



"Peace through People – Peace through Understanding"

Sister Cities Friendship Club of Elkader

Sister City to Mascara, Algeria

207 N. Main Street – Elkader, IA 52043 – Phone 563-245-2098

News Release

Elkader, Iowa – Because Elkader's founding fathers chose to name the city after the famous 19th century Algerian leader, Emir Abd Elkader, the county seat of Clayton County is the only city in the United States to have a sister city relationship in any city in Algeria. The program instituted in 1984, has opened the doors to new relations and trade with the North African country and has helped improve our country's global image.

Elkaderites have focused on the similarities and not the differences in forming friendships with the citizens of the Islamic country and have built on them since twinning with Mascara, the hometown of the Abd Elkader, known as the George Washington of his country. Several hundred Algerians have visited Elkader over the years and the city is becoming a regular destination for Algerians touring the United States. Some have purchased property or businesses including a restaurant called Schera's and an electronics and tech supply store. Six Algerian ambassadors to the United States have visited the N.E. Iowa city.

Special Event to Honor International Friendships

The Sister Cities Friendship Club of Elkader is planning special events to commemorate the U.S. Independence Day on July 4 and the Algerian Independence Day on July 5. A program in the morning of July 5 at Mascara Park, located next to City Hall at 207 North Main St., will include the rededication of the park which has received extensive renovation in the past year. The activities there will include remarks by local, State and Federal officials as well as those representing the Algerian Embassy and other government offices.

Other activities planned for the International event will include presentations on the stage of the Elkader's historic opera house by two internationally known authors who have recently written books about the Emir or related subjects and have included chapters about Elkader in their publications.

An art show, featuring Iowa and Algerian works will be on display at the Staw Center for Arts and Commerce on West Bridge Street. Local and visiting entertainers will be featured on the stage of the Elkader Opera House later in the day. Visiting Algerians will be invited to march in the July 4th parade in Garnavillo.