

Special Edition Relocation Guide

City Buzz



#ThisIsFortDodge: Iowa's Best Kept Secret

Fort Dodge is the kind of place where you, your father, and your father-in-law can be inducted into the high school's Hall of Fame, where your high school crush turns out to be your college bank teller, who turns out to be who you end up marrying, where you move for a great job thinking you'll only stay a few years but make a permanent life for yourself and your family.

"It's the spirit of Fort Dodge that prepares people for the world," said Julie Thorson, who grew up in the city. "It reminds me of a story from a recent Fort Dodge Hall of Fame inductee about redwoods; they're massive, but they have small roots—they're just 10 feet long. The roots of the redwood are like Fort Dodge, modest in size yet so strong and able to hold up so much. You plant roots in Fort Dodge, and they'll support your growth, and your family's growth, wherever that may take you."

Thorson moved out of state for college, but returned to her roots to raise her own family like her father and father-in-law did before her. All three have been inducted into the Fort Dodge Senior High Hall of Fame—they were all athletes, she said proudly—and she hopes her children raise their children in the city to enjoy its many benefits, including the Thorsons' extensive extended family. Chances are good for Thorson, and here's why:

1. A thriving, supportive community

Fort Dodge is made up of about 25,000 people and surrounded by a greater area of 160,000 folks, but when you visit you'll notice everyone still pretty much knows each other. You can't get out of the grocery store without saying "hello" to at least a few people, and they'll always be there to help you with things, like jimmying open your car window when you've left your keys inside, which is how one Fort Dodge native met her husband.

"I don't think you'll find a more welcoming place where people will support and encourage you, want to help you grow, where you can pick up the phone and call anyone and ask them about an idea," said Thorson. "One of the secrets to Fort Dodge is that it's all there at your fingertips if you're willing to make the effort."

Thorson speaks from personal experience. She has forged a special partnership between Friendship Haven, a retirement community where she serves as President and CEO, and the Trinity Regional Medical Center, the local hospital, which is the envy of her peers in the health care industry. The relationship includes working together in a special pilot program run through the Affordable Care Act and in personal service and access for the center's members.

"In a community like Fort Dodge, we all know each other, so I have personal relationships with people at the hospital, and we all take things so personally because we're taking care of our former teachers and parents' best friends," said Thorson. "I don't consider Fort Dodge to be a place where I work to live; it's where I live to work. When I think about our retirement community, it's not just business, it's our life."

2. Loads of Outdoor Activities

Fort Dodge is home to more total park acres than any other place in the state, boasting 10,000 acres at 32 different parks, which offer everything from breathtaking bike and horse trails to an abundance of waterways for fishing, boating, and kayaking. They include 70 miles of hiking trails, 25 miles of hard-surfaced biking trails, and 65 miles of water trails frequented by canoeists, kayakers, and tubers alike across Bushy Creek, Kennedy Creek and Lake, Des Moines River, and Dolliver Park, to name only a few.

The city also offers the largest OHV Park in the state, with 50 miles of off-road trails in its 800 acre Gypsum City OHV Park, and the Community Orchard grows along the Des Moines River Valley, possessing about 5,000 trees, including approximately 15 varieties of apple trees fresh for picking.

3. Friendly, Competitive Passion for Sports

Sports are a big part of the culture at Fort Dodge, a place where many professional athletes were raised, including several major league ball players and a long-distance runner who competed in the 2012 London Olympics.

The city provides plenty of venues in which to play, including the Harlan and Hazel Rogers Sports Complex, which features baseball and softball fields and ten soccer fields, in addition to hosting the annual **Iowa Girls' State Softball Tournament for over 40 years**. Fort Dodge also has golf courses, basketball courts, tennis courts, and a skateboard park.

"My kids are heavy into sports—they love them so much, especially soccer. My older boy, his dream job is to be a professional soccer player," said T.J. Pingel, who talked about the immense growth of the Fort Dodge Soccer Association since his days as a kid. In fact, in the spirit of the expansion, Pingel recently persuaded his next-door neighbor to sell her home to him for a modest \$8,000 so that he could turn the place into a soccer field for his kids and the neighborhood.

4. Plenty of Events and Attractions

Fort Dodge is home to everything from historical destinations such as the Blanden Memorial Art Museum, the Fort Museum, (a recreation of a 19th-century military outpost), and designated as an Iowa Great Place in 2010. There's also the extremely popular Rosedale Rapids Aquatic Center, the Oleson Park Splashpad Park, and Fort Frenzy, an amusement park with an indoor car track and roller skating rink, arcade games, miniature golf, and more.



"There's really no shortage of things to do. Every weekend, there's something. Actually, next week, we're going to see the Steve Miller Band," said Rick Lamoureux, who runs a garden center for Smitty's Lawn & Landscape.

Fort Dodge also hosts a slew of annual events for the community, including

its Badger Lake Dragon Boat Bash, a massive specialty boat race; Fort Dodge Fireworks & Concert; Shellabration, the city's biggest, oldest event, which takes place every summer; and Frontier Days and Frontier Days Parade, a celebration of Fort Dodge's history at the fort, its namesake.

5. A Boom in New Developments

Fort Dodge has seen an explosion in construction, growing a phenomenal 71 percent since 2004 to include 22 acres of homes near Williams Drive, a strip mall on Kenyon Road, and hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of new facilities and plants by Cargill, CJ Bio America, Valero, Koch Nitrogen, Nestle Purina, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., Calcium Products, and more.

6. An Abundance of Job Opportunities

Fort Dodge's business-friendly environment has attracted international corporations such as Cargill, Nestle Purina, CJ Bio America, and Koch Nitrogen, encouraged the expansion of its already large ethanol plants and car dealerships, and propelled the growth of its long-standing mining industry, particularly the mining of limestone and gypsum. The gypsum industry history begins in Fort Dodge with George Ringland as the individual whose patent for the improvement of plaster contributed to the growth of the gypsum industry and was founder of U.S. Gypsum Company. The Ringland-Smeltzer home is located in the historic Oak Hill District and is on the National Register of Historical Homes along with several other homes. Because of Fort Dodge's location and tax climate, it's also a major regional hub for the manufacturing, transportation, retail, and health care industries. Located by a four lane highway, regional airport and two connected competing railroads makes the area a transportation dream for products and services.

"The job market is amazing. We have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state, which is actually making it hard for me to find candidates for the dealership," said Pingel, general sales manager at Shimkat Motor Company. "We're just watching Fort Dodge grow and grow, and we were pretty recession-proof to begin with," he said.

The unemployment rate is only 4 percent.

7. Great Medicine

Fort Dodge serves as a regional medical hub, helping 160,000 people across eight counties over a 70-mile radius. The setup affords people the benefits of a slower-paced, tighter community but also the excellent medical care of many major cities.

"I think we're really, really fortunate. When we bring physicians into the hospital, they're always amazed. They think they're going to a tiny hospital in the middle of a cornfield, but our facility is beautiful, and we have cardiology, pulmonology, neurology — there's no shortage of specialties. We have access to really fantastic health care," said Shannon McQuillen, vice president of People Excellent at UnityPoint Health.

Fort Dodge leads the way in patient-centered care, with one of only 23 Medicare Pioneer Accountable Care Organizations in the nation. In addition, the city now has a brand-new, state-of-the-art dental facility, Clay & Associates, which launched in February.

"It's a privilege for me to work on the people here, build this new practice, bring in more dentists, and give back to the community," said Dr. John Clay, who started working in Fort Dodge more than 10 years ago. "The people here are just fantastic," he said.

8. Low Cost of Living

The cost of living in Fort Dodge is 17.6 percent less than the Iowa average and 21.8 percent less than the national



average, reports UnityPoint Health–Trinity. In addition, the average sale price for homes is just \$71,950 compared to the national average of \$273,500.

9. Good Location

Fort Dodge serves as Iowa’s northwest central retail hub and includes Crossroads Mall, a slew of specialty shops, national chains such as Kohl’s and Marshalls, discount stores, eclectic gift and antique shops, and other stores catering to outdoor and athletic enthusiasts.

“We have a lot of communities around us, so there’s a perfect mix of having everything you need be accessible to you, all those modern conveniences, while still keeping that small community feel, where people genuinely care for each other,” said McQuillen, who left Fort Dodge 20 years ago only to return for what she thought would be a short stint in her career at UnityPoint Health. She and her family have been in the city almost 11 years now, and they never plan on leaving.

Fort Dodge also remains a less-than-90-minute drive from Des Moines, Iowa’s capital and biggest city, which is ranked #1 for its up-and-coming downtown area, #1 for economic strength, and #4 for top amusement parks in the nation, reports Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance.

10. Great Schools

Iowa has the highest high school graduation rate in the nation at an impressive 88 percent. Even more impressive, however, is Fort Dodge’s whopping 91 percent high school graduation rate, with 80 percent of its students attending college.

The public school system has 4,700 students enrolled in grades K-12, with 1,200 students attending the city’s private schools, including St. Edmond, St. Paul Lutheran, Harvest Baptist, and Community Christian.



Fort Dodge also has two colleges: Iowa Central Community College, which offers two-year college transfer programs for its over 6,000 students, and Buena Vista University, a four-year institution with a satellite location in Fort Dodge, which teaches accounting, entrepreneurship, management, computer sciences, psychology, and more.

The city is also 45 miles from Iowa State University, 85 miles from Drake University, 90 miles from the University of Northern Iowa, and 150 miles from the University of Iowa.

11. Safety

Fort Dodge’s crime rate index has dropped more than 150 points since 2002, edging toward some the lowest crime numbers for any city in the nation, according to city-data.com.

“I went to school at Creighton University, so I lived in Omaha, and while I was there, every day someone was shot to death. My house was broken into twice, and my car was broken into once. By the time I graduated college, I thought, there’s no place like home,” said Pingel.

He moved back to Fort Dodge in September ‘09, and six months later, when he went to make his first student loan payment at Wells Fargo, his loan officer turned out to be his high school crush. He met up with her a short while later at the city’s fort for Frontier Days, and four years and three kids later, the rest is history.

“Fort Dodge is the best place to live,” he said. “It’s made all my dreams come true.”

<http://www.htvnativeadsolutions.com/kcci/2016/07/14/fort-dodge-iowas-best-kept-secret/#photo-768054>

Housing

Fort Dodge has a robust housing market that will meet the needs of any individual or family moving into the area. There are many choices of apartments, single-family homes, upscale options, and retirement options. The housing market has diverse choices in the form of architecture, space, and prices that are lower than the national average. The City of Fort Dodge offers a tax abatement on the first 75,000 dollars of added value for new as well as rehabilitated housing.

Allied Investment Properties LLC

1137 South 18th Street • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.facebook.com/alliedpropertiesfortdodge • 515-571-6704

Coldwell Banker Associated Realtors

1728 Central Avenue, Suite 1 • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.coldwellbankerfortdodge.com • 515-955-7000

Cornerstone Property Management Group

2221 15th Avenue South • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.cornerstonepmg.com • 515-408-4323

Don Peart Custom Homes

217 South 25th Street • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.donpeartcustomhomes.com • 515-573-5964

Doyle Construction Company

301 1st Avenue North • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.doyleconstruction.net • 515-955-3894

Eastwood Realty

10 N 10th Street • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.eastwoodrealtyfd.com • 515-955-4663

Egemo Realty

4 North 15th Street • Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501 • egemorealty.com • 515-955-6148

Fort Dodge Area Landlords Association

1924 Floral Ave • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.fdala.com • 515-955-3668

Fort Dodge Housing Agency

700 South 17th Street • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.fd-housing.org • 515-573-7751

Fort Dodge Realty

809 Central Avenue #350 • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.fortdodgerealty.net • 515-574-4663

Friendship Haven - 55+ Town Home and Apartment Living

420 Kenyon Road • Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501 • www.friendshiphaven.org • 515-573-6000

Guthrie and Associates Real Estate

7 North 18th Street • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.guthrierealty.net • 515-576-5703

Heartland Senior Housing

610 Central Avenue • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.cohenesrey.com • 515-573-1180

Home Builders Association

301 1st Avenue North • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.hbaiowa.org • 515-955-3894

Iowa Realty of Fort Dodge

3 North 15th Street • Fort Dodge, IA 5050 • www.fortdodgeiowarealty.com • 515-576-8141

Kesterson Realty and Appraisal

1909 1st Avenue North • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.kesteronappraisal.com • 515-955-7714

Nanninga Rentals

1352 28th Avenue North • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • 515-571-7877

Neighborhood Realty

706 1st Avenue North • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.neighborhood-realty.net • 515-576-2012

Palace Park Mobile Home Court

1338 3rd Avenue NW, #109 • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • Palace Park Facebook • 515-567-6781

Regency Realtors

901 North 15th Street • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.regencyrealtorsfd.com • 515-573-3111

ReMax

1517 1st Avenue North • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.remoxfortdodge.com • 515-955-3828

Wahkonsa Manor

927 Central Avenue • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.dominiumapartments.com/properties/wahkonsa-apartments.html • 515-576-6755

Westridge Townhomes

33 North 16th Street • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • 515-955-2148

Woodlands Addition, The

1735 River Forest Drive • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • 515-573-8254



Additional Resources:

<http://www.ftdodgemls.com>

<http://iowahousingsearch.org>

Education

Iowa has one of the nation's highest high school retention and graduation rates. The City of Fort Dodge has set the bar for ensuring that our schools set children up for success. We incorporate things such as giving high school students the opportunity to earn college credit through Iowa Central Community College and offering free preschool for 4-year-olds.

For parents seeking a private education, Fort Dodge is home to a number of reputable private schools. Contact one of our great schools for more information.

Fort Dodge Public School System

(515) 576-1161 • www.fdschools.org

(Also offers free preschool for 4 year olds)

Saint Edmond Catholic Schools System

(515) 955-6077 • www.st-edmond.com

(Also offers free preschool for 4 year olds)

Saint Paul Lutheran School

(515) 955-7208 • www.stpaulschoolfd.org

(Preschool-8)

Community Christian School

(515) 573-3011 • www.ccsfd.org

(Preschool-8, Also offers free preschool for 4-year olds)

Harvest Baptist School

(515) 955-3074 •

www.harvestbaptistchurch.com

(K-12)

Southeast Valley Schools

(515) 359-2235 • [http://www.se-](http://www.se-webster.k12.ia.us/)

[webster.k12.ia.us/](http://www.se-webster.k12.ia.us/)

Manson Northwest Webster

Schools

(712)-469-2202 • <http://www.mnwcougars.com/>



Health Services

Quality health care is of primary importance to our community, and there are many health providers in the area for you to choose from, including UnityPoint Health, The Community Health Center, and Webster County Health Department. Specialists include eye doctors, dentists, orthodontists, and chiropractors, all dedicated to providing the highest level of healthcare.

UnityPoint Health-Trinity Regional Medical Center offers 200 beds and is a nonprofit, staffing more than 860 employees, including 90 physicians. The hospital has been named one of the top 100 cardiovascular hospitals in America and underwent a major remodeling in 2015.

Community Health Center

126 North 10th Street

Fort Dodge, IA 50501

(P) 1(515) 576-6500

UnityPoint Clinic

802 Kenyon Road

Fort Dodge, IA 50501

(P) 1(515) 574-6765

Mercy Clinics Family Medicine

119 Avenue O West

Fort Dodge, IA 50501

(P) 515-955-9200

Visit <http://www.greaterfortdodge.com/growthalliance/fort-dodge-living-/health-services/?cat=Health+Care+Services> for a comprehensive list of health services.

Places of Worship

The Fort Dodge Area offers many religious options: There are over forty churches of various denominations that offer worship services throughout the week. Here are just a few:

First Congregational Church

1611 Williams Drive • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.fducc.org • (515) 573-3817

First Covenant Church

201 Avenue H • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.firstcovfortdodge.org • (515) 955-3528

First Presbyterian Church

1111 5th Avenue South • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.firstpresfd.org • (515) 576-2091

First United Methodist Church

127 North 10th Street • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.fumcfortdodge.org • (515) 576-7586

Grace Lutheran Church

211 South 9th Street • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.graceelca.com • (515) 576-4106

Holy Trinity Parish

2220 4th Avenue North • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.holytrinitywci.org • (515) 955-6077

Hope Assembly of God

200 Avenue O • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • <http://104348.agchurches.org/index.cfm> • (515) 573-4171

New Covenant Christian Church

3318 5th Avenue South • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.ncccfid.org • (515) 955-6222

Prairie Lakes Church

200 Avenue O • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • www.prairielakeschurch.org • (515) 302-8889

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

1023 South 27th Street • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • <http://princeofpeacefd.com> • (515) 573-8618

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

1007 1st Avenue South • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • <http://stmarksfdia.org/> • (515) 576-2019

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

239 North 11th Street • Fort Dodge, IA 50501 • <http://stolaffid.org> • (515) 576-2103

Legislative Information

United States Senate:
www.senate.gov

Senator Charles Grassley
Website: www.grassley.senate.gov
Facebook: www.facebook.com/grassley

Senator Joni Ernst
Website: www.ernst.senate.gov
Facebook: www.facebook.com/senjoniernst

United States Congress:
www.congress.gov
Congressman Steve King
Website: www.steveking.house.gov
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SteveKingIA

Iowa Legislature:
www.legis.iowa.gov

State Senator Tim Kraayenbrink
Email: Tim.Kraayenbrink@legis.iowa.gov

State Senator Jerry Behn
Email: jerry.behn@legis.iowa.gov

State Representative Ann Meyer
Email: ann.meyer@legis.iowa.gov

State Representative Mike Sexton
Email: Mike.Sexton@legis.iowa.gov

State Representative Rob Bacon
Email: rob.bacon@legis.iowa.gov

Webster Co Supervisors

- District 1 - Keith Dencklau**
- District 2 - Mark Campbell**
- District 3 - Bob Thode**
- District 4 - Niki Conrad**
- District 5 - Nick Carlson**

Your City Council



Matt Bemrich, Mayor
(515) 573-7144
mattb@bemrich.com



Neven Conrad, At Large
(515) 571-7453
nevenconrad@gmail.com



Jeffrey Halter, At Large
(515) 570-2155
jeff@rochellegreen.com



Lydia Schuur, At Large
(515) 570-4288
lydia2185@gmail.com



Terry Moehnke, Ward 1
(515) 955-6720
tmoehnke@fronternet.net



Dean Hill, Ward 2
(515) 576-4018
sjhill1@frontier.net



David Flattery, Ward 3
Mayor Pro Tem
(515) 574-3870
dflattery@csbfd.com



Kim Alstott, Ward 4
(515) 573-8491
ww2kim1939@yahoo.com

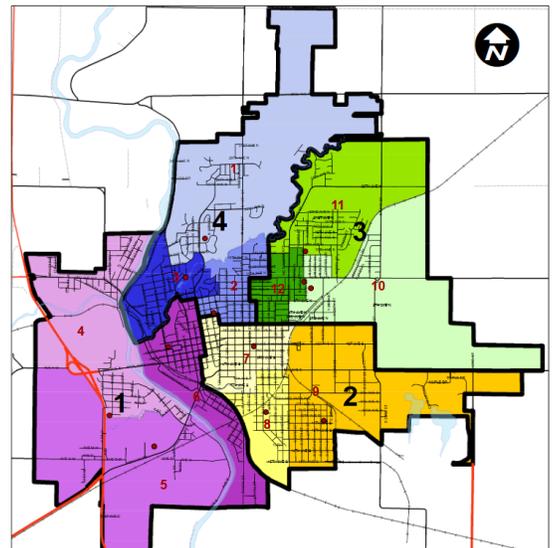
City Council Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at City Hall - 819 1st Avenue South - in the Council Chambers on the east side of the building.

Wards and Precincts Map

- 2015 Polling Locations
- Wards
- Precincts
- 1 - Feelhaver School (1300 14th Ave N)
- 2 - First Presbyterian Church (1111 5th Ave N)
- 3 - Lion's Den (731 Exposition Dr)
- 4 - First Covenant Church (201 Ave H)
- 5 - Tompkin's Celebration Center (420 Kenyon Rd)
- 6 - Elderbridge Agency on Aging (308 Central Ave)
- 7 - Central Administration Building (104 S 17th St)
- 8 - Butler School (945 S 18th St)
- 9 - Prince of Peace (1023 S 27th St)
- 10 - Senior High School (819 N 25th St; FD)
- 11 - Cooper School (1523 N 24th St)
- 12 - Trinity United Methodist Church (838 N 25th St)

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles
1 in = 1 miles

Map Updated: September 23, 2015



Dining

Located at the heart of Midwest farm country, it's not surprising that the Greater Fort Dodge Area is replete with fresh, locally grown produce and meat, as well as some of the finest dining in the state. Iowa Central Community College is home to Iowa's top-ranked culinary program, providing a steady stream of talented young chefs testing their chops in our community.

You'll find a variety of national chain and franchise establishments alongside locally owned and operated restaurants and pubs—more than 70 in all, including fine dining in our historic downtown, overlooking the beautiful river valley or in the bustling Corridor of Commerce area.

Restaurants that Deliver

Casey's Pizza

2206 2nd Avenue North
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 576-4610

Chesterfield Lounge

1241 South 22nd Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 515-576-3062

Community Tap & Pizza

2026 5th Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515)955-8202

Domino's Pizza

1430 5th Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 576-1111

Fort Dodge Pizza Ranch

3311 5th Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 955-5599

Harty's Caddy Shack Cafe

1101 Central Avenue
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 302-8004

Hunan King

Crossroads Mall
217 South 25th Street, B7
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 576-0449

Jimmy John's

3022 5th Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 955-5588

Marco's Pizza

1511 2nd Avenue North
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 955-6656

Pizza Hut

2516 5th Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 576-7255

Rides Bar & Grill

723 South 31st Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 576-2811

Sneakers Eatery & Pub

1317 Central Avenue
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 576-3336

TC Mae's

1010 1st Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 573-1101

Grocery Stores

ALDI

2736 1st Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 955-2534
Sunday - Saturday 9 am to 8 pm
Bring a quarter for a cart and your own bags

Fareway Grocery

1231 1st Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 576-0341
Monday - Saturday 7 am to 9 pm
Closed Sundays

Hy-Vee

115 South 29th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 573-4105
Open 24 hours

Target

2910 1st Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 573-7950
Monday - Saturday 8 am to 10 pm
Sunday 8 am to 9 pm

Walmart Supercenter

3036 1st Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 576-7400
Open 24 hours



Fitness Facilities

Anytime Fitness

16 North 29th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 576-1348

Club Fitness

803 1st Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 955-2001

Crossfit Fort Dodge

16 North 29th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 576-1348

Curves

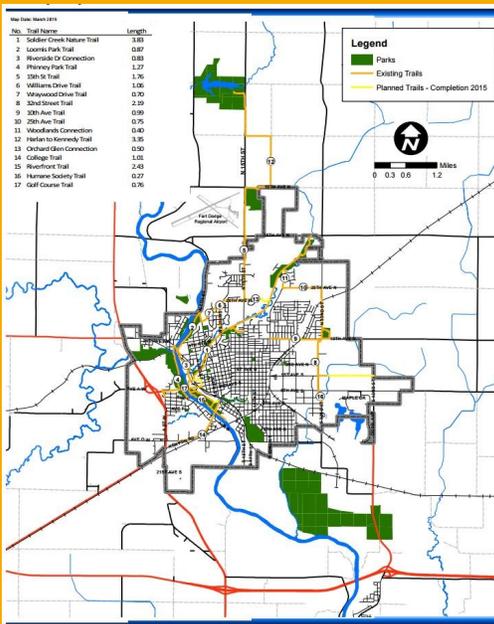
125 South 3rd Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 573-1167

Fort Dodge Community Rec Center

1422 1st Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 573-7107

Snap Fitness

2105 5th Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(P) 1(515) 576-5599
Open 24 hours



Arts & Culture

The Fort Dodge region offers a wide array of cultural, musical, and artistic interests, represented by a plethora of organizations.

Browse through our local art museum and galleries; listen to our symphony orchestra, choral society, and other vocal performing ensembles as well as live music. Many concerts and theater productions are available at local establishments throughout the year.

Learn about upcoming events at www.fdfineartsassociation.org.



Outdoor Recreation

The Fort Dodge Area boasts a plethora of outdoor activities.

Hikers can choose from more than seventy miles of trails, including twenty-five miles with a hard surface, as well as sixty-five miles of water trails that provide a passage through the city and surrounding area. Of the water trails, the Des Moines River and Lizard Creek offer gorgeous surroundings for kayakers and canoeists.

There are some beautiful parks to experience, including Dolliver Park, which has many canyons, bluffs, and flatlands over a four hundred and fifty-acre area. Many local parks offer access to the beauty of the area for outdoor enthusiasts. A system of trails, including the local Soldier Creek Nature Trail, connects hikers to Iowa's well developed state trail system.

Those who enjoy aquatic life will enjoy the Rosedale Rapids Aquatic Center and the Olsen Park Splash Pad. Visitors that want to include arcade games in their aquatic activities should visit Fort Frenzy to play with bumper boats, mini golf, bowling, and many other fun activities for the whole family.

Brushy Creek State Park and John F. Kennedy Memorial Park are two great locations for campers and outdoor adventurers. There are over 10,000 acres in public parks in Webster County, so there is a location to fit every desire.

Harlan and Hazel Rogers Sports Complex features baseball and softball fields as well as ten soccer fields. This sports arena is almost a mini-replica of Fenway Park or Wrigley Field. This complex is also the proud host of the Girls State Softball Tournament.



Professional & Social Networking

Leadership Fort Dodge

The Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance Leadership Program helps participants learn about the community through professional presentations, tours of businesses and agencies, and interaction with local and state leaders. Our mission is to develop dynamic leaders that are qualified and focused on the future. This interactive experience provides background information and the necessary tools to be a positive presence in the community.



This program lasts from September to May, and the Leadership Fort Dodge class spends the second Thursday of every month discussing pertinent topics in the community. Through this program, a participants gain the knowledge that they need to get involved in the community and business community.

Topics Discussed: History and Demographics, Health and Human Services, Civic Engagement, Media, Education, Criminal Justice, Local Government, State Government, Quality of Life, Economic Development and Agriculture and Ecology.

The program is only open to 28 participants and requires a fee of three hundred dollars which covers general program costs such as food, transportation, and class materials.

Clubs and Organizations

Webster County offers more than 200 clubs and organizations with a diverse selection of interests, hobbies, community service clubs, non-profit organizations, social groups, and so much more. There is a group for everyone's interest and new experiences to enjoy.

Visit http://www.greaterfortdodge.com/media/userfiles/subsite_160/files/Clubs%20and%20Organizations%208_22_16.pdf for a complete list of clubs and organizations.



Young Professionals

The mission of the Fort Dodge Young Professionals (YP) group is to improve the quality of life and economic development of Fort Dodge and the region through the retention and recruitment of young professionals in the Greater Fort Dodge area.



The group engages young professionals in current community news and issues. Through this organization, individuals assist in the development of the Fort Dodge area and become an active voice in the community.

There are over one hundred members in the Fort Dodge Young Professionals group, and each is actively looking to improve the community. This group of members hosts philanthropic and social events which promote relationships between young professionals in the region. It is these relationships that are going to influence the future of our community positively.

Family Fun

Back 40 Playground - Community Orchard

2237 160th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 573-8212
Open August 1st thru October 31st

Family Bowling Center

3599 5th Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 576-7664

Fort 8 Movie Theatre

1417 Central Avenue
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 576-6989
Discount Tuesday - \$5.00 tickets all day

Fort Frenzy Amusement Center

3232 1st Avenue South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 576-2226

Frontier Days

Fort Museum
1 Museum Road
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
1st weekend in June each year
Parade down Central Avenue on Saturday

John F. Kennedy Memorial Park

1415 Nelson Avenue
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 576-4258
Beach, playground, fishing, walking trails;
home of the Badger Lake Dragon Boat
Bash held each August

Ridgewood Lanes

326 South 25th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 576-7214

Rosedale Rapids Aquatic Center

1111 North 32nd Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 955-4284
Open from late May to early August

Home Service Providers

Mediacom Communications Corp

1225 2nd Avenue South

Fort Dodge, IA 50501

(855) 633-4226

*Cable

*Internet

*Phone



DIRECTV

(855) 229-4388

www.directv.com

*Satellite

*Internet

*Phone

Dish Network

(855) 726-1946

www.dish.com

*Satellite

*Internet

*Phone

Frontier Communicatons

(877) 417-8010

www.frontier.com

*Internet

*Phone

CenturyLink

(844) 407-2379

www.getcenturylink.com

*Internet

*Phone

*Bundles with DIRECTV satellite

Gas/Electric Services

MidAmerican Energy

301 South 25th Street

Fort Dodge, IA 50501

(888) 427-5632

www.midamericanenergy.com



Water Services

As a new citizen of Fort Dodge, we would like to welcome you to our city and hope you enjoy it!

All properties require a signed water service application. Deposits for rental properties are required. These documents and deposits must be made in person at the Utility Billing Office, Monday - Friday from 8am - 5pm located on the First Floor of the Municipal Building, 819 1st Avenue South, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Water and Sewage Rates

Payment Options

A customer may pay their utility (water, sewer, garbage, storm sewer and community sewer initiative) bill to the City of Fort Dodge in any of the following methods:

- Online bill pay
- By check, cash, money order or credit and debit cards (a convenience fee is applied for use of a card) at our physical location - First Floor of the Municipal Building, 819 1st Avenue South, Fort Dodge, Iowa
- By check or money order mailed to: City of Fort Dodge - 819 1st Avenue South, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
- By automatic bank deduction - inquire at the Water Department for details, First Floor of the Municipal Building, 819 1st Avenue South, Fort Dodge, Iowa.
- By drop off in the drop slot in the alley, located on the south side of the Municipal Building, 819 1st Avenue South, Fort Dodge, Iowa.
- By check or money order at the Fort Dodge Hy-Vee Food Store, located at the corner of 1st Avenue South and South 29th Street, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Payments due dates: Utility accounts that begin with a "1" are cycle one accounts and are due on the 5th of each month. Utility accounts that begin with a "2" are cycle two accounts and are due on the 20th of each month. The account number can be located on your utility bill.

2019 Residential Garbage - Recycling Calendar													
GARBAGE							RECYCLING						
A MONDAY - North of 2nd Ave N. & East of 15th St. and including 17-127 N. 32nd St. and 3417 & 3439 5th Ave. S.							E Everyone EAST of 15th Street except for the area from the CNRR tracks south to Patterson Field Rd.						
B TUESDAY - Everything south of Central Ave. on the west side of 15th St. and south of 2nd Ave. N on the east side of 15th St.							W Everyone WEST of 15th St and including Orchard Glen, Rolling Hills, 170th Street, and the area from the CNRR tracks south to Patterson Field Road						
C THURSDAY - North of Central Ave. and West of 15th St. including Orchard Glen, Rolling Hills and 170th St							H Holidays Observed (No Collection)						
JANUARY							JULY						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		H	E	B	C	5		A	B	E	H	C	6
6	A	B	W	C		12	7	A	B	W	C		13
13	A	B	E	C		19	14	A	B	E	C		20
20	A	B	W	C		26	21	A	B	W	C		27
27	A	B	E	C			28	A	B	E			
FEBRUARY							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						2							3
3	A	B	W	C		9	4	A	B	W	C		10
10	A	B	E	C		16	11	A	B	E	C		17
17	H	A	W	B	C	23	18	A	B	W	C		24
24	A	B	E	C			25	A	B	E	C		31
MARCH							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						2		H	A	W	B	C	7
3	A	B	W	C		9	8	A	B	E	C		14
10	A	B	E	C		16	15	A	B	W	C		21
17	A	B	W	C		23	22	A	B	E	C		28
24	A	B	E	C		30	29	A					
APRIL							OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						6				B	W	C	5
7	A	B	E	C		13	6	A	B	E	C		12
14	A	B	W	C		20	13	A	B	W	C		19
21	A	B	E	C		27	20	A	B	E	C		26
28	A	B					27	A	B	W	C		
MAY							NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						4							2
5	A	B	E	C		11	3	A	B	E	C		9
12	A	B	W	C		18	10	H	A	W	B	C	16
19	A	B	E	C		25	17	A	B	E	C		23
26	H	A	W	B	C		24	A	B	W	H	C	30
JUNE							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1							7
2	A	B	E	C		8	8	A	B	W	C		14
9	A	B	W	C		15	15	A	B	E	C		21
16	A	B	E	C		22	22	A	B	H	C	W	28
23	A	B	W	C		29	29	A	B				
30													

Place carts curbside prior to 6:00 AM day of but not before 5:00 PM the day before scheduled pickup.
Refer all calls to 955-6139 Ext 4099 between 7:00 AM & 3:00 PM.

YARDWASTE COLLECTION WILL BEGIN IN THE SPRING AND WILL BE PICKED UP ONLY ON FRIDAY.
THERE IS NO PICKUP DURING HOLIDAY WEEKS.
RESIDENTS MUST CALL 955-6139 Ext 4099 OR SUBMIT ON SeeClickFix BY NOON THURSDAY TO SCHEDULE A PICKUP

Waste & Recycling Schedule

Welcome to Fort Dodge!

Fort Dodge is a city I am proud to serve as Mayor and call my home. With a population of over 26,000 we are the county seat for Webster County and a major commercial center for North Central and Northwest Iowa. We are dedicated to working in partnership with the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance, local businesses, and citizens to enhance our quality of life. Together we have made great strides within our infrastructure, retail, recreational and educational opportunities.

Our major industries are trucking, gypsum and limestone mining. Another industry is the manufacturing of veterinarian pharmaceuticals by Elanco - a world class research and production facility. We recently welcomed two new companies to our Iowa's Crossroads of Global Innovation Park. Cargill, an international producer and marketer of food, agricultural and industrial products and services as well as CJ Bio American, Korean based company that will produce amino acids used in livestock feed.

Trinity Regional Medical Center is one of 32 in United States to participate in a Medicare Pioneer ACO program. They recently opened a Comprehensive Cancer Center and are one of the top 100 cardiovascular hospitals in the nation with patient safety awards. Friendship Haven, located on over 60 acres, has become the largest retirement community in the state.

We are home to first class schools; Iowa Central Community College, one of the largest community colleges in Iowa. We are proud of our four private and various public schools. A new middle school will open in the 2013-2014 school year. It will offer a 21st century learning environment with over 173,000 square feet and a performance auditorium.

An array of arts and culture are available with the Area Symphony and Blanden Memorial Art Museum; the first public museum of art in the state of Iowa. The Hawkeye Community Theatre, one of the longest running theatre organizations in the state and even a full scale recreated military outpost at the Fort Museum.

Our recreational opportunities are also abundant. Visit Mineral City Speedway or the state's largest OHV Park just southeast of town. Ride the swift waters of Lizard Creek or the Des Moines River. Enjoy over 30 miles of our new hard surface trails as well Rosedale Rapids Aquatic Center and multiple golf courses. Our sports complex, Harlan Rogers, hosts over 80,000 people per year with its ballparks and 10 soccer fields. We have indoor and outdoor tennis courts and multiple parks such as Kennedy, Olson, Brushy Creek, and Dolliver available.

Fort Dodge is home to special events such as Shellebration, Dragon Boat Festival, Frontier Days, Skydiving, Blues Under the Trees, Oktoberfest and Apple Fest at our local community orchard. Also our Market on Central has become the 4th largest in the state with over 50 vendors.

I invite you to discover why Fort Dodge is a healthy, vibrant community in which to live, work and play.

Mayor Matt Benrich

