

# CITYnews

THE CITY OF  
**DUBUQUE**  
*Masterpiece on the Mississippi*

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

## Dubuque Metropolitan Solid Waste Agency: Much More Than a Landfill

### The Reuse Shop

#### Don't buy new — Reuse!

The Reuse Shop, located at the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) at 101 Airborne Rd., has many paints and stains in a variety of shades/colors as well as household cleaning products, available at no cost! Open Monday, Friday, and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Electronics Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste

The Regional Collection Center (RCC) at the DMASWA helps residents properly dispose of household hazardous materials such as paints, cleaners, lawn chemicals, and more, at no charge. Additionally, the RCC recycles old or unused electronics, keeping them out of the landfill. Monitors, laptops and televisions cost \$15 to recycle and all other electronics are accepted at no cost.

The RCC is open by appointment only. Visit [www.dmaswa.org](http://www.dmaswa.org) to schedule your appointment.

### Compost Available

Residents looking for small quantities of finished, screened, and certified compost (up to one cubic yard) can utilize one of two self-load bunkers. There is no fee for residents self-loading small quantities from these bunkers, located at:

- DMASWA Landfill Entrance - 101 Airborne Road
- City of Dubuque Municipal Service Center - 925 Kerper Court (next to the recycling station)

Landscaping companies and other customers looking for larger quantities of finished compost (more than one cubic yard) can schedule an appointment to have their compost loaded by agency staff. Agency loaded compost is available for \$17.50 per cubic yard (two yard minimum charge).

For more information, visit [www.dmaswa.org](http://www.dmaswa.org) or call 563-557-8220. §

## Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing. Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) is accepting applications for households who have a member that is at least 60 years of age, or disabled, or where disconnection is imminent. All other households may apply beginning Nov. 1. LIHEAP is scheduled to end on April 30, 2022. If interested, call 563-556-5130 or visit HACAP at 220 W. 7th St., Dubuque. §

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## Two NEW and easy ways to ride The Jule!

1 MyJule mobile ticketing smartphone app

2 Jule Smart Pass reloadable bus pass



**Jule Smart Pass** - Reload account as needed or automatically with an auto-buy feature to ensure uninterrupted service. Purchase at the Intermodal Transportation Center at 950 Elm St., Dubuque.

**MyJule App** - Riders can view routes and schedules, plan a trip, and purchase a bus pass right from their phone. Available FREE in the App Store and Google Play.

These two new ways to pay are available for all Jule fixed-route busses and are in addition to the options of paying with cash, check, or debit/credit card. Seniors aged 65+ and riders on Medicare qualify for half-fare pricing, and students ride free. More information is available at [www.juletransit.org](http://www.juletransit.org).



## A Message from the City Manager

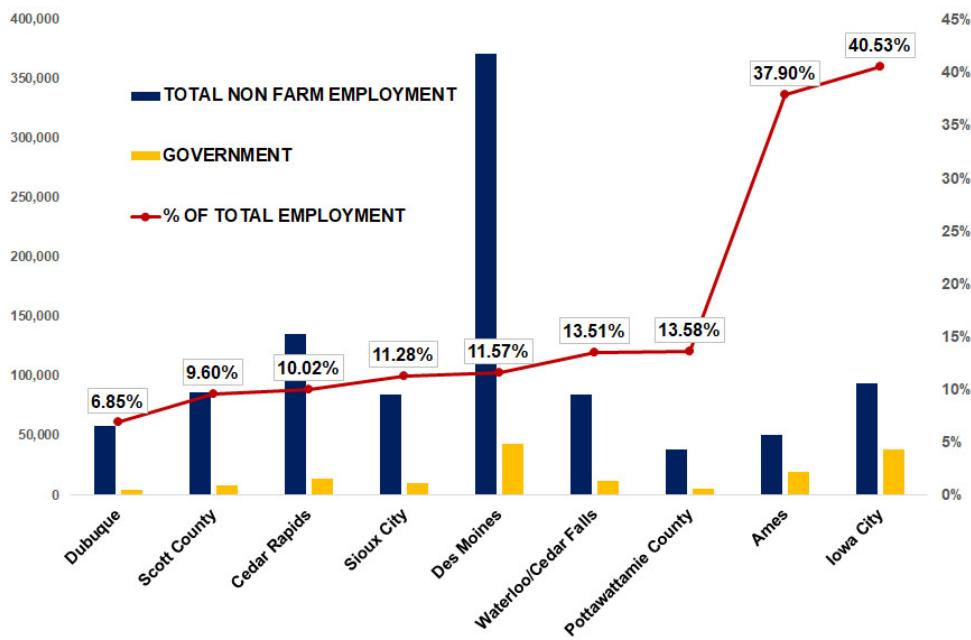
### Private Sector Driving Dubuque's Pandemic Recovery

Unlike some Iowa communities, Dubuque's economy is fueled by a diverse private sector and is not dominated by the public (government) sector. The City of Dubuque is focused on supporting the private sector through investments in public infrastructure and public/private partnerships to retain and attract the workforce our local economy needs.

Michael C. Van Milligen  
The graph below breaks down the workforce of Iowa's metropolitan statistical areas (MSA). It compares the number of total non-farm workers and government workers in each MSA and tracks the percentage of each MSA's workforce classified as government employment.

It is important to note that the Dubuque MSA is the lowest percentage of government workers, at just 6.85%. That means the Greater Dubuque economy is private sector driven and is not bolstered by taxpayer-funded government jobs. This presents challenges in good times and in bad because tax-supported economies with a higher percentage of government employment grow automatically in good times and are practically recession-proof in bad times. That means our economic mountain is higher to climb but the partnerships that exist in our community are creating success in our region. ☺

### Government Employment in Iowa Metro Areas



## City Leadership Updates

**Police:** Dubuque Chief of Police Mark Dalsing retired on Sept. 25 after 32 years of service on the Dubuque Police Department. The City has hired a search firm to assist with filling this vacancy and the goal is to select a new chief of police by the end of the calendar year.

City Manager Mike Van Milligen has appointed Assistant Chief of Police Jeremy Jensen to serve as interim chief of police until a search is conducted and a new chief is hired. Jensen has served with the department since March



1994 and was promoted to assistant chief in December of 2017. He has served at each rank and in each division within the police department and has played an integral role of the department's successes as a member of its management team since 2008.

### Transportation

#### Services:

City Manager Mike Van Milligen has appointed Ryan Knuckey as director of the City's transportation services department, which includes The Jule public transit division and the City's parking utility division. Knuckey's appointment was effective Oct. 11.



As director of transportation services, Knuckey will be responsible for coordinating the department's day-to-day operations, managing multi-modal projects, and will lead policy development and planning for a balanced, safe, and efficient transportation system. ☺

## Fall/Winter Reminders from Public Works

Curbside collection holiday schedule available on page 4

Service	Dates
Leaf Rake-Out*	Oct. 11 - Nov. 24
Winter Yard Debris Collection*	Thursdays only; Dec. 2 - March 31
Food Scrap Collection	Thursdays (Dec. 2 - March 31) for existing food scrap subscribers
Merry Mulch	Jan. 3-14, 2022, picked up on regular collection days

\*Appointment required. To make an appointment and to determine acceptable materials, call 563-589-4250 or visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste).

## Holiday Tag Distribution Change

There will be no distribution of annual complimentary "holiday tags" for extra garbage to curbside collection customers this year. Instead, all customers will be allowed to set out one extra 35-gallon container (up to 40 lbs.) or bag without a green sticker from Monday, Dec. 27, through Friday, Dec. 31. Trash must be set out to the curb or alley line by 6 a.m. on the scheduled collection day.

For additional information, please contact the Utility Billing Department at 563-589-4144. ☺



# STATE OF THE CITY

## Mayor Roy D. Buol Winter 2021

As my term as Mayor comes to a close on Dec. 31, I offer my final State of the City message.

It seems like yesterday when I took my seat on Dubuque's Long Range Planning Commission in 1995 and next was elected as a City Council member in 1996! A short 10 years later, I was honored to be elected to serve as your mayor. Well, yes, 26 years is a long time, but as the saying goes... "Work at something you love and it will never seem like work" and that has always been true for me.

It has truly been an honor to serve the citizens of this great city. From the beginning, it was about engaging with residents, addressing challenges, and ensuring a better future for our children and grandchildren.

What separates Dubuque from many other cities is the way our local businesses and non-profits have been the backbone throughout the good times and importantly when, starting in 2008, we faced the greatest recession since the Great Depression. City government cannot solve all our issues, and public/private partnerships have been key to Dubuque's progress.

In case you are unaware, elected officials in small cities only get things done with the significant expertise from City staff. This is about staff planning, attending, and working at events, public crews hustling during storms, and department heads demonstrating their love in what they do for our city. Our City staff, from the City Manager to all he has hired, have my enduring respect and gratitude.

Through strategic investment of your tax dollars and with significant support from federal and state grants - written and applied for by City staff - major infrastructure and programmatic improvements have been focused on improving quality of life in Dubuque.

Over the last 16 years we have witnessed the culmination of the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project...the Southwest Arterial...the revitalization of the Historic Millwork District... the opening of the Crescent Community Health Center...the acquisition and renovation of our Historic Federal Building... operational upgrades and efficiencies to the Water and Resource Recovery Center...the creation and expansion of the Multicultural

Family Center...enhanced public transportation and parking improvements, and critical expansion of our industrial parks and more.

Additionally, the City has supported partners to give residents in need a hand up through programs like Healthy Homes, Getting Ahead, Opportunity Dubuque, Project HOPE, the DREAM Center, and the Fountain of Youth.

Personally, I am most proud of Dubuque's focus on improving our community's sustainability and resiliency and sharing our model that balances economic prosperity with environmental integrity and social and cultural vibrancy. And, as we look to the future, we have plans in place that will help to turn the challenges created by the pandemic over 18 months into opportunities -- opportunities to transform our city into a model of equity and inclusion that will be sustainable for years and even decades to come.

It is no secret that there is a fundamental lack of equity for far too many. The question we must ask ourselves is not when we will economically recover from this pandemic...it is about how we will prioritize those hit hardest...women, low-income earners, people of color. We need to keep looking out for one another. Our children absorb the stress and the consequences for them can be life-altering.

When I first ran for mayor, I said, "The next five years will define the next 50 years for Dubuque." I believe that prediction is holding true, and I see a brighter future for us all. Hopefully my involvement has made a positive difference. I know full well I did nothing alone, but rather as a part of a team. Strategic investment is being "budget conscious" and I have been privileged to serve with dedicated and forward thinking elected officials and City staff.

Allow me to express a closing sentiment. There is no issue important enough to pit neighbors against one another. There is no idea not worth a civil debate...or any challenge that cannot be addressed through mutual understanding and consideration.

Please take care of yourselves and above all, let us model how to be KIND. Our youth deserve nothing less. Thank you.

**AmeriCorps Members  
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AND WE'RE HIRING!**

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- Living stipend and education credit included



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[cityofdubuque.org/amerikorps](http://cityofdubuque.org/amerikorps)  
**563-690-6171**

# New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Elizabeth Bertjens - Transit	Marty Kass - Public Works
Haidee Cardoso - Library	Michael Mettille - Transit
Felicia Carner - Media Services	Raymond Nicks - Transit
Kristi Egan - Recreation	Dorothy Pearson - Transit
Mitchel Hammel - Public Works	Allison Steger - Library
Jenna Jensen - Emergency Communications	Justin Thiltgen - City Manager's Office
Jodi Johnson - Transit	Chad Welsh - Airport

The City of Dubuque congratulates these recent retirees:

Mark Dalsing - Police
Terrance Leibold - Parks

The City of Dubuque welcomes this new commission member:

Historic Preservation Commission  
Tim Gau

## Police Department Offers Online Reporting Tool

The Dubuque Police Department now offers an online reporting option for simple misdemeanor property crimes. Theft and criminal mischief incidents that occur within the Dubuque city limits with a loss totaling less than \$300 with no known suspects can now be reported online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/police](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/police). This online form can be submitted instead of meeting with an officer. Residents may still meet with an officer, if desired; however, reporting this type of incident online is preferred. When a report is filed, the reporting party will receive a confirmation email with a reference number for tracking and documentation purposes. For additional information, call 563-589-4473. §

### Contact Information

The City of Dubuque welcomes comments and suggestions about your city government or news appearing in this newsletter. Please contact:

City Manager's Office  
50 W. 13th Street  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-4864  
(563) 589-4110  
[ctymgr@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:ctymgr@cityofdubuque.org)



### Editorial Information

City News is published by the Public Information Office and is inserted in the City of Dubuque utility bills six times per year. For the most up-to-date City news and events, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org).



# CALENDAR

## November

1	City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
15	City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
25-26	City offices closed for Thanksgiving (Nov. 25 curbside collection will occur on Sat., Nov. 24; no change in Nov. 26 collection.)

## December

6	City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
20	City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
23-24	City offices closed for Christmas (No change in Dec. 23 or 24 curbside collection.)
30-31	City offices closed for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. No change in curbside collection.

The public has the option to view and participate in City Council meetings in person at City Council Chambers or virtually (see agenda for details.) To comply with social distancing, capacity limits are in place in City Council Chambers and will require specific guidelines if maximum capacity is reached. If attending the meeting in-person, please review guidelines in chambers and abide by any directions given by city staff. The meeting will be aired live on CityChannel Dubuque (Mediacom cable channels 8 and 117.2), streamed live and archived on the City's website at [www.cityofdubuque.org/media](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/media), and streamed live on the City's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/cityofdubuque](http://www.facebook.com/cityofdubuque).

This calendar does not include all events and is subject to change. Sign up for Dubuque's "Notify Me" e-mail/text alert system at [www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme) to receive agendas, news releases, event notifications, and other timely news.



**CALL OR TEXT**  
563.599.2839

**YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL HELP US PROVIDE MORE ENGAGING CONTENT FOR OUR CITY!**

## City Assumes Interim Management of Ice Center

The City of Dubuque became the interim manager of the Mystique Community Ice Center on Chaplain Schmitt Island in September. This transition of management followed the June decision of the Dubuque Community Ice & Recreation, Inc. (DICE) to relinquish its leasehold rights for the facility.



The facility is owned by the City and was leased in a 25-year agreement to DICE, the 501(c)3 non-profit organization that raised all funds to build the ice arena. DICE managed and operated the facility since it opened in 2010. DICE employees were hired by the City to continue their work at the facility.

The City will review and address maintenance issues during the interim management period and will operate the facility until a long-term solution is finalized. For more information, visit [www.mystiqueicearena.com](http://www.mystiqueicearena.com) or call 563-589-4263. §