

LIBRARIES JOIN TO ASK FOR INPUT PUBLIC ABOUT SERVICE IN DUBUQUE COUNTY

Focus Groups and Surveys begin September 1st

The four libraries in Dubuque County; Carnegie-Stout Public Library (Dubuque), James Kennedy Public Library (Dyersville), Cascade Public Library, and Dubuque County Library are seeking input from the public about local library usage. Whether you use a library or not, the libraries are eager for your opinion on library service in the county.

In February, the libraries in Dubuque County formed the Dubuque County Library Services Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee is to evaluate the library services provided to all residents of Dubuque County. To begin that evaluation, the Library Services Committee will be conducting focus groups to discover how public libraries are used in the county. Some of the questions to be discussed are: What are the factors that influence your choice to visit one library rather than another? Is it location or the hours open or something else? Do you use multiple libraries? Why?

The focus groups will be held on the following dates and locations:

- Thursday, September 12 at 6:00 p.m. at The Meadows in Asbury**
- Tuesday, September 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Dubuque County Library branch at Drexler Middle School in Farley**
- Thursday, September 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the James Kennedy Public Library in Dyersville**
- Tuesday, September 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the Holy Cross Fire Department Training Room in Holy Cross**
- Thursday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Dubuque County Library branch at NICC in Peosta**
- Wednesday, October 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library in Dubuque**
- Friday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cascade Public Library in Cascade**
- Sunday, October 6 at 2:00 p.m. at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library in Dubuque**

Light refreshments will be served at all locations. The groups will be led by Molly Menster, former Human Relations Specialist, Human Rights Department, City of Dubuque.

All residents in Dubuque County are eligible to attend a focus group. Each focus group will include up to 25 participants and seats will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Participants may register for a focus group by calling their local library or online by visiting the library website.

In addition to the focus groups, county residents will have the opportunity to share their thoughts about county library service by completing a brief survey. This survey will be available in paper form at each of the libraries in the county, as well as online through each of the library websites. Surveys will be available September 1 to October 6.

The information and ideas that are gathered will be used by the Committee to evaluate library service in Dubuque County and identify ways to improve services for all residents.