Funeral Home	Durant Medical Building	MSA	Schumacher Company
Brammeier Chiropractic	Durant Municipal Electric	Heinsite Fitness	Shaffer Automotive
Brothers Towing & Recovery	Family Eye Center	Night Owl	SFS Group USA
CBI Bank & Trust	Fire Nutrition	Norfolk Iron & Metal	Spengler Auto Repair
CCE Services	First Choice Real Estate	Paper's Lumber and Supply	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
City of Durant	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	Pearl Button Solar	Suncourt
CMT Highway	Hahn Ready Mix	Pit Crew BBQ	Today's Dentistry
Compton Enterprises	Hy-Vee Durant Pharmacy	Price Oil & LP Gas	Treimer Family Farms
Corteva	Idle Hour Lanes	Quad City Door	Tri County Builders
Dick Taber Estate & Moving	JAARS	Reliable Network Solutions	Triple B Construction
Durant Children's Group	Jeff's Market	Rise & Grind Coffee	Voelkers Plumbing
Durant Chiropractic, PC	Kountry Korners	River Valley Coop	Wahkonsa Country Club
Durant Collision Repair	Latta Harris	Rock Valley Physical Therapy	Wilton-Durant Advocate
Durant Development Corp.	Liberty Insurance Agency	Ron Alpen Ford	Woodhaven

**Durant Chamber of Commerce meeting Monday, February 9th at 12:00 PM at the community center. We welcome your input...come join us!**



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## 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.

### Thursday's February Menu (All served with milk.)

2/5 Cream Chicken, Biscuit, Chateau Vegetables, Fruited Jello, & Brownie  
2/12 Meatload,, AuGratin Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Peaches, & Ice Cream  
2/19 Chicken Parmesean, Spaghetti Noodles, California Vegetables, Orange Whip, & Cookie  
2/26 Swiss Steak, Cheesy Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, & Applesauce Jello

Please remember to make your reservations by 8:00 a.m. for the meal that day

## Senior Foot Health Clinic

Durant Community Center • Thurs., Feb. 12th, 9:00 - 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.

## Scott County Library

*Submitted by Pamela Briggs*

All Scott County library branches will be closed on Monday, Feb. 16.

All ages can join the winter reading challenge, Cats vs. Dogs! Read 20 minutes a day from February 1 to 28 and earn raffle tickets for prize baskets. Get a paper log at any branch, or go to [bit.ly/sclsbeanstack](http://bit.ly/sclsbeanstack) to participate.

Groundhogs aren't the only animals who dig burrows. On Monday, Feb. 2 at 3:30 p.m., all ages can learn about Burrow Buddies with Cedar County Conservation naturalist Sarah Subbert.

Story times at 10 a.m. Thursdays are best for ages 6 and under with a caregiver. Dates are Feb. 5, 12, 19, and 26.

The Adult Book Club will discuss "Night Road" by Kristin Hannah at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18.

On Monday, Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m., Cedar County Conservation naturalist Sarah Subbert will talk about Owls with all ages.

All library programs are free, and open to the public. The library is at 402 6th Street, in the City Hall building. Regular hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2 to 7 p.m., and Thursday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Call 563-285-4794, option 1 during open hours with questions. If the Durant branch is closed, you can call the same number and choose option 0 for the Eldridge branch. Online resources are always available at [scottcountylibrary.org](http://scottcountylibrary.org).



# Heat or Eat? Nobody Should Have to Choose.

Submitted by Justin L. Nelson

It is February in Iowa, and the bitterly cold wind doesn't just bite – it costs. As temperatures drop, for many of our neighbors, rising heating bills mean shrinking grocery budgets.

The Durant Iowa Food Pantry is here to bridge that gap. We provide food and hygiene items in a “grocery-style” setting so families can shop with dignity. Whether you're a senior on a fixed income or a parent facing an unexpected bill, we are the “gap coverage” and the peace of mind of knowing that a temporary setback doesn't have to become a permanent crisis.

If you know a neighbor who is struggling with the “Heat or Eat” choice, tell them we're here. No judgment, just help.

## Get to Know Us & 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 883 Durant, Iowa 52747 (in the garage space)
- **Contact:** (563) 260 5322 (call or text) or [durantfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:durantfoodpantry@gmail.com)
- **Volunteer or Donate:** Visit our website at [difp.org](http://difp.org)

Thank you for making a difference in our community!



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## Durant Ambulance

*Submitted by Dennis D. Frisch*

Recently, there were a number of vehicles involved in a crash and Bill was attempting to explain to Bob what a mass casualty incident (MCI) was and how an Incident Command System (ICS) works. Bob was asking, “Bill, did you hear about the big wreck a while back?”

Bill answered, “Oh yes, that’s what is known as a MCI. It is when the resources of a service are overwhelmed by the number of patients involved and more resources are needed.”

“Shucks,” Bob replied, “our town service has 2 ambulances and a number of volunteers. Wasn’t that enough?”

“Not hardly, Bob. This incident involved a lot of cars and trucks with many injured people.” explained Bill. “Let me explain how a MCI works. The initial unit on scene will set up a command post with the most experienced Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)/Fire Personnel becoming the incident commander. He/she has control of the incident. There are 4 sections under him that report directly to him - operations, planning, logistics, and finance. Operations set up a staging area for ambulances and fire vehicles whose personnel will triage and treat the injured. Planning is responsible for resources, collects and reports relevant information, and status changes. Logistics is in charge of communications, transports to facilities, and supplies. Finance is responsible for time and costs. This is only a few of the responsibilities of each of these ICS elements but it gives you an idea of what is involved.”

“Gives me a headache!” exclaimed Bob.

“Fortunately, no one died in that big mishap.” continued Bill.

“Bill, what would our service have done if there was a medical emergency in our community since both of our town ambulances were at that MCI?” asked Bob.

“I asked that same question to one of our service volunteers and he replied they would have relied on another service to respond just as they do when they do not have a crew to respond at other times.” explained Bill.

Bob replied, “That’s a relief knowing someone will come if I’m having a heart attack.”

“Glad you mentioned your heart as it reminds me we should go and get our significant other a card, flowers, and/or box of candy as it will be Valentine’s Day soon!” exclaimed Bill.

As always, we continue to seek volunteers to drive or become EMTs particularly during the day. If you can find time in your busy schedule to assist us, ask a member/driver of the Durant Volunteer Ambulance Service for an application or call (563-785-4540) and leave a message if no one answers.

**Happy Valentine’s Day!!!**



## Annual St. David’s Day Celebration at St. David’s Anglican Church

On **March 1st** in **Durant**, come join in the festivities of this annual event! This to take place within the context of our regular Sunday morning Church Service, beginning at **9:30A.M.** The music will include many favorite Welsh tunes and requests will be honored. Traditional Welsh meal to follow. All are welcome!