

City of Dubuque CITY NEWS

Inside This Issue

- 2 | Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival
Citizen's Police Academy
VITA: Free & Reliable Tax Help
- 3 | A Message from the City Manager
Study Finds Diversion Opportunities
- 4 | Events Calendar
New Faces & Retirements
Seasonal Job Fair
Heating Bill Assistance

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State of the City

Watch Mayor Cavanagh's State of the City Address by scanning the QR code or visiting www.cityofdubuque.org/sotc



Avelo Airlines to Serve Dubuque Airport

On Nov. 3, Avelo Airlines announced Dubuque as the newest city in its network with exclusive nonstop service to Orlando International Airport (MCO). Service will begin Jan. 11 with flights offered twice weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Since taking flight in April 2021, Avelo has flown more than 1.3 million customers on more than 10,000 flights. Introductory one-way fares between Dubuque Regional Airport and MCO start at \$59.



Make reservations at: www.aveloair.com



Free Assistance with Federal Healthcare Enrollment

Crescent Community Health Center is assisting with free enrollment and re-enrollment of the Federal Marketplace. This year enrollment has been extended to January 15, 2023. If you need assistance getting coverage, contact Angela at Crescent Community Health Center, 563-690-2284.

Iowa Transitioning to Flat-Rate Income Tax

Last March, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed into law new tax reform with significant changes that will be phased in over the next four years. Once fully phased in, Iowa is expected to have a 3.9 percent single-rate (flat) individual income tax, a 5.5 percent flat corporate income tax, and no inheritance tax or alternative minimum taxes.

In 2023, Iowa will have four income tax brackets which will determine when your tax rate will lower to 3.9 percent. The changes will be phased in as follows:

- 2023: Top rate lowers to 6% for those making \$75,000 or more.
- 2024: Top rate lowers to 5.7% for those making \$30,000 or more.
- 2025: Top rate lowers to 4.82% for those making \$6,000 or more.
- 2026: Top rate lowers to 3.9% for all taxpayers.

Also starting in 2023, Iowans won't have to pay state taxes on retirement income.

For more information: visit tax.iowa.gov or call 800-367-3388.

Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival & Competition, Feb. 9-12

Mark your calendars for Dubuque's annual Winter Arts Festival, Iowa's sanctioned snow sculpting competition, sponsored by the Dubuque Museum of Art (DuMA) in partnership with the City of Dubuque and Winterfun, Inc. Snow sculpting will take place Thursday, Feb. 9, through noon on Sunday, Feb. 12, in Washington Park with teams competing to secure the state title and an opportunity to move onto the 2023 U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition in Lake Geneva, Wis., in 2024.

The public is encouraged to visit Washington Park throughout the week as snow sculpting teams transform their block of 288 cubic feet of snow into inspiring creations. Stop by on Sunday, Feb. 12, from noon - 4 p.m. for free family-friendly activities including hands-on sculpting, Peoples' Choice voting, musical performances by Dubuque Symphony Orchestra ensembles, and more will occur outdoors and inside DuMA.

Find out more:

www.cityofdubuque.org/winterarts or 563-690-6059



Interested in learning about opportunities for creatives in our community?

Sign up for our email list at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme and choose "Opportunities for Creatives"

Citizen's Police Academy Coming Soon

The Dubuque Police Department will hold the 26th annual Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) on Thursday evenings from Feb. 9, to April 13. The purpose of this program is to build a better understanding between residents and police through education.



The CPA is a 10-week program and participants are strongly encouraged to commit to attending all sessions. CPA sessions are taught by local law enforcement professionals and other members of the criminal justice system. Each session covers a variety of topics, including arrest procedures, search and seizure, use of force, laws and policies, police procedures, domestic abuse cases, sexual abuse cases, drug enforcement, OWIs, officer safety, and prevention programs.

Requirements for participation:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- No felony convictions
- No significant arrest history

Space is limited. Applications are due by Friday, Jan. 20, and can be found at www.cityofdubuque.org/police. Paper applications are available at the Dubuque Police Department at 770 Iowa St.

Preference will be given to Dubuque residents. The CPA does not certify participants as law enforcement officers. For more information on the CPA, contact Lieutenant Brendan Welsh at 563-589-4473 or Captain Steve Radloff and 563-587-3807.

VITA: Free & Reliable Tax Help

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free and reliable tax help to people who generally make \$58,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English-speaking taxpayers. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation to those who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns.

To receive tax help through the VITA program, visit www.hacap.org/taxes or call 563-513-8829.

Volunteer for VITA

The VITA program relies completely on volunteers. While experience filing taxes is helpful, it's not required as you'll be trained on the ins and outs of taxes – an added perk of volunteering if you've been wanting to learn how to file your own taxes. Your commitment can be flexible to your schedule, volunteering whenever works for you on certain days, or through the drop-off option for volunteers to pick-up paperwork and prepare taxes on their own time.

Sign up as a volunteer at:

www.hacap.org/taxes or call 563-513-8829



A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

As 2022 comes to a close, the City of Dubuque is preparing not only for 2023, but the 2024 fiscal year.

The City's budget is a process to determine the allocation of available resources among departments, activities, programs, and initiatives. There is never enough money to be able to appropriate all the funds requested to all departments and activities and, as a result, there is considerable analysis and deliberation related to allocating available funds. The challenging goal of the City of Dubuque's budget process is to develop an acceptable balance between costs and services.

Staff in all City departments have been developing their budgets throughout the fall months and, in February, I will submit my recommended budget for the 2024 fiscal year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) to the mayor and city council for their consideration. The mayor and city council will then hold a series of seven public meetings on the recommended budget throughout March. Residents and stakeholders are invited to attend or view these meetings and provide input before the final budget is adopted by the mayor and city council. (The State of Iowa's deadline for cities to adopt a budget for the next fiscal year is March 31.) For public meeting dates and more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/fy2024budget or call 563-589-4398.

The current fiscal year's budget features a lower property tax rate than the previous year for all property owners (the lowest of all of Iowa's largest cities) and decreased average property tax costs for commercial, industrial, and multi-residential properties. These decreases were achieved while still maintaining adequate general fund reserves (\$17.7 million) for unexpected expenses as well as continuing to reduce the City's total debt, cutting it to 41 percent of Dubuque's statutory debt limit.

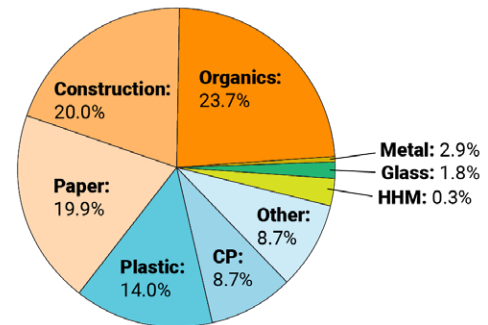
The City of Dubuque, Dubuque County, Dubuque Community School District, and Northeast Iowa Community College are the local taxing bodies that determine local property tax rates for Dubuque properties and those taxes are an important source of revenue. Income taxes are determined and collected by the state and federal governments. Iowa's income tax will change significantly over the next four years. Please see the related article on page 1.

I encourage you to get involved and participate in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024 budget process.

Study Finds Diversion Opportunities

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) recently received the results of an Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) study of materials being dumped at the landfill. The DNR inspected samples of loads from both residential and commercial/industrial customers from Dubuque County.

The findings indicate that many items that could be diverted are being landfilled, which can reduce the landfill's lifespan and increase methane production, a major greenhouse gas.



Organics: food waste & yard waste

Construction: wood, carpet, furniture

Paper: cardboard, etc.

Plastic: shopping bags, plastic bottles

Consumer Products (CP): clothes, rubber, electronics

Other: Diapers, inorganics

Metal: cans, scrap metal

Glass: bottles, jars

Household Hazardous Materials (HHM): batteries, paint

The study found that organics constituted the largest percentage of material in the samples at nearly 24 percent. Other notable materials that are reusable, recyclable, or compostable were also high on the list with paper being the third-most prevalent and plastic the fourth.

"We have convenient options to handle these materials sustainably," DMASWA Administrator Ken Miller said. "We need customers to do their part and use them."

"Know Before You Throw"

The City offers many options to properly divert waste from the landfill. Visit www.cityofdubuque.org/rethinkwaste to find if a material can be reused, recycled, composted, or how to properly dispose of it.

Winter Food Scraps & Yard Waste Collection

Residents who would like to have yard waste and food scraps collected during the winter months can schedule an appointment by either submitting a request through the City's website at www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste, or calling the City of Dubuque Public Works Department at 563-589-4250. Current food scrap cart subscribers will have collections made weekly on their normal collection day, no appointment needed.

Merry Mulch: January 1 - 12

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.



Remember to sign up for Odd/Even Snow Route notifications at cityofdubuque.org/snow or simply text DBQSNOW to 67283.

New Faces & Retirements

New City Employees

Andrew Accacian	Fire
Tami Conzett	Housing & Comm Development
Mary Bridget Corken-Deutsch	Housing & Comm Development
Lauren Culbertson	Recreation
Jason Ellis	Water
Ted George	Public Works
Amy Henson	AmeriCorps
Vanessa Hornung	Emergency Communications
George Jackson	Housing & Comm Development
Anna Loes	Police
Andrea Miller	Emergency Communications
Bryan Moose	Shared Prosperity & Neighborhood Support
Alexandria Naab	Emergency Communications
Matthew O'Brien	Planning Services
Latricia Plowman	Emergency Communications
Matthew Poling	Library
Cassandra Renken	Public Works
Elena Vazquez	Library
Georgia Walter	Library
Matthew Yoon	Library

New Board/Commission Members

Gerald Hammel, Jr.	Community Development Advisory Commission
Scott Crabill	Civil Service Commission

Recent City Retirees

Kris Neyen	Housing & Comm Development
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RECYCLE UNWANTED HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Drop-off locations to recycle unwanted holiday lights through Jan. 15:

- City of Dubuque Municipal Services Center - 925 Kerper Court
- Carnegie-Stout Public Library - 360 W. 11th St.
- Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) by appointment only - 101 Airborne Road. Call (563) 557-8220

Calendar

January

- 3 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 16 City facilities closed for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
- 17 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building

February

- 6 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 9-12 Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival, Washington Park
- 20 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building

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. 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.

Seasonal Job Fair

Whether you're looking for work that allows you to spend the summer outdoors, or maybe you're looking to really make a difference in a child's life, we've got something for you. Seasonal jobs with the City of Dubuque Leisure Services Department offer fun and meaningful work, with flexible schedules.



If you or someone you know is interested in summer employment with the City, stop the seasonal job fair on Thursday, Jan. 5, from 3 - 6:30 p.m. at the Bunker Hill Clubhouse. Open interviews will be held for a number positions, come find your fit!

Find more at:

www.cityofdubuque.org/seasonaljobs or call 563.589.4263

Heating Bill Assistance

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program assists income-qualified applicants with the partial payment of heating costs on utility bills. Assistance levels depend on income level, family size, the type of fuel you use to heat your home, and other factors. Get more details at www.hacap.org/energy or call 563-556-5130