

THE IOWAN

SIGNS OF SPRING!

MIDDLE WESTERN

A NEW MUSIC PROJECT FROM DAVID ZOLLO
AND WILLIAM ELLIOT WHITMORE

STONE CITY

A SLEEPY VILLAGE IT'S NOT

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DISPLAY UNTIL 4/30

iowan.com

SIGNS OF SPRING

As the snow melts and the ground softens, Iowa's landscape comes to life with brilliant color, striking vistas, and beautiful plants and creatures

Text and Photography by Brian Abeling



My wife's favorite sign of spring is the heart-shape pendants of the bleeding hearts that grow in our front yard. They are the one perennial that doesn't get attacked by the rabbits and the deer.



A pleasant find each spring is young wildlife, including these young mallard ducklings playing in the water with their mother at a neighborhood pond.



Each spring, the grounds of the Iowa State Capitol are ablaze with a variety of flowers.



One of the earliest signs of spring is the return of the American robins. Some years, they return when snow still covers the ground. When that happens, they are forced to look for other sources of food, including crabapples.



As the crops break through the ground in early spring, they create beautiful lines across the fields near St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Boone County. I

SHORT AND STEEP

Through many modifications, damaging fires, and changes in ownership, the Fenelon Place Elevator has been moving passengers up and down a Dubuque bluff for nearly 140 years

Text and Photography by Brian Abeling



The Fenelon-Place Elevator claims to be the world's shortest, steepest scenic railway, 296 feet in length and 189 vertical feet from Fourth Street up to Fenelon Place. The system was built in 1882 by a local banker, J.K. Graves, for his private use (he wanted a shortcut to his home, where he would go for lunch and a half-hour nap).

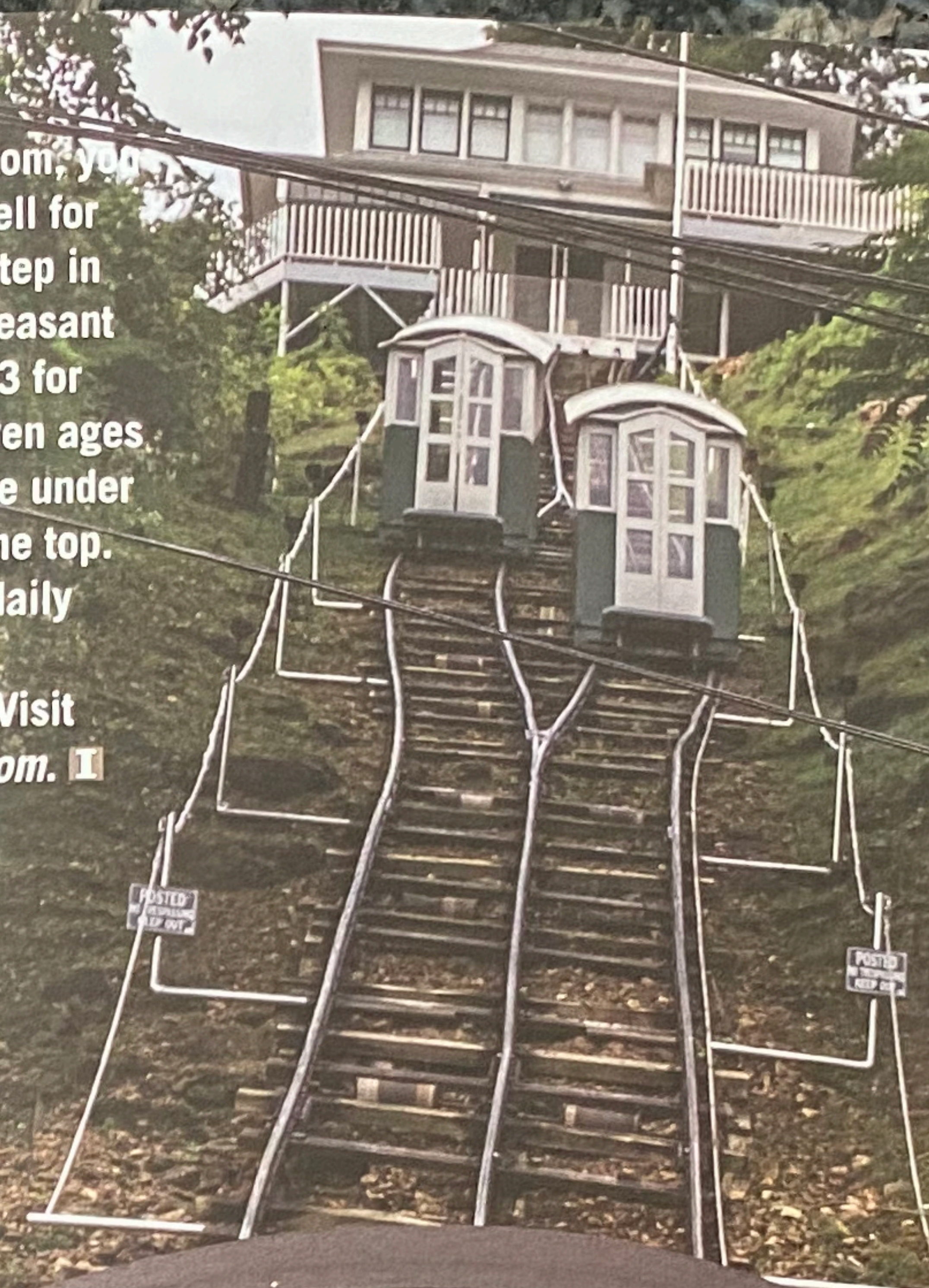


Although it's labeled an elevator, it's technically a funicular, or cable railway, because it uses a cable that is attached to two vehicles. One vehicle goes up while the other goes down, and they counterbalance each other. At the top, two observation decks provide views of the heart of Dubuque, the Mississippi River, and parts of Wisconsin and Illinois.

From inside the cable cars, you can see the Dubuque business district. The ride isn't fast. As you climb or descend the 296 feet, you'll pass the other cable car. The squeaky, rattling ride provides a sensory experience that kids love. And the views from the top provide a worthy reward.



When you're at the bottom, you pull a cable to ring a bell for service, then you just step in the cable car for the pleasant ride up. Round trip is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children ages 5-12, and free for those under age 5. Fare is paid at the top. The elevator operates daily 8 a.m.-10 p.m., April 1 through November 30. Visit fenelonplaceelevator.com.



Fenelon Place Elevator Co.

FARE	ADULTS	ONE WAY \$1.50
		ROUND TRIP \$3.00
	CHILDREN 5-12 YRS.	ROUND TRIP \$1.50
	BIKE & RIDER	ONE WAY \$2.00

HOURS
8:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.