

City of Dubuque **CITY NEWS**

November/December 2022

Inside This Issue

- 2** | DBQ Shovel Crew
COVID-19 Booster Information
Alert Iowa Safety Notifications
- 3** | City Manager's Message
Fall/Winter Reminders from
Public Works
AmeriCorps is hiring!
988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
- 4** | New Faces & Retirements
Events Calendar
Election Day Voter Resources
Sustainable Dubuque Book Club

LET'S BE SOCIAL!



www.cityofdubuque.org

Get news and info by email or text:

Check out all the options at
www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme

Holiday "Extra Bag"

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. 26, through Friday, Dec. 30. Trash must be set out to the curb or alley line by 6 a.m. on the scheduled collection day. Customers with a cart should set the bag beside the cart.

Comiskey Park Project Under Way

Work began in late September on the multi-phased Re-Imagine Comiskey Park Redevelopment Project to update the park to meet current recreation needs and expand it from 3.6 acres to 5.7 acres.

Phase one includes a new playground, splash pad, basketball court, walkway additions, seating, shaded picnic shelters, bike racks, and landscaping. This \$1.9 million phase is expected to be completed in the spring/summer of 2023.

The existing playground will be removed this fall to make way for the new one, but the basketball and tennis courts and skate park will continue to be accessible. The Comiskey Park building will not be available for meetings or programming during construction. For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/comiskey.



Move DBQ Smart Parking & Mobility Plan

The City of Dubuque is seeking input from residents and businesses to help guide the development of Move DBQ, a new smart parking and mobility plan that will shape transportation systems in Dubuque for the next 10 to 15 years. The plan will provide a long-term roadmap for how the City can implement new technologies and invest in parking and mobility to improve access, efficiency, and overall user experience.

The planning team, led by consultant Walker Parking, is reviewing parking systems including

how parking ramps are managed and how meter systems work. Additional efforts include a high-level assessment of how transportation modes, including walking and biking, can be used to support a more connected community.

Visit www.cityofdubuque.org/movedbq to share how you move! Options include an online survey, comment box, and interactive map that allows you to share your ideas and concerns. For questions or more information, call Transportation Services at 563-589-4341.



SHOVEL CREW

The DBQ Shovel Crew is a program that pairs volunteers with a resident who is not physically able to remove snow and ice from their city sidewalk and does not have other resources to remove the snow and ice such as neighbors, friends, or a hired service.

Volunteer DBQ is seeking volunteers who can help throughout the winter season. The commitment is caring for one address all winter.

Want to volunteer, but don't own the necessary snow and ice removal equipment? We may be able to help! Sign up and staff will follow up with you to assist in accessing shovels and deicer salt.

We are all pedestrians at some point in the day, whether walking to a car, the bus, to work, or just in your neighborhood. Your help in keeping sidewalks clear after snow and ice events is a meaningful way to help neighbors in need and the community.

Sign up as a volunteer (search for DBQ Shovel Crew):

www.volunteerDBQ.com or call 563-589-4159

Residents in need of assistance:

Please call Rob McDonald at 563-589-4159



**COVID-19
vaccines add
another layer
of protection.**

**Bivalent COVID-19 Booster Recommended
for All County Residents 12 and Up**

The Dubuque County Public Health Incident Management Team is advising all county residents ages 12 and older to get the updated/bivalent COVID-19 booster to improve their protection from severe COVID-19 illness.

With the transition to more indoor gatherings and activities, ensuring you are fully vaccinated can add a layer of protection against severe illness due to COVID-19. Residents are also encouraged to get a flu shot, which can be given at the same time as the COVID-19 booster, to protect against influenza as well.

These new bivalent boosters contain an updated formula that both boosts immunity against the original coronavirus strain and protects against the newer Omicron variants that account for most of the current cases. The new boosters are intended to provide optimal protection against the virus and address waning vaccine effectiveness over time.

A complete list of providers in Dubuque County is available at www.dubuquecounty.org/sleevesup. If you're unsure of when to get a booster or if you are up to date, learn more and take short survey at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html



ALERT IOWA

Receive severe weather and other important safety notifications

The City of Dubuque and Dubuque County Emergency Management reminds residents that Alert Iowa, the State of Iowa's official emergency notification system, is used to notify residents of severe weather and other safety notifications. During the boil water advisory in September, the City utilized Alert Iowa to inform residents of the advisory and the precautions to take.

- Subscribers can receive notifications by email, phone or text message. All Dubuque residents and businesses are urged to register.

3 WAYS TO REGISTER

1. Visit alert.iowa.gov (Choose Dubuque County)
2. Download the Smart911 app
3. Text DubuqueIA to 67283



A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

Adequate housing supply is an issue in many communities, including Dubuque. A variety of housing options are needed to meet the needs of current residents and to support workforce retention and recruitment efforts. Recent research from the Iowa Finance Authority indicates that Dubuque is projected to be nearly 1,200 housing units short of what is needed to support our residents by 2030. To address this critical issue, the mayor and city council identified Housing Incentive Policy as a high priority for the City for the next two years.

Creating new housing units does not increase the number of units available if other units are in such disrepair that they cannot be utilized. The City has several programs, including 10-year property tax abatement through the downtown, to rehabilitate vacant single-family homes and occupied single-family homes, as well as programs to purchase vacant homes, rehabilitate them with partners (like the Four Mounds HEART Program), and then sell them to income-qualified, first-time homebuyers. The City also works with the Affordable Housing Network, Inc. (AHNI) to rehabilitate three- and four-unit rental properties that have fallen into disrepair and to put them back on the rental housing market.

In September 2022, the mayor and city council approved new additional housing creation incentives. In the past, Urban Revitalization Areas have been used for low-income housing tax credit projects throughout the community. Going forward and in addition to this past use, Urban Revitalization Areas will also be available for market-rate and workforce housing, but with a different and varied schedule of tax abatement. This new incentive is available for owner-occupied, single-family homes and multi-family apartment buildings with eight or more units.

Additionally, the City now can offset the cost of public improvements in market-rate residential subdivisions and mixed-income subdivisions using Tax Increment Financing. There are a variety of requirements for developers/projects to qualify for incentives to ensure the needs and interests of the community are served.

These new incentives do not require additional budgeting, as they utilize tax increments generated by the developments themselves. These new and existing incentives are designed to encourage private sector investment and address Dubuque's current and future housing needs.

Fall/Winter Reminders from Public Works



Leaf Rake-Out - October 10 - November 23

The City provides residents a leaf rake-out service by appointment each fall. The cost is \$20 for the equivalent of 40 leaf bags and will be added to your utility bill. For guidelines and to schedule an appointment at www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste or by calling 563-589-4250.

Merry Mulch - January 2 - 13

City crews will pick up natural Christmas trees (maximum of 8' high) with a City brush tie or one yellow yard waste sticker attached and visible from the street or alley on your regular collection day.

Curbside collection holiday schedule available on page 4.

DMASWA Holiday Closures

The Dubuque Metropolitan Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) will be closed on Sat., Dec. 24 and Sat., Dec. 31.

**AmeriCorps Members are
CHANGING
the WORLD
AND WE'RE HIRING!**

Locally, the City of Dubuque's AmeriCorps Program is designed to support the community's needs around K-5 literacy and community engagement with middle and high school students. Our AmeriCorps members serve in a variety of positions across local schools, nonprofits and government departments to address critical needs for our future generations!



LEARN MORE + APPLY
cityofdubuque.org/amerikorps
563-690-6171

**988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE**

**If you or someone you know needs support now,
call or text 988 or chat 988Lifeline.org.
988 connects you with a trained crisis
counselor who can help.**

New Faces & Retirements

New City Employees

Gisella Aitken-Shadle	Equity & Human Rights
William Campbell, Sr.	Public Works
Max Contreras	Police
Kaithlin Duncan	Housing & Community Development
Jonathan Farfan	Engineering
Christine Feldman	Library
Emiliano Gomez	Police
Kaia Humpal	Finance
John Jaeger	Parking
David Keeton, Jr.	Library
Joshua Larsen	Finance
Amanda Lewis	City Manager's Office
Joseph Link	Finance
Austin Manders	Police
Laura Merrick	Economic Development
Olivia Neuzil	Recreation
Max O'Brien	Engineering
Kara Pender	Police
Courtney Podczerwinski	Recreation
Michael Reinert	Water
Kathryn Simpson	Library
Calasandra Spray	Library
Kathy Steger	Parking
Rachel Steil	Library

New Board/Commission Member

Rick Merfeld	Housing Commission
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Recent City Retirees

Scott Crabil	Police
David Sitzmann	Public Works
Carol Spinoso	Equity & Human Rights

Election Day - Nov. 8

www.voterready.iowa.gov

- ★ Register to vote
- ★ Find your polling place
- ★ What to bring to vote

City News is produced by the City of Dubuque Public Information Office. Comments are welcome at publicinfo@cityofdubuque.org or 563.589.4151.

Calendar

November

7 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
8 Election Day
8 Budget Public Input Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers
11 City offices closed for Veterans Day (no change in curbside collection)
21 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
24-25 City offices closed for Thanksgiving (Nov. 24 curbside collection will occur on Sat., Nov. 26; no change in Nov. 25 collection.)

December

5 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
19 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
23 City offices closed in observance of Christmas Eve (no change in curbside collection)
26 City offices closed in observance of Christmas Day (no change in curbside collection)
30 City offices closed in observance of New Year's Eve (no change in curbside collection)

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building, 350 W. 6th St.

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.) Meetings are 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, and streamed live on the City's Facebook page at 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 to receive agendas, news releases, event notifications, and other timely news.

Sustainable Dubuque Book Club



The City of Dubuque's Office of Sustainability invites residents to participate in a book club featuring "All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis," a collection of writings by 60 women at the forefront of the climate movement. The purpose of the book club is to educate and engage residents in local climate action.

The first 50 people to purchase the book at River Lights Bookstore (1098 Main St.) will receive a \$5 discount off the purchase price. If cost of the book is a barrier to participating, please reach out to the Office of Sustainability at gbell@cityofdubuque.org or 563.690.6038.

Over the course of 10 sessions between November and April, book club members will discuss various topics within the book. Dinner is provided for the first 15 participants in each session (residents of the City of Dubuque only; although residents who live outside city limits are still invited to attend.) Full details and registration information is available at www.sustainabledubuque.org/circles.