

News & Views



Memorial Day

Greg Feuerbach

The national holiday we call Memorial Day has its beginnings after the end of the Civil War. Following the Civil War's end, local commemorations arose, including a significant May 1, 1865, gathering in Charleston, South Carolina, organized by freed slaves to honor Union prisoners buried at a former racecourse.

Memorial Day began after the Civil War to honor fallen Union soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers and flags. While various Southern communities held early commemorations, the first widespread observance was May 30, 1868, established by Gen. John A. Logan who was the leader of a veterans organization called The Grand Army of the Republic (a Union veterans organization). Originally "Decoration Day," the name "Memorial Day" became more common over time, and was officially designated by federal law in 1967. Congress declared it a federal holiday on the last Monday in May in 1971. The last Monday in May was chosen because the weather would be better for outdoor remembrance ceremonies, and because various flowers would be available for decorating the graves of those that had fallen or passed due to injuries from combat.

Ceremonies on this day of observance vary widely, from the formal ceremony at Arlington Cemetery in Virginia where the President and other honored guests perform a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It also includes places all over the United States like small town Iowa, Durant, where an annual ceremony is led by the J.L. Shryer American Legion Post 430 to observe the day and remember those that have served and fallen or passed on. The small town spirit of Durant shows during this ceremony by the participation of organizations such as the Durant High School Band, the Durant High School Choir, and Troop 153 of the Durant Boy Scouts. At this ceremony, Post 430 not only reads the names of those that have fallen due to wartime activity, but also the names of all of those that have served that have passed and are buried in the

Durant Cemetery as we are all brothers in arms, and will have that connection forever. When every one of us that served honorably signed up and took the oath of enlistment, it was with the knowledge that there may come a time when you may have to lay your life on the line to keep our country free and safe. Most of us never had to face that situation, but it was always there. I've heard it said that the American flag does not wave due to the wind or breeze, but from the last dying breaths of those that gave their lives while in military service to their country.

The poppy is the flower that represents Memorial Day. The Memorial Day poppy tradition began after World War I, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by Lt. Col. John McCrae in 1915, which described poppies blooming over soldiers' graves. Moina Michael championed the poppy as a symbol of remembrance, leading to its adoption by the American Legion in 1920 to honor fallen troops.

The Durant American Legion Post 430 has a long history of observing Memorial Day since its founding just a little over 100 years ago. We intend to continue this tradition for as long as there is a United States of America. Customs and traditions are the glue that bind us together. Showing gratitude to those that forfeited their lives for us for just one day a year is a small price to pay to be an American.

I encourage everyone that is able to attend a Memorial Day Ceremony in their community. For those that live in or near the Durant area, the American Legion will be holding our ceremony at the Durant Cemetery on MAY 25th at 9:30 AM. The ceremony lasts around 45 minutes once started. Please arrive early so as not to disturb the ceremony with your car or movement. If for some reason the weather on the day of the ceremony is raining or stormy, the ceremony will be held in the Durant High School gym at 9:30 a.m.

Council Meetings in May

Monday, May 11th and Tuesday 26th at 6 p.m. at City Hall. Agendas and minutes for council meetings can be found on our website above.

Dog Owner Reminders

Remember to be courteous and pick up after your dog when out walking and playing in the parks. It is against our city ordinance to let your dog defecate on private property (other than the owner's), public walks and recreation areas. Please remember when walking your dog, they must be on a leash. If they are not on a leash, they are considered "at large." Does your dog have their 2026 tag yet? Don't forget ALL dogs must be registered each year!

Utilities Reminders

Shutoff notices for delinquent April bills will be distributed on Thursday, May 7th, with payment due by noon on Friday, May 8th. Remember a \$25 fee is applied to your account if you receive a shutoff notice.

Golf Carts

Golf Carts and UTV must have a permit to be operated on City streets between sunrise and sunset. Please contact the Durant Police Department at 563-785-6049 with any questions or to set up an appointment for a safety inspection to obtain a permit. Please see the full Golf Cart/UTV Ordinance on our website www.cityofdurantiowa.com.

Yard Waste and Brush Disposal

Service is provided through Oveson Refuse & Recycle from April 1st through November 30th for grass, leaves, and garden debris only. Yard waste must be placed in a paper yard waste bag with a yard waste sticker that can be purchased at City Hall for \$1.00 each. Yard waste should be put out on Tuesday with your regular garbage.

Yard Waste Site

The yard waste site (100 8th Avenue) is open Monday-Sunday 8:00 am-7:00 pm. This site only accepts yard waste. If it doesn't grow in your yard, please do not deposit it here. Please remember to put your tree brush outside the yard waste site in the area left of the driveway as you are headed to the sewer plant.

Park Reservations

Please contact City Hall if you would like to reserve a shelter, concession stand, or ballfield at JC Park or a ballfield at Feldhahn Park. A calendar of scheduled events is available at City Hall. A reservation form must be completed and fee paid at City Hall to reserve a date. Reservation forms are available at City Hall and on our website at www.cityofdurantiowa.com

JC Park

Large Shelter \$35.00
Small Shelters \$25.00
Concession Stand \$25.00
Large Shelter & Concession together \$50.00

Feldhahn Park

Ball Fields \$25.00 per field per day

Building Permits

Please call building inspector, Terry Goerdt, at 319-330-9806 or email goerdtservices@outlook.com, for all questions on permits. Permits are required for all new construction, building alterations, accessory & storage shed buildings, and concrete work. Permits are also required for signs, fences, and swimming pools over 5000 gallons. Per state regulations building permits are required for electrical, plumbing, and heating/AC projects. Permits are not required for roofing, siding, & windows. Building permit applications are available at City Hall and on our website www.cityofdurantiowa.com. We ask that you please allow at least 48 hours for your permit to be approved before starting your project.

Help Keep Our Parks & Community Center Looking Good!

Hey kids & parents! Please stay out of landscaping areas in the parks and community center. These spaces may look fun to explore, but they are not a play area. Let's keep these areas safe and looking great for everyone to enjoy! Please play in designated areas instead. Thank you for helping take care of our community!

Tornado Sirens Testing

Tornado sirens monthly testing April - October, the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

City offices will be closed Monday, May 25th for the observance of Memorial Day.

Garbage and recycling collection will be a day later with collection on

Wednesday, May 27th.

Paper's Lumber & Supply, Inc.

Paper's Construction

It was the summer of 1987 when we learned that the former owner, John Schneckloth, wanted to retire and sell the local lumberyard and hardware store. My mother, Marilyn Paper, had been an employee there for several years at the time. I was a Junior in High School and my parents asked what I thought about them purchasing the business. Apparently, my answer agreed with theirs...yes!

Initially, Paper's Lumber & Supply started as solely a lumberyard and hardware store. However, it was apparent that there was not enough construction business in the surrounding area to survive. As a result, we purchased a cheap van and hired a carpenter and along with one of our current employees, Paper's Construction was formed! Paper's Lumber & Supply has evolved over the years and has grown considerably in the products and services we currently offer. Not only do we sell building supplies to area contractors and the community, we also supply lumber packages to other contractors in the Quad-Cities and surrounding area. We pride ourselves in supplying high quality lumber and materials. We sell a full line of building materials in addition to just lumber which include: Andersen and Simonton windows, Certainteed and Royal vinyl siding, Certainteed shingles, Fiberon composite decking, Masonite exterior and interior doors. The hardware store offers a full line of plumbing and electrical, a color match paint system, along with other typical hardware items.

Being a small business in a small town forces you to expand and offer services that set you apart from your competition. Some of those services we offer are: window and screen repair, key cutting for locksets and autos, delivery of our products, free estimates, a rental business including: garden tiller, carpet machine, sewer drain cleaner, and various other items.

A service that we are particularly proud of is our staining and finishing of interior doors and trim. We take an unfinished piece of wood and turn it into a beautifully "finished" product that will hold up for years to come. We have done small remodeling projects up to million-dollar homes. Our quality is second to none!

Our construction company has been involved in countless projects over the years. In the beginning, farm building repair work was very common. However, we have now evolved into more of a general contractor role. We are now involved with all types of construction projects including: room additions, siding and soffit, door and window replacement, decks, roofing, new garages, etc. We recently completed a whole house remodel where we tore it down to the studs and started over.

Our larger projects we have completed over the years include storage buildings, apartment buildings, light commercial buildings and most notably, new houses. We have built just over 100 houses in Durant alone. We have taken bare ground and developed it by adding streets and infrastructure to allow for new neighborhoods to form. Paper's Construction is responsible for "Village East" on the east end of town and "Southlake" on the southeast corner of Durant. We take great pride in building new homes in Durant and the surrounding area.

We believe in using high quality materials and providing expert craftsmanship in our homes. Our philosophy is to use the right materials that will last for many years, not just inexpensive ones for the sake of getting the job done. "Quality and cheap" do not go hand in hand.

So many family-owned businesses become extinct after the original owners retire or sell to a non-family member. However, my parents would be so proud, as we are as well, to see that their grandson, Brendan, a "3rd generation Paper", has stepped up and shown interest in the family business. He is becoming a valuable asset to both of our companies as he brings a youthful and tech savvy mindset to the table. Our goal is to continue to develop ground and to provide quality housing for the community we all call home, "Durant".

Paper's Construction Company currently has available lots to build new homes at our Southlake subdivision. We also have nine acres of farm ground to develop into additional houses and condos. Please contact Gary or Brendan today if you are interested in building your new home or for your next remodeling project! Gary (563) 529-2172
Brendan (563) 949-6619.

Happy Mother's Day!

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 community organizations and its residents. It is supported solely by the generous advertisers & the Durant Chamber of Commerce.

If you have organization news, please submit articles by the 23rd of the month preceding the month it is published.

Articles may be edited by the Editor as space provides.

E-mail articles to:

Sidney Randolph, Editor

(563)886.4699

sid.ann.ran@gmail.com

Museum Moments

Submitted by Mary Erickson

This is a photo of New Liberty School #4 - Fall Class of 1948. The school closed in 1948 when it consolidated with Bennett. The last teacher was Mrs. Haley. The building was eventually demolished. First row students —Wylene Paustian, Elaine Hein, Sharon Hickson Second Row — Warren Spickerman, Harlan Holdorf, Carolyn Hein, and Rhea Roehlk Third Row—Ronnie Roehlk, Loren Jurgens, Hepburn Hendricks, Jr, Kaye Hickson Fourth Row — Larry Arp, Dale Hein, Virginia Clark, Ken Hein, and Lois Arp Fifth Row — Johnny Hickson, Ann Roehlk, Carlene Kelding and Dallas Lage. Please stop at the TriCounty Heritage and Genealogy Museum on Wednesday 3pm – 6pm or Saturday 9am – 12pm to see what is new.



The monthly Durant Chamber Meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, at the Durant Community Center beginning at noon. All Chamber members and people in the business community are welcome and encouraged to attend. Come join us!



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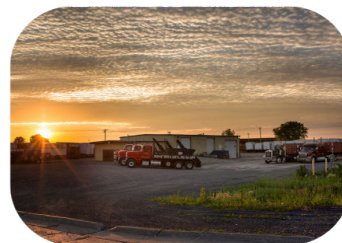
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Cedar County Senior Dining

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.

Thursday's May Menu (All served with milk.)

5/7 Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Applesauce Jello, & Cookie
5/14 Hamloaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Cucumber Salad, & Rice Pudding/Raisin
5/21 Scalloped Chicken, Gravy, California Veggies, Orange Whip, & Ice Cream
5/28 Swedish Meatballs, Noodles, Mixed Veggies, Fruit Jello, & Vanilla Pudding
Please reserve by 8:00 a.m. for same-day meals. Call Fay Wulf at 785-4525 or 563-320-4570.

Senior Foot Health Clinic

Durant Community Center • Thurs., May 9th, 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.

Durant Ambulance

Submitted by Dennis Frisch

The Durant Volunteer Ambulance Service (DVAS) recently added to the safety of Durant and the surrounding community as a retired member, a volunteer driver, and a current member taught the Durant 8th grade students cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). As a result, these students have met the IA. Code 256.11(6) and 281-IAC 12.5(20) which states any student prior to the end of 12th grade shall have completed a psychomotor (hands on) course that leads to certification in CPR. The requirement was passed by the IA. legislature in 2009 with most schools implementing it by 2011. Students may be exempted due to a physical issue or their religious belief. They do not have to become certified, but certification is offered when the course is taught. Knowing that there are 50 additional people around to assist in a cardiac emergency should give a good feeling to the people in our community. With Mother's Day in the near future (May 10) she should view her son's/daughter's achievement as a wonderful gift for her and her family.

The DVAS reminds you to celebrate Mother's Day by allowing her to have the day off (or more) and do what she would enjoy. Later in the month is Memorial Day (May 25) when we get an opportunity to attend a program that recognizes and remembers the military personnel that are currently serving and those that have served. Please honor these individuals with your presence where a program is being held.

2026 Tri-County Community Band Schedule

Submitted by Randy Gehrls

Durant High School's band room located at 7th Street and 4th Avenue.

REHEARSALS at 7:00 P.M.: May 26 · June 02 · June 16 · June 23 · June 30 · July 07 · July 14 · July 21

CONCERTS at 7:30 P.M.: June 11 · June 25 · July 04 · July 23

Mr. Kevin Mundt will direct the band. Durant's band room has moved! It is now in what many know as the choir room and is air conditioned. Signs will guide you to the new location. Details about the concerts will be available at rehearsals. Check the June News & Views! For any questions, contact Randy Gehrls at: randyjanetg@gmail.com (preferred) or 563-271-0384.

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Bentley Funeral Home
Brammeier Chiropractic
Brothers Towing
CBI Bank & Trust
City of Durant
CMT Highway
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Monthly Energy Savings Tip

Spring Energy Savings:

1. Cook outside on warmer days to avoid added heat in the house.
2. Open windows weather permitting rather than running AC unit.
3. Use ceiling fans to help distribute cooler air effectively.
4. Plant shade trees to help keep the home cooler.



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Cruise to the Wave

Submitted by CCMKA Board Members

Did you see the CCKMA bus leading a line of cool classic cars, Jeeps, motorcycles, newer model sports cars and daily drivers through Durant last year? If you missed it, the 5th Annual Cruise to the Wave will be happening on Saturday, May 9th. CCKMA would like to invite you to participate in this event that starts in Bettendorf, IA at the Main on State. You can look for our group to drive through on 5th Street in Durant around 1pm as we head to our first stop in Wilton. From there the group will caravan to the children's hospital in Iowa City to do an unforgettable Wave to the Kids. After we Wave, the group will end the day at Headquarters in Muscatine for raffles, 50/50, music and more.

CCKMA is a local non-for-profit organization that was established in 2008 with a mission is to raise awareness and educate about cancer while donating all of our proceeds to the UI's Gynecological Oncology Research Lab. For more information follow CCKMA on Facebook or visit our website at cckma-qc.org

The 5-Ingredient Recipe Challenge

Submitted by Justin L. Nelson

If you drive past the Durant Iowa Food Pantry in July, you might see stacks of cardboard, canned goods and carts filled with produce. It looks like "distribution," but the real story happens at a local kitchen table. It's the sound of a family arguing over garlic bread and kids piling plates high. It's loud, normal, and most importantly – it's dinner!

Our Summer Meal Kits for Kids provide complete meals like spaghetti or sloppy joes for local students who qualify for free or reduced lunches at the Durant school. These kits offer "breathing room," turning into leftovers or pantry staples that ensure no one goes hungry. When possible, we add fresh, local produce to keep things vibrant.

It isn't fancy work, but it ensures a family can gather for a meal. This summer, we need volunteers to help turn "just a box" into "dinner is handled."

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
- **Volunteer or Donate:** Visit our website at difp.org

Thank you for making a difference in our community!

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To donate for 2026 Fireworks, drop off your gift to Liberty Trust, designated for Fireworks or mail to PO Box 1111, Durant, IA 52747.

Durant City Wide

Garage Sales

Saturday May 9th 8:00-2:00

Complete form below & submit with \$10 fee (exact change or check)

Due Mon, May 4th

Drop off in an envelope labeled "Chamber of Commerce" at City Hall

or Liberty Trust & Savings Bank

or Mail to: Durant Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 1111, Durant, IA 52747

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City-Wide Garage Sale Registration Form • Sat, May 9 • 8 am – 2 pm

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

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