

Rural Revitalization Initiative Newsletter

Des Moines Municipal Schools...Winter 2011

Please Support the Two Mill Levy

The Des Moines Municipal School Board passed a resolution on November 9, 2010, setting Tuesday, February 1, 2011, as the date for the School Board election and the vote on a two-mill levy.

Our Des Moines School community has never failed to pass a mill levy election. Thank you for your support in past years and we hope we can count on your continued support. This two mill-levy **will not increase your tax rate**. In fact, the

school portion of your property taxes **has decreased** as the district continues to pay off bonds approved by voters in the past. If approved, this levy will be a continuation of the two-mill levy that is currently in place, no tax increase will result.

Continued support for this Public School Capital Improvement Tax is critical. This money is used for maintenance (building and vehicle), building and equipment repairs, and upkeep of the school grounds. In the past, the levy funds have been used for such projects as replacing a water heater, repairing the heating and electrical systems, and, most recently, renovating the locker room. This continuing source of revenue is crucial for the ongoing upkeep of the investments we have all made in our school facilities.

The Des Moines School Board and the school staff is committed to providing a safe and comfortable learning environment for the students of our community. We appreciate your continuing support. Please vote in support of the two mill levy.



Beautification Workgroup "Decks the Halls"!



Volunteers of all ages helped with the project...Evie, Diego, and Angie did a great job!

Did you see the "Holiday Decorations" displayed throughout our communities this holiday season? With the help of several Des Moines students, community members, communities, and local businesses the RRI Beautification Workgroup created twelve different decorations to brighten up our area and promote holiday cheer.

Students in Mr. Owensby's VoAg classes helped cut out the decorations which were then sanded, painted and put on display. The Beautification Workgroup's goal is to have a set of decorations for each village in our school community: Des Moines, Capulin, Folsom and Grenville.

Local area businesses sponsored the decorations. The donated money will be used to purchase materials for future projects which are already in the planning stages.

Special thanks to: Arthur Propane, Baca Valley Telephone & Sierra Communications, High Country Mercantile, Kennedy Hunting, Village of Folsom, Des Moines students who help cut, paint and hang decorations, and to all other community members who helped supply material, tools, and of course, time. We'd love to have your help on future projects! Call the school at 278-2611 or email revitalize@bacavalley.com to see how you can get involved!

Submitted by Lucia Lopez

School Board Election
Tuesday...February 1...2011

Position 1

Zachary Robert Osborn

Position 2

Raymond Rivale
Scott V. Warner

Position 3

Henry A. Newkirk

Tuesday, February 1
School Board Election
Two Mill Levy Vote

Polling Place:
Des Moines City Hall

Des Moines School Based Health Center Seeks Grant

What an exciting time for our School Based Health Center! The last few months have been a flurry of activities as we have had the opportunity to apply for a \$500,000.00 federal grant (**free money**) to improve the size, and efficiency of our School Based Health Center.

During the months of October thru December we gathered surveys from students, parents, and other community members to find out what they felt were issues that needed to be both improved and / or successfully continued. We received a very nice number of responses...and some very detailed replies. The detailed surveys were the most helpful. We can't fix what doesn't work if we don't know it's not working, nor can we improve in areas that are a concern if we don't realize there is a level of concern.

The results from the surveys and input from members of our community helped us format the improvements we proposed for the new Health Center. The proposal is to build, in the same location as the current School

Based Health Center, a more "friendly" appearing building with an exterior somewhat similar to the Senior Center. It will be slightly larger due to the addition of a dentist office and a more efficient office plan. We're planning a more inviting waiting area with more space and comfort. We heard, and shared your concerns, about the feeling of lack of privacy due to the sound issues. The existing center was marketed as properly soundproofed, but we found that is not the case. Constructing a new building will allow us to manage the sound attenuation, making the offices properly soundproofed, thus successfully addressing everyone's right to privacy.

Some other expressed concerns...wanting / needing a more reliable medical provider schedule and having the ability to fill basic prescriptions on site. The new floor plan will include a lab and separate, properly manageable pharmacy (we have current licenses for these items). The providers are excited about working with our Center and are interested in providing regularly scheduled hours as long as there is a demand for their services. We do have to make it worth their time to drive here and spend their day with us.

We have many exciting changes happening at the Health Center. We encourage you to come by to visit and check us out. Our School Based Health Center has been a blessing for so many and we invite you to join us in making the Center an even better resource, not only for our school, but for our entire community as well.



*Submitted by Jan Pryor
School Healthcare Provider*

Some Comments from the School Based Health Center Survey...

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

The providers have been EXTREMELY helpful already this year. It is WONDERFUL!!

It is great not to have to take a whole day off of work, we can take maybe an hour off instead of a whole day. Also our kids can just step across the parking lot and not miss school.

Our senior citizens do not have to drive on the highway to go to a town Doctor...

The DMSBHC is a wonderful service for our community, we all appreciate it.

Thanks to all who responded to the survey...your input was greatly appreciated!