

A WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

In November 2012, Mary Asmus was recognized by the Duluth YWCA as a Woman of Distinction. The award honors women who have made significant contributions to the Duluth community. Mary has spent the past 30 years as a City of Duluth prosecutor and community advocate, making sure that the criminal justice system recognizes and addresses the unique issues involved in domestic violence. Mary has written a number of leading articles on domestic violence and has played an important role in developing the Duluth Blueprint for Safety and the Duluth Model. Mary's work has empowered women at every economic and social level, promoted peace in homes and in our community, and has brought fair and effective justice for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.

ASSESSOR SERVICES

In an effort to deliver more effective service for the Duluth citizens' tax dollars, the Duluth City Assessor's Office merged with the St. Louis County Assessor's Office. The careful planning that went into the merger assured that the citizens of Duluth will continue to receive excellent, knowledgeable service. City Assessor's staff continues to serve the Duluth citizens from the County Office.

CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

A citizen review board was established as an advisory board to the Police Department and City Council for the purpose of strengthening relationships, trust, and communication between the police and citizens of Duluth. The initiative builds on extensive community policing efforts. The board meets regularly to review complaints and make policy and training recommendations to the Chief of police. It consists of seven community members with diverse backgrounds.

LIFE SAFETY

The Fire Department resolved the housing inspection backlog, completing 4,092 inspections in 2012 compared to 857 completed in 2010. This backlog elimination along with implementation of a new cleanup system that allows the City to address neglected properties fosters a proactive approach to keeping our community safe, clean, and healthy.

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The Criminal Division of the City Attorney's Office handled 8,200 cases including DWIs and domestic violence cases, and obtained 2,400 criminal convictions.

LIBRARY

The Duluth Public Library restored full time hours and more than doubled branch library hours. Citizen satisfaction with library services jumped to 82%, up from just 60% in 2009.

RETIREE SUPPLEMENT PLAN

City of Duluth Human Resources incorporated and implemented a Retiree Medicare Supplement plan with annual projected cost savings of \$2 million.

FIRE FIGHTER TRAINING

The Fire Department improved its training program, providing more than twice the number of hours of training to its fire fighters than in the previous year.

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

The Neighborhood Grant Program made possible by the parks referendum has awarded \$64,076 in grants, leveraging over \$100,000 worth of improvement projects. Applications for the next round of

these grants are due by April 1, 2013. Visit our partner, the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, online at <http://www.dsacommunityfoundation.com/> and click 'Apply for a Grant' to fill out the Community Parks & Recreation Fund application.

AMERICORPS PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH PROGRAMMING

We've committed \$175,000 to create an AmeriCorps partnership, providing a minimum of 30 AmeriCorps members to serve over a thousand Duluth children through positive activities outside of the classroom.

BUDGET

By refinancing several existing debt issues to take advantage of the favorable low interest rate environment, the city saved over \$2.9 million over the life of the refinanced bonds.

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

Volunteer Coordinator Cheryl Skafte joined the City team to manage volunteer initiatives for city parks and libraries. Nine days into the job, the flood happened—Cheryl hit the ground running!

HOME ENERGY LOAN SYSTEM

City Finance, Public Works and Utilities, and Management Information Systems developed and implemented a new Home Energy Loan System that will better serve our energy loan customers by offering additional payment options and user driven features.

CITY OF SERVICE

The City of Duluth was awarded a \$25,000 City of Service grant to help fund "Let's Grow—Lincoln Park," a collaborative project of the City, Duluth Community Garden Program, Healthy Duluth Area Coalition, and Duluth Local Initiatives Support Corporation. The goal of the project is implementation of steps designed to increase Lincoln Park residents' access to affordable, fresh, healthy food.

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Duluth Police Officer Brad Wick was awarded Police Officer of the Year by both the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association and the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association for his heroic response to a shooting incident in Gary on August 28, 2011.

URBAN TREES

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency awarded the City of Duluth a \$36,000 grant to plant nearly 2,000 trees over the next two years as part of an initiative to build Duluth's community resiliency through urban trees.

WELLNESS

City of Duluth Human Resources is actively developing wellness initiatives to promote a healthy workforce and a healthy community, all part of a three-yr plan to bring accessible wellness options to city employees, retirees, and their families.

CHESTER CREEK CONCERTS 30th ANNIVERSARY

2012 marked the 30th anniversary of Chester Creek concerts!

TRAKiT

Implementation of TRAKiT, new permitting software, allows all staff involved in the permitting process to access and upload data on property development projects in a real time format. The TRAKiT software also provides efficient online permitting services and opportunities to expand those services in 2013.

ONE STOP SHOP

The City accomplished a vision for creating a department focused on facilitating the development of the community. Planning and Construction Services consists of three divisions: Construction Services, a One Stop Shop for all development permits; Planning, who implement the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and the new Unified Development Code; and Community Development, who administer federal funding from the Department of Housing & Urban Development including affordable housing development. The establishment of Planning and Construction Services aligns with the vision to streamline the permitting and building process.

BENTLEYVILLE

More than 200,000 people visited Bentleyville Tour of Lights at Bayfront Festival Park this past year alone! We are excited about Bentleyville's announcement to continue in Duluth.

HOME ENERGY CHECKUPS

Public Works and Utilities performed 173 home energy checkups, helping customers identify ways to save natural gas, reduce greenhouse gas, cut energy costs, and qualify for Minnesota Power rebates or home energy loans.

EXCELLENCE IN VICTIM SERVICES

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) awarded the Duluth Police Department for significant improvements in the response to Native American women reporting sexual assault. The Department was recognized for excellence in victim services and community policing following collaborative work to address a disproportionately low prosecution rate in sexual assault cases involving Native American women. Partners in the study of response efforts included Mending the Sacred Hoop and Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA).